



McDowall State School

Courtesy – Honesty – Knowledge

SCHOOL EMBLEMS

The three main features constituting the McDowall State School Emblem include two concentric circles, a floral crest and school motto.

The title, **McDowall State School**, is underlined by the school community's statement of value in '**Courtesy, Honesty, Knowledge**'. It is located within a bold outer red circle representing the global society in which we learn and live.

Pictorially, four Australian native flowers (that were once common in the local area), denoting the School Houses of **Acacia, Banksia, Grevillea and Melaleuca**, are enclosed within an inner red circle representing the life-long nature of learning, the school's role in nurturing and preparing children for future citizenship; and our collective responsibility in sustaining our unique Earth.

MOTTO

The three words: **COURTESY, HONESTY, KNOWLEDGE** denote the envisioned legacy that the McDowall State School would leave with every enrolled student.

COURTESY in conduct
HONESTY in judgement
KNOWLEDGE on which to base informed decisions

McDowall State School students are expected to:

- Be courteous in their attitude, conduct and service toward other people.
- Be honest, in both valuing truth and exercising good judgement.
- Seek, learn and apply knowledge in better informing decision-making.

SCHOOL RULES

RESPECT FOR SELF – I am safe
RESPECT FOR OTHERS – I am respectful
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS – I am responsible

SCHOOL CREED

This is our school
Let peace be here
Let the rooms be full of contentment
Let love abide here
Love for our Earth
Love of mankind
Love of life itself
Let us remember
That as many hands make a house
So many hearts make a school.

SCHOOL COLOURS

Bottle Green and Red.



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SCHOOL HOUSES

Our school houses are named after four Australian native flora found on the school site and local area. Our School Emblem depicts a flower of each of these plants and this theme was adopted in selecting School House names. Upon enrolment at McDowall State School, all students are assigned to a School House.

ACACIA Yellow
BANKSIA Green
GREVILLEA Red
MELALEUCA Blue

ACACIA (WATTLE)

This large genus contains over 1,200 species of trees and shrubs from warm climates. Some are deciduous but most are evergreen. Over 700 are indigenous to Australia. They range from low growing shrubs to tall trees and many have been introduced to other countries for economic and ornamental purposes. Acacias have either bipinnate leaves or their leaves are replaced by flattened leaf stalks, known as phyllodes. The vertical orientation of the phyllodes protects them from intense sunlight, as with their edges toward sky and earth, they do not intercept sunlight as if they were horizontal leaves. The tiny flowers, ranging from deep golden yellow to cream or white, have five very small petals, almost hidden by long stamens. Flowers, crowded into globular heads or cylindrical spikes, are often fragrant and produce abundant, bee-attracting pollen. Fruit are either round or flattened pods. The hard-coated seeds remain viable for up to 30 years. Seeds require heat and soaking for germination in Spring. Some need fire to germinate. In cultivation many species are fast growing but short-lived (10-15 years). In their native regions they are often disfigured by insect or fungus attack. They do best in full sun and well-drained soil. Some will tolerate part shade.

BANKSIA

Named after the renowned English botanist Sir Joseph Banks, who discovered this genus at Botany Bay in 1770, Banksia consists of about 75 species of shrubs and small trees found widely in Australia, though not in Australia's deserts. Habit and foliage vary, but all species have striking, iconic, dense, fuzzy spikes or heads of tightly packed, small flowers, followed by woody fruits that protrude from among the dead flowers. The leaves are generally long and narrow, often with toothed edges, and contain much woody tissue, so they remain stiff and springy even when dead. Banksias vary in their tolerance of garden conditions, but some are easily grown; the most decorative ones now being grown in plantations for the cut flower market. Some dwarf and prostrate ground cover forms are becoming popular as rock-garden plants. The flowers of all species are rich in nectar and attract birds.

Banksias form a vital part of the bush food-chain as an important food source for birds, bats, rats, possums, gliders and many invertebrates. Many of these animals play a role in pollination of the Banksia. Most Banksia species prefer well-drained, sandy (or gravel) soil with low levels of major nutrients, especially phosphates. They do best in full sun, and some are moderately frost hardy. Regular, light tip pruning maintains shape and foliage density. Propagation from seed, extracted from the 'cones' requires the aid of fire or hot oven. Banksia plants are naturally adapted to the presence of bushfire. However, too frequent bushfires can seriously reduce or even eliminate populations from certain areas. Perhaps the best known cultural reference to Banksia is the 'Big, bad Banksia Men' of May Gibbs' children's book 'Snugglepot and Cuddlepie'.



