

SOUVENIR BROCHURE

# *Centenary*

1866 — 1966

MOGGILL STATE SCHOOL

17th September, 1966

## THE CHILDREN'S SONG

Land of our Birth, we pledge to thee  
Our love and toil in the years to be;  
When we are grown and take our place  
As men and women with our race.

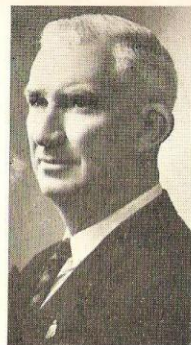
... These words, written by Kipling are repeated by the  
pupils of the Moggill State School at assembly each morning ...

## MOGGILL STATE SCHOOL

### FOREWORD

by

the Hon. J. C. A. Pizzey,  
B.A., Dip. Ed., LL.D., M.L.A.  
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION.



The celebration of the Centenary of the Moggill State School is a significant event in the history of the Brisbane area.

This school is almost as old as the State of Queensland and its development is an indicator of the development of the Moggill area, and Brisbane generally.

The Moggill State School has had its ups and downs and they reflect some of the progress and some of the setbacks experienced in the Moggill region itself over the years.

The school was apparently closed several times early in its history, but it was always reopened, no doubt after strong representations from local parents. The teacher's residence was threatened by white ants, and finally destroyed by fire, but the school itself survived.

Fever and drought in the district in 1885 caused small attendances at the school, and threatened its future.

But the drought broke, and the fever abated, and the school stayed open.

This school, and its pupils, have seen two big wars, and many smaller ones. They have seen Brisbane and Queensland awaken and develop.

Thirty teachers have been assigned to the Moggill School on their way up the ladder.

The Moggill State School is thus a link which binds together many people who now come from many different areas and walks of life.

The celebration of its Centenary will signal the revival of many old memories.

May I send my best wishes for a most successful celebration to everyone connected with the Centenary of the Moggill State School.

J. C. A. Pizzey

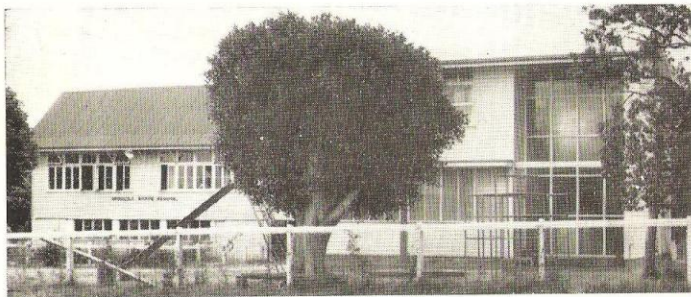
## PROGRESS OF QUEENSLAND EDUCATION

Education in Queensland had its beginnings in the schools of the Penal settlement of 1624 with instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, scripture and occasionally needlework, for the children of convicts, soldiers and officials. Teachers were recruited from the ranks of the soldiery. Payment was derived from a charge of 3d. per week per child attending school.

In 1838 the first private school was opened by a group of German missionaries at German Station, now Nundah. Education was provided for the children of the missionaries and for the Aboriginal children living in the district. The school at Moggill, built twenty-eight years later, was constructed on the same design.

Immediately after Separation in 1859, a Board of General Education was set up to implement educational policy. Not until education became free in 1870 was much effort made to make a dull curriculum more attractive. The State Education Act of 1875, which made the attainment of free, secular, compulsory education possible, introduced the 3 R's, English, Grammar, Geography, Drill and Gymnastics, and Vocal Music.

The period since 1875 has been a steady increase in the scope of State Education in Queensland. This has been accompanied by gradual improvement in the conditions of teaching and a gradual process of curriculum change in the direction of a wider and more balanced course of instruction for all the children. However, teaching still followed a traditional pattern — (1) Learning by Rote; (2) No interest; (3) Plenty of flogging; (4) No understanding.



Moggill State School — 1966

The turn of the century brought new life to the educational scene. Aware of the need for change, inspectors, teachers and officials met to produce a new syllabus in 1905 which aimed at making education more meaningful to the child, and recognised self activity of the child as the basis of sound instruction.

The big change in emphasis in education however, came in 1952 when it was changed from subject matter to the child himself. This child-centred education required a deep understanding of children, their devel-

opment, their needs and their interests. This naturally, resulted in new methods. A recognition of the need of every child to succeed, whether gifted or backward, resulted in ability grouping within classes so that each child could progress at his own pace.

Much research and experimentation by the Queensland Research and Guidance Branch led to the Reading Through Readiness Programme in 1959 and the adoption of the, now Australian wide, Cuisenaire system as a method of teaching mathematics in 1966. Moggill, as one of the pioneers, had already introduced this system in 1963. Apart from the Cuisenaire method itself, a whole new Maths Syllabus has been adopted to gear the present generation for the demands of our technical and scientific age.

The final abolition of the Scholarship examination in 1963 was hailed with delight by educators, as this meant that the education of all children throughout Queensland would be extended to Secondary Schools. Every child would now have the opportunity to find the avenue of learning most suitable to his abilities and interests. Every child would have the benefit of Secondary education and the whole course of the Primary school would no longer be restricted and dominated by the demands of this exam.

This change has also resulted in a new emphasis on science commencing at the infant level. The aim of teaching science is to stimulate and develop the natural curiosity and interests of the child in the world around him. Children are to be encouraged to explore and discover for themselves knowledge about their world.

