

My name is Marianne Allen (nee Marx) known as Mary-Anne Marx at Woollahra Public School 1939 - 1941.

I am enclosing one School Badge and two class photos 1939 and 1941. (X marks me)

I started school end of 1939. My family migrated from Germany just before World War II broke out in 1939.

Woollahra Public School was the first school I had ever attended. Being 6½ years old I was put into first class. I could not speak a word of English and could not read or write in any language. I had never been to kindergarten. (In those days there were no special English lessons for migrants)

I remember crying when my mother left me at school.

I had a very nice teacher (can't remember her name) but the headmistress of the Infants School was Miss Stephens.

My teacher took me to the little shop over the road from the school run by Mr. Brookes. The children called it Brooksies. We bought milk for the staffroom, and I was allowed to help put the cups and saucers out for the teacher's morning tea. Brown sugar was placed on the table (something I had never seen before) so put my finger into the bowl to try it. I liked it. I think white sugar was scarce during the war.

My family rented an upstairs duplex No. 17 Wellington Street and I could see the back of the house from the playground and my mother waved to me from the back verandah.

I really do not remember much of my 2 years at Woollahra, but obviously I learnt to speak English and progressed.

After 2nd class we moved to Roseville and I went to Roseville Public School for 4 years, then onto Roseville Girls College.

I did very well at school and loved school and was sad when I had to leave.

Best wishes

*Marianne Allen*



Class 2A, 1941



Class 1A, 1940