

<i>Month & Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written & Spoken Presenters</i>
May 1996	The Meeting Places in Oatley School of Arts Methodist Church Masonic Hall As seen through the eyes of a child Oatley Amateur Swimming Club	Russell Gibbs Jim Nicholson Bill Stewart Alec Leach Ray Stevens George Kendall

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MEETING PLACES OF OATLEY

CONTRIBUTOR: ALEC LEACH

AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

THE SCHOOL OF ARTS

A concert organised by my parents during the war years was one of my earliest memories of The School of Arts. Rather than go into detail now I have prepared a paper for "Oatley In The War Years". I would have been about seven years old at the time, yet I will never forget spending a wonderful evening singing some old time favourite songs and being able to obtain some hard to get chewing gum which was given out as prizes.

When I eventually reached the magical age of eight I was able to join the 1st Oatley Cub Pack. We met in The School Of Arts on a Monday night with Mrs Walters as our Akela. Tunnel Ball seemed to be one of the favourite games played. This would have been in 1945.

I only ever went into the now Band Hall a couple of times, it was then a Billiard Room and kids didn't go in there. Mr. Anderson (Jack) was either the Caretaker or the unofficial Caretaker of the Billiard Room. He sustained leg injuries in the Hurstville Train disaster in 1924.

THE METHODIST HALL

I was brought up as Church Of England, hence the call to attend the Methodist Church was nil. This altered dramatically when at about the age of five I was seconded into a play that was to be held in The Methodist Hall. It had something to do with The Three Little Pigs- I was one of the Pigs. Rehearsals had all gone to plan without costumes. The grand opening night came, someone shoved a paper mache pigs mask on my head and pushed me on the stage. I stumbled around not seeing a thing through the mask, there was one way to go and that was out. Do you think they could get me back on stage? Mrs. Cole organised the concert. These memories seem as though it was only yesterday.

THE MASONIC HALL

I think for a child to go to a social outing in a hall, the highlight of that outing was to be able to run and slide up and down the hall. It was always mine and at appropriate times throughout an evenings social we kids used to have this type of fun. As Dad was a member of the Lodge, it seemed to be a regular occurrence that we would be allowed into the hallowed hall to have our fun. I couldn't see how the parents were having fun standing together shuffling around the

hall to Mrs Tayler and her trios band when they could have been having a better time sliding up and down on the polished floor boards.

Christmas time, Santa would always make an early visit to the hall. We would come away with an appropriate present and a very satisfied stomach.

In my teenage years I was invited to Judith Kendall's (Stevenson) twenty first birthday at the hall. The nerve wracking part was that I was asked to play my Piano Accordion. Until I had made my appearance I did not enjoy myself one bit, this altered soon as the ordeal was over, then I had a slide up and down the hall.

Alas, that was the last time I have entered the hall socially, however I am pleased to say the members of the Lodge have taken my mother under their wing and include her in their social evenings. I always get a detailed report of these outings, Fancy Dress nights, Mad Hatters nights etc. but never any mention of them getting up and sliding up and down the hall.

THE OATLEY SCHOOL OF ARTS

By Russell Gibbs.

AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT OF THE OATELY SCHOOL OF ARTS, PERHAPS WE MAY FOR A MOMENT DWELL ON THE EARLIEST OF SETTLERS IN THE DISTRICT - THE KOORIS - AND IN PARTICULAR, THE GWIYAGEL PEOPLE. THESE GWIYAGEL PEOPLE LIVED ON WHAT LATER BECAME THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF SYDNEY, AND THEIR AREA STRETCHED FROM NORTH TO SOUTH BETWEEN THE COOKS RIVER AND THE GEORGES RIVER, AND FROM EAST TO WEST FROM THE BANKS OF BOTANY BAY TO ALMOST LIVERPOOL.

THE AREA THEREFORE THAT THESE PEOPLE OCCUPIED WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE WHICH HAD MUCH TO OFFER, AS THEY HAD AN ABUNDANCE OF FOOD EITHER FROM THE RIVERS AND ALSO FROM THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY SIDE. THERE IS MUCH EVIDENCE OF MIDDENS AND CAVE DWELLINGS ALONG THE BANKS OF THE GEORGES RIVER, AND IT WOULD APPEAR THAT OATLEY POINT AND THE SURROUNDING AREA WAS ONCE REGARDED AS A GATHERING AND FEASTING AREA. THIS THEN, SETS THE SCENE AS OATLEY AS A MEETING AND FEASTING AREA.

JAMES OATLEY NO DOUBT WOULD HAVE SEEN THE AREA WHICH HE SELECTED FOR AGRANT OF LAND AS ONE WHICH ABOUNDED IN VALUABLE TIMBER AND POSSIBLY AS A SEA ROUTE TO THE PORT OF SYDNEY. JAMES OATLEY ARRIVED IN SYDNEY AS A CONVICT ON THE SHIP. "MARQUIS OF WELLINGTON" ON THE 27TH JANUARY, 1815, AND HIS LIFE STORY IS WELL KNOWN TO US. PROSPERING AS A WATCH MAKER HE PURCHASED LAND, AND WAS GRANTED LAND IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF SYDNEY, AND APART FROM THE TOWNSON BROTHERS, HE BECAME THE LARGEST LANDHOLDER IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

HIS ESTATES PASSED TO HIS SON FREDERICK OATLEY UNDER THE TERMS OF HIS WILL IN 1839. FREDERICK OATLEY SOLD THE LAND WHICH HAD BEEN GRANTED IN 1833 - AN AREA OF SOME 300 ACRES- TO A DEVELOPER NAMED CHARLES CECIL GRIFFITHS, ON THE 23-3-1881, FOR THE SUM OF TEN THOUSAND POUNDS. FIVE YEARS LATER, IN 1886, THE OATLEY'S ESTATE COMPANY WAS FORMED AND IT TOOK OVER THE SALES OF ALLOTMENTS OF THE ESTATE.

LIKE MANY SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPERS, CHARLES CECIL GRIFFITHS SAW THE FUTURE WHICH THE LAND AT OATLEY HELD. AT THE TIME OF HIS PURCHASE OF THE LAND MOVES HAD BEEN SET IN MOTION FOR A RAIL SERVICE TO THE SOUTH OF SYDNEY, GRIFFITHS OFFERED THE GOVERNMENT A PASSAGE THROUGH HIS PROPERTY AT NO COST TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND AS A CONSEQUENCE THE RAIL SERVICE WAS EXTENDED TO COMO IN 1885 , AND TWELVE MONTHS LATER THE OATLEY'S ESTATE COMPANY WAS FORMED.

OF INTEREST AT THIS POINT IS THAT A MR. WILLIAM GEORGE JUDD LIVED AT ONE TIME IN THE OLD JAMES OATLEY HOME, AND HE PURCHASED PORTION OF THE KINGS GROVE ESTATE. ^{THE JUDD FAMILY IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE LUBOUBA} ALSO AT THE TIME OF THE FORMATION OF THE ESTATE COMPANY AT OATLEY THE CENSUS SHOWED THAT THERE WERE NINE PERSONS WHO LIVED AT OATLEY AND THERE WAS TWO HOMES . NO DOUBT THESE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF OATLEY AS ALONG THE RIVER THERE WERE MANY WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY TYPE DWELLINGS.

BY THE LATE 1800 'S AN OATLEY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION HAD BEEN FORMED , IN THE EARLY YEARS WE FIND THAT THE SECRETARY WAS A MR. HARRY TOWERS. THIS MAN HAD A GREAT INFLUENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF OATLEY. MANY PRESENT AT THIS MEETING WILL REMEMBER HIS CHILDREN, I BELIEVE HIS DAUGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH MANY OATLEY ACTIVITIES. PERHAPS OTHERS SPEAKERS MAY CARE TO COMMENT.

IT WAS FELT THAT THIS GROWING TOWNSHIP OF OATLEY NEEDED A MEETING PLACE WHERE SOCIAL GATHERINGS COULD BE HELD, AND THIS WAS MET BY THE BUILDING OF A SCHOOL OF ARTS . LET US DIGRESS AND LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF A SCHOOL OF ARTS.. IN 1800 A GEORGE BIRBECK OF GLASGOW CONCEIVED THE IDEA THAT A MECHANICS INSTITUTE SHOULD BE FORMED TO ENABLE THE YOUNG MEN TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION AND ASSISTANCE IN THEIR TRADE. LESSONS WOULD BE GIVEN AND LECTURERS ENGAGED. THE FIRST MECHANICS INSTITUTE WAS FORMED IN LONDON IN 1824. IN 1833 GOV. BOURKE INITIATED A MOVE, AND AS A RESULT A HOUSE ON CHURCH HILL WAS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A MECHANICS INSTITUTE. IN .N.S.W.

BY THE 1880'S N.S.W. HAD ALMOST SEVENTY MECHANICS INSTITUTES IN VARIOUS CENTRES. BECAUSE OF THE TYPE OF INSTRUCTION, SOME WERE KNOWN AS A SCHOOL OF ARTS, OR PERHAPS LITERARY INSTITUTE. THEY PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN ADULT EDUCATION WITHIN THE STATE. IN THE COURSE OF TIME SUCH THINGS AS LIBRARIES WERE ADDED AND ALSO BILLIARD ROOMS , AS MEANS OF MAINTAINING INTEREST OF YOUNG AND OLD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. LATER AS THE EDUCATION ACT BECAME FACT, COLLEGES OF ADULT EDUCATION TOOK OVER THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL OF ARTS .

BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR EDUCATION, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY, GRANTED A SUBSIDY OF HALF THE COST OF THE LAND AND ALSO AGREED TO MATCH MONIES RAISED BY THE RESIDENTS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING A SCHOOL OF ARTS. IT WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A CENTRE FOR RECREATION AS WELL AS FOR MENTAL ACTIVITY. THE OATLEY SCHOOL OF ARTS WAS OPENED ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1905 BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR. J.A. HOGUE. THE LAND HAD BEEN ACQUIRED FROM THE LAND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY AT A VERY NOMINAL SUM, AND THE INSTITUTE WAS ESTABLISHED AT A COST OF 450 POUNDS, WHICH INCLUDED THE COST OF LAND, PIANO, LIBRARY OF 400 BOOKS. MONIES HAD BEEN RAISED BY COLLECTIONS AND EFFORTS FROM THE CITIZENS OF OATLEY.

MANY PRESENT CAN REMEMBER THE ORIGINAL SCHOOL OF ARTS, WITH THE STEPS LEADING UP TO DOUBLE DOORS IN THE FRONT, AND LATER WITH THE SIDE DOOR. IT WAS APPROX. 45 FEET BY 30 FEET WITH EIGHT WINDOWS. LATER IN 1909 THE ADDITIONAL ROOM WAS ADDED TO THE BACK, 40 FEET BY 24 FEET, AND THIS SERVED AS A BILLIARD ROOM.

NAMES TO REMEMBER; THE BUILDING WAS DESIGNED BY HARRY TOWERS AND W.G. COLEBOURNE AND BUILT BY A MR. NICHOLSON. THE ORIGINAL TRUSTEES WERE; MESSRS W. JUDD, T. THOMPSON, W.G. COLEBOURNE. THE SCHOOL OF ARTS COMMITTEE WAS HEADED BY EDGAR WILLIAMS AS PRESIDENT; SECRETARY MR FRED LUDWIG; TREASURER MR. FRANK LOMBE. WE HAVE TO THANK SO MANY SUCH AS MINNIE COLE; ANNIE RILEY ; MR. STENHOUSE AND THE COMMUNITY OF OATLEY.

AS WE LOOK AT THE SCHOOL OF ARTS TO-DAY, CAN WE VISUALISE THE APPEARANCE IT HAD WHEN FIRST BUILT. IT MUST HAVE BEEN IN AMOST COMMANDING POSITION. ALMOST ON THE CREST OF A HILL, OVERLOOKING WHAT POSSIBLY AT THAT TIME WOULD HAVE BEEN THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP OF OATLEY. THE BUILDING WOULD HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY TALL GUM TREES, AND NO DOUBT WHEN THERE WERE FUNCTIONS BEING HELD HORSES AND CARRIAGES OF SOME SORT WOULD HAVE BEEN TETHERED NEARBY.

TO-DAY , I OFTEN LOOK AT THE BUILDING AND THINK WHAT A PITY IT HAD NOT BEEN PRESERVED IN SOMETHING LIKE ITS ORIGINAL FORM , WITH A SUITABLE ENTANCE ON TO LETITIA STREET, AND REMAINING THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AREA OF OATLEY. OF COURSE THIS WAS AT ONE TIME THE AIM OF THE COMMUNITY, AND IN THE 1930'S A SCHOOL OF ARTS COMMITTEE WAS FORMED WITH THE VIEW OF IMROVING THE OLD SCHOOL OF ARTS.MY FATHER ARTHUR GIBBS, ALONG WITH ERNIE LAWSON AND OTHERS WORKED VERY HARD TO ACHIEVE THIS AIM. FROM WHAT I CAN REMEMBER, THERE WERE TOO MANY PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME, SUCH AS WHO WERE THE TRUSTEES AT THE TIME - IF ANY- AND WAS THERE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO GET A CLEAR TITLE AND THEN ARRANGE FOR BUILDERS ETC. **WW II PREVENTED MUCH POSITIVE ACTION.**

WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, SCHOOLS OF ARTS WENT OUT OF FASHION. PICTURE THEATRES CAME, AND LATER STILL CLUBS BECAME THE MEETING PLACE AND EVENTUALLY THE PROPERTY WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE KOGARAH COUNCIL. THE BABY HEALTH CENTRE AND THE BRANCH LIBRARY WERE IN PLACE. HOWEVER, YOU CAN STILL SEE THE ORIGINAL TIMBER LINED WALLS AT THE REAR OF THE LIBRARY. **IN THE BAND HALL.**

OVER THE YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAD THEIR FIRST MEETINGS IN THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AT OATLEY AND VERY BRIEFLY WE MAY CARE TO REMEMBER THEM. THE FOLLOWING SPEAKERS MAY BE DEALING IN GREATER DEPTH, AND PERHAPS THERE MAY BE OTHERS WHO WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE. I WILL JUST MENTION SOME NAMES AND PERHAPS YOU WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO ADD A LITTLE LATER.

MY SEQUENCE OF EVENTS MAY BE A TRIFLE HAZY SO PLEASE BEAR WITH ME, AND PLEASE LET US HAVE SOME COMMENTS OR CORRECTIONS, JUST TO GET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

ARCHITECT
P. H. HARSTEDD
"WEST WALLING"

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH SERVICES WERE HELD IN THE SCHOOL OF ARTS IN 1908 AND LATER THE CHURCH WAS BUILT IN ROSA STREET, BY HARRY TOWERS, THE SAME MAN WHO BUILT THE SCHOOL OF ARTS. LATER, ON THE 23 NOVEMBER, 1913 THE METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES WERE HELD IN THE SAME BUILDING. STILL FURTHER ON- AND I DO NOT KNOW THE DATE- THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HELD SERVICES IN THE OLD BUILDING. OTHER CHURCH GROUPS ALSO USED THE HALL IN THE BYGONE YEARS .

WITH THE GROWTH OF POPULATION AND THE PERMANENT RESIDENTS IN OATLEY, THE NEED WAS FELT FOR A LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL. THE WORLD WAR OF 1914/18 PUT A STOP TO THE EARLY NEGOTIATIONS, BY 1917 HOWEVER, THE SCHOOL OF ARTS WAS ENGAGED AT A WEEKLY RENTAL OF 25 SHILLINGS, TO PROVIDE ACCOMODATION FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL. MR WALTER HORNE WAS THE FIRST PRINCIPAL AND TEACHERS WERE MISS YATES AND MISS MARJORIE PHILLIPS, LATER TO BECOME MRS ALLEN DUNSMORE, THE WELL REMEMBERED CHEMIST. THERE WERE 69 PUPILS ENROLLED. AS MENTIONED EARLIER, THE HALL WAS ONLY 45 FEET BY 30 FEET WITH 8 WINDOWS ACCOUSTICALLY IT WAS NOT VERY SATISFACTORY, AND SOUND WAS DIFFICULT TO MUFFLE. INDEED EFFORTS WERE MADE TO DO SO BUT IT ONLY AMPLIFIED THE SOUND.

