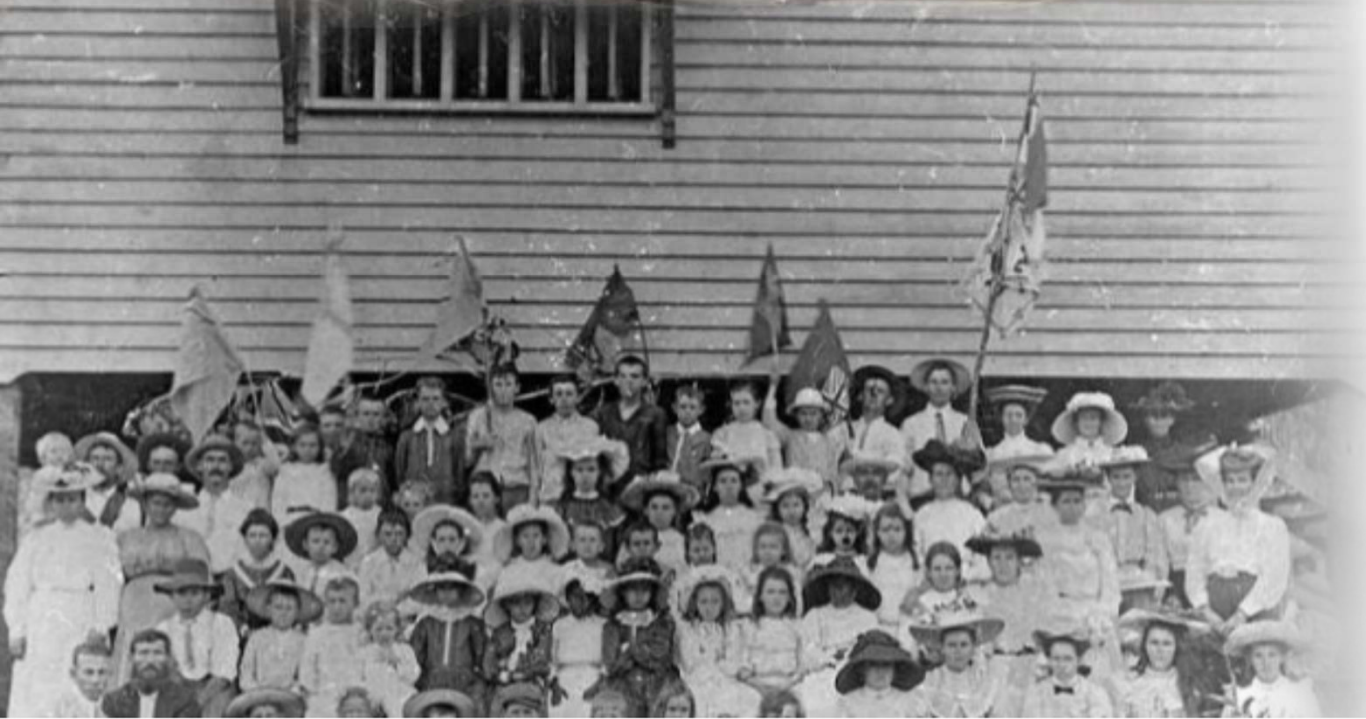




Our History

1900 – Present day



History of Frenchville State School

Frenchville School began as Frenchman's Creek Provisional School on 22 November 1900. The original building consisted of one main room with front and back verandas. Average enrolment for 1900 was 22 pupils.

In 1909 the school was upgraded to State School status. On 7 January 1925 the Department changed the name of the school to Frenchville State School. 1977 saw over 900 student enrolments with 32 permanent classrooms, three temporary classrooms under buildings plus office, library, health room, special needs room, music room and two activities areas.

The school continued to grow with the opening of the following buildings:

- Preschool centre 1973
- Original library 1974 (converted to classrooms 2010)
- Dental clinic 1979
- Administration block 1982
- Music block 1991
- Two additional classrooms 2002
- Relocatable building 2003
- All classrooms air-conditioned by 2004
- School Activity Centre 2005
- Prep classroom refurbishment 2005 in preparation for the establishment of the prep year
- Senior amenities block 2006
- The TWIST Centre (incorporating our library collection, computer lab, theatrette, and science lab) 2011
- Additional prep modulars 2012 and 2013

Today classes are accommodated in a mixture of permanent and relocatable buildings. The administration building was extended and refurbished in 2016. The TWIST has a photographic wall acknowledging and celebrating the history of the school.



