

<i>Month & Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written & Spoken Presenters</i>
August 2008	50 Years of Oatley RSL Youth Club From a publication “A Youthful Fifty Years”	Kim Wagstaff Guest Speaker



A YOUTHFUL FIFTY YEARS



1957



2007



Celebrating 50 years of service to the youth of the district



Beginning - 1957

Laying the foundations

- On 31st May, 1957, a meeting was held at the rear of the School of Arts and the Club known as the Oatley RSL Boys Club was formed.
- At this inaugural meeting
Mr J. Fisher was elected
President and Chief Instructor.
- Patrons
- The Hon. R.J. Heffron M.L.A.
- Mr. D.D. Cross M.L.A. and
- Mr. S. Jackson.

Three principles laid down to govern the policy of the Boys Club

1. To promote healthy and hygienic instruction to the boys.
2. That there would be no charge to the boys.
3. That there would be no restriction on the entry of the boys.

Eric Heaton

Activities

- Initially PT and boxing, commenced in July
- instruction in calisthenics, tumbling, boxing, cricket, running and field sports
- Much time and effort went into making parallel bars, vaulting horses

The early years 1958 – 62

Consolidating

- 1959 Rugby League added
- 1960 Two teams in St George Cricket comp
- 1961 Girls Physical Culture starts –
- ‘Boys’ Club became ‘Youth’ Club
- RSL Sub-branch commenced building a Hall

- - 5 st 7 lbs

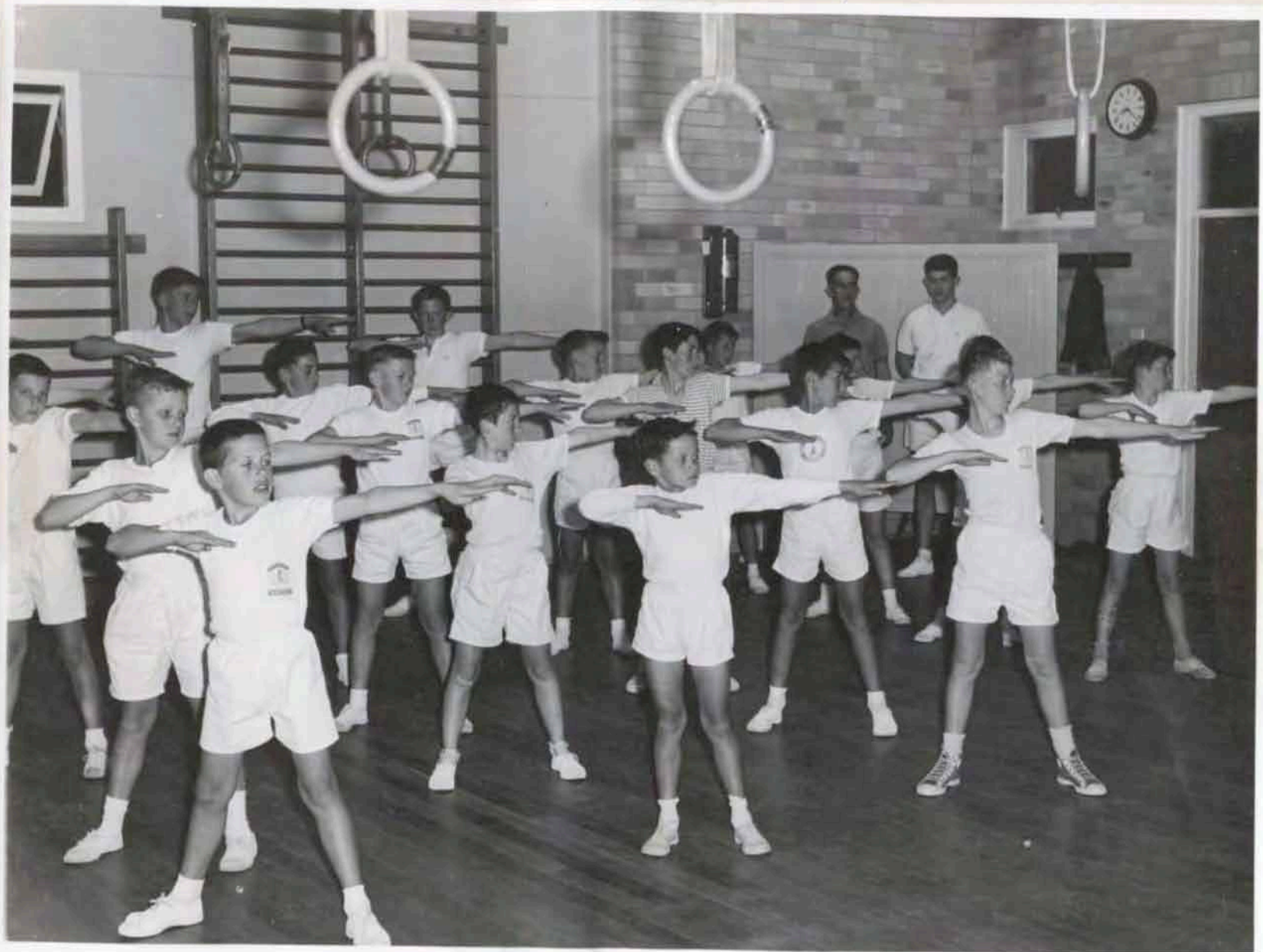
Rugby League team

1962

- Massed Youth Club display – Randwick racecourse
- Annual R.S.L. Swimming Carnival
- Visit to Waratah-Mayfield R.S.L. YC for annual games
- Oyster raffles – the Derwent boys
- Formed social committee – Club ladies
- Jack Fisher retires as President – end of an era
- BUT the Youth Club had grown and consolidated!

FSE

JACK FISHER STARTED YOUTH CLUB WITH PAT PAMLER.



Sixties

- 1963 - Affiliation certificate No. 1
- Netball started
- 3rd in FUJ Tinkler Memorial Shield Competition
- 1967 – Ballroom dancing started
- 1968 – Renown Park leased to ORSLYC
- Major trophies

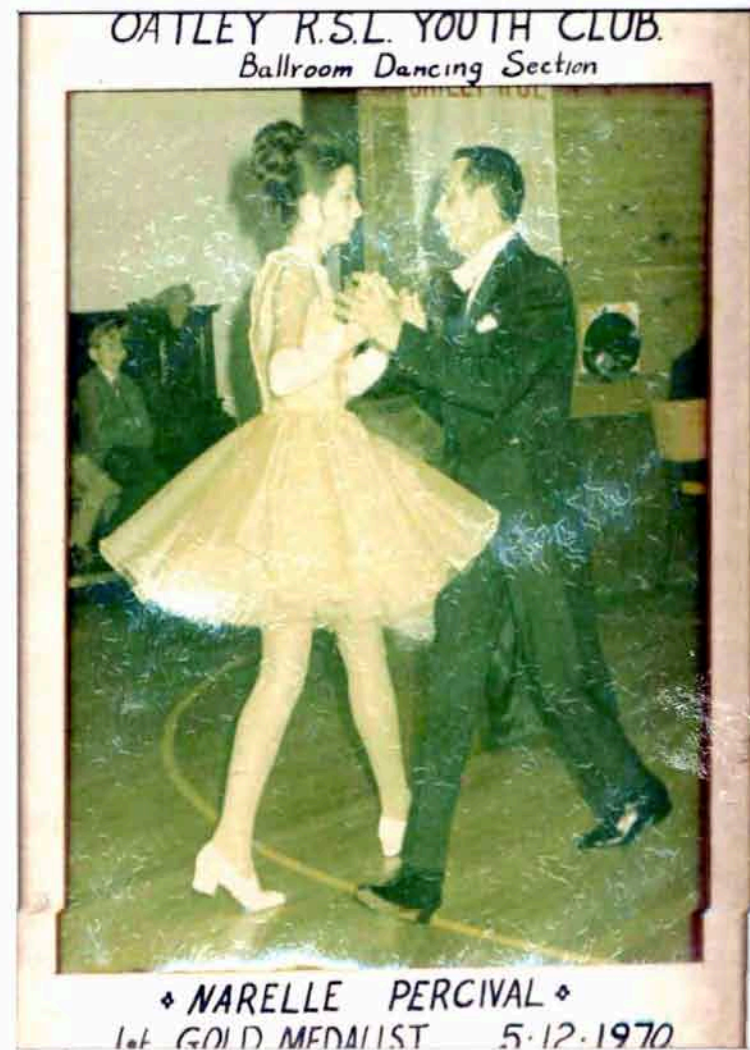


1966 - New Youth Club headquarters in old Radio Theatre

Open air boxing – car park
behind sub-branch hall

Seventies

Who could forget Saturday mornings and ballroom dancing with George Farrant?

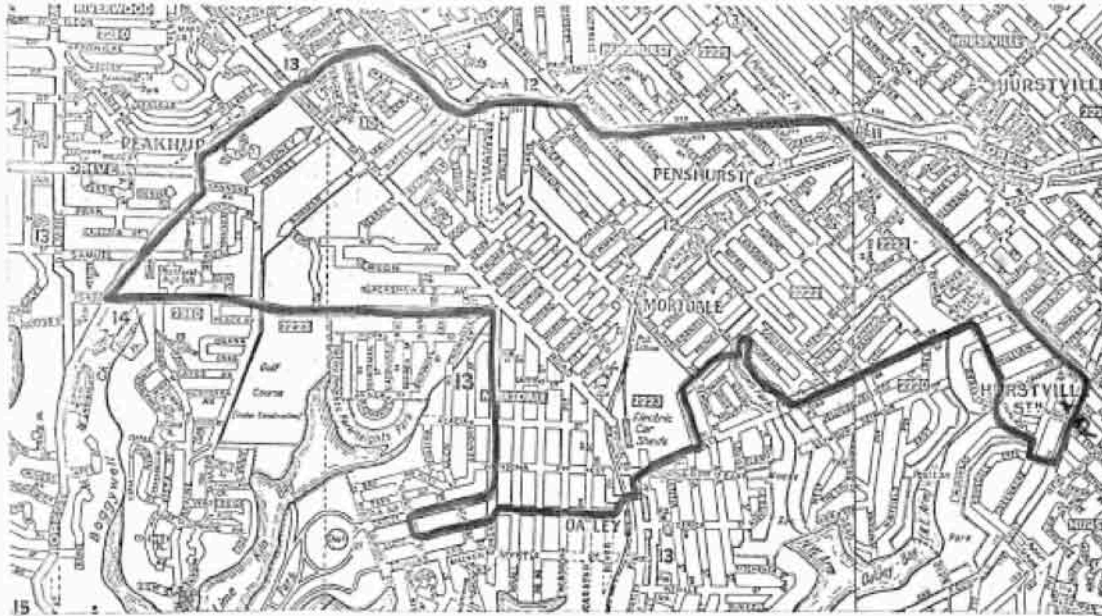


.....and the red tunics of the netballers



Dot Lloyd and the Oatley RSL YC Netball
Premiers C Grade Seniors 1973

Walkathons and debutantes



The 10 mile Walkathon

A rite of passage



Closings and openings

- 1975 – final whistle for Rugby League
- 1976 – soccer kicks off
- Continued using Renown Park on the 10 year lease
- PT Instructor Jim Mason retires after 12 years



OATLEY YOUTH CLUB MEMBER IN RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP SERIES

By C. O. Gardiner, Secretary/Liaison Officer
New South Wales RSL Youth Council

The Oatley RSL Youth Club was one of the first formed after the RSL decided in 1958-59 to sponsor boys' clubs. Soon after girls were allowed to become members.

In their early days, the Oatley RSL Youth Club sponsored the Junior League team into the St George junior rugby league competition.

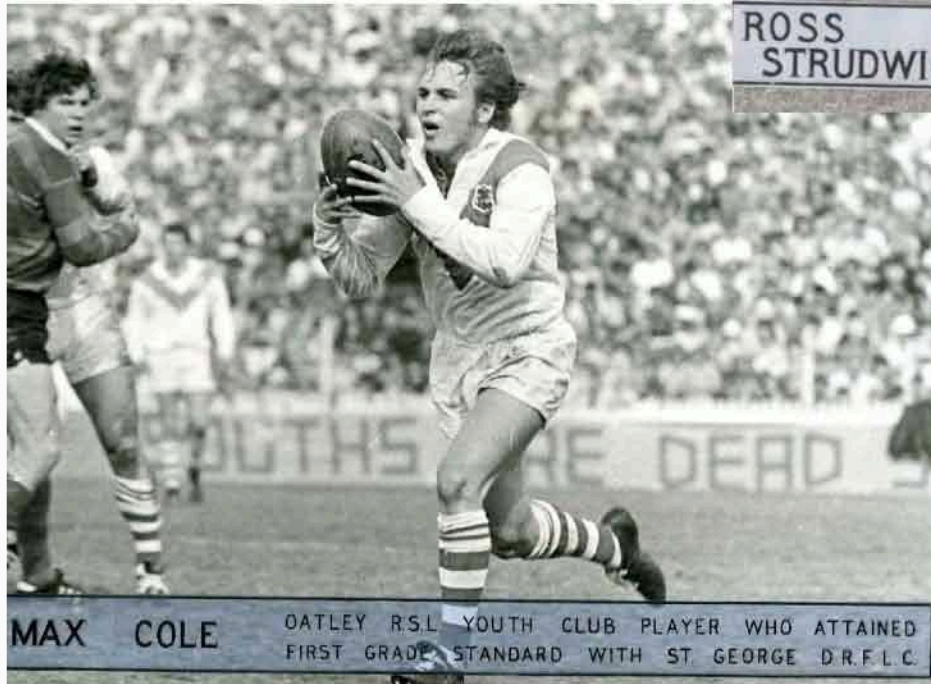
It is very pleasing to note that a member, Ross Strudwick, has now been selected to represent Australia in the first of the Rugby League World Cup Series against New Zealand. Congratulations are extended to Ross Strudwick who now plays his football in Queensland on behalf of the RSL Youth Movement in NSW.

It is hoped he can continue on with his career this year and represent Australia at all the World Cup Series of Rugby League games.



ROSS STRUDWICK

FIRST OATLEY RSL YOUTH CLUB PLAYER TO ATTAIN FIRST GRADE STANDARD WITH ST. GEORGE D.R.F.L.C.



MAX COLE

OATLEY RSL YOUTH CLUB PLAYER WHO ATTAINED FIRST GRADE STANDARD WITH ST. GEORGE D.R.F.L.C.

Lots more sports

- Weightlifting
- Swimming
- Softball and T-ball



Eighties

- Youth tours to New Zealand – Reciprocal visits
- Judo thriving
- Boxing still going
- Fire in the RSL Club 1988 –
Youth Club moves operations
- Painting the YC hall - 1989

Sharon Finnan
Atherton Tate winner – 1986
Commonwealth Games in
Auckland **NZ**

Nineties

- 1992 - Insurance and litigation concerns lead to incorporation
- Basketball played throughout nineties in YC hall
- Boys and Girls gymnastics + trampolining competing at State championship level
- Academic, sporting & community achievement



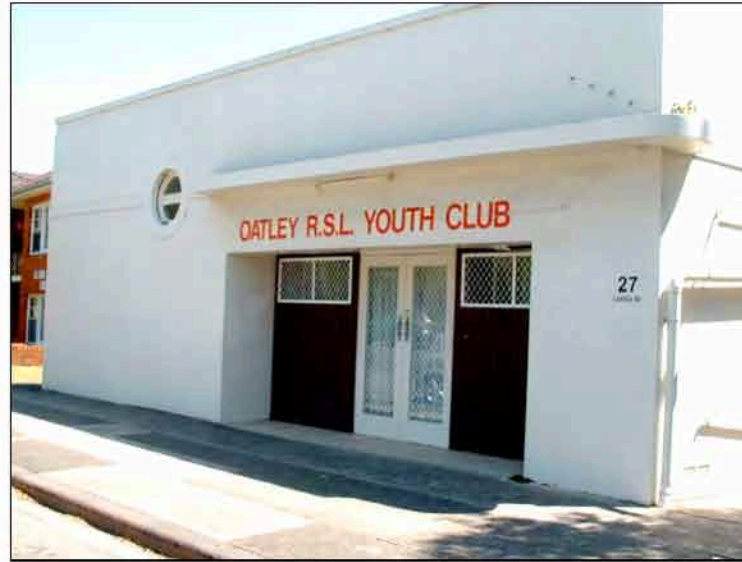
21st century

- Y2k bug didn't bite
- Now it's sport aerobics and competing at National level
- More NZ tours



The Club at 50

- Now 3 activities – gymsports, netball, soccer
- > 1,100 members
- 5th biggest of 49 RSL Youth Clubs in NSW
- Kept faith with principles, supports RSL & ANZAC spirit
- Good reputation for good sports, fair-minded and giving youth a 'fair go'
- 22 separate activities over 50 years
- Estimated 25,000 youth passed through the Club
- Thousands of parents and community helpers
- Truly a big part of Oatley community touching many lives





A YOUTHFUL FIFTY YEARS



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2007



Celebrating 50 years of service to the youth of the district



A Youthful Fifty Years

Celebrating 50 years of service to the youth of the district

**A history of Oatley RSL Youth Club
on the occasion of its 50th anniversary**

2007

Foreword

When it was realised that 2007 was to be the fiftieth anniversary, the 2007 committee felt that we would like to recognise and celebrate the occasion in some tangible way.

In taking on the writing of this history, we wanted to recognise not only the vision and enthusiasm of the founders and the hard work and tenacity of those who followed to keep the Club going, but also the dedication and achievements of the members who have passed through the Club.

As you read the book you will see several themes emerge. Whole families became fully involved with the Club and that involvement continued down through the following generations. Grandchildren of early members and officials are now attending various Club activities.

Some members have gone on to high levels in their chosen sport having received a good start in Oatley RSL Youth Club. And while always striving to do their best the Club has enjoyed a good reputation in competitions for being good sports people, fair-minded, and giving everyone a fair go.

Over the 50 years, it has been estimated that more than 25,000 youths have participated in Club activities, as well as thousands of parents and community members helping to run the Club. So there are many stories out there and we have only tapped into some of them. Likewise some of the Club's milestones may not be fully explored. We just had to proceed with the information to hand. However, if anyone can help fill in the gaps we would be pleased to hear from them.

We hope you enjoy reading this history celebrating 50 years of service to the youth of our district.

Kim Wagstaff
President 2007
For the Youth Club Committee

Acknowledgments

This book was compiled and edited by Kim Wagstaff, Tina Graham and Rayma Papworth and published by Oatley RSL Youth Club Inc. in October 2007.

The Club would like to thank:

- the contributors who took the time to pen their recollections
- those who unearthed old documents, photos and other memorabilia
- the NSW RSL Youth Council for its generous assistance towards the publication of this book; and
- the Oatley RSL Sub-Branch and Oatley RSL & Community Club for their continuous support over our fifty years.

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Preface

THE HISTORY OF RSL YOUTH CLUBS

The initiative of Colonel F.U.J. Tinkler, directed the RSL of Australia, (New South Wales Branch) to give consideration to the Youth of Australia. It was felt that public-spirited efforts were required, at the time, to curb the increasing trend of juvenile delinquency. The outspoken views of the judiciary, clerics and social workers in Australia were, that the subject of child and youth delinquency was fast becoming a national problem that was worthy of the consideration of State Council and State Executive.

A planning committee of five were appointed with Colonel Tinkler as Chairman, to promote and organise a "Boys Club" within the constitution of the RSL. Run on a similar venture to the "Police Boys Clubs". It expressed appreciation to general public for past support. Granting opportunity to the Youth of the State somewhere to occupy his time and mind and set out to assist the problem of Juvenile delinquency.

The object of the committee was to explore the possibilities of forming a 'Boys Club' and promoting the general idea of organisation of such clubs within the League framework. The objective of the club was to provide recreation/sporting instruction, competition, inculcate law-abiding habits, good citizenship and leadership.

Membership was not only restricted to ex-servicemen sons, its aim was to encourage the League's sincere interest in the Youth of the Country.

Circulars and questionnaires were sent out to Sub-Branched the scheme proved sound, but in the view of established clubs and organisations they were not considered necessary. Although many were interested, difficulties were encountered e.g. the use of licensed premises as Youth Centres, several areas were too widespread, and some Sub-Branched were too small. The general attitude was for the RSL to support the Youth of the Country, perhaps to give support on either a physical or material level, as some Sub-Branched were already involved with Youth. However, it was apparent there was a need to foster Youth development and a keen interest shown to the welfare of Australian Youth.

Although originally designed as "Boys Clubs", girls were included in activities of many Sub-Branched. The age of members was from 7 to 25 years of age and now the movement took on a new form, they became *Youth Clubs*. By March 1958, a constitution covering management of RSL Youth Clubs was provided by State Council to be placed with Sub Branches Constitution and By Laws. The RSL State Congress of 1958 approved a resolution to form Youth Clubs, an organisation under the auspices of State Branch, the RSL Youth Planning Committee was later to become the RSL Youth Council, to correlate activities and assist the formation of Youth Clubs. **From the NSW RSL Youth Council**

Youth Club Code of Ethics

1. While I remain a Member I shall keep my mind and body active
2. I shall conduct myself in an orderly manner and treat other members as I would like to be treated myself.
3. I shall at all times take proper care of the furniture and property of the club.
4. I shall respect the principles of good citizenship and encourage my associates to do likewise.
5. I shall endeavour to build friendship with my clubmates because friendship is one of the greatest assets that I can have and it is advantageous to my future welfare.
6. I shall follow my club leaders and respect and obey my instructors.
7. I shall be loyal to my club.
8. Finally, I shall remain loyal to my Queen and my Country and love and respect my parents.

Life Members

We are fortunate to have many long serving members still involved with the Youth Club. The members whose names appear below have been awarded Life Membership;

Jan Clow	Dot Lloyd
Pam Bevan	Rayma Papworth

1. Beginning - 1957

Laying the foundations

In early 1957, the need for a club for the boys of the Citizens of Oatley was discussed "whereby boys could be provided with activities such as Physical Training, Boxing, Field Sports, Swimming etc." So on 31st May, 1957, a meeting was held at the rear of the School of Arts and the Club known as the Oatley RSL Boys Club was formed.

At this inaugural meeting Mr J. Fisher was elected President and Chief Instructor. The Hon. R.J. Heffron M.L.A. and Mr. D.D. Cross M.L.A. and Mr. S. Jackson were invited to be patrons.



Three principles were laid down at that meeting to govern the policy of the Boys Club, and they were as follows:-

1. To promote healthy and hygienic instruction to the boys.
2. That there would be no charge to the boys.
3. That there would be no restriction on the entry of the boys.

Jack Fisher

Initial activities, PT and boxing, commenced in July in the School of Arts hall. In the year that followed many things were done to implement the policy of the club, The boys were given instruction in calisthenics, tumbling, boxing, cricket, running and field sports.

That the efforts of the instructors were appreciated by the boys is proved by the numbers that attended the various activities. The Club had some 100 boys on the books and the Friday night class averaged 50 boys each week.

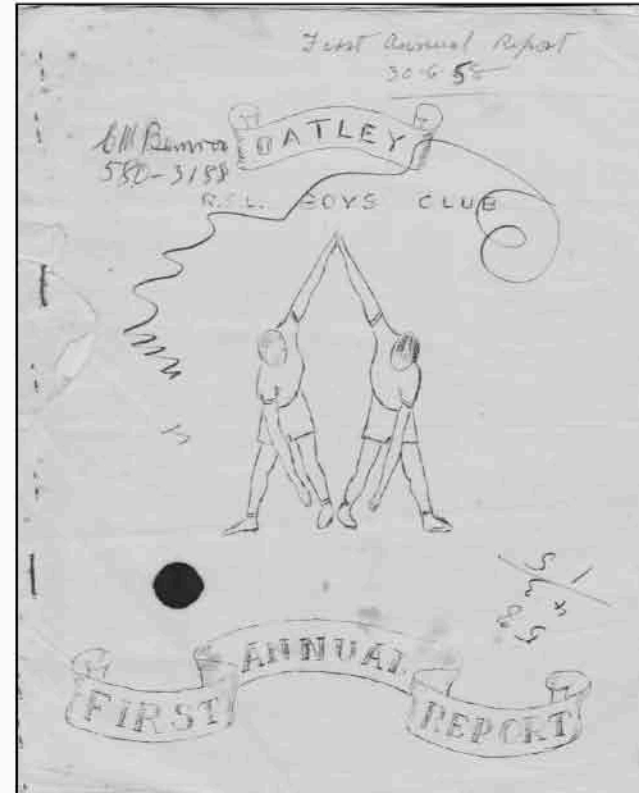
Jack Fisher, in his first annual report of activities, praised and thanked all involved "I am truly grateful for their help as instructors, organizers, donors of monies, guessing competition subscribers or one of the other many ways in which they have helped the Boys Club."

He made special mention of "Sub-Branch President Jackson and its members, the [RSL] Club Management committee and club members, the shopkeepers of Oatley, particularly, Mrs. Silva, the Derwent boys, the parents of the boys and finally to the boys themselves my best thanks, as their attention and co-operation have made our job much easier as instructors."

Jack Fisher was very proud of the boys and had very high hopes for them in saying "I am quite sure that one day many of our boys will be up in championship class when they decide on a particular sport as they grow older. I feel the groundwork they are receiving in physical training and sportsmanship will be of great assistance to them."

And even at this stage he was looking forward enthusiastically to expanding the Boys Club "Our future activities should be even better than last year, as we have the prospect of going into a new club room very soon. The Sub-

Branch has decided to build a meeting hall, in the near future, for Sub-Branch activities, and this hall will also be the Boys Club meeting place."





The founders of the Club were determined to ensure that the Club would be driven by its principles and create healthy minds and bodies.

In the first annual report Eric Heaton penned a message to parents invoking lofty ideals and aspirations in the pursuit of physical and recreational activities.

Eric Heaton

MESSAGE TO PARENTS

The Purpose of Physical & Recreational Activities.

The Battlefield has been said to be the supreme test of the efficiency of a soldier. Today's problems are not so apparent, but nearly every day we come face to face with problems that require each and everyone of us fitness of mind, body and character.

Physical and recreational training involves all three, which react on each other. The mind controlling intelligently the development of the body, and on the nature of this control depends the quality of the character.

Will-power is thus developed enabling us to accept tasks for the sake of high ideals, and it is this harmonious working of the whole body together with the development of those physical and mental qualities which are essential to our taking our place in the community as a good citizen.

Mere intellectual training is not education in anything like a sense of that word. The simple truth is that the term "Education" is employed without being understood. No account is taken of that large class of influence which are interwoven with society and the daily performance of our duties. The character of a man is more affected by these influences than the barren studies of his youth, and it is no exaggeration to say that they are a far better index of his fitness as a citizen than the most profound acquaintance with classics or scientific learning.

If any such test as this is to be the hallmark of citizenship, a moral would definitely be more preferable to an intellectual qualification.

Eric Heaton

The emphasis in the early days was to train the boys to be good citizens with keen minds through hard physical training. This extended to the manly art of

boxing, although it appears that some parents may have had some concerns, causing Jack Retallack to provide a spirited note in its support.

BOXING

After our first year of Boxing one cannot help but feel gratification at the attendance and progress of the boys in this group. Their keenness and enthusiasm have made the teaching of these lads an extreme pleasure and their progress a fruitful reward to instructors and officials alike.

The word boxing however, is one that seems to smack of ruthless, brutality to a large percentage of the populace, and consequently they are loath to have their sons accept it as a necessary phase of their upbringing.

These impressions are created mostly by reports of the gruelling, bruising battles waged in the professional ring, where the outcome of such contests governs the existence of the men engaged.

The aim of our class is not to launch a boy on a career of that nature or even encourage him to participate in Amateur contests or Tournaments. The essential purpose is to teach him the rudiments of self defence, which apart from being a great body conditioner and an asset to both mind and reflexes, will aid him in the hard task of becoming a man.

To instill in him the confidence that comes with the knowledge that he knows how to protect himself in an emergency and that he doesn't suffer humiliation and ridicule because he is unable (through lack of tuition) to stand on his own two feet.

*J. RETALLACK
Boxing Instructor*

Much time and effort went into the making of the parallel bars, vaulting horses etc while other items were most generously donated.

Functions during the year included displays and a Christmas party costing 20 pounds. Financially, the Boys Club finished the year with nett assets of 224pounds 5shillings and 11pence, including nearly 150 pounds in cash.

The Boys Club was well and truly established! The foundations had been laid!

2. Early years 1958 – 62

Consolidating

The Boys' Club, under the Presidency of Mr. Jack Fisher, assisted by his instructors, had a very successful year in 1959, and Friday nights were eagerly looked forward to by a very large number of youngsters in the district. The Instructors, all of whom gave their services voluntarily, were congratulated for the manner in which they held the boys' interest.

The Father and Son Dinner, which marked the closing down of activities for the year, was well attended, and all present voiced the hope that it would become a yearly function.

The year 1960 was an active one for the Members of the Boys' Club.

In addition to the normal activities of Gymnastics, Boxing and Football (Rugby League), the Club entered two teams in the St. George Saturday Morning Cricket Competition and both teams enjoyed a fair share of success.

The football teams had a very good season - the 6st. 7lb. side played their way into the final, and the lighter side improved in each match. Springwood Football Club paid a return visit during the season and a very enjoyable day was spent at Oatley Park. The Football Season culminated in an evening for the boys and parents, during which photographs were taken and trophies presented.

The Gymnastics and Boxing classes were ever popular, over 70 boys attended on Friday nights. These boys were entertained at an Annual Party and were presented with their proficiency pennants on the opening night in February the following year.

Oatley RSL Womens auxiliary donated 20 pounds to the Boys Club.

An early starter- Andrew MacDonald-recollects

I was born on 24/11/1950. I moved to Oatley in 1955 and left in 1971.

From around 1959 to 1965 I played cricket, baseball and rugby league for Oatley RSLYC. In 1964 I received an award in baseball and 1964/65 for cricket in B5 Grade.

