

<i>Month &amp; Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written &amp; Spoken Presenters</i>
May 2003	<b>Education in Oatley</b>	General Discussion Written Submissions Daisy Ardley Jack Elliott Norm Elliott Shirley & Bill Davidson

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## EDUCATION IN OATLEY

### *OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP*

*Discussion Paper for Oatley Heritage Group's meeting Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2003.*

The first school established in Oatley began in the School of Arts in 1917, previously children went to Mortdale Public School. It was not until July 1928 that the present site at the corner of Neville and Letitia Streets was opened.

This is documented in "Oatley Public School 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary *Year Book 1917 – 1992*"

It is not the intent to re iterate this publication. It is hoped that we may personalise the history of the school by naming teachers, pupils and their achievements.

Having said that, to refresh memories, here is a list of Headmasters dating back to 1917.

Walter Horne: September 1917

Reg Young : May 1922

Walter Firzgerald: September 1922

Percy Nelson: January 1931

William Sanderson: May 1935

**Ernest Mansfield; May 1935?**

Jack Deasey: May 1955

Thomas Knox: February 1960

John Dodds:

Shirley Heffernan: January 1969

Dorothy Cox: January 1976

Helen Campbell: February 1979

Bernard Brown: January 1984

Peter Phelps: January: 1989

Lorna Parker 1993?

Ms. Robin Caffrey 1998

Rick Cliffold April 2003

In the late twenties, Miss Allen's Kindergarten had been established in Mi Mi Street. June (Stevens) Bennett, Jan (Pier) Crane, Jim Bates and Jim Keating some of our locals, recall being in attendance there. It wasn't until the late sixties that the pre school form of Education began to be recognised. "Neville Street Pre School" and "Blue Boy", which was located in the now demolished Oatley Swimming Club Hall, were early kindergartens to be established. Later "Arndu", operating from the Anglican Church in Rosa Street and "Minooka" at the Baptist Church in Boundary Road. Neville Street, Arndu and Minooka still operate.

Pupils had to travel out of Oatley to achieve their higher school Education in the early years. Now years eleven and twelve are accommodated in the old Alexander Mackie Campus in Hurstville Road. Now under the umbrella of the Oatley Education Centre incorporating Georges River College, Oatley Campus. - St. George College, TAFE Southern Sydney Institute, Oatley Campus. - University of Sydney and St. George and Sutherland Community College. Apart from that, children still have to travel out of Oatley to further their secondary Education.

The need for a primary School in Oatley West was recognised for years before one was established.



Soon after World War II in 1947, the Oatley West Primary School was opened.

A Fiftieth Anniversary publication of the school records its history.

We are now going to list the recollections of past pupils detailing the years approximately they were in attendance, their teachers and points of interest.

Daisy ( Drever) Ardley, now from Kellyville wrote to say she was born the year Oatley Public School was opened. Her two older siblings Iris and Bill, began school in the School of Arts and assumes that her brother Jock(John) probably began in the official school building.

Mr. Fitzgerald (Headmaster) died before Daisy attended school. Mr. Heffron taught fifth class and wielded great influence on the kids. Mr. Powell was fourth class and Miss Hodge third class.

Mr. Nelson, succeeded by a war veteran with a badly disfigured face, were Headmasters in Daisy's time.

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Jack Elliott, from Nowra, submitted his recollections of his schooldays at Oatley Public School.  
“We arrived from Kingswood in 1927 or 1928 and I joined 2nd class and what seemed to me to be a very elderly lady teacher, a Miss Boland. Then to 3rd class and a not to be forgotten Miss Hodge of the red hair.

I cannot recall anything at all of 4th or 5th classes but I well remember 6th class and the Headmaster Mr. Fitzgerald, “Fitzzy”, as he was known, was shortish and stoutish and lived with his wife and daughter on the corner of Neville and Annette Streets.

Fitzzy liked his drop of Ale and on many occasions I and others were sent just prior to lunch to walk down to collect his lunch from Mrs. Fitzgerald. A brown paper parcel which we knew contained more than sandwiches. That afternoon our lessons were usually on the quiet side.

I think he was followed by Mr. Sanderson.”

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Shirley and Bill Davidson from Epping, hoped that we would not forget the early school classes held in the Oatley School of Arts.

They go on to say:- My Mum Phyl Davidson (neePhillips) started her schooling at the then prescribed starting age of seven, in the first class to be held in the School of Arts in about 1918-19.

The “Headmaster was a Mr. Horn and a teacher was a Mrs. York.

Mum attended for a couple of years before progressing to Mortdale Public School.

Also of note is that Mrs. York later became a Real Estate Agent in Oatley, also, Mum's elder sister Marjorie Phillips (later Dunsmore) taught at the Oatley School of Arts.

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Recollections of Alec Leach who attended OPS from 1942-1944 were

Headmaster Mr. Sanderson

5th Class Mr. Peters(Puchie)

4th Class Mr. Dawes.

2nd Class Mrs. Lindsey

Kindergarten Mrs. Forster (daughter to Dave Strang, noted one armed tennis player)

*Oatley West School*

## Foreword

A small bush infants school with ten pupils and a teacher. That's how it started. The war was over and, powered by optimism, the community looked to the future. Faith and belief in the future mean providing education for the children who are the future. So, with the community growing and becoming stronger, the demand for a local school at Oatley West became, on 24th March 1947, a reality. A small reality on a patch of ground, a bit rough but ready for the task of building the future. Things could only get better.

And they did. The school grew in size and stature, always with the strong interest and involvement of the community which grew and developed around the school. In fact this partnership is now part of the essence of the school. The bushland setting and this community pride and partnership are two precious characteristics that link us with our past. Of course there are changes. The hall and the library are two that the school community can be especially proud of. And who, in 1947, would have known what the internet was, let alone that by 1997 the school would be connected to it.

Pride in achievement should not become arrogance. Who can tell what the school will be like in another fifty years? What the folk then will think of our school now? I suspect they will be pleased with what has been done. I think they will look back at this landmark and say: "Well, we know a good deal about the 50th anniversary and the history of the school to that point because of the excellent booklet written by John Coleman". John himself is very much part of the story of our school. He has been a parent, an active member of the community, an initiator of the Art and Craft Show and one of the first community members of Oatley West School Council. Most significantly, he is the author of this excellent book. Thank you John, and well done.

Julian Sheen  
January, 1997

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"Oatley West Public School 50<sup>th</sup> 1947-1997

We have some recollections of past pupils who have jotted down their memories, recalling approximately when they attended, teachers and points of interest.

Daisy (Drever) Ardley, now from Kellyville wrote to say she was born the year Oatley Public School was opened. Her two older siblings Iris and Bill began school in the School of Arts and assumes that her brother Jock(John) probably began in the official school building.

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Mr. Nelson succeeded by a war veteran with a badly disfigured face, were Headmasters in Daisy's time.

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Jack Elliott, from Nowra, submitted his memories of his school days at Oatley Public School.

"We arrived from Kingswood in 1927or 1928 and I joined 2nd class and what seemed to me to be a very elderly lady teacher, a Miss Boland. Then to third class and a not to be forgotten Miss Hodgeof the red hair.

I Cannot recall anything at all of 4th or 5th classes but I well remember 6th class and the Headmaster Mr. Fitzgerald. [Fitzy], as he was known, was a shortish and stoutish and lived with his wife and daughter on the corner of Neville and Annette Streets. Fitzy liked his drop of ale and on many occasions I and others were sent just prior to lunch to walk down to collect his lunch from Mrs. Fitzgerald. A brown paper parcel which we knew contained more than sandwiches. The afternoon classes were usually on the quiet side.

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Mum attended for a couple of years before progressing to Mortdale Public School. Also of note is that Mrs. York later became a Real Estate Agent in Oatley, also, Mum's elder sister Marjorie Phillips(later Dunsmore) taught at the Oatley School of Arts.

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Norm Elliott from Laurieton in 1936 was the boys Dux in the Primary final and Margaret Derwent, girls. He could not recall a lot of his six years at OPS, yet could remember Miss Hodge because she had red hair and a funny sneeze. Mr. Sanderson , Norm remembers as a very approachable person.

Miss Milsop's "Tuck Shop" and sometimes suspect tucker that came out of there

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The complete original letters are attached .



D. ARDNEY, 44 Wrights Rd, Kellyville  
25.2.03 2155

Regarding the proposed topic about  
Dally Education:-

As the Dally Public School  
was built the same year as I  
was born, you may be interested  
in my older schooling:-

As I heard it Iris & Bill began  
school in the school of Arts Dally.  
I assume my brother Jack (John)  
probably began in the official  
school building.

Mr Fitzgerald (H'master) died before  
I began. Mr Nelson was 5th class &  
exercised great influence on the kids. Mr  
Pencile was 4th class Miss Hodge 3rd.  
Mr Nelson, succeeded by a war veteran  
with a badly disfigured face were headmasters  
in my time.

Just a little contribution  
Keep up the good  
work



Daisy Ardley  
nee Dresser

The Dally H

Dear Glen

A short note  
arrived from Kinsw  
me to be a very nice  
forgot to Miss Hodge  
I cannot recall  
Class and the Headm  
standing and lived w  
Eddy liked his drop  
much to walk down t  
which we knew cont  
usually on the part  
I think he was follow

Unit 12  
4 Brereton St.  
Nowra 2541

20.5.03

The Oatley Heritage Group

Dear Glen,

Education in Oatley

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

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

I think he was followed by Mr Sanderson.

Yours Sincerely,

Jack Elliott

30 Magnolia Ave.  
 Effing 2121  
 25-5-03

Mr. Alec Leach  
 24 Ada St.  
 Oatley 2223

Re: "Education in Oatley"

Dear Alec,

I noted from the last Newsletter, which Shirl and I thoroughly enjoy reading, that the topic for your next meeting is "Education in Oatley"

Unfortunately at this time I cannot attend your meetings. However I believe mention of early school classes held in the Oatley School of Arts might be missed

My Mum Phyl Davidson (nee Phillips) started her schooling at the then prescribed starting age of seven in the first class to be held in the School of Arts in about 1918-19.

The "Headmaster" was a Mr. Horn and a teacher was a Mrs. York.

Mum attended for a couple of years before progressing to Mortdale Public School.

Also of note is that Mrs York later became a Real Estate Agent in Oatley, also, Mum's elder sister Margorie Phillips (later Quasmore) taught at the Oatley School of Arts.

Alec, maybe other contributors have more

information regarding the "School of Arts" if  
not maybe you could mention this.

Kind Regards

Shirley and Bill Davidson



3/10 McChennan St  
Laurieton 2443  
16 May. 2003

Dear Glenn,

Many thanks for the continuing newsletters. I notice your next subject is "Education," so thought I'd send a few little observations of my six years at Oatley Public School. I think I may have already sent you a copy of the enclosed photo, but anyway here's an original - do what you wish with it: I can put names to the majority of the faces. The only one of the boys I'm still in touch with is Arthur England - back row, right hand end. Unfortunately I lost track of most of my school mates when I went to High School & thereby hangs a tale.

I sat for ~~the~~ then Primary Final in 1936, & managed to come Dux of the boys. Margaret Derwent I think was Dux of the girls. I was lucky, my main rival Neville Byron (middle row of the boys, five from the left hand end) was away sick.

Anyway in those days the local Member was one C. Joe. Monro who duly presented Margaret & myself with our respective Dux medals. I still have mine, somewhere, I think. Many of your members will remember C. Joe Monro for various reasons. (Monro Park at Cronulla station) He is reputed to have been the driving force behind the construction of the Cronulla railway line.

(2)

Well, on the strength of my apparent ability, I was enrolled in the nearest full high school Canterbury Boys High, which I detested from my first 'till my last day there, in fourth year, because almost all my mates went to Hurstville Tech to do trade courses. I think about the only benefit I got from Canterbury was Latin, which I liked and still comes in handy for crossword puzzles (and we do a lot of these.)

Getting back to Oatley P.S. I don't really recall a lot of my six years there and in fact can only remember two of my teachers Miss Hodge & Mr Sanderson the Headmaster. I remember Miss H because she had red hair and a funny sneeze! Mr Sanderson I remember as a good teacher and a very approachable person. I think the thing I recall most of all was Miss Miloop's "tuck shop" & the sometimes suspect tucker that came out of there. I was fortunate in that our house was almost opposite the school, so I used to nick home & get myself some lunch. My dad was at work so I often had a few of the kids there at the same time. After school, if dad was absent we'd pick pieces of opal out of the tennis court. Then I'd have to roll the court before he got home to hide what we'd been up to.

## EDUCATION IN OATLEY 1927 to 1980

Recollections of June Bennett nee Stevens of her knowledge of Oatley School.

In the 1920's a Miss Allen had a private kindergarten in Oatley West and public education had been held in the Oatley School of Arts before the public school was built in 1924?

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

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

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

Returning as a teacher in my first teaching year in 1946, I taught a first class of some forty or more pupils. The kindergarten teacher was a Mrs Foster, a very popular teacher. The war was barely over and staff were hard to get but the school was fortunate to have a wonderful man on the 2<sup>nd</sup> class who had been a school principal. The headmaster then was a Mr Sanderson who had been at the school a very long time. No teaching aids were supplied in those days, and in 1946 the school had changed very little since I had been there as a pupil.

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

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

**My next term at the school was in 1976 when I came back as teacher librarian. The Principal was Miss Cose who also taught at that time. I was there three days a week and had a library clerk one day a week. Later the principal no longer taught and had a full time school clerk.**

**Classes were smaller in numbers from 25 to 35 in most classes and a separate Infants school had been built with all classes from kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> class using the library.**

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

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

June Bennett



EDUCATION IN OATLEY.