Today's schools must be regarded as a training ground rather than a mere source of information. HOW to think, not WHAT to think, is the basis of true education.

(Continued on Page 12)

## TEACHERS

Mr. J. McAllister, 1/2/66 to 31/3/68; Mr. F. F. Swanwick, 1/69 to 13/3/72; Mr. F. Sturgess, 11/3/72 to 18/1/47; Mr. F. W. Johns, 19/1/74 to 31/12/77; Mr. F. Sturgess, 1/1/78 to 31/12/80; Miss S. A. Pillow, 1/1/81 to 30/6/82; Mr. J. G. Stewart, 27/3/82 to 31/7/83; Miss A. Briggs, 1/8/83 to 31/12/83; Mr. A. B. Watt, 11/8/84 to 25/3/87; Mr. D. A. Hogan, 1/7/87 to 31/12/88; Mr. R. J. Hilton, 17/6/89 to 6/7/90; Mr. W. Giles, 21/7/90 to 12/5/96; Mr. J. Commins, 18/5/96 to 30/6/99; Mr. J. Youatt, 1/7/99 to 30/6/00; Mr. J. Cumming, 10/7/00 to 1/9/01; Mr. F. P. Heppel, 6/9/01 to 31/12/03; Mr. T. A. Forbes, 6/1/09 to 2/4/16; Mr. L. W. Harrison, 26/4/18 to 22/2/20 (with the A.I.F. 11/9/17 to 27/3/19); Miss E. M. Hess (acting), 11/9/17 to 27/3/19; Mr. T. J. Morris, 29/3/20 to 31/12/23; Mr. W. M. Young, 1/1/24 to 31/12/24; Mr. D. H. McMillan (acting), 27/1/25 to 27/3/25; Mr. H. Guymer, 28/3/25 to 31/12/30; Miss M. G. Wood, 1/1/40 to 26/4/42; Mr. F. F. Kinne, 27/4/42 to 1/11/44; Mr. C. Klein (acting), 27/11/44 to 15/12/44; Mr. V. F. Garvey, 1/3/45 to 30/6/48; Mr. D. R. E. Leggett, 1/7/48 to 21/7/61; Mr. D. D. R. Long, 24/7/61 to 22/7/65; Mr. V. Kratske, 26/7/65 to date.

## Assistant Teachers

Miss Myles, 1948; T. J. Kelly, 1956; Miss Curslake; Miss Sherman; Miss Broadbent; Miss Pearson; Miss McCray, 1956; Miss M. Freer, 1957; Miss V. Boyle, 1961; Mrs. J. Westaway, 1962; Miss N. Presneill, 1963; Mrs. I. Westaway, 1966; Miss C. Heybrock, 1966.

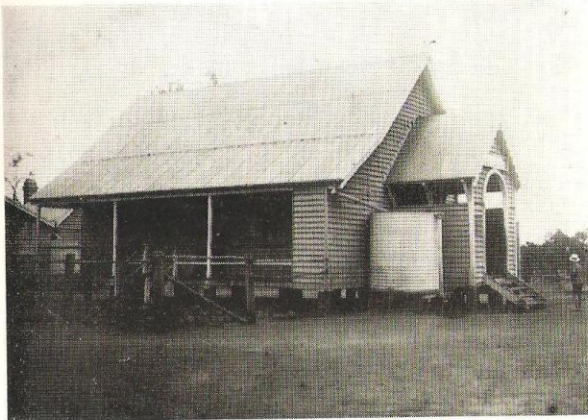
If any names have been omitted please accept writer's apologies.

# HISTORY OF THE MOGGILL STATE SCHOOL

There are very few records of the beginning of the Moggill State School. The original local patrons, who took the initiative towards the setting up of a school, cannot be traced; but there is no doubt that the early history of the school would be closely related to the early history of Moggill and its settlers.

The first written reference available concerning the school is in a letter written by R. Bourne, Secretary of the Board of Education to the Minister for Lands and Works on 15th June, 1865, in which he applied for a grant of land for the school.

On 25th July, 1865, an agreement was signed between Charles Batten and W. J. Francis, contractors of Brisbane, and the Board of Education, for the construction of a School House and Teacher's residence at Moggill, for the sum of £290.



Earliest photo available of the Moggill State School.

The school opened on the 12th February, 1866, Mr. John McAllister being appointed the first teacher. This day was celebrated as a holiday and the residents (old and young) of the district assembled at a grand feast. Mutual congratulations were offered and received by the public spirited promoters of the school at the successful consummation of their efforts.

The early school roll books cannot be traced. It is assumed they were lost in the great flood of 1893 or the fire at the school house in 1935. However the first recorded names of the settlers in the district at the time of the school opening include J. Anstead, E. Bailey, J. Brabant, W. Broadfoot, B. Brookes, F. Buckle, J. Carty, N. Clarkson, R. Cribb

R. Drew, H. Ellerby, G. H. Foxwell, S. Fraser, W. Fryer, T. Gibson, J. Graham, H. Haggerty, A. J. Hallett, W. and J. Hardgrave, S. Heathwood, E. Horne, C. Hucker, J. Litherland, F. H. Livesay, Lumsden, J. McGrath, T. Makepeace, J. Moody, E. W. Moore, T. Prior, C. Rawnsley, Roper, R. Sexton, J. Sheckleton, W. Sheehan, J. Shield, J. Simmons, J. Stock, D. H. Sullivan, T. G. Sugars, G. Thorne, J. Twine, W. Weekes, S. and R. Warnock, J. Williams, W. K. Witty, W. Woolcock.

