

Submission Regarding M Block

The historic first building on the Ballina High School site, M Block, was constructed in 1930 of red bricks, mostly sourced locally at the Ballina Brickworks, with some from Sydney. There are few buildings in Ballina left built from Ballina Brickworks' bricks.

Although it is most desirable to retain this historic building in our town, it seems from the reports that it will be demolished, despite the significant historical value of the building. Many local people have contacted Roslyn Mayberry expressing their disappointment that this building will be demolished. Former students, from as far back as the 1940's visited the school in November last year. Whilst Ros was Principal of Ballina High School she received a letter from the Department of Education and Training around 2003 informing the school community that M Block had been designated as a Heritage building. Ros is no longer able to access this letter as she has retired but as she has indicated it would be on file under the title Properties/Buildings." The Principal files were stored in the archival room under S Block up until the end of 2016. This letter would also be on DET files. The older people in the Ballina community are definitely concerned that M Block would be demolished. There was a letter to the Editor of the Ballina Shire Advocate on Wednesday 25 January 2017 regarding concerns about the heritage building being demolished. This letter is written by a person not known to Ros but indicates that the concern is beyond the direct school community.

It is a sad state of affairs that the forethought and wishes of our forefathers be not taken into consideration before our heritage is destroyed.

As it is now evident that this heritage building will be demolished, the *Ballina Schools' Historical Society Inc.* request that some of the bricks be salvaged for building a commemorative wall near C Block. Donations from members of the Ballina community have already been pledged to pay for the construction of the wall and to buy a quantity of the old heritage bricks, if they cannot be donated to the *BSHSI*.

The other item from the building that *BSHSI* would like to store is one set of the double exterior doors – either from the northern entry or the eastern entry.

It is envisaged that two pallets of bricks would be sufficient to erect a commemorative wall. I can organise pallets and people to stack the bricks on the pallets as well as a forklift to shift the bricks to the back of C Block.

I support the wishes of Roslyn Mayberry in retaining some of our heritage so that the coming generations can see and appreciate what has happened in the past.

Alison Draper

Former student of the 1960's and Retired Ballina High School Casual teacher
Member of Ballina Schools' Historical Society Inc.