75 years of education

By Alicia Wood

CONNELLS Point Public School has seen many of its former students go on to great things since graduating from year 6.

Its alumni include Attorney-General Robert McClelland, his sister Jan, who was once Director-General of the NSW Department of Education and Training, and former Wallabies captain Phil Kearns.

For 75 years, Connells Point Public School has been a home away from home for generations of students and their families.

Esme Bollingmoore, a student from 1934 to 1939, will be a special guest at the Jubilee Open Day on August 11, flanked by her grandchildren, who also attended the school, some presently.

In memoirs written for the anniversary year book, Mrs Bollingmoore recalls aspects of school life, like the cane, that are a world away from her grandchildren’s experience.

School excursions in Mrs Bollingmoore’s day were few and far between.

“We had Arbor Day and Gould League Day ... [and] we went for walks around the school for nature study [but] we did not have much in the way of excursions,” she said.

“World War II was looming and everyone was being careful money wise.”

Former students and community members can reminisce about the school’s history at two events planned to take place in August.

A Jubilee Celebration Dinner Dance will be held at St Georges Leagues Club on August 8, followed by an open day on August 11 to be attended by past and present students and teachers.

Details: Sue Szalay, 0404 022 489.