Education in St Lucia

Peter Brown

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19. EDUCATION

Author: Peter Brown © 2017

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1. GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION

The Colony of New South Wales had no specific education legislation until 1848 when a programme began to create a programme of ‘National Schools’. These were denominationally neutral but contained elements of ‘common Christianity’. Education had begun in the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement in 1826 with a small school, Government funded
but administered by the Anglican Church. Such education continued intermittently until the closure of the Settlement in 1839.¹

In 1845 a Catholic school had opened in Brisbane, and a Church of England school followed in 1855. By 1855 the nearest National schools, (Government, but fee paying) were on the Darling Downs. Arguments raged for many years regarding whether tax-payers money should be used to fund church based schools, whose admission was limited to those of that faith.

Following Separation in 1859, the Queensland Colonial Government inherited the newly built North Brisbane Boys and Girls ‘National Schools’, (later Brisbane Central) which were still fee-paying, in Adelaide St where Anzac Square is today. The land had been donated by the Government which also assisted with the building costs. The Government also inherited some country schools including for example, Drayton National School where the parents paid 10d per week per child and the Government subsidised the salary of the teacher and provided books.² The total number of pupils receiving education in 1860 was 819 at government schools and 698 at private (church) schools. The latter receiving some funding from Government at that time.³

Under the Primary Education Act of 1860, the Board of General Education followed the New South Wales policy and set the principle that Primary Schools wanting financial support from the cash-strapped Government should not permit school buildings and grounds to be associated with a religious body or be used for religious worship.⁴ Also schools needed to appoint a local Board and raise one third of the cost of building and furnishing a school-house and accommodation for teachers. The Government would provide two acres (0.8ha)of land if available, and the remaining two-thirds of building costs. The Government would appoint a teacher and pay a salary of not more than £12 per month. The local Board would set a fee for the students to pay to supplement the teachers salary, and 3d per week was recommended. A further sum of one half-penny per week has to be paid to a fund for keeping the school supplied with books.⁵

The Brisbane Normal School opened in 1863 alongside of and replacing the earlier National School in Adelaide St. The function of the Normal School was to:

- provide a large school where new developments in education could be tried,
- train pupil teachers,
- provide short courses in tuition for older aspirant teachers.

The South Brisbane School opened in 1863 at Stanley Street and moved in 1865 to a new building which remains today as part of Brisbane State High School.

It has been reported that children of Catholic St Lucia farmers rowed across the river and walked to St Mary’s School at South Brisbane, where Mary MacKillop taught in 1870.⁶

³ Hunt J. B A Thesis University of Queensland Church and State Education in Queensland p 34,40 1959.
⁴ Wyeth op cit., p 87.
⁵ Maryborough Chronicle 9 January 1861 P 2 C 2.
⁶ Robinson F W Prof. ‘The University of Queensland at St Lucia and other Universities 1952’ and other papers, UQ Fryer Library.
The Board of General Education Reports during the 1860s show a rising number of schools, indeed by 1870 there were 12,628 scholars attending 167 schools.\textsuperscript{7} They were either vested or non-vested, the difference being mainly whether the parents/church had donated the school buildings to the Government.

The Reports also refer to up to 60 private schools, and in 1870 noted that:

…areas where settlers were too few, too recently established to comply in regard to attendance and contribution…in such places the people sometimes contrive, by their united labour, to erect a rough structure, which for a time, may serve either as a place of worship, or a school-house; and if they succeed in obtaining the services of a person moderately competent as an instructor, the Board may recognise the school provisionally and grant a small stipend.\textsuperscript{8}

The Report lists five such schools where a small Government stipend was paid, but the list does not include a school in the Toowong/Indooroopilly area.

Following the finding of gold at Gympie and the subsequent strengthening of the public purse the Government announced in December 1869 that ‘Provisional Schools’ would be introduced across the Colony. The Board of General Education defined these as:

schools to which aid in the shape of a small salary to the teacher, and a free stock of books is granted on the understanding that it shall be withdrawn if, within a reasonable time, the communities locally interested fail in contributing their respective share of the cost of providing permanent national schools.\textsuperscript{9}

‘Provisional Schools’ first had to be established by local initiative, with government support, to prove that they had an average of at least thirty pupils;\textsuperscript{10} this was because schooling was not compulsory and family involvement was an essential commitment. The recommended building size was 10 ft\textsuperscript{2} per child.

If a Provisional School was successful the government agreed to provide the two thirds of the capital of the cost of the school buildings, and would also provide free books, maps and other school requirements.\textsuperscript{11} At this stage school fees were still expected to be paid by parents to contribute to the teacher’s salary. Also coming into play here was the aforementioned 1860 Primary School Act requiring government funded schools not to be also used for religious worship.

\textsuperscript{7} Pugh’s Almanac 1859-1901, microfilm/CD Archive Books. UQFL
\textsuperscript{8} Queensland Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings 1870, Board of Education Report.
\textsuperscript{9} Wyeth \textit{op cit.}, p110.
\textsuperscript{10} Queensland Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings 1870 Board of General Education Report
\textsuperscript{11} Queensland Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings 1869 Board of General Education Report
In 1869 Liberal Premier Charles Lilley (later Sir Charles) arranged through an executive statement that from 1870 fees in vested public schools were to be abolished, teachers salaries paid in full, and books provided free of charge by the Government. Thus free education came to Queensland before any other Australian Colony and indeed before England. The minimum school age was set at five years to stop the schools being used as child-minding centres. The number of public funded schools throughout the Colony grew rapidly, from just 4 in 1860 to 230 in 1875.

Charles Lilley 1869
Picture Queensland Image 68160

In 1875 the State Education Act and the Department of Public Instruction were introduced; note the use of the word State despite the fact Queensland was a Colony. ‘State’ was in fact a word in common usage such as ‘State v Church’, and referred to the ‘whole of Government’, which in this context specifically meant ‘non church’. The Act made schooling compulsory for all children from six to twelve years but they only had to attend classes for a minimum of sixty days per half year. In fact due to lack of ability to apply the law, and because it would have been too costly for the state to provide facilities for all, the compulsory element was not implemented until 1900. The term ‘National School’ had been continued from the New South Wales practice, but its use was generally replaced by ‘State School’ after 1875.

Government assistance to higher education was initially restricted to the 1860 Grammar School Act, where assistance was limited to matching capital funding raised by the community. Full fees had to be paid by the parents. From 1873 the Government funded a limited number of Scholarships to those pupils who could pass an exam. The citizens of Ipswich established the first Grammar School in 1864. The Brisbane Grammar School opened at Roma St in 1869 and at its present site in 1881. Initially for boys only, girls were admitted between 1875 and 1881; the Brisbane Girls Grammar School opened in 1882 at its present site. Grammar Schools opened at Toowoomba and Rockhampton in 1875.

Dr Ernest Sandford Jackson, owner of Glen Olive 1901 – 1924, sent his eldest four boys to The Southport School as borders and then to Geelong Grammar, his youngest son to ‘Churchie’ and his daughters to Girls Grammar and Somerville House.

The Labour Governments of the day showed slight interest in secondary education, and what little help was given was to practical, technical and agricultural education. From 1914 all students who obtained a 50% per cent pass mark in the exam were awarded scholarships to various private and church secondary schools. This directly aided the growth of the major denominational GPS schools.

17 Parker N and others Ernest Sandford Jackson 1987 AMA Queensland p 57.
18 W Ross Johnson op cit. p 196
In larger country towns where citizens could not raise the funds for a Grammar School, free State High Schools were opened from 1912. The school leaving age was raised from twelve to fourteen in 1912, and attendance became compulsory on all school days. Although other States raised the leaving age to either fifteen or sixteen, in Queensland the fourteen year age was to last until 1962 when the age was raised to fifteen and the State took over full responsibility for free secondary education.\textsuperscript{19}

School leaving age was raised to fifteen in 1964, with some ‘non-involved’ students being expelled at that age, although most students were encouraged to stay longer. In 1964 the notion of Grades 1 to 12 was also introduced, with the associated division into State Primary and State High Schools, at Grade 8.\textsuperscript{20} Toowong State High School opened in 1963. The education system will include a compulsory ‘Prep’ year from 2008 on, when the school starting age will be increased by six months, in line with other States. From Jan 1 2006 students have to stay at school or in a learning or training environment until their seventeenth birthday.

The University Act of 1870 gave the Queensland Government the power to conduct local examinations for British Universities, and universities at Sydney and Melbourne, a power that lasted forty years. A local University was first mooted in 1874 but it was not until 1909 that the University of Queensland Bill was given assent by the Governor. Its first home in 1911 was the original Government House, now part of the Queensland University of Technology; the move of many of its faculties to the St Lucia campus did not begin until 1947.

2. IRONSIDE STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

2.1 The first school in St Lucia

Several manuscripts have been prepared over the years on the school history; these documents are extensive and this Paper does not reproduce them but generally tries to add some interesting information to them. Recent research by this author shows that not all the information contained in those earlier documents was strictly correct or complete, particularly on the early history and how Ironside School got its name; the most recent research given in this Paper supersedes some of the earlier writings.

The earliest record of schooling in St Lucia was written circa 1916 by possibly Susannah or Mary Ellen Behan, original pupils of the school:

1. The first attempt to arrange locally for the education of the children of this district was made about the year 1864, when Mrs Smith, wife of Mr Jesse Smith, a farmer occupying the land adjoining the water trough and tank opposite Guyatt’s store [now 40 Ryans Rd, north-east corner of Ryans Rd and Sir Fred Schonell Dr] acted as teacher. She was not a qualified teacher. No provision was made for a school building; the children used to assemble at Mrs Smith’s house. Mrs Smith was not equal to the task and did not continue the work for more than a few months.
2. Later, the parents of the children residing in the district assembled and erected a small building on the Government Road in front of the site on which the Ironside State School now stands. The parents in question were – Mr. M. O’Neill, Mr John Carmody, Mr Watt, Mr. J. Skinner, Mr. Pitman, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Deller, Mr. Petty, Mr. Middleton, Mr. C. Lane, Mr Behan, Mr. J. Redhead, Mr. C. O’Brien and Mr. Gayner.
3. …[notes on ‘old residents’ only]

\textsuperscript{19} Holthouse \textit{op cit.}, p 158.
\textsuperscript{20} Holthouse \textit{op cit.}, p 204.
4. The school was at first placed in charge of a Mr. Fanning. He was a trained teacher who was brought out to Queensland by the late Bishop Quinn. He was addicted to drink, on which account Bishop Quinn had to dispense with his services. Mr Fanning remained in charge of the school for about eight months. During that period he was accommodated free of charge by the several families in rotation, - staying one week at each place. Each child paid a small weekly school fee. The children made good progress during Mr Fanning’s time.

5. The first pupils of the school included: -
   - Mary Ellen Behan…
   - Susannah Behan…
   - Mary Carmody…
   - Bridget Carmody…
   - Ellen Pitman…
   - John Pitman…

6. When Mr Fanning vacated the post, the school was take over by Mr. and Mrs. Turner, who continued the work for two or three years. Mr Turner was previously a painter living at Taringa.

7. The present State School…was established about 46 years ago. Mr Arthy was the first teacher of the State School.21

The Diamond Jubilee book of Ironside State School, written in 1930, sixty years after the Government school began, perhaps took its information from the aforementioned document, but added the descriptive word ‘slab’ instead of ‘small’ building.22 It is unlikely to have been the substantial building we now connect with the term ‘slab hut’, but more likely to have been constructed of the local bush trees and branches, lashed or nailed together, and roofed with bark or grass.

A sketch reproduced in Ironside State School Centenary 1870 –1970 but not intended to be anything other than a representation of a typical school in the 1870s.