The number of pupils enrolled during the first year was 53, the average daily attendance was 34—21 boys and 13 girls. A report the following year by the District Inspector, Mr. Anderson states, "The progress of the children, many of whom were mere beginners when they entered this school, was generally of a satisfactory character. There were four classes — first, second sequel and third. The proficiency of all of them at the end of the year was, relatively to their ages and opportunities, as great as could be expected. The knowledge of grammar possessed by the third class reflected credit on the teacher. Penmanship had not been so successfully taught."

In 1871 the first census of the population of Moggill showed the "count of heads" to be 470. The school inspector's report in this year says, "The teacher has done well in the improvement of the school grounds. A neat garden now occupies the place of fallen timber. Free Education return. Although nearly every child always attended the school more or less, still the attendance has improved. Free Education removed bad debts." The nin 1873 "The inspection took place on a day which had been set apart in the district for a Sunday School tea meeting and the attendance was consequently very small; so much so that I am by no means certain that I have seen a fair average of the school. It was apparent besides, that the excitement of the approaching feast had so disturbed the minds of the little folk that their best attention, and therefore their best answering was not to be obtained. The points notified to the teacher as weak at the last inspection, have been attended to and strengthened, and so far as I can judge, the instruction of the children is proceeding in a satisfactory manner."

In December, 1885, the average weekly attendance fluctuated roughly between ten and twelve children. The Committee were asked to show cause why the school should not be closed.

They reported that fever had prevailed during the past year and "that by reason of the dry weather, children were kept at home to water cattle. The health of the neighbourhood having improved, and rain having fallen they hope that the attendance will improve". They went on to add that as good freestone had been found in the neighbourhood of the school, they thought that the population would be likely to increase. It appears from a scribbled note on a Departmental letter that during the school's early history it had at several times been closed.

For many years the school buildings and the teacher's residence were continually menaced by white ants. A Department of Public Works inspection on September, 1881, found that the condition of the buildings in a rather poor state, mentioning in the report that £167/15/- had been spent on repairs in 1878. The estimate of necessary repairs gives an idea of the extensive damage done by the write ants. "The cost of raising both buildings, poisoning timbers, taking down and re-erecting chimney, repairing floor, ceilings, roof and spouting, boys' water closet and painting all the buildings I estimate at one hundred pounds." Again in July, 1887, D. Hogan, the Head Teacher reported in reference to the residence: "... the white ants have not only commenced their ravages in the kitchen but have likewise destroyed the back rooms of the dwelling house to such an extent that the rain comes through the roofs of them as through a sieve". Repairs it seems were made, but no new kitchen. The kitchen

collapsed in February, 1888. D. Hogan wrote: "My wife and child had a very narrow escape, a few days since from being injured by half the roof tumbling down. One end, half one side wall, and half the roof are now down, as it is the only place in which any cooking can be done, I trust it will receive your earliest attention". This time a new kitchen was built together with a covered way. In November, 1889, tenders were called for the raising of the residence by six inches and a rebuilding of the chimney in an attempt to prevent more infestation by white ants.

There is a thread of cotton woven into the history of Moggill and its school. When Dr. Lang brought his immigrants to Brisbane in 1854 to grow cotton for Britain some of his colonists moved up the river. Among these was Mr. Robert Sexton, who settled here. Some residents have recalled when "adult-education" classes were held at the school at night, presumably when the Government paid a bonus on cotton (1907 to 1916). Many of the students were adults, who had picked cotton all day and learnt to read and write at night. At one time there was an experimental cotton plantation where Mr. Dallinger now lives.

Moggill showed a population of 256 in 1911. The school attendance remained small. Picnics were organised at the "basin" (a popular spot near the river on Mr. Shield's property). Bill Anstead shone as a bowler, under the cricket coaching he received from teacher Mr. T. A. Forbes during the lunch break. Jack O'Brien's two falls from the front school fig trees caused some anxious moments and resulted in a rule of six cuts for the child caught climbing the trees and 12 cuts for Jack.

Fire destroyed the school residence in September 1935. The head teacher, Mr. Henry Guymer, his wife and grandchild escaped but were unable to save any of their belongings. He wrote . . . "Two neighbours arrived and we immediately concentrated on saving the school which was only twenty feet from the burning building. The heat was so great that it caused the tar on the stumps to boil; the wall was scorched and 13 window panes were cracked." The Department of Public Instruction decided not to rebuild the residence as the attendance figures were considered too low to warrant this.

It has been found that at one stage, of eight children attending the school, six were McIntyres. Dr. Ken McIntyre, M.D., and the Rev. Ron McIntyre, Master of Science and a Presbyterian Minister were among the students. A school tuck shop operated at this time. Situated on the corner of Moggill Road and Priors Pocket Road.

As Moggill has no community hall, the school has had to fill this need. Meetings of various local associations have been held in the class rooms over the years. Many a Saturday night the old rafters have rung to a merry dance tune or have quietly listened to the "Penny Readings" of parents and neighbours, who came together to read aloud verse and prose, in the early days. Prior to World War II, a tennis court had been constructed on the present sports oval, but when the land was leased the court was demolished. Later, another court was constructed on its present site close to Moggill Road.

