

<i>Month & Year of Topic</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Written & Spoken Presenters</i>
February 2008	Oatley Girl Guides	Margaret Forbes

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OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP

MEETING DATE: 29th February 2008

TOPIC: Guiding in Oatley

PAPERS BY: Margaret Forbes (major paper)
Cliff Crane (information & photos)

OATLEY HERITAGE GROUP **GUIDING IN OATLEY**

**Paper prepared by Oatley Heritage Group
Committee Member Margaret Forbes**

Presented to the Oatley Heritage Group's quarterly meeting, Friday 29th February 2008

This paper gives a general overview of guiding in Oatley - from the beginning in 1958, and significant features of its history and development from then to the present. The success of the guiding movement in Oatley at all its levels was dependent on the valuable contributions of many people. It has been impossible to name them all, but their efforts have made it possible for the girls involved to enjoy and learn from their activities.

Early in 1958 a group of mothers from the Oatley Boy Scouts, one of whom was Mrs. Beatrice Swinfield, decided to try and start Girl Guiding in Oatley. A meeting was held of interested parents and arrangements were made for two Guiders from Headquarters to come and speak. This meeting was held in the Scout hall and as a result Guiding commenced in Oatley.

The Local Association was formed by parents. Guiding Headquarters contacted Miss Barbara Dew, a microbiologist working at Sydney University who was involved with Guiding in the Sutherland Shire and lived in Hurstville. She agreed to be Captain and the 1st Oatley Girl Guide Company was formed in May 1958.

Meetings were held one night a week in the Oatley Scout hall, thanks to the good graces of the Scouts. Miss Dew started with eight (8) girls and after she had trained them as Patrol Leaders and Seconders, she took more girls into the Company.

Mrs. Enid Catto became Oatley's first District Commissioner. Mrs. Catto then asked Mrs. Swinfield to help establish a Brownie Pack, to which she agreed. After completing her training to become a "Brown Owl" and gaining her warrant, the 1st Oatley Brownie Pack was formed in October 1961. They met on a Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Swinfield continued with the 1st Oatley Brownies for 16 years, retiring in 1977.

Numbers increased rapidly and it was obvious that accommodation would become a problem. Scout numbers were also on the increase. Enrolments were having to be restricted due to the lack of space. Some girls on the waiting list would never have the opportunity to become Guides.

Meetings associated with Guides were having to be held in private homes, as no vacant time was available in the Scout Hall. These meetings included Courts of Honour, Local Association meetings, Guiders meetings, not to mention functions associated with the Movement. Brownies had the honour of winning a number of prizes for handicrafts, but no one had the opportunity of viewing the work, as the hall was not available to display their efforts.

In June 1964 a move was made to build the Guides their own hall. Kogarah Council made the land available and a Building Committee was formed. This involved the fathers who had a better understanding of the technical and practical considerations, however money was required to make a start.

The original estimate in 1964 was £2000. A vigorous start was made to raise money. The objective was to raise £700 during the remainder of the year and with £300 already in hand, there was sufficient for the building to commence. Plans were prepared by the Building Committee. Monies were raised by the Social Committee of the Local Association. Families of the Brownies and Guides were also asked to raise approximately £5 each towards the Building fund. Cake stalls, fashion parades and progressive dinners were all held to raise money. By January 1966, £2200 had been raised but by now the costs had escalated to £7000 to build.

On 28th June 1966, the 2nd Oatley Girl Guide Company was formed with Miss E Finlay as Captain. After this, enrolments in both Guides and Brownies had to be restricted for twelve (12) months. This was a pity as the present Guide Company was held in high esteem, having the distinction of being the only Guide Company in the Southern St George Division (from Kyeemah to Sylvania) to have gained three (3) Queen's Guides. The hall had to be completed before another Brownie Pack and Guide Company could be formed. The scouts were also needing to expand.

In June 1967, with the support of guarantors, a bank loan of \$5,000 was sought. Brick drives were held and working bees commenced to prepare the site.

In August 1967, with funds of \$4,500, Oatley Commonwealth Bank approved the loan. Plans were passed by Kogarah Council and Girl Guide Headquarters and excavation for the store room commenced. Mrs. D Cross laid the foundation stone on 19th February 1968.

