



David H Phillips, Class of 1945, donated his original renderings of the Normal School and the “Red Brick Building” to the school on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of **Brisbane State High School** in 1996.

IN THE BEGINNING

The physical development of **Brisbane State High School** has been characterised by acquisition, construction, conversion and demolition, which has resulted in the campus of **2019** being spread over three South Brisbane sites with two satellite sporting facilities. A chronological list of significant events follows:

1855 - A reserve “for public recreation and extension” was set aside in South Brisbane.

1865 - The Queensland colonial government identified an area of land for public open space as the “South Brisbane Recreation Reserve”.

1885 - The reserve was gazetted Musgrave Park, named after the Governor of Queensland, Sir Anthony Musgrave.

1917 - A notice of resumption of 3 acres (1.2 hectares) of Musgrave Park for High School purposes was gazetted after several years of negotiations between the Department of Public Instruction and the South Brisbane City Council, (SBCC). * *Government Gazette 18.08.1917*. The SBCC was amalgamated with the Brisbane City Council (BCC) in 1925. The 1892 heritage listed South Brisbane Municipal Chambers/South Brisbane Town Hall was acquired in 1999 by Somerville House which was established in 1899 as the Brisbane High School for Girls.

1920 - The SBCC approved the alteration of the Ernest Street boundary of the resumed High School site between Cordelia to Vulture Streets. * *SBCC Minutes 24.05.1920 and 07.06.1920*

1921 - Brisbane State High School was founded on 1 July 1921, following the amalgamation of the Central Technical College High School, the Brisbane Junior State High School and the High Top at Wynnum State School. The first term began on 4 July 1921 with 497 students receiving instruction in the Normal School. The Normal School was designed by Christopher Porter, who was appointed as the first architect for the Board of General Education.

*“From 1862 until its demolition in 1927, the Brisbane Normal School was a landmark on the corner of Adelaide and Edward Streets. As the Colony’s leading school, it trained some of Queensland’s finest teachers and was ‘alma mater’ to many of its leading citizens.” * “Soldiers of the Service” Edited by Greg Logan and Tom Watson.*

Isaac Waddle, the founding Principal, established an enviable record as an educator and innovator for future principals and staff to emulate. Mr Waddle initially retired in 1941 and continued to July 1945 as an appropriate replacement was unavailable due to World War II.

Since its inception in 1921, **Brisbane State High School** has come to symbolise and exemplify the excellence of state school education. Students are surrounded by possibility and opportunity in many diverse areas of academia, sport, culture, international experience and community responsibility.

1923 – The Foundation stone for the new high school building, that was to become known as the “Red Brick Building”, was unveiled on 22 September 1923 by the Hon John Huxham MLA, Minister for Public Instruction, in conjunction with the Hon William Forgan-Smith MLA, Minister for Public Works. Descendants of both Ministers attended **State High** between 1938 and 1970.

1925 - On 1 January 1925, the new academic year began in the “Red Brick Building” at the southern end of Musgrave Park in South Brisbane. The new school was officially opened by the Hon Frank Tennison Brennan MLA, Minister for Public Instruction, on 27 January 1925.

1925 - The birth of the school Oval. An extract from the **1925** Principal’s annual report;

“Between the school building and the South Brisbane Bowling Green, there is a piece of ground which with a little work can be made into a sports ground. The Mayor and some of the Aldermen of the City paid the school a visit about two months ago and seeing the benefit that would accrue to four hundred young citizens on every day of the year have recommended the exchange of that area for a portion now within our boundary and fronting on Vulture Street. This portion while eminently suited to park purposes is almost useless as a sports area. When this arrangement is completed and the grounds put in order, our out of door equipment will compare favourably with the fine equipment within the school itself.”

1928 – Two tennis courts were constructed on the Lower Quad. A tennis court complex is now located on “The Mound”, between the Oval and the Musgrave Park Pool Complex, having been relocated in **2008** from “The Farm”.

1937 - *“Our new and long-awaited-for boat shed is a substantially built structure standing on the river bank in Davies Park. At the face of the bank and connected with the shed is a concrete structure to which the long and well-designed ramp with its pontoon is attached. The shed houses two tubs and two racing fours.”* * 1937 BSHS School Magazine

1948 – A small portion of land was excised from Musgrave Park to enable the construction of a new two storey classroom block between the Lower Quad and the Oval which was opened in **1952**. * *BCC Minutes 13.04.1948*. This classroom block which was known as the “M” Rooms, perhaps referring to a long term science teacher Harry Mayze, was demolished to enable the construction of a new Information Technology centre, Block “D” that was opened in **2002**.

