THE HISTORY OF

WAITARA PUBLIC SCHOOL

1927 - 1987



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As our Bicentennial approaches we are becoming more aware of our past. We also realise that we must make a conscious effort to record the past before it is too late. This book covers 60 years of changes in education, uniform, activities and attitudes at Waitara Public School.

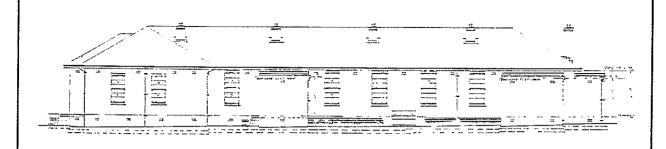
The editorial committee would like to thank all those who gave their support to this Diamond Jubilee project. Our thanks go to:-

- The State Archives Office of New South Wales and the New South Wales
 Department of Education for permission to study and quote from their
 records
- The Principal and staff of Waitara Public School for their support of this project
- The parents and pupils of Waitara Public School who gave help when needed.
- Past pupils, parents and teachers of our school who supplied us with photographs and memories.

This book was researched, compiled and typed by the editorial committee members Elizabeth Roberts, Cheri Harkess and Mari Metzke. We are all grateful for the assistance given us by the members of our families. Our special thanks also go to Richard Watson, for his advice and assistance with the printing, to Mavis Metzke for her computer skills and to Peter Waller of Birralee School Portraits for photographing our 1987 pupils.

AUGUST.....1987

Printed by CRANBROOK PRESS ISBN 0 7316 0744 9



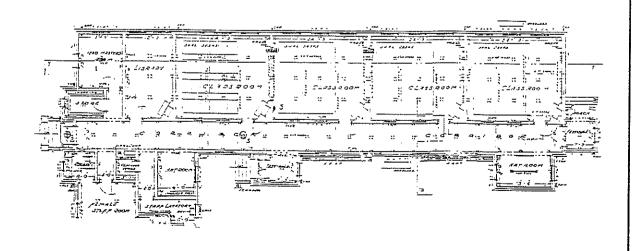
PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This book was prepared to commemorate Waitara Public School's sixtieth year. It is an honour to be serving as Principal of the School in the Diamond Jubilee Year.

During the celebrations past pupils, teachers and parents will be reunited at the school. Many of these people contributed material to help with the publication of this book. We thank them sincerely for their help and interest.

On behalf of everyone associated with the school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have willingly given their time to help with the many activities that have been a necessary part of this venture. It is this sort of interest and community involvement that has undoubtedly helped the school so much during the last 60 years.

Michael C. Geraghty, Principal.....1987



£50 and Over.

ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER.

Subject to Production of Satisfactory Priced Bill of Quantities.

Department of Education,

	Sydney, 14th September, 1926.
192. 6/ B	Sir,
	I am directed to inform you that the Minister for Education has accepted your tender, dated 2nd instant, for the creation of a new school building for the Public School at WAITARA for the sum of two thousand eight hundred and fifty-two
A	pounds
	The work must not be commenced until you have signed and completed the Contract Document, which provides for a deduction of £.7. 0. 0. per week for delay in the completion of the works, and lodged the required deposit.
	The Contract Documents will be made available for signing at— as soon as your priced Bill of Quantities has been approved.
	When signing the Contract for this work you must produce a General Indemnity Policy, issued by the Government Insurance Office, The Mint, Macquarie Street, Sydney, for the full amount of your liability under the Workers' Compensation Act, 1926, to all workers employed by you or by Sub-Contractors.
	No money will be paid on this Contract if you allow your Workers' Compensation Insurance, as required by the Compulsory Clauses of the Act, to lapse, and the onus will be with you at all times to satisfy the Supervising Officer by the Production of receipts for Renewal Premiums that such Insurance is being maintained by you as required by law.
	The works are to be carried out under the supervision of
	Kindly arrange to lodge your Priced Quantities immediately and to sign the Contract document without delay, in order that an early commencement may be made with the work.

Yours faithfully,

S. H. SMITH,

Under Sectetary,

Mr. De B. F. Carden,
Contractor,
"Ipswich",
Duntroon Avenue.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL

March 1927 marked the culmination of nearly a decade of lobbying by local residents for an infants school at Waitara. Waitara, or East Hornsby as some residents preferred the area to be known, was changing from a mostly rural community to a suburban one. The changes caused by World War I were seen here as they were everywhere in Australia.

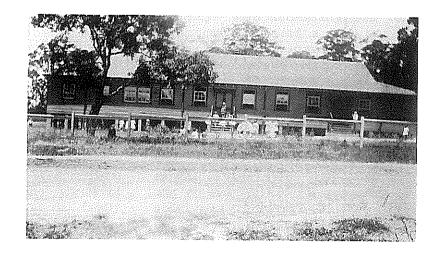
Possible school sites were offered to the Education Department as early as 1919 when James Inch offered ten blocks in Wentworth Avenue as a site. This land was rejected as being too close to Hornsby Public School. At a later date Miss Loxton offered some of her land bounded by Balmoral and Myra Streets and Alexandria Parade but it was decided that part of the Hordern estate would be more suitable as Miss Loxton's land was surrounded by houses. Half the current school site was purchased in late 1923 from Mrs Caroline Hordern. This area of two acres is at the Myra Street end of the present school grounds and has always been used by the Infants. More land was purchased later from Mrs Hordern to allow for expansion to a primary school.

The first pupils in March 1927 started their schooling with very basic facilities. The weatherboard and brick building consisted of three classrooms, a staffroom and verandah. Sewerage was not available until August 1928 when it was connected at the cost of £212.10.0. Electric lights also provided in 1928, the cost of £7.9.0 being met by the Mothers' Club. The Mothers' Club from the beginning has been active in providing facilities for the school.

Residents sent a formal "Application for the Establishment of a State School" at Waitara to the Minister of Education in 1921. From then until the school was opened in 1927, community organisations such as the Hornsby Women's League, East Hornsby and Waitara Progress Associations pressed for the establishment of an infants school. The local paper, "The Advocate", also supported the residents in this move. Contracts for the construction of a classroom block, weathershed and toilets were let in September 1926 after the Department's decision earlier in the year to establish a school at Waitara. The successful tenderer was Mr De B.F.Carden of Roseville with the tender of £2,352.0.0 for the construction of buildings to plans drawn by the Architect's Branch of the Department of Education.

THE FIRST BUILDING OF WEATHERBOARD AND BRICK.

THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN IN 1927



	Requirements List 7-2-27
1.	Piano 1.
40 -36	Pictures 4+3+2
3.	Sandtrays + stands
12.	Yard Seats, Given by Mr. Yanz.
3.	Jardinieres 2
10.	Vess Donated by Mrs Firman 30/3/27 2
3.	Bulb bowls + fibre
Эo.	Gardening tools: - trakes, 4 spades, 4 forks btrowels
	Garden hose
/.	Montessori Set.
1.	Library Press,
48	Library books
2	Plant stands + pets (4) + (7)
1.	Linoleum for staff room yes
1.	Lounge " " yes
1.	Easy chair
4:	Table cloths 4.
I,T	Screen for staff room
1. %.	Set ef Quaits
6.	Skipping ropes (3) Mrs hatield - Mrs Dales
t.	Cricket set
1.	Feet ball
4-	Bats and both Denated by Mrs Jansen and Mrs Sentt 5/7/27
3.	Pairs of Scissors (large)
12	" (small)
4de; 1	Reference books (list attached) Boxes - cardinard Kettle //
1.	Saucepan (1)
ı	Teapot
	Flags 2 small.
	Flagpole
	May pole.
	Trest Aid Chest (smalldoll cow. fish, table) Toyslanimals, birds, objects etc]. for Labelling. (strengles)
	Doll's Corner doll's house fence mats rocking horse rocks .