Mrs. Enid Catto, the District Commissioner, opened the hall on 9th November 1968 in the presence of 550 people. Official Guests included the State Commissioner for Girl Guides (Mrs. H S Wyndham), the State Secretary (Miss Joy Stacey), Assistant State Secretary (Mrs. Easterbrook), Alderman Doug Cross (MLA, Georges River) and Mrs. Cross, Mr. W Arthur (MHR, Barton), Mrs. L Dutch, President of the Local Association and Mr. G. Wood, Secretary of the Building Committee. Also present were the District Scoutmasters and representatives of other organisations including Oatley Bowling Club and Oatley Public School P&C Association.

During the ceremony Captain Barbara Dew of the 1st Oatley Guides was presented with the Oak Leaf award for her work with the Girl Guide movement, a special award. Captain Dew worked very hard for the building of the hall but unfortunately on Opening Day was quite ill, but managed a smile as she said "her dream for the girls of Oatley had come true". Within a month she had passed away with cancer, having been ill for only a few months. It was a very sad time for Oatley Girl Guides,

The Opening was preceded by a march-past of Guides and Brownies, also local and visiting Guides and Scout Groups, led by the Randwick Brass Band. Guides and Brownies also took part in demonstrations of tent erecting and other Guide activities during the afternoon

By 1969 Oatley had three (3) Guide Companies, three (3) Brownie Packs and a Ranger Crew for older girls, one of the largest districts in the metropolitan area.

The Guide Hall provided accommodation for Girl Guides and Brownies and was valued at \$18,000 (in 1968) but voluntary labour and contributions of materials reduced the building costs to \$10,000. The local association raised \$8,000 with the bank overdraft providing the balance. The hall could not have been built without the co-operation of the parents, local business people and residents. Mr. C McFadyen (a parent) of the firm. Bower & McFadyen was the Honorary Architect.

An attractive modern style building, the 16 square hall is brick with an aluminium roof. It comprises a hall measuring 43ft x 27ft, with adjoining kitchen and toilet facilities, It is claimed to be one of the finest Guide buildings in the metropolitan area.

The hall was paid for by 1974.

A flagpole was erected in front of the hall and a plaque was placed at the base of the flagpole in honour of Mrs. Swinfield and her husband who also worked tirelessly for the Guides.

The inscription on the plaque reads –

*"This flagpole was erected in memory of the first Brown Owl of 1st Oatley Brownie Pack. From 1961 – 1977 Mrs. Beatrice Swinfield and her husband, Mr. George William Swinfield who supported her in this work"
Dedicated by (Rev) Lawrence Lovell on 11/6/88*

Time has marched on and the numbers in Guiding have fallen. The young have many more interests available to them these days and in most cases both parents are working. Also, in more recent years, Scouts have taken girls into their ranks. The spirit and values promoted by the Guiding Movement are being carried on and today Oatley has one Flexible Unit, 3A Oatley Girl Guides, led by a very enthusiastic Mrs. Jean Mayhew

Many Oatley girls have benefited greatly from the experiences they have gained as Guides and Brownies. This was only made possible by the efforts and hard work of the Leaders and the time they devoted to these girls.

Many thanks to

Mrs. C Newbould
Mrs. J. Jagger
Mrs. J. Mayhew
Mrs. R. Dickson.

for their contributions to this report

Margaret Forbes
29th February 2008.

With Compliments

Margaret.

These are a copy of our
leader records of Oatley Brownie's
& Guides to 1988. Also the meeting
times & places. Hope it helps

Margaret Morris

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GUIDES
AUSTRALIA
NSW & ACT

Telephone: 02 9698 3322
Fax: 02 9690 1030

CR

B/fwd 9/82

formed . 9.9.61
registered 16.2.62

1st OATLEY BROWNIE PACK

98:73

Meets. Guide Hall Neville Street ~~Thursday~~ ^{Tuesday Monday:} 4.30 to 6.30

Leader. ~~Mrs. Roslyn SAINSBURY, 21a Kitchener Street, Oatley 2223 (579 2387) A. 17/9/84 '82 '83~~

~~Mrs. C. Shepherd, P.O. Box 134, Oatley, 2223 (575277) A 19.7.84 W 9.5.85 '85 '86 '87~~

'88 DC acting.

