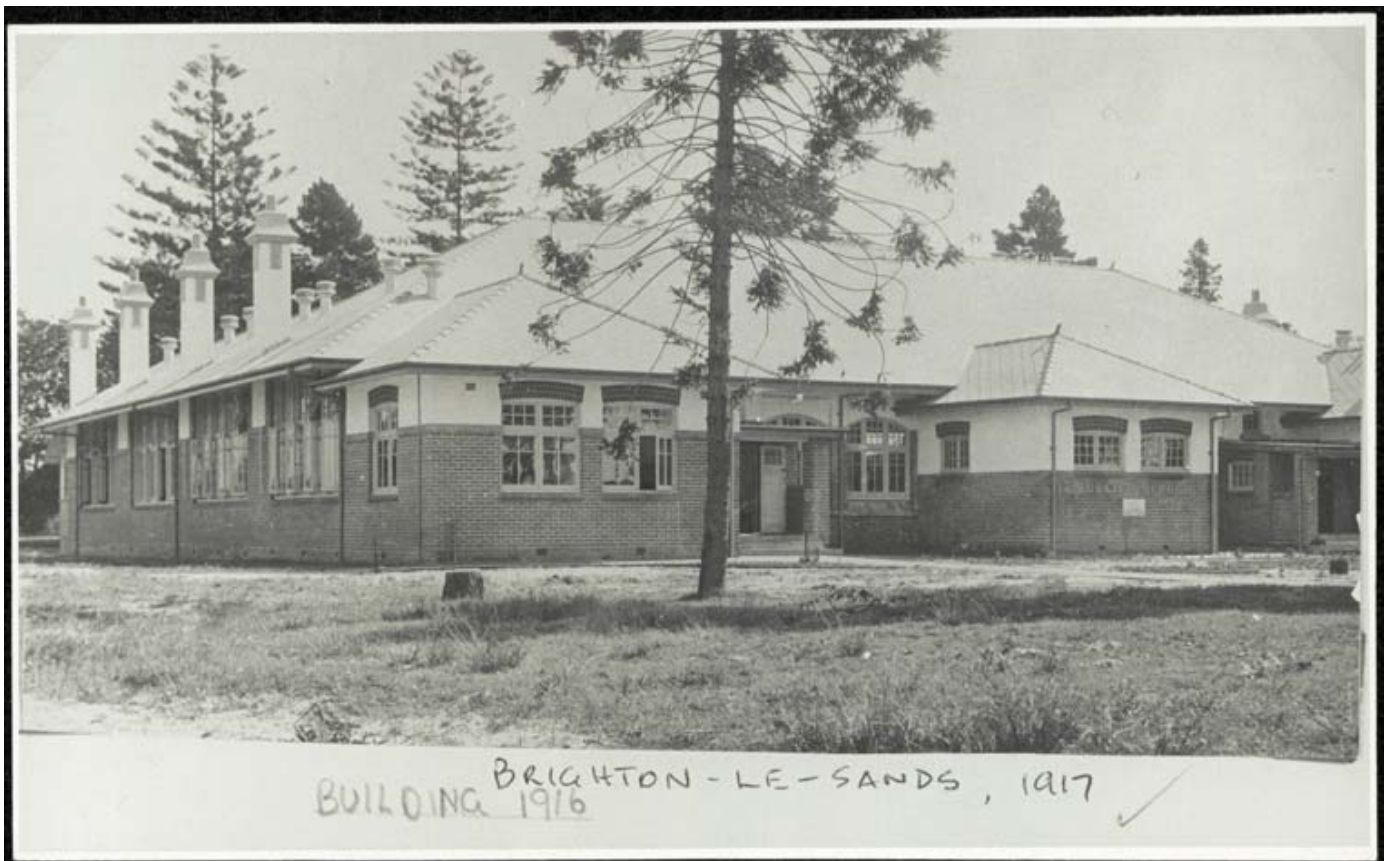


BRIGHTON LE SANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY



100



CENTENARY 1917 – 2017

BRIGHTON LE SANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL

History of the school and district by Al Powditch

Principal's message

It is with great pleasure and pride, as Principal at Brighton-Le-Sands Public School in its Centenary Year, that I have the opportunity to write a forward to this commemorative book.

