

## ***THE EARLY YEARS***

On 5th October 1910, a petition containing thirty-seven signatures was sent to the local Member of Parliament, requesting that he make a favourable representation to the Department of Public Instruction for the establishment of a school at Roseville.

At the time, the suburb had a population of six hundred and the nearest schools were Lindfield and Chatswood. A year later the decision was made to establish the school and two acres of land were purchased for two hundred and fifty pounds. The Duntroon Avenue side of the school originally formed part of the Hordern property, and the Addison Avenue section was Chinese market gardens.

The school was opened on 19 August 1913 with an enrolment of thirty children.

On the first day my mother took me. There were two rooms, with two classes in each room, and two teachers - Miss Pickering and Miss Macourt. Miss Macourt taught the younger children and lived opposite in Archbold Road. I started aged six in the younger class and then went on to Chatswood.

There was a paling fence all around the school - split palings, not sawn. There were lots of turpentine trees and birds. There was no electric light but gas lamps along the road. The grounds were square. The 'big gate' behind where the basketball court is was used for carts and drays. It was mostly kept locked. The little gate was for the kids.

Archbold Road was very rough, with a wooden bridge at the bottom. I learnt to swim in Moores Creek. There were some good waterholes - Devils Hole, Submarine Hole.

There were only three houses in Earl Street. It was mostly Chinaman's gardens.

*(Fred Teasdell, 1913-15)*



**Carden's Plant Nursery where carnations were grown, corner of Moore and Earl Streets, c.1920's.**

Apart from school activities for us kids, there were the bushwalks to Middle Harbour for picnics and gathering boronia, Christmas bells, native roses and waratahs.

*(Kenneth Stark, 1913-14)*

I was six years old when I started. I had to wait until my brother Norman was five so that we could walk together along Archbold Road from Chelmsford Avenue, where we lived. Archbold Road was a rough road with shrubs and grass down the middle and very tall trees on either side at our end.

Roseville School was only an infants school at the time, consisting of three classes. Miss Pickering was the Headmistress, and Miss Talbot and Miss Macourt were the other two teachers.

There I learned to read and write. We learnt spelling by the phonic method (which I still think is the best method). I enjoyed my time at the school. During lunch time we played at families and made houses with many rooms outlined by stones. The large playground had masses of cape weed and we used the flowers of this to make great daisy chains.

After two years there we had to go to Lindfield Public School.

*(Ruth Weeks (Rodd), 1917-19)*



**Kindergarten, the teacher is possibly Miss Macourt, c.1916.**

During my attendance the building consisted of just a single story of two rooms. There was a large covered recess on the southern side, originally intended for a lunch area. The playground was large, and apart from an asphalt assembly area, was covered in parramatta and paspalum grass. Toilets were detached buildings, unsewered and served regularly by sanitary carts.

At first there were only two classes - First Class, taught by Miss Macourt, a pleasant placid lady who nonetheless kept good control, and Second Class taught by Miss Pickering who was Headmistress. Miss Pickering was also pleasant, but had a ferocious temper when roused. Miss Macourt lived in Archbold Road nearly opposite the school. About 1918 saw the establishment of the Kindergarten class in the erstwhile luncheon recess. I can recall the arrival of the furniture - large low tables with surfaces scored into one-inch squares and lots of miniature chairs. The new Kindergarten teacher was Miss Talbot.

*(Terry Davis, 1917-19)*



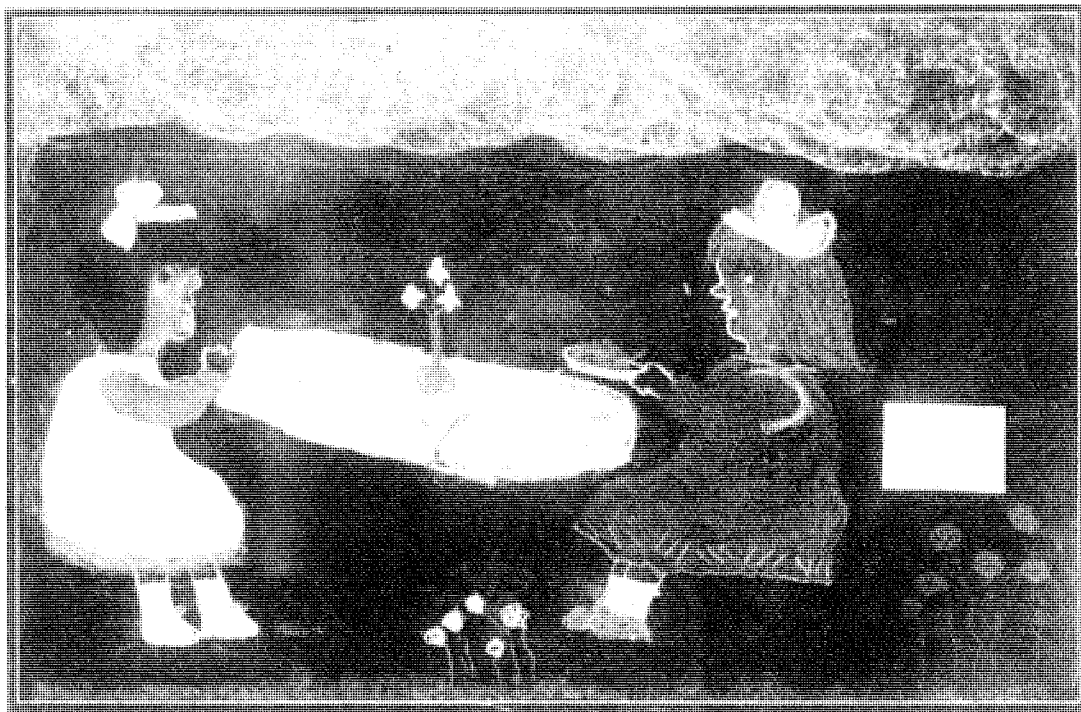
**Roseville Public School Children dancing, Miss Pickering is holding a parasol.**

