

## **KEN MARDON HISTORICAL WALK**

### *Booklet*

#### **DEDICATION**

Information for this booklet that accompanies the “Walk” comes from five main sources. Two of these were past teachers who have had a profound influence over the content. Had these two gentlemen not recorded so much of the history of the school in their publications, much would have been lost forever. Charles Olsen who taught at Slade from 1936 to 1956 covered the earlier history. The only past student to return to Slade as a teacher and then Headmaster, “Charlie” wrote “The Annals of Slade School Warwick 1926 –1976”. However, the only publication I have found cuts off in 1952 with the departure of Rev. Byram “Boss” Roberts. I relied very heavily on School Magazines for much of the following years supported by Eddie Prince’s book, “Yes Sir”. Eddie not only taught at Slade from 1956, he took over the role of headmaster in 1974 until his retirement in 1990. The third source of information relates mainly to St Catharine’s, Warwick and its precursors, Church of England Grammar School, Warwick and St Catharine’s, Stanthorpe. Marion Mackenzie’s “A Short History” has been most informative. The fourth source has been the magazines from both schools. Most information provided by the previous sources have been sanitized for public consumption, the unseemly left out and the critical deleted. This makes the fifth source so important to the authenticity and human quality of the school’s history. These schools were not just a collection of buildings, dedicated staff and magnanimous benefactors. They were that and more - much more - in fact 5,928 students more, each of whom has a story to tell. I have managed to collect a small fraction of those stories each associated with a time, person or place. Their inclusion, I hope, helps to develop the ‘feel’ for our schools and at the same time provides that element other than information that makes an informative story enjoyable.

When a school that has a comprehensive history of personal sacrifice and great generosity closes, there is a perception of huge waste of energy and enterprise. Suddenly, gone is the vision of so many and all that seems left is a feeling of loss and hopelessness in the efforts of the many who contributed so much. However, if all was stopped at any time in our history, has such a contribution really been for nought? Everything we do is carried forward as a legacy to all those who benefited. We, the past students of Slade and St Catharine’s have gained so much. To forget that contribution is the greatest crime, because only by remembering and telling “the story” does the lesson remain unforgotten. The example set by the founders of our schools and the people who followed to uphold their traditions can never be diminished or lost.

Kendal James Lyndhurst Mardon represented that tradition quintessentially and therefore this “Walk” through our schools’ histories has been named after him. Its development has been an uplifting experience and I hope that as you travel its several courses you will find the experience as inspiring as I have.

Paul “Louie” Holland (President SSPSA 2002 – 2004, Past Student 1962 –1967)

## **Ken Mardon Historical Walk**

### **Walk One** (1hr)

#### **1. The Science War Memorial Block**

##### **Plaque**

The year 1946 marked many changes, not least of which was the decision to elect a past student instead of the incumbent headmaster as the President of the Slade School Old Boys Association. Roy Muir was elected and the most important item of business was the discussion of the proposal to erect a Memorial to those past students who died in the service of their country during WW II. Finally, it was decided to raise funds for the erection of a building that would contain two classrooms for the teaching of the sciences. This would include an Honour Room as a central feature to commemorate and display the names of the fallen and a reference library. The need to raise finance inspired the formation of the Slade School Parents' Auxiliary, an inspiration of Mrs Budge, the mother of two past students. She initiated many fundraising events, such as the School Fair and the Brisbane Ball.

The Archbishop of Canterbury (The Most Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, M.A., D.D) set the foundation stone of the Old Boys' War memorial Science Block on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1950.

##### **Right wing**

After raising more than 10,000 pounds, the Slade School Old Boys Association (SSOBA) was successful in completing the South Wing and Honour Room in 1954 and was first used in 1955.

##### **Honour Room**

The Honour Room housed a Reference Library; the Honour Board for the fallen; and various other boards and trophies that marked significant events and achievements. Most of those original boards have been retained and are on display including those saved from St Catharine's after the school closed in 1972.

##### **Left wing**

The final construction was completed in 1964 and opened on the Queen's Birthday Weekend during the Old Boys' Reunion by the State Treasurer, the Honorable T.A. Hiley fully fourteen years after the foundation stone had been laid.

Many years later the original chemistry lab furniture was replaced with the much newer furniture from the St Catharine's Science Building, which had only just been completed before the school was closed down in 1972

#### **Anecdotes**

Only one accident occurred in the chemistry lab that resulted in the hospitalisation of a student. In 1965, during an experiment involving the production of hydrogen and its drying by passing the gas through concentrated sulphuric acid, an explosion occurred resulting in a student being drenched in the acid. Quick reactions by the chemistry teacher at the time, Mr Ron McClaskey, prevented more serious burns than occurred by washing the boy's face with water and applying an eye wash to an eye that had also been splashed by the highly corrosive liquid. Though the burns were serious, the student did not lose the sight of an eye as reported by the local paper. In fact, the lad spent three weeks in the now closed St Helen's Hospital while the burns healed. Past President Paul Holland will gladly show the proof of the occurrence as he still carries the scars on his right leg. A week after the

explosion a piece of glass worked its way out of the back of another student's head, John 'Paddy' O'Brien's. He hadn't even realized he had been hit by flying shrapnel at the time.

It is also interesting to note that no parent took legal action against the school for breach of 'duty of care' over the incident. The student was in charge of the experiment and a mistake by him in not reading the small print in the textbook resulted in the explosion. He believed quite rightly that he should take responsibility for his own actions. I wonder if that would happen today.

The old laboratory that was used when the school first opened had a similar event. Helen Sanderson reports that her Dad, Arthur "Chub" Smith, who enrolled in Slade in 1927, eighteen months after the school first opened was involved. *"There was a chemistry laboratory, which was well set up for those days. He remembers a big accident that could have been quite tragic except for the quick thinking of the chemistry master. Some nitric acid was being produced by heating saltpeter and sulfuric acid. It was being mixed over the heat of a Bunsen burner. It boiled and bubbled over. Just at that moment a boy stumbled and fell. The teacher's quick thinking saved the boy and the school facilities, although there was a large mark on the floor for evermore."*

When the Campus reopened (2000) after the school's closure in 1997, the Campus Administrator, Michael Harding, provided the Honour Room as a museum for the past students' association's use in perpetuity on the proviso that the association would develop the centre into an effective and attractive addition to the school's resources. Under the guidance of the then association President, Paul 'Louie' Holland, the Slade-St Catharine's Past Student's Association (SSPSA) spent \$18,000 over a two year period to install display cabinets, specialised lighting, mannequins, furniture and computers much of which was supplied as generous donations by past students. The Museum & Archives Centre was officially opened by Bishop Bevan Meredith on the fourth day of the fourth month 2004 and attended by some fifty past students. The development of this booklet and "Walk" is the first step in expanding the museum to include the entire campus and its environs.

## 2. Slade House

### Plaque

Built in the early 1900s, this grand old homestead "Eastmont" belonged to the East Family before it was purchased along with the property by the syndicate formed by the Ven. Archdeacon W P Glover and church wardens, R M Stephenson and J D Rowland. The syndicate became known as the "Founders" consisting of William Ball Slade, John H S Barnes, C E MacDougall, R Macansh and several other smaller donors. It should be remembered that these same men were responsible for the opening of the Church of England Girls' School Warwick some ten years previously which, when amalgamated with St Catharine's Stanthorpe in 1937, became St Catharine's Warwick. The circle was complete when that school joined Slade in 1972. When Slade School opened on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 1926, Slade House, as "Eastmont" was renamed, served as the administration building, headmaster's residence, boys' dormitory and dining room. The Bunya Pine at the front of the building is all that remains of the original garden. The plan shows the headmaster's office to the right of this plaque, where, as was the archaic custom pre 1970, students received what was called corporal punishment. This entailed the student bending as if to inspect his shoes so presenting his buttocks for several strokes of the cane, the number depending on the severity of the misdemeanour. Floggings occurred for crimes such as skipping chapel, smoking or not completing homework. Today, anyone administering corporal punishment would be charged with assault, but in those days, a caning was accepted as reasonable punishment, sometimes even by the recipient.

