

Oatley Heritage & Historical Society Projects.

<i>Month & Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written & Spoken Presenters</i>
August 2013	Oatley Public School	John Whitbread and Rodger Robertson

History of Oatley Public School -

Report to Oatley Historical and Heritage Society



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August 2013

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Introduction

The history of Oatley Public School (OPS) has been compiled from a variety of records. The School produced an 80 page document in 1992 entitled Oatley Public School 75 years on 1917 to 1992. The Oatley Heritage and Historical Society (OHHS) produced a study of Education in Oatley in 2002. There are other references to the school in the history of Oatley and these will be woven into the story.

Today the school library has two large drawers with historical material. These have been read and material copied for this report.

There are many other sources of the school's history from those who attended it. These will be acknowledged in the report and at the end. Many have written letters to the school or the OHHS with their recollections and there is a website belonging to Stephen Gard, a former pupil, and it has school photos and other information.

We also have a number of movies of school activities. These are detailed in the references.

It is only four years until the schools 100 years and no doubt there will be a case for writing the 100 year history. This document should assist in that production.

The OHHS also wishes to digitalise all the records of the schools history including movies, class photos, and manuscript material. This will ensure that the current information is collected and not lost. This project will be organised in 2013 and 2014. The digital storage methods will be organised between the school and OHHS.

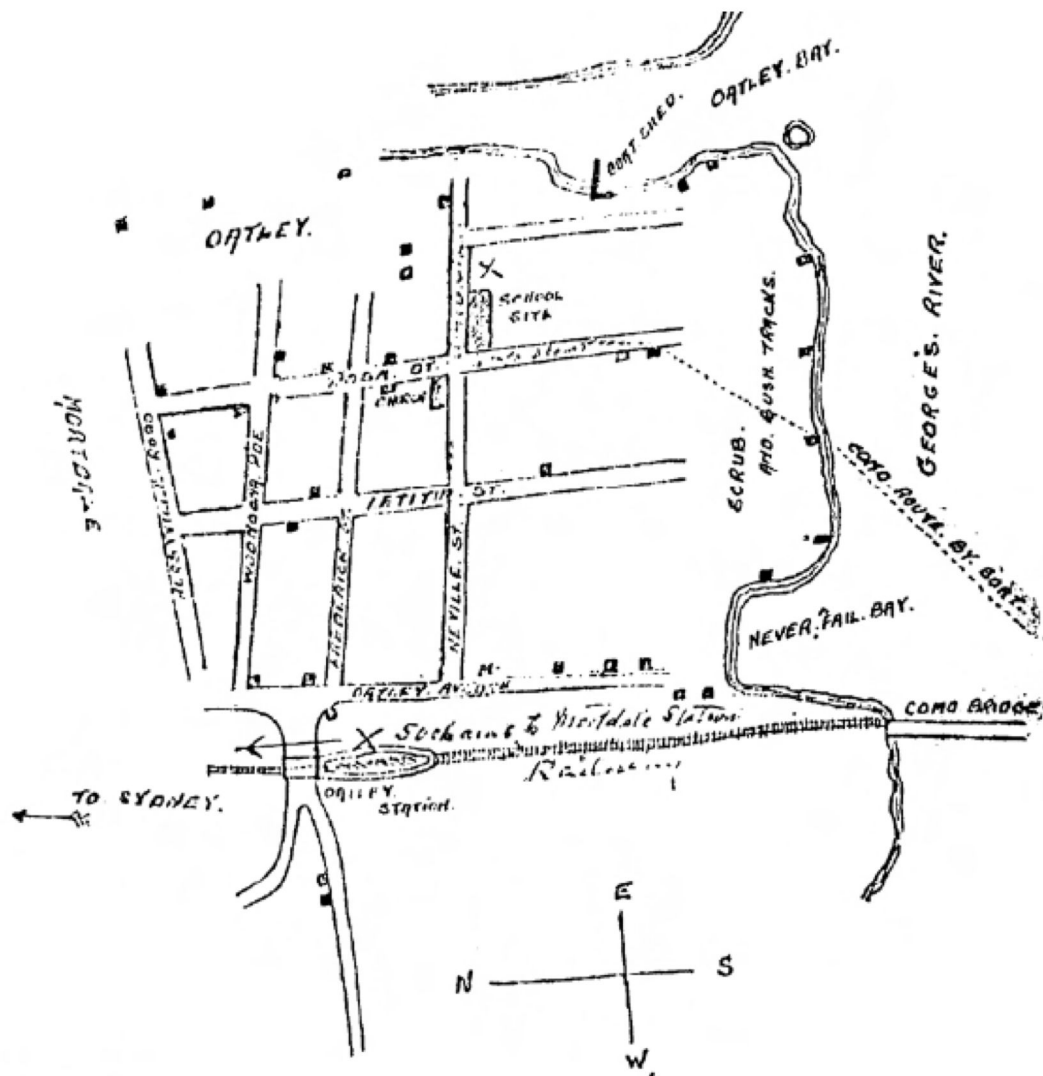
Many thanks to all those who assisted the authors.

John Whitbread and Rodger Robertson
August 2013.

The Beginning 1917 to 1938

Oatley was originally part of the Oatley Grant to James Oatley in 1833. But the evidence is that it was not settled until the railway from Sydney to the South Coast passed through the area in 1885. Charles Cecil Griffiths purchased the land from James Oatley's son in 1881. Once the railway had been established and a station built at Oatley, then land was subdivided and sold in the suburb. By 1900 the population was growing and the Oatley School of Arts was built in 1905.

By this time local residents were complaining about children having to "tramp two miles" to Mortdale School. Also Mortdale School was overcrowded and many students were accommodated in a hall away from the school. Thus, in 1914, an Inspector from the Department of Public Instruction recommended that



LOCAL SKETCH
SHOWING RESIDENCES
OF PUPILS.
1912

The attached map shows Oatley in 1912 as drawn by A.E. Guthbertson, Secretary of Oatley Progress Association.

classes be opened at Oatley. But WW1 intervened, putting on hold for a time the implementation of the idea.

The map shows the original site for the school to be on the eastern side of Rosa Street (2 blocks from where it is today).



The school opened at the School of Arts on 2nd October 1917 with headmaster Mr W J Horne and teachers Miss Yates and Miss Marjorie Phillips. The only classes were 3rds and below whilst the older children went to Mortdale. There were 69 enrolments in late 1917.





Mr J Dennis arrived at the school as an Inspector from the Department a month after it opened. Here are some of his remarks. He noted that the school was “mainly for younger children who would find it too far to walk to Mortdale School”.

He found that “suitable time tables and programmes of lessons had been drawn up and the School Records are being properly kept. The children are amenable to control and are orderly and well behaved. There is no caning. The teachers are trying to train the children to speak well” but he noted more attention was needed to this aspect! Writing was also of prime concern and he wrote “strict watch to prevent the formation of wrong habits in letter formation” was being done. And in arithmetic “the 3rd class is doing long division”. He noted that the school also was encouraging geography about the local area and about the study of local birds. Scripture was being attended to and the school was encouraging manual work with woodwork for the boys and “girls have made a good beginning with sewing and some of them can knit; and in the singing there is a tendency to shout”. Mr Dennis also noted that out of 69 enrolments there were only 49 present, but he noted it was a wet day.

The school clearly passed its early tests! But these inspections went on and these are summarised over time until 1929 when the records cease. The reports are summarised in italics.

“Observation Book” 14 November 1917 (J Dennis)

The school opened in the School of Arts premises on 2 October 1917. There were 66 children enrolled and only 49 in attendance (a wet day). Only pupils up to 3rd class admitted.

Suitable time tables and programmes of lessons have been drawn up and the school records are properly kept.

The children are amenable to control and are orderly and well-behaved. Their assembly, drill, physical exercises, and school movements are carefully carried out. More frequent singing at change of lessons and at other suitable times would brighten the school work.

The teachers are trying to train the children to speak well. Seeing that faults in pronunciation are rather prevalent, still more attention might be given to speech training.

References are made to reading, writing, arithmetic, nature study (insects are kept; and the abundant bird life to be observed), geographical features and scripture lessons. No materials for manual work have been supplied but the girls have made a good beginning with sewing, and one of them can knit. The use of thimbles should be insisted upon.

In the singing there is a tendency to shout.

Mr Walter Horne was the Headmaster through to 1921.

“Observation Book” 14 & 15 August 1918 (J Dennis)

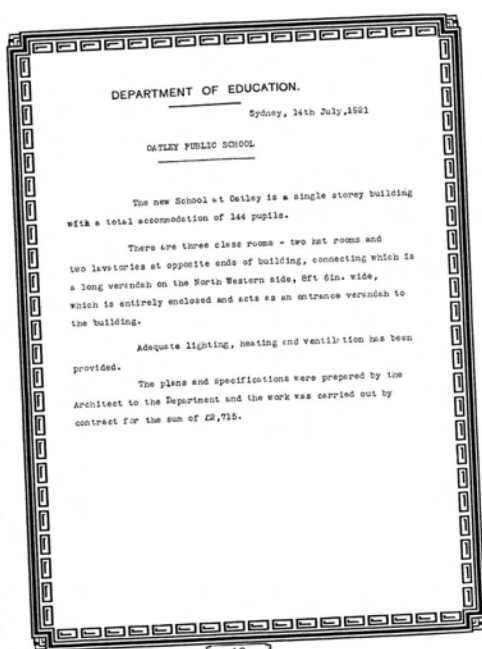
Enrolled – 112, Present - 89. 4th class has been added.

The school grounds have been fenced but no readers, or writing books, or material for manual work has been provided by the Department. The shortage has largely been made good by the parents, who with other residents gave valuable help in connection with a bazaar by which over £13 was raised for school purposes.

Drill and physical exercises are regularly performed every morning. On marching in to school the children sing morning greetings and a hymn.

The children read pretty fluently, their pronunciation still shows need for thorough training, much of the writing is of poor quality; errors in spelling of common words are frequent. The work in arithmetic is somewhat slow. In connection with geography use is made of the sand-tray and the globe. The history lessons are not well known.

The manual work in paper, cardboard and raffia, when no material is provided by the Department, is an evidence of enterprise on the part of the school and the parents. The girls sew fairly well and many of them knit for patriotic purposes.



But a year or so later the crowding at Mortdale lead to the opening of 4th (1918) and 5th (1920) at Oatley.

Left- A report from 1921.



School of Arts circa 1917

“Observation Book” 21 March 1919 (J Dennis)

Enrolled – 102, Present – 67.

The infants' garden is still well kept. The pupils in the upper sections of the school have undertaken to make a good garden, to keep the ornamental trees free of grass and weeds, to gather up the loose stones, and to keep the playground free of scraps of food and other litter.

I would again lay stress in the need for greater concentration, for steadiness of effort and for working with a clear conscious purpose. Further training in deportment is necessary; children entering the school during recess should take off their hats. The strictest supervision should be exercised to secure thorough cleanliness.

Friendly relations exist between teachers and pupils. The school has made contributions to patriotic funds.

Again comments of progress with reading, writing and arithmetic show a need for improvement. No books for the teaching of scripture have been supplied. I should like to see the children more willing and better able to tell the scripture stories.

Needlework is fairly well taught. The girls might do more in setting hems and seams for themselves. The girls have kept up their knitting of socks.

“Observation Book” 17 & 18 March 1920 (ER Riley) 5th class has been added.

Enrolled - 154 Present - 128

Classification calls for thoughtful consideration. At present the first classes are retardation factories. This class called 2nd has not nearly covered the work of class 1. Children a year at school and 7 years of age have made next to no progress in the school arts. The school is badly housed and 3 teachers have to work a good deal of the time in one room. The afternoon break for the infants should not exceed ten minutes.

In classes 1A & 2 the children are happy but very irresponsible. In the upper classes also some laxness was noted, there is no general keenness.

A good feature which characterises the government in all classes is its kindness. There have been only three cases of caning. Teachers and pupils are on the friendliest footing. Fuller attention to the minor courtesies is called for and a somewhat greater self-respect and self-reliance is desirable, such as would banish the petty tale-bearing which is now common.

There is much unnecessary running out of school.

Class 1B has had 3 teachers in the last 3 months. Classes 1A and 2 have made very inadequate progress. The setting out of work in class 3 is wretchedly poor, illegible writing and untidiness being the rule. In all subjects a greater effort must be obtained: there is little sense of responsibility among the children – rather a good humoured contempt towards school activities.

“Observation Book” 26 & 27 & 30 May 1921 (ER Riley)

Enrolled – 182 Present - 158

The records for the lower classes are not kept with sufficient neatness or correctness. Palpable mistakes are quite common. There must be better supervision. The habits being formed are unsatisfactory whether looked at from a moral or intellectual point of view. Half the children frequently do not know what question has been asked; some forget entirely that a lesson is in progress. There is an undue amount of late coming. Chattering and the irresponsible bawling out of answers make really thoughtful work impossible. The best feature of the control is its kindness but this kindness needs to be accompanied by firmness.

Again comments on the 3 R's, history and scripture were somewhat negative.

The Gould League has 24 members. The bank has 125 depositors banking an average of £3.10.0 weekly, a very good record.

The local parents petitioned the Minister for Education for a school and this was agreed and completed in June 1921 at a cost of £2659. The school then had 3 classrooms for 150 students although enrolments show 188 or an average of 132 by June 1921.

The classrooms are still used today. The photo below is the 1922 5th class.



“Observation Book” 4th & 5th July 1922 (ER Riley)

Enrolled – 159 Present – 147

Classes have now moved to the new school buildings.

The school has been disorganised by continual changes of staff. The children have had largely to provide their own workbooks.

The school tone has improved since last inspection. The irresponsible calling out of answers and loose chatter are not quite as troublesome as last year. It reflects upon the tone of the girls that their closets have been disfigured with scribble (often indecent) while the boys’ closets are practically free from it.

Do not use a cane as a pointer. Little evidence was seen during the inspection of the influence of the revised Syllabus. The teachers will need to familiarise themselves more fully with its suggestions.

Comments on the 3 R’s were slightly more positive but a final comment of “The work has been interfered with by the disorganisation inseparable from a complete change of staff” is telling.

Mr SC Young was the relieving Headmaster.

“Observation Book 20, 23 & 24 April 1923 (ER Riley)

Enrolled - 213 Present - 186

The accommodation is insufficient: two more classrooms are needed.

Tree planting needs to be followed up. The garden has been re-set after the droughty summer.

Two pupils obtained their 2 C's last year and passed on to super- primary classes. The annual output of this school should be from 20 to 25 pupils.