I have been working at the Sutherland Hospital for many years. After having a light hearted conversation with a work colleague, Dennis Webb we realised that we both played for Oatley RSLYC in all three sports mentioned above.

The accompanying photo shows us both in the 1961 Rugby League team, only weighing 5 stone and 7 lb.



Oatley RSL Youth Club 5 stone 7 lbs Rugby League team - 1961

L to R: Ray Lawless (coach) and ? (with ball); ?; Ross Strudwick; Michael Jamieson; ?; ?; Denis Webb; ?; Michael Hawkins; Andy MacDonald; ?; ?; Michael Graham; ?

Denis Webb takes up the story.

I have worked with Andy MacDonald for 9 years and only realized last year we had played in the same team back in 1961.

Oatley R.S.L. 1961. 5 stone 7 lbs Rugby League team.

I can't remember too much about this team or what we achieved. I do remember we trained at Renown Park, Mortdale

Oatley R.S.L. 1962. 5 stone 7 lbs Rugby League team.

This team went through the season undefeated. Ross Strudwick went on to make a name for himself in senior representative football. I don't know what happened to all the other players. We did train again at Renown Park.



ROSS STRUDWICK

FIRST OATLEY R.S.L. YOUTH CLUB PLAYER TO ATTAIN FIRST GRADE STANDARD WITH ST. GEORGE D.R.F.L.C.

Oatley R.S.L. 1963.

The same side played together again in 1963. The side was beaten 3 points to 2 in the final by Bexley R.S.L. at Henson Park, Newtown. I think Bexley were beaten by Kingsgrove Colts in the Grand Final.

Other sports

I played Cricket with Oatley RSL YC in the 1961, 62, 63, 64 seasons and Baseball in the winter season of 1964. Sadly I don't have any photos or history on these teams. Although I think a Mr. Les Napier was our cricket coach and my mother Mrs Norma Webb was the scorer in 1962 and 1963.

1964 was my last year in team sport. I was bitten by the surfboard riding bug!

In 1961, apart from the regular Friday night 'gym' and boxing classes on Saturday mornings –the Club had 2 cricket teams earlier in the year, fully equipped - both these teams won their divisions in the Cricket week organised by Rockdale Council - and fielded 3 Football teams, fully equipped.

A small group from the P.T. Class also took part in the first massed Youth Club display organised by the Combined R.S.L. Youth Clubs. This was a very successful display held at Randwick Racecourse.

Girls Physical Culture starts

In late 1961 a girls Physical Culture class was formed, which was very well supported. The girls section, only recently started, had made wonderful progress in their physical culture class. Under the instruction of Mrs.Dawson. It was thought that they would be at the stage very soon where they would "be able to give the parents a creditable display". A piano was purchased for this group and was in the capable hands of Mrs. Nash.

RSL Youth Clubs were springing up everywhere, and it was felt that it was only a matter of time before a Youth Club would be formed and add entertainment to the present amenities for the girls and boys.

The Sub-branch commenced building a Hall in which to bridge the transition period between the inadequate room behind the School of Arts and the future proposed Hall and Gymnasium. As this was to be a big project it was felt that this was the only way to give the Boys and Girls a better deal immediately.

Sincere thanks were conveyed to the Sub-branch and Club members who so willingly supported the Club's only source of revenue, the Oyster Raffle, each Saturday. This, as always, was made possible by the generous members of the Derwent Clan.

Accommodation was an ongoing problem attested to by Jack Fisher in his annual report. "Perhaps the in-coming office-bearers and committee can interest sufficient members and parents to get busy and organise for additions to give us what we really want - a Community Youth Centre, and large hall. At the present moment, Oatley does not have available for public letting any Public Hall as the only one previously was the School of Arts, which has now been let for commercial purposes and split up into small class rooms for a Professional Kindergarten."

The year 1962 was an active one for all sections of the Youth Club.

Membership increased in both the Boys and Girls' sections and in the younger Boys' P.T. Section it was necessary to close entry as the class became too large for the small Hall. Eighty boys and girls entered in the Combined Mass R.S.L. Club display at Randwick Racecourse and were successful in several events.

A team of swimmers also took part in the Annual R.S.L. Swimming Carnival, and gave a good account of themselves against very strong opposition.

A return visit was made to Waratah-Mayfield R.S.L. Youth Club for the annual games with them. The four football teams played on Saturday and Sunday, winning three of the four trophies. The boys and those parents who made the trip were entertained in a most generous manner and old friendships were renewed and new friends made. It would be Oatley's pleasure to have Waratah-Mayfield Youth Club visit the following year.

Two of the football teams won premierships in 1962 and Oatley also won a Cricket premiership.



A 'gym' class in action in the Sub-branch hall. Bob Klinker (front left) went on to become an assistant instructor under Jim Mason

During the year Oatley was unfortunate to lose one of the P.T. Instructors, Stan Balenzuela, who as a member of the permanent Army, was posted to Queensland. However, Eric Heaton, who had been one of the original Instructors, took on the job again and carried on the good work.

Financial assistance came from many sources and enabled the Club to meet all expenses and finish up with a healthy surplus to face the coming year. Oatley was once again indebted to the Derwent boys, who maintained their regular donation of Oysters.

Jack Fisher had many people to thank at the end of the year 1962. A Social Committee of Club ladies was formed during the year and they did a wonderful job raising money in various ways. To the organisers, Mesdames Christie, Fleming, Green, Quinlan and Morley and their helpers and parents who assisted, deep thanks were expressed.

He continued "To our Instructors, Coaches and Assistants and those parents who helped throughout the year, we extend our grateful thanks, on behalf of the Oatley Sub-Branch. Without them and the help they gave, the Oatley Youth Club would not have gained the high regard with the public and sporting bodies that we have today. Obviously our helpers are too numerous to mention individually, but I would like to bring to your notice a few, to illustrate the quality of helpers we have, such as the following;- D. Fleming; R. Lawler; J. Sullivan; S. Morihan; C. Heaton; B. Fisher; G. Anderson; L. Napier; B. Hulbert; G. Sparkes; Girls' Instructor Mrs. Dawson; Mrs. Nash and Junior Instructor - G. Cockle; J. Retallack Boxing Instructor and last but by no means least K. Christie who as Football Manager, carried a great responsibility through the Season."

Jack Fisher then made a solemn announcement. "It is with deep regret that I announce I will not be able to accept the nomination for the President's position this year (1963). Unfortunately, I have not enjoyed the best of health for some time now and I feel I cannot give the energy required to advance our youth club. I feel that a younger person, with the interest of the youth club at heart, can really do things that will give our boys and girls a bigger and better youth Club from which they will all benefit. More parents are showing a greater interest now and their help will enable the youth Club to go ahead with mighty power.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my years with the boys and girls and the many friendships formed with the parents. I will always retain my interest and be ready to assist, within my capabilities, whenever possible."

So the end of the first era had arrived with the retirement of Jack Fisher. Under his presidency the Club had been established and expanded taking on a range of activities and moved from a Boys Club to a Youth Club to include activities for both boys and girls.

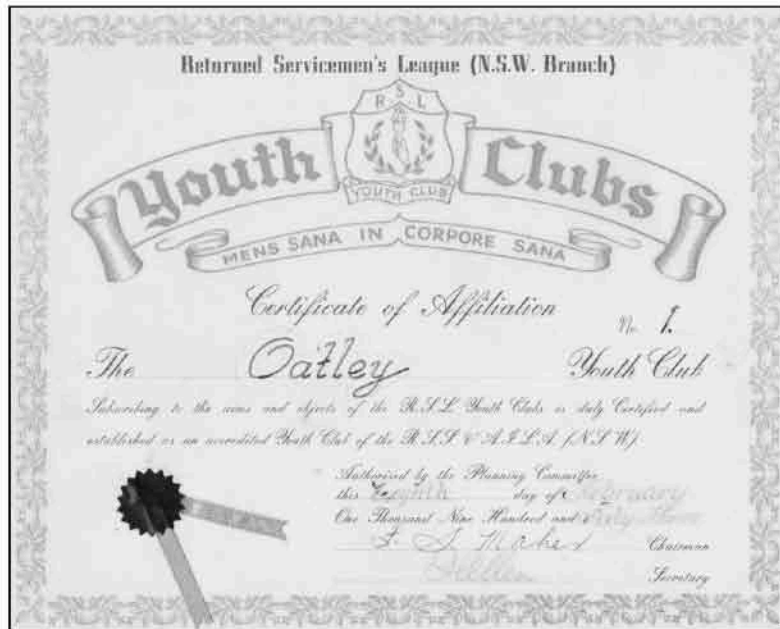
3. Sixties

At the beginning of 1963 the Youth Club was expanding its membership and needed more space. The Sub-branch had had a number of requests from the Youth Club and responded by approving the installation of fixture pins for "scrambling nets" and the use of the Sub-branch Hall for additional hours on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

However, the Sub-branch responded in the negative to a Youth Club proposal to charge one shilling [10 cents] per family per week with the resolution "That the Youth Club be directed by the Sub-branch that no requests for a regular charge or donation be made to families of Youth Club members". So, voluntary fund raising was still the way to go!

Affiliation

The NSW RSL Youth Council had started a system of affiliating local Youth Clubs under the umbrella of the State Council. This ensured Clubs received advice and support about running youth clubs, provided



insurance cover, and allowed Clubs to participate in statewide competitions. Oatley quickly sought affiliation and received the number one certificate on 8th February 1963.

F.U.J. Tinkler Memorial Shield

The Competition is conducted each year by the RSL Youth Council to find the leading RSL Youth Club in the State and is considered to be the most prestigious event run by Youth Council.

The Shield was donated by the late Mrs H. Tinkler, MBE, to perpetuate the memory of her late husband Colonel Frederick Usher John Tinkler who was the founder of the NSW RSL Youth Movement and by whose example and dedication, has continued to inspire members of RSL Youth Clubs to greater endeavours.



In 1962, after just 5 years of operation, Oatley RSLYC was hosting a wide range of activities for its members and this was recognised by the award of 3rd place in the NSW RSL Youth Clubs F.U.J. Tinkler Memorial Shield Competition. Oatley repeated this effort in 1963 again winning third prize.

The Chapman family connection – C. L. (Cliff) Chapman



Our introduction to the Youth Club was in 1959 when, with my wife Betty, we attended the movies at the then Oatley picture theatre. Mr. Pat Palmer and his wife Jean were present that night and spoke to us about our eldest daughter Virginia joining basketball as she was the right age of 12 years. We were very pleased to do so as we were new to Oatley and I had just joined the RSL so we became volunteers for the youth club when required.

When our daughter AnnMarie joined the basketball [now Netball] and the physical culture classes we were asked to accompany the teams to Newcastle as in those days the RSL Youth Club basket ball team was invited to Waratah-Mayfield RSL to compete against their basketball teams. Our teams used to travel there by a coach provided by the RSL and the Mayfield RSL Youth Club did the same when they came to Sydney. Some of the parents drove to Newcastle themselves. Each club used to billet their child with the families involved with club. Oatley and Mayfield clubs were very generous with looking after the parents with a dinner on the Saturday night where we could get to know each other.

Eric Heaton was the P.T. instructor and our son Steven joined his class but he had to wait as there were no vacancies, but after enrolling with PT he also joined the boxing class with Jack Retallack. The class was becoming very popular so Eric asked me would I give him a hand on Friday nights to control the boys. I became the PT representative for the next 9 years. My job with Eric was to call the roll, check the boys uniforms and sandshoes as even if they were old Eric maintained they had to be clean. I also had to arrange the gym mats and check

the springboard and all the equipment for each class.

On Anzac Sunday the children of the youth club and myself marched from the RSL up Letitia Street towards the scout hall and then into the Memorial Park in Oatley Avenue for the memorial Anzac service. At the end of the service the RSL would show movies in the youth club hall and provide them with food. At Christmas time the youth club would put on a little party and present them with their trophies they had earned from their different activities. Eric was a great PT instructor and his word was law. He was an ex sergeant in the British Army in WWII. After Eric retired Jim Mason became the PT instructor and he was very popular with the classes and he was also a good teacher.

After our children grew up and left the youth club we carried on with our support. We made a lot of great friends and even if some are still with us today we miss the ones of long ago. We still talk about the great times we had in Oatley RSL Youth Club where our children were encouraged to grow up as good citizens. They always thank us for the privilege of being in Oatley Youth Club. We had our three children in the youth club and our two grandsons in it for a short time until they moved to Victoria.

New Youth Club headquarters

The old Radio Theatre, built in 1942 and so named after the Radio Corporation of America's Radio City, New York, was bought by the RSL Sub Branch in 1962 and converted to a 'gym hall and entertainment centre' for the Youth Club at a cost of 5,000 pounds.



Photo courtesy of 'Oatley Writes'

Opening of the new Youth Club premises on 7 May 1966 was a great occasion in the life of the Youth Club. It was named after Jack Fisher, the driving force for, and inaugural President of the Youth Club. The John Fisher Memorial trophy for competition amongst Illawarra RSL Youth Clubs had commenced in 1965.

Major trophies

These were donated by a number of locally prominent people. The Derwent "Youth of the Year" trophy commenced in 1964. The Len Reynolds trophy was first awarded in 1965. In 1966 two additional trophies were donated to the Youth Club - "The D. D. Cross Trophy for Youth Club Interest" and the T. Atherton and C. Tate Trophy for "Sportsman of the Year".



Len Reynolds presents an award for leadership to Michael Miller at the Oatley RSL Youth Club

Due to his dedication to both the youth and the elderly of the district Len was in great demand at public functions. He donated trophies to be competed for on

an annual basis to several youth organisations in the area. One such group was the Oatley RSL Youth Club. This trophy awarded for leadership is still being competed for today.

There was obviously discussion in society of the day about the "trouble with kids today", as it moved Pat Palmer in his 1965 annual report to comment that "A large attendance of boys and girls at the Anzac Day Service Oatley, and Woronora service was pleasing, as it evidenced still further that there is nothing wrong with the youth of today, and that they are interested in other things besides "The Beatles" and "Stones".



Ballroom dancing waltzes in

Ballroom dancing was added in 1967 under the skilful tuition of George Farrant. The classes of nearly 40 boys and girls started to show that there was a lot of talent in the Youth Club.

The Club participated with the RSL Headquarters on their float during the Waratah Festival procession.

Renown Park

In 1968 Renown Park was 'granted' or leased to ORSLYC for use for football (Rugby League) and it was carefully maintained by Club members and parents.

At right: About 1967 ??? and Eric Heaton with Deidre Brierley (Pat Palmer obscured)

Eric Heaton, Bob Swift and Pat Palmer present trophies



Three generations of Bemrose - by Charlie Bemrose Jnr

In 1957 a Boys' Club, which I participated in, was started by Jack Fisher, Sam Jackson, Jack Retallack, my father Charles Bemrose (pictured at right) and possibly others.



The classes were run in the hall behind the School of Arts (now Oatley Library) after the RSL Club moved from the hall, where they had been trading, into their new premises.

The Boys' Club held a physical training class on Friday nights which was taken by Jack Fisher an ex army physical training instructor and a boxing class was held on Saturday mornings, which was taken by Jack Retallack, an ex boxer.

Around 1960 after the sub-branch hall was built the boys ran their physical training classes from this hall, the classes were taken over by Jack Fisher's son, Bruce.

The RSL Sub-branch then bought the picture theatre next to the sub-branch hall, a level floor was put in and the youth club moved in and operated from there. Jim Mason took over the boys' physical training classes and I assisted as a junior coach.

In 1959 the RSL entered in the St George district rugby league competition. In 61 & 62 the rugby league teams I played in won the St George District Junior Rugby League premierships, we were coached by Doug Fleming an ex first grade St George fullback.

In 1966 a youth club younger set was started up and ran for 2 years, this was a social club for teenagers, we held a number of dances in the youth club hall, went on outings to the zoo, had bowling nights and went on hikes in the national park etc. **The younger set is where my wife Sue and I met some 40 years ago.**

Our children have all attended classes with the youth club, including physical culture, gymnastics and swimming and our son has been a member of the boys gymnastics section for the past 15 years, firstly as a participant and now as a head coach.

As you can see there has been a Bemrose involved with the youth club from its inception until today.

Recollections of Glen O'Shea – an early YC member

My name is Glen O'Shea, formerly of 69 Myall Street, Oatley. I started in the Oatley RSL Youth Club in about 1960 at the age of 5 years joining the boys PT section and having Eric Heaton as instructor. At this stage we were in the Community Hall [School of Arts] opposite the RSL Club.

Later we moved into the Sub Branch hall which was beside the Club. Friday night was a good night because after our class and before going home, the lolly shop opposite was the first port of call for some "cobbers" or "clinkers". (The white T-shirts & shorts didn't go together with the chocolate).

On Saturday mornings boxing classes were the go. At the age of 7 the finer art of boxing was being taught by Jack Retallack. We had boxing matches between ourselves and later on inter-club matches. One night in 1964 at Mortdale Police Boys Club brought the joys of winning a bout and taking home a cup. In 1966 at home in the RSL car park my career as a boxer ended (I don't like pain) being a loser to an opponent from Silverdale or Oakdale, near Camden.

Later the old picture show building was acquired and all sections moved in. The Boys PT Section had Jim Mason as Instructor with Robert Klinker as Assistant Instructor. Bob was called up for National Service and I was asked to fill his shoes as Assistant Instructor, somewhere about 1970, until retiring at the age of 21 in 1976.

Probably about 1967 I thought cricket would be good. After a little while the sun was just too hot but I was made to finish the year. (Swimming seemed a better idea).

Somewhere about 1968 George Farrant decided to kick off a Ballroom Dancing Section in the new hall. There were not many people at the start but it picked up. Classes were held on Saturday mornings. George would always come in his suit even on the hottest day and would never take off his coat. The best I ever saw was him loosening his tie. We would all help bring in his portable record player and set it up on the "Stage" which was only the boxing ring put away. I also remember his old 78 rpm records. As we got older these classes were more a get together and social day.



Amanda Eltoft with George Farrant resplendent in evening wear about 1972.

As we progressed through the medals the older boys would partner the younger girls for their medals. For medal days George had judges from the British Dancing Association to adjudicate.

The Anzac Day March was always well attended by all the sections where we would assemble at the RSL Club and march (in a round about fashion) to the Cenotaph for the service.

When I was 18 I attended the Youth Club meetings representing the PT Section with Jim and the Dancing Section with George. This also meant selling raffle tickets on Saturday afternoons for bottles of oysters donated by the Derwent Brothers.

Mark Boudib (football section I think) and myself represented Oatley RSL Youth Club at the Southern District Representatives of RSL Youth Clubs meeting held at the RSL Building in Phillip Street. This was to get feedback for the RSL from all the other Youth clubs on different ideas from different clubs.

My sister Robyn was also a member of the Netball and Dancing sections. Kevin, my younger brother, was in Boys PT and Dancing sections as well.

I had a wonderful youth and have great memories of the time I attended the Youth Club. This would not have been possible but for the amount of time given by the instructors and committees of the RSL Youth Club.

Remembrances from Joan Moore:

Of course, no papers were where I expected so I can only offer some memories; these could be a little distorted with time!!

The ORSLYC was, and I am sure still is, a splendid organization for those willing to be a part of it and hopefully return a little. We must always be thankful to the members of the Sub-Branch and the Club for their support over so many years and to the office bearers of the ORSLYC: Secretaries such as Jack Lloyd, Presidents as Bill Dowling, long standing treasurers as Alan Eltoft.

My family was associated with Girls' P.C., taught by Mrs Dawson? with the very able help of Liz Northcott and Mollie Eltoft. From very small children to mature women, Monday night was exercise in the Y.C. Hall, Pianist Mrs Nash? A large number of girls attended and they were all very proud to perform at the end of year display.

Now Jim Mason's Friday night boys' PC was something else. Jim and his mate Cliff Chapman, worked the boys hard and they excelled. I am sure all the boys have very fond memories of Friday nights, of Jim and his training.

Who could forget Saturdays at the Y.C. Hall when George Farrant taught Ballroom Dancing, you know where you actually hold each other and dance together to the music. I wonder who else can remember George's feet, they

were able to retract, curl up, disappear so smoothly. The medal dances with the young people dressed up and performing was an event.

Oatley still has netball teams and these are part of a very proud tradition. Dot Lloyd, Pam Bevan, and Pat Palmer gave many years service. There is still great pleasure to be had seeing the swirl of a red pleated skirt and knowing ORSLYC is still playing.

I don't think the Y.C. has League teams now, but it was a very proud part of our club and enabled many lads to enjoy their game.

The pool at Sydney Tech. High School on Saturday/ Sunday mornings through summer, was home for ORSLYC swimmers, from small "learn to swim" to "experts".

They gathered under the watchful eyes of Bryan Moore, Keith Donald, Allan Bennett and many parents. These were happy times with the older swimmers helping with the babes. On behalf of the RSL Southern Metropolitan District, Oatley swimmers competed a couple of times each year, as well as against the local clubs who also used the pool. Oatley was quite successful to the joy of sub-branch member, Allan Goymour.

Boxing with Jack Retallack and Jack Overton was a feature night.

The Youth Club organised many great nights at the RSL club and end of year events.

That is it! As you can imagine my head is spinning with all the bits and pieces from years ago.

Yours sincerely, Joan Moore "with a cramped hand" !!



Oatley RSL YC Netball Premiers D Grade Seniors 1969

Life member Dot Lloyd on Youth Club, family and netball

Jack and I were both in the Youth Club as Garry, our son, played Football and did Physical Education run by Jim Mason. He was only 7 years of age, he is now 54. Our other two sons, Bernard and Terry, also played rugby league for the Youth Club and I joined Netball in 1968.

Our daughter Maria also started Netball in 1968 – she was 7 years old, as we had U/8's then. Lou Downie was coaching with Barbara Palmer and Maureen Henrys, I played as an extra in Maureen Henrys's team – they were Seniors in their 20's then.

Maria started P.T. in 1969.

In 1978 Oatley Netball put in a Ladies Team which included Pam Bevan and myself, in the All Australian Golden Jubilee – went from 1928 to 1978. It was a fun day at Anne Clark Field (Moore Park).

Pat Palmer, Pat and Deidre Brierley, Jean & Barbara Palmer and Lou Downie were the main people when Netball commenced in 1963. Reciprocal visits with Waratah-Mayfield Club also began in 1963 with trophies from Jean Palmer and Pat Brierley.

In 1968 Pat Palmer left and I was made President of Netball in 1969.

I have been honoured with Life Membership of Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club and also of the Netball section.



Seniors 1973

Life members
Dot Lloyd and
Jan Clow on the
evening of their
certificates
presentation in
1985



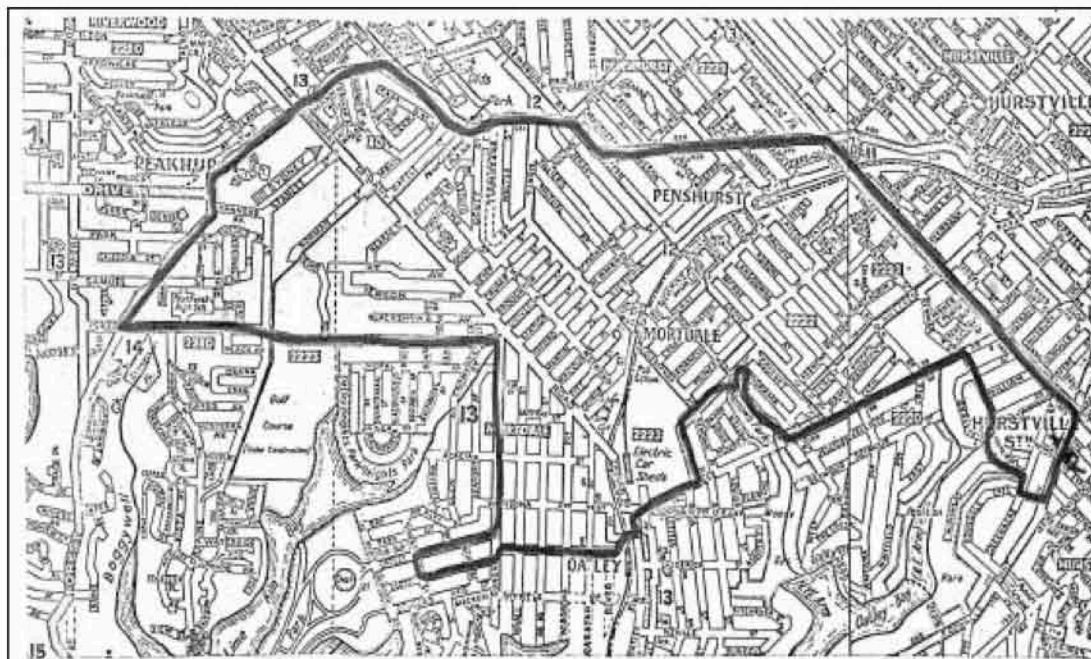
4. Seventies

FUNDRAISING

The lengths we went to raise money!

Fundraiser - The walkathon

A 10-MILE WALKATHON (16km) was held for all Youth Club members on SUNDAY JULY 25th, 1971 COMMENCING FROM 10.00 a.m. STARTING AND FINISHING AT RENOWN PARK. The route of the walk is shown below



The instructions for the walkathon were:

(All persons participating in the WALKATHON must have their cards signed by the officials at the Check Points set out hereunder.

Anybody who is unable to complete the WALK must, after getting the card signed at the last Check Point, stay there where transport will be arranged to take them back to Renown Park.)

NOTE: All participants must cross with the lights at the intersections of:
Hillcrest Avenue and King Georges Road; and
Boundary Road and Forest Road.

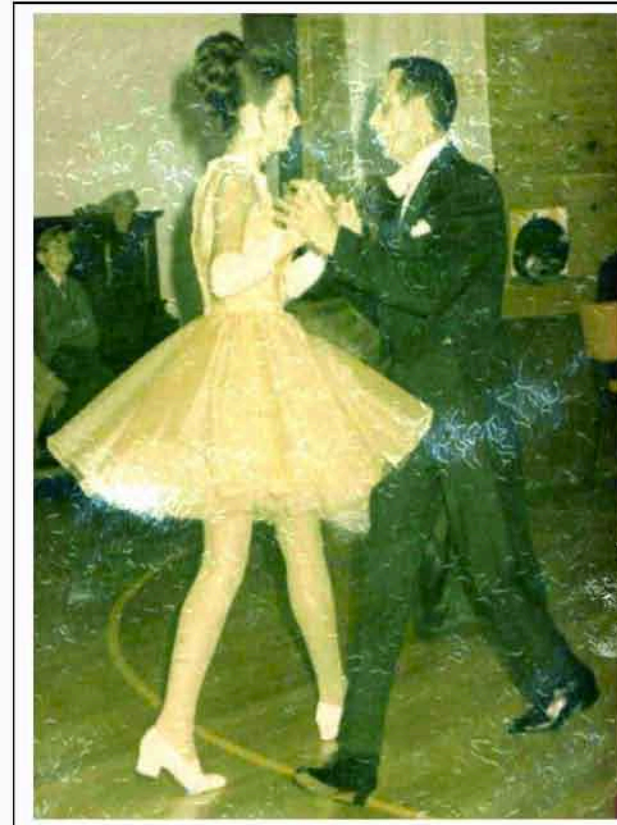


1971
Oatley Netball 14Cs



1972 – Debutantes - a rite of passage for youth of the 60s and 70s

Narelle Jones and Glen O'Shea of the ballroom dancing section attend a Debutante Ball held by the Oatley RSL Sub-branch possibly at RSL Headquarters. They are accompanied by L to R, parents Gib Jones, former patron of the Youth Club, Joan Jones, Terry O'Shea and Pauline O'Shea.



1970
George Farrant accompanies Narelle Percival
Oatley's first Ballroom Dancing gold medallist

1975 - final whistle for Rugby League

The Rugby League section suffered a decline in the number of teams in 1974 because of the uncertain future of the lower grades under a direction from the N.S.W. Rugby League that League would cease for under 12 years old in 1974.

For various reasons, including the above, we did not have enough players to field a "K" grade – under 11 years team in 1975, so that team folded. Some of our better players had gone to other clubs, the competition was getting harder and so were the 'knocks', and overall those left decided to 'call it a day'. It was a sad happening but inevitable.

In the end there was only one team entered in the Rugby League competition for 1975, so towards the end of this year, and because of the decline in the interest of Rugby League, and specifically we had Renown Park No. 2 field vacant, and empty fields were as 'rare as hen's teeth', Mr. Ted Thornthwaite approached the Youth Club with his suggestion that we switch to soccer.

1976 - Soccer kicks off

A meeting of interested people was called in November, 1975 to form a soccer section of Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club. The Youth Club wished to continue a sporting activity on Renown Park 2 as the Youth Club had the park on a 10 year lease from Kogarah Council.

A committee was formed with the late Ted Thornthwaite as President, Bob Dines as Secretary and Barry Finn as Treasurer.

Eight teams were formed and they competed in St. George Soccer Association in the 1976 season.

The 10A (1) team were undefeated Premiers and went on to win Champion of Champions. The 7C team was undefeated Minor Premiers and Premiers. The following year saw 100% increase in team numbers to 16, of which 5 won premierships.

Tribute must be made to Mrs. Jean Thornthwaite for the time and effort she contributed behind the scenes attending to all the other jobs which run the club for which we now have formal positions.

The playing strip has changed dramatically over the years. The original shirts of white with red hoops and trim were made from donated material, worn with white shorts. The 1979 season saw a change to shirts with vertical red stripes and black shorts. These new shirts being purchased with funds raised by an aluminium can drive throughout 1978. The strip was changed again in 1983 to red and white with black trim.



Champion of Champions U10 A (1) 1976
Manager Barry Finn

Coach Ted Thornthwaite

Reflections of a Parent of the Youth Club - Barry Gray Life Member - Soccer Section

Our children Mark & Vicki attended the youth club and both attended the learn to swim at the Peakhurst West School Pool in 1974 & later the swimming section transferred to Sydney Tech Boys High at Hurstville. The tennis section at the Oatley Campus was where they learnt how to play and were coached.

