

Mary Skerman (nee Young)

My name is Mary Robyn Skerman (now Young) and I was in the second intake of students at Centenary Heights from 1969 to 1973. Living in Ruthven Street, my home was mid-way geographically between Harristown and Centenary Heights but it seemed exciting to attend a new school and the thought of wearing a green and gold uniform was much more attractive to me than a brown one. Most of my South Girls & Infants primary school friends were also attending, although I soon met many friends from Rangeville and South Boys.

Looking through my old report cards while reminiscing to write this account of my time at high school, it has become obvious to me that Home Economics was my favourite subject. I seemed to be a natural at it having grown up with a needle and thread in my hands from a very young age. Miss Mackie and Mrs Prior are fondly remembered as teachers in this subject area and were both very encouraging of me continuing on to become a Home Economics teacher myself. My Science results left a lot to be desired despite Mr Sams effort to encourage me, and he would be appalled today to know that I also graduated as a Science teacher!

As I look through the Official Opening Ceremony Booklet, held in October 1972, my Grade 11 year, I see so many teachers' names whom I remember fondly for various reasons. Mr Walter was my Economics teacher whom I vividly remember for the matching clothes he always wore! Mr Duffie was a great Physical Education teacher and was also kind enough to give up his holidays to manage the Traveller's Club trips we enjoyed so much. Jumping off the waterfall at Pararella Park in North Queensland and spending the next few days lying on my back in the passageway of the bus is one experience I will never forget! The time and interest taken by teachers, in particular Miss Mc Lean to direct performances such as 'Annie Get Your Gun' are also fond memories.

I enjoyed being a student of the school in its formative years, witnessing its growth in all areas and was elected to many class leadership roles along the way, culminating in the Presidency of the Student Council in my senior year. I had a close relationship with our brilliant Principal, Mr Dansie, who affectionately often called me Scary Merman rather than Mary Skerman. One of my highlights in this role was being the school representative at the Opening of the City Hall Theatre in July 1973.

Leaving Centenary Heights with a full 3 year scholarship to Kelvin Grove Teachers College was a much-appreciated gift of the Government of the time. Following graduation, I taught in several locations throughout Queensland, before resigning to begin a family, as was the requirement of that time. As a mature aged student I later completed a Masters in Special Education externally through the University of Southern Queensland, and finished my teaching career as Head of Special Education / Head of Curriculum at a Warwick Primary School. I feel very satisfied with my education received at Centenary Heights SHS and have always lived by the mantra that *State Schools are Great Schools*.

My most recent visit to the school was for our 30th year reunion in 2003. In these days of retirement my time is committed to our local golf club here in Warwick, where I am enjoying my role as Captain.