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

Waitara Infants' School opened on the 7th March, 1927 with Miss M. J. Macourt as Infants Mistress, two assistant teachers, Mary Nicoll and Edith Garrett, and an enrolment of 46 girls and 38 boys. By the end of 1927 a total of 157 children had been enrolled. During the year, 44 children left the school for a variety of reasons including the death from illness of two boys, some transfers to other schools and prolonged absences due to serious illnesses. (It is not shown in the records kept by the school if the illnesses were the same in all cases.)

Miss Macourt as well as teaching had to cope with all the problems of starting a new school. Most children at this time went home for lunch because of the proximity of their homes to the school. Miss Macourt felt an hour was sufficient rather than the longer period which other schools allowed.

Cleaning of the buildings had to be arranged and more equipment needed to be requisitioned. A Mothers' Club was established during the year to help in the provision of facilities and equipment for the school. This club was one of the early affiliates of the Federation of Infants Mothers' Clubs, now known as the Federation οf School Community Organisations (FOSCO).

Extra activities at school included Empire Day celebrations and end of year concerts. The Mothers' Club usually raised money at the concert to provide a Christmas tree for the children, but in 1930 the money raised went to school funds and to the local "Relief Fund" to help buy Christmas comforts and food for the unemployed of the area. This is a reminder of the effects of the Great Depression in Waitara. School photos of this era show the variations in family incomes with some children in standard school uniform and others in a great variety of clothing, sometimes with bare feet.

Being a new school a great deal of work needed to be done to establish the school grounds. Both the Mothers' Club and the children were involved in this work, the children doing gardening as part of their school activities. Paths were provided in 1930, the cost of £69.1.6 being partly offset by a contribution of £25 from the Mothers' Club. Once paths were in place children could reach all buildings without having to cross slippery ground in wet weather. School records for 1931 show that Transition, (a class between kindergarten and first class), began the year with 42 pupils and by the end of the year had 59 pupils....all in one room!

Miss Macourt in June 1934 applied for permission to construct a "Memorial Garden" with a stone bird bath in the centre. The garden was in memory of three pupils who had died, Henry Molesworth and James Beveridge from illness in 1927 and Nellie Bower in May 1933 when a brick gatepost fell on her. The stonework was done by Nellie's father with stone donated by Hornsby Shire Council. The bird bath was moved to its present site when additional buildings were erected.

Late 1929, about twelve months after first being provided, the sewerage system began to cause problems. By June 1930 conditions were sufficiently bad for the local council to send a telegram on the matter to the Department of Education. Similar problems have occurred several times during the school's history.

Miss Macourt was transferred from Waitara to Katoomba and replaced by Miss Katie Mitchell in January 1935. Miss M. Deveril was relieving Infants' teacher for some months in late 1936 while Miss Mitchell was on sick leave. The population of the area was growing, helped by the establishment of Hornsby District Hospital and the resulting pressure of pupil numbers on all the local schools lead to

requests for Waitara to become a primary school.

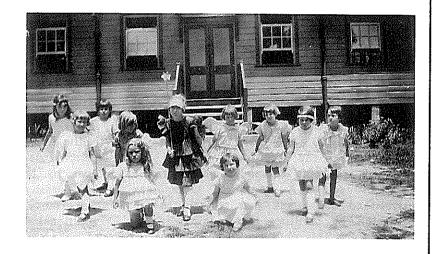
EMPIRE DAY c. 1927

Approval for the change was granted in October 1934 although it was not put into effect until 1937 when the first Headmaster was appointed. A deputation from Hornsby Shire Council in November 1935 resulted in a portable classroom from Naremburn being provided to allow children to progress to third class in 1936. Before this, primary age children had to travel to either Hornsby or Warrawee Public Schools. The additional assistant teacher had to be a woman because of the lack of male toilets. Provision of primary buildings was deferred to a later date because of a fall in school numbers by the end of 1936.



RIGHT: PANTOMINE c. 1928. In front of Infants' Rooms.

> BELOW: 1st CLASS 1934



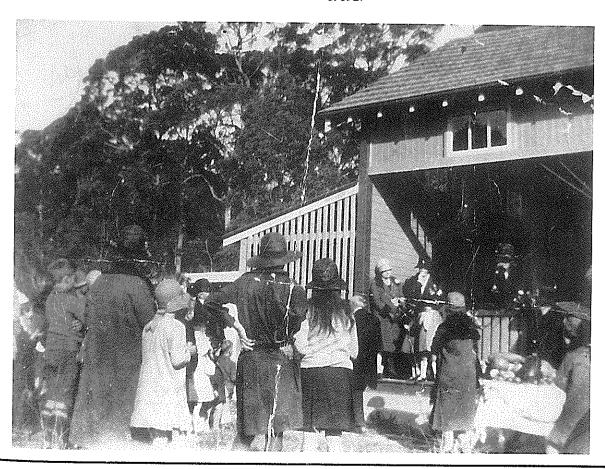




ABOVE: CHILDREN IN INFANTS' SCHOOL

BELOW: OPENING OF SCHOOL

C. 1927



* WAITARA * PUBLIC * SCHOOL * * INFANTS * SCHOOL . * BUILDING * «LAYOUT * PLATE * FOR * SEWERAGE * PLAN * SCALE 40TEET TO 1 INCH. ·JUNCTIOH · ROAD · SCHOOL BUILDING 10ec · 天平二× 11 - 1 THEU LAVATORY. BUY'S CLOSE BLOCK (3 DEATH OFFEET URINAL) GIRLS CLOSET BLOCK (G SEATS) ~ 333' - 2" WHYATHERS

warena

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF

OFFICE DATEDSAND

C'ct I

65

Remarks

"FOR QUICK SERVICE USE THE TELEGRAPH,"

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

RECEIVED TELEGRAM · URGENT RATE

The first line of this Telegram contains the following particulars in the order named. ATION FROM. WORDS. TIME LOUGED. No. STATION FROM. WORDS.

1 HORNSBY 33 11-1 am

UNDER ASSECTETARY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SYDNEY

This message hon been received subject to the Post and Telegroph Act and Reduistions. The time received at this Office is shown at the foot of the Sch. C425 -40,1925 Form.