Former pupil Robert Sexton flew a Lancaster in the famous Pathfinder Squadron, during World War II. He flew a total of 46 sorties over occupied Europe, fifteen of them over Berlin. He was awarded a gold watch by Air Vice Marshall D. C. Bennett, who, by a strange coincidence is a grandson of another of Moggill's earliest settlers, Mr. T. Makepeace. In the field of sport, one of our pupils who, excelled, is Colin Westaway, who played for Queensland in Sheffield Shield cricket for several seasons. The school's first sports day held at the Brookfield Show Grounds in 1947, has been made an annual event on the school's calendar. The most successful years for the school were 1964 and 1966 when quite a few records were broken by Moggillites.

The last decade has probably been the most progressive years in the existence of the Moggill School. It was early in this period that the old original school was altered. As two teachers had been for some time, extremely cramped for space, six feet of extra length was added to the western end of the existing building, giving much needed, though inadequate, school room area. At this time too, the whole structure was raised some nine or ten feet, thus creating a wet weather shelter for the children underneath. It was in the process of these alterations that the old front verandah was removed.

Then, as sub-division extended in our direction, thus increasing population, the underneath shelter was converted to a classroom. By now there were three teachers too. As it stands to-day, 'twould be difficult to recognise any of the original "German Station" architecture in the "old classroom".

As the district of Moggill became more and more suburban, and in time, out numbering the existing rural population, a more suitable subject was needed for the school project club. For a good many years, both girls and boys learned the "finer arts" of milk and cream testing, and many of them were most proficient. However, be that as it may, a citrus orchard was decided upon as the school project.

Tuckshops were held monthly to raise funds to purchase advanced trees. A corner of the school grounds was fenced off and cultivated with the help of keen parents. Water had to be carried from the school tanks in buckets to start the trees growing. When the trees were showing signs of developing well, a field day was held to which the parents were invited. The day was rounded off with a grand afternoon tea. As the trees bore fruit the children ate them or they were sold at tuckshop.

By 1964, the number of children attending the Moggill School had reached 101. It was now obvious the school needed more class rooms. With Mr. Lickiss's repeated deputations to the Department of Education on the Parents' and Citizens' behalf, finally, notification of the Department's agreement to erect a large new schoolroom, arrived. This was carried out in 1964, and in the same year, seven additional acres of playground were acquired on which a concrete cricket pitch was laid.

Soially the highlight of 1964 was undoubtedly the Ladies Luncheon and Hat Parade. This was a most profitable and enjoyable function and great credit is due to the organisers.

Quite unique among schools is a wood-fired pottery kiln, built at Moggill School. Examples of the childrens skill and ability at working the clay may be seen arranged on shelves about the school.

Reticulated water was connected to the school at this time. Previously rain water tanks had been the only supply of water for the children. Needless to say, these often ran dry. The end result of the water project is the installation of septic systems during the second half of this year, 1966.

In 1965 two fine new tennis courts, of which the school is justly proud, were completed. These courts were erected by the local parents and citizens, and made possible by the Department of Education's resumption of extra land for a school playing field.

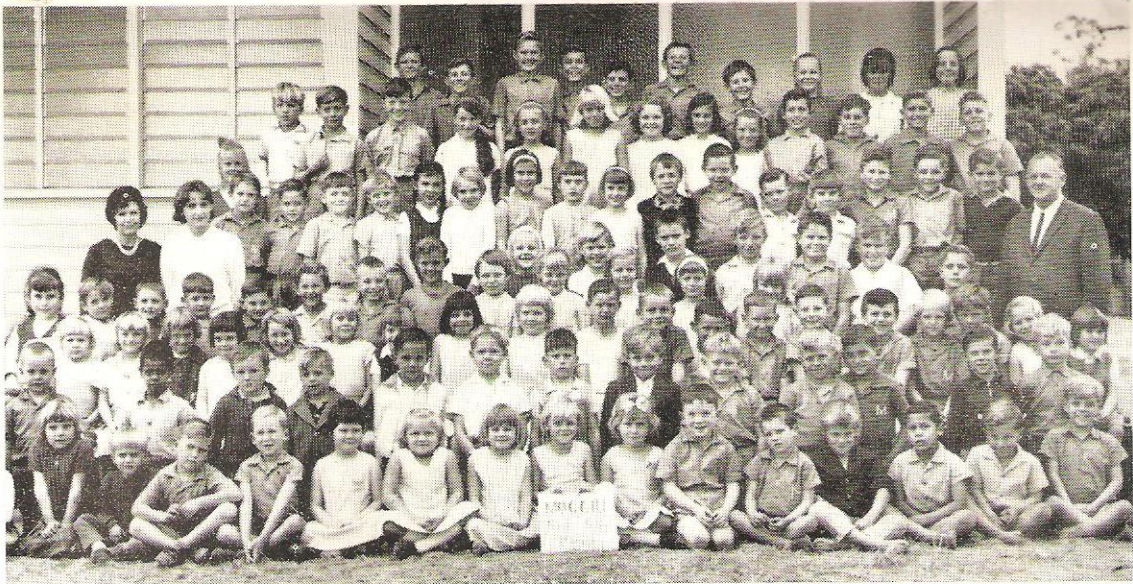
A locally owned and operated bus service provides transport to and from school. This service is also provided for the High School pupils. By August, 1963, the school attendance had reached one hundred and twenty children.