ON THE 30TH MAY, 1921 THE OATLEY MASONIC LODGE WAS FORMED AND THE EARLY MEETINGS WERE HELD IN THE THEN METHODIST CHURCH. FOLLOWING THE LODGE MEETINGS, THE MEMBERS JUST WALKED ACROSS TO THE SCHOOL OF ARTS WHERE THE SUPPER ROOM WAS SITUATED. THIS WILL BE DEALT WITH BY A LATER SPEAKER. MANY FRIENDLY SOCIETIES HELD THEIR MEETINGS IN THE SCHOOL OF ARTS, AND THE OATLEY RETURNED SOLDIERS HELD THE MEETINGS AND USED THE HALL AT THE REAR OF THE SCHOOL OF ARTS.

SO MANY ORGANISATIONS MET IN THE HALL. MANY PRESENT WILL RECALL THE DANCES IN THE SCHOOL OF ARTS, NAMES ARE RECALLED; MRS AITKEN; MRS HODGSON, MR HARDY; MRS COLE - ALREADY MENTIONED- ARTHUR PHILLIPS; HORACE TREVITT; THE LUDWIGS ; THE COLEBORNES AND SO MANY OTHERS. REMEMBER THE WW11 YEARS, THE SERVICEMEN FROM TASMANIA WHO WERE CAMPED AT SANDY BEACH AND THE OATLEY DANCES. THE WW11 SAW THE FORMATION OF THE "OATLEY SERVICES LEAGUE" WHEN 120 PERSONS MET IN THE HALL WITH AIM OF SUPORTING THOSE MEN AND WOMEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

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SO MANY ORGANISATIONS HAVE HELD MEETINGS IN THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO NAME THEM ALL. BEING THE SOCIAL CENTRE OF THE DISTRICT FOR SO MANY YEARS THERE MUST BE BE MANY FOND MEMORIES OF SUCH OCCASIONS AS ENGAGEMENT PARTIES, WEDDINGS , AND EVEN PERHAPS A CHRISTENING PARTY.

THE HALL WOULD HAVE RUNG TO THE SOUNDS OF HAPPINESS WITH THE NUMBER OF JOYOUS OCCASIONS .

TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WALK AROUND THE SCHOOL OF ARTS ANB LOOK AT THE TIMBER STUCTURE PUT IN PLACE ALMOST ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

IF YOU ARE ABLE, FIND A QUIET TIME AND VISIT THE LIBRARY, VISIT THE UNITING CHURCH , VISIT THE OATLEY MASONIC HALL.

LISTEN IN SILENCE TO THE SOUNDS OF BYGONE YEARS IN THE MEETING PLACES OF OATLEY. REMEMBER THE EARLIEST OF SETTLERS,AND LIKE THEM THINK OF OATLEY AS A PLACE OF WHICH IS REGARDED AS A GATHERING AND FEASTING AREA.

IN CLOSING, AT A MEETING OF THE "ALL FOR AUSTRALIA PARTY" IN THE SCHOOL OF ARTS, MR GUY MOORE , THE LOCAL ALDERMAN,STATED THAT IT WAS THE DUTY OF ALL AUSTRALAINS TO "TAKE OFF THEIR COATS" AND WORK FOR THE THINGS WHICH THEY WANTED. THIS IS STILL VALID TO DAY IF WE VALUE OUR COMMUNITY.

WILL YOU HELP.

GIVE US YOUR RECOLLECTIONS:

THE OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP.

A PAPER PRESENTED BY

—
MR. JAMES NICHOLSON.

2nd MAY, 1996

MEETING PLACES IN OATLEY "THE OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH."

- First Methodist service 14/9/13 conducted by Mr J.W.Berryman on the enclosed side verandah of "Beth-Eden", the home of Mr & Mrs J.W.Bayley, 77 Letitia Street, Oatley.
- First Sunday School 29/9/13 at "Beth-Eden".
- Methodist Services and Sunday School held in School of Arts (now the library) from November 1913 until first section of unlined weatherboard church was opened on 1/12/17 at a cost of \$580. The site had been purchased in 1915 for \$240.
- In 1919 additions costing \$200 added by voluntary labour.
- In 1921 the Masonic Lodge lined the additions and used the hall pending erection of the Masonic Hall in Letitia Street.
- Other additions made in 1922 at cost of \$590, electricity was installed in 1925, replacing gas lights, further additions \$600 in 1936.
- In November 1938 Hammond Organ installed at cost of \$1,000.
- In November 1958 the present Church and Lower Hall were dedicated during the Superintendency of Rev K.L.Doust-cost \$23,000 including memorials.
- In September 1961, the Founder of Methodism in Oatley, Mr J.W.Bayley passed to his reward after a lifetime of service as a Local Preacher, Sunday School Superintendent, Trustee, Choir Member, Circuit Steward and membership of other societies.
- In October 1972 a new complex of buildings including the J.W.Bayley Hall, Committee Room, Office, Quiet Room, kitchen and facilities was opened at a cost of \$52,600, including memorials and special donations.
- In June 1977 the Oatley Methodist Church became the Oatley Uniting Church, as part of the Mortdale Parish, which included the former Presbyterian Church of St.David's, Hurstville Grove.
- In 1979 the Allen Digital Computer Organ was installed at cost \$7,465.
- From 1st October 1980 the former congregations of Oatley and St.David's, Hurstville Grove, became the Oatley/St.David's Congregation. Morning worship continued at both churches for some time, until the service at St.David's was discontinued. Later the St.David's Church and hall were destroyed by fire.
- With the amalgamation of the Congregations, Oatley became involved in the Opportunity Shop in the Strand Penshurst, originally established by the Presbyterian Church to raise money for missions. This tradition of supporting the wider church continues to this day. In addition to the funds raised, it is a point of Christian witness and service for all involved in running the Shop and for the customers, many of whom require a sympathetic ear to listen to their problems.
- Late 1982, early 1983, a new toilet block with facilities for the handicapped was erected at the rear of the lower hall at Oatley. At the same time extensive alterations were made to the lower hall to provide better facilities for the Oatley Caring Centre, and the stairs at the rear of the Church joining the two levels were closed in. The total cost of the work was \$44,604.
- In recent years a "Loop System" linked to the amplification system has been installed in the Church. This enables those with hearing aids to turn to turn to the "T" switch for good reception without background noise.
- Since 1959 the Oatley Church has been a Stewardship Church using the Weekly Envelope System. The Stewardship system made the above building program possible without reduction in giving to the wider church.
- The Annual Arts and Crafts Show in September assisted greatly in the past as a fund raiser, but in recent years some of the funds have been used to assist handicapped students in the area to greater achievements
- Three members of the Oatley Congregation have candidated for the ministry. Rev Arthur Pearce, Rev Bob Brown and Rev Geoff Dornan.

It has not been possible to include in the above brief summary mention of those whose dedicated service as leaders and members of the various organisations has maintained the witness since 1913. Nor has it been possible to detail the many Ministers of the Word who have given pastoral care and leadership.

- As from 1/4/91, the Oatley Church, together with St. Stephen's West Oatley, became the Oatley Parish of the Uniting Church in Australia.
- In 1993 additional classrooms were provided for the Sunday School at cost \$25,000

OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH
became
OATLEY UNITING CHURCH
in JUNE 1977.

The following pages provide a brief pictorial record of the former Methodist Church buildings on the Frederick and Letitia Streets site.

A detailed account of those involved in the first fifty years 1913 - 1963 will be found in the booklet herewith.

Subsequent developments not covered are as follows.

- October 1972 the original weatherboard building was demolished and replaced by the existing J.W.Bayley Hall and ancilliary rooms.
- June 1977 the Oatley Methodist Church became the Oatley Uniting Church
- In 1979 the Hammond Organ replaced with an Allen Digital Organ.
- Late 1982 a new toilet block with facilities for the handicapped was constructed at the rear of the Church on the lower level together with kitchen facilities in the lower hall for use by the Caring Centre which operates four days per week.
- A "loop" system is installed in the Church to assist the hearing impaired.
- In 1993, additional classrooms were provided by closing in a breezeway on the Southern boundary.

COMMUNITY USE OF PREMISES

Both upper and lower halls are in use every day, sometimes by three different groups on one day. Apart from Uniting Church groups, the following are regular users in 1996:-

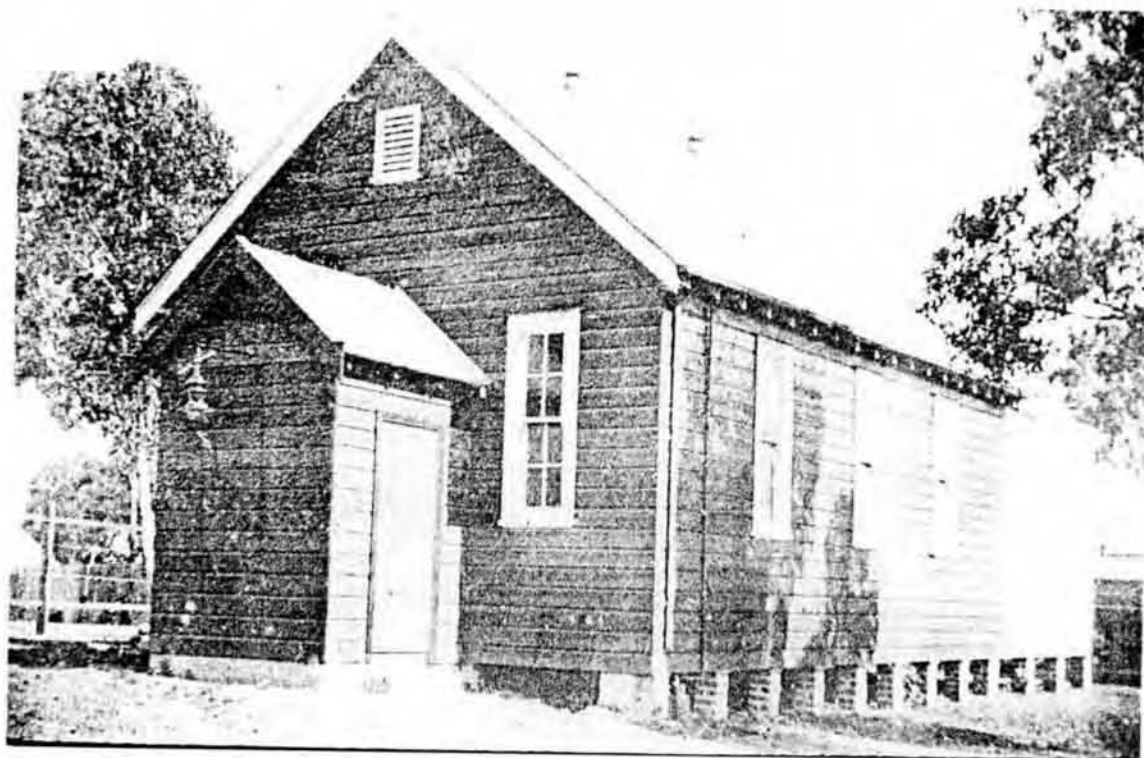
- St. Joseph's School.
- Ballet & Dance Academy.
- Playgroups.
- Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Society Inc.
- Neighbourhood Watch (three areas)
- Music Teachers' Association of NSW Ltd.
- Oatley Chamber of Commerce.
- Puppet show during school holidays.

Other community groups book the hall for special functions.

BRIEF HISTORY OF OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH BUILDINGS

- 14/9/13 First service at home of J.W. Bayley 77 Letitia Street.
- Nov 1913 Services & Sunday School held in School of Arts.
- 1915 site purchased \$240
- Dec 1917 First stage unlined weatherboard Church opened Cost \$580
- 1919 Additions costing \$200 added by voluntary labour.
- 1921 Masonic Lodge lined additions and used for meetings
- 1922 Further additions.
- 1925 Electricity installed, replacing gas lighting.
- 1936 Further additions.
- 1938 Hammond Organ installed at cost of \$1,000.
- 1958 Existing Church and lower hall opened in November \$23,000
- 1972 Weatherboard building demolished. This hall with kitchen Quiet Room, Office, Committee Room, and new toilets opened at total cost of \$52,600
- 1977 In June the Oatley Methodist Church became the Oatley Uniting Church.
- 1979 An Allen Digital Organ was installed at cost of \$7,465.
- 1982/3 New toilet block with wheelchair facilities installed behind lower hall, which was extended, with new kitchen facilities. Rear stairway was also closed in. Cost of this work \$44,604.
- 1993 Breezeway closed in to provide additional classrooms \$25,000.

It should be noted that all the funds for the above building program were provided by the members of the Oatley Congregation, in addition to the cost of ministry and mission support. No funds were received for buildings from outside the Congregation.

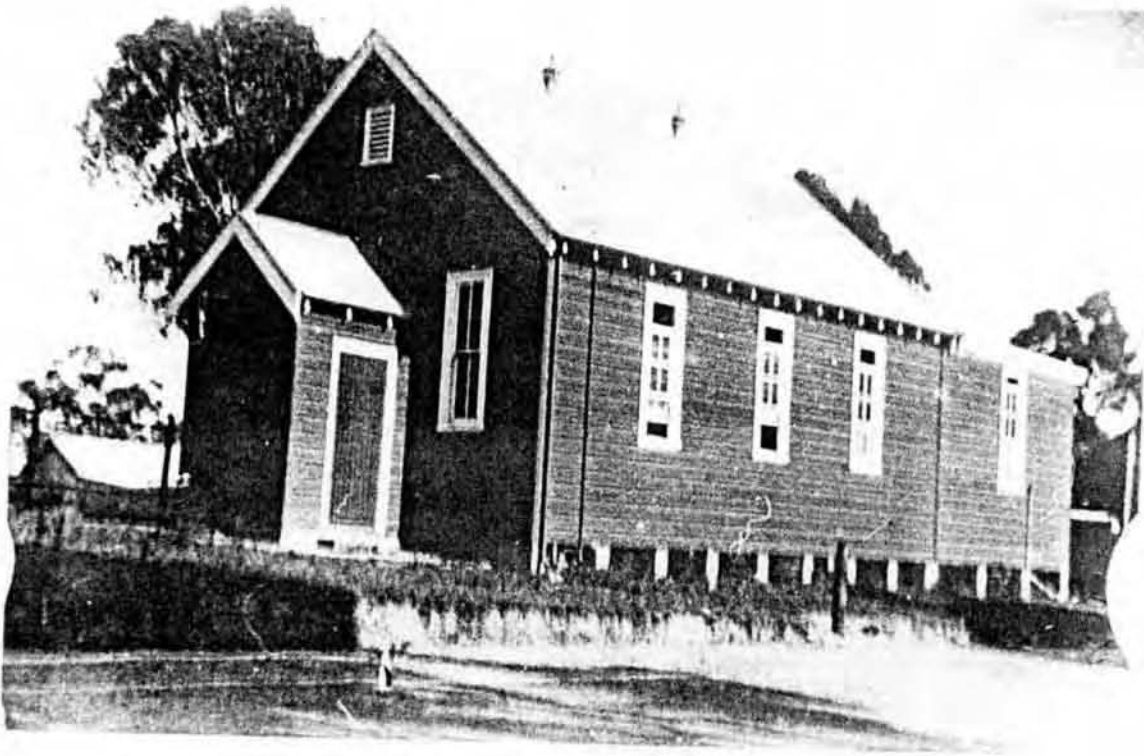


OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH
1919

Compared with the sketch on the previous page the following additions will be noted.