THE INFORMATION ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM WILL INTEREST YOU

IMARDIATE ATTENTION NECESSARY TO SEWERAGE CONDITIONS WAITARA INFANTS SCHOOL APPARENTLY BADLY CHOCKED AND HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND TEACHING

STAFF LIKELY TO HE ENDANGERED KINDLY EXPIDITE - **...**

SHIRE COUNCIL HORNSBY

DI 11-14

JB. JB

10,5

UEGENT WORK

COMPLETIO COST

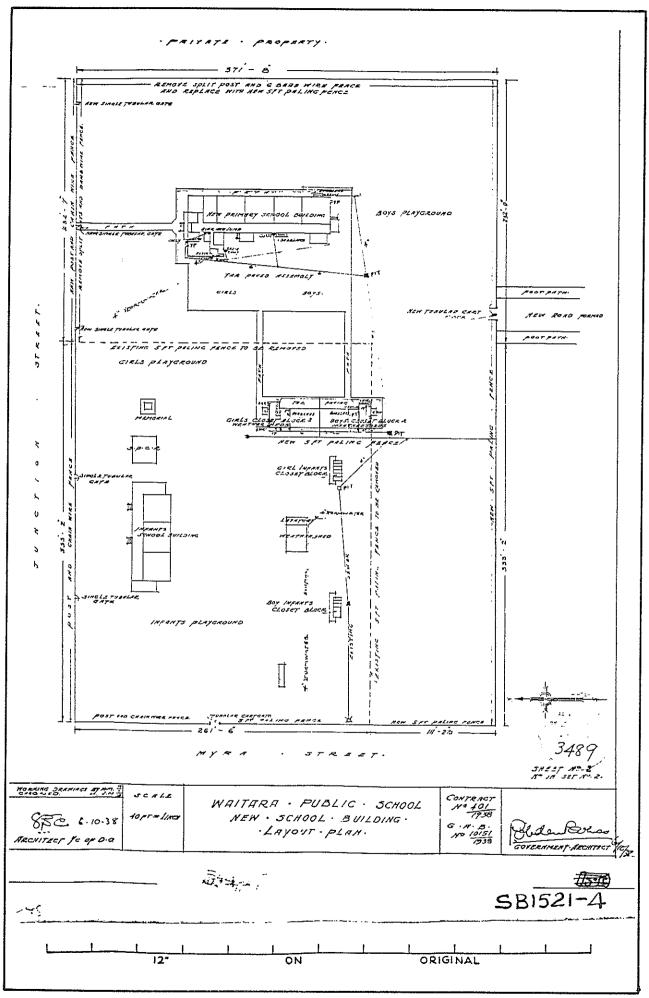
OOVE TING APPROVAL

BECUIRED. - May

Sic Bag Branch 2/11/30

The Secountant

NOTED 11. DEC 1930 /N ACCOUNTANT



1937-1946

The second decade started with the reclassifation of the school from Infants to Primary and the appointment of Mr Albert Morris as the first Headmaster. As the number of classes increased with the provision of primary grades, accommodation was a problem until the main Primary block was opened in 1940. The inspector's reports of 1938 and 1939 mention the inadequate accommodation with the hatroom and rented rooms being used for classrooms. Additional land in Myra Street had been acquired from Mrs Hordern of "Highlands" in 1933 to allow for expansion of the school. In 1935 part of this land was exchanged for the present land fronting Edgeworth David Avenue, bringing the total area of the school grounds to 4 acres, 3 roods and 13 perches. The successful tenderer for the construction of the primary buildings in June 1939 was Mr A.B. Anderson with a quote of £5,975. The new buildings consisted of the main block with four classrooms, library, hatrooms and offices for the Headmaster and staff, and a second block containing weathersheds. toilets and washrooms. Mr H.B. Turner, M.L.A. (Gordon) officially opened the new building on 24th February, 1940.

School life for both pupil and teacher was still strictly regimented with both lesson content and teaching methods set by the Department of Education. Rote learning such as reciting lists of words, tables and facts, was an important part of classroom activities as was reciting poetry and drama presentations. The syllabus included subjects not taught separately today -Nature Study, Geography, History, Civics, Scripture and Morals. Manual Work for boys and Needlework for girls show the strict separation of the sexes in primary school, separate classes when numbers permitted. The majority of Primary teachers were men, Needlework as a subject for girls only being taught by specialist teachers.

Sport and physical education were an important part of school life, the school taking part in P.S.A.A.A. activities and even winning championship badges and a school championship banner at the annual meeting of 1939. Extra activities included the Gould League, Junior Red Cross, school banking and the school War Effort. school inspector in 1940 reported this last activity to be most satisfactory. The children were also involved in making up parcels to be sent to Britain; this activity continued for some years after the war ended. Pupils of that time were affected because a considerable number of their fathers joined the Armed Forces. school milk was introduced throughout the state in 1941 as a health measure to improve children's nutrition.

A major epidemic of rubella was mentioned in the inspector's report of 1939; this epidemic was in fact felt throughout the country. The first sixth class was in 1939 with eleven pupils gaining entry to high school for 1940, with others going on to either junior technical or domestic science schools. Corporal punishment was very much a fact of school life, both boys and girls being listed in the Punishment Book. Some names appear frequently disobedience, running away from school and stone throwing being the most common offences. Total enrolments over this period increased from 220 in 1938 approximately 280 in 1946.

The Inspector's report of 1938 stated that "There is a very live and energetic P. & C. Association functioning and it is gratifying to place on record one's appreciation of the useful and practical manner in which they have so regularly and conscientiously offered assistance to the Headmaster and Staff". "This support appears to have been mainly by way of purchasing much needed equipment such as

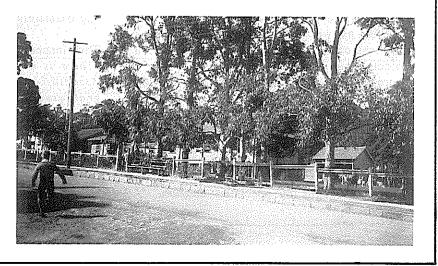
sporting materials, a projector and library materials. The condition of the school grounds get only brief mentions in the inspector's reports of the period but always favourable. The palms and hanging baskets in the corridor of the Primary block were specially remarked upon in 1940. In 1938 it was noted that the school intended to establish both a cricket pitch and basketball area; the existing water supply was becoming insufficient to service the larger school grounds and an increased supply was under consideration by the Department.

During World War II air raid trenches were constructed in the school grounds, to the left of the path going to the main Primary block, to the right of the old school hall and in the corner of the grounds bounded by Edgeworth David Avenue and Myra Street. The trenches were some six feet deep, supported by pit props and with corrugated iron used as covers. One past pupil whose father helped dig the trenches told us that all pupils were prepared for bomb drill. They carried shoulder bags containing a peg to put between the teeth and two half tennis balls connected by elastic to act as ear muffs.

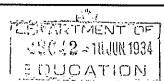


ABOVE: 1st CLASS 1939

BELOW: LOOKING TOWARDS THE SCHOOL FROM THE CHURCH CORNER,



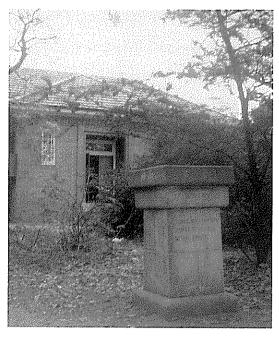
	(Type of School) Infrast 3	***
	(Name of School) Waitara	
سد	(Pust Town) Waternanga	·
	(Class of School)	
	(Date) 13 (c. z	34



From the Care Inspector of Schools Sydian for their Subject with the same of t

Note. - Communications respecting different subjects must be made in separate letters. Sign your name at end of your letter,

APPLICATION FOR MEMORIAL GARDEN JUNE 1934



THE MEMORIAL BIRD BATH

The Mother's Club members purpose forming a Momerial Garden with a stone kird bath in the senting in memory of three children who died during their paheal term have. Dimensions are as for exclased plan.