It must be stressed that without the efforts of an always active and progressive Parents' and Citizens' Association, many amenities and acquisitions would not have been possible. The women and men of this

(Continued on Page 15)



Students of the Moggill State School at the turn of the century, with head teacher, Mr. Cummings and wife.



BACK ROW: C. Fischer, S. Ralph, H. Partanen, M. Eddiehausen, R. Eygar, G. Wilson, D. LeEherz, J. Heitink, P. Cooper, K. West.  
 2nd. ROW: T. Neller, J. Geeves, M. Dodd, S. Dodd, C. Eastley, L. Ralph, P. Crozier, C. Curtis, J. Stratford, G. Fien, T. Baker, G. Harris, B. Nicholson.  
 3rd. ROW: A. Partanen, J. Fischer, R. Harris, R. Gillett, T. Symons, R. DeMari, D. Curtis, F. Madsen, J. Jones, C. Little, P. LeEherz, M. Brown, S. Cooper, S. Fox, W. Bowen, G. Eddiehausen, L. Ehrenberg.  
 4th. ROW: S. Courtney, D. Westcott, M. Morley, D. Devon, A. Harris, P. Eastley, J. Ralph, J. Robins, H. Delange, M. Heitink, J. Walls, S. Siiankoski, R. Nicholson, S. Jones, S. Ehrenberg, R. Neller, S. Neller, J. Baker, D. Thomas, S. Robins.  
 5th. ROW: L. Boyle, J. Cooper, S. Koning, P. Corbett, T. Bowen, J. Ramaekers, J. Madsen, L. Stratford, J. Devon, G. Douglas, R. Heitink, D. Koning, G. Makin, C. Dolan, G. Hunt, A. Fischer, W. Symons, D. Ralph, C. Fox.  
 6th. ROW: J. Heitink, A. Waddy, R. Mitchell, P. Ehrenberg, D. Robins, M. Smith, J. Willett, G. Roosen, C. Allen, G. Ralph, M. Harris, D. Curtis, R. Gould.  
 FRONT ROW: M. Schotz, T. Ramaekers, W. Ernst, M. Makin, S. Devon, K. Harris, S. Stratford, D. Allen, D. Greer, S. Dodd, P. Bourke, B. Curtis, M. Veasey, R. Eastley, P. Bourke.  
 TEACHERS: Mrs. I. Westaway, Miss C. Heybroek, Mr. V. Kratzke.  
 ABSENT: G. Cottrell, G. Dallinger, P. Bailden, J. Fox.

## MOGGILLANA

Three escapee convicts, Pamphlet, Finnigan and Parsons are possibly the first white men to view Moggill — from the opposite bank of the Brisbane River, where Redbank now stands. They became hopelessly bushed and lost their bearings in their efforts to return to Sydney.

Lieutenant John Oxley is regarded as the first responsible white man to view and probably set foot on Moggill. An extract from the field books of Mr. John Oxley, Surveyor General of New South Wales relating to the discovery of the Brisbane River, shows that, on Thursday, December 14, 1823, he charted the river up to a distance of 25 miles and named Termination Hill (Goodna) and Termination Plains — rich flats of land (Priors Pocket, Moggill) before descending the river.

How Moggill was named is rather vague. One theory is that it came from the aboriginal word meaning "water lizard"; the other is that an ex-convict called Mog lived in a shack in the vicinity, the place gaining the name of Mog's Hill, then later Moggill. One of the earliest recorded mentions found was from J. J. Knight's book "In the Early Days" — "We called at a place which some people then spelt 'Moghill' (Moggill) and I thought what a strange name "Mog" was for a hill."

In 1824 Brisbane was opened as a convict settlement. In 1840 the first free settlers arrived in Brisbane. The convicts had already established a link by water between Brisbane and Ipswich. Some free settlers made homes at Ipswich not long after their arrival in Brisbane. The river played an important part in the early development of Ipswich and Moggill. In 1842 the first land sales were held in Brisbane and in 1851 the first survey of Moggill was made. In the first survey, the township of Moggill was planned with Weekes Road (then Moggill Road) as the main street. It is assumed that a new site was chosen on high ground (Witty Road) because of severe floods.

The church has formed an integral part of the history of Moggill. In 1856 the first Methodist (called Wesleyan) Church service was held at the home of Mr. T. T. Makepeace, Moggill. The preachers travelling by row boat or on horse back over very rough bush tracks. In 1838 the present Moggill Methodist Church was built. The Memorial Hall was added much later by the late Mr. Sinnamon.

On January 23, 1850, the first sale by public auction of land in the parishes of Moggill and Indooroopilly was held at the Police Office, Brisbane. The price of all land sold was £1 per acre. Little is known of the early settlers except their names, which appear on Page Four. We have however found some record of the following pioneers.

**Jonathon Litherland**, arrived at Sydney in 1849. Soon after he settled 15 miles from Brisbane on "Moggill Plantation", later moving to Caboolture, where his descendants still live. **John Broadfoot**, a Scottish sawmiller arrived with his parents, who settled in 1849 at Moggill Creek where they remained until 1851.

**Mr. Job Twine** was one of Moggill's earliest settlers. His great grand son, Mr. Frank Twine, lives at Moggill and attended the Moggill school, as his father and grandfather did. Following is an extract from one of the original testimonials given Job Twine in 1849 prior to his leaving England. "I have known Mr. Job Twine as a neighbour for more than 20 years, and I believe him to be a very respectable, conscientious and worthy man. I understand he is about to emigrate to Australia, and heartily wish him and his family every success and prosperity . . ."

