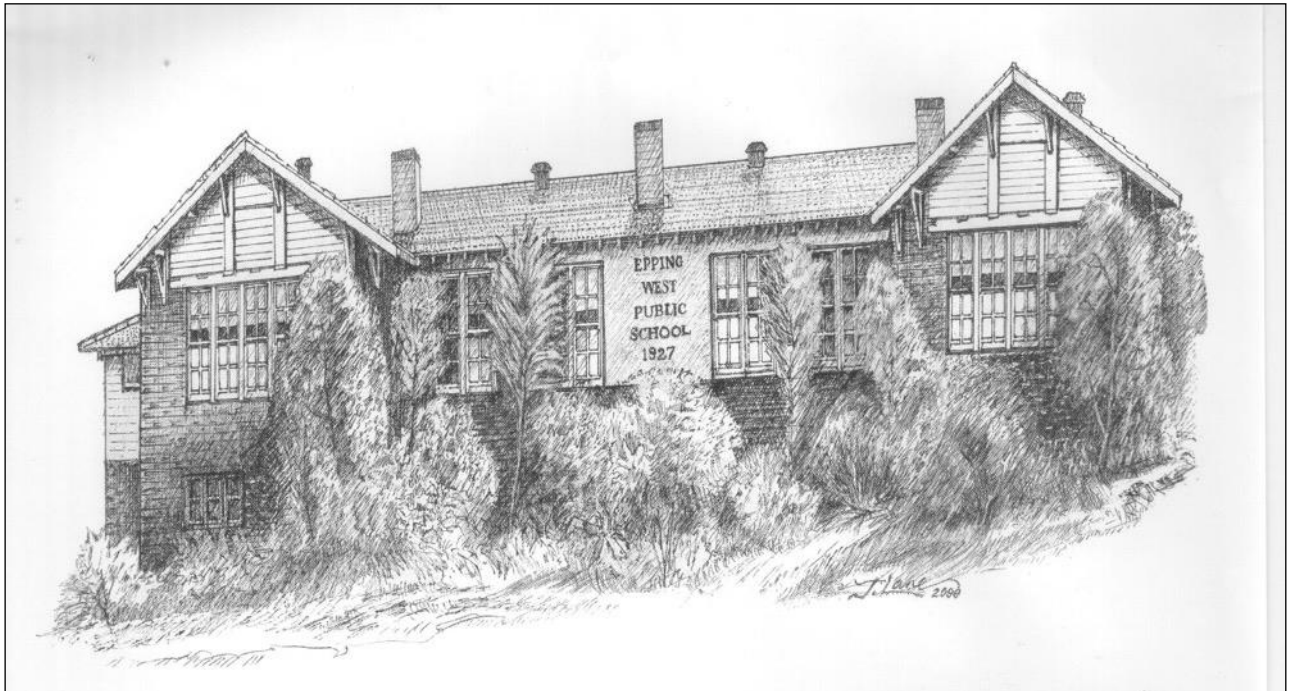


# **THE HISTORY OF EPPING WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**1927-2002**



**Written and Edited by  
Patricia Dewey**

**A pupil of the school 1947 - 1952**

**This book has been written to mark the occasion of Epping West Public School's 75<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**



**Epping from the West c1920** Photo: Rex Hazlewood Collection – Mitchell Library

### **Acknowledgements**

This book has been written with the assistance of many people and organisations. Special thanks goes to :

**Diana Bills** who collected and accessioned all materials and photographs relevant to the history of the school so items were available for consideration and possible inclusion in the book.

**Neil Chippendale**, Local Studies Librarian at Hornsby Shire Central Library who made available copies of photographs of the area from the Rex Hazlewood Collection at the Mitchell Library.

**Marianne McGowan** for her assistance with the research into the early history of the area.

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**Jill and Bruce Taylor** for their time and expertise converting a basic manuscript into a book.

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**Cover Illustration by John Lane**

# **EPPING WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**75 YEARS**

**OF**

**QUALITY EDUCATION**

**1927 - 2002**

# FOREWORD



It has been a pleasure writing this book to mark the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school. My own Primary School days were very happy and the friendships made at the time have continued and stand testimony to that today. I have always been proud to say that I was once part of the Epping West School Community.

As an active member of the Hornsby Shire Historical Society I knew the site had an interesting history which I was happy to research so it could be shared with those who read the pages of this book.

I trust all who read the history of the school will develop an understanding of both the history of the area and the need for the school to be built in 1927. Heads of the school and community

members over seventy five years have, in their own way, contributed to pursuing tasks that led to the growth of the wonderful buildings in enviable grounds both of which have contributed to the enhancement of educational opportunities for children who have attended **Epping West Primary School**.

**Patricia Dewey B Ed**

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

In this, the 75<sup>th</sup> year of the opening of Epping West Public School, we celebrate the thousands of students who have enrolled and participated in the life of our public school and the teachers and parents responsible for the high quality programs and spirit of our school. Epping West from its earliest days when it was created in response to community requests over a number of years, has played an active part in the local community and is held in high regard throughout the district.

Over the past five years, as we have been gathering the history of the school, I have enjoyed meeting so many generous past students and families who have shared through photos and stories wide ranging aspects of the school over the 75 years. The display you will see today and this book have resulted from an ongoing program to build current knowledge of the wide community of the school and to gather and record the history of the school. We now have a mailing list of over one thousand past students and teachers with whom contact is maintained through an annual newsletter. The materials seen in the history display have been donated and collected to build an archive which reflects the rich diversity of school life as it has emerged over the decades.

In many cases a book of this type is produced by a large committee but our book is the work of three people: Patricia Dewey, author, Diana Bills, history co-ordinator and Jill Taylor, desktop publishing. These people have devoted many hours to producing this commemorative and informative record of the school's past 75 years and have produced a document that is outstanding in its historical accuracy and wide ranging comments.

Epping West is a school with a record of excellence over the years in academic, sporting and cultural areas and now is educating the third generation of some families. The challenge is to value and maintain the traditions of the past while building the technologies our children will need for a successful future. In doing this the next 25 years will continue the proud tradition already established of serving the local students and families with excellence in public education.

## **FOREWORD**

Public Education in New South Wales, which has a 154 year history, has its origins in the formation of the Board of National Education in 1848.

The Public Instruction Act of 1880 made education “free, compulsory and secular” and under the Department of Public Instruction, Government schools were established throughout the length and breadth of New South Wales. These schools were underpinned by the principles of democracy, equity and fair play, principles which remain central to public schooling today under the New South Wales Department of Education and Training.

On the occasion of Epping West Public School’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we should take the opportunity to look back to the past and reflect on the achievements of those who have gone before us. For Epping West Public School, which officially opened its doors on 4 July 1927, under the interim principalship of Miss Hilda Drummond, the provision of 75 years of service to the local community is indeed a magnificent achievement. For performing that service, under sometimes difficult and trying circumstances, means that all who have been associated with the school during that period – students, teachers, parents and administrators – deserve our sincere thanks and our highest possible commendation.

Epping West Public School has a strong tradition of community spirit and support, which commenced with Mr J. A. Wotton’s application to establish a school on 14 November 1922. This tradition continues today as the school community works in partnership with a talented and committed school staff to achieve excellence in student outcomes and to provide much needed physical resources for the school.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration provides the Epping West Public School community with the opportunity to build on past achievements and to move forward with an exciting new era of public education provision. Significant changes are on the horizon in education, not the least of these being advanced technology for improved teaching and learning. Epping West Public School, with its student population reflecting contemporary multicultural Australia, is uniquely placed to take advantage of these changes and in so doing, to further enhance educational opportunities for the children it serves.

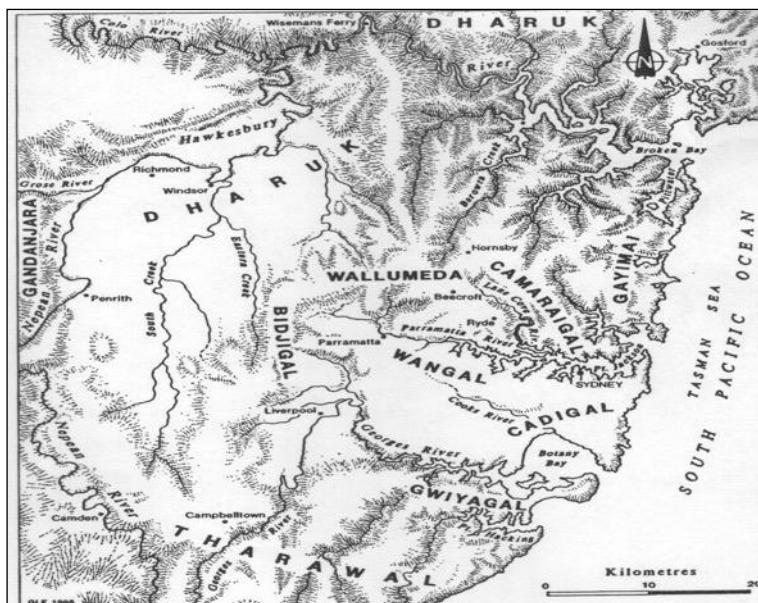
I would like to congratulate all those who have helped to make this 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration such a memorable event. In particular, my thanks go to Patricia Dewey and her enthusiastic band of helpers who have researched the school’s history.

Congratulations Epping West Public School in your 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and good luck to Ms Therese Hinder and her wonderful students, staff and parents as they plot the course for the next 25 years, leading up to the School Centenary in 2027.

**Denis Osborne  
T. Cert., BA, M Ed., M Ed Admin  
Hornsby District Superintendent  
Department of Education and Training**

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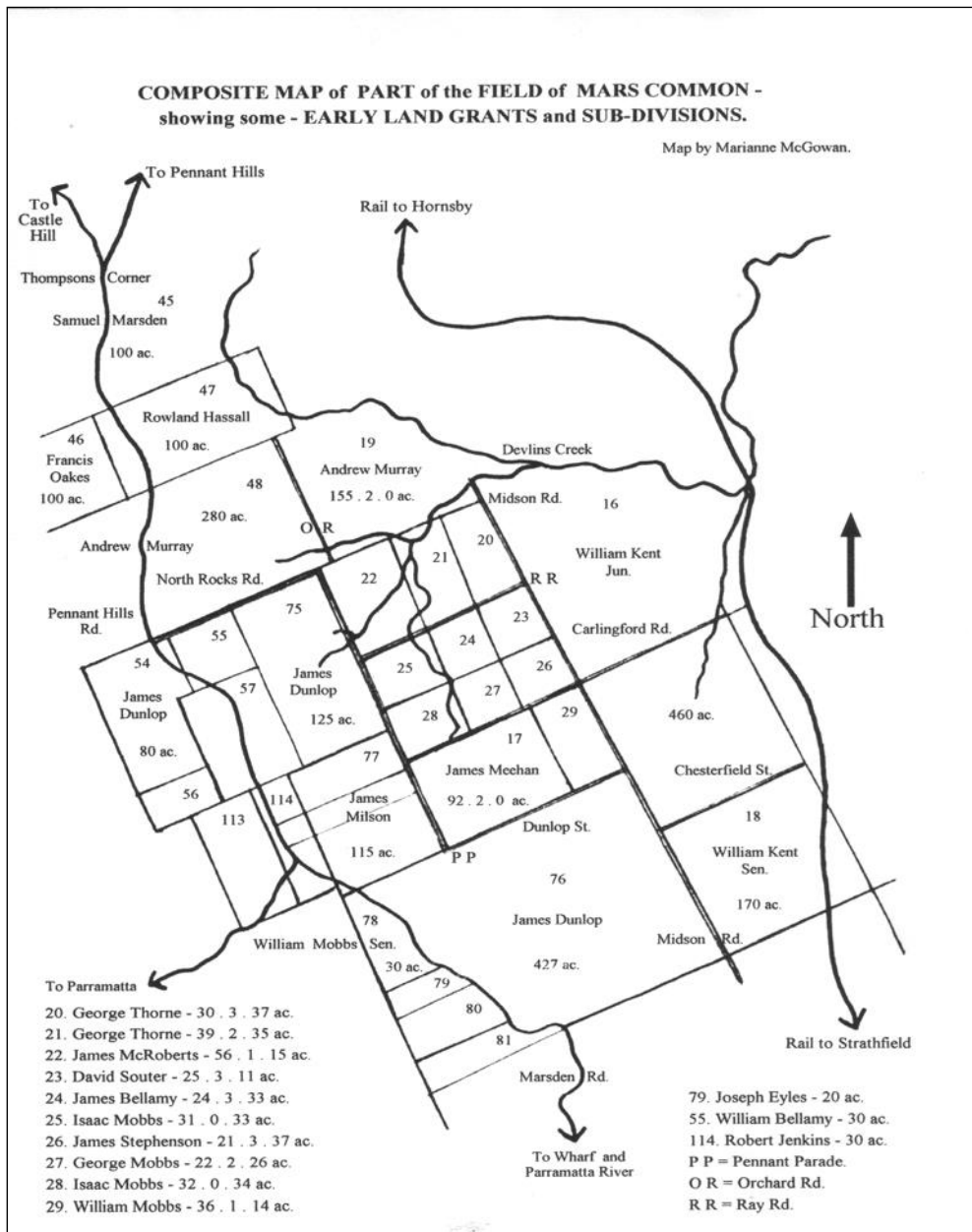
**Distribution of Aboriginal tribes in the Sydney region before 1788.**  
**Based on Keith Willey, When the Sky Fell Down, 1985 Harper Collins.**  
 Published by The Beecroft Cheltenham History Group

# EARLY HISTORY OF THE EPPING WEST DISTRICT

The Wallumedial Aboriginal people lived along the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers and the many creeks that ran into these two waterways.

Open forests once covered the Epping area with only a few large trees to the acre. These massive specimens had smaller trees, bracken and grass growing beneath them.

By 1792 some of the first Land Grants in the Colony were made by Governor Arthur Phillip in the Field of Mars Common.



**Map showing early land grants and subdivisions** Map by Marianne McGowan

11 December 1794 – Davis Kilpack (a convict) received the first Land Grant in the present day area of Carlingford. This was for thirty acres at “North Brush in the Field of Mars”.

21 July 1795 – a further fifty acres was added to “*Kilpack Farm*.” These two grants were between present day Pennant Parade and Mobbs Hill. Keeler Street now bisects this land from east to west.

17 April 1803 – William Kent (Jnr) received a large grant of four hundred and sixty acres in the Epping area. His grant was called “*William Farm*” and was bounded by present day Midson and Chesterfield Roads, Rawson Street and Devlin’s Creek.

1816 - The NSW Government rented “*William Farm*” for timber getting.

24 November 1824 – James Stevens (Stephenson) arrived in the Colony as a convict aboard the ‘*Hindustan*’. He had been convicted in the Surrey Assizes for forging notes and given a life sentence. He worked for the Government at Parramatta.



21 April 1834 – James Stevens married Martha Cowell at St John’s Church Parramatta. She and James had ten children. James farmed at Pennant Hills and Kissing Point before purchasing his own land.

1835 – “William Farm” was auctioned and purchased by James Devlin who farmed the land for many years. His widow subdivided the land after James’ death in September 1883.

15 November 1837 – James Stevens received his unconditional pardon.

1856 – The NSW Government sub-divided part of the Field of Mars Common in the area now known as Epping West. Some of the purchasers of these lots were: James Stevens (Stephenson), David Souter (Sonter), James Bellamy, Issac George and William Mobbs.

12 December 1856 – James Stevens (Stephenson) purchased Lot 26 of just over 21 acres for one hundred and sixty pounds. Epping West School now occupies part of this land.

18 November 1882 – James Stevens, the elder, a farmer and his wife Martha, sold part of Lot 26 to James Stevens, the younger for one hundred pounds.

1891 Martha and James (Snr) die in the same year.



**The main streets in Epping at the time it was decided to build the new school at Epping West c1923**  
Photograph Hornsby Shire Historical Collection (HSHC).



**Pea Picking - This photograph shows the Dengate orchard on 1907. The orchard was to the immediate west of the school site.**

Photograph from the Rex Hazlewood Collection M.L.



**Devon Lodge – the home of the Hazlewood Family**  
**1902 Carlingford Road Epping**

Photograph Rex Hazlewood Collection M.L.

1906 and 1913 James Stevens (Jnr) sold some of the eastern section of his land.

8 May 1919 – James Stevens (Jnr) now an orchardist and living at Ermington sold just over 8 acres to brothers-in-law, Arthur George Bevan and Cyrus William Gliddon, for one thousand and twenty five pounds.

1924 Cyrus Gliddon sold his portion to the NSW Education Department so that Epping West Infants School could be built.

1927 Epping West Infants School was opened.

1950 Hornsby Shire Council purchased the land to the east and north of the school site. The NSW Education Department in 1957 purchased from Hornsby Shire Council Arthur Bevan's portion (to the east) so that the school and grounds could be extended.

The area to the north of the school became West Epping Park.



**High Street Epping c1920**  
Photo: Rex Hazlewood Collection M.L.

## STUDENTS OF 2002

Shannon Chen Arti Chopra Joanne Feng Danielle Harding Isha Jalpota Grace Jeon Briana Keevers Julia Park Natasha Small Ann Suen Lucia Tse Emily Wardle Cameron Bendall Aaron Collyer Arron Davies Matthew Faggion Deny Hrcic Jackson Kang James Lee Vaughan Li Jack Quinn Jack Saunders Zach Walker Schenuk Wijesekera Kate Bradley Harriet Creaser Nicole Gandy Jane He Karen Huang Aishoo Jayaraman Diana Liang Lily McGann Zoe Muir Krithika Rajashekar Grace Sun Naseem Vahdani Caitlin Wood Suellen Yao Jelina Zhu Richard Cao David Chen Andrew Cipollone David Guzowski Sebin Han Jason Lee Henry Li Adam Macri Adrian Shaw Jaxon Toman Samuel Wan Karen Cheng Lesanne Ha Karen Ho Jasmin Huang Shamea James Eva Jiang Jasmine Kim Madee Leong Geirthana Nandakumaran Eugenia Wai Amanda Wang Rachel Yang Helen Zhang Anu Chadha Nelson Chow Liam Dale Winston Gondoputro Angelo Manitisa Anant Mathur William Qu Gavin Robertson Kamran Sadeghi Hamish Sives Corey Smith Nicky Stiles Harrison Tognetti Fern Bolton Tahlia Cooke Karina Davis Sofie Inwood Rose Jenkins Phoebe So Jagendeep Toor Genevieve Warzecha Aisha Whan Justin Chou Brendon Close Jerry Guan Daniel Harris Lalit Prasad Ryan Tsang Linzi Zhu Lina Choi Michelle Duong Angela Gock Catherine Guan Aisha Langer Cecilia Li Sylvia Park Lucy Read Courtney Venn-Brown Grace Woo Bronwyn Chau Ariana Darwish James Baez Andre Kohler Jake Lennon Masi Manitisa Matthew Muzman Felix Wong Shannon Beloe Travis Broderick Georgia Collins Rosie Fell Saira Krishan Nina Li Saloni Misra Gajaanie Nadanakumar Anjana Nandakumaran Brynlee Owen Phoebe Pash Claudia Reefman Alysha Robb Kristy Thai Karen Zhang Phillip Brown Jack Canty Edwin Chan Gabriel Cheung James Dunn Vincent Fong Luke Michael Adrian Ng Brian Ng Hashan Perera Eugene

Stroinovskiy Phillip Witheridge Nicole Barnes Kelsey Best Emily Collins Florence Hoang Tessa Houze Alex Joyner Esther Kim Kara Leverett Jia-Lee Lim Joanne Pendleton Melissa Romer Geneva Schofield Elizabeth Shirliff Melissa Walford Jessica Wen Ruben Burke Ray Chan Justin Hamilton Christopher Koong Alan Li Jacky Liang Patrick Mah Adam Murray Sahana Nanayakkara Matthew Reichardt Jonathon Seeto Dan Urquhart Diana Chau Tiara Gomes Melissa Tempone Derek Belcher Shane Doowage Nicholas Georgiou Timothy Hayes Pierre Karnasiotis George Saad Jennifer Bang Daizee Brander Carmen Cheng Su Jin Chung Renee Close Hao Do Lina Han Maansi Jha Lucinda Munro Tanita Razaghi Victoria Temm Paula Wu Suzanne Wu Jake Ballanyne Trent Cabban Sui Fung Chan Hayden Doria Tom Fewchuk Jaewoo Jin Andy Kong David Lee Jake Marsden Mitchell Solomons Jerome Teo Andrew Wannan Eric White Morgan Xu Charlotte Beloe Emily Bills Eugenia Chan Jui Jin Yan-Chi Ku Vivien Lam Michelle Lu Elizabeth Pearsall Emily Soon Rachel Stenhouse Holly Urquhart Craig Botha Blake Cameron Michael Chan Timothy Chan Edmund Dwyer Daniel Fan-Quispe Josh Lategan Yan Lok Leung Louie Li Hayden Lummis Jonathan Macalpine Michael Moutzouris Daniel Munro Alex Newberry James Willoughby Kylie Chan Eden Clay Natasha Cooke Holly Finlay Lauren Germolus Louise Hochholzer Viviana Leung Amanda Liu Renee Miles Arezou Niknam Sharon Park Laura Sayers Stephanie Tempone Emma Throssell Lillian Xiao Jessica Xue Brian Botha Aaron Bott Michael Chen Braden Cheng Andrew Jenkins Divyansh Joshi Vidit Kalra Sean Lee Myles Lego Dylan Munro Adam Pollock Joanne Chan Rebecca Faggion Rachel Harrison Hannah Jones Peony Lam Bora Lee Carolyn Loh Bronwyn Reichardt Kelly-Anne Webster Joanna Wong Cathy Zheng Richard Fowell Mitchell Healey Sachin Wijesekera Timothy Witheridge Winky Leung Rebecca Seeto Phoebe Stenhouse Sairachna Trikha Donya Vahdani Phillip Kang Christopher Lee Andrew Loh Andy Lu Jacky Lui Calvin Mah Andrew Robertson Benedict Tan Mitchell Venn-Brown Valiant Warzecha Charity Achilles Madaline Canty Sabrina Chan Lauren Collyer Stephanie Dale Charlotte Dollimore Salonee Goyal Natalie Lim Jordan Murray Ashleigh O'Keefe Sol Park Lauren Powell Sonia Teo Eloise Tognetti Jungha Choi Cameron Dunn Sebastian Fasano Aidan Fisher Bradley Fulton Connor Hale Dan Kerin Caleb Lee John Lee Martin McCormack Jeeven Nadanakumar Daniel Park Louis Stroinovskiy Jeremy Tse Garry Yu Peta Barnes Sara Bramley Georgia Broderick Susan Chen Polly Chow Emma Gibson Chani Kemenyvario Olivia Kierdal Belinda Kwok Connie Lee Emma Mitchell Bella Owen Ashleigh Pollock Lana Quinn Angel Woo Bobby Allen Dominic Allen Timothy Burnett Jonathan Chou Tayler Fletcher-Ward William Gao Ahilan Gnanasuntharan Peter Ha Andrew Harding Daniel Hasapis Ji-Won Jung Sam Krout Christopher Shelley Jia Hao Ye Nicholas Bali Ben Foster John Hardie Lee Hilder Andrew Mujunen Samuel Poon Tom Thorby Taylor Best Nicole Chan Sharon Chen Laura Fell Tanushi Jayasekara Vivian Lee Chloe Ng Felicity Robinson Thomas Brown James Davis Matthew Han William Rosner Jonathan Sun James Wu Crystal Capach Genevieve Dwyer Caitlin Hook Emily Ovenden Ashita Sapra Sarah Shirliff Esther Soon Gurnpreet Toor Alistair Botha Joe Chan Peter Lee Victor Leong Bob Li Simon Li Nathan Lumb Michael Robertson Madeleine Blanch Melissa Chow Rebecca Dong Kate Gandy Kristy Hook Katy Houze Olivia McCormack Kate McWhirter Surbhi Misra Laura Pendleton Kritika Rastogi Claudia Robb Sally Roberts Olivia Webster Catherine Wu Frank Chin Woo Jin Chung Tim Cornish Simon Cowie Tom Finlay Luke Harrison Jack Kim Tony Kong Daniel Lim Bradley Masala Matthew McCaffery Brodie Owen Alex Rose Mick Walford Auden Wu Daniel Yu Verity Bone Katie Chan Sonya Chang Michelle Cornish Shirley Gao Kate Germolus Stephanie Mabel Angel Qi Scarlet Reefman Sarah Romer Tahlia Smith Balpreet Toor Erica Tsang Ann Xiao Angela Yu Anchit Chadha Jordan Cheung Bradley Davies Jackson Hall Christopher Han Jason Hyung Jason Kang Jeremy Khoo Stuart Owen Brett Page Simon Park Nathan Pauczuk Matthew Phillips Aaron Song Haydn Sumiran Dennis Yu Abbey Jones Aarushi Joshi Bernice Kwok Amy Lego Vanessa Leung Samantha Neill Rebecca Soon Claire Wannan Janice Wong Judith Wong Zach Allen John Anderson Nic Bills Joshua Chan William Chin Nicholas Connell William Gondoputro Thomas McLaren Daniel Sayers Jason Wong Manuela Tan Katherine Witheridge Jonathan Chan Hossein Entezami Rudsari Kelvin Lee Felix Liu Chun Yan Mak Tim Stiles Daniel Wynn Chelsea Addy Long Ching Chan Joanne Chang Nikita Chelani Neha Chopra Rachel Collyer Ashley Fountain Josiane Lategan Catherine Lee Meena Muthuraman Micaelah O'Callaghan Sarah Park Sean Bott Tim Boulton Alastair Bramley Kevin Chan Vincent Chan Peter Chen Aries Cordova Phillip Ferguson Derek Fisher Karthik Jayaraman John Lee Joseph Lee Alexander Macalpine Ben May Jake Michael Mitchell Moran-Parkinson Adam Morris Nicklaus Quak Charley Walker Kirsten Baird Sapna Chauhan Yao Yao Chen Adriana Choy Lauren Davis Ahrin Ha Sophie Hatcher Nina Hrnac Arushi Kumar Lisa Lee Lisa Nichols Emily Smith Rebecca Smith Kathleen Stroinovskiy Jenny van Bruinessen Yi Qing Wang Steven Au Nathan Bergan Matthew Burnett Bryn Douglas David Fan Andrew Hancock Robert Hunter Yaroslav Laletin Daniel Lee James Luis Bryce Marsden Charles Vorobieff Tim Woodhouse Elijah Teo Emily Dollimore Natalie Fulton Anna Kim Bethany Lee Sophie McCormack Saem Park Tawar Razaghi Angela Seo Rebecca Song Lenny Thai Jessica Tjhin Estefany Vejarano Ellie Willoughby Rosie Woods Chris Allen Daniel Germolus Joshua Jung Daniel Kim Jacob Kim Darren Low Bradley McCaffery Tim Mitchell Sam Price Sathyathar Rabindranathan Dane Rhook Andrew Stone William Stone Jieming Wang Kevin Wang Paula Fasano Tessa Fewchuk Anna Gibson Emma Gulliver Cecilia Koong Bianca Lagana Suzanne Mahmoud Helen Michaels Hayley Miles Jessica Munro Sara Ooi Rachel Pope Emma Ricketts Emily Roberts Meredith Wilson Nicholas Berridge Raphael Chan David Duong Mitchell Fulton Kris Fung Ronald Han Lachlan Harte Gabriel Hyung Jefferson Lee Nicholas Lisle-Williams Hayden Masala Arjun Shah Oliver Tognetti Richard Vorobieff Grant Webster

## HONOUR ROLL

1932	Patricia Mulvaney	1949	David Martin	1966	Wendy Bruen
1933	Patricia Mulvaney	1950	Rodney Groves	1967	Neryl Jeanneret
1934	Laurance Hazlewood	1951	John Shailer	1968	Peter Gillies
1935	George Mulvaney	1952	Allan Ross	1969	Ronald Billyard
1936	Frank Sinclair	1953	John Parker	1970	Paula Banham
1937	Roger Hogan	1954	Ross Boyd	1971	Susan Crawford
1938	Milton Chapple	1955	Adrian Worrall	1972	Fiona McPherson
1939	Malcolm Waterhouse	1956	Lesley Abraham	1973	Leanne Newton
1940	Elaine Dukes	1957	Jennifer Doust	1974	Sandra Tweed
1941	Joan Dukes	1958	Anne Youll	1975	Claire Hogan
1942	John Duckworth	1959	Anne Shepherd	1976	Philip Trinder
1943	Keith Hayes	1960	Janette Wait	1977	Dale Nancarrow
1944	Dorothy Slarke	1961	Suzanne Gaveston	1978	Leanne Robinson
1945	Edward Clark	1962	Vanessa Langley		Gareth Sage
1946	Warren Selle	1963	Gary Debus	1979	Naomi Allen
1947	John Brodie	1964	Roger Wilkins	1980	David Hogan
1948	Marion Adams	1965	Catherine Shepherd	1981	Paul McLean

1982	Stuart Clarke	1989	Rebecca Strom	1996	Anna Nelson
1983	James Fagan	1990	Jason Soon	1997	Vincent Mok
1984	Katherine Fagan	1991	Sarah McMartin	1998	Joyce Lai
1985	Kathryn Clarke	1992	Tennille Noach		Nadia Tu
1986	Catherine Dean	1993	Helen Cook	1999	Yee Wing Lee
1987	Sarah McFadden	1994	Teresa Watt	2000	Melanie Sun
1988	Glen Stoddart	1995	Jamma Li	2001	Frances Hodgson

## SCHOOL CAPTAINS

1959	Jean Constable Kenneth Barnes	1974	Janet Lane David Oke	1989	Zoe Taylor Jonathan Field
1960	Phillipa Smith Graham Gordon	1975	Barbara Ellis Robert Abraham	1990	Jennifer Dearden Adam Gosling
1961	Margaret Peberdy Alan Rowley	1976	Vicki Marler Andrew Irving	1991	Clare Holland Hamish Watts
1962	Catherine Van Emden Richard Horsburgh	1977	Madeleine Inglis Philip Oke	1992	Edwina Hickey James Tesoriero
1963	Marianne Markham Leslie Jones	1978	Catherine Day Owen Nelson	1993	Liana Crowne Joshua Lodge
1964	Judith Holloman Robert Forsberg	1979	Megan Price Greg Nancarrow	1994	Yatu Widders Kevin Pickett
1965	Elizabeth Giles Warwick Barton	1980	Jodie Mackie Peter Siefken	1995	Sacha Curtis Craig Perry
1966	Denise Lego Stephen Mayhew	1981	Carolyn Scherrer John Gumbley	1996	Gillian Cook Kris Fenessy
1967	Michele Coote Peter Robertson	1982	Julie Kleinig Heath Fenton	1997	Tahira Curtis Andrew Perry
1968	Lynette Winney Stuart Armstrong	1983	Susan Manley James Fagan	1998	Bronwen Morgan Gilan Widders
1969	Margaret Moore Allan Booth	1984	Jessica Dean Cameron Scott	1999	Anna Koorey James Saunders
1970	Mitzi Green David Plumb	1985	Kathryn Clarke Andrew Hayen	2000	Cassie Hill Robert Reilly
1971	Lynda Plumb Wayne Sullivan	1986	Michaela White James Godfrey	2001	Emily Blanch Nick Allen
1972	Janis Young David Winney	1987	Robyn Baker Ben Taylor	2002	Lachlan Harte Emily Smith
1973	Debra Parker Leif Godwin	1988	Lara Howe Angus Watts		

## *The New Public School for Infants Only*

Carlingford Road, West Epping, the boundary between Hornsby Shire and the Dundas Municipality was the centre of attraction on Saturday afternoon last.

The occasion was the opening of the new Public School and Mr Beck, president of the Epping Progress Association presided over a large and influential gathering. The visitors included Mr E.K. Bowden, MHR, Major J.B. Shand, MLA, Coucillors Chapman, Robbins and Clarke of the Hornsby Shire and Major Hurley and Alderman Hazelwood of Dundas Municipality.