- Entrance porch.
- Small hall with low roof at rear

The additions were constructed by voluntary labour

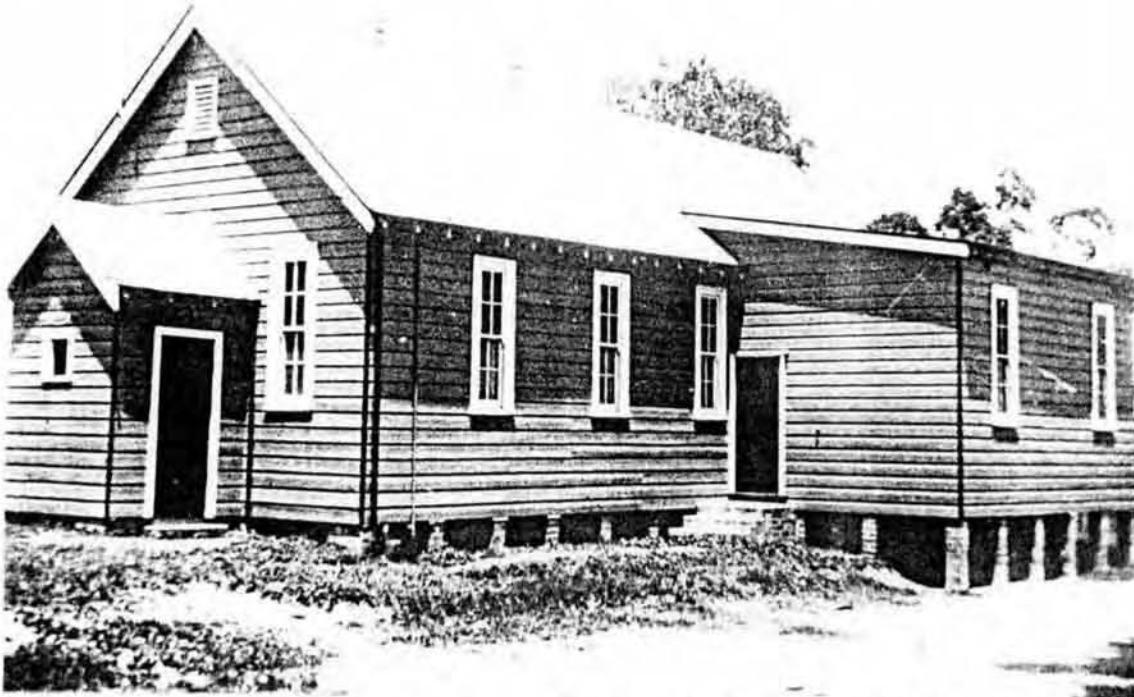


OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH

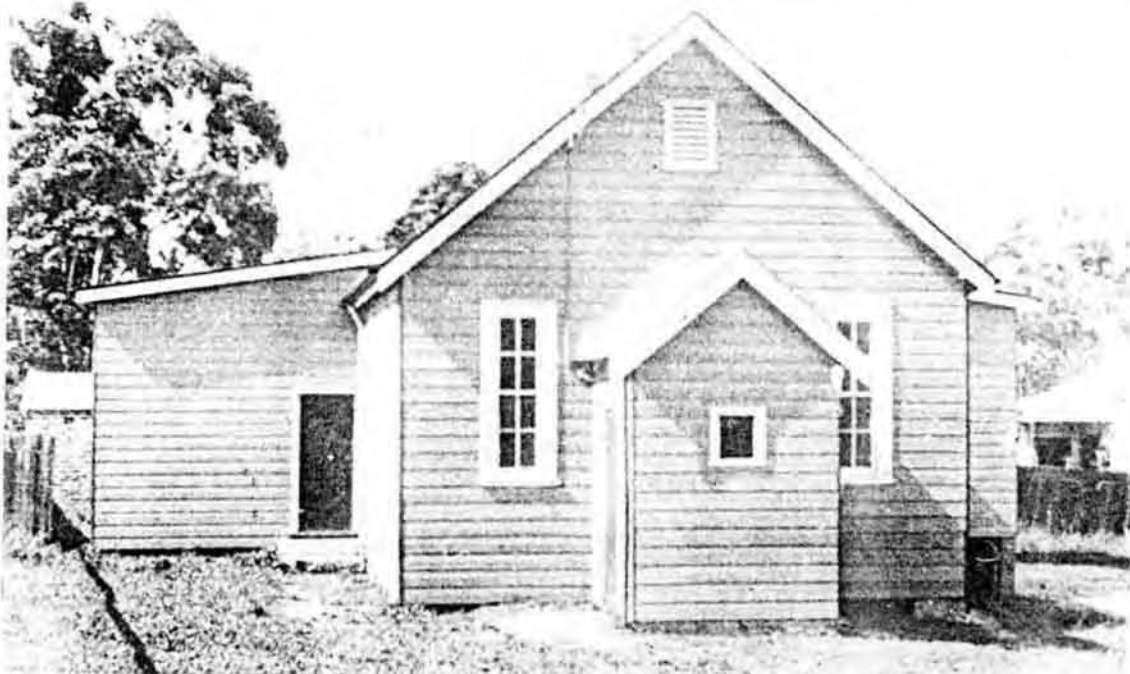
Similar to previous page, showing extension at rear more plainly.

It is of interest that in 1921 the Masonic Lodge, who were using the hall pending construction of the Masonic Hall, lined the rear hall together with sound insulation of sawdust filling between the outer and inner weatherboards.

It will also be noted that ground had been excavated and levelled in preparation for a tennis court, which was used for mid week and Saturday tennis until the new brick church was built.



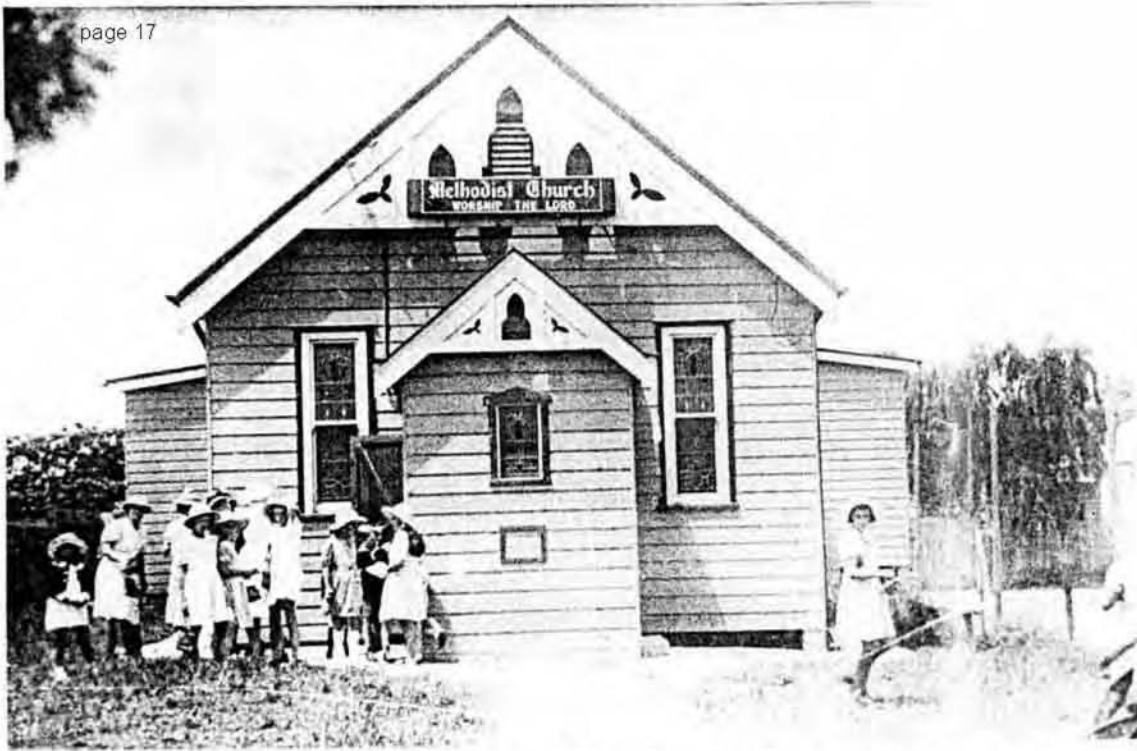
In 1922 the side rooms were added and the roof of the rear hall raised at a cost of \$590. With folding doors between the Church and hall, the raised roof made possible the tiered platform for Sunday School Anniversary Services.



The side room on the Eastern side housed a sink urn and cupboards choir room, with an office and library at mezzanine level.

The 20' X 12' extension on the Western side was added to the existing hall used by the Sunday School kindergarten and the many organisations such as Ladies Church Aid, Mens Brotherhood, the Rays, the Methodist Girls' Comradeship, the Order of Knights and social functions.

Electricity was connected in 1925, replacing gas lighting.



OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH FEBRUARY 1941
After Sunday School

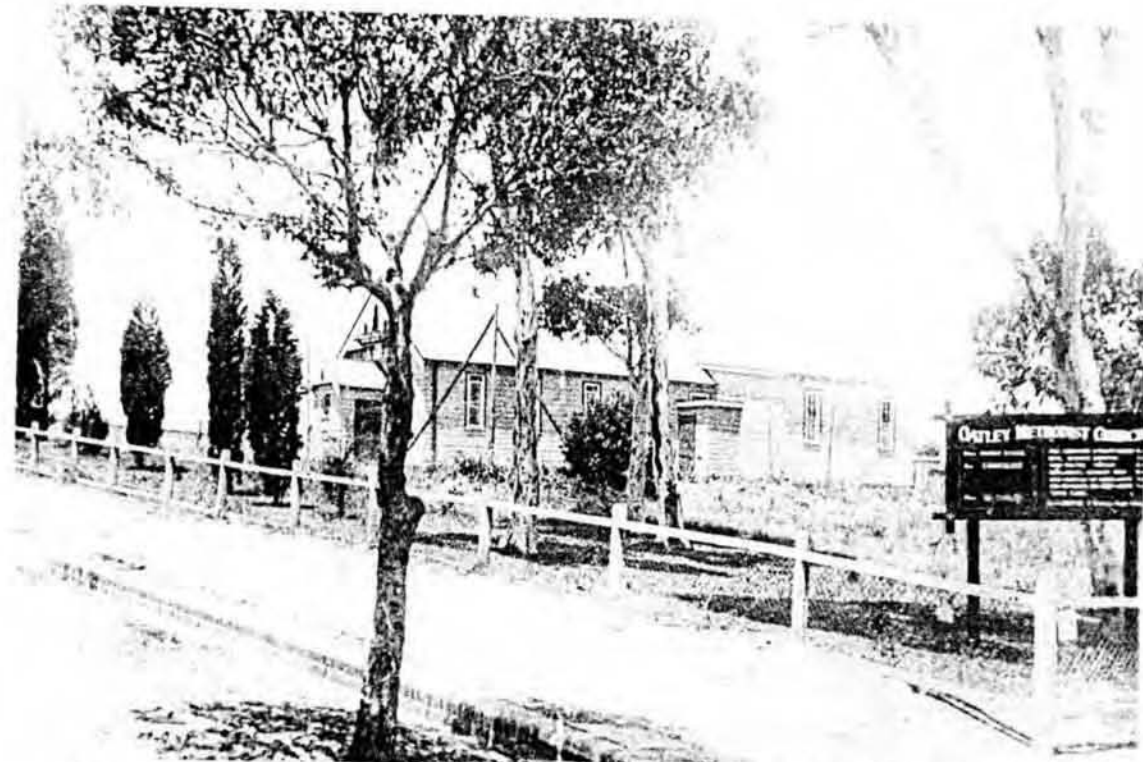
Note trim on gable ends added in 1936.



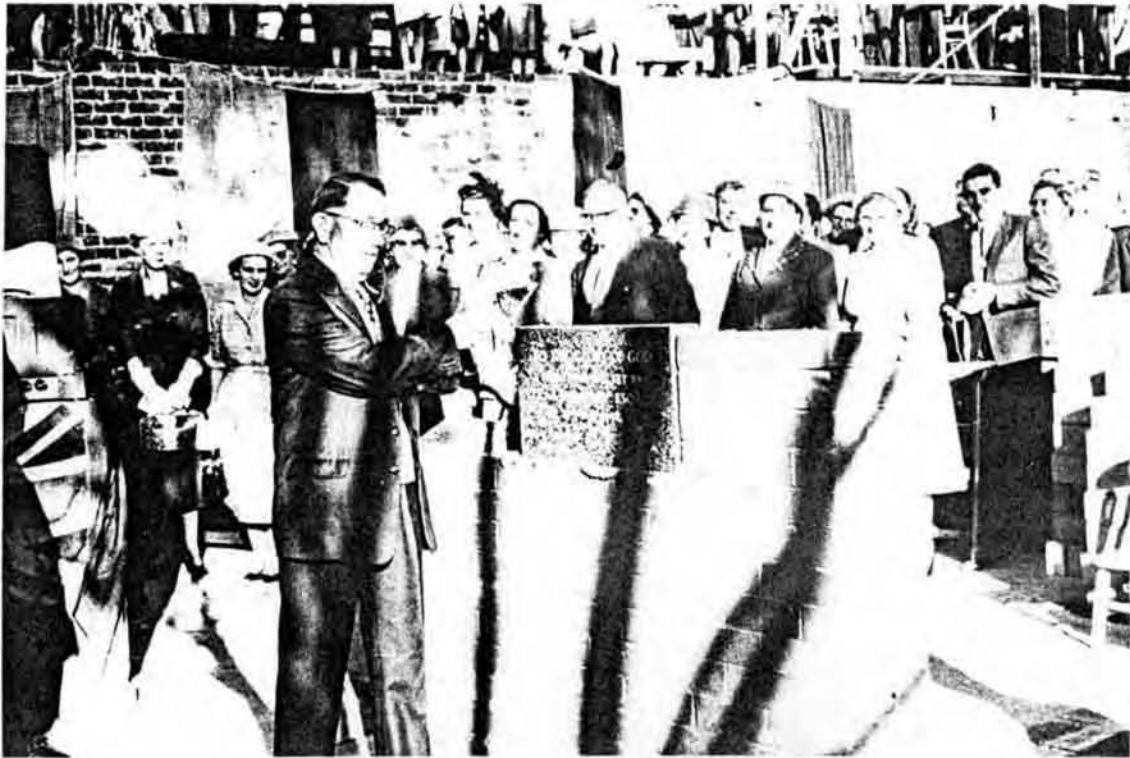
The Letitia Street frontage in 1947.
Some of the trees are still growing.



Note picket fence and horse trough in Letitia Street.



In 1936 the length of the Church was extended by 15 feet, by moving the front wall and porch forward. The gable ends of the roof and porch roofs were given new trim, seen better on the next page. An additional window was installed both sides of the Church and porches added to the side entrances. Note the new chain wire fence and tree in Frederick Street.



Mr J.W.Bayley, the founder of Methodism in Oatley, laying the Foundation Stone of the existing Church on 17/5/1958. The stone is near the entrance to the lower hall in Letitia Street. Those at the same level were in what is now the lower hall, those above, whose legs are visible were on the car park level



Opening of new Church 15/11/1958. The congregation were seated on what is now the car park area. The original weatherboard Church can be seen in the background. It was replaced with the existing J.W.Bayley Hall, kitchen block and meeting rooms in October 1972.

May 1996

CURRENT USE OF OATLEY UNITING CHURCH HALLS

Both halls are in use every day of the week, sometimes by three different groups on one day.

The lower hall is used by the Caring Centre four days per week.

Non Uniting Church bodies currently using the halls include:-

St. Joseph's School (two afternoons per week most terms)

Georges River Community Service Inc. Adult Leisure Learning on Thursdays, with up to 150 attending classes in both halls.

Ballet and Dance Academy (Two afternoons and Saturday morning)

Playgroup (two mornings per week)

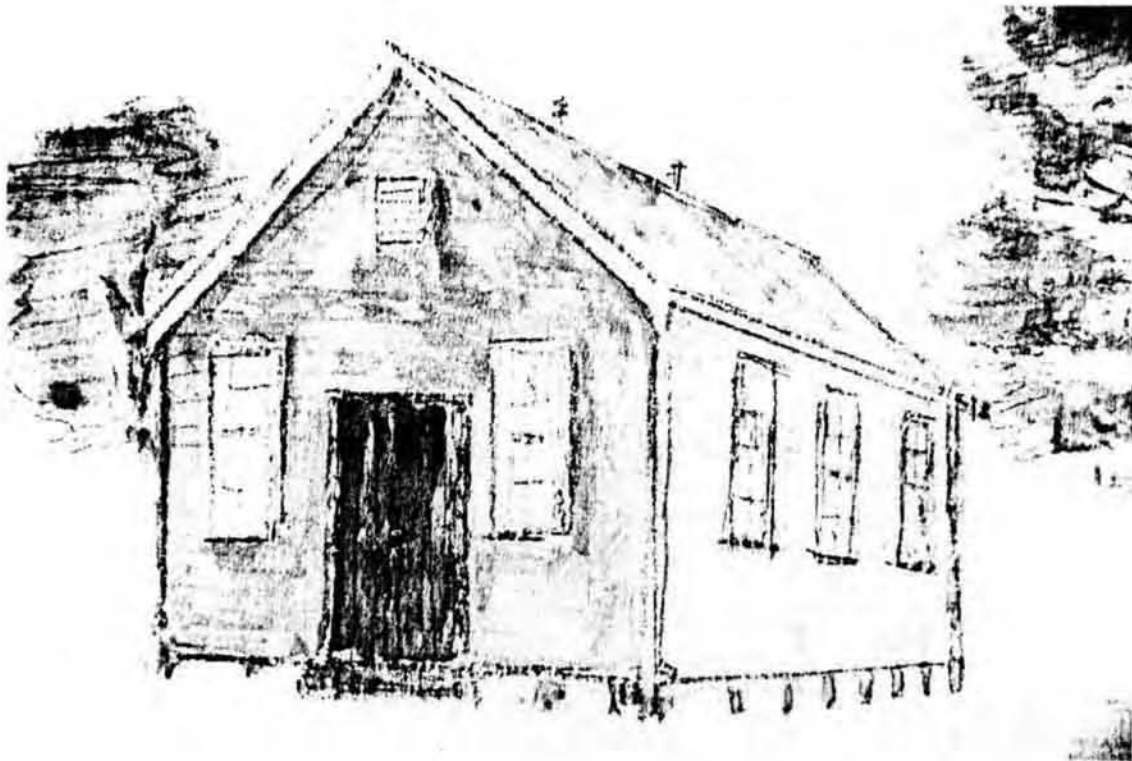
Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society Inc. 4th Monday evening.