The Board of Education noted in 1869:

people sometimes contrive, by their united labour, to erect a rough structure, which for a time, may serve either as a place of worship, or a school-house, and if they succeed in obtaining the services of a person moderately competent as an instructor, the Board may recognise the school provisionally and grant a small stipend.23

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22 Ironside State School Diamond Jubilee 1870-1930 Fryer Library University of Queensland
23 Qld V&P 1870 Education Report for 1869 p 725.
The Board of Education reports of formal private schools do not record one in the vicinity of St Lucia.24

Twenty years after the Diamond Jubilee Book was written, Professor F W Robinson interviewed Mr W H Dart, and Professor J C Mahoney interviewed Mr J A Carmody, who were both born in St Lucia in the 1880s and had lifelong connections with the area. Professor Robinson writes that the school site was chosen so that the school should serve the two farming settlements at the now St Lucia and Long Pocket, being it was said ‘equally far from both’! 25

The operation of the school possibly continued only until 1867 as in 1868 the structure was described as ‘the old school-house’;26 and the ‘temporary school’.27 Also ‘late in the 1860s school children had to row across the river, walk...(to the South Brisbane School)’.28 Mr Turner does not figure in public meetings in the slab hut in 1868 and 1870, nor did he become the first teacher at the Government School. Indeed he never joined the Government service as a teacher. The ‘old school house’ was used from 1867 as a ‘preaching station’ by the Bible Christian movement, prior to the construction of a permanent chapel in 1869 on a specific corner of a Lot adjacent to the old school house: Subdivision 3 of Portion 24 Parish of Indooroopilly.29

In 1995, Joan Hogarth’s Paper proposed that the private school was built on land donated in the early 1860s by Thomas Lodge Murray Prior.30 Records show that this was not quite the case, but he may well have given permission for the land to be used for a school. The land Title shows that the first recorded transaction after the 1860 Deed of Grant to T L Murray Prior, was not until 1870 when one rood (40 perches) together with ‘all buildings…’ was formally donated ‘for erecting a place of worship…out of his desire to promote religion’, to The Corporation of Bible Christians - T L M Prior is known to have been a member of the St John’s Presbyterian Church in Wickham Tce in 1864,31 so he was of Protestant inclination.

From the above it would seem reasonable to assume that proper education began in St Lucia about 1864 in a small hut in front of today’s Ironside State School.

2.2 The Indooroopilly School-house

Before 1870 school attendance was not compulsory. The nearest Government but fee-paying Schools to the future St Lucia were South Brisbane from 1861, Yeerongpilly and West Oxley (now Sherwood State School) from 1867, and Petrie Terrace School at Hale Street in 1868. No schools were permitted closer than three miles (4.8 klm) to each other – the distance children were expected to walk each day. The existing private school / church was more than this from all the existing schools and with the number of children in the immediate area increasing, moves were made by the local farmers to establish the first Public school in the area.32

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24 Queensland Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings 1860 -1871
25 Robinson F W Prof op cit.
26 The Queenslander 8 August 1868 p 5 c 4 sourced by M England in ‘Watt and Jarrott’
27 The Brisbane Courier 29 August 1868 p.6 c.5.
29 Wager Libby, Different Tracks, M England private papers; Ironside State School Diamond Jubilee 1870-1930
30 Hogarth J, op cit
31 T L Murray Prior Private Letterbook 28/6/1864 researched by A Darbyshire.
In August 1868 a meeting of the inhabitants of Indooroopilly was held in ‘the old school house’ with the objective of having a (Government but initially fee-paying) primary school in the neighbourhood. There was a large attendance, and £51 was subscribed (towards a probable need of three times that amount). A deputation consisting of Messrs Middleton, Jarrott, Dart, and Watts was appointed ‘to wait upon the owners of property at the Cross Roads’ and endeavour to secure a site in that locality.33

Mr T L Murray Prior is reported as being approached in May 1869;34 Mr Murray Prior was a substantial land owner in the area but did not live there, he was also a Member of the Legislative Council. (In later years at Maroon, his son was Chairman of their Provisional School Committee and the donor of two acres of land for their school.)

It is probable that nothing further happened until the Government announced the free schools programme in December 1869- the first in Australia. This lead to the opening of many schools in the following few years. In September 1870 The Brisbane Courier reported:

The inhabitants of Prior’s Pocket [sic, Prior’s land] and the Long Pocket, Brisbane River had met to raise funds to erect a schoolhouse and teacher’s residence. Almost every house was represented. After a good substantial tea, Mr. R. Jarrott was called to the chair. Mr. A. Watts was appointed Secretary; Mr. W. Dart, treasurer. Messrs. W. Pitman, W. Spode, C. Lane, Michael O’Neil, and the chairman, were appointed as a committee to receive subscriptions…Subscriptions were received at once, and promises at one and two months. So successful was the effort, that the committee will take immediate steps to carry out the objective of the meeting… A vote of thanks to the Hon. T. L. M. Prior for the gift of the land, two acres; to the chairman; and the minister and trustees of the chapel, for its use on the occasion; and a thorough hearty ‘God Save the Queen,’ sung by all, terminated a very happy meeting’.35

Tea Meetings were:

…important social functions…they prepared a wonderful variety of tarts, cookies and rich fruit cakes. Since Sundays were sacrosanct, all preparations …had to be made on Saturdays…36

As required under the 1860 Act, the land donated was not that then in use by the adjacent Bible Christian Chapel, but two acres adjoining it to the west.

A standard Government school drawing was annotated ‘New School Indooroopilly 1870’, and dated 24 September 1870.

The new school-house was to be 40 feet by 18 feet of horizontal hardwood lining on external timber studding, with an internal maximum height of 15 feet and a shingle roof, but without a veranda. It most likely went to tender and was built by an experienced builder in a matter of months.

The Board of Education report for 1870 notes that the Provisional School had opened on 10 October 1870 in a temporary building, (probably the chapel next door) and it also noted that the new building was under construction. The school was ‘vested’, had accommodation for 40 and had an average daily attendance of 39. Later in the Report it is noted that the school had one school ‘department’ one male teacher, 20 boys and 23 ‘girls and infants.’

The Government expenditure on buildings was noted as £338/16/,37 so the community needed to raise its share - £113.

33 The Queenslander 8 August 1868 p 5 c 4 sourced by M England.
34 The Brisbane Courier 22 May 1869 p 5 sourced by A Darbyshire.
35 Brisbane Courier 17 Sept 1870 p4 c7 sourced by John Kerr.
With confirmation that the minimum number of 30 pupils had been achieved at the Provisional School, and with new timber buildings erected, the school opened formally at the beginning of the 1871 school year with 42 pupils.\(^{39}\)

A list of the first pupils included many well known local names.\(^{40}\) Under the heading ‘The new National School Indooroopilly’, *The Brisbane Courier* reported:

A very successful tea-meeting was held in the school-room on Tuesday, the 21\(^{st}\) [February 1871] to celebrate the opening at which Mr Charles Lilley [leader of the Liberal Opposition] presided. There was a large attendance, fully 150 people sitting down to the tea, which was of a very plentiful and substantial character. After tea, a public meeting was held, and addressed by several speakers. The chairman opened the proceedings...Mr R Macdonnell [Chief Schools Inspector] next addressed the meeting...the meeting was then addressed at some length by Messrs Arthy, Brookes, Jarrott, and the Rev Mr Woolcock.

Mr Lilley said he remembered passing through the district when there was not a trace of settlement or cultivation, and now the signs of population and prosperity met him everywhere. The report of the School Committee, which was read, stated that the sum of £86 has been paid into the hands of the Inspector-General of Schools. Something over £100 is about the third of the entire cost of the building and fencing, and this is the amount which the Board requires residents to subscribe.

The proceedings which were of a very pleasant character throughout, were brought to a close by a very early vote of thanks to the chairman, and the singing of the National Anthem.\(^{41}\)

The school building was situated where a tennis court is today off the Swann Rd end of the main building, as shown on the following later plan of the 1935 brick school.\(^{42}\)

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\(^{37}\) Queensland Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings 1871; 1872 p 549

\(^{38}\) Architectural Drawings of Public Buildings Series 17690 Item ID 328833 Indooroopilly 1870, QSA.

\(^{39}\) State Archives File EDU Z1303 ‘Indooroopilly School now Ironside School’

\(^{40}\) *Ironside State School Diamond Jubilee. op cit*

\(^{41}\) *The Brisbane Courier* 18 February 1871 p.4, 25 February 1871, p.5.

\(^{42}\) Letter dated 26/5/1876, *op cit*.

Architectural Drawings of Public Buildings Series 1162 Item ID 579857 Ironside 1935, QSA
Ironside State School building plan 1935 showing location of original school relative to the existing school. Courtesy QSA

The schoolmaster’s residence was of similar construction containing three rooms and built behind the classroom. A photograph taken circa 1890 follows showing the school, the play shed and in the background, the house, together with a sketch by artist Lloyd Rees, a past pupil c1902-07.

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43 Hogarth *op cit.*
When Bridget Carmody went to the school, the ‘fees’ for the free school were said to be 1d per week (presumably for slates etc).46

Long Pocket farmer Mark Blasdall was elected as the first President of the School Committee, and retained this office for a very long period.47

Mr William Arthy was the first teacher; he having arrived in Brisbane only in 1870 from Rutland Shire, England.48

The Board of Education Report for 1871 recorded the inspectors report from two visits:

During the course of the year, the order and discipline did not improve. The progress at this school was not such as justly might have been expected from a teacher trained to his profession, and for years engaged therein. First difficulties and fresh difficulties have evidently been met with the bare assertion “I cannot do anything with them.” The reading and arithmetic of the third class were the most successful branches.49

Photograph W Arthy, State Library of Queensland Negative 191921p.

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46 F W Cumbral-Stewart to J Brenan letter 1916 sourced by A Darbyshire.
49 Queensland Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings 1872 Board of General Education Report.
Mr Arthy advised the Board in 1871 of the reason for the absence of 19 children on a particular day:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Merrys</td>
<td>Illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Pittys</td>
<td>Mother confined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 West Milton children</td>
<td>If one stays away they all stay away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Carmodys</td>
<td>Planting sugar cane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Lushes</td>
<td>Sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Manson</td>
<td>Sick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr Arthy remained the teacher until 1876, despite another critical report in 1872:

...premises have already fallen into considerable disrepair... the discipline is utterly defective; the children enter the schoolroom at any time without supervision...drill is unknown. Regularity and punctuality are both very defective. The instruction is moderate in character and a tolerable proficiency has been attained in most subjects. Reading is bad in all classes; writing is a fair subject. No home exercises are done, and no needlework is shown.51

Despite the Inspectors comments Mr Arthy became the Education Departments music instructor for metropolitan schools.52 Mr Arthy was the first organist at St Thomas Church Toowong in the 1870s,53 and also played the organ at St John’s Pro Cathedral in Brisbane.54

In 1872 a reporter passing by commented:

troops of nut brown boys and girls are congregated about the schoolhouse door, ready when the whistle of their teacher summons them to lessons, to go in, and lay the foundations of their future success.55

In 1873 a newspaper correspondent noted:

The Primary School has been built for some time, and there is a good average attendance of pupils every day. A Water tank is very much wanted, and the ground fenced in.56

Another newspaper report in 1873 was of ‘penny readings’ being held very successfully at the school.57

In 1874 Mr Arthy joined many other teachers in signing a petition to the Colonial Secretary requesting that pay be increased, it having fallen since the removal of school fees. Payment was at that time 16 shillings per boy per year with, less for girls and infants, making an average of 12 shillings.58 With 36 pupils this would have equated to approximately £21 p.a.