1953 – *BCC Parks Drawing D0350A* formalised the boundary of the school Oval.

1963 – Survey plans submitted for the exchange of land between the Education Department and the Brisbane City Council, increasing the High School Reserve to 5.18 acres (2.097 hectares). * *BCC Minutes 02.04.1963*. This area included an area that was referred to in 1925 as “a portion now within our boundary and fronting on Vulture Street” that was exchanged with the BCC for land “between the school building and the South Brisbane Bowling Green” that became the school Oval.

1963 - The retaining wall between the oval and the school was constructed.

1963 - Block “B”, the school’s first Assembly Hall/Library and Art facility and Block “C”, the 4 storey classroom block were constructed, enclosing the Lower Quad. Block “B” was converted into a Resource Centre and Student Services in **2008/09**. These buildings and the “Red Brick Building” are the only buildings located within the boundaries of the original 3 acre, (1.2 hectare) High School reserve.

1964 – Year 8 was first introduced into Queensland secondary schools. To accommodate the increased enrolment at **State High**, an area of 1.4 Hectares bounded by Merivale, Ernest and Cordelia Streets and commercial properties to the North West towards Glenelg Street was formally added to the **State High Reserve**. “The Farm”, as this site became to be known, included the former South Brisbane Intermediate School, (SBIS). The SBIS was constructed 100 years earlier in 1864 and was also designed by Christopher Porter.

The Building was used primarily for Home Economics and Manual Arts, refurbished as part of the **BSHS Junior School Complex** in 1989 which was formally opened by the then Governor General and past student **William Hayden AC** in 1990. The **BSHS Junior School Complex** received a citation in the 1990 R.A.I.A Awards for non-domestic architecture. The former SBIS, now referred to as Block “H”, was heritage listed in **1994** and converted in **2016** to the main Administration Centre of the school.

1967 - Additional land consolidated the Vulture Campus up to the then recently opened Musgrave Park Swimming Pool, increasing the High School Reserve to 8.23 acres, (3.33 hectares).

* *BCC Parks Drawing No. D350E.*

The expanded site enabled the construction of the Lockie Science Block in **1969**, a Commonwealth Library in **1970** and a 2 storey classroom block, that was referred to as “The White House”, opened in **1978**. The Commonwealth Library was subsequently converted for Home Economics and eventually demolished to enable the construction of the Sports Complex/Assembly Hall overlooking the Oval in **2008**.

1980 - *“This year saw the opening of the new BSHS Rowing Shed.... the building was officially opened by the Minister for Education.... the school made a presentation to the Commercial Rowing Club in appreciation of the tremendous help they have given us in the past. Thanks go to the P & C and the Rowing Sub-Committee for their long and strenuous efforts in bringing this project to fruition.” * 1980 BSHS School Magazine*

1988 – The development of another satellite sports complex began at Fursden Road, Carina on 4 hectares that was excised from land designated for a future Carina State High School. Initially 2 fields and an amenities block were provided. By 1996, the **State High Sports Complex** increased to 9.66 hectares, incorporating 6 fields and additional facilities. * *Crown Plan 899038*

1988 – A 4,558 square metre property, referred to as the V E Martin buildings, bounded by Merivale, Ernest and Colchester Streets and the existing TAFE site was acquired to facilitate future expansion.

1990-91 - The V.E. Martin buildings were eventually exchanged for properties more appropriate for school development adjacent to “The Farm”. The acquisition of the former Philips Building on the corner of Cordelia and Glenelg Streets, the former Yakka Building on the corner of Glenelg and Merivale Streets, the former R.A.I.A. building on Merivale Street, a vacant lot on Merivale Street and the closing of a laneway off Glenelg Street consolidated the site bounded by Cordelia, Glenelg, Merivale and Ernest Streets. The Merivale Campus has a site area of 1.82 hectares.

1991 – A former 2215 square metre residential site on Edmondstone Street was acquired. The Edmondstone Annexe has been used for the location of a temporary Year 7 Complex when Year 7 was first introduced into Queensland secondary schools in **2015**. The site is currently a staff carpark and is earmarked for future development.

1996 – On 1 July 1996, founding students **Dorothy Wadley (Kent)** and **Wallace McAlpine** unveiled a “Commemorative Plaque” on the site of the Normal School. The plaque was placed on behalf of the **BSHS Past Students Association** to identify the original site of the school from **1921-1924** – a significant addition to the historical fabric of our school and the city.

1997 – The first purpose built gymnasium was constructed in the middle of “The Farm” site. This facility was incorporated into the Performing Arts Complex, PAC in **2008**.