Neighbourhood Watch (three groups bi-monthly meetings)

Music Teachers' Association of NSW Ltd. (monthly meetings)

Oatley Chamber of Commerce (as required)

Puppet show during School holidays. (once or twice per year)



SKETCH OF THE ORIGINAL OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH
AS BUILT 1917.

BRIEF HISTORY

14/9/13 The first Methodist service was held at home of
J.W.Bayley 77 Letitia Street.

November 1913 Services commenced at School of Arts.

1915 Site purchased \$140.

1917 First stage unlined weatherboard Church, as above opened
Cost \$580.

22.5.96

The Catley Heritage Group.
The Meeting Places in Catley.

Catley School of Arts.

Many were the concerts I attended in the Catley School of Arts when I was growing up in Catley.

Apart from the Church of England's annual tea - renowned for its terrible rolls with split peas, the event I used to always love was the Punch and Judy show. Usually the proprietor would also perform on his singing saws. Cost for all this was a mere 3^d per head.

As a young teenager, I played my first game of snooker on the tables at the rear of the building. This was not mentioned at home as such an environment - was considered the depths of depravity. If 'depravity' was about, I failed to see it.

The Methodist Church Hall.

This was mainly (for me anyway) a place that every month had a mens fellowship tea on a Sunday evening.

The speakers were always excellent and the meeting was usually packed.

It was a regular social occasion for the men that attended. It was also exclusively male.

The Catley Maronic Hall.

Apart from my Maronic involvement with the Catley Maronic Hall I have a few fond memories. These are
 a. The numerous school functions held in the hall. These included food tasting of canned products and

22.5.96

(2)

a regular fancy dress ball.

(b) At one of these fancy dress balls I went as Queen Elizabeth 1st wig & all. It wasn't until after the judging that I divested my regal gear and long red-headed wig and made myself known to my contemporaries. I sure copped it at school for a while after that evening.

However, my most-cherished memories relate to (c) My engagement party and 21st Birthday were both celebrated on the 2 July 1949. My wife to be being Valma Rosetta Ward of Sutherland. (photo included)

(d) Our wedding breakfast was also held in the hall, 7 June 1952.

The hall was a regular venue for the Friday and Saturday evening dances ^{during the war} and there were usually packed with Servicemen, many of whom were stationed in the Catley West-Reserve. I think they were Tasmanians.

Always outside the hall on these nights was the Tramps who lived on a large block of ground on Yawan Road. He was given many cups of tea, sandwiches and cakes by volunteer ladies that provided the supper.

All in all the Catley Masonic Hall has had a varied and busy lifestyle.

Kendall

C. W. KENDALL

127 ROSA ST.

CATLEY, 2223.

CATLEY MASONIC HALL

GEORGE WILLIAM KENDALL } 21ST BIRTHDAY
+ }
VALMA ROSETTA WORD } ENGAGEMENT PARTY

2. JULY 1949.

L. 566



*“Ye shall hallow the fiftieth year...
it shall be a jubilee unto you”.*

Leviticus 25:10

OATLEY
METHODIST CHURCH
1913 - 1963

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR, 1963

With pride, the present members of Oatley Methodist Church celebrate, in 1963, the Golden Jubilee year in which the achievements of all who have worked for Methodism in the district are remembered.

It is a time for reunion with members who have moved to other parts but who value the influence this Church has had on their lives.

It is a time for recollection of events associated with the Church that have touched our lives in endless ways, at all stages of life.

But the work continues unabated and it is time for rededication, taking inspiration from these past years for greater achievements in the future.

“Upon this rock I will build my Church”.

Matthew 16:18

THE FIRST RELIGIOUS WORK IN OATLEY

During the building of the railway a Mrs. Smith gathered a few children to conduct a Sunday School in a cottage in Hurstville Road, using the catechism of each child's denomination. This appears to have been the first religious work in Oatley.

The Church of England began its work on 9th November, 1908, in the new School of Arts Hall (Letitia Street) when the population was 450. By 2nd November, 1911, the Church had a new building at the corner of Rosa and Neville Streets.

In the same year Joseph William Bayley moved to the first two rooms of Beth-Eden which was on an unformed bush track called Letitia Street.

THE FOUNDING OF OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH

In his first years at Oatley J. W. Bayley worshipped at Mortdale, but as Oatley was growing he pressed for the establishment of a non-conformist church there. To this end he built an enclosed verandah onto Beth-Eden for use in worship and Sunday School work. It was there that the first Methodist service in Oatley was conducted by J. W. Berryman, of Carlton, on 14th September, 1913, with a dozen hymn books provided by Mr. Bayley. Fifteen people were present. A. E. Offord and J. W. Bayley were the stewards and Miss V. Stephens, of Como, was the organist. Other worshippers included Mrs. W. Crofts, Mr. and Mrs. W. Davidson and their children, Mrs. Bayley and Alan, Katie and Edie Noakes, and Frances Graham. The collection was 5/3d. After the service the preacher's horse bolted and he returned home by train.

Beth-Eden was the scene for the first Methodist baptism in Oatley; Zillah Doreen Heighington was christened there by the Rev. B. Lane. Evening services continued until worship was transferred on 23rd November, 1913, to the School of Arts.

THE FOUNDER — J. W. BAYLEY

J. W. Bayley grew up in Erskineville. Like his first wife, Ruby Evelyn Morris, he was an Anglican, but with their brothers and sisters they worked enthusiastically for the Erskineville Methodist Mission, its Christian Endeavour and Band of Hope.

They married in 1906 and moved to The Avenue, Hurstville, entering the work of Hurstville Methodist Church (Rev. J. A. Waddell). With W. S. Allerdice he founded the Beginners' Department of the Sunday School. J. W. Bayley was secretary of St. George Union of Christian Endeavour Societies, and, as a pioneer local preacher, walked miles for services at Peakhurst and then Mortdale, which were then “country” churches.



An early photograph of J. W. Bayley.

Peakhurst (est. 1856) and Hurstville (est. 1879) belonged to Kogarah Circuit. In 1911 it became Kogarah-Hurstville Circuit including the Mortdale Church, which was founded in 1910 and opened in 1911, J. W. Bayley taking an active part. His eldest son, W. A. Bayley, was the first infant christened there.

He bought a bicycle to ride to his preaching appointments in places from Ramsgate to Peakhurst. For years he took Christmas and Good Friday services at Mortdale and on moving to Oatley he walked with his wife and infant son to worship each Sunday at Mortdale.

When he opened his home, Beth-Eden, for Methodist worship in Oatley, he commenced a lifetime of service, ably supported by his wife, and culminating in the successful opening of a fine new church in 1958.

From the formation of Mortdale Circuit in 1923 he served as Junior Circuit Steward to 1924, and then as Senior Circuit Steward until 1927. He served again as Junior Circuit Steward for a year in 1932.

At a special service on 3rd April, 1960, his work was given formal recognition when the Rev. K. L. Doust presented him with a certificate in appreciation of 52 years of faithful service as a local preacher. On behalf of the people Mr. A. M. Small presented him with a gold wristlet watch "for many acts of sacrificial service too numerous to mention."

J. W. Bayley died in September, 1961, and was survived by his second wife, nee Ruth Crofts, five sons and one daughter.

In this history his name appears often, and his support of societies and functions may be assumed if not specially mentioned.

BETH-EDEN

The Bayley home, Beth-Eden, which means "the house of pleasantness," not only saw the founding of Oatley Methodist Church but was a meeting place through the years. Some of the young people met their life partners at the week-night gatherings before the church was built.

The first Sunday School met at Beth-Eden on 28th September, 1913, and continued there when church services started at the School of Arts Hall. Many lessons were given out of doors under the trees.

Week-night teacher-training was held on Wednesdays in a study at Beth-Eden, erected for the purpose, and until the mid-twenties teachers and elder scholars were invited to tea on Sundays, the fellowship enjoyed helping to unify the cause at Oatley.

“And this stone . . . shall be God’s house”.

Genesis 28:22

A HOUSE OF GOD IS BUILT

The efforts of the Methodist Conference to secure sites in developing areas were met in 1915 by establishment of the Purchase and Sites Fund, a memorial to the Rev. James Woolnough. In its first year it financed purchase of six sites of which Oatley was one.

The site, costing £120, on the corner of Frederick and Letitia Streets, became the best situated for church purposes. Estate agent, J. W. Berryman, a local preacher, let the deposit of £20 stand as his gift. Volunteers cleared the site but left many trees for which present members are grateful.

Faithful pioneers gathered funds sufficient to secure a loan for the first timber building, an unlined, gas-lit weatherboard church, without porch or vestry, which was opened on 1st December, 1917. It was built by L. A. Torr and Sons for about £290, the foundation stone being set by Alderman Hugh Patrick on 3rd November, 1917. The first service was conducted by Rev. J. G. Morris-Taylor.

In 1919 the porch and skillion-roofed kindergarten at the rear, costing £100, were added by voluntary labour. Further improvements including lining, cupboards, and sink were made in 1921, with the assistance of Oatley Masonic Lodge which was permitted to use the hall.

In 1922, for £295, the kindergarten roof was raised to full church height and a room 20 x 12 feet added on each side. Electricity was connected in 1925. In 1936 the church was lengthened 15 feet at the front and internal modifications made at a cost to the Trust of £300. New seating was donated by the Ladies’ Church Aid and stained leadlight windows by subscribers. In 1954 a new iron roof cost £140.



The original weatherboard Church as it appeared in 1941 after the additions had been completed.

This then was the church that served the faithful until further patient efforts by the people were rewarded in the opening and use in 1958 of a beautiful new building. Proposals for a new church had been made in the early 1930's, and were considered by the Trustees in 1935. Finally, in 1945, after the war, plans for a new Sunday School and Church were considered, and later, in 1949, plans for a two-storeyed Church.

It was on 17th May, 1958, that the foundation stone was set by J. W. Bayley at a ceremony conducted by Rev. K. L. Doust and Rev. W. S. Beazley, in the presence of the President of Conference, Rev. S. Bowyer-Hayward, and Rev. D. F. Almond, Chairman of Sydney South District. The gathering included many former ministers and some worshippers and scholars who were present at services 45 years before at Beth-Eden. The new church was opened and dedicated on 15th November, 1958, by Rev. S. Bowyer-Hayward, President of Conference, at a ceremony conducted by Rev. K. L. Doust.

The church is of brick, and its two storeys use the sloping site to advantage. The church is entered from Frederick Street and a well-fitted kindergarten hall is entered from Letitia Street. It was designed by architect Clive Stevens and built by K. Langham. The consulting engineer was Mr. A. A. Peterson, then secretary of the Trust.

Many memorials and gifts which, with the organ, were valued at £2,000, were transferred to the new church. More memorials and gifts were added. The nave is furnished with modern pews seating 132. The central feature of the sanctuary is a large white cross mounted above the polished maple communion table, and the communion rail has five carved panels representing the dove of peace, open Bible and lamp, crown and Cross, lamb and shepherd's crook, and the chalice.

This building was made possible by the hard work of members; its total cost was approximately £14,400 of which £8,500 was in hand on the day it was opened.



Oatley Methodist Church. A two-storeyed brick building, dedicated on 15th November, 1958.



J. W. Bayley is shown here, setting the foundation stone of the new Church on 17th May, 1958.



The gathering at the laying of the foundation stone of the new Church on 17th May, 1958, is addressed by J. W. Bayley.

"Praise ye the Lord".

Psalm 111:1

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

PREACHERS

Ministers of the Circuit are listed in Appendix 1 and they have been steadfastly supported by a band of local preachers. J. W. Berryman, who preached at the first Beth-Eden service, also preached at the first School of Arts service in 1913. The cause was sustained almost entirely by local preachers, only seven services in the first three years being conducted by ministers. Bad weather sometimes reduced attendance to eight or nine people but only once was a service missed.

William Woods became a steward in 1914 and assisted with the preaching. Luther S. Scruton later became a steward. The first Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was conducted on 4th June, 1916, by Rev. E. Youngman.

Faithful worshippers were Miss V. Stephens, organist, from Como, and Mesdames Crofts and Bayley, together with young people who grew up to be worshippers. J. W. Bayley carried on tenaciously and the cause slowly grew.

The first Sunday services in the timber church were held on 2nd December, 1917, at 11 a.m., 3 and 7.15 p.m., when respective attendances were 40, 80 and 85. In 1918 regular morning services were started and the times have continued to be 11 a.m. and 7.15 p.m., except for some recent family services held at 9.45 a.m.

On 1st April, 1918, the Hurstville-Kogarah Circuit became Hurstville Circuit and Oatley was regarded as an outpost. Mortdale Circuit, containing Mortdale, Peakhurst and Oatley churches was formed on 1st April, 1923, and drew from other circuits those preachers who had helped up to that time, but their appointments became fewer as time passed. The new circuit had only three local preachers, J. W. Bayley, G. Batty, and N. Jeffries, later securing by removal T. A. Johnston, H. Webster and W. D. Pfeiffer with W. Bumford as a helper. Visiting local preachers helped and Harry Dean took up the work with great success. In the forties B. Hawley, F. Alford, R. Saville, S. V. Austin, G. Ross Thomas, A. M. Jamieson and Dr. Brotchie were added. Later lists of Circuit local preachers show the names of Messrs. B. Wenham, Crossman, B. Preen, A. Hendy, C. Helman, A. preachers show the additional names of Mr. A. Sims, Mrs. H. Dodds, Mr. D. Sears, Mr. S. Sims, D. Sears, S. Johnson, E. Gentle, E. Thompson, Ray Watson, D. Dunphy, H. G. Alexander, R. D. Harrison, H. Guy, C. Haney, A. Dixon, R. Adams, J. Kitchen and Mrs. H. Dodds.

*“Suffer little children to
come unto me”.*

Luke 18:16

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

In founding the Sunday School at Beth-Eden on 28th September, 1913, J. W. Bayley was the only teacher and thus the first superintendent. By Christmas that year there were 25 scholars and several teachers. Early attention was given to teacher training.

The first organist was Miss V. Stephens and the first Secretary-Treasurer, Miss E. Davidson. Notable terms of office were: A. M. Small, Secretary from 1918-36; J. W. Bayley, Superintendent from 1913-35; A. R. Johnston, Treasurer from 1925-35; G. McIlveen, General Superintendent from 1937-47; J. Nicholson, General Superintendent from 1950-56; A. M. Small, Musical Director from 1921-36; Cecil Bayley, Organist from 1931-38; and Miss M. Schofield Organist from 1938-46 and Pianist from 1947 onwards.

Meeting time was usually 3 p.m., but in 1938 9.30 a.m. was chosen. There have been fluctuations in enrolment especially when Oatley West church was established, but in 1921 the enrolment was 75; in 1928, 150; in 1954, 183; and in 1958, 200. Attempts to retain senior scholars led to formation of a Bible class in 1922, a brotherhood of senior young men in 1925, and a class called the Institute in 1935. From its earliest days the

*The first four teachers at Oatley
Methodist Sunday School—Mr. J. W.
Bayley, Misses V. M. Stephens, E. C.
Davidson and M. McInnes.*





Some senior scholars and teacher in 1917.

Back Row: Beryl Ward, Fred McGarry, Viv Stephens, Alex Small, Luther Scruton, Katie Noakes.

Front Row: Doris Scruton, Mollie Francis, J. W. Bayley, Flora McRae, Edna Harrison.

school has observed a Decision Day when scholars were encouraged to record a decision to follow Christ.

In 1917 the school began to assist scholars to obtain their own Bibles. An epidiascope was bought in 1935 and a film projector in 1956.

Sunday School examinations were attempted from the first year when four sat, and over the years Miss Laura Lephurd and Mr. A. M. Small coached many scholars; from 1937-45 Miss J. Spies gave instruction. From 1924 prizes for successful candidates gave pupils encouragement.

KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT

A separate Kindergarten Department began on 23rd May, 1915, with Miss H. Turner as Superintendent and four young teachers.

Children were given attendance tickets every Sunday. A cradle roll was begun in the first year of the school and was kept in the hall. Notable periods of office as Superintendent were Miss L. Ward (later Mrs. A. M. Small) 1920-36; Mrs. J. W. Stewart 1936-41 and 1942-48; Miss N. Power (Mrs. K. Biddle) 1949-57; and Miss C. Campbell (Mrs. R. Roberts) 1957-62.

ANNIVERSARIES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The first Sunday School Anniversary was celebrated with special services in the School of Arts on 27th September, 1914. Anniversaries in the church for many years saw the decoration of the walls with palms gathered on a Saturday boat trip up George's River.

Orchestral accompaniment began in 1921 with violinists including Mr. A. R. Johnston, Leila and Sylvia Ward, Gladys Beattie and Leslie Chopping, and continued for many years. Platforms were erected for the scholars and for the 1921 anniversary a high stepped platform was built by J. W. Bayley.

Annual picnics began in the first year of the school, the first being to Como Pleasure Grounds. National Park was chosen in 1919 and 1920. From 1922 the period February-March became the regular date and Gunnamatta Bay, at first via steam train and tram, and later by bus, became the place. Since 1958 they have been held at Shelley Beach, reached by electric train. During the Great Depression Oatley Bay Pleasure Grounds were used.

Teachers established a Sunday School library in 1914 with strong support from J. W. Bayley. Its stock of books grew to 645 in 1935. When the new era of school and public libraries dawned after the Second World War the books were given to the Glebe First Community Church; the library had served its generations well.

The early interest in teacher training was maintained and annually teachers take part in a dedication service.

From its inception the school supported wider church work. In the early years donations were made to Home and Overseas Missions, Methodist Sunday School Department, Dalmar Children's Home and the British and Foreign Bible Society, and that spirit has continued.

Although, as J. W. Bayley said in 1961, no minister or local preacher has gone forward from the Sunday School, much has been accomplished. His 1917 hope that "these young people will do better work than the founders by extending the school and, greater still, the Kingdom even further afield" has been realised, in quiet influence throughout the community and in places beyond their old home church at Oatley.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

On every public holiday after the wooden church was opened a picnic was held. At first in rowing boats and then in motor launches, church people set out from Oatley Bay. The advent of the motor car resulted in smaller group outings in the mid-twenties, but the happy Christmas Eve socials continued a little longer with the Oatley Methodist Church Union formed in 1926, Mr. A. M. Small being responsible for its success.

A tennis and social club was formed in February, 1921, with Mr. A. M. Small temporary secretary. Mrs. Griffiths' tennis court in Rosa Street was made available and was used from 21st March, 1921, until the church court was built. In the early thirties the Ladies' Church Aid took over and by the forties there were three tennis days per week.

When the new church was opened the court was developed for all types of games and car parking.

*“Love one another as I
have loved you”.*

John 15:12

CHURCH SOCIETIES IN FELLOWSHIP

*The more formal societies formed during the history of
the Church are numerous and a short account of each
follows:*

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR

At the second annual meeting in September, 1915, the formation of a Christian Endeavour was agreed to and Tuesday became Endeavour night. The first meeting was held on 26th September, 1915. J. W. Bayley, Miss Leila Ward, Mr. A. M. Small, and Miss Frances Graham were active members, with 13 associate members.

JUNIOR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR

In October, 1921, Miss O. Dickenson formed a Junior Christian Endeavour Society. It met at 10 a.m. before Church. Miss Leila Ward, 1922-26, and Miss Laura Lepherd served long terms as superintendent.

GIRLS' GUILD AND BOYS' MANUAL

These societies met at Beth-Eden in the early days. Both societies worked to support bazaars—girls doing needlework and boys making toys in J. W. Bayley's workshop. A. Dyer, Abbey Noakes, and George McIlveen were leading boys of the time.

TEMPERANCE UNION

The Temperance Union was formed in 1927 to work for the Prohibition referendum. Mr. A. R. Johnston and Mr. H. Thorburn were office-bearers. Much good work was done and the work continued in other ways in later years.

LADIES' CHURCH AID

The Oatley Ladies' Church Aid was formed on 29th March, 1916, met fortnightly at Beth-Eden, and began to raise funds for the first church. Notable secretaries were Mrs. G. McIlveen (1920-25), Mrs. C. J. Small (1925-34), Mrs. R. Mills (1935-40), Mrs. J. W. Stewart (1940-48), Mrs. C. Callow (1949-54), Mrs. A. M. Small (1954-58), Mrs. R. Orr (1958-61) and Mrs. B. G. Gee (1961-63).

In 1959 its membership of 51 was the largest in the circuit.

The society presented the carpet for the church in 1930 and comfortable seating in 1938, and began raising money for the building fund. It then paid for re-construction of the tennis court. Gifts were made to the local ministers' fund and District Benevolent Society during the Great Depression. The society was in the forefront of work in raising money for

the new church, and in its long years of service the Ladies' Church Aid has done much to advance the work of the Church in Oatley.

ORDER OF KNIGHTS

In the early twenties the O.K. movement gained ground and replaced the boys' clubs operating at the time. The Oatley branch was established on 4th April, 1922, as Court of Courage No. 62, with Captain C. J. Small as the first Knight Commander. During the 1920's and 30's the Court flourished and at one stage was meeting in two age divisions, the younger group being led by George McIlveen. In 1939 at the time of the Silver Jubilee of the Order of Knights, which was founded at Hurstville, G. M. Andrews and J. Nicholson of the Oatley Court were District Knight Commander and District Chief Knight respectively. The 1939-45 War caused the closure of the Senior Court but it was re-opened at West Oatley.

Court of the Royal Standard No. 452, a junior court, was formed on 26th July, 1940, the first Page Commander being Russell Gibbs. Despite good leadership though the war and post-war years secular youth groups won the interest of the boys and after twenty years it ceased to function.

Some hundreds of boys and young men have been influenced by the training in the Order of Knights at Oatley, and many leading laymen in our Circuit today give credit and thanks to the blessings they received in the Court of King Arthur.

METHODIST GIRLS' COMRADESHIP

The Methodist Girls' Comradeship was founded as Bush Iris Branch No. 41 on 21st April, 1922, Mrs. C. J. Small being foundation Director. She held the office over broken periods for a total of six years, alternating with others, including Mrs. A. M. Small (14 years), Mrs. A. Hince (3 years), Mrs. J. W. Stewart (2 years), and Miss Marie Small (2 years).

The O.K. and M.G.C. invited each other to annual banquets and also held combined functions which were special features of Church life. From the formation of such societies increases in Church attendance were noticeable.

RAYS

At the request of the elder girls of the Sunday School the Rays Society "Madonna Lily" No. 269 was formed on 20th June, 1929, with Mrs. A. M. Small as Director, and Mrs. G. McIlveen as Deputy Director. Mrs. Small served for 15 years. Other Directors were Mrs. Ethel Smith, Mrs. J. W. Stewart and Miss Merle Small. Deputy Directors included Mrs. W. G. Horsfield and Mrs. H. Power. The Rays continues in 1963 under the leadership of Mrs. B. Jones.

THE BROTHERHOOD

The Oatley Men's Brotherhood has had outstanding success. Founded in September, 1931, during the depression years, and under the ministry of Rev. P. L. Black, it was a society where men out of work and their more fortunate friends met in fellowship. In its first 21 years the average attendance at monthly meetings was 47.

It made no distinction of creed. Excellent speakers from public life and educational spheres were obtained. The Brotherhood anniversary was linked with the church anniversary from the fifties, forming the choir on many occasions. The original Secretary, Mr.

George McIlveen, served in that office until he became President in August, 1961, only shortly before his death. To him must be attributed highest credit for the movement's success.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

For the youth of the Church the Young People's Fellowship was formed by the Sunday School for those over 13 years of age. Its first meeting was held on 23rd January, 1946. It became the custom to invite all people of the Church to join in a birthday tea. Many members attended Crusader Youth Camps, and a Youth Leaders' Convention held at Oatley in 1948 inspired development of the work.

Mr. A. Hardiman was the active leader at the end of the fifties. A notable gift of the Fellowship to the new Church was 120 new hymn books valued at £70. The club continues active in work for the youth of the Church, being now a local branch of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

COUPLES' CLUB

The newest society is the Couples' Club formed in November, 1959, at the instigation of Mr. and Mrs. L. Rootes, who were the first secretaries.

In four years the club has grown to a membership of thirty-seven couples. It meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the homes of members, with quarterly combined meetings and occasional outings. The Club's purpose is to provide husband and wife meeting together, with opportunities of Christian fellowship, constructive recreation and cultural achievement. A typical evening combines devotional and educational periods with party games and supper, the contributions to all segments being made largely by members themselves, though guest speakers may be obtained.

The Couples' Club is perhaps the youngest organisation of the church at Oatley, and much spiritual growth is expected as it moves on in Faith.

PRAYER CIRCLE

A ladies' mid-week devotional group under the leadership of Mrs. C. Helman and Mrs. J. Nicholson started in 1957. It has kept to an informal discussion type of meeting, varying from Bible study, to study of present day problems from a Christian point of view.

The average attendance at its monthly meetings has been about eleven, including ladies from the Oatley West Church. From this group has sprung a smaller, but none-the-less rich fellowship of praying ladies who meet fortnightly in the homes of members.

INFLUENCE OF SOCIETIES

At this time of Jubilee we can look back on a variety of societies which have met the needs of Church people for fellowship in all aspects of life. Each has helped to build up the Methodist community in Oatley.

From the Church and its societies have gone forward people in humble and important places in life, whose work and influence in the community has been heightened by regular association with things moral and spiritual.

*“Go ye into all the world
and preach the gospel to
every creature”.*

Mark 16:15

OUR CHURCH'S WIDENING SPHERE

EXTENSION TO OATLEY WEST

The ten years after the Second World War saw home-building extend in Oatley West. Many of the homes were built by young people who grew up in Oatley. A natural demand arose for a church on the other side of the valley which runs down to Gungah Bay.

With the vigour characteristic of their home church they raised the finance to build on land secured by the Home Mission Department at the corner of Gungah Bay and Mulga Roads. The foundation stone of a brick church hall, designed by architect Wm. C. Brown, and built by Horace N. Barton, was unveiled by Rev. A. G. Manefield, President of Conference, on 4th December, 1954. It was opened by President of Conference, Rev. J. Sorrell, on 16th April, 1955. Much of the success of Oatley West may be attributed to the work of Mr. G. M. Andrews.

It was necessary for the parent church at Oatley to adjust to a temporary reduction in worshippers, scholars and members of societies, but progress at Oatley West did not reduce efforts to provide the new building at Oatley. Twenty-nine scholars from Oatley transferred; within three months 90 children were enrolled in the Sunday School and it was not long before there were over 200.

WIDER WORK

The circuit fund is well supported, as well as Home and Overseas Missions, Dalmar, Iandra, Elanora, Heighway, Social Services, Young People's Department, Religious Education, World Council of Churches, British and Foreign Bible Society, Television, Temperance, and the City and Central Methodist Missions.

APPENDIX 1.

MINISTERS OF OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH

SUPERINTENDENT

ASSISTANT

HURSTVILLE-KOGARAH CIRCUIT

1913-4	Rev. B. Lane (Hurstville)	Rev. P. O. Davis (Kogarah)
1914-7	Rev. G. W. Payne "	Rev. Herbert Green (Kogarah)
		Rev. A. E. Townsend "
1917	" "	Mr. Adrian Steele "

HURSTVILLE CIRCUIT

1918-20	Rev. F. Duesbury (Hurstville)	Mr. Adrian Steele (Mortdale)
1920	Rev. Jos. Walker "	Rev. H. Pennington (Supny.)
1921	" "	Rev. J. W. Booth (Mortdale)
1922	" "	Rev. H. Fleming "

MORTDALE CIRCUIT

1923	Rev. H. Fleming (Mortdale) (Died 1924)	—
1924	Rev. W. Stewart "	—
1925-6	Rev. W. Theobald	
1927	" "	Mr. W. Beazley
1928	Rev. P. L. Black	Mr. W. Beazley
1929	" "	Mr. A. E. Frede
1930-2	" "	Rev. A. S. J. Harding (Supny.)
1932	Rev. S. Wedge	"
1934-6	" "	—
1936-40	Rev. G. Read	—
1940-44	Rev. A. G. Whitten	Mr. B. J. Tollis (June-July, 1940)
1944-48	Rev. K. Mason	Student Rev. W. A. Coates (May-Nov., 1945)
		" C. Harkness (Dec., 1945-Apr. 1946, May, 1947-Oct., 1947)
		" C. M. Dominish (May, 1946-Apr., 1947)
		" L. A. Badcock (Nov., 1947-Apr., 1948)
1948-54	Rev. E. T. Chapman	Students as required from College
1954	Rev. W. S. Beazley	—
1955	" "	Student Probationers
		Rev. G. S. Bickford (Apr., 1955-1956)
1956-7	" "	Rev. G. Aitken (1956-57)
1957-8	" "	Rev. C. Neil Jones (1957-58)
1958-63	Rev. K. L. Doust	Married Probationer (and Minister)
		Rev. R. G. Peterson (1958-59)
		Married Probationer
		E. W. Stevenson (1960-63)
		Student Minister
		R. H. Short (1962-63)

MINISTERS OF OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH-MORTDALE CIRCUIT continued:-
 (Minister with oversight of Oatley Congregation listed first)

1964/65	Rev M.G.Hall	Rev E.W.Stevenson	Student A.G.Kilpatrick
1965/67	do	Rev J.L.Secomb	R.Bruce
1967/68	do	do	N.White
1968/69	do	do	A.Palmer
1969/71	Rev E.G.Towner	do	N.Tong
1971/72	Rev A.S.Coleman	do	
1972/73	do	Rev R.H.Short	
1973/77	do	Rev A.Baker	

OATLEY UNITING CHURCH--MORTDALE PARISH

1978	Rev A.S.Coleman	Rev A.Baker	Rev J.B.Edenborough
1979	Rev A.Baker	Rev H.T.Roberts	do
1980/83	do	do	Rev A.J.MacLean
1984	Rev N.J.Henry	do	do
1985	do	do(retired30/6)	do
		Rev N.Reid (Nov)	
1986/89	do	do	Rev A.Qalo
1990	Rev R.G.Lancaster	do till Sept	do
1991	Rev R.Nance	Rev R.G.Lancaster	do

OATLEY UNITING CHURCH----OATLEY PARISH from 1.4.91

1991 Rev R.Nance

APPENDIX 2. TRUSTEES OF OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH

The first Trust Meeting was held at the Parsonage, Hurstville, on September 1, 1917.

Secretaries
 1917-24 J. V. Hart
 1924-37 A. M. Small
 1937-40 W. J. Gibson
 1956-57 A. M. Small
 1948-53 W. J. Gibson
 1953-56 C. Callow
 1956-58 A. M. Small
 1957-59 A. A. Peterson
 1959-61 W. Baker
 1961-63 S. Best

Treasurers
 1917-37 J. W. Bayley
 1937-49 A. M. Small
 1949-51 G. M. Andrews
 1951-54 A. M. Small
 1954-57 J. Nicholson
 1957-59 A. M. Small
 1959-63 J. Nicholson

LIST OF TRUSTEES OF OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH

		DATE APPOINTED		DATE REMOVED
William John Berryman Joseph William Bayley William James Parker Woods Albert Edward Offord John Victor Hart Luther Smith Scruton Robert Mills Charles Small Aston Dyer John Byron	} Original Trustees	26.8.15	Deceased	27.7.27
		26.8.15	Resigned	27.9.37
		26.8.15	Resigned	24.11.43
		26.8.15	Resigned	27.7.22
		26.8.15	Resigned	1.2.25
		4.10.17	Resigned	19.2.25
		1.11.17	Resigned	11.3.22
		11.3.22	Deceased	22.10.40
		11.3.22	Resigned	27.7.27
		11.3.22	Resigned	27.9.37
*Alexander McLeod Small		11.3.22		
Alexander Robert Johnston		19.2.25	Deceased	1.12.61
Frank Burdett Riley		19.2.25	Removed	13.3.25
Hugh Hamilton Thorburn		27.7.27	Resigned	3.12.36
John Walker Stewart		14.9.27	Resigned	24.11.43
Christopher James Gardner		10.2.33	Deceased	13.12.47
George Joseph McIlveen		14.9.37	Deceased	19.10.61
Charles James Small		14.9.37	Deceased	13.9.56
*James Robert Logan Davidson		14.9.37		
*Henry Charles Sillett		14.9.37		
William James Gibson		14.9.37	Resigned	19.10.61
*William Greenhalgh Horsfield		22.10.40		
Alfred Joseph Mason		15.11.43	Resigned	20.1.56
Gordon McLeod Andrews		13.12.47	Resigned	20.1.56
Basil Charles Hawley		13.12.47	Resigned	20.1.56
*Allen Warren Hince		13.12.47		
Ronald Arthur Pfeiffer		13.12.47	Resigned	10.2.53
Clarence Edward Callow		16.8.50	Resigned	25.6.57
*James Nicholson		16.8.50		
Alfred Magnus Jamieson		2.2.53	Resigned	20.1.56
*Harold Frederick Power		7.9.55		
Alfred Aitken Peterson		11.5.55	Resigned	19.10.61
*Ronald Power Orr		7.9.55		
*Keith Donald Turnbull		7.9.55		
*Arthur William Hardiman		2.7.56		
*Leonard Roy Rootes		14.1.57		
Neville William Gardner		14.1.57	Resigned	19.10.61
*Walter Mark Baker		15.9.59		
*John Douglas Paton		3.10.61		
*Ronald Stuart Best		3.10.61		
*Kenneth Hamilton Tate		10.4.62		
*Gilbert Frederick Paton		5.7.62		
*Charles Ivan Garwood		5.7.62		

APPENDIX 3.

