

Oatley Heritage & Historical Society Projects.

Month & Year of Topic

Topic

Written & Spoken

Presenters

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Newsagents of Oatley

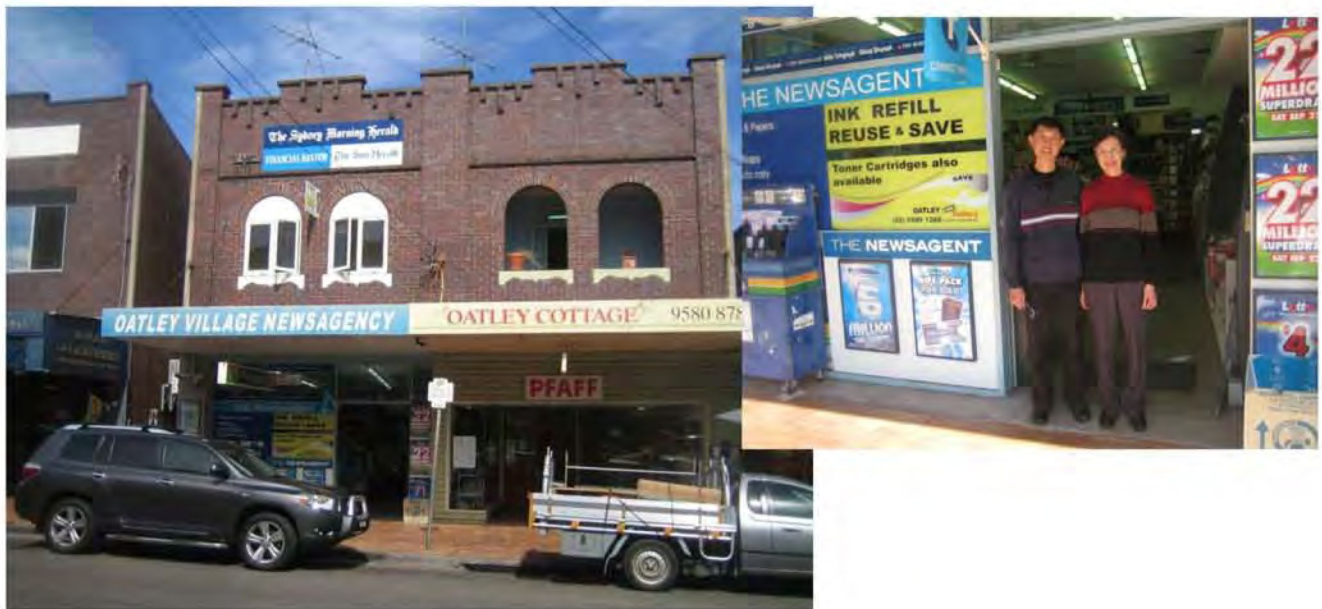
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and Cliff Crane

Oatley Heritage Group meeting 24th of August 2012
History of Newspapers & Newsagents in Oatley
Presentation-paper delivered by Michael “Mike” Flanagan

This paper has been jointly researched and prepared by me and my long time good friend, Cliff Crane, a member of Oatley Heritage Group. Where the report says “we” it will be clear from the context whether I mean the Flanagan family, or Cliff and me.

Although we’ve done our best to check names, dates and events we would like to know if anybody has better information on any part of this report.

Before delving into the past – just for the historical record, let’s have a look at a few shots of the present-day newsagencies at East and West Oatley –



In the early 1900s there were no TVs & very few telephones (the first Public Phone in Oatley was in 1909), so people relied on newspapers not only for their daily news, but for births, marriages & death notices. (Hatches, Matches & Despatches).

The first shop to sell newspapers was opened by Mr Peter Groves near the Douglas Cross Memorial Gardens on the (then) Western side of the railway line which at the time ran through the current Oatley Memorial Gardens.



This shop was purchased by Grannie Colebourne who in 1912 was struck & killed by a train whilst crossing the railway line to collect the papers. The shop was then taken over by her daughter, Gertrude & husband, Arthur Phillips, who was a local plumber. Grannie Colebourne's descendants still live in Oatley.