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GREVILLEA

Some 250 species of evergreen shrubs and trees in the protea family make up this genus. Variable in habit, foliage and flowers, most Grevilleas are native to Australia with a few from New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea. They range from less than 0.5m tall to trees 35m tall. The small flowers are mostly densely crowded into heads or spikes, their most conspicuous feature being the long styles which are at first bent over like a hairpin and then straighten out. Many are adaptable and are easy to grow, with a long flowering period, and are popular with nectar-seeking birds such as honey-eaters.

Grevillea flowers were a traditional favourite among Aborigines for their sweet nectar. This could be shaken onto the hand to enjoy or into a coolamon with a little water for a sweet drink. The leaves are commonly deeply divided and may be very decorative in their own right. The foliage from some species is grown for cutting. In recent decades hundreds of hybrid Grevillea cultivars have been bred, nearly all in Australia, and many are extremely floriferous. Some of the most beautiful species are low growing or prostrate; these many be planted in a rock garden, as ground cover or in pots. Moderately frost hardy to frost tender, Grevilleas do best in well drained, slightly dry, neutral to acid soil in full sun. They are generally pest free although scale insects and leaf spot may pose a problem. Propagation can occur from seed in Spring, from cuttings in late Summer, or by grafting for some of the species most prone to root-rot.

MELALEUCA

There are well over 200 recognised species of Melaleuca. They range from 2m to 30m tall. The evergreen trees and shrubs that form this large genus are indigenous to Australia, except for a few species from Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and coastal South-East Asia. In nature, Melaleuca plants are generally found in open forest, woodland or shrub land, particularly along water courses and the edge of swamps. Some species have beautiful papery bark which peels off in large sheets. They bear profuse, brush-like flowers with showy stamens, and their nectar provides food for birds and small mammals. The fruit is a small capsule containing minute seeds. The leathery leaves are small and cylindrical or flat. They are alternately arranged, 1cm to 25cm long and 0.5cm to 7cm broad. Adaptable plants, they tolerate wet, even boggy conditions (but prefer well drained soil), pollution, and salt laden winds and soil. Melaleuca trees are often used to drain low-lying swampy areas. Although warm climate plants, most species withstand light frosts if in full sun. Propagation can occur from seed or cuttings taken just as growth begins. Melaleucas are remarkably pest and disease free. One well-known Melaleuca, the Ti Tree, is notable for its essential oil which is both anti-fungal and anti-biotic. This oil is produced commercially and is marketed as 'Tea Tree Oil'. Aborigines used leaves traditionally for many medicinal purposes. The softness and flexibility of bark made it an extremely useful tree. The Ti Tree is so named presumably for the brown colouration of many water courses caused by shed leaves from this and other species e.g. Brown Lake on Stradbroke Island. Melaleuca trees' foliage is highly combustible during bushfire and spread flame quickly.

SCHOOL HOUSE CRIES

ACACIA

Sitting in a grandstand

Banging on a tin can

Who can? We can.

Nobody else can.

Fight! Fight!

Fight, team, fight.

A-C-A-C-I-A

Yeah, Acacia!



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BANKSIA

Of all the sports teams
We're the best.
Just watch Banksia
Test the rest.
First in line,
Coming round the bend.
Banksia's the one
We'll fight to the end.
B-A-N-K-S-I-A
Yeah, Banksia!

GREVILLEA

I saw a cool cat
walking down the street.
I said "Hey cool cat,
we're the ones to beat".
I said, "Hey cool cat,
don't you dig my jive?"
Come on, Grevillea
Strive, strive, strive.
G-R-E-V-I-L-L-E-A
Yeah, Grevillea!

MELALEUCA

Thunderation, Celebration
Scream and shout.
We're going to hypnotise
and paralyse
and knock 'em out.
We run so fast.
We jump so high.
So come on Melaleuca
Try, Try, Try!
M-E-L-A-L-E-U-C-A
Yeah, Melaleuca!



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REMEMBRANCE SQUARE

The 'Remembrance Square' is an inclusive term describing the McDowall State School area located between School Administration, the School Library and Tartan Tuckerbox / Large Covered Area. Remembrance Wall, including associated flagpoles.