Mark attended the physical training, judo and soccer sections. Vicki attended the physical culture, gymnastics & "T" Ball sections. Our children attended 8 separate sections over the years and did not need any other activities outside the youth club. Our only free day that the children did not do a youth club activity was Sunday.

Clubs survive on volunteers to serve on committees, to take the responsibility to run the club and raise money to supply equipment for the children. So Ellen & I joined the Soccer Section committee holding various positions over the next 26 years like other interested parents. I joined the Youth Club committee as an interested parent and held the treasurer's position for 6 years.

You make many new friendships like Jan & Bill Clow. Jan taught our children to swim starting in 1974 and later talked me into becoming an instructor. We see Jan & Bill regularly and our daughters are good friends.

Vicki was god-mother to Michelle's daughter at her christening in Toowoomba in June 2007.

Mark met Brett Jones and through soccer his father Keith coached the boys when they were older. They remained good friends and now Brett & Mark's wife Janelle are partners in a Framing & Photography business.

A soccer dad George Griffiths many years ago penned a 2 page satirical poem about his experiences in the soccer section probably after he had a hard day at soccer. At the field by 7 -30am to mark the field, off to his son's game, collecting the fees, running the sideline trying to assist the referee, organising the shirts to be washed by a parent, organising parents for next Saturdays canteen afternoon roster, back to Renown Park to pay in the fees, and lastly write his report on the team's game to be printed in our "Roundball" next week by 12.30 the rest of the day was his.

George wrote a verse about most of the committee members and their duties and his last verse was:

"When my friends ask why I suffer so,
I say I do it for the kids
But deep down inside, I know full well
I would not give it up for quids"

Barry Gray
Life Member - Soccer Section

1978 - Youth Club's 21st birthday

The Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club celebrated its 21st Birthday with a Social evening on Saturday 10th June, 1978. A gathering of some 300 people attended including Mr. & Mrs. R. Culley, two Ward Aldermen from Kogarah Council and six representatives from Waratah—Mayfield R.S.L. Youth Club. Many associated with earlier days attended including Sam Jackson, Charles Bemrose, Jack Retallack and Pat Palmer from the inaugural year.

Jim Mason's reflections – 12 enjoyable years

I can remember when I started as a P.T. instructor with Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club in 1967, there were a few other sections going. I recall instructing in the School of Arts for awhile; but this could have been when I filled in for Eric Heaton (the permanent Instructor), which I did on a few occasions. Before coming to Oatley I instructed for Bjelke-Petersens at Gladesville for 11 years.

After being appointed at Oatley, as P.T. Instructor and Youth Club Representative, I instructed in the Youth Club Hall. I was given a badge with my name and O.R.S.L.Y.C. on it, together with a blue lumbar jacket, **see photo**, to wear as a part of the P.T. uniform. I was asked if P.T. instruction was ever given in the Sub-Branch Hall – No!

In the beginning, I also had a senior girls' gym class, approximately 12 – 15 girls who mostly had brothers in the P.T. section, but who were not Olympic hopefuls – all arms and legs!! I recall having this one very tall girl who came over the vaulting horse and fell flat on her face. So the next time around I grabbed her so she would not fall – she almost did – and as I lifted her up she said "Thanks Mr. Mason" – it was then I realised I had my hand firmly on her breast – embarrassing!!

I had over 100 boys in P.T. There were 4 classes – 1) Juniors 30-35 boys; 2) Two Intermediates 30-35 boys in each; 3) Seniors 15-16 boys up to 21 years. Peter Moore, who later became our Instructor, began with me at 11 years and finished with me at 22 years.

I started my classes with P.T. exercises then continued with either tumbling or vaulting horse. We did have parallel bars, but it was a bit hard to get them out of the storeroom at the back, the boys were not too keen because they found it a bit slow waiting their turn and that's when they started to get into trouble! So the last 10 minutes of the lesson I'd give them games. Geoff Ferguson and Peter Moore helped. I'd give the seniors a rough game of basketball, which they really enjoyed, and then games with heavy medicine balls.

I clearly remember I used to try to get out of the basketball games, and if there were even numbers I could, and then I would umpire, but if the number was uneven, I had to play!

This one night, I played and collided with Peter Moore, who was 18" taller and 4 stone heavier than me, my head rattled and all he said was "Don't worry Mr. M." and played on – we were in the same team!!

Another night, actually the one before the Youth Club's 21st birthday, I scored myself a broken nose – the only broken bone (?) I've ever had in all my years of instructing. I think the lad's name was Don Campbell and he was coming over the vaulting horse, got off balance, and his elbow caught me right on the nose. There was blood everywhere so I thought I had better go down to the hospital. Whilst I was there, mothers were 'phoning my wife to ask how I was and she didn't even know that I had been injured. When it was my turn to be seen at the hospital, the Sister said to me "Another bloody squash player?" "No, I said, a gym instructor." The next day I had to see a Specialist to make sure all was O.K. I 'phoned a few times and couldn't get through, when I finally did I said to the receptionist "Gee, you have been busy this morning". "Yes, she said, all these silly people with broken noses". "Well, I said, I'm another one". After some twisting and pulling by the Specialist, my nose was back where it should have been and it healed straight and well.

To raise funds for the Youth Club, we had over the years, 10km. "Walk-a-thons" which would begin at Renown Park and end there with a sausage sizzle. As previously stated, I had over 100 boys in my section and they all wanted to walk, even the 'littlies' would walk, so Peter Moore, Steve Smith and some of the older boys would 'run' the course in the morning and then come back to where I was with the little fellows from P.T. and 'piggy-back' them to just before the finish line so they could walk over and be seen to finish by themselves. They all had great fun and it was a good money raiser.

I had a young pupil, Simon I think was his name, a bonza little fellow, who was only about 7 years old at this time, but who had had a lot of sickness when he was younger. In fact, he was too young to join the group and I remember Bill Dowling bent the rules a little bit because Simon had spent a lot of time in hospital, and he really needed other boys to be around to play.

Anyway this night after lessons, when we were playing, I bowled a medicine ball down the hall and told him to run down and pick it up. Simon ran down and then he stopped – he couldn't see properly, he was an albino. Over the weeks he improved a lot and his parents were really pleased.

Another lad I had, Andrew Colbert, had a disability to his foot and although he tried hard to run he wasn't too fast. In game time I used to lay on the floor and spin a long rope around and the boys would have to jump over it. I always had a boy stand behind Andrew just in case he wasn't quick enough to jump.

This particular night I didn't have anyone behind Andrew, and the rest of the boys told me and wouldn't let me start 'spinning' until I had organised Peter or one of the other older boys to be there ready to catch if necessary. They really were a very thoughtful lot!

We didn't have competitions when I instructed at Oatley. I had had them at Bjelke Petersens at Gladesville, but I thought it was more important to teach ALL the boys rather than the 6 – 8 who would have been in the competitions. I didn't want to have some boys missing out.

Good boys you'd teach once and they were fine, others it would take a long time.

It was more important to me for the boys to be considerate of each other than to be winning trophies, and I didn't like the idea of leaving boys out. Paul Larkin was an instructor who used to help me with the classes.

In 1976 I became an S.M.D.C. (Sydney Metropolitan District Council) Delegate from Oatley R.S.L.Y.C. , and then became President of the Youth Club in 1977 and 1978, after which I retired, having completed 12 years of enjoyable service!!



Official jacket worn by Instructors and Team Managers

1979 YOUTH CLUB - Annual Report

Highlights include

Soccer, with 21 teams, obtained 3 minor premierships and had 7 teams in the Semi Finals.

Swimming, again won the H. Brown Shield and again were second to Cronulla in the John Lund (S.M.D.C.) Carnival..

Cricket, had an outstanding season with 1 outright premiership, 1 joint premiership and 1 third (joint)

Athletics, won the John Fisher Memorial Trophy for the fifth successive year.

On a more general note, Girls and Boys P.T. has now been consolidated into one evening with mixed senior classes and this section will be working with Girls' Gymnastics to form a gymnastics squad for competition in 1980.

YOUTH GROUP with Julie Boxhall and Steven Smith

This new section which commenced during 1979 meets on alternate Saturday evenings. The section is open to boys and girls aged 12 to 16 years and aims to provide them with a variety of experiences in a Fellowship-style whilst having no religious or political affiliations.

Our first year of running was very successful. During the year we have gone on outings such as Luna Park, bowling, the pictures, the live theatre and many hall nights of games. We have about 45 young girls and boys who have earned much praise for their good dress and conduct.

This group could not function without the help of Debbie Kealy, Glenyce White, Jenny Moore, Donna Bevan, Jane Butler, Malcom Patton and Darryl Brennan, who acted as counsellors and organised the nights. We are all looking forward to next year and many more.

The Youth Group, formed this year, is off to a good start with good attendance and a high level of interest.

It is particularly pleasing to see so many of our older members putting effort back into the Club by coaching, managing and even organising activities, Our motto, **Mens Sana In Corpore Sano**, (A sound mind in a sound body) stresses that we seek to produce more than champion athletes. Each section or team manager must be (and I am sure, is) conscious of our commitment to offer a means of learning the responsibilities of citizenship. The high degree of involvement of our older members and the high quality of nominees for major trophies shows that we are achieving success here, also.

The Club carried out a major review of the physical condition of the hall and it was found wanting. So it embarked, with the Sub—Branch, on a series of projects to bring the building back to a good condition "to go forward into the 80s"

JOHN KEEN, Youth Club President

5. Eighties

1980 YOUTH CLUB REPORT

At this time last year we were looking forward into the decade of the 80's from a position of some strength but with many projects to carry out.

I am pleased to be able to report that our strengths have been maintained, Highlights. of the year include:

T-BALL. TEAM Undefeated after their first game, winning the Grand Final by a huge margin.

NETBALL. Senior B2. team won their second successive Grand Final. This Section had six Junior and eight Senior teams in the Semi Finals.

SOCCER. The 11A team were Minor Premiers and were narrowly defeated in the Grand Final. Nine other teams reached the Semi Finals.

ATHLETICS. Won the John Fisher Shield for the sixth successive year, However, Penshurst held this Shield for nine successive years so we still have something to chase.

SWIMMING. Had several medal winners at the State R.S.L. Carnival and again won the H. Brown Shield.

CRICKET. All-Age team were minor premiers.

GYMNASTICS. Continue their A.G.A. course with two external competitions and first ever (for us) 'Levels' competitions.

Well done all sections.

On the projects side, we have, with generous help from our Sub-Branch, started work on rejuvenation of the hall. The outer area and both sets of toilets have been repainted which leaves the main gymnasium to be completed during 1981.

We have also been successful in obtaining a grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation which will pay half the cost of some new construction within the hall.

Our hard-working Soccer section, working with Kogarah Council worked over the October holiday weekend to improve the drainage on Renown Park.

This was a mammoth task and appears to have considerably reduced the surface water after the recent heavy rain. Our projects are expensive and do require that we raise considerable amounts of extra money and to ensure that our regular activities pay their way. To help to ensure the latter we will institute term fees for all indoor activities from 1981. Some outdoor activities have done this for some time quite successfully. All fees are kept to an economic minimum.

For our major projects we have sought other sources of money and have been successful in receiving \$900 from Youth and Communities for gymnasium equipment and obtained the contract for telephone book deliveries.

All together our external activities have raised \$5,000 for major projects during 1980, not to mention the generous, though anonymous, materials support to the Renown Park drainage project.

I am sure that you will join me in thanking all who have helped our club during 1980. Supporters, Managers, Trainers, Sub-Branch, our Executive and legion of helpers have earned our gratitude, for this we thank you.

Our entry into the 80's has been strong, stay with us for an even better 1981.

JOHN KEEN, Youth Club President.

1981 YOUTH CLUB REPORT

1981 has been an excellent year for our Youth Club. Our hall, which two years ago was 'crumbling around our ears' is now in excellent shape, roof repaired and painted inside and out.

On the financial side, the introduction of term fees has enabled us to meet commitments, without raising fees significantly. Our small reserve now enables us to carry out projects previously difficult if not unthinkable.

The construction alluded to in my last report is now complete, giving the hall an extra meeting room and kitchen. This means that our instructors and managers no longer have to struggle on cold winter evenings to 'brew up' in the toilet or office. By 1982 this area will be carpeted and will be available for section meetings as a quiet, secluded area.

Highlights of our sporting prowess included:

Cricket with two premiership teams, 18B's and 12C's. Excellent!
Soccer again a tower of strength with 271 players in 20 teams. Congratulations to All Age C's who were undefeated minor premiers and premiers.

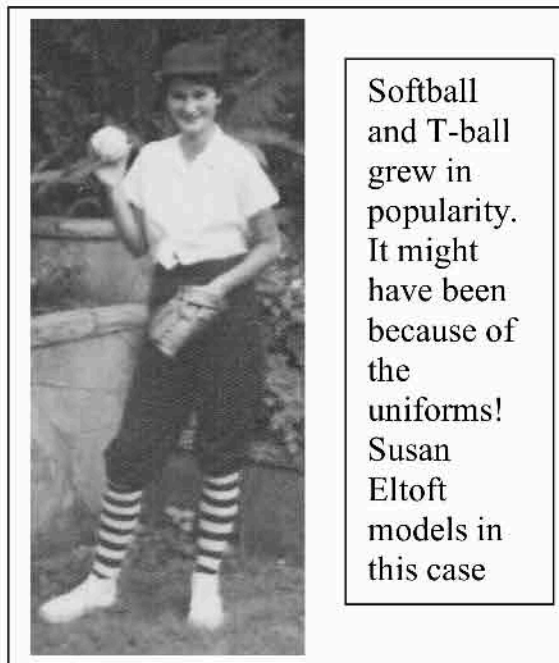
Softball with only two teams, again managed to produce a Premier side.

Athletics again won the John Fisher Shield (7 years in a row). Swimming once again won the H. Brown Shield. This makes it 8 years in a row.

Netball with 21 teams produced 7 finalist teams and 5 premiers. Outstanding!

Gymnastics are now well entrenched and producing 'levels' performers and winning in inter-club meets.

Tennis is a new section and is now performing well. Currently concerned only with teaching, we may later see some competitive teams.



On a sad note, ballroom dancing finished this year. Our club owes a debt of gratitude to George Farrant who has been with the Youth Club for 15 years.

As I move around the various sections it is pleasing to see the participation by our seniors, (and in some cases not so senior) in helping instruction, umpiring and many other duties. Our activities staffed largely by volunteers need all the support they can get, and to find so much from within is gratifying.

Please join with me in thanking all who have supported us during 1981 whether with time, money or behind the scenes support. My thanks to managers, trainers, Sub-Branch and the Club executive can never be fully stated, but do not let that stop you in 1982.

JOHN KEEN, Youth Club President.

1982 YOUTH CLUB REPORT

The Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club celebrated its Silver Anniversary in 1982, and from a one-section beginning, now 25 years later ...

We have nine activities catering for 850 members. We lost cricket this year as we were unable to find anybody to manage and organise this section.

The Youth Club had two premier soccer teams, the swimmers won the H. Brown Shield for the 10th consecutive year and finished third in the John Lund Shield (S.M.D.C. Swimming), the gymnastic girls won one Gold and one Silver in the N.S.W. R.S.L. Gymnastics Championships and one netball girl represented N.S.W. in the Australian Championships and was chosen in the under 16 years Australian team.

I would like to thank the "two Rons" who have been the mainstay of our raffles this year.

This year we are raising money for three members chosen by the R.S.L. State Council to tour New Zealand. My many thanks to all who have helped, you are too numerous to mention.

To the R.S.L. Sub-Branch President, Mr Gib Jones, and his Committee, a thank-you for your assistance in fund raising activities for this project.

Our gratitude to all who supported us during 1982 and all coaches, managers, delegates and the Youth Club Executive, not forgetting our teenage members who coach teams and do umpiring duties. We would be lost without these boys and girls who put something back into the Youth Club.

NEIL SPIRES, Youth Club President



The Derwent Trophy - 1985

L to R
John Mitchell, Margaret Olsen, Ernie Stanhope (Sub-branch President) and Cheryl Jones

1986 YOUTH CLUB REPORT

Once again the Youth Club has had another successful year for our Youth members. With eight sections operating, the boys and girls of our district have a reasonable choice of activities. In the past twelve months we can boast a membership of more than 750 and where some participate in more than one section, this gives us more than 900 active members.

During the year we had our ups and downs as do all clubs. But with the support of our conscientious executive and helpers we rode the rough times and pulled through proudly. One such time was due to work commitments forcing the resignation of our President Michael Round. Thank you, Michael, for your support.

Success was enjoyed by numerous Youth from our sections in a variety of competitions, both indoor and out, e.g., Girls gymnastics and Netball, Soccer and Swimming, which only proves the high standard of coaching available.

Our Annual Presentation Day on 23rd November was again held in the R.S.L. Club Auditorium and was assisted to success by our members and the staff of the R.S.L. The day was enjoyed by members of the Youth Club and the R.S.L.



1986 Presentations

Rayma Papworth, Sharon Finnan, Karen Bevan, Michelle Edwards, Pam Bevan, Robyn Ellis Sheryn Ellis (front)

The Youth Club meets at the R.S.L. on the first Wednesday each month at 8 p.m. and the Annual General Meeting is held in March. Anyone who feels willing to assist our Youth will be most welcome at our meetings. New faces bring new ideas and will guarantee our future success.

BRUCE SAUNDERS, Youth Club President

1987 YOUTH CLUB REPORT

As our official year draws to a close the Youth Club can boast of continued success.

In 1987 we had many persons aged from 3 years to adults physically involved in our Sections which incorporate girls and boys' gymnastics, girls' physical culture, netball, soccer, judo, boxing and swimming.

A total number of eight sections and 780 activity members plus many managers, coaches and committee workers. I feel that through their involvement and the personal satisfaction they gained our Youth Club has achieved our goal of assisting the future leaders of our community.

No organisation such as ours would be able to operate at all, let alone successfully, without the help of our Section Managers, Coaches, various Committees and most of all the Youth Club Executive. To these people who gave their time freely and have spent many hours throughout the year to ensure the success of our Club I personally give my thanks.

Our Youth who achieved special success were brought to notice last November when we held our Annual Presentation Day in the R.S.L. Club auditorium.

On this day our members, parents and friends including Mr. Guy Yeomans and Mr. Frank Walker, both Members of Parliament, packed the R.S.L. with over 300 people to witness the presentation and section displays. Our thanks must go to Jim McHugh and his staff for their assistance for that day.

Due to the changing times of our modern day the Youth Club Executive has found it necessary to update our outlook on insurance and therefore we have elected a special committee including a solicitor and accountants and youth club-experienced people to have our Youth Club Incorporated. We feel this is a big step for us to take for the future existence of our Club.

Our Annual General Meeting is held in the R.S.L. early in March, we meet on the first Wednesday each month. Anyone, whether you have children involved or not, are invited to attend for the improvement of this successful Youth Club.

Our goal is success and youth development and we will win this goal. If we accomplish as much over the coming year as we have over the past year, we have won.

Thank you to everyone who assisted in whatever capacity.

BRUCE SAUNDERS, Youth Club President.



1987 – Oatley RSL Youth Club - Grand Final March Past

Fire in the RSL Club 1988– Youth Club moves operations

A fire destroyed the RSL Club Co-op building on 13 March 1988 (the saying “beware the Ides of March” rings true here). The RSL Club decided to move into the Youth Club Hall to keep the Club business going while their building was rebuilt. For the remainder of that year the Youth Club had to operate from wherever space could be found.

Equipment had to be re-located, timetables re-set and parents and members informed. Judo and Girls Physical Culture moved to the Sub-branch hall while Girls and Boys Gymnastics used Connells Point Public School Hall. The Sub Branch hall was subsequently found to be not entirely suitable and so some classes moved to Oatley West Public School Hall.

Youth Club monthly meetings, where nearly 20 people attended, were held in Mortdale RSL until February 1989. The Youth Club was able to reoccupy the Youth Club hall in March 1989 after the RSL Club commenced trading from its rebuilt premises on 17th February 1989.

Jubilee Park Mortdale

At the time of the fire at Oatley RSL Club, all Netball training was at Jubilee Park, George Street, Mortdale. This park was allocated to netball, by Hurstville Council. The Council set about upgrading the facilities, building toilets and putting in bubblers.

The late Alderman Dick Dearing was instrumental in getting this venture up and running - and all because he wanted our youth to play sport. There are three grass courts and one hard court.

Netball had their ‘end of year’ Presentation Function at Mortdale RSL until Oatley got going again.

Netball has continued to train at Jubilee Park ever since. Lights have also been installed so training can be extended into the early evening. ORSLYC has continued its good relationship with Hurstville Council maintaining rights of access right up to today.

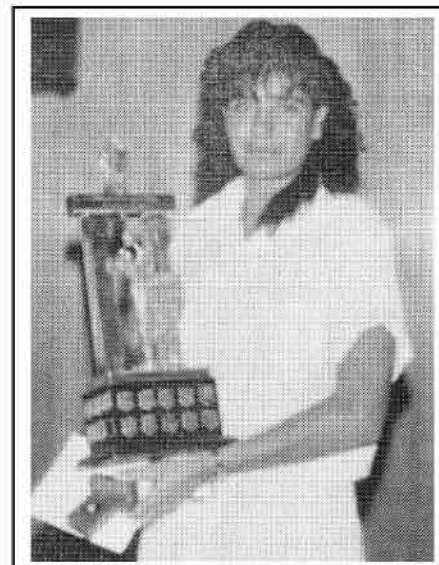
1989 Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club annual report

Last November Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club held their annual Presentation Afternoon at Oatley R.S.L. Displays were put on by Physical Culture, Judo, Boy's and Girl's Gymnastics. Merit certificates were presented to all sections culminating in the presentation of the major trophies to various individuals.

During the Christmas holidays the Youth Club is being repainted in time for sections to resume their activities for 1990.

Finally congratulations go to Sharon Finnan, a former Oatley R.S.L. Netball player, who represented her sport in the Commonwealth Games in Auckland last January.

Robyn Ellis, Secretary Oatley RSL Youth Club



Recognising talent early – Sharon Finnan was awarded the Atherton Tate trophy for Achievement in Sport

Tina Graham tells the story of *Painting the Youth Club Hall*

One sunny Saturday morning during the Christmas holidays in 1989 my husband Paul was strolling down to the Oatley village shops lost in thought. Imagine his surprise to find all the doors and windows of the Youth Club Hall opened and a number of men in overalls working away with a warden patrolling the venue.

Curious, he asked what was going on, he was told that the hall was to be painted by weekend detention prisoners and that it had all been organised through the Department of Corrective Services. He then asked about the gymnastics apparatus and was told, "That's not our problem mate!"

Realising the necessity to protect the valuable equipment he quickly returned home...this was well before mobile phones...to inform me of what was happening. Fortunately we had access to some large sheets of plastic which we had to retrieve from storage...this took a couple of hours and by the time we got back to the hall the mess was incredible. We dragged everything, which was already dripping with water, flaking paint, and sanding dust into the centre of the hall; piling mats over the beams, trampolines and boxes and covered it all with plastic. We left the men to their task and went home exhausted!

The job took several weekends to complete. With one warder and six to eight inmates very little was accomplished between the men ducking next door for a drink or down to the shops for cigarettes, snacks and of course the obligatory smokos and lunch!

The Sub-branch supplied the paint, equipment and lunch for everyone on the project. There was only one painter on the team, the rest of the men were inexperienced in the field of painting and decorating and the job reflected their expertise.

The weekend after it was 'finished' a lone man arrived to start work on Saturday morning when questioned as to why he was back...his reply was 'I'm a painter and I couldn't leave the job like this, so I've come back to tidy up'.

We were most grateful to him for his professionalism and the 'tidying up' made all the difference. After the job was completed we scrubbed the floor and washed down the equipment, which had been splattered with paint and dust from sanding.

The hall was much brighter and more pleasant for the children and coaches who attended activities there, and in the end, well worth the effort of the Youth Club Vice President Rayma Papworth and the Sub-branch to organise and subsidise the refurbishment.

A few years later we held a working bee to refresh the hall; this was achieved by adding murals of some of the activities that members of the Youth Club participated in.

Coaches, parents and members of the Gymsports section all pitched in and the results made the hall feel much more like a sporting venue than before.

6. Nineties

Variety and achievement

By 1991 self defence classes were being held each Thursday night, open to all members of the public. It was a small operation however with a limit of 6 per class each term. Swimming section was holding classes on Saturdays from 3-5 p.m. at Sydney Technical High School at Bexley.

In late 1991, to celebrate the RSL of Australia's 75th Anniversary, Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club attended the Youth Club Rally held at Miranda R.S.L. The Boys Gymnastics section put on a short display to the appreciation of all those attending.

And our young members were still achieving national representation. Nicole Graham from Girls Gymnastics attended the National Championships where she was placed 12th and subsequently represented Australia when she attended the Pan Pacific Games held in Bendigo where she earned 13th place in Tumbling.

The variety of activities around this time was still quite wide and achievements were significant. The Soccer section had 5 Premier teams and 2 Runners Up in 1992. The Netball section had 7 teams participating in the Grand Final with just 1 being successful. Girls Gymnastics competed in inter-club Trampolining competitions. The girls took out 2nd place in the State R.S.L. Trampolining Team Event and 1 member participated in the National Trampolining Championship. Boys Gymnastics had just begun to participate in outside competitions. Girls Physical Culture, Swimming and Basketball were all operating during 1992 and over 100 children attended the Anzac Day March in Oatley.

Girls physical culture marches off

By 1994 another milestone in the history of the Youth Club occurred. Girls Physical Culture came to an end after having been a big part of the Club since the very early days of 1961.

The Youth Club was saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Bill Dowling on April 13th 1994. Mr. Dowling was President of the Youth Club from 1971-1976.

Youth Club Incorporation 1992

The first meeting to work towards incorporation was held 2nd November 1987 and included the Club's solicitor at the time Mr J Cranney.

With much help from him and many meetings later Oatley RSL Youth Club finally incorporated on 28th January 1992 and started including the postscript "Inc." in the name.

With nearly 900 members in seven sections being operated by various members of the community mostly on a voluntary basis, this move safeguarded all committee members against any litigation.



Academic, sporting and community achievement

The Henry Ingram Memorial Scholarship is awarded to Youth Club members who are pursuing tertiary studies. It is sponsored by the Southern Metropolitan District Council of Youth Clubs. In 1995 two Oatley club members received awards. It was won by Elizabeth Moody (netball) with third prize going to Nicole Graham (girls gymnastics).

This Scholarship honours and recognises the efforts of Henry Ingram albeit posthumously. One of nature's gentlemen, he gave much of his time to the pursuit of the needs of youth. The scholarship is open to any Year 12 student who is a member of a Youth Club registered with Youth Council within the Southern Metropolitan District. Nominees are assessed on the basis of scholastic achievement, sporting achievement and contribution to the community. The scholarship contributes to the cost of university education.



The award ceremony was conducted at Miranda RSL on 8th May, 1995 - Don Morrison, SMDC and State Youth Councillor, presented Henry Ingram Memorial Scholarship winners with their awards. L to R: Melissa Hooper - Miranda RSL Youth Club; Elizabeth Moody - Oatley RSL Youth Club; Don Morrison and Nicole Graham - Oatley RSL Youth Club

The year 1996 proved most successful for the various Youth Club sections. Netball had fourteen junior and ten senior teams registered. Of these, 5 junior and 5 senior teams reached the Grand Finals. Six girls were selected to play in representative teams for the St. George District. Twenty five girls were selected to play in talent squads for 1997.

Soccer had 30 teams registered. Of these, 10A's were premiers and the 14B's minor premiers and premiers. In another sign of the changing times, Soccer was hoping to field a ladies team in the competition in the following year.

Basketball numbers increased dramatically throughout the year, increasing from 4 to 30. *Hoopsters*, the Sydney Kings Development Programme, was implemented by Coach Nathan Effeney and proved most beneficial to the children.

The Boys Gymnastics section had 9 boys chosen to represent at State level. Of these, two boys were invited to join the Elite Development Squad which trains at Homebush.



1996 MAG Squad

Coach: John Huntington

Coach Scott Alexander

Will Hoskins, Tristan ?, ?, ?
Ian Fletcher, Will Hodgetts?, ?
Brett Gainsford, Aaron Metham
Michael Liu

Girls Gymnastics also enjoyed a very successful year with 7 girls chosen to represent at State level. Ashleigh Boehm was named the 1996-97 N.S.W. State Level 1 Champion, the only Oatley girls' representative to have achieved this. The 5-7 years and 8-10 years teams each came first overall at the N.S.W. Novice R.S.L. Youth Club Championships.

The Trampoline Sports section had a successful year with numerous medals being won at R.S.L. State Championships and State Grade Championships. Members were also selected to compete in the Regional team at the State Trampoline Sports Championships. Simone Francis, a member of the Trampoline Sports section was selected to compete in the World Age Trampoline Sports Championships held in Canada. She was the highest placed Australian in her age group. Simone was also the National Age Champion.



1996 State Team Members representing ORSLYC

L- R Simone Francis, Erica Baxter, Alicia Melville, Julie Allen

The Youth Club was still enjoying significant support from the Oatley R.S.L. Sub-Branch particularly with the use of the Youth Club Hall free of charge right from when it first moved in.

Anzac services participation continues strongly.....

The Youth Club continued to take part in the Anzac Day March at Oatley R.S.L. Club. In 1997 there was a good turnout of young locals, approximately 80 Youth Club members and about 130 children in total.

The Youth Club also supplied the readers for the Anzac Day Ceremony performing the job very well. They were: Nicole Graham, Simone Francis, Aiden Bell and Rebecca Gooch. The Youth Club also took eight (8) children into the Anzac Day March in Town to carry the national flags.



It was reported that they had a good time and were keen to participate again next year. They were: Stephanie Collins, Caitlin Booth, Kristy Robinson, Nicole Graham, Simone Francis, Leigh Collins, Matt Quigley and Mathew Booth.