The better school tone of which the beginnings were noted last year has been maintained and developed. Mostly positive comments were made on the progress of the 3 R's. A great improvement has been made in the teaching of music. Both History and Geography are being taught with considerable success. Application should be made for a supply of Scripture Books.

Mr Walter Fitzgerald is now the Headmaster through to the final report in 1929.

“Observation Book 7, 8 & 9 May 1924 (ER Riley)

Enrolled - 252 Present - 224

The front has been turfed and will provide a fine setting for the garden which is about to be made. Some young sycamores are doing well.

There is an undue amount of retardation, resulting largely from inefficient teaching in the junior classes in past years. The 6th class is too small besides being eighteen months over-age. A monitor is needed to prevent the waste of water from taps left running. There is a multiplicity of brown paper charts and other teaching aids.

The pupils are extremely friendly. Goodwill pervades the school and the relation between teachers and pupils are cordial though in one case control is marked by a tendency to explosiveness that should be avoided.

A habit of running out of school during a session is widespread and results merely from suggestion and habit, not necessity. Physical training, including organised games, vigoro, and football as well as the usual Swedish exercises receive proper attention.

Vowel quality also needs truing up (in teachers as well as pupils). A practical study of pages 27-30 of the Syllabus might be made in a series of staff meetings.

Critical comments were made in relation to the children's vocabulary and speech and to the 3 R's. Positive comments were expressed for music and geography. The report finished with the comment “High grade supervision is the key to high grade efficiency”.

The photo below is from October 1924 when the War Memorial was opened in the north eastern section of the school grounds. The records are incomplete as to how the land title was transferred to this use but here stood Oatley's War Memorial until 1962. There is a plaque there today.



Mrs Cole was a local identity who worked well for the community - she led the local move for the War Memorial, and was responsible for the children at OPS to have a dress up festival in the mid 1920s.



Notes from Mim Egan who attended in 1920s

The four class room school opened in 1920 in Letitia St., Oatley was meant to cater for the needs of the district. However it was full to overflowing the day it opened, with more than sixty pupils in each room. The two cloakrooms at each end of the building were stripped of their coat hooks and turned into classrooms. With a desk on each side, there was just room to sidle up the aisle between them. A blackboard on an easel and plenty of chalk completed the set-up. Slates and slate pencils were our writing equipment. Each piece of completed work was doomed to be erased with a wet sponge. In hot weather the sponge soon dried out. Then we used spit!

Books made of brown paper and boxes of coloured chalk met the needs of our art classes. The chalk was really soft and very messy. Our master-pieces soon became blurred and the atmosphere heavy dust. Whatever equipment was used was free of charge. Education was free to all.

The infants occupied one of these rooms and there I was installed. I immediately fell in love with the beautiful young teacher, Miss Stenhouse. My seat was towards the back of the class. Sydney Mills sat behind me and delighted in pulling my long curls. I consulted with my mother. She suggested that I turn round and hit him, which I did. I was the one that the teacher slapped over the affair. However, Syd didn't ever pull my hair again.

Going to school meant that I was in contact with all the ailments suffered by children. Whooping cough was very nasty, especially for babies and we had a baby. It was a very contagious disease. Worn out by the whooping of all three, our mum decided to take us to the Blue Mountains to live. She'd heard that a change of altitude was a sure cure. A flat was rented and we departed, leaving dad to fend for himself. He visited us at the weekends.

I went back to school (OatleyPS) and by the time I was nine had reached the sixth grade, Mr. Fitzgerald's class. He was the stumpy, roly-poly man dressed in shirt sleeves, with a waist coat to support his watch and chain. A bamboo cane, continually waving was a part of his being. His very tall wife and his daughter came at times to help with our education. These days they would be called specialist teachers.

Fitzy had a mania for mathematics. We had the mathematics tables drilled into us. First the times tables, then all the others. Weights and measures, sixteen ounces one pound, twenty-eight pounds, one bushel so it went on. Then came the distances. Twelve inches one foot, three feet one yard. On it went, until we came to the last possible knowledge we might need to know. Sixty-three-thousand-three-hundred and sixty inches in a mile. The recitation happened first thing every morning, with the long cane being used to conduct the chorus. Full attention was demanded. The cane would crash on the desk in front of you should you waver. Though it was the poor boys who caught his attention, never the girls. We sat on opposite sides of the room.

Then would come the mental arithmetic. Testing the tables we had just recited,

then testing our skill in using them. Such teaching methods are scorned to-day, but we all became very good at maths. It was like an instinct.

There were no text-books. A school magazine appeared once a month. This contained some general knowledge articles, stories from literature, poems and always on the back page, a song. Mrs. Fitzgerald and her daughter Mary came each week to teach us singing. We learnt, using the Tonic-sol-fa, displayed in a chart on the wall. Mary brought along her portable organ. With no car to transport it, how did she get it there?

We learnt our songs in four parts. Four aisles in the class room, each aisle took a part. I can still remember some of the songs, even the sol-fa. We all learnt all the parts and in the middle of a song could switch. One thing, I enjoyed was changing the key. Using the sol-fa chart, the pointer would move across. "Call it doh," she would call and off we would go.

There were no textbooks. For things like history and geography, charts, written on large sheets of brown paper, telling the details we should know, hung on the wall One set for each subject and one page for each topic. A new page was turned each week or each month, during which time, we copied them down. This was called transcription. The writing was done, using a steel nibbed pen, dipped in ink. Not my skill! I didn't ever learn. My books were full of blots and terrible writing, my fingers covered in ink and dented with the pressure from the effort. There was blotting paper to mop up the mess. I had so much.

Maps of Australia and the World hung on the wall. We copied them and filled in all sorts of detail, capitals, rivers, mountains, products and lots more.

It was in this class that I had my first boy friend, though I don't think we ever had much to do with one another. Everyone knew that Ronald Hince was my boy friend. I wouldn't have had any other! He was the only boy who had clean shoes, probably cleaned by his mother, but beautifully black and shiny.

Only when we left this district and I went to an established school did we realise what a very good education I had had. I am forever grateful to the Fitzgerald family, a chubby cane-waving man and his two fine women. I attended the seventy-fifth anniversary celebrations of the Oatley School and there met the Fitzgerald's granddaughter. She was teaching mathematics in a Girl's High School. Just as beautiful as her mother! I wish her well.

“Observation Book 6-10 August 1925 (SG Wilson)

The school needs to be more firmly held, especially in the upper classes. Much time is lost in settling down to work and interruptions from one cause and another are continuous. Late pupils do much to upset rooms. Simultaneous shouting out of answers is disastrous to a class.

Comments on the 3 R's were satisfactory for the lower classes but critical of the results for years 5 and 6. The question of providing some form manual work for the older boys, in some equipped manual training room, should be kept in view. Useful work is being done by some of the girls in the needlework section.

Pencil drawings are good as far as they go. Few schools are now without the more impressive colour work.

“Observation Book 1 & 2 June 1926 (SG Wilson)

The front gardens and lawns look well. Rooms and furniture are exceptionally clean.

The general tone of the school is now very pleasing. One can scarcely recognise the classes that last year were so restless and hard to manage.

Comments on academic progress in all classes and subjects were positive. Mrs Fitzgerald takes a keen interest in the music. The children sing beautifully.

By December 1924 the school had been extended with two additional classrooms and a staff room. The cost was £1936. But this was inadequate as the Headmaster Mr Fitzgerald wrote in 1926: “There are but 5 rooms to accommodate 6 classes, hence the staff room, which is half the size of a classroom, has been used for this past 18 months.” The enrolment was now 330



but it took two years and £1,197 to finish an additional staff room and one additional classroom. But as well the land on the north side of Neville St was purchased for £1060 in 1928 from Mrs Astley, B.C. Grimm and G.L. Neilley.

In 1930 an area in front of the school was

paved for the cost of £187. The photo above shows the grassed area that was paved later.

In 1925 Mrs Madeline Fitzgerald (the headmaster's wife- see later in report) produced a play with OPS students at the School of Arts entitled "The Crowning of the Queen".



The girl on the far right of this photograph is Catherine Hawkins (nee Slough). In a letter to "Oatley Writes" she recalls "*I attended Oatley School and call to mind the teachers, Miss Mary Boland, Mr Harvey, Mr Powell and the Headmaster, Mr Fitzgerald. Miss Boland taught a class as well as taking the younger girls in sewing. As we got in to the higher classes, our Headmaster's wife (Mrs Fitzgerald) taught sewing and singing. She had a portable organ which she would play while we sang "Men of Harlech", "The Minstrel Boy" and other songs.*

I always remember wattle day in my early days of school. The school would be full of wattle (for then Oatley was nearly all bush and wild wattle was in bloom everywhere). Old Mr Reid from Neverfail Bay would arrive at school with his sulky full of wattle. We would sing songs, especially the old favourite "The Bush was Grey" and the sun would seem to be shining brighter. To me it was always a magical day".

"Observation Book 1-3 & 9 July 1927 (BJ Price)

Enrolled – 296 Present – 268

A considerable number of pupils have spent an unduly long period in their present classes. A normally intelligent child should not remain more than 12 months in any given class. Some 15 people in 5th class last December were not re enrolled this year whilst a similar number had disappeared from 6th class since January. This leakage is unfortunate for the school and every effort should be made to check it. The natural attraction of the larger schools is, of course, mainly accountable.

The sunshine, sparkle and animation so desirable in the initial stage of school work are somewhat wanting in the instruction of class 1B. In classes 1A and 2B the instruction is more earnest than effective. Few of the children sit correctly or hold the pencil properly.

The boys in 6th are an alert and active group as are also in somewhat lesser degree the boys in 5th. In neither class, however, do the girls participate with any vigour or interest in the various lessons.

A letter from Jack Elliott.

A short note of what I remember of schooldays at Oatley Public School. We arrived from Kingswood in 1927 or 1928 and I joined 2nd Class and what seemed to me to be a very elderly lady teacher, a Miss Boland. Then to 3rd Class and a not to be forgotten Miss Hodge of the red hair.

I cannot recall anything at all of 4th or 5th Classes but I well remember 6th Class and the Headmaster Mr. Fitzgerald. "Fitzzy" as he was known was shortish and stoutish and lived with his wife and daughter on the corner of Neville and Annett St. Fitzzy liked his drop of ale and on many occasions I and others were sent just prior to lunch to walk down to collect his lunch from Mrs Fitzgerald. A brown paper parcel which we knew contained more than sandwiches. That afternoon our lessons were usually on the quiet side.

I think he was followed by Mr Sanderson.

Yours Sincerely,

Jack Elliott

In August 1928 there was an inspection of the school which was to investigate the success or otherwise of the additional two classrooms which were added to alleviate congestion at the school. At this stage and for years after the Headmaster was also a teacher. The report showed the school had 328 enrolments and 302 present. Mr W Fitzgerald was HM and teacher of 1B and Mr P Hanney was 1st Assistant and teacher of 2nd class. The report said the additional classrooms "comfortably provided" the school with better conditions although one class was still very large. "The P&C Assoc appears to cooperate with the staff" and the provision of more outdoor facilities was needed.

30 July - 1 Aug 1928 (BJ Price)

Enrolled - 328 Present 302

The erection of 2 additional classrooms has removed the difficulties in the way of accommodation under which the school was working until a few months ago. Cases of retardation are less numerous than at last inspection. Pupils of comparatively high ages are still to be found here and there. Special attention should be given to these with a view to accelerating their progress.

A considerable sum of money has been raised during the year for the purpose of adding to the school's general equipment. The P&C Assn appears to co-operate readily with the staff.

The general condition of the school is reflective of earnest and intelligent effort on the part of the teachers. In nearly every class the pupils show a reasonable degree of alertness and activity. Class 1B is managed by the young ex-student in charge with brightness and very fair effectiveness. In the primary classes both effort and attainments are more uniform than at last inspection.

22 – 26 July 1929 (J McDowall)

Enrolled – 325 Present - 290

The desks and tables in the schoolrooms are particularly clean; they are better cared for than any I can remember seeing. The inkwells are guarded by protectors. Some tar paving is needed where pupils have to fall in on very stony ground. All rooms are well supplied with charts and diagrams supplied by the teachers.

The 5th class pupils gave accounts from their library reading. The Gould League has 161 members and some girls belong to the Junior Red Cross. The school fund contains £57 managed in conjunction with the P&C Assn. The milk distribution arrangements are well organised at the morning recess.

The school tone is very pleasant. The pupils are polite, attentive, obedient and frank. The teachers have little trouble with discipline. Effort to do well was noted in various subjects throughout the school. Special attention is given to the neatness of book work.

Mr Fitzgerald Headmaster 1924-1931



His granddaughter, Diana Renton, notes

Walter (Wally) FITZGERALD - Headmaster Oatley Public School (1922 - 1930). Responsible for the planting and nurturing of the trees around the school. When he died suddenly from a heart attack at the age of 51, the school students formed a procession at his funeral. He taught many of the old Oatley residents including the DERWENT family and the late Owen HODGE (Solicitor).

In 1931 the death of early Headmaster Mr Fitzgerald is reported in the SMH.

Collaps, Elizabeth Ann, wife of the late Mr. George Evans, coachbuilder, Croydon, in her 85th year.

FITZGERALD.—January 12, 1931, at his residence, 26 Neville-street, Oatley. Walter Henry Fitzgerald, headmaster Oatley Public School, dearly loved husband of Madeline and father of Mary.

GREEN.—January 11, 1931, at St. Vincent's Hos-

In December 1933 the P & C Association and Mr Monro MLA presented prizes to the successful students and there were some musical items in the ceremony. The event was conducted at the School of Arts as the school had no facilities for such numbers. The following year saw a continuation of this event but it did include the awarding to two students of a suitcase for raising the most money for a cot at St George Hospital.

THE PORT MACQUARIE NEWS, SATURDAY, MAY

FAREWELL AND PRESENTATION.

TO MR. AND MRS. W. J. SANDERSON.

The Masonic Hall, Port Macquarie, was crowded on Monday night at the public farewell to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Sanderson. Mr. Sanderson, as briefly stated in our last issue, has been transferred to Oatley Public School, and left by car on Tuesday, with his two sons, for Sydney.

The evening was interspersed with items and speeches, contributors to the programme being Miss M. Benyon, Mrs. L. E. Gray, Miss B. Nicholls and Mr. A. G. Munro. Miss D. Hallett was the accompanist.

Apologies for absence were tendered by the Mayor on behalf of Mrs. N. E. McLaren, Matron Jobson, Mr. G. H. Bruce, Inspector of Schools, Ald. W. H. Marshall, the Revs. Canon L. Gray, G. A. Gordon, and M. Walker, Messrs. R. V. Dulhunty, G. Quast, Gilmour, and Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Wilson.

