

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH SCHOOL  
IN CANBERRA  
**HISTORY BOOK**

COMPILED ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SCHOOL EXISTANCE  
FOR THE PERIOD  
FROM 1979 TO 1999



Prepared by Natalia Bogomiagkov, Russian School Parents Committee Secretary

For 1999 school year

Dear Readers,

The captions in this history book are in pencil. This is due to the fact that some of the photographs are on loan. Whether they will be copied will be decided later. Persons in photographs have also been unidentified due to unavailability of time.

# INTRODUCTION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When I set out to prepare the history book for the Russian Orthodox Church School (Canberra), I thought it would be a simple task of reading the archives, interviewing people and gathering photographs. Unfortunately, the task proved to be enormous because of limited time for research, interviewing people and preparation in writing and typing.

I discovered that for the first year 1979 there were very few records; 1980-81 records were hard to distinguish as some were undated and student lists for 1984, 1985 and 1986 were missing. There was little mention of the Russian School Balls were as there was a separate informal record keeping system. Other activities like the picnics were mentioned as coming events without any information as to whether the event took place. There were no "AKT" graduation/concert programs except for one.

It soon became apparent to me that people find it hard to recall what date an event took place. Most photographs were undated.

I did not want to present a dry, factual history, but tried to present a history in which one can sense an atmosphere. I tried to capture the spirit of the "golden era" of the Russian School. Maybe some events are recorded in greater detail than others. This was not intended to place emphasis on the importance of the event but due to unavailability of information and lack of time for research.

There was other information that I would have liked to include, such as profiles of students after they left school, but it was impossible to do such extensive research.

I sincerely apologise if I have inadvertently not recorded some event or mentioned a person(s) who has contributed to the School.

For simplicity, since this history is written in English, it was decided not to use patronymic names. I do apologise if any offence is taken.

Photographs, information and assistance have been provided by many people. They have been most generous with their time and information. It is impractical to mention them all individually but I appreciate the assistance given by the Russian School 20 Year Anniversary Committee, past and present students, teachers and parents.

It is my hope that this rather brief, pictorial, colourful history will create sufficient interest for nostalgia. For future historians or if you, readers, have any new information or corrections, please be at liberty to present such information to me.

I apologise for any errors that may have been overlooked. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

Natalia Bogomiagkov, present Russian School Parents Committee Secretary

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- Building of the Russian Community Hall

**RUSSIAN  
SCHOOL**

**20  
YEARS**

**ANNIVERSARY**

**COMMITTEE**

# RUSSIAN SCHOOL 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

On 23 June 1999 the Russian School Parents Committee handed the responsibility of organising the celebration of the 20 year anniversary to the newly formed Russian School 20 Year Anniversary Committee. At that first meeting there were only three members present: Natalia Bogomiagkov, Serguei Golobokov and Kira Savina. They formulated the Plan for the Russian School 20 Year Anniversary Celebration (see plan).

On 30 June 1999 a second meeting was held. The following nine members formed the Committee:

Bogomiagkov, Natalia  
de Wouytch, Ann  
de Wouytch, Marianna  
Golobokov, Serguei  
Rusanov, Monefa  
Tretyakov, Cathy (nee Alexeeff)  
Savina, Kira  
Vetz, Michael  
Yakimov, Father Basil (Parish Deacon).

The Plan was modified.

Although the Committee commenced three months in advance (23 June to 19 September) it was only in the last two months that the members started to work solidly for the coming event. The Committee required a short term commitment (three months) but work was intensive in its nature.

The Committee was enthusiastic and talented in different areas and was able to work cohesively, supporting each other.

Marianna de Wouytch, an ex-student of the school who was accredited Russian on her Year 12 Certificate, at present a graphic design student at the University of Canberra, created the logo for the celebration. The logo is of three matryoshki (see invitation for 20th anniversary).

Researching lists of ex-students and ex-teachers was time consuming. Lists of 1984, 1985 and 1986 were missing, so were traced in part through the financial records of the Russian School Committee. These financial records were also used to research and verify other information.

Michael Vetz, a computer expert, took on the mammoth task of putting data of former and present students onto the computer. He even excelled himself by supplying names

in Russian and providing a graph. There are some errors which were corrected, however, a third editing was not possible because of time constraints.

Serguei Golobokov, also a computer expert, was able to provide advertising and promotional material as well as translating it into Russian. He also scanned photographs to put onto a computer disc to be ready for laser printing.