### Anecdotes

The last principal to administer corporal punishment at the school was Mr Horace Whybird. Perhaps the last lad to receive the cane was Paul Kundi, now a member of the Anglican Synod in New Guinea,

who received six of the best in 1967 in front of the entire school for smoking. He smiled shyly through the entire embarrassing spectacle and it did not cure him of the habit. In fact, Paul (nicknamed 'Tank'), who came from a tribal group in Goroka known for their ferocity as warriors, could have quite easily put the principal over his knee and given him the spanking. Known as the gentle giant, Paul was admired by all for his incredible strength and mild temperament.

The old plough disc suspended on the veranda was used to announce meal times, morning callisthenics, "scrape" (afternoon tea) and shower time. Monitors were selected on a weekly basis to belt out its far-reaching call.

A telephone was located in the hall behind the Bursar's Office where students would call or receive calls from home. However, special permission had to be gained for making a phone call and certainly could not have been used for trivial matters such as wishing a family member happy birthday. Time was set aside each week for letter writing during preparation ('prep') classes. Making long distance calls to isolated areas of the country and overseas was considered just too extravagant.

The large lounge room in the centre of the building became the Teachers Staff Room after the dining room had been constructed. However, for some time before staff numbers increased, it was used as the Seniors Form Room where students even had the privilege of playing billiards on a full size table.

### **3. Barnes House**

#### **Plaque**

The founders of the school met in 1925 to appoint an architect to design the layout of the school and its immediate requirements. Sydney architect, Mr J Sneddon-Adam was appointed and he designed a schematic using the existing Slade House as a central point with classrooms to the east and a dormitory to the west. This dormitory block, a two-story brick structure with accommodation for housemasters on each floor became reality in 1927 at a cost of approximately five thousand pounds.

Archbishop Sharp performed the unveiling of the Dedication Stone of the new dormitory. The Latin inscription on the stone reads "To the greater glory of God this stone was set and it is named after J.H.S. Barnes, that great friend of Slade School – Archbishop Sharp, March 13, 1927 – PATRIBUS DIGNI ESTOTE."

It is very fitting that the first building constructed from scratch should be named after Mr Barnes as he had, even at this stage, made many large contributions and monetary gifts to the school. He had rendered great personal service to the school as Chairman of the Building Committee. The design was very satisfactory and the school prospectus was most enthusiastic about the comforts provided. The most important selling point seemed to be that "*a large amount of space is devoted to sleeping out and the ventilation throughout leaves nothing to be desired.*" In fact, no one desired it, especially during the freezing winter westerlies that the students were exposed to. In 1936, the open arches that had only canvas blinds were replaced with fixed timber louvres that did little to block the chill wind. Finally, glass closable louvres were installed, but Barnes House was never regarded as a warm place to live.

There is no doubt that the boarders during those early years had to be tough, because in addition to the "ventilation" there was no hot water system. Most boarders – or perhaps, some boarders – had a cold shower each morning through the winter. Even later when coal boilers were introduced, only the early birds got a hot shower. Later, the western wall of the building was used as a hit-up court complete with ant bed surface and high netting fence for aspiring tennis players.

Interestingly, the School Office was also located in the new building. It was not ideally situated between the locker room and the showers on the lower floor. At this stage the headmaster did not have a secretary and the secretary to the school council, Mr W E Rowland in the town, handled the financial affairs of the school. During staff shortages around the depression years, the then headmaster, Rev C Newton Mell, abandoned the warmth of his marital bed to take up residence in the building until the school could afford another housemaster. Apparently, according to Charles Olsen in his *Annals of Slade School* (p. 37) one of the masters, Mr Blaxland, would take over as housemaster for short spells while Mr Mell had “official” duties to perform. The mind boggles at what these “official duties” were, but perhaps only Mrs Mell could answer that question.

### **Anecdotes**

Barnes House has a rich history of memorable events, some romantic while most mischievous. Peter Ramsay remembers how the students would jam the classical music emanating from the radio of the French Teacher Monsieur Desmanchelier who enjoyed picnicking in the sun in front of the ‘New’ Classroom block. The boys, who had the school cadet army radio transmitter set up on the top floor of Barnes House, would wait until the Frenchman had poured himself a glass of wine and settled back to listen to his favourite composer before jamming his radio. After a flurry of activity as Desmanchelier would frantically adjust the tuning before settling back, the radio would continue to screech and bark every time he raised his glass to his mouth. The boys, of course, would be doubled over in fits of laughter. The more frustrated the French Teacher got, the more delighted the boys became.

In 1967, our cadet signaller was none other than David Herbert. Dave, who now designs and engineers specialized equipment like water treatment plants, was in love with a pretty young girl who lived about one and half miles from the school. Getting to see her was not easy and David always believed in maintaining a good communication with his attachments. Enterprisingly, he sneaked out one night and laid a landline cable from Upper Barnes down the ‘rocks’, under the road through a culvert across the Condamine Bridge to Alison’s home where he set up a phone. Faint though their voices were over the distance, at least they could whisper sweet nothings to one another late at night. Just as casually as when Dave announced he had constructed his first laser in his junior year, nothing was impossible for this enterprising hormonally driven young teenager.

## **4. ‘Old’ Classroom Block**

### **Plaque**

Built in 1928, the western wing of the new classrooms (and even today the building has never been completed) was opened on Monday February 11, 1929 by his Excellency the Governor, Sir John Goodwin. The school bell, donated by Mr Barnes, came from “Canning downs” and was situated at the western end of the classrooms. This bell now resides at the Anglican Church on Norfolk Island. It was used to denote the changes of class periods and ‘prep’ times (i.e., ‘homework’ to non-boarders). Many visitors to Slade assumed the building was designed as the Chapel due to its unusually high peaked roof. However, this design was the result of its architect’s misunderstanding in thinking that it snowed in Warwick. Dry winters ensured that snow in Warwick would indeed be a freakish occurrence.

Ironically, the building did become the School Chapel when the existing Chapel was required for more dormitory space with the arrival of the St Cath’s girls. The Old Classroom Block was consecrated as the School Chapel in September 1991 by Bishop Adrian Charles, a past student and later Patron of the Slade-St Catharine’s Past Students’ Association. It was deconsecrated in 1997 when the school closed. In 1993, the school council initiated a plan to install stained glass windows that were to be paid for by past students who wished to donate windows or dedicate them to loved ones. The

installation of these windows began in 1994. The history of their creation follows and can be found in the niche in the southern interior wall above the dais.