On the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson at the hall all present joined in singing, "For They are Jolly Good Fellows." Mrs. Elliot (Mayoress) presenting Mrs. Sanderson with a bouquet.

Mr. A. C. Elliot (Mayor) said it came as a bolt from the blue last Thursday when the information was forthcoming that Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson were leaving Port Macquarie at such short notice. There had here. This all tendered to have an effect on the children, which he trusted would be quickly overcome. On behalf of the P. and C. Association, and the sporting bodies he wished Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson and family a safe journey and an enjoyable stay in their new home at Oatley. Whenever they felt disposed to come back to Port Macquarie a warm welcome would await them.

Mr. A. A. Cumming, President of the Golf Club, said both their guests would be greatly missed on the golf links, and thanked them for their assistance, always given with a good will. He had repeatedly noticed that former pupils of the school always spoke well of Mr. Sanderson and Mr. McMillan, and were glad to go and see their former teachers. This exemplified their love of the teachers, and especially of Mr. Sanderson, of whom all the boys spoke well of. On behalf of himself and many of these boys he wished Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson and family God speed and the best of everything in life.

Mr. Elliot assured Mr. Sanderson that not only in the School, but outside of it, they were genuinely sorry to lose him. He then presented Mr. Sanderson with a beautiful chiming clock, which he hoped would ever remind him of Port Macquarie and its people, on behalf of the people, for what he had done for the School and for the town generally. To Mrs. Sanderson he presented a cut-glass powder bowl and scented spray, and also presents for the four children. He wished them their great kindness during their stay in Port Macquarie; for the nice things said that evening and the honour of having such a fine gathering to bid them farewell.

Supper was then served by the ladies, and the happy gathering concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

On Saturday afternoon, at the Tennis Club courts, farewell was bid to Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson by the members of the Club. An apology was offered on behalf of the President, Dr. N. E. McLaren, who was away from town. The two Vice-Presidents, Messrs. A. Lonsdale and A. G. Munro, referred in eulogistic terms to the happy association of both members with the Club, the former making a presentation, on behalf of the members, of two Stuart cut-glass vases.

Mr. Sanderson regretted the severance recalling many enjoyable hours spent with the members on the courts, and thanked the Club for their beautiful presents.

FENCING NAILS.

Sir,—I ask you to kindly publish this statement:—"In your paper of the 4th May, 1935, Alderman Hudson said Mr. W. B. Dick told him his son, Albert, had gone to Mr. Basham's, who was nailing down a floor with galvanised nails, bought by the Council; and, in your paper of the 18th May, Alderman McLaren said the

In 1935 Mr W J Sanderson took over as headmaster. The report above describes his earlier work (From The Port Macquarie News).

DURING recent weeks Mr. W. Dawes has been visual education instructor at the Teachers' College Sydney University. To extend visual education in State schools, 50 teachers are learning to operate talkie and silent cinema equipment. Mr. Dawes, who is a son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Dawes, of Aberdare Street, Kurri Kurri, is keenly interested in this work. He received his education at Kurri Kurri Public School, and is at present on the teaching staff of Oatley Public School.

Mr Dawes was a teacher at OPS in 1930 - here is a report in the SMH.



In September 1937 the P & C Association purchased a flagpole for £2.5.0 and paid for its erection in 1938.

The school records include the "Punishment Book". It was Department of Education Policy to have such a book that recorded every case of corporal punishment - the instructions were that corporal punishment was in extreme cases only. In the 1930 & 40s it averaged around 20 to 30 cases a year - by the 1960s it was about 2 per year. Were the pupils getting better behaved? Research did not show any girl receiving corporal punishment in all the years. In fact it was forbidden to use on girls over 12. It was also forbidden to "box pupil's ears", "caning of legs and buttocks" and "tapping of children on the head". The Head of the School was the only one authorised to administer the punishment. The preferred method was to strike the palm of the hand with a light cane.

The reasons for such punishment were recorded as: Inattention, talking, "falsehood" later recorded as lying, cheating, swearing, stealing from teacher or school, insubordination, absent from school without permission, throwing stones or hitting girls, sneering at teacher, repeated bad conduct in scripture, ringing dentist bell on way to school, gross carelessness, picking on "ment. def." and persistent bad language. The names of those punished are recorded but not published here!

Interview with Joyce Marks (nee Bray) 1929-1935

Joyce lived in Rosa Street and had a short walk to the school. Here she is seen holding the board in 1933 in 4th class.

Her teachers
were
2nd Miss Hodge
3rd Mr Powell
4th Mr Heffron
5th Mr Nelson
6th Mr
Sanderson

Joyce
remembers
going to the
station every
morning and
meeting Mr
Heffron
(coming from
his Carlton



residence) at the train, getting the keys to the sporting equipment and running back to open it and play vigoro before school. The playing area was where it is today - but then it was not level. Joyce's father worked for the council with a horse and dray and he would load dirt every day and dump it there for over 20 years. Hence today it is relatively built up and level.

There was one school building - at the northern end was the office - then 2nd, 3rd, 4th 5th and at the end was the headmaster's 6th class and office. Joyce says that Mr Sanderson gave them the option of being taught Maths or sea shanties - the students chose the latter!

Elsewhere this report discusses the corporal punishment issue from the "Punishment Book". There it shows very few girls getting the cane. But Joyce says she "got it every day" and yet her name never appears in the book. She remembers one day being asked by Miss Hodge to go down to the town and buy some biscuits. Joyce did so and purchased some nice looking biscuits in the shape of a puppy. She got 4 cuts of the cane for such a mistake of buying dog biscuits! She says that her younger brother went to the school a few years after Joyce and received the following comment in his report - "it is such a pleasure to teach Bill after Joyce". She also said her reports were probably shredded before her father came home. She represented the school in vigoro against Mortdale about once a month and later against Como as well. They played on the field down by Oatley Avenue and if the ball went over the road it was "6 and out".

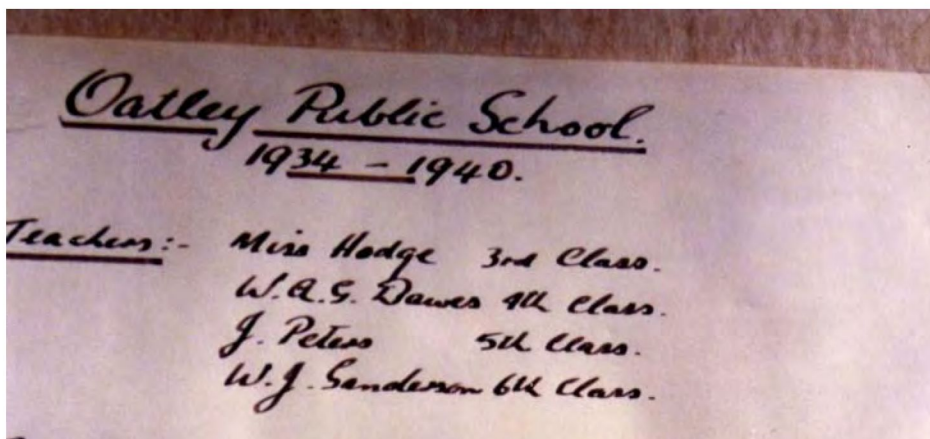
Notes from Frank Keating and Jim Nicholson on their short stays at OPS.

Frank Keating says he went to OPS in 1934/35 and his teacher was to be the notoriously strict Miss Annie Hodge in 3rd Class. The red headed Miss Hodge (lived near the Keatings) was a "tirade of a teacher" and had taught Frank's elder sister and brother. Her reputation was such that Frank declared to his mother that "he

wasn't going into Miss Hodge's class. He was allowed to go to Mortdale School. His two children went to Oatley West PS and who should they get as teacher - Miss Hodge - she had moved to Oatley West!

Jim Nicholson- he did kindergarten at Oatley in 1933 but went to Peshurst School for later classes- the reputation was that the OPS headmaster "drank too much" and so the parents sent their children to other schools.

The school has been used for many public events. It was used in the 1922 Elections as a voting centre and has continued in this role for the electors of the suburb.



George Kendall's report 1935.

Oatley Public School

PROGRESS REPORT for Term ending Aug 22nd 1935

Name George Kendall Class 1A

SUBJECTS	MARKS OBTAINED	MAXIMUM MARKS
READING	80	100
WRITING	38	50
DICTATION	95	100
ENGLISH	75	100
MATHEMATICS	100	100
HISTORY		
GEOGRAPHY		
TOTAL	388	450

REMARKS:

Position in Class 4

Conduct Still a little talkative

Attendance 10 days absent

Punctuality Excellent

Home Preparation George's reading and spell.

General are helped by W. J. Sanders
Abingdom his reading at home. **P. NELSON, B.A.**
 Class Teacher Headmaster

Recollections of June Bennett (nee Stevens) of her knowledge of OPS.

In the 1920's Miss Allen had private kindergarten in Oatley West and public education was held in the Oatley School of Arts before the public school was built in 1921.

The school in 1931 had seven classrooms, from kindergarten to sixth class. When I started school in 1931 the kindergarten teacher was a Miss Collins and the headmaster was a Mr Nelson. His deputy was Mr Heffron. The school had a piano in the kindergarten and the kindergarten teacher was also the pianist. Writing was taught by means of books from first class using pencils. Books were supplied by the Education Department. Reading by use of a Jones Chart with hand signals as well as sounds on the chart. Arithmetic was taught by counting from ones, twos, fives and tens. Addition and subtraction also being taught in the early years. Multiplication and division by fourth class. Writing with pen and ink using pens nibs commenced in third class. Cursive writing, not printing was taught, with the pupils learning to make thin upstrokes and thicker down strokes. (No biro's in those days).

From third class onwards the School Magazine came each month and was our main source of reading matter. No libraries of course. Monday mornings before classes, and outside on the asphalt playground, was our assembly. Every class lined up and the flag was flown. We recited... "I honour my God, I serve my king, I salute the flag". Then they were all marched into class and the schoolwork began.

Our third class teacher was Miss Hodge who taught at the school for seventeen years. Some people felt it have been longer. Music was taught by the "tonic so fah" method and pitch by means of tuning fork, our third class had no piano. On Empire day, the 24th of May, all pupils were marched down to the School of Arts where we sang patriotic songs, recited plays and poems relating to Empire, before being given a half day holiday.

Returning as a teacher in my first teaching year in 1946, I taught a first class of some forty or more pupils. The kindergarten teacher was a Mrs Foster, a very popular teacher. The war was barely over and teachers were hard to get but the school was fortunate to have a wonderful man on third class who had been school principal. The headmaster then was a Mr Sanderson who had been at the school a long time. No teaching aids were used in those days, and in 1946 the school had changed very little since I was there a pupil.

Then we used the old red, blue, green and brown primers to teach reading as well as phonics. In fact, looking through materials left in the storeroom I remember seeing an old Jones chart.

The schoolrooms each had a "Press" where books were kept; dual desks and a blackboard which the children all faced; and a pencil sharpener with a handle. For counters the children in my class used gum nuts which they collected in the playground and kept in their desks - long before the days of Cuisenaire Rods. Rhythm and music were on the radio which by then was installed in the school. As Mrs Foster left in term one of my first year, I combined with the kindergarten class on Friday afternoons for the classes to listen and move to this session. Numbers were very large with the new kindergarten teacher away on Fridays there were some 90 children in the group.

My next term at the school was in 1976 when I came back as teacher librarian. The headmistress was Miss Cox who also taught that time. I was there three days a week and had a library clerk one day a week.

Later the principal no longer taught and had a full time school clerk. Classes were from 25 to 35 and a separate Infants school had been built with all classes from kindergarten to 6th class using the library.

In 1978 we had a fire which destroyed the library and caused much damage. However by using the assembly hall and whatever was saved from the fire we were able to continue until the library was rebuilt.

Many changes have occurred since 1931 when I first started school until the time when I completed teaching at Oatley Public School in 1980. I wonder what changes will bring to the students that are now attending.

Below is some information collected by OHHS in 2002.

Charles Small (1926-1931)

Teachers	1926	1 st class	Miss Jones
	1927	2 nd class	Miss Boland
	1928	3 rd class	Miss Hodge
	1929	4 th class	Mr Powell
	1930	5 th class	Mr Fitzgerald and trainee Alan Bayley
	1931	6 th class	Mr Nelson

Kath Graham (nee Starr)

Teachers	1927	2 nd class	Miss Boland
	1929	5 th class	Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Heffron

Gordon Anderson (1933-35)

Teachers	1935	3 rd class	Miss Hodge
	1936	4 th class	Mr W Dawes
	1937	5 th class	Mr Peters
	1938	6 th class	Mr Sanderson

Muriel Lind (nee Gold) 1936-1941

	1938	3 rd class	Miss Hodge
	1939	4 th class	Mr W A E Dawes
	1940	5 th class	Mr Peters
	1941	6 th class	Mr Sanderson



The 1940 Fete
at the school.

1939-1950

Below is an aerial photo of the school and surrounds in 1943. The highlights are:

The L shaped main building - some other buildings to the west described later. The land where the current infants school is and the playing area near Oatley Avenue that was described by Joyce Marks above.



The school had 2 shelter sheds (one boys – one girls) and toilets near where the Hall is today. The playing area between there and the school building had been covered by asphalt by then.

Mrs Milsop's tuck shop (where the staff car park is located) can be seen.

There are several less than complimentary references to Mrs Milsop's shop:

Norm Elliott writes "I think the thing I recall most was of all was Mrs Milsop's "tuck shop" and the sometimes suspect tucker that came out of there. I was fortunate in that our house was almost opposite the school, so I used to nick home and get myself some lunch".

As reported in the publication "Oatley Writes" on the 150th Anniversary of Oatley: "Mrs Milsop's notorious little dingy tuckshop next to Oatley School and the rumours – false but guaranteed to turn the strongest stomachs – of what might be lurking in the items sold there".

Richard Benham recalls "In Letitia Street, adjacent to the school there was a house with a small shop (now part of the school grounds) kept by a Miss Milsop. It would have fallen well short of today's health regulations and my sister and I were forbidden by our mother to buy food there! Of course, as is the wont of all children, we did not always obey our mother's strictures".

Margaret Forbes, formerly Swift (nee Morrison) OPS 1937 - 1942. Margaret lived in Kitchener Street. Here she is back row 2nd from left.



1937 KINDERGARTEN

Margaret confirmed that there was a flute band at the school throughout her time there. Mr Peters was the bandmaster. In

her time there the teachers were 6th Mr Sanderson, 5th Mr Peters, 4th Mr W Dawes, and Mrs Harris was kindergarten and later 3rd class. Miss Charma was from England and taught 2nd class to Margaret.

