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THE  
*Glennie*  
SCHOOL

# Glennie Archives

The History of the  
Glennie Preparatory School



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## THE GLENNIE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

In 1912, Miss Marguerite Sutton came to Toowoomba and opened a preparatory school and kindergarten at St Luke's Parish Hall, with an enrolment of six pupils. At this time, Miss Sutton owned the school herself and was supported by members of St Luke's Parish. The numbers gradually increased, and Mrs Oakeley and Miss Hunt assisted in the work.

In 1914, Miss Sutton rented Dr Price's residence, in Herries Street, for the accommodation of boarders. In time, the boarding school was well established, and Glennie Preparatory School students passing between the house in Herries Street and the Parish Hall became a familiar sight.



Herries Street House



Miss Sutton

Miss Sutton owned the School until 1921 when it became associated with The Glennie Memorial School, whereby the Preparatory School would cater for junior pupils, as well as providing kindergarten for the tiny tots. Miss Sutton remained in sole charge of the School until 1940.



"Winton"

This prosperous school, which had grown from a handful of pupils, was taken over by the Church of England. As it continued to develop and expand, a house behind St Luke's Church, called St Luke's Lodge was bought. This was converted into senior class rooms. A second house, "Winton," in Herries Street, was rented for the overflow of boarders. School at

this time was being conducted in four separate buildings.

The next landmark was the formation of the School Council, the members of which shared in the ever-growing responsibilities. The original members were Mr J M Yates, W Provan, the Rev'd R W Shand, Messrs O Booth, J Cohen, W Hodgen and A Leslie. Mr J Cohen acted as Honorary Secretary.

1930 was an important year for The Glennie Preparatory School, when Queensland's Governor, Sir John Goodwin opened the new Sutton House building for the boarders in the grounds beside the main school. As the classrooms were still at St Luke's, a bus was bought to take the children to and fro. This arrangement continued until the Gordon Club purchased the building near St Luke's Church. Bishop Dixon opened the new preparatory classrooms, later called "Blue Dorm", which were built adjoining the boarding house. Built into an alcove in one of the rooms was a beautifully appointed little altar where daily services were held for the preparatory students. The children still attended St Luke's Church, where close ties had been formed.



Sutton House

The school progressed steadily. A hall and junior class room were added to the buildings which were connected by covered ways. A second tennis court was built and dammon was laid under the school and on the drive where the children spent many happy hours on their skates.



1940 closes the individual history of the original Glennie Preparatory School with the resignation of Miss Sutton. Miss Gwen Dowson was appointed Principal of The Glennie School in 1939. In 1940, The Glennie School and The Glennie Preparatory School amalgamated.

In 1942, due to World War II, the Australian Army requisitioned the Glennie Preparatory School



and established the Surgical Division of the 117 Australian General Hospital. This forced the movement of The Glennie Preparatory School to "Smithfield", an 80 acre property on the corner of Drayton Road and Alderley Streets. After Easter 1942, most boarders lived at "Smithfield" where the war years were hard, but happy. The Kindergarten moved classes back to one of the buildings at St Luke's until the end of the war when they returned to the ground floor of Sutton House. There Kindergarten stayed until 1964, when the former Prep classroom building, later "Blue Dorm" became the Kindergarten's new home.

In 1964 The Glennie Preparatory School returned to the main school campus. The plan was "to exploit fully all buildings before entering upon any further development" on campus. The Glennie Kindergarten was closed in 1968 as it was "expensive to maintain the high standard for which it had always been known, and this expense was no longer justifiable, owing to the decrease in the number of girls proceeding to the Preparatory School". The closure of the kindergarten facilitated the reconstruction and improvement of the rest of the school.

In 1972, The Glennie Preparatory School amalgamated with the Church of England Boys' Preparatory School. This was the end of an era in the history of the Glennie Preparatory School and a significant landmark in the history of The Glennie School. The decision to combine the Glennie Preparatory School and the Church of England Boys' School was the result of a recommendation from the School's Council to the Diocesan Council. Administration was to be combined under the Headmaster of the Boys' School, Mr E G White. The decision was the result of a great deal of planning between the two schools. The advantages were many and included a range of educational, social, economic and administrative benefits, as well as the girls joining larger classes, learning to mix more freely and share the excellent facilities at the Boys' Preparatory. The girls, however, retained their identity as students of The Glennie School and also continued contact with the main school, attending Glennie for their physical education classes. Teachers

from the main school visited them at Boys' Preparatory for their music and speech lessons. The girls also joined in many of the traditional Glennie activities such as the swimming and athletics carnivals, Autumn Fair and the Founders' Day picnic. The boarders moved from Sutton House to "Bogunda", in Campbell Street, opposite the new buildings of the Church of England Boys' School. It was a comfortable and attractive Glennie Preparatory house for boarders.