.....but swimming sadly sinks

There was one disappointing piece of news in 1997 and that was, the Youth Club would be unable to continue the swimming section the following year due to falling numbers and the inability to provide all year round swimming facilities because the pool used at Sydney Technical Boys High was outdoors.

.....and coaches move on

In his 1998 annual report President Peter Collins paid tribute "to all the coaches who look after our youth in a very professional and caring way, the Youth Club committee thanks you and looks forward to working with you this year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish John Huntingdon and Scott Alexander all the very best for the future as they have both resigned from their coaching positions in the boys' gym after around 10 years' service."



John Huntingdon



Scott Alexander

The nineties roll over

At the close of the nineties the Youth Club had over 900 members and was still providing a great service to the youth of the district. The crop of Youth Club members being nominated for major trophies continued to be strong. The interviews provided the opportunity for youth members to learn from the experience and the committee's point of view was that it was a pleasure to interview the nominees. The Club was very proud of their achievements.

7. 21st century

Well the Y2k bug didn't bite the Youth Club and we survived into the 2000s!

By this time a great many people had passed through the different stages of participation in Youth Club activities, picking up the life skills that were embodied in the original intentions of the founders. A few of their stories follow.

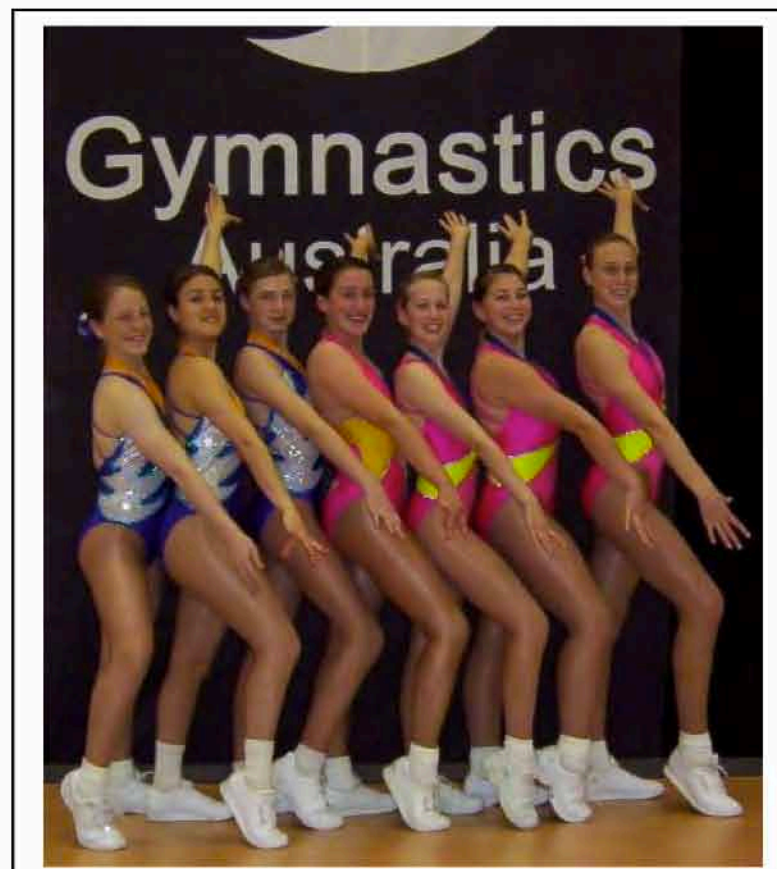
Janelle Bulmer – 20 years -from student to coach to judge to administrator

My involvement in Gym Sports from 1983 until 2004 (approx) was varied, from a quiet beginner being taught by Mrs Jill Ingray and Eleanor, then by Tina Graham, Kerrie Macintosh and later her sister Susie. These women have been important role models.

These were some of the best years of my life, lifelong friendships were born. It was the junior coaching and judging that has really made an impact. I have learnt leadership skills, and self confidence that I am sure I would not have found otherwise.

Eventually Administration and running the section became my passion. This really was the foundation to my ultimate career as a General Manager.

The joy of teaching small children how to do something, seeing them grow and learn and become young adults is one of the most precious things I have experienced. It is in the environment of the Youth Club where fun and friendship is foremost where children can be nurtured rather than pushed into competition for competitions sake.



Renee Doolan, Alexandra Koukoumas, Hannah McCarthy, Samantha Wagstaff, Amanda Williams, Jennifer Pekar, Kelly McCormick travelled to Melbourne in 2003 to compete in the National Sport Aerobics championships. The girls brought back gold and bronze medals. Their success at the Nationals followed wins at the Aerochallenge and NSW state championships earlier in the year.

My other Home...

I started gym in 1983 (I think). Spent 6 months in cards and went straight into talent squad, then competing levels soon after that. From what I can remember, I was almost always the youngest in my class.

Kerrie Macintosh was my coach, and became my surrogate big sister, because we spent so much time together training and going to competitions. My dad taught her to drive and also fixed her car!

I competed in levels gym and tramp sports for almost 10 years. I was the first girl to represent ORSL at the state titles in gym levels 1-4 in consecutive years. I also represented my state at national and international competitions in tumbling for another 4 years.

During most of my competitive career I was an active junior and senior coach. I started coaching the recreational babies' classes when I was 10 years old and I went on to gain my coaching qualifications when I was 14 years old. I continued coaching and took over the tramp sports section from mum at the age of 18. I coached in the Gymsports section till I went overseas in mid 2003, during my time with the club we were a very successful gymnastics and Tramp Sports club, with several of our athletes representing their state as tumblers at national titles.

After a few years break mum asked me to come back and help out with the Aerobics section, I assisted with choreography for a few years and officially became the strength and conditioning coach in 2006.

The 'ORSLYC' has been a big part of my life as I have spent more than 20 of my 30 years involved with it, as a coach and competitor. My time with the club has been a roller coaster journey, and taught me a lot about myself, people and my community.

I have made many friends from this club and have also had the opportunity to make friends from around Sydney and Australia with my competition experience. However, I always seem to be running into athletes and coaches from ORSLYC in my social and working life, it's funny because when this happens we always stop and remember the 'good old times at the 'ORSLYC'.

I suppose you could say ORSLYC Gymnastics section is an institution within the St George community.

Nicole Graham



1991 State RSL Trampoline Sports Single Minitramp Trophy

L - R - Anne Fredricks, Nicole Graham, Katie Wingrove, Janelle Bosco,
Roslyn Theison,

Front Row - Rhiannon Gorman, Ophelia Moraitis, Debbie Horaitis

New Zealand Reciprocal Tours

The Reciprocal Tour is an exchange programme between the NSW RSL Youth Club members and members of the R.S.A. of New Zealand every second year. The two countries are linked by a common heritage in Anzac Day, whereby they offer each other exchange of ideas, views and opinions. Organised by a Reciprocal Tour Committee of Youth Council, selection of the ambassadors is very strict and deep consideration is given to the choice of around 30 Youth Club members, who are chosen for the tour.

It is the aim of the Tour programme to forge a common bond of heritage, to set ideals and to build new and everlasting friendships. It broadens their outlook and strengthens Youth and Youth Clubs in each country, they become aware of the ideals of the RSL Australia and R.S.A. New Zealand, teaching them to be sympathetic to the needs of the RSL and R.S.A. in the future, as they grow into adulthood. One of the key activities that the youth members do as they travel around NZ is to put on concerts for the entertainment of local clubs.

Over the years ORSLYC has participated intermittently in the reciprocal tours. It was mentioned in an earlier chapter that 3 Oatley members travelled to New Zealand in 1983. In 2003 Chelsea Brimicombe from Netball and Amanda Williams from gymnsports joined the tour party and in 2005 Jeremy Yuen from gymnsports and Matthew Ethell from soccer were sponsored to travel to NZ.

In 2006 ORSLYC families billeted about half of the NZ touring party when they visited the southern parts of Sydney over 2-3 days.

Chelsea shares her memories of New Zealand in 2003

In April 2003 I was honoured to be able to travel to New Zealand and represent my club and also my country. At the age of 16, I was very excited and also nervous as I was not sure what to expect.

A few months before the trip there was a lot of preparation. They took up a few weekends but it was all well worth it. These included;

- Getting to know our team and leaders.
- Practising our act, which we were going to perform.
- Measuring up our uniforms.
- Practising both National Anthems (Australian & New Zealand).

While in New Zealand we experienced many different things ranging from sightseeing and meeting new people every day. Some of these are:

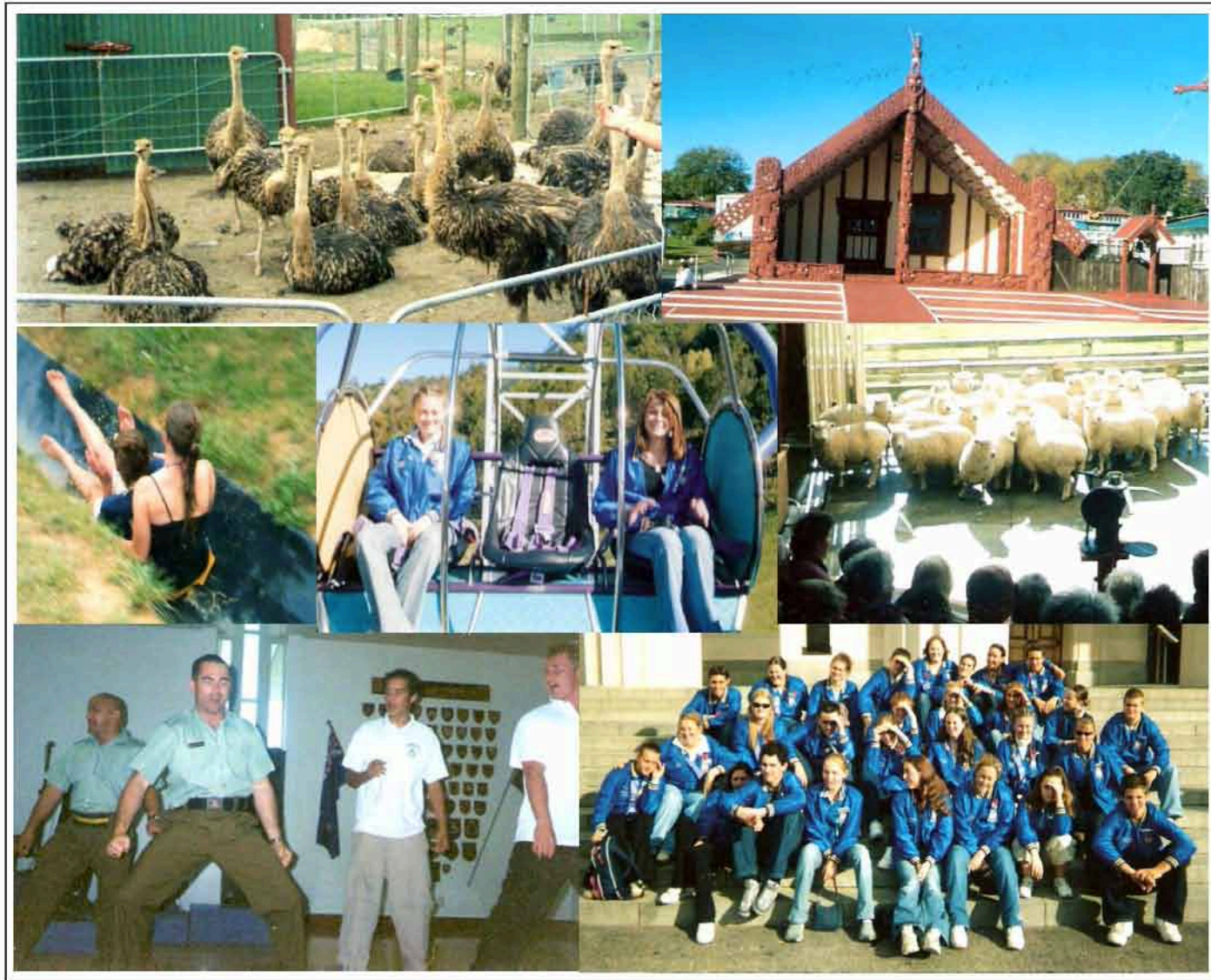
- Learning about New Zealand's cultural background.
- Sightseeing (sky tower, war memorial, boat tour, visiting the hot springs, sheep sheering, sky rail, NZ zoo & many more)
- Mudsliding.
- Visiting different RSL clubs and performing our act.
- Watching their cultural ways (including the haka).
- Eating NZ's traditional food being the Hungi (this is like a roast but cooked under ground).
- Staying over night in a sacred church (Mirah)
- Went to an ostrich farm and ate ostrich (quite nice).

Overall my experience to NZ was amazing. Our leaders and team on the trip were great and made our experience even better and helped us the whole way through our Journey.

I do not regret anything and would do it all again if I had the opportunity. If anyone is offered the opportunity to go to NZ to represent your club and country take my word for it and go, you will have the time of your life.

I would like to take the time to thank Oatley RSL for their support and giving me the opportunity to travel to New Zealand.

Chelsea Brimicombe



Matthew Ethell tells the story of the 2005 Reciprocal Tour to New Zealand

I was lucky enough to be chosen for this tour. We had been practising for eight months previously to prepare our concert. We were allowed to do whatever act we wanted, some people singing, or dancing or skits. The concert was quite enjoyable. There were 28 Youth Club members chosen throughout NSW, all had to be between the ages of 15 and 18 and have had five or more years in the club. We spent two weeks in New Zealand spanning ANZAC Day when we participated in the local march.

We stayed in Auckland for the majority of the time, and in Rotorua for four days, and visited many of New Zealand's well known attractions. We visited Auckland Zoo, where we got to compare Auckland's zoo to Taronga Zoo. We visited Helensville Hot Pools, where there were two massive water slides, which was great fun. We stayed at Rotorua Marae named Apumoana Marae for four days, where we got to stay in their spiritual Marae and learn about their history. We visited Rotorua Skyline with Gondola and Luge and also a giant swing, which some people, like myself went on. The Luge, like a toboggan although you steer, and giant swing were absolutely fantastic, a bit of a thrill.

We travelled to a Naval Base and Maritime Museum and learned more about their history and how NZ was discovered. We saw the New Zealand Warriors rugby league team training, we got photos with some famous players and got to interact with them. Being a Dragons supporter I thought it would be very appropriate to wear my Dragons jersey, even though the players were about ten times as big as me. I had the chance to talk to Steven Price.

We had an interesting visit to the Detector Dog Centre at Auckland airport, and saw a demonstration of how the sniffer dogs do their job. We visited the Steel mill, which was actually quite fascinating as we saw a piece of hot steel being thinned out and the steel was bright red in colour.

Finally Hanua Falls where we saw a waterfall and went on a hike through the bush, then participated in a confidence course, flying fox and high beam which tested most of our fears. I quite enjoyed the Luge, swing and Hanua Falls as I really enjoy challenging obstacles like these. We had an enjoyable time, although of course, there were injuries involved.

For one, Scott driving off the edge on the luge and dislocating his shoulder which he had to go to hospital. Three concussions, Sarah getting concussed on the water slide, Kate jumping up too quickly and hitting her head, and of course me trying to do a hand stand against the wall, although missing the wall completely and falling on my head. And on the second last day, Craig fractured his leg after tripping over in a commando course.

We were billeted out to different families who treated us very well and welcomed us into their homes with generosity and support. They took us to places in our free time with them to see more of NZ's attractions at night.

I found it a memorable experience to have the opportunity to travel to another country, representing my Youth Club, Oatley RSL, and representing my country. I had never travelled overseas before and it was a great opportunity to do it this way. As the Reciprocal Tour has been operating for 33yrs, I felt privileged to be a part of this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Matthew Ethell

.....and Jeremy Yuen elaborates

For this tour to New Zealand we weren't required to just show up on the day we left but we were required to go to monthly meetings over at Rooty Hill RSL to practise for our concert that we were going to be performing over in NZ mainly for the RSA's.

Going into the tour 8 months before we actually left meant that we would get time to bond with the other 'youth clubees' and get to know one another before we departed but as well as the monthly meetings we also had two weekend camps which were held over at Glenfield in a scout park. Again this was for us a chance to bond and rehearse.

During the camps we all let loose and that's where all the fun started. Rehearsing for several hours a day is never fun unless.....well not really but I guess we all needed it.

But between rehearsing and performing we all gathered in a cabin and all chatted and...well...bonded. as well as rehearsing and getting to know each other we also started to see and get to know our managers and chaperones. By the time the second camp came around we were all quite well acquainted with each other. And we all had to pretty much have everything finalised and have most things down pat...We also had all our costumes and most of our uniform....so we had a full dress rehearsal a couple of times. I was also given the honour of being one of the three MC's and the honour of reading one of the corniest and cheesiest ever written.

In addition to the daily activities we also had to put on several concerts, during the concerts we would sing the Australian and New Zealand national anthems and say the Youth Club code of ethics. One night when we were staying down at the Marae down in Rotorua we were told that we all had to perform one of the acts from the concert which wasn't our own. So the guys ended up being girls and the girls ended up being guys for one night.

The Reciprocal tours between Australian/NSW RSL Youth Council and the Auckland District RSA Youth Council is a fantastic way to continue and keep alive the closeness and friendship forged by the Anzacs together. Also to give the youth of each country a chance to experience New Zealand or Australia and to give something back to the neighbouring country by putting on a concert for several of the RSA's for the members and the elderly folk who have served. I guess it was also a way to show-off some talent from our very talented group.

I came out of the tour with some knowledge of New Zealand and its culture and history. Some of which I found fascinating. I was also told some interesting stories which New Zealanders hold very close to their hearts, and that us on the other side of the Tasman have rarely heard about. I also decided that the New Zealand Army's Ceremonial Polyester uniform is ugly and that the khaki that the Australian Army Parades around in is more attractive. And that the Temperature in New Zealand can get quite cold. I also found that it is much better being in another country for two weeks without your family, and that 28 boys and girls sleeping in the one room (in the Marae) can be fun for those who aren't trying to 'get the kiddies off to bed'.

I would say that the tour was very worthwhile as I managed to meet other people my age and have made some lifelong friends.

But as well as the friendships forged between us.....there are so many funny, sad, weird, absurd, awkward and just downright stupid memories that are attached to the tour.

I'm very thankful of the opportunity that I was given by the NSW RSLs and the support I received from the Oatley Sub-Branch and the Youth Club.

Jeremy Yuen



L to R
 Top Row – N.S.W. Youth Council – Appreciation for assistance with reciprocal tour, Titirangi, Papakura, Western Suburbs
 Second Row – Orakei, Glen Eden, New Lynn



Rayma Papworth - On friendships, orphans, giving and receiving

I joined Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club in 1970 when our son Stephen was 6 years old and started to play "O" grade rugby league, and here I am 37 years later still compiling notes – but these, very pleasant about my stay!

I must say it doesn't seem that long ago that I was asked to be manager of the team, and I still remember quite vividly a lot of the events associated therewith.

We gathered at Renown Park on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, after school, for our hour long (usually longer) training sessions. The boys would keep warm running around – the parents would gather socially, in each other's cars, and catch up on everyone's news. We had a great camaraderie, even from this our first year. I can remember during the colder months, freezing on some afternoons – it wasn't the warmest spot! Then it would be home, into a hot bath to get the dirt and mud off, and an early dinner before 'homework' and bed. Notes were distributed at Thursday training about the coming Saturday game.

Saturday mornings we were up early- "O" grade was the first game! Parents would 'phone me if they were unable to transport their boys and I would pick them up. We started off with a 'Vauxhall Velox' in which I could take 5 passengers – 2 in the front (bench seats) and 3 in the back – no seat belts. We 'outgrew' this vehicle and so purchased a Holden Station Sedan in which I could take 5 passengers in the front and approx. 6 in the back (boot), and that helped a lot.

My husband was a shift worker and had only one weekend off in three, so I was "chief cook and bottle washer" most of the time. Our daughter Lee, was a great supporter – she had to be because she couldn't stay home on her own – so she travelled all the miles with us, to training and games. This was not always enjoyed though, especially in the really cold and wet weather. However we survived!!

At sometime along the way, I was given the job of Publicity Officer for the Rugby League section. After Tuesday training, all team managers were required to hand to me a game report for the previous Saturday, which I then collated and typed into a weekly Newsletter.

These reports, especially for the older teams, I may not receive until 10.00p.m., after their training sessions, so many a newsletter was typed about 2.00 a.m. on the Wednesday so it then could be copied and distributed on Thursdays at training – I think we had a better production line than Consolidated Press!

During this time Lee started to play with the Netball section and I did some coaching and umpiring, but only for a couple of years. She also did Physical Culture for quite a few years, and enjoyed the friends she made there. Both Stephen and Lee were also members of the swimming section and we all enjoyed many a sunny Saturday morning during the summer months, at Sydney Tech. High Pool, 'bettering' times and having a great social outing. Parents had a 'ball' as well.

Rugby League finished in 1976 and I continued on attending the monthly meetings of the Youth Club. It was here that I saw how these wonderful men and women work so diligently for the youth of the area. They were often without names and certainly with no accolades, just a human desire to help our youth! I felt they all needed gold medals!

Still further along the way I was appointed Minute Secretary in 1980, a position I held for 9 years. I finally had to give it away when my fingers wore down to the first knuckle from all the typing (just joking!). I do recall though, that copies meant sheets and sheets of carbon paper or those horrible 'Gestetner' machines (a bit earlier) – all giving dirty fingers and marked work (how times have changed!)

In 1985 I was honoured with Life Membership of the Youth Club, for which I was very grateful, but also embarrassed to accept an honour for something I enjoyed doing so much. The people around me were such a great help and I loved them dearly.

Since 'retiring' (what's that?) from that position, I have remained with the Youth Club in various positions and on various committees to try and help these great people who have, and still do, work hard to keep the Youth Club going, "behind the scenes folk". As well I should mention all the volunteer workers, i.e. coaches, managers, of all sections who tirelessly give of their time for the benefit of our youth.

I was always very proud of our 'young adults' who were nominated for major trophies. Many times I was on the annual interviewing panel and the standard of the nominees was so high, you could not be other than proud of them. I always asked each one "What is the thing you most remember about the Youth Club since joining?" and invariably their answer would be "The friendships made!"

This I could say as well – I still meet two of my "mums from 1970" each month for lunch, but now we catch up on news of our grandchildren as well as our once "O" grade football sons.

Actually, two of my grandchildren did "Kindy gym" at Oatley and they loved every minute of it. They were quite sad when they moved to Miranda and couldn't attend anymore.

As previously stated, it takes a lot of work to keep the Youth Club going and of course we rely on parents for their volunteering efforts. Sometimes we run 'close to the wind' though, so I can't stress enough to make yourselves available 'for a turn'. We have always had 'orphans' at Oatley, and I can remember that goes back to 1970.

So please consider what other parents have done for your children, and if they are 'orphans', maybe you could return some of the kindnesses. You will be rewarded as much as your children.

We all love our children, and it is up to each one of us to do something for them and not leave it to someone else.

Remember "it is in giving that we receive".

Good luck Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club, and keep on keeping on for another 50 years!!

Rayma Papworth.

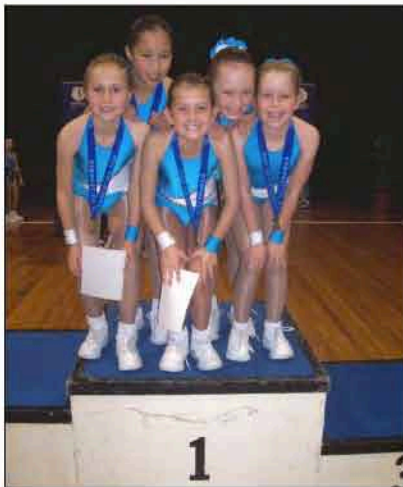


Standing – M. Kefford (Manager), J. Sykes (Coach)
Sitting – G. Bryce, T. Brindley, T. Lloyd, P. Hargreaves,
P. Curtis, P. Norman, C. Gannon, P. McGrath, P. Becker.
Front – G. O'Donnell, J. Moon, D. Millington, G. Durney,
B. Hammond (Captain), V. Aprilovic, R. Kefford, W. Sykes,
P. Hobbs.

8. Club at 50

In 2007 there are a lot more sports and activities on offer in the community than there were fifty years ago and sport is a lot more organised and expensive. There is insurance to think about and child protection rules and regulations to comply with. Each of the sports comes under a bigger association at district, state and national level and each with its own administrative requirements. Things can become quite complex which makes it that much harder to attract volunteers to manage the activities.

Despite this, Oatley's three activities are still going strong. Evidence of this was provided as recently as October 2007 when, on the same day in our local paper, The Leader, photos of the junior Sport Aerobics team winning state level and the under 12 soccer team heading off to the Champion of champions competition were published. Our netball teams were doing fantastically as well with many of the 17 teams in the 2007 competition reaching the semi finals.



L to R: Amy McCarthy, Rachel Tam, Natalie Quail, Mia Hetherington, Alexandra Ratcliffe



FOOTBALL

We are the champions

The Oatley RSL under-12 team won their fourth successive premiership recently and will head to the Champion of Champions competition in Albury to represent the St George Soccer Football Association.



Happy smiling faces!

Oatley RSLYC Netball Diamond B1 team

Premiers 2007

Back row L to R

Trudy Ross, Fiona Mattingly, Kirby Harrison, Danica Griffin, Lisa-Maree Gainsford (ORSLYC Youth of the Year 2006 and 2007), Erica Hoskings

Front row L to R:

Sarah Smith, Ashlea Harrison, Linda Frost



All the sports keep renewing with fresh ideas. There are many more girls playing soccer than there were ten years ago and the numbers keep increasing. Gymsports has taken on sport aerobics in addition to the traditional artistic gymnastics, and cheerleading is another discipline available at all levels in Australia that could be pursued. Indoor versions of netball and soccer are readily available as these sports keep adapting to the modern environment.

There are 49 RSL Youth Clubs in NSW in 2007 with a total of 19,200 members. Thirty eight of these clubs are in the Sydney area and eleven are in NSW regional locations including Gosford and Camden. In terms of numbers of members, Oatley RSL Youth Club is the fifth biggest and it has the greatest number of members playing soccer than any other RSL Youth Club in the State.

It is estimated, because there is no way of knowing accurately, that about 25,000 youth have passed through the Club in the 50 years since 1957.

The Club has kept faith with its traditions and origins, still participating in ANZAC marches and ceremonies. In each of the respective disciplines, Oatley RSL Youth Club has a good reputation in competitions for being good sports people, fair-minded, and giving everyone a fair go.



Oatley RSL Youth Club members support the Oatley Anzac march and service (above) and regularly attend Anzac marches in Sydney. Left: Samantha Wagstaff, Laura Pemberton, Liam Johnston, Cameron Finn and Keiran Liu prepare to carry the national flags in the march of 2006.

The more than 1,100 members in 2007 are still being provided the opportunity to participate in “clean, healthy sporting and recreational activity”.



Left - Members from each section of the Youth Club participating in the local Anzac March.

9. History by Activity

ATHLETICS

From the 1979 ORSLYC annual report

General

Our club competes with other R.S.L. Youth Clubs in the John Fisher Athletics Carnival each year in October. Training commences in September at Oatley Memorial Park, Oatley, on Saturday and Sunday mornings. We suggest that you contact the manager at your convenience for full details. Manager, Mr. N. Spires

Activity Report

On a wet, windy cold afternoon on Sunday 23rd September we won the John Fisher Shield for S.M.D.C. Athletics for the fifth successive year.

Seven R.S.L. Youth Clubs competed this year at Sylvania Athletic Field and the competition was very keen but Oatley won with 95 pts, Cronulla came second with 54 pts, and Miranda third with 41 pts.

My sincere thanks to all who turned up to run, some of you were turning blue and shivering but you still backed up for relays, also the older boys who come along every year and the 21 to 25 soccer group.

Thank you to Linda Spires for her help and advice on circular relays at training. It was a big help on the day.

The march past was won by Bexley, Miranda second and Oatley third. The best performance was by Linda Donald who won the open 200m, open 400m, her age relay, and the second in the 100m,- and another relay. Not far behind came Mark Donald who won the 100m, open 400m, and a relay and came third in the open 200m. Another youngster with a promising future is Jenny Davidson. Only 8yrs old Jenny has the build of a good runner, has a nice style and easily won the final of her age race. I feel with some proper coaching this girl could go a long way.

A merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to all and lets make it six next year.

NEIL SPIRES

BASEBALL

From the trophy cabinet
A single trophy
Oatley RSL Youth Club
Baseball 1963 'D' Grade
Most Improved
R Haigh



BASKETBALL

Someone from the St George Basketball Association approached Youth Club in 198?

the

wanting to start a basketball training/coaching group for learn to play basketball. It wasn't competition against other clubs. It was held in the Youth Club hall. Rings and back boards were erected supported from the ceiling.

About 10 -15 boys started aged about 7 to 10 or 11 years old. There were no girls.

Robyn Ellis ran it for quite a while after the original person from SGBA got it going?

From the 1996 annual report

Basketball numbers increased dramatically throughout the year, from 4 to 30. *Hoopsters*, the Sydney Kings Development Programme was implemented by Coach Nathan Effeney and proved most beneficial to the children.

BALLROOM DANCING

Patti Brierley's recollections

George Farrant started it in 1967. Three girls got their Gold medals –Rhonda Jackson, Deidre Brierley and Narelle Percival. Narelle also went one step further on and got her Gold Bar and Gold Star. She was the only one George took through to this level. The Judges came to the Youth Club Hall and George partnered all the girls for their medals – always dressed in his suit with collar and tie, irrespective of the heat.

At this time, Netball, Physical Culture and Ballroom Dancing were the only activities for Girls.



Photo courtesy Glen O'Shea

Ballroom dancing class 1970

Back row: 1. Glen O'Shea; 2. Norm Arthur; 3. ?; 4. ?; 5. David O'Connell? 6. ?; 7. ?