She said Mr Sanderson had been gassed in WW1 and was not always well. She remembered the Church of England Hall being used as a classroom at times. There were fireplaces in the rooms but rarely used as the winters were not harsh.

During the war the two classrooms in the newer western section of the school were taken up by a temporary hospital. The desks were out and there were beds. On some weekends there would be practice drill - the children would be placed around the school with a tag saying what their injuries were and the "medical" staff would administer First Aid and take them to the "hospital" rooms at the school. A local truck was used as the ambulance.

There was a shop next to the school where the staff car park is now. The toffees sold had a surprise halfpenny placed in the occasional one as an incentive.

Fatal shark attack on former pupil.

Valma Tegel was a pupil at the school during the war - she was bitten by a shark in Oatley Bay in 1946 and died, aged 14.

In 1946 the school was used to issue ration cards-

Notes from Alec Leach

Alec Leach started at OPS in 1942. He describes the hospital at the school and on Sundays the scouts would be used as practice for the nurses and other emergency staff.

Also on "Victory in the Pacific Day" the school had the day off and he celebrated by vigorously ringing the bell at St Pauls church despite having a broken arm. He also remembers the chewing gum stuck under the desks.

***Presented by Alec Leach at the Oatley Historical & Heritage Society meeting,
Friday 23rd August 2013***



I, Alec Leach, attended Oatley Public School from 1942 until the end of 1944. In kindergarten my teacher was Mrs Lawson, whose father Dave Strang was a teacher at Hurstville Technical School, now Hurstville Boys High. He had one arm and was a very good

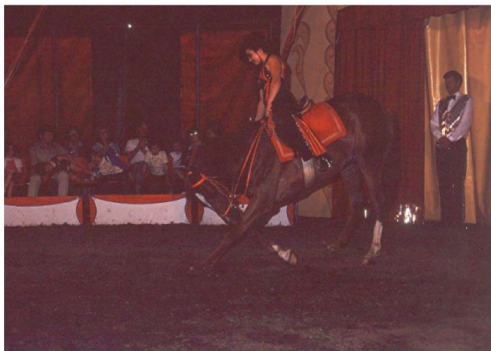


tennis player who coached the children for tennis in sport periods. Another teacher was Mrs Lindsay, who may have been my second class teacher. Unfortunately for her, she died of mushroom poisoning whilst on a visit to Broken Hill. I think Mr Dawes taught fourth class, whilst Mr Peters (Punchy) taught fifth class and conducted the School Flute Band. Mr Sanderson was Headmaster and sixth class teacher.

My playground interests varied from the usual chasings, cricket and marbles. On the lower flat area bordering Oatley Avenue, popular at the time were various games of marbles. One would set up multiple marbles together, depending on how many and to the type. Connies or Props, they being the superdupper marble. If, for instance, one marble was placed adjacent to the wall, one would only have to be approximately one yard away, then fire your marble with the aim of hitting it, if successful the marble was yours. Connies and props, one could hardly see the marble to get aim. During recess and lunch breaks, there would be a continuous chant of two you get three, try your luck for a connie etc. It wasn't until my Broken Hill School days that we played rings and holes. Holes was a miniature mini golf game.

Where the Assembly Hall is today, was the girls and boys sheds. They were mainly used on inclement days for recess and lunch. In my adolescence, I would use the shed to practice my tennis, using the internal partitioning wall to hit against. The toilet block was in that area.

Miss Campbell, headmistress during the 150th Anniversary of Oatley Celebrations, allowed the many meetings to be held from late 1981 through to early 1984 free of charge in the Assembly Hall. During the celebrations, the Rudi Bellis circus was held on the marbles flat area.



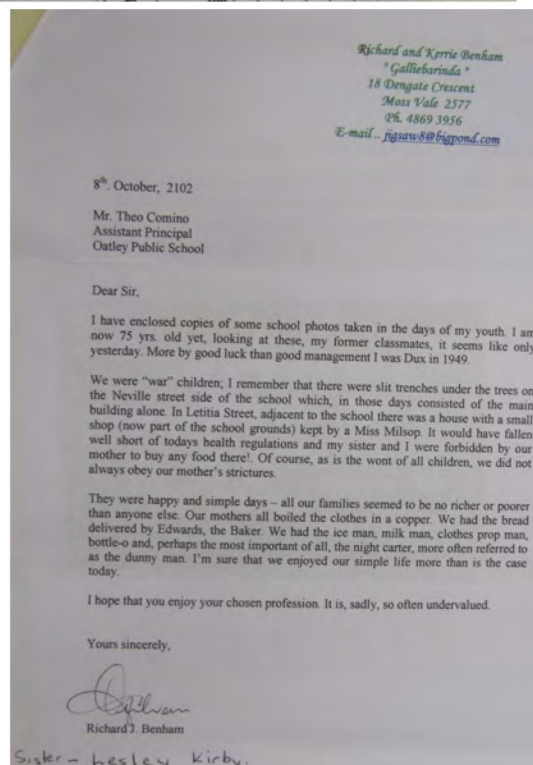
Both our sons attended Oatley Public School. David from 1977 to 1984 and Greg two years later. Tony Taylor & Miss Campbell particularly nurtured David to gain entry to Sydney Tech High. Whilst the boys were there the late Keith Stevenson and I would organise the White Elephant stall for the School Fetes. Goods were laid out on seats where the buildings are now located beside Neville Street. We would sell until 11.00 am then hold a Dutch Auction. Keith and I bounced off one another. We had a lot of fun and would manage to clear most of the junk.

Today my association with Oatley Public School exists with the annual outings of the school children. Organised by our group. This entails walking the children around Oatley with the endeavour of instilling into them historical landmarks, places of interest and previous occupations such as the oyster farming in Neverfail Bay. This project has proven to be beneficial to the children and credit is due to Rodger Robertson for instigating this programme.

A copy of an enrolment registrar in 1949 - the original is incomplete but the names and addresses of families at the school and the employment position of the father is noted.

PUPIL'S NAME	Date of Birth	Religious Observance	prev. sch.	Residence	Occupation	Date of Admission to each Grade						Date of leaving School	Group returned to	
						First	Third	Fifth	Seventh	Ninth	Eleventh			
WING, Ronald	22.1.44	Pres.	Comes P. Sch. 21.2.49	Alan Cowling	23 Kitson St. O.	Rail Shunter							11.5.49	Oatley
ADLEY, Charles	19.4.40	E.C.	Hammers 14.5.49	C.A. Bradley	31 Fredericks St. O.	Mil							1.4.49	Plan
AD, Kingely	29.5.44	E.C.	Not enrolled	Geoffrey Ward	71 Carrara Avic.	Railways	3/49	1/53	3/54	5/50			19.12.56	
CEY, Brian	15.12.43	Orth.		Mrs. Jacey	67 Carrara Avic.	Panel Beater	2/49	1/53	1/54	2/50			19.12.56	Butcher
NORTH, Peter	20.3.44	R.C.		John Holdsworth	105 Rosa St. O.	Craftsman	2/49	1/53	1/54					Panhard
RKE, Graham	21.9.42	E.C.	Ryde P.S. 19.10.49	Philip Clarke	33 Annette St. O.	Sheepkeeper	2/49	2/53	1/54				1/57	Good
KHEN, Keith	17.11.42	E.C.		Karen Freeman	89 Rosa St. O.	car-washer	2/49						6.6.59	Wal
BERKE, Lawrence	2.5.44	Ang.	McKerrell	John Saunders	62 Yarrandi St. O.	mechanic	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			12.12.56	27 Jan
ERKITT, John	26.9.39	E.C.	Wascot 20.1.49	Fred. Barrett	57 Annette St. O.	Teak & metal	2/49	1/53	1/54	1/50			12.58	Hard
GEB, Graham	15.5.37	Orth.	Stony Creek 12.6.49	Lucile Briggs	47 Annette St. O.	Blacksmith	2/49			1/50			7/7.59	Hard
INS, Robert	6.4.43	Orth.	Wascot 12.6.49	Roy Collins	50 Yarrandi St. O.	Rail Operat.	2/49						1.2.57	North
LEN, Ian	16.7.42	R.C.	St. Joseph's 12.6.49	Wm. J. Loney	62 Letitia St. O.	Hon. Pos	2/49						18.8.59	Melburn
WAT, Daniel	31.7.44	Orth.	Not enrolled	Donald Highway	24 Herbert St. O.	Tiler	2/49	1/53	3/54	5/50			13.12.56	Carlton
IS, Jeffrey	19.7.44	E.C.		Clarence Hall	7 Puller Pl. O.	Tram Driver	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			13.12.56	Leura
WKE, Lawrence	22.7.44	E.C.		Henry Keeble	86 Rosad. O.	Shed worker	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			13.12.56	Leura
LE, Ronald	17.1.40	Orth.	Bankstown 2.5.49	Wm. Kutt	47 Annette St. O.	Railways	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			18.12.51	Hard
HEA, Ronald	11.8.44	Ang.	Not enrolled	Ernest Witches	60 Yarrandi St. O.	Household	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			13.12.56	Leura
VER, Warren	29.9.44	E.C.	Not enrolled	David Grover	54 Letitia St. O.	Pageant	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			13.12.56	Leura
WILSON, Alan	4.5.39	E.C.	Wascot 23.8.49	Hon. Combes	29 Rowell St. O.	Clerk	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			11/4.59	Western
WA, Harry	2.9.44	E.C.	Not enrolled	Frank Wilson	47 Rosa St. O.	Leather worker	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			12.59	Kurri
BEHL, Dennis	9.9.46	E.C.		Anthony Murrell	33 Rowell St. O.	Cabinet maker	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			13.12.56	Leura
WAD, David	22.8.44	E.C.		Bertan Philstead	24 Rosa St. O.	Mural	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			29.8.50	Bus S.
IS, Richard	24.7.44	E.C.		John Croft	90 Letitia St. O.	Engineer	2/49	1/53	1/54	5/50			11.12.56	Leura

Richard Benham has written to the school about his and his sister Lesley's time at the school.



Bill Yates- he was at OPS when Bill Dawes was a teacher. Later Bill Dawes was headmaster at Lugarno and lived in Oatley Park Road. In the late 40s the 5th and 6th classes were combined.

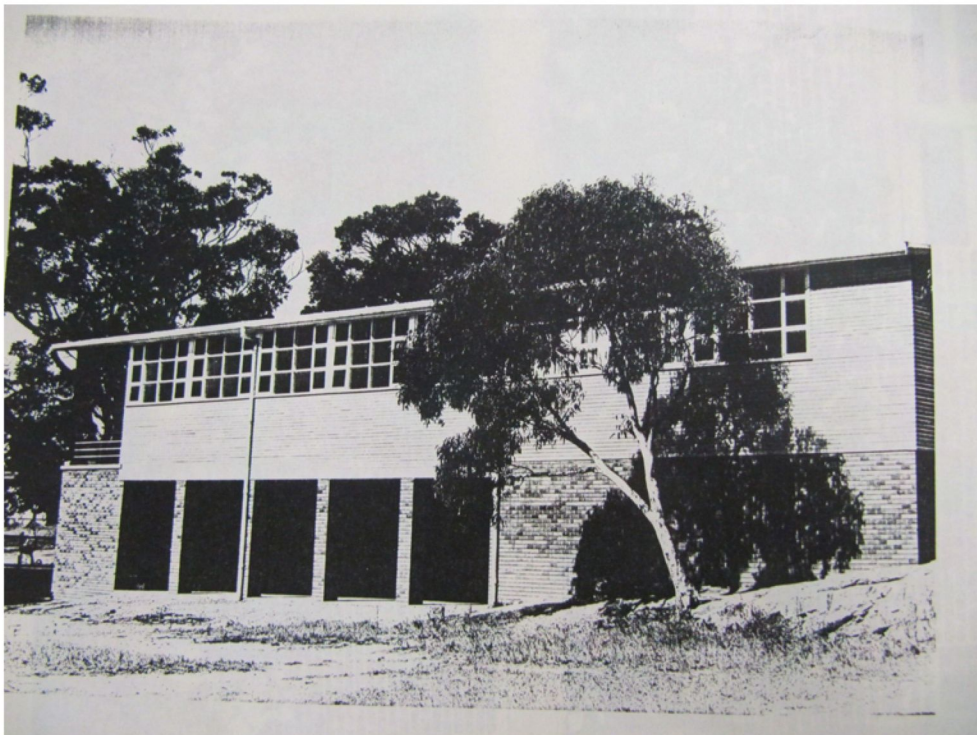
1950-1970



1958 saw the opening of the W J Sanderson Assembly Hall.

The hall cost £9,047 and the Education Department paid £6,000, with the balance paid by the school P&C. The Headmaster gave notes to the Minister for Education on the uses of the building. The building was named after Mr W J Sanderson who had been appointed headmaster in May 1935 and “retained this position till his death on 8th March 1955.”

There is a short 7 minute movie of the Fete held in 1957 and the opening of the Hall in 1958. These are available in digital form from the school or the OHHS.



Bill Wright story

My name is Bill Wright and I started at Oatley Public School in 1955 when my family moved from our home in Mascot to take up residence at my Grandmother's home in Waratah St Oatley. My Grandfather had died in 1952 while collecting coal along the railway line near the cutting.

I was put into class 4A/5B when I arrived and I made many friends very quickly. It was still fashionable to go to school barefoot in those days. We would run and play during the breaks without feeling any discomfort as I think that the soles of my feet were very hard from running around the streets of Mascot.

Milk was given out every day at playlunch, it was usually unloaded and left out by the side gate.

I was moved from 4A/5B to 5a and then 6A and eventually went to Hurstville Boys High School.

The toilet block was located where the new assembly hall is and the undercover lunch area was sited where there is some demountable rooms towards the south boundary. During the school holidays the school organised kids club activities so that we were under the control of somebody and not creating mischief around the streets. During the school holidays there was always a small fire in the bush behind our house. Now called Miles Dunphy reserve) when some kids would try smoking. They would drop the cigarettes or matches and the undergrowth would catch fire. The fire brigade would be called and they would put the fire out. In those days they could drive from River Rd to Mimosa St to get at the blaze. There was always the Where were you when this happened from Mum or Dad when they got home.