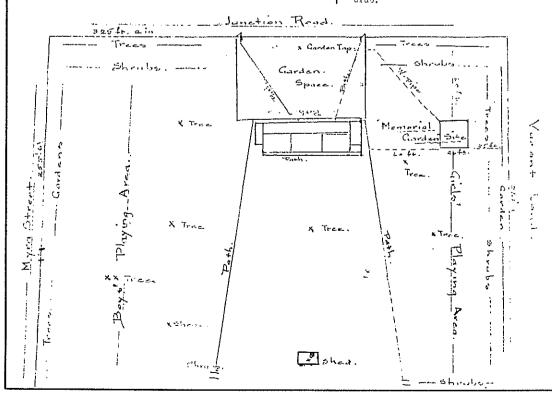
The Hornoby council has donated the stones, and MS Bower, father of one at the deceased elildren, is to do all the stone work free of charge.

I suggest with the parmission of the Department, that the site for the Memorial Garden may be in the girls playground sixty (e) feet from the facing Junction Road, and sixty (e) feet from the school building leaving treety feet on the other side.

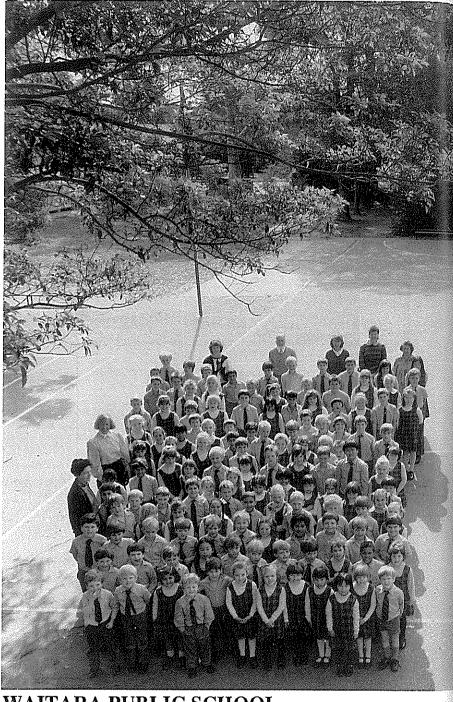
I also beg to apply for permission for the Club to continues a water payer from the main

Do not write below this line,

0.1. RECONSTRUCTION that the necessary permission be given and a 1960 of appreciation sent to the Anthory Club.



ALI, AMATO ALI, SYLVESTER ALLISON, FIONA ALLISON, HAMISH ALT, MARIA AMMANN, TAMATEA ANDERSEN, ANITA ANDERSEN, IGOR ANDERSEN, PIA ANDREWS, JAMES APTE, MELISSA APTE, MICHAEL APTE, KATHRYN ARNOLD, MICHAEL ARONIS, DIMITRIS BARR, DAVID BARRALE, MARCUS BARRALE, MICHAEL BATES, AMANDA BEER, ALICIA BEER, STEWART BEGGS, DAMIEN RIRKS LATIRA BOSNICH, MICHAEL BRADLEY, MEGAN BREWER, STEPHANIE BROWN, RICHARD BROWN, SIMON BRYANT, LUCINDA BUCKLE, ANDREW BUCKLE, NICHOLAS BUGH, ALLAN BURMAN, IAN BURMAN, PHILIP BURRELL, KARI BURROWES, LYNDL BURROWES, STUART CAMBRELL, SUSIE CANTWELL, MICHAEL CARTER, AIMEE CARTER, GILLIAN CARTER, NONIE CASTELNUOVO, MICHAEL CASTELNUOVO, STEVEN CHAN, PHILIP CHIDGEY, JULIA CHIDGEY, LORRAINE CHO, YOUN KYUNG CHRISTIAN, ADRIAN CHRISTIAN, NICHOLE COLEMAN, LINCOLN COLLINS, JODI COOKE, MIRIAM CORBISHLEY, JAMES COTRONA, CHANTELLE COX, BELINDA CRAFT, BEN CRAMSIE, ANDREW CROFTS, ERICA CROFTS, PHILIPPA CROWIE, TATUM DENGATE, PAUL DOBBIN, PATRICK DREW, KIRSTY DYER, ANDREW DYER, ELSPETH EATO, COREY EATO, TIM ESSON, MATTHEW ESSON, ANDREW ESSON, BRADLEY FALCONER, GIDEON FATALIKASHI, SHRVEEN FAWCETT, JODY FINNIMORE, SALLY FLANIGAN, ANDREW FLOYD, AMELIA FLOYD, HOLLY FONUA, ALO FOSH, TASHA FULLER, ROBYN FUNAKI, DAVID FUNAKI, LOTE GARNETT, EVE GIAQUINTO, ALICIA GIERSCH, BARBARA-JEAN GILES-ARMANASCO, SUE-ANNE GILES-ARMANASCO, ALLAN GORGES, DANIEL GORGES, PAUL GOWING, CHARLES GREWAL, NARINDER

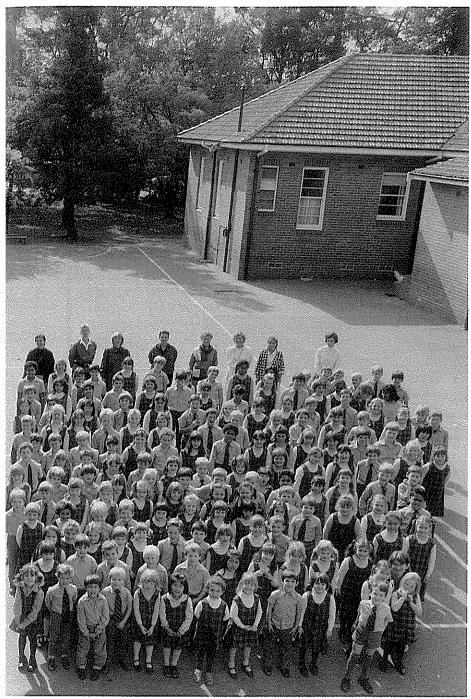


WAITARA PUBLIC SCHOOL

HACKETT, DONAVAN HALCROW, LISA HAMMOND, EMANUELA HARKESS, KATRINA HARRIS, MICHAEL HARVEY, ADAM HAZELL, CRAIG HEAP, MELISSA HEATH, GARY HEATH, MICHAEL HEATHCOTE, LUCY HEWETT, SEAN HEWITT, AIMEE HINKSMAN,LUKE HIPSLEY, SALLY HO, EDWIN HOCKLEY, ALISON HOLMES, MICHAEL HOLMES, NICHOLAS HOPKINS, AMANDA

HOPKINS, JONATHON
HORAN, ALANA
HORAN, MICHAN
HORDER, DANIEL
HORDER, DANIEL
HOTOP, CHRISTOPHER
HUNTINGTON, JAMES
IHN, JENNY
JAMES, CHRISTINE
JAMES, STEPHEN
JAMIESON, SAMANTHA
JONES, MICHEAL
JUDD, ROBYN
JUDD, SAMANTHA
KAESTEL, ANDREAS
KALIMERIS, CHRISTOPHER
KERKERIA, MEHRZISH
KHALIL, SAMI
KHOURY, CHRIS

