



# THE PIONEER

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## Ted Broadley: Memories of Stroud

This is the first of two articles thanks to the memories of Ted Broadley, son of former Central Hotel publican, Ted Broadley. The Broadley family were at our Central Hotel from the late 1950s until the early 1960s. Ted remembers arriving in Stroud when he was about four years of age. The family was made up of his mother Violet, father Ted, half-brother Peter (five years older), and Aunt Wyn, Violet's sister, and also the cook at the Hotel. Ted had another half-brother, John, who was older and resided in Newcastle. Ted can see a lot of changes at the Hotel though the town is much the same as he recalls. This article will focus on Ted's memories of the people and the town.

Ted has great memories of the shops. He recalled a fish and chip shop almost opposite where the police station is now. Edie Barnett had a business in what is now Stroud Hardware with her husband, Cliff. They used the whole store, selling groceries, and at the end next to Crafty Friends, they had a milk bar which you could access from the street. Once they semi-retired, they closed the store and moved to Booral where they had the service station in the same location as today, with a café as well. Ted also recalled Edie being the church organist at St John's.

Edie and Cliff Barnett lived in the house behind the council chambers, or R & R Property's rooms. Ted remembered septic coming to Stroud and the Barnett's taking the opportunity to renovate their home. This was a big job, taking 4-5 months, so they stayed at the hotel in the honeymooner's suite while the work was done. That suite is the corner room upstairs. The Barnett renovations included bringing the toilet up to the house and the chip heater being replaced, modernising the bathroom.

Ted remembers a town with great community spirit. The town was very social and lots of Stroud folk went to Legges Camp for their holidays which is on the Myall Lakes.

The children entertained themselves much differently in those days. There was no swimming pool. The closest pool



*Stroud Kindergarten 1959, thanks to Ted Broadley for the original.*

was in Raymond Terrace. Instead, they swam in nature's pools – the Towser and at Washpool. The Towser was behind the primary school down near Mill Creek. Ted and Margaret Swilks remembered going to Washpool for barbecues and picnics, packing everything in backpacks and riding out there on their push bikes. It was safer for children to go off exploring and having fun back then.

At school, Ted remembers doing lots of running, playing games, and Rosemary Neville was his teacher. Mrs Neville lived in Stroud House. Ted's worst memory of school was wetting his pants and being sent home. His best memories were of tuckshop day when he could have something different for lunch, and Sandy Wilson who was the milkman who would bring a huge stainless steel urn full of milk for the children to line up for their cup of milk for play lunch, having brought their own cup from home. After school, Ted would play with local children at the hotel, or go to their homes for games.

The second article will look at life at Central Hotel.

If you have memories or a story to share, please contact R & R Property.

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