I was not the model student/child by any means, as I would take the odd day off with some of my friends and we would hang out somewhere until it was time to go home. I was caught a few times by my Auntie and Mum or Dad would give me a hiding when they got home. Being the not so smart student when it was time to hand in homework I would try and miss that class but usually that only delayed the invariable six with the cane administered by the teacher or Headmaster. This was the norm for me as I had a knack for getting into trouble, talking during class, late, back chatting trouble maker, wack across the hand on the out stretched fingers, trying to pull away I'd get wacked on the back of the hand as the cane came back up. Cold days were even worse as your fingers hurt so much more, I'd sit on my hands till the feeling came back or stick my fingers in my mouth. Maybe I was too smart for my own good, I always came out 2nd best, I never did learn to shut up.

I remember the morning assembly, maypole dancing, the school band with piccolos, cracker night and building a Hugh bonfire in the school playground. We would collect any and everything that would burn, car tyres, boxes, timber offcuts, tree branches, old furniture, it didn't matter if it burnt it was collected. We put a centre pole in a hole in the ground and start stacking everything around it. We were allowed to set off our own fireworks, bungers, Catherine wheels, skyrockets, sparklers, roman candles and fountains any many more. The next morning we would run around trying find any that had not gone off or were dropped or left behind so that we could set them off that night.

While I was in 5th class we were playing in the schoolyard and wrestling each other being smart arses when I was choked in a headlock, the boy let me go and I collapsed in a heap on the pavement face first smashing my good looks. I was sent to the teacher's room to lay down while they tried to get my mother but she worked in the city. I was sent to the doctors and he told me that I had a broken nose, mum was not happy about that. That's what you get for playing rough, no sympathy.

This is an aerial photo of the school in 1961. The infants school now has a classroom and toilets.

On the primary side Mrs Milsop's house and shop are still standing and yet to be part of the school grounds.

Note the pattern in the quadrangle pavement.

To get an idea of school life at OPS in the early 1960s we have **Stephan Gard's** reminiscence in 1993 of those days.

"Ladies and gentlemen -or boys and girls -take your pick. Perhaps you're still as young in heart as I. Why this reunion?

Yes, everybody seems to be doing it, and I'm not much for jumping on bandwagons, but there must be something that urges so many people our age to re-examine their pasts. It's probably something to do with slowing down a fraction, family and business commitments notwithstanding, and saying "Who am I?"

Part of the answer to that can come from looking back, to see "What made me? Who were my companions and what happened to us that it shaped our lives in certain ways?"

One score and ten years ago, we left Oatley Public School to go our separate ways. We all went to single-sex schools, something the feminists assure us is good for the self-esteem of girls, but I wonder if we didn't all miss out, somehow, from the natural experience of learning together, as a kind of extended family. From that day at the end of 1963, many of us lost track of each other, did not share or even observe each other's life very much. And yet, there seems to be a bond. I felt it with everyone I contacted. I didn't ever have to explain who I was, everyone remembered. What was wrong with we children in those days? We didn't have asthma puffers, dyslexia was a word unknown, and no-one had invented self-esteem. Down at the Oslo canteen, you couldn't buy pies or sausage rolls, let alone

chips or soft drinks. There wasn't even a window to line up at, just a room off the assembly hall where busy Mums (canteen Dads were unknown: Dads won bread, they didn't butter it) prepared peanut butter sandwiches, or crusty rolls, if you were lucky. Few of the girls had their ears pierced, and hardly any of the boys, and our uniform was stodgy and practical. I sometimes wonder how long a boy wearing fluorescent board shorts and a pink chinook would have lasted at Oatley Public: he would have been beaten to death behind the boys' toilets. Barbie Doll was unborn, and there were no Strawberry Shortcake pencil cases. In the playground, girls skipped and chanted, or jumped in and out of lengths of elastic.

Boys, and some girls, played marbles, during marble season, and the area above the milk crates was loud with the cry of the marble alley hucksters. "Two and your taw back, two practice shots! " they would sing, and as you crouched in the dirt to try your luck -there was little skill involved -they would gabble " No overs, no unders, no bombs, no fudging " and you would usually lose a couple of glassies before you gave up trying to win the connie agate, tantalizingly set at the end of a short stretch of smoothed dust. There was no official announcement of when marble season began, everybody just seemed to know, and treasured collections would suddenly appear at school and contests would begin. Many of the boys, and perhaps some of the girls will remember that Stephen Leask seemed to have the biggest bag in the school, and added to it assiduously. None of us had Ninja Turtle pyjamas or Bart Simpson socks, and none of the girls I knew wore Punky Brewster panties, though I once had a Davy Crockett hat, and appeared on the Cabbage Quiz with Desmond Tester and Amanda the Cat -briefly.

Every child's robust Globite school-bag contained a vegemite sandwich in a Tupperware lunch box, and an apple to throw in the bin with your crusts. No boxes of juice, no Lebanese bread, no muesli bars. Certainly, the bags contained no Gameboys or calculators. A calculator couldn't do pounds, shillings and pence, anyway, as we had to until the fourteenth of February, 1966. Bobs, deeners, zacs and treys had real purchasing power in those days, and often turned up in Christmas puddings, giving the fillings in your teeth a jolt. You could go up the shop in Letitia Street and buy Choo-Choo bars, an indestructible liquorice item that stuck the jaws together, or in summer, a Pipeline Pete, a plastic tube filled with frozen cordial. Birthday parties featured chocolate crackles, fairy bread and green G.I. cordial, though Shelley's and Marchant's soft drinks were popular, especially exotic tipples like Snowcap Champagne, Passiona and Fruitypyne. There were no unisex BMX's. The girl's bike was easily identifiable -it had no testicle-crushing bar, and often had an elegant fan of coloured strings from hub to mudguard on the rear wheel -I never did find out why. Girls bikes could also have plastic streamers fluttering from the ends of the handlebars, and a carrybasket, too small to fit anything of use, and a working bell. Boys bikes had the ball-bashing bar, and often a set of Sturmy-Archer gears on the rear hub, full of sand. A showpiece was the generator which could be made to rub on the front wheel and power a headlight, thereby making the bike go five miles an hour slower. The generator was disengaged while going uphill. Otherwise, you had battery-powered lamps, of a type peculiar to bicycles, with a screw-down switch, one for the front, taking one kind of battery, and another for the red rear lamp, taking another kind of battery, neither of them seen any longer at your average supermarket.

Supermarket! The word was new, until the Four Square store opened, and Mums still shopped in Frederick Street, at Silva's delicatessen, or at O'Connor's Pharmacy. A crotchety old man named Lawson ran the dingy post office, and Hurst's garage was where Dad got Mobilgas, unless he stopped at the B.P. in Judd Street, on the way to Hurstville, and the department store Walton's. After all, Dad aimed to make the top of Hillcrest Avenue in second gear, and the old F.J. would need all the help it could get from that butane, isopentane, and toluol, too. Unless you'd got aboard a Ford from Broadway Motors, though most vehicles came from Saville Brothers in Forest Road. Families in Vauxhall Crestas, Humbers and Vanguards went the long way, via Renown Avenue. Prefects, Consuls and Austin Lancers shopped in Penshurst. The butcher in Frederick Street had sawdust on his floor, the boot maker on the corner of Letitia Street, mended shoes, the fish shop, run by Chinese, sold chips as thick as your toe, but the greengrocer, despite being almost incoherently Italian, sold no zucchinis. The barber gave the boys a severe short back and sides, and sometimes a drop of Californian Poppy, and you could read Pix and People and look at the girls in bikinis... and then came Roselands, and Mums needed the car all day to shop in bliss around the huge mall with its lovely fountain of descending fishing line bearing drops of water... or was that Miranda Fair, another retail circus? Telephone numbers began with two letters, and no-one's car bore a personalized number plate. For a lot of my childhood, the sanno man came for the lavatory pan, and garbage tins were short, galvanized soldiers with lids firmly in place. The burst plastic bin, and the wheelie-bin, were unheard of. The postman rode a bicycle and blew a whistle if there was something for your letterbox, and stamps bore pictures of the Queen, whose portrait hung on our assembly hall for us to sing the National Anthem at. Bread came to your door, unsliced and unwrapped, the Vienna, the Tank and even the half loaf, none of it wholemeal, not even brown. Milk came in a returnable bottle with a silver cap, and under the cap was a clot of cream which you tried to beat others to, and pour on your Corn flakes. Unless they were Vita Brits or Sugar Frosties.

After school, it was the Mickey Mouse Club: Bobby, Karen, Cubby, Annette, Doreen, Jimmy and Roy, or else the ABC Children's hour and the Argonauts, with Jason, Number One, and Mac, Sue and a more inspiring Jimmy. Then you might have got ready for cubs, or scouts or brownies or guides, or CEBS, or phyzzie, or pedaled off to a piano lesson. Yes, life was simpler then, or so it seemed, but perhaps everyone's childhood seems simpler, safer, sounder, saner, serener, than the complex business of being an adult. We had the bush, the river, the streets where we could wander safely. We had school, where little changed from year to year, and new ideas did not seem to intrude. Somehow, to me, it will always be summer at Oatley, with the shrilling of cicadas and the scents of lantana, eucalypt and the rich mud of the riverbank. Tar sticking to the toes, or rolled in a ball and chewed. Jelly blubbers, bungers, bungees...

We had perhaps one of the last, uncomplicated lower middle-class childhoods in Australia. You can thank God for it, or you can thank the people sitting around you tonight. They made my past for me. No-one can unmake it. And I'm delighted to have it for always. I want to thank each of you for coming tonight and letting me relive my childhood, and for your response and support during the months it's taken to organize this dinner. I haven't had so much fun in years, finding people, comparing notes, looking at photos, remembering. Thanks to those of you who sent encouraging letters and faxes, who made enthusiastic phone calls, who helped with

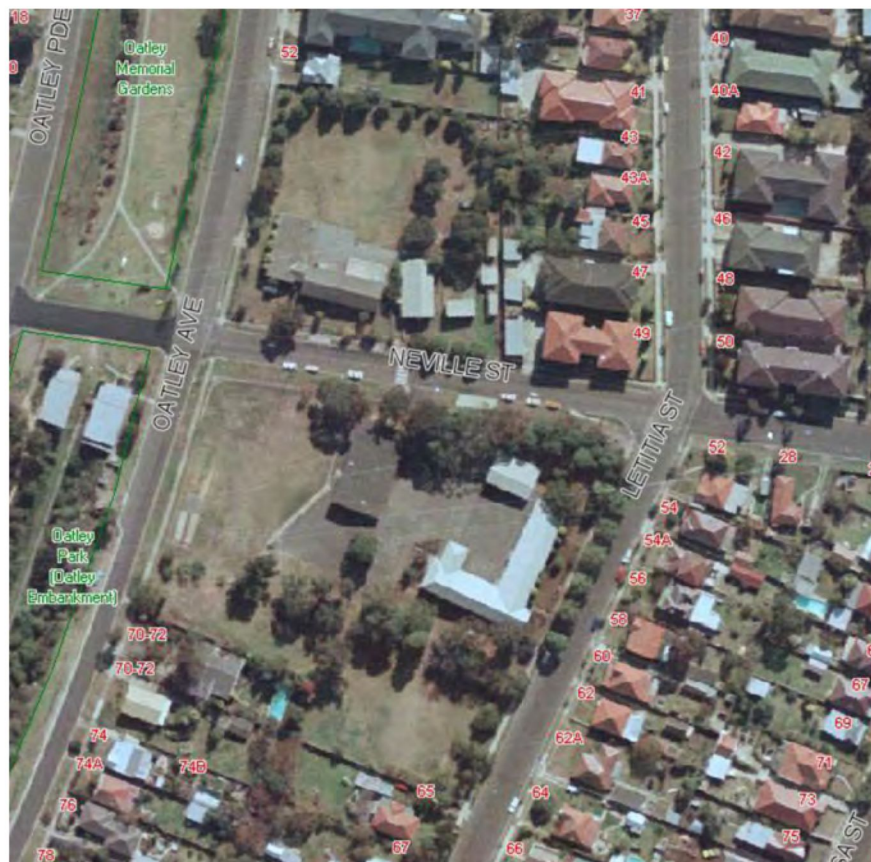
the hunting, who put your hand in your pocket and subsidized the planning and communicating.

Ladies and gentlemen -boys and girls -will you join me in toasting Present Company..... and let us also remember Absent Friends..

And now -enjoy your meal, and the company. The night is young, and so are we. Later in the evening, a Trivia Quiz, to sharpen your Oatley memories and what you recollect of 1963, and don't let ANYONE leave until we've taken a group photograph! Now is the time, too, for others to get up on their hind legs and say "I remember when..." "

1970-1999

An aerial photo of the school in 1982. The infants section now has several rooms. On the primary side the main building has had further extensions to the western wing. The old toilet block to the west is gone and toilets are under the western wing as they are today. The southern area facing Letitia has been purchased and is now part of the school property.



Peter Lanhan's report of his time at the school.

I attended Oatley Public School from 1965 to 1972. In my final year I had the privilege of being joint School Captain with Deborah Peverell. Having remained in the local area the physical changes to the school are not pronounced. The main



buildings in both the primary and infants remain the same while the hall is almost exactly the same as is the PA system.

Three years ago when Bronte started in kindergarten I attended her first morning and was amazed how much the rooms had shrunk. I was elated when she was allocated a seat almost in the same spot

that I had first sat.

I vividly recall my first day at the school. I sat between the Hooper sisters, who I believe still reside in Oatley, and Michael Lowe, who has the chemist shop in Oatley. I am still good friends with many of my kindergarten class mates such as, Andy Merriel, Matt Balkwell and John Maley.

Our days at school were very much spent around sporting activities that we enjoyed during our breaks. Handball, touch footy, cricket, mattocks, and brandings were all favourites. I'm sure that brandings is no longer allowed. The bottom field back then was all dirt and rocks. Tackle footy was banned but pretty much anything else was allowed.

Mrs Hefernan was Head Mistress during my time and was ably supported by Mr Jack Callaghan. Other teachers that I fondly recall are Mrs Brasch and Mr Tony Taylor. We were always trying to get Mr Taylor matched up with another female teacher.

My final year at Oatley Public School has proven to be one of the best years of my life. I look back fondly of the responsibilities of being School Captain. I still sneak a peak at the School Captains board whenever I am in the school hall to see my name.

In 1978 there was a fire in the library

Vandals "bomb" library

Pupils at Oatley Public School cried last week over the charred remains of their favorite books.

Vandals had started a fire which reduced the school's library to a blackened shell.

Books, charts, educational aids and teaching equipment worth more than \$2,000 were reduced to ashes.

Police believe the vandals threw an incendiary bomb through a window of the library, before alerting the police with an anonymous telephone call.

Later the arsonists lit a fire which destroyed the administrative office of the Oatley West Public School.