The Centenary Garden

The Centenary Garden located behind the H block covered area contains a time capsule and a plaque commemorating Frenchville's Centenary celebration, conducted in the year 2000. The time capsule is set to be opened on the 22 November 2025 on the occasion of the school's 125th birthday.



The George James Memorial Garden

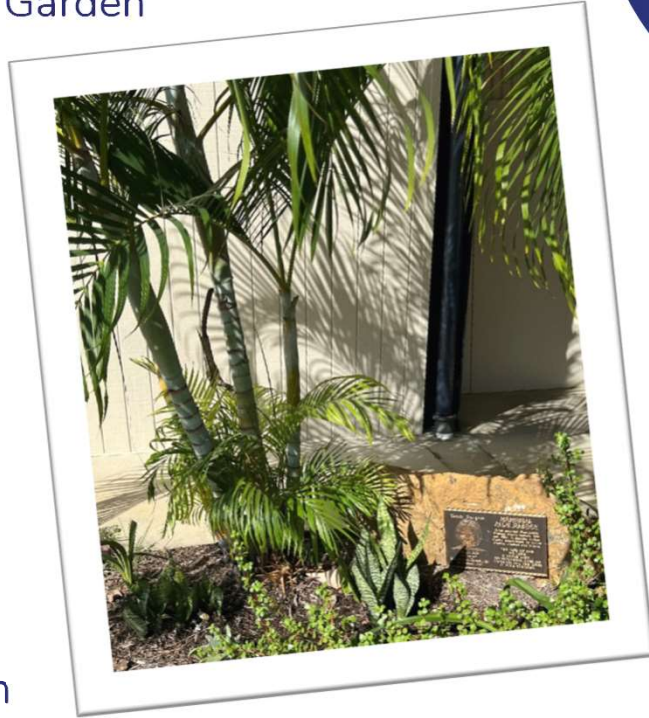
Mr James was the principal of Frenchville from 1911 to 1950. George had a love of gardening and established a good relationship with the local Botanical Gardens curator, who supplied plants and information to shade the Frenchville grounds.

Mr James established many garden beds full of annuals and roses, making the Frenchville grounds one of the most picturesque in the area. The George James Memorial Garden was opened in July 1955, and 110 rose bushes were planted to commemorate the memory of the late Mr James. The Garden has diminished in size over the years due to the school building expansion program but remains in pride of place outside the school administration block.



The Sarah Burgess Memorial Garden

Sarah Burgess was a Frenchville student who tragically lost her life in a swimming accident. Sarah's memorial was originally located in the palm garden near the tuckshop laneway. In 2014 it was relocated to the front of the TWiST.



The ANZAC Memorial Garden

Dedicated in 2007, the Frenchville ANZAC Memorial Garden was established by Senior Teacher Mr Anthony Spyve to remember the fallen. The garden, built by Anthony on weekends, forms the centre of our annual ANZAC commemorative ceremony. This memorial was carefully and thoughtfully planned to be a small token of recognition and appreciation of all those brave men and women who have served and are currently serving to protect our freedom.

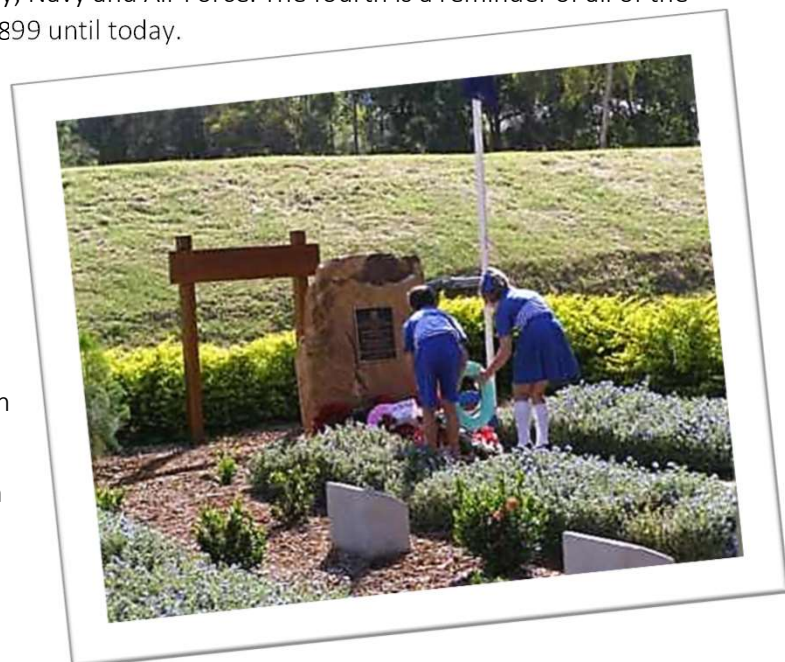
The garden features many significant representations of that recognition. The selected plants represent our country and sacrifice. Sheenas, around the border of the garden are green and gold, which represent Australia. The bright red, flowering plants in the middle of the garden represent the blood spilled on the many battlefields around the world by our brave soldiers.