The driving force behind Serguei was his wife, Kira Savina, who organised his life for him to fulfil his responsibilities. She was also the person supporting Natalia Bogomiagkov in organising and co-ordinating the event. She took on the responsibility of Treasurer and co-ordinated the drawing competition and handicraft work displays.

Natalia Bogomiagkov was involved in compiling the History Book of the Russian School which was extremely time consuming. She researched the archives of the Russian School, interviewed people and collected photographs and memorabilia. Sources of information were the Committee members, past and present students, teachers, parents and the Russian Community. Proof reading and editing was done by Father Basil Yakimov, Irene Ovchinnikov, Father Alexander Morozow and Ann de Wouytch. She is grateful for the support and encouragement she received.

Ann de Wouytch, originally driving her daughter, Marianna, to the first meeting and just wanting to "sit-in" on the first meeting, became a valuable member of the Committee. She was a source of information, identified photographs and typed out captions for the 1988 School AKT photographic album,

Cathy Tretyakov (nee Alexeeff), who was a student from 1980, the second year of the Russian School, composed the invitation. She also researched present day addresses of students and did follow up telephone calls for promoting the event.

Monefa Rusanov, one of the first students of the Russian School in 1979, identified photographs and contributed ideas for the creation of the logo and certificates. Her main task was organising the food catering.

Deacon Basil Yakimov, one of the founding members of the Russian School, was the liaison officer between the Russian School and the Russian Community. He provided great administrative help with proof reading and photocopying and laser printing of photographs. He also composed the pamphlet on the school and co-ordinated the publicity for the event.

Besides being responsible for the History Book, Natalia Bogomiagkov was responsible for the overall organisation of the celebration and was an inspiration to the rest of the Committee.

On the whole the Committee was enthusiastic. Every member contributed to discussions and aired wonderful ideas for sources of inspiration.

## PLAN FOR 20 YEAR RUSSIAN SCHOOL CELEBRATION

### AIM

Involvement of present students, so to instill pride  
Involvement of ex-students eg on committee  
Promotion/publicity for outside the community eg attract Russian speaking people

### 1. Organise Committee:

Natalia Bogomiagkov – responsible for overall organisation of celebration  
Serguei Golobokov – promotion & publicity  
Kira Golobokov – school program  
Father Basil Yakimov – liaison officer, source of information founding member of the school  
Katya Tretyakov – ex-student, invitations  
Mariana de Wouytch – ex-student  
?M<sup>a</sup>nefa Rusanov – ex-student

Other members for consideration: Irene Rodionov (ex-student); Chris Vetz (ex-student, graphic arts student). Michael Vetz (computer expert & ex-parent on School Committee), etc,

Members of the Russian Community or other people can be asked for help.

### 2. Organise dates for meetings

### 3. STUDENT, TEACHER, PARENT & OTHER INVITATIONS

In-charge: Katya

#### EX-STUDENT LISTS

Research lists	Natalia
Photocopying of lists	Fth Basil
Updating of lists ie addresses, phone numbers	Serguei/?Michael
Compose invitation	Katya
Send out invitations	Katya
Phone	Katya

#### EX-TEACHER LISTS

Research lists	Natalia
Photocopying of lists	Fth Basil
Updating of lists ie addresses, phone numbers	Serguei/?Michael
Compose invitation	Katya
Send out invitations	Katya
Phone	Katya

#### OTHER INVITATIONS

Decision whom to invite	Committee
Photocopying of lists	Fth Basil
Find addresses, phone numbers	Serguei/?Michael

BBQ

8. FOOD CATERING

In-charge:

- Meat
- Salads
- Bread
- Condiments
- Sweets
- Drinks
- Special treat for children eg ice-cream

- Organise BBQ cookers
- Arrange tables
- Other

9. PUBLICITY

In-charge:

- Newspapers
- Radio
- Internet
- Flyer/poster
- Other

Seguei

10. ?SOUVENIRS

In-charge:

Ideas: mugs, metal badges, t-shirts, booklet, postcard, etc.

11. ?RAFFLE

In-charge:

Prizes

?Get permit, etc.

Sisterhood having  
her own

12. FINANCE

Cost of BBQ

Estimate numbers coming

Committee

Katya

Other costs.

13. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 30 June, 1999 at Golobokov's (8 Bingle Street, Flynn. Phone: 62586703) at 7.00 pm.