In 1876 the School Committee Secretary William Ewart, wrote the following report to The Under Secretary, Department of Public Instruction, and the original document is held at the State Archives.59

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50 Ironside State School Centenary 1870 –1970 p.64, State Archives File EDU Z1303
51 Queensland Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings 1873 Board of General Education Report
52 K. Jarrott, sourced by M/ England.
53 H Gregory Arcadian Simplicity Boolarong Publications 1990 p. 34.
54 Backstrom D, great grandson of W Arthy, letter to author 12 April 2007.
55 The Telegraph 16 November 1872 p3 c3.
56 The Brisbane Courier 9 August 1873 p5c4
57 The Telegraph 12 May 1873 p2
58 General Correspondence File Series 6477 Item 996356.
59 Report 26/5/1876 William Ewart to Under Secretary, Dept of Public Instruction. State Archives File EDU Z1303 ‘Indooroopilly School now Ironside School’
Special Report on the

Mounds & Buildings of the

Toowong School

See Plan Annexed

The site of this school was given to the

Board of Education, I believe, by the Hon. T. H.

Murphy Piper, but I cannot find that any

Deed or Gift of Transfer for it has been executed.

The area of the grounds I calculate at

about 2 acres 30 per., portion --- Parish of Sudbrooke,

County of Stanly. Cleaning is not Complete &

Chimney is less so. A 3-rail fence surrounds the

whole & is perfect except on the E. side where a

paved has been taken out to form a slip. This

fence has been weakened at that part, so that a

panel to the south of the slip panel is loose; the

top rail it down. The soil is poor, all the land

about being being gravelly 5 inches. The water supply

is a Corrugated iron tank containing about 800 gal.

at the water is poor. Adjoining on the S.W. side is

a small enclosed portion containing a Chapel. A

stockyard occupies the N.W. corner near it is a

small building erected by the teacher as a chemical

laboratory; the building teacher says he got leave
to build it also to preserve if the thought fit. The

ground is pretty level where the buildings are but

slope rapidly towards the N. & E.

The School is 40 ft. x 18 ft. built of hardwood

with the chimneys outside. Steps with treads. It

has no verandahs; needs painting. The doors to

rooms, the desks, & other furniture of their arrangement,

the porch in front, shelves with rails for books are all indicated in the plan. While ants

still continue to enter the building by means

of the front steps.

The residence is built similarly to the school

of like materials: it too, needs painting. On the

front or W. side is a 15 ft. verandah of 3 rooms: one

n. S. 18 ft. x 12 ft.; the other two, between which is a hall

3 ft. wide, are respectively 12 ft. x 12 ft. x 2 ft. x 9. The hall

leads through to a 3-rail verandah in front of a small

room 12 ft. x 6 ft. & a Kitchen 12 ft. x 12 ft. facing N. inside

on to the E. end of kitchen are various out-buildings

where several suspect is not meet to stay.

The closets are two in number: the northern one

is
The report noted that no formal land transfer had taken place, and this has been found to be correct. In fact the matter was not finalised until 1884 after the following transactions:

- June 1880: 2 acres 1 rood and 5 perches transferred by Indenture from T L M Prior to the Secretary for Public Instruction for the nominal amount of one shilling.  

- Nov 1880: Same land transferred back to Prior for the nominal amount of five shillings as an incorrect land description had been included. The description had ignored the fact that a small area had been donated to the Bible Christian Church in 1870.

- Aug 1883: Application by Prior to bring the 38 acres excluding the church land under the provisions of the 1861 Real Property Act – a formality prior to issue of a certificate of Title under that Act. The description was again incorrect and has been altered twice on the document. The 38 acres were at this stage valued at £350.

- Oct 1883: Registrar General declares that Prior is the owner of Portion 24 except for Subdivision 1 transferred to the Queen [road widening Carmody Rd], Subdivision unnumbered donated to the Church, and Subdivision unnumbered transferred to the Secretary of Public Instruction. This was incorrect as the school site had not been transferred.

- Dec 1883: Hand written request by Prior to correct the description of the land in the August application.

- Dec 1883: Master of Titles declares Prior is the owner of the land and is entitled to sell it to Richard Gailey. The land referred to is not stated.

- Mar 1884: Certificate of Title issued to Richard Gailey for all of Portion 24 except for the road widening and the church land, i.e. he owned the land the school was using. Again the description has been altered to reflect corrections.

- Mar 1884: Gailey transferred the school land of 2 acres plus to the Secretary of Public Instruction.

- Apr 1884: Certificate of Title issued to the Secretary of Public Instruction, 15 years after Prior donated the land.

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60 DNRW Application package 5696 Indenture dated 7 June 1880.
61 DNRW Application package 5696 Indenture dated 21 November 1880.
62 DNRW Application package 5696 Application dated 7 August 1883.
63 DNRW Application package 5696 Search Declaration dated 25 October 1883.
64 DNRW Application package 5696 Letter from Prior to Registrar general dated 15 December 1883.
67 Hogarth J. cit Certificate of Title No. 72709 Portion 24 Subdivision 2.
A plan was attached to the aforementioned report, the road at the top is now the part of Hawken Dr which has the Uniting Church on the other side; blurred words on the left read ‘A chapel stands in this place’—probably the original school/chapel building.
Another hand-written letter from Mr Arthy, dated 1873 to the Under Secretary Department of Public Instruction reads: 68

..a matter of great convenience to them [parents] if their children could leave school at 3 o’clock as being market gardeners they would need the children to gather fruits for the next day’s market.

A report by District Inspector J G Anderson of 19 November 1873 notes that: 69

66 children were present with an ‘increment from the railway camp.’

Mr Arthy had ten children of his own, all living in a four roomed house.

The committee met sometimes and took an interest in the school.

The earliest formal record of pupils is dated 27 January 1873, and whilst incomplete it includes well known local names such as Lane, Carmody (3), and Merry. The residential information included shows children came from ‘Indooroopilly, Toowong and West Milton (Taringa).’ 70

By 1879 the school is reported as having 146 pupils just prior to the opening of a school at Toowong proper, 71 but in 1887 it had a more reasonable 36. 72 At the end of the century, another classroom would be added and a galvanised iron roof installed.

In 1889 it was recorded that Patrick Carmody and W Dart were on the school committee, but R Jarrott and C Lane had resigned and left the district. 73 In 1893 R Munro resigned and was replaced by John Keith.

In 1890 the school celebrated Arbour Day:

Mr Loney, the head master…had made great preparations…all the children adjourned to the playground to plant the young trees, for which the holes had been prepared with a great deal of labour as the ground is very hard…the children were called together near the residence, where a grand spread had been prepared for them…and after a final gift of lollies, much cheering and “God Save the Queen” the children were dismissed. 74

2.3 School name changes

The new school was known by everybody, press included, as the ‘Indooroopilly school-house Toowong’; indeed that name appeared on the original Government construction drawings. However the bureaucracy changed it within the first year to ‘Toowong School No 108’. 75 In 1875 it formally became the ‘Toowong State School’ after the introduction of the State Education Act; note that the use of the word ‘State’ reflected the common usage of the word as in State v Church, referring to the ‘whole of Government’. Queensland was still a Colony at this time so it was not the ‘State’ that it became at Federation in 1900.

Toowong opened its own State School in 1880 and took over the name ‘Toowong’, 76 so the ‘Indooroopilly school-house’ formally became the ‘Indooroopilly State School’. 77

68 Letters 26 July 1873, W Arthy to, Dept of Public Instruction. State Archives File EDU Z1303
69 Report 19 November 1873 State Archives File EDU Z1303.
70 Admission Register Toowong School 1873. QSA microfilm Z2501.
71 Ironside State School Centenary 1870 –1970 p.62, State Archives File EDU Z1303, and Education Dept website
73 The Brisbane Courier 21 October 1889 p3
74 The Brisbane Courier 5 August 1890 p.4.c.7.
75 Queensland Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings 1871, Board of General Education Report.
76 QSA File EDU/Z2708 ‘Toowong School’.
When a school opened ten years later in the newly developed area around the Indooroopilly railway station, yet another name change was needed; ‘Indooroopilly Pocket State School’ was chosen to perhaps more closely reflect the locality that the school then served, and this name was adopted from 1 January 1888.\(^78\)

However it was sometimes known as the Long Pocket State School; the 1894 Post Office Directory refers to it as such, and between 1893 and 1907 that name was also used in its nomination as a place to vote, and in a letter to the editor in 1901,\(^79\) however its official title remained Indooroopilly Pocket State School.\(^80\) There is a historic photograph on the internet of ‘Long Pocket School’ however this is the Long Pocket situated near Townsville.

On 19 May 1905 Mr Dougal Cramb, School Committee Secretary wrote on official letterhead to the Under Secretary, Department of Public Instruction, the first paragraph of which reads:

\[
\text{I have been instructed to write to you re changing the name of the Indooroopilly Pocket State School, to that of Ironside State School, as that is the postal address.}^{81}
\]

The last few words ‘postal address’ are critical as they state quite clearly why the school acquired its fourth name. Just four days later the Acting Under Secretary notified all concerned that the Minister had approved the name change.\(^82\)

It is important to record how the neighbourhood of Ironside got its name, as most of the reasons given in the school’s books and newspaper articles are incorrect. The matter is researched thoroughly in another Paper by the author ‘The Naming of St Lucia and Ironside’. Briefly, the first major property developer in St Lucia was William Alexander Wilson. In 1885 he used the name St Lucia for his estates at the eastern end of the peninsular, because he was actually born in St Lucia, West Indies. In later years Wilson migrated to Sydney and married Lydia Matilda Ironside, so he named another of his estates after her – Ironside Estate. Whilst the estate was centred on Ryans Rd and didn’t actually include the land on which the school stands, it was the local name for the neighbourhood around 1900, St Lucia being used only for the eastern end of the peninsular.

The school was not named Ironside after a schooner of the same name that apparently had made several visits to Brisbane in earlier years, or after a Scottish village.\(^83\) The school was

\[^{77}\text{QSA File EDU Z1303 op.cit.: QSA File A/53740 Microfile Z2501, op.cit.}\]
\[^{78}\text{Email from R Mammino Library Services DETA 2007.}\]
\[^{79}\text{The Brisbane Courier 17 April 1893 p.1 and 22 February 1899 p.8. ‘Electors of Oxley’; 10 August 1901 p 11.}\]
\[^{80}\text{State Archives File EDU Z1303 letter heading 1905.}\]
\[^{81}\text{State Archives File EDU Z1303.}\]
\[^{82}\text{State Archives File EDU Z1303.}\]
\[^{83}\text{Hogarth, J op cit p.13.}\]
not named after ‘J D Lang’s Ironside estate’ as sometimes quoted\textsuperscript{84}; a check of the Title Certificates shows that Lang never owned land in Ironside or St Lucia. The confusion has probably arisen because nearby land was called Lang Farm, not by Lang but by Robert Cribb, in recognition of the role J D Lang played in bringing migrants, including Cribb to Brisbane in 1847.

Interestingly the adjacent street adjacent to the school, Ironside St, was not named after the school or the neighbourhood, although its adjacency is probably more than a coincidence. Another Paper by the author Origin of St Names records that in 1939 Council changed the names of many First Avenues and others to avoid confusion, and St Lucia’s First Ave became Ironside St. This was in recognition of the pioneer painter Adelaide Eliza Ironside (1831-1861).

The formal name for the school since 1905 may have been Ironside State School; however the colloquial form for many years seems to have been Ironsides with an ‘s’. In 1930 even the formal Diamond Jubilee book is headed ‘Ironsides State School’.

