

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Up until Year Four, girls and boys were in the same class. The direst punishment for misbehaviour was not the cane, but to be made to sit with the girls. After Fourth Class, boys and girls were in separate classes. The numbers in class were much higher than today. The highest number was fifty-nine in second class and the lowest was forty-one in fifth class.

(Laidley Pinnington, 1923-29)

All my teachers were ladies until the last year - 6th Class. The teacher was the Principal, Mr Alldis. Mr Alldis caught me one day playing around at my desk - snatched what I had - a rubber and a razor blade. Yes, he cut his hand and I spent a week upstairs in one of the girls' classes.

(Gordon Farrell, 1927-34)

... Receiving four cuts of the cane from the Headmaster, for what, I do not recall, and incidentally it did me no harm.

(Robert Cockbaine, 1932-36)

Punishment for bad behaviour was swift and I have never forgotten my punishment for writing with white chalk on the footpath. It was common practice to write 'so and so loves so and so', but when I decided to do it, one of the boys reported me. My punishment was to miss Friday swimming and take a bucket of water, soap and scrubbing brush and scrub from my house to the school. Unfortunately, I lived in Addison Avenue and the buses, full of children, had to pass me on the way to Roseville Baths. I have never forgotten the humiliation I felt at the time and needless to say, I never wrote on the footpath again.

(Bobbie Page (Wall), 1932-38)

Mr Kehoe, as Headmaster, had strict standards; such as if he came into the yard at playtime and blew his whistle we all had to stand to attention. This happened one day and someone behind me gave me a push and I for some reason or other gave a yelp. So for that I received six of the best.

(Angus Caporn, 1933-38)

When in sixth class and Vice Captain, I was talking in lines and received three strokes of the cane. My first, last and only. It did not traumatise me. It remains one of my proudest achievements at Roseville Public School.

(John Moore, 1936-38)

The detention line was a line painted on the bitumen on the border between the boys' grass playing field and the girls' playground. A common punishment given for bad behaviour was standing on the detention line in silence at lunchtime.

I recall on one very hot day at lunchtime the plugholes in the sink of the boys' wash shed were blocked with toilet paper and the taps turned on full. Water flooded everywhere and a water fight ensued between a large group of boys. It was a welcome relief to the hot weather but did not meet with the approval of the teachers.

Blame fell to a small group of boys and Mr Challinor caned them in front of the class after lunch.

(John McRae, 1965-71)

Having achieved the lofty position of Class Captain, Class 5A, I will never forget being summarily sacked in front of the class - and called a 'ratbag' - by Mr Saunders because I'd been involved in a fight. I cried all the way home and swore never to seek public office again. Six years later, when Gough Whitlam was sacked, I was probably the only person in Australia who really knew how he felt.

(Andrew Denton, 1968-9)

Public School at Rossville

Age	Nature of offence	Amount of punishment	By whom sent	Date of punishment	By whom administered
12	insubordination in assembly	1 stroke	Self	17.10.79	J. M. Sprone
11	"	1 stroke	Self	17.10.79	J. M. Sprone
11	Punching a boy in the eye	1 stroke	self	29/2/80	J. M. Sprone
12	swearing at a teacher	1 stroke	Mr Clark	8/7/80	J. M. Sprone
11	deliberate disobedience	1 stroke	Mr Clark	20/7/80	J. G. Clark J. M. Sprone
8	deliberate disobedience	1 stroke	Miss Lintott	21/8/80	V. Kneale J. M. Sprone
12	unprovoked attack on Colin Byrne	1 stroke	Reported by Mr Keblet	15/10/80	J. M. Sprone
12	deliberate disobedience	1 stroke	Mr Clark	21/10/80	J. G. Clark J. M. Sprone
12	using obscene language	1 stroke	Mr Clark	21/10/80	J. G. Clark J. M. Sprone
11	deliberate disobedience	2 strokes	Mr Clark	31/10/80	J. G. Clark J. M. Sprone
11	using obscene language	1 stroke	Mr Clark	10/11/80	J. G. Clark J. M. Sprone
9	disrupting assembly	1 stroke	self	6/10/81	J. M. Sprone
10	disobedience & insubordination despite earlier warnings given by Principal. Administered with full conscience in presence of Principal.	1 stroke	J. M. Sprone	19/4/84	J. M. Sprone

Extract from the Punishment Book.