30th May, 2003

GEORGES RIVER COLLEGE -- OATLEY EDUCATION CENTRE.

This area of Oatley had been the brickworks for many years. After it's usefulness came to an end, there was much interest on what it would become.

The Education Department bought some land and established a campus, which was used for some time but was put on sale in about 1999 or 2000.

Many suggestions for it's use were put forward. Finally the Education Department (State Parliament) decided on Georges River College for years 11 and 12 students. In April 2001 (approx), Sydney University decided that it would have a presence.

Therefore, Oatley Education College's subjects to be taught would be HSC, Bachelor of Education and Master of Teaching.

Oatley Education Centre is occupied by Years 11 & 12 students, Georges River College and Southern Institute of TAFE.

An effect of the opening of the campus was that the traffic along <sup>HURSTVILLE ROAD</sup> was such that a lollipop man was stationed to "ferry" the students across the road. Later, a set of traffic lights were put in, which, although not wanted by some Oatley residents, have been a big help to all concerned.

Further, on Oatley Parade and the subway near the station, two pedestrian crossings have been installed. For the number of people now attending the college, these safety zones have been imperative.

Older people, I am sure, also benefit from these safety measures.

Glenn Stevens.

CHARLES SMALL 's Oatley School Days  
(Your name)

I went to OATLEY School from 1926 to 1931: so far as I recall, classes I was in, teachers I had, and classmates were :-

Year (19 ??)	Class	Class Teacher(s)	Classmate's names -			
1926	1	Miss Jones/Jamwo?				
1927	2	Miss Boland				
1928	3	Miss Hodge	Erwin Hodge			
1929	4	Mr. Powell				
1930	5	Trainer - Alan Bayley Mr. Fitzgerald	Charles Siström			
1931	6	Mr. Nelson	Eric Howard	Loeff Grundy		

KATH STARR. 's Oatley School Days  
(Your name)

KATH GRAHAM-NEE  
STARR

I went to OATLEY School from 1927 to 1929: so far as I recall, classes I was in, teachers I had, and classmates were :-

page 7

Year (19??)	Class	Class Teacher(s)	Classmate's names -			
1927?	2nd?	MISS BOWLAND	JEAN POSTILL JACK POSTILL	BONNE ADEKIDE JEAN FIRMSTONE	BARBARA KEATING	KATH STARR
ABSENT ABOUT	18 MONTHS					
1929?	5th	MR FITZGERALD? MR HEFFROY?	JACK GRAY BILLY DAZZEIL	BRUCE NEALD NANCY ENGLISH	JACK ELLIOT	KATH STARR
LEFT	OATLEY SCHOOL		BERYL MANNING	NANCY PAGE	BERYL ALLOP	BARBARA KEATING
END	1929?		ALF DURNFORD		RITA MARTIN	
			PAT COURTENAY			
			FRED TYLER			

GORDON ANDERSON 's Oatley School Days  
(Your name)

I went to OATLEY PUBLIC School from 1933 to 1938: so far as I recall, classes I was in, teachers I had, and classmates were :-

Year (19??)	Class	Class Teacher(s)	Classmate's names -			
33	1st		PAT MALLAM			
			EDNA LOMBE			
			ELEANOR MERRICKLEY			
34	2nd		NORMA MILNE			
			GEORGE MENDALL			
			RON CHAPMAN			
35	3rd	MISS HODGE	RON POSTILL			
			NORMA WIGZELL			
			LIKEEN HODGESON			
36	4th	MR W. DAVES	GEORGE ALLERTON			
			WARREN ALLSOPP			
37	5th	MR PETERS				
38	6th	MR SANDERSON				



MURIEL LIND (NEE GOLD)'s Oatley School Days  
(Your name)

I went to OATLEY PUBLIC School from 1936 to 1941: so far as I recall, classes I was in, teachers I had, and classmates were :-

Year (19 ??)	Class	Class Teacher(s)	Classmate's names -					
1936	KINDERGARTEN - 1ST CLASS							
1937	2ND		MARY CAMPBELL BARRY FLETCHER JOHN CHAPMAN ARTHUR HARMER	SYLVIA PARKER EILEEN ROBLANDS TIM YEATES BILL MECKS	ELAINE WARD ETHEL DWYER BARRY TAYLOR RODNEY CARPENTER	DAWN ABBOTT EDNA MORETON BILL PHIPPS JIM FRANCIS	BETTY FRANCIS BETTY CURST NEIL EVANS BILL PHIPPS	
1938	3RD	MISS HODGE	NEIL EVANS, BARRY TYLER BARRY TAYLOR JIM FRANCIS EILEEN ROBLANDS BETTY FRANCIS, DAWN ABBOTT	TIM YEATES SYLVIA PARKER JUNE STEED PAT HEDGES, EDNA MORETON	NOEL PIERCE RODNEY CARPENTER ALAN SAUNDERS ARTHUR HARMER MARY CAMPBELL	BILL PHIPPS JOHN CHAPMAN END GEOLER ETHEL DWYER		
1939	4th	MRS W.A.G. DAWES	BOYS BARRY TAYLOR GIRLS EILEEN ROBLANDS PAT HEDGES JUNE STEED	JIM FRANCIS NEIL EVANS NOEL ABBOTT ETHEL DWYER SYLVIA PARKER	WARREN SAUNDERS BILL PHIPPS NEIL EVANS DAWN ABBOTT BETTY FRANCIS	BILL STOWES JAMES YATES RODNEY CARPENTER ELAINE WARD	MARRY DODD WARREN TYLER MARY CAMPBELL	
1940	5th	MR PETERS	BOYS LAURIE POMFREY RAY FRANCIS EDNA MORETON BETTY FRANCIS, DAWN ABBOTT, PAT HEDGES	RAY FRANCIS, BILL MECKS HARRY DODDS, BARRY SAUNDERS BERRY FLETCHER ETHEL DWYER, MARY CAMPBELL, JUNE STEED, END GEOLER	RODNEY CARPENTER NEIL EVANS ELAINE WARD MARIE BRANDT	ARTHUR HARMER BILL STOWES JEAN JEFFRIES, SYLVIA PARKER	JOHN CHAPMAN JIM YEATES BILL PHIPPS	
1941	6th	MR SANDERSON	GIRLS Dawn ABBOTT RAY HEDGES BETTY FRANCIS	ETHEL DWYER ETHEL MORGAN ELAINE WARD	MARY CAMPBELL BERYL FLETCHER MARIE BRANDT	JUNE STEED JEAN JEFFRIES	END GEOLER SYLVIA PARKER	
			BOYS LAURIE POMFREY JOHN CHAPMAN BILL STOWES	RAY FRANCIS BILL DODDS JAMES YEATES	MECK JIM FRANCIS BILL PHIPPS	ARTHUR HARMER ALAN SAUNDERS NOEL ABBOTT	RODNEY CARPENTER NEIL EVANS	

Margaret Morrison's Oatley School Days  
(Your name) (now Jones)

I went to Oatley Public School from 1937 to 1942: so far as I recall, classes I was in, teachers I had, and classmates were :-

Year (19 ??)	Class	Class Teacher(s)	Classmate's names -
1937	Kindergarten	Miss Harris	Heather Thorburn, Roni Carroll, Betty Bates, Felita Grady, Joan Parker
			Beth Cornish, Helma Stead, Joan Lobbit, Rose Ward, Dorothy Hedger
			Patricia Halsworth, Dicky Davis, Ian Leach, Russell Mc Dougall, Brian Edwards
1938	1st Class	Miss Rodgers?	
1939	2nd Class	Miss Channer	an exchange teacher from England
1940	3rd Class	Miss Harris (again?)	D. Roberts, V. Meeks
1941	4th Class	Mrs Dawes	Lindsay Taylor, R. McDougall, Dick Chappelow, B. Campbell, J. Proctor, Ken Dyer
			Jim Murphy, Bryan Yates, B. Edwards, D. Shirley, V. Francis, K. Carroll, B. Cornish
1942	5th Class	Mrs Peters	Ellian Parker, J. Martin, R. Ward, J. Stead, Mr. Thomas, Rhoda Gilbert, H. Thorburn
			Joan Martin, Rose Ward, Helma Stead, Valerie Meeks, Margaret Thomas, Beth Cornish, Margaret Johnson, Pat Address, Marjorie Williamson, Doreen Roberts
	Left in 5th Class but -		Barbara Jones, Joan Lobbit, Valerie Francis, Les Davis, Ken Abbott, Fred Proctor, David Shirley, John Goldspink, Brian Edwards, John Shackleton
	6th Class	Mr Sanderson	Ken Dyer, Clive Wood, Ross Ford, Allan Meyer, Dick Davis, Kevin Bates

was Headmaster

I have photos of these years.

A. LEACH  
24 ADA ST

DAPHNE PENNINGTON NEE ~~Dodd~~'s Oatley School Days  
(Your name)

I went to OATLEY School from 1939 to 1944. so far as I recall, classes I was in, teachers I had, and classmates were :-

Year (19 ??)	Class	Class Teacher(s)	Classmate's names -			
			KEN GRIFFITH	PAT BARBE		
			ROY TOBET	DOROTHY ADNESS		
			HUGH MUIR	SHIRLEY SPARKE		
	2ND	MISS HARRIS	BRUCE ROBERTS	JUDITH KENDALL		
			DEX ROBERTS	KATHLEEN AHEONE		
			MALCOLM EDWARDS	PEARL SPIZZETA		
	3RD	MISS ROBERS	REG WOODS	IRIS PATERSON		
			PETER CHIKWELL			
	4TH	MR DAVIES				
	5TH	MR PETERS				
	6TH	MIZ SAUNDERS				





YOU CANNOT DO BETTER!

# R. H. & P. Hand

Produce and Fuel Merchants

111 MULGLOA ROAD, OATLEY

LIME, CEMENT, FERTILISERS, SEEDLINGS, SHRUBS  
SOFT DRINKS WE DELIVER

YOUTHFUL SHOPPERS  
ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT

## Rawlings Bros.

Fruiterers and Greengrocers  
LETITIA STREET, OATLEY

All Fruits and Vegetables Fresh Daily  
Quality Confectionery and Chocolates

For a GOOD DRINK —  
Try our MODERN MILK BAR



### SCHOOL MAGAZINE COVER

PUPIL'S NAME .....

CLASS .....

Oatley West Public School



FOR . . .  
BETTER VALUE  
AND SERVICE

## S. V. Leslie

Quality Butcher

45 MULGA ROAD, OATLEY. Phone: LU 1167  
Choice Lamb and Beef — True to Label

### LAND, SQUARE, OR SUPERFICIAL MEASURE

144 Square Inches (12 x 12 inches)	Equals 1 sq. foot
9 Square Feet (3 x 3 ft.)	" 1 sq. yard
30 1/2 Square Yards (5 1/2 x 5 1/2 yards)	" 1 sq. pole
40 Square Poles, Rods, or Perches	" 1 rood
4 Roods or 4,840 Square Yards (5 1/2 x 5 1/2 x 40 x 4)	" 1 acre
16 Poles	" 1 sq. chain
10 Square Chains	" 1 acre
640 Acres	" 1 sq. mile

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

#### SOME ABBREVIATIONS

N.B. (nota bene) means "not well".  
B.C. stands for "before Christ".  
A.D. (anno domini) "in the year of our Lord".  
P.S. (post scriptum): "Written in addition i.e. (id est): "that is" to".

Nautical Mile = 6,080 feet.  
The Hand = 4 ins., used for measuring horses.  
The Cable's Length = 120 fathoms.  
The Irish Pole = 7 yards.  
Also, f. get, eq. 1 pace; 3 miles eq. 1 league; 38 f. es. eq. 1 cubit; 9 inches eq. 1 span.

viz. (videlicet): means "namely".  
a.m. (ante meridiem) means "before noon".  
p.m. (post meridiem) means "after noon".  
e.g. (exempli gratia) means "for example".  
etc. (et cetera) means "and the rest".  
f.a.q. means "fair average quality".



To find AREA of SQUARE: Multiply one side by itself.  
 PERIMETER OF RECTANGLE equals "twice length plus twice breadth".  
 AREA OF RECTANGLE = "length  $\times$  breadth".  
 AREA OF TRIANGLE = "base  $\times$  half height".

SUM or TOTAL means "answer to addition sum, e.g., 6 plus 9 equals 15 sum or total."  
 DIFFERENCE means "answer to subtraction sum", e.g., 15 minus 8 equals difference of 7.  
 PRODUCT means "answer to multiplication sum, e.g., 6  $\times$  7 equals product 42."  
 QUOTIENT means "answer to division sum" e.g., 56 divided by 8 means quotient of 7.

**MATHEMATICAL SIGNS**

The sign + (called plus) means "to add".  
 The sign - (called minus) means "to take away".  
 The sign  $\times$  (called multiplication) means "to multiply".  
 The sign  $\div$  (called division) means "to divide".  
 The sign = (called equals) means "is equal to".

# Oatley Fish Supply

(F. J. Brown, Prop.)

24 OATLEY AVENUE, OATLEY  
 FRESH FISH AND SEA FOODS

Specialist in Fish Baits

Green Prawn, Mullet Gut, etc.  
 Our Fried Fish, Chips and Scollops  
 are unbeatable!

Private address:

11 MYALL STREET, OATLEY



Hours of Business:  
 MONDAY to FRIDAY—  
 10 a.m.-7p.m.