A newspaper’s research showed that in 1959 the colloquial form was currently used by the Department of Education and the PMG Telephone Directory. The correct form of Ironside was used by the Electoral Office, the Survey Office, Refidex and UBD.\textsuperscript{85}

2.4 Ironside State School 1905 -  

![Pupils of Ironside School with teacher, Mr C. Wagner, c. 1917](image)

Courtesy Ironside State School Centenary 1870-1970 Book

The longest serving Head Teacher was Joseph Wagner, from 1904 until 1932; he was the locally born son of one of the German Missionaries who began the Nundah Mission in 1930. Miss Elsie Wagner was one of ten Wagner children and reports that:

- Mr Wagner was paid by one cheque for his and staff salaries. Mrs Wagner would walk to Toowong station from the school residence…to catch a train to town and cash the cheque’.
- During dinner break [one-and-a-half hours] Mr Wagner sometimes took the boys swimming in Sandy Creek. Miss Wagner and Mrs Guyatt took the girls to the Brisbane River near Laurence St for swimming.

Prior to 1894 the time was checked at one o’clock each day by the sound of the gun located at the Windmill-Observatory at Spring Hill, afterwards by observing the dropping of the time-

\textsuperscript{84} Hogarth, \textit{Op cit} p.13.
\textsuperscript{85} The Courier-Mail 17 September 1959 p 2 c 5.
ball at the same location. In later years the West End Tram would observe the fall of the
time-ball and blow its whistle.

St Lucia in those days was ‘a bad area for snakes, and it seemed necessary… to kill them
whenever possible’ and, Lloyd Rees wrote ‘in these areas of modest homes and far-flung
farms and dairies, the children very rarely wore boots or shoes to school.

Lloyd Rees wrote extensively of his time at the school in his autobiography:

a bad area for snakes, and it seemed necessary… to kill them whenever…in these areas of
modest homes, and far-flung farms and dairies, the children very rarely wore boots or shoes to
school; a few of the girls, perhaps, but the boys - never!

Ironside [school] was surrounded by bush and there came a day, in our time there, when we got
news of an approaching bushfire. All the children were put along the fences to cut back the
undergrowth, after which I have dim memories of us all being herded together in a darkened
school, while the fire raged around it.

On 11 October 1930 the school celebrated its 60th anniversary and produced a wonderful
book: ‘Ironsides State School, Diamond Jubilee October 1930’. Ten of the original students
were able to attend the function.

Mr E L Stinson was the head-teacher in the 1930s and lived in the schoolhouse; in 1998
Colin Dyer interviewed his son Lawrie and has a tape recording of the conversation. Lawrie
explains that the school did not have an oval in those days; in fact two gullies existed on the
site. One of those gullies was he says was the beginning of the creek that still runs between
Highland Tce and Ninth Ave. However the 1876 plan of the school grounds, and later aerial
photos, suggest that in fact the gullies were on the west and north side of the school and ran
down into Ironside Park.

Lawrie Stinson also reports that it was his father who established the school motto
‘SERVABO FIDEM’ – Latin for ‘I shall keep the faith’ which remains today in the crest
at the main entry door to the main brick building and on the school uniforms.

Joan Haig was a pupil at the school whilst Mr Stinson was head master and reports that he
was not a well man, having been gassed in World War 1. Mrs Stinson grew fruit in the yard
and gave it to children she thought were in need of extra nourishment. When the schoolhouse
was demolished the Stinsons moved across the river, and Joan and other children used to
meet up with Mr Stinson for his walk up to the school from the ferry.

The timber building was in 1933 described as ‘the oldest wooden school structure in
Queensland’. Lawrie Stinson further says that the old school-teacher’s house was ridden
with white ants and falling apart, and was demolished in 1936 and not replaced. The old
school itself was sold to the Church of England and moved to Macquarie St to become the
Sunday School Hall.

89 The Brisbane Courier 10 October 1930 p 14.
90 The Brisbane Courier 13 October 1930 p 11.
91 Hogarth op cit.
94 Hogarth op cit.
On 16 November 1935, a new brick building was opened replacing the timber one:

A new brick State school at Ironside was opened by the Minister for Public Instruction [Mr Cooper] on Saturday afternoon.

The new school has seating for accommodation for 160 pupils and with provision at the end, an additional 40 pupils could be accommodated. But the completed plans, which provide a second story [sic] provides for 800 pupils.

Mr A L Evans [chairman of the school committee] presided...Mr Stinson [head master] read the first roll of the school and of 42 names, responses by five of the first pupils – Misses Jane and Mary Lane...Miss Anne Carr, Misses Fanny and Mary Pike.

Mr J F Maxwell MLA...proposed a vote of thanks...Alderman H Massey seconded the vote...

The Minister subsequently unveiled in the vestibule of the school a large marble tablet...\(^96\)

Long Pocket farmer Mark Blasdall sent his children to the school in the 1880s and was elected as the first President of the School Committee, retaining that office for a very long period;\(^97\) he was aged 94 when he also proudly attended the opening of the new brick school-house.\(^98\)

The school was erected by the State Public Works Department.\(^99\)

Local historian Helen Gregory writes:

Quaestions Queensland government primary schools have traditionally been built in timber, but the Milton State School remains one of a select group of brick buildings built during the 1930s depression as one of the government’s measures to provide employment.\(^100\)

Ironside was another of this select group - an article in the Courier-Mail in 1936 article says the new building was a:

replica of the many modern brick schools recently erected in Brisbane. Incidentally the State is earning high encomiums for its policy in this respect\(^101\)

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\(^{96}\) *The Courier-Mail*, 16 October 1935 p 11; 18 November 1935 p.9.c.6c

\(^{97}\) Barlow B, *Voyage of the City of Brisbane 1862*, incorporating the journal of Mark Blasdall, 1993, Barlow Music Pty Ltd.


\(^{99}\) *The Courier-Mail*, 16 April 1935 p 11.


\(^{101}\) *The Courier-Mail* 26/2/1936 State Library of Queensland.
West End State School and Oakleigh State School at Ashgrove are other examples. John Murray, the schools Head Teacher from 1946 to 1964, would recall 'how (depression) relief workers and shovel made what is now the oval – no easy task on that unfriendly, stony ridge' 102

Note that the left-hand side is left toothed for the extensions; the right hand side already has its return wing constructed and an under-croft built in. In later years the extension was built complete with a similar return wing and later again an entire floor was added above.

Ironside State School building plan 1935
Courtesy QSA 103

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102 Hogarth op cit.
103 Architectural Drawings of Public Buildings Series 1162 Item ID 579857 Ironside 1935.
Adjoining land facing onto Hawken Dr, Central and First Avenues was purchased by the State Government between 1929 and 1934 and 1937\(^\text{104}\); more land was purchased in 1955 and again in 1966 to bring the current site to about four and a half acres (1.8 ha).\(^\text{105}\)

After the Second World War and the ‘baby boom’ the school population increased by leaps and bounds. In 1946 enrolment reached 385, but by 1964 it had reached its peak at 1114. By 1955 class sizes had grown to 49 despite the building programme and more teachers. After 1964 however, with the end of the baby boom and increasing numbers of undergraduates in the area, numbers of pupils began to fall, to stabilise at about 780 for the future.\(^\text{106}\)

The 1935 building was extended in 1946 and 1947 and completed in 1959. Temporary buildings mainly ex-army huts were used for various periods. Other permanent buildings were completed in 1953, 1955 and the 1960s.

On 9 March 1954 Queen Elisabeth II and Prince Philip visited Brisbane; three particular photographs of the event show HM The Queen passing a group of children holding up a banner reading “With all our faults we love our Queen – Ironside State School” (This was from the popular chorus line in the *Pirates of Penzance* comedy opera written in the reign of Queen Victoria, but with a recently released film version showing in Brisbane cinemas that year).\(^\text{107}\) The Queen did not visit St Lucia - the photographs were taken on Coronation Dr, the city side of Park Rd, where the headmaster assembled the children to see the royal couple pass on their way to Government House.\(^\text{108}\)

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\(^{104}\) Certificate of Title 142780 Vol 886 Folio 20 The Royal Bank of Queensland 1894 p 8.

\(^{105}\) Hogarth *op cit.*

\(^{106}\) Colin Dyer in Judy Magub’s *The History of St Lucia 1998*

\(^{107}\) Ironside Remembered... 1985 BCC Toowong Library local history.

The press commissioned a series of aerial photographs of schools taken from a Naval Helicopter in 1955. The Ironside photo notes that the school had 1009 students that year, and was later used as the cover for a publication ‘Ironside Remembers 1985’.

The St Lucia Progress Association decided to reduce their operations c.1956 and proposed that their balance of funds should be spent on a swimming pool for the suburb. The association approached the School headmaster Mr Murray and the Parents Committee, and

110 Ironside Remembered 1985 Toowong Library Local History File.
they agree to take on the task of establishing a pool at the school. The total cost was £15,500 of which the tuckshop raised £650, the Parents Committee and local residents raised over £3,000. The St Lucia Progress Association donated £3,500 as the proceeds of the sale of their hall, and committee member Jim Mackenzie negotiated with the Government who agreed to provide a pound for pound subsidy, under the Centenary programme, provided the pool was available to all community groups. The ‘Official Opening of the Ironside State School Swimming Pool’ document included an article by the Head Teacher Mr J L Murray entitled *A Brief History of Ironside School and The District* which was later reproduced in the *Ironside State School Centenary 1870 – 1970* book.

Mrs Cole said:

…it was the Progress Association who helped so much in making Ironside School Pool a reality.

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112 1958 *A Brief History of Ironside School and The District* written by J.L. Murray, the Head Teacher 1970 *Ironside State School Centenary 1870 – 1970*

113 ‘Looking back – as told by Mrs Cole’ c1968, extracts courtesy Ironside State School.
The swimming pool was opened by the Administrator Sir Alan Mansfield on March 8 1958. Students from St Thomas Aquinas school had weekly swimming lessons at the Ironside pool. The parents of St Thomas Aquinas had contributed money to its construction so that their children could use it; many students had additional swimming lessons at the pool during Christmas holidays which were offered by two local university students.\(^\text{114}\)

Local resident and historian Rosamond Siemon reports in a letter to Councillor Judy Magub in 2002:

> As the University grew, more families built, and families became more affluent. Better housing was erected, we had the baby boom. The school had to grow. It had been a small two room wooden building near the highest area of its land. Just before the war a new brick classroom block was built, then about five years after the war another was erected down near Central Ave. Classes at first were held on the top level of the only completed part of this new block. Soon classes had to be held in a makeshift area underneath, and dirt from the floor of the above area filtered down on in to the children’s hair and clothes. After lengthy protesting by parents, the ground floor was completed with lined classrooms. The suburb grew so rapidly the school found it difficult to keep up with necessary erection of classrooms. The beautiful bloodwood trees were removed for sports grounds and later, … a swimming pool…Opening the fete was the last public engagement for the Lord Mayor, and local resident Sir John Chandler. He lost the election which was held that day.\(^\text{115}\)

Around 1957 the author of the book *All Over The Shop*, the story of growing up at the Ferry Store, Tony Maniaty, was a pupil at the school.\(^\text{116}\) Of the new school swimming pool Tony writes (pages 192, 193, 208, 209,):

> The wheezing, chain-laden shovel snorts like a dragon…for two years we’ve waited, have paid our pathetic weekly contributions …and held a hundred fetes and raffles…in a desperate never ending bid to raise fifteen thousand pounds: which the State, in its Centenary Charity, has agreed to match.

> Our half-Olympic swimming pool …all crystalline and turquoise blue and implanting the odour of chlorine forever in our nostrils. They give us a scourer and a can of Bon-Ami… and we have to tread water and scour scum and kids’ hair off the tiles.

Also the following are just a couple of pages from his book, and are typical of his light-hearted but highly descriptive writing, and cover some of his days at Ironside School:

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\(^\text{114}\) SLHG Paper No 21 *St Thomas Aquinas Primary School* Liz Little 2008

\(^\text{115}\) Rosamond Siemon *St Lucia and the University of Queensland* Paper presented to the St Lucia History Group 2003.

