

Laurie Burns

I arrived at Newcastle East Public School in 1934, and was taught by Miss Freeman. I attended 5th and 6th class. At the time the students were entitled to a qualifying certificate if they passed their yearly exams.

My marks were of a high standard.

The headmaster's name was Mr. Bradley, from Grong-Grong.

In my class there were between 40 and 50 students. At that time there were no composite classes.

There were swimming classes each Friday afternoon, taught by a Mr. Jackson in the summer months. Football was played in the winter months.

I did not have any pocket money to spend as my father was unemployed at the time. There was a shop in Bolton Street adjacent to the school.

My friend in 5th class was "Letty Craydon" who

went on to be an actress on the stage.

There was a general assembly at Christmas time when the pupils sang Christmas carols. Christmas was celebrated; Easter was not considered; but, Anzac and Armistice Days were.

In the summer months some of the pupils would go to the local baths or surf to cool off after school. Young "Bob Newbiggen" was a famed swimmer. He had attended the school some years previously.

The boys went to manual art class at Cooks Hill Primary School on a Wednesday afternoon. The girls did sewing classes at our school.

Ministers came to school every Friday morning for Religious Lessons.

There were no school uniforms back then. The girls wore homemade floral frocks; the boys wore short pants and shirts.

At Lunch time, ball games were played, as well as chasing, and hide and seek.