The chairman, in opening the proceedings gave an outline of the five years hard work which had eventuated in the building which was being opened that day. The credit for the initiation of the movement belonged to the

old West Epping Progress Association which was now amalgamated with the Epping Association and much of the credit was due personally to the late Councillor Langston and Mr Fitzsimmons their late representative in the State Parliament.

He complimented the Department of Education on the fact that the mistake apparent in some other localities of having "pocket handkerchief" plots of ground for the school premises, had been avoided. In this instance the Department had acquired a magnificent site of over 4 acres, part of which had been cleared and a fine belt of natural timber left around for shelter.

It was explained that this school was only for infants up to 8 years of age, the schools at Epping and Carlingford

being within reasonable distance for those of more mature years.

The speaker tendered an apology for Mr A.E. Bruntnell, who was Minister in charge of the Education Department when the ground was purchased, and who was to have assisted at the opening, but had been called away on urgent political business.

Mr E.K. Bowden congratulated the local people on the fine school they had secured for their little ones.

He said that in New South Wales they had a system of education that compared favourably with any in the world and urged the parents to back up the efforts of the teachers in order to obtain the fullest advantage for their children. "You can't have a successful school anywhere," he said, "unless, the parents support the teachers." Parents must not expect too much from the Department. They should think of the pressing needs in other places for essentials, and must be prepared dip into their pockets for the extras, such as tennis courts, cricket pitches, etc.

"One of the first things you will be asked for," he predicted, "is a piano. See that you provide it." (The Major Shand MLA commenced by announcing that, so far as West Epping was concerned, he was probably delivering his swan song, for that part of the electorate was not in the portion which he hoped to represent in the near future. He congratulated the residents on what had been accomplished and tendered his best wishes for the future.

Mr L.Henry, the Education Department's Inspector for the district, was then called upon by the chairman to open the building.

Mr Henry explained that he was there as a substitute for Mr Davies, Minister for Education, who was absent, fulfilling a previously accepted invitation to open another

school that afternoon "The Department," he said, " could spend much more money in the erection of schools if funds were available." He pictured some of the pressing needs in other places. The building which they were opening that day was an infant's school only.

In applying for the school, there were promises of 340 scholars, but, contrary to his usual practice, he did not urge the parents to keep their promises. 'For goodness sake,' he said, 'do not send them or we shall have to extend the premises.' There was accommodation for only 180 infants, and the elder scholars must continue to attend adjacent schools.

Continuing, the speaker said that the site of the school had cost eight hundred pounds and the cost of the building and furniture was four thousand one hundred and seventy eight pounds. The school was to be opened on the following Monday. Miss Didriksen, from Glen Innes had been appointed to the charge of the school, but would not be able to take up the duties for a few weeks. Meantime, Miss Drummond of Parramatta, with an assistant would take up the work.

Alderman Harley, (Mayor of Dundas) moved a comprehensive vote of thanks to all who had assisted to make the day's proceedings the success they undoubtedly were. He took the opportunity of giving some interesting history of the early stages of the movement.

The Epping band gratuitously contributed music to make a welcome addition to the enjoyment of the day, and the ladies of the prospective Parents and Citizens association provided refreshments.

**Article from the Cumberland Argus 5<sup>th</sup> July 1927**

**APPLICATION**

**FOR A**

**PUBLIC SCHOOL**

EPPING WEST : Application for the  
establishment of an  
Infants' Public School.

*report on*

The application for the establishment of a school at Epping West was first considered in 1923, when the applicants were informed that as there are no unreasonable obstacles to children of West Epping attending one or other of the surrounding schools, the Department could not at the present time approve of the establishment of a school at this centre.

Mr. Inspector Reay in a report dated the 30th August last stated that the situation had not altered beyond the fact that the population of West Epping has increased steadily. The number of children of Infant School age who live more than  $\frac{5}{4}$  of a mile from the Epping School, which they attend, has increased from 63 to 100. These would naturally attend West Epping were a school established there. It cannot be denied that West Epping has some claims for a school.

The Epping School, which unfortunately is not centrally placed for the community, is, however, not yet overcrowded. Until that position arises Mr. Inspector Reay, in view of the urgent building proposals elsewhere, has been unable to recommend the erection of buildings at West Epping and so leave class rooms at the existing Epping School sparsely occupied.

The Department has realised that the time is approaching when a school must be established at Epping West, and has taken steps to secure a site to meet this purpose.

Further representations have now been made to the Minister by T.H. Morrow, M.L.A. and W.J. Rule of Epping, for a review of the decision that the provision of an Infants' Public School must stand over.

Mr. Inspector Reay still maintains that there is no real obstacle to these children attending Epping.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Mr. Morrow, M.L.A. and Mr. Rule be informed that whilst the attitude of the Department is sympathetic towards the application for the establishment of an Infants' Public School at West Epping, where a site has been secured, it is felt that the establishment of such a school should stand over until the existing buildings at Epping prove inadequate for the enrolment there. This is rendered all the more necessary as there are a number of pressing cases where schools require additional accommodation, which must be regarded to have prior claims for consideration.

*aw*  
*from*  
*moderation*

Application for an Infants Public School 1925

# APPLICATION FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL

The first formal application for a new school, west of Epping railway line, appears to have been made on 14 November 1922. The application, submitted by J.A.Wotton Hon. Secretary of the Epping Parents and Citizens Association on behalf of the residents, contained the following request: *'I have the honour to request that an Infants' School may be established at West Epping. I have entered replies to all questions on this form.'*

The application included six formal pages complete with the names of ninety-three children attending local public schools at Beecroft, Carlingford, Eastwood and Epping. Listed also were the names of one hundred and twelve children who were over 4 years and under 8 years of age and who attended no public school.

It was further stated that there were two hundred and five children aged between four and eight years who lived within two miles of the proposed school.

The first names on the list were the Macallister's, Victor age 7 and Cecilia Jean age 3. Other well known Epping family names included:

*Bevan* - Vera (8), Edward (7), Eric (5) and Victor (3)

*Pogson* - Joyce (7)

*Catt* - Jack, Ross, Sheila (7)

*Ray* - Lilian (8), Victor (6), Dorothy (3)

*Abbey* - Joan, Norman (2½)

*Bellamy* - Alma (6 ½), Noel (7), Ina (4), Joyce (2)

*Hazlewood* - Edna (1), Mervyn (5)

*Lipscombe* - Marjorie (7), Gwendoline (5) and *Sonter* – Sydney (7), Ian (5), Saxon (4), Ross (2) and Venette (9 months).

The reasons for asking for the Infants School were as follows:

- Distance from existing schools
- Roads very bad in wet weather
- Danger of crossing train lines and car tracks

- Would relieve other schools which are congested

- Danger of crossing creek to attend Beecroft School.

It was further stated that: *'The population of West Epping 8 or 9 years ago was confined to a few orchardists but today we believe it has a large population and that East Epping is still growing fast.'*

The area that the proposed school was to serve was roughly a mile square and to be bounded by Ray Road and Wingrove Avenue, Victoria Street, Chesterfield Parade and Ryde Street. It was suggested that a site be found somewhere along Carlingford Road and perhaps between Midson Road and Kent Street.

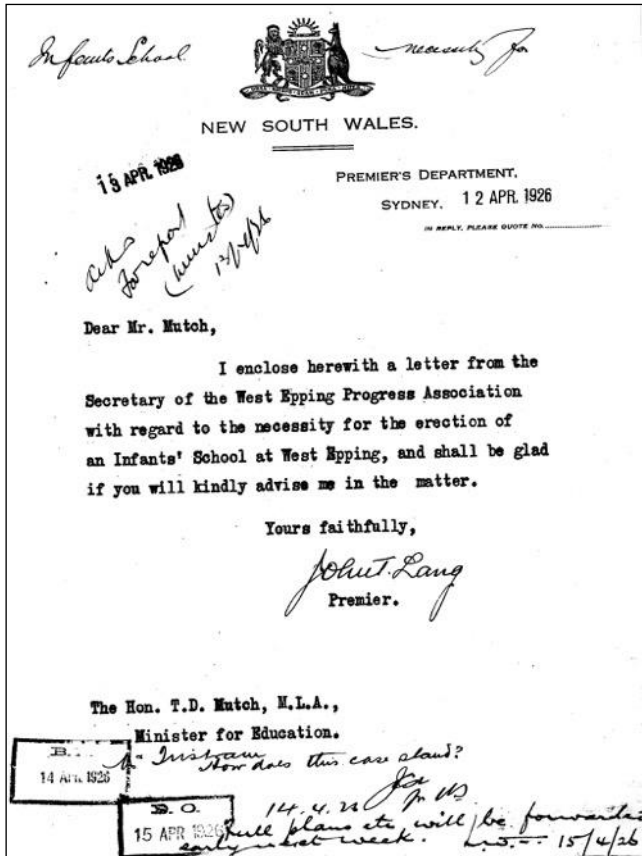
The Inspector of Schools at Chatswood, W.T. Reay, responded to the application after paying a visit to the area in the company of the Mayor of Dundas and Mr G.Lipscombe, the honorary secretary of the newly formed West Epping Progress Association. The Inspector responded to each of the reasons submitted on the application and although he was sympathetic to the building of a new school stated that:

*'Epping Public School, which had recently been enlarged, was not fully occupied and he could see no reason why the children couldn't walk to Epping School or to other neighbouring schools such as Beecroft, Carlingford and Eastwood.'*

EWPS File State Records Office (SRO)

Parents requesting the new school asked the West Epping Progress Association to write to Mr Jack Lang MLA at Parliament House, Sydney asking him to receive a deputation from them to discuss the possibility of renting a hall in Bridge Street. The Association was hoping approval would be given for a Kindergarten Class to be worked in association with the Epping Public School, but one that would not necessitate crossing the railway line and the streets around the shops, which were regarded as busy.



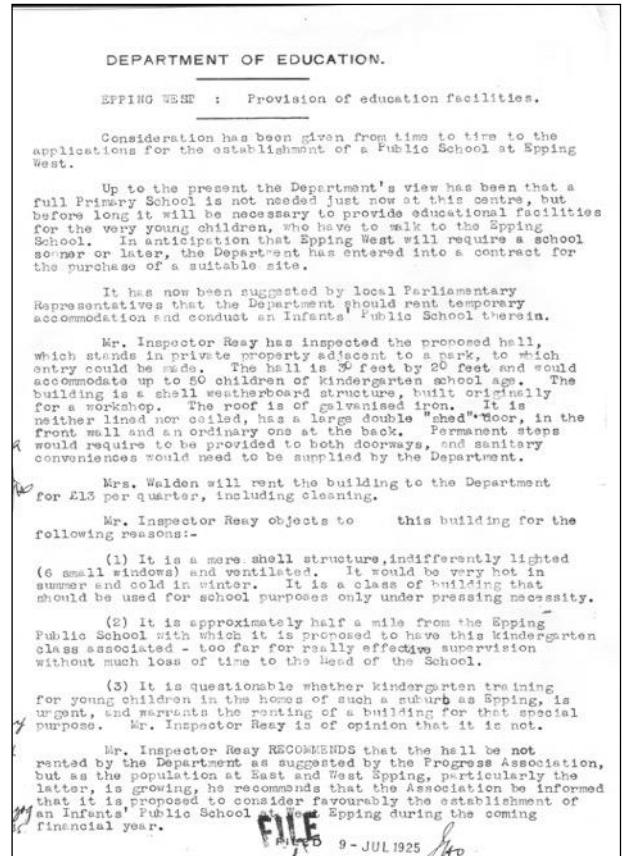


Letter from Jack Lang MLA April 1926  
EWPS File State Records Office Sydney

Mr Reay obligingly inspected the proposed hall and found the building to be 30 ft by 20 ft, a weatherboard structure with a galvanised iron roof originally built for a workshop. Mrs Walden, the owner of the premises was prepared to rent the building to the Department for thirteen pounds a quarter, including cleaning.

After examining the premises Inspector Reay recommended that the hall not be rented. As the population at both East and West Epping was growing rapidly, he recommended on 20 March 1923, that the Association be informed that it is proposed to consider favourably, 'the establishment of an Infants' Public School at West Epping during the coming financial year.'

The Department considered a full primary school, i.e. both Infants and Primary wasn't necessary in 1923 but realised that a full primary school would be built before too many years had elapsed.



Report considering building of a Public School at Epping West 1925

The Minister approved plans being prepared which were to be implemented in the new financial year and the Department set out to find a suitable site for the proposed school at West Epping. EWPS File SRO



Following subdivisions such as the Hazlewood Estate in 1923 there came a need to build a school on the western side of the railway line at Epping.  
Subdivision Map – HSHS Collection

# **LOOKING FOR A SITE**



**Timber Drawing along Pennant Parade c 1906 – Note the photographer’s bike in foreground.**  
Photo David Hazlewood – Hazlewood Collection M.L.

# LOOKING FOR A SITE

## *School Wanted - Deputation from West Epping*

On Wednesday a deputation organised by the West Epping Progress Association waited upon the Minister for Education (Mr A. Bruntnell) to urge the necessity of building a school in that progressive locality. The gathering, which was introduced by Mr Fitzsimmons MLA supported by Mr Walker MLA of West Epping, and the speakers other than the parliamentary advocates included the president of the Progress Association, the Mayor of Dundas (Alderman Greenwood), Alderman Harley, Major Birch and Mr Allen, all of whom stressed the urgency of their mission.

It was pointed out that the children of West Epping were a very considerable distance from any public school and that not only was the journey to and fro a matter of considerable inconvenience, but also was fraught with more than ordinary danger. So rapidly had the centre grown, that a big population was now in evidence, and this would be considerably increased if better facilities were given for the young. There are many children in the area who, although of school age, do not attend because

the parents were not willing to allow them to take the risk associated with a long walk. Also, many young couples with infant children were disinclined to live in the district, owing to this handicap. In reply, Mr Bruntnell stated that the greatest difficulty was the financial one. If he had plenty of funds he would gladly acquiesce to their request. He thought the site suggested by the deputation in Midson Road, was rather too small a block for the purpose. It was explained that an allotment adjoining, upon which stood a cottage, which could be utilised as a teacher's residence, might be taken in and thus an additional half-acre would be secured.

The minister, who was sympathetic throughout, informed the deputation that he would visit the locality, and arrive at a decision.

In the meanwhile West Epping will rest in hopeful anticipation.

**Article from Cumberland Argus 28 July 1923**

## **Evaluation of Various Sites**

The Valuer-General considered various sites for valuation and the first had been chosen before Inspector Reay gave his official report to the people of West Epping, as he wrote: *'Although I have not seen my way clear to recommend the establishment of this school just now, I think it would be wise to secure a site for future needs and while vacant land is available.'*

EWPS File SRO

He suggested that the Valuer-General be asked to report upon a portion of land at the corner of Midson and Carlingford Roads, West Epping in the Municipality of Dundas (now part of the Parramatta City Council).

On 10 April 1923, the Valuer-General, Mr Sieverst, put a value of one thousand, one hundred and fifty pounds on the seven allotments, an area of one and a half acres. He further reported that the area should be increased to two acres and if this couldn't be done then the Department should look for a two-acre site again in the vicinity of Carlingford Road.

In May 1923 Inspector Reay wrote to the Chief Inspector, *'recommending that the land shown*

*in the attached rough sketch be acquired while it is vacant.'*

The Valuer-General replied, *'I have now been trying in 2 or 3 cases to buy a series of lots in subdivisions and have come to the conclusion that the cheapest and most expeditious method is to put a proclamation of resumption over the lot. It is suggested that the land be acquired by resumption.'*

Mr Reay formally replied on 3 July 1923 and agreed to the proposition. Finally it was decided that the site was too small and so a second site at the corner of George and Ryde Streets was considered.

The local residents, not accepting the delay in the purchasing of the land and the building of the school organised a deputation. They *'waited on Hon. A. Bruntnell MLA Minister for Education on 27 July 1923.'* and urged for the establishment of the Infants' School now that it was a new financial year.

EWPS File SRO

The Valuer-General found the land at the corner of George and Ryde streets suitable for a school as he reported, *'This land is but a short distance from the site already reported upon. It*

is elevated with a slope southward. Approximately a frontage of 4 chains to George Street and 5 chains along Ryde Street might be secured'.

However, in November 1923, when Inspector Reay visited the site he considered it too restrictive and asked the Valuer-General to suggest another site with regard to its centrality as a school site for West Epping.

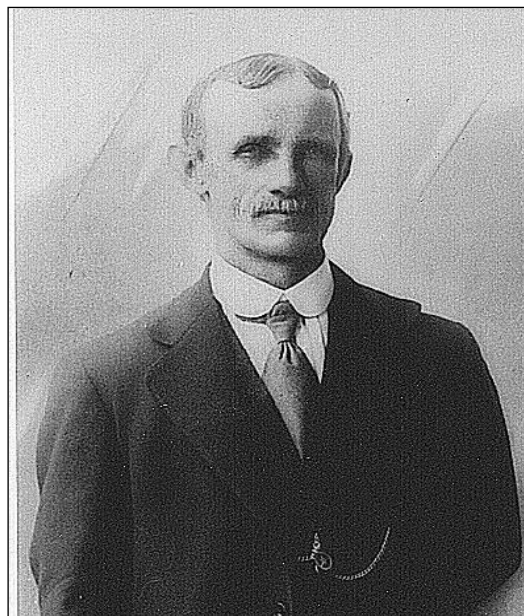
Just after Inspector Reay's visit, and no doubt at the request of the West Epping Progress Association, the Town Clerk for Dundas Municipality, Thomas Carson wrote numerous letters to various MP's. On 23rd November 1923 he wrote asking them to 'use your influence to urge upon the Hon. Minister for Education the great necessity for early action in procuring land at West Epping for school purposes.'

EWPS File SRO

## Choice of the Final Site

On 19 December 1923 Mr Reay reported to the Chief Inspector that he had visited and inspected, a four-acre block of vacant land and considered by Mr Wild of the Valuer-General's Department to be suitable as a school site. It was not far from the two previously mentioned smaller sites. He believed that if the land was secured immediately it could be purchased for eight hundred pounds, which he considered a most reasonable price.

The owner of the site in question, Cyrus William Gliddon, agreed to sell the land for the agreed price of eight hundred pounds on 8 January 1924. The area, when surveyed was 4 acres 38 ½ perch, slightly larger than it was previously understood to be. The same day the Valuer-General wrote that he wanted the matter put through quickly as the vendor was not a rich man and the completion of the matter should be expedited as soon as possible. In spite of the recommendation for the sale to go ahead quickly Mr Gliddon wrote a very polite letter in September of that year asking for a settlement.



**Cyrus Gliddon-owner of the school site 1919-1924** Photograph courtesy Ian Gliddon (grandson)

W'ford Road  
Coarlingford  
Septem. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1924  
To the Department of Public Instruction.  
Dear Sirs  
It is now about 8 months  
ago since the Government decided on  
purchasing my land at Coarlingford  
for a Public School site.  
I would be pleased to know when there  
will be a settlement for same, hoping  
that it may be at your earliest convenience.  
Thanking you in anticipation of same, I am  
Yours Faithfully  
Cyrus W. Gliddon

### Letter from Cyrus Gliddon Sept 1924

It appears there was a disagreement between the Vendor's surveyor and the surveyor acting on behalf of the Lands Department as to the description of the land. It was finally agreed to accept Mr Surveyor Marsden's report (on behalf of the Land's Department) this report being taken as the correct one. The eight hundred pounds owing to Mr Gliddon was paid into his account at the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac) on 28 May 1925. In the sixteen months it had taken for the land to be formally acquired by the Department of Education many of the trees on the property had been cut down. A letter from G. Lipscombe, Secretary of the West Epping Progress Association to the Local Member

W.R. Fitzsimmons M.L.A. informed him, *'that several large trees have been recently cut down on the block purchased by the Department for a school in West Epping and to ask that steps be taken to stop them.'*  
EWPS File SRO

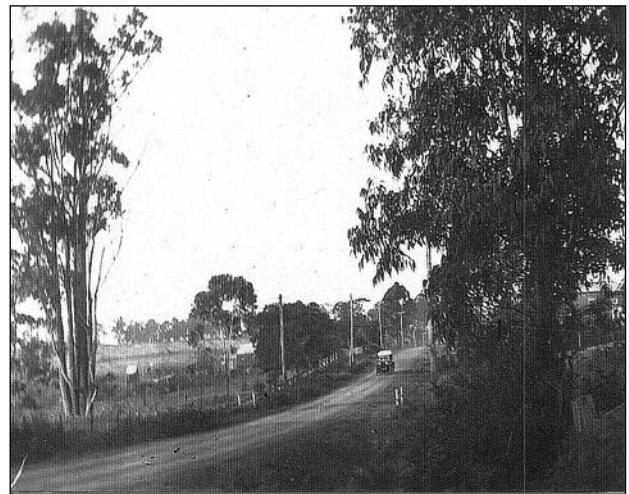
He also stated that if further trees were cut down, *'it will spoil the beauty of the site as they will not only afford shade, but situated as they are, practically around the boundaries of the block they are a natural windbreak.'*

The Department was quick to reply that, *'action is being taken for the erection of a notice warning people against interfering with the trees.'*

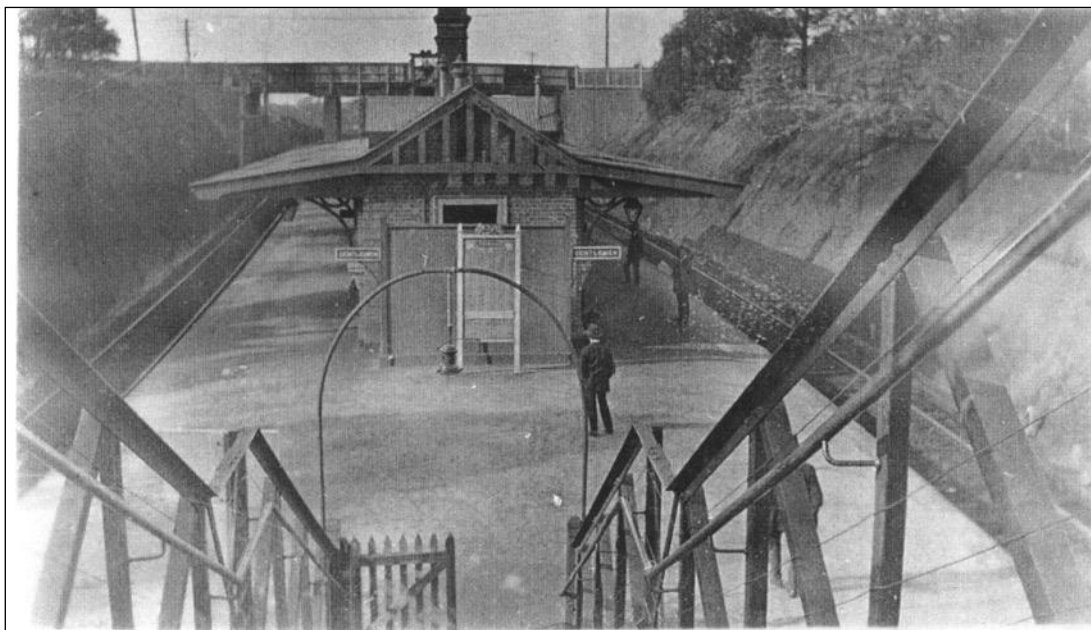
That, readers, is perhaps why for many years a NO TRESPASSING sign was clearly displayed at the front of the school.

The Under-Secretary of Education, S.H. Smith assured local residents and members of the West Epping Progress Association that,

*'further communication will be addressed to you regarding the application for the establishment of a Public School on the land in question.'* EWPS File SRO



**Carlingford Road looking east c 1920. School site is on left at top of hill. Photograph taken outside Cyrus Gliddon's home and courtesy of Ian Gliddon.**



**Epping Railway Station c 1920 showing the Honour Board for Great War Service (1914-1918)**  
Photograph Hornsby Shire Historical Society's Collection



**AWA Wireless Station West Epping - Ship to Shore Radio c 1920 (near Roselea Public School)**  
Photograph Rex Hazlewood Collection M.L.

# **BUILDING THE SCHOOL**



# BUILDING THE SCHOOL

## The Development of Modern Day Epping West

Trains had been running in New South Wales since the mid 1800s, but it was September 1886 before a line was opened from Strathfield to Hornsby. Four trains a day stopped at the five stations originally sited between Strathfield and Hornsby, with the middle one of these being called Field of Mars. This name later changed to East Carlingford. In 1899 the members of the local Progress Association of the village that had developed around the railway line voted to call the station Epping. The opening of the railway line changed forever the character of this quiet rural area. More subdivisions of the land were made and orchards, market gardens, poultry farms and some dairies were established. Daily commuters travelled to Sydney by steam train. Being on the direct route from Sydney to Newcastle, the railway line was duplicated in 1909 and electrification of the main northern line to Hornsby completed in 1929. Local

orchardists and farmers used the railway to send their produce to the Sydney markets, until the end of World War Two, when road transport took over this task.

Shortly after the opening of the new line, the Government offered for sale a subdivision of part of the Field of Mars. The land was subdivided into blocks of a fair size. Only the streets were cleared and much timber remained on the land. Several other land sales were held both east and west of the railway line and this marked the beginning of a new Sydney suburb.

Owing to the steep grade on which the original station platform was built, at the western end of Chester Street, it was decided to build a new platform one hundred yards or so to the south and a level crossing was constructed at Pembroke Street.

## Building the School

Once the land was secured, the West Epping Progress Association continued to lobby the Department to begin work on the construction of a school building. Mr G.A. Lipscombe, as Honorary Secretary wrote to the Department requesting that, *'the approved Infants' School be built as soon as possible stating that, as the hall 'found' was deemed unsuitable then there was a need to build a permanent school on the site.'*

He went on to say, *'The population is increasing rapidly and the want of a school in that centre is more evident every day'*. He further pointed out that once the school was erected it would greatly relieve the overcrowding of neighbouring schools particularly Eastwood.'

EWPS File SRO

The Department requested the Government Architect, Mr W.G. Craighead, to prepare plans

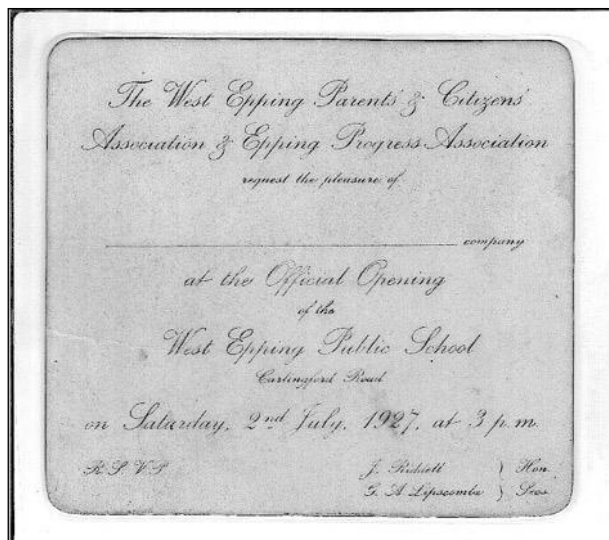
and specifications, which were presented on 17 August 1925. The Infants' School was to consist of four classrooms and teachers' rooms and Mr Craighead estimated the cost would be in the region of three thousand, two hundred and forty-four pound and twelve shillings.

The Department expected the work to cost four thousand, three hundred and seventy pound. Tenders were called and the contract was awarded to Arthur Quiggan of Ryde who submitted the lowest tender of four thousand, one hundred and seventy-eight pound. He exceeded the contract by eleven weeks *'owing to the difficulty of obtaining water for the concrete work of the foundations through defect in one of the water mains.'*

Fortunately for Mr Quiggan the Department recognized that the delay was unavoidable and no penalties were imposed.

## Official Opening

The premises were completed and ready for occupation on 4th July 1927 and the official opening of the school took place on Saturday 2nd July. Forty three pupils enrolled on Monday 4th July 1927.

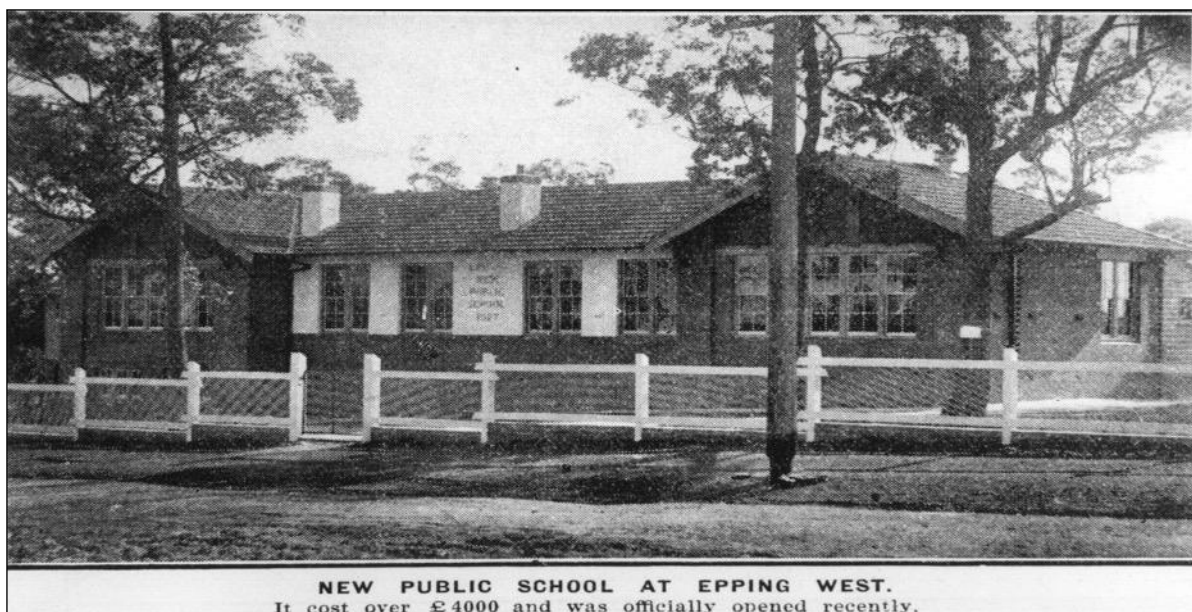


**The invitation issued by the Epping Progress Association to official guests. NB The name West Epping rather than Epping West – the correct name of the school. EWPS Archives**

The P&C Association (their letterhead always had West Epping Parents and Citizens Association), which had been formed in May 1927 immediately made application to the Department for permission to hold their monthly meetings in one of the classrooms and requested the installation of electric light.

A reply was received a month after the school opened stating that electric light was not yet available for domestic purposes and Hornsby Shire Council (incorporated in 1906) was asked to make the lighting available to the school. Council's response was to state that the necessary consumers' mains did extend along Carlingford Road. They promised that when a transformer was provided in Kent Street, the new school would be given a supply unconditionally upon not less than three private consumers also agreeing to take the current. This was, of course, subject to funds becoming available.

A short time later the transformer was installed in close proximity to the school and the P & C specifically asked that lights be installed in the larger Kindergarten room. A curt reply was received from the Department stating that, '*it is against the practice of the Department to sanction this!*' Two lights only were provided. One in classroom 2 and a second in the office.



**Sydney Morning Herald photograph obtained from State Library of NSW**



**Notson's Garage on the corner of Carlingford and Beecroft Roads c 1938.**

**Note the horse and cart heading south along Beecroft Road.**

Photograph courtesy Hornsby Shire Council Local Studies Librarian

# **HEADS OF SCHOOL**

# HEADS OF SCHOOL

## HILDA DRUMMOND

1927

The first appointed head of the school was that of a temporary nature made to **Miss Hilda Drummond** who had trained and qualified as an Infants' teacher in 1913-14 and who had been teaching in schools in the Parramatta area for some years. Miss Drummond accepted responsibility for the school until Miss Violet Didriksen could take up her appointment as Infants' Mistress. It appears the only formal communication made by Miss Drummond was to support the application of Miss Eva Dengate to become the school cleaner.