Firstly I must acknowledge the outstanding effort of the Centenary Committee lead by Mr John Sutton, Assistant Principal, who has brought the community together to celebrate on this day. Additionally, the work of Alan Powditch in researching and writing this book demonstrates his commitment to the school and the whole community.

Many things have changed during the history of Brighton-Le-Sands and it's school. The suburb and school have been impacted by conflict, economic boom and bust, urbanisation and the introduction of the technology revolution.

From my perspective, one constant has remained; the continued provision of quality education for the students of Brighton-Le-Sands.

I have been fortunate to have been selected to work with the dedicated staff, enthusiastic students and committed parents of this school since the commencement of 2011. Following on from the tremendous programs that previous Principals have established has been an honour.

During these 6 years the school has continued to achieve amazing results academically, socially and culturally as well as increase its involvement with the local community. These continued improvements have enhanced the learning opportunities of the students.

The school's academic performance continues to be above state average in all areas of the curriculum, with particular strength in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. The excellence of the staff, and the programs that we have here, have been recognised with the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority filming demonstration lessons here that are to be used around Australia to train teachers in the Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Sport.

Our leading role in creating the partnership of the Bayside Learning Community has provided outstanding gifted and talented opportunities for the children, exceptional Professional Development opportunities and improved teaching practices.

The school's sporting success has been amazing with the school winning multiple Zone Sports Carnivals and providing individual students and teams with the chance to represent their Zone, Region and State.

Performing Arts Education programs have included whole school Musical Theatre productions, involvement in the Schools' Spectacular and a vibrant in-school program embracing all aspects of the Creative and Performing Arts.

The school has hosted many special visitors who are have always been impressed by the enthusiasm of the children and the dedication and skill of the staff. Visitors have included the Federal Education Minister, State and Federal Members, the Deputy Director of the NSW

Department of Education, Olympians, Media personalities and local community representatives.

There has been an increase in the school's involvement with the community through visits to the local nursing home, an increased school presence at the local ANZAC Day Dawn Service and the introduction of a School Chaplaincy program designed to connect families at the school to expand the support structures available.

Always at the forefront of educational innovation, the staff and parents are embarking on a journey to prepare the students for the future, a future that is unknown and unimagined. The development of 21st Century learning spaces, Science Technology Engineering and Maths programs along with the development of critical thinking skills and collaborative practices will prepare our students to carry on the legacy of those who have enjoyed the benefits of 100 years of education at Brighton-Le-Sands Public School.

Ian Power

Principal

2011 – 2017

Brighton-Le-Sands Centenary Committee

John Sutton - Centenary Coordinator	Al Powditch	Lauren Bateman
Jenny Sadler	Robyn Ingersole	Sally Sewell
Fatima Berri	Fiona Murray	Helen Gazis
Jessica Hoban	Julie Hornigold	Ikla Hijazi
Jan Wilson	John Gaspar	Melissa Keogh
Peta Maddern	Nicki Roditis	Pelagia Park
Nathalie Tarabori	Marie Poulos	Melissa Haydon

And special thanks to, Val Allsop for keeping our history safe.

Brighton-le-Sands Public School 1917-2017

Celebrating 100 years of Education

The attempts to open a Public school at the village of Lady Robinson's Beach began in November 1898 began with an approach by **Thomas Saywell**, developer of The New Brighton Estate, to the Hon John Hogue, Minister for Public Instruction. In 1903 Lady Robinson's Beach was renamed Brighton le Sands. On 24 November 1914, after considerable pressure from parents, the Minister for Public Instruction, Mr Ambrose Carmichael announced in the NSW Legislative Assembly that a school would be built at Brighton le Sands.

288 children enrolled at the school on 16th April, 1917, most of whom, had been attending the distant and overcrowded Rockdale and Kogarah Public Schools.

The school was a 'model' school, totally planned and controlled by the Director of Education, Mr **Peter Board**. The school site was at 35 Crawford Road, and it adopted an innovative syllabus, and a unique building design. The school site had been the garden home of Mr George Hook, 'Carrington Park' from 1870 to 1902. He was the first resident of Brighton and anywhere along Lady Robinson's Beach, from Kyeemagh to Sans Souci. In 1917, Brighton le Sands was a rural outpost of Sydney and only 10% of the land was occupied. The population of Brighton grew substantially up to 1930. School numbers increased dramatically from the original 288 to over 1000 students in 1930's.