KHOURY, THERESE
KILLIAN, MARCUS
KILLIAN, MAREE
KIM, YOUNG
KIM, YUN EI
KUA, HUN-HUEY
KUA, MING
KWON, PAUL
LE NEVES, ALLAN
LEWIS, CHARLOTTE
LEWIS, DANIEL
LIMBURG, DAMIAN
LIMBURG, NATHAN
LINDSAY, KATRINA
LINDSAY, SCOTT
LOPEZ, XIMENA
LORIMER, MELISSA
LOUDON, DAVID



PUPILS & TEACHERS

LOWE, KATHRYN
LOWE, MATTHEW
LUCAS, CHRISTOPHER
MALIK, NEHA
MARIAM, PETER
MCDOWELL, JAMIE
MCELDOWNEY, LISA
MCINTOSH, JAY
MCQUIRE, JESSICA
METZKE, JOHN
MICHEL, TIMOTHY
MITCHELL, DAVID
MITCHELL, JAMIE
MITCHELL, JAMIE
MITCHELL, JETER
MOHAMMADIEH, PEDRAN
MOHAMMADIEH, VIDA
MOORE, RICHARD
MOULDS, TIMOTHY

MUELLER, STEFANIE
MURNAIN, ALARIC
MURRAY, REBECCA
NAIDU, DESSLENE
NELSON, DAMIEN
NEMES, KATHERINE
NERCESSIAN, SHANT
NERCESSIAN, TAMARA
NEWEGER, DIANA
NEWSON, CORINNE
NEWSON, GREGORY
NIELSEN, FIONA
NILSSON, JOHANN
NILSSON, JOHANN
NIRELLO, FRANCO
NOWAK, MACIEJ
NOWAK, MACIEJ
NOWAK, MAGORZATA
O'BRIEN, BETHANY
PANETTA, MELISA
ANETTA, MELISA

MAY 1987

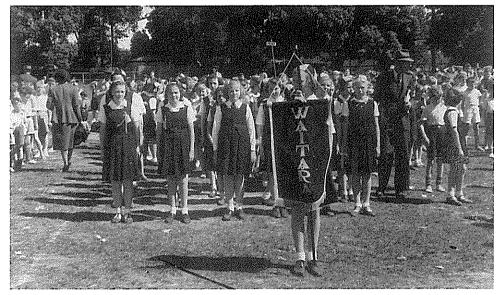
PEARCE, KATIE
PEARSE, RACHELLE
PEARSE, SAMANTHA
PENE, HELEN
PHO, DEFINE
PHO, DEFY
PITA, KYRON
PNEMATICAS, JIM
POLE, BELINDA
POLE, LAUREN
POLLOCK, HUW
POLLOCK, JAMES
PONTENILA, MIKHAIL
PREDA, MARTINA
PREDA, YLVIA
PREDA, TAMARA
PREDA, VERONICA
QUINN, BELINDA
RAINE, MELANIE

RAINE, MICHELLE RAMSAY, KIMBERLEY RAMSHAW, BETH RAMSHAW, ROBERT RATCLIFF, LEE REYNOLDS, ANDREW REYNOLDS, DAVID RIENITS, ANDREW RIMOLDI, ALEXANDER RIZWI, SHAHAN ROBERTS, EVAN ROBERTS, LAUREN ROBINSON, JOEL ROSS, CATHIE ROUGHTON, DAVID ROWLAND, DAVID ROWLAND, KEVIN ROWLISON, CINDY RUDGEE, ALLY RUDGEE, TIARA RUMBLE, KELLY RUSS, BRENDAN RUSS, MARISA RUSS, SIMON RUSSELL, DAVID RYAN, KELLY SALT, CHRISTIAN SALT, NATHAN SAVAGE, JOEL SAVILLE, TOBY SHAND, TIMOTHY SHIELDS, ALICE SHIELDS, EMILY SILIPO, ANTHONY SILIPO, BELINDA SILIPO, JOSEPH SILIPO, ROCKY SIMPSON, BELINDA SIMPSON, SANDY SMITH, ADAM SMITH, EMILY SPENCE, BETHANY SPENCER, BREE STEPHENS, JANE STROMQVIST, NINA TAMBRCHI, SHADI TANG, ALAN TANG, ALICE TARLING, JOEL TAUFA, LOTO TAUFA, ROSLYN TAUFA, SULIETI TAUFA, TRACY THATCHER, AARON THATCHER, DANIEL THOMPSON, BELINDA TIZZARD, JESSICA TOWNSEND, BELINDA TOWNSEND, ROBBIE TSAI, ELIZABETH TSAI, RACHEL TSAI, SONIA TSOLIDIS, BELINDA TSOLIDIS, NICKI TURNER, ANDREW TURNER, RYAN TURNER, SARAH TURNER, SCOTT VAN DE MAELE, JOHN VAN DE MAELE, KARYN VASSOS, ANGELO VIDLER, SUZANNE WARREN, CHANTEL WARREN, KEARLY-JO WATSON, BEN WATSON, RHYS WHITEHOUSE, LUCY WHONG, NATALIE WHONG, SEE-SHENG WHONG, YUBI WICKING, CHRISTOPHER WILLIS, BRADLEY WILSON, JARROD WOLNICKI, MATTHEW WONG, ANNA WOOD, STEPHEN WOOD, STUART WRIGHT, BRADLEY WYLIE, MARK ZIELINSKI, KONRAD ZIRILLI, AMANDA

1947-1956

This decade was a time of change for the school starting with the appointment of Mr Quilkey as Headmaster. Mr Quilkey stayed twenty-one years to be the longest serving Headmaster. The inspector's report of 1947 mentions a Deputy Headmaster for the first time although there is no indication when a Deputy was first appointed. In 1953 the

structure of the whole school changed with the division into two distinct departments of Infants and Primary. The staff in 1953 consisted of Headmaster (Mr Quilkey), Deputy Headmaster, Mistress of the Infants (Miss Kenny) and assistants. After 1953 the inspector wrote separate reports for the Infants and the Primary.



ABOVE: SPORTS DAY AT WAITARA OVAL, 1947

BELOW: 6th CLASS 1947



The post-war baby boom, immigration and the residential expansion of the area resulted in a considerable increase in school enrolments with resultant pressure on school accommodation. Between 1949 and 1953 shortages of classrooms was an almost constant problem. The Department of Education by providing double portables in 1950, 1951 and 1953 managed here as elsewhere in the state to keep up with demand but not to get ahead. By the end of the decade numbers stabilised until the next large influx in the early 1960's. The cultural make-up of the school began to change with an increasing number of children of European migrants appearing in the school registers. There was still concern over the health of children - free milk was still provided and Oslo lunches were made by one of the mothers. The Oslo lunch emphasised balanced nutrition and consisted of wholemeal bread spread with butter and cheese, a drink of milk and a piece of fruit.