Русская  
Школа



Приглашение  
INVITATION  
*Russian School*  
20th Anniversary

Русская школа . Канберра . 20 лет . 1979 - 1999





## Celebration of 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Russian Orthodox Church School in Canberra

*Dear Parents,*

*This is a second reminder about our celebration.*

*The Russian School will celebrate its 20-year jubilee on Sunday, 19 September 1999.*

*We are preparing an interesting and varied program. On the day of the celebration there will be a display of children's:*

- 1. Drawings;*
- 2. Artistic work.*

*Any article done by your child will be accepted for the display.*

*Of course, you know the interests of your child better than anyone else that is why we are asking you for help and support. We asked before the school holidays, hoping there was time, however, there still time to prepare drawings and other artistic work.*

*Drawing competition on the theme of "My Russian School".*

*Examples of artistic work:*

*A drawing on any theme in pencil, texts, crayons paints, etc.*

*Paper art eg paper planes, paper spiders, dinosaurs, etc, greeting cards*

*Woodwork eg boxes, shapes, placards, cutting boards. (Items child might have done or is doing in Australian schools)*

*Fabric art eg. embroidery, sewn, knitted or crafts articles, making of dolls. Pipe cleaner constructions eg. people animals. Even Lego or other material constructions.*

*Please, do not take it as obligation. Participation in both displays is voluntary. Most importantly it is desirable for the children do these things with enthusiasm! The request from you is that you only suggest ideas and interest the children in preparing the items. Prizes will be awarded.*

*Closing date is Saturday, 11 September 1999.*

*Ex-students are most welcome to participate.*

*Yours sincerely*

*The Russian School 20 year Celebration Committee*



*Parish of St. John the Baptist in Canberra  
of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia*  
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Дорогие родители!

19 сентября наша школа будет праздновать 20 – летний юбилей. Мы готовим интересную и разнообразную программу.

Во время праздника будет проводиться конкурс детских рисунков и выставка творчества наших учеников. Любая удачная поделка, выполненная вашими детьми, может быть принята на выставку. Победителям будут вручены призы.

Конечно, вы лучше нас знаете интересы своих детей, поэтому мы обращаемся к вам за помощью и поддержкой. Во время каникул у ребят будет больше времени и они смогут подготовить свои рисунки, а поделки можно использовать и ранее выполненные.

Пожалуйста, не расценивайте нашу просьбу как что – то обязательное. Участие в обоих конкурсах добровольное. Главное, чтобы дети делали это с желанием, тогда все получится! От вас требуется только подсказать детям идею и заинтересовать их, а призы мы обещаем подготовить самые интересные.

С уважением. Комитет по подготовке празднования 20 – летия школы.



**Празднование 20-ти летия  
Русской церковно-  
приходской школы в  
Канберре**

**Воскресенье, 19 сентября 1999  
В 11.00**

**в прицерковном зале Русской  
Православной церкви,  
адрес: Канберра ул. Матина 1,  
Наррабанда.**

**В программе благодарственный  
Молебен, выставка , презентация,  
барбекью.**

**Просим подтвердить свое участие до 3 Сентября.**

**Приобретение билетов:**

**Наталья Богомягкова т. 6258 4240**

**Екатерина Алексеева т. 6286 2184**

**Кира Савина т. 6258 6703**



**Celebration of 20<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of Russian  
Orthodox Church School in  
Canberra**

**Sunday, 19 September, 1999  
11.00 a.m.**

**Russian Orthodox Church of St. John the  
Baptist (Canberra) 1 Matina St.  
Narrabundah**

**Thanksgiving Prayers, display,  
presentation, informal BBQ**

**RSVP by 3 September**

**Ticket Sales:**

**Natalie Bogomiagkov t. 6258 4240**

**Cathy Alexeeff t. 6286 2184**

**Kira Savina t. 6258 6703**

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***Russian School 20 years  
Anniversary Celebration***

Sunday, 19 September 1999. Russian Church Hall,  
1 Matina St., Narrabundah

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# PROGRAM

***11.00 a.m.***

## **Thanksgiving Prayer**

*Russian Church*

***11.15a.m.***

## **Greetings**

*Russian Church Hall*

**By Father Alexander Morozow**

**By Deacon Basil Yakimov** - Founder of the school,  
gives brief history of the school

**By Irene Ovchinnikov** - Principal of the Russian School

**By Šergei Golobokov** - Russian School Parents Committee

***11.30 a.m.***

## **BBQ**

*Russian Church Hall*

Welcome to view the display of photographs,  
exhibition "A.S.Pushkin 200 years", Berioska dance  
group costumes, school students' drawings and  
crafts.