World War 1, war was a major influence over life at Brighton, and the school pupils. Over 800 men, from Rockdale Municipality served, in Gallipoli and on the Western Front in France and Belgium. At least 70 men from Brighton served overseas. Quite a few died or were injured. Every edition of The Sydney Morning Herald carried details of the war. Most soldiers returned in mid 1919. The school was closed in June 1919, for 3 weeks, because of the deadly pneumonic flue brought back from Europe by soldiers. It prompted the first boys Dux, Lindsay Burrows to join the Royal Australian Navy, at age 14 ½ in early 1919.

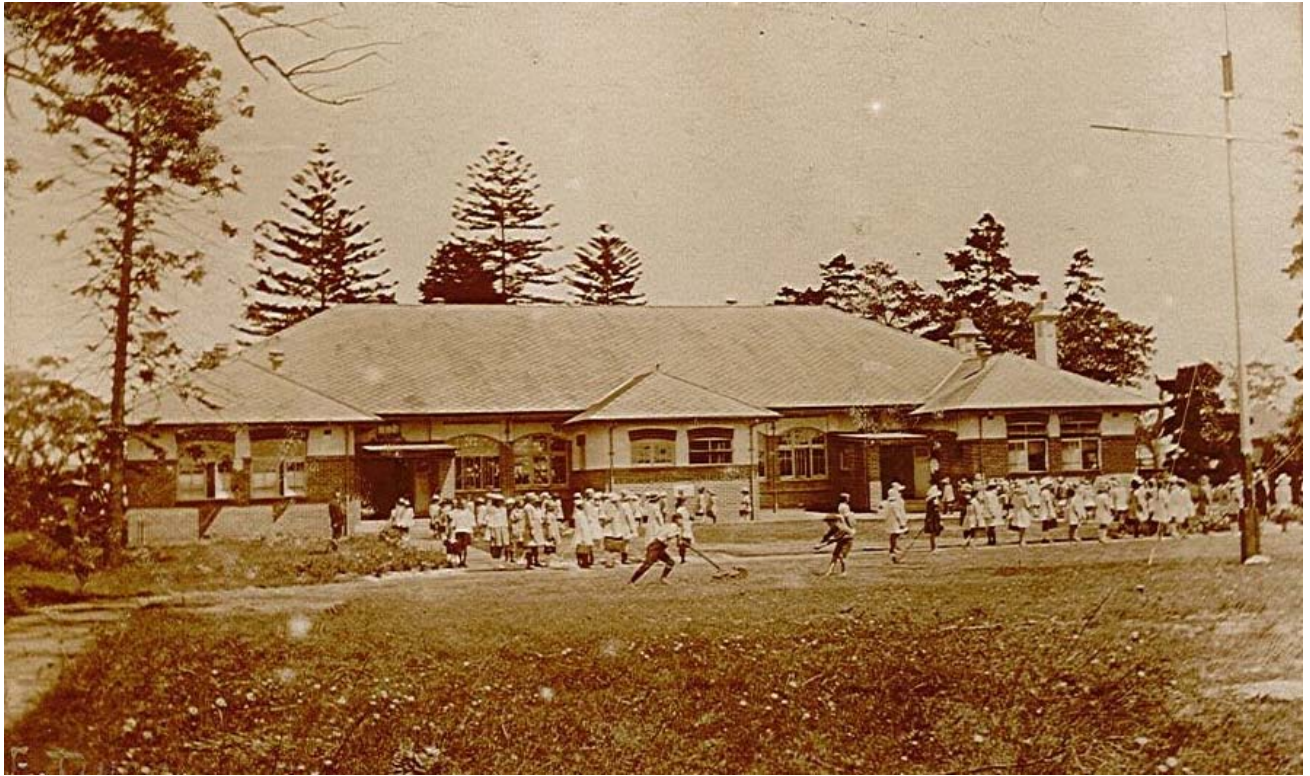
The first Headmaster was Mr **Percy Cox**, B.A. whose family had served as teachers for many years. Mr Cox travelled each day from Drummoyne to Brighton for 9 years, until he swapped positions with the 2nd headmaster Mr **John Curry** B.A. B.Sc. in March 1926, Headmaster of Wellington Intermediate School. Mr Curry remained until 1930. Both Mr Cox and Mr Curry were highly credentialed in an era where less than 5% of teachers held degrees. The Depression from October 1929 to the late 1930's was a very difficult period. Unemployment nationally reached 32% in 1932, and was still 11% in 1939. Brighton mothers began feeding poorer pupils, at lunch time and in 1930 over 300 lived in humpies in Happy Valley in the sand dunes of North Brighton. Other painful major conflicts involving Brighton families included World War 2, Korea, and Vietnam. The Olympics in Melbourne in 1956, Sydney in 2000 and the moon landing in 1969 were uplifting international events.