SATURDAY: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

### FRACTIONAL PARTS OF £1

3d. = £1/80th = .0125 = 1¼%	5/- = £½ = .25 = 25%
6d. = £1/40th = .025 = 2½%	7/6 = £⅞ = .375 = 37½%
1/- = £1/20th = .05 = 5%	10/- = £½ = .5 = 50%
2/- = £1/10th = .1 = 10%	12/6 = £⅝ = .625 = 62½%
2/6 = £1/8th = .125 = 12½%	15/- = £¾ = .75 = 75%
4/- = £1/5th = .2 = 20%	17/6 = £⅞ = .875 = 87½%

### SOME ABBREVIATIONS

M.S.: Manuscript (written by hand).  
 M.P.: Member of Parliament.  
 M.L.A.: Member of Legislative Assembly (State Parliament).  
 M.L.C.: Member of Legislative Council (Upper House).  
 M.H.R.: Member of House of Representatives (Federal Parliament).  
 J.P.: Justice of the Peace.  
 Dr.: Doctor.  
 Rev.: Reverend.  
 Messrs.: Gentlemen.

### SAFETY FIRST!

A THOUGHT ON THE KERB IS  
 WORTH TWO IN THE HOSPITAL!



THE BEST  
 FRUIT  
 AND  
 VEGETABLES

## B.N. Trimble

Fruiterer and Greengrocer  
 SUBWAY STALL  
 Oatley Station

Leave your orders early We deliver Week-ends

### PUBLIC (SCHOOL) HOLIDAYS

ANZAC DAY.—Wed., April 25, 1951.  
 KING'S BIRTHDAY.—Mon., June 11, 1951.  
 SIX-HOUR DAY.—Mon., October 1, 1951.  
 EASTER, 1952.—April 11 (Good Friday), to  
 Tues., April 15 (both dates inclusive).

### SCHOOL VACATIONS

Friday, May 4, 1951, to Mon., May 14, 1951.  
 Fri., Aug. 24, 1951, to Mon., Sept. 10, 1951.  
 Fri., Dec. 14, 1951, to Mon., Jan. 28, 1952.  
 (All above dates are inclusive.)  
 Bank Holidays are NOT School Holidays.





YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MAGICIAN  
To Get  
**GOOD VALUE**  
from

**Gardner's**

The Corner Store  
Grocers and Hardware Merchants  
75 MULGA ROAD, OATLEY — LU 1225

**RECIPROCITY!**

● Many thanks to the generosity of Traders appearing on this publication. Their kind support has made it possible for children to receive School Magazine Covers free of charge. It would be nice to thank them when shopping at their Stores.

**KERB DRILL**

AT THE KERB HALT. EYES RIGHT. EYES LEFT.  
GLANCE RIGHT AGAIN. THEN IF THE ROAD IS  
CLEAR, WALK QUICKLY AND STRAIGHT ACROSS.

**IMPORTANT TO GOOD HEALTH!**

CHILDREN! Brush your teeth after every meal to remove any remaining particles of food. This will prevent them from decaying. If you have no brush at hand, rinse the mouth thoroughly with clean water. Remember—your teeth are only as good as you let them be!

ORDERS COLLECTED  
AND DELIVERED!

**S. & D. Tolley**

Grocers and Hardware Merchants  
59a ROSA STREET, OATLEY



FOR GOOD VALUE AND COURTEOUS SERVICE

240 pence—£1.  
1,000 pence—£4/3/4.  
Dozens Rule: A penny for 1,  
a shilling a dozen.  
Scores Rule: A shilling for  
1, a pound for a score.

Beginners should be practised in reducing small numbers of pence to shillings, and of shillings to pounds, mentally, until great speed and accuracy is acquired.  
20 pence equals 1/8; 50 pence eq. 4/2; 80 pence eq. 6/8;  
30 pence eq. 2/6; 60 pence eq. 5/-; 90 pence eq. 7/6;  
40 pence eq. 3/4; 70 pence eq. 5/10; 100 pence eq. 8/4.

700	DCC
800	DCCC
900	CM
1000	M
2000	MM
1951	MCMLI

C	100
CC	200
CCC	300
CD	400
D	500
DC	600

LX	60
LXV	65
LXX	70
LXXV	75
LXXX	80
LXXXV	85
XC	90

XXV	25
XXX	30
XXXV	35
XL	40
XLV	45
L	50
LV	55

XIV	14
XV	15
XVI	16
XVII	17
XVIII	18
XIX	19
XX	20

VII	7
VIII	8
IX	9
X	10
XI	11
XII	12
XIII	13

I	1
II	2
III	3
IV	4
or IIII	4
V	5
VI	6

**ROMAN NUMERALS**

The Romans used letters and combinations of letters to express numbers as set out hereafter. The Chapters of the Bible are usually numbered according to Roman notation. Also used on many dial plates of watches and clocks.



me

# TAXI

# TAXI



## Phone: LU1047

OATLEY WEST  
TAXI SERVICE

PHONE  
LU 1047

JACK WALKER, Prop.  
5 MARINE DRIVE, OATLEY

PHONE  
LU 1047

1 bushel of wheat (f.a.q.) = 60 lbs.  
1 bushel of corn (maize) = 56 lbs.  
1 bushel of oats = 40 lbs.  
1 bushel of peas = 28 lbs.  
1 ton net of bran = 20 lbs.  
1 bushel of beans = 20 lbs.  
1 bushel of pollard = 20 lbs.

**SOME FACTS:**  
1 Box of Butter = 56 lb. (if wrapped, 54 lb.)  
40 Boxes of Butter = 1 ton (10 cwt).  
1 bag of sugar = 70 lbs.  
32 bags of sugar = 1 ton.  
Flour is packed in 25 and 50 lb. bags, also in sacks of 150 lbs.

**HOW TO TELL DAYS IN EACH MONTH**  
Thirty days has September  
April, June and November;  
All the rest have thirty-one  
Excepting February alone,  
Which has but 28 days clear  
And 29 in each leap year.

## SAFETY FIRST!

ALWAYS WAIT FOR THE POLICEMAN'S SIGNAL  
OR TRAFFIC LIGHT!



RED mean to STOP.

YELLOW is a Caution Light to let you know Red (Stop) comes on next.

GREEN means to GO!

Cross Smartly, but do not Run!

MULTUM IN PARVO —

She stopped, he didn't:

He's dead; she isn't!

## GOOD MANNERS COST NOTHING !

Dear Children! Always remember to thank a motor driver when he pays you the courtesy of stopping his vehicle to allow you to cross the road. You can thank the driver by gesture with your hand, together with a grateful smile, as he may not be able to hear your words, "Thank you", when his engine is running and his windows closed. The driver will appreciate your action. When someone does you a favour, it is nice to thank them. Good manners cost nothing.

### MEASURES OF CAPACITY

The standard unit of capacity is the Imperial gallon, the volume of 10 lbs. of pure water.

Hence the rhyme, "A pint of pure water weighs a pound and a quarter".

### LIQUIDS (e.g., Milk)

2 pints (pt.) = 1 quart (qt.).  
8 pints or 4 quarts = 1 gallon.

### DRY GOODS (e.g., Corn)

2 gallons = 1 peck (pk.).  
8 gallons, or 4 pecks = 1 bushel (bus.).  
8 bushels = 1 quarter (qr.).



NAMES & AGES  
OF  
CHILDREN ELIGIBLE  
TO ATTEND  
SCHOOL IN OATLEY WEST

Collected by the Oatley West Progress Assn.

H. Mallard  
President  
21. 2. 31

H. Williams  
Hon. Secretary.



NAME

ADDRESS

Raymond Geach  
 Cyril Bayley  
 George Bayley  
 Mary Fitzsimons  
 Maurice Fitzsimons  
 Jack Fitzsimons  
 Edgar Clutterbuck  
 Reginald Clutterbuck  
 Earnest Clutterbuck  
 Dorothy J Cox  
 Beryl E Cox  
 Betty Lees  
 Harry Lees  
 Eric Palmer  
 Emma Furmini  
 Jean Furmini  
 Mary Furmini  
 Lorus Letter  
 Peter Hand  
 Geoffrey Hand  
 Jack Lansdell  
 Noeline Lansdell  
 Noeline Salmon  
 Ronald Malcolm Featon  
 Frederick Duckworth  
 Harry Duckworth  
 Stanley Potts  
 Jessie Potts  
 Eileen Murphy  
 Harriet Murphy  
 Kathleen Murphy  
 Timothy Murphy  
 Hugh Auld  
 Joyce Auld

Seaforth Avenue 9  
 " " 8  
 " " 6  
 Watley Park Ave. 13  
 " " 12  
 " " 5  
 Watley Park Rd 11  
 " " 9  
 " " 9  
 " " 12  
 " " 9  
 Lloyd George St 11  
 " " 9  
 " " 5  
 Lloyd George 8  
 " " 6  
 " " 5  
 " " 9  
 " " 8  
 " " 6  
 " " 12  
 " " 7  
 " " 7  
 " " 5  
 " " 13  
 " " 5  
 " " 6  
 " " 10  
 " " 8  
 " " 6  
 " " 5  
 " " 4  
 " " 8  
 " " 5

NAMES

Christopher Shepherd  
 Edna Belcher  
 Winnie Belcher  
 Nancy Belcher  
 Joan Belcher  
 Leonard Belcher  
 Albert Poole  
 Ronald Poole  
 Vincent Poole  
 Norma Hammond  
 Enid Hammond  
 Audrey Troud  
 Elaine Troud  
 William Stevens  
 Ronald Falconer  
 Audrey Falconer  
 Patricia Donaldson  
 Robert Gann  
 Jack Gann  
 Margaret Poole  
 Arthur Hehr  
 Jack Hehr  
 Jack Neale  
 Jean Ryland  
 James Ryland  
 Iris Brouch  
 Norma Brouch  
 Esme Brouch  
 William Seach  
 Phyllis Lawler  
 Dorothy Mallard  
 Hedley Mallard  
 Blifton Pajor  
 Shirley Nass

ADDRESSES  
 Lloyd George St 14  
 " " " 12  
 " " " 11  
 " " " 9  
 " " " 6  
 " " " 5  
 " " " 11  
 " " " 9  
 " " " 7  
 " " " 10  
 " " " 8  
 Otley Parks Ave 13  
 " " " 6  
 Lloyd George St 5  
 " " " 7  
 " " " 5  
 " " " 5  
 Waterfall Rd 14  
 " " " 11  
 Lloyd George St 5  
 Douglas Haig St 8  
 " " " 7  
 " " " 5  
 " " " 8  
 " " " 6  
 Freeman Avenue 8  
 " " " 6  
 " " " 5  
 " " " 6  
 Burke St " 6  
 Marne Drive 10  
 Douglas Haig St. 8  
 " " " 6  
 Marne Drive 12  
 Jewish Point 10

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Bruce Hodgson	Marine Drive	9
Ronald Hodgson	" "	12
Keith Fendley		7
Leslie Lawler		6
Victor Taylor	Douglas Haig St	12
Keith Taylor	" "	10
Gordon Taylor	" "	6
Noel Wildox	" "	13
Joyce Allerton	Lloyd George St	12
Hellie Mabbott	" "	10
Frank Mabbott	" " "	8
Marjorie Thomas	" " "	10
Neville Thomas	" " "	5
Eileen Meyer		9
Jack Toccock		8



3/10 McHennan St  
Laurieton 2443  
16 May. 2003

Dear Glenn,  
Many thanks for the continuing newsletters. I notice your next subject is "Education," so thought I'd send a few little observations of my six years at Oatley Public School. I think I may have already sent you a copy of the enclosed photo, but anyway here's an original - do what you wish with it: I can put names to the majority of the faces. The only one of the boys I'm still in touch with is Arthur England - back row, right hand end. Unfortunately I lost track of most of my school mates when I went to High School & thereby hangs a tale. I sat for ~~the~~ then Primary Final in 1936, & managed to come Dux of the boys. Margaret Derwent I think was Dux of the girls. I was lucky, my main rival Neville Byron (middle row of the boys, five from the left hand end) was away sick. Anyway in those days the Local Member was one C. Joe Monro who duly presented Margaret & myself with our respective Dux medals. I still have mine, somewhere, I think. Many of your members will remember C. Joe Monro for various reasons. (Monro Park at Cronulla station) He is reputed to have been the driving force behind the construction of the Cronulla railway line.



Education  
May 2007

## OATLEY WEST.

In the 1880's Peasley, the bushranger (no relation to the Rosa Street Peasley's, the breadcarter) stole cattle and horses from local farms and concealed them in the gully down behind where the Oatley Bowling Club is today. These were then sold to butchers in the district. He lived in a cave at the top of Llewellyn Street. Police, following the cattle tracks to his hideout, arrested him in the early 1900's.

In 1894, Mrs Saunders and family of "Demerara", 78 Woronora Parade, the only house in Oatley West at the time, held Sunday School and Church services. Ministers who visited and held the services there were Rev. M. Walker (Wesleyan), Rev. R. McKay (Presbyterian) and Rev. A. Killworth Church of England.

A settlement was established in Gungah Bay by the Wrights at the lower end of Waratah Street in 1910.

Oatley West Public School was opened in 1947. The original site gazetted in 1883 for a school in Oatley was a one acre block of land bounded by Acacia, Mi Mi and Woronora Parade. However, this did not eventuate and the land was later divided into building blocks and sold.