2003 - The third **BSHS** rowing shed was constructed on Riverside Drive West End - a collaborative project by the Brisbane City Council including accommodation for **BSHS**, Commercial Rowing Club, Nudgee College, All Hallows and Rowing Queensland.

2015 – The following buildings were demolished to enable the construction of the Kurilpa Building, fronting Cordelia, Glenelg and Merivale Streets. The 6 storey classroom block, which includes 2 levels of parking, a concourse area, a relocated Uniform Shop and Canteen, was opened in **2016**.

- Block “I” constructed in **1989** as part of the BSHS Junior School Complex, designed to be compatible with the former SBIS.
- Block “K” the former Philips building that had been converted to an acclaimed Performing Arts and Music complex in **1995**.
- Block “L” the former Yakka building that had been converted to a revolutionary Visual Arts centre and the Art Factory Gallery in **1999**.
- Block “M” the former R.A.I.A. building that had been converted to a Resource/Administration centre in **1992**.

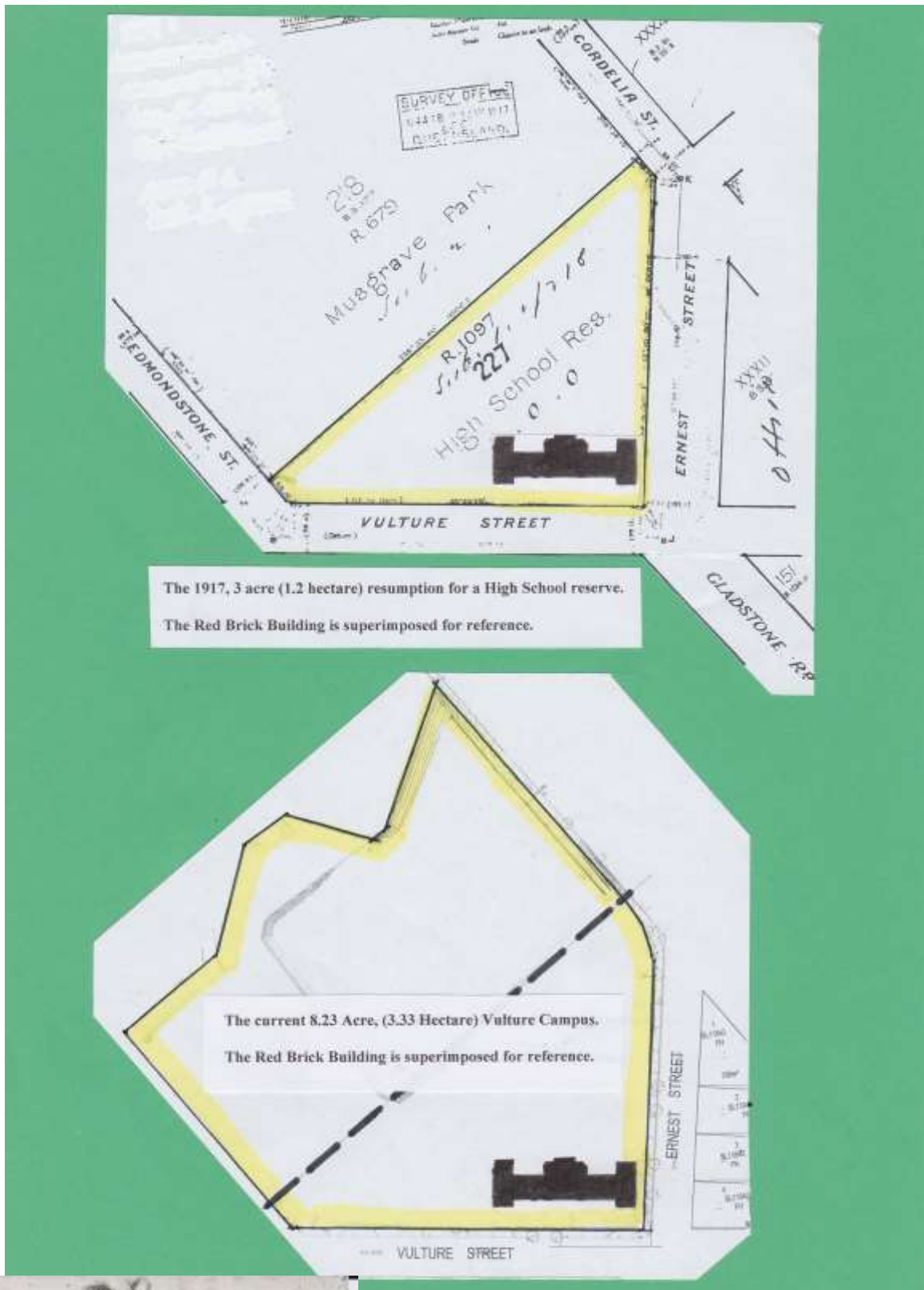
Acquisition of property has been a central element in the physical development of **State High** for over 100 years. Over the last 30 years, facilities have been demolished to enable new construction and existing buildings have been converted and refurbished to provide upgraded facilities for **State High** in the **2020’s**.

