

## ELIZABETH FIELDER: ENGLISH AND ATHLETICS TEACHER, 1961-1970



Elizabeth Joyce Fielder nee Humphreys was an English and Athletics teacher who started at St Albans in 1961 and worked through to 1970. She had a Diploma of Physical Education and an A.C.T.T. with the Melbourne Teachers College.

Elizabeth Humphreys was born in 1925 in Kent, United Kingdom, to John Thomas Humphreys (1896-1968) and Constance Ann "Annie" Burke (1894-1997).

John Thomas Humphreys was a miner and his ancestry goes back to 1740 in Bwlchbychan, Hirnant, Montgomeryshire, Wales. Constance Ann Burke was born in Hampshire and her ancestry goes back to 1864 in Portsea Island, Hampshire, England. John and Constance married in Kent in 1919 and raised three children:

John Eric (1920), Elizabeth Joyce (1925), and Kenneth Ernest (1931).

Elizabeth Joyce Humphreys married Peter Norman Fielder in Kent in 1946. His family ancestry is not known. He might have served in the WW2 Royal Marines Forces as a Temporary Second Lieutenant but other details are unknown.

The Fielder family arrived in Sydney on the "New Australia" in December 1951 under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme. Peter and Elizabeth were quite young - both aged 26 years - and had two daughters: Margaret Elizabeth born December 1947, and Carol Anne born December 1949. They were initially housed through the Department of Immigration in Sydney. By 1954 they were located in Moe, Gippsland, where Peter was working as a fitter and Elizabeth was occupied in the traditional home duties.

They must have moved to Melbourne by the late 1950s as Mrs Fielder started at St Albans High School in 1961. By 1963 they were resident at 66 Errington Road, St Albans. At this stage Norman was a supervisor and Elizabeth was a teacher.

Mrs Fielder taught English and was active in sports/athletics with several groups of students under her supervision. At various stages she led groups such as the house captains, girls' athletics, the school athletics team, the swimming team, and the tennis team. She also assisted with other events and in 1963 arranged the National Song and Dance Tableau that was performed as part of the High School Concert held in the Anglican Hall - these performers reflected the students' multi-cultural backgrounds and included Egyptian, Greek, German, Dutch, Australian, British, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Byelo Russian, Ukrainian, and Yugoslavian. A wonderful time was had by all.



Polish dancers, National Song and Dance Tableau 1963.

During the mid 1960s she served on the Advisory Council of the school's Parents and Friends' Association. 1964 must have been a particularly busy year for them as they were raising money to build the assembly hall.

Mrs Fielder is another teacher whose personal history is largely unknown. Even her daughters who attended the school have left few reminders in the school magazines, though Margaret is noted as Form Captain for 2A in 1962, a class which was described as "quite a noisy, mischeivous form, but there is rarely a dull a moment."

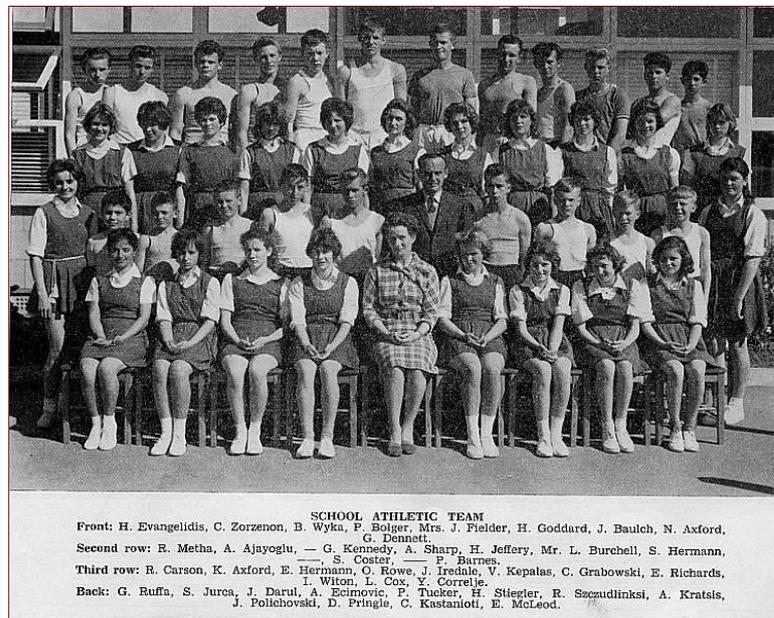
Yvonne Correlje recalls: "I went to St. Albans High School in 1961 and was there for only four years, till the end of 1964. It started off alright in years 7 and 8, but then I lost my friends. Margaret Fielder went to Castlemaine."

Leo Dobes recalls: "There was a farm house that fronted the rough cattle track that used to be Stenson's Road, but I don't recall ever seeing the occupants. It was rumoured that Mrs Fielder, a teacher at St Albans High in the early sixties, lived there because her two daughters kept horses."

The family moved to Elwood in the mid 1970s.

Elizabeth Joyce Fielder nee Humphreys passed away in Melbourne in 1995 at age 69.

Peter Norman Fielder passed away in Melbourne in 2008 at age 83.



Mrs Fielder and School Athletics Team 1961.



Mrs Fielder and House Captains 1961.



Mrs Fielder and Tennis Team 1962.



#### Girls' Athletics

**Back Row:** I. Rutkowski, P. Barnes, L. Kurach, K. Frede, E. Richards, O. Rowe, M. Lawton, Y. Correlja, S. Townsend.  
**Third Row:** E. Karpyn, L. Cox, M. Dealy, V. McQueen, R. Carson, V. Zvaigne, D. Sackus, B. Wyka, M. Gangur, S. Gunew.  
**Second Row:** I. Dworjanin, W. Taras, H. Evangelidis, K. McIntyre, H. Goddard, M. Perati, A. Becker, W. Kud, L. Jouanovic, N. Ajayoglu, P. Bolger, M. Jankovic.  
**First Row:** L. Golowka, E. Schwartz, L. Farmer, B. Goddard, H. Read, J. Van Winden, T. Korinsky, Mrs. J. Fielder, M. Jaciow, J. Heymig, M. Heine, L. Postusiak, G. Potter, L. Sossi.

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Mrs Fielder and Girls' Athletics Team 1962.

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