From Dr. Joan Hatton's "*Oatley in Early Days*" we learn that in 1916 Mr Walter L. Taylor who had "*a newsagency shop about 100 yards away ...*" (from the site of the present hotel .. "*was appointed postmaster ...*". (he was only postmaster very briefly though – a Mr. Williams took over as postmaster in 1917). The 1914 Sands Directory lists a Mr. W.L. Taylor, Oatley Parade, Oatley – but no other detail – presumably the "*newsagency store*" owner person .; the 1916 and 1917 Sands Directories show the same listing, but in 1918 he is shown in Letitia Street – so he presumably re-located his "*newsagency store*" to Letitia Street about 1917-18 - that is the last listing in Oatley for Walter L. Taylor who later became a State Member of Parliament for the area. The Letitia Street address is assumed to be on the corner of Letitia Street and Frederick Street, site of the present day "*Corner Pharmacy*".

We know that the family of a Mr Harry Cater were selling papers from an Oatley shop from about 1918 and Harry Cater's son, George delivered papers on a yellow or piebald horse. I believe Alan Cuthbertson may be related to Harry Cater.

There is a 1915 Sands Directory listing for Harry Cater at Mi Mi Street, Oatley, but no other listing of a Harry Cater in Oatley until 1920 when his address is shown as Letitia Street – the listings showed him at just Letitia Street in directories until the 1925 edition when the listing more explicitly

said 21 Letitia Street – in that year, 1925, George Cater was listed, for the first time, at 19a Letitia Street – but in this case no trade or profession was shown. George Cater must have continued running whatever business there was at 19a Letitia Street until 1928, when listings for him at that address ceased. Interestingly the following advertisement appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald of 5 July 1924 -

“BILLIARD TABLES for sale, nearly new, no reasonable offer refused - 19 Letitia st Oatley”

- whether this indicated the Cater premises – or adjoining premises - may have operated as a billiard saloon is not known.

Harry Cater ceased being shown at 21a Letitia Street, in 1925 - the next entry for him becomes 21 Ada Street, Oatley in 1928 –he and his wife Sarah Cordelia Cater lived at that address until at least 1937, but the electoral roll of 1943 shows them living at 61 Letitia Street.

The Village Medical Centre in 2012 occupies 19a Letitia Street while the address of the premises next to the south (Pathology Centre) is shown as Shop 2 No. 19 Letitia Street. It is known these were both shop premises in “the olden days”, so the likely scenario seems that Walter L. Taylor ran his “*newsagency store*” where the present day pathology centre stands, and that it was taken over and run by Harry Cater around 1918 until he ceased in 1925 – that is, when the first “official newsagent” Norman Nicholson opened for business in 13 Frederick Street.

Fon Wilding (nee Hatchman) whose father operated a store at 24 Letitia street - site of the present day Oatley Post Office –has provided a photo, assumed to be taken in the early 1920s – showing newspapers for sale at the adjoining shop, at (then) No. 24a Letitia Street, conducted by a Mr. J.W. Chapman in 1926 – it is possible he too had lost the right to sell newspapers with the opening by Nicholsons in 1925.

THE ERA OF THE “BLOCK SYSTEM” NEWSAGENCIES.

After the First World War, a local real estate agent, Mr Stewart Hogarth, who operated his business from an office in River Road, which was later to become the site of The Gospel Hall, bought 2 blocks of land at 11 & 13 Frederick Street & commissioned his father, a builder, to construct two attached shops and residences as an investment, where the Craft Shop and the Newsagency are now located. Stewart Hogarth went progressively blind & could not continue as a Real Estate Agent, but the family kept a rent roll which they had established & continued to collect rents for many

years. Although struggling with the ownership of the Oatley shops, Hogarth continued on, but the War intervened & rent control meant the position with rent was even worse, and he couldn't sell the properties for a reasonable price because of the fixed low rents.

To make matters worse , there was an eccentric old lady, Mrs Davies, in the shop which is now the Craft shop, who sold ladies underwear and sometimes only opened for half a day per week. Mrs Hogarth felt sorry for her and despite her being well in arrears in the rent, would not have her evicted. When Stewart Hogarth passed away, the shops were left to his son, Graham and daughter Mrs Tallais. Mrs Tallais sold her share to her brother, Graham.