Temperance Pledge signed 26.2.01 by Eva Dengate the school's first cleaner

Elizabeth Paine who was the first assistant teacher appointed to the school witnessed the application.

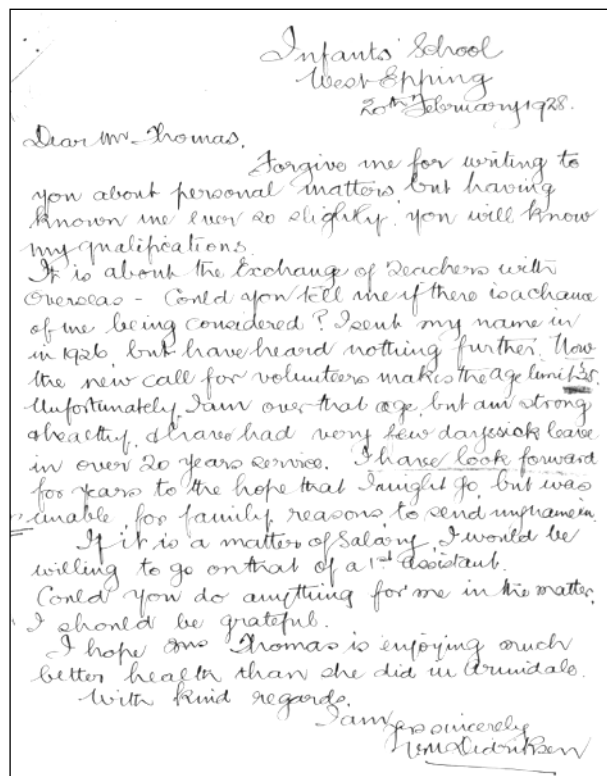


Miss Paine's Class 1927 EWPS Archives

## VIOLET DIDRIKSEN

1927 - 1931

**Miss Violet Didriksen** became Mistress at Epping West Infants School on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1927 but there is no record as to why she wasn't available to take up her duties when the school opened. She had been Infants' Mistress at Glen Innes West and had applied to become an Exchange Teacher and was perhaps awaiting a reply to her application before deciding whether to move to a city school. A second application for consideration to become an Exchange Teacher was made in July 1928 but she was informed that, '*under the present system no provision was made for the exchange of Mistresses and an interview would not serve any purpose.*' Miss Didriksen must have been keen to travel as a third application to become an Exchange Teacher in Canada was submitted in 1929 but again her application was unsuccessful.



Miss Didriksen's Exchange Teacher application 1928

From (Name and office of writer) *Miss Didriksen Mistress*  
 To *Miss Thomas Esq. B.A. Chief Inspector of Schools Syarif.*  
 SUBJECT (Title statement of subject matter, written in full) *Application for kindergarten teacher*  
 REFERENCE (Give and Head Office registered number of previous correspondence on this matter)

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

Dear Sir,  
 I wish to apply for a Kindergarten Teacher for the above school. The present enrolment is 59 and enclosed is a list of children eligible for the Kindergarten class at the present time.

I am  
 yrs faithfully  
 (Miss) *Miss Didriksen*

*There is ample accommodation for a Kindergarten class. I recommend favourable consideration of application when teacher is available.*

*Miss Didriksen*  
 31/8/27

*Before Miss Didriksen was aware of the present shortage of teachers, it is not possible to make an answer at this time. She does not know her application as the only one.*  
 JRT  
 Miss  
 20/11/27

**Miss Didriksen's application for a Kindergarten Teacher August 1927 EWPS File SRO**

The Parents and Citizens body appears to have been quite active as within a short while of the school opening Mr Riddell, as their representative, made a personal visit to the Department. He stated that they, 'had laid out a lawn and garden plots,' and asked if water could be connected to the school premises.

Trespassing in the grounds must have continued to be a problem as two further NO TRESPASSING signs were erected in 1929. This followed complaints made to police at Epping that boys were coming into the school grounds and shooting birds with air guns.

The first of the Fancy Dress Competitions, which were to become a feature of school days at Epping West, took the form of a Children's Party on Saturday, 19 October 1929. The following year a Peter Pan party was held at the school.

Snakes in the playground appear to have been the bane of Miss Didriksen's life as she wrote to the Department in November 1930 stating that she had killed two young ones making a total of five killed by her that year. It appears the P&C had conducted several working bees and paid two out of work men to clear part of the grounds. The school inspector suggested that a member of the Department's gardening staff be sent out with instructions to do the

necessary clearing. At the end of the following year Miss Didriksen wrote stating that she had killed thirteen snakes and a request was made to Eastwood Fire Brigade for permission to burn the harbouring grass in the playground.

As the original enrolment of Kindergarten children progressed through the school, requests were made to the Department as to when the school would have a Primary Department. The first such application was made to the Department in June 1929 but was declined, as there was room for quite a few children at Epping Public School. In October 1930 the staff consisted of the Mistress and two assistants there being, at that time, a total enrolment of one hundred and twenty seven pupils with an average attendance of just less than a hundred.



**Miss Didriksen's 2nd and Upper 1st class 1927**  
 EWPS Archives

Miss Didrikson received favourable reports from the school inspectors who paid annual visits to the school and some of the written comments are as follows: 'Kindly encouragement is accorded to the pupils and their school life is made a very pleasant experience. 'Up to date methods of presentation are being followed and as the Assistant teacher is experienced in Infants School work, the foundation will be increasingly effective.' 12/10/1927

'School is a very pleasant place for the little ones, relations are very satisfactory to all concerned, the children are treated kindly and courteously and in the great majority of cases they respond readily.'

'No cases of corporal punishment have been found necessary.' 16/3/28

'A very pleasing atmosphere prevails at the school. The teachers manage their respective classes with tact and forbearing and are quietly yet consistently fostering habits of cleanliness, obedience, self-control and courtesy.' B.J.Price Inspector 26/4/29

EWPS Archives



The Epping West General Store Carlingford Road c 1930 Photograph courtesy Dengate family

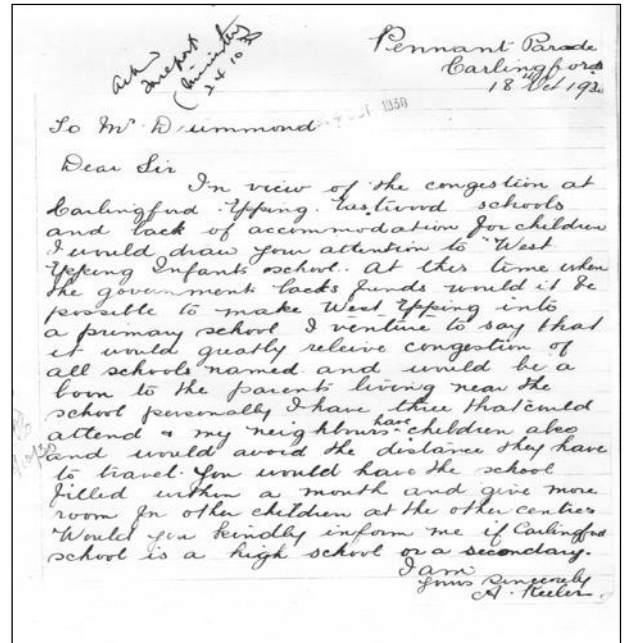
## The Primary Department

Mrs Keeler of Pennant Parade wrote to the Department asking what their intentions were regarding the Primary Department. As she rightly pointed out, if there was a Primary Department then older children could walk the younger children to school and so children of infants' ages living close to West Epping would not have to attend neighbouring schools.

In August 1931 the Department received a deputation from the P&C Association regarding the establishment of Primary classes at the school.

It was recommended that:

- 1) Third and Fourth Classes be formed at the beginning of 1932, a Fifth Class in 1933 and a Sixth Class in 1934.
- 2) A Headmaster be appointed in lieu of the Mistress.
- 3) All children in the district be required to attend the school nearest their homes.



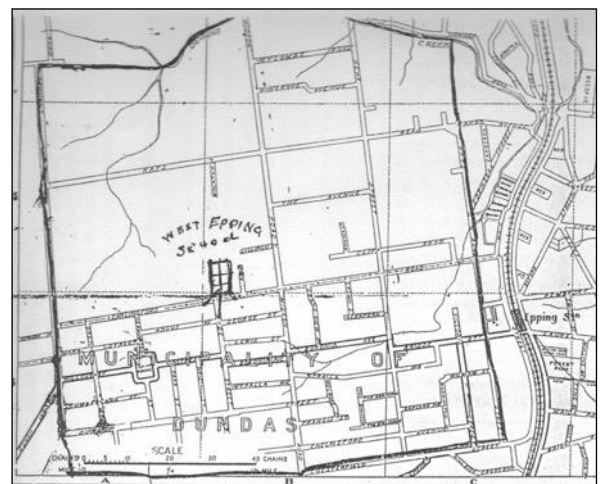
Letter from Mrs Keeler October 1930

EWPS Archives

The deputation stated that there were concerns by parents over the older children having, in some cases, to walk over two miles to neighbouring schools at Carlingford, Epping and Eastwood.

The Department agreed to the requests and a Headmaster was appointed to the school for the 1932 school year.

When Mr Bailes was appointed headmaster, Violet Didriksen accepted the position as Mistress at Ferncourt Infants School.



Map from H.E.C. Robinson Street Directory showing the area Epping West School covered c1930.

## JOHN BAILES

### 1932 - 1937



**John Bailes** took up his appointment on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1932 and enrolments increased very quickly during his first term. One hundred and twenty eight children were enrolled on 5<sup>th</sup> February and there were one hundred and eighty three just over a month later. For the first time since the school had been constructed all classrooms at the school were fully occupied. The school was classified as Class 5.

*'The school was raised to Primary status as from the beginning of 1932 and the Headmaster has had to deal with the problems of organisation that go with every such change. Owing to the considerable influx of new pupils the accommodation has been fully taxed.'*

School Report EWPS Archives



3rd Class 1932 EWPS Archives

There came the need at the end of 1932 for additional accommodation to be provided for the following year as Mr Bailes was teaching both 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes - a total of 82 students in the one room.

The proposal by the Department to provide portable buildings in the region was met with resistance by the Meadowbank to Beecroft

District Council of P&C Associations who supported the application by Epping West parents to have only permanent buildings erected at the school.

However, as a temporary but necessary measure, a single portable was relocated from Balgownie Public School at a cost of ninety-six pound, seven shillings and five pence. This included painting, plumbing and glazing.

It is interesting to note on a plan of the school drawn by the headmaster that the portable was located west of the main building. In later plans the portable is to the east of the main building and there are no records indicating that the building was moved at any time.

A class of forty eight children moved into the portable as soon as an assistant teacher was appointed to make a staff of five including the head. No heating was provided in the classroom and at the end of the winter, and no doubt following many requests to the Department, the Vice-President of the P & C Association personally called on the Minister to make a request for heating to be provided in the lone classroom. This visit proved successful for on October 1933, a 'stove' was installed in the portable classroom.

With more children now playing in the grounds it became a concern to both Mr Bailes and the P & C that although the playground had been cleared of undergrowth nothing had been done about the lopping of the many large trees. The P & C made an offer the Department couldn't refuse – they would bear all costs relating to the tree lopping provided that the Department gave them the necessary permission.



Permission was promptly granted. However, when the keen P & C body looked closely at the tree lopping project, financial help had to be requested from the Department as there were no volunteers willing to carry out the work.

*'The P&C Association is to be commended for the keen practical interest it continues to manifest in the welfare of the school. During the year the playground has been cleared of undergrowth and much useful equipment, including eighty new library books, provided. Good work has been done in the garden'.*

B.J.Price Inspector June 1933.

EWPS Archives



#### **Reggie Moss's Gould League Certificate 1933**

By May 1934 with the extension of the school to include Sixth Class, enrolments had reached two hundred and ninety six with an average daily attendance of two hundred and thirty. With this came the need to seek further accommodation for one class.

Fortunately the local Congregational Church elders offered their Sunday School room at a rental of one pound per week plus cleaning expenses which the school cleaner, Miss Eva Dengate, was willing to do for five shillings a week.

The Epping Congregational Church had decided to build a branch church and Sunday School hall in George Street, West Epping to encourage worship for those unable to travel regularly to the main church in Chester Street. The first choice of a site for the church had been at the corner of Midson Road and Dunlop Street but fortunately for the school the alternative and far more convenient site was selected.

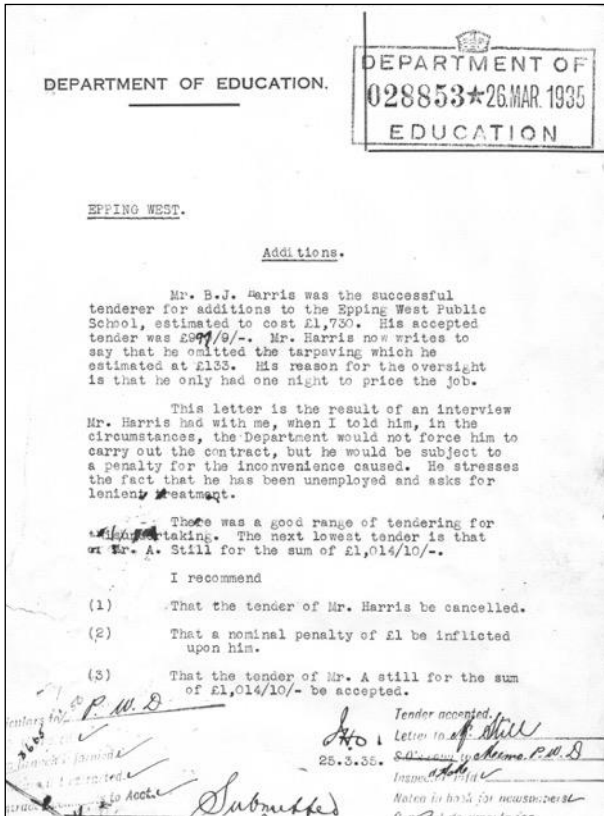
*D.Pulsford 'Minutes to Remember' 1948*

The debt on the West Epping Church building meant repayments of eighty eight pound per annum were to be made to the lender, the Home Mission Board and the rental from the Department must have been a considerable help to the fledgling congregation. Occupation of the Sunday school room allowed the class of thirty four pupils, occupying a narrow verandah space (28'x 8') at the school, to move into the church hall at the beginning of the winter term.

Following negotiations made through Major J.B. Shand MLA, approval was given for extensions to be made to the original brick building. The P & C put forward the following suggestions hoping they would be considered before the plans were finalised:

1. Additions to be built on the western side of the building as there are no weathersheds in the grounds and the building could be built over a basement which, in turn, could serve as a weathershed.
- 2 The building would serve as a windbreak from the westerly winds and the children could line up comfortably on the asphalt.
- 3 If built on the eastern side then seven or more beautiful trees will have to be cut down as they are in the line of any new additions. (It appears the Department did not give these suggestions any consideration.)

Again the P & C requested that a deputation consult with the Minister for Education, Mr Drummond, asking that the approved extensions be completed as soon as possible. This was because, as well as increasing enrolments, the P & C *'had an aversion to the question of temporary rooms being placed in our model grounds.'*



**Letter concerning tender for the school additions  
1935 EWPS Archives**

Mr Arthur Still of Ashfield was the approved contractor for the extension, which was to consist of two classrooms, two hat rooms and extensions to the outbuildings. The extensions were to be completed in brick to match the original building and tar paving of the playground was also to be carried out. While the painters were employed painting the extensions Mr Bailes wrote to the Department, *'respectfully to renew my application of 16 July 1935, for painting interior walls and dados of four rooms at EWPS. The walls are in a very bad state, nothing having been done since the erection of the building in 1927.'*

Interior painting of the existing building was approved at a cost of eighty one pound, thirteen shillings and eleven pence. The Congregational church hall, vacated when the building work was completed, was used by classes whose rooms were being repainted. Mr Bailes wanted to have blackboards fitted to the classrooms walls but the Department said the expense *'could not be justified,'* so it is assumed teachers continued to use blackboards and easels.

Now that there were classes K-6 at the school the P & C body, through the secretary, Mr

Haines, requested the appointment of a visiting sewing mistress to replace the wife of the headmaster who had *'automatically retired from the service.'* Despite enrolment numbers being in the region of two hundred and ninety the Department replied that, *'numbers do not warrant the appointment of a Teacher of Needlework'*.

Besides giving valuable support when applications were submitted to obtain a full complement of teaching staff, the P & C Association also raised funds for the purchase of over two hundred books to be placed in class libraries. A Mothers' Club was also operating at the school by October 1933.



**School Staff c 1935 Back Row: Mr Kelsey, Mr Bailes (Headmaster) Mr Doughton Front Row: Miss Bowen, Miss Tillet, Mrs Angel, Miss Inman**

The additions to the school were officially opened on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1935 and, in spite of not wanting portable classrooms in the grounds, a request was made to have the portable, (installed 2 years previously) retained as predicted enrolments for the forthcoming year meant it would be required as a classroom.

In April 1935 Mr Bailes asked that fixed desks be removed from three of the classrooms. He felt portable desks would be better as they could be moved without too much trouble. This would enable rooms to be used as an assembly area for special assemblies such as Empire Day and also for the screening of films and this appears to have been carried out in the classrooms occupied by Infants' classes.

24085 2.32

PUBLIC SCHOOL *School at* EPPING WEST

*Inspection, 17th, 18th, 19th JULY 1934*

**OBSERVATIONS AND DIRECTIONS OF THE INSPECTOR.**

**I.—ATTENDANCE:—** Mr John Bailes Head Master  
 289 Mr Kelsey First Assistant  
 281 Mrs Abgel, Misses Tillette, Miss Beals  
 and Mr Doughton Assistants.

**II.—ORGANIZATION:—**

**BUILDING** is in very good order but inadequate and external extensions are desirable. The First Classroom is rather small for the large numbers involved. The rooms are neatly arranged.

**EQUIPMENT.** Much of the seating accommodation is unsuitable and an exchange is desirable.

**CLASSIFICATION.** In all the classes there are individual cases of retardation. There is a tendency to keep some of the younger children over-long in First Class. This should be watched most carefully.

**RECORDS.** In all cases these were posted to date. Some of the Programmes are badly written, particularly Third Class which does not reflect at all favourably on the teacher concerned. The books in question are not only Programmes but Registers of work done also. This aspect must not be overlooked.

**AIDS.** Many good aids are in evidence. Those in Fifth Class are above the average and set a good standard. In the lower classes more Reading and Arithmetic cards would help towards securing more self activity and independent work. A good Yard map is very desirable.

**GROUNDS.** Few schools have more pleasant surroundings than this school. The trees are a great asset and the naming of them was a very good idea well carried out. If tree-consciousness is implanted early in life it will soon be reflected in civic life. More would seem possible in the way of garden plots. A definite scheme should be adopted and extended to Tree Planting.

**School Inspection Report July 1934**

The boys at least must have keenly pursued sport as the following comment was made in the school report, April 1935

*'The success of the Cricket Competition is worthy of record.'*

EWPS Archives

The number of children continued to grow and in November 1935 there was an enrolment of three hundred and thirteen pupils with the following class numbers:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> class – 61 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> class - 49 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> class – 47 | 4 <sup>th</sup> class – 45 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> class – 53 | 6 <sup>th</sup> class – 58 |

Mr Bailes pointed out that he expected thirty one students to pass on to High and Superior Primary Schools but he was expecting to enrol over forty new pupils in Infants classes the following year. The portable building was again occupied and an urgent request was submitted for desks. With the number of girls in the primary department now ninety seven

Mr Bailes once again asked for a special sewing mistress. He received the standard reply, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1936, *'Numbers do not warrant the appointment of a special teacher of Needlework'*.

EWPS File SRO



**1st Class 1936 - Note the number of boys**

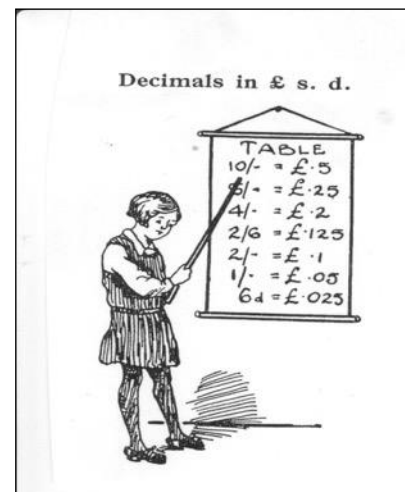
At the end of first term in 1937 John Bailes decided to leave Epping West and take about three months Long Service Leave prior to his retirement.

John Bailes, who had *'entered on duty'* at Wombat Public School on 20 February 1893 retired from the Department on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in August 1938 having been a respected member of the NSW Teaching Staff for forty five years.

NSW Teacher Records



**5th Class 1937 Photographs EWPS Archives**

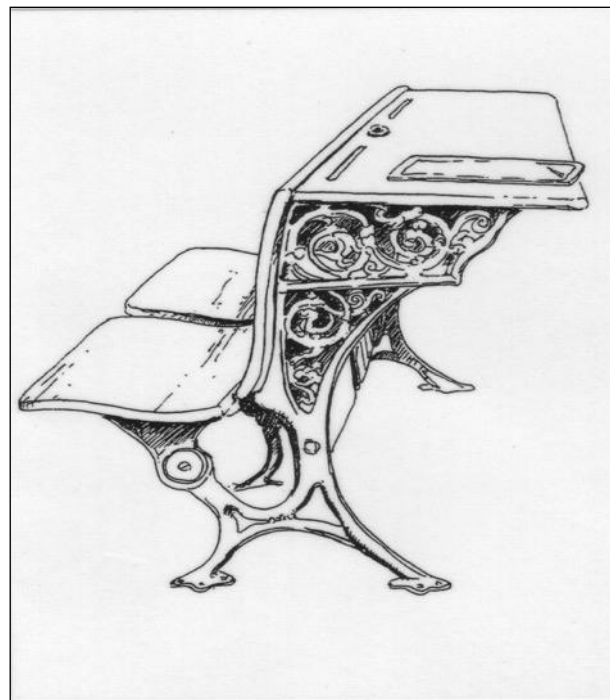


# STANLEY SMALL

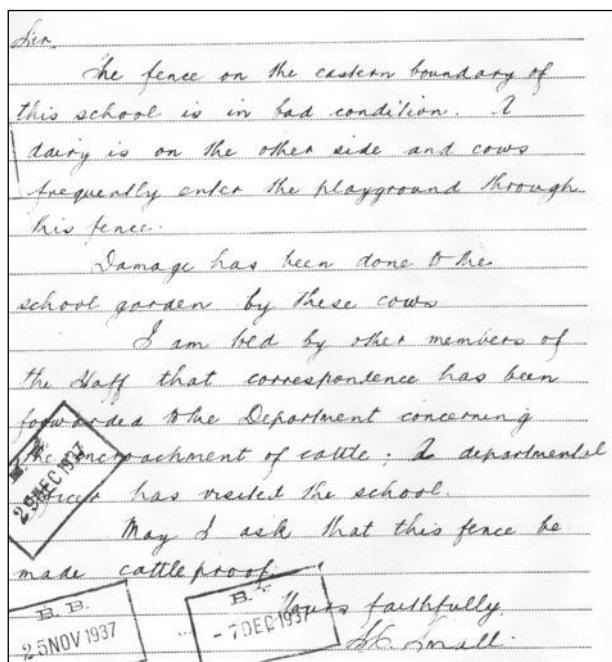
1937

**STANLEY SMALL** was appointed relieving head of the school in August 1937 for one term when John Bailes applied for Long Service Leave prior to his anticipated retirement at the end of August.

The only correspondence on file in the departmental records from Mr Small is one relating to the matter of the fence on the eastern boundary.



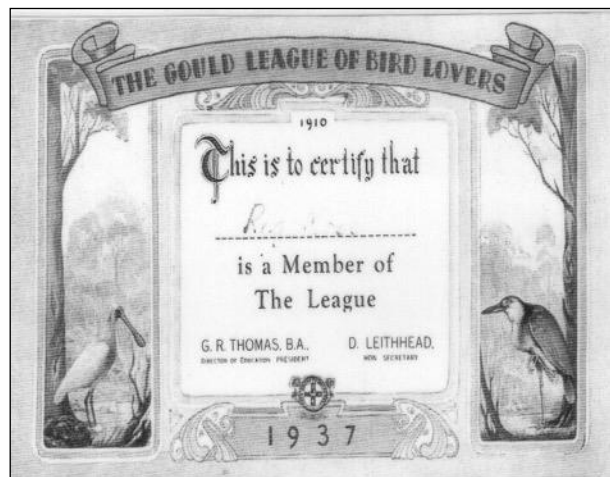
Example of a desk used by children in NSW schools at this time



Stanley Small's letter concerning cows in the playground and the need for new fencing 1937  
EWPS Archives

Mr Small was transferred to Merrylands Public School at the close of the 1937 school year.

From Mr Small's teaching record it appears he went all over the state acting in a relieving capacity as he only remained in a school for a term or two. He assisted at well over one hundred schools during his teaching career.  
NSW Teacher Records



Gould League Certificate 1937

## EDWARD ALFRED MOONEY 1938-1947



**EDWARD ALFRED MOONEY** entered the teaching service as a Pupil Teacher on 8 March 1898 aged fifteen years. He took up duties as head of Epping West in January 1938, a position he would hold for ten years.

NSW Teacher Records

From information provided by his daughter, Kathy Willings, we learn that Edward Mooney taught in and around the Rugby area (Crookwell-Harden) at the turn of the century and in 1904 taught at Grassy Creek in a 'wattle and daub shack' labelled a Half Time School.



**Ted Mooney taught at Grassy Creek Half-Time School in 1904 and ended his career at Epping West in 1947.** Photograph courtesy Kathleen Willings nee Mooney

In 1912 Edward Mooney became an instructor in Junior Cadet Training (following the Defence Act of 1908 which meant that all young men had to participate in some military training) and in 1913 he was appointed Organising Officer of the Rural Camp Schools. During the 1914-15 period he was organiser of Swimming Parades at the Domain Baths and it is believed he was responsible for the learn-to-swim campaigns being conducted for children attending state

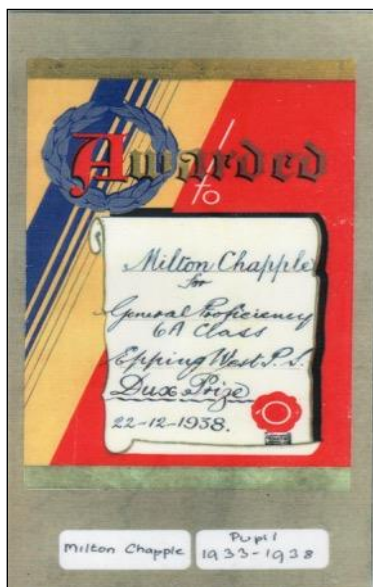
schools. Vacation swimming schools were introduced in 1926. Learning to swim, for pupils over nine years old, became compulsory in the late 1920s and by the end of the 1930s over five thousand pupils were learning to swim during their holidays and another sixty thousand were involved in swimming as part of their summer school sport.

*\* Sydney and the Bush Ed Dept 1980. \**

When war broke out in 1914 Edward Mooney was appointed to the Musketry Staff at the Liverpool Camp. When his application to be transferred to the AIF was refused he managed to have himself discharged and immediately joined the AIF and served in both Belgium and France in the artillery.

He returned home a married man having met his wife in Ireland at the conclusion of the war. He was in poor health and spent some time in Bodington Hospital in the Blue Mountains. When he regained his health he became deputy principal of Lindfield Public School and was appointed to Peak Hill and then Hay as headmaster.

Epping West was fortunate indeed to secure the services of such a man in 1938.



### Dux Prize awarded to Milton Chapple December 1938

A school report dated November 1938 gives us an insight into the functioning of the school under Mr Mooney.

*'The P&C Association is an active and energetic body and co-operates well with the Headmaster and staff. The Gould League has a membership of one hundred and forty two and children have erected and fenced a bird sanctuary. The Junior Red Cross, with a membership of twenty nine members supplies books and eggs to the hospital and has also made various articles of clothing for the Central Association. A Safety Patrol is in operation and a team took part in the recent Police Carnival.*

*Of seventeen candidates who sat for the recent Health and Safety Examination sixteen were successful in gaining places.*

*There are one hundred and fifty three Junior Tree Wardens and each member is in charge of some particular shrub or tree. There are one hundred and ninety three members in the League of Nations Union.'*

School report by Inspector C. Taylor EWPS Archives

Reports written by various inspectors while Mr Mooney was head were always favourable. As the reports made mention of everything from the state of the buildings and grounds to whether teachers were achieving the correct tone in singing lessons, school inspections must have been a very trying time for the headmasters.

The children at the school were allowed what many would consider 'treats' while he was headmaster. In a short space of time they attended three movie performances at Eastwood Theatre and on the first application Mr Mooney advised the department the children were required to **march** two miles to the cinema.


### SPECIAL FILM MATINEE FOR SCHOOLS

An outstanding feature of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations was the production of a magnificent film representing the growth of Australia from 1788 to 1938. Produced by Capt. Frank Hurley, in conjunction with Cinesound Productions Ltd. for the N.S.W. Government and the Centenary Celebrations Committee, "A NATION IS BUILT" is a delightful screen story of a century and a hall of National Progress and achievement. The picture carries the enthusiastic endorsement of His Excellency the Governor of N.S.W., Lord Wakehurst, the Hon. B. B. Stevens, Premier of N.S.W., and every member of our Parliament. To the youth of Australia the film makes special appeal, and the organisers of School Films Matinees have pleasure in announcing that "A NATION IS BUILT" has now been obtained for special benefit of schools and will be screened at suburban centres and throughout the country districts on dates to be arranged.

The Hon. D. H. Drummond, Minister for Education, commends the picture and desires the attendance of schools to see this most inspiring educative picture, the best ever screened for schools. Supporting films approved by the Minister and the Director of Education are added.

— PROGRAMME —	
(1) "NEW ZEALAND PICTORIAL"	10 minutes
(2) "SPECIAL AUSTRALIAN GAZETTE" <i>Pacific Isles</i>	10 minutes
(3) "VOICE OF BRITAIN"	22 minutes
(4) "A NATION IS BUILT"	60 minutes
(5) COMEDY CARTOON	5 minutes

TOTAL SCREENING TIME: 107 minutes.



### Movie Programme 1938

The eastern boundary fence proved to be a problem in the early years of Mr Mooney's term as head. The owner of the dairy, Mr A.G. Bevan, complained that his share of the cost of the dividing fence was far in excess of what he expected or was prepared to contribute to its maintenance. In spite of letters to Mr Bevan's solicitors no money towards fence maintenance was forthcoming and the matter was finally put into the hands of the Crown Solicitor.

The recommendation put forward was as follows: *'Recommend that the correspondent be informed that the Department agreed to accept the amount offered by Mr Bevan, that is seventeen pound, towards the cost of this work which was estimated at approximately fifty six pounds, seventeen shillings and sixpence, as in accordance with the usual practice under the Dividing Fence Act, 1902, adjoining owners are required to assist towards the cost of any repairs or renewals on a common boundary.'*

EWPS File SRO

Mr Mooney must have been somewhat relieved in 1939 when the fencing saga that had begun

in 1934 was over and the fence was satisfactorily repaired.



**Football Team 1940** EWPS Archives

As Ted Mooney was headmaster for the duration of WW2, he and his staff were probably involved in first aid classes or became air raid wardens. Schools were responsible for digging their own air raid trenches and the ones at Epping West were dug, probably by parents, at the western side of the playground. Windows had to be papered over and pictures taken down to prevent injury from flying glass. No doubt Mrs Angel organised 'knitting circles' as thousands of scarves, face washers and socks made by schoolchildren were sent overseas to Australian troops.