June 1954 marked the beginning of eighteen months of work by the P.& C. Association to acquire an assembly hall for the school. The first recorded meeting of the Assembly Hall Committee on 25th June, 1954 passed a number of resolutions covering such matters as the siting of the hall, the architect, campaigning, and fund-raising. It was decided that a contribution scheme,

fetes and similar activities. functions and rag collections were to be the main source of funds with approaches also to local businesses and wealthy people. The Committee set a target of £3,000 to be raised in twelve months with the largest proportion coming from the contribution scheme. All families were sent promotional material and asked to contribute, an amount of 2/- per week or £5 per annum being suggested. Families who contributed suggested amount of £5 would qualify as Foundation Builders of the Waitara Public School Assembly Hall. After a number of letters and phone calls, the Department of Education agreed to the construction of a hall designed by local architect Alan K. Eedy, with £5,305 of the cost to be met by the Department. The contract for the building was signed on 1st July, 1955 by the successful tenderer G.J. Harwood with a completion date of 1st November; some eighteen weeks for construction in all. The annual school fete on 5th November was the first use of the hall. From the beginning, outside groups were encouraged to use the hall with the 1957 P. & C. Treasurer's Report listing income from "Physical Culture and Ballet classes, train exhibition, horse, stamina and camellia shows, film evenings and concerts".

Both children and teachers benefited from the general change of attitudes towards schooling and discipline. The Headmaster, Mr Quilkey, in his report for 1950 stated that the "chief aim of all teachers is to develop the idea of self-control by the children freedom is encouraged but always bearing in mind that this cannot become licence to do just what a boy or girl wishes...". In 1949 the School Inspector stated that "self-management plays an important part, hence repressive measures are seldom necessary". It is during this period that regular staff meetings are mentioned for the first time though problems were also discussed informally as well as in the more formal forum of staff meetings. The school day started with the whole school singing the National Anthem, a morning hymn and saying a morning prayer. As a school hall was not available until the end of 1955, the school's public address system was used to enable the whole school to join in. By 1952 the school had been divided into the four school houses named Australian birds -Currawong, Kingfisher, Kookaburra and Rosella - with the annual sports' meeting run along house lines. A distinctive school uniform is reported first in 1955 - there have been a number of changes made to the uniform since then. Mr Quilkey started holding annual play nights for both Infants and Primary in the Hornsby Cabaret in 1950. After 1955 this end of year event was held in the school assembly hall.

Within the classroom lessons were also undergoing change. Radio broadcasts were used regularly with a wireless and public address system being installed in the early 1950's. From 1949 standardised tests were used to check pupil progress against a state average and showed that satisfactory

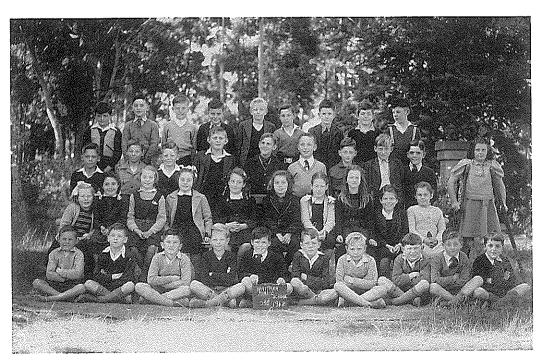
in the basic skills was being maintained. The School Magazine was published monthly by the Department of Education from 1916 but its use within Waitara school appears to have increased in this decade. Sport and boys' craft were taught by male teachers, with a casual still coming in several days a week to teach sewing and craft to the girls. Sewing was taught in the library, limiting the use of the room for normal library activities. By 1955 the library had some 900 volumes and the inspector recommended that a part-time librarian be appointed. The children still supported the Junior Red Cross and the League with two additional organisations, Stewart House and the United Nations Appeal, being mentioned.

Music has always been an important part of school life, though the inspector in 1947 felt that the standard of teaching was inadequate and recommended that junior and senior choirs be established. Two years later in 1949 music in the Infants was praised as Miss Knowles had organised an Infants' choir and a percussion band. Mr Smith in the Primary organised a recorder band - this band gained second place in the City of Sydney Eisteddfod in 1950. The recorder band also played for the marching that the children did each week. Teaching of music in the school became easier with the

acquisition of more musical instruments, mainly pianos but also a side drum. In 1955 the choir represented the school at the Town Hall Festival.

The parents continued to be active in providing facilities and equipment for the school with the main effort being the provision of the school assembly hall in 1955. The committee responsible for the hall wished to build a swimming pool for the children's use but this apparently failed to gain the support that the hall project had attracted. In 1952 the Ladies Auxiliary of the P. & C.Association was started as well as a Choral Society with about thirty members. The equipment paid for by the P. & C. included in 1953 a piano, library books, an electric clock, barometer, duplicating and sporting equipment. Improvements to the school grounds included a rose garden to commemorate the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Australia in 1954. This garden was in front of the Craft room currently used by the Primary children. Parents planned and planted gardens in the Infants' area and these were maintained by the children. School functions were always well attended with parents attending a four hundred function during the first night-time Education Week in 1954.







ABOVE: 6th GRADE, 1952 BELOW: 1B, 1955



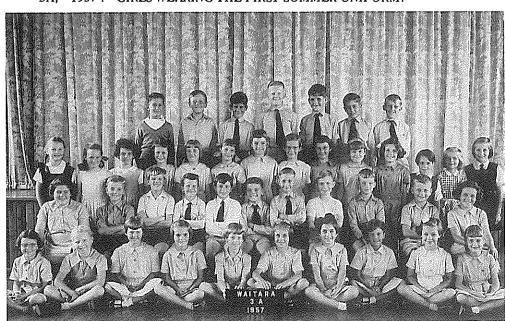
1957-1966

During this period staff continued to change although Mr Quilkey remained as Headmaster until early 1969. The number of staff increased to cope with large enrolments - eight classes in both the Infants and Primary departments by 1963. A part-time teacher librarian had been appointed to the school by the start of this decade.

Enrolments reached their peak at this time, with migrants continuing to add variety to the school population. About 1963 new brick classrooms were added to cope with greater numbers. These rooms were the third grade rooms in the Primary. In the Infants section the block contained a kindergarten room, the clinic and the Infants Staffroom. It is thought that the canteen was added to the old hall at the same time - before this, mothers had made sandwiches for the children's lunches in the hall kitchen. When the two extra classrooms were provided in the Primary section, the library was able to be moved out of its original cramped quarters of the present Deputy Principal's Office into the two adjacent rooms. The Infants did not use the Primary library at this stage but had their own libraries in each classroom.

The change in teaching methods continued during this period though children were still graded into different classes according to ability. After World War II drama and creativity became a more important part of school life and this change in ideas from earlier times showed in the amount of time given to drama, dancing, art and music. The Infants' choir in 1957 gained a creditable result in the City of Sydney Eisteddfod of that year. New syllabuses were being issued to teachers giving an outline of subjects to be covered instead of the previous rigid and detailed instructions issued to staff by the Department of Education.

In November 1957 one hundred Primary children had their first school camp at Broken Bay - National Fitness camps began in the early 1940's but did not expand



3A, 1957. GIRLS WEARING THE FIRST SUMMER UNIFORM.

much until the middle 1950's as more campsites became available. The Infants' children by 1964 were profiting from excursions to places of interest related to their social studies. Stewart House was still supported by the whole school with the Primary also supporting the Ambulance and the Spastic Centre. The Junior Red Cross in the Infants' Department knitted rugs for child patients and aided the Children's Homes with finance in 1957. Support for the Junior Red Cross was still high in the Primary but the Gould League was not as popular. The school uniform was changed at least once but it has been difficult to obtain exact information on this matter.