Remembrance Stone requesting that we remember all those who have died in defence of our nation. This stone was installed by the McDowall State School Student Council, Anzac Day Commemorative Committee and RSL Association in 2000.

Hedging rows of 'Little Dugald' shrubs which regularly display red flowers highlighting remembrance. Little Dugald grows both in Australia and New Zealand (ANZAC). Nurtured grass area on which students may rest and reflect. Collections of native bottle brush and banksia shrubs which link back to a time when letters received while overseas, often a sprig of wattle or some other native flower was encased within the correspondence. Raised garden bed within which the McDowall State School time capsule rests and awaits recovery in 2035, the 60th Anniversary of the school.

REMEMBRANCE SQUARE MURAL

The mural adorning the School Library Wall behind the 'Remembrance Wall' forms a back-drop to the 'Remembrance Square'. The design was based on a concept by Mrs Clara Jeffrey (previous teacher) and was professionally painted by NITSUA School Murals.

This 'Remembrance Square Mural' encourages the observer to reflect on local area history through the lens of 'mateship', tracking from the early years of Brisbane, through the present and toward student futures. This sequence is highlighted by a transition from black & white to colour and the featuring of red poppies, denoting that far too often, freedoms are hard won through times of conflict.

- (1) Tom Petrie was a settler, explorer and from a respected founding family which developed what was to become modern Brisbane. He grew up and played with Aboriginal children, learning their language, lifestyle and of their culture, providing some of the earliest recorded observations and histories regarding Turrbul people habitation.
- (2) Children rarely see race, difference nor disability, together investigating possibilities.
- (3) Fallon Cottage, now located in Everton Park, was originally constructed as part of a local area timber mill.
- (4) The iconic Anzac Cove depiction of Simpson and his donkey draws reference to war.
- (5) Stage coaches were regularly used along Old Northern Road, a Turrbul pathway leading toward the Bunyas.
- (6) Royal Flying Doctor Service aircraft are regularly seen on flight paths to/from Brisbane Airport. Modern medical services now extend to the isolated.
- (7) Lifesavers volunteer their time to protect and sustain life in others.
- (8) The white cockatoo in Aboriginal culture is represented by the left and right stars in the Southern Cross. In another Dreaming, the cockatoo was the first creature to ever die, causing the beginning of a quest to understand mortality; and
- (9) With Brisbane in the background, two McDowall State School students progress through Primary Education onto a wondrous future guided by lessons informed by the past.

REMEMBRANCE SQUARE WALL

The Wall (and associated flagpoles) is strategically placed before the Remembrance Square Mural. The Wall (and associated flagpoles) assumes precedence, rather than focusing on an historical timeline, represents the participants and stakeholders of McDowall State School in the present.

The Remembrance Square Wall (and associated flagpoles) is not about war, separate peoples, events, places, times or individuals. The Remembrance Square Wall (and associated flagpoles) is about **Us, Together, Today**.



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We are McDowall State School. We have an emblem, creed, school rules and creed.

These are our ideals and aspirations which we strive to embody in action and conduct. We know who we are, male/female, adult/child, cultural background, age difference, aptitude or disability. We learn about and know our stories from past and present. We will discover our unique talents and capabilities, and will refine these through life's journey leaving our own positive imprinted footprint and legacy within history. We wear our uniform with pride. We are Acacia, Banksia, Grevillea and Melaleuca. We are how we think, what we believe and what we do today. We are measured by our actions.

McDowall State School Captains and House Captains daily manage the Remembrance Wall area. Together, we are multi-cultural and we are all Australians, respectfully acknowledging the unique place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and rights in our nation's story that extends far back in time, well prior to modern Australia. The Remembrance Square Wall (and associated flagpoles) expects and reminds all of us, that we are all participants together in the present story of our great State School as the next generation prepares for their story making their adult influence on history.

SCHOOL PRAYER (for historical purposes)

We pray for your blessing Lord on the work we are doing today,
That we may do it well, both in school and out.
And may be good to each other and try to do well in all things.
Teach us to be honest, truthful, kind and obedient.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SCHOOL SONG (for historical purposes)

Words & Music by Jill Gold.

Stand up, stand up, all you pupils of McDowall,
Stand up and help create a strong community,
Come raise our flag so proudly together,
Wearing the red and the green.
Courtesy, honesty and knowledge is our motto,
Whether at school or at leisure,
We honour our teachers, parents and each other,
Sharing and learning together.