**Mr. Robert Sexton** arrived in Australia in 1849 on the sailing ship "Lima", taking six months for the journey. Before taking up land at Moggill (his property later known as "Woodbine Hill"), Mr. Sexton was

working with one of the first settlers, **John Lumsdon**, formerly a Surveyor to the City of London. This land was later owned by Mr. R. Roe, M.A., Headmaster of the Brisbane Grammar School. He then sold to Mr. C. Lather, whose son Mr. E. C. Lather of Moggill, became Director of Posts and Telegraphs, retiring on May 30, 1966.

**Thomas Sugars, J.P.**, arrived in Queensland in 1859. In 1863 he came to Moggill where he spent 14 years timber-getting and nine years farming. In 1887 he opened a blue metal quarry four miles above the Bremer River on the Brisbane River. He employed about 20 men. It is interesting to note that at this time, quarrymen's wages were about 9/- per day, and stone breaker's 4/- per day. This was considered a good wage and indicates the industry was a thriving one.

Mr. Sugars also owned the fleet of lighters which transported the blue metal, the best and closest to Brisbane. When the quarry was taken over in 1924 by Gravel, Sand and Metal Supply Ltd., **Mr. J. Anstead** became the works' manager. Sandstone quarried at Moggill was transported by boat to Brisbane as well. It was used in the construction of the Treasury Buildings in Brisbane. It is many years since the old quarry closed, but a new one off Mt. Crosby Road is operating at full capacity, while drill tests are being made in its vicinity to determine the extent of the blue metal strata. The descendants of Thomas Sugars attended the Moggill School and many still live in the district. A great grandson Mr. E. Sugars, last year received long service and good conduct decorations for 24 years of exemplary service in the Police Force. An uncle, in the early days was a special Constable in the Doyle an Dalk murder case.

It was Petrie who found "the black diamond" (coal) at Moggill in 1838. This was subsequently mined by **Mr. John Williams**, an early Brisbane settler with a head for business. He expended his efforts in the search for coal which he foresaw, would be required by steamers for the return trip to Sydney. In 1843 he made an extensive search for coal, finding it at Softstone on Oxley Creek. He abandoned this on discovering an outcrop at Redbank, which he worked for some years before moving his plant to Moggill. He disposed of his coal interests to a group of residents in the Moggill district.

From Pugh's Almanac 1868 "Moggill is a farming district on the north bank of the Brisbane River, about 15 miles from the city by road. The only cattle station in its vicinity is that of **John McGrath**. There are coal mines in the locality, which were first opened up in the colony, but have not been worked in years — superior coal having been discovered elsewhere."

In the early days on Moggill, primary producers worked long hours on short returns. Dairying was in its embryo; farmers set milk in large pans, skimmed the cream and churned butter for market. It was taken by boat, with bananas when in season and sold in Ipswich. The farmers then bought provisions for their families with the proceeds.

One of the most devastating events in the history of Moggill was the flood of 1893. In four days a total of 77.29 inches of rain fell. Many homes were swept away, not to mention farm animals. Mrs. Grace Stone recalls seeing **Mr. and Mrs. Keenan** rescued by her father. They had lost all and were terrified as their boat was invaded by snakes from the flood waters, as they struggled to dry land. A coal mine somewhere at the end of Weekes Road was flooded and caved in.

In 1920, a Moggill dairy farmer, **Mr. A. S. Mackay**, commenced to dig a well for water for his stock, as the river in dry weather became too salty. At a shallow depth he encountered a seam of coal. Geologists

## MOGGILLODDITIES

from the Mines Department were called in to test the quality of the seam. It proved to be of economic value. Mr. Mackay, formed a mining company known as The Riverside Collieries Pty. Ltd. The original company retired in the late 40's and early 50's and the Company operated by a younger generation until it was sold in 1954 to the present owners. **Mr. Stan Mackay**, son of the original mine owner, and a former pupil of the Moggill school, studied for his Mine Manager's Certificates and managed the No. 2 mine (now known as The Moggill Collieries) from 1941 to 1952, when he resigned to accept an appointment with a Bundamba company.

Although Moggill is fast becoming more urban, primary industries are still dominant. There are many excellent dairy farms along the Brisbane River; several employing the most up to date improved and irrigated pasture methods. Among these farms are several quite famous A.I.S. and Jersey stud farms. The late **Mr. Sinnamon** made three visits to the island of Jersey to purchase stock for his stud. His son **Mr. E. Sinnamon**, and his son carry on the good work, at Trinity Stud, Prior's Pocket.

Pineapples are the most important fruit grown in the area. The acres and acres of neat and orderly rows of the greish green plants are a sight to behold. One of the first to grow smooth leaf pineapples in commercial quantities was **William Westaway**. Of interest is the snippet from the "Port Phillip Patriot" in 1846. "We observe in the shops of some of the confectioners in town, pineapples of a very superior description, grown in Moreton Bay. The price demanded is a guinea a couple."

Poultry farming is a fast expanding industry in the district and there are many modern establishments. Recently a large modern poultry shed, capable of housing 12,500 birds, has been added by a local farmer to his poultry farm. **Messrs. W. Mercer, H. Wescott, L. Curtis and Eggar**, would be among the first poultry farmers on Moggill.

Also in Moggill there is an important extension of the Queensland University. In 1923 **James O'Neil Mayne** gave the University 693 acres of land on the Brisbane River. This area is now an experimental farm conducted by the Veterinary School.