OATLEY NEWSAGENCY

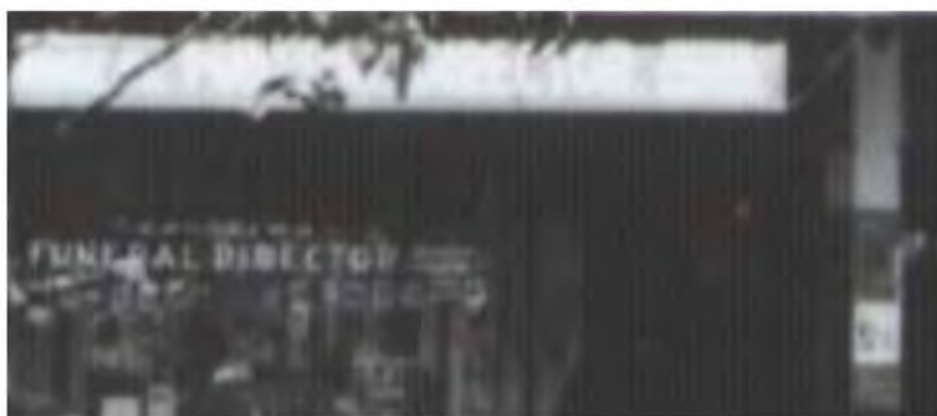


In October, 1925, Norman Nicholson set up the first official newsagency in Oatley, at 13 Frederick Street, its current location. Norman's son, Jim who is here today, was only 4 years old

when they moved to Oatley and the family lived in the residence above the shop. Jim tells me his Dad used to collect the papers at the railway station at 2.30am each day, Monday to Saturday, but got to sleep in on Sundays with a 4.45am pickup. Their horse & sulky were kept on a vacant block where the Deli now stands. Their horses were moved to a leased one acre block in Ada Street, which years later was subdivided into

3 blocks, and Norman bought one block to keep the horses on. At the end of the war, Jim bought the block from his Dad, with his severance pay and built the house where he still lives at 17 Ada Street. On Saturday afternoons they received 3 editions of the paper with the race results. There were three shops nearby, Mrs Phillip's Fruit Shop, Mrs Seymour's Haberdashery & a Barbershop.

During the 20 years when, later, we, the Flanagans, owned the newsagency, the late George Kendall told me several times that the shop had been used as an Undertaker's shop. He even brought in some old photos to prove it, but I could never see the evidence in the photos. I questioned a number of Oatley 'elders' about this & nobody could remember an Undertaker being at 13 Frederick Street, so I assumed George was '*having a lend of me.*' After we sold the newsagency in 2002 to Tim Larkin, George came into the shop one day with a big grin on his face, when I was relieving Tim, & presented me with some digitally enhanced photos of the newsagency, which show clearly on a sign in the window, the words '*Funeral Director.*' When I recently spoke to Jim Nicholson about it, he said he thought Norman may have been an agent for the Funeral Director and may have used the Horse & Sulky to collect the '*deceased.*'



Mr. Nicholson must have had a rude shock early in the new year 1934 – and no doubt there was a proper hue and cry about the little village of Oatley to – judging by an advertisement under “Lost and Found” in the Sydney Morning Herald of 3rd January 1934 which read –

HORSE in Light Cart, strayed from Frederick St. Oatley early Tuesday morning. Reward. Newsagency. 'Phone LU1288.

That advert also indicates that by 1934, at the latest, the newsagency telephone had the same basic number as the one it uses today, 80 years later – there surely is no other Oatley business that has that record!

In the last half of 1943, Norman Nicholson sold Oatley Newsagency to Douglas Gordon Stibbs as something for his eldest (of three) sons to have when he returned from WWII army service – confusingly the eldest son was named Gordon Douglas Stibbs.

We know the Nicholsons were still living at the newsagency in July 1943 from an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald showing they wanted to buy a house in the Oatley-Hurstville area **FOR CASH!** The advertisement also showed the street number then as number 25 Frederick Street – by 1954, certainly, the number had changed to number 13.

Before passing on to the Stibbs, let's have a look at the photo Jim Nicholson provided of his mother and father, Norman and Amy Nicholson –



Although the son Gordon Stibbs served from 3 Dec 1943 until 26 November 1945. the Newsagency was in his name, and he was shown in the 1943 electoral roll as living at 21 Ada Street (his parents' address), and as "*newsagent*". His wife was then living with her parent-in-law at Ada Street. The parents and daughter-in-law, and Ken - an extremely visually impaired brother of the "*serviceman/newsagent*" – ran the newsagency until Gordon's discharge. The residence wasn't used as such during that period. When Gordon returned, he and wife Valerie, lived in the residence for some time, before buying a house in Algernon Street. That coincided pretty much with the 1950 death of the father and 1951 marriage of the third brother Douglas Stibbs – CONFUSING ISN'T IT!!! – an engineer, to wife Johanna - "*Jo*". Doug and Jo moved into the newsagency residence - Gordon had employed Doug to work in the newsagency, following their father's death. The third brother - Ken, - who had actually worked for Nicholsons, also continued as an employee.