Middle row: 1. Tim Larkin; 2. Debbie Sullivan; 3. Robyn O'Shea; 4. Denise Beevors; 5. ; 6. ; 7. ; 8. Mark Higgins

Front row: 1. ?; 2. ?; 3. ?; 4. ?;

From the trophy cabinet

Best Silver medallist

Donated by Margaret & George Farrant

Chronology of awardees (taken from trophy)

year	Female	Male
1969	Christine Derwent	No shield
1970	Rhonda Jackson	Gary Higgins
1971	Debra Sullivan	Mark Higgins
1972	Neryl Robotham	Norman Arthur
1973	Cathy Beevors	Kevin O'Shea
1974	Christine Boyle	Phillip Lloyd
1975	C McGrath	P Overton
1976	M Duper (female?)	No shield for male?



1972 Gold medal winners Debbie Sullivan, Glen O'Shea and Robyn O'Shea

“Do not look down at floor”

Example of the score sheet used by the examiner from the British Dancing Association.....

VERBAL TESTS - Gold - MODERN DANCING
SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN TEACHERS OF DANCING

Name of Candidate Glen O'Shea Date 13.12.72
Pupil of George Farrant Where examined Outlay

DANCE	ALIGNMENTS	FOOTWORK	TURNS	DEPORTMENT	G.B.M. SWAY R. AND P.	POINTS
WALTZ	Watch Timing Keep head up Do not look down at floor.					B.
SLOW FOOTWORK	moves out well.					A.
QUICKSTEP	Keep head up Do not look down at floor.					A.
TANGO	nicely danced.					A.
SLOW RHYTHM						
QUICK RHYTHM						

Pass (Cross out word not required) Total Points _____
Fail

Examiner's Remarks Candidate appeared nervous in first dance
moves well - should keep head up - has good
shoulder

Examiner's Signature Bob Allen FSATR

Points a Pass C. 15 Points a Good Pass B. 18 Points an Excellent Pass A.
(Minimum each dance 12 points. Maximum 20 points)
A FAILURE "D" IN ANY DANCE FAILS THE WHOLE OF TEST.



Glen O'Shea and partner Debbie Sullivan dancing for a Gold Cross 1973

.....and the certificate received on passing



**And from the 1979 ORSLYC annual report
Ballroom dancing**

General

These classes are conducted every Saturday morning in the Youth Club Hall from 9.30 am. Boys and Girls from the age of 13 years are given tuition for Bronze, Silver and Gold medals. After that you can continue for the Gold Star. As there always seems to be an abundance of girls, boys will be most welcome.

Manager, Mr. G. Farrant

Activity Report 1979

The past year has been very successful as usual. Eighteen medalists were adjudicated in July and sixteen adjudicated in November. All were commended or highly commended in their various grades.

Classes for this year will finish on the 15th December and recommence on the 9th February 1980.

Ages from 12 yrs to 17 yrs for new pupils at 9.30 am Saturdays.

GEORGE FARRANT

BOXING

Reg Williamson the early years of boxing

Congratulations and best wishes to OATLEY RSL YOUTH CLUB for their achievements and services to the youth of yesteryear and in the future. Being associated with the youth club for a number of years, in particular with the boxing I've been requested to pen a short brief on this section.

My time with the youth club started quite a few years back, more than I care to remember, it was back in the 1960's when as a parent I presented myself along with my sons to enrol one Friday night. I came away from that first encounter as co-manager of the boxing squad. This gave me an insight into the fantastic opportunities that the RSL presented to the boys and girls of the district, and to witness the devotion given from the instructors and volunteers. It also gave me the opportunity of a friendship and insight into a boxing legend and mentor Mr. Jack Retallack, a gifted boxer, but above all a great human being who thought nothing of climbing into the ring to be belted around all night just as long as the boxing squad got something out of it. Jack was the Oatley boxing squad.

Mr. Bill Dowling and Mr. Jack Overton also deserve a special mention for all that they gave, not only in the boxing squad, but to the youth club as well.

The boys were never compelled to box or get into the ring for a workout, but it was a night where anybody could join in and attend a night of mixing, playing and forming friendships and let off some steam and energy.

You can't have a great youth club without the support and the facilities that the Oatley RSL provided to the district. I will avoid naming the squad and achievements for fear of omitting someone, but I'm sure that they are still accounted for in the record books.

So once again congratulations and best wishes to the club and district on this special Anniversary and I believe that from our own association with the club it was a great start in bonding for our family and one that they still look back on to-day with great admiration and pride to have been part of.

Yours Truly,

Reg Williamson.

During 1965 the Boxing section became of "age" by becoming a Foundation Member of the N.S.W. Youth Clubs Amateur Boxing Association and taking part in tournaments held between R.S.L. Youth Clubs. Oatley emerged as a glamour Club, and added many victories to their record. Courage and a big heart was the keynote to this success. Congratulations to Jack Retallack to all the boys and to all others who made our first Amateur Boxing Tournament held at Oatley, on Friday, 26th November 1965, such an outstanding success. Nearly 300 spectators witnessed boxing of a very high standard, and all spectators agreed that a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Here once again the Sub-Branch and Club went out of their way by making available the car park, by taking an active part in proceedings, and by entertaining our adult visitors from competing clubs.



As noted above, boxing was sometimes held in an open air ring in the carpark behind the Sub-Branch Hall. Onlookers had a great view from the verandah.

Glen O'Shea's boxing career came to an end on one such night in 1966.



Back Row	1. 2. Jack Retallack 3. Bill Dowling 4. Michael Cordman??
3 rd Row	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. Martin Greenfield 7. Norm Arthur?? 8.
2 nd Row	1. 2. Michael Griggs 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.
Front Row	1. 2. 3. Neville Griggs 4. Matthew O'Connor?? 5. Anthony O'Connor??
	6. ? Williamson?

Sam Jackson Shield
 For annual competition in **Boxing**
 Chronology of awardees (taken from trophy)

year	Name	for
1963	M Miller	Gamest Fighter
1964	K Yates	Gamest Fighter
1965	G Miles	Gamest Fighter
1966	C Hoyle	Gamest Fighter
1967	J Whitely	Gamest Loser
1968	K Dowling	Gamest Loser
1969	J Whitley <small>(note different spelling to above)</small>	Gamest Loser
1970	G Dean	Gamest Loser
1971	S Collier	Gamest Loser
1972	G Allman	Gamest Loser
1973	K Ford	Gamest Loser

From the trophy cabinet
Boxing
 Certificate of Merit
 Awarded to Wesley Hunt
 Boxing section 1986

OATLEY R.S.L REVIEW - JUNE 1991

Our old stalwart Jack Retallack received a set back and suffered a knock down in early May and was in intensive care at St George Hospital, Kogarah. Also next to him in the intensive care ward was another boxing identity, Andy Stewart, recovering from an operation. Both join in sending best wishes to all their mates. This report, as at 15th May, we hope that when you read this they will both be up and about.

Darren Cartwright received a set back in his programme in May also because he had to vacate the Sub-branch Hall to make way for the Electoral Office Returning Officer. Getting a suitable alternative training facility caused some upsets. Let us join in wishing Darren every success in his future career and he can rest assured that henceforth he will have the full support of all members of Oatley R.S.L. Sub-branch, Club and Youth Club.

Darren is a son of Oatley. His parents and family have always supported the suburb and the Oatley R.S.L. Sub-branch Club and in particular our Youth Club. His achievements have been excellent and have exceeded those of any member of the Youth Club over the years from the age of four to twenty-two.

Sporting History:

Member of Hurstville Amateur Swimming Club for 12 years. Club Age Champion for 9 years.

Represented Oatley R.S.L. in State Swimming and won several Gold Medals.

Played Cricket for Oatley R.S.L.

Played Soccer for Oatley R.S.L. for 6 years. Captain for several years. Premiership for several years.

Achieved 5 Grades in Tae Kwon Do (Korean art of self defence). Won Senior Blue Belt Championship.

Played Rugby League for Renown club for 3 years.

Played Rugby League for Under 21 St George President's Cup 1990.

Played Water Polo for St George for approximately 10 years. Australian Gold Cup. Also played Water Polo for University Club.

Currently State and Australian Amateur Heavyweight Boxing Champion.

Won Stewart Toyota Sports Star of the Month.

Won Oatley R.S.L. Sportsman of the Year.

Carry on Darren, and may good health remain your greatest asset.

BILL McLEAN

Editor

OATLEY R.S.L REVIEW—OCTOBER 1993

A Tribute to the Late John Morgan Retallack

4TH FEBRUARY, 1925 - 19TH FEBRUARY, 1993



Jack Retallack was a lovable, happy person who brought light and laughter, friendship and joy into the lives of all who knew him. His very presence in a group of his friends raised the gathering to a state of happiness and laughter.

His service to the community is recorded in the history of Oatley R.S.L. Sub-Branch, Club, and Youth Club. Life Membership of Sub-Branch and Club was bestowed on Jack in 1979.

The contribution he made to the welfare of our younger members through years of devoted service to the Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club is well known throughout the district, and is recognized particularly by the young boxers he taught and coached producing some of the state's finest exponents, culminating in the success of Darren Cartwright when he won the Australian Amateur Heavyweight Title in 1991.

Jack was patient and always encouraging with his young charges, and he instructed them well. Not only did he teach them the art of boxing, but he helped them through the many problems of overcoming their misgivings and the uncertainties confronting them as they matured into young manhood. Above all he showed his lads, by example, how to conduct themselves with dignity, respect for others and to play the game fairly and according to the rules.

A good laugh was always music to Jack's ears, and even when he was suffering during the last few years he could always join in the fun of exchanging a story or two with his mates in the Sports Bar downstairs at the Club, generally referred to by the regulars as "The Engine Room".

For years Jack produced "The Review" and, as Clark Kent the mild mannered reporter, he wrote some very witty and amusing briefs on members and their activities.

Those of us who knew Jack well will always remember him as a great mate and a good bloke and we join in wishing Connie and their family all the best for the future.

From one of the boys

CRICKET

The following information was forwarded by Mr. Les Napier, one of the coaches of our two ORIGINAL Cricket Teams in 1960.

Oatley RSL Youth Club fielded two teams in the junior competition. Following are some of the players:

Garry Anderson John Anderson Ken Christie Trevor Christie Glen Condon M. Graham Dennis Green Ian Green Jeff Harland Colin Jamieson Keith Johnston Peter Lanham Wayne Lanham Tim Larkin Peter Lawler Tom Lyon John Miller Les Morley Paul Russell	G. Samuelson M. Strauss Ross Strudwick Alan Sullivan Robbie Sullivan Dennis Webb <u>Coaches and Trainer:</u> George Anderson Ken Christie Barry Hulbert Jack Miller Les Morley Les Napier Jack Sullivan <u>Top Scorer in Association:</u> Mrs. Miller for neatest score book.
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Season	Grades played	Results
1960/61	D3 (under 14C)	2 nd (29 points)
	E3 (under 12C)	5 th (25 points)

From the pages of the OATLEY REVIEW APRIL 1972 Youth Club President's report

CRICKET:

We have just come to the end of the Cricket season, and wish to thank all the coaches, Managers and Scorers:, also everyone who helped to make: this year the most successful Cricket season the Youth Club has experienced

A big thank you to the boys who represented Oatley RSL. Youth Club, a well fulfilled undertaking. Your conduct and sportsmanship were first class and a credit to your Club.

Thanks to Les Napier, Jack Retallack, Alf Brierley, Les Dyer and Jack and Gwen Millar - also to all the parents who assisted.

Youth Club CRICKET NEWS: "NAPPIE'S CHAPPIES"

4. 3. 72	A social game with Illawarra Catholic Club A side proved how much the team has improved. Although rain washed out the first day's play, Oatley won the match much to the elation of their Coach.
18. 3. 72	Last match of the season went again to Oatley on a 1st innings win. This could have been an outright win but, due to the fact several boys had set themselves a goal Captain S. Campbell gave them every opportunity to complete their aim. Our Score Book has been submitted to the G. R P.D. Association. Perhaps next month we can publish all interesting facts. During the winter season we wish all boys the Best of luck in their chosen sport.

Youth Club cricket news

To the boys who played in the under 12 team I would like to say 'thank you' - mainly to the boys for showing they enjoyed their games by turning up every Saturday morning to play, and being on hand for practice. The boys whilst not winning the competition gave a few of the better teams a shock now and again.

It was very pleasing to see more of the parents turning up to watch their boys play this sport - it makes them try harder. The boys improved 100% during the year and should give a good account of themselves next year.

My thanks goes to Mick Feiss and his lovely understanding wife, Jean, who without them, I would have found my job impossible.

Once again, boys, I thank you especially for your wonderful thought at the end of the season - I now enjoy my beer very much. Hoping you all remain good sports - and enjoy your sport.

And from the 1979 annual report

General

Acceptance of new members into this section is from the end of one season to the early part of the next. Boys are graded on their age as at 1st October each year. We have this season U/12, U/14, U/16. Intending players for next year please phone Mr. J. Gidney.

Activity Report for 1979

The 1978/79 cricket season was outstandingly successful with three teams 16A, 14B, and 12B competing in the Georges River Penshurst Boys Cricket Association Competition.

The 14B team was outright premiers, the 12B team was joint premiers while the 16A team gained joint third place. Several fine individual performances were noted by our young cricketers in the 12B team with David Young (Batting) and Paul Stepto (Bowling) being Association trophy winners. The Club was well represented in District Representative Teams by Richard Bedford (Watson Shield), Geoffrey Gidney and David Jocelyn (Moore Shield) Paul Stepto, David Young and Murray Beehag (Cawsey Shield)

16A TEAM

Coached by Brian Lehane, managed by George Burns and skippered by Bill Urwin the team was unable to reproduce last years premiership form. This closely knit group of fine cricketers however gained third place in a keenly contested competition eventually won by Illawarra Catholic Club. Leading batting performances by Richard Bedford 247 runs, Bill Unwin 185 runs, and Andrew Strong 172 runs were solidly supported in bowling by Martin Bell 17 wickets and Andrew Strong 20 wickets.

14B TEAM

Coached by John Gidney, managed by Carol York and very capably led by Geoffrey Gidney the boys put it altogether in the final match to decisively defeat the leaders Oatley All Saints to take out the competition. Leading batting performances by Christopher York 206 runs, Greg Brown 178 runs, and Stephen Winter 145 runs were backed by good bowling by Geoffrey Gidney 33 wickets, Stephen Winter 36 wickets and Christopher York 25 wickets. Congratulations on a fine win.

12B TEAM

Coached by Doug Stepto, managed by David Young (Snr) and strongly led by Paul Stepto this team also put it altogether in the final match to decisively defeat the leaders Lugarno Sports Club and gain joint premiership honours. Leading batting performances by David Young (Jnr) 213 runs, and Paul Stepto 242 runs capably supported by Murray Beehag 23 wickets and Paul Stepto 48 wickets in the bowling. Well done boys and congratulations to a fine team.

Finally I would like to thank all the coaches and managers for their help and assistance in a most successful season. To the boys; Congratulations on a super effort and particularly in the excellent manner and team spirit displayed whilst representing the club and the sport of cricket.

JOHN GIDNEY

Chairman

GYMSPORTS

30 years ago girls' acrobatics was an activity available at the Youth Club.

Jill Ingrey and two other mums took some of these girls to an acrobatics competition in Miranda RSL, while there they saw a competition in progress that included beam, bars, floor and vault. They decided that they would try to source a coach to teach the Oatley girls these skills.

After an advertising campaign seeking an accredited coach, Roslyn O'Reilly was appointed to the position. Roslyn coached with Oatley for about 5 years. For the first couple of years the only help she had were the mothers of the participants, during that time Kerrie Macintosh joined the coaching staff and when Roslyn finished university, Kerrie took over the role of Head Coach.

Kerrie introduced the girls to Women's Artistic Gymnastics and Tumbling a division of Trampoline Sports. Her sisters Susan and Jeanette were recruited to join the coaching staff after their own retirement from active competition.

Girls' gym had two streams, recreational classes for local girls to come along and learn gym skills and a competitive stream where girls were invited to 'try-out' for the Talent Squad. Selection for this squad was dependant on their level of skill. These athletes competed at Invitational, Regional and State competitions with varying degrees of success.

Oatley was always well represented in the WAG Regional team for state competitions and became very competitive in Trampoline Sports.



1994 RSL Novice Gymnastics
Back row: Ashleigh Boehm, Johanna Todd, Jemma Wagstaff
Front row: Kathleen Fox, Amy Gall

We had representatives in the Trampoline Sports state, and national team in the early eighties and then returned to this top level of competition with athletes competing at national, pan pacific and world cup level from 1990 – 2002

At its peak the athletes in each of the competitive streams at Oatley RSL were recognised by all clubs, with Oatley RSL always represented at major events.

Athletes competed at a variety of venues from Miranda RSL to Gosford RSL, and from Homebush to Penrith, wherever there was a competition (at least once a month), Oatley RSL athletes would be representing their club.

Mothers of athletes were recruited to qualify as judges for Women's Artistic Gymnastics and later Trampoline Sports and Sport Aerobics competitions.

Tina Graham went on to qualify as both judge and coach and held accreditation in four different disciplines at one time and has a record of service spanning 25 years with Oatley RSL. Her daughter also had a 20 year service record with the club as a competitor, and coach in two disciplines.

As the club expanded in the eighties, senior gymnasts were encouraged to qualify as junior and later senior coaches in recreational classes and then competitive classes. This has provided a great spirit within the Oatley RSL Gymsports club, as athletes have been prepared to give something back to the club that nurtured them in their own competitive careers.

We have many members who have achieved 5, 10 and 15 year awards and three members who have gained 20 year awards.

In 2003 the girls and boys gymnastics sections amalgamated and the section was renamed Oatley RSL Gymsports Section which now encompasses Kindy Gym, Recreational Gymnastics for boys and girls, Men's Artistic Gymnastics, Trampoline Sports and Sport Aerobics.

As the numbers have steadily increased there has been a greater emphasis on recreational classes. We have however maintained a competitive stream in the Sport Aerobics section.

Three coaches gained their accreditation in Sport Aerobics in 1998 and it took four years for the sport to be introduced into the timetable, such was the popularity of gymnastics at the time.

The introduction of Sport Aerobics could not have been achieved without the generosity of the Oatley RSL Sub-Branch who allowed us to utilise the Sub-Branch Hall next door for training.

This section has had state representatives at the National championships since 2003. Athletes have consistently gained places at these championships each year, and several athletes have been selected in the national development squad.

Currently there are more than 320 athletes participating weekly, ranging in age from 3 to 20 years. The coaching staff is currently 15 with new coaches recruited from participants as they retire from active competition. All coaches undertake the Gymnastics Australia accreditation process and progress to class supervision with experience and higher levels of accreditation.

With such a large student base we need an efficient administration to accept enrolments, compile the student database and class rolls, issue receipts, co-ordinate the clothing pool etc. There are currently 17 parent volunteers who perform these duties and without them the Section would not function, we greatly appreciate their contribution.

The section has grown to become well known in the St. George area for providing both recreational and competitive gymnastics for children within the district.

Awards

Oatley RSL Gymsports participants have had an impressive representation as recipients of the Youth Clubs major trophies over the years.

Oatley RSL Gymsports section has recently been recognised by the state and national governing bodies for its achievement and contribution to the Sport Aerobics community.

Oatley RSL Gymsports section has recently been recognised by the state and national governing bodies for its achievement and contribution to the Sport Aerobics community.

In 2006 Gymnastic NSW recognised the Sport Aerobics division by awarding a trophy for 'Club of the Year' an outstanding achievement for a division, which has only been functioning since 2002.



recognised Tina Graham from Oatley RSL 'Year' for services to the Sport Aerobics community.

Other activities

The section has been well represented at Anzac Day Services both locally and at the city march.

We have also had senior athletes who have participated in the reciprocal tours to New Zealand.

Several of the senior coaches participated in the 2000 Sydney Olympics Opening Ceremony and also volunteered as officials at various events.

NETBALL

Patti Brierley Netball recollections

1963: Jack 'Pat' Palmer realized there was no team sport for girls, so he organized the commencement of Basketball (now known as Netball).

Louise Downey coached all teams, then older girls helped. Deidre Brierley helped with the "littlies". Because Pat was also teaching a baby team, she had only one Saturday off clear, twice a season. Deidre, who was also now coaching the "littlies" came home to tell her mother – "Mum what are you doing on Saturday, I need transport for my babies". So, needless to say Mum got the job! Pat would pick the children up, and some of the excuses were – "Mum can't take me because she wants a cup of tea in peace"; "Mum and Dad go to the Club"; "My mother likes to sleep on Saturdays"; and so it went on It was like waving a red rag at a bull to me – so we sat down and sent a letter to the mothers of the babies advising if they can't arrange their own transport we are pulling the team out, and from that day onwards we had transport. Some of the excuses were unbelievable! Pat managed two teams and helped with all Netball needs. There was never a cost to the children. The Club would donate so much money each year and the Youth Club would organize one big raffle and that was always sufficient.

We had reciprocal visits with Waratah-Mayfield R.S.L. Youth Club, Newcastle, from 1963. They visited us on one weekend during the netball season, by bus transport, and the players would be billeted with our families, we would then return to them the following year and they would do the billeting. Parents would be entertained in the respective Clubs on the Saturday night. Oatley always had a good weekend at Waratah-Mayfield and vice versa.

I can always remember the cold days at Scarborough Park, from lunch time to approx. 6.00p.m. – sometimes it was freezing. They were all grass courts then and affected by the weather. I well remember the year Deidre's team was unbeaten for the whole comp.

Come Grand Final Day and it poured!! The game was cancelled because of the wet ground and put on the following week, when school holidays were on, and my goalie and defence were on their way to Queensland on holidays and I was left without two main players.

We had a basketball hoop put up in our backyard for practise, because Deidre was centre at all times. On the day the score was 'even steven' at full time- still 'even steven' with ten minutes extra each way; then they decided the team to

score the next goal would get it and the opposition scored! I sat down and cried and the whole team cried with me. It was the most unfair decision I had ever had. I was so sad because all the players had worked their butts off and so had I. It was so hard because you can't coach from the sideline with netball you had to wait 'til they came from the field. I remember that year well!!

Girls always had to umpire or 'time' games so you knew where your children were, they didn't have time to get into trouble.



1968 – C3 Junior Premiers ORSLYC's first Basketball (Netball) Premiers

L to R: 1. Mrs Louise Downey (coach); 2. ?; 3. Maria Weekes; 4. Maria Wathan; 5. ?; 6. Bernadette Curlisa; 7. Marie Miller; 8. Gail Stevens; 9. Elizabeth Colbert

Pam Bevan takes up the story from 1975 onwards

In 1975 Mortdale RSL Netball Club merged with Oatley RSL Youth Club to become one Club. Dot Lloyd and I organised, coached and umpired the Club for many years. The Club was one of the biggest Clubs in the St George District Association having up to 30 teams at one time.

Oatley RSL Youth Club Netball has been, and is still, a very competitive Club winning many Grand Finals over the years. In 2007 we had 18 teams and 5 in the Grand Final.

We have been fortunate to have coaches and umpires (many of whom are young senior players) and parents and friends interested in helping to run the Club.

During the past 35 years we have had many girls selected to represent the St George District Netball Association in teams including interdistrict, night interdistrict and State League. Some have even played for NSW teams.

Sharon Finnan is Oatley RSL Youth Club's most prized player. She started playing at age nine and announced that she was going to play for Australia - she did just that! She was selected to play in the Australian Squad in 1990, 1991 and 1999. She played in Australia's winning World Cup side in 1991 which was held in Sydney. Sharon also played for NSW, the Australian Youth Cup, Commonwealth Games and the AIS. Over the past seven years she has worked as National Netball Development Manager for the National Aboriginal Sports Corporation of Australia. Trinidad and Tobago Netball has appointed Sharon to the role of Technical Director for its teams.

Oatley RSL Youth Club awards major trophies each year to young people who play, coach, umpire and involve themselves in their sport and Club. The Netball Division nominates players for these trophies every year which they have therefore won, which shows the strength and interest of our young people.

Over the years Oatley RSL Youth Club Netball has had a large number of people who have been involved in the organisation of our Club. There are far too many for me to name, I thank them all. Dot Lloyd was the backbone of the Club for many years. Jennie Bridge (nee Bevan) and Robyn Ellis are still involved after 25 years or more. All are Life Members of Oatley RSL Youth Club Netball.

Pamela J. Bevan
President
Oatley RSL Youth Club Netball
Vice President Oatley RSL Youth Club



Above: Action at the St George Netball Association courts at Rockdale



1988
Youths of the Year Kylie Sellick and Brian Bevan with Pam Bevan, President ORSLYC at Mortdale RSL (the year of the fire at Oatley RSL)

And from the 1979 ORSLYC annual report

General

This is a very popular section with the girls ranging from 9 year olds up to seniors. Training is held at our Youth Club Hall, and at Jubilee Park, George Street, Mortdale. Registration Days for 1980 are held when school goes back at the end of January. All intending players can phone at any time Mrs. Dot Lloyd and Mrs. Pam Bevan

Activity Report 1979

We commenced the season with 9 Senior teams and 8 Junior teams.

About 138 girls were registered. Junior teams range from under 9yrs to 15 yrs, and Senior teams are 16yrs upwards. We had one Ladies team who were runners up for the third year in succession.

During the season we entered our 15B team in an InterDistrict Carnival run by St. George at Rockdale. This was an intermediate section for teams 13 yrs to 15 yrs. Our team came up against very strong teams from Bankstown, Sutherland, Ryde, Balmain, Randwick and Epping. Our team did very well and won few games. This was a terrific day for all. Sharon Finnan, one of our Rep players came along as an extra player and played in two of the ten games during the day. Carnivals play twenty minute games, ten minutes each way.

Congratulations to Jane Stone and Louise Hardgrave who with Sharon Finnan have made the squad for next years 13 yrs Rep team. I would like to see more Oatley girls trying out for Rep teams, both Junior and Senior.

Pam and I would like to thank all the girls who turned up each week to play with Oatley R.S.L., the ladies who managed the Junior teams and scored each week for them. Some of these ladies are Pat Brown and Fran Hardgrave from the 9 yrs, Ida Hooper from the 10 yrs, Vera Napier from the 11 yrs, nearly all the mothers from the 12 yrs, Judy Williamson, Mrs. Wicks and Janelle Moore's mother from the 13 yrs, Joyce Molloy from the 14 yrs (Joyce has 3 daughters playing) and Cindy Innes' mother from the 15yrs. Many thanks to all of these ladies who scored each week.

A special thanks to Donna Bevan and Narelle Hand who coached two of our Junior teams, umpired each week and with Cathy Goudie did nearly all the Table and Kiosk duties for the Senior teams. Mrs. Moore and Mrs Lumb helped also.

I must give a special mention to Elizabeth Page from our Senior 2 team who umpired each week and helped Mrs. Bevan any way she possibly could.

A thank you to Mrs. Anne Gordon who has for years turned up to score for her daughter's team who are now Seniors and to Irene Finnan from our ladies team umpired each week after watching her own daughter play.

We must not forget our young players from the 14 yrs team, Monique Finlay and Robin Molloy who umpired the Juniors each week. Maria Lloyd from Senior 4 team umpired and scored for her team and many times filled in to umpire when gills from other clubs failed to do their duties.

As it was, Pam and I would sometimes have to umpire three games each on a Saturday when our Senior players let us down. This is hardly a fair go. Without the help of our stalwart Senior and Junior umpires we would be lost.

We had two canteen days at Jubilee Oval for the football and we are very grateful for the help we received from a few parents and Senior girls. This was worth \$300 to the Netball section.

Last but not least many thanks to Mr Malcolm Ritchie who sold raffle tickets at the RSL Club when it was the Netball section's turn.

We hope all the girls enjoyed the season with Oatley RSL Youth Club in 1979 and we want them all back in 1980. Please spread the word and bring in new players for 1980

We had 15 teams in the Semi Finals, 10 in the Finals and 5 in the Grand Finals of which we won 3 Premierships. These three teams all went through the Comp. undefeated.

Registrations for 1980 will be taken as soon as school recommences at the end of January. You may ring Pam or myself at any time for information regarding Netball. You can register new players all through the season.

We wish you all a Holy and Happy Xmas and hope you will join us again in 1980.

DOT LLOYD and PAM BEVAN

PHYSICAL CULTURE (Girls)

Patti Brierley recollections

1961 - Joy Dowman then Deidre Brierley, had babies to teenagers – approx. 100 girls. Molly Nash used to be the pianist, she was the pianist right through.

Hundreds went through the classes after that – could not remember the names of all the Instructresses. Teena Brierley, did not teach. The classes now went from babies to married ladies. Joined with Bjelke Petersen and had competitions and were judged each year. Pat judged one year. We left Bjelke Petersen and did our own for awhile. Pat can remember Deidre working out the exercises during her bed rest for a bout of glandular fever. She can't remember if the club returned to Petersens. Deidre was posted to the country with her job and left. -P.C. now known as **Gym** and started 1978/9.

And from the 1979 ORSLYC annual report

Girls' physical culture

General

Classes for all age groups (including a Babies class, 5 years & under) are conducted in the Youth Club Hall on Monday evenings. This also includes a Ladies group.

Judging for the trophies and medals takes place in the Oatley Public School Assembly Hall in November each year.

Due to the progressive instruction given it is preferable for children to commence at the beginning of the year.

Manageress, Mrs. Sally Keen Assistant, Mrs. J. Williamson

Activity Report 1979

We finished the 1979 season with an enrolment of 59 girls.

Congratulations to all the girls who presented such an excellent display at our Competitions night. The following girls were awarded medals.

Babies: Nicole Zarubin 1st, Louise Howell 2nd, Kristen Staas 3rd.

5yrs: Elizabeth Beattie 1st, Joanne Coombs 2nd Kim Chappelow 3rd, Kathryn Strong 4th, Sandra Moore 5th, Julie Moore 6th.

6 yrs: Lyndal Beves 1st, Michelle Clow 2nd, Jenny Staas 3rd

7yrs: Kerrie Moore 1st, Vanessa Walker 2nd, Tracy Fraser 3rd, Prudence Sargent 4th.