In 1888 Myles McRae owned 81 acres adjacent to Oatley Park (then named Peakhurst Park) and ran steers. His land was subdivided following World War I for War Service Homes.

Due to the efforts of the Oatley West Progress Association the road alongside Oatley Park was named Dame Mary Gilmore in a ceremony in 1954. Dame Mary attended and donated a seat bearing an inscription "Given by Dame Mary Gilmore - for tired people". This was placed in the shade of the Lone Pine.



OATLEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL



50<sup>th</sup>  
1947-1997

**ERRATUM**

Page 16, column 2, paragraph 2  
should read as follows:

“Great assistance was given to the  
project by .....Mr Ian Sansom,  
a parent and architect who developed  
the concept of the concept of the  
Library plan.”



# Foreword

A small bush infants school with ten pupils and a teacher. That's how it started. The war was over and, powered by optimism, the community looked to the future. Faith and belief in the future mean providing education for the children who are the future. So, with the community growing and becoming stronger, the demand for a local school at Oatley West became, on 24th March 1947, a reality. A small reality on a patch of ground, a bit rough but ready for the task of building the future. Things could only get better.

And they did. The school grew in size and stature, always with the strong interest and involvement of the community which grew and developed around the school. In fact this partnership is now part of the essence of the school. The bushland setting and this community pride and partnership are two precious characteristics that link us with our past. Of course there are changes. The hall and the library are two that the school community can be especially proud of. And who, in 1947, would have known what the internet was, let alone that by 1997 the school would be connected to it.

Pride in achievement should not become arrogance. Who can tell what the school will be like in another fifty years? What the folk then will think of our school now? I suspect they will be pleased with what has been done. I think they will look back at this landmark and say: "Well, we know a good deal about the 50th anniversary and the history of the school to that point because of the excellent booklet written by John Coleman". John himself is very much part of the story of our school. He has been a parent, an active member of the community, an initiator of the Art and Craft Show and one of the first community members of Oatley West School Council. Most significantly, he is the author of this excellent book. Thank you John, and well done.

Julian Sheen  
January, 1997



# Oatley's Grant School Site

Although Oatley West Public School opened its doors 50 years ago in early 1947, the story of education in Oatley goes back many years before that time.

The first school in Oatley, Oatley Public School, opened on October 2, 1917 in the Oatley School of Arts Hall in Letitia Street. A lack of funds and resources during the years of the First World War had precluded the construction of a specialised school building. However, with the conclusion of the war in 1918 the government was, by June 1921, able to find the funds to build three classrooms on a site at the corner of Letitia and Neville Streets.

Yet this was not the original site selected for a school in Oatley. In fact the first land set aside for a school in the Oatley area was actually in Oatley West on a one acre block bounded by Acacia and Mi Mi Streets and Woronora Parade. This site had been set aside for a school as early as 1883 when a

subdivision plan for 1400 residential blocks was issued by the Oatley Estate Company. This company was administered by Charles Cecil Griffiths who in 1881 had purchased the original James Oatley grant of 300 acres from Oatley's son, Frederick, at a cost of £10,000.

This purchase was part of a plan by Griffiths to buy up land in the area so that he might offer some land free of charge to the railways to encourage them to route the Illawarra Line through Oatley and cross the George's River at Como rather than at Tom Ugly's Point or Taren Point. In the end Griffiths' offer of free land made the Como crossing more attractive than the other two crossings where the wealthy entrepreneur Thomas Holt wanted to sell the land to the railways at exorbitant prices.

Griffiths' subdivision covered all of Oatley and Oatley West from Gungah

Bay Road in the west to Oatley Bay in the east and Boundary and Hurstville Roads in the north to the George's River in the south. The streets in this subdivision were named after members of the Griffiths family and Australian native plants. Charles Griffiths donated this school site to the Department of Public Instruction on December 20, 1883.

This original school site was called "Oatley's Grant School Site". It is described in Education Department records as lots 9, 10, 11 and 12 of section 13 of Oatley's Grant Forest subdivision. This site is clearly shown in the auction sale handbill of December 13, 1890 for the "New Oatley Township" and reprinted in this history. However, this site was probably considered to be too far from the heart of Oatley and therefore unsuitable for a local school and hence the selection of the Neville and Letitia Street site where Oatley Public School now stands.

## NEW OATLEY TOWNSHIP

### AUCTION SALE SATURDAY DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

# WATKIN & WATKIN

## AUCTIONEERS

### 313 PITT ST SYDNEY

**TERMS**  
 £5. PER LOT  
 DEPOSIT &  
 1% PER MONTH.  
 INTEREST  
 9% ON HALF YEARLY  
 BALANCES

**VENDORS**  
 THE  
 NATIONAL BUILDING LAND & INVESTMENT  
 COMPANY LTD 250 PITT ST  
 JAMES A TODD, MANAGER

**TORRENS  
 TITLE  
 SHADED LOTS  
 ARE SOLD**



Since, at war's end, this original site in Oatley West was no longer needed for a school, the Oatley Voluntary Workers' Association asked the Department of Public Instruction for the land so that its members might build homes for local war widows. The land was duly transferred on July 2, 1918 and by 1921 three homes had been built on the two blocks facing Woronora Parade using local voluntary labour. These three houses were all three bedroom of weatherboard construction and one of

them is still owned by the descendants of Mrs Bowden who was one of the original war widows for whom the houses were built. However, support dwindled and the blocks facing Mi Mi Street were never utilised and the land was left unimproved until 1945 at which time the council rates for the land were heavily in arrears to the amount of £365/10/4. As the value of the two blocks of land was only £330 the trustees of the Voluntary Workers' Association asked Hurstville Council to

resume the land in lieu of the rates owed. This was agreed to and the site became a public reserve. In one of life's little ironies the present Principal of Oatley West Public School, Mr Julian Sheen, lives in one of the houses built on this original school site.

## Oatley West in 1947

The land on which the present Oatley West Public School has stood for the past 50 years was originally part of the Oatley Park Estate which was first advertised for sale on October 28, 1893. A subdivision plan is shown in the auction handbill which is reproduced in this history. The land on which the school now stands is described as lots 1-28 in section 9 of the estate. Lots 1-6 faced the park on Park Road (now Dame Mary Gilmore Road); lots 7-17 faced Peakhurst Park Road (now Oatley Park Avenue); and lots 8-18 faced Park Avenue. Park Street, opposite Oatley Park did not actually exist as a street until after 1947 when the school was first built. In 1947 the bush on the school site extended right up to the park boundary. At no time until the school was built on the site were any of the blocks developed or improved in any way with the exception of lot 12 facing Peakhurst Park Road which had foundations constructed to the value of £5.

In the late 1920s the Department of Education began the purchase and resumption of these blocks for the future development of a school for the Oatley West area. This section of land was selected because it was one of the few whole sections in the area which had not been built on and could therefore be purchased more cheaply for the unimproved value of the land. This land was also situated on the highest point of the estate and yet was relatively flat and ideal for building. It had the added

advantages of being situated near the Park and on the main road to the Park. Early residents of the Oatley West area maintain that the eastern end of the site was to be used for a Primary School and the western end of the site for a future High School.

The Department had acquired the entire block, comprising nearly four and a half acres of land, by 1932 as the extract from the valuation list of the Department of the Valuer General, reprinted in this history, shows. Of the blocks facing Oatley Park Road lots 16 and 17 had been purchased from Mr William Whitfield of Hurstville by 1929; lots 14 and 15 from Mr Francis between 1929 and 1932; lot 13 from Mr Charles Manglesdorf by 1929; lot 12 from Mrs Mary Moloney between 1929 and 1932; lot 11 from Mrs Annie Curtain by 1929; lots 7-10 inclusive from the estate of Mr Claude Henry Furness between 1929 and 1932. In 1926 these lots were valued at around £75 each and by 1929 at around £100 each.

Of the blocks facing the Park on Park Road all were purchased between 1926 and 1929; lot 1 was purchased from Mr R. G. Barker; lot 2 from Mr Neville L. Grove; lot 3 from Mrs Alma Rose Watson; and lots 4-6 from Mrs Mabel Irving Fountain. Lots 1, 2 and 3 were valued at £75 each and lots 4-6 at £78 each.

Of the remaining 11 blocks on the school site, situated on the southern side

of Park Avenue, eight were acquired between 1926 and 1929. Lot 27 was purchased from Mr William Johnston; lot 26 from Mrs Helena Lowes; and lots 18-23 inclusive from Mr Frederick W. Radford. The remaining three lots were resumed between 1929 and 1932; lot 28 from Mr George Martin Huggard; and lots 24 and 25 from Mrs Clara Hill. In 1926 these lots were valued at £60 each and by 1929 at around £75 each.

During the next fifteen years families slowly moved into the area surrounding the school site. By 1946 there were 10 houses in Oatley Park Avenue; a scattering of homes around Jewfish Point; one house only in Park Avenue; whilst nearly every block in Lloyd Street was built on. The houses in Lloyd Street (originally known as Lloyd George Street) had been built for returned servicemen immediately after World War I and the immediate area was known as "Soldiers Settlement". Even streets further to the east like Mi Mi and Myall were not fully built on. One parent of an early pupil at Oatley West says that she could look out her back window in Mi Mi Street and watch her daughter walk all the way to school.

Those homes established in Oatley West by 1947 were connected to the gas supply; electric power; water; and where it could be afforded, the telephone. The holes for the power poles had to be blasted in many areas of Oatley West due to the large amounts of rock so close to the surface. Sewerage was not connected until well after the school



was opened. The "sani-man" called once a week to empty pans from the backyard toilets, carrying the full ones on their shoulders to horse-drawn drays or motor lorries and bringing back an empty one for the next week. Hannon Brothers had the Council contract for this service as well as garbage collection in the area. Local residents used liberal amounts of phenol in order to kill both the smell and the germs.

Other services supplied to the local residents were milk deliveries by horse and cart twice a day, the milk being left in "billy cans" which the householders left on their front porches or hung on taps in their front gardens; blocks of ice delivered for the home's ice chest about three times a week; and bread from Edward's bakery in Letitia Street was delivered daily by Ron Parkes' horse-drawn cart. Ron's "Hullo little Dear" greeting was well known to all his customers; the clothes prop man would call at regular intervals to supply the wooden poles that would prop up clothes lines in those days before Hills hoists; mail was delivered twice daily by the postman who often made his rounds on horseback. Roads around the school were largely unpaved, one notable exception being Oatley Park Road between the park and Short Street. Where the roads were paved they often only had a thin strip of bitumen down the centre of the street.

It might be surmised that one of the main reasons for opening a new school in Oatley West would be overcrowding at Oatley Public School - but Departmental records show that this was definitely not the case. In fact the truth is that Oatley Public school was struggling to hold its

numbers during the early 1940s. Parents of Oatley students became so concerned at the drift of students from the local Oatley area to the larger schools at Hurstville and Mortdale that they wrote to their local School Inspector, Mr Taylor, asking him to draw up boundaries for Oatley School and make attendance at Oatley Public School mandatory for all those children living within those boundaries. This was approved by the Department on November 20, 1946 and the boundaries

of Oatley School were designated at Mi Mi Street in the west; the George's River in the south and east and Wonoona Parade in the north. On a hand-drawn map by Inspector Taylor that still exists in the Departmental Archives there is the hand-written comment that Mi Mi Street was to be the eastern boundary of the new Oatley West Public School.

Most of the local Oatley West children went to Mortdale Public School

123 Acres

PEAKHURST PARK

ROAD

PARK AVENUE

ROAD

WONOONA PARADE

GEORGES RIVER

OATLEY STATION

OATLEY PARK

THE GREAT ATTRACTION LOCAL SKETCH

OATLEY PARK

GEORGES RIVER

THE SOUTHERN SANATORIUM

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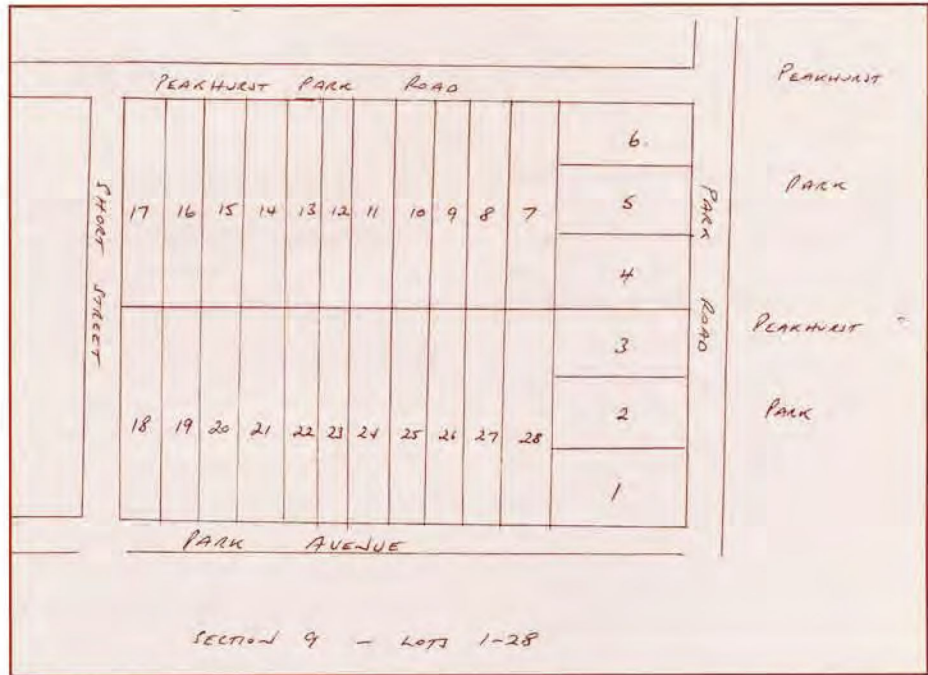
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because the local bus, Lawler's Bus Service, ran to that suburb and not to Oatley. However, as more families moved into the area following the end of World War II in 1945 many parents began to approach their local Member of Parliament, Mr A. J. Williams, in order to have a local school built at Oatley West on the site that had been purchased between 1926 and 1932. Many parents felt that either taking very young children to Mortdale School by bus or walking them over to Oatley School was too much of a hardship particularly if the weather was bad. The roads were largely unpaved and Oatley Park Avenue, for instance was cut by a flooded creek between Macintyre Street and Waterfall Road whenever it rained heavily.