It is believed the Nicholsons delivered to both East and West Oatley, as did Gordon Stibbs when he took over. His brothers Doug (driver of the utility) and Ken in back of utility, did the deliveries at East Oatley.

Gordon Stibbs at some stage sold off the Oatley West run to Thomas Roy Yates who became first newsagent at Oatley West.

We know from Jo Stibbs that Gordon Stibbs sold the newsagency around 1956. Doug and Jo Stibbs had a child born in 1954 while living in the newsagency residence, and the child was two when the newsagency was sold and they had to move out.

Jo Stibbs is the only surviving one from the Stibbs senior and their three sons who were involved with the Oatley Newsagency.

It was Jim – or Jimmy - Silva who bought Oatley Newsagency from the Stibbs family. With his wife Pamela he ran it until the late 1960s, when they moved to take over a newsagency at Bathurst. At the time Jim Silva bought the newsagency, his parents were running a 'Ham and Beef' shop further down Frederick Street, with Jim's sister, Sheila Silva.

A family named Welsh (or Welch) bought the newsagency from the Silvas in the late 1960s, but in the early 1970s, Mrs Welsh was obliged to sell the newsagency when her husband died suddenly. A number of customers told me over the years that a newsagent with a wooden leg had died in the shop and this story may fit in with the death of Mr Welsh. Should there be anyone here today or reading this paper on the Oatley Heritage website, who knows anything of this possible 'Urban Myth', we would be grateful if they would come forward with any information.

In the early 1970s, Warren & Anne Stevens bought the newsagency and ran it for 8 years. Warren can only remember –that he bought it from a widowed woman we now know to have been Mrs Welsh, who had to sell, because in those times the Newspaper Companies had total control and would not let women own or run a newsagency. He said she was a quite reluctant seller - she was probably in her late 50s, slim, wore glasses, and had mousy hair, might have been dyed, and fair skin. ANYBODY REMEMBER THE WELSH'S?

It was Warren's first experience as a newsagent - only 32 when he took over Oatley Newsagency, Warren had started off working in a Chartered Accountancy, but didn't care for that, and for a number of years before buying Oatley News had been a sales representative, a lot of time as a medical representative.

The Stevens lived above the newsagency for about a year before moving into a house they bought at 128 Rosa Street.

At the newsagency, Warren did all his own deliveries for the first few years, initially with a quite old deliverer he inherited from the previous owner as his assistant – the old chap used to sit in the back of the utility, later the Moke, and throw out the papers. When the old deliverer finally gave it away, Warren did the run alone for a couple of years - then got a young fellow who did weekends and holidays. (I think that '*young deliverer*' might have been Kerry who is still throwing weekend papers 35 years later). Warren says he never got held up or sold a winning Lotto or Pools ticket.

In 1978, Michael Beattie (a Scotsman) & his mother-in-law (later ex MIL) Pat Stewart bought the newsagency from the Stevens & ran it for 3 ½ years. Mike Beattie and his then wife lived in the flat above the shop until (in the words of another old newsagent in the area) '*she went out to golf one day & she never came back*'.

All credit due to Mike & his ex mother-in-law, they ran the newsagency for a further 2 years. Mike was a regular patron of the RSL & spent many evenings around here. According to the then local mechanic, the late Terry Boyle, (who had a workshop in Letitia Street where the Video Shop was located until recently) one morning after a late night at the 'Rissolle', Mike 'forgot to stop,' whilst delivering papers at the bottom of Wyong Street & drove his almost new Moke into Neverfail Bay, and the oyster farmers had to snig him out with a tractor. I bought that same shiny Moke at NRMA valuation as part of the newsagency sale & could never work out why it continually scrubbed out tyres until Terry told me the story. Shortly after, I unloaded the Moke for less than half what we paid for it.

