



John Polak (OX 1955)

My family and I arrived at Port Melbourne from war-torn and Communist Czechoslovakia in January 1949, with just a very basic knowledge of the English language.

Our first year was spent moving around the inner suburbs and it was not until we settled into a house in East Brighton that I was enrolled into Kostka. My recollection is that Fr. Phillip McInerney was headmaster.

By this time my English was almost grammatically correct but I did experience difficulty with pronunciation. It was this that was the cause of my being nicknamed "Muzza", I did have difficulty in pronouncing mother in the Hail Mary prayer.

I did enjoy my time at Kostka and regret that I couldn't continue the friendships that I had made during that time.