CIRCUIT OFFICE-BEARERS

From the formation of the Mortdale Circuit in 1923, J. W. Bayley served as Junior Circuit Steward until 1924, and then as Senior Circuit Steward until 1927. He was Junior Circuit Steward again in 1932.

Mr. G. McIlveen became Secretary to the Quarterly Meeting from 1940 to 1945 and continued as Junior Circuit Steward until his death in 1961. Mr. G. M. Andrews became Senior Circuit Steward in 1950 and in 1962 was succeeded by Mr. J. Nicholson.

APPENDIX 4. STEWARDS OF OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Church Stewards were at first J. W. Bayley, A. E. Offord, W. Woods, B. Bush, L. S. Scruton, J. V. Hart, and R. Mills. In the twenties were added A. Dyer, N. Byron, G. J. McIlveen, H. Thorburn, F. Riley, A. Hince, C. Stennett; in the thirties C. Small; in the forties A. R. Johnston, H. C. Sillett, J. W. Stewart and H. Williamson and in the fifties W. J. Gibson. A. Hince's term as steward now totals about 35 years. In 1963 the Chief Steward is Mr. C. I. Garwood.

Communion Stewards were J. W. Bayley until 1920, after which Mrs. Skevington served in 1921-2; Miss J. Dyer 1923, with Miss L. Ward (now Mrs. A. M. Small) serving to 1940 and again from 1948; Miss E. Newcombe 1927-31; Mrs. H. Smith 1931-33; Mrs. C. J. Small 1933-35 and 1940-52; Mrs. Mills 1935-39; Mrs. M. Noakes 1939-48; and Miss L. Lephed from 1952.

APPENDIX 5. OFFICERS OF OATLEY METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUPERINTENDENTS

PRIMARY

1913-18 J. W. Bayley (L. S. Scruton Asst.)
 Sep., 1918-Aug., 1919 L. S. Scruton (Actg.)
 1919 J. W. Bayley
 1920 (May-Oct.) G. Batty (Actg.)
 1920-35 J. W. Bayley
 1935-37 J. W. Stewart
 1937-47 G. McIlveen
 (called General Superintendent from 1943)
 1947-49 B. C. Hawley
 1949-50 J. Gibson
 1951 (part) D. Fleming
 1950-56 J. Nicholson
 1956-59 N. Gardner
 1959-63 L. Rootes

SECRETARIES

1913-6 Miss E. Davidson
 1916-7 Miss V. Stephens
 1917-8 L. S. Scruton
 1918-36 A. M. Small
 1936-40 G. M. Andrews
 1940 Mrs. Mason
 1941 C. J. Gardner
 1942-46 B. C. Hawley
 1946-49 G. M. Andrews
 1949-50 J. Nicholson
 1950 B. Rose
 1951-8 R. P. Orr
 1958 T. Gwan
 1959-60 Miss H. Campbell
 1961 Mrs. K. Turnbull
 1962 R. Orr
 1963 J. D. Paton

PIANISTS

1947-53 Miss M. Schofield
 1954 Mr. K. Harrapp
 1955-60 Miss E. Hince
 1961 Mr. A. Pearce
 1962-63 Mr. A. Pearce and Miss Hincksman

KINDERGARTEN

1915-17 Miss H. Turner
 1917 Miss H. Davidson
 (Miss E. McMichael Asst.)
 1917 Miss E. Jeater
 1918-20 Miss E. McMichael
 1920-36 Miss L. Ward (Became Mrs.
 A. M. Small in 1926)
 1931 Mrs. H. Smith (Actg.)
 1936-41 Mrs. J. W. Stewart
 1941 Mrs. G. McIlveen
 1942-48 Mrs. J. W. Stewart
 1948 Miss M. Stewart (Mrs. B. Rose)
 1949-57 Miss N. Power (Mrs K. Biddle)
 1957-62 Miss C. Campbell (Mrs. R. Roberts)
 1962-63 Mr. I. Hawkins

ORGANISTS

1913-17 Miss V. Stephens
 1917 Miss E. Jeater
 1918-20 Miss L. Ward
 MUSICAL DIRECTOR: A. M. SMALL 1921-36
 1921-29 Robert Mills
 1929-31 Alan Bayley
 1931-38 Cecil Bayley
 1938-46 Miss M. Schofield
 1946 Miss H. Johnston

KINDERGARTEN PIANISTS

1923 Miss Mary Cater (Mrs. G. McIlveen)
 1924-30 Miss D. Johnston and Miss E. Crofts
 1930-32 Miss Hazel Hodgson
 1932-36 Miss Nancy Martin
 1936-39 Miss L. Horsfield
 1940 Mrs. G. McIlveen
 1941 Miss Jessie Nicholson
 1951 Miss M. Small
 1952 Miss D. Davidson
 1953-54 Mrs. H. Williamson
 1955-57 Miss J. Power
 1958-63 Miss B. Roper (Mrs. B. Jones)
 1959-63 Mrs. B. Jones

APPENDIX 6. MEMORIALS AND GIFTS IN THE CHURCH

PULPIT: "A tribute of love and a memorial to a devoted wife and mother, Mrs. Ruby Evelyn Bayley, from her husband and family, 1942. Forever with the Lord."

PULPIT CHAIR: "To the memory of Ruby E. Bayley from friends of the Oatley Methodist Church, September, 1942."

PULPIT HYMN BOOK AND BIBLE: "In memory of Annie Dowd, deceased 9th January, 1955, age 94, a devoted Christian and member of this church for many years. Presented by her family to Oatley Methodist Church on the occasion of its opening, 15th November, 1958."

COMMUNION RAIL: "In honour of our father, Joseph William Bayley, founder of the Oatley Methodist Church."

COMMUNION SET: "A token of love to the memory of Charles James Small from his wife and family, 2nd July, 1948."

COMMUNION TABLE: "To complete the memorial to the late Charles James Small this communion table was donated on the occasion of the opening of this church, 15th November, 1958, by his brother Alex M. Small."

BAPTISMAL FONT: "Suffer the little children to come unto Me." "A tribute of love in memory of our dear father and mother. Charles Small, died 20th June, 1939. Mary Ann Small, died 3rd August, 1939. At Rest with the Lord."

VASE: "To the Glory of God in loving memory of Laura Ethel Hince, 20.6.51."

HYMN BOARD: "Presented by the congregation of Oatley Methodist Church to mark the 30th anniversary of Mr. Alex M. Small as church organist, May, 1948."

LIGHT IN NARTHEX: "To the Glory of God the light was placed in this porch in memory of my parents George and Catherine Gwan."

PAMPHLET RACK IN NARTHEX: "Donated by Oatley M.G.C. and Senior O.Ks, 1959."

PLAQUE IN NARTHEX: "Oatley Methodist Church opened and dedicated by Rev. S. R. Bowyer-Hayward, M.A., B.D., President of N.S.W. Conference, 15th November, 1958. Builder, Mr. R. Langham; Hon. Architect, Mr. Clive Stevens, A.R.A.I.A.; Sup. Min., Rev. K. L. Doust, L.Th."

PEWS: "Presented by the Youth Club."

"Presented by the Brotherhood."

"In loving memory of a dear husband and father, Frederick Campbell Dalgleish. Presented by his wife and daughter."

"To the Glory of God and a tribute to the memory of Harry and Sarah Cater from their children."

"In loving memory of May Stewart, a humble and devoted member. Presented by her husband and family."

"A tribute of love in memory of Henry (Harry) and Ivy Ward. Presented by their family."

"A tribute of love in memory of Alfred and Annie Ward. Presented by their family."

"A tribute of love in memory of our dear father and mother, Clement Schofield and Margaret S. Schofield."

"A memorial presented by H. C. Sillett."

FOUNDATION STONE OF ORIGINAL CHURCH: "This stone was set by Ald. Hugh Patrick Esq., 3rd November, 1917."

FOUNDATION STONE OF CHURCH: "To the Glory of God this stone was set by J. W. Bayley Esq., 17th May, 1958 by Rev. W. S. Beazley, Minister."

APPENDIX 7.

WAR SERVICE AND HONOUR ROLL

In the 1914-18 War, A. E. Offord, B. Bush and W. Davidson served. W. Davidson gave his life.

The services of members of the Forces were commemorated on an Honour Board dedicated in 1946 and now placed in the new church. It was made by Mr. A. R. Johnston and presented by the Rays Society. The 1939-45 Honour Roll records the following names:

NAVY

E. Alford, D. K. Andrews, L. S. Andrews, W. Horsfield, J. Nicholson, D.S.M., Joan Stewart.

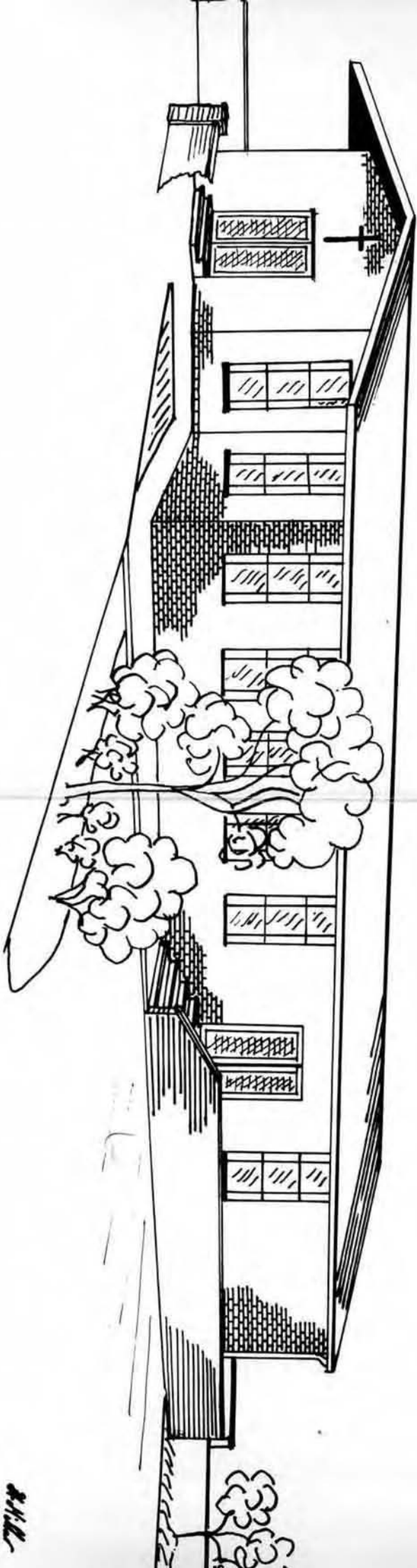
ARMY

N. Andrews, C. A. Bayley, N. D. Bayley, R. Gibbs, K. H. Harrapp, L. K. Jeffrey, Joyce Keane, D. R. Kemsley, R. K. Mason, R. A. Pfeiffer, Joyce Reed, L. F. Roper, R. J. Symons, J. L. Willis.

AIR FORCE

G. M. Andrews, M.B.E., N. Gardner, J. D. Gibson, O. Hodge, C. M. Small, Marie Small, K. W. Stewart, G. E. Symons, K. V. Symons, Gwen Trudgeon, Nola Trudgeon, E. W. Wigzell.

An impression of the proposed "J. W. Bayley Memorial Hall"



J. W. Bayley
1907-1911

2nd September, 1963.

Dear Friend,

You might fairly ask: "What are the Trustees going to do to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Methodist Church in Oatley?" Our answer is that we are going to launch the project to build the

"J. W. BAYLEY MEMORIAL HALL"

The original Church and Sunday School Hall was erected in 1917, and now, after 46 years, is past its useful life. What better memorial to the founder of the Methodist Church in Oatley could there be than a fine modern hall with up-to-date teaching facilities to replace the structure where our honoured and revered founder laboured for so long and under so restricted conditions.

Our plans are to erect the buildings, as finances permit, possibly in two stages. We believe the complete scheme will cost about £15,000. As we already owe about £1,000 on our existing Church, it means we shall have to spend the next two or three years raising funds to provide the necessary one-third cash in hand before we may commence building.

This project is necessary, firstly because we must replace our weather-board buildings, which are so old now, and secondly we must raise a fitting memorial to the man who laid such true foundations for the Methodist Church in Oatley—the late Joseph William Bayley.

We believe you would like to be associated with this worthy objective, and invite you to subscribe as generously as you feel disposed to do, in thankfulness for many blessings received, and in appreciation of a lifetime's labour of love for others, rendered by the one whose memory shall be perpetuated by this project.

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Trust Treasurer—
Mr. J. Nicholson, 17 Ada Street, Oatley.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

STUART BEST,
Secretary of Church Trust.
ALEX M. SMALL,
Chairman Jubilee Committee.

TEAR OFF HERE

Mr. J. NICHOLSON,
17 Ada Street,
OATLEY.

Dear Mr. Nicholson,

I would like to make a donation to the "J. W. BAYLEY MEMORIAL FUND" as set out in your letter of.....

and take pleasure in enclosing cheque/money order for £.....

I wish your appeal every success.

Yours sincerely,

..... (NAME)

..... (ADDRESS)

OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH

OPENING AND DEDICATION

of the

J. W. BAYLEY MEMORIAL HALL

SUNDAY 29th OCTOBER, 1972

at 3 p.m.

OPENED BY: WILLIAM A. BAYLEY, F.R.A.H.S.

DEDICATED BY: THE REV. KEITH L. DOUST, L.Th.
President N.S.W. Methodist Conference

In the Presence of :

REV. ALLAN D. BRAND, L.Th., Dip. Soc. Sci., Dip. R.E.
Chairman Sydney South District

REV. ROY M.E. GLOVER, L.Th., Dip. R.E., F.C.I.S., A.A.S.A.
Property Secretary

CIRCUIT MINISTERS:

Rev. James L. Secomb (Superintendent)
Rev. Albert Coleman
Rev. Norman Tong

ARCHITECT :

Clive Stevens, A.R.A.I.A.

BUILDER :

Rex Roberts

And distinguished clergy, civic leaders, church members and friends.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The people attending will enter the hall by the side doors and take their seats before the opening ceremony commences.

The opening proceedings will take place adjacent to the main entrance, and will be relayed by amplifier to the hall.

PRESENTATION OF KEY:

The Builder will hand the key to the architect and say:

"This building having been completed to your plans and specifications, I hand the key to you, and express my pleasure and that of my workmen in being entrusted with the work."

The Architect will say:

"Mr. Bayley, I deliver to you the key of this building that it may be opened and dedicated to the glory of God and the service of His people."

OPENING BY MR. BAYLEY:

"To the Glory of God, I open this hall. May those who gather here receive and nurture the words and wisdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to the end that they may receive His salvation and enjoy His grace, mercy and peace throughout their lives."

The Official Party will then proceed to seats allocated for them.

WELCOME:

The Rev. J.L. Secomb will welcome the President of the New South Wales Conference, other clergy, official guests, visitors and congregation.