As a result of parental pressure the Department of Education in 1946 asked the parents to conduct a survey to ascertain the numbers of prospective students for a school at Oatley West. This survey was carried out by Mr W. Dawes, Mrs A. Poole and Mrs J. O'Neill. The survey concluded that there were enough potential students for a local Infants' School and the Department gave its approval for the school to open at the beginning of Term One, 1947.



The actual construction of the Oatley West School buildings began in the latter half of 1946. First of all the bulldozers moved in and cleared the Short Street and Oatley Park Road corner of the site. The rest of the site remained thickly covered with native plant life of which ti-tree scrub predominated. The two room building was constructed of timber and was situated on this Short Street/Oatley

Park Road corner of the site near where the Hall and the Library stand today. One of the school's very first students, Jeanette Watt, says that whenever she smells freshly sawn timber she is instantly taken back to the very first days in this new timber school room. Attached to the classroom, on the Short Street side of the building, was a timber washroom with taps and bubblers.

DEPARTMENT OF THE VALUER GENERAL, N.S.W. - VALUATION LIST.

VALUATION DISTRICT OF **HURSTVILLE** WARD OR RIDING **PEAKHURST.** VALUATION NO. **5571**

OWNERS **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.** OCCUPATION **C/O RESUMED PROPERTIES DEPT. 16 GROSVENOR ST. SYDNEY.**

ADDRESS **C/O RESUMED PROPERTIES DEPT. 16 GROSVENOR ST. SYDNEY.**

COUNTY **lot 28-4031 191 3230** PARISH **OATLEY PARK** TOWN OR VILLAGE **OATLEY PARK**

ROAD, DIST. OR V.L. **191** D.P. **3230** OTHER } SERVICE OF } LOCALITY OR }  
 TO TITLE } E.L. } DEPARTMENTS } ESTATE }  
 STREET **OATLEY PARK AVE.** SIDE **N** HOUSE NO. } **OATLEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL.**  
 OR NAME }

PORTION	SEC.	LOT	AREA OR DIMENSIONS	VALUE			REMARKS
				UNIMPROVED	IMPROVED	AMENDED ANNUAL	
		<b>9 1/28</b>	<b>643'3x312'</b> <b>669'9 313'</b> <b>Ac. 2 Rds. 32 P.</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>100</b>	

**HERE PARK ROAD & END.**



# Oatley West Infants' School

Classes at Oatley West School finally commenced on Monday, March 24, 1947. The school had not been ready to open on the first day of the school year due to building delays, so the students who were to enrol at the new school received seven weeks extra holiday. Due to the delay in opening some parents who had promised in the survey to send children to Oatley West sent their children instead to other schools in the area. Hence the complaint from the District Inspector some time later that the actual numbers enrolled at Oatley West were not as great as the parents had originally indicated. On the first day, ten children were enrolled by the school's sole teacher, Miss Gwendoline Rowley, who had been appointed to the position on December 11, 1946.

These first ten children, seven boys and three girls, were, in the order that they appear in the roll: Ann Poole from Lloyd Street; Jeanette Watt from Park Avenue; Janice Hummel from Mi Mi Street; and the boys: Edward Stone, Lloyd Street; John Robbins from Douglas Haig Street; Bruce Sterling from Burke Street; David Adams from Oatley Park Avenue; Dennis and John O'Neill from Park Avenue; Graham Carter from Oatley Park Avenue. On the next day, Tuesday March 25, another four students were enrolled - John Gilroy, Jonathon Deerson, Betty Bland and Wendy Derrett.

The opening of Oatley West School received a small mention in the local Hurstville Propeller Newspaper on March 27, 1947 in the "News in Brief" section:

"Mr A. J. Williams, M.L.A. member for George's River, has been advised by the Minister of Education that an Infants' School has been established at Oatley West. The building will be completed this month and a teacher has been instructed to take up duties."

By the time the school's first term ended on Thursday, May 8, 1947, the student population had climbed to 33 - 15 girls and 18 boys, all in Kindergarten with Miss Rowley.

Early in Term 2, Miss Rowley divided her class into two groups - those who continued in the Kindergarten group and a second group which began "formal work". This latter group consisted of 16 students (8 boys and 8 girls) who moved very quickly onto First Class work. The kindergarten group of 25 students was also taught by Miss Rowley in the same room.

When the school's first year ended on Thursday, December 18, 1947 there were 50 children attending the little bush school at Oatley West - 25 boys and 25 girls. It is interesting to note that the roll shows that in Term 3, 1947 on November 20, that the students received a public holiday for "Princess Elizabeth's wedding day."

During this first year parents began a long tradition of assistance to the school. The first project appears to have been the construction and filling of a sand-pit in the grounds near the Short Street fence. The first parents' organisation was the Mothers' Club which was formed in 1948. The first President was Mrs Alice Poole, who served in that position for many years. The Mothers' Club raised money by running toffee stalls; cake stalls; fetes; Mother's Day stalls; the making and selling of handicrafts; and the regular stall in the little shopping centre at Oatley West on Saturday mornings. The proceeds from these various activities in those early days enabled the rooms to be carpeted and a piano to be purchased.

During First Term 1948 eight more students enrolled at the school which required the Department of Education to appoint a second teacher, Miss Benton. She commenced her duties at Oatley West on Monday, March 15, 1948 and was given the Kindergarten class of 13 boys and 13 girls. Miss Rowley taught First and Second classes consisting of 38 students in the other classroom. By the end of 1948 the school had 44 children in Kindergarten and 40 children in a composite First/Second class. This total of 84 students comprised 46 boys and 38 girls.

Lessons in those days concentrated heavily on rote learning, particularly when it came to the weekly spelling lists and the learning of multiplication tables. Kindergarten children had a compulsory sleep period after lunch each day and each child received a third of a pint of milk each day, paid for by the government and delivered to the school in foil top bottles.

In 1949 some of those children who had enrolled in the very first term of 1947 at Oatley West and who had completed Kindergarten, First and Second class in two years had to leave the school to go to either Oatley or Mortdale Public Schools because they had reached Third Class level and as an Infants' School, Oatley West did not cater for them. This caused new pressure from the local parents in order that the Department might upgrade the school to Primary status. Added to this was the fact that numbers both at the school and in the district were growing steadily and by the end of 1949 there were 110 students at the school, further accentuating the need for the school to be converted from Infant to Primary status.



# The School Grows Up

Pressure to convert Oatley West Infants' School to a full Primary School had begun as early as mid-1948 only about 15 months after the school had initially opened. A letter was sent to the Department of Education by the Mothers' Club on July 5, 1948 which "requested that, in view of the rapidly expanding size of the suburb and the increase in the number of school children within its bounds, the school be extended to be a full primary school, its present scope being Kindergarten year,

First and Second class. If this is not at present practicable, the addition of another school room would alleviate teaching difficulties, as at present one room is shared by both First and Second Class. As an indication of the rapid growth of the school, I should mention that on its opening in March, 1947, nine pupils attended and at the commencement of its second year, 60 children are now in attendance. It is hoped that, with your interest, these matters may be put in hand and the

growing needs of the school may be accommodated by increased facilities." This letter was signed by Mrs M. Meakins of Lloyd Street, the Secretary of the Mothers' Club.

This request was passed on to the Hurstville District Inspector, Mr T.A. White, for a recommendation. Mr White asked that his recommendation be deferred until later in the year because a detailed survey would have to be undertaken in order to ascertain the potential enrolment for a Primary school. Mr White duly carried out his survey and on December 10, 1948 he recommended that the school be raised to Primary status. A copy of the Inspector's report is included in this history. It shows that the Minister for Education approved the Inspector's recommendation on January 7, 1949 subject to additional accommodation being provided. The report also states quite clearly that in elevating Oatley West to Primary status this would relieve pressure on Mortdale Public School and herein lies a hint as to why approval was granted so readily and so quickly. The records of Mortdale School at this time indicate that there was considerable parental pressure on the government to resume land owned by Judd's Brickworks in the period after 1945 due to the fact that Mortdale school's numbers were increasing (907 students in 1949) and the school site was overcrowded. The option of resuming part of the brickpit was very expensive and the Department procrastinated over this decision for many years. It must have seemed a much easier and cheaper option to firstly open a school at Oatley West in 1947 and then to upgrade it to a Primary school in 1950, especially as most of the children of the Oatley West area attended Mortdale school and land at the Oatley West site had been owned by the Department for many years and would necessitate no new expense. At the same time, during the late 1940s and very early 1950s, there was considerable pressure on the Department to open schools at Mortdale Heights and at

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

HURSTVILLE District. SECTION 16 DEC 1948

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Ref: 48/192/45567.

*Memorandum from* District

WEST OATLEY Infants' School has an enrolment of 60 and it will probably reach 90 next year. There are two portable classrooms.

If the status were raised to PUBLIC an additional classroom would be required immediately, or the younger pupils would be excluded until it was provided; the parents do not desire this. From meeting several I have formed the opinion that a PUBLIC SCHOOL is wanted as soon as it can be provided, but the exclusion of the younger pupils would be keenly opposed.

I would recommend that the school be raised to PUBLIC status when additional accommodation can be provided.

As a Public School this school would relieve MORTDALE.

T.A. White, Inspector.

The Hon. Secretary of the West Oatley Infants' School Mothers' Club has made application for the West Oatley Infants' School to be converted to primary status.

In view of the report furnished by the District Inspector IT IS RECOMMENDED -

1. that approval be granted to raise the school to Primary status when additional accommodation can be provided.
2. That the question of providing additional accommodation at this school be referred to the Building Branch for necessary action.

Place 51, Bawn Rd., MCGRAH. Date 10th December, 1948.

APPROVED 5-1-49  
(R.O.)



Kemp Street, Mortdale. Again this would have been expensive because land had not been set aside for schools in these areas and therefore resumption would be necessary. The establishment and the upgrading of Oatley West school alleviated the need for these schools and plans for them were shelved by 1951.

By March, 1950 the new accommodation had been provided in the form of one single and one double portable classroom. The double portable room was erected where the Library stands today along the Oatley Park Avenue boundary next to the original school building of 1947. The single portable classroom was built on the Short Street boundary, at right angles to these two wooden buildings. This single classroom became the Kindergarten room. A Primary Headmaster, Mr Harry Callender, was appointed to the school on January 31, 1950 to replace Miss Rowley who was transferred to Caringbah Infants' School. Mr Callender, the school's first Primary Headmaster, served in that position until the end of the 1957 school year. A note from Inspector White informed the Minister that by May 24, 1950 the "school was functioning as a Fourth class Primary school with a Headmaster and three assistants." By 1952 the school's enrolment of 184 students entitled it to be classified as a Second Class Primary school. An

interesting footnote concerns Inspector White who was so involved in those early days of Oatley West school. Tom White was an original Anzac who had served in the Gallipoli campaign and later in France. He had reached the rank of captain and was often affectionately, although one would imagine not directly, referred to by teachers in his district as "Captain Tom."

Between 1951 and 1953 the numbers of students in the school nearly doubled from 127 to 242 necessitating the construction of new permanent timber buildings in 1953. In fact four new weatherboard buildings were

who sat at collapsible tables and on long forms. There were no blackboards, teachers' desks or cupboards. He used a broken table-top nailed to the wall as a primitive blackboard. In his first years at the school there was no office, staffroom or store rooms. Nor were any garbage tins supplied and students helped out by bringing small oil drums to school for that purpose. As there was no incinerator rubbish was burned in a camp-fire type arrangement with the fire encircled by rocks collected from various parts of the school site by the children. This had to be used with care, however, particularly during the summer months for fear of causing bush fires. In fact on several occasions in those early days school finished earlier than usual

when bush fires from the park threatened the school. The task of looking after the burning of the rubbish was highly sought after by the senior boys as were other jobs such as making up the ink from powder and water and then filling the ink wells; and the distribution of the bottles of milk which were delivered to the school each day for every student. These bottles of milk were one-third of a pint or about 200 ml and were supplied daily to every Infant student in New South Wales. They were often left in the sun until they were distributed during the morning recess break and thus were often times quite unpalatable. While most children brought their lunch and "play lunch" from home, some children ordered their lunches from Daltons, one of the local

*The sunlight rising over the hill  
Tells us God's love is with us still*  
H. Callender  
6.4.51.

constructed - the two buildings now between the present Library and Administration block on the Oatley Park Avenue boundary and the two wooden buildings to the north which run parallel to them. All these buildings are still in use today.