### **The Chapel Stained Glass Windows**

*The stained glass windows you see before you, were conceived under the guidance of the Slade School Council before the school closed and before the purchase of the campus by the then Church of England Grammar School, now ACGS (Anglican Church Grammar School) in 1999. Eddy and Lynne Pryor designed the windows based on a concept provided by Rev David Binns who also supplied cartoon schemata for the design. Eddy and Lynne, both past students of Slade and St Catharines respectively, then crafted the windows and installed them in the chapel where they are today. Even though they had spent many hours on various designs based on previous concepts recommended by the School Council and numerous trips from their home in North Queensland, they offered to do the work free of charge. In fact, the original glass they had so carefully selected in Brisbane was destroyed in transit to their home in Cairns. Back to Brisbane they came and, at their own expense, they once again, selected the special glass they needed. At the insistence of the Past Students' Association, however, they were eventually paid \$700 for each of the sixteen windows, well below their true value.*

*These beautiful windows tell the story of Genesis and the coming of Christ in reverse order as a unique representation of the past. In fact, we start this day of Dedication on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2003, the eve of Pentecost (Window 1 & 2) and travel back in time to Genesis, the representation of the Firmament and the Creation of the World (Window 16). Our story then moves forward through time to the beginning of life (Window 15) that led to the creation of the Garden of Eden (Window 14) and its new residents, Adam and Eve (Window 13). The tribes of Israel (Windows 12 & 11) multiply until Moses (Windows 10,9 & 8) who, confronted by the burning bush (Windows 7 & 6) and its message of hope, led the children of Israel to freedom. This is followed by the birth of Christ (Window 5) who is baptised by John the Baptist (Window 4 & 3), finally finishing on the eve of Pentecost.*

### **Anecdotes**

More went on in these classrooms other than teaching and there was an incident that occurred in the classroom closest to the Science block that would have caused a scandal of monumental proportions had it happened today. A student confronted a teacher who was a housemaster at Barnes for allegedly sexually harassing his girlfriend who he tutored for mathematics at Warwick High School. During the confrontation, the student became so incensed that he had to be restrained by his mates. The cowardly perpetrator took advantage of the boy's restraint and tried to hit him while he was being held. Unfortunately for him, a very thick set gentle giant by the name of Paul Kundi, wrapped his arms around him from behind preventing him from attacking the student; carried the teacher outside the classroom; and gently deposited him on the lawn. No one got hurt during the incident, but Paul was later punished for another 'crime' disproportionately to its seriousness and our righteously indignant student believes it was payback for his role in the incident. The teacher concerned suffered no fallout for his alleged sexual harassment of a student in his charge even though the school administration was fully aware of the event.

### **5. The New Classroom Block**

In 1961, the new classroom block was under construction. It can accommodate 160 students and was opened on September 9<sup>th</sup>, by the Venerable B.W. Roberts, Archdeacon of Northern Papua and came under use from the 11<sup>th</sup> September onwards. The Archdeacon had served as headmaster to Slade for many years previously and was affectionately remembered by most as "Boss" Roberts. These classrooms were the most modern construction in Warwick at the time and were used for Public Examinations.

## **Anecdotes**

Brother Byram "Boss" Roberts was appointed headmaster in 1939 and served in that capacity until the end on 1951. One Student recalls that the "Boss" was very strict about attendance to chapel. Neil McDougall, at the tender age of twelve did not see the necessity of chapel at all. "Boss" gave him a choice, either attend Chapel or receive the cane. For two years until "Boss" left to take up a post in New Guinea, Neil did not always attend Chapel and regularly took his medicine after Chapel was over - what incredible courage that must have taken. Years later Neil confronted "Boss" over the issue at a headmasters' reunion in the eighties. It shows the measure of a man when he is able to admit when he is wrong. "Boss" made no apologies, but remembered the incident and they both enjoyed a laugh over it. Neil went on to become Senior Check Captain with TAA and later Qantas and at the time of writing this booklet was consulting in the set up of a new airline for a Philippine Company.

Just after the classrooms came into use the Slade Drama Club used one of the rooms for meetings and rehearsals. However, there were also other dramatic events that were of lesser note probably due to the poorness of the performers. Eddie Prince was the Geometrical Drawing and Perspective teacher at the time. One day, he chipped the students who were waiting to enter the room for their boisterous behaviour. One of the students, who shall remain unnamed, did what he thought was a remarkably good imitation of Eddie, English accent and all. "Righto chaps, cut out the jolly noise, hip, hip and all that". The performance must have been pretty weak or Eddie pretty sensitive because that "chappie" copped a couple of strokes of the cane, hey what! The chappie later on realized his acting days were numbered as he later became a film director, while John Stibbard, one of the leading lights of the drama club can still be seen performing in theatre groups around Brisbane. His son, Luke, performed for the Queensland Theatre Company. There was something mystical in the way the new classroom block seemed to inspire future dramatists.

## **6. Chapel House**

### **Plaque**

Originally named McCann House, Chapel House was built by E J White as a domestic residence in (1912-1914) and purchased by the Slade Founders in 1920 fully six years before the school opened. Finally, the building became uniquely the most versatile and significant building at the school. Originally, it was used as classrooms until purpose built classrooms were constructed in 1928. That same year, part of the building was converted into the headmaster's residence for the new headmaster, The Rev. F.M. McKeown. The alterations were made courtesy of Mr JHS Barnes. In 1932 a new headmaster was appointed, Rev. C. Newton Mell. During his midwinter holidays Mr Mell recessed part of the veranda lounge so that it could be converted into a comfortable Chapel. A Communion Rail was made which was detachable and slipped into two sockets, and kneeling cushions were provided for the Communicants. Thus began the metamorphosis of the headmaster's residence into Chapel House. Later, under the auspices of the Brotherhood of St Paul, the headmaster's residence was converted into a permanent Chapel complete with vestry, alter nave and choir bay and dedicated by Archbishop J.W. Wand in the name of the patron saint of the Bush Brotherhood, St Paul.

In 1942, Australia was under threat of a Japanese invasion. This resulted in a huge influx of students from coastal schools. The chapel was enlarged to hold twice the number of seats. Chapel House had not only become the rectory for the resident chaplain, but it also provided space for over two hundred students during a service (though mightily crowded) while serving as a dormitory, its verandas extended and enclosed. Already, when the school formed its first army cadet unit, a section underneath had been enclosed and secured as the unit's armoury. Even the attic was used, though not officially. Students found that by entering a manhole in the dormitories they could make their way to the vestry where the communion wine was stored. This interest in illicit liquor led to the development of an illegal still operating in its dark recesses until a student unfortunately slipped and

fell through the ceiling that had already developed alarming sag due to the weight of surreptitious communicants.

On Saturday May 20, 1939, the Chapel was used for the first time in the marriage of a past student, when Malcolm Creed and Margaret Redgwell tied the knot. Since then, several students married in the chapel including Garnet and Betty Budge (1950) who has generously donated this plaque. The cairn on which this plaque is attached was located under the chapel and is all that remains of the foundations to the hearth and chimneystack that existed before Chapel House was converted to school use. It is a fitting memorial for Chapel House that has been relocated and renovated by Morris and Justine Camiller who purchased the building in 2003. Its present location is at "Clovelly" near Killarney and is still named "Chapel House" in recognition of its history.

### **Anecdotes**

Being a dormitory as well as all its other functions, Chapel house is rich as a source of student anecdotes. Percy Tech recalls a sparrow egg throwing competition in which the housemaster, Mr Taylor, became the unintentional recipient of an egg between the eyes. Ned Winter was definitely the winner, but the prize, a couple of red welts across his buttocks left by the cane was hardly something to write home about. Apparently, Ned was something an actor as well. After being told to report to the office for his punishment, he hid under the chapel stairs for about twenty minutes, then, face long and sad, and steps, weary and painful, he made an entry to the dorm to report a fictitious encounter with the cane. Unfortunately for him, Mr Taylor had already spotted him hiding under the stairs, so his second entry, equally as dramatic, had been promoted from drama to documentary.

The longest enrolled student in Slade's history, Fred Sakzewski (14 years), had the confidence in his senior year of someone who had served the longest in the trenches. He had the nasty habit, while house prefect, of unexpectedly herding naked students out into the dark on winter nights to do callisthenics on the freezing grass. It is no surprise Fred went on to become a public servant, but it may be a surprise to learn that he also married in the chapel, though from what I hear, his bride kept her clothes on.