In July, 1982, we (my wife Toni & I) bought the Newsagency from Beattie & Stewart & ran it for 20 years. I was 37 and had spent the previous 15 years working as a computer operator, programmer, systems analyst, operations manager and finally data centre manager at NCR, before Toni & I decided to '*have a go*' in our own business. After a lot of research, we decided that newsagencies were a reasonably safe investment and living at Peakhurst at the time, began to look around the area for one. We were interested in buying Oatley West Newsagency but missed out as we had to sell an old weekender at North Entrance to finance the purchase. I then saw an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald for Oatley Newsagency, which had just come on the market. We faced two big problems in the purchase, the landlord had just died & his solicitor would not provide a lease and then we discovered our bank manager was married to one of the partners who owned the newsagency & he was only willing to finance the purchase on rollover bills. I decided I really wanted this newsagency & with sheer determination we managed to do it. After many enquiries I found that the freehold shop had been left to the three nieces of Graham Hogarth. I went to visit their parents, Mr & Mrs Tallais who lived in Oatley and explained that we needed to have a lease to be able to purchase the newsagency business. They were very nice & Mrs Tallais as the Executor of her brother's estate, instructed the solicitor to draw up a lease. With regard to the bank manager, on the recommendation of a neighbour I went across the road to see the State Bank Manager, who gave us a fixed term, fixed rate (17.5%) loan without any problems and we were able to proceed with the purchase of the Newsagency.

A couple of weeks after we took over Oatley Newsagency, I had a visit from Geoff Paton who now owns Mortdale Newsagency, (son of the Late Doug Paton). Geoff introduced himself & said '*You bugger, you beat me to it, I was trying to buy this shop, but I could not get a lease.*' It is the only thing I have ever beaten Geoff at & we have been good friends ever since.

During the handover, I had to learn the delivery run, so I would meet the Scotsman, Mike Beattie at 3am each morning, roll the papers & I would sit in the back of the Moke with the runbook as he threw them. It continually amazed me that he told jokes all the way, using both hands to throw, & could throw a Herald, Telegraph and Financial Review to the one house & consistently land them beside one another & parallel onto the lawn, at the same time driving flat out and steering the Moke with his knees.

The very first time I went out to throw the afternoon papers on my own, when it started to rain, I endeavoured to throw a paper from the car onto the front verandah of a house in Letitia Street & I managed to break the front window. Of course the owners came out growling at me & I was most apologetic & assured them I would have it repaired. When I told Mike Beattie & Pat Stewart about it, they said I had picked one of the worst people in Oatley to do this to. I had the glass replaced & the people became good customers for many years. In the early days I would deliver the afternoon paper to Molly O'Grady (widow of John O'Grady) and she would sometimes make me a cup of tea. As Molly grew older & a little frail, I would sometimes take the paper in to her bedroom & she would occasionally ring and ask if I could bring a loaf of bread or some milk from the Deli next door.

I continued to throw the papers 4 or 5 days per week for the next 10 years. I had 'inherited' a delivery man, Kerry, who had been throwing papers for the two previous newsagents, Warren Stevens & Mike Beattie - and Kerry threw papers 2 or 3 mornings a week. When I came in to roll the papers each morning I would leave the front door unlocked and a few early morning customers would slide the door across, take a paper & leave the money on the counter.

In about 1988, I changed the method of wrapping the newspapers from using Kraft brown paper strips stuck with glue (& greaseproof paper when it rained), to a thick 'cling wrap' type plastic, which provided a better product. Shortly after we introduced plastic wrap, we had a request from a lady to please throw their Herald onto the driveway, which they hosed every day, so they could recycle the plastic and use it to wrap her

husbands sandwiches for lunch.

For the first couple of years we 'did it tough', having big repayments and not being able to afford extra staff, it was particularly hard on my wife Toni, who on some Friday mornings had queues of people in the shop to pay their paper bills and put on their Lotto & Pools. Being exhausted after getting up for 5 mornings at 3am, after the run, I would have a short sleep upstairs.

We did inherit an elderly lady, Glad, who used to come in at 5am and mop the floors, top up the sweets and cigarettes and open the shop.

Unfortunately she disappeared after we had a visit from the Tax Department.

For the first few years we had the Railway Bookstall at Oatley Station which was run by Aub Smith, but we had to close it when the Railways department increased the rent threefold & told us we would have to pay Council rates. Aub's son, Phillip worked in the butcher's shop opposite the newsagency for many years.

On Sunday mornings for many years there was an old motor mechanic (Ernie Smith?), who lived in Kitchener Street and wore overalls with braces, who would drive his green EH Holden with a white top and always double park outside the newsagency. He would come in and read motoring and other magazines for 20 or 30 minutes, put them back on the shelf and buy a Sun Herald before driving off. In the time Ernie was in the shop, other cars would come and go from the kerbside outside the shop and it was not unusual for Ernie's EH to be left in the middle of the street with not another car nearby. Only in Oatley!