Mr Frank Staples, the school's first Deputy Headmaster, who arrived in 1952, remembers that building materials were still in short supply when these buildings were constructed. He taught in one of those rooms without any windows or a door. There were not enough desks or chairs for the students

*Fame is not popularity, the shout of the multitude  
it is the spirit of a man surviving  
himself in the minds and thoughts of  
other men, undying and imperishable.*

*- Hazlitt.*

*F.R. Staples*

*26.11.52.*



shops in Oatley West. This occurred, particularly on Monday because there had been no fresh bread since Friday. Children would go to Dalton's shop before school and fill in their order on the brown paper bag, pay their money and pies, sandwiches, cakes and soft drinks would be delivered to the school.

The primitive conditions in the early days at Oatley West did not seem to worry Mr Callender, the Headmaster, in the slightest. In fact he seemed to revel in them. Although he was not always in good health due to heart problems, he had grown used to hardship earlier in his career when he had been a travelling teacher in outback New South Wales. Using a horse-drawn van he had moved from place to place teaching the children of itinerant workers in railway fettlers' camps or on isolated properties. He was always quite at ease teaching on the verandah of one of the classrooms or sitting on a log in the schoolyard with the children gathered around him.

During Mr Callender's latter years the school was enclosed on its Short Street and Oatley Park Avenue boundaries by a two bar post and rail fence and the main school gate was right on the corner of those two streets. At this time the area between the two rows of classrooms was asphalted to provide a suitable place for the children to play. The rest of the school site was still incredibly rough and much of it was covered in ti-tree scrub.

Mr Staples well remembers staff, students and parents all involved in clearing and beautifying various parts of the site. Many parents and teachers well remember that the girls made little "cubby houses" amongst the ti-tree scrub along the Oatley Park Avenue fence. They would sweep out an area under the canopy of ti-tree for their "homes" and decorate their borders with stones and even bring pieces of old lino or carpet from home for the floors. They would bring dolls and teddy bears to play with and even have vases of flowers to add to the decoration. One of the earliest improvements to the playground was a set of climbing frames

which the children called the "Jungle Jim" playground and around 1954 a basketball court was constructed on the site of the present Administration Block. It was a single court with two rings and a dirt surface.

The roughness and the slope of parts of the playground site led to a great deal of running water and the formation of large lakes during heavy rain. A popular pastime in these periods was sailing little boats made out of sticks and leaves down the raging torrents and watching their progress. Another favourite pastime of the whole community which involved use

*I think even self be true  
I think all v.  
6. 4. 51*

of the school playground was the annual Empire Day bonfire. Empire Day was traditionally observed on May 24 every year and school children received a half day holiday. Empire night was also "cracker" night when bonfires and fireworks were great fun for all. A large bonfire was traditionally built near the site of the school's present Administration building during the May school holidays each year. When 2nd term started Empire Day was usually in the second week of term and so the bonfire timber was dried out and ready

for the torch. The entire community in the immediate vicinity of the school would bring along their own fireworks, purchased from local shops, and gather around the bonfire after dark to watch the fun. Yet another large bonfire was held every year on a large vacant area at the corner of Mi Mi Street and Mulga Road where several of the Oatley West shops are today. The area from today's supermarket to the take-away shop on the corner was a large vacant block of land at that time which contained a cricket pitch and was used for visiting circuses and rodeos as well as for the annual bonfire.

Members of staff during these early days of Primary Education were Mr Nicholls; Mr Spence; and Mr Starr all of whom taught in the Primary Department with Mr Callender and Mr Staples; and Mrs Hampton; Miss Duggan and Mrs Hand who taught in the Infants' Department. Other teachers both permanent and casual were Mrs Roberts, Mrs Dawes, and Mrs

McNamara. Mrs McNamara was one of the longest serving sewing teachers at the school. Her children attended the school and one of those children, her son, Ian, is now well-known as the presenter of the popular ABC programme "Australia All Over."

While Mrs McNamara was teaching the girls to sew desk covers, pinwheels,

*Whatsoever things are honourable  
Whatsoever things are just  
Whatsoever things are pure  
Whatsoever things are lovely  
Whatsoever things are of good report  
If there be any virtue  
And if there be any praise  
Think on these things.  
Phil. 4. 8.  
J. Spence 16/4/51*



needle covers and the like, the boys were in a separate group making pencil cases, desk sets, blotting paper holders and cardboard models in Craftwork.

The Departmental records show that from the beginning of 1956 the numbers at the school justified the establishment of a separate Infants' Department. At this time the school's enrolment had reached 402 students of whom 173 of these were in the Infants' classes. The first Infants' Mistress at the school was Miss Ann Hodge who taught at Oatley West for many years.

During this time there was no official uniform as such although some students did wear a type of uniform - the traditional grey short pants and plain blue shirt for boys while some girls wore grey tunics with a blue shirt underneath. It was only during the tenure of the school's second Headmaster, Mr Edric (Jack) Bryant, that the children were encouraged to all wear the school uniform. Mr Bryant replaced Harry Callender in January, 1958. The uniform was

decided upon by a group of mothers during 1958 and it was largely similar to that described above but with the addition of the school colours of red and gold. These colours had been selected during the early years of Mr Callender's time at the school but had not been widely used. Mr Bryant urged students to participate in the wearing of the school uniform and the vast majority did so.

Mr Bryant was well respected by both the parents and his staff. He had a keen sense of humour and was a fine organiser. He initiated the Honour Board for the Dux of the school and also introduced the presentation of awards at his weekly outdoor assemblies where the children sat under the trees. The present Primary and Infants' toilet blocks were built at the end of 1959 and connected to the sewer at that time. The Water Board had sewered the Oatley West area beginning in late 1958. The contract was let to H. & R. Gilmour at a cost of £30,000 for Area 7 Portion 5A. This area was

enclosed by Mi Mi Street to Oatley Park Avenue; Dame Mary Gilmore Road; Park Avenue and Mulga Road. Later on during 1961 a retaining wall was built in front of the Primary toilet block allowing the area between the toilets and the classrooms to be levelled and asphalted. Thus a proper assembly area and basketball court was available for the students for the first time. The cost of this work and additional paving between classrooms was approximately £5,000.

One of Mr Bryant's earliest initiatives was to encourage the formation of the school's first Parents and Citizens' Association in the first few months of 1958. He called a meeting of interested parents on Wednesday, February 19, 1958 and 70 parents attended. As a result of this meeting the Association was born. The first President of the P&C Association was Mr Jim Yeomans, while other pioneer office-bearers were Mr Rex Brown, Treasurer and Mr Leo Atkinson, Secretary. The Vice-Presidents were Mrs B. Crompton and Mr J Trimmer. A report in the local "Express" newspaper mentions that due to a violent storm a

Public School, Oatley West  
Yearly Examination, 1953

Pupil.. Robin.. McNamara... Class.. HB...

Subjects:	Marks	
	Gained	Possible
Reading.....	85	100
Composition.....	75	100
Spelling.....	100	100
Writing.....	80	100
Arithmetic.....	87	100
Social Studies.....		100
English.....	88	
	<u>515</u>	<u>600</u>

Position in class - 2nd

Very creditable performance  
Keep up the good work!!

W. A. Murphy

Public School, Oatley West  
Yearly Examination, 1953

Pupil Ian.. McNamara... Class.. 1A...

Subjects:	Marks	
	Gained	Possible
Reading.....	85	100
Composition.....	85	100
Spelling.....	85	100
Writing.....	75	100
Arithmetic.....	84	100
Social Studies.....		100
	<u>414</u>	<u>500</u>

Ian.. is a very capable little  
worker, who should do well in 2nd  
class... Has a tendency... to talk  
much hence work is often left  
unfinished

N. E. Murphy



long blackout occurred causing the election to be carried out by lantern light. It was decided that future meetings would be held on the first Wednesday in each month at 8.00 pm. The first meeting of the P&C was held on March 5, 1958 and at the meeting Mr Doug Cross, the local member, was elected as the Association's first Patron. That first meeting also saw the Principal make a request for several items including a tape recorder - the first of hundreds of such requests which would be made of the parent body in the ensuing years. The report of that first meeting which appeared in the "Express" newspaper lamented the disappointing attendance after the huge turn-out at the inaugural meeting to form the Association in February.

One of the first projects of the fledgling P&C Association was to clear some of the bush on the school site in order to provide additional playground

space for the children. Another early project was the clearing of an area for the construction of the school cricket nets. The P&C paid for the steel frames and wire and then parents erected the nets on a weekend working bee. The P&C lost no time in lobbying the Department of Education for half the cost of the cricket nets which was £50. The P&C also lobbied the department to level and asphalt the playground. There is extensive correspondence describing the disgraceful condition of the playground prior to the improvements carried out in 1959. Yet another early venture was to plant trees, donated by the parents, on the school site after the scrub had been cleared. During these years an annual Sports day at Oatley Park became part of the school calendar and a monthly Gazette was published to highlight school events and news. Of the various methods used by the parents for raising funds, none was more successful

than the Annual Winter Fun Fair. One of the more popular attractions of the Fair was a display of paintings and so it would seem that the link between Oatley West School and art goes back to these very early times. Other fundraising activities included Car Trials and the monthly Cake stalls held on Saturday mornings outside the newsagent's in the Oatley West shopping centre. During the latter half of 1958 the P&C formed a Ladies' Auxiliary to assist with fundraising activities and the first President of this group was Mrs Betty Crompton and the Secretary was Mrs Alice Poole.

Some of the teachers during Mr Bryant's time were Miss Judy Atwill, Mrs E. Hogan, Mr Smyth, Miss Murphy and Mrs Betty Goodman. Mr Bryant retired from teaching at the end of the 1961 school year.

## And Up and Up

The new Headmaster was Mr James Reid, who began at Oatley West on January 30, 1962 and presided over the school until his retirement in May, 1975, thus becoming the school's longest serving Principal. He was a quiet, extremely well educated man who was dedicated to the teaching profession and very much a perfectionist.

During his first year at the school the two new brick Infants' Department buildings were completed and occupied for the first time. The plans for these buildings had been drawn up early in 1959. Student numbers had risen from the 242 in 1953 to 470 in 1959 of whom 212 were in the Infants' Department. By 1962 when these six new classrooms were ready for use the school's enrolment had reached 532 and the new accommodation was gratefully accepted.

The brick two-room building on Short Street was first occupied in February, 1962 and the four room building on the Park Avenue boundary was ready for occupation by September 18, 1962. The total cost of these two new buildings, approved by the Minister

for Education, Mr Ern Wetherell, in October, 1961 was £29,733. The buildings were described as "five Infants' classrooms and one Kindergarten room with office, staff room, hat rooms and storerooms". The project included a terrace to be attached to one of the brick veneer buildings and provision was made to pave the assembly area and the paths.

However, the school's building plans were not restricted a this time solely to classrooms. In April, 1959 the parents had established a committee with roughly equal representation from the P&C and the Mothers' Club to co-ordinate the building of a school Assembly Hall. The Chairman of this committee was Mr A.B. Gilroy; the Secretary, Mr H.M. Whaite; and the Treasurer, Mrs V. Muir. Other inaugural members of this committee were Mrs Squires, Mrs Barker, Mr Fleming, Mr Godfrey, Mrs Atkinson and Mr Sondholm. By May, 1959, the Mothers' Club had made their first donation of £100 to the Assembly Hall Fund and on August 7, 1959, the Building committee held a large concert

night at the Oatley Public School hall to begin raising funds. By June, 1961 the Assembly Hall committee had raised £3,020/17/9 by means of direct donations from parents; fundraising activities of the Assembly Hall committee itself; donations from the P&C and the Mothers' Club; and donations from local service organisations. Such an amount was considerable at the time and the tradition of enthusiastic and energetic parental involvement that continues to this day certainly had its genesis in those earliest times. Other monies were raised by private loans which were to be paid back after the Hall had been built. These loans allowed the committee to gain the necessary funds quickly and to spread out the fundraising in the years after construction was completed.

When the Hall had first been planned, the Department of Education had guaranteed a maximum amount of £6,000 would be given if the parents could raise £3,000. However, it was felt that a hall costing £9,000 would be too small and inadequate for the school's needs. In 1962 the Department changed



its rules and agreed to raise its maximum contribution to £8,000 provided the school could raise at least £4,000 plus the architect's fees. This fitted in with the committee's plans because it envisaged in 1962 a hall costing around £11,500 with architect's fees of a further £500. This meant that with just over £3,000 raised, a further £1,500 needed to be found before the project could proceed. Thanks to additional fundraising and some private loans the committee had £4,113/7/4 in the bank by August, 1962.

Mr Alan K. Eedy was the architect commissioned by the committee to draw up plans for the Assembly Hall in late 1962. After some amendments to reduce the amount of glass in the building and to re-align the building 90 degrees so that the entrance faced Short Street and not Park Avenue, the Department approved the plans in November, 1963 and authorised the committee to call for tenders for the project. The Department reported on March 6, 1964 that the lowest tender received was from D.A. Oliver for the sum of £12,574 and a further sum of £703 was involved in architectural fees for planning and supervision. At the same time the Minister informed the local member, Mr Doug Cross and the committee that because the school had raised £4,300 with a further £300 promised the Department would increase its subsidy to a total of £8,700 in view of the parents' wonderful response. The contract was entered into on March 20, 1964 and of the total £13,277 required for the project the parents had raised £4,577 - a remarkable achievement.

The Assembly Hall was duly opened by the local member for George's River, Mr D.D. Cross on July 10, 1965. This was only fitting as Mr Cross had consistently supported the school over a long period of time and a great many of the improvements which were gained were, in part, due to his constant representations on the school's behalf.