Oatley Public School principal Miss D. Cox said it was heart-breaking seeing the pupils sob through the ashes of the library in the hope of finding books they had loved.

"The 30 infants are heart-broken," she said. "They can't understand why anyone would want to destroy the things they treasured."

The library, about 12 years old, had built up its stock with the help of the Education Department, parents, local service clubs and other libraries.

The ceiling caved in, windows exploded, book covers fused together, typewriters and tape recorders melted and an adjoining classroom was blackened as flames engulfed the library.

The next day parents helped teachers and pupils salvage some books and clean up the scene.

Miss Cox said she

facted the State Government to provide a grant to restore the library, but the help of parents and the community generally was needed, too.

"Already the offers of help have started to

Mr. F. J. Walker (Law, Georgia River and Attorney-Generals) has arranged for the Education Department to supply a de-mountable library and a de-mountable classroom. He hopes they will be



STUDENTS CRY OVER LOSSES

School captains Bradley Matthews and Zoe Jackson, both 11, gingerly handle some of the charred books in the burnt-out library at Oatley Public School.



IN A BID to update, rather than simply help restore Oatley Public School's recently burnt-out library, Oatley Lions Club president Mr. Des Lund (left) presents school principal Miss D. Cox (centra) with a television monitor and library trolley. Watching the presentation is the vice-president of the P. and C. Association, Mrs S. Keen, and (in the background) several other Lions Club members.

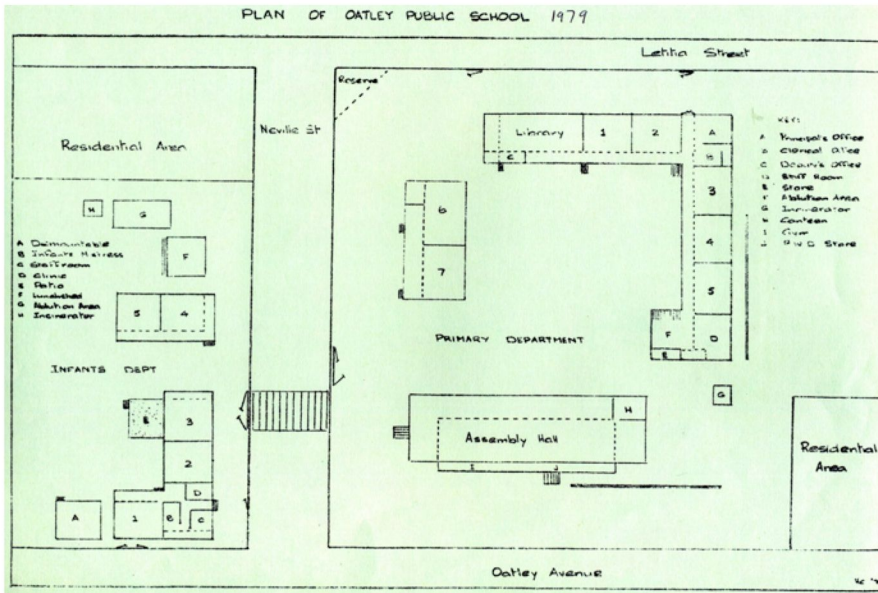
The Lions Club donated the library trolley and television recorder to the school.

A fire burnt out the school's library earlier this year and instead of simply helping to restore the library, the club decided to up-date it with some modern equipment.

The monitor, valued at \$560, and the made-to-order trolley (about \$150) were presented during the school's annual fête.

Lions update school library

1979 - a map of the school and a listing of the staff.



OATLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Administrative Staff:

Miss H. Campbell	B.A., M.A.C.E.	Principal
Mr. W.I. Weston		Deputy Principal
Mrs. J. Polley		Infants Mistress

Teaching Staff:

Infants Department

Mrs. D. Murray	Kindergarten
Mrs. C. Younger	K/Year 1
Miss L. Ward	Year 1
Miss C. Christie	Years 1/2
Mrs. J. Polley	Year 2

Primary Department

Miss F. Pedersen	Year 3
Mr. M. Behringer	Year 3
Mr. J. Owen	Year 4
Mr. W.I. Weston	Years 4/5
Mr. T. Taylor	Year 5
Miss K. Miller	Year 6
Mr. G. Gilmore	Year 6

Specialist Staff:

Mrs. M. Palau	Craft
Mrs. M. Simmons	Librarian

Ancillary Staff:

Mrs. T. Ingram	Clerical Assistant
Mrs. I. Stanley	Clerical Assistant
Mrs. V. Kenny	Teachers' Aide
Mrs. M. Weeks	Library Clerical Assistant

Cleaning Staff:

Mrs. E. Stuart
Miss M. Case
Mrs. M. Vukovic
Mr. J. Klinker

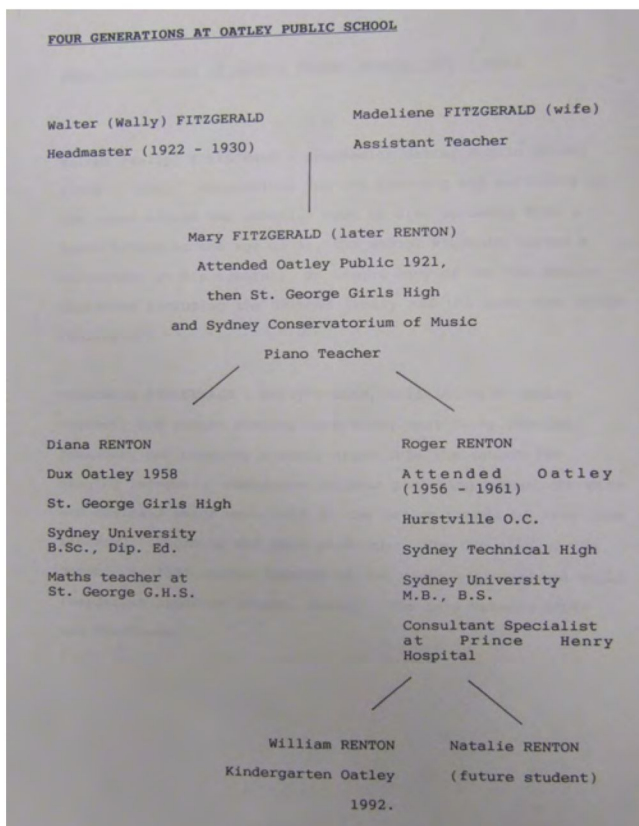
In 1984 there was another arson attempt at the library - this time the attempt failed but the library was vandalised.

Also in that year the school senior choir went to the Opera House to sing for Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales.

1988 the school celebrated the Nation's Bicentenary

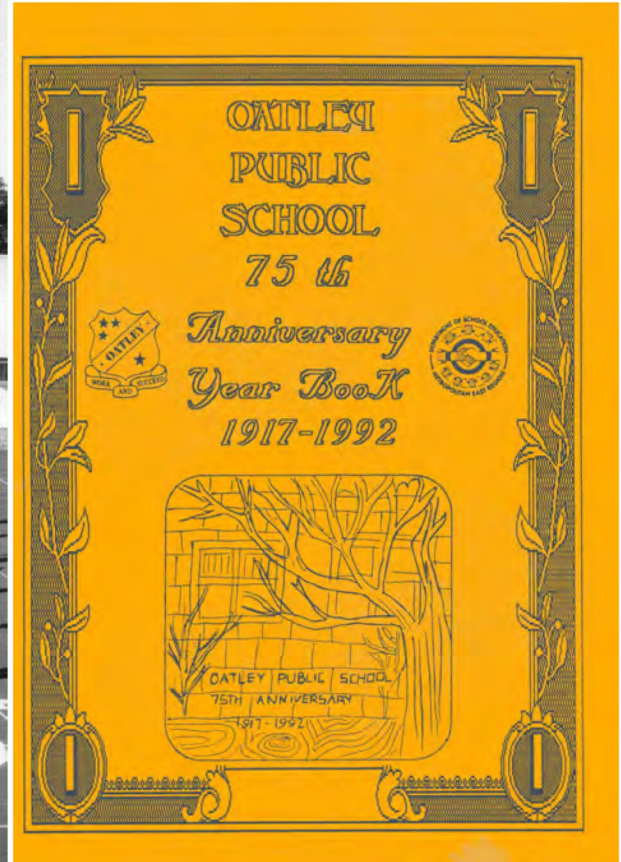
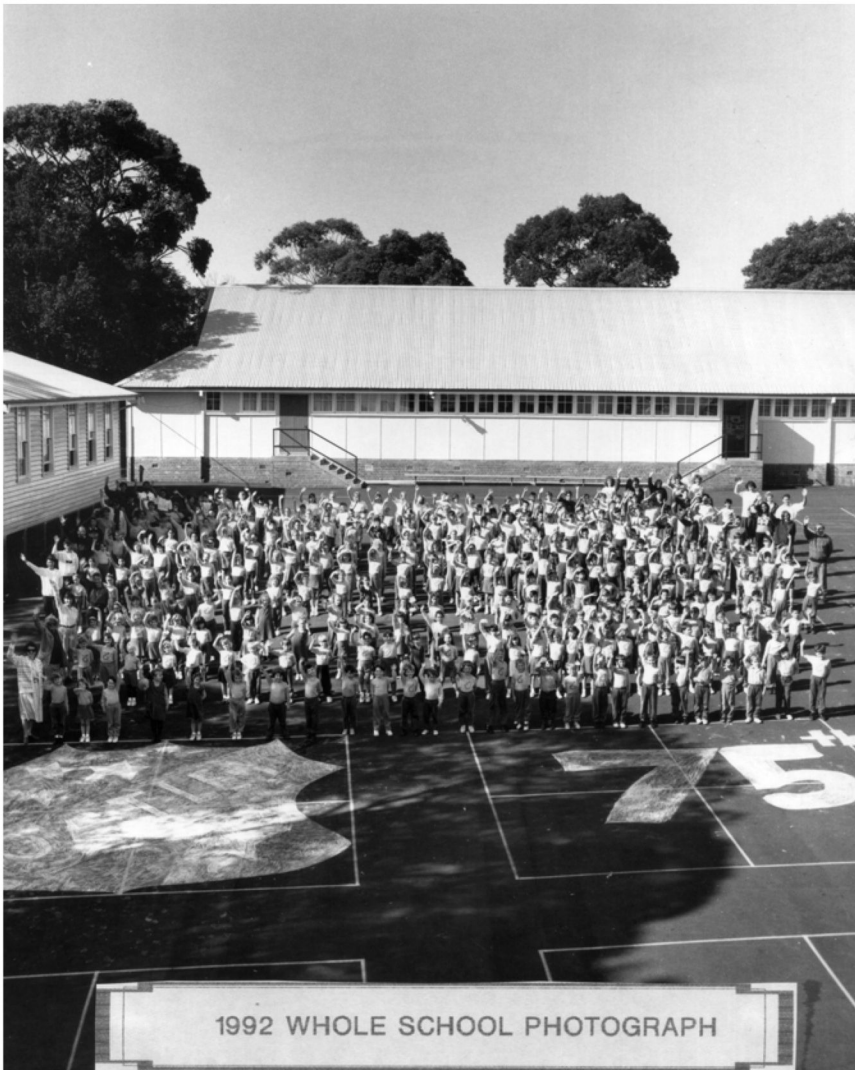


Dress Up in 1788 clothes.



Diana Renton records her family association with OPS.

In 1992 the School celebrated 75 years with a fine publication showing the school's history and its current students and staff. This document has supplied some of the information for this later record.



Various celebrations were held in that year.

The Principal Peter Phelps addresses the 75th anniversary function.



Report in the St George Leader 1992.

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A wide range of interesting enrichment studies challenges and extends students beyond the core curriculum.

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- School-wide enrichment courses
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- A mentor scheme to
- Specialised instruction
- Courses with TAFE
- A special full-time talented.

SOME of the many faces of Oatley Public School which appeared in the School Spectacular Concert, part of the school's 75th birthday celebrations.

Oatley hits 75

LIFE begins at 75!

Or it does if you're one of the most progressive, exciting public schools in Sydney.

Oatley Public School started its academic adventure 75 years ago and celebrated its landmark birthday with a "school spectacular" concert last month.

Two matinee and two night performances of music, dance and celebrities drew more than a thousand people and every child from kindergarten to Year 6 got in on the action.

As part of the school's 75th anniversary, an Open Day and historical display will be held on September 17 from 1pm and all are invited.

To help make the event even more special, the school is seeking photos and memorabilia which can be forwarded before the Open Day.

Any inquiries should be made by phone on 580 5519.

Principal Peter Phelps

NOW ACCEPTING ENROLMENTS FOR 1993

Oatley Public School

Letitia Street, Oatley NSW 2223

Phone 580 5519 Fax 580 8752



Who said Footballers and N won't do their ho They sure will if they ho

Oxford Children's Encyclop

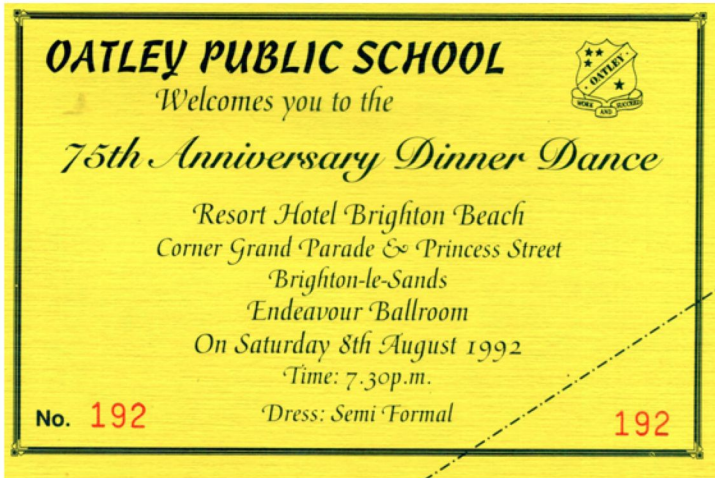
Yes it's hard to believe, but your children will actually ENJOY finding information books catering for THEIR own unique needs and interests and project assignments that parents are sometimes u

Now your family can purchase the new Oxford Children's Encyclopedia written

for only **\$199**

Mim Egan tells her story about the school - see earlier references. And Laurie Derwent does the same but for a different era.





The 75th Anniversary Dinner Dance was well attended.

Some youthful people attended- Mrs and Mrs Ingram! And the Cominos!



2000-2013

The school sites have always been on either side of Neville Street. Various schemes to divert Neville Street traffic to the north and south had been investigated. The road was deemed a hazard to children crossing it and in 2009 the authorities agreed to block the road off during school hours, thereby making it safe for the schoolchildren to move between the infants and primary sites.