Assistant. ~~Mrs. Ann GIBSON, 50 Llewellyn Street, Oatley 2223 (570 3557) A. 1/3/82 '82 '83 '84~~

REGION Georges River

DIVISION South St George

DISTRICT Oatley

G.R.

Formed: 9/9/61
Reg: 16/2/62

1st OATLEY PACK

^{R3-98}
MEETS: Guide Scout Hall, Sat. 2-4 - Thurs. 4.30-6.30
Oatley Pde

~~BROWN OWL: Mrs. W. Swinfield, 13 Boorara Ave., Oatley. W. 12/2/62 e 24/1/76
(579.6575) '62 '63 '64 '65 '66 '67 '68 '69
'70 '71 '72 '73 '74 '75~~

~~Miss S.M. Ling, 2/53 Forest Rd., Hurstville. 5872582. W. 9/8/76
'76 e 28/1/77~~

~~Mrs. J. (DK) Keen, 16 Mimosa St., Oatley 2223 (579.4419) W. 1/8/78 '78 e 12/3/79~~

~~Mrs. M. Noakes, 27 Algernon St., Oatley 2223 (5792571) A. 7/2/80 '80~~

TAWNY OWL: Miss S. Catto, 14 Beach Street, Blakehurst. W. 16/8/63 e 27/1/71
(54.3013) '63 '64 '65 '66 '67 '68

~~new Mrs. S. Colman, Haberfield. '69. '70 '71 '72 '73
MrsxxStamfordxx 2/19 Stanton Rd. W 23/11/91 e 10/5/74~~

~~Miss D.B. Jones, 57 Seaforth Ave., Oatley (57.8462). W. 22/10/69. e 9/3/71~~

~~c 10/10/77 Miss N.E. Catto, 14 Beach St. Blakehurst. 543013. W. 10/5/74 '74 '75 '76
Miss A.R. Peterson, 30 Llewellyn St. Oatley. 572764. W. 30/11/73 '73~~

~~Mrs. L. Harrison, 2/15 Busa St. Oatley (570.5851) '78. Recorded 28/9/76 '74 '75 e 2/1/76
Div. Sath St. George Dist. Oatley.~~

Formed: 13/3/63
Reg: 13/6/63

2nd OATLEY PACK.

MEETS: Guide Scout Hall, xxxxx. ^{Tue} 4.30 - ^{Tue} 6.30
Neville St.

~~BROWN OWL: Mrs. G.N. Knott, 1 Blanche St., Oatley W. 13/6/63 '64 '65 e 24/8/66 '66~~

~~Mrs. R.L. Allen, Park Ave., Oatley. W. 29/8/66 '67 '68 e 28/2/69~~

~~Mrs. H.R. Elderbush, 3 Yarran Rd., Oatley. 57.0304. W. 23/4/69. '69 '70~~

~~Mrs. J.G. Porter, 2 Charles St., Oatley. 579.1613. W. 2/10/70 '71 '72
e 28/1/77 '73 '74 '75 '76~~

~~TAWNY OWL: Mrs. P. Allen, 14 Park Avenue, Oatley. '65 e 24/1/66 '66
W. 17/5/66~~

~~Mrs. R. Dickson, 35 Lansdowne Pde., Oatley 2223 W 7/10/76 '77~~

~~Miss S. Hatch, 98 Letitia St., Oatley. '69.~~

~~Mrs. H.J. Bacon, 42 Llewellyn St., Oatley. W. 19/2/70 '70. '71 '72
e 26/3/73~~

~~Mrs. J.G. Porter, 2 Charles St., Oatley. 579.1613. '70. e 2/1/71
W. 31/7/70~~

Div. South St. George. Dist. Oatley.