## **7. Site of the Primary School Demountables**

### **Plaque**

In 1946, army huts were purchased and erected below Chapel House and on the edge of the cliffs overlooking Weewondilla Hill. These became the primary school classrooms and later the Manual Arts Room. One of its most legendary teachers, Russell 'Monty' Marshall taught in these classrooms till his death in 1981. One can still hear his stentorian tones, "Look out the window again my lad and as sure as Gawd made little apples I'll splatter yer nose all over yer face like a new kind o' wallpaper". 'Monty' used to do quite a bit of boxing coaching and much of his language was littered with boxing-isms. By the 1960s, the hut nearest the new classroom block had become used for storage only. Two other army huts were erected to the north of Slade House behind the Hospital (**19A**). These became the domestic quarters and were later converted into dormitories before they were removed along with the hospital in 2002. Only the most enterprising students found their way into those realms of mystery and fantasy. Another hut situated near the corner of Slade Lane and Horsman Road (**23**) was used as the laundry. In 1984, the old demountables were removed and the only surviving member of these buildings is located behind the tennis courts and is all that remains of Monty's old classroom (**18B**). It served as the sports' equipment storage facility until Slade closed in 1997 and is possibly still the home of many possums that used to pee on our artwork during class.

### **Anecdotes**

It may be interesting for students of Russell 'Monty' Marshall to know how he got his nickname. Soon after he took up duties at Slade, a student noted that Mr Marshall issued orders with the same authority and enthusiasm as an army officer. Being so soon after the war and given the notoriety of



General Montgomery, he was duly named after that authoritative figure and “Monty” stuck for the rest of his teaching career. He later married the Bursar at the time, Betty Budge, and they enjoyed many happy years together.

The old demountables also became the site of retribution for offences that occurred by one class over another. There was an unspoken loyalty towards members of ones own grade. If a student perpetrated some ‘evil’ over a student in an upper grade, it was usually settled by a bout of manly fisticuffs that inevitably ended with the younger boy being the loser. One such incident did not quite work out as intended when one student from year 7 criticised a year 8 boy’s behaviour. A trial was held in the demountable closest to the new classroom block where the poor weedy little year 7 kid was sentenced to go a round with the well credentialed fighter from Year 8. Story has it that the Year 8 boy, one of the Hobday twins, let go a haymaker that struck the Year 7 boy on the side of the jaw with such force that it swung the little bloke in a tight circle. As he came spinning around, he returned with a straight right that connected with the Hobday nose thus ending the fight there and then. Interestingly, the incident arose when the younger boy was trying to protect one of his own class members from bullying, thus supporting the notion that there was special loyalty that kids in a class had for one another that continued all the way through their schooling.

## **8. Site of the West Toilet Block Anecdotes**

Late in 1948, perhaps significantly, just after the construction of the new dining room, work began on the new sewer to connect the school to the town system. At this time the toilet facilities (except for Barnes House) were situated outside the dormitories. No mention is made what facilities were available before the advent of sewerage systems so one assumes the traditional “Thunder Box” prevailed with its attending “Dunny Man”. Lack of privacy in Barnes House ensured most students avoided the toilets’ use in deference to the two latrines, one to the east behind the Science Building (21A) and one to the west that served Atkinson and Roberts House and Primary Classrooms. These outside loos were notable, not only for their poetic license written on the doors and walls, but also as a social centre for elicit student activities such as smoking while writing gems for posterity. One such gem adorned a door of a cubicle in the western toilet block. It went:

*“Some come here to sit and think,  
Some come here to ponder.  
I come here to s--t and stink,  
And f--t this place asunder.”*

From humble beginnings such great poets are created.

Yes, the smelly old dunnies figured largely in the life of the student, because it was also an educational centre, a place where adolescent boys do what adolescent boys do due to the lack of privacy in double bunk rows in open dorms. Sexual literature adorned the walls with the occasional suggestion for practical application e.g. “fone Kathy on 46 ..... for a good time” being a tamer version of more risqué ones. Fortunately, with the construction of modern dormitories beginning in the late sixties, these outside dunnies were gradually phased out while legitimate sex education was gradually phased in.

## **9. Atkinson House Plaque**

With the sudden influx of students from the east brought on by fears of an invasion during WWII, added dormitories were needed so the house and land to the west of Chapel House was purchased.

Named Atkinson House after William & Mary Atkinson of Emu Vale who bequest the finance for its acquisition in 1944, it was later moved closer to the cliffs to make way for new dormitories built in 1966-67. It continued to be used as a dormitory with master accommodation, but was finally renovated and served as a teacher's residence and is still occupied by staff on the Campus. An original worker's cottage, it is surviving buildings such as this one that add character to the grounds.

## **10. Assembly Hall**

### **Plaque**

On 29<sup>th</sup> April 1954, this Assembly Hall, the first new completely independent structure to be built at St Catharine's School Warwick, was opened and the senior girls presented the play "The Importance of being Ernest". Gloria McIntosh in her St Catharine's Magazine Editorial wrote, "This magnificent building, of which we are very proud, will be invaluable to the school in future years." Little did she know that it would prove to be invaluable to two schools! After the closing of St Catharine's and when all hope of selling the school as a going concern ceased, the Assembly Hall was cut into three pieces and transported to its present site in 1977 on ready prepared foundations for a total cost of \$36,000. A Federal Grant of \$19,000 and a donation of \$6,000 by the Past Students' Association offset the cost of relocating this building. Three moveable partitions were constructed so that the assembly hall could be converted into classrooms. Its many uses other than for assembly and theatre productions included art and crafts, drama, music, dance, games and even for worship when the chapel in Chapel House was converted into more dormitories. Even before this multipurpose building was relocated. Slade boys remembered it as the location for dance classes where Mr Slovak tried to teach them not to trample on partners toes. The familiar sound of "heel – toe - heel – toe" still rings in many past student ears as they remember crushing St Cath's girls' toes as they quickstepped across its shiny boards in their stovepipes and black pointy shoes.

## **11. Roberts House**

### **Plaque**

In 1954 the house and land next to Atkinson House was purchased and named Roberts House, after long serving headmaster, Byram ("Boss") W Roberts. This building was sold for 90 pounds in 1966 and relocated to Willi Street and renovated in a well-appointed part of the Warwick Township. It was replaced with a state of the art two-story dormitory that exists today as Roberts House. As originally intended, the new building was extended in 1992.

## **12. The New Demountables**

These two classrooms, now located on what were once tennis courts on the north side of Chapel House, were originally from St Catharine's, Warwick. They were transported by truck to this site for a cost of \$10,000 in 1975. The tennis court, now situated under the new demountable classrooms was considered the best ant bed court in the school. With the arrival of the classrooms, the upper courts became the school's only tennis competition facility. Highfields still had one court and a practice hit-up wall and the western wall of Barnes House was the only other practice area.

Many a tennis battle was fought on these courts beneath the demountables with all the vehemence of a Wimbledon Final. One such classic battle took place between two brothers. The younger brother, Tony, was in the Firsts Tennis Team, the older, Tim, in the seconds side. Tim had just beaten the previous year's school champion, not through skill but through sheer dogged competitiveness. No matter how hard the ball was hit to him, he returned it albeit more often than not as a 'lollipop'. This way, his frustrated opponent finally over played ball after ball losing the match through too many unforced errors. No animosity displayed itself during that match, however. It was a well-won and well-lost match. Not so the match between the two highly competitive brothers. Obviously, each player

was extremely familiar with his Opponent's game, but Tim, as older brother, had the psychological edge while Tony, familiarity and superior technique was his strongest weapon. The battle was waged and the game seesawed. Arguments over line calls put McEnroe to shame. Umpires were abused and rackets tortured. Tempers flared, and finally one of the brothers became the school open tennis champion. That game left a lasting impression on the two brothers as the issue was raised by one of them at a reunion dinner over thirty years later when the story of frustrating doggedness and delicious victory was recalled. For the outcome of that battle, look on Page 37 in the 1967 Slade School Magazine. This game in particular was characterised in the Tennis Notes by the understated comment, *"It was pleasing to note the keenness and determination displayed in these games."*

### **13. Headmaster's Residence**

For many years, there was no official Headmaster's Residence. The headmaster resided first in rooms in Slade House and later Chapel House. When Keith Dan became headmaster in 1959, he bought and built his own home next to the school on the corner of Horsman Road and Slade Lane where he lived until he resigned in 1966 (**14A**). Keith Dan was a well built, quiet and, to many, a shy man. Incredibly gifted as a mathematician, he became the co-author of many textbooks on the subject that became commonly used in Queensland schools. As a headmaster he remained aloof but not detached from his students, and was totally dedicated to his charges. He mixed a challenging concoction of encouragement and high expectations that drew the best out of his students. The image of a solitary Keith Dan pushing the huge four man water filled steel roller along the cricket pitch is one that most students who knew him will remember. Before Keith left, he ensured that a purpose built headmaster's residence was constructed across the road from Roberts House. It remains the Campus Administrator's domicile today. This residence became the home of the new Headmaster appointed to begin his duties in 1967, the late Mr Horace Whybird.

