

McDOWALL STATE SCHOOL



OUR SCHOOL

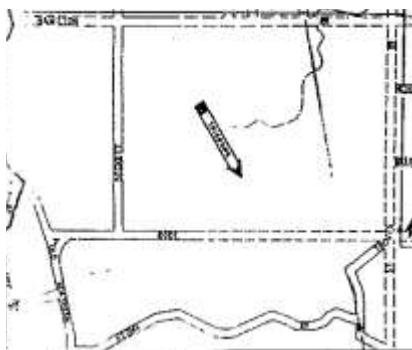
“SUBURB CLOSE-UP: McDOWALL” The McDowall suburb was gazetted in 1975. It is located 11kms from Brisbane’s CBD. McDowall is an established suburb with a mix of large high and low-set brick homes catering mostly for families. Of all occupied private dwellings, 83% were either fully owned or being purchased and 15% were being rented. According to the 2006 Census there were 6,903 people living within the suburb with a median age of 36 years. Over 55% of households consisted of couples with children, 33% were of couples without children and 10% were single parent households.

Public transport in the area is well established with regular bus routes servicing local shopping centres and going into the Brisbane CBD. Mitchelton, Gaythorne and Enoggera train stations are closest, being approximately 10-15 minutes away.

A feature of the area is the Bunyaville State Forest Park, bordering McDowall along Old Northern Road. Parkland surrounding Cabbage Tree Creek and The Chermside Hills also provide excellent recreational spots. The Chermside Hills has the densest stand of grass trees in Brisbane and is an important environmental area because of its unique heathland vegetation. The Brisbane City Council established the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre in 1988 to cater for community environmental education and hands-on care for urban bushland.

The suburb was named after the McDowall family, who owned a vineyard on South Pine Road, in the vicinity of Newhaven Street. They also established an estate on a site near the present junction of Old Northern Road and Rode Road. The family apparently came from Liverpool, England.

During the 1880s, the area was known as South Pine and local residents were involved in mainly farming, timber cutting and grape growing. Land in the McDowall area was purchased by I. Adams in 1881 and offered for sale in 1886. Land in the vicinity of Hackman Street was marketed as Kimberley Estate. The adjoining estate, owned by the Poultney family comprising McIlwraith, Gordon, Griffith, Burwood and Brook Streets was offered for auction in 1885 as the Everton Park Estate.



Other early landholders in McDowall included the Poultney family who were farmers. Joseph Poultney ran a sawmill in 1885 on the corner of South Pine and Stafford Roads opposite Gordon Parade. The first receiving office for mail was run by John Tucker in 1899. He had a small general store attached to his home and he collected the mail from Alderley. By 1908, both business and population had increased so Tucker built a new Post Office.

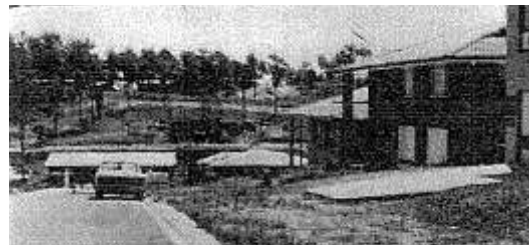
The first school opened in 1934 as the Bunyaville State School. Previously, children travelled to Enoggera. The McDowall State School opened in 1975. As the population grew, the Brisbane City Council wanted to call the new suburb, Annand, after Col Frederick William Gadsby Annand DSO, VD, FCIS, the first Town Clerk of Greater Brisbane (1925-1931). Residents calling themselves 'The Progress Association' didn't agree and petitioned the Council requesting that it be called McDowall after the newly built and named State School. In 1975, the name McDowall was approved by the Place Names Board of Queensland.



Members of the Bunyaville Pony Club once went riding through the forest where McDowall State School stands today. The area for the school was originally owned by the Brisbane City Council. At the time of the school's opening, McDowall was an urban, rural community and housing blocks were 1 to 2 hectares in area. McDowall land is not very fertile with top soil often having to be brought into the area. Land uses included pig, chicken and dairy farms. Ifield Street once had a creek running through it. This water course has now been controlled with concrete work. Jagger Street was a pig farm. Hoffman Street was a grazing farm. Some of the families owning pig farms included the Bradshaws, Keongs, Keatings, Shaws, Keans, Finny Moores and the Hedges. Roads have been named after some of these families. The Kettletons ran horses. The Campbells had an orchard near the reservoir.



Sub-divisions in this area were part of the Paramount Estate, owned by Sir Leon Trout. He stipulated in his early 1970s developments that only prestige homes could be built on his land. Being linked to the big Hollywood Studios, by the name Paramount, all of the streets were named after film stars.



"North-West News February, 2007" Our Brisbane.com 2008 "School History1983"

For more information about the history of McDowall, take a look at the website of the [Chermide & District Historical Society](#).