~~Mrs. M. Manders, 6 McIntyre St., Oatley 2223 W. 7/10/76 '77~~

~~Miss J. Redfern, 53 Annette St. Oatley. 573779. '73 '74 '75
W. 28/6/73 e 23/4/76~~

GR1

C/Fwd No. '78

Formed: 13.3.63
Registered: 13.6.63

2nd OATLEY ^{page 8} BROWNIE PACK

MEETS: Guide Hall, Neville St, ~~Tues. 4.30-6.30 pm~~ ~~Wed Friday~~ Wed: 4.30-6.30 pm

LEADER: Mrs. R. Dickson, 35 Lansdowne Pde, Oatley 2223 Ph-57-5663 A.9/7/76 W.14/10/76 '77-7
~~'79'80'81~~ c/b.

~~Mrs Susanne de Beuzeville, 29 Marine Drive, Oatley, 2223 (579 6452) W.6.1.82'82 '83 '84 '85~~
c/3-5-85

~~Miss S Geddes, 48A Llewellyn Street, Oatley, 2223 (570 5705) A 13.2.85 W 22.286'86'87~~ c/b
Mrs Kay Pepper, 14 Asquith St, Oatley, 2223 (579 2805) A4.5.88 '88 W1.11.88

ASSISTANT LEADER: Mrs. M. Manders, 6 McIntyre St, Oatley 2223 Ph-579-2469 A.9/7/76 W.14/10/76
'77'78'79'80'81

~~Mrs. Robyn SULLIVAN, 88 Gungah Bay Road, Oatley 2223 (570-2470) A.9/81'82'83 '84~~ c/22-8-84

~~Miss S Geddes, 48A Llewellyn Street, Oatley, 2223 (570 5705) A 1.2.85 '85~~

~~Miss L Harvey, 2 Macken Street, Oatley, 2223 (57 3604) A 1.2.85 '85 W 22.286'86'87~~ c/12-86
Mrs Cornelia Shepherd, 1/21 Frederick St, Oatley, 2223 (57 5277) A26.7.84(1st Oatley)
W15.5.85(1st Oatley) '83

Region: Georges River

Division: South St. George

District: Oatley

1st OATLEY COMPANY

Formed: 12/3/58
Regd.: 31/3/58

MEETS: ^{GUIDE} Oatley Scout Hall, Neville Street, Oatley, Wednesday, ~~6.30~~ ⁷ - ~~8.30~~ ^{9.30} p.m.

~~Mrs. P.R. Lundy, 38a Russell St., Oatley. (57.5638) W. 12/2/69 '69 '70~~
CAPTAIN: ~~Miss Barbara Dew, 30 Carrington Avenue, Hurstville 28/4/58 (W. 28/11/58~~
~~(57.5890) (Deceased 23/12/68) '59 April '60 '61 '62 '63 '64~~
~~'65 '66 '67 '68~~

LIEUTENANT: ~~Miss Gwen Haines, 29 Tanners Avenue, Carlton (W. 18.2.59) c/b~~
~~Miss J. Sweetman, 6 Oatley Ave., Oatley. '69. April '60~~
~~Miss J. Davidson, 33 Carrington Avenue, Hurstville. W. 4/7/62 '62~~
~~Miss B. Roberts, 14 West Woonona Pde, Oatley West. W. 13/5/63~~
~~Mrs. L. Brown, 24 Seaforth Ave., Oatley. '63 57.7794 W. 19/2/70 '70~~ c/9/5/71
~~Mrs. J. Fisher, 15 Southern St., Oatley. '64 '65~~
~~(57.6247)~~
~~Mrs. P.R. Lundy, 38a Russell Street, Oatley. W. 23/9/66~~
~~(57.5638) '67 '68~~
~~Miss B. Roberts, 14 West Woonona Parade, West Oatley. '71.~~
~~W. 26/5/71 c/21/3/72~~

Div.: South St. George
Dist: Oatley

C/fwd 1972

1st OATLEY GUIDE COMPANY

98 F3

F3-98

MEETS: Fri. 7 - 9. Guide Hall. Neville St. (Nr Oatley Ave)