By mid-1943 the emergency was over, the paper came off the windows, pictures were rehung and trenches filled in.

\* Sydney and the Bush ED 1980\*



**2nd Class 1940** Photograph courtesy Barbara Hinton

Another paragraph in the notes prepared by Kathy Willings about her father reads as follows: 'I remember my father sitting at the

dining room table at home very late at night correcting piles of exercise books. He made beautiful plasticine maps of Australia and the world, with mountain ranges in relief and major cities marked but not named. One map of each kind was framed and put under glass like a picture and I think there was one in a sand tray as well. I have a vague memory of sand tray maps in second class so perhaps we could actually touch them. As an older student struggling to make my free-hand maps of Australia look vaguely recognisable, I remember being amazed at how accurately dad could draw maps. It was a skill he wasn't able to pass on to me!

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. 42/B7/14559

8 MAR 1943  
EPPING WEST.

*Additional*  
Accommodation.

The Headmaster of the Epping West Public School has applied for permission to rent the Congregational Church Hall as additional accommodation for the school.

Enrolment of several children in the Kindergarten section was refused last year owing to accommodation difficulties. Instructions were then issued to the Headmaster to admit all children who applied for enrolment and to advise the Department when the school accommodation became overtaxed. In his report of 9th February, 1943, the Headmaster gives the following enrolment figures:-

CLASS.	TOTAL
6	35
5	34
4	42
3rd)	28)
2A)	20)
2B)	19)
1A)	25)
1B)	43
K.	25)

On the day of the report the teacher in charge of 1B and Kindergarten had an attendance of 65. Mr. Inspector Harford recommended:-

(a) that an additional teacher be appointed.  
(b) that the Congregational Church Hall be hired at £1.0.0 per week to provide accommodation for another class.

The Registrar advised that an additional assistant has now been appointed to this school.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for the renting of the Congregational Hall at £1.0.0 per school week plus cleaning.

*W.D.*  
*27*  
*6-2-43*

*eh*  
4/3/43.

**Report requesting Additional Accommodation  
March 1943**

Epping West always held their own sports days as well as participating in District Sports Carnivals organised by the Public Schools Amateur Athletics Association (PSAAA)

The school sports days were held on either Eastwood or Cheltenham oval. During the 1940s Hudson and Platter, the local removalist firm would provide transport for the sporting equipment necessary to ensure the smooth running of a day's programme. A few

'privileged' children (always boys!) were permitted to ride on the back of the truck while

the rest of the children either marched or walked to the sporting venue.

When Mr Mooney indicated he was going to retire at the end of 1947 the Sixth Class pupils made a farewell gift from the students. It was a plaid, flannelette dressing gown made under the supervision of Mrs Player, the Needlework teacher. Marianne McGowan (nee Turner) remembers that someone was always guarding the door while the sewing took place. Everyone did some of the sewing - even the boys were 'encouraged' by the girls to do their share.



**The author, Pat Dewey (nee McCallum), - Transition Class 1947 at School Concert (Mrs Shailer's Class)**

Edward Mooney retired from the teaching service at the end of 1947 but continued to do casual teaching in the Epping area for many years. When he was in his eighties he taught the children at Epping Primary School to play chess. He died in May 1979 at the age of ninety five having devoted most of his life to the education of children in NSW schools.



**5th Class 1946 1h Class 1946 EWPS Archives**



**Kindergarten 1946 EWPS Archives**



**2nd Class 1946**

Photograph courtesy Lyn Marsden nee Parr



**6th Class 1947 Teacher Mr Mooney**

Photograph courtesy Marianne McGowan





## USE OF THE SCHOOL BY NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

During the Second World War the NES (National Emergency Services) was granted permission to use public schools as depots and Epping West was no exception. The National Emergency Services were formed under the leadership of Hon. R.J. Heffron, Minister for Education at the time and who later became Premier of New South Wales.

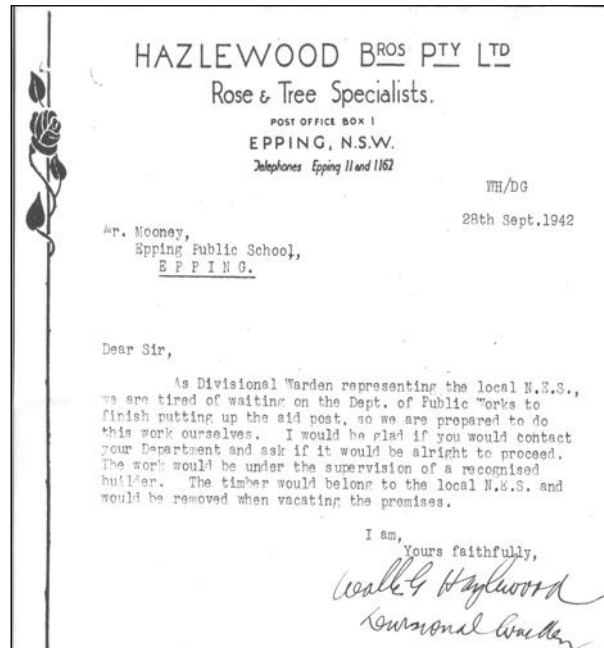
Aid Posts were established in all shires and municipalities. There were thirty eight Warden's Posts in Hornsby Shire and Epping was in D Division under the charge of Councillor George Davey. The original Epping Aid Post was at Epping Public School and later a second was established at Epping West School.

Epping had five Wardens' Posts in total and Posts No 36-38 were in the vicinity of the school. One of the duties of wardens was to compile Household Registers and this was checked monthly. Details included the number and ages of all people living at a certain address, and equipment in the household that could be used, if necessary in an emergency. Notes indicated if people had first aid certificates and whether households had any form of bomb shelter. If not people had to indicate where they would shelter if a bomb fell in the vicinity of their homes.

Mr Mooney wrote stating that it would not cause too much inconvenience if both the basement and the staffroom were used. First aid classes were already being conducted at the school of an evening, as were Wardens' instruction classes.

A sophisticated plan was located at the State Records Office, Kingswood showing the conversion of the basement to meet NES requirements. Apparently the Department of Public Works was so slow in converting the basement that the divisional warden indicated to the Headmaster that they would convert the basement themselves, '*under the supervision of a recognised builder.*'

EWPS File SRO Kingswood



**Letter from Mr Hazlewood, Divisional Warden  
September 1942**

By June 1942 the Public Works Department had added two doors and closed an existing entrance to the basement with boards to make a suitable First Aid Post. Gas and water supplies were extended and the telephone installed. Mr Mooney states that he understood it was proposed to reinforce the ceiling, divide the basement into four rooms and partition it from the pupils' washhouse.

Once the work was completed, a hat room above, which had been used in the interim, was cleared of beds etc. to facilitate the working of the school.

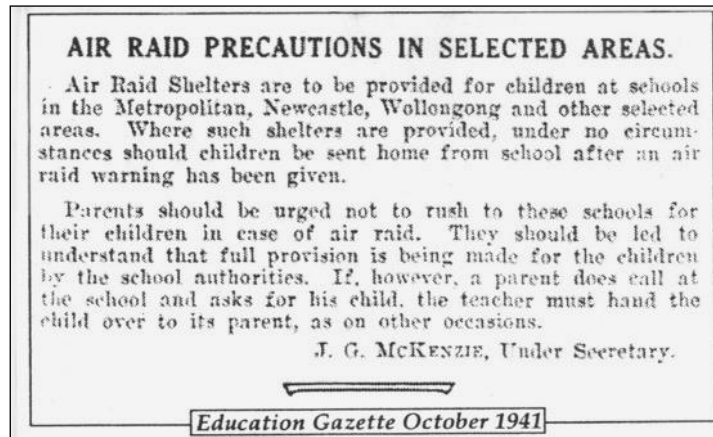
The Department recommended that authority be given for the necessary work in the basement to be completed by the Works Department provided there was no decrease in natural light and ventilation to any of the classrooms.

Once the basement was fully taken over by the NES the children had nowhere to play on wet days and therefore had to be housed on the verandah. A request was made (unsuccessfully) for the erection of a weathershed to be made available as a matter of urgency.

EWPS File SRO Kingswood

The Local First-Aid Post as recalled by Marianne McGowan (nee Turner) "This would have been set up at the same time as the trenches were built. The district was divided into 'areas' and a man was appointed as a 'Warden' for each area. It was the warden's duty to check that all the houses in his area were 'blacked-out' properly (no light showing through the windows or doors). Each warden was given instructions as to what procedure to follow if Sydney was bombed. Each of these

people had a **WARDEN** sign on the gate of their own home. Gas masks, for use by the people in a certain area were kept at each Warden's Post, for use of the people under his charge. The wardens wore a whistle to blow in case of an attack and he also carried a 'rattler' to use. Every household was expected to have an Air-raid shelter dug in their own backyard and covered if possible. Fortunately for the people of Sydney none of these shelters was ever needed."



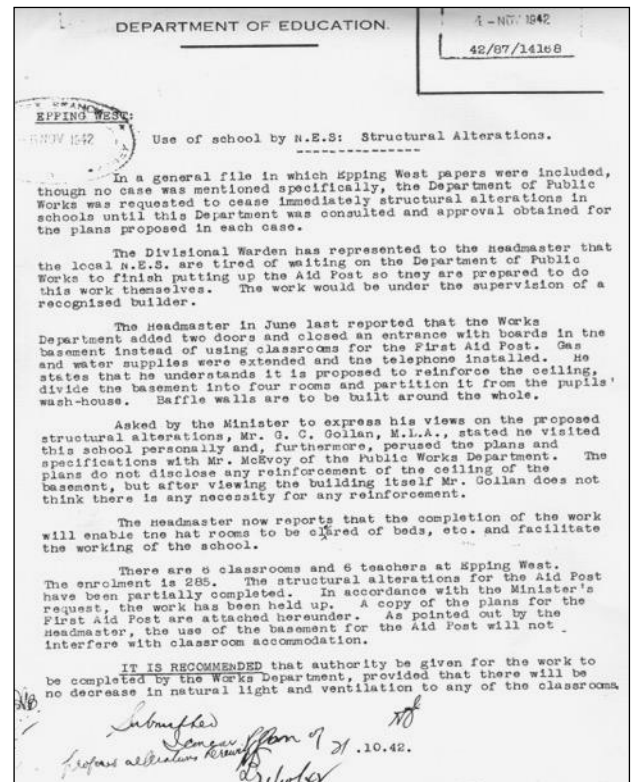
## THE AIR RAID SHELTERS

Marianne McGowan (nee Turner) has also written her memories of the Air Raid Shelter at the school. Trenches were dug after it was gazetted that all public schools should have trenches ready in case of an air raid.

*'These were probably dug after the Japanese had bombed Darwin and the Japanese submarine had entered Sydney Harbour.*

*The 'zig-zag' trenches were about six feet deep and wide enough for children to sit in, on either side facing each other with their knees under their chins.*

*After some heavy rain the trenches filled with water (right to the top) so Mr Mooney joined some hoses together to drain them. The hoses stretched from the Air-raid trenches, which were constructed near the eastern boundary of the school through the Girls' playground to the Infants' playground. The water took a few days to drain away and the water ran into the creek at the lower end of the Infants playground (through Dengate's property.)'*



# GLENNIE WILLIAM FORBES

## 1948-1954



There are many people today who can, and would, testify to the wonderful experience of having a headmaster such as **Glennie Forbes** as their 6<sup>th</sup> Class teacher.

Glennie Forbes was appointed to the school in February 1948 and remained until he retired some seven years later. Overcrowding was virtually the first problem that he had to overcome. Application for a new portable classroom had been made in December 1947 and the building had not been supplied in time for the beginning of the 1948 school year.

Mr Forbes wrote to the Department stating that the average effective class load (excluding 8 pupils who were in hospital or excluded because of an infectious disease) of classes 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> was 49.6. He requested the services of an additional teacher and went on to explain that as the West Epping Congregational Church was already being used for Kindergarten the basement was the only space available for a class. This, he pointed out would not be suitable to use after Easter because it would be too cold and there was no heating available. This prompted the department to have a double aluminium building installed at the school. The two classrooms eased the accommodation problem.

Enrolments, not only at Epping West but also at many primary schools throughout the country, had increased after the war and the difficulty of providing sufficient classrooms and new schools was made acute by the post-war diversion of skilled labour and materials to home building. The Department of Education

turned to a century old practice and began importing aluminium clad prefabricated classrooms from Britain. Sydney and the Bush NSW Dept of Ed. 1980

From, (Print name and office of writer) *Glennie Wm Forbes - Hm.*  
 Permanent or Temporary *Permanent*  
 Date of entry into Service \_\_\_\_\_  
 To *Sup. of Primary Bldgs. Inspector of Schools at Dpt. of Bldgs. Sydney.*  
 SUBJECT (Brief statement of subject matter, written in red ink) *Wanted Accommodation.*  
 School Department (Primary) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Secondary) \_\_\_\_\_  
 REFERENCE (Give not Read Other registered number of previous correspondence on this matter) *2nd March, 1949*  
*S. B.W. P.B. 109/19/30593*  
 Note.—Communications respecting school subjects must be sent to the appropriate office. Sign your name at end of your letter.  
 (Attention is drawn to directions on correspondence (February 1934 Circular).) 41 1311

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*S*  
*19/11/48*

Although the records of this school reveal that the erection of a New Portable Classroom was sanctioned in a communication dated 29th December, 1947; and a memo (concerning furniture requirements) from the District Inspector on 22-11 November, 1947 stating that it would be erected early in 1948, nothing further is known.

The West Epping Congregational Church Hall is used to accommodate the Kindergarten Class.

At the present time the average effective class load (excluding 8 pupils in hospital or excluded because of an infectious disease) of classes 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> is 49.6, and thus the appointment of an additional teacher has been applied for, but the basement is the only accommodation available. This would be totally unsuitable after the Easter period. The early erection of the New Portable Classroom would help to provide the accommodation needed for the formation of an additional class. Thus I urge its early erection.

*Glennie Forbes*  
Hm.

### Additional accommodation request March 1949

In spite of the time spent on land acquisition and pushing for extra classrooms Glennie Forbes was a remarkable teacher and head of school. He was a methodical man and the records remaining in the school to this day are still available. Everything was meticulously recorded, and notes relating to his first staff meetings indicate that he had the interests of his pupils at heart. Each member of staff had to write about different topics and the way lessons should be delivered and these papers were presented at monthly staff meetings. As papers were commented upon, section by section, the staff meetings must have gone on long into the afternoon. Reports upon teachers

were written every six months and the school was inspected every year. Many of us can vividly remember the visits by the school inspector!

Mr Forbes' first such inspection was made in May 1948 and the problem of accommodation was the first item on the agenda. Land acquisition was also an important consideration.

The school was regarded as being, 'unusually well-equipped,' and it was noted that Mr Forbes was regarded as an educationalist as, 'he was keen to stimulate thinking about principles underlying the practices of teaching.'

**Comments and Suggestions.**

School Epping West  
 Class Transition Class  
 Teacher Miss S. Cotton Classification MS/C  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Subjects** This class is made up of 25 boys and 26 girls. At the beginning of the second and third terms the problem of the well-being and government of these "beginners" was increased by the loss of the brightest being promoted to Transition Class, and the enrolment of new pupils.

**Government** Miss Cotton's handling of these little people is affected with a smoothness and efficiency much above the average.

**Instruction** The spirit of the playway leading to the concrete permeates the line of procedure. In reading, practically every child could select the card containing the letter fitting the appropriate sound displayed in the reading aids, and the use of easy words by the teacher and any material is usually strong. With the teaching of number, song and music and play were used effectively. The writing of the appropriate number was well done. The singing is soft and pleasant, and rhythm is carried out most satisfactorily. Unfortunately the mood of my presence at the school, and the slight pressure of work made it difficult for me to examine further, but the excellent tone prevailing is surely for their satisfactory treatment.

**Conclusion** I appreciate greatly Miss Cotton's conscientious performance of duty, her loyalty, and her hearty co-operation.

S. Cotton Epping West

**Inspection Report November 1948**

Following the June 1948 Inspection, teachers were advised of the weaknesses pointed out by the Inspector, (these were always more important than the strengths!). Mr Forbes was adamant that group work was to be carried out in classes so that all children could reach their full potential. Former teachers and probably some of his former students will recall, he was always ready to back up statements with quotations from literature and these quotations can be found in the old record books.

He suggested that classes be divided into 3 general ability groups namely;

- 1) Bright pupils
- 2) Average
- 3) Less endowed – progressing down to the very dull.

He requested that all teachers analyse their work on a regular basis by continually asking; *Did I accomplish my aim? In which pupils did my aim fall short?*

Seldom would it have occurred to the 50 or so students in most of classes that every aspect of their work was being so meticulously scrutinised by staff members.

Every aspect of a child's education was covered as Mr Forbes strove to encourage (almost demand) that teachers achieved the best in every subject from every child in the school. He encouraged teachers to always have, 'a close scrutiny of syllabus requirements' and 'to always be aware of the needs of the pupils'.

Public School  
 Epping West  
 Report on Ian Gliddon  
 First-Term Examination

Subject	Marks Possible	Marks Gained	Remarks
English	300	239	Very Fair Indeed
Spelling	50	48	Good
Writing	50	34	Fair
Mathematics	300	204	Below Requirements
Social Studies	300	222	Fair
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>747</b>	

Place in Class 11th out of 46  
 Attendance (days absent) 1 1/2 days absent this term  
 Interest Generally Satisfactory  
 Teacher's Comment Ian needs to tackle his weaker subjects. He has the ability to do so with his pleasant disposition.  
 A Parent's Signature I. G. Gliddon (Mr Forbes)  
 and Comment I feel sure Ian could do better if he would only try harder.

**Ian Gliddon's School Report April 1952**

*'Let him realise without delay that only his best effort is good enough; otherwise he is cheating himself of the best things in school. Endeavour to make him eager to learn. Probably success is the best stimulant. Recognise only improvement in attitude, effort or in quality of work but never ignore, or tolerate inferior effort. Use the spirit of emulation, and with the brighter pupils the habits of self-criticism and self emulation could be developed to advantage.'*

EWPS Records



**Mr M Reeve (4th Class Teacher) and Mrs Player (Needlework Teacher) School Fete 1949**  
 Photograph courtesy Marianne McGowan

Half-Yearly and Yearly Exams always had to be considered and endeavours made to improve results. Marks in the 40s and 50s said it all. The higher the mark in a class the higher the success rate of the pupils. It concerned Mr Forbes that Mathematics was not being taught well throughout the school, as results in general were not consistent with the child's recorded I.Q. He favoured a 5-minute early mark being given to the 'duller' children as a reward for good work.



**Marianne Turner and Anne Abrahams - School Fete April 1949** Photograph courtesy Marianne McGowan

The safety of children at all times was another of Mr Forbes' concerns. Staff meetings were often held in the playground so that all staff could attend and the children could be observed. He was adamant that all measures be taken to lessen the likelihood of accidents in school building and in the playground. Passageways in the school were not to be

blocked 'by any class halted or waiting for a teacher'. Children crossing Carlingford Road at lunch time had to be supervised and all staff were required to 'take their children to the gate of an afternoon and assist patrol to secure safe passage of pupils across Carlingford Road'.

*EWPS Archives.*

Two men worked closely with Mr Forbes as his deputies namely Mr McLaughlin and Mr Riley. Most of the sport was the responsibility of Mr Maurice Reeve who introduced team sport to the school. The four house names were Possums, Kangaroos, Koalas and Emus. At the time of writing Mr Reeve believes he is the oldest living Epping West teacher.



**Evelyn Taroll 6th Class 1950 - Leader of the annual fancy dress ball held at the Epping School of Arts.**

In 1953 teachers began attending In-Service Courses at Hornsby and they always had to report back to the staff members what knowledge they had learned. Two such courses that have been noted are Remedial Reading attended by Mrs Kenyon and Art by Mr Buckingham.

Glennie Forbes retired from the school at the end of 1954. He had been responsible for the education of many hundreds of children and even today most have fond memories of the man respectfully known as "Forbesy". Most of us left Epping West School feeling that we also personally knew his daughter 'Jeanie with the light brown hair,' as her father was very, very proud and spoke of her with great affection.



**4th Class 1950 Class Teacher - Maurice Reeve**  
 Photograph EWPS Archives



**Class 1954 - Mr Forbes' last class** Photograph courtesy Barbara Dawson (nee Chambers)

**Carlingford Road Footpath**

It has been a very worrying position for parents of the children attending West Epping School, that no footpaths have existed west of the school on either side of Carlingford Road. This has resulted in the children walking along this busy road going to and returning from school, and the number of "near misses" by passing motor vehicles has increased rapidly in the past few months.

West Epping Progress Association decided to write to both Hornsby Shire Council and Parramatta City Council about this most serious state of affairs. Their answers were typical of their different points of view.

Hornsby Shire Council — NO ACTION.  
 Parramatta City Council — Immediate action.

Work has already commenced on the south side of the street to provide an all-weather footpath, which should keep the children off the road.—Thanks Ald. Mobbs, and it's nice to know that you realise that even if children don't have votes at Municipal Elections that they are still valuable assets in a growing country. (Hornsby papers please copy).

**Taken from Progress in Epping Vol 1 No 5 Nov 1950**  
 Courtesy HSC Local Studies Librarian



**Sixth Class School Magazine March 1952 (Issued a month after the death of King George V1)**  
 Courtesy of Eric Franks



**6th Class 1951**



**Rugby Union Undefeated Premiers 1953  
Mr B Manefield - Sportsmaster**



**Northern Districts PSAAA Vigoro Undefeated Premiers 1954**



**Northern Districts PSAAA Cricket Premiers 1954**



**Beecroft Road Epping looking north 1954**  
Photograph courtesy Helen Grant



# EXTENDING THE SCHOOL SITE

The transfer of the land, east of the original site for school, for school purposes took place over the term of three heads of school. Mr Mooney envisaged the land not only for the extension of the primary school but also as a possible site for a future high school. When it was intended to increase the size of the school, adding land at the northern end of the site, a report was forwarded to the Department, part of which reads as follows;

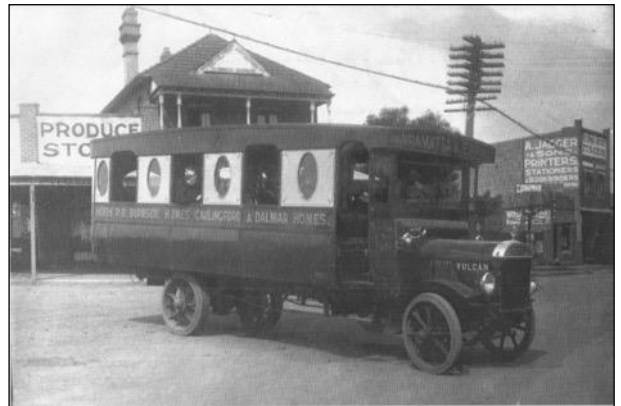


**Report requesting acquisition of addition land  
December 1943**

*'Epping West is a growing suburb with many allotments still available for home building. In a few years' time the school should have a greatly increased enrolment, requiring additional buildings. The bus service Sydney to Parramatta is to proceed via Carlingford Road in place of the existing route. The suggested block of land, if resumed, will be a valuable addition to the school playground, which now consists of 4 acres. It is however, though adjoining the playground, 220 yards from the front fence of the school and forms portion of the grazing land of a dairy. A better plan would be to resume that portion of the dairy, which faces Carlingford Road. This block is more level, and would provide easy access to the additional building for Infants (or High School) when required'.*

EWPS File School Archives (SA) Kingswood

Fortunately, the District Inspector at the time, C. Harrold recommended that, *' an additional area of land be acquired at this centre.'*



**Epping to Parramatta Bus (High and Bridge Streets  
Epping) 1924 Photograph Rex Hazlewood Collection  
Mitchell Library**

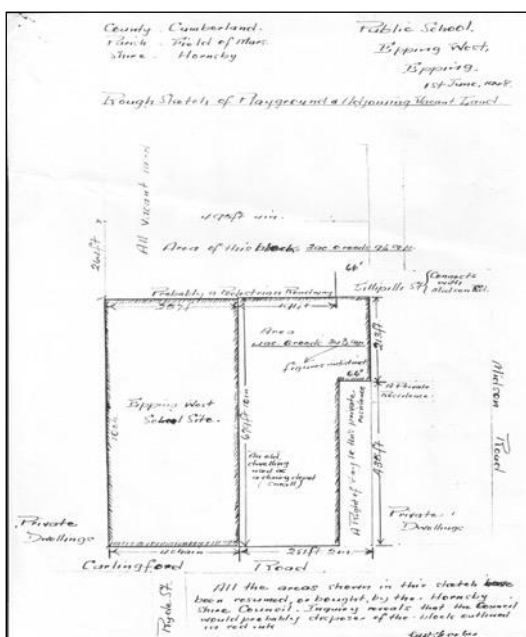
In 1945 it was learned that Hornsby Shire Council had been negotiating for a considerable time for the purchase of the whole of the dairy property and the land towards Mountain Street at the rear of both the school and the dairy, a total of about sixteen acres, one rood, twenty seven perches. The price and terms had been agreed upon and it was anticipated when enquiries were made by the District Valuer on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1945, that a formal contract would be signed, *'probably within a few days from that date.'*

EWPS File SA Kingswood

The Department did not have the funds to purchase the land (or part thereof) at the time but did make Hornsby Council aware of the school's interest in purchasing at least some of the land. The dairy site had become available on the death of the owner, A.G. Bevan, the brother-in-law of Cyrus Gliddon who had owned the original school site. Both men had purchased their adjoining properties at the same time. Mr Gliddon had wanted to grow roses so the cuttings could be used to supply the local Hazelwood Nursery with plants. Mr Bevan had bought his land as a site for a dairy.

Hornsby Council was, in December 1947, *'prepared to discuss with a representative of your Department (Education) the matter of the transfer of part of the land adjoining the School on the eastern side provided that, the existing*

right-of-way 66ft wide is retained by Council and extended to the land at the rear.’  
EWPS File SA Kingswood



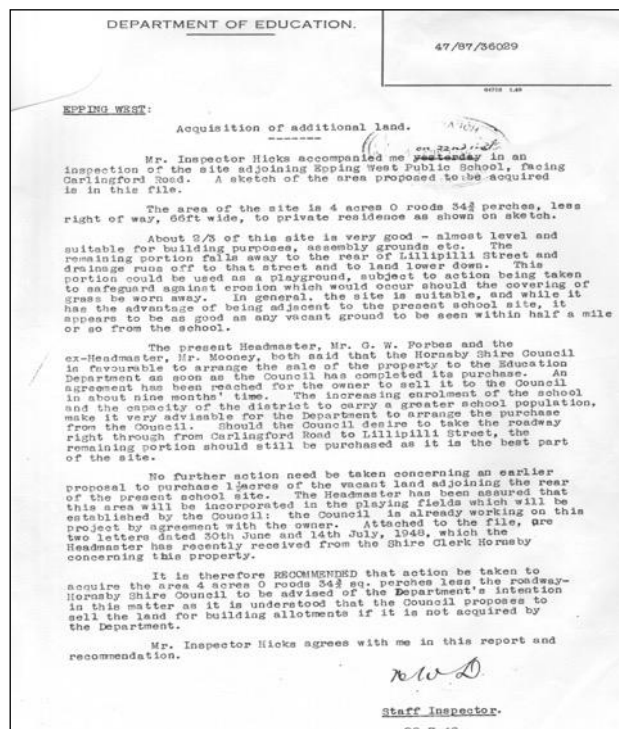
Map showing Playground and adjoining land June 1948

The sale of the land from Mr Bevan's Estate must have been held up as a memo from the Department dated 28 July 1948 stated: 'The present Headmaster Mr G.W. Forbes and the ex Headmaster Mr Mooney both said that the Hornsby Shire Council is favourable to arrange the sale of the property to the Education Department as soon as Council has completed its purchase. An agreement has been reached for the owner to sell it to the Council in about nine month's time.'

The Department was advised that, 'no further action need to be taken concerning an earlier proposal to purchase one and a half acres of vacant land adjoining the rear of the present school site. The Headmaster has been assured that this area will be incorporated in the playing fields, which will be established by the Council'. The Staff Inspector, NWD Drummond recommended that action be taken to acquire the area (4 acres, 0 roods and 34 and three quarter square perches), less the roadway.  
EWPS File SA Kingswood

It appears to have been understood by the Department they would purchase the site east of the school and bounded by Carlingford Road and the present day Ward Street down to LilliPilli Street (The property of the late Mr Bevan).

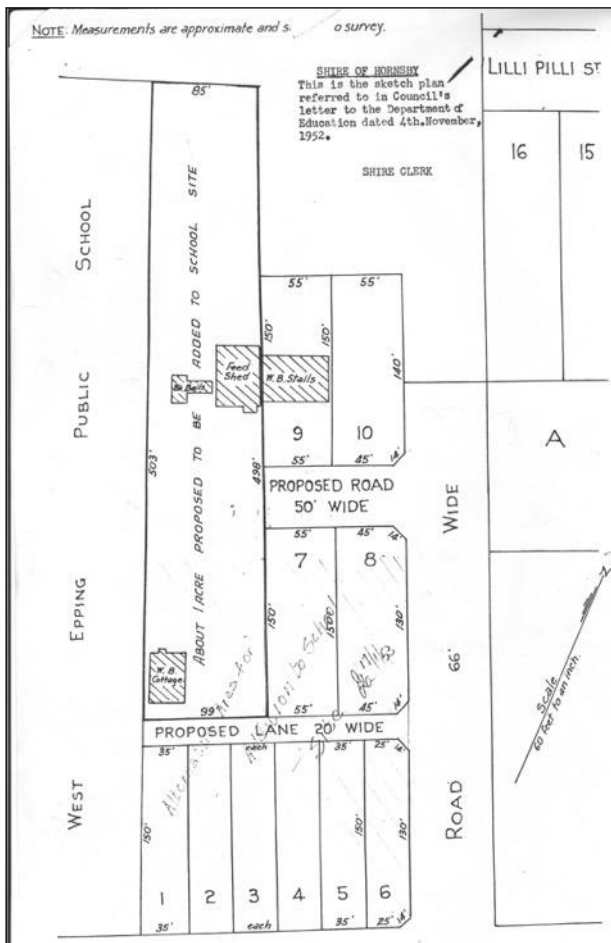
However, a sketch plan dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 1952 shows a subdivision plan of the area. There are six blocks fronting Carlingford Road, but correspondence indicated that 5 shops were to be built and four other blocks to be sold as residential blocks. The school was to have the area of land behind the proposed shops and houses, extending north to LilliPilli Street.



Report recommending purchase of additional land dated July 1948

Confusion over the purchase of extra land and the amount of land to be included in the purchase went on for many years. The Department was not in favour of purchasing the whole of the dairy site as it deemed that schools did not need all that extra land. Neither were they prepared to purchase only the land that sloped down towards the end of LilliPilli Street as it was regarded as not being suitable for a school playground. The Department, it appears would have compromised and allowed the north-eastern corner to be sold for shops but the P & C association wrote that 'a public school should be regarded in the same way as an administration building and be a source of civic pride in its situation.' The Department, meanwhile, had purchased land in Kent Street near Devlin's Creek and had plans to build Epping Heights Primary School to relieve congestion both at Epping and Epping West Schools. R.J. Heffron, Minister

for Education wrote to the local member, Eric Hearnshaw MLA stating, 'and I am not prepared to approach the Shire Council to effect further variation in the Contract which has now been made.'



**Sketch plan from Hornsby Council showing proposed shops dated November 1952**

The P & C Association was not prepared to accept the row of shops fronting Carlingford Road feeling that the school site would be ruined. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1955 the Secretary wrote to Mr Hearnshaw asking that he 'hear a deputation from this Association so that we may place our views before him.'