There were two elderly sisters, Vi and Ruth Powell, who lived in a unit at the corner of Rosa Street and Hurstville Road. They came to the newsagency every Thursday to buy their magazines and sweets and put their Lotto on. After leaving the newsagency, they would go across the street to O'Connors Pharmacy and then to the 4 Square shop. For years, I would walk them across the street. One day, Vi overheard me saying I had originally come from the country and she said to me, 'Michael, where did you come from?' I answered 'Vi, I came from a little place up the North Coast you never would have heard of.' She said, 'I came from up the North Coast, where were you from?' I replied, 'I lived at Cedar Party Creek.' She said, 'You never lived at Cedar Party Creek, I lived at Cedar Party Creek, where did you live?' I replied, 'I lived in the school house, my Dad was the school teacher.' Vi said 'You're joshin' me, my Dad was the school teacher, we lived in the school house'. It turned out that Vi and Ruth's Dad, Keith Powell and my Dad, Archie Flanagan had

both been teachers at the same school 30 years apart and I had lived in the same house as Vi and Ruth.

One day I saw Mrs Casey and Mrs O'Neill from Yarran Road waiting on the edge of the gutter looking up and down the street at the traffic. Being a gentleman, I said 'I will help you across the street' and grabbed their arms and walked them to the other side, only for them to tell me they had been waiting for Mrs Casey's son, Ron to pick them up outside the newsagency. I promptly walked them back across Frederick Street to Ron's awaiting car!.

We have 3 daughters who all did their 'apprenticeships' in the shop and 'worked their way' through university. We also employed many other young ladies over the years, who were just like daughters to us. And there were probably in excess of 50 paperboys over the 20 years.

When we took over the newsagency in July 1982, there were 3 Sunday papers, National Times, Sunday Telegraph and Sunday Herald. Weekday papers were Sydney Morning Herald, Financial Review, Daily Telegraph, The Australian, Daily Mirror and The Sun. There were 2 editions of the Herald, Tele & Mirror and 3 editions of the Sun. The afternoon Sun ceased publication in 1988. The Daily Mirror ceased publication as an afternoon paper in 1990 & was merged with the Daily Telegraph to become the Daily Telegraph-Mirror and reverted to the Daily Telegraph in 1996. The Women's Weekly and The Bulletin were printed weekly.

In 1982, gambling sales consisted of The Pools and Monday Lotto for which handwritten duplicate coupons were validated on small adding machine type validators and the coupons were sent via courier to Crows Nest. We also sold \$2, \$5 and \$10 Draw Lottery tickets which we ordered from the NSW State Lotteries through a 'runner' who collected the application forms and took them to State Lotteries each day, then returned with the tickets on the following morning. In November 1982 NSW Lotteries introduced Instant Scratchies.

In 1985 the NSW Government took over the running of Lotto & Pools from the Packer & Murdoch Consortiums, and in 1987 computerised terminals were introduced. Over the years Wednesday Lotto, Saturday Lotto, OzLotto Lotto Strike and Powerball were introduced. We sold 12 winning Lotto and Lottery winners ranging from \$100,000 to \$1,333,333 in our 20 years and we held a record at one stage for selling 3 First Division Lotto Prizes in 2 weeks.

We suffered 5 burglaries and a couple of attempted holdups and one other time had a girl reach over the counter and take notes from the cash register as another customer was being served. Judy, who worked for us at the time wrestled some of the notes back from the girl.

Over the years I successfully canvassed local business people to set up accounts and offered discounts on the purchase of their stationery requirements from our newsagency. With their support we were able to build up this side of the business.

As most of you would know, it takes a long time to be accepted in Oatley. Toni and I were no exception. Over the years, we addressed many of our customers as Mr, Mrs or Miss and after having the newsagency for more than 15 years, customers would say, 'Mike, Toni, you have been here for a long time, please call me Bill or Anne'. One couple, Mr & Mrs Dorney, who regularly came to the shop, after nearly 16 years, Mrs Dorney one day said to Toni, 'you have been here a long time, please call me Mary'. A few days later Mr Dorney said to me, 'Michael, you have been here long enough, so please call me Martin'. After that, whenever the Dorneys came into the shop, Toni would greet them with 'Good Morning Mary, good Morning Mr Dorney' and I would say, ' Good Morning Mrs Dorney, Good Morning Martin' and that continued for the next 4 years. Another Oatley identity, Mr Lindsay Bird, who lived above the dress shop in Oatley Avenue, and used to 'patrol' the streets early each morning with his dog(s), after a number of years asked me to call him Lindsay, but Toni never received the same invitation and she continued to address him as Mr Bird until his passing.