This overview of the physical evolution of **State High** is not all inclusive, but addresses some of the most significant and interesting changes to the physical environment that have affected **State High** over more than 100 years. This history becomes increasingly relevant as we plan for **State High’s** centenary celebrations in **2021**.
Barry Irwin BSHS PSA Registrar and AMICUS Editor



**The Normal School
 Foundation Stone
 Commemorative Plaque
 Opening Plaque**





The 1937 Rowing Shed and Pontoon



The 1952 "M" Rooms

2020 REUNIONS

The Classes of **1960, 1990, 2000** and **2010** are requested to contact the Registrar via bshspsa@gmail.com with information regarding your reunion. The **PSA** has prepared a checklist that is useful in planning your reunion and arranging publicity. The checklist is readily available from the Registrar.

CLASS of 1953 – 67 YEAR REUNION

Date: Friday 4 September
Contact: Alan Skyring
Venue: “Sofitel Brisbane Central”
Email: alan.g.s@bigpond.com

CLASS of 1970 50 YEAR REUNION

Date: Friday 16 October
Contact: Cecily Blake (Welsh)
Venue: “The Ship Inn”
Email: bshs1970reunion@yahoo.com.au

CLASS of 1980 40 YEAR REUNION

Date: September 2020
Contact: Rona Zorzetto (Yaxley)
Venue: To be advised
Email: mezoretto@bigpond.com

Brisbane State High School Past Students’ Association

The **BSHS PSA Annual General Meeting** was held on Saturday 8th February 2020.

The 2020 **BSHS PSA** Executive was elected at the AGM.

President :	Brad Thomas *	Vice President :	Charles Stubbs *
Secretary :	Glenise Scotney (Andrews)	Treasurer :	Robert Jeffery
Registrar :	Barry Irwin *	AMICUS Editor :	Barry Irwin *

The reappointed members* welcome the incoming appointees. The meeting expressed its sincere thanks to **John Harding**, Cass of 1977, for his 20 years of dedicated service as **PSA** Secretary.

PSA General Meetings will be held in the school museum in the Assembly / Sports Hall, Block “F”, on the Vulture Campus at 9.00 am on Saturday **9th May** and **7th November**. The mid year General Meeting will be held on **State High Day** on a date to be determined.

All past students are invited to attend these important meetings to provide input to their association.

VALE

The **BSHS PSA** records with regret the passing of the following past students and extends its condolences to their family and friends.

Dr James Cameron, Class of 1970 and Dux **Ross Morgan Lisle**, Class of 1957

Peter Jeremy Lowry, Class of 1988 **Peter Nelson Rose**, Class of 1953

DEVELOPMENT EXCELLENCE

Tony John, Class of 1970, owner and Managing Director of the Anthony John Group counts the \$600 million Southpoint development in South Bank, which includes the award winning Emporium Hotel, as one of the group’s finest achievements to date. Southpoint has created an iconic mixed-use address that incorporates luxury residential apartments, commercial and retail space and a unique world-class boutique hotel set in and around the heritage-listed Collins Place.

CANCELLATION

The Brisbane Greek festival Paniyiri has been cancelled for the first time in 44 years due to the coronavirus pandemic. Paniyiri organisation committee chair **Chris Kazonis OAM**, Class of 1969, announced the decision after consultation with the World Health Organisation and government.

AWARDS

The **BSHS PSA** congratulates the following past students who were acknowledged in the 2020 Australia Day Awards:

Ian Andrew Healy, Class of 1981, Officer (**AO**) General Division for distinguished service to cricket at the national and international level as a player, to the broadcast media and to the community.

Dr Marita Louise Cowie (Anderson), Year 10 1980, Member (**AM**) General Division for significant service to community health in rural and remote areas.

Dr Paul Elias Eliadis, Class of 1970, Member (**AM**) General Division for significant service to medicine as a clinical haematologist and to charitable institutions.

Dr Stephen George Papas, Class of 1950, Medal (**OAM**) General Division for service to the community and to dentistry.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

The achievements of the University of Queensland 2019 Alumni Awards winners demonstrate the breadth of excellence among the UQ alumni community.

The **BSHS PSA** congratulates the following past students who received a 2019 University of Queensland Alumni Award.