The school approached my mother to let me go to the school when I was only four, so that an extra teacher could be provided. My father had not long died and I had an elder sister at the school. The school was only one building - brick.

*(Brenda Bailey (Thom))*

I remember having artwork shown in the Sydney Mail with Jimmy Nielson's work. I still remember him as a boy in my class.

*(Jean Blundell (Cazneaux), 1916-17)*



*One of the most fascinating sections of the exhibition is that devoted to the work of children from four to eight years of age. The above chalk drawing is typical of many of the childish efforts. It is full of colour – brown, yellow, mauve, white and black – blended in a weird and wonderful way and indicates at a glance the mind of the little girl – Jean Cazneaux of Roseville – when she put on paper her idea of a pleasant afternoon.*

The Sydney Mail, 23 January 1918

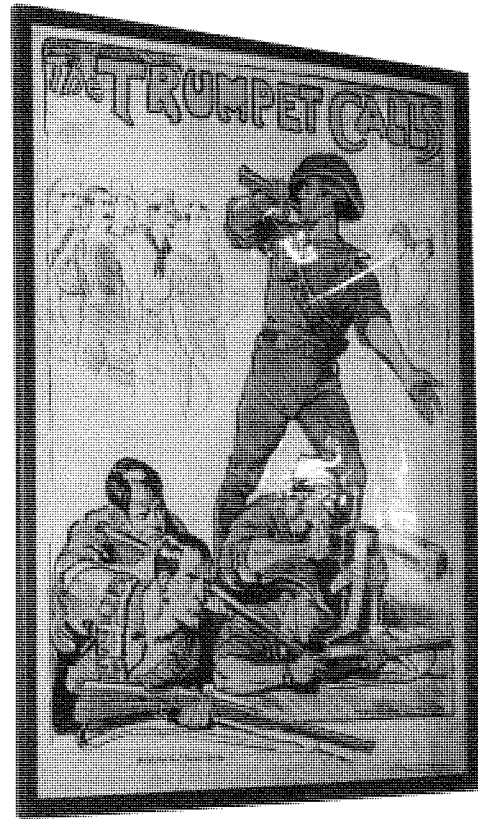
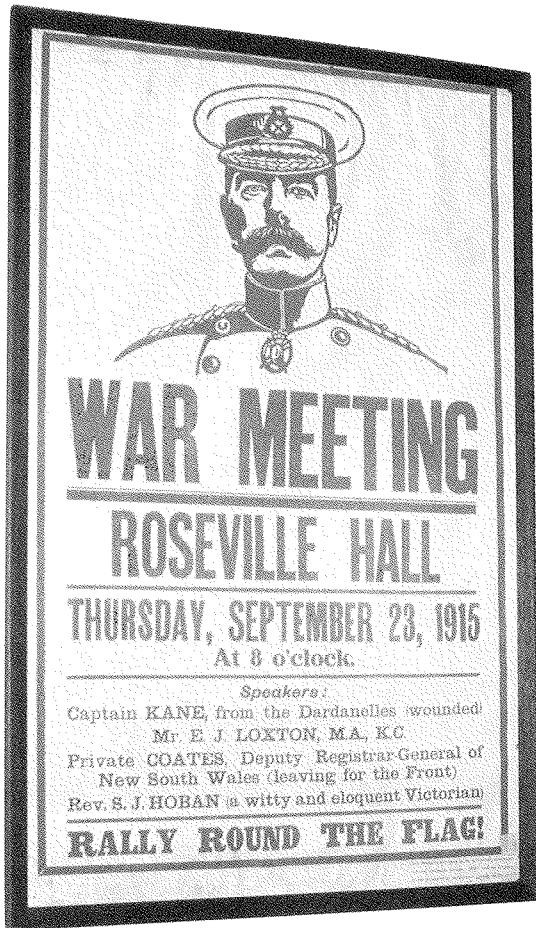
(Photograph courtesy of Mitchell Library)

