

Goollelal Primary School - Celebration of 40 Years

Dear Goollelal

It brings me such joy to reflect upon my short though hugely influential time at Goollelal Primary School - a place of possibilities and wondrous imagining. My memories are so vivid and rich, I find it hard to believe it has been 40 years since I experienced such happy and joy filled times there.

The school in my mind was enormous - both in physical scale and in the vast number and size of the kids attending. Being a smallish year two student, the school and world seemed impossibly big. There was a frenetic energy from the walk in to school - kids were abuzz with play and conversation. There was a beautiful simplicity of life in these parts - not many houses and plenty of surrounding bush land. As we ran into school you could feel the positivity abound - faces full of delight and mischief. The classrooms were light-filled and everything looked and smelt new.....bag hooks, carpet, windows, concertina doors, chairs, blackboards, drink fountains.....the rooms were full of colour and vibrancy and we had everything we needed. We were together on a wonderful journey.

I made my very first friendships at Goollelal and figured I'd be with these people forever.....but time moves on and sadly I lost contact with these friends, though my mind holds their spirits close.

I remember so fondly my brilliant teachers, Miss War, Miss Coakley and Miss Wiseman others too of course! I wonder where they are and if they remember me. They were simply magnificent people, ever considerate and always knowledgeable guides. I loved coming into their classrooms, as they made learning fun and we felt safe. We made things and we took risks..... we learnt perseverance and commitment. Their tireless energy and selflessness knew no bounds - they were angels of this earth. Thank you dear teachers.

I remember the marvellous library - full of books, board games and so much more. It was a place of quiet and calm. I believe I opened my first bank account there.....depositing a sweet smelling two dollar note - one I never withdrew!

Lunchtime was heaven - we'd play hide and seek throughout the school grounds or kick footies on the resplendent new oval. Food entailed a Vegemite sandwich, apple and water - the very occasional sausage roll and sauce was a five star experience. I don't recall ever wearing a hat or needing to apply sunscreen - maybe some things in life have improved! The undercover area was always full of children - it was tricky to navigate and a little bit intimidating. I wonder if it's still the same.

Essentially, I feel my memories recall how new and fresh the school was and the people being so vital and fully alive!

Further associations with Goollelal include other wondrous discoveries of the time, those being the music of Prince, MJ, Duran Duran and Culture Club, and the subculture of breakdancing! Star Wars and Masters of the Universe were utterly captivating sci-fi imaginings, which gave rise to new kinds of pop-culture. These were also the heady days of the WAFL, when my mighty West Perth Cardinals were mediocre but we had Derek Kickett! One-day 50 over cricket was underway and Thursday late night shopping at Charlie Carters was a weekly highlight! Technology was somewhat antiquated by today's standards but was mesmerising all the same. We had VHS video, while Donkey Kong, Pac-Man and Galaga were the games and Countdown was the show! We could ride the streets forever on our new Redlines and Mongooses; make bush cubbies and ride three-wheeler motorbikes across all manner of terrains! Life quite literally knew no bounds and suburbia was truly joyous - the days were ever long and life was a dream.

So, here I am, now 47 and a long way from the little curly headed fella who discovered this school wonderland all those years ago. Yet, I lived that life and will be ever grateful for my time at Goollelal Primary School. I trust not much has changed and hope the joy bestowed upon me and so many thousands of other children continues on forever more.....what a joy you are Goollelal.

Thank you for letting me reminisce and allowing me to share my memories.

Best wishes,
Jerome

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1981-83