

<i>Month &amp; Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written &amp; Spoken Presenters</i>
May 2004	<b>Musicians of Oatley</b>	General list compiled Nereta Shaw Written

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OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP

MEETING DATE: Fri. 28 May 2004

TOPIC: Musicians of Oatley

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PAPERS BY:

Jan Crane, Alec Leach and material  
from letters, or from the floor of the meeting

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## ***OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP***

### **MUSICIANS OF OATLEY**

**Presented to the general meeting of the Oatley Heritage Group.  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

**Compiled by: *Jan Crane, Alec Leach and material from members by letter or from the floor of the meeting.***

During the celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oatley, a concert was held entitled "Classical Concert by Artists of Oatley". As the title implied it was made up of artists predominantly who lived in Oatley.

The programme consisted of:-

**Sydney Mandolins:** Conductor: Adrian Hooper  
Soloist: Paul Hooper

**Ron Stevens** (Tenor with the Aust. Opera Company)

**Rogerson Ballet Academy:** Cast, Kristen Macfarlane, Kirsten Jones, Kim Osborne, Melanie Hardman, Helen Tardent, Julie McInnes, Louise McDonald, Nicole Macfarlane, Natasha Baigilden, Megan Chambers.

Kim Collins, Nicole Walters, Jodie Smith, Jody O'Connor, Fiona Gage, Tamara Rogelja, Lucinda Jones, Sonia Wright, Joanne Becker, Peta Hughes & Don Quixote.

**Patricia Oertel** (Soprano)

**String Ensemble from Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra**

(Many of these artists resided in Oatley)

The Orchestra consisted of:

Soloist, George Carrard.

Members: Violins: George Carrard (Leader)

Margaret Hoban

Robert Noakes

Vicki Jarius

Viola: John Keller

Cello: Cedric Ashton (Resident Conductor)

Piano: Esme Bayley

Mavis Noakes

**Lance and June Lloyd:** Vocal Duo

**The Georgian Singers:** Conductor: Ian Sappay

Piano: Ruth Sappay

Soloists: Thomas Weelkes, John Farmer, John Dowland,  
Clement Jannequin, Roland Lassus, Vaughan Williams,  
Negro Spiritual & Easthope Martin.

Do you know or recognise any of these folk?

In the nineteen forties and fifties (before television) parties were a common occurrence and in our household (The Leach) music prevailed. In turn every one performed.

Blanche O'Connell, Accompanist.

Mum, Lil Leach, Soprano.

Sid Walker, Bass.

Frank Keating. Tenor.

Tom Booth. Warbled.

Jessie Booth, Humorous Scottish poetry.

Norris Leach poetry.

Everyone around the pianola.

Around that time soloists were in demand for weddings and social functions.

Three women who volunteered their services were, Lil Leach, Hilda McDonald wife of Tom McDonald (butcher in Frederick Street) and Lyla Small (wife of Alex, organist at Oatley Methodist Church for sixty five years)

Blanche O'Connell was the accompanist at many of the functions.

Joy (Auld) McMillan sleeping at Buderum relayed the following information by telephone of her recollections of Oatley musicians.

Mrs. Cole, who organised concerts at All Saints Anglican Church.

Mr. Turner (father of Arthur Turner of Marine Drive) played the bells.

Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Alf Plummeridge, organists at Oatley – Mortdale Presbyterian Church.

Fred Montague and Mrs. Farrant Pianists at the Oatley Swimming Club.

Mr. Randell, Saxophonist on the Manly ferry.

Lorna (Prabert) McNamara, (mother of Ian, "Australia All Over" host) Bag Pipes.

Jack McNamara, A.B.C. Orchestra, Trombone. Ian, Guitarist with Col Joy's "Joy Boys".

Without going into detail, listed are some of the many folk who embarked on the wonderful world of music, either taught the art, have been known in public, or of have entertained for the community.

Firstly, Teachers, who without their patience and skills, our standard of musicians would not continue to improve.

Dorothy (Dot) Walker, Piano.

Margaret White, Piano.

Mark Wilkes, Guitar.

Merle Tegel, Piano

Miss Violet Bowman, Piano & Violin

Vic Hodgson, Guitar, Banjo Mandolin, Ukulele

Mary Fitzgerald, Piano

Daughter, Alice (Diddy)

Christine Lonegon, Piano

Roland Eager, Piano

### Public Entertainers

Bob Bennett, pianist for Frank Eiffeld.  
 Mrs. Taylor, dance band trio.  
 Audrey Loed, Vocalist & Piano.  
 Neil Marsh, Cellist, Sydney Symphony Orchestra.  
 Norm Deerson, Violinist, Sydney Symphony Orchestra.  
 Hesmia Deerson, professional Violinist.  
 Julie Hardiman, Piano.  
 Dr. Robert Sinat, Deputy Director Conservatorium of Music.  
 Jane Stanley (wife of Michael Hooper) Composer.

### Community Performers

Nancy and May England ?  
 John Saunders  
 Rob Dickson  
 Stacey? Parker  
 Ken Werner, Singer.  
 Nereta Shaw, Organist, St Pauls Anglican?  
 Harry Rogers, Drums.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Clauson, son Rex, Band.  
 Dulcie Williams, Operatic Singer.  
 St. Elma Thoad, Singer, teacher, Choirmaster at St. Andrews Cathedral  
 Bob & Mavis Noakes. Singers.  
 Miss Farrent, Piano, Oatley Swimming Club.

It was stated by daughter, Nola Davis, that her parents, Colerbones were one of the first families in Oatley to own a piano. It was housed at No. 10 Letitia Street Oatley and transported by horse and cart around Oatley when required at functions.

Jim Nicholson recalled that pre World War 11; The Young Australian League Band would perform outside what was McDonald's butchery in Frederick Street (now Eggletons)

Kevin Wilcow, son, Nathan and friends from Hurstville Boy's High once formed a band called "The Noise"!!!! Must not have been too loud as the Group has not been heard of.

Jan Crane mentioned that the Music Teachers Association has its office in Oatley. Jan's parents entertained at parties, her father wrote music, including an Opera and played guitar on the A.B.C.