There have been major changes to life at Brighton le Sands, from the horse and buggy era of 1917, with steam trains, picture theatres, and swimming baths, even prior to radio broad casts, to 2017 where our life of cars, traffic jams, computers, mobile phones, air travel, T.V., social media, and organised sport pervades.

Over the 100 years, Brighton le Sands has been under the direction of 17 Principals/ Headmasters, who set the tone and effectiveness of this academic community. There have been more than 800 staff, and probably up to 10,000 pupils. A highlight of year 2016 and for previous years, for this multicultural school was the celebration of Universal Children's Day in November.

A wonderful Web site for Brighton le Sands Public School provides information, about the school's organisation and expectations, with regular updates of activities, completed or planned.

Currently 753 children at the school are under the care and direction of the current Principal Mr **Ian Power**, now in his 7th year, ably supported by Mrs **Tracy McKinnier** and Mr **Nicholas Potten** and a staff of more than 40 teachers and other administrative staff. We salute them.



Brighton-le-Sands Public School Opened 16th April 1917

On Monday 16th April, 1917, Brighton-le-Sands Public School opened at 35 Crawford Road, Brighton-le-Sands. The School was built on a 4 ³/₄ acre level garden site, set back 600 metres west of Botany Bay. NSW Dept Education Chronological List of Schools p22 1901-20/letter P.Board to Rockdale Council 29 March 1917 State Archives NSW Dept of Education School files 1913-1920 (5/15085.2).

It was a fine but overcast day, 18c, with a gusty southerly SMH 17th April, '288 little boys and girls' quietly enrolled. Their ages ranged from 7 to 13. They would 'remain until they passed the Qualifying Certificate Examination ...usually at the age of 14.' Peter Board SMH 13 Dec 1921. There was no ceremony or publicity on the day. Just parents enrolling their children, at this new school.

It was a very exciting day for the children, their parents, the teachers, and The Education Department. Mr Percival Cox, previously teaching at Blackfriars Practice School, Chippendale was appointed as Headmaster Gov Gazette 27 July 1917. It was also a very special day for Mr Cox. On that very day, Sydney University published in The Sydney Morning Herald that he had been awarded his Bachelor of Arts Degree Sydney Morning Herald page 4

The builders had faced late deliveries of materials and a lack of trained labour, and fitting out the building continued for more than a month after the first enrolments. The on-site Architect had waited for Oregon timber from The State Timber Yard for 4 months which finally arrived in mid-December. D.A.Craig Sub- Architect on site Brighton School, State Archives NSW Dept of Education School files 1913-1920(5/15085.2). Without these delays the school would have opened closer to the start of the new school year, Tuesday 29 January 1917. Dungog Chronicle 29 Jan The opening day occurred one week after Easter Monday 9 April.

In addition to educating Brighton children, the new school would help alleviate overcrowding at nearby existing schools, Kogarah and Rockdale. Refer letter by Mr Peter Board on information of students, who transferred. See replies below. It was calculated that up to 229 children would transfer from these schools to Brighton. It was also the first day of school for 60 children. It was more than 2 years since the Minister for Public Instruction Mr Carmichael, had publicly notified, members of Parliament 'that Brighton le Sands school would be constructed without further delay' SMH 26 Nov 1914.

Children living along Bay St and the beach had for many years been provided with free travel aboard Saywell's tram, up the hill to Rockdale School 2 km west. Many children walked to these two schools. The twice daily burden up and back, was a tiring event, especially when it was hot or raining.