A petition listing 1229 names was submitted to Hornsby Shire Council asking Council not to erect shops on the land. The P & C Association felt that although playground space was adequate shops would 'ruin the site.' The back of the shops would adjoin school grounds and cause nuisances e.g. vermin, filth, uncleanness etc.

Mr Hearnshaw must have agreed to the request of the P & C Association, as it appears that the sale of land would go through without the shops. However, there was further delay because the deeds, showing the land for the original sale from Cyrus William Gliddon, could not be found. Mr Gliddon and Mr Bevan had, it appears jointly purchased the land from James Stevens on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1919.

The secretary of the Epping West P & C Association was finally able to write to the Department of Education on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1957, 'After prolonged activity and much work on the part of the Organisation, we welcome the news from Hornsby Council that it had decided to abandon their proposal and that a letter had been written to your Department offering this extra land for educational purposes. Our members trust that the formalities in connection with the purchase of this additional area will be speedily completed and we look forward to receiving advice to this effect in the near future.'

Hornsby Shire Council had entered into a contract to sell one of the shopping sites for 850 pounds. As the contract had not been completed it was cancelled and council offered the whole of the Carlingford Road frontage to the Department for purchase, 'following the pressing requests of the P & C Association and many of the local residents.'

Finally, that part of Crown Land Grant dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 1856, granted to James Stevens/Stephenson of 21 acres, 3 roods and 37 perches in the Field of Mars and which had been a matter of such controversy was passed to the Crown for educational purposes in July 1957.

EWPS File SRO Kingswood



West Epping Parents & Citizens' Association

3 Dunlop Street,  
Epping.  
4th. July, 1957.

The Secretary,  
Department of Education,  
SYDNEY.

Dear Sir,  
The members of this Association were delighted to hear at its last meeting that the purchase of the land adjacent to the school in Carlingford Road had been completed. (Your file 54/87/33326).

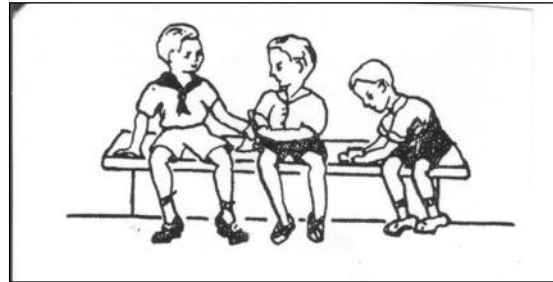
It has been a source of great disappointment to our members that the portion of the land reserved for shops was not included in the purchase, but acting on the advice contained in the letter from the Minister for Education to Mr. Eric Hearnshaw, M.L.A., and dated 23 November, 1955, we have been unrelenting in our efforts to have Hornsby Council abandon their proposal.

After prolonged activity and much work on the part of this Organisation, we welcomed the news from Hornsby Council that it had decided to abandon their proposal and that a letter had been written to your Department offering this extra land for Education purposes. Our members trust that the formalities in connection with the purchase of this additional area will be speedily completed and we look forward to receiving advice to this effect in the near future.



H.W. QUAYLE  
HON. SECRETARY

*No letter received from Council. This development was forecasted by Mr. Hearnshaw in a letter some weeks ago.*



Letter from West Epping P & C dated July 1957

TELEPHONE: JU 1181 (4 LINES)

OFFICE HOURS:  
WEDNESDAYS TO FRIDAYS  
9.30 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

PLEASE ADDRESS  
ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE  
SHIRE CLERK  
BOX NO. 27 P.O., HORNSBY

**SHIRE OF HORNSBY**  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
HORNSBY, N.S.W. 31st July, 1957.

The Secretary,  
Department of Education,  
Box 33, G.P.O.,  
SYDNEY.

Dear Sir,

Some time ago Council arranged to sell to your Department, for public school purposes at West Epping, land adjoining the School on the eastern side. At the request of Council the contract was varied to exclude a small part of the land with a frontage of 112ft. to Carlingford Road by a depth of 120ft. At that time Council had in mind the establishment of a shopping centre there and had, in fact, entered into a contract to sell one of the five (5) shopping sites created for the sum of £850. Before the contract was completed, however, Council decided to cancel it and to again offer this land to your Department for purchase.

The property has been brought under Torrens Title and the offer is made to your Department following the pressing requests of the Parents and Citizens Association and many of the residents of the locality.

Yours faithfully,  
Shire Clerk.

SITES BRANCH DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - 2 AUG 1957

Letter from Hornsby Council dated July 1957

THE SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO.

12th April 1926 : CONVEYANCE: Cyrus William Slidson to Arthur George Bevan registered No. 389 Book 1418

8th March 1926 : MORTGAGE: Arthur George Bevan to George William Brooks registered No. 627 Book 142 with DISCHARGE endorsed registered No. 170 Book 1812

8th August 1930 : EXTENSION of said Mortgage: Registered No. 122 Book 1616

29th March 1926 : LEASE: Arthur George Bevan to Charles Henry Clements registered No. 416 Book 141

24th May 1928 : MORTGAGE: Arthur George Bevan to Rebecca Bevan and Sir Victor Wilson registered No. 980 Book 1519 with DISCHARGE endorsed registered No. 838 Book 1648

20th April 1938 : MORTGAGE: Arthur George Bevan to Lewis Ormsby Martin and Timothy Joseph Gillogly registered No. 671 Book 1812 with DISCHARGE endorsed registered No. 396 Book 1862

1st December 1939 : MORTGAGE: Arthur George Bevan to Mary Challinor and Lewis Ormsby Martin registered No. 398 Book 1862 with DISCHARGE endorsed registered No. 592 Book 2118

14th April 1950 : CONVEYANCE: Harriet Rebecca Bevan and James Henry Bevan as Executors of the will of Arthur George Bevan to the Council of the Shire of Hornsby registered No. 593 Book 2118

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF HORNSBY was hereunto affixed this 21st day of May 1957 in pursuance of a resolution of the Council authorising the said Seal to be so affixed on the 21st day of May 1957

J. J. McCarry  
PRESIDENT  
Shire Clerk

J. J. McCarry  
Deputy Registrar

Conveyance document showing ownership of school site dated February 1956

LINDSAY HAMILTON  
1955 – 1959

There is very little in the records to tell us about **Lindsay Hamilton** who was Headmaster from 1955 until 1959 when he retired from the teaching service. He had begun teaching at Cawongla in 1914, enlisted in 1916 and after the war taught at Balmain as an assistant. Most of the schools he taught at were in Sydney and he came to Epping West having been Head at Toongabbie, Granville, Epping and Melrose Park Schools.

NSW Teacher Records

We do have the School report from 1956 and we can learn something about the school from that.

There continued to be a strong P & C Association with an auxiliary Mothers' Club functioning efficiently. Over 400 pound was spent on equipment including books to form the nucleus of a good library. The first school library was begun by Mrs Mary Innes, a classroom teacher, in the hat room at the western end of the original building. The school was equipped with wireless and broadcast lessons were used judiciously.

Inspector Hoskin stated that, *'the children are well-behaved, friendly and responsive and most respond quite satisfactorily to orders. They work well and relations between teachers and pupils are very satisfactory.'* He went on to mention all aspects of learning and further stated that, *'programmes comply with the standard of reading in the A classes,'* and noted that, *'spelling is taught systematically and in a definite scheme which is in operation throughout the school.'*



**Class 2C 1956** Courtesy of Alan Beckett

Also from his report we learn that the school participated in the PSAAA competition and the previous year the boys were premiers in cricket as were the girls in vigoro and softball.

Mr Hamilton would have overseen arrangements at the school for the first Education Week, which began in 1955 in order to give parents and the community the opportunity to visit schools and to observe modern educational practices at first hand.

Sydney and the Bush NSW Dept of Ed. 1980

Mrs Craddock, the Casual Needlework teacher received an excellent report and was assessed by Mr Hamilton as being, *'a loyal, co-operative and conscientious staff member.'*

EWPS Archives

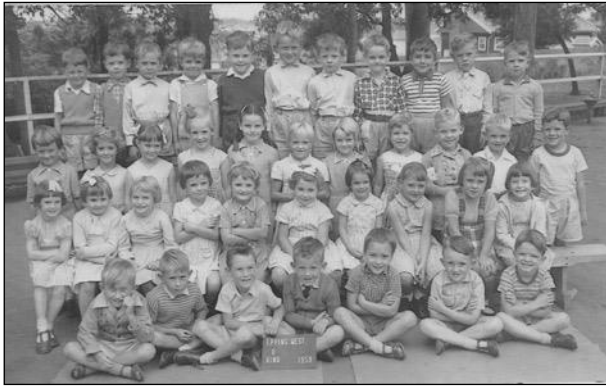


**Class 5A 1958 Teacher Mr Innes**

Once the land on the eastern side of the school was finally transferred to the Department of Education in 1958, the school body looked seriously at extending the school buildings to include the separate Infants Department. There was also a push to include a new library and as well a classroom and an office block.

Lindsay Hamilton would have seen the application for the work approved and begun but chose to retire from the Department on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1959, a few months prior to his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

EWPS Records



Upper Kindergarten 1959 EWPS Archives

**The Epping West Herald**  
An interview with an ex student by Amy Smith (4C)

**An Early Student**  
Mr Peter Mason attended Epping West Public School from 1953 to 1955. At that time Mr Hamilton was the school principal and taught 4th Grade as well. The school had 150 pupils and about six classes. Miss Kenyon was his teacher in Grade 3. His brother was School Captain in 1955 (if his memory is correct.) Carlingford Road had single lanes each way but had no kerbs, gutters, footpaths or traffic lights. Red and white flags were used for the crossing.

Where Martellis now stands was Mr Perrys Pie Shop. The children used to sing, "Perry's Pies are full of flies!"

**What Kids Played**  
In the playground the girls played Vigoro and the boys played either cricket, brandings, Fly and Beetle or Fly. These games were popular then. Mr Mason remembers that a cricket team played against other public schools.

**A Funny Story**  
Miss Eagle, a teacher of the time, always wore very long tight dresses and high heel shoes. One day she fell over and couldn't get up again. Another teacher had to help her up. The children laughed their heads off.

**A Sad Story**  
One cold wet day in mid winter, a number of boys in 5th and 6th class went to the back of the oval where the trees were to have a stick fight. Mr Mason went down to watch. They all got caught (even the boys who were watching.) They all had to line up on the verandah as the Deputy Head took off his grey plastic rain coat, pulled back his sleeves under his arm bands and told them to put out both hands. He took his cane and worked along the row of outstretched hands like a windmill. All the boys got three strokes on each hand. (Six of the best!) He cried and hugged his hands. It really hurt. The rest of the school watched from the assembly.

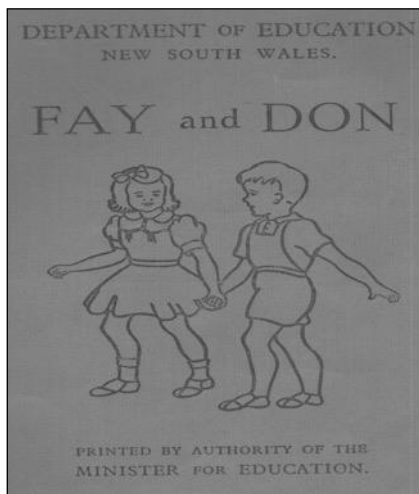
**School in the 50s**  
Instead of using ball point pens like today Mr Mason said that they had to use ink pens. Each desk had a little hole in it with ink inside. The children put their pens in the ink, wrote a letter or two and had to stick it in the ink again. Children got into lots of trouble if they splashed or spilt their ink. Mr Mason and his brother John had a fight at home and spilt ink all over the wall. His parents banned them from using ink so he got into trouble from his teacher. The teacher went and checked with his brother if the story was true because he didn't believe him.

The library in his time at school is now the store room next to Mrs Porteous' room. It did not have very many books in it. In Mr Mason's last thirty days he read a book each night and brought it back to school each day.

Mr Mason is now a teacher himself but thinks school is very much different today. He thought Epping West was a great school. I told him that it still is.

A map of the school as Mr Mason remembers it in 1955.

Epping West Herald Interview with Peter Mason, a student from 1953 to 1955



Reader from 1954

The New South Wales  
**SCHOOL MAGAZINE**  
Of Literature for Our Boys and Girls

VOL. 40, No. 9 PART 2 NOVEMBER, 1955

THE NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Price 4d. Registered at the G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission by post as a newspaper.

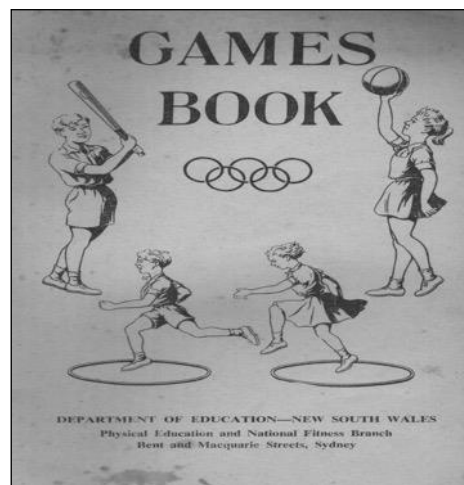
School Magazine November 1955

**NATIONAL HEALTH WEEK**  
20-26th October, 1957

If you a healthy life would lead,  
A body clean and fit you need.  
But that's not all there is to do—  
Your actions must be healthy too.  
Do things yourself—use your own mind.  
(Share things), be helpful, cheerful, kind.

Authorized by the N.S.W. Minister for Health

National Health Week Blotter distributed to all students 1957



Games book issued to teachers 1959



**Aerial photo taken from RAAF Neptune bomber (No: 11 (M/R) Squadron) on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1956. Looking north towards Epping West Public School, Ray Road and the Ray's Orchard with Beecroft in the distance. The original of this photo was donated to "The Ray Collection" by Rita McCabe of Downing Street who had a relative flying the aircraft from which the photo was taken. Photograph supplied by former student Peter Ray.**

# HILDA MAY ANGEL

## 1930 - 1960

### EXTRAORDINARY TEACHER



No book about Epping West could be written without mention of a teacher who is remembered by so many of her past students. I doubt there was a student at the school between 1930 and 1960 who knew one of Mrs Angel's Christian names let alone two!

Mrs **Hilda May Angel**, nee Piper, was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1895 at Cassilis in the Upper Hunter region of New South Wales. She was educated at Cassilis Public School and St Matthew's, Mudgee. After leaving school she trained as a teacher at Sydney Teachers' College and began teaching at Sunny Corner in October 1914. During the period of the First World War she taught at schools in Blayney, Gillieston and Morebringer. After the war she taught at Ivor and Rowan where she met Harold Bruce Angel. The couple married in August 1924 and she resigned from the Department about the same time.

When her husband became seriously ill and was unable to work, and with two small children nearing school age she decided to return to work. In March 1929 she was appointed to Concord Infants School and to Epping West in July 1930 to work as an assistant teacher with

Mr Bailes. There had been changes to the Married Women's Teachers Act in 1927 and Mrs Angel, along with many other married women teachers, was able to resume her career as a teacher.

Mrs Angel died on December 1 1969 and her husband on August 15 1980. Their two children are Edith who is a nun at the convent at Quaker's Hill and Ted, a resident of Epping. NSW Teacher Records & Information from Ted Angel 2000

My personal memories of Mrs Angel are as follows;

*Mrs Angel took my class in 3<sup>rd</sup> class but she appears to have been moved from our class to take a composite class during first term, as we didn't have her for very long. I remember vividly that if we had a spelling error we had to write it out during lunch, find Mrs Angel on playground duty and spell the word or words to her. There was often a queue for the privilege but the thing that remains utmost in my mind was that whenever I had to spell words to Mrs Angel she was always knitting socks. I couldn't take my eyes off the socks. I had never seen anyone knit socks using four needles and I'm sure I made many mistakes in the spelling simply because I concentrated on the knitting.*



*In the end my mother showed me how socks were knitted and hoped my spelling would improve!*

*Singing lessons were a feature of life at Epping West and I don't remember any other teacher apart from Mrs Angel teaching us singing. However, we all listened to the wonderful Singing Broadcast presented by the late Terence Hunt and carefully followed the words in the ABC books for schools. We learned songs to sing on special occasion days when we had combined assemblies and visiting dignitaries for perhaps an Anzac Day service. Patriotism was very important and we were well versed in songs like 'There'll always be an England'. Mrs Angel however also found words to the same tune – 'There'll always be Australia' and every word of that song has stayed with me all my life. For some reason I thought Mrs Angel wrote the words. It wasn't*

*until I was looking for songs for the children to sing at a Beecroft Music Festival when I was assisting with the Pennant Hills school choir that I saw the sheet music and there were those wonderful words.*

*All lessons began with the tuning fork being hit on the piano and when we all miraculously sang the right note the lesson began. The piano was played with gusto and the music was often louder than the singing voices of the forty eight or so children in the class. I don't remember how we learned the words I really just think Mrs Angel told us a line or two at a time and we sang the lines learning the whole verse and then the song in fairly quick time. Words were certainly not put on an overhead and I'm sure nobody wrote them on the board. I'm sure it was a case of listen, learn and sing.*



**Mrs Angel on her retirement 1960**

**L toR Silas McKean \_\_, Alan Innes, \_\_, Hilda Angel, Tom Le Sueur, B. Craddock, \_\_, Bill Dransfield**  
Photograph courtesy Ted Angel

# THOMAS DANIEL AUBIN LE SUEUR

## 1959 – 1969



**Thomas Le Sueur** trained as a Manual Arts teacher in 1933-4 and spent time at schools at Hurstville, Norfolk Island and Marrickville before becoming Headmaster at Nimbin Central in 1950. He was head of several Class 2 schools from 1953 before accepting Epping West in 1959 when it too was a Class 2 school. He completed his Diploma in Education Administration at New England University in 1962, the year the Wyndham Scheme was introduced into New South Wales schools.

NSW Teacher Record

When Thomas Le Sueur was appointed to the school in June 1959 he could not have envisaged the building programme that lay ahead of him. Enrolments at the school had been rising for several years and there was a need for more permanent classrooms to be erected on the recently acquired land.

Approval for the construction of the first of the new buildings had been given on 3 April 1959 and was subsequently erected by the Department of Public Works at a cost of nearly nineteen thousand dollars.

The official opening of the new brick veneer buildings that had been erected on the site of the old dairy was held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1959. *'The new buildings to be opened by the Minister (Mr Heffron MLA Premier and Minister for Education) comprises of a new Kindergarten room and one ordinary classroom divided by a folding partition, together with offices, staffroom, storeroom*



**This subdivision of the former Ray's orchard in Ray Road, directly opposite Mountain Street contributed to the need for the vast building programme to be carried out at the school during the 1960's.**

Photograph courtesy P.Dewey

*and clinic together with toilets and ablutions for the Infants Department. A problem had arisen at the school, as the sewer mains are becoming available at one side of the site. However, as the school is built on two sides of a ridge, complete connection of the sewer to existing toilet and ablutions is not possible.'*

The Department gave the matter its full consideration and the school was fully connected to the sewer as soon as it was possible at a cost of ten thousand dollars.



**Miss Macready, the first Infants Mistress appointed to the school in 1950 left Epping West in December 1959 to take up a position at Warrawee P.S. She returned to the school in 1963.**

The P&C Association began the long process of applying for traffic lights to be installed outside the school. For a time two wooden barriers were swung across road whenever the children needed to cross Carlingford Road but these were not safe enough, and two children were knocked down at the crossing. As the traffic along Carlingford Road increased so did the requests for the traffic lights. The determination of both the school and the P&C finally paid off when lights were installed and the children began to cross in comparative safety.



**First House and Sports Captains 1960**

House names were changed from those introduced initially by Mr Reeve and in 1960 the four house teams are listed as Currawongs, Kingfishers, Kookaburras and Rosellas with the Currawongs winning the most House Points in 1960.



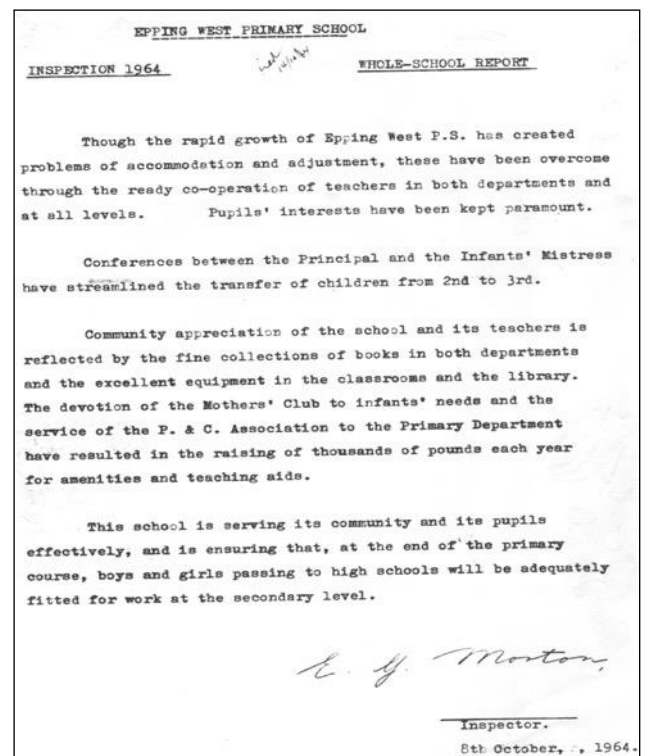
**Class 3A 1961 - Note the number of girls in the class and introduction of the girls' summer uniform.**

Photograph EWPS Archives

The school seemed to develop a positive tone under the leadership of Mr Le Sueur as the Annual Inspection report in July 1960 states,

*' The organisation of staffing is such as to secure the greatest advantage from the particular abilities of individual staff members. Staff leadership shows growth but further extension is possible in the mutual determination of more detailed objectives.'*

EWPS Archives



**School inspection report October 1964**

Keith Lego, a teacher, who taught in the Primary Department between 1961 – 1967, has written a recount of his memories of the school and it reads as follows; *"When I attended the*

Open Day to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school in 1997 I was impressed by three remarkable changes that had taken place since I taught there in the 60's and had visited as a parent, in the mid 70's. The physical improvement in the buildings and additional playground structure, fewer Anglo-Saxon faces and names being a sure sign of multicultural Australia in the new millenium and a very impressive orchestra which entertained the visitors."

A review of the school's activities and how it functioned forty years ago may be of interest to today's staff and students and as well, may rekindle some memories for parents and pupils of that era.

'In 1961 there were seven male teachers and two female teachers in the Primary Department and class sizes averaged 43. This fell to 36 by 1969. The whole school enrolment topped 1000 in 1967. Primary classes were graded until 1964 when classes of equal ability were formed. Mr Tom Le Sueur, Principal during the 60's, liked to maintain high standards – well-planned programmes were required of the teachers, together with weekly tests in the basic subjects. Half-Yearly examinations were held and a fairly simple form of pupil reports issued. A Departmental Inspector visited the school every second year. In those days there were no clerical assistants, teachers' aides or additional staff except for a Needlework teacher. Casual teachers were almost unheard of, staff had no release from teaching except during Scripture lessons and there were certainly no pupil-free days.

Our main playground was about one-quarter asphalt and the rest rough surface with a good spread of trees. There were a number of portable classrooms but a major improvement occurred in 1964 with the opening of the Library, Principal's Office and a new front entrance to the school. The Library featured a beautiful mural, 'Alice in Wonderland,' painted by Mrs Hood, one of the mothers. There were also new Infants' buildings and a new school canteen, supervised by Mrs Marker with well over 100 mothers available on roster. By 1965 a new P.A. system was installed and in 1967 filling was provided by Hornsby Council in the lower playground to make a better grassed area.

Many items were provided by the P & C Association under the leadership of Mr Arthur Forsberg and later, Mr George Preece. The Ladies' Auxiliary raised funds via jumble stalls, fashion parades and theatre parties. Voluntary parent contributions were introduced in 1966.

The following clubs and activities show the diversity of interest for the children; Gould League Club, Junior Red Cross Circle, Inter-School Christian Fellowship, School Banking, with 150 children depositing each week.....Which bank?, Friendship Fund weekly coin collections, Stewart House Collections, weekly flowers for Concord Repatriation Hospital and Egg Days for Sydney Hospital. Grades 4 to 6 participated in the Health and Temperance examinations and won many book prizes. Alison Basden and Elizabeth Giles came first in the State. Social Studies projects, usually of 5 weeks duration, were used in all classes. Weekly films were shown in the basement as television had not yet been introduced to the school. A third pint (200ml) bottle of free milk was given to each child daily and this continued until the mid 70's.



School choir with choir teacher Greg Doherty 1965

In Music Mr Doherty formed a School Choir in 1964 and with the assistance of pianist, Mrs Pat Kneale, reached a high standard. A flageolet band had been formed in 1961 and later a percussion band and a recorder group entertained on special occasions. Folk dancing was also very popular.

Special events each year included a Fancy Dress Frolic, a Pet Show, School Fete and Annual Concert.



**School concert 1967**

Photograph courtesy J. Chaffers-Welsh

*Inter-school sport was very important. Children represented the school in cricket, softball, soccer, rugby union, netball, tennis and, in 1961, vigoro. There was no weekly swimming in those years but non- or weak swimmers went to a ten-day swimming school and from 1964 the school held an annual swimming carnival. The annual athletics carnival on the lower oval was always a great day. Children earned a point if they entered an event and this encouraged great participation. Novelty events were popular; carry-your-partner, sack race, three legged race. The District carnivals were won regularly and in 1964 Epping West provided winners of three events at the State Carnival:*

*Senior Boys' Relay (R. Forsberg, M. Sturman, R. Armstrong, G. Taylor),  
12 Years Boys' Championship (M. Sturman 1<sup>st</sup>, G. Taylor 3<sup>rd</sup>) and  
11 Years Girls' Championship (S. Long).*



**Epping West cricket team with Keith Lego 1964**

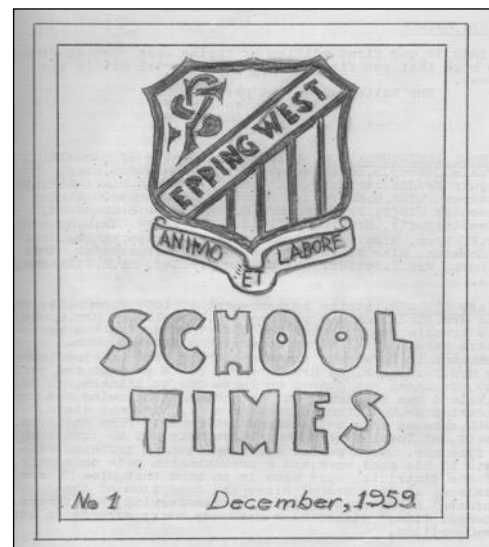
Photograph EWPS Archives

*The Hamilton Shield for House Sport was contested throughout the year and was awarded for points in Athletics, Swimming and Friday Tabloid sports.*

*A weekly assembly of pupils, conducted by the Prefects, featured the awarding of Principal's Merit Cards, marching cup and various banners. The pledge, recited by all children was; 'I honour my God, I serve my Queen, I salute my flag.'*

*Excursions were popular and were usually held once per term. Places visited included Canberra, Coca-Cola factory, State Parliament, Warragamba Dam, Qantas Base, Port Kembla steelworks and Taronga Park Zoo. There were also occasional visits to the school by live performers such as magicians and puppet shows.*

*In 1959 Mr Le Sueur had introduced an end-of-year booklet entitled 'School Times.' This was compiled mainly by the children and contained a record of the year's activities, stories and poems by pupils with a 'Special Mention' section where all pupils' names were listed with an indication of their strong subject areas and qualities.*



**First edition of School Times December 1959**

*As readers will gather, Epping West was quite a lively and happy school in the 60's'.*

*During the 1960's two further Infants blocks and primary classrooms were erected to accommodate the rising school population which peaked at 1000+. In 1963 the original building was extended to the east to provide a library, Principal's office and vestibule. It was a proud moment for parents when the library, funded jointly by parents and the Education Department, was officially opened on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1964.*



**Official opening of YMCA Hall 19th November 1967**  
 Note – School playing field still being filled and

**before Infants classrooms on southern border were built.** Photograph courtesy Helen Grant

Enrolments continued to increase and in March 1967 approval was sought and received from Hornsby Council for the building of a classroom in brick veneer.

Thomas Le Sueur left the school at the end of 1969 and took up his new appointment at Mona Vale Public School the following year.  
 NSW State Records

## **EPPING WEST - A lively and happy school in the 60's !**



**Janette Patterson and brother Stephen Johnson on his first day of school 1963.**  
 Photograph courtesy the family



**Class 6B 1964 with teacher Keith Lego**



**Mr Le Sueur and House Captains 1964.**  
 Photograph taken before the oval was constructed.



**Class 2W 1964**  
 Photograph EWPS Archives



**Class 3A 1963**  
Photographs EWPS Archives



**Softball Juniors 1967**



**Class 4C 1964**



**Class 2S 1968**



**Winning PSSA Team 1967 with Sports teacher Mr Keith Lego** Photograph courtesy Keith Lego

'Phone 86.1925. 21 Carlingford Road,  
EPPING...N.S.W...2121

28th July, 1969

Mr. Russell,  
Whealers Pty. Ltd.,  
4 Bridge Street,  
EPPING...N.S.W...2121

Dear Mr. Russell,

Girls' Summer Uniform, Epping West Primary School

For your information I quote below the notice that was sent home to parents, regarding the change of the Girls' Summer Uniform:-

"At a combined meeting of mothers from the Mothers' Club and Auxiliary, it was decided that the style for the Girls' Summer Uniform should be a gored style, no waist with a pocket in the right side seam and a tab for the badge. Patterns will be available from Wheeler's, but as we have to give them reasonable notice of change of style, it is not expected that the new dress will be available until next year. The overall look of the new style isn't greatly different from the existing dress and we expect that the old style will gradually phase out and the new style come in."

Also attached is a copy of the letter I sent to Mr. Bridgewood of Pattern Distributors regarding improvement of the pattern. I would be interested to hear if you have heard anything further from Mr. Bridgewood.

Yours sincerely,

President, West Epping Ladies Auxiliary.

**Letter re girls summer uniform July 1969**

## West Epping School Sports Champs

West Epping Public School recent sports results are:

**Junior Championship:** boys—Allan Rose 1, Graham Parker 2, Bruce Fox 3. Girls—Julie Stirling 1, Anne Menzies 2, Kay Lobb 3.

**Senior Championship:** Boys—Lindsay Sturman 1, Steen Stenns 2, Robert Farrar 3. Girls—Leslie Rowell 1, Elizabeth Franks 2, Beth Jones 3.

### AGE RACES

5 yrs.: Girls, Susan Skala; boys, David Christian.

6 yrs.: Girls, Lynn Griffiths; boys, Stephen Jordan.

7 yrs.: Girls, Wendy Stirling; boys, John van Emden.

8 yrs.: Girls, Susan Gillin; boys, Robert Forsberg.

9 yrs.: Girls, Lyn Green; boys, Graham Parker.

10 yrs.: Girls, Anne Menzies; boys, Allan Rose.

11 yrs.: Girls, Elizabeth Franks; boys, Steen Stenns.

12 yrs.: Girls, Leslie Rowell; boys, Lindsay Sturman.

**Novelty Events**

Infants Duckwalk: Girls,

Lyn Griffiths; boys, David Hine.