“McDOWALL STATE SCHOOL”

McDowall State School was constructed in 1974 and was named after Colonel John McDowall, a distinguished early settler to the area. Other names considered for the new school were Rode, Grand and West Chermside.

The school was opened on 28 January, 1975. On the first day there were 38 children and 6 teachers. By the end of the first year there were 140 children. The first Sports Carnival was held at Bunyville State Forest and was like a family picnic.

The Principal and parents established the school uniform that same year. In 1978, new House T-Shirts were added to the school uniform. Trees to match each House: Acacia, Banksia, Grevillea and Melaleuca were planted at the front of the school by the House Captains.

“One vivid memory I have of this first year is of the brother of one of the Year 1 children galloping up to the door of the classroom on his horse when it was time to go home. He assisted his brother to climb on board and then off they galloped into the sunset.”

Kath Osborne Teacher 1975-1985.



Early School Identification Sign



School Identification Sign 2012

Carving a school oval out of a large area of hilly, rocky ground was a huge undertaking in 1979. After completion of major earthworks, a band of willing volunteers (teachers, parents, children and friends) completed the job by laying turf. In 1983, the Army assisted in the redevelopment of the oval and the shaping of embankments leading from the oval to school buildings.



1980 saw the construction of two tennis courts adjacent to the oval. A flexipave surface was selected and McDowall State School became one of the first Queensland schools to boast such fine courts. Subsequently, the P&C Association converted these courts into a multi-purpose courts complex, catering for tennis, netball and basketball. Later lighting was installed to make this facility available for community hire during evenings.



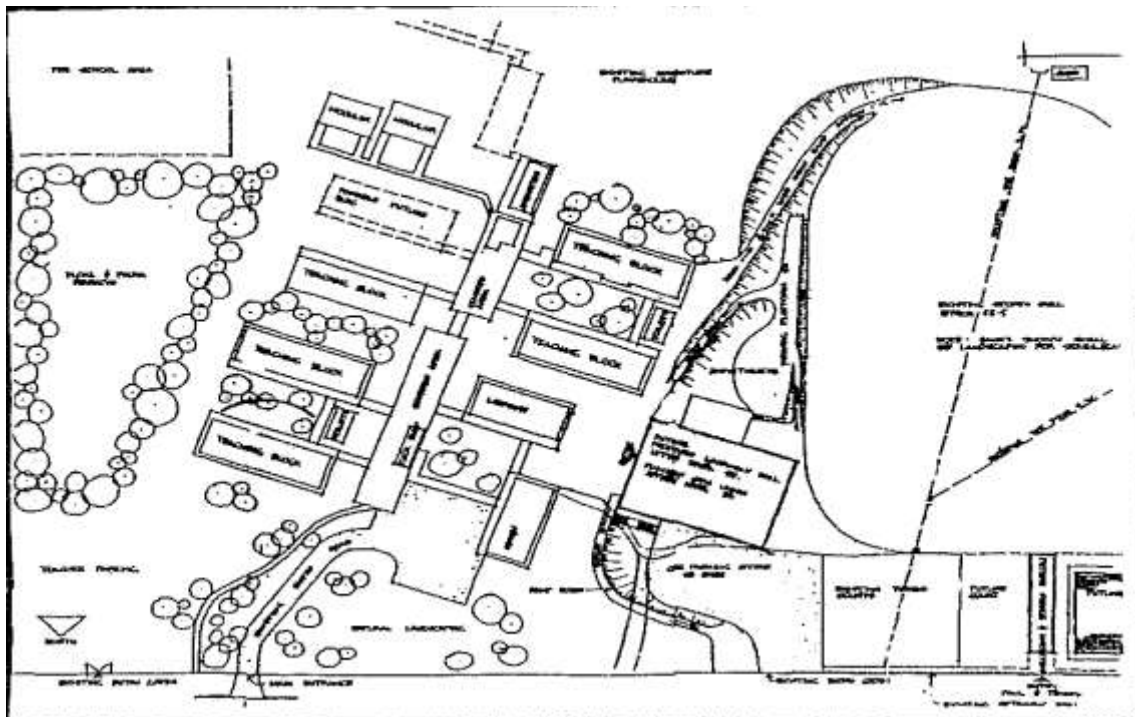
Traffic lights, mainly for use by school children, were installed on Rode Road in 1981. These were replaced and upgraded to regulate an intersection incorporating Rode Road and Foambark Street in 2011, after Defence Housing, opened the “Gordon Olive Estate”. Gordon Olive was an Australian Air Force ace who piloted Spitfires during World War II.

Blocks A, B, C, D, E and F were constructed in 1974-5. Block G was built in 1978 and Block H was built in 1982. Modular Buildings have been brought on site. A School Hall was constructed by the P&C Association in 1987 with Queensland Government Subsidy assistance. The School Hall is extensively used by school and community throughout the week. A purpose-built Music Facility, Library and Curriculum Centre is present. A Community Access Centre (K Block) was constructed by the P&C Association in 2006 and incorporates an Out-of-School Hours Care Programme (OSH).