PRAYER: Rev. Allan D. Brand

HYMN: No. 685 (Tune "St. George" M.H.B.248)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>STAND up and bless the Lord,
Ye people of His choice,
Stand up and bless the Lord your God,
With heart and soul and voice.</i> | 3. <i>God is our strength and song,
And His salvation ours;
Then be His love in Christ proclaimed
With all our ransomed powers.</i> |
| 2. <i>Though high above all praise,
Above all blessing high,
Who would not fear His holy name,
And laud and magnify?</i> | 4. <i>Stand up and bless the Lord,
The Lord your God adore;
Stand up and bless His glorious name
Henceforth for evermore.</i> |

OPENING ADDRESS: William A. Bayley, F.R.A.H.S.
Eldest son of the late J.W. Bayley who established the Methodist Church in Oatley, whose work and memory are honoured by this hall.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: The Rev. Roy M.E. Glover

PRESENTATION OF BUILDING AND GIFTS:

The Secretary of the Trust Committee (Mr. Len Watson) shall say to the President.
"Sir, in the name of the members of the Trust Committee and all others connected with the erection of this building, and those whose gifts are gratefully acknowledged, I request that you will on behalf of the Methodist Church of Australasia accept these facilities, to be dedicated to the glory of Almighty God and the extension of His Kingdom"

DEDICATION

The President shall say: "By what name shall this building be known?"

The Trust Committee Secretary shall say: "It shall be called 'The J.W. Bayley Memorial Hall'".

The President shall say: "Dear friends, we rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of His people to build this hall to the glory of His name. On behalf of the Methodist Church of Australasia I now accept this building – to be known as the J.W. Bayley Memorial Hall – and the gifts and facilities in it, that we may dedicate them, and so set them apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of men. As this dedication is vain without the solemn consecration of those whose gifts and labours it represents, let us now give ourselves anew to the service of God: our souls, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ; our bodies, that they may be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; and our labours and business, that they may be according to God's holy will, and that their fruit may tend to the glory of His name and the advancement of His Kingdom.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this building and its appointments to the worship of God:

to the purpose of Christian education;

to Christian fellowship and to recreation of mind and body;

to those tasks and aims in which the Christian serves his place and time;

to the cause of Christian citizenship, and the broad field of social relations.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION : The President.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHOIR :

GREETINGS : The Mayor of Kogarah (Alderman F.J. Baker J.P.) on behalf of the local community and visitors.

FINANCE : Mr. J. Nicholson (Hon. Treasurer of the Trust Committee) will present the financial statement.

OFFERTORY :

DEDICATION OF OFFERTORY : Rev. Albert Coleman.

HYMN No. 984

(Tune "Ellacombe" M.H.B. 836)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. <i>Thou whose hand hath brought us
Unto this joyful day,
Accept our glad thanksgiving,
And listen as we pray;
And may our preparation
For this day's service be
With one accord to offer
Ourselves, O Lord, to Thee.</i></p> | <p>3. <i>And oft as here we gather,
And hearts in worship blend,
May truth reveal its power,
And fervent prayer ascend:
Here may the busy toiler
Rise to the things above,
The young, the old, be strengthened,
And all men learn Thy love.</i></p> |
| <p>2. <i>For this new house we praise Thee,
Reared at Thine own command,
For every generous bosom,
And every willing hand;
And now within Thy temple
Thy glory let us see,
For all its strength and beauty
Are nothing without Thee.</i></p> | <p>4. <i>And as the years roll onward,
And strong affections twine,
And tender memories gather
About this sacred shrine,
May this its chiefest honour,
Its glory, ever be,
That multitudes within it
Have found their way to Thee.</i></p> |

DEDICATORY ADDRESS : The Rev. Keith L. Doust
President of N.S.W. Conference

MUSICAL ITEM BY "THE DEBS"

BENEDICTION: The Rev. Keith L. Doust

INVITATION

At the conclusion of the service of dedication a family tea will follow.
An opportunity will thus be provided for conversation
between friends, and the renewal of friendships of yesteryear.

Foundation Stone:

The foundation stone of the original Church hall bearing the inscription "This stone was set by Ald. Hugh Patrick Esq. J.P. 3rd November 1917." has been incorporated in the wall in the main entrance.

Dedication Plaque : J.W. BAYLEY MEMORIAL HALL:
Opened by his son William A. Bayley, F.R.A.H.S.
Dedicated by The Rev. Keith L. Doust, L.Th.
President of the N.S.W. Conference
29th October, 1972
Architect: Clive Stevens A.R.A.I.A.
Builders: Rex Roberts Constructions Pty. Ltd.
Superintendent Minister: Rev. James L. Secomb.

Acknowledgements :

The Quiet Room was provided without cost to the Trust Committee by the gifts of people with a conviction that in the church buildings there should be a place open at all times for devotion and prayer. In terms of the gift, the Quiet Room will not be used by organisations or for meetings of any kind.

A substantial donation from the Indoor Bowls Club assisted in providing the appointments of the kitchen.

Rex Roberts Constructions Pty. Ltd. whose favourable contract price represents a substantial gift.

The Ladies Church Aid for substantial donations over several years to the Memorial Hall Fund.

Stage and proscenium presented by Mr. A.M. Small and family as a memorial to Leila Harriett Small.

Exterior standard light donated by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Campbell.

Lectern provided from funds of Youth Club of 1959.

A great amount of work has been done in a voluntary capacity by members of the Trust Committee and Church, especially by Mr. John Patton who supervised the construction of the building. The Trust Committee wishes to express its appreciation of this work done so willingly and so well.

Members of Trust Committee:

Rev. James L. Secomb (Chairman), Rev. Albert Coleman

Mrs. M.J. Lyster, Mrs. D.C. Rootes

Messrs. W.M. Baker, C.I. Garwood, C.C. Grigg, A.W. Hardiman, J.A. Helman,
A.W. Hince, J. Nicholson, R.P. Orr, J.D. Paton, J.T. Patton, H.F. Power,
H.C. Sillett, A.M. Small, K.H. Tate, R.M. Tollis, L.J. Watson, A.J. Wilson,
J.A. Wilson.

OATLEY METHODIST CHURCH

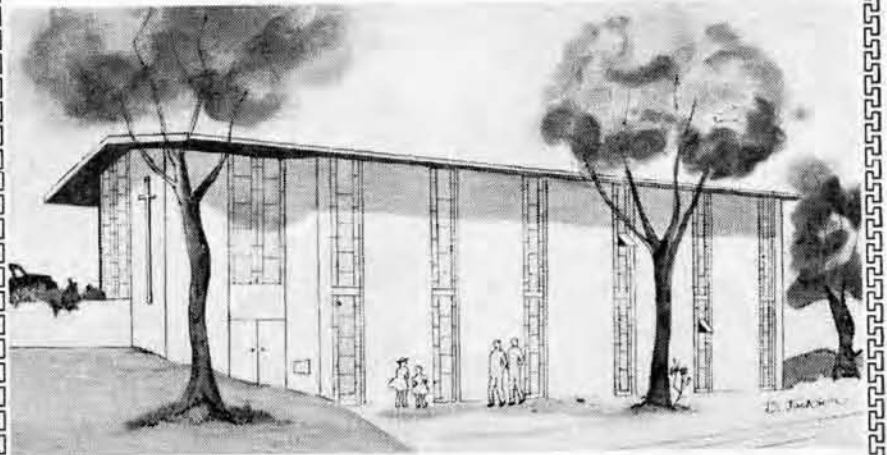


OPENING AND DEDICATION CEREMONY

Conducted by
REV. K. L. DOUST, L.Th.

on

SATURDAY, 15th NOVEMBER, 1958, at 2.30 p.m.



Ministers:

Rev. K. L. DOUST, L. Th.
Rev. R. G. PETERSON, M.A., B.Sc., Dip.Ed.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The President, visiting Clergy, and Civic Leaders shall be received and welcomed by the Superintendent Minister, Rev. K. L. Doust, at the porch of the Church.

STATEMENT OF THE BUILDING FUND—

Mr. A. M. Small, Hon. Treasurer.

PRESENTATION OF THE KEY BY HON. ARCHITECT,

Mr. Clive Stevens, A.R.A.I.A.

Mr. Stevens will say: "I have much pleasure in presenting you with this Key, and ask that you now accept it with my best wishes for the future of this Church within the community."

THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED BY THE PRESIDENT, who will say:
"To the Glory of God, I open this door. May those who gather in this Church receive within its walls, grace, mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen."

The Congregation, preceded by the Clergy and Civic Leaders, shall, in a spirit of reverence, enter the Church.

Organ Prelude—Mr. A. M. Small, Church Organist.

Doxology.

The Congregation shall remain standing, and the Superintendent Minister, Rev. K. L. Doust, shall lead in the responsive reading.

Minister: "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the House of the Lord'."

People: "Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem."

Minister: "O come let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

People: "For He is our God: and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand."

Hymn. No. 9 M.H.B.

(Tune "Sanctissimus")

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His name.

Low at His feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on His heart He will bear it for thee,
Comfort Thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
Truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness:
These are the offerings to lay on His shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His name. Amen.

Prayer—Rev. D. F. Almond.

Reading of the Scriptures—Rev. R. G. Peterson.

Solo—"How Lovely are Thy Dwellings"—Mrs. A. M. Small.

Offertory.

Hymn. No. 983 M.H.B.

(Tune "Winchester New")

Be with us, gracious Lord, to-day:
This house we dedicate to Thee;
O hear Thy servants as they pray,
And let Thine ear attentive be.

Here, when the gospel sound is heard
And here proclaimed Thy saving
name,
May hearts be quickened, moved and
stirred,
And souls be kindled into flame.

Within these walls let holy peace,
Let love and truth be always found.
May burdened hearts find sweet release,
And souls with richest grace be
crowned.

Here may the dead be made to live,
The dumb to sing, the deaf to hear,
And do Thou to the humble give
Pardon and peace instead of fear.

Make this, O Lord, Thine own abode;
Thy presence in these courts be given,
Be this, indeed, the house of God,
And this in truth the gate of heaven.
Amen.

ACT OF DEDICATION.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUILDING. The Secretary of the Trust, on behalf of the Trustees, shall say to the President: "Sir, in the name of the Trustees, and all others connected with the erection of this building, I request that you will, on behalf of the Methodist Church of Australasia, accept it now to be dedicated to the glory of God for Divine Worship, the preaching of the Gospel, and the extension of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The President shall say:

"Dear friends, we rejoice with you that God has put into your hearts to build this Church to the glory of His Holy Name. We are met together to set it apart for the worship of Almighty God, according to the rites of our Church. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses."

Then, all standing, the President shall say, the people responding:

To the Glory of God the Father, who has called us by His grace;
And of His Son, who loved us, and gave Himself for us;
And of the Holy Spirit, who illuminates and sanctifies us:

WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH.

For the worship of God in prayer and praise;
For the preaching of the everlasting Gospel;
For the celebration of the Holy Sacraments:

WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH.

For the comfort of all who mourn;
For strength to those who are tempted;
For light to those who seek the way:

WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH.

For the hallowing of family life;
For the teaching and guidance of the young;
For the perfecting of the saints:

WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH.

For the conversion of sinners;
For the promotion of righteousness;
For the extension of the Kingdom of God:

WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH.

In the unity of the faith;
In the bond of Christian brotherhood;
In love and good-will to all:

WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH.

In gratitude for the labours of all the saints;
In loving remembrance of those who have finished their course;
In the hope of blessed immortality through Jesus Christ:

WE DEDICATE THIS CHURCH.

Then shall the President and the people together say:

"We now, the people of this Church and Congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen."

PRAYER, whilst all remain standing by Rev. K. L. Doust:

"Accept, O God our Father, this service at our hands, and bless it to the end that this congregation of faithful people may make manifest the Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the truth, and so may this house be the place where Thine honour dwelleth and the whole earth be filled with Thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

All shall be seated.

ANTHEM: "King All Glorious."

ACT OF DEDICATION OF MEMORIALS AND GIFTS.

Presentation of Memorials and Gifts. The Trust Steward on behalf of the donors shall say to Rev. R. H. Doust: "Sir, we present to this Church these memorials and gifts to be dedicated to the Glory and Praise of God."

The Rev. R. H. Doust on behalf of the Church shall say, "We accept these memorials and gifts as a sacred trust, and shall guard them reverently."

Let us pray.

"Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, without whom no words or works of ours have meaning, but who dost accept the gifts of our hands as the tokens of our devotion: grant thy blessing upon us as we dedicate these gifts to Thy glory. May these memorials which we now dedicate be an enduring witness before all Thy people of the faithful service of Thy servants. May our lives, being consecrated unto Thy service, be joined with Thy faithful ones into that building which groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord. Amen."

THE ADDRESS—The President of the Conference, Rev. S. R. Bowyer Hayward, M.A., B.D.

HYMN. No. 989 M.H.B.

(Tune "Morecombe")

Eternal Lord, Thou Source and End of all,
With trustful hearts upon Thy name we call;
Thy presence makes this hallowed spot a home,
To which with glad and filial hearts we come.

O dwell with us, blest Spirit of all light;
Be Thou our sun by day, our star by night;
Breathe as the spring-time through each parched form,
Sweep as the blast of purifying storm.

Reveal Thyself in works by wisdom wrought,
In ever-widening, ever-deepening thought,
In rainbow hopes which span earth's dreariest hour,
In lowly love's all-conquering, God-like power.

To all our teachers, Lord, Thy grace afford,
From living souls to speak Thy living word;
With loving lips "good tidings" to declare,
And in the desert God's highway prepare.

On Thy great Church, O God, a blessing pour,
Teach her the dead to raise, the lost restore,
And build in every heart and home to Thee,
Christ's temples of Divine Humanity.

THE BENEDICTION.

*The Congregation shall remain standing until the official procession
has left the Church.*

It is the desire and prayer of the Trustees and people that this New Church will provide for any who wish to use it a fitting sanctuary for the worship of Almighty God.

FOUNDATION STONE—

"To the Glory of God this stone was set by J. W. Bayley, Esq., 17th May, 1958, Rev. W. S. Beazley, Minister."

DEDICATION PLAQUE—

"Oatley Methodist Church. Opened and Dedicated by Rev. S. R. Bowyer Hayward, M.A., B.D., President of the N.S.W. Conference, 13th Sept., 1958. Hon. Architect, Mr. Clive Stevens, A.R.A.I.A. Builder, Mr. R. Langham. Superintendent Minister, Rev. K. L. Doust, L.Th."

TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH—

Rev. K. L. Doust (Chairman), Rev. R. G. Peterson, Mr. A. A. Peterson (Hon. Sec.), Mr. A. M. Small (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. G. J. McIlveen (Trust Steward), Messrs. J. R. Davidson, N. W. Gardner, W. J. Gibson, A. W. Hardiman, A. Hince, W. E. Horsfield, A. R. Johnston, J. Nicholson, R. P. Orr, H. Power, L. R. Rootes, H. Sillett, K. D. Turnbull.

A great amount of work has been done in a voluntary capacity by members of the Trust and Church. The Trustees wish to express their appreciation of this work done so willingly and so well.

SPECIAL SERVICES

SATURDAY, 15th NOVEMBER.

- 2.30 p.m. Opening and Dedication of New Church and Sunday School Hall.
4.45 p.m. Buffet Tea.
7.15 p.m. Public Meeting.

SUNDAY, 16th NOVEMBER

- 11.00 a.m. First Regular Service in new church conducted by Rev. D. F. Almond, Chairman of South Sydney District.
Soloist, Mr. G. J. McIlveen.
3.00 p.m. Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. Maunder's Cantata, "Song of Thanksgiving" will be rendered by an augmented choir, followed by a sacred concert provided by members of the choir of the Hurstville Methodist Church.
7.15 p.m. Rev. K. L. Doust, L.Th.
Soloist, Miss Shirley Brown.

TUESDAY, 18th NOVEMBER

- 8.00 p.m. Film Service, at which will be screened "The Unfinished Task".

THURSDAY, 20th NOVEMBER.

- 8.00 p.m. Devotional and Communion Service.
Special Speaker, Rev. B. R. Wyllie, M.A., B.D.
Soloist, Mrs. M. Wilson.

SATURDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER

- 8.00 p.m. Grand Concert.

SUNDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER

- 11.00 a.m. Rev. Dr. F. H. Rayward, O.B.E.
Soloist, Miss Margaret Davidson
3.00 p.m. Pleasant Sunday Afternoon.
Programme by the South Hurstville Methodist Church Choir.
Conductress, Miss Joan Whittaker, B.A., A.Mus.A.
5.00 p.m. Youth Club Tea.
7.15 p.m. Rev. W. S. Beazley.
Soloists, Miss Brenda Roper, Mr. G. Marley.