**Infants' Sack Race:** C. Fox.

**Junior Sack Race:** Girls, Ilona Germolus; boys, Mark Walsh.

**Senior Sack Race:** Girls, Elizabeth Franks; boys, Ian McLeod.

**Infants 3-legged Race:** Louise Pollock and Wendy Stirling.

**Junior 3-legged Race:** Girls, Lyn Green and Julie Stirling; boys, Stewart Hassett and Ian Alderson.

**Senior 3-legged Race:** Girls, Kay Lobb and Rosemary Summerville; boys, Graham Gordon and Ross Lowe.

**Junior Tin Can Race:** Girls, Ilona Germolus; boys, Ian Condon.

**Senior Tin Can Race:** Girls, Robyn Griffiths; boys, Tony Petley.

**Junior Captain Ball:** Currawongs.

**Junior Tunnel Ball:** Currawongs.

**Senior Captain Ball:** Kingfishers.

**Senior Tunnel Ball:** Currawongs.

**Boys' Tug of War:** Rosellas.

**Junior Boys' Broad Jump:** R. Horsburgh, A. Rose, R. Williams.



Mello-Lite "do-it-yourself" screen units are the strongest and most luxurious screens you can buy. Combining aluminum frames and fibreglass mesh, Mello-Lite will not rust, rot, flame or stain. Easy to install and very easy to handle, Mello-Lite screens are the ultimate in convenience. Put them on . . . take them off . . . carry them anywhere. No stretch . . . no stain . . . no strongman not required.

Just ring WM 2775 and ask for a man to be sent out for free quotes on all MELLO-LITE products . . . And . . . watch this paper for the date of the repeat MELLO-LITE demonstration . . . the last one was **SENSATIONAL.**  
**SCOTTS ARCADE, EPPING WM 2775**

**Senior Boys' Broad Jump:** L. Sturman, R. Farrar, S. Stenns.

**Junior Girls' Broad Jump:** J. Stirling, B. Kelly, J. Benson.

**Senior Girls' Broad Jump:** L. Rowell, Beth Jones, M. Pebendz, M. Cootes (tied).

**Senior Boys' High Jump:** R. Ivers, D. McDarmont (tied), S. Stenns.

**Junior Boys' High Jump:** P. Shepherd, R. Horsburgh, K. Butler.

**Junior Girls' High Jump:** S. McDonald, J. McDonald, J. Stirling.

**Senior Girls' High Jump:** J. Kilgour, E. Franks, P. Smith.

**Junior Relay:** Girls, Currawongs, Kingfishers, Kookaburras; boys, Currawongs, Rosellas, Kookaburras.

**Senior Relays:** Girls, Rosellas, Kingfishers, Kookaburras; boys, Rosellas, Kookaburras, Currawongs.

**Winners of Cups for highest point scorer for each House:** Kookaburras, R. Farrar 7 pts.; Kingfishers, E. Franks 9 pts.; Rosellas, B. Jones 8 pts.; Currawongs, J. Stirling 17 pts.

**House Points**

Currawongs 75; Rosellas 66; Kookaburras 45; Kingfishers 31.



Meredith, Linda and Kaylene Nash 1966

Page from Epping / Eastwood Express Newspaper  
19 September 1960

# SCHOOL LIBRARY OPENING FOLLOWS SIX-YEAR EFFORT

A six-year effort on behalf of everyone associated with Epping West Public School will be culminated next Saturday, October 17, with the opening of the school's new library.

The official opening ceremony of the library will be conducted by district inspector of schools, Mr. E. G. Morton.

Other official guests to be present on the day will be Member for Eastwood, Mr. E. Hearnshaw; Hornsby Shire Council president, Cr. D. M. Tulloch; and president of the school's parents and citizens' association, Mr. A. Forsberg.

Towards the end of 1959 the members of the association decided to proceed with a plan to provide a library building for the school and made the necessary request to the Department of Education.

The scheme was to erect the building with Association funds subsidised by the Department.

### Plans

The services of an honorary architect, Mr. E. C. Allars, were obtained and plans and specifications were drawn up.

Meanwhile the association made a special drive for funds and aided by the Ladies' Auxiliary and Mothers' Club introduced a School Library Appeal of 2/6 per family per month which, together with part of the proceeds of the annual fair, provided the balance of the money required.

In September of 1962 the association was instructed to call tenders for the building which was to comprise a library, for which



the association was to provide one third of the cost — and additionally a front entrance and administrative block provided entirely by the Department.

The successful tenderer was E. W. Barnwell Pty. Ltd. of Eastwood and work commenced early in 1963.

With the completion of the building, the provision of furniture by the Department of Education

and the supply of additional books by the parents and citizens' association, a librarian was appointed and full-time use of the library began in July, 1963.

Twelve classes totalling almost 450 children now use the library for formal instruction each week.

As well, the children are free to borrow books at other specified times.

Two ten-year-old children, Gregory McHub of Epping and Christine Hinton, also of Epping, are pictured above selecting books at the new library of Epping West Public School.

Opening of the library next Saturday will climax six years of effort by the school to have the library built.



## THE EPPING WEST SCHOOL OVAL

As soon as discussions regarding the purchase of extra land had begun with Hornsby Shire Council in the 1940s it was understood that the land at the northern end of the playground would meet with land that the council has set aside as a recreational area. The following is an extract submitted by the Epping West Parents and Citizens Association to the Department in connection with the resumption of land.

*'We further suggest the advisability of your Department assuming about one and a half acres of land situated at the rear and adjoining the school property. This also would be used either as a sports area or for the instruction of Horticulture.'*

After the Department purchased the eastern portion of land and the matter was finalised council began its own plans for developing what is known today as Epping West Park. The school used the land as an extended playing field until the Council's solicitors drew up a formal contract.

SHIRE OF HORNSBY

28th May, 1968.

*I this day interviewed Messers Leggett of North Sydney Directorate, Department of Education, Mr Le Sueur, Headmaster of West Epping School and Mr K.Morton, the District Inspector, with a view to agreeing upon terms and conditions to be included in an agreement under which Hornsby Shire Council should have the use of the playing field in the West Epping Public School.*

*The writer undertook to have Council's Solicitors embody the following terms in a draft agreement and to submit same to the Education Department for its final approval.*

- 1. Council to have the unrestricted use of and authority to allocate for sporting purposes the playing field on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays and during school vacations and from 4.30 p.m. each afternoon during the school term.*
- 2. Council to have the right to install floodlighting and to use the grounds for night training.*
- 3. As no toilet or other amenities are to be used the Department will not unnecessarily withhold its approval to council erecting same.*
- 4. Council to accept full responsibility for maintenance, watering, mowing and top-dressing the grounds, the Department to contribute the sum of one hundred and fifty pound per annum towards material costs, such as top dressing, fertilisers, etc.*
- 5. Council to be permitted to install a concrete wicket.*
- 6. The Headmaster to have exclusive use of the school grounds during week days up to 4.30p.m. during school term.*
- 7. The agreement to be for an initial period of 5 years subject to renewal at the expiration of that period.*
- 8. Council to reserve the right to make and collect charges for the use of the ground in accordance with its general policy from time to time regarding the hiring of playing field and ovals*

*C.K.Cook.*

*SHIRE CLERK.*

Mr Le Sueur reported to the parents in 1969 that, *'the oval, established with the assistance of Hornsby Shire Council is a valuable new feature in so far as school sport is concerned. It is a symbol too of successful co-operation in a community venture'*

Renovations were carried out in October 1972 and the care of the oval was returned to the Department of Education. That year the department had paid only one hundred and fifty dollars in maintenance but it had cost Hornsby Council eight hundred and fifty dollars to maintain. Mr Dews felt that the small oval was being overused and showing signs of wear and tear.

The lease was renewed for many periods of five years and the amount paid to Hornsby Council was gradually increased until it was one thousand dollars in 1988. In 1987 the After School Care Centre

applied to use the land from 3p.m.to 5.30 p.m. and it was understood that only 10-15 children would use it.

The YMCA applied to lease part of the land, ninety feet by seventy feet, when it wanted to extend its property in August 1988.

EWPS File HSC

The oval and the whole of the park is certainly a credit to Hornsby Shire Council which has come a long way from when the two original cricket pitches were constructed to create work during the depression. For many years it was used to as a grazing paddock for the cows from Ross's dairy which was next door to the original playground.

When the West Epping Progress Association, which had lapsed after the school was built, was reestablished under the presidency of Jack Mead, there was a push for the area of land to be developed as a public park.



**Epping West School Oval  
2002**  
Photographs from our annual  
Sports Carnival



Hard to believe this was  
once used as a grazing  
paddock for the cows from  
Ross's dairy!!



# ARCHIE GEORGE DEWS

## 1970 – 1977



When **Archie George Dews** was appointed to the school on 27th January 1970 he came to a school that was substantial with regard to buildings but he came at a time when many changes were being made to the school curriculums.



**Class 1F 1970** Photograph courtesy EWPS Archives

Changes in the Maths Syllabus were a big issue and many In-Service Courses were held, not only for teachers but also for the parents of the children in state schools. The changes in Maths were the first changes to be made to the way teaching was conducted throughout schools. School-based curriculums became the order of the day and Epping West staff spent many hours under Mr Dews' leadership changing to more appropriate school-based curriculums.

As in other schools the 70's heralded the beginning of internal changes in the school. There was a need to have clerical assistants employed in schools and one such person was

appointed to the school for 3 hours, 5 days a week.

Fetes gave way to Voluntary Contribution Funds and in 1970 the contribution rose from \$3 to \$3.50 per family.

WEST EPPING PARENTS' AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION - LADIES' AUXILIARY		
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR FEBRUARY '69 - FEBRUARY '70.		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Cake days	181.50	
Frolic	25.00	
Home Functions & Demonstrations	112.50	
Jumble Stalls	38.76	
School Needs	154.58	
Social (5th & 6th class)	19.50	
Sports	84.99	
Bank Interest	2 3.74	
	<hr/>	
	681.63	
Balance b/forward 1.2.69	396.36	978.09
	<hr/>	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Frolic	25.00	
Home Functions & Demonstrations	76.50	
Jumble Stalls	2.00	
School Needs	50.00	
School Needs	339.39	
Sports	51.75	
Sundries	15.75	
Social (5th & 6th Class)	80.00	
	<hr/>	
		628.37
	<hr/>	
Balance as per bank statement 4/2/1970.		\$348.62
		<hr/>
		<hr/>
	(Mrs.) F. R. Sander, Hon. Treasurer.	
Audited and found correct. (Sgd.) Mr. C. Langley - Hon. Auditor 9th February, 1970.		

### Ladies Auxiliary Report for 1969 to 1970

1970 saw the beginning of the changes in school holidays. Epping West P & C Association supported the Northern Lines Council when they wanted to push for an extra week in May and to have a slightly reduced summer holiday. School terms were soon to conclude on a Friday and begin on a Monday.

EPPING WEST SCHOOL CANTEN - PRICE LIST EFFECTIVE 8.3.76.

(All Rolls 3c extra) *FRANKFURT ROLL 25c*

SANDWICHES:		16c.	18c.	21c.	24c.
Vegemite	Baked Beans	Cheese	Tuna		
	Creamed Honey	Devon	Salad (Consisting of Cheese,		
	Peanut Butter	Egg	Devon, Tomato and		
	Spaghetti	Pineapple	tossed Salad)		
	Sweet Corn	Tomato			
	Frankfurt Rolls 25c.				
	No charge for Tomato Sauce.	Extra filling 3c.			

THE SALE OF PIES AND SAUSAGE ROLLS WILL COMMENCE ON 5th APRIL.  
Prices to be advised.

Large Pies	Small Pies	Sausage Rolls
<b>N.B. ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BEFORE 9.30 A.M.</b>		
Buttered Finger Buns: 14c or 7c Half	Fudgies (Milk Ice Blocks): 8c.	
Chocolate Bread: 2c piece.	Ollos: 10c.	
"Mr. Juicy" Beal Orange	Chips: 10c.	
Juice: 13c carton.	Chickadees: 10c.	
Elavoured Milk: 18c carton.	Space Sticks: 8c.	
Pure Fruit Juice	Jelly Beans: 7c.	
Pineapple & Orange: 8cup.	Jupiter Bars: 8c.	
Cordial: 5c cup	Cheese Twistles: 8c.	
Fruit: 5c piece.	Fruit Bars: 6c and 2c.	
	Happy and Chicken Snax: 6c.	

STATIONERY: A limited supply of exercise books, pencils, and rulers is on sale between 9.00 and 9.30 a.m. daily.

Roster Secretaries for 1976 will be: 1st Term - Mrs. Craig, 871,7986  
2nd Term - Mrs. Davis, 86,3630  
3rd Term - Mrs. Squires, 869,2327

CANTEN COMMITTEE.

### Canteen price list from 1976 - Note the 3 term year

One of the many different systems of teaching pupils to read that gained prominence in the early 1970s was Breakthrough to Literacy. It allowed children to build their own sentences and to develop their reading skills at their own rate. Another change made was the role of the Sewing teacher and the teaching of Woodwork to the boys. Craft became the correct term and was gradually taught to both boys and girls by the class teacher.

Spellathons became popular in the 70's and were a means of extra fund-raising for schools beginning to enter the technological age. Following the election of a Federal Labor Government in 1972 Commonwealth aid was extended to schools in 1973, but there is no record at the school of purchases made under that scheme.

The Government Grants, which had been given to all schools to help equip their respective libraries, ceased in June 1975.

Enrolments at the school fell to just over four hundred in the early 70s due to population changes and two portable classrooms were transferred to Roselea Public School, built in a new housing area.

A major improvement of the 1970s throughout New South Wales schools was the reduction in class sizes. The reason for this improvement were essentially the same as for gains in the building programme – stable enrolments and

greater spending. Class sizes fell to around thirty in most primary schools and to less in disadvantaged and special schools. Sydney and the Bush NSW Dept of Ed. 1980

Falling numbers did not inhibit the sporting prowess of the school as in 1970 the school won the District Ball Games for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in succession. In 1971 the school won the District Sports and thirteen representatives went on to State Competition

The P&C continued to remain an active body, and was instrumental in getting footpaths placed beside many of the roads along which children walked to school. As soon as there was a rumour of a Pizza Hut being built opposite the school the P&C put up strong opposition. When the oval began to show signs of wear and tear mainly by being overused by the public at weekends and weeknights the P&C politely requested Hornsby Shire Council to place top dressing on the oval before it fell into a state of disrepair. School barbecues were held and these proved to be successful, not only financially, but also socially.

SCHOOL TIMES 1975

My congratulations to the girls and boys whose contributions, prose and poetry, we are able to enjoy in "School Times" again this year. Creative writing had been especially abundant.

We thank our editor, Mr. Donnellan, for his selection and organization of material once again.

A.G. DAVIS,  
Principal.

<u>BOOK AWARDS:</u>		
CLASS	1st PLACE	MOST IMPROVED
6N	Claire Hogan (Dux)	Belinda Laird
6R	Dirk Hochholzer	Robert Abraham Ronda Dusting
6Q	Kerryn Grace	Colin Davies
5G	Jenny Russell	Michelle Cook
5R	Scott Blogg	Lynette Smith Craig Horner David Rumery
5D	Kristen Hale	Seppo Passila
4F	Eleanor Hogan	Michael Collins
4O	Andrew Boccolini	Jennifer Kargillis Judith Siefkin
4B	Lois Kain	Craig Fenwick Nadine Tolman
3D	Leanne Robinson	Louise Hodgins
3C	Ian Davison	Paula Hale
3Da	Mark McLean	Drew Stedman Ross Gibbins

<u>SPORTING AWARDS</u>	
<u>ATHLETICS:</u>	Colin Davis and Phillipa White .
<u>SWIMMING:</u>	Wayne Lees, Fiona Wightley and Sally Davidson.
<u>SOFTBALL:</u>	Kathy Abraham.
<u>RUGBY:</u>	Danny Sheridan.
<u>NETBALL:</u>	Joanne Cropper.
<u>CRICKET:</u>	Billy Groen.
<u>SOCCER:</u>	Chris. Powell.
<u>TENNIS:</u>	Vicki Marler.

### Page from 1975 School Times

In 1973 an unsuccessful attempt was made to form a council in each school, consisting of the principal, the executive of the P & C Association, and a teacher representative. The Epping West School community was vehemently opposed to the idea as, like many

other schools, they were satisfied with existing community-school relations.

In 1976 a decision was made to look into the history of the school so that appropriate celebrations could be held to celebrate the school's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and in March 1977 the plans were finalised.



**School Captains Wayne Sullivan and Lynda Plumb with Mr Archie Dews 1971**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans included;

- An Anniversary Dinner held at the Epping RSL Club to which ex students would be invited.
- The sale of memorabilia with 1927-1977 suitably inscribed.
- A special edition of 'Contact' that contained a brief history of the school to date.
- A special Sports Day to which ex students would be invited.



**Junior A Netball Team 1971**



**Athletics Team 1971**

Approval was given in March 1975 for the construction of an assembly hall but the Department would not guarantee any financial assistance to the project. However, at the same time, covered walkways were erected at both ends of the canteen and the Principal's office was extended.

Mr Dews took Long Service Leave before he formally left the school at the end of the 1977 school year and so another era of leadership at the school had come to an end.



**School Staff 1971**

## Photographs EWPS Archives



**Class K3 1972**



**Class 6NU 1973**



**School Staff 1974**



**District Swimming Team 1973**



**Captains and Prefects 1973**

Front to Back: Matthew Toms Jenny Dixon Geoffrey Green Jill Maurer Martin Gardiner Leanne Newton Stephen Edwards Tracey Powell Leif Godwin (C) Debra Parker (C)



**Soccer 'B' Team 1973**

Sports photographs courtesy David Maurer

**Photographs EWPS Archives**

# GOLDEN JUBILEE 1927-1977



**Invitation to Golden Jubilee Dinner Dance 1 July  
1977** Courtesy P.Dewey



**First Grade pupils holding class made badge  
prepared for the Golden Jubilee 1977**

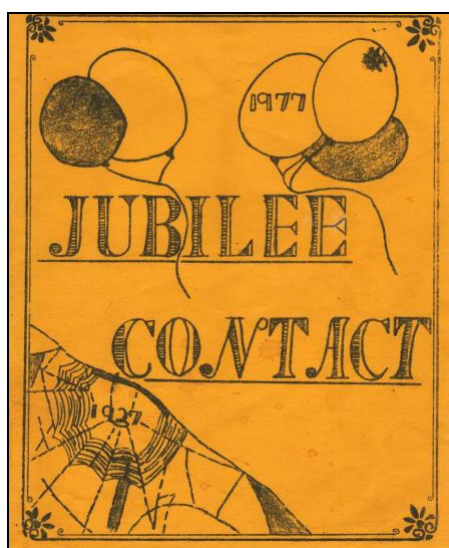


**Mr Donnellan (Deputy Principal) with school  
prefects 1977**



**Class 3R 1977**

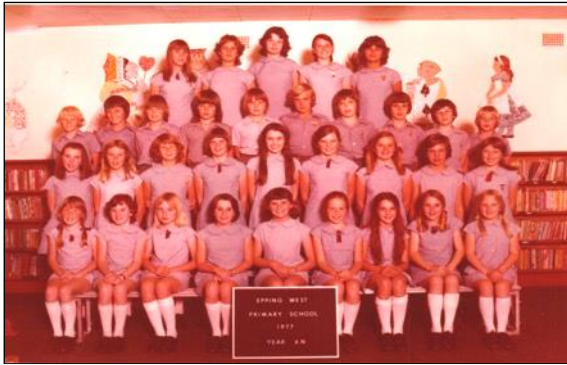
## Photographs EWPS Archives



**A special edition of Contact was prepared for the  
Golden Jubilee Celebrations**



**Class 6LH 1977**

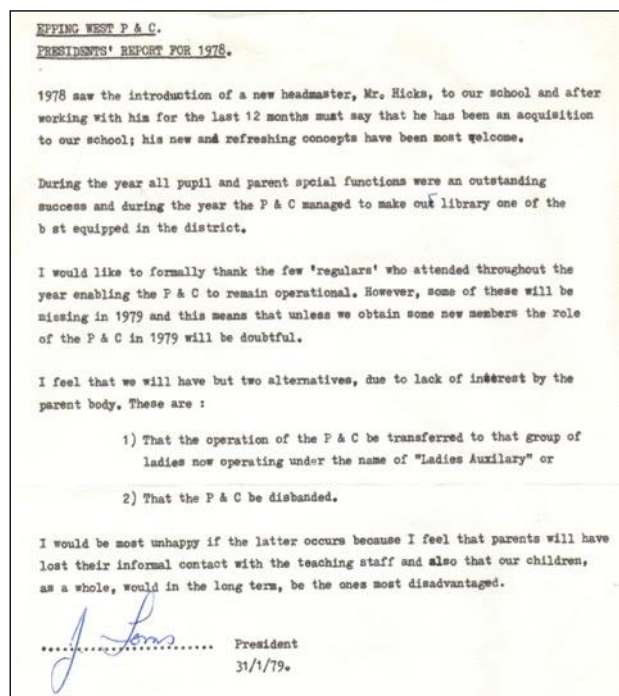


## EDWARD HAROLD HICKS 1978 – 1983



Edward Harold Hicks trained as a teacher at Armidale Teachers' College during the years of the Second World War. He accepted a transfer to the school at the end of 1977 and came from Beaumont Road school at East Lindfield.

After coming from a school in a fairly quiet area of the city he was concerned about the noise that affected the classrooms fronting Carlingford Road. One of the first tasks he accomplished was to have the rooms along the busy road carpeted.



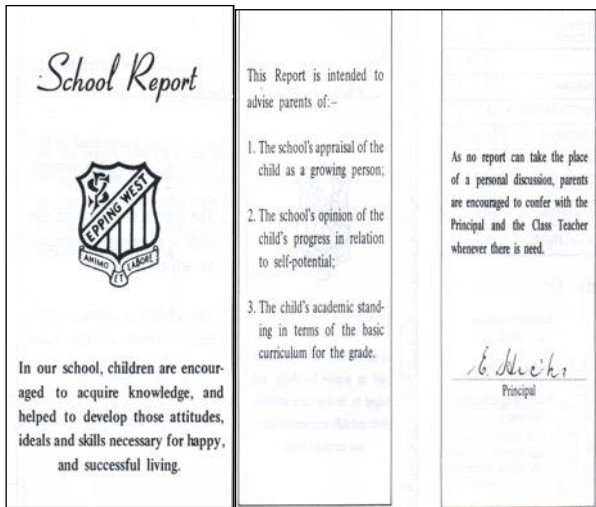
### P & C report for 1978

He came to a school that was very well supported by the various parent bodies operating to purchase equipment and supplies needed by staff and for general use by the children.

Following on from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations the committee decided to purchase a cabinet where memorabilia could



be housed. The P&C body continued to be active and was very grateful when the staff decided to do the early morning playground duty i.e. 9am to 9.30am at a time when many schools had a teacher rostered on duty but not necessarily in the playground.



**An example of a school report from 1978**

The beginning of the 1980 school year was extremely difficult because of industrial action initiated by the Teachers Federation. It had been recommended that teachers did not accept more than thirty one children in a class. Numbers did not work out evenly and as the school was one child less than the number to form a new class, class sizes were larger than the recommended thirty one. However, by June there were sufficient children to form three Year 6 classes of just over twenty children in each class and a new teacher was appointed.



**Ball Games Teams 1979**



**Primary Staff 1979**

1980 was also the year when copyright law matters were raised and there came a need for all schools to assess the use made of photocopied materials. This applied not only to that used in the classrooms but also to that used by the children for use in the production of musicals, school concerts and the music used by schools in the combined district festivals.



**Swimming Team 1980**

During the time Mr Hicks was principal there were a number of proposed curriculum changes. Policies included Mass Media and the introduction of a Discipline Policy. A departmental directive was received which required that each school should have a discipline policy and it was decided that the best way was to investigate attitudes in the community through a survey. Another aspect of school life to be investigated was that of homework. The department requested a survey and from the results a homework policy would be determined. Parents and teachers were also asked to complete a questionnaire on the current programmes provided to schools on the ABC.



**Ted Hicks with 1980 Prefects**

Musicals continued to be held throughout the school, as there were many musically gifted teachers who had the expertise to produce such items as *'Charlotte's Web'*, *'Joseph and His Coat of Many Colours'*, *'Cowboys and Indians'* and *'The Wizard of Oz'*. Choirs from the school participated in various local eisteddfods, at the Opera House and in the Beecroft Music Festivals, attended by many local school children and held at various venues.



**Class 6N 1982**



**District Representatives 1980**

A farewell dinner-dance was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1983 at Virginia Gardens Epping and Mr Hicks who retired from the teaching service was afforded many fine tributes from parents and former colleagues. The ninth head of the school continues to live in the district.



**Scene from the Wizard of Oz 1978 with Robyn Wrigley as Dorothy and Sonia Zaveski as the Tin Man**



Some of the Kookaburras ready for Sports Day 1980



1981 School Prefects with Ted Hicks

## THOMAS WELLS 1983-1987



**Thomas Wells** was appointed to the school in May 1983 and remained at the school for four years. He came from a school in the Liverpool area and was very impressed with the standard of education that the children at Epping West were receiving.

A fund raising event in the Primary Department was the first ever Walkathon and this was a complete success. Success was attributed not only to the children but also to the parent bodies operating in the school. This was a time when many mothers were returning to the workforce and so the amount of voluntary labour at schools was beginning to decline.

The children were encouraged to wear hats to school and there was a move to change the

school uniform. In 1983 an unsuccessful consideration was made to have blue uniforms. Mr Wells did not like the idea of children not wearing what was regarded as a proper uniform. He wanted to instill in children a sense of pride in their school through the correct wearing of uniform.



Class 1A 1985 Photograph EWPS Archives

Curriculums continued to be reviewed and in a report to the Ladies' Auxiliary in August 1984 Mr Wells said,

*'The language curriculum is being reviewed at the moment and process writing is being introduced. There are a tremendous amount of other subjects in the system that the children could be experiencing but not enough hours in the day to teach them.'*

No wonder, he said, the staff was looking forward to the forthcoming holidays.

During 1984 the wooden furniture was replaced gradually throughout the school and the 1984 Walkathon raised \$2700. The canteen continued to have a very successful year under the shared supervision of Mrs Dempster and Mrs Gillies ably assisted by the Roster Secretary, Mrs Barr.



Class OFP 1985 with Mrs Parkins Photograph EWPS Archives

The class for students with a moderate intellectual disability (OF) was first introduced to the school in 1985 and began with 7 pupils. Mrs Parkins was the first OF teacher and the class has remained to this day.

1985 was the first year that computers were introduced into the school. The price of a computer, printer and the necessary software cost between \$1200-1500. Interested teachers

from the school attended computer courses over four afternoons at Denistone East Public School. Money from the Department was made available to schools from a 'Within and Between Schools Grant' of \$900. It was also the year when the old furniture was removed from the Mini Opera House, as the old aluminium building was affectionately known, and the room was cleaned and painted. As it was no longer needed as a classroom the building began life as an assembly area for the students.

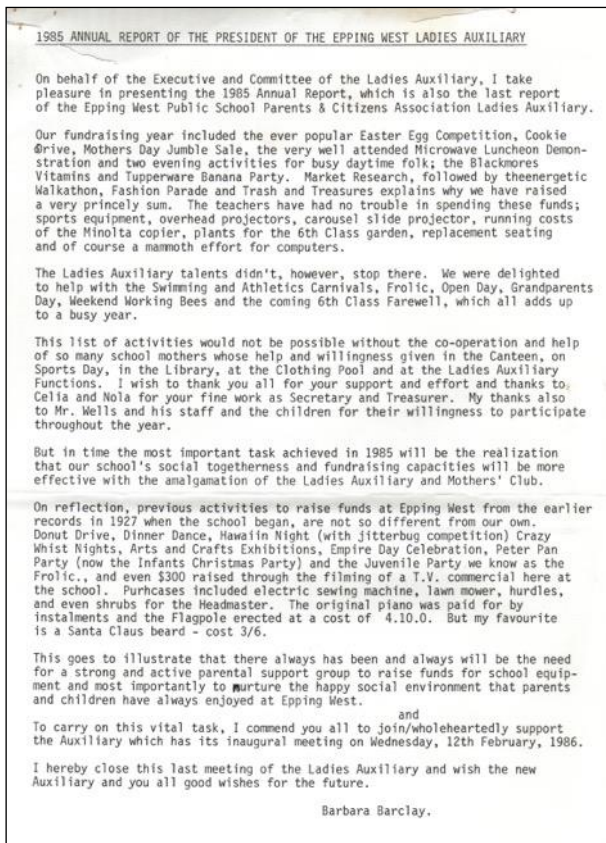


Class 4MB 1985 EWPS Archives

Open-plan teaching was introduced into the school where two teachers taught two classes in a large double classroom. A resource room was made available to teachers and was 'coming into use after two years of preparation' and the basement area under the school was converted to a sports storeroom. This provided a safe storage area for sporting equipment.

The parent bodies at the school had worked tirelessly for many years and established in the school were the P&C Association, a Ladies Auxiliary and a Mothers' Club. However, with so many mothers entering the work force it was decided to combine the two day meetings and the following motion was put to the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting in September 1985:

*'Due to declining numbers and in an effort to consolidate resources it has been decided that the Ladies Auxiliary and the Mothers' Club will amalgamate to form as sub-committee of the Epping West Parents and Citizens Association to be known as Epping West Parent and Citizens Association Auxiliary. The inaugural meeting will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 1986 at 9.30 a.m. To this end the Ladies Auxiliary will be dissolved by the end of 1985.'*



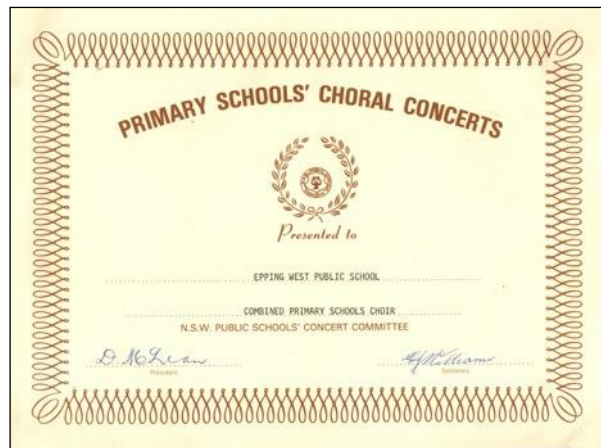
### 1985 Annual and final report from the Ladies Auxiliary

A vote was called for those in favour of joining the two fund raising bodies and this was unanimous. The group became a subcommittee of the P&C Association but retained control of its funds. As it would take time to have the necessary amendments made to the constitution it was decided to operate as two separate groups until second term 1986 when all formalities would have been completed.

It was suggested that the P&C keep money from the Voluntary Finance Scheme and pay all subscriptions for the school, i.e. FOSCO, sports organisations, ambulance fund, insurance to cover voluntary workers. Money raised by the Auxiliary would be spent on classroom equipment, library equipment and recreational equipment as determined at the time.

The Trash and Treasure Day conducted by the Ladies Auxiliary in 1985 raised nearly three thousand dollars and the money was allocated to the purchase of computers to be used throughout the school.

EWPS Archives



### Choral Concert Certificate of Participation 1984

The school continued to hold many activities for the children, parents and grandparents. Grandparents Day was especially popular and Mr Wells who had not experienced such an occasion before coming to the school was always impressed by the comments of satisfaction expressed to him by so many people.

At the end of the 1985 school year staff decided to introduce progressive assessment throughout the school and to do away with formal examinations. Indications were that there would be many changes in education and examinations would be one of the first aspects to change.



Class K2 with Mrs Raczka 1984

Mr Wells indicated to staff and parents that he intended retiring from the school early in 1987 and when he did so he left a busy, vibrant school that was about to implement many changes as were other state schools. He had been an excellent headmaster who had worked well and supported the parent bodies in their efforts to equip the school with the modern teaching aids that were becoming a necessity in teaching practice.



School staff 1984 EWPS Archives

Remembered by Decades of Children

**TWO generations of Epping residents were saddened by the recent death of veteran shopkeeper Mr Carl Perry.** *NDTIMES 27/6/84*

From 1948 until his retirement seven years ago, Mr Perry and his wife Anne ran the small general store in Carlingford Rd, near West Epping Public School.

For three decades children from the school bought their sweets, stationery and even lunches (before the school canteen was built in the early 1960s) from Mr Perry's shop.