World War 1 saw many men enlist and caused shortages and price increases in everyday commodities. After war ended, returning soldiers were given a great welcome home. I have vivid memories of the return of Laurie Raggatt, who lived in Lord Street not far from us. A huge 'Welcome' sign was slung from poles across the road. Mr Finch, a neighbour with the only car in the street, an early Star, drove Laurie down from the station and when the train bringing Laurie home approached Roseville, the engine driver blew his steam whistle in a "cock-a-doodle-do". The armistice and peace were celebrated with great excitement - at School there were assemblies addressed by notables of the day and a Victory picnic at Roseville Park. Harry Cazneaux, a Roseville photographer of note, took pictures as we marched en masse to the picnic. At night there were bonfires and fireworks and I still have a vision of Sam Woodford, a local builder, driving his Model T Ford utility around the streets slowly towing a long rope to which were clinging an excited mob of cheering boys.

*(Terry Davis, 1917-19)*



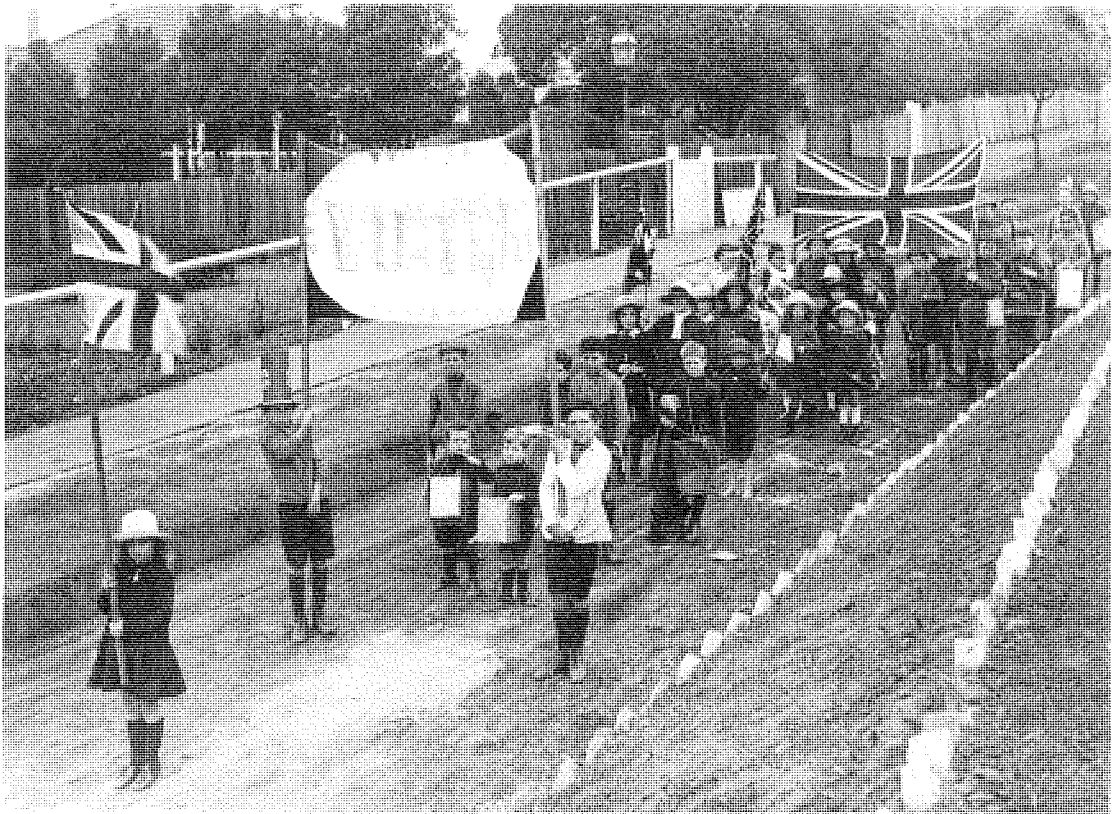
**Victory Parade in Roseville Avenue, near Gerald Avenue, July 1919.**



**War poster displayed in the Darwin Military Museum. The Roseville Hall is now the Roseville Cinema, Pacific Highway, Roseville.**



**Victory celebrations in Roseville Park which followed the Victory Parade, Clanville Road, July 1919.**



**Roseville children in Victory parade to celebrate the end of World War I.**