



FROM THE FIRST DAY.....RECOLLECTIONS OF OUR RETIREES

In 1967 Pittsworth State High School came into existence and four of the first teachers through the door were to be stalwarts of the school community. Margaret Coutts, Col Presneill and Derek Rickwood were already teaching at the Secondary Department of the Pittsworth State School and Sandra Pendrigh was transferred to Pittsworth State High School in 1967. Margaret Coutts and Col Presneill also became familiar faces as residents of Pittsworth itself.

Sandra Pendrigh was, from the very beginning, an active member of the school. She coached sporting teams, was integral to the production of school musicals, held the position of Head of English, then Senior Mistress and finally of Deputy Principal. There were many students who shook at the thought of being sent to see Mrs Pendrigh. Such was her dedication to academic excellence that the award for Dux of the School is named in her honour.

Col Presneill can still be found on the Pittsworth Golf Course and each of his children attended our local high school. He is still remembered for his rousing war cries on assembly as he fostered our famous school spirit. Col was there from the beginning. He taught Maths and in the meantime coached sporting teams, took students on excursions, supervised socials and assisted in the building of our school and its culture. It is evident when reading his reflections in the 1992 School Magazine that Col was very proud of the school and he still retains a great interest in its successes.

Margaret Coutts was just 17 when she accepted a position at the Secondary Department in 1958 and she too became a valued member of the school community. Margaret loved sport, especially when Condamine was involved, and was a great advocate for the Commercial subjects. She had very fond memories of the 'high top' and was a little regretful as the move was made to the present school. Margaret remembered having to get the fire going in the classroom and the novelty events at sporting carnivals along with the early academics of the school- Ros Dalton, Lyn Pearce and Richard Whittaker.

Derek Rickwood came on board as a Manual Training teacher and for the first year of the high school's operation, classes had to travel back and forth on the bus until the Manual Arts block was built. Life as a Manual Training teacher was 'interesting' – there were no cleaners and the last class of the day had to clean and sweep – imagine the uproar today amongst the students! The Manual Training staff weren't really regarded as teaching staff as they worked an 'industry week' but the bonuses were no parades, playground duty or staff meetings! Girls didn't do Manual Training classes in those early days and Mr Rickwood wasn't even sure they were 'allowed in the building'! He retired in 1988 noting that even though the early days were busy they were very enjoyable.