Mr Perry would always have a kind word to say to the children he knew and loved so well.

But woe betide any children who were trying to buy lollies with money they had stolen from their parents, for Mr Perry would somehow know and would not serve them.

Residents liked shopping at the Perry's shop because of the friendly, courteous service they always received.

Mr Perry will be remembered for his love of people, expressed through his cheeky sense of humor.

But this gentle man could be tough when he needed to be. He is still remembered for his bravery in warding off two hardened criminals who tried to hold up his shop in the early seventies.

When the criminals threatened him with a knife, he retaliated with his own knife and the baddies fled.

They later told police they had never been so frightened.

Despite Mr Perry's dedicated service to his public, he was a reluctant shopkeeper initially.

When he and his wife and daughter Shirley arrived from their native India (where they were born of British stock), in 1948, the Epping shop with residence attached was the only suitable housing they could find in the postwar shortage.

But Mr Perry, an accountant who had been an officer with the railways in India, wanted to work for himself so he became West Epping's best liked shopkeeper.

He had a delivery utility but "walked" many deliveries as far away as the present site of Channel 7.

Mr Perry, who was 76, was proud of his two daughters, Shirley and Naomi and has five grandsons, and his family meant everything to him.

He is survived by his wife Anne and his daughters and grandchildren.

Article supplied by Helen Grant

**WILLIAM JOHN MEREDITH  
1987-1994**



The years 1987 to 1994 were an exciting period of change and educational progress for students, parents and staff alike at Epping West.

Perhaps the most outstanding development was the involvement of the community in so many aspects of the life of the school. Parents

were encouraged to participate in all areas from working alongside teachers in the classroom to assisting with sport and excursions. It was wonderful to witness how the community supported its school. Open Day each August attracted hundreds of visitors who took the opportunity to visit classrooms. Displays and performances in the playground culminating in family picnics over the lunch break followed these visits. The annual Grandparents Day saw hundreds of visitors to the school.

Parents were actively involved in the establishment of a school band, which was formed in 1988 and rapidly expanded as the band committee, led by Mrs Jan Dilworth, raised funds to purchase instruments to be made available on loan to aspiring students. A training band was also formed to provide a supply of replacement players as children moved on to high school. A recorder group was formed and along with the school band performed at school concerts, local shopping centres, the district music festival and at the Opera House along with senior choirs. The dedication and expertise of staff music specialist, Mrs Sue Tooker, ensured the tremendous success of the school music program as it moved from strength to strength.



School Band 1992 EWPS Archives

The school Parents and Citizens Association and Ladies Auxiliary continued their excellent work and support during this period and were the major provider of funds to enable computers to be set up in every classroom. Discussions were also initiated through the parent groups to investigate the formation of a school council where representatives of parents, staff and the local community would

work together for the benefit of the school. The outcome was positive and an Epping West School Council met for the first time in 1993.

Epping West students remembered others who were less fortunate and regularly raised hundreds of dollars at the annual Stewart House Fair centered on activities and stalls organised by each class. The Jump Rope for Heart program was enormously successful along with numerous other fund raising efforts.



Jump Rope for Heart 1990

Concerts across all grades continued to be held annually with a special K-6 Bicentenary Pageant in 1988 receiving 'rave reviews' from the overflow audience of parents, friends and dignitaries.



Certificate of Appreciation 1994

A Camping Program for Year 5 students was eagerly anticipated each year and this was later incorporated into the successful Peer Support activities. The school was growing in all directions as students became involved in the many and varied educational activities available to them. The Safety House Program was introduced in conjunction with the local

police who also maintained regular classroom instruction to all classes K-6.

The coming together of the Infants and Primary Departments staff in a common staffroom was a major initiative enabling all teachers to develop a truly K-6 vision. This move permitted the relocation of the library to larger accommodation providing a much needed boost to library facilities.

1989 saw major changes in the way schools were managed with the release of the Scott Report, together with the Carrick Report and used by the Department of School Education as starting points for its Education Reform Act. The Schools' Renewal Strategy, which evolved from these reports, aimed to create a progressive new era for all students in NSW schools. The strategy also aimed at extending decision-making to the local school level. With the involvement of parents as partners in the decision making process, schools became more responsible through their local school council for the management of resources allocated to them. Global budgeting became an important feature of schools and Epping West was now able to forward plan and allocate funds in line with specific school needs.



**Class 4-5H 1991**



**Storm Damage at the school January 1991**

**Photographs and Certificates EWPS Archives**

## **CELEBRATING THE BI-CENTENARY OF AUSTRALIA 1988**







**School Staff 1988**



**Bill Meredith with Captains 1988**



**Class 5G-6G 1988**

Four Bi-centenary photographs courtesy  
Community Relations Union Dept of Education

Other photographs EWPS Archives  
**THERESE MARY HINDER**  
**1995 – PRESENT**



**Therese Mary Hinder** commenced teaching in 1974 with her first appointment to one of the new housing areas of Sydney, a new high school at Hoxton Park. From here she underwent additional training as a specialist reading teacher and moved to Cabramatta High School where she gained her second inspection list. In 1980 she was selected to take up a position as District Consultant for

Special Education and Staff Development (Liverpool) a position she held for three years until being appointed as assistant principal at Clarke Road Special School, Hornsby. From Clarke Road, Therese was appointed as principal to Davidson Park Public School, St Ives where she stayed for five years before being promoted to Frenchs Forest Public School. After two years at Frenchs Forest, Therese was appointed to Epping West Public School to replace William Meredith who had retired in 1994.

The period 1995-2002 has been a period of intense growth and development. The school continues the expansion and change that marked the new phase in how government schools were managed as part of the state education system.

Towards the end of the eighties the state system increased the possibilities of schools managing more of their own affairs with the devolution of some decision making, global budgets and the introduction of computer office management systems. It took a number of years for schools to understand this change in role and the very real opportunities for local school based initiatives.

Since 1995 the Epping West School community has committed itself to the upgrading and expansion of school facilities.



**Aerial photograph showing the new shadecloth on the Infants playground 1997 EWPS Archives**

The erection of shadecloth over the K-2 cement playground, provided a meeting place for the whole school and a performance space for concerts and celebrations, while the two sets of children's playground equipment provided modern and safe play and physical education facilities. Provision of shelter for the children motivated the construction of both shelter and an outdoor classroom and assembly area in "The Breezeway". A school information sign was established on Carlingford Road to provide ongoing communication between the school and the local community.

Through intense liaison with the Department of Education the canteen was extended and refurbished, noise attenuation works were carried out for the Carlingford Road classrooms and a walkway linking both parts of A block were constructed.

Technology has been an area of fast development this decade, expanding from the initial whole school committee decision to work from an 'apple' platform to the broad based dual platform currently operating. A small computer laboratory, whole school cabling and the creation within each classroom of a computer centre, has enabled the school to be acknowledged as being at the forefront of using technology. Specialists' teaching of computer and information technology skills has enabled students to be prepared for the demands of the increasing use of technology in society.



**Therese Hinder with School Captains 1996**  
EWPS Archives

The general curriculum has expanded due to the demands of the broader society and children are taught the skills they need to manage and live in society: communication, understanding yourself and working with others, coping with bullying and harassment and self protection and assertion.



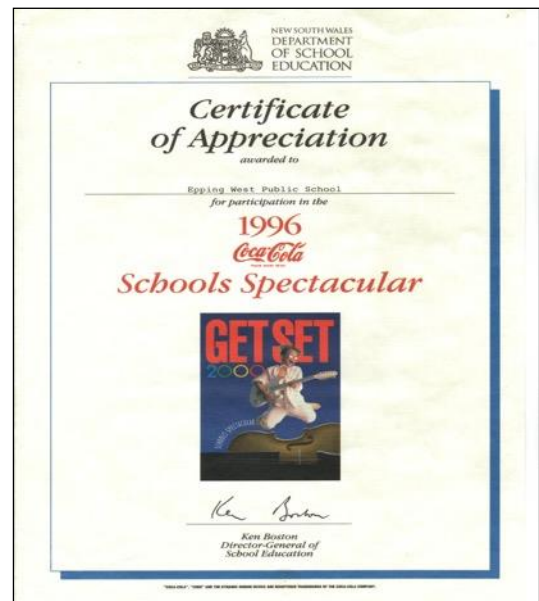
**Students who participated in the Sydney North Drama Festival 1996** EWPS Archives



**Ensemble Group 1996**  
L– R Andrew McLeod, Kris Fennessy, Joel Wilson, Ben McFadden.

Photograph courtesy The Weekly Times

The award of the Director General's Award for Performing Arts in 1997 was a highlight of this period as it recognised the excellence over a long period of the schools history of the performing arts program. The philosophy of participation by all students and then provision of additional programs for those with an interest or talent led to the presentation of this award. Since that time, Performing Arts programs have continued to grow so that there are now four choirs, two bands, three dance groups, a drama group, debating teams in Years 5 and 6 and public speaking programs.



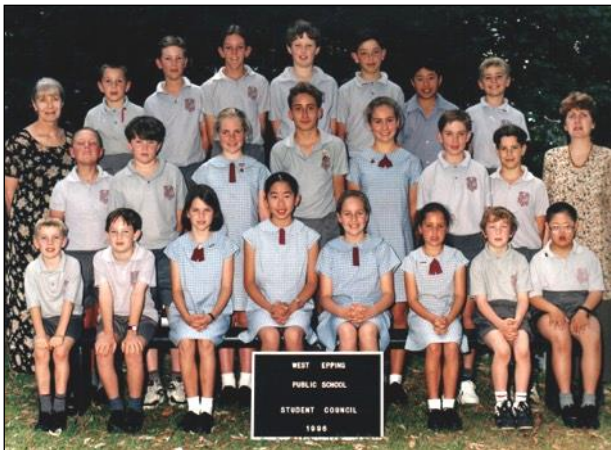
**Schools Spectacular 1996**

The last decade has seen a growth in student leadership and participation through buddy systems, peer support K-6, Student Representative Council (SRC) and the wonderful annual student organised Stewart House Fete. The SRC was the initiating force behind the change in girls' winter uniform material and the inclusion of an option for culottes.



**Multicultural Day 1995**

The support of parents and the community has remained a vital force in the school. Involvement has ranged from classroom help to fund raising and a number of new events (Christmas in July, Carols on the Oval) have joined the traditional Walkathon, Fete and Chocolate Drive.



**Student Council 1996**

A major challenge to the school community occurred in 1996 with the 'pink dust emergency'. The fire on a truck carrying paint pigments along Carlingford Road created a pall of smoke and an emergency situation that resulted in the children and staff being taken to hospital, a public meeting and blood testing of the whole school. The school was closed for a week while it was being cleaned and staff and children gathered at Epping North Public

School. While the dust was found to be not harmful, the pink dust covered everything in the school and grounds and took considerable cleaning to remove. Extensive loss of teaching materials and replacement of equipment followed. In all the trauma, the strength and spirit of the school community supporting the children and restoring normalcy was outstanding.



**Demonstration of the prototype of the Olympic Torch 2000 with Mrs Janet Edwards, Ms Therese Hinder and Ms Liz Grey**

The commitment and undertaking to build a Cultural and Sporting Centre to celebrate the school's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary was the second major challenge embraced by the school community in this time. For many years the school had needed a school hall but has not been successful in gaining one from the Department of Education. In 1999, the decision was made to change the dream into a reality with the initiation of the Project to build a Cultural and Sporting Centre. This Project is strongly supported by all parts of the school and local community and aims to raise through direct giving, \$300 000 by 2002.

The celebration of the 75th anniversary is, therefore, a celebration not only of the past traditions and achievements of the school, but an opportunity for looking forward to the completion of a long awaited and necessary facility for the school – the building of a Cultural and Sporting Centre.

The  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S

School Achievement Award

Awarded to

Epping West Public School

to recognise the  
exceptional quality

and

outstanding achievements

of this school

in Excellence in Performing Arts

4.3.97

The Director



# **EPPING WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL TODAY**

# EPPING WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL TODAY

The school that stands majestically on the northern side of a very busy Carlingford Road today is quite different in size to the school that opened as an Infants school in July 1927. The grounds that the school stands in are very large for a suburban school and must be envy of other, less fortunate schools in the district. The original brick building is still the same but complemented by many more modern buildings, complete with shade cloth that has replaced the many tall towering majestic trees that once adorned the rustic playground.

Currently six hundred pupils attend the school from K-6. Approximately 40% of the children are from non-English speaking backgrounds. The school has 24 classes, including children in special classes for those who have a moderate intellectual disability. The number of children attending the school has remained relatively steady over the past decade. The parent community pays for a reading recovery teacher for the equivalent of two and a half days each week and for a special reading teacher for 12 weeks per year.

Children's lessons now come under the umbrella of Six Key Learning Areas and teachers use revised and updated methods to teach curriculum content to classes. Reporting has taken on a completely different nature as work is now assessed on a progressive nature with portfolios being prepared in class to show examples of children's work in all subject areas. Reports are issued twice a year and parent interviews are conducted following the distribution of the mid-year report.

The Basic Skills Tests in both Numeracy and Literacy are held each year for Years 3 and 5. In Numeracy the testing is done to assess aspects of number, space and measurement and the results provide information on the school's performance in comparison to other students in the state. In Literacy students are assessed in the areas of language and reading skills. Results are used together with class and grade bases assessments to monitor, plan and implement effective numeracy and literacy strategies. In 2000 Years 3 and 5 also trialed the Writing Assessment Program which provided a statewide assessment of creative

writing linked to specific criteria, content, meaning, punctuation and structure.

Students are encouraged to participate in the external examinations coordinated by the University of New South Wales and excellent results are generally achieved in Mathematics, English and Science.

Epping West continues to provide outstanding opportunities in the area of performing arts. Two school bands, three dance groups, a drama group, three choirs and three ensembles all enable active participation and lead to the success the students achieve in the Arts. A specialist music teacher teaches all students each week. In 1997 the school achieved a Director General's Award for Excellence in Performing Arts which recognised the high quality of 10 years fostering participation and equity in the Arts.

Public speaking skills are developed through class lessons and participation in the Multicultural Public Speaking Competition. Across all grades students are given opportunities for leadership in many areas such as class leadership, assembly leadership and participation and class fund raising programs.

The Peer Support Program introduced throughout the school in 1993 develops leadership, conflict resolution skills, positive peer relations and positive attitudes to all races. The school participated in the whole school anti-racism project in December 1995 leading to programs in positive peer relations in 1996. An Annual Multicultural Day (dance, food and games) is held to focus attention on the diversity of races within the school.

A significant development of the pupil welfare program saw the establishment of a Student Council in 1993 with the enthusiastic participation of students in Years 2-6. This program has been extended over the past nine years.

The school continues to actively participate in all sporting programs. Students from the school often represent the school at Regional

level and from time to time a student will represent the school at a state carnival.

Parents continue to be very involved in the school as they have been for seventy-five years. 1993 saw the establishment of a school council. The increased devolution of responsibility from Head Office to schools has required many adjustments to school management and the need for an increased commitment and involvement of the local community, particularly parents, in the day to day life of the school.

'Contact', the school's weekly newsletter begun in 1964, continues to be the avenue to provide communication between the school and the community and the Annual Year Book, a quality publication funded by local sponsorship, continues to be a wonderful record of the

school and its achievements on an annual basis.

Epping West Public School remains a caring school dedicated to educational purposes. The school is within a friendly community that promotes excellence in academic achievement, performing arts and sports creating a balance between the three.

Education patterns have changed considerably since Miss Hilda Drummond temporarily accepted responsibility for the education of the children of Epping West in July 1927. It is to be hoped that all pupils who have passed through the gates of the school have been given the basis of the education they needed to pursue careers, to take their place in society and that they have made themselves worthy citizens of our country.



## MEMORIES OF THE PINK DUST DAY



## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1996

*In 1996 it was lunchtime.*

*I was having lunch with my friends when we heard sirens and were told to run down to the oval. Then we were told to run to the YMCA. We didn't know what was going on I saw people going up to hospital, people crying and heard my friends and myself coughing. We also saw pink dust in the air. I could smell the pink dust. I was puzzled and scared that lunchtime.*

This is how *Emily Blanch*, at that time in Year 1, remembers February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1996 a memorable day in the history of the school when a truck carrying powder paint dye caught on fire while traveling along Carlingford Road from Epping to Carlingford. The dust was “pink like fairy dust” and according to Jemma Rhook smelt “weird” as it filled the air.

The children and staff were evacuated initially to the school oval where the roll was taken and then to the YMCA oval. Due to the unknown nature, at the time, of the burning truck's cargo a full emergency was called and ambulances took children and staff affected by the dust to Ryde, Hornsby and the Royal North Shore Hospitals to be assessed. Most went home later that night.

The Police blocked off Carlingford Road and the Fire Brigade attended with the HAZMAT team. The services worked through the night cleaning up the area with a major consideration being to stop the contaminated water getting into the local waterways.

The school was closed for a week while a team of specialist industrial cleaners cleaned every part of the school. The pink dust was very fine and penetrated every part of the school, even into closed books. Once the elements of the dust had been analysed and identified as consisting of two types of organics dye, lead and chromate, the team worked night and day washing and cleaning. Paper surfaces often were thrown out as they could not be cleaned and even wiping with water led to considerable mould damage later to library books.

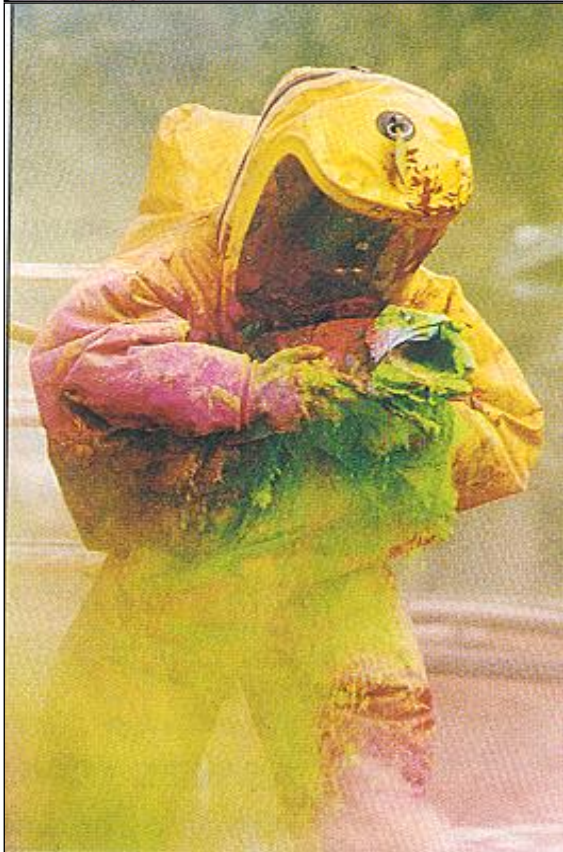
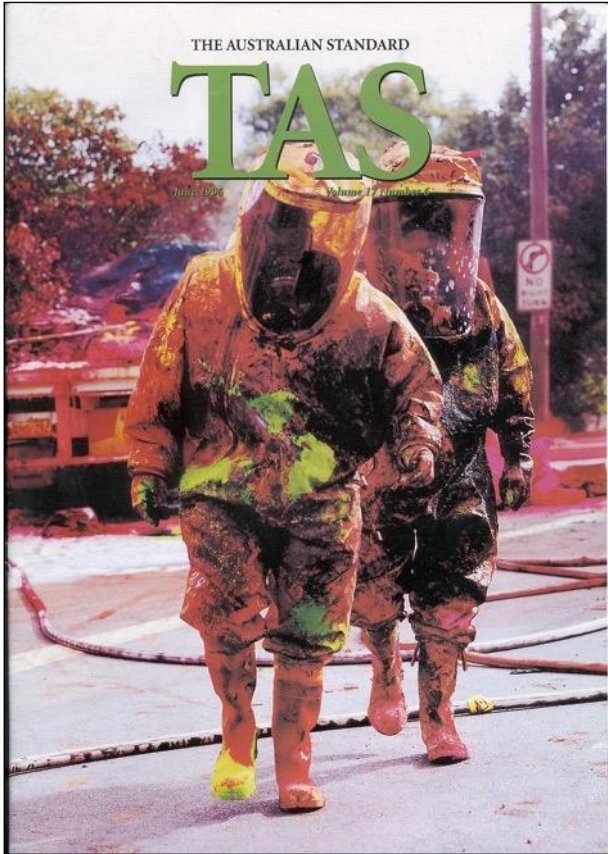
Classrooms lost all their craft work, children lost belongings, teachers lost years of teaching resources. Replacement and insurance claims took over two years to finalise.

The final cost of clean up was \$235 524-, other costs for security guards and assessors and replacement of school items - \$322 404-06, making a financial cost of \$557 928-06 and incalculable emotional cost to individuals involved and their families.

At the time, the uncertainty and the extent of the dust penetration created considerable worry among all involved but the Health Department determined that the exposure was not significant and carried out ongoing monitoring of classrooms for months after the accident.

As the pictures show the fire was a significant event for the local area as a whole and an important part of the history of the school.

**Therese Hinder**





## FORMER STUDENTS REMEMBER...

**Doug Hogan, 1927** writes that he was the first pupil enrolled at the school when it opened in 1927 and Miss Didrickson was his teacher.

**E. Johnston**, now living in Parkes, asks if anyone at the school remembers the bushland behind the school being called “The Spinney.”

**Eric Scott, a pupil in 1927**, remembers when there were only two classes – Year 1 and Year 2. He also recalls the numerous citrus orchards and the termination of the electric railway at Epping.

When he revisited the school in 1997, he chattered to many students and complimented them on the work displayed. He is looking forward to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2002 when he will be eighty one years of age.

**Richard Armstrong 1927 – 1929** remembers in 1928 that Miss Didrikson put a concert together where she used only her pupils but to help this event be successful she got the fathers of the P and C to string fine copper wire along the School of Arts main hall

to carry the children’s voices. Some of the men thought the lady was ‘a bit off’ but when the concert night came around it proved a great success and a vote of thanks was afforded Miss Didrickson for the idea.

**Hazel Fortune (nee Sonter) 1929 – 1935** remembers Colonel Beers as “a special man” who took Scripture classes.

**Jack Fordham 1929 – 36** has memories of running in and out of 2 metre high corn in the field that ran to Ward Street. He also recalls the school fetes when Ross’s Dairy donated milk, which sold for a half-penny a cup.

An early brush with authority is recounted by **Bruce Giles 1930 – 33**. Mrs Angel’s class was ‘on parade’ one morning. She spoke sharply and forbade standing on one leg. Young Giles, not having tried that novel experience, promptly stood on one leg – result, a sharp reprimand.

**Shirley Clark (nee Sams)** who attended the school from **1931 – 1937** tells of planting a

Jacaranda tree on Arbor Day and practising for the Sesquicentenary when pupils represented Wheat, from planting to harvest.

**Dulcie Groom (nee Sonter) 1931 – 1939** had her first Kindergarten photo taken in a boys' cardigan as there were no uniforms.

Vigoro at lunchtime, going home for a lunch of 'boiled sago, brown sugar with rich milk from our Jersey cow' one **Maureen Contrill (nee Hayes)** remembers.

**Jacqueline Ralph (nee Sams) 1932** recalls the cream bun given to each child on Empire Day.

**Ruth Lake (nee Waite) 1933 - 1936** remembers Mr Bailes very carefully placing a sundial in the middle of the front lawn and the "terrible fuss" when it was moved out of place overnight.

**Jim Board 1934 – 1939** remembers Inspector Taylor coming in 1939 when pupils were held to believe they were the ones being inspected! – the Juvenile Ball when each class entered a 'set' of costumes – the shop over the road (Mr Perry's) that gave a free bottle of drink if you bought lunch on a Friday.

**Heather Callaghan (nee Cottom) 1938** planted a tree on Arbor Day when she was school captain. Heather believes it is still growing!

**Marianne McGowan (nee Turner) 1941 - 1947** writes: *'Before our first fete someone had a good idea to insure the fete 'against rain.' This proved to be a good decision, for if it rained the school would get one hundred pounds. A rain gauge was set up in Hazelwood's Nursery (just down from the Hillcrest Avenue and Kent Street intersection) to record any rain. It did not rain at the school but it did rain at Hazelwood's Nursery and in due course the school received the money. This brought the total takings at the fete to four hundred pounds. Two hundred and eight pounds were used to buy a movie projector so films could be shown in the basement.'*

Memories of World War 2 are held by **Helen Martin (nee Chambers) 1942 – 1945**. The memories are of gas marks, knotting squares for rugs, collecting rubber bands and metals for the war effort.

**Eric Butterfield 1942 – 1948** adds to wartime nostalgia by recalling being taught to crouch under desks in the event of an enemy bomb. He thought it was fun at the time but in retrospect doesn't think it was a great protection.

**John Dengate 1944 – 1950**, the author of *'Old Epping West'* has touching memories of the Headmaster, Mr Mooney. He reminisces, *'I visited Mr Mooney not long before he died – he was over 90 years of age and was a wonderful man – a strict but fair Headmaster.'* He remembers that children marched into school to the beat of a butterbox drum. Many boys came to school barefoot as shoes were regarded as somewhat effeminate.

Both **Rod Groves 1944 – 1950** and **John Roberts 1945 – 1951** tell of the excitement of Bonfire and Cracker Nights for Empire Day. Everyone contributed to the building of the fire for weeks prior to the event. **Ron Hinton** adds to these memories.....on the morning of Empire Day there were songs and speakers, drinks, cakes, buns, lollies and then home to build one's own bonfire.

**Janice Miles (nee Downes) 1944 – 1949** reminds us that every Tuesday children would bring flowers to be collected for local hospitals especially Concord.

**Kath Sutton (nee Davies) 1945 – 1951** walked a return trip of 8km to school for seven years. She had a halfpenny a week to spend at Mr Perry's shop.

**Don Ross** remembers picking mushrooms where the oval is now and the circus being set up on the site of the present school library.

**Bob Grant 1946 – 1951** (now Headmaster at Shore,) remembers mixing blue powder to make ink down in the basement so that ink monitors could distribute trays of inkpots to the various classrooms, the variety concerts on wet days when pupils would sing or recite and the visiting Punch and Judy Shows.

**Patricia Dewey (nee McCallum) 1947 - 1952** remembers the honour of being chosen by Mr Forbes to be the leader of the 1952 School Ball. She wore a long white dress especially made for the occasion and Mrs

Shailer, her Transition teacher made a delicate paper garland of Australian wildflowers which she kept for many years

**Jeff Willis 1947 – 1954** recalls that Ross's dairy was still operating next door to the school so nobody needed to give or receive Biology lessons! Another memory that stands out was having to wear shoes when 'we started in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class' as Mrs Angel insisted on shoes being worn. He also remembers Glennie Forbes, the Headmaster writing, 'thrice armed is he who is forewarned,' in his autograph book. The quotation has always stayed in his memory.

**Mac Chambers 1948 – 1954** evokes many memories of school sport in the 50s with his vivid description of cricket at EWPS. *'We had only bats, ball, stumps and perhaps a pair of pads, half a length of concrete with a large tree behind. The rules were; at the bell we raced to the wicket, first there batted first, whoever got the ball bowled first – there was no democracy in our games! Whoever hit the stumps or caught the ball took over batting. Any snicks that rebounded off the tree could be caught. I quickly discovered I could intercept the snicks and thus get the jump on the others. Mr Reeves, noticing this showed me the rudiments of wicket keeping. In 1954 I won the award for outstanding schoolboy cricketer in the Sydney Under 16 Competition.'* Mac later captained Engineering in Rugby and Cricket at Sydney University.

**Barbara Dawson (nee Chambers) at school at the same time as her brother** has clear memories about most of her Epping West School days. She describes her visits to Perry's Shop as follows:

*On the corner opposite the school the door was a narrow entrance in the corner between Carlingford Road and Ryde Street. Children (we were children, somehow, rather than 'pupils' or 'students') were allowed to cross the road to buy lollies at the shop. You lined up in a queue which stretched into Ryde Street and eventually entered the shop, keeping to the right side where sloping glass showed the lollies. A smiling Mrs and Mr Perry served. There was other food sold as well but I always brought my own lunch and playlunch to school.*

**Peter Mason, a student from 1953-55** remembers Carlingford road with single lanes

each way. There were no kerbs, gutters, footpaths or traffic lights. Red and white flags were used for the crossing.

**Elizabeth Watson (nee Kelly) 1957 – 1963, Margaret Carey (nee Brown) 1952 – 1958 and Judy Chambers (nee Butterfield) 1953 – 1959** all remember sewing classes and visiting the staffroom to use the treadle sewing machine. All remember watching films in the basement.

**Victoria Iles (nee Wheeler) 1959 – 1965** recalls the fundraising with lines of coins in the playground, the installation of the traffic lights and opening of the school canteen.

**Meg Brownscombe (nee Cox) 1965 – 1969** was convinced in her first year at the school that the new sandpit was going to be a swimming pool.

**Pam Surnam (nee Astill) 1965 – 1966** has happy memories about the beautiful chalk drawings done by Mr Chick to surprise his class.

**Diana Bills (nee Watkins) 1968 – 1970** has some memories of the late 60's a lot will relate to:

- Folk dancing on the asphalt and waiting for the crackling record to begin, not wanting to dance with the boys and vice versa!
- Girls playing "jacks" at recess or 'elastics' or even skipping and the boys playing 'KP' now called handball.
- Chocolate bread from the canteen for 1c a slice.
- Tip toeing along the corridor – past the Principal's office on the way to the Library (now the staff room).
- Wearing 'witches britches'. Frilly over pants that came almost to the knee, under mini skirts.

**Alison Thomas 1968 – 1972** was one of the very few Asian students at the time. She remembers watching the first moon landing on a black and white TV in a classroom crowded with several classes.

**Jill Taylor (nee Maurer) 1967-1973** remembers her Year 4 class being invited to make a television ad for Dunlop school shoes. Parents (posing as students) and children sat

in a classroom chanting “Dunlop Diploma \$6-99”. For our TV debut, she says, we all received a free pair of school shoes, \$300 for the school and the excitement of catching a fleeting glimpse of ourselves on television!!

**Fiona McIntyre 1970-1973** tells of Mr Eagleton’s method of teaching / testing times tables. He would call out the table and throw a tennis ball to one of us to catch but we had to call out the answer before catching the ball!

Many memories of the Musicals in the 70s namely, *Oliver, The King and I, Fiddler on the Roof* and *Noah’s Ark* are held by **Alison Thomas, Michelle Sanders (nee Parkhill), David Holsworth, Beryl Sysma and Stuart Baker.**

**Edwina Hickey** was at the school in **1980s** and remembers experiencing Halley’s Comet and the Bicentennial Year Celebrations.

**Debbie Uhrig** tells of the spectacular floral display on the front lawn on Anzac Day which

comprised of hundreds of flowers brought in by the pupils.

**Aimee Cervonaro a pupil from 1994 – 2000** has fond memories of representing the school at the opening ceremony of the Pacific School Games and also the excitement of auditioning for the Opening and Closing ceremonies of the Sydney Olympic Games. She wishes Epping West a happy 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## GENERATIONS AT EPPING WEST

We know of four families who have had 3 generations attend our school. There are also many second generation families represented at the school. Listed below are the ones we know about.