### **14. Heroes Walk**

In commemoration for those student who lost their lives in the service of their country during WWII Silky Oaks (Grevilleas) were planted around the circumference of the sports oval and brass plaques placed on plinths at the foot of each grevillea (Silky Oak). They remain today for all to see.

### **15. The Pavilion**

Built by the Old Boys Association in 1937. It cost 400 pounds. The Association could find 200 pounds. However, Canon Edwards arranged with Mr E.L. Ramsay of Cambooya to lend the money, but later he made a gift of it. The Governor of Queensland, Sir Leslie Wilson opened the Pavilion, on Speech Day, December 7, 1937. The Speech Day ceremony took place in the new structure.

The governor declared, *"It gives me great pleasure to open this pavilion, erected at the cost of some 400 pounds. It is a fine piece of work and reflects credit on architects and contractors. I hope you boys will come out from this pavilion with courage and come back to it with at least a century to your name."*

Amongst the crowd that packed the pavilion was Mr William Ball Slade C.B.E., aged 94 years, still battling strongly. Unfortunately, he didn't make his century. He died the following year, revered as a School Founder and first Patron of the Slade Old Boys Association. His gifts innumerable to the sporting fields included a cricket pitch; cricket equipment; two bats awards for batting and bowling averages; cricket matting and a fence around the Junior Oval to mention just a few.

### **16. The Oval**

At the time of the purchase of Atkinson and Roberts Houses, the orchard on the other side of the road was also bought. This area became the Sports Oval and before the donation of Glengallan, became

the largest area of School owned land that extended from Horsman Road to the Golf Course. City engineer, Mr Leonard, levelled the oval with the assistance of much student labour. The Old Boys

Association provided a white-railed fence around the circumference of oval and financed the construction of a neat grandstand. Renowned for its hard northern surface, visiting sports teams feared being tackled at that end of the field more than they feared their tough opposition. Every year, one of the school's past students, Ken Mardon, would arrive with a truckload of manure from the local piggery to inspire the grass to grow which it did during the summer months. However, by the time the frosts had their way during the crucial winter football season, the decomposed granite-like surface would re-establish itself to terrorise visiting teams.

### **Anecdotes**

Though the oval was placed on the site of the orchard, not all of the land was sold to the school. The orchard continued to the north of the oval and became a source of food for the local scallywags during the fruiting season. Allan Donovan reports that cousin Graham sneaked out at night with a bunch of starving miscreants into the orchard to snaffle some apricots. Like all stolen fruit, they were particularly sweet and juicy. However, good lighting is always required to appreciate a repast's presentation. The next day in the light, the boys learned that half a worm is infinitely more repulsive than a whole worm, even if tasty. The tendency for lads to raid local orchards was fairly commonplace and the local muscatel vineyard was no exception. According to Phillip "Eyes" Hoare, one such sortie almost ended in disaster when an irate shotgun-wielding farmer fired rat shot at the fruit thieves. These same enterprising individuals were lucky twice. These particular grapes were duly crushed to produce wine, no doubt for communion at some future date. During the heat of the day the fermenting juice exploded in the Upper Barnes locker room, but the source of the distillery was never discovered. Thievery has its own disappointments. You might consider that desperation had a role to play in the students' behaviour and you may be right as you will discover as you read on.

The oval was also the centre of many heroic acts, like the time Graham Smith took a catch in the outfield running backwards until he reached the fence and having to lean back to take the catch in one outstretched hand. Another was Paul Kundi who virtually walked the length of the field during a rugby match with three or four defenders entwined around him and Tim Streeten who appeared to have lost the ball but somehow miraculously carried it behind his back while dodging defenders; retrieving it and scoring under the posts securing a win against arch rivals Scots.

## **17. The Upper Tennis Courts**

### **17A. Sports Equipment Storage**

## **18. Manual Arts Building**

### **Plaque**

When St Catharine's Campus closed down, the then headmaster of Slade, Mr Eddie Prince, knew that the campus would unlikely be sold as a school. It had become a residential real estate proposition. As the grounds became his responsibility once the two schools had combined, Eddie saw many of the buildings as assets, if only they could be relocated to Slade. This building was one of four that were relocated to Slade Campus. Originally St Catharine's Music Room Block with Recital Hall, it was renovated after relocation and converted into the Manual Arts Classrooms at a cost of \$16,000 with 60% coming from commonwealth grants. Christian Brothers College shared these facilities and this cooperation attracted more grants that provided the teachers, Mr Denis Cleaver and later Mr Paul Stevens with much valuable equipment. Though the building was a cheaply obtained asset, it's

refurbishment was not and, by the time it was completed, it was one of the best set ups in the state boasting a spray painting booth and computers with the latest software for graphic draughting.

Its history is a credit to the perseverance and generosity of many people. (From St Catharine's Magazine, December 1961) *"The fund for this building was started in 1958 and a legacy of 1,000 pounds from the estate of Sir Edwin Tooth. This fund has been steadily augmented by encouraging donations from parents and business friends, and we look forward to a continuance of this generosity to permit us to open this block free of debt. ---- Gifts of furnishings so far include a handsome "Knight" Piano from Bruce Dunstone of Brisbane and Fifty Sebel "Stak-a-baye" chairs from the Old Girls Association. ----The building will house a well equipped Science laboratory, (a project undertaken by the Parents' and Friends Association) six music practising(sic) rooms, and a Recital Hall to be called "The Sir Edwin Tooth Recital Hall."*

The building was opened on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1962 and though the Science Section could not be relocated to Slade its furnishings were used to replace the Chemistry Laboratory's aging benches. No other building on Slade would have such a history of contribution by so many over such a long period of time.

## **19. The Hospital/Infirmary Plinth Plaque**

Ah! The infirmary, dispensary, sanatorium, hospital, sickbay! It was a place of sanctuary, where one could escape the intolerable stress of constantly being active. It's only disadvantage was you had to be sick, contagious or severely injured to warrant a bed. The hospital was (and it's attending Matron) the closest thing to a mother we boys had (except for Mrs Walker at 'Highfields'). Originally built in 1927 at a cost of 452 pounds, thanks to an initiative by W.B. Slade that raised 3,000 pounds for further constructions, the 'hospital' had the capacity to house the Matron's Quarters and up to 20 sick students and boasted an isolation ward. In 1942, with the increase in student numbers, a veranda complete with bathroom was constructed on the northern side doubling its capacity. The only time the hospital became over crowded causing Lower Barnes to be converted into a sickbay was during a flu epidemic in the school in third term 1933. Even Mr Mell, the headmaster, became a victim.

