

Joan Margaret Cornelius

My name is Joan Margaret Cornelius and my parents names are Pat and Jim Cornelius. My brothers name is James Cornelius and he is 14 months younger. We lived at 42 King Street, Newcastle. When I attended Newcastle East Public School.

I walked to school every day and attended from 1937 to 1944 (repeating 2nd class).

My friends were Fay Drury, Loraine Drury, Valerie Lowe, Jeanette Lowe, Jean Butt, Brian Wilson, MacMorrow, Margaret Allen, Edith Allen, Barry Alms, Paul Baldwin, John Walmsley, Jack Groves, Shirley Groves and Nettie Hodges.

The principal was Mr Hartnett and he was a lovely man and a very good headmaster. Miss Fitness, Miss Morrow and Mrs Oswald were all dedicated teachers . I thought the teachers' were

aware of everything.

The best things I remember were the Parties and the Christmas tree at the end of the year

"God Save the King" is the only song I can recall from school.

The games we played were skipping, hop-sotch, hide and seek and ball games.

The lessons we were taught were: Reading, Arithmetic, Geography, History, English and sewing. There was no talking in class and you had to pay attention to the teacher.

In 1st to 4th class the children wore ordinary clothes, and in 5th and 6th classes the girls wore a tunic and shirt.

For sport the children attended swimming at Newcastle Baths.

My worst memories are the war years, when my father was in New Guinea for 4

**years and we were without a lot of food
- air raid selters - war prisoners near
Fort Scratchley - Newcastle being
shelled by Japanese Submarine - ships
going aground at Nobby's beach.**

**After school we went to the beach -
played at King Edward Park - and swam
at the baths.**

**I didn't receive pocket money, but I
went to the pictures sometimes. I had to
help around the house and go on
messages.**

**We were frightened of a man called
"Black Harris" who lived opposite the
school in Bolton Street and was
supposed to Shanghai people for boat
crews.**