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**Русская прицерковная школа  
в Канберре**

**ПАМЯТНАЯ ГРАМОТА**

*Преподается*

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*Во свидетельство того, что он(она)  
обучался(лась) в указанной школе в  
год 20-ти летнего юбилея.*

*Русская прицерковная школа  
Приход Св. Иоанна Предтечи в Канберре РПЦ/З*

*19.09.1999*

# СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВО

Конкурс детского творчества в честь  
20-летия Русской Прицерковной школы в  
Канберре

## В Ы Д А Н О

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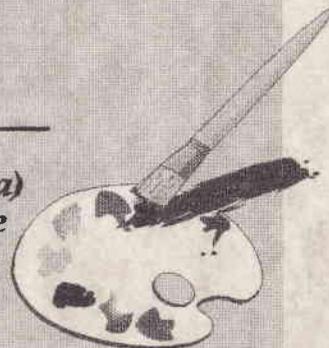
в том, что он(она) принимал(а)  
активное участие в конкурсе

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19 сентября, 1999, Канберра

Русская школа.

Приход Св. Иоанна Предтечи в Канберре. РПЦ/В



# Russian School of St. John the Forerunner Russian Orthodox Church in Canberra.

## The Early and Today.

The Russian School in Canberra was founded 20 years ago by Basil A. Yakimov (now Parish Deacon), Mrs Natalie P. Kozin and Mrs Olga I. Schkola.

First school day was on Saturday, 1 April 1979. It has been successfully run since then.

In the first year there were 17 pupils. Russian language and Russian History were taught in Russian. The School was housed in two small rooms adjacent to the then Parish Church (now the temporary Church Hall).

In 1980 the School moved to Narrabundah Primary School, organised a parents committee and it is still there in 1999 (hopefully this will be the last year before moving to permanent specifically built classrooms in the Russian Centre - opposite the Church). The school began with 17 pupils and its growth took the organisers by surprise. In 1980 the school had 30 students and six teachers.

The Canberra Times, on Sunday 6 April 1980, carried a very informative (now historical) article about the creation and aspirations of the Russian School.

The Russian newspaper "Unification" also carried a similar article, dated 18 January 1980, on the early years of the Russian School. The lowest enrolment the School records were in 1983 of 16 students), however 48 pupils enrolled in 1997.

Canberra's population tends to be transient and this is often reflected in the population of the Russian School. About 170 pupils have studied at the Russian School in these formative 20 years of the life of the Russian School.

The core classes are settled down by now. Mainly classes are taught in Russian although there are some classes for English speaking children (who have at least one Russian speaking parent). The Russian School focuses on the following areas: practical knowledge of spoken and written Russian, Russian literature and culture, Russian history and contemporary life.

The Russian School organises many extracurricular activities, mostly related with Fund raising activities. The Russian School Balls are now famous, displays, choir and dance performances, food fairs, even TV appearances by the students have made the Russian School of Canberra a vibrant and unique cultural contributor to the richness of our multicultural society in the Canberra region. This year the Russian School is Celebrating its 20th anniversary with activities for children and adults.

## Why Learn Russian

"Russ, Russ, are you not racing on like a spirited troika that none can pass? Everything on earth is flying by; other nations look askance, but step aside to let you pass."

Ancient Land and Modern Country. Every culture has a story to tell. Each reveals itself through its language, history, literature, music, traditions, religious practices and, most of all, its people.

Russia - miraculous and still mysterious to many foreigners, full of cultural and historic treasures, beautiful and unspoiled nature, motherland to industrious, bright and hospitable people.

The importance of Russian as a world language is now widely acknowledged. It is one

of the five official languages of the United Nations (as well as other international bodies) and is the first language of well over a hundred and seventy million people.

Russian possesses a remarkable literature, which stands as one of the finest achievements of European civilisation. At the same time it is the official language of the Russian Federation and a language still widely used in the independent countries of the former Soviet Union. Russian is a Slavic language using the Cyrillic alphabet.

By learning Russian you have an introduction to other Slavic (Church Slavonic) languages as Slavic languages have certain similarities and can be mutually understood.