### **Anecdotes**

The Hospital was a wooden structure built low to the ground, perhaps deliberately so stairs did not inhibit access for the sick or maimed. However, this made the building accessible by all creatures in particular mice that were very prevalent in this grain growing area. Later in the mid-sixties during an outbreak of mumps one quarantined student remembers being given the task of capturing the many mice that infested the wardrobes. Matron Hood was very grateful, as she was quite terrified of them. "It was a great way to relieve the boredom of having to remain in bed though not feeling the least bit ill", says one mouse hunter.

## **20. Tuck Shop Plaque**

The tuck shop was opened in 1946, and was situated in Slade House and had a very successful year. It served ice creams and cold drinks, and in winter, hot pies, as well as other gastronomic delights. In later years, any competition to the dining room was removed and escape to the township of Warwick was a student's only chance of tasting fast food fare. The removal of pies from the tuckshop's fare probably was probably the result of a desire not to spoil the boys' appetites for mealtimes. Little did they know. Damage to the boys' appetites had already occurred, as you will find out. The tuckshop was replaced in 1961 by this brick veneer structure that also contained the music room complete with baby grand piano. One could truly say the tuckshop delights were gastronomic music. The Old Boys'

association who raised the necessary 1,000 pounds and provided volunteer labour by past and present students organised the entire project.

### **Anecdotes**

Mr Leadbetter was the school's music teacher. In fact, he was every school's music teacher. He was not merely a teacher or competent piano player. He was of concert pianist standard and a reasonable composer. However, lyrics did not appear to be his strongest suit. Slade owes its School Song to Mr Leadbetter and I include it for your enjoyment.

#### **SLADE SCHOOL SONG**

OUR SCHOOL ON THE HILL STANDS OUT SO CLEAR,  
IT IS THERE FOR ALL EYES TO BEHOLD,  
FOR ITS FAME AND HONOUR WE SHALL CARE,  
FOR ITS COLOURS OF SAXE-BLUE AND GOLD.

#### **Chorus**

SLADE, SLADE, SLADE WE ALL ARE PROUD OF YOU,  
PROUD OF YOUR COLOURS, GOLD AND SAXE-BLUE.  
SLADE, SLADE, SLADE, WE ALL HONOUR YOU,  
HONOUR OUR MOTTO, OUR FOREFATHERS, TOO.

OUR SCHOOL ON THE HILL STANDS ON A ROCK,  
ITS FOUNDATIONS ARE SURELY LAID,  
IT IS NAMED FROM THE PIONEER STOCK,  
FROM MACANSH; FROM BARNES; AND FROM SLADE.

#### **Chorus**

OUR SCHOOL ON THE HILL WILL REMAIN,  
OTHER INTERESTS OUR LIVES MAY ENFOLD;  
BUT OUR MEMORIES, WE WILL RETAIN,  
WE'LL REMEMBER SLADE'S BLUE AND GOLD.

#### **Chorus**

### **21. The Dining Room**

Completed in the Third Term of 1948 the fourth purpose-built building in the first thirty years of the school was originally unlined. It was the most revered and reviled location for most of the students, who, though hungry as horses, would dread some of the menus, such as the burnt runny porridge affectionately referred to as 'bird seed'; the bullocks liver that came in two shades, technicolor orange or green; or the gelatine ridden tasteless mince meat that inspired many trips to the various latrines dotted around the grounds and is believed to have instigated at least one case of acute appendicitis. The dining room brings memories of some of the finer descriptions/names of the general though not generous fare. E.g., bog (treacle), baby s—t (peanut paste), Condamine Mud (chocolate junket), sinker (steamed pudding), scrape (bread & jam), frogs eyes (sago dessert) to name a few. During the cold winter months, the unlined and draughty building enjoyed a love hate relationship with most students. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many of those students who said they enjoyed the food served in this dining room did not enjoy long lives. However, one of the most looked forward to events was High Tea, a sort of Christmas in October dinner. We were served roast chicken which at the time was only provided on special occasions, even at home, unlike today since the advent of the frozen chicken. In those days you had to kill your own chicken unless you lived near a butcher. Most boarders' parents did not. High Tea also had rarities such as roast potato and gravy. This was

followed by plum pudding, custard and even ice cream. The down side of High Tea was that it was a reminder of what you were not going to get for the rest of the year.

It wasn't until 1980 that the dining room was completely lined and the kitchen refurbished. At a cost of almost \$200,000, this refurbishment included an entirely new construction in the South West Corner of Slade House to contain new preparation, cooking and storage areas. Perhaps with the advent of the new gas range cooker earlier and the new amenities at that time might have improved the food. Certainly meals served today at Slade Campus are as good as at any restaurant.

### **Anecdotes**

Mac Thomson, an old boy from The Scots College was overheard saying that they dreaded coming to Slade to play cricket. No, they weren't afraid of the stiff competition or even ferocious bowlers like Robert Beeton. Their fear was that they were obligated to be guests to lunch!

#### **22. Home Economics Centre**

Opened by The Venerable Archdeacon W. Hoog on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1960 the newly constructed Home Science building was equipped by the Parents and Friends Association of St Catharine's School. Home Science was introduced to the curricular that same year. The following is an excerpt from the "Home Science Notes" in the 1960 St Catharine's Magazine: "In the Senior School much interesting practical work had been done by the girls in the cooking and dressmaking classes. Those taking the courses Home Science A and Home Science B for Junior also attend Theory classes, which include Chemistry, Physics, Nutrition, Housewifery and Laundry". It's interesting to note that the last two courses were considered a vocation back then where now it would be considered a luxury if that was all a wife or husband had to do. Relocated from St Catharines after amalgamation with Slade to its present site, the home craft classroom arrived on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 1976. It cost approximately \$5,000 to remove and reconnect to services.

#### **23. Laundry**

Every student remembers the laundry as a place where nametags meant everything. No nametag, no clothes. Handing in a piece of clothing without a nametag was a capital offence and Mrs Meiklejohn, head of laundry, was indictor, jury and judge. And starch? Clothes that were once so dirty they could move of their own accord became so rigid they could stand upright and immobile, and nowhere since have sheets been so crisp. Slade students were so well pressed they crackled as they walked.

#### **24. The Gymnasium**

The gymnasium was completed in 1929 thanks to the perseverance of Mr R M Stephenson. He had hoped to have it included in the building program in 1928, but was unsuccessful. The final structure was a gift of Mr Allman and the Wardens of St Mark's Church, while the gym equipment was provided by the Cathedral Chapter from St John's Hall in Brisbane. Over the years the gym was used as a Chapel, Assembly Hall, dormitory for Old Boy's Reunions and for school dances, roller-skating and cinema. Originally located between Roberts and Atkinson Houses, the gym was moved to its present location.

### **Swimming Pool**

Mr James Fletcher, a western Grazier donated money for its construction in 1967 ("Sir" p 83). Prior to his donation the students would walk all the way down town to the Warwick Pool. The swimming team would be awoken early in the morning and had the luxury of being piled into the school truck to be taken to the baths for training. Even in late spring the water was freezing. The combination of empty stomachs; fumes from the truck's exhaust; and ear ache induced by cold water did not make for the most comfortable training conditions. However, the town baths were a great attraction, not only as a source of female perusing, but also as a welcome change from the confines of the school. Even as

early as the mid-forties students were known to sneak out for a midnight skinny dip. As Jon Stephenson describes, "Walking down to the baths, we became progressively more confident after repeated visits, because Warwick was not really awake, it seemed, anywhere! I should be able to recall fellow miscreants, but the only person (I can remember) was probably Peter Barnes. It was educational to experience (, but) how one was below par the next day."

In 1967, trips to the Warwick Pool almost ceased except for interschool competitions. How midnight skinny-dipping must have changed when Slade became fully co-educational by 1976.

