

**Margaret Jill Bowen  
1940 - 1944**

***I was the only child of John (Jack) and Lilla, and lived at 44 Nobbys Road. I walked to school during the time I attended, which was from October 1940 until November 1944.***

***Amongst my friends during that time were; Joan Cornelius, Jean Butt, Beatrice McDonald, Margaret Allen, Elaine Livingstone, Howard McLean, Norman and Max Silva, Brian Thomson, Hugh Black, Margaret Jeffrey, Jeffrey Brown, Doug Ryan and Harry Harcus.***

***I remember our headmaster Mr Harnett, as a kind, smiling and encouraging person. Mr Blakely, was one of my teachers. He came back after retirement, because of the War ,and therefore ,a teacher shortage. I remember him as a good teacher; he always wore a three piece suit and cardigan and often an overcoat and hat. Miss Morrow (3rd Class) and Miss***

**Freeman (4th Class), wore "basketweave" shoes and always kept an 'old' pair in a cupboard for gardening lessons.**

**The things I remember undertaking at school include; history and geography, Junior Red Cross activities, concerts, marching and being a 'milk monitor'. Special "anniversaries" of historical happenings were mentioned in class and we always 'saluted the flag' on Mondays.**

**We played a lot of skipping and I remember rhymes such as; "Bluebells" , "Mary Mac", and war songs like "Brown Slouch Hat", "Keep the Home Fires Burning", "Pack Up Your Troubles", 'White Cliffs of Dover", "The Long and The Short and The Tall", "Bless 'Em All" and "I Want Sixpence".**

**Other games we played were Hop-Scotch, (Aeroplane, Tors, Granny's Petticoat) 7's, and statues.**

**Lessons included History, Geography, Sewing, Arithmetic, Geometry, English (including Grammar activities - everyday!), Nature Study, Marching (every Monday), Drawing (still life, black and white, pastels). I remember an "Art Teacher" (perhaps a consultant) - a man - from Sydney (I think), stayed a couple of days and we all had at least two or three lessons -running, sitting figures, portraits, landscapes - I remember how quickly we improved - I loved it! There was no homework except "Spelling Words" and "Tables".**

**We didn't have class rules, it was expected you would sit, listen and try your best - and almost everyone did!**

**The uniform was sometimes a navy box-pleated tunic - white blouse - usually a coloured cardigan, matching hair ribbons and socks, black shoes (often summer whites dyed black, to finish them off, while they still fitted). Print dresses in Summer - usually red, green, navy, or yellow as the main colour. In winter it**

**was a navy serge dress, matching jacket - red braid trim.**

**I remember swimming at Newcastle Baths on Fridays in 1940 -1941. I think these lessons were stopped because of the War. Occasionally we played "rounders" in the grounds of Watt Street Hospital (we had to run from school - with our "Emergency Bags" to these grounds and into the trenches, once a week for Air Raid Practice). I don't remember playing sport on a regular basis.**

**Vivid memories of my school days include; asphalt playground, falling over - skinning knees and elbows frequently, wooden posts in downstairs rooms in case of air raids and paper strips on windows as well.**

**When school was "out", I played in my backyard and the back lane of the Pilot Terrace (Boatman's Row, Nobbys Road), with Norman Eric, Max Silva and others. We dressed up and acted out movie**

**scripts, as well as our own games - drawing 'rooms' with chalk all over our backyard ; "Monopoly" (often starting Friday afternoon and going through, playing 9 to 5, with breaks for lunch, until Sunday afternoon) ; Strategy ; Hopscotch ; surfing ; reading and swapping comics ( Film Fun ; Chick's Own) ;going to the pictures (I always went Saturday mornings, not afternoons, usually to Musicals) ; reading library books, (I won a scholarship for two years running for free borrowing at the School of Arts Library) ;going to "Bartons Follies".**

**I had 25 shillings per fortnight. I didn't have to earn it (never knew anyone did, in those days). It was assumed I would wash up , go on messages, clean brass, sweep the yard, and I did. I used to buy lollies with part of it and put the rest in my money box. I opened it twice a year ( I was sometimes given money by my grandparents) to buy toys or gifts for relatives.**

**I don't recall any particular characters**

***from those days - but I was most interested in hearing stories from any people who lived in the Terrace (Nobbys Road) - about life at sea and the places they had lived; rescues by the Lifeboat and the "Old Days" in Newcastle East.***