GUIDER: ~~Miss E. Hooper, 124 Gungah Bay Road, Oatley. 574679. '72~~

~~W. (AGG) 31/7/72 C 24/3/73~~

~~Mrs. J.S. Foster, 67 Oatley Park Ave., Oatley. W. 28/6/73~~

~~'73 '74 '75 '76 '77 '78~~

~~27/1/74 10/2/76~~

~~Mrs. Diane Rutker, 119 Hurstville Road, Oatley '79 3.4.80 '80~~

~~570 .4809 C 24/3/8~~

CLOSED: 1980

ASSIST. GUIDER: ~~Miss H. Brown, Seaforth Ave., Oatley. 57/7343 '72~~

~~Mrs. L. Bacon, 42 Llewellyn Street, Oatley. '73 C 10/5/74~~

~~W. 3/8/73~~

~~Mrs. E. Spiers, 22 Seaforth Ave., Oatley West. 578521. '74, '75~~

~~W. 21/10/74 C 9/5/75 Recorded 16/8/76~~

~~Miss H.R. Brown, 24 Seaforth Ave., Oatley. 570.2343. W. 4/4/75 R. '76 '78~~

~~Mrs. W.H. Gregory, 88 Railway Pde., Murrumbidgee 579.6727 W 7/10/76 R. 20/2/78. C 24/3/8~~

Mrs. T. Jones 41 John Street Cronulla 2230 523 7954 w. 3.4.80 '80 C 24/3/81

~~c 10/2/79~~

Div. South St. George.

Dist. Oatley.

Formed: 28/6/66
Reg: 7/7/66

2nd OATLEY GUIDE COMPANY

MEETS: ^{GUIDE} Scout Hall, Neville St., Mon 7 - 9
Tues. 6 - 8.

CAPTAIN: ~~Mrs. R. Gardiner, ^{29a} Algernon St., Oatley. 57.1533. W. 3/2/1971~~

~~Miss E. Finlay, Flat B, 15 St. Neot Ave., Potts Point. '71 C 26/5/71~~

~~now W. 24/10/66 C. 8/5/67~~

~~Mrs. J. Allen W. 8/5/67~~

~~3 Joanna Court, William St., South Hurstville. '67~~
~~3 Shorland Ave., Jannali. (528.7786) '68. C 26/4/68~~

~~Miss J. Davidson, 2/46 Victoria Avenue, Penhurst. 57.2066. W. May, 1969. '69~~

~~'70 C 27/10/70~~

LIEUTENANT: ~~Miss J. Davidson, Victoria Ave., Penhurst. '68.~~

~~Mrs. R. Gardiner, Algernon St., Oatley. '68. '69 '70 C 9/3/71~~

~~29a 57.7113. W. 22/9/69~~

Miss B. Seccombe, 111 Letitia St., Oatley. 579.2497. \$71.

Div. South St. George.

Dist. Oatley.

C/fwd 1972.

2nd OATLEY GUIDE COMPANY

MEETS: Guide Hall, Neville St. Mon. 7 - 9.

GUIDER: ~~Mrs. B. Beehag, 14 Neville St., Oatley. '72. '73 '74 '75 Recorded
W. 31/7/72 5702668 C Dec '75 10/2/77~~

ASSIST. GUIDER: ~~Mrs. J.S. Foster, 67 Oatley Park Ave., Oatley. '72.~~

~~W. 31/7/72 C 3/8/73~~

~~Miss B. Terribile, ^{2 B} 36 Judd St., Oatley. '73. W. 3/8/73 '74 '75
C Dec '75 Recorded. 10/2/77~~

Div. South St. George.

Dist. Oatley.

CLOSED
5/7/1976

Formed: 31/10/69.

Reg: 10/11/69.