### **Anecdotes**

Some time in 1963, Leigh Nisbet, a fine all round swimmer and a Slade student who had enrolled in the school in 1959 was walking back to the school from the baths on a warm day during summer. The walk passed a local pub on the other side of the road. An aggressive drunk for seemingly no reason king hit Leigh a vicious blow from behind knocking him down on the footpath. The drunk was older

and much bigger than the well built but gentle dispositional Leigh. However, before the cowardly fellow could do any more damage, another student intervened, grabbing the drunk by his throat; lifting him off the ground with one hand before striking him an incredible blow with such force that the hapless individual was flung backwards sliding along the ground until he came to rest motionless under a bush on the footpath. Wiry of build and standing six feet seven inches tall, Leigh's rescuer, David Hall was a school prefect and an imposing figure. "You don't touch Slade boys," he stated emphatically to the prone attacker.

Dave or 'Nan' as he was nicknamed, had incredible strength in his arms and shoulders, a legacy of his training as a champion breast stroker. Captain of the Swimming Team and a fine athlete, he was noted for his ability to stretch his long frame low along the ground in a tackle to take the feet from under any rugby opposition player. Sadly, Nan did not live past the age of 31. Not long married with a son less than six months old, Nan, athlete, adventurer, loyal mate and accomplished newspaper journalist developed a malignant melanoma on his back. A secondary tumour developed in his brain and Dave died at home in the arms of his wife, Lesley, before his son's first birthday.

### **26. Girls Dormitory 'Edward Prince House'**

When St Catharine's closed as a teaching institution in 1972, the girls continued to board on site while attending classes at Slade. When St Catharine's closed as a location for the girls to reside in 1975, it was to be another 8 years before a suitable girls' dormitory was built at Slade. Amalgamation and the bringing of the girls up to Slade meant great financial savings. Less than adequate temporary housing

for both girls and boys was counter-productive to the growth of the school ('Sir' pp. 131). Barnes House was converted for girls' use in 1976, but bigger plans were under way. At last a new 'Edward's House', appropriately named, as it would never have eventuated had it not been for the diligence and persistence of its namesake. Opened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1983 at a cost of \$774,500, the Edward Prince House could house up to 96 girls and had two modern flats for teacher and housemistress accommodation. In 1988 the 'Undercroft' was completed for a cost of \$100,000 and provided a fine music and dance hall.

### **27. The Rifle Range/Basketball Courts**

During the third term of 1932, the rifle range was constructed. Shooting was at 25 and 50 yard ranges using regulation police revolver targets. No mention is made of what calibre rifles were used, but later during the fifties and sixties, Lee Enfield army rifles with their .303 calibre barrels converted to .22



were used. The range was later converted into a basketball court through the efforts of students led by the enterprising Paul 'Burrow' Baxter, a 1967 Prefect.

## 28. The Cliffs

Following the 'goat track' was the only official way down the cliffs to the road to Warwick passing by the rifle range. The students got together and constructed a new short route during one weekend in 1936, which was later lined with a white rail to prevent students from falling over the edge. Two groups of workers started at each end of the path. During its construction, a rock dislodged by

"Chook" Parkinson, one of the workers above, fell among the workers below striking the then diminutive Graham Andersen a nasty blow on the head. Fortunately the injury, though bloody and requiring stitches, was not life threatening and Graham, dents and all, survives today (2004) a full testament to the hardness of Slade heads.

The cliffs were renowned, not only as an area, where the harmless black and white banded Bandi-Bandi Snake lurked, but also the infinitely more vicious 'Jumping Cactus' (otherwise known as Tiger Cactus). Many an unwary bush walker suffered the attack of this plant whose long barbed spines could pierce leather shoes and were extremely painful and difficult to remove. However, it wasn't until the eighties that "rock wallabies" were discovered. A story told to Ted Ross by a past student goes like this, "*-- the boys' dorm master became aware students were missing from their beds. The dorm master and one other assumed quite correctly that maybe they were visiting their "relatives" in Prince House (girls' dorm) so they set off in search. Yes, they did find the students, who fled by way of the rocks. By the time the dorm master and his help arrived back at the boys' dorm. Guess what? The students were back in bed. Not bad seeing that the staff had returned to the dorm by the school's pathways. Shows what good bush people these students were.*"

A shed was constructed below the cliffs to house the day students bicycles until it was used to hide illicitly procured gelignite for Guy Faulk's Night by one of its more enterprising students, Eddy Pryor (Read more about Eddy in the 'History of the Chapel Windows). Apparently, the explosives obtained from a local demolition company's powder store were discovered and the ringleader brought to justice. Just as punishment was about to be administered, "Monty" Marshall burst into the headmaster's office and said, "Don't touch that boy! He's playing in the grand final of the footy team." That football team was the legendary 7stone 7pound team of whom "Monty" was the renowned coach. Eddy was so pleased with his reprieve that he tackled like a demon and they won by a huge margin. But, only a reprieve it was. Eddy still ended up getting "six of the best". The shed was removed some time later because of its temptation in attracting similar adventurous enterprises.

The 'rocks', as the cliff area was known, was also an unofficial 'smoking' room. Prefects constantly scoured the area to catch wary nicotine addicts. One such investigator, himself a smoker, was so

overcome by temptation, that instead of apprehending the culprits, he took advantage of his position, by demanding a smoke for himself. Alas, he also fell victim to an investigating staff member and this lad, whose last name is synonymous with a famous Australian beer, became the first prefect to lose his badge.

## 29. Library

Situated to the left of the original classrooms, the library was built from finances supplied as a Commonwealth Library Grant in 1971. Subsequent grants equipped and stocked this building. Before this, there were two 'unofficial' libraries. One supplied by 'Monty' Marshall for year 7 & 8 students and housed in the old army hut classrooms and another in a room next to the office in Slade House.

## **Walk Two (2hrs)**

1. **The Science War Memorial Block**
2. **Slade House**
3. **Barnes House**
4. **'Old' Classroom Block**
5. **The New Classroom Block**
6. **Chapel House**
7. **Site of the Primary School Demountables**
8. **Site of the West Toilet Block**
9. **Atkinson House**
10. **Assembly Hall**
11. **Roberts House**
12. **The New Demountables**
13. **Manual Arts Building**
14. **Headmaster's Residence**
15. **Heroes Walk**
16. **The Grand Stand (Pavilion)**
17. **The Oval**

### **17A. Edwards House**

Situated on 45 acres of land, this house was purchased in the early fifties at the instigation of the then bursar, Mrs Budge, for 6,000 pounds. It became the home of Agricultural and later Year 8 (then called "Scholarship") students. The Housemaster for 8 years was Eddie Prince who later became headmaster from 1974 to 1990. Some students were under the misapprehension that the "House" was named after Mr Prince's first name "Edward", but in fact it was named after Canon Edwards, the school bursar between 1938 and 1943. For many years the house was provided rent free to two families but was later abandoned. After several unsuccessful attempts to sell the dwelling, the school burnt it down as it posed a safety hazard. The area was to become a future primary school, so great was the anticipation of the school's expansion as numbers steadily increased. Sadly, the extensive droughts of the sixties, followed by the collapse of the sheep and then cattle industries reversed the trend.

The extensive grounds surrounding Edwards House provided an area that was used as a football and cricket field. An open shed acted as a mini-pavilion and also a night meeting place for clandestine activities such as the sexual adventures of some of the more hormonally active teenagers of both sexes. One such liaison in the early sixties with a willing local girl was arranged with the idea of springing the culprits, and, according to plan, it all went off as expected. According to "Scruffy"

Henning, just as the two would be cohabiters partially stripped for the event, a torch lit up the interior of the shed to the cheers of the several witnesses. Names are not mentioned to protect the author from litigation but the code words, "Molly Mouse", will reveal to the participants that memories are long indeed.

Yes, Edwards Fields were noted for all types of "sporting" events from the famous 7stone 7pound rugby games to gymnastic events as just described.