\(^\text{116}\) Tony Maniaty *All Over The Shop*. 
The current Parents and Citizens Association was formed in the early 1940s. The Ironside State Pre-School began in 1975.117

In 1964 the West Indian cricketer Wes Hall addressed the children on the subject of colour discrimination.118

The school featured in a newspaper article in 1967, and apparently at that time had 976 pupils including 300 in the infants section. There were 26 classrooms and a staff of 30. The head teacher was Mr Claude James.119

Centenary celebrations were held in 1970 with the Lloyd Rees Library being opened as part of the celebrations. A book entitled ‘Ironside State School Centenary 1870 –1970’ was produced.

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117 Hogarth, op cit.
118 J Haig 2007
119 The Telegraph 20 April 1967 p 22 c1
Ironside State School circa 1970 with swimming pool in the foreground. Photograph Courtesy Ironside School and Joan Hogarth

The 1866 school / church was probably to the left of where the flagpole is, the 1871 timber schoolhouse where the tennis court is, upper left of photo. The original 1936 brick building is now the central and right-hand section of the ground floor and under-croft of the main building, with the same entry portal.


Discovered by the author at the Toowong Library is another document that may be incomplete: ‘Ironside Remembered… 1985’.

The swimming pool received a $300 000 upgrade in 2010.\(^\text{120}\)

3. ST LUCIA NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOLS

The first pre-school was being planned in late 1939 by a committee led by Mrs Marjorie Clark; a children’s Christmas party was held by Mrs T C Bray at her Ryans Road house in November 1939 to raise funds, and again in September 1940.\(^\text{121}\) In December that year

\(^{120}\) *Westside News* 10 November 2010 p 15.

\(^{121}\) *The Courier-Mail* 31 August 1939 p 3; 8 November 1939 p 18; 20 November 1939 p 14; 9 September 1940 p
Council granted a lease to the St Lucia Nursery School group for land at the corner of Indooroopilly Road and Alexandra Avenue, but this proposal did not proceed.122

In March 1940 the St Lucia Nursery School had its gala opening at the Christ Church Hall (beside the Progress Hall). The President was Mrs Clark and the Secretary Mrs R Thompson, bursaries were being offered to assist mothers of large families, and children 2 ½ to 4 years were being enrolled. Details were given in a report in April 1940:123

A little later it was reported that the nursery also catered for four to five year olds.124 It is possible the nursery moved to the Church of England Hall beside the Progress Hall by July 1940.125 In 1941 Mrs T Anderson was appointed as the director and by this time the name had

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122 The Courier-Mail 2 December 1939 p 3.
123 The Courier-Mail 2 March 1940 p 9; 1 April 1940 p 13; 8 April 1940 p 13.
124 The Courier-Mail 5 June 1940 p14.
125 The Courier-Mail 8 July 1940 p 10.
changed to the St Lucia Pre-school; Lady Mayoress Mrs J B Chandler was the patroness and Dr Elice Dart was the honorary medical officer.\textsuperscript{126}

Local resident Ms Janet Patterson (nee McCulloch), remembers that the first kindergarten in St Lucia did indeed operate at the Church of England hall beside the Progress Hall (now Avalon Theatre) and the teacher was Miss Cornwall. The school closed during the war years with the little chairs stored under the McCulloch family home on the corner of 8\textsuperscript{th} and 10\textsuperscript{th} Avenues.\textsuperscript{127}

In July 1944 the local community organised a meeting at the Methodist Church Hall in Ryans Road to form a child-minding centre operating one day a week.\textsuperscript{128} The St Lucia Child Care Centre re-opened at the Methodist Church Hall on September 6\textsuperscript{th} 1944 with Mrs F Bodman as president, operating each Wednesday from 9 am to 4 pm:

Mothers are invited to make use of this centre regularly, to leave themselves free for shopping and business. A telephone to call to the president, Mrs F Bodman will ensure that buses will be met and the children taken, so that mothers will not need to break their journey to and from town.\textsuperscript{129}

The child-minding centre closed in 1946 upon the departure of driving force Mrs Bodman for South Australia.\textsuperscript{130}

Efforts were made in February 1946 by the St Lucia District Parents’ and Citizens’ Committee to establish a pre-school centre at the corner of Ironside Street and Baty Street:

The building, bought through the Commonwealth Disposals Commission, is a suitable type and appearance, according to the City Architect.\textsuperscript{131}

In 1947 the State Government acquired sites for eighteen kindergartens, one of which was at Ironside.\textsuperscript{132}

However, in 1947 the Presbyterian Church established a church hall, which had previously been the Presbyterian and Methodist Amenities Hut at Frazer’s Paddock Enoggera Military Camp, on land opposite Ironside State School and church services began there.\textsuperscript{133}

The Presbyterian run (but non-denominational) St Lucia Pre-School Centre was formally opened in that building on 1 April 1948 by Lord Mayor J B Chandler, and 41 children were enrolled, growing to 60 soon after opening, and the following picture was published.\textsuperscript{134} Miss Adair was the first director.\textsuperscript{135}

JOL Ref TR 1918 174 7562

\textsuperscript{126} The Courier-Mail 3 April 1940 p 9; 1 May 1941 p 13.
\textsuperscript{127} Email from Ms J Patterson 19 April 2010.
\textsuperscript{128} The Courier-Mail 18 July 1944 p 5
\textsuperscript{129} The Courier-Mail 27 July 1944 p 4; 7 February 1945 p 5.
\textsuperscript{130} The Courier-Mail 1 August 1946 p 8.
\textsuperscript{131} The Courier-Mail 21 February 1946 p 6.
\textsuperscript{132} The Courier-Mail 3 October 1947 p 6.
\textsuperscript{133} ‘Souvenir Album of the Opening and Dedication of the St Lucia Presbyterian Church’ op cit
\textsuperscript{134} The Courier-Mail 2 April 1948 p 3.
\textsuperscript{135} The Courier-Mail 27 February 1948 p 4.
The pre-school closed in 1950 when it was effectively transferred to a new community funded and run centre on Department of Education land in Baty Street adjacent to the primary school.\(^{136}\)

Ms Isa Maynard, St Lucia Pre-School teacher 1959-1963 and Director 1964 – 1973 has researched and written in detail about the history of the St Lucia Pre-School and Kindergarten.\(^{137}\) A précis follows

In 1950 tenders were called for a new Pre-School costing £2 000 on land leased from the Education Department, on the north-east corner of Batty Street and Ironside Street. The parents and local supporters worked hard to raise funds for the new building, and carried out some of the work themselves.

\(^{136}\) Presbyterian Church Archives, St Lucia Annual Reports.

The school was opened by Mr Power (Acting Treasurer) on 26\textsuperscript{th} May 1951, Mrs Pamela Kerin was the director, parents paid a fee of £4/4/- per child per quarter, and sixty children were taught by three staff.\textsuperscript{138}

For the next twenty-five years the Pre-School was well supported, and with the ongoing efforts of parents and the community the building was extended several times. In later years the Government provided some financial subsidies, and in 1976 the Government took over the Pre-School which became part of the adjacent Ironside State School. However this did not include the younger children, and the building and grounds were divided to accommodate both the Government Pre-School, and the newly formed community-run St Lucia Kindergarten. Secretary Anne Halliday reported on its activities in the \textit{Gazette} in September 1976 and other dates.\textsuperscript{139}

The construction of extensions by the Department of Works took nearly a year, and meantime the children were accommodated at both the Anglican and the Catholic Church halls.\textsuperscript{140}

The Kindergarten continued being run by the community until c.2007 when the Government moved the Pre-School to within the State School grounds. The existing building and grounds are used now by the C& K – Crèche and Kindergarten Assoc, as their St Lucia kindergarten; the rear section is used as the Lady Cilento Parenting Centre.

\textsuperscript{138} \textit{The Courier-Mail} 11 March 1950 p 3; 26 May 1951 p 3.
\textsuperscript{139} \textit{St Lucia Gazette} September 1976.
\textsuperscript{140} Ms M Voss speaking at St Lucia History Group meeting 6 February 2010; QSA Series 53 Item 288095 Ironside State School preschool Centre Works 17/11/1974 -1/6/1992
4. ST THOMAS AQUINAS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CATHOLIC PRE-SCHOOL

Parents wanting a Catholic education for their children were able to send them to the Parish school of St Ignatius Loyola at Toowong from 1898. In later years, children could go to Brigidine College at Indooroopilly and from 1953 to a new primary school established at St Thomas Aquinas in St Lucia. The operation of this school continued only until 1966; its full history is covered in a SLHG Research Paper 29 by Ms Liz Little.

The St Thomas’s Riverview Kindergarten and Pre-school opened in 1968. Today it operates as a Pre-Pre, and a Pre-School for children aged 3 ½ to 4 ½ and is situated at 186 Macquarie Street St Lucia.141 Ms Suzanne Burdon has been the Director for the last 35 years (2011).142

5. BRISBANE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

The following is taken from the BIS website as at 23/03/2015; the photo is believed to be at their new premises not St Lucia c. 1974.143

The school was established in a church hall in Saint Lucia in 1968. The founders were a group of lecturers and professionals who wanted more for their children’s education than could be found in any school available in Brisbane at the time. Flyers were put around UQ and meetings held at people’s homes. The need was clear, a school was needed that would allow their children to have a voice, express their creativity and play with ideas. Early photos show the

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142 The Courier-Mail 12 July 2011 p11.
143 www.bis.org.au
young students learning around the kitchen table with lots of adults as mentors and teaching support.

The school moved to its present location in 1972 after the Job family donated the land. Architecturally designed with vaulted ceilings, exposed rafters and big airy rooms with large sliding doors – BIS epitomized the physical environment of a 70’s alternative school.

The school is held in trust by the Brisbane Independent School Incorporated Association. The school has always run along democratic principles, highlighting the importance of community input and member’s visions.

The church hall referred to above is believed to be that of the Uniting Church in Hawken Drive. The school’s current location is 2447 Moggill Road, Pullenvale Qld 4069 and the alumni have a Facebook page.

6. THE ST LUCIA FARM SCHOOL

In 1932 the Premier, Mr Forgan Smith proposed that the Government should be allowed a five-year lease on the land acquired for the University some years earlier, but not yet in use. The intent was to develop a farm school to prepare the unemployed youth of Brisbane for agricultural work out west.144 The school opened in February 1933 with fifty city boys, aged between seventeen and twenty, some boarding at the school, others going home.145

The Courier Mail 26 February 1936 said:

These city boys who previously knew nothing of Queensland beyond Queen St have successfully come to grips with the work of ploughing, sowing, planting, and milking cows.146

On 2 March 1933 the Queensland Herald noted:

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146 *The Courier Mail* 26 Feb 1936 as quoted in Cr J Magub *The History of St Lucia 1988*. 
It’s [Farm School] main object is to find a definite outlet for boys who would otherwise be thrown on to the unemployment market and with very little prospects in the future in the big cities and towns.\(^{147}\)

The Brisbane Courier published several articles on the Farm and one written in the early days, 1933, ‘Farm Training – St Lucia Boys at Work’ follows.\(^ {148}\)

The Problem of Youth, St Lucia Farm School is the Title of an article in the Queensland Agricultural Journal\(^ {149}\) in 1934, and the following is a brief précis.

‘No nation can afford to allow a generation to grow up in idleness.’ A realisation of this fact was the force behind the establishment of the School. A conference was held in 1932 of representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, and of Labour and Industry and community groups such as the Churches, the New Settlers League, the Legacy Club, the Rotary Club, and other social organisations. As a result the School was established to teach unemployed city youth farming skills, so they could go out into the country and assist the farming community.\(^ {150}\)

Various buildings were erected including a dining hall and a dormitory, some existing houses were used as quarters, and existing hay and milking sheds retained. In 1934 accommodation was doubled enabling 200 boys to be trained at a time.\(^ {151}\)

The school took boys in for six-month courses; half were live-in and half-day students, with tuition being free. Instruction was given in all branches of dairy practice, pig raising, poultry keeping, and general farm fieldwork. Thirty-two acres (13 ha) were farmed, with potatoes,

\(^{147}\) The Central Queensland Herald 2 Mar 1933 as quoted in Cr J Magub The History of St Lucia 1988.

