

**Effie Roach ( nee Davias)**

**My name is Effie Roach; my maiden name is Davias, but my brother Spero and I decided to change to "Aw to "Ew to make it Davies, which did not sound as ethnic ( our background is Greek).**

**My mum, dad and brother Spero lived in Telford Court, Telford Street, Newcastle (where the fountain is now at the top of town). The flats were three stories and there were nine or twelve flats. We lived on the ground floor in a large 2/3 bedroom.**

***I walked to and from school each day, down Hunter Street and up Bolton Street.***

***I went to Newcastle East (cnr Bolton and Church Sts) from Kinder to 4th Class.***

***Because of my Greek background, my parents did not allow me to have any friends away from the flats and the immediate street. Our friends were the kids in the block, Gary and John Herrett, Greg Lekatsas, and around the corner we had Desi and George Amanatides and Paul Samaris. Leslie Plumb was my best friend (her grandfather was a fireman and Joy Cummings (ex Lord Mayor's) father). They lived in the front flats.***

***I don't remember my headmaster, but I do remember one male teacher who always gave me the cane across the palm of my hand for talking in class (4th class). My third class teacher was a lovely lady who always encouraged me. I felt I was her "pet", she used to send me on errands.***

***One thing I do remember about school is the ink we had to make from powder and water, and the inkwells. Paul Samaris used to put my hair in the inkwells!***

***When we had open days, my mother never attended as she could not speak the language well-- I think she felt shy.***

***The games I played at lunch times were hop-scotch and hide and seek!***

***I wore a school tunic ( navy with white blouse ) and black school shoes, but a lot of other kids just wore plain clothes.***

***I remember sport afternoons, we had to walk to Watt Street, to the psychiatric centre and use their grounds. I can't remember what we played, but I can remember how frightened I was seeing the 'spastic kids'. I hated sport days for that reason.***

***I was never allowed to have pocket***

**money, but my brother did - and he always bought 'hamburger and chips' from Shipmates (Mr Clem Ashford was the owner).**

**Dad owned a fish shop[ (fresh and cooked) and I remember always eating fresh oysters, prawns and fish ( a luxury in these days). I remember seeing the Queen, in 1954, outside of my fther's shop, under the Nurses home.**

**Newcastle Beach was our extended playground and swimming pool. Dad always took us after school or his evenings off.**