GRANDPARENT	YEARS	PARENT	YEARS	CHILDREN	YEARS
Beryl & Mary Veness	1930-40	Meredith, Linda, Kaylenne, Jack, Nigel Nash	1950’s – 70	Kellie & Kristy Rogers	1993-97
Peggy Edgecombe	1933-40	Heather, Leigh, Doug, Jeannine Hutton	1960-81	Belinda & Suli Moala	1986-00
Janice Downs	1945-49	Lisa Miles	1968-74	Leanne Spierewka	1992-98
Doreen Butterfield & Bruce Davies	1940-46	Kerrie & Colin Davies	1962-75	Bradley Davies	1998
Elizabeth Draper	1927	Paul Johnston, L. Johnston			
		Judy Butterfield	1953-59	Dean, Darren, Jodie Chambers	1979-92
Dulcie Groom	1930-37	Lyn & Pamela Sonter, Beverley Way, Doug Groom, Barbara Lees Geoff Groom	1954-74		
Ron Hinton Barbara Hinton	1932-38 1933-39	Christine & Ross Hinton Janet, Robert, Kathy Abraham	1961-67 1966-76		
Tom Webb	1936-39			James, Paul, Mandy Oram	1991-01
		Kay Gardner	1963-69	Katie & Johno Taylor	1991-98
		Diana Watkins	1968-70	Nicholas & Emily Bills	1997-06
		Graham Lego	1966-72	Amy & Myles Lego	1997-06
		Robyn Marceau	1966-72	Danny Marceau	1994-98
		Margaret Denny	1958-62	Katherine, Stuart, Amelia Mitchell	1985-97
		Elizabeth Lane (Owen)	1962-77	Meghan, Gavin, Stuart Owen	1992-04
		Graeme Cox	1964-70	David, Elena & Stephen Cox	1994-00

		Martin Dicker (Burgess)	1966-72	Sonya & Lauren Dicker	1988-97
		Debbie Ford	1962-68	Nicholas & Lucia Heyke	1997-01
		Maureen & Peter Hayes		Shirley, Garth, Bronwyn Cantrill, Gary & Debbie Hayes	
		David Koorey	1966-69	Anna, Lucy & Emily Koorey	1993-99
		Carol Plos	1963-69	Ross, Victoria & Thomas Pooley	1991-97
		Janice McAndrew	1966-72	Stephanie, Liam Dale	1999 –
		Michelle Parkhill	1968-74	James, Stephanie, Jack & Danielle Saunders	1993-
		Anne Besley	1952-58	Michael & Catherine Besley	1975-84
		Felicity Barnett	1968-74	Kate & Adam Morris	1992-03
		Marina, Ilona, Ira, Leo & Andrew Germolus	1955-74	Daniel, Kate, Lauren & Megan Germolus	1996-09
		Ian Quinn & Linda York	1965-74	Bethany, Jack, Lana Quinn	2001-08
		Fiona McIntyre	1970-74	Emma Ricketts	1996-02
		Robyn Coventry	1968-74	Ellen, Hayden, Brad Masala	1993-04
		Mark Bowman	1965-70	Nathan & Alanna Bowman	1998-01
		Julie Cahill	1966-75	Brodie, Bella, Brinlee & Branon Owen	1998-10

## School Memories by Year 6 2002

I remember the day the paint truck crashed and we had to evacuate to the YMCA oval and all the news crews and ambulances and concerned parents rushed into the carpark and people got sick and were on the news. **Matt Burnett**

During my time at Epping West I have lots of fun but my favourite part was in year 4 when we made islands out of dough and paper mache balloons. It was the coolest thing I have ever done. **Bryce Marsden**

This year in the cross country I came 11<sup>th</sup> followed by Arhjun and other people. The cross-country wasn't that hard but it's a long way. **Daniel Lee**

My favourite memory at EWPS is when we went to Year 5 camp. We had archery, canoeing and heaps of other activities. We had a great time! **Yi Qing Wang**

My favourite memory at EWPS was when a truck crashed and let out heaps of red dust.. We all had an injection for the red dust. Half of the oval was covered by red dust. For the rest of the week we worked at the YMCA. **Steven Au**

In Year 5 I burnt my thumb in a science experiment involving electricity. It burnt through 2 layers of skin and it was all yellow instead of red. **James Luis**

The things I will remember are when I got my first gold medal and when Mr Pearson said I made the soccer team. **Andrew Hancock**  
My memory at Epping West was when Deputy Principal Peter Lee left the school. He received a lot of presents and everyone was celebrating.

Then we had a surprise assembly, everyone will remember this day. **Elijah Teo**

When I was in kindergarten, I remember my teacher always got me and my friend mixed up. **Kirsten Baird**

When I was in Year 2 I remember Tim M. getting his lip bitten by the hermit crab. **Nina Hrcic**

When I went to Myuna Bay for Year 5 camp. It was lots of fun and was also my 1<sup>st</sup> time going to camp with the whole grade. **Adriana Choy**

My memory is my first ever excursion which was in Kindergarten. We went to a farm and I got to hold a chicken. I was very excited. **Emily Smith**

My memory is when it was my first day at school and how nervous I was when I walked into the class room. But everyone was really nice!

**Kathleen Stroinovsky**

My fondest memory of Epping West was being offered a place in the OC class. **Tim Stiles**

The most memorable moment of my time at Epping West was in my first year when the truck crashed and we all got a week off school because of the chemicals. **Felix Liu**

I once had a hole in my winter uniform and when I sat down the hole ripped and split all the way up my uniform! **Emily Dollimore**

*In Kindergarten I had Mrs Hedley and we had a fire at our school and I had to go to hospital. The school was closed for one week.*

**Rebecca Smith**

*My favourite memory of Epping West would have to be Year 2 when I got Miss Emery. I was so excited because all my siblings had had her too. I remember her reading us "The Magic Wishing Chair" and a lot of poems. Most mornings we would have song time. Miss Emery gave me a good year and my best memory.*

**Sophie Hatcher**

The best thing that happened while I was at Epping West was when the shade cloth was put up in the infants.

**Robert Hunter**

*When I was in Kindergarten I saw purple smoke coming from behind the library and when our teacher told us to go down to the oval. We sat there and our principal spoke to us.*

**Nathan Bergan**

My most memorable moment in Epping West was Year 5 camp. We had a heap of fun. We went kayaking, canoeing, bike riding and did heaps more fun stuff. We all had to get up at 6:00am and go to sleep at 9:00pm but we could chat for a few minutes. We all had cabins and six people could fit in one and we all had groups! And we had fruit every day. It was heaps of fun. I hope we can go again to the camp.

**Arushi Kumar**

I remember a time when two boys were having a fight at the Year 5 camp. One boy had given a book to another boy as a present and then decided he wanted it back! They were both crying but it was funny. **Tim Mitchell**

I enjoyed fireworks night down on the field. I would get a glowstick and have sword fights. **Andrew Stone**

On Grandparent's Day one of my friends mother adopted me and pretended to be my grandmother. **Daniel Germolus**

In Kindergarten I would say the same thing for news every week. My teacher

said that I had to say something new and I didn't want to so I started crying.

**Ellie Willoughby**

On my first day at Epping West when we were told our classes, I went to the wrong room, so I was with people who were one year older than me. **Chris Allen**

My fondest memory is being a student of Epping West Primary School. **Kelvin Lee**

Last year when I got 15 class awards and I had a principal's morning tea with Mrs Hinder. **Sapna Chauhan**

When I was in Year Three on my first running carnival. I went in the 100 metres boys and came first. After I got into the relay team and won and went to the zone.

**Charles Vorobieff.**

This year in the cross-country I came 11<sup>th</sup> followed by Arjun and other people. The cross-country wasn't that hard but it's a long way.

**Daniel Lee**

*I remember when I was in Kindergarten a truck was on fire out the front of the school and we got rushed out of school.*

**Bryn Douglas**

When I was in Year 2 I remember my first day at school when Miss Emery introduced me to Sophie.

**Lisa Lee**

On my first day of school I remember meeting Anna Gibson. She was my first primary school friend.

**Lauren Davis**

*I remember when I first came to this school I made lots of friends.*

**Lisa Nichols**

When I first came to this school, I remember Epping West students were the kindest students I ever saw.



## **Ahrin Ha**

*On my first day here I was so nervous but after a little time here I learned to love it.*

**Jenny van Bruinessen**

My favourite memory at EWPS is the sports carnival. How the teachers spent their day helping and organising us so that the children could race and have fun.

**Tim Woodhouse**

*I remember the Year 5 camp and the activities we did there, eg archery, bushwalking, canoeing, orientation, yacht riding and many more things that I didn't mention.*

**Yaroslav Laletin**

I remember my first day in Epping West. I was in Year 5 and Mr Lee led me to class 5H. The teacher, Mrs Hudson, told me to sit with James Luis, a good classmate who always helped me when I had any problems. I was very happy.

**David Fan**

My favourite memory of Epping West was in my kindergarten year when I was chosen to receive the Nutcote Award.

**Daniel Wynn**

The best time I had at primary school is when we went to Homebush Aquatic Centre in 2001 for the end of the year Christmas party.

**Hossein Entezami**

*A memory I will have of Epping West is when a truck loaded with chemicals crashed near our school and our school was engulfed with smoke.*

**Jonathan Chan**

My fondest memory of Epping West was the Year 5 camp at Myuna Bay.

**Manuela Tan**

*Kayaking on the lake at Myuna Bay, last year, was my fondest memory of Epping West.*

**Katherine Witheridge**

My happiest memory of Epping West is the academic award I received in Years 3, 4 and 5.

**Chun Yan Mak**

*The thing I remember most about Epping West was my first day at school. I remember this the most because I was very excited to be at school for the first time.*

**Sara Ooi**

*I remember on the first day of school when we all lined up around the yellow circle in the infants and Mrs Hinder spoke to us.*

## **Mitchell Fulton**

*In the year 2000 I won the colouring competition to get free tickets to see the movie "Selkie".*

**Tessa Fewchuk**

I remember in 1996 I was in Kindergarten there was a truck crash and the chemicals got on fire.

**Bianca Lagana**

All I remember is when I first came to school and that I was shy, nervous and excited.

**Cecilia Koong**

*After the fire in 1996 we had to get needles. My friend had to get two because of it. The first one was in her vein. She said it hurt.*

**Jessica Munro**

*I remember the first day of school we lined up around a circle to meet all the people who were in your class, and the first person I saw was Jarrod.*

**Lachlan Harte**

When I was in Kindy in 1996 I remember when a truck was carrying chemicals. The chemicals exploded and I was very scared.

**Nick Berridge**

I remember the first day of school. Everyone was around me.

**Paula Fasano**

I remember the time I fainted in the YMCA Christmas Carols in the infants.

**Grant Webster**

In 1998 two people came to our school and showed us dangerous snakes and wildlife. There were snakes of all sorts. There was a python on a table we could touch.

**Ronald Han**

*In 1997 I remember the fire engines came to the school and they drove us around the oval.*

**Oliver Tognetti**

A memory I will never forget goes back to 1996 when I was in Kindergarten and I wasn't used to the school as others. So I happened to go to the toilet. However, I was confused between the boys and girls toilets. I went on my instincts and went to the boys' toilets. Now I am always making sure.

**Suzanne Mahmoud**

The thing I remember the most is being House-Vice Captain for the Kookaburras.

**Anna Gibson**

I remember in 1999 I was in the Year 3 dance group. I remember being up on stage with our costumes and make up on when we were performing. It was so much fun.

**Emily Roberts**

I remember in 2002 sometime in May when my mother was picking me up from Mrs Kuti at about 5:00. She drove right next to the room through the teachers' carpark. On the way back to Carlingford Road the chain was up and locked.

**David Duong**

The thing I remember most from Epping West is when the PM came to visit the school in 2001. I thought it was good that he came to visit and it was good for the school.

**Nicholas Lisle-Williams**

The best memories I have of Epping West was when we went on the Year 5 camp. It was a week full of fun and I'll remember it forever.

**Rachel Pope**

I remember when the reptile show came to our school. The year sixes helped and I was in Year Two. My sister was a Year Six person and she held a snake, which looked like she was in handcuffs.

**Hayley Miles**

*I remember when a truck crashed in front of our school and fire trucks came and news reporters came.*

**Jefferson Lee**

I remember the time when I won the safety house competition and I won tickets to the Museum.

**Hayden Masala**

I remember when Mr Lee left. He was the best softball coach this school had ever had.

**Kris Fung**

In 1997 Jessica Munro and I danced up and down the playground!

**Meredith Wilson**

The moment I remembered most since I have been at Epping West was when the truck overturned and there was fire. Everyone had to be evacuated down to the oval and YMCA oval and some had to go to hospital.

**Emma Ricketts**

All the fun I had in Year One and Year Five and how quickly I learnt and all the happy memories.

**RICHARD VOROBIEFF**

I remember when I first came to school my first friend was Ronald then Kris and then Darren. Darren said "are you good at drawing"? I said "kind of". My class was 4/5G and I liked it a lot.

**GABRIEL HYUNG**

The ESL students went to the Easter Show with Mrs Evans. We had a great time.

**RAPHAEL CHAN**

I remember in 5<sup>th</sup> grade the whole of Year Five went to a camp from Monday to Friday. We were put in groups. The groups we were in slept in the same cabins. Every day we did something different like riding bikes. Throwing boomerangs and more. I had fun at camp.

**HELEN MICHAELS**

When I made it into the cricket, AFL and softball teams.

**ARJUN SHAH**

One of my favourite memories is from the Year 5 camp. We went on the high ropes course. It was very high and exhilaratingly fast.

**SAMUEL PRICE**

I remember the time when Mr Lee told me a very funny joke, which I didn't really understand.

**LENNY THAI**

My Dad was in charge of our cabin during the Year 5 camp. He put on a tape about some aliens with tentacles. The boys got confused about the word tentacles and thought it was something rather rude that sounds similar. It was very funny.

**DANE RHOOK**

In Year 5 we had to change tables and somehow I got to sit with a boy I didn't know well. I found him friendly and funny and he now is my best friend.

**Jacob Kim**

On an excursion to Boronia Park, two girls got lost. We all had to wait another half hour until we found them.

**Bradley McCaffery**

I will never forget the time when I started singing a love song during an art lesson (not that I am in love or anything). Everyone started laughing. I was so embarrassed.

TAWAR RAZAGHI

*I remember when my friend fell off a wooden seat and bruised her backbone. Everyone thought she was paralysed because she couldn't move her legs.*

BETHANY LEE

In Year 4, the teacher took my chair from my desk and sat on it. Then she got up and so I took back my chair. Then when she went to sit back on my chair and she landed on the floor!

**JOSHUA JUNG**

My most memorable occasion at school was when the truck crashed outside and we had to evacuate to the YMCA oval.

**Emma Gulliver**

In Year 5, my friend took a boy's shoe and then ran into the girls' toilet block straight after her!

REBECCA SONG

*My remember best playing soccer and running around on the school oval.*

JIEMING WANG

I remember my second day of school at Epping West. I went to the Infants area by mistake. Luckily a friend rescued me and took me to the right room.

SATHYATHARA RADINDRANATH

*I remember walking to school in Year 1, and reaching for my mother's hand. When I looked up, I was holding someone else's hand.*

ESTEFANY VEGARANO

I can remember the first day I arrived at Epping West. I couldn't understand or speak English, but I had made friends on my very first day.

**Kevin Wang**

In Year 4 a teacher sat on a boy's pencil case. There was a silver texta pen in the pencil case and it made a mark on the teacher's new skirt.

DANIEL KIM

*In Year 4, I got really good at playing handball. I hit the ball so hard and hit someone really hard in the rear end.*

DARREN LOW

I remember coming to Epping West when I was in Year 5 and the new friends I made. I also remember when my best friend went to a different school and I was very disappointed.

**Angela Seo**

My sister was House Vice Captain and I dressed up my teddy bear in the school sport uniform because I wanted to be my sister.

NATALIE FULTON

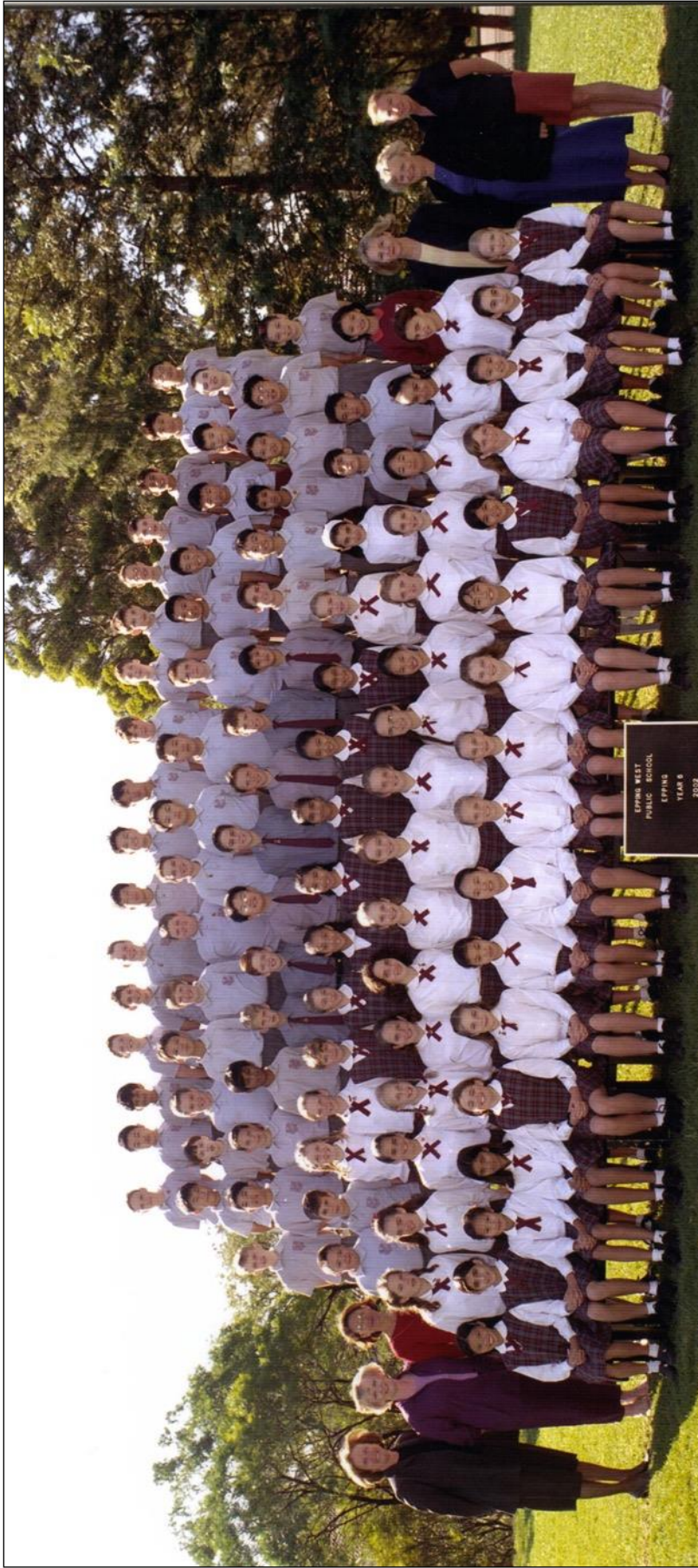
Once when I was in Kindergarten, I was opening my juice and the whole thing exploded over everyone near me. It was so embarrassing.

**Sophie McCormack**

*In Kindergarten, when I first came to this school, I couldn't speak English. My friend translated everything the teacher said. I learnt a lot of English from her.*

ANNA KIM

Year 6 2002



Mitchell Fulton, Kelvin Lee, Sathyathar Rabindranathan, Richard Vorobieff, Bryn Douglas, Oliver Tognetti, Jacob Kim, Felix Liu, Joshua Jung, Bradley McCaffery, Charles Vorobieff, Yaroslav Laletin, Hayden Masala, Grant Webster, Arjun Shah, Gabriel Hyung, Steven Au, Kirsten Baird, Jessica Munro, Hayley Miles, Ellie Willoughby, Rosie Woods, Anna Gibson, Tessa Fewchuk, Meredith Wilson, Emily Roberts, Sophie McCormack, Cecilia Koong, Natalie Fulton, Rebecca Smith, Rebecca Song, Suzanne Mahmoud, Nina Hrnica, Andrew Mujunen, Matthew Burnett, Emily Dollimore, Rachel Pope, Jennifer van Bruinessen, Lisa Nichols, Yi Qing Wang, Jessica Tjhin, Arushi Kumar, Lenny Thai, Sara Ooi, Kathleen Stroinovskiy, Bianca Lagana, Hossein Entezami, Jonathan Chan, Yao Yao Chen, Nicholas Lisle- Williams, Darren Low, Andrew Hancock, Daniel Wynn, Daniel Germolus, Sam Price, Chun Yan Mak, Lachlan Harte, Dane Rhook, Tim Woodhouse, David Duong, Tim Mitchell, David Fan, Elijah Teo, Jieming Wang, Samuel Poon, Robert Hunter, James Luis, Tim Stiles, William Stone, Daniel Lee, Bryce Marsden, Nathan Bergan Nick Berridge, Kevin Wang, Daniel Kim, Chris Allen, Kris Fung, Ronald Han, Raphael Chan, Jefferson Lee, Andrew Stone, Manuela Tan, Tawar Razaghi, Bethany Lee, Sanna Chauthan, Lauren Davis, Sophie Hatcher, Adriana Choy, Anna Kim, Emily Smith, Paula Fasano, Emma Gulliver, Ahrin Ha, Estefany Vejarano, Emma Ricketts, Lisa Lee, Helen Michaels, Katherine Witheridge  
 Teachers: Mrs Grey, Ms Owen, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Mendis, Mrs Gifford & Mrs Solomons Principal: Mrs Hinder Absent: Angela Seo

# THE EARLY DAYS OF EPPING

A wonderful concise description of Epping before the school was built is best described in *Minutes to Remember*, a history of Epping Congregational Church.

The author has given permission to reprint this first chapter.

The earliest recorded name for what is now known as Epping was Pennant Hills and this covered the area from Pearce's Corner at Wahroonga, to the Parramatta River. The eastern side, which the railway line now generally divides, was part of the Field of Mars, an area of 5000 acres dedicated in 1792 as common land for the use of personnel in the NSW regiment. A small part of this area, down where Doomben Avenue now is, and west of the railway line from Rowe Street, Eastwood to Devlin's Creek in the north and Midson Road to the west, were later grants of land to Lieutenant William Kent and his nephew Midshipman Kent. The former had come to Sydney in 1795 and was one of two men who took part in the purchase of sheep from the Dutch Cape Colony in South Africa, which later provided the nucleus of the great Australian sheep industry. There is some argument whether Kent actually pastured his sheep of the original flock (some going to Macarthur) on his farm at Epping, although it is logical to suppose so. The nephew eventually took over his uncle's interests, and later became Commander of HMS 'Porpoise', the ship which figured prominently in the deposal of Governor Bligh.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Epping was a timbered area with open patches of forest country. In 1822 we read of the Pennant Hills Sawing Establishment, which was set up by Governor Macquarie, the great builder in the early life of the colony. This establishment was erected near the site of the present day Methodist (now Uniting Church), and the saw pit was adjacent to the area now occupied by the Roman Catholic Church. Here convicts were employed in collecting and sawing timber, splitting shingles and burning charcoal. In 1826 this small outpost was referred to as the 'Barren Ridges Establishment' but a few years later the depot was abandoned.

With the cutting down of trees for the sawmill located in Oxford Street Epping, a number of orchards were planted. Possibly the best known being the Mobbs Orangery which was located near the site of Epping West Public School and said to be one of the show pieces of the early 1880s. Fruit and vegetable growing now became the main industry and all goods were transported to Sydney via the Ermington Wharf and the Parramatta River.

The development of Epping really commenced with the coming of the railway in 1886. The first railway station was interestingly enough, situated at the western end of Chester Street and was given the name Carlingford. This explains the number of streets converging at the Chester Street Uniting Church and similarly at the Oxford and Surrey Streets corner. Because of the steep grade it was later moved, in 1890, to its present position. By this date there were five trains daily and in time it was to become the third largest fruit station in the State, surpassed only by Pennant Hills and Seven Hills.

In the busy season five railway trucks filled with Epping produce would be sent away each night and often return the next day filled with manure from the carriers' stables at Newtown. This was tipped on the orchards with wonderful results and no doubt contributed to the wonderful rose gardens around Epping in the past century.

The bush was full of native flowers – native rose, boronias, waratahs, flannel flowers etc and bird life was also abundant. There were flocks of parakeets and the gill bird or honey eaters of the gum tree blossom were considered a great delicacy in making pies. There were also finches, red heads and diamond sparrows in great numbers, equivalent, perhaps of our modern day budgerigars. Possums were plentiful and there is a record of native cats and koalas in the surrounding bush.

Flying foxes were the bane of the orchardist's life. Orange groves flourished on both sides of the railway line and before the advent of the fruit fly the district was successful in growing

fruits such as loquats, apricots, peaches, plums, apples, pears, quinces and quavas.

Epping was very much a country village. There was of course no water supply, gas or electric light, and in times of drought, when tanks were low, the local residents used the closest creek for their wash tub. The first water mains reached Epping in 1897 and gas followed in 1904.

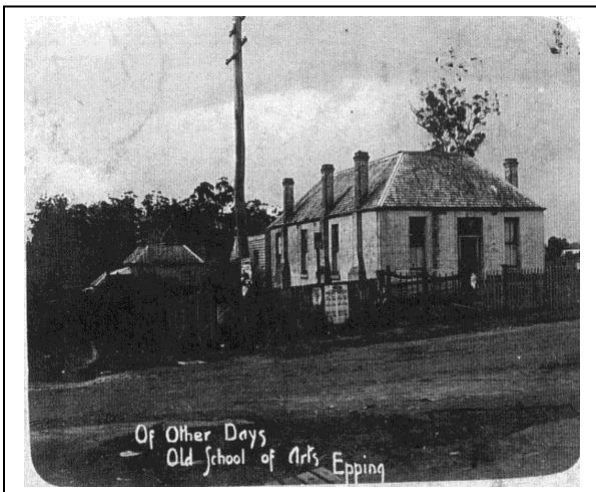
Parramatta was generally considered the shopping and, to a minor extent, the marketing centre of the district, so much so that some of the early Epping population had never been to Sydney.

With the station named Carlingford and the postal district East Carlingford there was an obvious and growing confusion as to where one actually lived. In 1899 the local Progress Association suggested the area be re-name Epping. It had been contended that William Midson put forward the name because his father had been born in Epping, Sussex, near to Epping Forest and the large amount of local bushland seemed to make this selection of a name a very apt choice. An old identity, Mr Sep Butler was of the opinion that the name Epping,

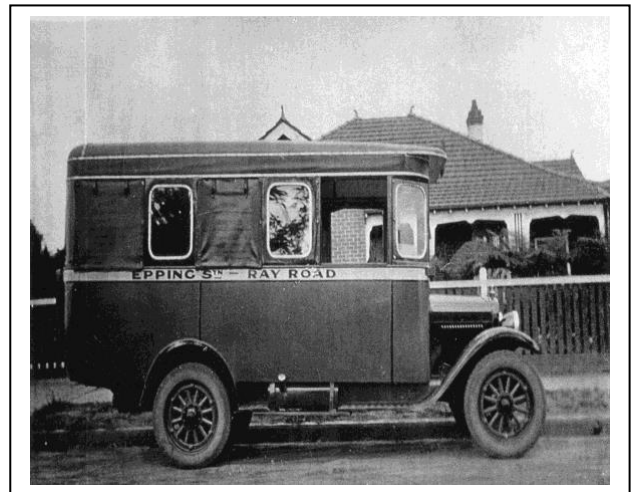
was suggested by a Mr Rein. Recourse to the minute books of the East Carlingford Progress Association (which first met on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1897, in Walker's Hall) shows the naming of the new station was a very lively issue indeed. Finally, suggestions were invited from many sources and Mr Midson moved that a special meeting be called to select a name.

Originally 47 names were submitted but by exhaustive ballot they were reduced to seven. Included in this number were Chester, Warrington, Lynford, Epping and Aylesford.\* A further ballot reduced them to two, Epping and Chester, and the final choice was eventually made. The motion, that the designation of Epping be submitted to the Railway Commissioner, was moved by Mr Rein and seconded by Mr Michael, and on receiving the railway's approval the district officially received its new and present name.

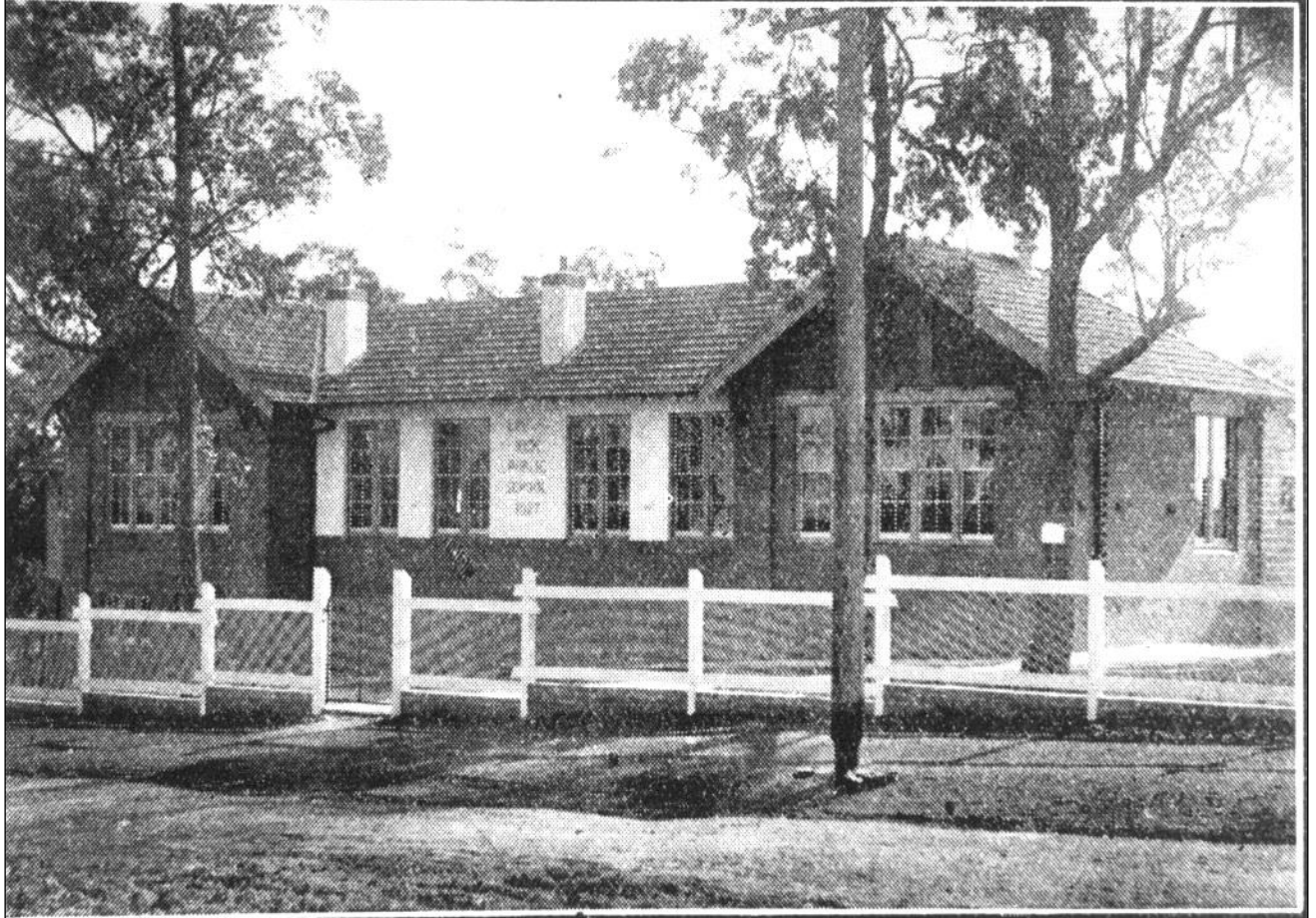
\*Two of the names are difficult to read, for strangely these particular minutes are the only two to be written in pencil; they are pasted hastily and untidily in the minute book in four sections as though written on the backs of large envelopes or scrap paper.



**Epping School of Arts 1906** HSHS Collection



**Ray Road Bus C1910** HSHS Collection



**NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL AT EPPING WEST.**  
It cost over £4000 and was officially opened recently.