In 1992 The Glennie Preparatory School reopened in Herries Street with Year 6 and Year 7 classes only. The Head of the new Glennie Preparatory School was Mr Paul Southwell and the Deputy Head was Mrs Brenda Suhr. This was exactly 20 years after the amalgamation of the original Glennie Preparatory with Toowoomba Boys' Preparatory. This new facility once again provided parents with the option of an Anglican, girls only education for their daughters. In 1993, The Glennie Preparatory School was able to offer full primary programs from Year 1 to Year 7. Mr Steve Warren, already on staff, was appointed Head of The Glennie Preparatory School in 1996 after Mr Southwell resigned.



In 1999, the Glennie Pre-School opened, adding yet another dimension to Preparatory Schooling at Glennie.

In 2005 The Glennie Preparatory School redevelopment stage one classrooms opened.

The kindergarten reopened in 2006. Called The Glennie Community Kindergarten Assoc. Inc. It added a place of fun, play and personal development for both boys and girls.



In 2006 The Glennie Preparatory School's name changed to Glennie Junior Years, reflecting the changing environment of education at the Glennie Campuses. 2006 was also the year that Middle Years schooling was introduced to The Glennie School. Year 7 was taken into the fold of the Senior School, while Year 6 became the final year at Glennie Junior Years.

During the period 2004 to 2011, there was extensive redevelopment and upgrading of The Glennie Preparatory School Campus.





Stage One Development

2009 saw the Junior Years redevelopment Stage 2 classrooms opened which included six new classrooms, a new library and resource centre and an art and design facility. All classes are now taught in modern, well-equipped and air-conditioned facilities.

Coupled with this, as a result of the Federal Governments' Building the Education Revolution (BER) funding, re-development continued years ahead of schedule, with the completion of Stage 3 facilities in 2010. The new facilities support the arts and languages program in the Junior Years and provide much needed new bathroom and changeroom facilities, Music, Languages, Dance, Learning Support classroom spaces and a massive undercover play and sports area. In

addition to this, an interior upgrade of the Administration area was completed, providing a modern, welcoming and functional office space for non-teaching staff along with staffroom areas for all staff. Remodelling of the play areas and the redevelopment of the Administration building saw all planned redevelopment completed on the Junior Years Campus in 2010, enabling Glennie Junior Years to conduct all activities (other than some sports and Chapel) on their own campus.

The Glennie Junior Years Campus provides what is considered to be possibly the best facilities available for primary school girls in the region.

In 2013 the completed works were named the Mike Norris Building. This was in honour of Mr Michael Norris, Head of the Glennie School in 1992 who was instrumental in the re-opening of Glennie Preparatory. His vision for the growth of the School was realised with the completion of the new facilities.



Stage 3 Development

# TIMELINE

- 1912 Preparatory School & Kindergarten open at St Luke's Hall
- 1914 Boarding house leased
- 1921 Preparatory School associated with The Glennie School
- 1928 Formation of Preparatory School Council
- 1930 Sutton House opened
- 1940 Miss Sutton resigns. The Glennie School and Glennie Preparatory School amalgamate
- 1942 Australian Army takes over Glennie Preparatory School and forces move to "Smithfield"
- 1964 Glennie Preparatory School returns to Glennie Main School
- 1968 Glennie Kindergarten closes
- 1972 Glennie Preparatory School amalgamates with Church of England Boys' Preparatory School
- 1992 The Glennie Preparatory School reopens in Herries Street
- 1999 Glennie Pre-School opened
- 2006 Change of name to Glennie Junior Years  
Kindergarten reopens (in conjunction with The Crèche & Kindergarten Association – named The Glennie Community Kindergarten Assoc. Inc.)
- 2004 – 2010 Redevelopment and completion of Junior Years Campus upgrade
- 2011 Kindergarten owned and managed by The Glennie School (rather than The Crèche & Kindergarten Association.)
- 2013 The completed Glennie Junior Years building works officially named the Mike Norris Building.



# REFERENCES

This booklet has been compiled by The Glennie School Archives Officer, Mrs Jennifer Black, from resources within the Glennie Archive and Historical Collection.

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