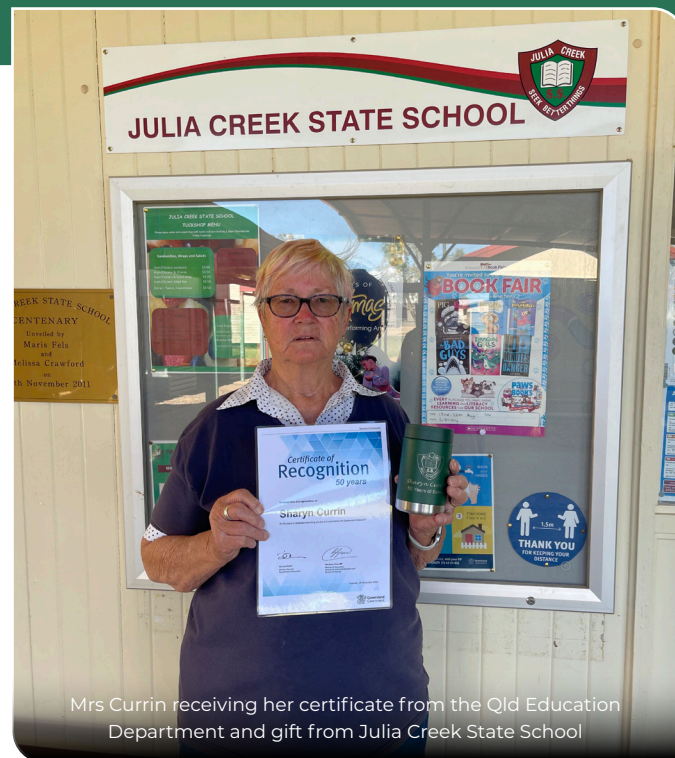


# RECOGNITION FOR AN EDUCATION HERO

Julia Creek Branch



Staff at Julia Creek State School circa 1972 Alan Martin, Perry Wuth, Bill Hermann, Roy Hodgins, Kev Holden, Laurel Philips, Maureen Downey, Rose Cooney, Sharyn Currin



Mrs Currin receiving her certificate from the Qld Education Department and gift from Julia Creek State School

In a time when we change phones every 2 years, shavers are disposable and very few people stay with a company long enough to receive long service leave, someone working as a teacher for over 50 years is fairly incredible.

## But that's an understatement in describing Sharyn Currin.

In 1968 (and she will hate that we've now dated her in age) when a young lady was finishing high school and they had some educational acumens there were generally only 2 careers open to them. Teaching or nursing. Teaching was the obvious choice for Sharyn as she wasn't good with blood.

In those days to become a teacher you studied for 2 years before you went out into the teaching world. This mean that at the age of 20 she started as a Home Economics teacher at the Toowoomba State High School (also known as Mount Lofty), often teaching students only a few years younger than her and even a younger sister or two.

This was the start of the 70's, the Vietnam war was still going on, man hadn't long made it to the moon, there were protests, hippies everywhere, and the fashions at the time were either very long skirts, or VERY short skirts. Sharyn of course preferred the shorter skirts and the high boots. She had to learn quickly how high she could raise her arm to write on the black board before her skirt rose too far to be appropriate.

This knowledge wasn't enough for the older male Principal of Mt Lofty, and he soon transferred her out of the school. Her transfer

was to a town that she had only ever heard of in passing as being a long way away from anywhere, especially from Toowoomba, the one and only Julia Creek.

In those days if you were transferred to another school, there wasn't a lot of choice in taking that transfer if you wanted to keep a job.

Julia Creek was a huge move for Sharyn. She had never lived this far away from home and had never lived any more remotely than at her family farm outside of Millmerran.

But in her typical no-fuss manner, she arranged for her pink Mini Minor (a popular car in the 70's) to be transported up to Julia Creek, and up she went, getting a lift up with two male teachers who also taught at Julia Creek.

She had however promised her mother that she would only be in Julia Creek for 18 months, and then she had plans to go on to Malawi in Africa to work as a teacher.

Fortunately for Julia Creek (and her children), she soon met her now husband Terry Currin who was from a local grazing family. They married in December 1972 and Sharyn finished full time teaching at that time as the property was too far from town. 4 children followed over the next 11 years. Sharyn kept her teacher registration post-children and still to this day teaches 2 days a week at Julia Creek State School and supply work when required. Sharyn was recognised for her 50 years of service at the beginning of the 2023 school year.