

Frank Hill: student, 1966 to 1972

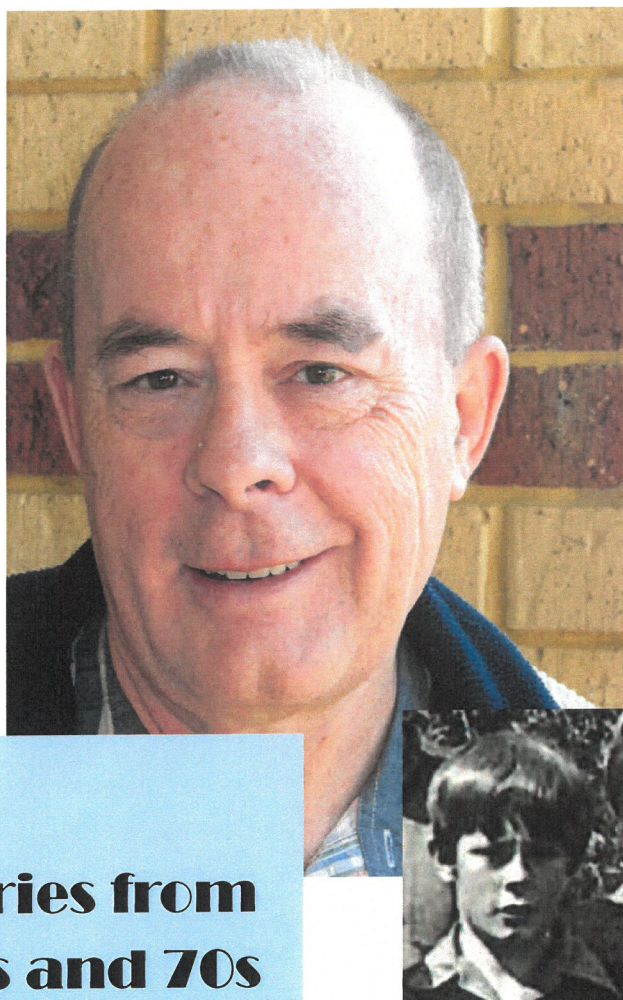
"I absolutely loved my time at Rossmoyne Primary from the first day in Mrs McDonald's grade one class. I think all the kids in my cohort, even those who weren't strong academically, had a good time there.

I always used to go to school barefoot. I was not the only one, although I think we would have been some of the last at the school to not wear shoes.

In winter the classrooms were kept warm with open wood fires. One day when our grade 3 teacher, Mr Exley, was out of the classroom a friend and I had some paper straws and tried to smoke them like cigarettes. We were puffing away when Mr Exley came back into the room. We didn't think we were doing anything wrong but Mr Exley marched us to the cloak room where he gave us both the cane. The cane was administered fairly freely to boys for misbehaviour then, usually in the cloak room by the deputy principal.

Our grade 2 teacher, Miss Sadler, used to sometimes send me to the classroom next door with a note for Mr Burns who was the grade 3 or grade 4 teacher. I never knew what was in the notes but I have always wondered because later in the year Miss Sadler announced that she was going to marry Mr Burns.

The boy and girl school captains were supposedly chosen by popular vote among the students. But when we went around afterwards and checked who voted for whom, we were pretty sure that it was rigged by the teachers. "



Memories from the 60s and 70s



Jane Brown (née Bowra) : student, 1966-1972

"I started at Rossmoyne Primary in Mrs McDonald's grade one class in 1966 when I was six. I didn't go to kindergarten or pre-primary so I was very shy and nervous on my first day and they had to prise me off my Mum's leg. But I still remember Mrs McDonald gave me a big hug to comfort me, she was a lovely lady and wonderful grade one teacher.

I have a lot of good memories of my seven years at the school. It felt very safe and living close by I could go home for a lunch, sometimes with a friend without telling anyone or getting approval. That wouldn't be allowed to happen today nor would you find the separate sewing classes for girls that I can remember from year 3; I still have my sewing samples. I don't know what the boys did while we were sewing. I loved sports day. I was in gold faction and was the junior, intermediate and senior athletics champion for the girls and also played inter-school netball and softball.

But it wasn't all fun. I recall having to go to the principal's office to do a reading test with a series of words that progressively got more difficult. We used to swap teachers for maths in year 6 and I was very scared of our maths teacher, Mr Leaver. He was a very big man who wore a sort of suit coat and used to make you go up to the blackboard to do maths problems. I couldn't do them so I felt a bit humiliated in front of the class. It got to the stage where I would walk to school with Mum in the morning and keep walking round the block and back home before mum got home. It took a few times of doing this before I told Mum that it was because I was scared of Mr Leaver. However, another former student of that time says he was a lovely man."