3rd OATLEY GUIDE COMPANY

MEETS: Guide Hall, Neville St., ~~Fri. 7-9~~ ~~Fri. 8-10~~ ^{Fri. 7-9}

GUIDER: ~~Miss J. Smith, 24a Llewellyn St., Oatley. 57.7927. '70~~

~~Mrs. B. Terribile, 2b Judd St., Oatley. '71.~~

~~Miss L.M. Duckham, 23 Southern St., Oatley. 5791501. J. 3/8/73 C 25/11/74~~

~~Mrs. ^{now} L. Brown, 58 Moons Ave., Lugarno. '74 W. 25/11/74 '75 '76 '77 C 10/2/77~~

~~P.C. Duckham Brown?~~

ASSIST. GUIDER: ~~Miss M. Rodger. '70~~

~~Miss S. Jagger, 42 Oatley Parade, Oatley. 57.6396. '71~~

~~Miss L. Duckham, 23 Southern St. Oatley. 579.1591. '71 '72 '73
W. 9/12/71~~

~~Miss M. Diggins, 4 Herbert St. Oatley. 578497. '73~~

~~Miss A. Webster, 27 Southern St., Oatley. 574898. '73 W. 3/8/73 '74 '75 '76
"77~~

Div. South St. George.

Dist. Oatley.

C/Fwd. Nov. '78

3rd OATLEY GUIDE COMPANY

MEETS: Guide Hall, Neville St, Fri. 7-9 pm

LEADER: Miss D. Keeley, 52A Annette St, Oatley 2223 (579-1096) A.31/3/78 '78

ASSISTANT LEADER: Miss L. Porter, 6 Charles St, Oatley 2223 (579-1613) A.31/3/78 '78

Region: Georges River

Division: South St. George

District: Oatley

PENFOLD'S SYSTEMS
ESTD 1947

QR

Formed: 20.5.80
Reg: 15.7.80

3A OATLEY GUIDE COMPANY

98 FB

MEETS: Guide Hall, Neville St, ~~Tues 7.30-9~~ ~~7-9~~ Thurs: 6.30-8.30 pm Wed: 7-9 pm

GUIDER: Mrs Noreen Whittaker, ~~26 Rosa St~~ ^{46 LLOYD ST}, Oatley, 2223 (57 3694) W.12.9.80 ~~'81~~ '82 '83 '84 '85

~~'86~~ C1-7-86

~~Mrs D Eden, 11 Russell Street, Oatley, 2223 (579 5067) A1.1.86 W1.9.87~~ ~~'87~~ C11-2-88

~~Mrs Susan Geddes, 48A Llewellyn Street, Oatley, 2223 (570 5705) A12.2.88 W4.7.88~~ 33

ASSISTANT LEADERS: ~~Miss C Bell, 20 Park Avenue, Penshurst, 2222 (579 1563) A23.4.85 W28.3.86~~

~~'86~~ 1-4-87

REGION: Georges River

DIVISION: South St George

DISTRICT: Oatley

G.R.

98/F3

REG: 13-4-84
FORMED: 7-3-84

1A OATLEY GUIDE COMPANY:

MEETS: Guide Hall Neville St Oatley 2223 Wed. 7.00-9.00PM

GUIDER: Mrs D Dawson ~~67A Yarran Rd Oatley 2223 (570 8475) A-7-3-84 W-7-12-84 '85 C-4-12-85~~

ASSIST. GUIDER: Mrs M Eden ~~11 Russell St Oatley 2223 (579 5067) A-7-3-84 W-7-12-84 '85 C-1-4-84~~

Closed 1-4-86 (1101)

REGION: GEORGES RIVER

DIVISION: SOUTH ST GEORGE

DISTRICT: OATLEY

Twenty-two Oatley Guides have become Queens Guides

The first girl to become a Queens Guide through guiding in Oatley was Jennifer Knott, of 1st Oatley Company, in 1964.

1st Oatley Company produced eighteen Queens Guides in the years 1964 - 1977

Gwenda Redfern became 2nd Oatley Company's only Queen's Guide – in 1974.

Sue Watson & Jennifer Hicks were the only Queens Guides of 3rd Oatley Company (both in 1973)

The most recent Oatley Queens Guide was Natalie Mayhew of Oatley 3A Company– Natalie was the first Oatley Guide in 25 years to become a Queens Guide when she was invested in 2002 - Natalie also had the distinction of introducing and leading the singing of the National Anthem at that 2002 investiture of Queens Guides.

**Cliff Crane
Archivist
Oatley Heritage Group
29 February 2008**