Activity Indoor General Purpose Building

The P&C Association constructed an Activity Indoor General Purpose Building to complement the Out-of-School Hours Care Programme and for school use in 2010.



The P&C Association renovated the Tuckshop and Uniform/Book Shop in 2006. Preparatory Year buildings were constructed for use from 2007 with PC2 constructed in 2010. Earthworks continued in 2007-8 with the construction of new playfields to the rear of the school and large shade structures between Teaching Blocks. In 2008, the P&C Association established a state-of-the-art Computer Centre for all students to access. In 2010, the Metro Street Car Park was constructed and the Preparatory Year Playfield was made level behind a large retention wall.



In 2011, a federal government initiative enabled the McDowall State School to locate Years 1-2 in close proximity to the Preparatory Year for the first time. For many years, the school community had aspired to create an Early Childhood Education Sector within the McDowall State School. Three Modular Classrooms were demolished to make way for the multi-storey J Block which opened in October, 2011. Complementary to this project, the original School Hall was also extended to provide change rooms, toilets, showers, storage and a kitchenette.

In 2012, the P&C Association sought to complete the School Hall by duplicating the available floor area. The School Hall is now a multipurpose complex capable of being used as one large space or as two separate specific purpose areas: (a) Performing Arts – timber floor and stage (b) General Sports and Games – sports vinyl flooring.



During construction of the School Hall, a new main pedestrian access gate, pathway and school identification sign was constructed.

McDowall State School Hall (a) As seen from Rode Road; and (b) Highlighting the new Multi-Purpose Extension.

The McDowall State School continues to maintain a well deserved reputation for high academic achievement, attention to the learning needs of students and the provision of quality extra-curricular programmes. Much has happened since the McDowall State School, built on a hilly plateau of 6.6 hectares in a semi-rural community, opened in January, 1975. Year 7 transitioned into secondary education from 2015. Today, the school has a steady enrolment of approximately 930 students catering for Preparatory to Year 6 primary education. The school continues to experience strong parent and community support. There is a great rapport between staff, parents and children. Motivated and dedicated staff remain committed to McDowall State School standards of excellence.



Should anyone have historical information or photos pertaining to the McDowall State School that may provide further perspective and detail of tradition, events and context of the past, we'd be delighted to hear from them. Please contact School Administration on telephone 07 3872 5333 or admin@mcdowallss.eq.edu.au

Every endeavour has been made to maintain a rural setting in balance with the progressive development of a large quality primary school. Annual planting of native trees and shrubs continues. A small tract of land has been preserved along the eastern school boundary in almost a natural state as an area for environmental study. Attractive landscaped grounds include outdoor teaching spaces, House Area plantings, barbeque area, adventure playgrounds, sporting ovals and fields, courtyard areas and environmental vision / sound buffer areas. A wide variety of native fauna is supported by native flora within the school grounds.



All permanent buildings but one, are at ground level and are configured as double-teaching spaces with flexible separation concertina doors. Buildings generally include four classrooms. Withdrawal rooms and a storage area are incorporated within most buildings. Modular buildings are also configured as double-teaching spaces with flexible separation concertina doors. These buildings include two classrooms. The McDowall State School is well appointed and much has been and continues to be provided in teaching and learning resources by joint endeavours of Education Queensland, an active P&C Association and the community.



In 1998, an Enrolment Management Policy was implemented to ensure that continued enrolment growth remained within school capacity and was not likely to adversely affect school effectiveness due to overcrowding and undue strain on school infrastructure. Enrolment management continues to be an administrative necessity in best managing the number of new enrolment applications within school capacity.

In 2015, Year 7 transitioned onto secondary education in Queensland. From 2015, McDowall State School operates the sectors of Early Childhood Education (Preparatory to Year 2) and Primary Education (Years 3 to 6).



In 2013, the McDowall State School excised land into Brisbane City Council ownership and management to support the construction of a designated “Kiss-and-Ride Set down and Pick up Lane” surrounding an extended car park area. This \$300,000 investment by Council and the Qld Government was opened in July, 2013. While this project was underway, the School Tennis (Multi-Purpose) Courts were reconditioned and resurfaced.



“SCHOOL EMBLEM” 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
RESPECT FOR OTHERS
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS

“SCHOOL COLOURS” Bottle Green and Red.

“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 PRAYER”

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”

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.

“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	<i>Yellow</i>
BANKSIA	<i>Green</i>
GREVILLEA	<i>Red</i>
MELALEUCA	<i>Blue</i>



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'.



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"

 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ACACIA</u></p> <p>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!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BANKSIA</u></p> <p>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!</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GREVILLEA</u></p> <p>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!</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MELALEUCA</u></p> <p>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!</p> 