Our pioneer men rate the highest regard and credit. Nevertheless, as courageous and resourceful as they surely were, could they have endured without the presence of their women folk? These women were in every way as much nation builders as their men. Their endurance and fortitude is not written across the pages of history as often as it might be. Perhaps because theirs was the silent resilient strength that helped them master so much.

### PROGRESS OF QUEENSLAND EDUCATION (Continued from Page 3)

This ability to think and reason independently has been recognised to be lacking in the products of our Primary and even our Secondary schools. A lack which has resulted in the high failure rate of previously successful students at Tertiary level. New methods are particularly geared to foster this ability in children at an early age.

The demands of our society on children, and therefore the school, have changed tremendously in the past few decades and will no doubt, continue to change. Children will have to be trained to cope with an ever changing world society and an ever increasing amount of knowledge. To meet these demands, the Queensland Educational System has developed and must go on developing with the Society it serves.

First and only handsome cab seen in Moggill was hired by Mr. Charles Elton on 17th January, 1906, when he wed Miss Emily Sugars in the local Methodist Church. Reception held in the hay shed on the brides parents' farm.

Believe the first car in Moggill was a 1918 Buick owned by Mr. Fred Sugars. The next was a Ford owned by Mr. W. Anstead. The first time he drove it up the hill to his home the strange sight of the machine, and its noise so frightened the farm animals and poultry, they turned tail and bolted for the far end of the farm.

**Whisky on the cob . . .** Heard a whisper that along the old Pipe Track Road (Livesay Road) many years ago there was in production a prolific whisky still. When bottled the whisky was mingled with corn on the cob in sacks and transported by boat to Brisbane, where it met a ready market, and eventually the law!!

**Moggill Ghosts . . .** Did you know a ghost was reputed to have haunted McCarthys Hill in the early days. It was said to have snorted like a bullock or appeared in true ghost like form, frightening the lone night travellers no end. There was another at Graveyard Hill. A friend had visited the O'Brien's one Saturday night. A short while after leaving to go home he came running back up the hill to the house in a great state of panic. Between gasps he blurted out he'd seen a ghost on Graveyard Hill. Mr. O'Brien saddled a horse, took a gun and went to investigate. On reaching Graveyard Hill he dismounted and went on foot as his friend had done. He heard a snort and up went the head of a big draught horse with a "Baldy" face. The night was moonlit, the horse dark in colour and all that could be seen in the eerie light was the white face floating in the air.

**Thump-things wrong . . .** When Mr. James Boyle came to take up his land in Moggill, he camped the first night under a huge gum tree, using his saddle for a pillow. It is recorded that he could not sleep because of the thump, thump of the wallabies all night long.

**Circle of events . . .** In 1879 Mrs. Kefford came to Australia with her son and daughter and took up land in Moggill. Later she sold this land to Mr. Tom Sugars, who sold to Mr. Eggar, who sold to Mr. Fleishmann, who sold to Mr. Percy Johnson. Mr. Johnson's son Alan, wed Carol Muir (Mrs. Kefford's great grand daughter) in 1964 and brought her to live on the same land; thus closing a circle of events that took almost a century to complete.

**Moggill Bridge . . .** It was during the "twenties" that the Moggill Bridge League was formed. Mr. Sankey Fraser, at the time farming on Moggill, founded the League in the hope that one day it might lead to the building of a bridge and so do away with the ferry. The League flourished for some time and a membership badge was struck.

**Lost one ferry . . .** Our dear old ferry has had many ups and downs (especially the latter) since the first punt was launched in 1876. In 1884, after much haggling about leases, etc., it sank "rotten and decayed at its moorings". Our present ferry, built in 1929 was motorised in 1949. But before then one had to operate various ropes this way and that in order to reach the opposite bank. Apparently about 50 years ago one very unfortunate school teacher pulled the wrong string; everything went wrong. Somehow he ended up "in the drink" where he bobbed up and down spluttering for help.

. . . Back in the 1930's, during a rather severe flood, Fred Sugars rowed out to the top of a certain huge old gum tree near Pullen Creek Bridge, and thereupon nailed a board to mark, for posterity, the flood level. Years later vandals set fire to the tree and burned it down.



**Killing two birds . . .** One cricket match, that many of the locals recall with enthusiasm was played on Ansteads flat. The blacks (the team blackened their faces) versus the whites. I don't remember what the outcome of the game was score-wise but the same men played in a Minstrel concert about the same time to raise money for the church organ!

**Buckley's Chance . . .** Heard tell of the father who went fishing one night in the river round 1938 and capsized his row boat. In to the brink went fisherman, net, hurricane lamp and all — he couldn't swim. But the story had a happy ending. He didn't drown.

**Those were the "good old days" . . .** when a baker called three times a week and grocer delivered goods in his T Model Ford on Saturdays.

**Last of the Aborigines . . .** Down by the river somewhere at the end of Weekes Road, there once lived what was probably the last of the Moggill Aborigines. They were a family group consisting of a very old man and his two wives — one old and one young. When the young wife had a child (believed born under a huge leaning tree) the older one walked over to Mrs. Annie Gibson's homestead and asked for some dripping. She wanted it to mix with charcoal to rub on the new young coloured infant to make it turn black as was the custom.

**Outlaws in Moggill . . .** The notorious Kenniff bushrangers shot a young policeman, George Doyle, at the turn of the century.