\(^{148}\) The Courier-Mail 26 April 1933 p12 c 5.

\(^{149}\) St Lucia Gazette May 1977 Fryer Library University of Queensland.

\(^{150}\) Reid, J The Problem of Youth, St Lucia Farm School, 1934, Fryer Library S 539.A85345.

\(^{151}\) The Queenslander 12 July 1934 p5.
pumpkins, arrowroot, and fodder crops such as mangles, maize, lucerne and introduced grasses. There was a vegetable garden with a spray irrigation system, and five acres were used for pasture improvement experiments. The farm was practically self-supporting, and provided unequalled meals in the dining room for the boys.

Piggeries were built, a fine Jersey dairy herd was run, and horses were used for ploughing. Field officers visited the school to lecture on chemistry of the soil, botany, entomology, and plant pathology.

A nut nursery was established and successfully trialled the growing of Queensland native nuts.152

The school also had tent camp in forest country at Moggill where bush craft could be learned and timber cut for fence posts etc back at the school.

In March 1934 the Minister for Agriculture, F W Bulcock, wrote an article extolling the virtues of farm training to the community, and praising the work of the St Lucia Farm School.154 In September that year the Courier-Mail printed two photographs of the land being worked, and commented ‘...where within earshot of the murmur of the city, youth is taught the secrets of the soil – man’s heritage through the ages’.155 The farm occupied 170 acres (69 ha).156 A substantial timber dormitory building was erected and is shown in detail on the BrisbaneImages website.157 The same building is also clearly shown on the 1936 photos taken for the University planning, and on a 1946 aerial photograph.158

The following aerial photograph taken circa 1935 shows the extent of farming.159

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152 *The Courier-Mail* 31 August 1934 p 23.
154 *The Courier-Mail* 10 March 1934 p 12 c 25.
155 *The Courier-Mail* 13 September 1934 p 16 c 2.
156 *St Lucia Gazette* May 1977 Fryer Library University of Queensland.
157 BCC BrisbaneImages B120 80977 1935 subject catalogue St Lucia
158 1946 Aerial photograph BCC
159 Fryer Library AB/P series.
A fence is believed to have been erected at this time delineating the school boundary; the following photograph shows it on the line of Mill Rd looking towards Boundary Rd West End, note the poor quality and rough contours of the ground.\textsuperscript{160}

St Lucia Farm School Display at the 1936 Exhibition (Ekka).\textsuperscript{161}

\textsuperscript{160} Fryer Library 880505-3 undated unnamed.

\textsuperscript{161} Brisbane History Group records courtesy A Darbyshire
In 1936 the newspaper included an extensive humorous article by Clem Lack, illustrated by McBain, extolling the virtues and exclaiming:

…The Government is making a serious attempt to grapple with the problem of workless youth, and that St Lucia [Farm School] is one State enterprise that is well worthwhile.

According to that article the Farm had in the last three years successfully trained 272 youths.162

In July 1935 the State Government announced that it would undertake the construction of a new University building at the St Lucia site. In 1937 the Bureau of Industry University Works Board asked the Department of Agriculture to vacate the land so that work on the University could commence.163 The school closed in mid 1938 with the students transferred to the Gatton Agricultural College.164

The Bureau of Meteorology had a Bureau Station at the farm from 1933 to 1938.165

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162 The Courier-Mail 28 November 1936 p 23 c 3; The Courier-Mail 1 August 1935 p.13.
163 Bureau of Industry University Works Board Minutes meetings 1 – 37, 1937 – 1939, QSA Series 18266 Item ID 341196.
164 The Queenslander 3 August 1938 p 42; The Courier-Mail 29 July 1938 p 1.
7. UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The following information on the University of Queensland has been published in a reduced form in:

*University of Queensland Fryer Folios June 2010 Planning for the UQ St Lucia campus*

7.1 Early days and selection of the St Lucia site

Much has been written by others about the academic and physical history of the University from its beginnings in Brisbane City in 1910. The main published work is *A Place of Light and Learning* written for the 75th Anniversary of the founding by Professor Malcolm Thomis.¹⁶⁶ The main unpublished work is probably an essay of more than 150 pages of typed foolscap pages by Harrison Bryan, ‘University of Queensland 1910-1966 An Essay Towards A History’, held by the Fryer Library.¹⁶⁷

Other early academics and staff such Robinson, Hawken, Michie, Alcock, Stable, Kyle and Melbourne also wrote Papers about the history of the University, all of which are archived at the Fryer Library. Prof Robinson wrote a small book in 1957 entitled ‘The University of Queensland at St Lucia and other Universities 1952’.¹⁶⁸

This Paper does not attempt to précis such texts, but reviews some interesting aspects of the choice to St Lucia and the design of the campus. The matter of a bridge connecting St Lucia to provide easy access from the City is reviewed in more detail in another Paper by this author.

The first University in Australia opened as the University of Sydney in 1852, the second the University of Melbourne in 1855, the third the University of Adelaide in 1874, and the fourth the University of Tasmania in 1890. The University of Queensland began in 1910 and the University of West Australia 1911. Prior to 1910 Queensland students had to travel to Sydney or go overseas. The University Act of 1870 gave the Queensland Government the power to conduct local examinations for British Universities, and universities at Sydney and Melbourne, a power that lasted forty years.

Secondary education was only available at a few private schools at that stage, and the matter of a university was seen as something for the future. It was considered seriously in the 1890s and the Government Architect looked at possible sites – including land set aside at Victoria Park for a new Government House, and the existing Government House at George Street. By 1906 the ‘Queensland University Extension Standing Committee’ existed, and in 1908 after a great deal of political and religious debate a definite decision was made to establish a university to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations of the Colony in 1909. The University of Queensland Bill was given assent by the Governor on 6th December 1909, and the University formally came into being upon the Gazettal of the first Senators on 16th April 1910. It was formally opened by Sir William MacGregor the first Chancellor, on 26 February 1911 at its first home – Government House on George Street.¹⁶⁹

The first formal inauguration was held on 1 June 1911 with great ceremony, at the Exhibition Building following a procession from the University Hall. A formal leather-bound programme was issued, and the newspapers reported at length on the event.¹⁷⁰

Right from the start there was much debate about relocating the University to a larger campus. Many medical people proposed that an area of Victoria Park which had been set aside for a new Government House be allocated to the University. This had the support of eminent men such as Dr Sandfor Jackson (who lived at Glenolive House in St Lucia at this

¹⁶⁸ Prof F W Robinson *The University of Queensland St Lucia Brisbane* 1957 UQ Press Fryer Library.
¹⁶⁹ Forest P & S, All for Queensland, The Governors and The People, pp. 155, 164, 166, Shady Tree, Darwin, 2009
¹⁷⁰ University of Queensland 1911 Inauguration programme, provided by Ms D Kemp; *The Telegraph* 1 June 1911 p.7, 2 June 1911 p.4; *The Brisbane Courier* 2 June 1911 p.5.
time.) However, alternative sites were considered at St Lucia, and Yeronga Park on Ipswich Rd.

St Lucia was first mentioned in 1911 when 490 acres (198 ha) was said to be available\(^\text{171}\). The Senate considered a proposal:

…an area of about 600 acres [constituting St Lucia Pocket] should be resumed by the Government: of this area 240 acres, known as Coronation Park, were to be set aside as a Park, preserving the natural timber on the place; two hundred acres forming the area now vested in the Senate for University purposes were to be used for the University; fifty acres of elevated ground were to be earmarked for the purposes of an Hospital associated with the University; and the level flats adjoining the West End reach of the river were to formed into playing fields.\(^\text{172}\)

The area of Coronation Park, Portions 17 – 25, owned then by The Royal Bank of Queensland and the London Bank of Australia Limited, as mortgagees-in-possession following the financial failures of the 1890s, was being promoted as a possible public park.\(^\text{173}\)

The 200 acres was to the east of Jetty Rd, Portions 13- 18, and mainly in the ownership of three individuals, one being the Carmodys who still operated a dairy farm on more than 50 acres.

171\ Prof F W Robinson *The University of Queensland St Lucia Brisbane* p 95
173\ Prof F W Robinson *The University of Queensland St Lucia Brisbane* p 13 c 1 (R Fisher/C Dyer).
The fifty acres of elevated land were probably in the vicinity of the east end of Carmody Rd being part of Portion 12. The level flats would have referred to the balance of Portion 12 and then Portions 11 and 10. Again, why this land was considered to be available is not known, although it was little used.

Not surprisingly many felt St Lucia was too remote; the train came to central Toowong but the trams came only to Miskin St Toowong. The personal modes of transport at that time would have been on foot or on horseback along the dusty River Rd (Coronation Dr), and then St Lucia Rd.

Some saw it as an opportunity to have 240 acres of parkland, 200 acres for the University, and 50 more for a teaching hospital. Many years later Harrison Bryan, the University Librarian wrote:

The first site plan is interesting, if only for its generosity. It envisaged 600 acres, 240 for a Coronation park, 200 for the University and 50 for a teaching hospital. It is sad to think that 15 years’ indecision lost the University the idea of a park [Coronation Park]. It is sadder still that for the same reason it lost forever any chance of having a teaching hospital on the University site.

The fifteen years was 1911 to 1926, Coronation Park having been subdivided for residential estates in the meantime (1922). What a difference that extra land would have made to the future suburb.

The Senate proposal for St Lucia was put to the Premier, Mr Digby, but not accepted. In 1914 Victoria Park became the site of choice, because with 170 acres (69 ha) of land it would be possible to have the University and teaching hospital co-located – seen by most as essential.

By 1920 Archbishop Duhig was agitating for a new site to be selected and The Brisbane Courier took up the cause.

Dr J D Story, Public Service Commissioner and the Government’s representative on the University Senate, reported on the possibility of a St Lucia site again in 1920. He referred to the St Lucia Estate but probably meant the entire 200 acres to the east of Jetty Rd incorporating the Estate, and the nearby farms.

In 1921 a committee was established to determine a new site for the University; Engineering Prof Hawken and Brisbane architect Alexander B Wilson, were members.

In 1922 Victoria Park was again anointed as the future site:

174 Queensland University Fryer Library plan packs 189-206.
175 Prof F W Robinson The University of Queensland St Lucia Brisbane p 95
176 Bryan H.
178 The Brisbane Courier 15 June 1920 p.6.
179 Thomis M I Prof. op cit. p 96
6.5 UQ Victoria Park development plan 1924, including colleges & ovals.

Proposed University Plan Victoria Park 1925, Department of Public Works
BCC Archives File BCA 1312.

