

Rhiannon Noltorp

Together with my sisters Ruth and Sian (nee East) I attended Newcastle East from 1962 - 1964.

As we lived only a few blocks from the school we walked there from 76 Newcomen Street.

Faith Guesmer (nee Bennett) was my friend at school and is still my best friend.

Merv Hall was the headmaster and also my teacher for 5th and 6th class (a combined class). He was a great teacher and taught us chess, Gilbert and Sullivan, and the recorder. He also took us to the Court House.

Our summer uniform was a short sleeved blue dress with a round neck and a cloth badge on one side of the chest. I have no recollection of a winter uniform - neither does my sister or friend.

I recall one time we were going on an excursion on a double-decker bus. Ruth got motion sickness and her vomit was cleaned up with my jumper, just because she was my sister! I never wore it again.

After school I played with Ruth and the Rooke children (Debra, Mary, Margaret and Johnny - all at Newcastle East). We particularly liked the empty houses/building sites. I always read a lot.

I think I had a small amount of money, given, not earned. I remember it was always hard to choose something to buy in the shop next to the school because I didn't like lollies - cobbers were very nice though.

Miss Hestelon is the person I remember most vividly from that time. She owned a lot of property in town, including the top end of Newcomen Street. She always wore black and carried a terrier with her. I remember she drove a big old fashioned black car. She seemed to look poor and scruffy.