

## **The Fifties and Sixties**

Sport including tennis was a regular feature at the school along with excellence in academic work leading to the Scholarship exam. With the post war era the baby boom continued and enrolments grew. A shortage of teachers following the war increased difficulties. The major change in education during the sixties was the cessation of the Scholarship Examination and the move to high school without the qualifying exam which opened up a secondary education for many students. Students moved to high school aged 13 at the end of grade 7. Sport has always been important in the history of West End State School - cricket, rugby league, softball, rugby union, tennis, swimming and the sixties were no exception with many well known sporting names having started at West End.

## **The Seventies**

An additional block was built onto the western end of the main building facing Hardgrave Road. In 1974 the Preschool opened, and, exacerbated by flooding, the decision was made to raise and remodel the then Infant's School. This photo shows the old Infants' School on stumps prior to remodeling.



Another significant event was the beginning of Greek Dancing under the leadership of Mrs. Pat Xynias. Here the dancers pose at the front of the school in 1978. The Greek dancing has continued and grown with the dancers performing at many official functions.



The Out of School Hours Care program was also commenced in 1975 and continues to cater for a large group of children.

## **The Eighties**

During the eighties two major building projects occurred - the Eastern wing was built onto the main building and the swimming pool was added through the combined efforts of parents, students and the community.



## **The Nineties**

The nineties saw very rapid change for West End State School. The West End Infants' School was one of the last remaining Infants' Schools in Queensland and during the early nineties there were many amalgamations of Infants' Schools with

their nearby Primary Schools. In July 1993 the parents read in the Courier Mail of the proposed amalgamation of their Infants' School with the West End Primary School. There was a great deal of protest and opposition, but in 1995 the amalgamation took place and the fence between the two campuses was pulled down.

Between the two schools a large resource centre was constructed unifying the two areas, and beneath it, the ever resourceful parents, organised the building of change rooms for the nearby pool and raised funds. It was at this stage that the school motto was changed to incorporate the two schools, becoming "We all smile in the same language".

In 1996 the Kurilpa Trail, at the front of the school, was constructed to display indigenous plants. The School House names were changed to reflect the value the school places on our indigenous culture - these are:

- Kurilpa - The Water Rat,
- Baruga - The Kangaroo Rat,
- Chulawong - The Mountain Magpie,
- Dungar - The Pelican.

Through the 'Building Better Schools' some of the classrooms in the senior school were upgraded and in 1997 the administration area was totally refurbished. In

1999 the school won the inaugural Premier's Multicultural Award for " being a showpiece of consistent and holistic practice. West End is a brilliant example of a school that has embraced the diversity of its community and is vibrantly living the principles of multiculturalism". The Premier, Peter Beattie, presents the Principal, Mrs. Marion Shields with the award.