For family and safety reasons, some mothers would have found it difficult to send their daughters and younger children to Kogarah or Rockdale School. And some were unable to send their children at all because of their distant location. There were many absent fathers, on war service, or at work in the inner city, who could not help with this task. The parents would have been overjoyed that their children could at last attend this local school.

Unknown to most families, the syllabus and the buildings at the new school were purposefully designed to introduce and provide a unique and innovative form of primary education in NSW. In education circles Brighton le Sands Primary School was known as the Model School. This school represented the future guideline for primary education in NSW.

'Kindergarten, primary and school-technical college on a small scale' SMH 13 Dec 1921 P. Board



The open-air policy was adopted with ceiling high bi-folding doors. The photo is of the southern wing of the Brighton School's Main building, taken from inside the rear quadrangle looking south.

The Official Opening May 12, 1917

Brighton le Sands was officially opened a month later, by Mr A. (Gus) James MLA, and Minister for Education on Saturday May 12 1917, at 3 o'clock. This new school was a major event in the short history of Brighton le Sands. The School will accommodate 600 pupils

It was the end of autumn, and a cool 19c. Brighton le Sands Primary School became one of 2013 NSW primary schools operating in 1917. NSW Dept of Education/no of Govt Schools Statistics

'A large gathering' had assembled for the celebration outside the School building for the ceremony. Mr George Moate, President of the Brighton Progress Association presented Mr James with a gold key, and Mr James, then opened the school doors. The children, parents, teachers, reporters and other stakeholders entered the main building, to hear from the many special guests. Sunday Times 13 May 1917/SMH 14 May

Other special guests included Mr Peter Board, C.M.G., NSW Director of Education, Mr Percy Cox BA, the Headmaster, (Miss Vera Stephen, assistant in charge of the kindergarten), Mr William Bagnall the NSW MLA member for St George, and Mr Arthur Griffith, the former MLA and Minister for Public Instruction, and who had laid the foundation stone in 1916. An MLA for 23 years,' he became the Labour Party's expert on Education' but he lost his seat as Member for Annandale, on 24 March 1917. A former teacher, who taught from 1884 to 1894 he was passionate about education. Australian Dictionary of Biography.

These special guests were leaders in NSW politics, representing both two major political parties, National and Labour, the Department of Education and Rockdale Council, and Brighton Progress Association.

'Heretofore there has been a set course of daily lessons... but now this has changed'. The pupils will decide 'from a very wide range to select (subjects or activities)... in their free half-day' Mr G James Sunday Times 13 May 1917. P 2

Mr James said 'the school embodies a novel and important departure in the system of training pupils in our public schools' ' Brighton le Sands School is the first of many that are to be set up.'

Mr James said 'portion of the work will be set aside for "executive" occupations including gardening, modelling, wood and metal work, spinning, weaving, domestic science... poultry raising and so on' 'An attempt would be made for the abolition of the cane (hear hear) The Daily Standard Brisbane Mon May 14 1917

Mr Board who spoke after Mr James, said The 'School...will accommodate 600 pupils. Further 'owing to lack of funds some equipment is still wanting... and the parents of children elsewhere had come to the rescue' Peter Board The Sun 13 May 1917 p2

The former Minister of Education Mr Arthur Griffith and Mayor of Rockdale Alderman Alfred Green also spoke to the audience. All previous 3 para's reported in Sunday Times 13 May 1917/ S.M.H 14 May

In 1917, Brighton was an isolated and dispersed community. And it had a wonderful outlook across Botany Bay. Until 1917, it had lacked the three basic elements of a congenial suburban life, namely available work, a school and health facilities. The opening of the school was a thrilling and wonderful addition, enriching the lives of the residents of Brighton le Sands.

Parents had eagerly anticipating the opening since October 1916, after the erection of the foundation stone. The new school now provided families with interaction of up to a hundred of their neighbours. Mothers could share their difficulties and joys. Children would now interact both socially and in numerous sporting events.

The opening of this very large school also provided a new dimension for other Sydney families, seeking to find a home in tranquil surroundings. Real Estate developers would begin to sell home sites in their existing but hitherto unappealing housing estates. And a number of additional Estates would open in the next 5 years.