8 yrs: Constance Airey 1st, Michelle Lindsay 2nd, Tracy Prentice 3rd

10 yrs: Cheryl Jones 1st, Sarah Keen 2nd, Melinda Riley 3rd, Judith Walton and Sally Roberts, equal 4th

11 yrs: Louise Bollard 1st, Megan Sargent 2nd, Kerrie Lawless 3rd.

12 yrs: Karen Westren 1st, Susan Greenwood 2nd, Elizabeth Schenton 3rd

Sub-Seniors: Susan Moore 1st, Janelle Westren 2nd, Ann—Louise O'Connor 3rd.

Seniors: Janette Campbell 1st, Heather Campbell 2nd.

Our thanks go to Mrs. Kim Cooper and Mrs Amanda Brown for all the time and effort they put into the section this year, also to Mrs Nan Lancken who filled in by playing the piano for us until we were able to get a pianist. We would like to welcome Mrs. Ruth Bosward back next year as our regular pianist.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Elizabeth Northcott for all her interest and hard work she has done for this section. Elizabeth managed Girls' P.C. for 5 years until half way through this year, when owing to pressure of work, she had to resign.

Last but not least thanks to Mrs. Judy Williamson for her help and advice she has given me since I took over the section.

Our classes for 1980 resume on Monday 4th February starting with the babies class at 5.30pm. We do hope to see all our girls back then.

SALLY KEEN

Sally Keen remembers the 1980s

In the eighties one of the most popular sections of the Youth Club was the Physical Culture section. The classes ranged from five year olds up to a ladies class.

It consisted of exercises to music, e.g. floor, marching and arm. The girls wore blue leotards and ballet flats. Lessons were held on Mondays.

Previous managers were Elizabeth Northcott, Judy Williamson and Sally Keen. Instructor was Helen Roberts.

At the end of the year there were competitions which were held at the Oatley Primary School hall.

Sally Keen.

PHYSICAL TRAINING

From the 1979 ORSLYC annual report

General

Previously known as Boys' P.T., this section now caters for boys 7 to 25 years and girls from approximately 12 to 25 years. The exercises are also based on Australian Gymnastics Association schedules with emphasis on hard exercise to build physical fitness with fun mat and box-work to finish.

Classes are on Friday evenings 5.30 to 10.00 pm.

Further information can be obtained from Manageress, Lilian Jacobs and Instructor, Steven Smith.

It is proposed to build a competitive gymnastics team, selected from the most able members of the above sections. This team will provide competitors for the future Area Gymnastic Carnivals.

Activity Report

During 1979 the enrolment in this section was about 73 boys and 17 girls.

The first class, boys 7 to 9 yrs, was a little disappointing as attendance was down but apart from this it has been a good year. The second class is improving rapidly as their awareness to fitness is becoming more alert. I congratulate all the boys. The third class this year have worked well. The amalgamation of the Thursday night girls PT has also proved successful in this class. I hope all the boys and girls will maintain their interest and be back next year. The senior class of about eight boys and two girls are a great group to work with and everybody gives 100% effort each night.

The trophies tonight have been awarded on the years work, i.e. attendance, behaviour and effort. Congratulations to all the girls and boys who won an award.

Many thanks to Lilian Jacobs who is the section manageress. Classes resume on the first Friday after school resumes at the same time. See you all then.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

STEVEN SMITH

WEIGHTLIFTING

Weightlifting was first included in our Annual General Meeting of 1/3/1971 with **John Thistlewaite** as the Instructor. Notes from the minutes of meetings are shown below:

Meeting 3/5/1971: Classes satisfactory – more were attending.

Meeting 2/8/1971: Mr. Thistlewaite said section should progress more when the football season finishes.

Meeting 6/9/1971: Classes to be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 20/9/1971.

A.G.M. 6/3/1972: Weightlifting still going and John still the tutor.

Meeting 7/8/1972: Mrs. Campbell enquired about weightlifting- apparently has not been operating? Mr. Chapman has approached someone to teach, but presently this person is overseas.

Meeting 9/10/1972: Trevor Robotham, one of our members, had won a State Weightlifting Title in the Paperweight division and a letter of congratulations was sent to him.

A.G.M. 5/3/73: Weightlifting section was in abeyance.

Meeting 3/9/73: Weightlifting was now operating on Tuesdays from 6.30p.m. – 8.30p.m.. The Instructor would commence earlier if required and the activity fee was 25c.

Meeting 4/10/73: Weightlifting limited at present. Preference to Y.C. members and ex. Y.C. members. Instructor must abide by the decision of the Executive. Hall would be vacant on Wednesdays for additional classes until the end of January, 1974.

A.G.M. 4/2/1974: Weightlifting included with Representative: W. Quaglio.

Meeting 3/6/1974: Letter to weightlifting section requesting representative at monthly meetings.

A.G.M. 5/2/1975: No weightlifting delegate included.

RUGBY LEAGUE


Coaching and managing

It seems coach and manager were sought after positions and application had to be made to the convenors to be selected for ORSLYC Rugby League teams. A selection of these applications is shown below:

31st Jan., 1969.

Dear Jack,

I hereby make application for the position of Teams Manager for the 'H' Grade Rugby League Football Team (Under 13 years) for the 1969 Football Season,

Yours sincerely,

 (Jack Colbert.)

Left: Jack Colbert was a great supporter of the Youth Club. He was Secretary from 1967 to 1970. Being a police sergeant Jack organised all street closures and traffic matters for our ANZAC marches and walk-athons. He was killed on duty at Kingsgrove in about 1978.

Below: John Gasnier (brother of Reg Gasnier and father of Mark Gasnier who both played for St George and Australia) was keen to improve on the performance of last year's team.

21-10-68

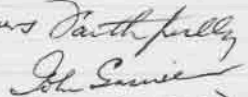
The Committee Oatley RSL Football Club,

Dear Sirs,

I wish to make application as coach of the fourth - coming 1969 E Grade Rugby League football team.

I feel with some adjustments and knowing the players from last year can improve their play.

Looking forward to your consideration in the above

Yours Faithfully,

 (JOHN GASNIER)

1st November, 1968.

Dear sir,

with reference to the position of coach of 'F' or 'E' grade 1969, I would like to submit my application.

I was associated with Oatley RSLJRLFC from 1962 till 1966 and have represented this club in over one hundred games. Since 1966 I have played in premiership winning sides with Penrith United JRLFC.

My record speaks for itself having won awards for 'best forward' and 'most intelligent' in 1962, 'best forward' in 1963 and 'best forward' in 1965. It is my basic aim now to put back into Oatley RSLJRLFC some of the benefits which I enjoyed during the years in which I was associated with the club.

Trusting you will consider my application with true sincerity,

I remain
 yours sincerely
 Frank Mulligan.

Frank Mulligan had played for Oatley and was aiming "to put back into Oatley RSLJRLFC some of the benefits which I enjoyed when associated with the Club".

Interclub competition

The J Palmer Shield was awarded for Waratah Mayfield and Oatley RSL Youth Clubs Annual **Rugby League** games.

year	Won by
1963	WM RSL Under 14
1964	WM RSL Under 14
1965	Oatley 8st. 7lbs
1966	WM RSL Under 14
1967	Oatley RSLYC
1968	Oatley RSLYC
1969	Oatley RSLYC

Oatley players makes it internationally

The following is an excerpt from Oatley RSL Sub-Branch Annual Report for the year ended 31/12/1970

"A former Oatley player, Ross Strudwick, hit the headlines when he made First Grade for St. George and honoured us with his company on Presentation Night at Oatley Public School. Thank you Ross and best wishes for the future."

Ross went on to play for Australia as seen from the following news item.

OATLEY YOUTH CLUB MEMBER IN RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP SERIES

By C. O. Gardiner, Secretary/Liaison Officer
New South Wales RSL Youth Council

The Oatley RSL Youth Club was one of the first formed after the RSL decided in 1958-59 to sponsor boys' clubs. Soon after girls were allowed to become members.

In their early days, the Oatley RSL Youth Club sponsored the Junior League team into the St George junior rugby league competition.

It is very pleasing to note that a member, Ross Strudwick, has now been selected to represent Australia in the first of the Rugby League World Cup Series against New Zealand. Congratulations are extended to Ross Strudwick who now plays his football in Queensland on behalf of the RSL Youth Movement in NSW.

It is hoped he can continue on with his career this year and represent Australia at all the World Cup Series of Rugby League games.

BRADLEY SEVEN TRIES IN OATLEY'S RUNAWAY

Oatley RSL O-grade junior League team had a runaway 30-0 win on Saturday.

Top scorer was Graeme Bradley with seven tries.

Anthony Smith, Paul Hofman and Kieran Quail scored one try each.

Jeremy Brindley and Adam Thomas made good runs and were unlucky not to score.

The N grade side is hard pressed to field a full team each week, but regardless of the odds the boys try hard. The team lost 21-9 on Saturday.

Robbie Bray scored the only try in the M grade match. He ran 60 yards to cross for the winning try.

Mark Howden ran 40 yards but put the ball down over the dead ball line.

Kieran Clark, Robert

McAllister and Glenn Derwent played their best games this season.

Martin Bell, in his first game as hooker, won the scrums, while Keith Bennett showed determination in his running. The team won 3-0.

Although the I grade side won most of the scrums, the team lost 11-3.

Oatley K grade lost 25-0.

Michael Derwent and Michael Scafid are proving a good second row combination.

Youngest members of the team, Ian Chapman, Ken Gormly and Ian McGrath tackled hard and often. Jimmy Hodgkinson and Paul Chamberlain played well.

J grade had an easy 20-0 win. Gary Hopkins and

Mark Carter and Geoff Inkpen one each. Bruce Harrison kicked a goal.

The polish of last week's game was lost, but a good performance came from Mark Carter, Peter Lewis and Gary Hopkins.

Nell Messina, Scott Campbell and Mark Tidyman played well in the forwards.

Stephen Ross scored two tries in the H grade game and Peter Andrews, Brian Bleakly, Warren Sykes and G. Marsden one try each.

Wet weather hampered play in the G grade match, which Oatley lost 18-7.

Stephen Mayoh was star player for Oatley F grade side, which won 45-0.

Stephen scored four of his team's tries, and Raymond Kear kicked four goals.

The photo below shows Ross Strudwick in 1962 in the victorious 5 stone 7lb J Grade team



The 'O' Grade game (described at left) was played on Saturday, 15th May, 1971 versus Kingsgrove Colts at Beverly Hills Park. The other games would have been played on this day also but their venues are unknown. Graeme Bradley went on to make a career of his rugby league. From Oatley R.S.L.Y.C. he went to the Illawarra Catholic Club to 16 years, then onto Kyeemagh until he was 20 years old, and from here he played President's Cup for St George.

In 1985 he played 3rd grade (under 23 years) for the Steelers; then onto Penrith 1st grade in 1989. He played in the Penrith Premiership winning team in 1991.

After this he set off for England and the Castleford club for 12 months, where he played in their Challenge Cup Final.

Afterwards he came back to St. George for 4 years and then in 1996 decided to return to England's Bradford Club for 4 years.

He finally returned to Australia where he coached the Steelers S. G. Ball team for 3 years and has now retired, to be with his wife and three children. He was definitely a 'born' rugby league player!!

Rugby League Recollections 1970-1975 by Rayma Papworth

1970

This year we had 10 teams representing Oatley R.S.L.

- They were 'O' Grade - under 7 years
- 'N' Grade - under 8 years
- 'M' Grade - under 9 years
- 'L' Grade - under 10 years
- 'K' Grade - under 11 years – White
" " - Red
- 'J' Grade - under 12 years
- 'H' Grade - under 13 years
- 'G' Grade - under 14 years
- 'E' Grade - under 15 years

No premierships were won, but I'm sure everyone had a great time and all were expected to front-up for the next season.

I managed the 'O' Grade for the first time and the whole team, of 5 and 6 year olds, proved themselves to be fine sportsmen and very keen players. Ray Lillas was their coach, and through his kindness and tolerance they all came through with 'flying colours'; Terry O'Connor also gave his time in helping Ray mould our sportsmen of the future!

"O" Grade - 1971:

We are very proud of "our babies" and their winning the Premiership this year. They had a wonderful season of football and had only one defeat throughout. We were very fortunate in being able to retain eight players from the 1970 season and also in gaining Graeme Bradley, so therefore set out with the nucleus around which to build a full team. This showed in the points scored – 321 for; 51 against.

We had 18 registered players and all proved themselves to be fine sportsmen and very keen participants in every game they played. This fine spirit was imparted to them by their coach, Ray Lillas, and after his illness Nerida and John Bradley. Our most outstanding players and point scorers were Graeme Bradley - 144 points; Anthony Smith – 72 points; Jeremy Brindley - 60 points, and Kieran Quail - 54 points.

Congratulations, however, must go to all and we hope next year we can maintain our fine team spirit in the majority of boys who will go on to "N" grade.

During this season, on 15/5/1971, we played Kingsgrove Colts at Beverly Hills Park and won 30-0. The newspaper cutting applies to this game. Also there are other results shown, in the newspaper cutting, to which I didn't have access.

We played Waratah-Mayfield on 5/9/71 at Renown Park, and were defeated 12 – 3.



Oatley RSL Youth Club O Grade Premiers 1971

Back Row L to R: Ray Lillas (coach); Rayma Papworth (Manageress); John Bradley Asst Coach)
 3rd Row L to R: Adam Thomas; Paul Hofman; Graeme Bradley; Graeme MacNamara; Keiran Quail;
 Gregory Hart;
 2nd Row L to R: Peter Errington; Anthony Smith; Stephen Papworth; Timothy Bresnahan; Robert
 Dickens
 Front Row L to R: Antony Rayment; David Lonergan; Jeremy Brindley; Guy Mozsny; Gregory Larkin

"N" Grade - 1972:

1972 was a good year for our team and although we did not win the premiership this year, we were finalists and then

defeated only 3 – 0. This game was a very fitting final and a pleasure to watch. The score was nil all at half time (only once did our defence lapse) and right until the final bell it could have gone either way. Each boy is to be congratulated on his performance, and it was a pleasure to be once again associated with them. Thanks to Nerida Bradley who helped out when our coach was ill. **We visited Waratah-Mayfield on the 19/20 August, 1972, and played a 9 - all draw with them at Waratah Oval, Newcastle.**

“M” Grade - 1973:

Another close one this year, being defeated in the final 8 – 3, by Penshurst R.S.L. It was a good season and a credit to our 15 boys who each showed a fine display of sportsmanship and team spirit. Our coach, Ray Lillas, was assisted by Glen Polley throughout the season and after Ray’s unfortunate resignation, Glen took over the reins as coach and was helped by Jim Hart. The kindness of all was much appreciated. It seems at this stage that the under 10’s will be playing next year, so we look forward to seeing our familiar faces back again.

We played Waratah-Mayfield on Sunday 9/9/73 at Renown Park and had a 3-3 draw with them.

“L” Grade - 1974:

This year we missed out on the semi finals by only 2 points – the first time we had missed out since 1970. However we had another enjoyable season and our new coach, Jim Hart, did a great job. Our thanks to him for his time and effort.

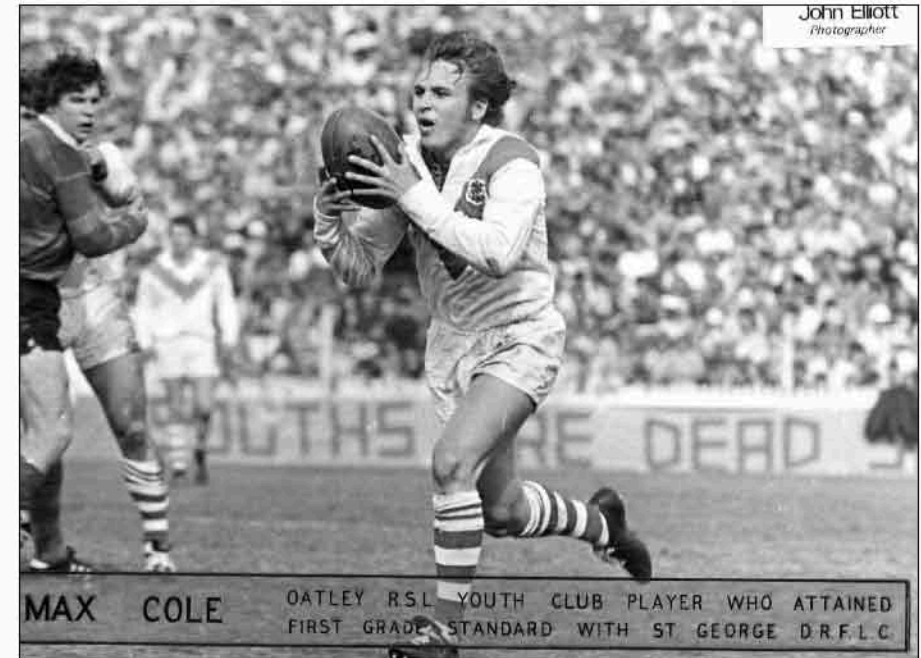
It seems that the under 11’s will be playing next year so we’ll wait and see?

“The football section suffered a decline in the number of teams this year because of the uncertain future of the lower grades under a direction from the N.S.W. Rugby League that League would cease for under 12 years old in 1974. At present it seems that the Junior League will continue as before therefore I hope that those boys who left us will return.”

For various reasons, including the above, we did not have enough players to field a “K” grade – under 11 years team in 1975, so we folded. Some of our better players had gone to other clubs, the competition was getting harder and so were the ‘knocks’, and overall those left decided to ‘call it a day’. It was a sad happening but inevitable.

I still see the ‘boys’ (now 42/43 years old) occasionally, and always treat them as my long lost sons with a kindly motherly kiss (they will all be so embarrassed when they read this!!) Thanks to all of them anyway for the respect and kindness always shown to me.

Rayma Papworth.



Manager Fred McGuigan remembers a great little team and a great game

'M' GRADE 1970:

Semi-final: Lost 3 – 0.

The M grade had a very successful season by gaining the points for the team to be in the semi-finals.

They started the season with a new coach and many of the boys hadn't played together as a team. As the season progressed, the boys started to play well as a team and several of them started to shine as stars.

Sunday, August 9 saw this side in the semi-finals against the undefeated Penshurst. The match was an exciting exhibition of tough tackling by both sides. Penshurst having the wind behind them in the first half, used this to great advantage. One of their kicks found touch about a yard short of the corner post. The scrum went down, Oatley lost and had to defend desperately, and on the first tackle Penshurst knocked on. Another scrum was ordered, we lost and the only time the Oatley defence was out of position, thus letting the pacey Penshurst backs score out wide. The Oatley Captain, Scott Williamson, stirred his players up, and they came back into the game with new vigour. Mark Jones played splendidly in the backs, out-playing his opponent. A nice intercept by Brian Kefford made Oatley look dangerous.

The second half began with Oatley still trying to get back into the game, but Tim Bleakley was being well marked by the opposition. The Oatley forwards began to make ground down the centre only to see their efforts spoiled by over anxiousness in the last ten minutes. Gallant runs by Ken Gormly, Scott Williamson and Silvestro Lavite, with good follow-up defence by Lawrence Cameron, Stephen McGuigan and Tony Moran. The forwards played solidly, and Mark Jones continued to run strongly, being hard to pull down, but the Penshurst defence held. As the bell sounded a scrum was ordered, Oatley won the ball, and again on the re-call, and this time the ever alert, quick thinking Tim Bleakley took the ball through off his toes only to be confronted by the fullback who balked his attempt to pet past, and the cover defence came from the clouds to finish it off. Undoubtedly the stars of this match were THE WHOLE TEAM. The season just finished was a successful one, with many of the players showing great improvement and this augers well for the 1971 season. So fellows stick together next year and we'll go a couple better and get those blazers.

Statistics of 1970 season:

16 games won; 10 games lost; 5 draws; 150 points for - 33 points against.



Oatley RSL Youth Club M Grade 1970

Manager: Fred McGuigan

Coach: John Aussel

Back row L to R: Michael Rose; Steve McGuigan; Mark Jones; Ken Gormly; Laurence Cameron; Silvestro Lavite

Front row L to R: Phillip Phelan; Wayne Wellington?; Anthony O'Connor; Tony Moran; Scott Williamson; Timothy Bleakley; Brian Quail; Luke Brindley; Stephen Lysaght

Ball boy: Evan Phelan

Rayma's Footnote:

There was only one team entered in the Rugby League competition for 1975, so towards the end of this year, and because of the decline in the interest of Rugby League, and specifically that we had Renown Park No. 2 vacant, and empty fields were as rare as 'hen's teeth', Mr. Ted Thornthwaite approached the Youth Club with his suggestion that we switch to soccer. I don't know whether he came from another club, but he had teams ready and waiting to begin the 1976 season. He actually began with 8 teams: 2 x U6; U7; U8; U9; 2 x U10; All Age, and the rest, as they say, is history!

SOCCER

[The following material is drawn from a publication "15 years of sporting excellence" Oatley R.S.L. SOCCER CLUB. August 1990]

HOW IT ALL STARTED.

A meeting of interested people was called in November, 1975 to form a soccer section of Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club. The Youth Club wished to continue a sporting activity on Renown Park 2 as the Youth Club had the park on a 10 year lease from Kogarah Council.

A committee was formed with the late Ted Thornthwaite as President, Bob Dines as Secretary and Barry Finn as Treasurer. Tribute must be made to Mrs. Jean Thornthwaite for the time and effort she contributed behind the scenes attending to all the other jobs which run the club for which we now have formal positions.

Eight teams were formed and they competed in St. George Soccer Association in the 1976 season. The IOA (1) team were undefeated Premiers and went on to win Champion of Champions. The 7C team was undefeated Minor Premiers and Premiers. The following year saw 100% increase in team numbers to 16, of which 5 won premierships.

Our playing strip has changed dramatically over the years. The original shirts of white with red hoops and trim were made from donated material, worn with white shorts. The 1979 season saw a change to shirts with vertical red stripes and black shorts. These new shirts being purchased with funds raised by an aluminum can drive throughout 1978. The change to the present [1990] strip of red and white with black trim was made in 1983.

Continual improvements had been made to the playing field, lighting and conditions for players, members and workers. A great asset to our club is that much of the work needed doing has been done on a voluntary basis.

By Jan Clow

CLUB STRIP

1976 - White shirt with red hoops and white shorts.

The Material for this shirt was obtained by way of a donation and Ted Thornthwaite organised for the making of the shirts.

1979 - White shirt with red vertical stripes and black shorts.

This year saw the inception of the improved shirts which was the Southampton England strip. (as shown below by 12B team 1982)



1983 - Red and white shirt with black stripe dividing, black 'V' neck collar, Black Shorts to complement.

The Southampton strip was no longer available due to the sale of the English manufacturer to Germany, the sale of the business meant the demise of the fabric. The club decided it was best to purchase locally. With contact Ray Richards (4R Sports World - Fairfield) the decision was made to purchase the new strip from a company in Albury called "Attack".

INITIAL FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Like all sporting organisations, money is always needed to supply much needed equipment for the teams.

Our club first of all held meat and vegi raffles in Oatley Hotel. Next venue became Oatley R.S.L. where each section of the Youth Club were rostered to sell raffle tickets.

Another assistance to the club's finances was the collection of aluminum cans and stored in the "CLOW's" garage which became filled to capacity then "cash in".

SPONSORS –

- 1) Neville Wenham arranged sponsorship through "Hastings Deering" Motor Company, where by the Youth Club T Shirts had the Hasting Deering logo placed on the back of them. The cost to Hasting Deering and then the club retailed these to all members. This sponsorship proved to be a very rewarding exercise.
- 2) United Permanent sponsorship through the Club treasurer Ross Lewis saw covers printed for the "Roundball" with United Permanent logo on the front page. Ross Lewis and Graham Smith stood outside United Permanent on Forest Road, Hurstville on Saturday mornings selling 300 sample bags which were supplied by United Permanent.
Ross Lewis also sold advertising space on the inside of the Roundball Covers.
- 3) Our next sponsorship came after a few years by the way of club member Keith Jones who sold off advertising space to a great many sponsors on the inside and back page of the Roundball with the front page sold to a major sponsor, C.R. Storey Plumbing. This sponsor is also supporting the All Age A of 1990.

CANTEEN EXTENSION - 1984

For many years the canteen at Renown Park was situated in a small room in the middle of the amenities block. With the increasing growth of the club it caused an increase of danger.

It was decided to expand the amenities block by way of a new canteen at the

end of the existing building. After many meetings with Council representatives, namely J. Lawless, Ray Green, Alderman Arthur Hardiman and request of financial assistance through a grant from Sport and Recreation, approval was given for a proviso that any extension must conform exactly with existing building and a stipulation that the Soccer Club bears no equity in this extension upon completion.

Initially the digging starts, the foundation with an enormous amount of help available from club members. Phil Jones moved in and showed his expertise with the laying of bricks, then Ken Tonks moved in and showed his expertise with the plumbing and drainage requirements.

The concrete slab was put into place on the roof courtesy of Phil Jones assisted by Mario Del Bianco. John Mitchell then brought power to the scene by way of electrical installations and Billy Moore supplied the electrical fittings. With the outside structure completed the next step was to fit the internal shelving courtesy of Bernie Evans. Large cupboards on the wall were required, so Dave Goddard came to the rescue and supplied and fitted these. Our refrigerator was supplied by Darrell Partridge.

The next step was Roller doors which were supplied by Elite Equipment and installed by Bernie Evans. The internal cosmetics of painting was provided by Bill Clow. Last of all came the securing of the canteen by way of anti - theft grills were supplied and fitted by Keith Jones.

Listed below are the names of the people who so generously gave their time and efforts to complete this project.

Nev Wenham Phil Jones Keith Jones Ross Lewis
Bernie Evans John Gidney John Lackey Bill Clow
Graham Smith Terry Walker Ken Tonks Jim Bates
Bruce Saunders Bobby Hignett Phil Tonks Billy Moore
John Mitchell Snr Barry Gray Con Raptis Col Ford
John Mitchell Jnr. Lionel palmer

A thank you dinner was arranged for all these people by way of two rotisseried lambs, cooked by Con Raptis, the venue being Moore Reserve and then the Youth Club Hall after rain interrupted our celebrations. Alderman Arthur Hardiman and his wife were special quests on the day.

by Graham Smith.

RENOWN LIGHTING

1975 Seven junior teams and one senior team commenced training at Renown Park. The senior team, led by venis Haywood, managed reasonably well after sunset with the existing single pole Park Street “small lights” left over from the R.S.L. League days.

Late 70's - With increase of club teams to 20 and with much success in the senior teams as premiers and finalists, training became very serious. It was unanimously decided that the lights needed improvement, being “too dull”. Donated by Billy Moore and Bernie Evans and installed by John Mitchell, the small lights were replaced with 4 more powerful “quartz” floodlights. What an improvement!

Mid 80's - Serious training sessions finally “rubbed” onto the junior teams. Times extended themselves into dusk, so Phil Tonks U/12 coach (Electrician/extraordinaire) donated a mobile quartz floodlight for use by junior teams training adjacent to the Canteen. Sadly they are now not needed and remain in the gear room.

Late 80's - With a great number of senior teams training “into the night” the floodlit area became prime property ie:- hard to share equally for all teams. As the existing lights only illuminated a third of the playing field the club had a serious problem. The foresight of Club President, John Davies. resolved the matter with the installation of our present day “six pole/quartz” lighting system; a greet success and a credit to John and his committee. Additional thanks to Kogarah Council, Dept. of Sport and Recreation and the R.S.L. Youth Club for their support and financial assistance in completion of the project.

by John Gidney

SHOWERS 1988 — 1989

After many years complaining of cold showers came the time to update to modern, times and HOT SHOWERS.

It was a great disappointment to all members when the hot showers were first used in 1989 that they did not experience the joy of the players revelling in hot water, This joy was soon diminished when they discovered that there was WATER, WATER everywhere because of lack of curtains, so the President, John Gidney came to the rescue with some very brightly coloured, Australian Bird Life, transparent shower curtains.

by Graham Smith/ Kerry Anne Delaney

REFLECTIONS OF AN OATLEY SOCCER DAD

(Now living in Oodnadatta ?)

When I first reached this stage of life,
I thought my Saturdays would be quiet.
Like watching Rugby League on Tele
While I quietly smoked a pipe.

And just the thing to top it off
I'd quaff a glass of classic wine.
But instead of that, with flag in hand
I run a soccer line!

Brett Thornthwaite remembers the young teams of 1976

Two of the teams – the 7C & 10A (1) – won premierships with the 7C's not having any goals scored against them during the season . the 10A team provided 9 players out of 13 to represent St George District and were defeated by the eventual winners of the title in the semi final.

The under 10A (1) team is the pride of Oatley Youth Club, in fact the RSL Youth Movement generally, as they went on to win the Pepsi Cola sponsored Champion of Champions which is contested throughout the State of NSW.

In their 25 matches played, they scored a massive total of 140 goals while having only 11 goals scored against them. The boys displayed soccer skills and were a credit to their club, parents and to their coach for whom they did everything he asked of them.

To reward them for their devotion and loyalty as a team, negotiations are in hand by parents, and hopefully with the aid of sponsors, to take the boys to England and America during the school holidays in 1977. It is hoped they will play social matches and have the opportunity of seeing world class soccer while broadening their education.

Editor's note: We don't know if this world tour was eventually taken.

From the 1979 ORSLYC annual report

General

The registration of players takes place in early February and any interested person should contact the Soccer President or Delegate who will be able to assist you with further details. U/6 to All Age players are needed. We are always in need of coaches, your children and not be in our section to coach one of the teams. Practice sessions are held at Renown Park after school. New players will need to produce proof of age by way of either a Birth Certificate or Baptismal Certificate and a passport size photograph.

Harry Bell and Barry Gray

Activity Report 1979

Our section fielded 21 teams in our new strip 'Southampton Home' red and white vertical stripes and black shorts. 2-U/6, 3-U/7, 2-U/8, 3-U/9, 2-U/10, 2-U/11, 2-U/12, 1-U/13, 1-U/14, 1-U/17, 2 All Age.

