



## JUBILEE GARDENS

Our Jubilee year was successfully launched on the first day of the 2017 school year. Visitors to the school were not only impressed by the ceremony itself but by the memorabilia on display and our fantastic gardens.

Pittsworth State High School has gained a reputation over the fifty years for its well-tended flora. In 1994 one of our foremost groundsmen, John Malpass, appeared on the front cover of the annual School Magazine such was his role in creating the beautiful surrounds of our school. In fact a report on the school's gardens was a regular feature of school magazines until of late. Mr Malpass battled drought, freezing winters, sore knee joints and some recalcitrant students, in his pursuit of splendid gardens. In 1982 he reportedly planted some three thousand bulbs and in 2000 some one thousand bulbs in the canteen area alone. The school community was rewarded with radiant blooms and a fragrant place in which to relax and learn. Other rewards came in the form of placings, usually first, in Pittsworth and Toowoomba garden competitions notably the Carnival of Flowers competition. Pittsworth State High School regularly placed first in the Country School Section. Sadly John Malpass passed away in 2005. In recognition of his role in the school a memorial walk was completed and named in his honour in 2005.

In recent years the 'baton' has been passed to Ray Carlish and Madonna La Franchi with a whirlwind of activity taking place in 2016 so as to ready the school for its Jubilee. Some staff have contributed hardy plants to enhance our walkways and have taken to weeding if passing by a garden needing some 'TLC'. The Seniors of 2016 donated a magnificent trellis to the school and it is on show in the gardens near the Manual Arts buildings. Ray is often seen at the school on weekends as he mows and tries to keep the water up to our flora in the heat whilst Madonna is regularly putting in seedlings or bringing some order to some challenging areas of the school.

We have not been gifted with a 'wet' start to the year but be assured that come September 9, our Jubilee celebration, that the school gardens will be spectacular.