Courtesy R Fisher, Brisbane History Group Paper 22.
However, by 1925 an investigation had found that the steeply sloping land was expensive to build on, that road and railway extensions may in future impinge on it, and that it would be better to spend funds on buying other, flatter, land.\textsuperscript{181} The Senate was back reconsidering its options at Yeronga and St Lucia.\textsuperscript{182}

In July 1926 the St Lucia Progress Association noted that St Lucia was a better site for a University than Victoria Park.\textsuperscript{183} At its meeting of September that year the Grand Council of Progress Associations decided to support the St Lucia site for the University, and to therefore ask the Greater Brisbane Council to purchase the St Lucia land from its park funds, with the current site at Victoria Park to be returned to the Council by the Senate as parkland.\textsuperscript{184}

It was then reported that:

Following upon an agitation for the securing of a site at St Lucia for the University, a deputation from the Grand Council of Progress Associations waited upon the Mayor [Alderman Jolly] on the 6\textsuperscript{th} October 1926, and suggested that the City Council should acquire an area at St Lucia for University purposes… The deputation was informed that in view of the heavy cost involved in resuming the necessary land, the City Council could not comply with the request.\textsuperscript{185} The Mayor [commented]…there might be another way out of the difficulty. A certain suggestion had been made, but it was not yet sufficiently developed for him to elaborate on it.\textsuperscript{186}

Immediately following this, Dr James Mayne and his sister Mary Emelia, made an anonymous offer to the Lord Mayor to donate £50,000 to buy the St Lucia site for the University, or if they didn’t want it, then for a public park.\textsuperscript{187} The Grand Council of Progress Associations supported this offer.\textsuperscript{188}

Brisbane born Dr James O’Neil Mayne (1861-1939), a retired Superintendent of the General Hospital, was very much aware of the debate about the siting of the University. Dr Mayne lived with his sister Miss Mary Emelia Mayne (1858-1940), at Moorlands (now in the grounds of Wesley Hospital) and often strolled the adjacent riverbank with his young University student geologist friend Fred Whitehouse. Both of them saw the St Lucia site to the east of Jetty Rd as ideal for a University because it had space for academia and sporting facilities. In 1925 Mayne and Whitehouse resumed their walks, which now extended to rural St Lucia, giving them time for contemplation. Dr Mayne remembered the British Universities which he had visited, where students could ‘stroll the quiet river-banks while arguing the problems that exercised their minds’.\textsuperscript{189} Photograph courtesy www.library.uq.edu.au/espace

Both generous and wealthy, Dr Mayne and his sister made the offer to Brisbane’s Lord Mayor, Alderman William Jolly, to donate £50,000 to buy the 200-odd acre site for the
University, or if they didn’t want it, then for a public park. In Dr Mayne’s view St Lucia promised the ideal site: acres of land for sport, the river for rowing and swimming, and the high land where buildings could rise. At the eventual laying of the foundation stone he is reported to have said that he was prompted to make his offer by his student memories of Sydney University with its “small ground space and no water frontage,” and that Victoria Park had seemed to his sister and to him to demonstrate just the same disadvantage.

Later Dr Mayne suggested that the beautiful wooded area about 8 acres on the river bank towards Indooroopilly (Upland Rd) should also be acquired, and he undertook to give a further £5,000 for this purpose.

Despite much debate and strong opinions amongst academics, the Senate accepted the offer. Mayor Jolly said “This is a site unequalled for a University in any city in Australia or in the world,” and predicted that ultimately St Lucia, enhanced by the University’s presence, would become one of the great residential suburbs of Brisbane.

Associate Professor A C V Melbourne saw the St Lucia location as ‘secure in its isolation, never to be threatened with major road-works across the site’. According to Dr Lockhart Gibson:

…that because fog often lay deep and heavy over St Lucia, residents could die of asthma and pneumonia.

The medical fraternity continued arguing their case for Victoria Park, warning that St Lucia was too far out in the bush, students would not travel the distance.

Professor B D Steele vigorously opposed the site at St Lucia because of its remoteness. The key to easy access was the construction of a bridge from Boundary St West End, to Keith St St Lucia, which would put the site within one-and-a-half miles (2.4 klm) of the City Centre, but this may still have made the site seem too remote for some.

The University of Queensland (Students) Union strongly supported the site because of the potential for sporting and social events. Alderman Watson was reported as suggesting that Council sell its Victoria Park site, and use the money to buy an even better site for the University. The Daily Mail carried a series of editorials suggesting that the Victoria Park site being handed back to Council was worth considerably more than the St Lucia site and perhaps the Council should contribute to the building costs at St Lucia.

Prof Melbourne devised an ambitious scheme of land resumption of not only the 200 acres, but also the original 240 acres of Coronation Park Estate and St Lucia Heights Estate. His idea was to use some of the land for the University and sell the rest as residential land at a

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190 The Brisbane Courier 16 October 1926 p. 7; 20 October 1926 p.7; Kyle W M, p.12
191 Siemon R The Mayne Inheritance p 184.
193 Mayne Deed for additional acres at St Lucia, 1926. BCCA
194 Kyle W M, p.12.
195 Thomis M I Prof. op cit.p 158
196 Thomis M I Prof. op cit.p 159.
197 The Daily Mail 26 October 1926 p 13 c1.
198 The Daily Mail 15 October 1926
199 The Daily Mail 16 October 1926
200 The Brisbane Courier 14 October 1926 p 10 c 4
201 The Daily Mail 20 October 1926 p 6 c 2.
sufficient profit to pay for the cost of a bridge across the river. The plan was rejected but the Senate.

The Brisbane City Council Meeting minutes for 19 October 1926 record that Council adjourned to St Lucia to walk the site proposed for the University or a public park:

An inspection was made in company with Dr Mayne on the ground it was proposed to resume. Minute 2982/1926

The Council then met on the ground when the Right Worshipful the Mayor proposed that the Council forthwith take steps to resume the land in the Parish of Indooroopilly, commencing on the bank of the Brisbane River at the North-East boundary of Mill Rd, and bounded thence by that road southerly to Carmody’s Rd, thence by Coronation Dr to the North-West corner of Sub 263, thence to the South-West corner of Sub 263, thence to the South corner of Sub 319, thence to the West corner of Sub 267 thence the South-West boundary of Sub 267 to Upland Rd, thence from the North West boundary of Sub 252 along Upland Rd to the Western corner of Sub 247 thence by the North-East side of the lane to the South corner of Sub 219, thence for the Northern corner of Sub 182 along Boomerang Rd to the West corner of Sub 180 thence to South-West corner of Sub 180, thence to west corner of Sub 142, thence by South-West boundary of Sub 142 to The Esplanade and thence south to the Brisbane River, thence by Brisbane River North-East and North-West to the point of commencement.

Sec onded by Alderman Watson and agreed.

In the end it would the boundary changed a little, with it not deviating down Coronation Dr, but following the south side of Upland Rd.

A close up and a group photograph were taken: The originals of the photographs are believed to be held at the University Archives.

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202 Melbourne A C V Manuscripts Fryer Library UQFL3 Box 15.
203 Brisbane City Council Meeting Minutes 19 October 1926, BCC Archives.
204 The Brisbane Courier 20 October 1926, courtesy Fryer Library clippings book UQNC Misc. LG 708-46
Miss Mary Emelia Mayne, interviewed at Moorlands, said:

The health-giving breezes which sweep across the St Lucia reach, and the proximity of the river affording opportunities for boating and swimming…will ensure the physical development, which is so necessary for the successful student.

I would like to see tuition in cookery included among the subjects of a university career…in fact it would be of great benefit if some philanthropic man would endow a school of cookery in Queensland.\(^\text{205}\)

Brisbane City Council began resuming the land, it being the authority with the legal power to do so, using funds provided by Dr Mayne. The Mayor, the Vice Chancellor and Dr Mayne inspected the site together on 1 November 1927.\(^\text{206}\)

According to the 1929 Council Minutes\(^\text{207}\) and a 1929 mayoral minute from Alderman Jolly, 976 separate subdivisions were purchased from 284 separate owners, giving a total of 222 acres (90 ha) at a total cost of £60,000, all of which was reimbursed to Council by Dr Mayne and Ms Mary Emelia Mayne.\(^\text{208}\) The extra acres included the riverfront land to the west of Jetty Rd, and south of Upland Rd in the vicinity of Emmanuel, and Kings Colleges.

The Council Meeting Minutes of 1927, 1928 and 1929 give details of many of the resumptions, particularly those where the value of the land was disputed by the owner – mainly where the owner lived on the site. The Carmodys claimed £5,435/9/9 for 18 acres of farmland, possibly their part of Portion 16, but were offered £1,500, eventually settling for £2,850. For another area they claimed $18,000, were offered $12,000 and settled for $16,500.\(^\text{209}\) Mr J A Carmody and wife Elisabeth relocated to Portions 283 – 288 Hyde Park Estate on the eastern of Durham Street and Carmody Road.\(^\text{210}\)

The McCaffreys wanted £3,200 but were offered £1,350. Various other detail records exist including the following signatures:\(^\text{211}\)

\(^{205}\) *The Brisbane Courier* 21 October 1926 p.17  
\(^{206}\) *The Brisbane Courier* 1 November 1927  
\(^{207}\) Brisbane City Council Meeting Minutes 1929 p 501.  
\(^{208}\) Judy Magub *The History of St Lucia* 1998 p7 researching Lord Mayoral Minute 18/11/1929.  
\(^{209}\) BCC Council meeting minutes 18 November 1929 p 169; BCC Town Clerk memo 29 April 1929, BCC Archives file BCA0077.  
\(^{211}\) BCC Archives File BCA 0077 St Lucia land resumptions for University
The Hudd families lived near Mill Rd where the Great Court is today are mentioned often for their continual negotiations; L E Hudd claimed £1,430 and was offered £570 and settled at £650. F Hudd claimed £1,030, was offered £370 and settled eventually for £400; G A Hudd was offered £240 later increased to £260, R F Hudd was offered £100 later increased to £120. Mrs F Hudd argued for the ‘right to remove fencing, cart shed and cow shed’ but was refused.

The Minutes also show that many residential Lots were purchased from absentee owners, who would have purchased them in preceding years when they were sold as part of the St Lucia Estate, and the Coronation Park Estate. The Lots were of varying sizes, and were sold for around £25-£30 each. Coronation Park Ltd itself sold 18 large Lots, presumably not already sold to early buyers, to Council for £1,125 - an average of around £60 per Lot. Council called for tenders for removal of five houses, possibly mainly the Hudd families, which were described as ‘old except for the Haywood house’. The lowest tender of £111 was accepted.

At its meeting of 10 December 1926 the Senate of the University opted for the St Lucia site by the narrowest of margins. However, the City Council would not hand over the Deeds of the St Lucia land until the University made a firm declaration that the University would be built there and that the Victoria Park land would be handed back to Council. In September 1927 Senate formally advised Council that St Lucia would become the new home of the University, although subject to assurances from Council regarding access.

However, argument continued over the location of a Medical School which all agreed needed to be co-located with a base hospital. There were proposals to build the School and a new base hospital at St Lucia, but in October 1927 a decision was made that the Medical School would at some point be built next to the General Hospital. No mention is made from here on of St Lucia having a teaching hospital.

At the 1929 Graduation Ceremony of the (George St based) University Prof Cumbrae Stewart spoke of his hope that the Brisbane City Council would soon hand over the Title Deeds to the St Lucia site. He added ‘I have seen many university sites and I can truthfully say I never saw

212 Thomis M I Prof. op cit. p 160.
215 Meyers D ‘Establishing Queensland’s first Medical School’ Royal Historical Society of Queensland Journal Vol 20 No 9 p 434 2009
one so noble as that which Dr Mayne has provided for us’. The Professor went on to ask ‘who would give them the buildings? It was to their good friends of 20 years that they would appeal.’\textsuperscript{216} Later Mr T C Beirne gave £20,000 and Mrs James Forsyth and Miss Philp gave £10,000.\textsuperscript{217}

Somewhat belatedly \textit{The Architectural and Building Journal of Queensland} in 1937 supported the site:\textsuperscript{218}

\begin{quote}
\ldots Universities are built for generations ahead, and one realises that cities expand from year to year, and that what are outskirts of the city to-day will be in close proximity within the next twenty years.
\end{quote}

Eventually in June 1930 a ceremony was held at City Hall for the formal handover of the Certificate of Title of the 220 acres from Dr Mayne to the Chancellor Sir James Blair.\textsuperscript{219}

With the Depression under way no action followed, and concerns were raised again about the potential move to St Lucia when in 1932 the Government authorised the lease of the land for five years as a Farm School.