In the early part of 1963, following the opening of the new Infants' classrooms in 1962 the Department gave permission for the school to convert one of the old timber buildings in the second row, previously used by the Infants, into a Library. The parents had asked the

Department to build a library in conjunction with the building of the Assembly Hall and the new Infants' classrooms but the Department had stated that there were not enough funds available to cover this. Thus, the school gained its first library in one of the old timber rooms where it continued until the present brick Library was constructed in 1995.

The purchase of books in 1963 was a real problem due to the fact that the resources of the school were very much directed towards the funding of the

Assembly Hall. Donations were sought from local community groups such as the R.S.L. and the Department was also approached for a subsidy. The Department's subsidy was 40 cents in the dollar for all books purchased before December, 1962 but after that time it was reduced to 20 cents in the dollar. During the early sixties the school's enrolment was fairly constant at 540 pupils of whom about 240 were in the Infants' Department.

In December, 1966 the school's first Infants' Mistress, Miss Anne Hodge,



4th and 5th Classes 1953 - Wendy Derrett extreme right (front row)



4th Class 1952



retired from teaching. She had been in charge of the Infants' Department at Oatley West for 11 years having taken up the position in January, 1956. She was replaced in 1967 by Miss Chalmers and upon her transfer at the end of 1968, Mrs Hitchcock became the Infants' Mistress until December, 1975. It was during this period that the asphaltting of the Infants' playground was completed - the final area to be done was the area around the seats in the Short Street and Park Avenue corner. This task was completed in June,

International, having represented Australia at both hockey and women's cricket. Miss Picton served at the school until the end of 1985. Secondly, in 1973 Mrs Esme Orange was appointed as the school's Librarian for two days each week. She was to continue as the Librarian until July, 1996.

\$86.41 and began a tradition of Art shows at Oatley West School - a tradition which was picked up by later parents in the early 1980s and which continues to this present time as a vital social and fundraising activity of the school.

Another highlight of the school year

"Life is not so short, but that there is always time for courtesy"

- Emerson.

H. Callender.

5/10/54.

Life is mostly froth and bubble,  
Two things stand like stone,  
Kindness in another's trouble,  
Courage in your own.

Best wishes to Wendy  
from Sir.

J.R. Sapes.  
10.8.54.

at this time was the annual operetta performed by the Infants' children in the new hall. The hall kitchen was also used as the school tuckshop which was staffed by the mothers and opened on Mondays only. The mothers

1969, at a cost of \$126. This area was adjacent to the site selected for an adventure playground in November, 1974. The Department's Physical Education section approved the construction and agreed to pay for the materials and construction costs with the Mothers' Club paying for the area to be surfaced with wood-chips. However, the Department reneged on its promise to pay the majority of the costs and it was left to the parents to find the \$1,557 needed to complete the project. The Adventure Playground, which had been designed by the P.E. Inspector, Mr A. McLean, was eventually completed in October, 1975.

The early 1970s also saw the arrival at Oatley West of two of its longest serving members of staff. First, in January, 1971 Miss Muriel Picton arrived as Deputy to replace Mr Langstaff. Miss Picton had the rare distinction of being a dual

It's fine to have a friend you can trust,  
But it's finer to have a friend who can trust you.

W. Langstaff?  
10.9.54

One of the more interesting means of fundraising utilised by the parent groups at this time was the Art and Craft Exhibition, the first of which was held on November 27, 1969. These exhibitions, which were more like Craft Fairs, were held every year until they were discontinued in 1974. The first one in 1969 raised

were also instrumental in beginning the first uniform pool at the school early in 1971.

The Building of the school hall had allowed all sorts of fundraising and cultural events to be held and increased the opportunities for children to participate in concerts, operettas and the like at Oatley West rather than to have to borrow the hall at Oatley Public



School as had been the case prior to 1965. The Principal, Mr Reid, encouraged the formation of a school choir in Term III, 1973 and invited Mrs Margaret Trewartha, a parent of children at the school and a President of the Mothers' Club, to conduct and teach the choir. Mrs Trewartha was to continue in this role for the next 15 years during which time the choir participated in Opera House concerts, annual Presentation days, school concerts and District Education concerts at Hurstville Civic Centre.

While Mr Reid was only too keen for Oatley West school groups to use the hall, he was not so keen for outside organisations to make use of it, believing that it was a valuable resource and that it needed to be looked after. Some parents, however, had a different view and there was some lively debate over the matter. One of Mr Reid's objections was that there was insufficient lighting in the school grounds to allow night functions and so the P&C eventually prevailed upon the Department to provide adequate external lighting to the school grounds in 1972. Gradually community groups were able to use the hall, albeit on a limited basis.

In 1973 Mr Reid and Mrs Hitchcock were responsible for implementing the first combined staff meetings between the Infant and Primary Departments and these were held on a regular basis from then on.

In May, 1975 Mr Reid retired from teaching and was replaced as Principal by Mr Ken Craig. Mr Reid had served as Principal since January, 1962 and has the distinction of being the school's longest serving Principal. There was a changing of the guard at this time because in December, 1975 the Infants' Mistress, Mrs Hitchcock left the school to be replaced in 1976 by Miss J. Eyles.

Ken Craig served as Principal from May, 1975 until December, 1978. He was the first of the non-teaching Principals at the school, Mr Reid and his predecessors having to teach a class of their own as well as run the school. Mr Craig also exhibited a different style to Mr Reid being far less formal. This is in no way meant as a criticism for the two men were from different eras. Teaching staff - even the most senior of them -

always addressed Jim Reid as "Mr Reid" and recount the fact that if he needed to come to your classroom to speak to the class or the teacher he would invariably put on his hat and coat to do so. Mr Craig was also more enthusiastic in directing the pupils of Oatley West towards inter-school sport and cultural activities outside the school. He encouraged the students to participate in competitive sports against other schools in the area and was keen for groups such as the choir to take part in events outside the school, such as at the Opera House and the Hurstville Civic Centre. He also encouraged many more excursions whereas Mr Reid's policy had been to limit excursions to the types of places that students could not visit with their parents. In his first few months at the school Mr Craig made an application to the Department to build an Administration block and six new classrooms to replace the wooden buildings which had formed the nucleus of the school since the 1950s. However, the request fell on deaf ears and it would be more than eight years before the school got a new Administration block and, of course, the wooden classrooms remain to this day. Mr Craig's request for

administrative assistance was, however, more favourably regarded and early in 1976 Mrs Shirley Blunden was appointed as the school's first full-time ancillary staff member.

In December, 1978 Mr Craig was transferred to Banksia Road Public School at Greenacre and he was replaced as Principal at Oatley West by Mr Frank Phelps, who served as Principal from January 1979 until his untimely death in November 1980. Mr Phelps was a much loved Principal who began one of the great traditions of Oatley West school - the school band. It was he who formed the band and it was he who organised the loan of instruments initially from Liverpool region. Mr Phelps invited one of the parents, Mrs Jan Thorpe to conduct and teach the band.

Mr Phelps also encouraged the design of the first metal school badge - a beautiful design which incorporated scenes of the George's River, Oatley's clock, the Assembly Hall and the gum trees of Oatley Park. This colourful badge was designed at Mr Phelps' instigation by Ms Denise Jones, one of the teachers' aides at the school. The

SCHOOL <i>Oatley West Infants</i>			
POST TOWN <i>Mostdale</i>		RESIDENCE <i>Constitution Pt. (68/19/653)</i>	
DISTRICT <i>Hurstville East Hills</i>			
TEACHER	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	REMOVED TO	DATE OF TRANSFER
<i>Rowley, Gwendoline (S)</i>	<i>11.12.46</i>	<i>to Carrigbat left</i>	<i>31.1.50</i>
<i>Callender, Harry (M)</i>	<i>31.1.50</i>		
<i>Mell, James (M)</i>	<i>19.5.50 (Rtg)</i>	<i>Rtg. Sumell</i>	<i>15.8.50</i>
<i>Bryant, Berie J (M)</i>	<i>25.1.58</i>	<i>R.</i>	
<i>Reid, James (M)</i>	<i>30.1.62</i>	<i>retired</i>	<i>19/5/75</i>
<i>Ken Craig</i>	<i>19/5/75</i>		
<i>PHELPS, F.W.</i>	<i>2.7.79</i>	<i>retired</i>	
<i>KELLY, Marilyn J</i>	<i>2.2.81</i>		
<i>SHEEN, Julian Andrew</i>	<i>2.2.87</i>	<i>still there late 1995</i>	

**Infants' Mistresses:**

Miss Hodge, Miss Chalmers, Mrs Hitchcock, Mrs J. Eyles, Mrs J. Martin, Mrs C. Hesford, Mrs G. Antonaz - Deputy



badge also incorporated a school motto for the first time. "Learning to Live" was Mr Phelps' own suggestion for the motto and it appeared in the P&C monthly Gazette of November, 1979. Other suggestions were sought as well as comment on the design of the badge. One other alternative motto which was suggested at the time was "Time to Learn". This suggestion was made by the Sewing and Craft teacher at the school, Mrs Molly Riley, who taught at the school from 1972 until 1986 and it aimed to make the connection with Oatley's clock which was to appear on

the badge. After discussion both the badge design and Mr Phelps' suggested motto "Learning to Live" were adopted and 300 badges were ordered from Perfection Plate and were sold for \$1 each. This continued to be the school badge until the early 1980s when it was changed to the "tree" design which was the logo of the Art and Craft Exhibitions which were first held from 1981.

There was a deal of controversy and heated debate over the relegation of the original badge and the adoption of the tree design. This was partly due to the

fact that some parents felt that the original design was a beautiful and appropriate one for the school and its surroundings and partly due to the fact that the original badge was also associated with Frank Phelps. The school community felt a tremendous loss when he died in November 1980 playing his weekly game of lawn bowls. Many considered that he had a real empathy with the school and its children. The Principals' Board was installed in the School Hall in June 1981, in memory of Mr Phelps.

## The Latter Years

The new Principal, replacing Mr Phelps, was Mrs Marilyn Kelly who began at Oatley West in February 1981. It was in Mrs Kelly's first year, 1981, that the Art and Craft exhibitions, in their present form, began. As has been mentioned there had been Craft Fairs over one day from 1969 until 1973 inclusive, but in 1980 a committee was formed to raise funds for the school by means of an Art and Craft Exhibition over three days and with a far greater emphasis on the sale of paintings. These successful exhibitions have continued until the present time and have proved to be a tremendous social event for the community as well as providing a wonderful source of funds for the school. The first committee began work in late 1980 and the first exhibition was held early in 1981. The first convenor of the committee was Mrs Merrilyn Wood; the Art convenor was Mrs Lyn Coleman; and the Craft convenor was Mrs Meryl Davison. Other members of the original committee were Janice Chambers, Julie Ferrier, Wendy Ross, Carol Ertl, Carol Rayment, Helen Grocott, Alan Heinecke and John Coleman. The first exhibition raised more than \$5,500. Part of the money raised (\$1,500) was spent on upgrading the sound system and microphones in the school hall. This was part of a general program to improve the acoustics of the hall and to this end in late 1980 a local builder, Mr Leo Atkinson, was contracted to supply and

install the timber acoustic panels in the hall at a cost of \$2,567.

It was during these years that the cultural activities of the school really developed. This was partly due to the encouragement of Mrs Kelly and her staff and also due to the fact that parent fundraising activities provided the school with previously unheard of resources. During this time the band developed to the point where there was a junior and senior band conducted and taught by Mrs Jan Thorp. The choir continued to be led by Mrs Trewartha and its numbers swelled to more than 80. A very successful Dance group was begun under the direction of one of the teachers, Ms Cheryl Large and a large number of children were also involved in the recorder groups under the tutorship of Mrs Esme Dean. Such was the extent of all these activities that a governing body, the Music Council, was set up in March, 1983 as a sub-committee of the P&C to oversee these activities and the financing of them. The chief organiser and first convenor of the Music Council was Mrs Bev Kennedy.

It was after the success of the first Art Show and the decision to keep them going that Mrs Kelly raised the possibility in April, 1981 of using the "tree" logo on the school letterhead with the school motto underneath. The "tree" logo which was eventually adopted by the school as its badge was designed for the Art and Craft Committee in early 1981 by Mrs Sue Drinkwater.

In September, 1983 the school gained its long-awaited Administration building, Mr Craig having lobbied for such a building as early as 1975. Mrs Kelly had repeated this request during 1982 and the Department agreed to it in February, 1983. The building contained a reception area and clerical office; printing room and storeroom; a large staff area; and Principal's and Deputy's offices. It is interesting to note that the parents and staff decided not to have an official opening of the building, opting instead to have a small function where the school community could inspect its latest asset and resource.

The opening of the Administration building coincided with the retirement of Mrs Joy Martin, who had been Infants' Mistress at Oatley West from January 1, 1980 when she had replaced Miss Eyles. However, Joy and her husband, Alan, were not completely lost to the school as they both assisted on the Art and Craft committee for some years after Joy's retirement in 1983. The new Infants' Mistress appointed to the school at the beginning of 1984 was Mrs Coral Hesford.

At the end of 1986 Mrs Kelly left Oatley West to take up an appointment at Marrickville Public School. She was replaced as Principal in February, 1987 by the present Principal, Mr Julian Sheen. Mr Sheen came to Oatley West from his position as Deputy Principal at Bonnet Bay Public School. As a local, Mr Sheen had a close association with



Oatley West School with his younger brother and both his children having attended the school. In the same year, 1987, Mrs Georgina Antonaz replaced Coral Hesford as Infants' Mistress.