Special music will be rendered by the choir at all services.

STATEMENT OF THE BUILDING FUND

	£
Anticipated cost of building, including extras for brick fence, sewerage connection to both old and new churches, paving, re-installation of organ and improvements thereto	12,000
Church furniture and carpets	1,300
Sunday School seats, less proceeds of sale of old seats	230
	13,530
Cash raised for Building Fund	£8,065
Gifts at Foundation Stone Laying	280
Promised donations of pews and other items	400
	8,745
	4,785
Expected receipts to 15th November, 1958	100
	£4,685

Meeting Place

Oatley Amateur Swimming Club

The Swimming Club was formed in 1927 by residents of West Oatley, many of whom were ex-servicemen of the First War.

The main purpose was to promote the sport of swimming & also to bring some social activities to the residents of the area.

The first meeting place was a large tin shed on a block of land on the corner of Myall St & Mulga Rd.

About 1930 the Club purchased 2 blocks of land on the corner of Myall St & Woomona Rd.

It was decided to build a small hall & the original pavilion on Punchbowl Park which was pulled down, was obtained by the Club, as the basis to build the hall.

A tennis court was built beside the hall.

The hall was soon in use every day of the week.

Meetings of the Club were held here, plus dances, socials, life saving classes, card nights, weddings, 21st birthday parties.

After the last war, picture show nights were held, known as "FLIX FOR NIX" in which organisations such as the Health Dept, Airlines, Commercial Companies showed their films.

The hall was expanded & on these nights the place was full.

Other organizations such as Flora & Fauna, Dancing classes, political parties all used the hall regularly.

For many years it was used as a polling booth for elections.

As the entertainment changed direction such as clubs, T.V. hotels, Senior Citizen Centres the hall use declined, one of the reasons it being too small. The Club used facilities down at the baths on the building by the council of dressing sheds & a club room.

For the last 20 years the Hall has been used as a headquarter.

In the period from 1930 to the 1960 the hall served its purpose as a social centre for the local citizens in activities, some of which are not carried out now in the area such as card nights, life saving classes & Flick for Nix.

THE OATLEY MASONIC HALL

(Paper presented at a meeting of the Oatley Heritage Group - 23rd May 1996)

1. The LODGE

During the month of January in the year 1921, a meeting was held in the Oatley School of Arts to discuss the formation of a new Masonic Lodge.

Richard Jones of 12 Letitia Street and Arthur Johnson of Ada Street, were elected Chairman and Secretary respectively. William Wild of Mi Mi Street and Frederick Rogers of Ada Street were also in attendance together with nine other Masons.

The meeting resolved to Petition the Grand Lodge requesting a Charter for a new Lodge to be named 'Lodge Oatley'.

The Charter was granted and Lodge Oatley No 381 had its inaugural meeting at the Hurstville Masonic Hall on Monday, 30th May 1921 with Richard Jones as the first Master.

In the mean time, arrangements had been made with the Trustees of the Oatley Methodist Church for the Lodge to use the Church as a temporary meeting place pending the building of a Masonic Hall. Lodge meetings are twofold, the first part being ceremonial and the second, social. Arrangements were also made for the social part of the meetings to be held in the School of Arts.

From 14th June 1921 until 4th July 1922, the Lodge held 26 meetings in the Church and the School of Arts.,

The Lodge had permission to use the Church as a meeting place for up to three years, but the increase in membership, suggested that a more suitable building would be desirable sooner rather than later.

2. THE LAND

In December 1921, the Lodge purchased a block of land from Thomas Rasmussen of Wyong for £173-5-0.

The block was described as 39.5 perches of land, being lot 20, Section 47, of portion 249. It was part of the original grant of 300 acres to James Oatley in 1833.

This land had been subdivided by Charles Cecil Griffiths who bought it from Frederick Oatley in 1881. Thomas Rasmussen acquired a portion in 1919.

The location was marked out at a point 214 feet 6 inches from the northerly intersection of Letitia and Frederick Streets:

It was a block with a 66 feet frontage on Letitia Street and 165 feet deep. It adjoined the Bread Shop and Bakery which was owned by Charles Edwards and is now the entrance to the Council Car Park.

The Deed of Conveyance is dated 28th December 1921, and is in the names of:

Richard James Jones of Oatley, Foreman Boilermaker;
Edgar Nicholas Williams, Factory Manager;
Charles Henry Hatchman, Storekeeper;
Arthur Ernest Johnson, Butcher and
Alfred John Arps, Gentleman.

Nine years later in 1930, the Lodge purchased an adjoining block with a 66 feet frontage on Letitia Street. This block was subdivided with 44 feet being sold and 22 feet retained. The purchase price was £6 per foot.

The total frontage on Letitia Street was then 88 feet with the depth remaining at 165 feet. In today's measurements 26.82 metres frontage and 50.29 metres deep. Approximately 1,400 square metres.

Including the £173-5-0 for the original block and £132 for the additional block, the total cost was £307-5-0. The Valuer-General's valuation of the land at base date, 1st July 1995 was \$716,000.00.

It is interesting to note that three of the Foundation Members resided directly opposite this block. They were William Coleborne, Richard Jones and Sidney Coleborne (Nos 10, 12 and 14 Letitia Street. respectively). No 16 was owned by Harold Judd who joined the Lodge in July 1921.

Charles Edwards who owned the Bread Shop and Bakery next door, joined the Lodge in 1924. His son Joseph joined in 1930 and his grandson Malcolm in 1976.

The land on which the Masonic Hall stands is designated No 11a Letitia Street.

3. THE BUILDING

The origin of the design of not known, and there are no plans of the building in existence.

By March 1922, the membership of the Lodge had increased to 61 and among the members at that time were builders, carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, electricians, painters and many other tradesmen.

The available records indicate that the members prepared the plans and erected the building.

There was some paid labour. However, most of the work was carried out by the members on a voluntary basis, usually on Saturdays. Most of the material for the building was donated or financed by the members. Harold Judd of Judd's Brickyard at Mortdale, donated the bricks. Transport would have been by horse and dray.

Some members and a few non members were employed at hourly rates ranging from 2s 1d for labourers and 2s 9d for plumbers.

William Arps, a builder of 45 George Street Mortdale (joined the Lodge 16th August 1921) appears to have been the overseer and is recorded to have placed a silver coin under the first brick.

The brothers Sykes, Herbert and William (both joined the Lodge in October 1921) were the principal bricklayers.

The first brick was laid on Monday, 20th March 1922. The Foundation Stone in the North East Corner was set by William Thompson, the Grand Master on Saturday, 8th April 1922. Two weeks later, a second Foundation stone was set in the South East corner by Richard Jones.

The construction of the building progressed rapidly and completion was planned for August 1922.

On Saturday, 5th August 1922, the Oatley Masonic Hall was dedicated and Richard Jones was re-installed as Master for a second term.

Although the actual cost of the building is not recorded, from available documents, it is estimated to have been about £3000. The money was raised from Lodge funds and by members through a debenture scheme. Records indicate that the Trustees had difficulties in redeeming the debentures, some former members being re-imbursed up to 20 years after leaving the Lodge. The economic depression in the 1930's had a severe impact on the Lodge with many members being unemployed. The remaining debentures were finally redeemed in 1951.

The internal dimensions of the original building are:

The Lodge Room	50 x 30 feet
The Main Hall	50 x 30 feet
The Small Hall	12 x 10 feet
The Kitchen	12 x 10 feet

Gas lights were the source of illumination until 1927 when electricity was connected to the building. One gas jet remains on the wall in the small hall and disconnected gas pipes for overhead lighting are still in the ceiling.

The night soil contractor serviced two outhouses at the rear of the building until sewerage was connected in 1960. The contractor was John Hannon junior who joined the Lodge on 19th July 1921.

When completed in 1922, the Oatley Masonic Hall became an alternative to the School of Arts for public hiring. In the early years it was in demand for dances and many other social functions.

The scale of tariffs at the time were:

The Main Hall	15s
The Small Hall	7s 6d

The following organisations are recorded as having been tenants during the early years:

- Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows
- Grand United Independent Order of Oddfellows
- Oatley Political Labour League
- Church of England
- Oatley Cricket Club
- Oatley Junior Cricket Club
- Miss Grace, Saturday afternoon Dancing Classes
- Soldier and Sailors Association

Another Masonic order became a regular tenant in 1926 and others came from 1947. By the 1970's there were up to ten Masonic tenants using the building on a regular basis. In the 1990's there are no regular non-Masonic tenants, the last being the Grand United Independent Order of Oddfellows which terminated in 1986.

Apart from minor additions at the rear, the building has remained unchanged since the original construction in 1922.

If the building survives until August 1997 it will have served the community and Masons in the district for 75 years. Lodge Oatley has retained ownership of the property and there are no plans in the foreseeable future to relinquish that ownership.

In 1995 the Trustees were approached by developer who expressed an interest in purchasing or redeveloping the site. There have not been any realistic proposals or discussions to date.

Many of the early members had an active association with the Methodist Church and that relationship has continued throughout the 75 year existence of Lodge Oatley.

The names of the 70 members on the Register of Lodge Oatley in August 1922 when the building was completed, are appended.

William Stewart
Lodge Oatley Historian
23rd May 1996

Appendix: List of members in August 1922

Appendix to a paper presented at the Meeting of the Oatley Heritage Group
on 23rd May 1996 'The Oatley Masonic Hall'.

LODGE OATLEY NO 381
The Members in August 1922 - Registration Order

Last Name	First Name	Occupation	Address	SUBURB
JONES	Richard	Boilermaker	12 Letitia St	Oatley
JOHNSON	Arthur	Master Butcher	Ada St	Oatley
CARSON	Ivor	Engineer	Andover St	Kogarah
COLEBORNE	William	Lithographic Artist	10 Letitia St	Oatley
WILD	William	Bricklayer	Mi Mi St	Oatley
McAULAY	John	Storekeeper	Pitt St	Mortdale
SCALES	James	Painter	Woronora Pde	Oatley
HODGE	Ernest	Salesman	Oatley Pde	Oatley
SHEAN	Percy	Chargeman	Annette St	Oatley
McDOUGALL	David	Engineer	Woronora Pde	Oatley
BROWNLOW	Arthur	Packer	Seaforth Ave	Oatley
REDFERN	Harry	Builder	Seaforth Ave	Oatley
JORDON	Jack	Clerk	Neville St	Oatley
EBZERY	Jack	Contractor	Letitia ST	Oatley
GARDNER	Christopher	Lighthouse Keeper	Algernon St	Oatley
COLEBORNE	Sidney	Assessor	Letitia St	Oatley
KEEP	Walter	Bottle Maker	Annette St	Oatley
TAYLOR	Norman	Baker	Rosa St	Oatley
MACKEN	William	Builder	Carrington Ave	Hurstville
WILLIAMS	Edgar	Factory Manager	Russell St	Oatley
JOHNSTONE	George	Telephonist	Seaforth Ave	Oatley
PALMER	Fred	Compositor	Woronora Pde	Oatley
HATCHMAN	Charles	Storekeeper	Letitia St	Oatley
KING	Reginald	Salesman	Waratah St	Oatley
WARD	Alfred	Contractor	Letitia St	Oatley
ROGERS	Frederick	Carpenter	Ada St	Oatley
MATTHEW	Andrew	Carriage Builder	Annette St	Oatley
BRADLEY	A W	Salesman	Wonoona Pde	Oatley
TYLER	Paddy	Plumber	Waratah St	Oatley
EDWARDS	Walter	Commercial Traveller	Moore st	Hurstville
McMICHAEL	Henry	Labourer	Mi Mi St	Oatley
SAMUEL	James	Financier	Algernon St	Oatley
GIBSON	Henry	Engineer	Ocean St	Penshurst
STRANEY	Walter	Labourer	Rosa ST	Oatley
GRAHAM	James	Electrician	Oatley Ave	Oatley
O'CONNOR	Desmond	Electrician	Letitia ST	Oatley
TOWERS	Harry	Boilermaker	Letitia ST	Oatley
RYAN	William	Grocer	200 Rocky Pt Rd	Arncliffe
HANNON	John	Contractor	Forest Rd	Peakhurst
JUDD	Harold	Works Manager	Morts Rd	Mortdale
WEBB	Eli	Medical Practitioner	Pitt St	Mortdale
COSGROVE	Phillip	Commercial Traveller	Lloyd St	Oatley
ARPS	William	Builder	45 George St	Mortdale
HUCKSTEPP	Richard	Engineer	Cambridge St	Penshurst
MILLINGTON	Robert	Electrical Machinist	Ada St	Oatley

ARPS	Alfred	Gentleman	45 George St	Mortdale
SPALDING	Richard	Professional Singer	Victoria Ave	Penshurst
McBROOME	Arthur	Carpenter	Central St	Peakhurst
EXON	Reginald	Labourer	Messiter St	Canterbury
BEAVIS	Alfred	Commercial Traveller	1 Macquarie St	Mortdale
COLE	Arthur	Teacher	Wonoona Pde	Oatley
SYKES	Herbert	Bricklayer	Anderson Rd	Mortdale
SYKES	William	Bricklayer	Woronora Pde	Oatley
BENNETT-CATEN	William	Storekeeper	Oatley Pde	OATLEY
KEANE	Ernest	Bricklayer	Annette St	Oatley
PRATT	Robert	Joiner	Woronora Pde	Oatley
EVERITT	Theodore	Blacksmith	Letitia St	Oatley
ROBB	Andrew	Surveyor	Myall St	Oatley
TAYLOR	George	Master Butcher	Woronora Pde	Oatley
PETERS	William	Coach Builder	Balfour St	Kogarah
WRIGHT	Leslie	Agent	Ada St	Oatley
STIBBS	Diuglas	Commercial Traveller	Ada St	Oatley
LENNOX	Robert	Traveller	Letitia St	Oatley
LEAN	Harold	Engineer	Letitia ST	Oatley
McMICHAEL	Alvin	Engineer	Mi Mi St	Oatley
DOCKEY	Walter	Tramway Employee	Mimosa St	Oatley
JOHNSON	Arthur	Butcher	Ada St	Oatley
BELL	Andrew	Slater	Queensborough Rd	Penshurst
HENDY	James	Salesman	Mutual Rd	Mortdale
PERRY	Francis	Builder	Algernon St	Oatley
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Note: House numbers were not in general use in 1922.

OATLEY HERITAGE GROUPTHE MEETING PLACES IN OATLEY

Paper submitted by Mr. George Kendall, 22-5- 96

OATLEY SCHOOL OF ARTS

Many were the concerts I attended in the Oatley school of arts, when I was growing up in Oatley. Apart from the Church of Englands annual tea-renowned for its terrible bread rolls with split peas-the event which I always enjoyed was the Punch and Judy show. Usually the proprietor would also perform on his singing saws. Cost for this was a mere THREE PENCE per head.

As a young teenager, I played my first game of snooker on tables at the rear of the building. This was not mentioned at home, as such an environment was considered to be the depths of depravity. If "depravity" was about I failed to see it.

THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL

This was mainly (for me anyway) a place that, every month had a mens fellowship tea, on a Sunday evening. The speakers were always excellent, and the meeting was usually packed. It was a regular special occasion for the men that attended. It was also exclusively male attendance.

OATLEY MASONIC HALL

Apart from my involvement Masonically, with the Oatley Masonic Hall, I have a few fond memories. These are #a The numerous school functions held in the hall. These included food tasting of canned products, and a regular fancy dress ball. #b. At one of the fancy dress balls I went as Queen Elizabeth 1., wig and all. It was not until after the judging that I divested myself of the regal gear and long red-headed wig, that I made myself known to my contemporaries. I sure copped it at school for awhile after that evening.

However, my most cherished memories relate to 1. My engagement party and 21st Birthday celebrated on the 2. July, 1949. My wife to be, being Valma Rosetta Ward of Sutherland. (photo included). 2. Our wedding breakfast was also held in the Masonic Hall on 2nd. June 1952.

The masonic hall was also the regular venue for the Friday and Saturday evening dances during the war years. These were usually packed with Servicemen, many of whom were stationed in the Oatley Park Reserve West Oatley. I believe they were Tasmanians.

Always outside the hall on these nights was the "Tramp" who lived on a large block of land in Yarran Road. He was given many cups of tea, Sandwiches and cakes, by the volunteer ladies who provided supper.

All in all the Oatley Masonic Hall has had a varied and busy lifestyle.

Submitted. G.W.KENDALL
127 Rosa Street, OATLEY