This is an aerial photo of the school in 2001. There is little change to the 1982 photo except for a demountable to the north in the Infants school; the addition of a demountable to house administration, and a covering over the eastern part of the Assembly Hall in the primary school. The tennis courts and cricket practice nets are now in place. Trees have grown along the northern boundary of the Infants school compared to earlier photos.



In 2009 the schools building program was boosted by the Federal Government's "Building a Better Education" initiative. For more detail see the Appendix.

Oatley Public School

Find a School

This school has received funding through the Primary Schools for the 21st Century program:

Project: New Classroom Facilities
Approved Funding for P21 Project: \$1,880,000.00
Construction started: Yes

Project: Hall/COLA Upgrade
Approved Funding for P21 Project: \$620,000.00
Construction started: Yes

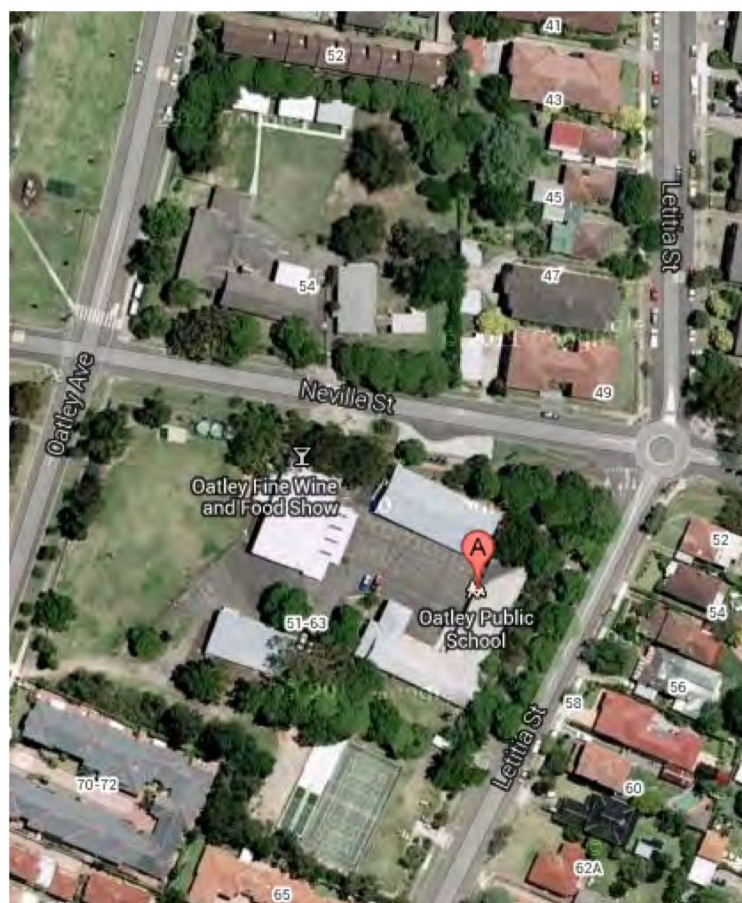
More Information

1. Project details, design plans and videos of some P21 projects are available on the [Standard Designs](#) page.
2. Information on construction costs and project progress will be updated on this page regularly after the next reporting period in late September.

The new administration building replaced these classroom buildings near Neville Street.



By 2013 there are further demountables in the northern section of the Infants school. The new administration block is completed; Covered walkways and a covered entry to the library are also completed. Some of these constructions were due to the funding outlined above.



Oatley Historical and Heritage Society and OPS

Some photos of activities of OPS students between 2010 and 2012 with the Oatley Historical and Heritage Society. The Society provided the students with a classroom talk about old Oatley and also walks of historical nature around the suburb. The students also worked on historical projects with fantastic results following much research and application.



Conclusion

The above report covers a wide range of material on the history of Oatley Public School. Throughout the work for the report more and more material came forward. This process is unlikely to stop and indeed the events of today will be history in another time.

The project to collect the class and staff photos will proceed and become an electronic record.

Thanks to all those who supported the project as without this the material would have been harder and in many cases impossible to find.

JW/RR

References

- 1. Oatley Public School 75th Year Book- 1917-1992.**
- 2. Oatley – A Working Man’s Paradise- Elaine Howard.**
- 3. Early Days in Oatley- D J Hatton**
- 4. Stephen Gard’s website for OPS**
- 5. Oatley Writes Oatley’s 150th Anniversary 1833-1983**

SCHOOL PHOTOS

There is a digital collection of school photos. They range from 1917 to 2012 and contain classes and staff photos and other photos of sporting and cultural teams.

OBSERVATION BOOK

The Observation book containing early reports from Department of Education Inspectors has been digitalised.

Appendix

Officials

Principals Date Appointed

Walter Horne	September 1917
Reg Young	May 1922
Walter Fitzgerald	September 1922
Percy Nelson	January 1931
William Sanderson	May 1935
Ernest Mansfield	August 1935(temp?)
Jack Deasey	May 1955
John Dodds	
Sheila Heffernan	January 1969
Dorothy Cox	January 1976
Helen Campbell	February 1979
Bernard Brown	January 1984
Peter Phelps	January 1989
Lorna Parker	mid 1993
Robyn Caffrey	1998
Rick Clissold	2004
Deborah Hunter	2007

Infant School Principals Date appointed

Miss G M Rowley	1953/61
Miss Riley	1972
Mrs Jocelyn Polley	1979c
Robyn Creevey	?
X	1989
Joan Blake	1990
Pat Park	1991
Ruth Lusty	2000

School Captains

Records start in 1971.

1971 Helen Williams & Mark Harnwell
1972 Debbie Peverell & Peter Lanham
1973 Vicki Derwent & Warwick Shaw
1974 Liane McLean & Greg Beehag
1975 Kathy Fieldus & Warwick Jefferys
1976 Linda Bennett & Andrew Brown
1977 Julie Smart & Peter Roberts
1978 Zoe Jackson & Bradley Matthews
1979 Pamela Scott & Jonathon Roberts
1980 Alissa Byers and Bruce Campbell
1981 Kellie Innes & Jeremy Bates
1982 Yvette Peverell & Bradley Smith
1983 Prudence Sargent & Jason Rudd
1984 Belinda Morrow & Ryan Stathers
1985 Michelle Hunter & Gregory Leach
1986 Jane Hahn & Paul Hayes
1987 Georgia Tapper & Craig Hudleston
1988 Janelle Henry & Robert Neal
1989 Nerida Smit & Stuart Ireland
1990 Kate Woodham and Trevor Byles
1991 Alicia Ryan & Andrew Olshen
1992 Emily Stone & Adrian Findlay
1993 Eryn Olshen & Martin Pascoe
1994 Carlie Hosking & Benjamin Creak
1995 Genevieve Gooch & Michael Packwood
1996 Elaine Kwan & Matthew Booth
1997 Kate Derwent & Jarrod Heslop
1998 Bronwen Lee & Michael McCarthy
1999 Elizabeth Jacques & Ben Gordon
2000 Laura Pendlebury & Nicholas Ferguson
2001 Caitlin Booth & Michael Perrior
2002 Hannah Gibbs & William Rusbatch
2003 Charlotte Rook & Mitchell Connon
2004 Yvette Stroud & Patrick Rohl
2005 Chloe Saintilan & William Anderson
2006 Demi Lucas & Timothy Bemand
2007 Aniko Michaelis & Jack Colley
2008 Rachel Hart & Lewis Hunter-Mole

2009 Sophie Pendlebury & Louis Michaelis
2010 Lara Westwood & Noah Hayward
2011 Lyric Fidow & Cooper Cheney
2012 Hannah Daly & Rikki Arendsen
2013 Lillian Haney & Ben Estell

School Dux

There are no official records of dux of school before 1960. But there is evidence that there were duxes before this date – 1936 Norman Elliott and Margaret Derwent, 1949 Richard Benham, 1957 Bruce Wingrove, 1958 Diana Renton and 1959 Ross Sellens.

1960 Warwick Rosier	1987 Georgia Tapper
1961 Nicole Mortier	1988 Felicity Leate
1962 Anne Johnsson	1989 Emma Murphy
1963 Peter Dymock	1990 Kate Woodham
1964 Gary Aitchison	1991 Alicia Ryan
1965 Noni McClelland	1992 Adrian Findlay
1966 Frances Hogan	1993 Eryn Olshen
1967 Janene Porter	1994 Tanya Binggeli
1968 Adrienne Meakins	1995 Michael Molorich
1969 Stephen Grigg	1996 Elaine Kwan
1970 Ann Bacon	1997 Cheree James
1971 Sarah Clelland	1998 Matthew Gallagher
1972 Carol Hogan	1999 Elizabeth Jacques
1973 Julie Butters	2000 Tamara Patterson
1974 David Woolridge	2001 Edwin Cooper
1975 Vicki Mugridge	2002 Amanda Pappas
1976 Fiona McFadyen	2003 Maree Andresakis
1977 Peter Roberts	2004 Yvette Stroud
1978 Carl Mulder	2005 Raeanne Lee
1979 Lisa Christofferen	2006 Timothy Bemand
1980 Diana Hoy	2007 Zoe Pan
1981 Jeremy Bates	2008 Oliver Xu
1982 Paula Watson	2009 Ayla Links
1983 Jason Rudd	2010 Taylor Harrington
1984 Belinda Morrow	2011 Edward Robertson
1985 Natalie Hale	2012 Olivia Hsu
1986 Julia Shearsby	

Oatley Public School Citizenship Award

1991 Priscilla Wong	2003 Katie Johnston
1992 Regan Stathers	2004 Thomas Diblasi
1993 Elisse Madigan	2005 Luke Hardiman
1994 Carlie Hosking	2006 Bradley Craven
1995 Danika Heslop	2007 Elyse Hardiman
1996 Mathew Booth	2008 Emma Stevenson
1997 Jaryd Heslop	2009 Thanakrit
1998 Kathryn Ingram	Singphanniuang
1999 Scott Weekes	2010 Yianna Chara
2000 Laura Penddlebury	2011 Kayla Dritsas
2001 Caitlin Booth	2012 Hannah Daly
2002 Megan Coe	

Oatley Lions Civics Award

1999 Jessica Napper	2006 Annabelle Sheahan
2000 Mitchell Goritsas	2007 Halcyon Foster
2001 Adam Vantol	2008 Lachlan Cheney
2002 Caitlin Smith	2009 Zoe Sunk
2003 Tamara Hill	2010 Kyle Ainsworth
2004 Yvette Stroud	2011 Cooper Cheney
2005 Thomas Rusbatch	2012 Jaya Ong

Mary Renton Award (for academic excellence and citizenship).

1992 Emily Stone	2002 Hannah Gibbs
1993 Derryn Wong	2003 Lachlan Cooper
1994 Monique Romei	2004 Adam Fong
1995 Tegan Findlay & Melanie Mellor	2005 Rosemary Dale
1996 Zahra Matthews & Robert Perri	2006 Demi Lucas
1997 Aislinn Quigley	2007 Tanya Ali
1998 Jonathan Sheanan	2008 Christopher Millican
1999 Elizabeth Thornhill-Weeden	2009 Cheng Li Ma
2000 Faiza Matthews	2010 Rachel Ma
2001 Zoe Stroud	2011 Ellie Wilkes & Lyric Fidow
	2012 Ricki Arendsen

APPENDIX OATLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL – THE BUILDINGS

School commenced on 2 October 1917 in the School of Arts building in Letitia Street. This building currently houses Oatley Library.



In 1921 the school moved to its current location, bordered by Letitia and Neville Streets and Oatley Avenue. There is no record of how the original plot of land, occupied by the present Primary School, was acquired. The building, completed in 1921, had 3 classrooms facing Letitia Street and cost £2,715.



In 1924 two more classrooms were added. On the gable facing Letitia Street the sign reads, "Oatley Public School 1924". This is somewhat misleading as the original building was erected 3 years earlier.

In 1928 a further classroom and a staffroom were built at a cost of £1,197.

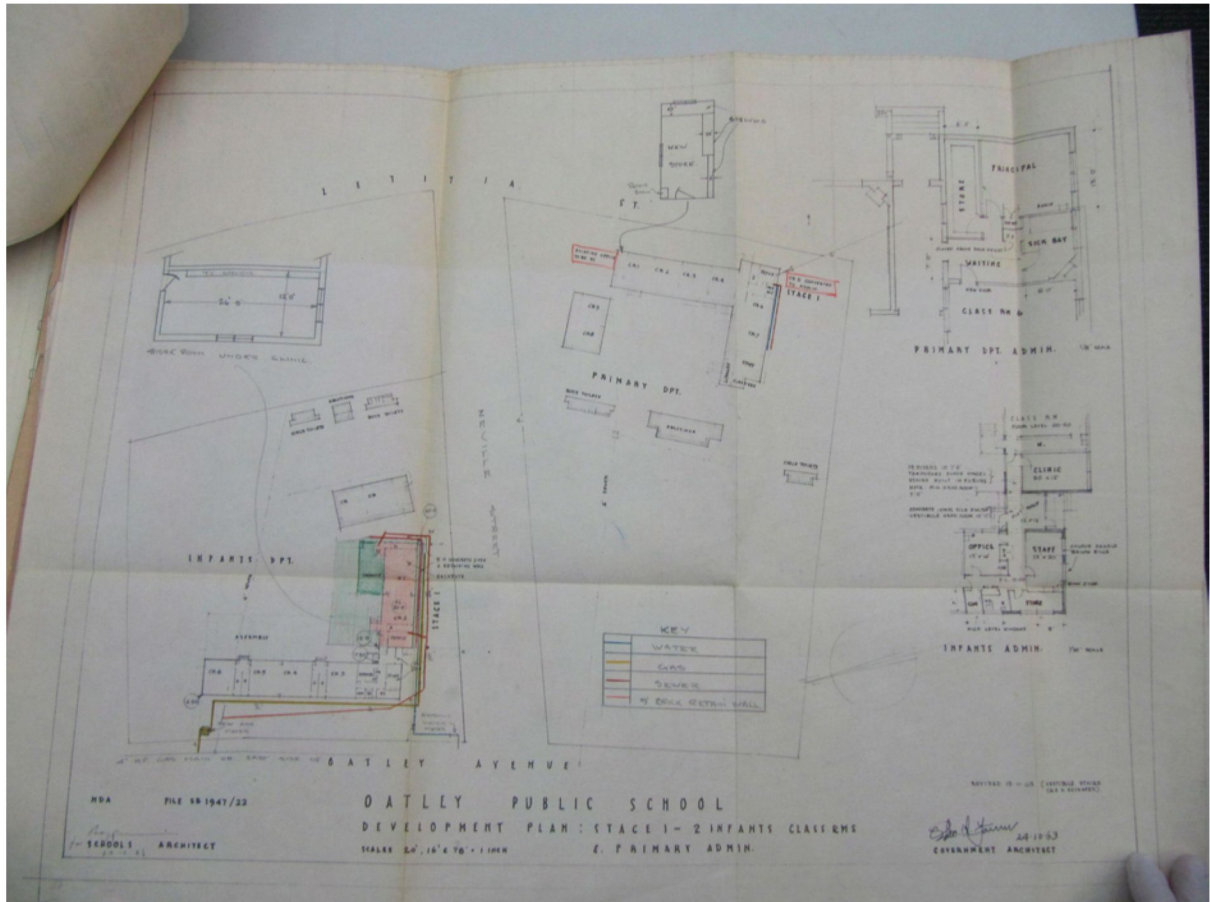
Also in 1928 land on the northern site of Neville Street, where the Infants school is located, was purchased from Mrs Astley, BC Grimm and GL Neilley at a total cost of £1060.