Dr Paul Eliadis, Class of 1970, who is a leading haematologist was the recipient of the *UQ Alumnus of the Year* award.

Jackie Anne French AM, Class of 1970, who is a literacy and historical education advocate and champion for the preservation of wombats received a *Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award*.

ANOTHER CENTENARY

The Currumbin Vikings Surf Life Saving Club celebrated 100 years of membership in February 2020. Olympians, **Duncan Armstrong**, Class of 1985, **Justin Lemberg**, Class of 1983 and **Jon Sieben**, Class of 1983, are all former Vikings. They mixed Olympic glory in the pool with surf life-saving. Justin and Jon shared an under-18 surf teams gold medal at the Australian championships just months before their medal exploits at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Duncan and Jon are both Olympic gold medallists and **State High Legends**.

ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY

Dr Nicholas Girdis CBE, School Captain 1943 and **State High Legend**, spearheaded the fundraising effort to restore the Brisbane Customs House after it was leased to the University of Queensland in 1992. Nicholas led UQ's first philanthropic campaign - the restoration of an opulent architectural artefact from Brisbane's colonial days, sitting empty and dilapidated on Brisbane's riverbank. The building reopened in 1994 and the 25th anniversary of its restoration was celebrated on 23 October 2019.

GREAT SCOTT

Scott Smith, Class of 1994, is Chief Financial Officer and a member of England Cricket Board's (ECB) Board, responsible for financial reporting and business planning. His work enables the organisation to budget effectively, control expenditure and deliver its revenue objectives. Scott also leads key business services including Legal & Integrity, Information & Technology and Procurement, as well as the Finance team. He has over two decades of experience in financial leadership across sectors spanning sport, property, construction and consultancy. With a classical grounding from Price Waterhouse Coopers, his more recent roles have been in motor racing and sailing's America's Cup. Scott's experience in sports and his demonstrable leadership skills have helped ECB drive improvement across the game.

WOMEN IN SPORT

Katie Page, Class of 1973 and **Charlotte Caslick**, Class of 2012, have been nominated in a list of the *Top 20 Most Influential Women in Australian Sport*. Katie was the first woman to be elected to the board of the NRL in 2004 and has been a backer of women in sport for decades. With a goal to level the playing field, Katie has spent millions of dollars in sponsorship to create pathways for women in the NRL, the AFL, netball, motor racing, soccer and horse racing. Her *Team Harvey Junior* initiative supports young female sports teams to work towards a professional career in sports. Charlotte played a pivotal role in securing a gold medal for the Australian Rugby Sevens team at the 2016 Rio Olympics. In recent years, Australia's women's sevens has achieved equity with Super Rugby in terms of entry level pay rates and in regard to growing the game, Charlotte has been a standout role model.

PREMIERSHIP HONOUR BOARD

The Premiership honour board that was presented to the school by the **BSHS PSA** in 2017 has been updated with the following 2019 QGSSSA premierships:

Cricket, Cross Country, Hockey, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Touch Football and Volleyball.

A M I C U S			
	BSHS PSA Cnr Cordelia and Glenelg Streets South Brisbane QLD 4101 Australia	The Red Brick Building Circa 2002	The Kurilpa Building 2016 Merivale and Glenelg Streets
	Email: bshspsa@gmail.com		The demolition of the Normal School on the corner of Adelaide and Edwards Streets in 1927. The City Hall is under construction on the left hand side.

SCOTT PUTS UP HIS DUKES

Former Queensland Bulls and University of Queensland fast bowler **Scott Walter**, Class of 2006, grabbed a stunning 9 for 15 in club cricket recently to demonstrate just how the Dukes ball has changed the game. Queensland Cricket's directive to use the Kookaburra ball pre-Christmas and England's higher seamed Dukes after the holiday break has put a smile on the Scott's face.

"The ball swings longer and there's actually a seam to move it off," Walter said after routing Redlands for 72 at Peter Burge Oval. In humid heat, Walter's inswingers nabbed four lbw's and bowled two victims for freak figures "I never dreamt of in my wildest dreams".

PORTRAIT PRIZE

A painting of one of Brisbane's most respected public servants has taken out the Packing Room Prize ahead of the announcement of the winner of the inaugural \$80,000 Brisbane Portrait Prize.

The prize, announced at Brisbane's Powerhouse, was awarded to Brisbane-based painter Tom Macbeth for his portrait of **Sir Leo Hielscher**, Jnr Class of 1941, **State High** Legend and Patron of the **State High Foundation**.

Sir Leo is considered a major figure in Queensland. He worked in the public service for 68 years and served as the Queensland Treasury Corporation chairman until his retirement in 2010.