



A SPORTING CHANCE.

Pittsworth State High School has established, in the past fifty years, a reputation as a formidable sporting school. In 1968 Jim Henschell, a School Captain, was the Open 100 metre Champion of Queensland having come 7th in the previous year. At the time it was seen as a 'once in a lifetime' event for a small school but that has certainly not been the case with the school having had Olympic representation.

In the early days of the school, rugby league teams were organised according to weight. Consequently we had 7 stone, 8 stone and 9 stone teams. In 1971 the 7 stone team enjoyed a season where no points were scored against them and key players were Warren Hayward and John Stallman. John later went on to represent Queensland in this sport. The 9 stone team did well though remarks were made about the reluctance amongst the backs to pass the ball. Some things never change. In 1973 the 9 stone team won the District final against the bigger, stronger Lockyer team, 7-0.

In 1967 events were still run using Imperial Measure with the Cross Country completed in miles and the Long Jump measured in feet (and inches) and races were judged in yards. The conversion to metric was approved in Australia in 1970. The 1967 inter school carnival was held at Mt Lofty with Pittsworth easily winning the 4 X 110 yard relay.

Vigoro was quite a popular sport in the 1970s at our school. The teams did not experience much success but they were determined to beat main rivals – Oakey and Clifton- by improving their batting and fielding. The sports of Tennis, Volleyball and American Basketball received a boost with courts completed in 1970 at the cost of \$4672. They were officially opened on the 6th June with a display of American Basketball. Our first team of girls to play American Basketball were undefeated in 1970 and it was put down to superior teamwork.

Table Tennis tables were purchased in 1972 and were in hot demand at lunch times. Mainly boys played and in that year a tournament was held with Murray French the winner and Robin Day the runner up. Murray won a Parker Pen for his efforts.

In 1976 Mark Murray, who went onto bigger and better things in the Rugby League world, joined John Stallman as Queensland representatives in Rugby League. Ray Pendrigh, a former teacher at the school, was also a Coach of many successful representative teams.

Before the Easter holidays the P.E. Department organised a Teacher versus Open Girls Basketball competition. It was great entertainment as were the Teacher versus Student contests of past years. In 1977 they competed against each other in Touch Football and Basketball with mention made of 'Basher' Baguley and 'Twinkletoes' Raymond. There was talk of little adherence to rules and, as noted earlier, some things never change.