

Magnetic Island State School - a Potted History

Magnetic Island State School opened as a provisional school in 1924. The summary below shows some of the significant dates in the development of the school.

- In the early 1920s, Nelly Bay was well established as a community with flourishing fruit and vegetable farming and boutique residential and tourist accommodation.
- Some children were regularly required to help in the family business, but often they would be sent on the long walk to the Picnic Bay school which had been established since 1913.
- By 1924, a group of community members from Nelly Bay began urging the Department of Public Instruction to establish a separate school in Nelly Bay. There were 20 children available to attend the school.
- The school was to be a provisional school, so the community was to be responsible for providing a building. Mr John O'Leary, then-owner of the Mandalay boarding establishment offered the kiosk building in his grounds. This building was octagonal in shape, with a concrete floor and wooden louvered windows. (See Figure 1)

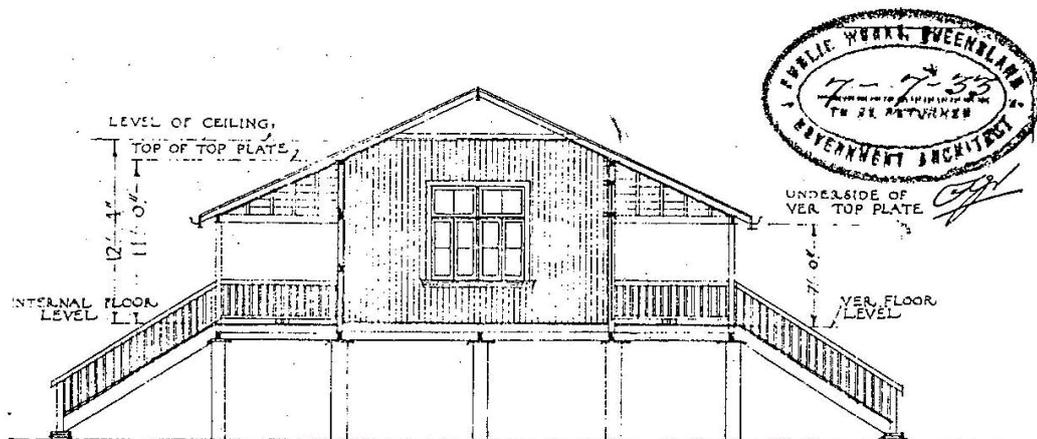


The Kiosk at Mandalay - the building chosen for the Nelly Bay Provisional School, 1924

Figure 1

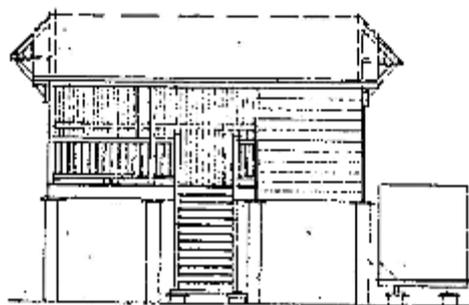
- On the 15th of September, 1924, the first names of pupils were entered on the Admission Register.
- As the kiosk lease was running out, the Department began making arrangements for land in Nelly Bay to be permanently reserved for a school.

- In August 1927, Kathleen Barnicle took over as Head Teacher and began the involved task of establishing a school on the school grounds.
- In March 1928, a small school building was transported by rail and boat from Wills River in Western Queensland to the new reserve at Nelly Bay.
- As from 1st September, 1928, the Nelly Bay Provisional School became a State School.
- By Monday, 13th November, 1933, a new building had been constructed and was occupied by students. (See Figure 2, Figure 3)



Section Drawing, new Nelly Bay State School, 1933
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Figure 2



Front Elevation of the new Nelly Bay State School - 1933

Figure 3

- In August 1948, plans were approved for a three bedroom high set residence to be erected on the Bottiger Street frontage of the school grounds.
- In 1969, the Head Teacher, Mr Sid Goodsall was charged with the task of 'consolidating' the three one-teacher schools on the Island (Nelly Bay, Picnic

Bay and Horseshoe Bay). The only definite instruction was that the new school should be at Nelly Bay.

- Around this time, Picnic Bay State School was closed for good.
- Following Cyclone Althea, at Christmas 1971, Nelly Bay School began the 1972 school year with 48 pupils. Later in the year, horseshow Bay School was closed.
- Nelly Bay School was renamed Magnetic Island State School.
- The official Pre-School was opened on Mandalay Avenue on 3 October, 1983.
- By the mid-1990s, with enrolments now exceeding 200, plans for a new, purpose-built double classroom block required that the 1933 building be moved to a new location altogether. in 1995, 'H' Block was opened on the site of the old building, and 'A' Block, now shifted and rejuvenated, went back into service as a classroom. (Figure 4)



Figure 4