### **18A. Highfields House**

1946 was a frenetic year of expansion in Slade's history brought on by the huge influx of students during the war years. Nestling on the crown of a hill commanding a fine panoramic view of Warwick,

“Highfields”, became the new Junior House of Slade School. It was dedicated and officially opened by the Archbishop of Brisbane, the Most Rev. R.C. Halse, on Saturday afternoon, 4<sup>th</sup> May 1946. Formerly, the home of Mr C.H. Highfield, the building contained 14 rooms, spacious verandas, mostly glass enclosed and was set amidst two hectares of well kept lawns and gardens. Later a shower block was added as well as a timber tennis-hitting wall for aspiring tennis players. Meals were still prepared at the main school so students soon learned to become early risers to walk the kilometre or so each morning to breakfast. Housemasters included Adrian Charles and Keith Dan, the former to become of Bishop and the latter, headmaster.

The youngest boy to be enrolled in Highfields also happened to be the first son of a past student to attend Slade. Sid Sakzewski (No: 118 on the roll) enrolled his son Fred at Slade in 1948 at the tender age of four and daughter Shirley at St Catharine’s in the same year. Fred stayed on at Slade to become the longest attending student in the history of the school (14 years) and he didn’t repeat a grade in that time. The second longest attending student was Robert Beeton who attended for 13 years and graduated as Dux of the school in 1965. One of Robert’s friends and fellow cricket enthusiast, Peter Ramsay, remembers the first time they were exposed to television. The boys were allowed to join crowds of local kids to witness television for the first time inside a Channel 9 mobile studio that visited Warwick for the first time in 1959. It was one of those landmark events never forgotten by the children of that time.

Highfields was a home away from home for the younger students under the care of Mrs Walker who remained House ‘Mother’ until the end of 1965 when she retired. The grounds boasted a cricket pitch and tennis court and the railway side of the courts had many cubby house structures where students played ‘cowboys and Indians’ and various ‘war games’ as was the custom of the era.

18. **The Upper Tennis Courts**
19. **The Hospital/Infirmary**
20. **Tuck Shop**
21. **The Dining Room**
22. **Home Economics Centre**
23. **Laundry**
24. **The Gymnasium**
25. **Swimming Pool**
26. **Girls Dormitory ‘Edward Prince House’**
27. **The Rifle Range/Basketball Courts**
28. **The Cliffs**
29. **Library**

### **Drive & Walk One**

(3 hrs)

**Slade Campus (walk 1)**

**Edwards Field & Highfields (walk 2)**

**Queens Park**

**Roberts House (Willi Street)**

**Mytton House**

Originally the home of Mr & Mrs Cobcroft, ‘Listowel’ later renamed Mytton house was donated to the school by Mrs JHS Barnes who then owned the dwelling. Mytton was her maiden name and was conferred on the building in her honour. A corner of the veranda was partitioned off to become the chapel. Later, a stable at the rear of the house was converted into a chapel and was later enlarged. Verandas were enclosed to form dormitories for the girls and the ample kitchen catered for the

students' appetites in the large central dining room. The swish of the Sister's habits can still be heard in the minds of past students on those occasions when they have been welcomed by the new owners to reminisce over their years in the grand old building. A new dormitory wing was added in 1961 and called Massey House after Archdeacon Massey, Warden of the Society of the Sacred Advent. According to Joan Austin, it was the coldest of dormitories with its barn like structure and concrete floors. Kathy Ree and her mates are sure it had become the repository for Mytton House ghosts. She and friends Helen, Kori, Mabel, et al swear the séance glass moved of its own accord during their late night soirees into the occult. Sue and Edwin Ridley, the present owners, say that late at night you can hear the swish of the nun's habits as they enter the dining room.

Behind Mytton House was the "lane" which led to the 'prep' rooms. The 'lane' comes up in many conversations and was even the venue for secret liaisons, escapes and escapades. One such meeting lost its secrecy when a student tattled on another student for kissing a Slade boy there. The very popular Corinne Harris was banned from the school dance as a result as was her tittle tattler. What happened to her Para amour, our very first Honorary Life Member, Niel Quirk, remains a mystery.

### **Glover House**

In 1962, St Catharine's School purchased 'Glynlyn', a property owned by Mr & Mrs John McNamara adjoining the school. It was renamed Glover House after Archdeacon Glover who is accredited with being the brainchild behind the founders of the Church of England schools in Warwick. Glover House was remodelled over the end of year summer vacation and was ready for occupancy by March the following year. The school prefects occupied the attractive cubicles available and were joined by ten sub-seniors (Year 11) which made fifteen in all. Glover House also contained the Sisters' quarters; a Reference Library; and Visitors' Reception Room.

Fay and Brian Reid, the new owners of Glover, said the house is full of warmth as they "can hear the laughter of the girls". They were so interested in finding out the history of the building and the school as it was "way back when". The girls lived an almost cloistered existence. Social outings were rare and news of the outside world even rarer. The chance to see something more exciting than the serene faces of the nuns led Flora Reid to discover Television and all its mystery. She remembers climbing up onto a cupboard so she could see the TV in the staff lounge through a high window. The boys at Slade were not the only ones to suffer cold showers. Margaret Stewart recalls they had a grounds man, Mr Campbell, who used to stoke up the old boilers fuelled by coking coal. Many a time in winter, the hot water would run out. Glover house boasted a cellar where Marion Knowles remembers studying. It is now converted into a wine cellar.

### **Parkinson House**

John and Judy Simpson are now the proud owners of Parkinson House which they have lovingly restored.

### **St Marks Church**

## **Drive & Walk Two (5 hrs)**

**Slade Campus**  
**Queens Park**  
**Roberts House**  
**Mytton House**  
**Glover House**  
**Parkinson House**

**St Marks Church  
Killarney – Chapel House  
Stanthorpe - St Catharine's Site**

Jean Chauvel, sister of the famous Australian filmmaker, Charles Chauvel, enrolled in St Catharine's Stanthorpe in 1915 at the tender age of six. She and her best friend, Patricia Denyer, used to ride their ponies to school. Now, both ladies aged in their nineties live within a street of one another in Toowoomba, both in nursing homes. At the time of writing this booklet, they were both highly engaged despite their physical frailty. Their memories of their old school still vivid, Jean remembers starting a girls' scout club based on the Boy Scouts at her school in 1919 for which she won a hobby prize. The school was visited by Miss Marjorie Grimes who, on her return to Brisbane, formed the first Girl Guides Group in Tarragindi modelled on what she had seen at St Catharine's Stanthorpe. Jean was also a cousin of one of the St Catharine's and Slade Founders, JHS Barnes who she refers to as Seb after his third Christian name, Sebastian. Jean attended the school on and off until 1926 when she left to attend 'finishing school' in Sydney as was the custom of the well to do of the times. She later returned to Stanthorpe to develop the first privately run kindergarten in that township.

**Drive & Walk Three  
(Day)**

**Glengallan Homestead**

And what a great restoration has taken place. We learnt that the homestead had never been completed; became derelict; and seemingly beyond repair before a two million dollar Federal Government Grant to restore it came to its rescue. Built by John Deucher in 1867, the original plans have never been found. After John Deucher became bankrupt, it was taken over by a syndicate in 1873 with one of the partners being W. B. Slade. In 1931, Oswald Slade purchased it after the above partnership was dissolved. Oswald gave the property to Slade School though he lived in another home on the property until he retired to Warwick. Very little had been done to restore the old homestead, the victim of vandals and collectors until the Church of England sold it to the present trust. It is wonderful to see it being restored and credit is due to the many volunteers who work here. One of our tourists, Godfrey Schnitzerling, married to St Catharine's past student, Heather Donovan, remembered playing with the Slades' children when he was a boy and provided valuable information to one of the volunteer tour conductors.

**Slade Campus  
Queens Park  
Roberts House  
Mytton House  
Glover House  
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