Twenty-eight stepping stones in two lines of fourteen, lead into the memorial, which represent our soldiers marching as one. Fourteen sets of stones remind us of the year WW1 was declared, 1914; after Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne was assassinated on 28th June. Four pillars along the path represent strength. They also represent the three arms of the defence force, Army, Navy and Air Force. The fourth is a reminder of all of the conflicts Australian troops have been involved in from 1899 until today.

A commemorative plaque is located on a large granite rock. The granite depicts the harsh Turkish landscape at Anzac cove that overwhelmed our soldiers during the Anzac campaign. It reminds us of the great odds that were presented to the Australian and New Zealand troops and how they fought despite great hardships.

In honour of the massive loss of life at Lone Pine during the Anzac campaign, we have planted a pine tree to remind us all, that those that came before us, have given the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedoms today.

The statement of remembrance, Lest We Forget, is seen engraved into hardwood beyond the focal point of the memorial.



The Yarning Circle and Indigenous Mural

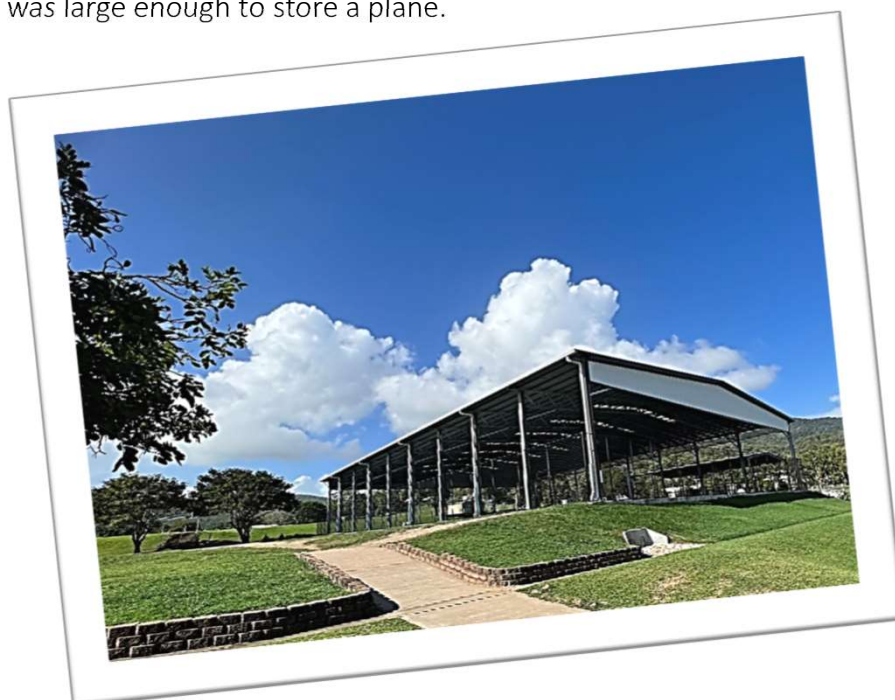
In 2021, a yarning circle was established near the TWIST on the junior oval. This location was chosen for the amazing views of Mt Archer and proximity to an entrance on Geordie Street for ease of community members to access. Local sandstone was sourced from west of Rockhampton. The yarning circle was opened with a smoking ceremony with our Elder Wade Mann and the year 6 students before our NAIDOC assembly.

An indigenous mural was added to the nearby wall in 2022 by parent and indigenous artist Brandon Butler. The work incorporates the symbols and totems of the Darumbal people – the water lily and green tree frog. Native animals are also incorporated into the design. Plans are in progress to establish an indigenous bush tucker garden along the fence line.



The Hangar

Commencing in 2021 and concluding in 2022, a large covered area was constructed over the existing basketball, tennis and netball courts. The courts were revitalised and additional equipment added. The covered area was much larger than expected, so it was named the Hangar as we felt it was large enough to store a plane.





Frenchville State School

Together we shape tomorrow



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