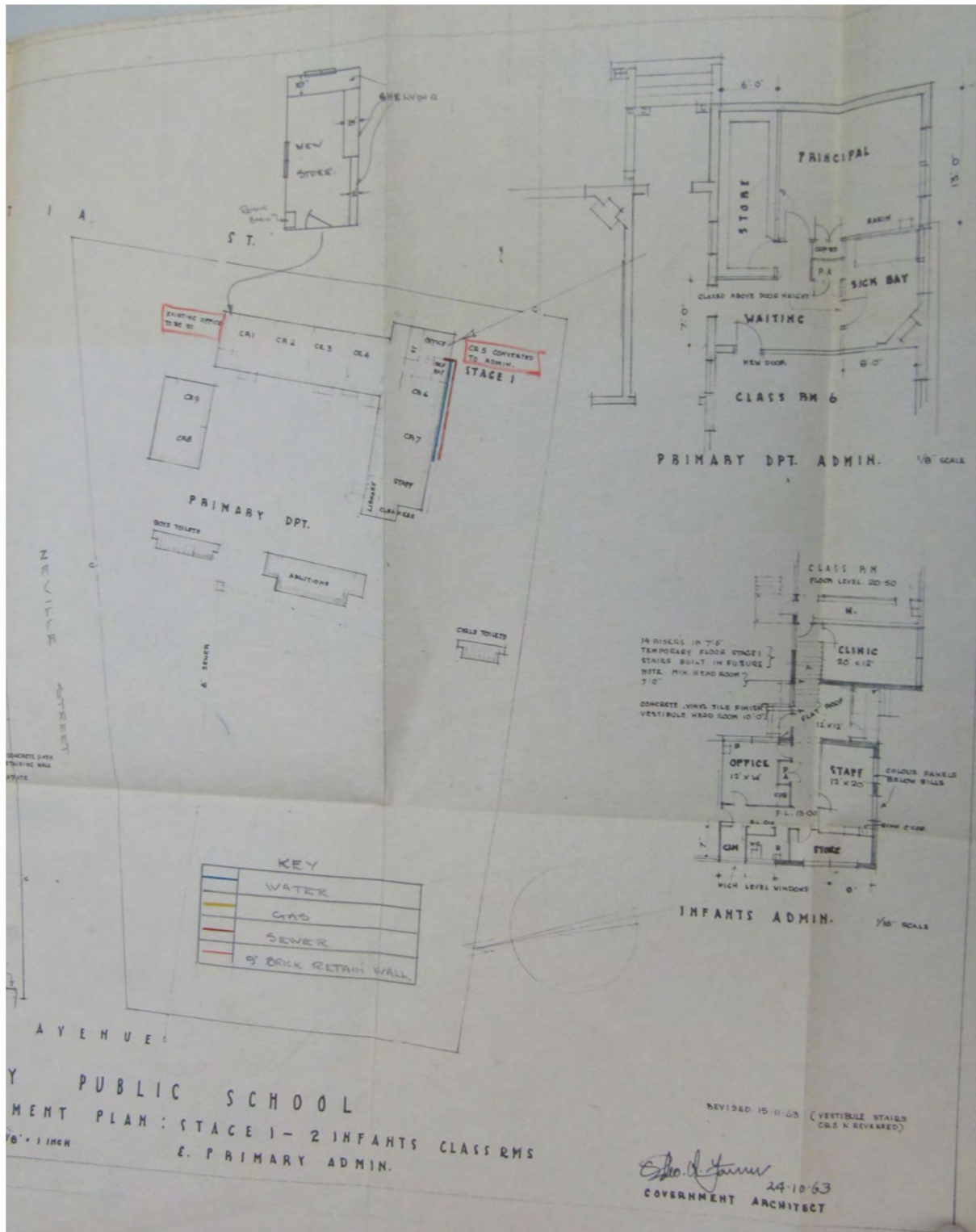
This aerial photo taken in 1943 shows a classroom building; and also toilets on the Infants site.

In 1958 the WJ Sanderson Memorial Assembly Hall was built at a cost of £9,047.

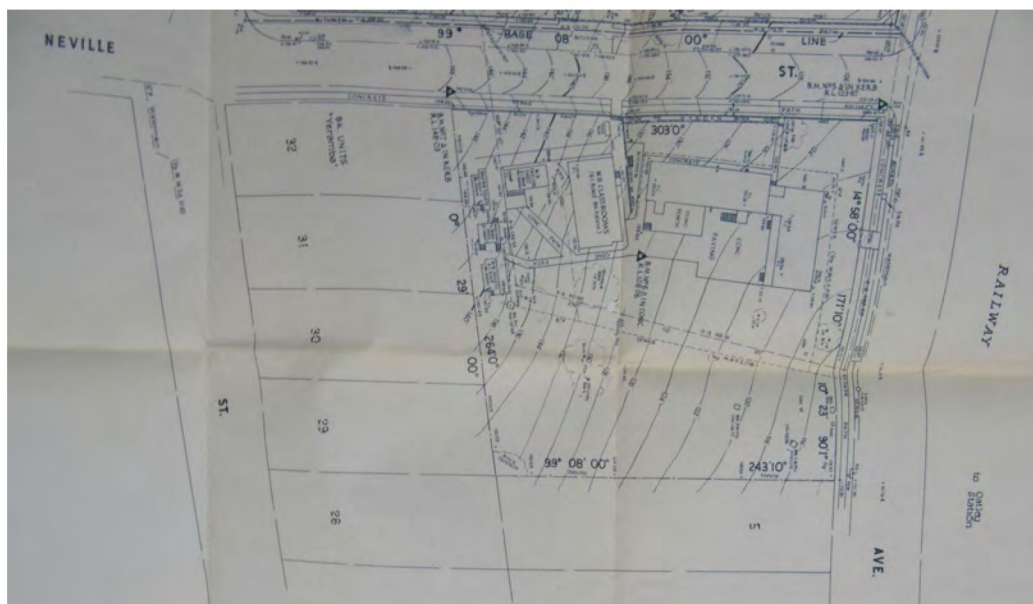


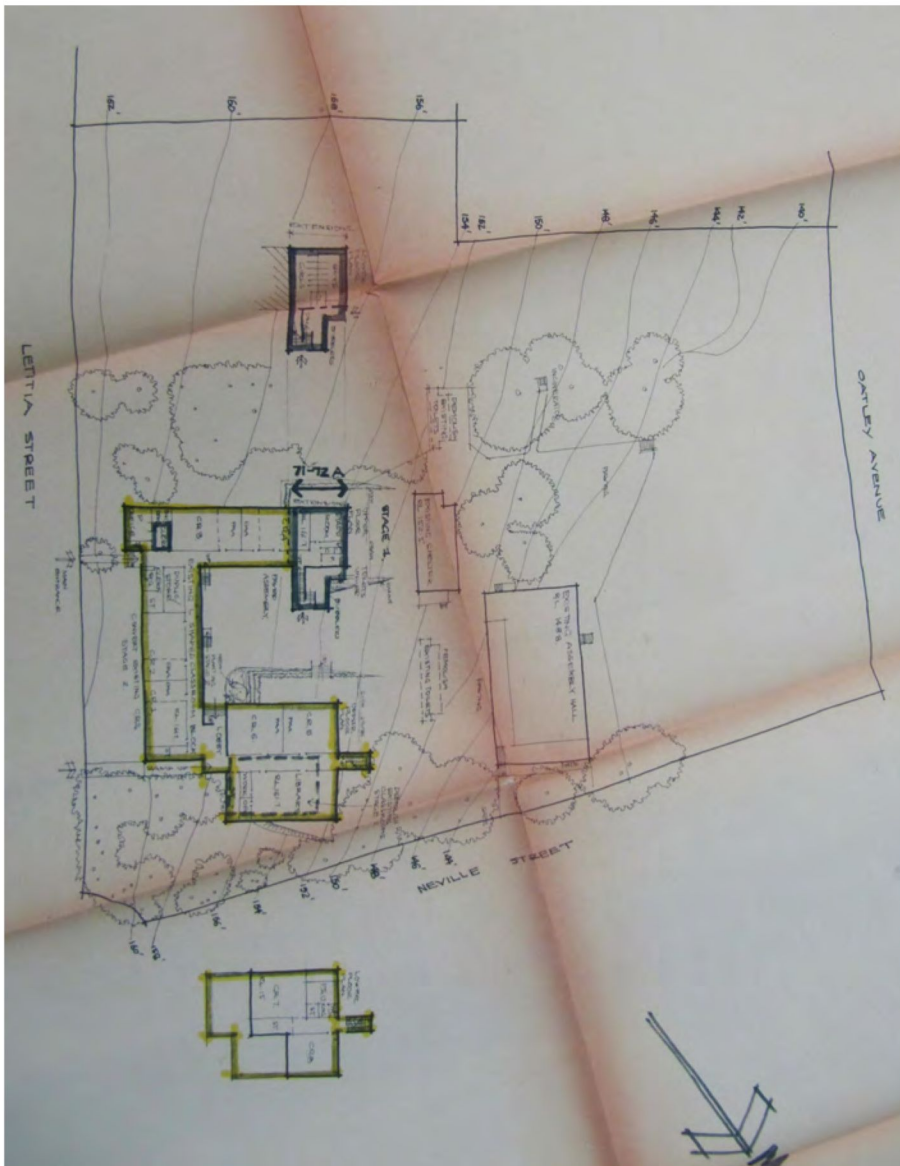
The classrooms on the Infants site were built in the early 1960's.



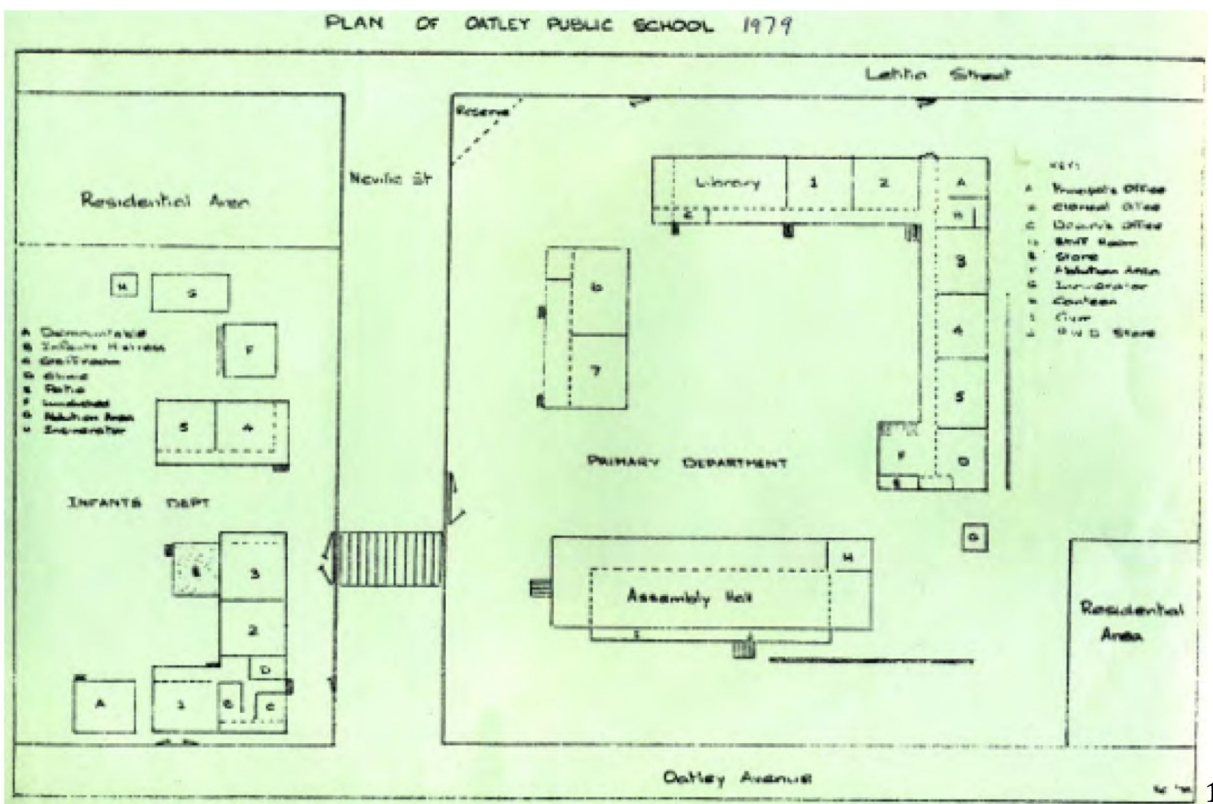


The following survey completed in 1969 shows in detail all the buildings on both the Primary and Infants sites. There were 2 additional classrooms in a timber building where the new offices are now. It even names the species of tree and shrub in the grounds.





In 1971/2 as an extension to the existing building the boys and girls toilets were built on the Primary side. The earlier toilets were demolished. Building plans are as follows. Only Stage 1 (black border) was undertaken.



In 1984 the original toilets on the Infants site were replaced. Complaints had been made about seepage from the old sewerage system. A new brick extension was added to the main building to house the new toilets.

Circa 2000 a demountable building housed the administration staff. It was located where the new library is now positioned.

In 2009 the Federal Labor Government embarked on a “Building a Better Education” program. New offices, library and covered walkways were built on the Primary site and classrooms on the Infants site, at a cost of \$2.5million.

LIBRARY 2013



NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 2013 (below)





INFANTS SCHOOL 2013





