History of Brooks

On the 3rd of February, 1948 the Newnham Hall Community School was opened with 160 students. Later that year on the 12th of August 1948 Tasmania’s Premier and Minister for Education laid the foundation stone and renamed the school the G.V. Brooks Community School. The renaming was a tribute to the former Director-General of Education who acquired the site of the school in 1940.

The school estate consisted of 179 acres of parkland, farms, gardens and playing fields. Mr. R.L. Whitford was the headmaster who had the idea of building a community according to the school motto which in the aboriginal language ‘Bukmak Djama, Bukmak Gornggayam’ means ‘Everybody work, everybody help’.

In 1960 the school was renamed Brooks High School with enrolments moving toward the 1000 mark. Enrolments reached 1300 in 1974.

With such a large enrolment of students the introduction of sub-schools happened in 1976 called sub-schools 1,2,3,4 and 5. Each sub-school had its own buildings, classrooms and personnel, operating as independently as possible. In later years the sub-schools were reduced to four and named after the old houses of McIntyre, Hughes, Fletcher and Cosgrove.

In 1990 Brooks High School after 42 years, moved to a new site at Rocherlea.

The decision was taken by the community to change the organisation of the school in 1995 from being sub-school based to being focussed on ‘junior’ school (grade 7 & 8) and ‘senior’ school (grades 9 & 10).

1995 also saw the launch of the ‘No Dole Project’ for grade 10s.