The P. & C. Association continued to support the school, in 1964 adding an electric duplicator, tape recorder, guillotine, charts, maps and three S. R. A. Reading Laboratories. The Canteen Committee showed a profit of £300, this being used for both departments. Annual fetes were also held by the P. & C.

Association to raise money for the school. The Mothers' Club for the Infants mothers was re-established in July 1963. Dances were held fortnightly in the school hall half ballroom dances and half rock'n'roll to satisfy all tastes.

A playground gymnasium was built by parents in 1957 after an area of the playground was cleared of large gum trees by the Department of Education. A teacher of the time, Mr Malcolm Chesworth saw the potential in the logs for a playground and with support from the Headmaster, Mr Quilkey, and the Physical Education Department outlined a plan to the P. & C. Association. A grant of £50 was secured to cover costs and the fathers under Mr Chesworth's direction built the gymnasium. The playground was officially opened during Education Week, August 1957 by Mr Gordon Young, NSW Director of Physical Education.

5B, 1958 TAKEN IN FRONT OF THE NEW SCHOOL HALL. THE GIRLS' UNIFORM HAS BEEN CHANGED AGAIN.

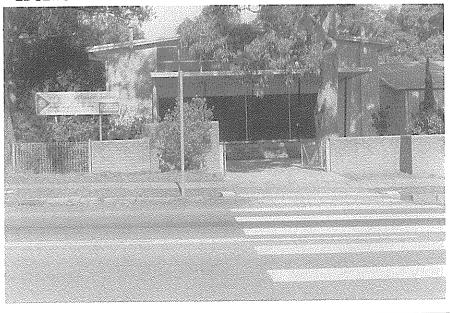


1967-1976

By now the school's enrolment area was described by the inspector as a "pleasant, stable residential area with little growth in enrolments". There were a considerable number of staff changes however - Mr L. Ouilkey finally retired as Headmaster in 1968 to be replaced by Mr K.M. Penman from 1969 to 1971. Mr E.A. Moloney succeeded Mr Penman as Headmaster in 1972 but was himself replaced in 1976 by Mr J.A. Murphy. Clerical assistance became available to the school with the appointment of a school secretary and later, in 1972, a teachers' aide for the Infants. The inspection system for schools and teachers changed, regular inspections becoming a thing of the past with teachers being only when applying for inspected promotion.

Changes in the curriculum continued with the Department of Education issuing guidelines but leaving the content to be decided by each school. Classes were still graded though the idea of ungraded or parallel classes was gradually spreading through the New South Wales school system. The weekly school assembly was made more interesting for the children by each class taking turns to stage a play or some other item. Junior and senior choirs were still active and were praised for their standards by the inspector. After a member of staff was transferred to Holbrook Public School. exchange visits between the fifth and sixth grade pupils of both schools began in 1975 and ended in 1984. The children and accompanying teachers were billeted by families for a week and excursions were arranged for the participating children. The highlight of the visits was a social held at the end of the week of educationally beneficial activities. Summer uniform for girls changed twice in this period - the first change in 1968 was from the pinafore to a checked dress, - the second in A-line check 1974-75 to the present dress.

THE ASSEMBLY HALL. THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN FROM ACROSS EDGEWORTH DAVID AVENUE AND SHOWS THE SCHOOL CROSSING.



Weekly dancing was an important part of school activities with the girls changing into a polka dot skirt for this activity. The Primary weathersheds were used for storage and an occasional film showing - later the weathersheds were converted to craft rooms. Before this, one of the portables was used for sewing and had sewing machines set up round the walls. Sport was often played on the oval on the corner of Coonanbarra and Carrington roads as well as on Waitara Oval. The school gardens, trees and grassed areas matured during this time. No additional buildings were added as the school numbers remained fairly stable with a slow decline from the maximum numbers reached in the early 1960's - new enrolments started to decline statewide at this time. Heavy traffic

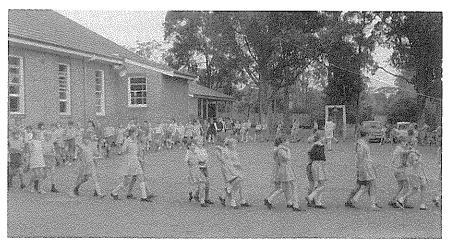
in Edgeworth David Avenue was causing concern as far back as 1968, with noise and safety being the main problems then as now. In 1968 a fine bird bath was donated by the Central Parent Gould League and positioned on the Infants' front lawn.

Both the P. & C. Association and the Mothers' Club continued to be active in supporting the school. In 1968 \$3,000 was raised by the P. & C. Association for use within the school. School functions such as those held during Education Week still attracted large numbers of parents - the number of mothers working was still low enough to have little effect on daytime activities.



BELOW: DANCING IN THE PRIMARY PLAYGROUND.

ABOVE: 3A, 1968 THREE GIRLS ARE WEARING THE NEXT UNIFORM TO BE INTRODUCED.



1977 TO THE PRESENT

The Golden Jubilee of Waitara Public School was celebrated in October, 1977 with a week of activities. The main activity was an Open Day, complete with displays, tree plantings and a luncheon for official guests including the Regional Director of Education, Mr T.W. Payne, senior ex-pupils and ex-members of staff. Other activities were an Infants' Jubilee concert, a Reunion Ball and a barbecue on Saturday, 9th October to end the week of celebrations. A large number of ex-pupils and staff were contacted and some provided old photographs showing the early times of the school.

Mrs M. M. Mandelson succeeded Mr Murphy as Principal in May 1978 and served until her retirement in August 1986. The current Principal is Mr M. Geraghty with Deputy Principal, Mr G. Newton and Deputy Principal Infants, Mrs R. Pye. The total staff is made up by Mr Geraghty, Principal, eleven teaching staff, one teacher for release from face to face teaching, a full time English as a Second Language teacher, four part-time staff - a teacher librarian, library clerical assistant, craft teacher and resource teacher - and two ancillary staff. Specialists such as ESL teachers are an important part of the school with its' pupils a great variety of cultural backgrounds. The strict division between the Infants and Primary departments has eased with most policies now aimed at the years from kindergarten to sixth and more freedom for staff to move between the two sections.

Enrolments for Waitara have fluctuated in recent years with an overall decline. While numbers have dropped, the composition of the school has changed with a new wave of immigrants from Asia and the Pacific region forming a considerable part of the total. The needs of the children from these areas in learning English and settling down in a new and different environment resulted in the school having an ESL teacher appointed in 1984. Children are no longer graded as in earlier years and indeed with

smaller numbers and composite classes the strict grading carried out previously is no longer possible. Teachers now follow "Aims of Primary Education" with separate objectives for areas such as reading, mathematics, music and social studies. Individual schools now have control over their programmes, teachers drawing up detailed programmes to suit the school's own requirements.