## Enrolment Information

We teach children to read, write and speak Russian. They also learn about Russian Culture, History, Literature, Religious Instruction, Music and Dance.

Russian School is held every Saturday morning during the school term. Contact phone number of the Russian School Secretary: 02 6258 4240.

## Хроника Русской Канберры

### ЮБИЛЕЙНЫЙ ПРАЗДНИК РУССКОЙ ШКОЛЫ 19 сентября 1999 г.

В мирской жизни мы привыкли праздновать множество юбилеев.

Часто они превращаются в привычный обиходный еле заметный поток. И вдруг бывает так, что среди этого плавного течения жизни человек встрепенется, остановится, оглянется, как будто от яркой вспышки грома среди ясного неба.

Вот именно такое событие произошло, когда в Канберре праздновали 20-летний юбилей открытия русской школы при нашей местной православной церкви.

Школа учила не только русскому языку. Здесь, вдали от России, окруженные иностранной культурой и общаясь на английском языке, в русской школе дети постигали особенности русской православной веры, традиционного воспитания и национальной культуры. Учились русскости в высоком понимании этого слова.



Сейчас школа насчитывает около 50 учеников. Наряду с русским языком, преподается Закон Божий, пение, русская история и русская литература. За последние годы возглавляет школу И.Р. Овчинникова, пришедшая сюда совсем молодой девушкой; немало времени и труда отдала она на благо этого великого дела. В этой школе выросли и ее дети. Приятно отметить, что до сих пор в рядах учителей школы находится В.А. Якимов (ныне о. диакон Василий), один из ее вдохновителей и основателей.

За долгие годы школа сплотила вокруг себя не только детей и их родителей, но и всех членов русского общества, заинтересованных в воспитании будущих поколений.

Именно поэтому прицерковный зал не смог вместить всех желающих, пришедших на празднование юбилея.

Много добрых слов прозвучало в адрес школы и ее сподвижников из уст посла Российской Федерации Рашита Луфтуловича Хамидулина, который вместе с супругой Светланой Наумовной соизволил присутствовать на этом торжестве. Перед собравшимися выступили основатели и директор школы, которые отметили достижения Русской школы и важность продолжения этой трудной, но очень необходимой для русской общины работы. Среди множества гостей также присутствовали на презентации и последующей дружной трапезе Советник посольства РФ Александр Геннадьевич Вильнин с супругой Верой Олеговной и новоприезжий Первый секретарь посольства Андрей Юрьевич Громов. После торжественной части состоялось барбекю. Bravo! Наташе Богомяковой и всем членам оргкомитета, ею руководимого, за столь удачно проведенный праздник, подготовка которого потребовала не мало времени, усилий и терпения. Юбилей оставил в памяти всех присутствующих незабываемые впечатления. (ОБОЗРЕВАТЕЛЬ)

- В пятницу, 8 октября 1999 года в зале при Сербской Православной Церкви Св. Саввы в Канберре, с большим успехом был проведен благотворительный вечер, организованный сестричеством нашего Св.-Иоанно-Предтеченского Храма. Цель вечера — сбор средств для завершения строительства нашего нового приходского зала. На вечере присутствовало около 200 человек. В числе гостей был посол Российской Федерации Р.Л. Хамидулин с супругой, представители Сербской общины во главе с о. Ильей, настоятелем церкви Св. Саввы. Превосходно приготовленный ужин из блюд русской кухни, лотерея и танцы под прекрасную музыку доставили большое удовольствие присутствовавшим. Много аплодисментов вызвало выступление группы молодых исполнителей традиционной русской народной пляски, под талантливым руководством Кати Макеевой. Чистый доход вечера: более 6000 долларов! Всем потрудившимся, в особенности старшей сестре А.Г. Каргиной, глубокий поклон. А о. Ильи и нашим сербским братьям БОЛЬШОЕ РУССКОЕ СПАСИБО! (Д.В.)

## IN CONCLUSION

A great deal of hard work has gone into creating the 20 year anniversary to ensure that it will be a memorable event for everybody.

I think all the members of the Committee hope that future generations will find this contribution to the life of the Russian (St. John the forerunner) Orthodox Church School in Canberra invaluable. We wish past, present and future members, parents, student and teachers of our Russian School "Zdravya mnogaya leeta" (health and many years of prosperous living)!