The newly elected Labour Premier Forgan Smith advocated the creation of vast public works schemes to relieve unemployment caused by the ongoing worldwide depression. In 1932 the Bureau of Industry (previously the Queensland Bureau of Economics and Statistics) was established within Government to find suitable works, with J R Kemp Commissioner for Main Roads as Chairman.\textsuperscript{220}

Subsequently the Government borrowed £6,000,000 from Britain for the Story Bridge, Somerset Dam, a Medical School at Herston adjacent to the hospital, and the St Lucia buildings of the University of Queensland.\textsuperscript{221}

The Premier (and later Chancellor of the University 1942-1953) William Forgan Smith. State Library of Queensland Negative qmc01938 Copyright: localhistory@mackay.qld.gov.au

The Government formally decided to proceed with the actual buildings of the University at the St Lucia Site on 31 July 1935; the buildings were to cost £300,000 and furniture and

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{216} \textit{The Brisbane-Courier} 4 May 1929 p19 c 6.
\item \textsuperscript{217} \textit{The Courier-Mail} 1 August 1935 p 13 c 8.
\item \textsuperscript{218} \textit{The Architecture and Building Journal of Queensland} April 1937 edition p1. SLQ Microfiche 0690
\item \textsuperscript{219} \textit{The Brisbane Courier} 20 June 1930 p 14 c 8.
\item \textsuperscript{220} From Bulldust to Beef Roads and Beyond, Main Roads- The First 50 years Marion Diamond, Main Roads c.1970 p 62. Richie J. \textit{Australian Dictionary of Biography}, 2000, Melbourne University Press J B Brigden.
\item \textsuperscript{221} W Ross Johnston \textit{op cit.}, p 167; Fitzgerald R, \textit{Made in Queensland, A New History}, 2009, University of Queensland Press, p.104.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
equipment another £200,000.222 A journalist described the decision as ‘The University’s Jubilee Gift, (marking) the attainment of the University’s 25th Anniversary’.223 The Vice-Chancellor Dr W N Robertson said it would take three years for the University work to be transferred to St Lucia.224 The Chancellor Sir James Blair, the Vice-Chancellor and Senate Member (1916-1965) Archbishop Duhig all applauded the decision to at last fund the project.225

7.2 Paintings

Over the years a number of paintings and sketches have been done by various artists of St Lucia, focusing mainly on the area later occupied by the University, although unfortunately many no longer exist or cannot be traced:

1885 W S Austin *Indooroopilly Sugar Mill*, original hangs in the Library at Newstead House.

1885 ‘Chub’ Ferguson Dart’s Mill St Lucia. Postcard size, framed. Original held by Maurice McLeary.

1886 Mrs E Foreman ‘Darts old sugar mill’ reproduced in *The Queenslander* 6 Nov 1926 p 22.

1888 A B Wilson Dart’s Mill from Dornoch Terrace, original not found. Newspaper article in Jack’s Cutting Book No. 6 page 70. JOL.

1889 R S Rayment St Lucia with river and Mt Gravatt in background. Original not found. 1937 Newspaper article and photograph of painting, copy in Jack’s cutting book No. 14 page 15, JOL.

1888 Lithograph of Dart’s Mill, copy held by John Dart.

1903 Vida Lahey St Lucia. Original not found. Miniature copy from a catalogue held by M England.

1930 C Baird Low lying areas of St Lucia, held by Mrs Enid Carr.

1932 Harold Parker Oil Painting *St Lucia* described as having a ‘nice mellow feeling’, ‘large study in oil’.226

1935 N S Sanders University land from Dutton Park reproduced in: Kyle Prof W M ‘An account of the University of Queensland during its first twenty five years 1910-1935’, UQ Senate. (see below)

1936 M Haysom Portrait of Dr Mayne holding plan of University.227

1937 W Bustard 1884-1973 University land before construction of Buildings.228 (Digital version available at QSL – search Bustard St Lucia)

1940 E Marks University under construction. Original held by M England.

1941 Pat Prentice Watercolour ‘Building of the University’ c 1941 as seen probably from Orleigh Park with the ferry jetty at the end of Hoogly Street included. Displayed at Mayne Art Centre University of Queensland, 2005, but noted held in a private collection.

222 *The Telegraph* 31 July 1935 p 2 c1 also p 1; *The Courier-Mail* 1 August 1935 p.13.
223 *The Telegraph* 31 July 1935 p 2 c1 also p 1.
224 *The Courier-Mail* 1 August 1935 p 12 c 3.
225 *The Courier-Mail* 1 August 1935 p 13 c 8.
227 *The Brisbane Courier* 14 September 1932 p12; *Queensland Figaro* 8 October 1932 p11.
228 *The Courier-Mail* 6 October 1936 p6
229 *The Queenslander* 1 November 1937 p 3 reproduced in the *Queenslander Annual*1937 p 34
1949 C H Lancaster               St Lucia Reach taken from Kayes Rocks looking at the main University of Queensland building. Original held by University of Queensland Mayne Art Centre.

Painting of the proposed University site viewed from Dutton Park circa 1930. By N S Sanders of the Art Department Central Technical College.229

7.3 Design

The first discovered layout for a proposed University at St Lucia is held by the Fryer Library, dated 26 October 1926 and was prepared by Architect A B Wilson (1857-1938) – with whom Professor Hawken had been associated for many years. The plan is for the 200 acres east of Mill Rd; it has a library as the centre point on the crest of the hill and shows the buildings facing north west towards a bridge from Boundary St, with colleges on the southern side, sports facilities on the lower areas, and St Lucia Rd extended around the river edge. No specific mention is made of a hospital, or indeed any particular faculties, but the layout is remarkably similar to that eventually adopted. The plan was drawn in pencil on tracing paper and does not reproduce well, but for the record, an extract follows showing the date towards the bottom left, the bridge, and some of the campus:230

229 Kyle W M, follows p.52.
230 Queensland University Fryer Library Ref UQFL250/7/1.
A plan prepared by Professor Hawken was approved by the Senate and used as a basis for discussion, but was not officially adopted.\footnote{The Courier-Mail 3 August 1935 p 15.} That plan, a perspective and a description thereof, credited to Professor Hawken and fellow academic A J M Stoney, was published in May and August 1935:\footnote{The Courier-Mail 11 May 1935 p 14, 25 May 1935 p 7; 27 May 1935 p 17; 1 August 1935 p 15 c 4; Fryer Library news clippings UQNC 1911-56 LG 708-46.}

The blocks of buildings to house the various faculties form part of a compact, orderly plan, due attention having been paid to the suitability of location of the various science departments. Provision is made for gardens and park to border the river on the northern boundary and for colleges on the southern boundary. The library is shown in the centre of the design, surrounded by the various faculty buildings, and provision is made for three sports ovals.

The University (St Lucia) Building Committee was established by the Premier in October 1935:\footnote{The Courier-Mail 10 October 1935 p 12.} according to its official report to the Premier in July 1936, Dr Melbourne was the University representative and Chairman, Dr J J Bradfield (1867-1943) (Chief Engineer to the Bridge Board) was the Government representative and deputy Chairman. When Prof.
Melbourne was absent Prof Alcock represented the University but Dr Bradfield took over the Chairman’s role. Other members of the Committee were: J D Story (Public Service Commissioner), A B Leven (Chief Architect Department of Public Works), for the Government and T L Jones (Chairman of the Brisbane and South Coast Hospitals Board) for the University.

Various plans were presented to the Committee and all used the topography of the site in a similar manner to A B Wilson’s very original plan, and today’s actual buildings – main buildings on the crest of the hill, with an outer ring of sports facilities and colleges.

Professor Hawken, academic A M Stoney and Architect R M Wilson (son of A B Wilson who died in 1928) submitted their earlier plan for the Committee. In addition to the University, the plan included an adjacent site for a Teacher Training College. This plan has the buildings facing in to a central library, does not indicate a bridge, and relies on St Lucia Rd/Mill Rd and a ferry across to Princess St Dutton Park for access. In recent times a better copy of this plan was presented to the Fryer Library by the firm Wilson Architects.

Mr Leven submitted a plan with the main buildings facing Mill Rd, and a boat harbour near Carmody Creek; he also submitted proposals for staging the work. Prints of his plan are held by the Fryer Library and the following is from the QSL (unfortunately preserved in a plastic sheet making copying difficult).

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234 ‘Report of the University (St Lucia) Building Committee to the Premier’ July 1936, UQA S314
235 University of Queensland Senate Meeting Minutes 1 November 1935 Fryer Library LG 704 S43 and The Courier-Mail 28 July 1936 p 18 c5
236 Queensland University Fryer Library UQFL250/4; Queensland University Archives ID No. 0003102.
237 Queensland University Fryer Library UQFL 112 H 206 041209.
238 Queensland University Fryer Library Ref 250/3; SLQ Ref 7188
Dr Bradfield submitted a plan which whilst following the general theme, was somewhat different to others and was the only one to use a semi-circular main building, together with cloisters, similar to that which finally eventuated, (although orientated to face the bridge).239

Professor Robinson submitted a plan after many visits to the site to take wind measurements, thus establishing the particular orientation for the (un-airconditioned) buildings which was finally used; coincidentally his buildings faced any future bridge. His plans showed provision for a teaching hospital in the vicinity of the east end of Carmody Rd, and also provision for trams or buses, and a river walk.240

The City Engineer, E F Gilchrist had advised the Committee that the road access should be via Boundary St and a bridge over the river to the Council owned sports ground. Sewerage treatment would have to be by local septic tanks.

The Surveyor General provided information on the sun angles.241

The Commonwealth Meteorologist provided information on the prevailing breezes.

The University provided a list of its floor space requirements, totalling 338,000 ft². and the Department of Education advised that it need 45,000 ft² of space for a teacher training college.242

Mr J C Mahoney of the University Sports Union listed the requirements for sports facilities. Seven Colleges would be provided for.

The Committee advised that the lakes and adjacent area would provide a pleasant glen, and Carmody Creek a pleasant area. The buildings would be built on the central plateau, the colleges on the ridge near the river (College Rd), and the balance of the land was suitable for agricultural and pastoral purposes.

239 Queensland University Fryer Library Ref 250/5/
240 Queensland University Fryer Library Ref 250/6/
241 Queensland University Fryer Library Ref 250/6/
242 Queensland University Fryer Library Ref UQFL458 b12 f 2.
The Committee gave written recognition to earlier work done on University layouts by Professors Hawken and F W Robinson.

The Committee arranged for the land to be surveyed on a 40 ft grid, (believed to have been provided by the City Engineer) and for aerial photographs to be taken, the later being appended to the report.

The Committee experienced some tensions over the choice of designs; Prof Robinson was not happy that his work was not accepted; Mr Leven felt that much of his work had been ignored. It is possible that in the absence of Prof Melbourne, Dr Bradfield had strongly taken charge and in the end it was much of his scheme that was submitted with the report.243

In the eventual ‘Report of the University (St Lucia) Building Committee to the Premier’ the recommended concept was for a main building orientated to the bridge, with the approach from the bridge was to be ‘most dignified’ and lead up a half-mile (0.8 klm) avenue to a large lawn at the front of the building. The building itself was part of a quadrangle where cloisters linked other individual buildings, and provided a central courtyard. A circular road would run around the outside of these buildings.

All the buildings were to be two storeys high to avoid the need for lifts, and each would have a basement. The main building was to be built of local stone or stone-facing, but as this could not be afforded throughout, other buildings would be of a light coloured brick, with perhaps stone surrounds to doors and windows.244

The appended site plan, model and perspectives are reproduced below.245

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243 Minutes and notes from University (St Lucia) Building Committee, 1935-6, UQA S533
244 'Report of the University (St Lucia) Building Committee to the Premier’ 1936, UQA S314
245 Queensland University Fryer Library photo box AB/P/48
Extracts from ‘Report of the University (St Lucia) Building Commi