The children are encouraged to participate in a wide range of extra activities as well as the more traditional one of sport. Music is still an important part of school life with the choir organised by teachers and recorder lessons available to the children before school. Special occasions such as Easter, Book Week, Heritage Week and Education Week are all marked by different activities. The Infants for some years have

BILLY CART DERBY. GIRLS IN CURRENT SUMMER UNIFORM.



held an Easter Bonnet Parade, a very popular event with the young children. Book parades have been successful with the whole school participating and concerts held during Education Week are well attended by parents. There is now much greater direct involvement of parents in the school with parents helping in the classroom in reading, craft and gross motor activities. Social events to mark special occasions have been successful teachers, children and families attending Sport has been an area of considerable achievement in recent years with an undefeated football team one year and a number of children gaining places in district and regional sporting competitions. Billy-cart derbies were held in 1978, 1979 and 1980, with push-a-thons replacing them in some years. The sports uniform was changed in 1985 to black shorts and yellow top for the boys and black skirt and yellow top for the girls.

Vandalism has become a problem for our school as for many others, with a number of break-ins and robberies, the worst perhaps earlier this year when vandals broke into the main Infants' block and the hall.

Damage to classrooms meant a cleanup by the Department's cleaners, repainting and children were kept out of their usual classrooms for three weeks. Damage of a different sort was inflicted on the toilet block when a large tree became uprooted in bad weather and fell on the roof of the Primary toilet block. More severe damage was found in the original school hall when white ant attack was discovered.

The hall had been built in 1955 and wooden trusses were a special feature of the structure. In 1983 it was found that white ants had caused such extensive damage that the whole building was condemned. Before the demolition of the hall and canteen took place, the parents had managed to get the Department of Education to agree to the replacement of the condemned building with a Food Service Unit of comparable size. Demolition took place during the August - September 1983 holidays but the school had to wait eighteen months before the new hall or F.S.U. was built and handed over. A new portable was installed in third term of

1983 and the library was transferred from the main Primary block into this building. Preparation of the site of the new hall began in 1984 with the demolition of the original weathershed and toilet blocks. By November 1984 the hall and canteen was structurally complete but tidying up and landscaping was not completed until early in 1985. International Night at the end of 1984 was the first use made by the school of its replacement hall. Since then the hall has been used for traditional school purposes such as assemblies, concerts and displays and many social occasions such as a whist night, bush dances and a craft show. The community is also using the new facility thus providing a source of funds to help pay for equipment such as stage curtains.

With the demolition of one hall and the construction of another the school grounds have needed to be landscaped again. The parents have been responsible for planting a large number of native plants and regular working bees have resulted in an attractive setting for the school. In 1986 the children were encouraged to buy a native plant to beautify the grounds and to help form a thick planting along Edgeworth David Avenue. Earlier in 1982 sixth grade teacher Mr K. Shoebridge was responsible for the construction of an obstacle course on the edge of the Primary green. A mini-grant of obtained, and with timber was obtained with the help of a parent Mr Muxlow and labour from the sixth grade children, the course was built. The Infants' weathershed in 1982 was decorated with dinosaurs, the painting being done under the direction of a mother, Mrs P. Floyd.

The P. & C. Association in the last few years has become more active and has been involved in a number of fund-raising efforts with the School Club. The School was formed in 1979 with amalgamation of the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Mothers' Club and for a few years was the main fund-raising body, holding minifetes, push-a-thons, fashion parades and a craft show. In the last few years the two bodies have combined to organise a garage sale, family days with barbecues and a major craft show. The school has benefited from these activities with the acquisition of sporting equipment, library material, reading schemes, office equipment and classroom aids. The Canteen Committee has continued to show a profit, this money helping to acquire more equipment for the school. In 1985, with increasing concern felt over the safety of children walking to and from school, a Safety House Committee

was established to organise and run this programme for the area.

In 1987 pupils, teachers and parents look towards the next decade with optimism. Waitara Public School has always reflected its community and will continue to do so.



ABOVE; BUS TRIP TO HOLBROOK.



RIGHT: A TREE FELL ON TO THE PRIMARY TOILET BLOCK. LUCKILY NO-ONE WAS BADLY HURT.

FROM THE PUNISHMENT BOOK

Not many children who were on the receiving end of the cane would have realised at the time, that the punishment given would be recorded in detail in the punishment book. Boys (and girls under the age of 12) were caned. The regulations at this time state that 'the boxing of pupil's ears and the tapping of children on the head are strictly prohibited'. Here are some of the more interesting comments on the "nature of the offence".

1937 Boy 4 strokes with the cane Pursued classmate along street. Knocked him down, held him on road, threw his bag of books into bushes, because the boy gained more marks than he did at the half-yearly exam in arithmetic test.					
1938 8 Boys					
1938 Boy1 stroke with the cane Repeated disobedience sneaking off when told by teacher to remain.					
1938 3 Girls1 stroke each Repeated inattentive laughing and playing in school.					
1938 2 Girls1 stroke each Attacking boy with sticks and stones. Cut his head open because he put their names on the board for disorder.					
1940 17 Boys2 strokes each Engaged in field stone fight in playground in school hours. Throwing stones at each other after being warned that stone throwing was an offence.					
Deliberate scribbling of figures, most untidy work and refusal after months of effort on part of teacher to make any attempt to do his work as requested. This boy has a high I.Q. and merely gives an insolent shrug and grins when spoken to.					
1945 3 Boys4 strokes each Flagrant disobedience and interferences with lunches.					
1946 4 Boys2 strokes each Running away from school on Friday afternoon without permission.					

HARGRAVES Carol 1981-1986 HART Doris 1969-1972 HAVECROFT Mr 1963 HENRY E.K. 1955 HERRING Kathy 1981-1985 HERRING HERRING Kathy 1981-1985 HUMBER HERRING Kathy 1981-1985 HUMBER HERRING Kathy 1981-1985 HUMBER HERRING Kathy 1981-1985 HUMBER HERRING HER								
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,	HALFORD	Mrs	1965		NICOLL	Mary	1927-1935	
HALL Mr 1954 O'DONNELL Mrs 1957	1	Mr	1954					
HARE Julie 1974-1976 OAKLEY E. 1968-1973	HARE	Julie	1974-1976		OAKLEY	E.	1968-1973	

AVERAGE YEARLY KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENTS

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

1927 - 193642	1962 - 196672	192844
1937 - 194633	1967 - 197657	194645
1947 - 195160	1977 - 198165	195350
1952 - 195668	1982 - 198749	197333
1957 - 196165		198727

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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N. S. W. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:- History Section....Waitara File Metropolitan North Region Properties......Waitara File

N. S. W. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:- Government Architect Branch; Schools' Section......Waitara File

WAITARA PUBLIC SCHOOL RECORDS:- Admission Registers from 1927,

Observation Books, Punishment Books, some Class Rolls, and some Attendance Registers. Papers from Golden Jubilee, school photographs, P.& C. and School Club records, ex-pupils and ex-teachers memories and memoribilia.

HORNSBY ADVOCATE:- Local Newspaper.

FEDERATION OF INFANTS SCHOOL CLUBS:- Minute Book, 1926-1946

BOOKS:- "Children in Australia, an outline history" by Sue Fabian & Morag Loh. Oxford University Press....1980

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This book was compiled using various programmes including Pagemaker TM on a Macintosh computer.



THE HISTORY OF

WAITARA PUBLIC SCHOOL

1927 - 1987