We were fortunate to be able to purchase the freehold of 13 Frederick St when it was offered for sale by the Tallais girls & it has become our superannuation funding.

In 2002, Tim Larkin (another local, son of Margaret & Frank), made us an offer we could not refuse & Toni insisted we should sell before one of us died at the counter. The Larkins and the Stibbs were (well – so far as we know!) the only 2 local Oatley families to have owned Oatley Newsagency.

So in 2002 we sold the newsagency – our 20 years there was the longest of any Oatley newsagent!

If there's enough time we can look later at some photos of the Flanagan's time in the newsagency.

Tim lasted less than 2 years and sold the newsagency in 2004 to it's current owners Tong Liu and Fei Pei who have been there for 8 years.

SO WE TURN TO OATLEY WEST NEWSAGENCY

Thomas Roy Yates , a Police Inspector (who lived at 53 Ada Street) owned the Oatley West Newsagency at 119 Mulga Road, along with his son James Roy Yates for many years until 1965. Jim passed away last year and his wife, Maureen told me they moved into the residence next door to the newsagency when they married in 1960.



Jim and Maureen later owned Riverwood South Newsagency for many years and their son Ian more recently owned Lugarno Newsagency.

There is a gap in our knowledge from 1965, but Oatley West Newsagency was owned in 1979 (according to Warren Stevens) by Allan & Judith Maxwell.

David Stait owned the newsagency from 1980 until 1982. David & his wife lived in the residence.

Howard and Wendy Hunter owned it from 1982 until 1985, when they sold and moved to purchase Scotts Head Newsagency & Liquor Store. Howard and Wendy lived in the residence.

Michael and Lindy Hyam (former school teachers) owned it from 1985

until 1990 when they returned to the Education Department. They lived in the residence.

Sam & Lorraine Pappallo bought the newsagency in 1990 and stayed 19 years until 2009 when they retired to Bonogin on the Gold Coast to be near their 3 children and 9 grandchildren. Sam and Lorraine lived in the residence for several years before they bought a house at Peakhurst. When the freehold of the shop and residence was sold several years ago, they relinquished the lease on the residence which was modified to become a restaurant which is presently known as *The Mulga Tree*.

Brett Dingeldei along with his Mum & Dad Carol and George, bought Oatley West Newsagency in 2009. I believe Brett has gone to work in a job outside the newsagency, so Carol & George are running the newsagency most of the time.

In closing, I would just like to say that being a newsagent with it's long hours and many challenges is not an easy life in any suburb. Toni and I came to Oatley with a plan to stay 3 to 5 years, certainly not more than 7 years, but discovered that Oatley is rather special. We found ourselves in a suburb amongst people who genuinely cared about Oatley and about each other. Oatley was like a country town and we enjoyed the support, loyalty and friendship of our many customers and we managed to survive 20 years in a very demanding business. I don't believe that would ever have been possible in any other suburb of Sydney.

AND A FINAL PLEA – PLEASE – CAN ANYBODY HELP US TO
FILL IN OWNERSHIP OF OATLEYWEST NEWSAGENCY
BETWEEN 1965 AND 1979? OR ADD TO ANY OF THE
INFORMATION WE'VE COMPILED?

Cliff and I want to thank the many people who have so freely given us information to assist in recording and preserving this information for the future. It is dangerous to pick out any individuals, but Jim Nicholson was an ever helpful mine of information, Mrs Tallais (nee Hogarth) was most helpful in providing the history of the building in Frederick Street now known as number 13, but originally number 25 - and we would have been unable to obtain the information about the Stibbs family without input from Jo Stibbs, widow of Doug Stibbs. Coral and Rex Roberts, Doreen Earl (nee Dunsmore) and Bill Davidson gave crucial information in naming Jimmy Silva & the Welsh families. So we say thank you to everybody who helped.

And I personally must congratulate and thank the members of the Oatley Heritage Group for their wonderful work in documenting and preserving the history of this unique village of Oatley.

*(For any suggested corrections or additional material, please contact
Cliff Crane, 9580 3269)*