Enrolments at Oatley West were dropping during the late '80s and by 1989 had fallen to 373 pupils. The Principal and the staff at this time made a conscious decision to place a greater emphasis on the basics of education at the school without curtailing any of the cultural or sporting activities in which the students were involved. The result has been that enrolments during the '90s have continually risen to the point where the school's enrolment was 457 in 1995 with 15% of the students coming from outside the school's nominal drawing area. Some of the highlights of these latter years have been the establishment of a School Council; the construction of a new school Library and the formation of a Students' Representative Council.

The School Council was first discussed in late 1988 and early 1989. Mr Sheen, Mrs Janet Willis and Mr Andrew Bristow were involved in investigating the idea which was in its infancy in New South Wales schools. A working party was set up and a draft constitution, based on government guidelines, was drawn up. The draft constitution was accepted by the school's parent bodies and the Department of Education in 1990 and the first election was held early in 1991, resulting in Oatley West having one of the first School Councils in Sydney. Members of the first School Council were Sol Lebovic, who was elected President, Margaret Derwent, Gillian Anderson and Russell Orr who were elected as parent representatives; Norma Crawley, Sue English and Jeff Sheinwald who were the staff representatives; Julian Sheen as Executive Officer and Lionel King, the President of the P&C. Bob Phillips and John Coleman were appointed community representatives. The

role of the Council has been to advise on and set the direction for school activities and policies and to formulate a budgetary plan. The Council has, in the ensuing years, filled this role extremely well, ensuring an orderly budgeting process; conducting a school survey and writing a Mission Statement for the school; and overseeing the building of the school Library. A further change in 1992 saw the school motto rephrased and extended. The original "*Learning to Live*" was extended to "*Learning to Live - Living to Learn*".

The new Library was opened in November, 1995 as a result of fundraising by the parent bodies. The Library sub-committee was chaired by Mr Russell Orr and the cost of the building was almost \$260,000 of which \$150,000 was given as a grant by the Department of Education. Great assistance was given to the project by Mr Brian Jarman, Assistant Director of Properties and Mr Phillip Sansom, a parent and architect, who developed the concept of the Library plan.

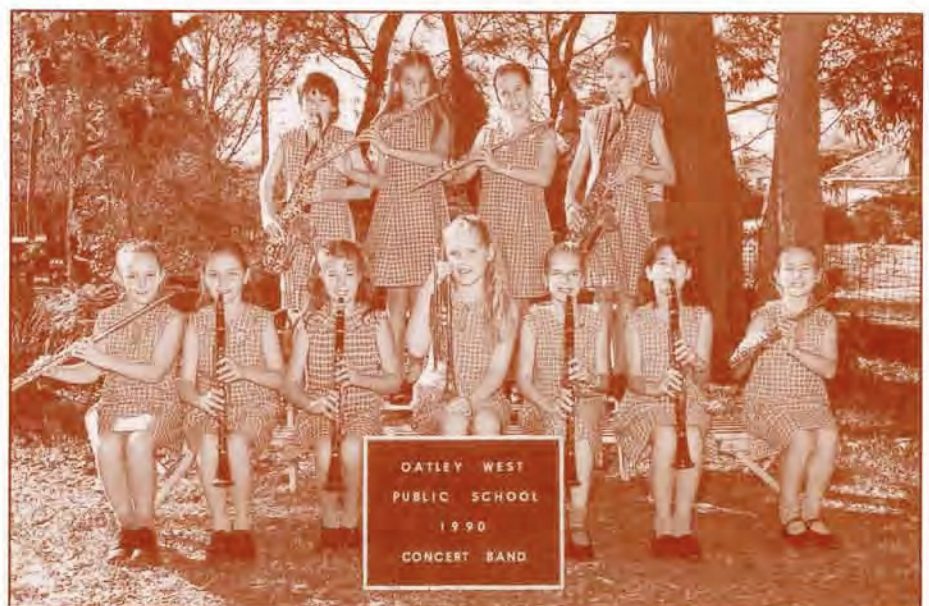
The balance of \$110,000 was raised by the parents by means of the annual Art Exhibitions; two spectacularly successful Auction nights; and several popular Trivia nights. So successful were these fundraising activities that the required funds were raised in 3

years and not the 6 years which had been originally envisaged.

Another change to school life at Oatley West occurred in 1993 when the Students' Representative Council was begun and the Prefect system was phased out. The first full election for the SRC was held in 1994. Mrs Angie Sheinwald of the teaching staff was the co-ordinator of the SRC and oversaw the implementation of this important change.

The Library sub-committee has been replaced by the Site Development Committee which is looking to the future needs of Oatley West Public School. This committee is looking at improving the buildings on the site by replacing the old timber buildings with more modern ones; redeveloping the School Hall; and halting the deterioration of the site itself.

Thus, as Oatley West School looks back on 50 years of outstanding achievement in education, the most important feature has probably been the manner in which the staff, parents and community have worked so harmoniously together to provide a wonderful education for the children in this beautiful bushland setting. Since these factors continue to exist there is every reason to look forward to the next 50 years with a great deal of optimism and excitement.





## Presidents of School Council

Mr Sol Lebovic  
Mr Kim Wagstaff

## Presidents of P&C

Mr J. Yeomans  
Mr O. Bartlett  
Mr J. Carney  
Mr M. Fleming  
Mrs D. Johnston  
Mr W. Stewart  
Mr H. Powell  
Mr F. Saintilan  
Mr C. Ross  
Mr S. Law  
Mr S. Bell  
Mrs J. Devenny  
Mr N. Willis  
Mr L. King  
Mr C. Carfoot  
Mr A. Bristow  
Mr B. Hinley

## Art Committee Convenors

Ms Merrilyn Wood  
Ms Julie Ferrier  
Ms Gae Law  
Ms Tina Auciello  
Mr Tony Pearsall  
Mr Michael & Mrs Lyn King  
Mr Mark & Mrs Karen Wilson  
Mr Michael & Mrs Kathy Low

## First Day Enrolments (Boys) 24/3/47

1/47 Edward Stone  
26 Lloyd Street  
2/47 John Robbins  
38 Douglas Haig Street  
3/47 Bruce Sterling  
2 Burke Street.  
4/47 David Adams  
Oatley Park Road  
5/47 Dennis O'Neill  
1 Park Avenue.  
6/47 John O'Neill  
1 Park Avenue  
7/47 Graham Carter  
Oatley Park Road

## 25/3/47

8/47 John Gilroy  
9/47 Jonathon Deerson

## First Day Enrolments (Girls) 24/3/47

1/47 Ann Poole  
47 Lloyd Street  
2/47 Jeanette Watt  
3 Park Avenue  
3/47 Janice Hummel  
76 Mi Mi Street

## 25/3/47

4/47 Betty Bland  
Marine Drive  
5/47 Wendy Derrett  
14 Douglas Haig Street

## Acknowledgements

Ms Joan Watt  
Ms Jeanette Watt-McLean  
Mrs Janice Andrews  
Mr & Mrs Hummel  
Mrs Joy O'Neill  
Ms Gaye Pracey (Gladwyn)  
Ms Margaret Murphy (Gladwyn)  
Mary McPherson (Dept. of Educ.)  
Mrs Fiona Murray  
Mr & Mrs Jim Yeomans  
Mrs W. Dawes  
Mrs V. Howes  
Mr & Mrs N. Sterling  
Ms Marion Sterling  
Mr Bruce Sterling  
Mr Guy Yeomans  
Mr Frank Staples  
Mr L. Meakins  
Mrs Alewood  
Mrs McNamara  
Mr I. McNamara  
Mrs S. Blunden  
Miss M. Picton  
Mrs E. Orange  
Mrs M. Riley  
Mrs Wendy Derrett-Smith  
Special thanks to Mr Graham Cole  
for help in publishing this booklet.



The new library during construction in 1994.



# Staff

**A**

Mrs T. Auciello  
Miss J. Atwooll  
Ms S. Annetts  
Mrs G. Antonaz

**B**

Ms R. Buckpitt  
Mr I. Bigg  
Mr F. Buckley  
Mrs L. Bushnell  
Mr E. Bryant  
Miss Brown  
Mr I. Bertram  
Mrs J. Bishop  
Mr M. Ballantyne  
Mrs S. Blunden  
Miss Benton

**C**

Mr H. Callender  
Miss Chalmers  
Miss W. Chalmers  
Ms N. Crawley  
Mr K. Craig  
Miss K. Cartledge

Miss Carr  
Mrs S. Cartwright  
Miss B. Cole  
Mr M. Carlisle

**D**

Miss P. Dowzer  
Mrs E. Dawes  
Miss Duggan  
Mrs M. Davison

**E**

Miss Eyles  
Ms Sue English

**F**

Mrs C. Fellows

**G**

Mrs B. Goodman  
Ms C. Glover

**H**

Miss A. Hodge  
Mr T. Hayes  
Ms Hargreaves  
Mrs Hooper  
Mrs L. Holtham  
Mrs P. Hatfield

Mrs Hitchcock  
Mr W. Holt  
Mrs Hampton  
Miss Hand  
Mrs E. Hogan  
Mrs Hornerann  
Miss Hudson

**I-J**

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Mrs Jones  
Mrs G. Innes  
Ms L. Joseph

**K**

Mrs M. Kelly  
Mrs L. King  
Miss R. Karmis

**L**

Miss C. Lamb  
Mr J. Langstaff  
Miss C. Large  
Mr K. Lloyd

**M**

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Mrs J. Martin

Miss Miller-Logne  
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Mrs F. Murray  
Miss Murphy  
Miss Mackenzie

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Mrs L. Nash  
Mrs J. Nicholl

**O**

Mrs E. Orange

**P**

Mr F. Phelps  
Mrs M. Picton  
Mrs Peters

**Q-R**

Mr J. Reid  
Miss G. Rowley  
Mrs R. Roberts  
Mrs M. Riley  
Mrs J. Robinson

**S**

Mr J. Sheinwald

Mrs A. Sheinwald  
Mr J. Sheen  
Mr F. Staples  
Mr Starr  
Ms S. Stephens

Mrs A. Street  
Mr J. Spence  
Miss Sassall  
Mr W. Smyth  
R. Shepherd

**T**

Mr L. Thompson  
Mr R. Tant

Mrs M. Tsambouniaris

**W**

Miss J. Wagner  
Mrs J. Walther  
Mr Wilkinson  
Mr B. Warner  
Mrs Wyner

**X-Y-Z**

Mr Young

## Staff, April 29, 1980



*L-R Back:* Judy Wagner, Tom Hayes, Kerrian Cartledge, Esme Dean, Susan Stephens, Frank Buckley, Margaret Weeks, Esme Orange, Jeanette Robinson, Shirley Blunden, Margaret Trewartha, Molly Riley.

*L-R Front:* Ian Bigg, Kevin Lloyd, Lynette Joseph, Muriel Picton (Dep. Principal), Frank Phelps (Principal), Joy Martin (Infants Mistress), Glyn Lamb, Bronwyn Warner, Penny Dowzer.



# School Photos

Oatley West - 4B 1954



Oatley West - Class 1 1959

Oatley West - 6 A 1964





# Recollections from the past . . .

I attended Oatley West from 1955 until 1960. At that time there were no brick buildings, only six wooden blocks. There was no library but lots of bush and I remember playing in the first cricket nets.

I remember also playing rugby and soccer at school and of course, drinking hot milk.

There were only two classes when I was there, made up of children from Kindergarten to Year 6 in each one. I remember going to school with Ian McNamara, Bruce Battishall and Garry Gainsford. My father was the first President of the P. and C. and in 1960 they began the first Dux of the school award.

**Mr Lawrence Yeomans**

I attended Oatley West from 1947. I remember Mrs Riley, Mr Nicholls, Mr Callender and Mr Staples. In those days there were only two wooden buildings, surrounded by untamed bush. We used to run around the school barefooted because the bush was our playground.

**Mr Bruce Sterling**

I attended Oatley West between 1953 and 1959. I remember having Mr Staples as my teacher in Year 6. In those days there were all wooden buildings with verandahs. In each class room there were fireplaces with potbelly stoves. The teacher put coal in the stoves to keep the rooms warm in winter. Each desk had an inkwell and all the desks and chairs were wooden.

I remember playing cubbies in the bush and that the toilets were way down the bush. The playground was stony and there was no Hall or Library. I have special memories of dancing around the Maypole and going to the park to play tennis. For music, we used to sing while the teacher played the piano. Lunch times consisted of meat pies, cream buns, vanilla slices and every day there was hot milk to drink! I rode my bike to school and left it leaning against a tree all day.

**Mr Phillip Hand**

I started at Oatley West in 1947. Kindergarten and Grade One were in one year. In 1949 I went to Mortdale because Oatley West didn't have primary. The Principal at the time was Mr Callender and he taught me in Grade One and Grade Five. In sixth class there were thirteen boys and six girls. Some of the other teachers were Mr Nicholls, Mr Spence and Mrs McNamara was the sewing teacher.

The buildings didn't have any carpets and the Library was a cupboard in the corner of the Grade Six room. I remember clearing the bush for the playground. The toilets were in the bush and the men came around each day to empty them.

**Jeanette Watt (McLean)**

Between 1947 and 1954 I attended Oatley West. I was in the first class ever at the school and I was girl number five. When I started there was only one class, and this was increased each year. There were only four classrooms when I left.

I remember my "bush" school near the park, as there were no fences the children were able to go right up to the park fence. No one wore a uniform and most boys wore no shoes

**Wendy Derrett (Smith)**