We had 7 teams reach the Semi Finals our U/10A and U/14A were defeated in the Semis. The U/9D1 team lost their Semi Final replay. Our 3 minor premiers U/8B, U/9D2, and All Age D lost their Grand Finals 1 Nil, 1 Nil and 6 - 4 respectively. Our U/10C team came in third defeating the minor premiers in the Semi Finals. They won the final replay in extra time after drawing the final in extra time. Then a draw in the Grand Final but, unfortunately lost the replay again in extra time, (2—1). These boys showed the fighting spirit of Oatley, by playing 5 games in 2 weeks with 4 games in extra time. Thanks to their coach Dennis Haywood who has had teams in finals and Grand Finals in 1977, 1978 and 1979.

The improvers trophy this year was shared by two teams our U/7As and U/8Bs. Congratulations to Luke Hurley, Jeremy Bates and Phillip Wenham who were selected in the St. George representative squad, and Phillip Wenham was also selected in the St. George Public Schools team which played in the state carnival in Tenterfield.

To our boys, their coaches, our team managers, we thank all of you. Our standard of dress and sportsmanship was excellent.

The picnic days are becoming extremely popular and this year we catered for 315 adults and 385 children which was a huge success. To all parents who helped in the canteen and all fathers and players who marked our field and erected the nets 'Thank You'.

A very special THANK YOU to our small band of parents and children who cleaned up bags of other peoples rubbish off the park each weekend.

Registration days will be held at the Amenities Block Renown Park on
 Sunday 3rd February 3.30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
 Thursday 7th February 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
 Saturday 9th February 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

All groups U/6 to All Age

We wish all the other sections well and a Merry Christmas to all and look forward to seeing all our 1979 boys back again in 1980

SOCCER COMMITTEE

Soccer teams progression since the section's inauguration in 1976:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>No. OF TEAMS FIELDDED</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>No. OF TEAMS FIELDDED</u>
1976	8	1992	No record
1977	16	1993	No record
1978	19	1994	No record
1979	21	1995	No record
1980	21	1996	28
1981	20	1997	32
1982	20	1998	32
1983	20	1999	32
1984	20	2000	27
1985	20	2001	30
1986	20	2002	43
1987	21	2003	49
1988	20	2004	50
1989	22	2005	51
1990	21	2006	52
1991	No record	2007	48

If anyone can help with the 1991 – 1995 records, please contact the soccer section.

Another perspective on the history of Oatley RSLYC - Soccer Section

By Barry Gray - Life Member – Soccer Section

A meeting of interested people was held on 11th November 1975 to form a soccer section for the Youth Club. The Youth Club wished to continue a sporting activity on Renown Park field 2 as the youth club had a 10 year lease from Kogarah Council.

A committee was formed for the 1976 Season

President	Ted Thornthwaite
Secretary	Bob Dines
Treasurer	Barry Finn
Other Positions	Jean Thornthwaite (Ted's wife)

Eight teams were formed for the 1976 season and registration fees were \$2.00 per child or \$3.00 per family.

The Under 10A(1) were undefeated premiers and went on to win the State Champion of Champions competition. Our 7C team were also undefeated Premiers.

The material of red and white hoops for our shirts was donated and Ted Thornthwaite organised for the shirts to be made. Shorts were white.

Extract from Minutes 14th September 1976. The club organise a fund raising bottle collection drive and girl's soccer to be advertised in the "Roundball" our weekly news sheet.

The first Annual General Meeting was held on 19th October 1976 and 10 positions were created and held by 7 people.

The Annual General Meeting is now held in August and there are 31 positions including 6 floor Members

The 1977 season saw the club grow to 16 teams of which 5 won premierships.
The 1990 season saw us field 21 teams.

The club had a huge aluminium can drive in 1978 to purchase new shirts for 1979 season "red & white vertical stripes with black shorts". The addition of black to our shirts happened in the 1983 season.

Fund Raising

Meat & Veg Raffles at the Oatley Hotel, Bottle & Aluminium can Drives, Chicken raffles every few weeks at the Oatley RSL Club when it was our Section's turn.

Our canteen on Renown Park always made a handsome profit and by now many thousands of volunteers have assisted in the canteen.

The sponsorship over the years, the sale of advertising on the Roundball covers, T Shirts from Hastings Deerings, United Permanent, & Sanders Real Estate.

Player & Life Membership

The club awards players for 5 years continuous service or 10, 15, 20 years service and there are many life members too many to mention.

The Youth Club has annual awards and many members have won these awards over the years

Upgrading Renown Park

We spread the top soil on the field and sieving the soil sometimes picking out foreign matter. We also spread fertilisers. To our grounds people over the years who constantly watered and had to come to the field to change the hose positions all year round. **THANK YOU**

Our club members organised night training lights and poles and had them installed.

Our wooden goal posts were dug out each year, and then our portable steel goal posts & wheels were made by a club member.

The drainage system in the late 1970's, the council dug approximately 150 metres of trenches on Renown Park and there were about 50 people there all day, some all day, some could only give a few hours. In 1 day we bought & laid the aggie pipe then filled the trenches with blue metal then top soil and relayed the grass on top. When it rained **success** the field drained and we could play.

1984 The architects, builders, brickies, concreters, plumbers, carpenters & electricians in our club built our canteen on the end of the amenities block with the assistance of a sport & rec. grant. There were 22 club members directly involved some taking days off work to help.

1988 – 1989 Hot showers were installed in the amenities block.

A mini field was also added to the park so our under 6, 7 & 8's can play on our park

The Park had to be set up every Saturday & most Sundays. Goal Posts moved into position, nets put on and the field marked originally with a marker & white chalk substance.

Current 2007 our 32nd season

This year we fielded 46 teams which included 12 teams in the 6, 7 & 8 year old age groups and 11 girls & ladies teams.

The competitions are decided differently now and the team finishing 1st after the rounds are played are declared the winners. Five teams – 11C1, 12A, 18A, AAC and the Junior Girls 14A were the premiers this year. Following this, the top 4 teams play in the Challenge Cup, and to date this year the 11C and 13C1 teams have won this competition.

To all the committee members, coaches, managers and parents who have assisted in the running of your club, we should be very proud that the tradition set many years ago has been carried on by our dedicated parents over the years.

Barry Gray
Life Member – Soccer Section



SOFTBALL and TEE-BALL

1979 ORSLYC annual report

General

Softball and Tee-ball are played in winter time on Saturday mornings. Seniors play in the afternoon. Both Juniors and All-age Seniors needed for next season and also boys and girls for U/10 Tee-ball.

Intending players please phone Manager, Mr. N. Spires, Seaforth Avenue, Oatley.

Activity Reports

Softball

This section did not have the success of last season, the main reason being the girls all moved up a two year age slot. Next year these girls will all be able to play in the same age group and we should be back in the winners list again. Only one team U/16 reached the Semi Finals.

The age groups are U/10 Tee-ball and then U/12, U/14, U/16 and All Age seniors. We need girls for all these teams and boys can play in the Tee-ball. We need COACHES for these teams. Registration will be on Friday 9th February 1980, continuing every Friday afternoon 4.30pm to 6.00pm near the toilet block at Renown Park, Oatley, with training afternoons for various teams to be arranged. A softball meeting will be held in early March, time and place to be notified.

I will not be coaching next year mainly for health and business reasons. I will still be available to fill in should a coach be unavailable or to do umpiring duties at matches. My many thanks to those who helped during the year, Janette Campbell and Linda Spires as coaches of the Tee-ball team, Julie Boxhall and Pat Reed coaches of the U/13 and Debbie Keeley my co-coach for the U/16. Thank you to our scorers Diane and Ron Coombs, Elizabeth and Roger Northcott, Pat Reed and Elaine Finn. Thank you to the ladies who did canteen duty during the year, Elizabeth Northcott, Pat Reed, Sally Keen, Dorothy Walker, Louise Geddes and Annette McRae, also to all the girls who helped me with umpire duties.

We had thirty four families in softball this year, out of these, only eight families came forward with help. Next year I would like to see some of the other twenty

six families at least offer one Saturday morning to make the load a little lighter for the workers.

NEIL SPIRES

Manager

U/16 TEAM

This year with a young team mostly 13 and 14 year olds the girls found the competition a little tough but we made the Semi Finals and the game finished at 11 all. The girls were beaten 2 - 1 in a sudden death play-off. All the girls played very well and the infielding was excellent.

I feel some mention should be made of Dominique Colardeau our pitcher, this girl stopped power hits that most girls would let go past and no matter in what position she finished after fielding a ball her throw always went straight and true to first base. Our most improved player had to be Carolyn Northcott who during the year developed into a good Centre Fielder always backing up well and that running catch you took in the Semi was a gem!

The other girls in the team and the positions they mostly played were Catcher, Linda Donald, 1st Base Linda Spires, 2nd Base Janette Campbell, 3rd Base Linda Bennett or Joanne Manuel, Short Stop Jo-Ann Sully, Left field Kristine Colardeau, and Right field Julie Walker, Susan Geddes or Danielle L'Estrange. The top batting averages were as close as they possibly could be, Linda Spires 68.6% Janette Campbell 67.7% Linda Donald 68.5% Dominique Colardeau- 66.1% Kristine Colardeau 68.4% Jo-Ann Sully 60.9%. Two home runs were hit by Dominique and one each to Janette, Jo-Ann, Kristine, and Linda Donald. You are a great team of girls never getting discouraged even though we took some bad hidings during the year, always bouncing back with a confident smile the following week. A merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to all

NEIL SPIRES

Coach

U/12 TEAM

Team members:— Michelle Finn, Samantha Hunt, Liza Jackson, Sarah Keen, Jodie McRae, Kerry Northcott, Tracy Pinney, Linda Reed, Sally Roberts, Susan Smith and Cathy Nenham.

This year most of the players had never played softball before, as they had only previously played Tee-Ball. The beginning of the season seemed very difficult for all concerned as new rules and techniques had to be learnt.

At first, I felt that most of the girls were very discouraged and this showed greatly in their performances, but as the season progressed, the girls seemed to build more confidence within their game and played more as a team rather than an individual effort. Next year I'm sure will be a far better season for the girls, as instead of being the youngest in the division, they will be the oldest

Special thanks must go to Pat Reed who not only helped me coach the girls but scored for the team each week. Thanks once again girls for your cooperation

JULIE BOXHALL

Coach



Cathy Kerr and Susan Eltoft
Softball section 1973??

Tee ball

Tee ball is a game introduced for younger children very similar to softball, the main difference is that the ball is not pitched but hit off a stand.

Although this is an under 10yrs competition, at the start of the season we had two 6yr olds and four 7yr olds and only two girls who had played Tee ball before. Gradually the girls learnt to bat and field and during the competition won more than half their games and finished fifth on the points table. Most of this team can stay in Tee ball next year and if you all come back we should have the start of a really good team.

The team was Darina Brady, Glen Coombs, Jodie Cottier, Mellissa Finn, Sally Gale, Vanessa Ireland, Marissa L'Estrange, Jane McMullen, Yvette Peverell, Natalie Quince, Janelle Tollis, and Lidigo Vargo.

I would like to thank my co-coach Janette Campbell and our scorers Dianne and Ron Coombs and my father who was always there when needed. I would also like to thank the parents who came along to the matches as they like to have their Mums and Dads watch them play.

LINDA SPIRES

Coach

Congratulations to Janette Campbell who made the final 15 girls to be selected to represent N.S.W. in the under 16years girls Softball championships in Adelaide in January 1980. The State side was selected from the best 13 girls and Janette just missed selection. In the weeks leading up to these trials Janette was a member of the East Hills team which finished second to Sydney in the Area. East Hills went on to finish th5nM behind Sydney and the North Shore in the State titles A grade.

NEIL SPIRES

SOFTBALL - 1973 - 1982.

Meeting 6/8/1973: Softball inaugurated from Oatley R.S.L. Youth Club.

Meeting 8/10/1973: Miss. Wilton advised that there were nearly two teams.

Meeting 3/6/1974: Not winning, but having a good time.

Meeting 1/7/1974: Both teams have won one game each.

Meeting 2/9/1974: One team in final next week.

Meeting 6/11/1974: One team made final of winter competition. One team entered in summer competition.

A.G.M. 5/2/1975: Two delegates named, Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Dykes. Increase of fees from 30c to 50c. To buy own mitts. Permission granted to form Junior teams.

Meeting 5/3/1975: Mrs. Phillips advised 3 teams in competition: 1 junior U12; 1 13/16 and 1 over 17. Still needed coaches.

Meeting 2/4/1975: 2 coaches had been obtained and competition to start in May. May field a second team in seniors. Need more lighting for practice at Renown Park.

Meeting 7/5/1975: Mr. Spires advised that Seniors won last Sunday and Juniors play their first match next Sunday.

Meeting 27/5/1975: One of our girls received a deliberate injury and had her spleen removed.

Meeting 4/6/1975: Mrs. Phillips reported that the Juniors had lost their game and the Seniors had won 2 and lost 2. Our injured girl was now O.K. The offender who caused the injury had been suspended for life in Australia, by the Association.

Meeting 2/7/1975: 130 had attended our last social and \$100 was donated to the Club. Seniors, were equal second. Juniors losing but enjoying the game. Possible some juniors may be selected in City Team to play at Wagga Wagga. To purchase another lot of material for uniforms – was anticipated there would be 4 teams in summer competition.

Meeting 6/8/1975: Senior team in Grand Final this Sunday, 10/8/75. 2 Junior players in U12 and one in U14 City sides to play at Wagga Wagga.

Meeting 3/9/1975: Senior Team had won Grand Final 7-4. One senior selected in City team.

Meeting 1/10/1975: 2 Senior and 1 Junior team entered in summer competition being held at Cronulla High School. 150 had attended Social in September and made \$217.58.

Meeting 5/11/1975: Summer competition, senior Team "A" one draw; "B" one win. Junior team 4 wins out of 6 games.

A.G.M. 4/2/1976: Softball Delegate N. Spires.

Meeting 7/4/1976: Delegate now Mrs. Bird.

Meeting 5/5/1976: Juniors won 1 lost 3. 6 x 12yr. girls playing in U16 comp. and were doing well. 4 girls had been selected in the U12 District squad.

Meeting 7/7/1976: 4 games remained for juniors and 6 for seniors. Attempting to organise social games after competition is complete.

Meeting 4/8/1976: Season completed without success – players never once complained.

A.G.M. 2/2/1977: Softball – N. Spires, in abeyance.

Minutes 2/3/1977: 2 teams, U12 mainly from last year and U16 mainly from Penshurst High School. Competition commences early April.

Meeting 6/4/1977: U12 team 10 all draw, U16 defeated.

Meeting 4/5/1977: Mr. Donald reported that Oatley girls were held in high esteem in the Association because of their approach to their sport. Some were refereeing earlier games, and no matter the result of their game were a happy section.

Meeting 6/7/1977: Junior team should make the semi-finals, and the senior team had their first win. 4 girls from Oatley had been selected in Representative teams.

Meeting 3/8/1977: U12 finished second and have a chance of winning their competition.

Meeting 24/8/1977: U12 team defeated in final. 4 Oatley girls had been selected to represent the Association in the State Championships.

A.G.M. 15/2/1978: Softball – N. Spires to purchase more material for uniforms.

Meeting 1/3/1978: 3 teams have been formed and players are still needed for all teams. Teams can now also include 4 boys, 10 years and under.

Meeting 5/4/1978: 3 teams competing U10, U14 and Seniors. No games played to date.

Meeting 3/5/1978: Results favourable: Seniors won 2, lost 2. U14 won 4, U10 won 3 lost 1. One senior player selected for State Championships on 16/6/1978.

Meeting 7/6/1978: Results most satisfactory. Special mention to two Oatley girls Coreena Brooks and Michelle Finn on being outstanding players.

Meeting 5/7/1978: Weather causing problems – teams still going well – Representative teams still to be selected.

Meeting 2/8/1978: 3 teams in semi-finals this weekend. U14 Minor Premiers. TV Tee-Ball finished equal second but relegated on a countback to third.

Meeting 13/9/1978: 3 teams in Grand Final – 2 winners and 1 runner-up. Tee-Ball team beaten in close result with Champion team. Special mention made of efforts of Miss Julie Boxhall and letter of appreciation to be sent to her. On Grand Final Day, East Hills Association made specific favourable comments on presentation and behaviour of Oatley Club, and stated that it was a pleasure to have Oatley participate in its Association.

Meeting 4/10/1978: In recess. Anticipate an additional team next year.
Meeting 1/11/1978: In recess.
Meeting 6/12/1978: In recess - 2 Oatley girls selected in U16 Representative team.
A.G.M. 7/2/1979: Softball open until next meeting.
Meeting 7/3/1979: Competition starts 31/3/79. J. Campbell selected in CHS Representative Team.
Meeting 4/4/1979: 4 teams registered, not 3. First results last weekend. East Hills won zone finals for U16 and Tee-Ball in State finals.
Meeting 2/5/1979: No report.
Meeting 6/6/1979: Request authority to purchase chest pad for Tee-Ball team. All in order.
Meeting 4/7/1979: No report.
Meeting 1/8/1979: U16 team in semi-finals. Problems with senior team. To attend Youth Club meeting and explain.
Meeting 3/10/1979: One team defeated in semi-final. Request for 'all-age' team to play in the Sutherland District summer competition. Approval granted.
Meeting 7/11/1979: In recess – successful picnic day held.
A.G.M. 6/2/1980: Softball Representatives – K. Donald and N. Spires.
Meeting 5/3/1980: Two definite teams for this season – 1 x Tee Ball and U13. Had some problems with our senior team – all girls except 3 pulled out. Looks as though will have to let senior team go elsewhere. Still have until 13/3/80 to register.
Meeting 2/4/1980: Competition starts 12/4/80. Oatley Park has been booked for our picnic day on 14/9/1980.
Meeting 30/4/1980: U13 undefeated. Tee Ball lost matches and were fined for not umpiring.
Meeting 4/6/1980: U13 have now been defeated. Tee-Ball leading at present. East Hills won the Tee-Ball State Championship with one of our girls, Melissa Finn in the team. Umpiring fines were reinstated to Oatley – Association had information wrong.
Meeting 2/7/1980: U13 equal 5th. Tee-Ball still undefeated and 2nd round has commenced.
Meeting 6/8/1980: U13 finished 5th. Tee-Ball are undefeated Minor Premiers. Grand Final on 16/8/1980.
A.G.M. 4/2/1981: Softball – N. Spires and E. Moore. Competition starts 4/4/81. Linda Donald played for New South Wales.
Meeting 4/3/1981: Competition starts 4/4/81. Hope to have three teams. Still trying for senior girls. Have 2 new coaches for U13 team and seniors? Also have U10 Tee-Ball team. There will be some rules changing.
Meeting 1/4/1981: Disbanded senior team - not enough players at registration time. Now 2 teams, U13 and Tee-Ball. Picnic Day to be 20/9/1981 at Oatley Park Oval.
Meeting 6/5/1981: Both teams in A grade this year. Having trouble with girls arriving late for games – note to go to parents.
Meeting 3/6/1981: Tee-Ball undefeated. U13A co-leaders with one defeat.
Meeting 1/7/1981: U13A in second position. Tee-Ball had their first defeat in 18 months – now equal first.

Meeting 16/9/1981: U13 Premiers and Tee-Ball equal Minor Premiers but defeated in Final. Now finished for season. Neil Spires resigning from the softball section due to other commitments.
A.G.M. 10/2/1982: Softball in abeyance.

Unfortunately this section was never re-commenced!!

SWIMMING

OATLEY REVIEW APRIL 1972

Youth Club President's report

SWIMMING: The Oatley RSL Swimming section finished off the season on a very high note by taking out the Inter-Club Shield.

I wish to thank the Chairman, also all the willing parents who helped to make this the most successful season the Swimming section has had so far. Conduct of the boys and girls was first class.

A big 'thank you' and congratulations to Bryan and Joan Moore, Keith Donald, Alan Bennett and Bill Thomas and the wonderful parents who gave up their time to assist. A big 'thank you' to the boys and girls who worked so hard to put their Club into 1st position in the Carnival.

From the 1979 ORSLYC annual report

General

This club is one of five R.S.L. Youth Clubs with permission to use Sydney Technical High School's 25 metre swimming pool at Bexley, from October to March each year. The club takes part in the John Lund Swimming Carnival held at Sans Souci Olympic Pool each year in February, and also in the H. Brown Swimming Shield held between the Youth Clubs using the Sydney Technical High School pool.

Successful swimmers at the John Lund Carnival can be chosen to represent the Southern Metropolitan Districts at the R.S.L. State Carnival.

Learn -to-swim and Squad training will be conducted on Saturdays and Sundays between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm during the season for Youth Club members ages 1 to 21 years. For further details phone Mrs. J. Clow, Mrs. E.Gray, Mrs. J. Ingrey

Activity Report 1979

Once again the Club had a successful season and I would like to thank all the swimmers who represented the Club at the John Lund Carnival where we once again came second to Cronulla and at the H. Brown Carnival which we were successful in winning and also those who made the trip to Campbelltown to represent the Southern Metropolitan District at the R.S.L. State Carnival. We had 134 registrations which was 30 fewer than 1978 and strangely enough the gap being in the 7, 8, and 9 year swimmers, indeed with a few more swimmers from these age groups we would have had little trouble in winning the John Lund Shield.

A special thank you is extended to all the parents who assisted from time to time throughout the season especially to those who hopped in and helped Jan Clow with the learn to swim groups. A number of senior swimmers who have progressed from the Squad Training Groups are now able to lend a hand with the beginners, which is pleasing to see.

Trevor Cartwright continued to give Squad Training for the advanced swimmers and also was the manager of our competitive teams. He also wins the prize for the best stayer under adverse conditions at our washed out picnic day!

With gear to carry, lanes to lay, attendances to record, starting, time keeping, results to record, tents to erect, lamps to light, officials to control and kids to calm, please turn up again because your help is needed and your presence appreciated.

REG WHITE

Report possibly from early 1980s?

The swimming section of Oatley R.S.L. Youth club began Learn to swim classes in 1970, and has continued with voluntary instructors until this year.

We have two paid instructors – Merilyn Hart and Gary Driscoll, both have AustSwim Certificates and have taught Sport and Recreation classes.

Merilyn and Gary have expressed a wish for some helpers for their classes. Suzan Hanna is a parent volunteer helper, offering her services for several years. We need more parent support. The instructions for each group are easy to follow, so bring your swimmers and jump in with your children.

There are currently 39 children registered, comprising 22 families. This section will improve and continue with the support of parents. Each section of the Youth Club is administered by a committee formed of parents of members, with delegates reporting to the monthly meetings of the Youth Club held the first Wednesday of each month, 8.00pm in the Youth Club Hall.

Hire of the pool is \$50.00 per week. There are lane ropes and a kick bar, but we have not been able to find them as yet. We have four stop watches for those interested in having times taken. More kickboards are also needed for the section.

We need more members, word of mouth is the best publicity.

Michelle and Jan Clow
Coordinators



THE H BROWN TROPHY

Swimming carnivals (in southern metropolitan district)

Competing RSL Youth Clubs

Bexley
Hurstville
Kogarah
Mortdale
Oatley

Chronology of awardees 1971 - 1994

year	Club
1971	Hurstville RSL Youth Club
1972	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1973	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1974	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1975	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1976	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1977	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1978	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1979	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1980	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1981	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1982	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1983	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1984	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1985	Bexley RSL Youth Club
1986	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1987	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1988	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1989	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1990	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1991	Kogarah RSL Youth Club
1992	Oatley RSL Youth Club
1993	Kogarah RSL Youth Club
1994	Oatley RSL Youth Club

The H Brown Trophy (left)

OATLEY R.S.L. SWIMMING CLUB

INSTRUCTORS GUIDE

4 Divisions: Tadpole, Frog, Seal and Porpoise.

Procedure: As learners improve they will move up to the next division. For this purpose a progressive record will be kept for each child and instructors must ensure that each exercise is graded every lesson as follows:

- X Unable or unwilling to try
- J Just Able
- F Fair Try
- G Good
- VG Very Good
- ✓ Ready for promotion

Check each child's name and division and at end of lesson the Recorder will enter in respective columns.

When all columns are ticked – move up a division.

Example: TADPOLE

DATE	WET FACE	KICKING	BLOW (Face in Water)	TOW	BUBBLE, BREATH & KICK ON BAR
22.10.77	G	G	J	G	X
29.10.77	VG	VG	G	VG	J
5.11.77	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	JUMP IN (Catch) HEAD UNDER WATER	FLOAT OF BACK & FACE SUPPORTED	PUSH & GLIDE	BUBBLE, BREATH & KICK BOARD TOWED	B.B. & KICK ON BAR (Supported)
12.11.77.	G	X	J	G	VG
19.11.77	VG	J	G	G	VG

EXERCISES

TADPOLE (1st stage)

1. Wet face
 2. Kick on bar (supported)
 3. Blow out with mouth in water
 4. Tow by hands
Encourage to kick and bubble
 5. Bubble and breath and kick on bar (supported)
- NB. These are real beginners, so take it easy and don't push too hard. Gain the child's confidence

FROG (2nd stage)

1. Jump in (catch if necessary)
2. Head right under water
3. Bubble and Breath and Kick on bar (supported)
4. Bubble and Breath and Kick on board (towed)
5. Push and glide (from wall to Instructor, if not able to stand = between 2 instructors)
6. Float on back)
Float on face) ^{Supported}

SEAL (3rd stage)

1. (a) Jump in (b) Dive in.
2. Bubble and breath and kick on bar
a. Concentrate on legs (toes) pointed, knees flexible but fairly straight)
b. Mouth to just clear water with not too much shoulder turn.
3. Bubble and breath and kick on board (unsupported)
4. Push, glide and kick to Instructor (keep increasing distance)
5. Float unsupported (on face and back) Develop backstroke.
6. Free Style to Instructor Emphasis on high arms, bent elbows, breathing and kicking. Keep increasing distance as style improves.

PORPOISE (4th stage) Final

1. Dive in (practise diving)
2. Float and elementary backstroke
3. Breaststroke (elementary)
4. Freestyle (develop style)
5. Tread water in shallow end first, then deep end.
6. Keep increasing freestyle distance by swimming part way up baths and immediately swim back.