In 1866 record shows that our first head teacher received £10/16/3 salary for the month of February.

Believe someone lost their false teeth in the school fire of 1935 . . . no prompting now.

**Silence please . . .** Ever heard of a school ground that was hushed into silence during the lunch hour, with all the kids going tippy-toe. Former pupils in 1938 hoped the teacher would over sleep his lunch time nap if they remained quiet. Unfortunately the teacher's wife kept an eye on the clock.

**Give us a taste . . .** Former pupil, Gladys O'Brien (1916) comments that a peculiarity of the school was the pupils habit of asking for a taste of anything you may have for lunch, that was a little "different". "Give us a taste" was a popular expression. Only trouble was, obliging children often finished up with less than a taste themselves.

**Kids will be kids . . .** Asked at what did the pupils play during the early days, I was told it was considered great fun to bring your dog and catch kangaroo rats as they scattered at harvest time in O'Brien's lucerne patch, or riding on the hay, swinging on the bamboo at Shield's gate . . . standing on the ants nests bare footed, to prove how brave you were . . . walking home through the cemetery and reading the tombstones on "Graveyard Hill".

**The Roaring Twenties . . .** For 20 minutes on the evening of 7th January, 1934, a small section of Moggill was battered by a tornado. At 6 p.m. Mr. Eric Bedwell heard the roar of the wind. Green flashes of lightning in a menacing sky sent him scurrying for safety. The typical wicked swirling funnell of destruction reached his new home before he did, shifting it on its stumps, uprooting a very tall tree close by to send it crashing onto his poultry sheds. Mr. Herbert Westcott's farm was next. The hay barn was first to succumb to the fury. The poultry sheds were lifted and the wind played havoc with its inmates, many of which were killed instantly, then impaled on various points. A light spring cart was rather precariously suspended among the rafters of a roofless shed. The tornado having done its worst, veered northwards to harmlessly peter out over bushlands.

**Wot! No licence . . .** A few years ago the Moggill Parents' and Citizens' Association held a meeting to discuss ways and means of raising money to meet the expenses of the forthcoming breaking-up picnic and school prizes. A barbecue was decided upon, but there was the problem of what to have as a draw card; previous functions had been poorly patronised. Several suggestions died a natural death.

Suddenly a member spoke up and declared: "if drink was available — you'd get a crowd." It was agreed that this was so, but drink was not allowed on the school grounds. Someone asked was it not correct that drink was permissible if located two chains from the school ground? Many agreed that, by jove, this was true!

Agreement was reached then, to set up a couple of kegs at the required distance from the school. Two "barmen" were nominated — one a local identity, the other a German migrant.

The night of the barbecue duly arrived, and as word had circulated that "other" liquid refreshment would be available, a fair crowd started to roll in.

Suddenly, looks of consternation replaced those of complacency! The Police were here!

They had confiscated the kegs!

They were after the "barmen"!

In the nick of time one had slipped among the customers, while our German friend had taken to his heels and was heard crashing through the undergrowth in the paddock at the back of the school grounds, heading as the crow flies, straight for home!

He had been dressed in casual tweeds, but reappeared about half an hour later looking like a Storm Trooper in leather leggings, breeches and leather coat; unlike a Storm Trooper though, he also wore a bland expression as he strolled over to the self drink stall, greeting friends as he went in a manner to suggest he had only just arrived. He fooled no one.

The two "barmen" were informed they were liable for the maximum fine. Anticipating the maximum to be £50 each, a collection was taken up which was willingly and generously subscribed to. However, because it was a first offence (no licence) and being done to aid a good cause, the fines were reduced to £5 each.

What became of the remainder of the collection?

It was donated to the Parents' and Citizens' Association.

A case of "how to succeed without a bar in a bar-b-q . . .!"

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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#### HISTORY OF THE MOGGILL STATE SCHOOL (Contd. from Page 7)

Association have at all times been ready with voluntary labour and willing workers in the field of fund raising.

Recent school acquisitions include lawn mower, telephone, paper guillotine, cricket equipment, tennis equipment, mechanised roller, extensive library, duplicating machine, barbecue hotplate (wood heat), movie projector, refrigerator, farm tools for orchard, cuisinaire equipment, typewriter, and playground equipment.

## PROGRAMME

10.30 a.m.—

JUDGING OF DECORATED BIKES AND PRAMS  
DISPLAY BY MOGGILL PONY CLUB  
YOGA AND GYMNASTICS BY INDOOROOPIILY AND  
DISTRICT YOUTH CLUB  
CHILDREN'S FASHION PARADE  
LUNCHEON  
SAND GARDEN COMPETITION  
JUDGING OF FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS  
ESCORT FOR OFFICIAL PARTY BY PONY CLUB

1 p.m.—

### OFFICIAL OPENING

THE HON. J. C. A. PIZZEY,  
B.A., Dip. Ed., LL.D., M.L.A.,  
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION.  
UNVEILING OF PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE  
CENTENARY OF THE OPENING OF THE MOGGILL  
STATE SCHOOL BY HON. J. C. A. PIZZEY.  
CUTTING OF CAKE  
MUSICAL ITEM BY THE CHILDREN  
GUARD OF HONOUR BY THE CHILDREN

### AFTERNOON TEA

7.30 p.m.—

CENTENARY BALL,  
R.S.L. HALL, INDCOROOPILLY.

### SUPPER

## AUTOGRAPHS