



# THE PIONEER

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## Booral School Days

To celebrate Booral Public School's Sesquicentenary, I will share the memories of ex-students, Shirley and Colleen Lumsden, Denise's auntsies.

The girls attended the school across two decades. Aunty Shirley was the elder of the two, attending Booral School during the 1950s. Aunty Colleen attended the school in the 1960s.

Aunty Shirley remembered the school being one room. Her teacher was Mr F. Wharton and after he retired, the teacher was Mr Johnston. The teacher lived in the house next door to the school.

By the 1960s women taught at Booral. Aunty Colleen's teachers were Miss Davis and Miss Tindall.

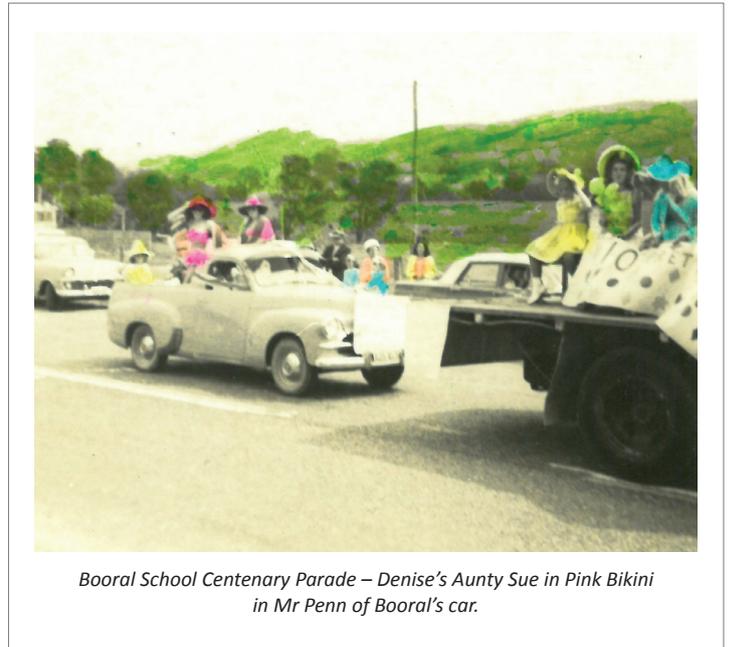
To attend Booral Public in the 1950s, children were required to be 6 years of age. When Aunty Shirley started school, there was no kindergarten. The classes were Year 1 to Year 6. Kindergarten started in 1955 and was located in the back room of the hall.

Aunty Shirley said that the bus driver was Mr E. Maytom, from Stroud. She remembered that they caught the bus to school and then the bus continued on to the high school.

The girls have memories of learning home crafts. Aunty Shirley said that sewing was held in the porch of the school room while Aunty Colleen remembered having sewing lessons with the headmaster's wife on the back verandah of their house. She also said that a lot of girls taught themselves to knit at school, sitting together, teaching each other the various knitting stitches and steps. They also did French Knitting and Aunty Colleen gave a description of this, stating that she would use a wooden cotton reel with small nails hammered into the reel and, with the aid of a crochet hook, using wool, weave long tails of wool through the middle of the reel. I'm sure that many children, and adults, have similar memories.

Sport was a key part of school. Aunty Shirley said that they had mixed cricket teams and that her class, 5-6, helped to roll the new tennis court. Aunty Colleen remembered practising for sports day in teams for tunnel ball. During sport time they played softball, cricket, or practised running and relay races for sports day. She said that they played a range of activities at little lunch and lunch time, such as ball games, jack or knuckle game, hopscotch, and skipping games with one or two ropes. There were sayings for each rope game, for example, under and over.

Then, as now, school children participated in the community. Aunty Shirley recalled on 10 October 1957 they had a Junior Debutante Ball and were presented to a Minister at St John's Anglican Church, Stroud. Aunty Colleen remembered doing the Maypole dance every year as part of the entertainment for the school fete. She also said that they would take their dolls to school when the fete was held. The dolls were in their best dress, made by Mum, and she clearly remembered her doll having a red dress with lace and matching bonnet.



*Booral School Centenary Parade – Denise's Aunty Sue in Pink Bikini in Mr Penn of Booral's car.*

School had traditions that maintained the link to Mother England. Aunty Colleen said that they had to line up and sing "God Save the Queen" every morning before class.

Doctors played a role at school. Aunty Colleen said that the doctor came to the school in the early 60s and gave them a check-up. If any health issues were found a note was sent home to their parents. She also remembered receiving the polio serum and being tested for TB. The doctor would come back a week or so later to see if anyone had a reaction to the TB test. Aunty Colleen also had unhappy memories of being made to drink milk at school. She felt so sick that she never drank straight milk again!

Annual events were popular. Aunty Colleen said that they had a school concert every year in the hall and would have rehearsals every day before the concert, performing plays and singing in choirs. Her Mum used to make their costumes out of whatever was available, for example, crepe paper, newspapers, and magazines! Aunty Colleen remembered her Mum being very clever.

This month Booral Public School celebrates its Sesquicentenary. Aunty Colleen recalled the 100 year celebration including a parade down the main road with everyone dressed up in costumes, and the school holding a fete and providing entertainment.

Happy Birthday Booral Public School!

*Sharon Burke ©2015*

*This article was made possible thanks to the memories of Aunty Shirley & Aunty Colleen sent via email in May 2015.*