ORSLYC Activity chronology

Y = the activity was undertaken in that year; the number under the Y is the number of participants

year	Art classes	Athletics	Ballroom dancing	Baseball	Basketball	Boxing	Cricket	Boys PT (& callisthenics)	Girls physical culture	Boys gymnastics	Girls gymnastics	Gymsports Boys & girls	Judo	Netball (girls)	Rugby League	Self defence	Soccer	Soccer (indoor)	Softball / T ball	Swimming	Tennis	Weightlifting	Youth Group	Total members
1957	x	Y	x	x	x	Y	x	Y	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	100
1958	x	Y	x	x	x	Y	x	Y	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	100
1959	x	?	x	x	x	Y	x	Y	x	?	x	x	x	x	Y	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
1960	x	?	x	x	x	Y	Y	Y 70	x	?	x	x	x	x	Y	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
1961	x	Y	x	x	x	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	x	x	x	x	Y	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	
1962	x	x	x	x	x	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	x	x	x	x	Y	x	x	x	x	Y RSL carni val	x	x	x	
1963	x	x	x	Y	x?	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	x	x	x	Y	Y	x	x	x	x	x?	x	x	x	316
1964	x	x	x	Y	x	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	x	x	x	Y	Y	x	x	x	x	x ?	x	x	x	> 300
1965	x	x	x	x	x	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	x	x	x	Y	Y	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x?	
1966	x	Y	x	x	x	Y	Y	Y	Y	x?	x	x	x	Y	Y	x	x	x	x	Y carni val	x	x	'You nger Set'	
1967	x	Y	Y 40	x	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	x	x	x	x	Y	Y	x	x	x	x	Y carni val	x	x	'You nger Set'	
1968	x	Y	Y 60	x	Y	Y	x	Y	Y 100	x	x	x	x	Y	Y	x	x	x	x	Y carni val	x	x	'You nger Set'	
1969	x	Y	Y		Y ?	Y	Y	Y +wei ghts	Y ?	x	x	x	x	Y	Y	x	x	x	x	Y Too late	x	X?	?	
1970		Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y					Y 10 teams	Y 10 team		x			Y carni val		Y		

year	Art classes	Athletics	Ballroom dancing	Baseball	Basketball	Boxing	Cricket	Boys PT (& callisthenics)	Girls physical culture	Boys gymnastics	Girls gymnastics	Gymsports Boys & girls	Judo	Netball (girls)	Rugby League	Self defence	Soccer	Soccer (indoor)	Softball / T ball	Swimming	Tennis	Weightlifting	Youth Group	Total members
1971			Y			Y	Y						Y Ju jitsu?		Y		x		x	Y		Y		
1972	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	Y 108	Y		x		x	Y		Y		
1973			Y			Y									Y		x		Y 20	Y		Y		
1974			Y												Y		x		Y 20	Y		x		
1975	Y 9		Y 74			Y 12	Y 72	Y 66	Y 141		Y		Y 30	Y 126	Y 104		x		Y 30	Y 126		x		539
1976			Y								Y				x		Y		Y 20	Y		x		450
1977										Y acro batic	Y				x		Y		Y 20	Y		x		
1978		Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y acro batic	Y		Y	Y	x		Y		Y 30	Y		x		937
1979	x	Y	Y 35		x	x	Y 45	Y 70	Y	Y	Y 85			Y 120	x		Y 250		Y 40	Y	x	x	Y	901
1980			Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	x		Y		Y 20	Y		x	Y	890
1981										Y	Y				x		Y		Y 20	Y		x		972
1982										Y	Y				x		Y		x	Y		x		893
1983										Y	Y				x		Y		x	Y		x		
1984								Y 80	Y 70	Y	Y 80	?	Y	Y 210	x		Y 250	Y	x	Y 131	Y 80	x		792
1985						Y 40		Y 40	Y 70	Y	Y 56		Y 50	Y 182	x		Y 220	Y 50	x	Y 124	Y 40	x		872
1986						Y 50			Y 34	Y 49	Y 100		Y 24	Y 186	x		Y 210		x	Y 115		x		768
1987						Y 15			Y 42	Y 75	Y 155		Y 26	Y 160	x		Y 265		x	Y 120		x		858

year	Art classes	Athletics	Ballroom dancing	Baseball	Basketball	Boxing	Cricket	Boys PT (& callisthenics)	Girls physical culture	Boys gymnastics	Girls gymnastics	Gymsports Boys & girls	Judo	Netball (girls)	Rugby League	Self defence	Soccer	Soccer (indoor)	Softball / T ball	Swimming	Tennis	Weightlifting	Youth Group	Total members
1988									Y 48	Y 80?	Y 150		Y 30	Y 185	x		Y 214		x	Y 110		x		817?
1989									Y 45	Y 100	Y 100		Y 29	Y 180	x		Y 289		x	Y 104		x		847
1990					Y 30				Y 51	Y 88	Y 118		Y 20	Y 198	x		Y 235		x	Y 134		x		874
1991					Y 53				Y 53	Y 86	Y 116		Y 8	Y 191	x		Y 257		x	Y 47		x		811
1992					Y 24				Y 43	Y 75	Y 145			Y 188	x	Y 14	Y 292		x	Y 107?		x		888
1993					Y 15				Y 25	Y 101	Y 175			Y 160	x		Y 283		x	Y 43		x		802
1994					Y 10					Y 110	Y 200			Y 160	x		Y 260		x	Y 40		x		780
1995										Y Y					x		Y Y		x			x		
1996					Y 14					Y 198	Y 245			Y 194	x		Y 350		x	Y 30		x		1031
1997					Y 18					Y 198	Y 245			Y 200	x		Y 382		x	Y 24		x		1067
1998					Y 24					Y 178	Y 230			Y 175	x		Y 350		x			x		957
1999										Y 160	Y 250			Y 170	x		Y 350		x			x		930
2000										Y 150	Y 270			Y 170	x		Y 360		x			x		950
2001			x							Y 100	Y 270			Y 170	x		Y 360		x			x		900
2002			x		Y?							Y 320		Y 160	x		Y 380		x			x		830
2003			x									Y 380		Y 150	x		Y 490		x			x		1020

year	Art classes	Athletics	Ballroom dancing	Baseball	Basketball	Boxing	Cricket	Boys PT (& callisthenics)	Girls physical culture	Boys gymnastics	Girls gymnastics	Gymsports Boys & girls	Judo	Netball (girls)	Rugby League	Self defence	Soccer	Soccer (indoor)	Softball / T ball	Swimming	Tennis	Weightlifting	Youth Group	Total members
2004			x									Y 380		Y 150	x		Y 490		x			x		1020
2005			x									Y 370		Y 145	x		Y 548		x			x		1063
2006			x									Y 340		Y 157	x		Y 650		x			x		1147
2007			x									Y 352		Y 140	x		Y 660		x			x		1154

**OATLEY RSL YOUTH CLUB INC.
OFFICE BEARERS BY YEAR**

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Vice President	Minutes Secretary	Committee
1957	Jack Fisher	Lloyd Fleet	Fred Leate			
1958	Jack Fisher	Lloyd Fleet	Fred Leate	G. Sparkes		S. Jackson, R. Pethybridge, A. Brittain, W. Craven, A. Bambury, L. Vincent, P. Palmer, J. Coogan, J. Derwent
1959	Jack Fisher	Lloyd Fleet	Fred Leate			G. Baxter, C. Bemrose, A. Cockle, W. Craven, P. Drake, J. Derwent, S. Jackson, P. Palmer, R. Petty, J. Retallack
1960	Jack Fisher	Pat Palmer	Fred Leate			C. Bemrose, A. Cockle, J. Derwent, E. Hector, C. Jamieson, P. Palmer, R. Petty, J. Retallack
1961	Jack Fisher	Pat Palmer	Fred Leate	Q. Sparks, J. Anderson		N. Trainer, G. Fisher, L. Napier, W. Craven, W. Malcolm, C. Bemrose, J. Retallack, K. Christie, L. Green, R. Lawless, D. Fleming
1962	G. Sparkes	Pat Palmer	A. Leonard	J. Fisher E. Heaton		B. Fisher, C. Bemrose, D. Fleming, R. Lawless, A. Anderson, B. Hulbert, Mrs. Dowman, Mrs. Nash,
1963	George Sparkes	Pat Palmer	A. Leonard	J. Fisher E. Heaton		B. Fisher, C. Bemrose, D. Fleming, R. Lawless, A. Anderson, B. Hulbert, Mrs. Dowman, Mrs. Nash
1964	George Sparkes	Pat Palmer	A. Leonard	J. Fisher E. Heaton		B. Fisher, W. Sandwith, Mrs. Dowman, Mrs. Nash, J. Retallack, V. Becker, K. Christie, R. Lawless, A. Anderson, J. Barry, D. Morris, Mrs. Christie, K. Cockle (Mrs.), J. Loveridge, L. Downey (Mrs), P. Brierley (Mrs)
1965	Eric Heaton	Pat Palmer	Hartley Miller	U. Sparks J. Retallack	B. Fisher	B. Fisher, W. Sandwith, J. Becker, J. Klinker, Mrs. Dowman, Mrs. Nash, G. Anderson, J. Loveridge, L. Downey, P. Brierley (Mrs), J. Palmer (Mrs), K. Brierley
1966	Pat Palmer	Doug Dalglish	Hartley Miller	J. Retallack J. Colbert		E. Heaton, W. Sandwith, J. Downman (Mrs), N. Nash (Mrs), J. Klinker, L. Downey (Mrs), J. Palmer (Mrs), W. Horsington, L. Coghlan, J. Lloyd, K. Brierley, C. Chapman
1967	Pat Palmer	J. Colbert	Mike Kefford	J. Retallack C. Chapman		F. Heaton, R. Sandwith, Mrs. Nash, J. Whiteley, C. Jamieson, Mrs. Downey, B. Palmer (Miss), J. Kowald, K. Bloor, L. Coghlan, J. Lloyd, I. Duncan, O. Lewis, D. Morris, V. Becker, Mrs. Becker
1968	Pat Palmer	J. Colbert	Mike Kefford	J. Retallack C. Chapman		E. Heaton, L. Roper, Mrs. Nash, Mrs. Downey, B. Palmer (Miss), L. Coghlan, J. Lloyd, Mrs. Becker, O. Lewis, A. Smith, Mrs. Hofman, B. Scully, W. Dowling
1969	Pat Palmer	J. Colbert	Mike Kefford	J. Retallack C. Chapman	K. Duncan	C. Chapman, E. Heaton, Mrs. Eltoft, R. Nash (Miss), Mrs. Downey, K. Duncan (Miss), L. Coghlan, J. Lloyd, B. Morris, C. Farrant, Mrs. Backer, O. Lewis, W. Dowling, L. Noyes
1970	Jack Retallack	J. Colbert	Ross Arthur	W. Dowling J. Lloyd	Mrs. Eltoft	C. C. Chapman, J. Mason, Mrs. Tucker, K. Duncan (Miss), Mrs. Lloyd, K. Duncan, L. Inkpen, N. Gannon, J. Overton, R. Williamson, G. Farrant, Mrs. Becker, J. Colbert, M. Kefford
1971	K. Dowling	Jack Lloyd	Ross Arthur	J. Retallack J. Colbert	M. Eltoft (Mrs)	J. Mason, C. Chapman, J. Tucker (Mrs), M. Eltoft (Mrs), D. Lloyd (Mrs), S. Jameson (Miss), L. Inkpen, P. Plunkett, J. Overton, R. Williamson, G. Farrant, M. Dowling (Mrs), A. Gorman, Mrs. Gorman, B. Moore, M. Kefford, J. Thistlewaite, J. Retallack, R. Culver, A. Horsnell, J. Overton, R. Williamson
1972	K. Dowling	Jack Lloyd	Ross Arthur	J. Retallack J. Colbert	M. Eltoft (Mrs)	J. Mason, C. Chapman, M. Eltoft (Mrs), D. Brierley, D. Lloyd (Mrs), J. Moore (Mrs), J. Thistlewaite, J. Overton, R. Williamson, R. Culver, G. Farrant, M. Dowling (Mrs), A. Gorman, Mrs. Gorman, B. Moore, K. Donald, J. Millar

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Vice President	Minutes Secretary	Committee
1973	W. Dowling	J. Lloyd	M. Eltoft (Mrs)	G. Henrys H. Hollis	J. Bertuck	J. Mason, C. Chapman, E. Northcott, D. Brierley, D. Lloyd, J. Moore, M. Boudib, T. Bleakley, J. Overton, R. Williamson, C. Robotham, N. Spires, G. Farrant, P. O'Shea, J. Bartuck, A. Gorman, Mrs. Gorman, B. Moore, K. Donald, W. Feiss, J. Millar
1974	W. Dowling	Jack Lloyd	Mollie Eltoft	C. Henrys J. Overton	B. Moore	J. Mason, E. Northcott (Mrs), J. Williamson (Mrs), D. Lloyd (Mrs), J. Moore (Mrs), M. Boudib, N. Hobbs (Mrs), C. Robotham, N. Spires, C. Farrant, P. O'Shea (Mrs), B. Moore, K. Donald, R. Williamson, W. Quaglio
1975	W. Dowling	Jack Lloyd	Malcolm Ferguson	O. Henrys J. Overton		E. Northcott (Mrs), J. Mason, R. Griffen, E. Northcott (Mrs.), J. Williamson (Mrs), J. Moore (Mrs), A. Kubacki (Mrs), R. Papworth (Mrs), N. Spires, C. Robotham, O. Farrant, G. O'Shea, B. Moore, K. Donald, N. Spires, R. Williamson, L. Dyer, P. Phillips (Mrs), D. Dykes (Mrs)
1976	W. Dowling	Jack Lloyd	Malcolm Ferguson	B. Moore E. Northcott (Mrs)		E. Northcott (Mrs), J. Mason, R. Griffen, J. Williamson (Mrs), J. Moore (Mrs), R. Papworth (Mrs), N. Spires, C. Robotham, R. Dines, F. Stewart, G. Farrant, C. Beevors (Miss), B. Moore, K. Donald, J. Millar, A. Bird (Mrs)
1977	Jim Mason	Jack Lloyd	Malcolm Ferguson	E. Northcott (Mrs) J. Keen		K. Donald, B. Finn, N. Spires, J. Moore (Mrs), R. Papworth (Mrs), J. Thornthwaite (Mrs) N. Welton, P. Moore, E. Northcott (Mrs), J. Williamson (Mrs), J. Reiser (Mrs), K. Drake, Mrs. Stadtmiller, L. Smith (Mrs), R. Dines, B. Finn, P. Reeman (Mrs), N. Campbell, G. Farrant, C. Beevors (Miss), D. Wrighter, B. Moore, K. Donald, N. Spires, A. Griffen, R. Dunn
1978	Jim Mason	Adrian Willigers	Ross Scott	K. Donald, J. Keen		R. Papworth (Mrs) J. Williamson (Mrs), K. Donald, D. Wrighter, P. Moore, Miss. J. Boxall, R. Northcott, G. Jones, Mrs. J. Thornthwaite, J. Keen, R. White, J. Mason, Mrs. E. Northcott, Mrs. P. Bevan, Mrs. J. Clow, R. Dines, M. Campbell, Mrs. P. Reeman, G. Farrant, Miss C. Beevors, N. Spires, K. Stuart, Mrs. Bayliss, R. White, R. Tollis, Mrs. J. Reiser, Mrs. J. Ingrey
1979	John Keen	Adrian Willigers	Ross Scott	K. Donald, N. Spires		Mrs. P. Bevan, Mrs. R. Papworth, B. Gray, Mrs. J. Williamson, R. Northcott, Mrs. E. Northcott, Mrs. J. Clow, B. Gray, G. Farrant, N. Spires, G. Burns, J. Gidney, Mrs. S. Keen, R. White, Mrs. J. Reiser, Mrs. J. Ingrey
1980	John Keen	Adrian Willigers	Barry Gray	K. Donald, N. Spires	Rayma Papworth	Mrs. R. Papworth, K. Donald, Miss. J. Boxall, S. Smith, Mrs. S. Keen, Mrs. J. Williamson, Mrs. P. Bevan, Mrs. J. Clow, J. Gidney, G. Farrant, N. Spires, R. White, Mrs. M. Olsen, K. Donald, Mrs. J. Ingrey
1981	John Keen	Adrian Willigers	Barry Gray	N. Spires, Mrs. J. Ingrey	Rayma Papworth	Mrs. R. Papworth, K. Donald., Mrs. C. Bailey, Mrs. S. Keen, Mrs. P. Bevan, Mrs. D. Lloyd, Mrs. J. Clow, J. Gidney N. Spires, Mrs. M. Olsen, E. Moore, Mrs. J. Ingrey
1982	Neil Spires	Mark Howell	Barry Gray	J. Keen Mrs. J. Ingrey	Rayma Papworth	Mrs. R. Papworth, Mrs. J. Ingrey, R. Northcott, Mrs. C. Bailey, Mrs. S. Keen, Mrs. P. Bevan, Mrs. D. Lloyd, Mrs. J. Clow, Jim Bates, N. Spires, G. Clift, Mrs. M. Olsen, Bev Kennedy,
1983	Neil Spires / M. Olsen 1.6.83	Mark Howell	Barry Gray	Mrs. P. Bevan Mrs. M. Olsen	Rayma Papworth	Mesdames J. Ingrey, C. Bailey, B. Kennedy, S. Keen, I. Lindwall, A. Walker, R. Papworth, M. Olsen, Jenny Campbell, J. Hartley, N. Spires,
1984	Margret Olsen	Bruce Saunders	Barry Gray	P. Bevan (Mrs) N. Cawdell-Smith (Mrs)	Rayma Papworth	Mesdames J. Ingrey, B. Kennedy, Freestone, Howell, Lupton, R. Papworth (Mrs), N. Cawdell-Smith (Mrs), P. Bevan (Mrs), C. Ford, B. Saunders, J. Cook, R. Freestone, W. Cawdell-Smith,
1985	Michael Round (from 6.5.85)	Bruce Saunders	Graeme Murphy	P. Bevan (Mrs)	Rayma Papworth	Mesdames M. Olsen, B. Kennedy, C. Jones, T. Koffel, Messrs. A. Clow, D. Logan, R. Papworth (Mrs), C. Bailey (Mrs), P. Bevan (Mrs),

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Vice President	Minutes Secretary	Committee
1987	Bruce Saunders	Pam Bevan	Jean South	G. Murphy	Rayma Papworth	R. Papworth (Mrs), B. Saunders, P. Bevan (Mrs), G. Murphy, J. South, L. Edmonds, M. Owens, J. Saunders, P. Frederick, L. Chinnery, M. Lynnelee
1988	Graeme Murphy	Pam Bevan	Barry Gray (acting 3/88)	B. Saunders	Rayma Papworth	G. Murphy, P. Bevan (Mrs), B. Gray, B. Saunders, R. Ellis, P. Frederick, M. Owens, J. Saunders, L. Pennacchio,
1989	Sue Collins	Robyn Ellis	Beverley Ellis		Margaret Owens	R. Ellis, P. Bevan (Mrs), M. Owens, B. Ellis, S. Collins, G. Murphy, Graeme Stewart, Lee Flanagan
1990	Susan Collins	Robyn Ellis	Beverley Ellis		Margaret Owens	
1991	David Reid	Robyn Ellis	Beverley Ellis			
1992	David Reid	Robyn Ellis	Beverley Ellis	Peter Collins Rayma Papworth	Margaret Owens	David Reid, Robyn Ellis, Beverley Ellis, Peter Collins, Rayma Papworth, Graeme Stewart, Peter Hoycard, Michelle Clow
1993	David Reid	Robyn Ellis	Beverley Ellis			David Reid, Robyn Ellis, Beverley Ellis,
1994	David Reid	David Olshen	Beverley Ellis	Peter Collins Pam Bevan	Pam Collins	David Reid, David Olshen, Beverley Ellis, Peter Collins, Pam Bevan, Peter Hoycard, Jennifer Robinson, Graeme Stewart, Sue Potter, Brendan Bell
1995	Peter Collins	David Olshen	Geoff Linklater			Peter Collins, David Olshen, Geoff Linklater
1996	Peter Collins	Leanne Ferguson	Geoff Linklater	Rayma Papworth David Reid	Pam Collins	Peter Collins, Leanne Ferguson, Geoff Linklater, Rayma Papworth, David Reid, Pam Collins
1997	Peter Collins	Leanne Ferguson	Geoff Linklater	Rayma Papworth David Reid	Sherryn Thompson	Sheryn Thompson, Pamela Collins, Patricia Goh, Karen Booth, Bev Williams, Jackie Gainsford
1998	Peter Collins	Leanne Ferguson	Kieran Lynch	Rayma Papworth David Reid	Pam Collins	Bev Williams, Jenny Larkin, Kathy Milgate, Judy Frost, Michael Smith,
1999	Peter Collins	Leanne Ferguson	Kieran Lynch	Rayma Papworth Janelle Bulmer	Pam Collins	Bev Williams, Kathryn Milgate, Jenny Larkin, Judy Frost, Michael Smith, Geoff Linklater, Colleen Rolleston, Brendan Bell, Ruth Gooch,
2000	Peter Collins	Peter Fitzpatrick	Kieran Lynch	Rayma Papworth Tina Graham	Pam Collins & Tina Graham	Bev Williams, Michael Smith, Pam Collins, Sue Liu, Peter Collins
2001	Craig Bulmer	Peter Fitzpatrick	Peter Svikis	Peter Collins Kim Wagstaff	Kathryn Davis	Pam Collins, Sue Liu, Janelle Bulmer, Leonie Pacini, Lyn Diblasi, Rayma Papworth, Brett Johnson, Tina Graham
2002	Craig Bulmer	Peter Fitzpatrick	Peter Svikis	Kim Wagstaff		Susan Liu, Janelle Bulmer, Tina Graham, Vicki Phillips, Michael Smith, Geoff Linklater
2003	Kim Wagstaff	Peter Fitzpatrick	Geoff Ingram	Terri Gorman		Sue Bemrose, Maggie Brimicombe, Leigh Collins, Jennifer Fell, Tina Graham, Neil Hunter, Geoff Linklater, Sue Liu, Janelle Bulmer
2004	Kim Wagstaff	Peter Fitzpatrick	Geoff Ingram	Janelle Bulmer	Terri Gorman	Leigh Collins, Sue Liu, Tina Graham, Geoff Linklater, Neil Hunter, Cathy Mercer, Maggie Brimicombe, Rayma Papworth,
2005	Kim Wagstaff	Sarah Taylor	Ha Thanh Brard		Jacqueline Pearson & Wendy Wright	P. Bevan, S. Liu, C. Mercer, T. Graham. G. Linklater
2006	Kim Wagstaff	Sarah Taylor	Ha Thanh Brard	Pam Bevan	Jacqueline Pearson & Wendy Wright	Tina Graham, Geoff Linklater, Sui Liu, Cathy Mercer, Rayma Papworth, Lyn Johnston
2007	Kim Wagstaff	Tina Graham	Ha Thanh Brard	Pam Bevan	Jacqueline Pearson & Wendy Wright	Geoff Linklater, Sue Liu, Cathy Mercer, Rayma Papworth, Lyn Johnston, Tina Graham

MAJOR TROPHY WINNERS BY YEAR

YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Derwent Trophy A wooden shield with silver banner at the top naming it 'Derwent Youth of the Year Trophy' (on the top of the silver central shield is inscribed 'Donated by Oatley RSL Youth Club for Annual Competition' and at the bottom of the silver central shield it says "In appreciation of Service rendered to the Youth Club by the Derwent Family')

Chronology of awardees (taken from trophy)

year	Male	Female
1965	Colin Jameson	Gail Dendle
1966	Chas Bemrose Jnr	Barbara Palmer
1967	S Colbert	B Palmer
1968	G Lloyd	D. Brierley
1969	C Larkin	K Duncan
1970	C Larkin	K Duncan
1971	P Moore	T Brierley
1972	P Moore	A Eltoft
1973	G Vodicar	M Henrys
1974	G Ferguson	S Spruce
1975	P Moore	E Page
1976	P Moore	G White
1977	D Wrighter	J Moore
1978	S Smith	J Boxall
1979	S Smith	S Moore
1980	M Donald	L Spires
1981	Name shield missing	Lisa Williamson
1982	David Olsen	Eleanor Lind
1983	Bradley Dines	Narelle White
1984	John Mitchell	Cheryl Jones
1985	Peter Henderson	Robyn Ellis

YOUTH OF THE YEAR (New trophy)

Chronology of awardees (taken from trophy)

year	Male	Female
1986	Peter Henderson	Karen Bevan
1987	M Gray	J Briggs
1988	B Bevan	K Sellick
1989	D Bowrey	K Sellick
1990	G Ryan	K Sellick
1991	R Clow	M Clow
1992	C Huddleston	R Ellis
1993	I Lawrence	C Thornborough
1994	Waite Derwent	Jenny Lawrence
1995	Ben Effeney	Elizabeth Moodey
1996	No name on shield	Nicole Graham
1997	Christopher Hoycard	Nicole Graham
1998	Leigh Collins	Kristy Robinson
1999	L Collins	R Whatman
2000	No shield	No shield
2001	M Liu	A Robson
2002	No shield	Amanda Williams
2003	Mitchell Robinson	Chelsea Brimicombe
2004	Jeremy Yuen	Karen Frost
2005	Kieran Liu	Samantha Wagstaff
2006	No shield	Lisa Maree Gainsford
2007	No shield	Lisa Maree Gainsford

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

For Annual Competition for General Youth Club Interest

Chronology of awardees taken from trophy

year	Male	Female
1968	Chris Larkin	Kathy Duncan
1969	M Rayment	D Brierley
1970	M Fenwick	N Percival
1971	G O'Shea	A Eltoft
1972	T Lloyd	J Hitchcock
1973	J Ockwell	E Page

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY (continued)

year	Male	Female
1974	D Wrighter	E Page
1975	G Johnston	M Lloyd
1976	D Wrighter	M Lloyd
1977	S Smith	E McLeod
1978	D Wrighter	E McLeod
1979	M Donald	L Donald
1980	S Langworthy	L Donald
1981	Peter Grimshaw	Eleanor Lind
1982	Peter Grimshaw	Narelle White
1983	Anthony Clow	Robyn Ellis
1984	Matthew Beattie	Julie Harlow
1985	Phillip Tonks	Karen Bevan
1986	Phillip Tonks	Cheryl Jones
1987	B. Smith	R. Thieson
1988	B. Jones	R. Ellis
1989	T. Cook	K. Robinson
1990	D. Bowrey	K. Paton
1991	No name on shield	R Ellis
1992	J. Parratino	J. Lawrence
1993	J. Parratino	M. Clow
1994	No shield	Kathryn Robinson
1995	No shield	Jenny Lawrence
1996	No shield	Elizabeth Moodey
1997	Kevin Buckley	No shield
1998	No shield	Nicole Graham
1999	Liam Buckley	No shield
2000	No shield	No shield
2001	No shield	Amanda Williams
2002	No shield	Kylie Rixon
2003	Matthew Linklater	Karen Frost
2004	Tim Linklater	Amanda Williams
2005	Shane Cameron	Lisa Maree Gainsford
2006	Andrew Wong	Tracey Crawford
2007		Jessica Bridge

LEN REYNOLDS MHR TROPHIES

Chronology of awardees (taken from trophies)

Year	Senior Trophy	Junior trophy
1965	Chas Bemrose Jnr.	
1966	Barbara Palmer	
1967	Robyn Nash	
1968	Colin Jameson	
1969	Helen Colbert	
1970	Kevin Dowling	
1971	Paul O'Connell	
1972	Deborah Sullivan	
1973	Neryl Robotham	
1974	Maria Lloyd	
1975	Susan Spruce	
1976	Jennifer Moore	
1977	Julie Boxhall	
1978	Susan Moore	
1979	Linda Spires	
1980	Sarah Keen	
1981	David Olsen	
1982	Matthew Beattie	
1983	John Mitchell	
1984	Karynne Lindwall	
1985	Sheryn Ellis	
1986	Jane Lindwall	
1987	J Henderson	K Robinson
1988	R Mossie & D Bowrey	K Wingrove
1989	S Macedon	No name
1990	M Clow	M Bevan
1991	E Moodey	C Thornborough
1992	N Graham	C Wright
1993	N Graham	No name
1994	Sheryn Thompson	B Effeney
1995	Shari Hawkins	No name
1996	No name	K Robinson

Year	Senior Trophy	Junior trophy
1997	Kristy Robinson	No name
1998	Alison Lee	Amy Robson
1999	Helen Komninos,	Renee Graham
2000	Kylie Rixon	No name
2001	Michael Bemrose	Kieran Smith
2002	Julie Gapps	No name
2003	Peter Markovski	Matthew Ethell
2004	Mitchell Robinson	Lisa-Maree Gainsford
2005	Tracey Crawford	Mandy Gapps

**D. D. CROSS M.L.A. TROPHY
Leadership
For Annual Competition**

Chronology of awardees taken from trophy

year	Name
1966	K Duncan
1967	Kerry Yates
1968	Helen Colbert
1969	G McIntosh
1970	R Klinker
1971	D Brierley
1972	J Ockwell
1973	M Basquil
1974	P Moore
1975	G Ferguson
1976	M Jones
1977	P Moore
1978	J Campbell
1979	J Boxhall
1980	K Ritchie
1981	Brian Bevan
1982	John Mitchell
1983	Julie Harlow

JONES AND BEEVORS TROPHIES

Chronology of awardees taken from trophy

Year	Senior Trophy	Junior trophy
1984	Karen Bevan	
1985	Michelle Edwards	
1986	Jim Kent	
1987	K. Sellick	
1988	B. Cotton, K. Paton	
1989	A. Fredrick, R. Mossie	
1990	J. Bosco	Adam Saunders
1991	M. Owens	Emma Murphy
1992	N. Cawdell-Smith	Jane Howell
1993	E. Moodey	no name
1994	Leonie Rice	no name
1995	Nicole Heaton	no name
1996	Kim Samuel	no name
1997	Leigh Collins	no name
1998	Rachel Whatman	no name
1999	Amy Robson	Rebecca Johnson
2000	no name	no name
2001	Julie Gapps	Chelsea Brimicombe
2002	Karen Frost	Samantha Wagstaff
2003	Jeremy Yuen	Keiran Liu
2004	Adrienne Scott	Sophia Viglione
2005	Laura Tarran	Jessica Bridge
2006	Lauren Ainsworth	Josh Linklater
2007	Kristy Baihn	

RUSSELL CLOW MEMORIAL TROPHY

The wording on the trophy is as follows:

"Russell Clow became a member of our Youth Club in 1976, at the age of 7 years, as a foundation soccer member. He played in soccer teams for several years and also became interested in the swimming section where he participated for 15 years before he began coaching in this section. Russell gave his time and effort back to the Youth Club from where he had received so much enjoyment as a lad. Russell passed away in September 1993 at the age of 24 years from melanoma. To perpetuate his memory and certainly his Youth Club spirit this trophy is awarded to the youth chosen and may they return to the Youth Club the spirit, pride and honour that Russell so nobly did."

Chronology of awardees taken from the trophy

1994	Michelle Clow
1995	Sheryn Thompson
1996	Carlene Smee
1997	Amy Robson
1998	Renee Graham
1999	Samantha Rixon
2000	no plate on trophy
2001	Kylie Rixon
2002	Chelsea Brimicombe
2003	Daniel Markovski
2004	Cara Reece
2005	Ayden Murrell

ATHERTON TATE TROPHY**Sportsperson of the Year**

Year	Senior Trophy
1966	A Sullivan - Boxing
1967	J Stuart – Football
1968	R Nash – Basketball
1969	G Dean – Boxing
1970	S Leonard – Boxing
1971	W Williamson - Football
1972	T Robotham - Weightlifting
1973	S Williamson – Cricket
1974	J Jackson - Cricket
1975	G White - Swimming
1976	M McDonald - Netball
1977	B Thornthwaite - Soccer
1978	D Cartwright - Swimming
1979	J Campbell - Softball
1980	M Finn – Softball
1981	Paul Stepto - Cricket
1982	Sharon Finnan - Netball
1983	C Walker - Swimming
1984	Jeanette Macintosh
1985	Sharon Finnan - Netball
1986	Sharon Finnan - Netball
1987	Sharon Finnan - Netball
1988	Not awarded
1989	Karynne Lindwall
1990	N Graham - Gymnastics
1991	N Graham –Gymnastics
1992	N Graham –Gymnastics
1993	N Graham – Gymnastics

ATHERTON TATE TROPHIES**Sportsperson of the Year**

In 1994 a Junior trophy was introduced

Year	Senior Trophy	Junior trophy
1994	Julie Allen - Gymnastics	Simone Francis- Gymnastics
1995	Nicole Graham - Gymnastics	Simone Francis - Gymnastics
1996	Nicole Graham - Gymnastics	Simone Francis- Gymnastics
1997	Simone Francis- Gymnastics	Brett Gainsford- Gymnastics
1998	Hayley Gibson - Netball	Tori McGuigan- Gymnastics
1999	Kristy Robinson- Gymnastics	Kate McDonald
2000	Not awarded	Not awarded
2001	Not awarded	Not awarded
2002	Jeremy Yuen- Gymnastics	Howard Chan- Gymnastics
2003	Jennifer Pekar- Gymnastics	Howard Chan- Gymnastics
2004	Samantha Wagstaff- Gymnastics	Kieran Liu- Gymnastics
2005	Samuel McNamara- Gymnastics	Daniel Tam- Gymnastics
2006	Samantha Wagstaff- Gymnastics	Howard Chan- Gymnastics