Rockdale Municipality grew from 13,000 people in 1910, to 20,000 in 1917. By 1920 it was 26,500
Sands Directories 1910/1917/1920

A week before the first enrolments to Brighton School Mr Bagnall ‘ the indefatigable member for St George, (invited)... a party of pressmen (who) were shown over some of the public works’ in the district, including Brighton le Sands School. St George Call Sat 10 Mar 1917

This publicity tour and the unique site, syllabus, and building design, all created great interest in the school by the media, and the opening was widely reported throughout Australia, including Sunday Times Sydney, Brighton Southern Cross Victoria, Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Standard Brisbane, Warwick Examiner Queensland, The Sydney Stock and Station Journal, Northern Star Lismore, Farmer and Settler Sydney, Zeehan Herald Tasmania, Huon Times Tas, St George Call, The Age Melb, Newcastle Morning Herald, The Australian Paper for Australian People and the Goulburn Advocate Parramatta. Trove April-June 1917

Notes for the Hon. Augustus George Frederic James 1866-1934 Minister for Education 1916-1920

Mr James was educated at Fort Street Public School, Hurstville College Goulburn, University of Sydney B.A. 1888, called to the bar 1891, married Altona Bohrsman 1892, was a member of NSW parliament from 1907-1920, a leading Barrister appointed a Kings Counsel, and in 1921 was appointed a Judge of NSW Supreme Court. NSW Parliamentary web site. SMH 28 Feb 1934 Mr James was the member for Goulburn, of the newly elected Nationalist Party, and had been Minister for Education for 5 months. He remained as Minister for 4 years. Wikipedia Minister for Education

Note for Alfred Edward Green 1859-1935 Mayor of Rockdale

He lived at ‘Clarellen’ 48 President Av Kogarah, corner of Cross St, within Brighton School catchment area, elected Rockdale Council, 1890 continuously until 1908. Then retired, re elected Scarborough Ward 1911, Mayor 8th Feb 1917, until he resigned 4 July 1918. ‘died 16th June 1935 age 76 leaves a widow Elizabeth (Smith) married Burwood 1881, and 6 children’ Herbert b Petersham, 1882, Mabel b 1884 Central Cumberland, , Walter b 1886 Waverley, Amy b 1888 Kogarah, , Arthur Stanley b 1890 Rockdale and Clarence, b 1892 Rockdale, buried Woronora Cemetery St George Call 21 June 1935 p2

NSW Public Schools in 1917

37 Schools opened in NSW in 1917. The population of Sydney was growing, and the focus on education was critical. Sadly only 12 of these schools remain. NSW Department of Ed, chronology

In the St George District, St George Girls High opened in January 1916, Earlwood Public School in October 1916, Oatley Public School opened in September 1917, Kingsgrove May 1918, and Carlton

Public School opened June 1918. Department of Education Chronological List of Schools 1901-1920 A list of schools in Rockdale and Kogarah appears at the end of this history.

Laying the Foundation Stone.7th October 1916

Many parents, children, teachers and residents will have noticed the large sandstone sign at the front of the main building engraved with the year 1916. The Foundation stone had been dedicated 7 months prior to the official opening, on Saturday 7th October 1916. This stone, announced the beginnings of Brighton le Sands Public School. It was laid by Mr Arthur Griffith, Minister for Public Instruction, and a former school teacher. He was supported by the local member Mr Bagnall, together with Alderman Bill Monaghan an eminent barrister, Mayor of Rockdale, and a resident of Saywell Terraces in Grand Parade Brighton. Also present were the Aldermen of Rockdale Council, and Mr Moate President of the Brighton Progress Association, and a large gathering of residents. An inscribed silver trowel was presented to the Minister. Refreshments were afterwards served on the lawn at Brighton Hotel. Source The St George Call 14 Oct 1916

A detailed plan of the new school was published in The Sydney Morning Herald 10 Oct p5 1916. Further publicity was given about expansion of the rail lines to Rockdale. The St George Call 14 Oct 1916 p6

The Foundation stone was a signal to the voters of the area, that the local parliamentary member Mr Bagnall was active in education immediately prior to the NSW State elections in November. And he had been and would continue to be a very active member of the NSW parliament, for 14 years from 1913 until 1927, Source St George Call 14 October 1916

The land resumption for the school site was published from 1916. Gov't Gazette 17 Mar 1916 p1635 and 10 August 1917p 4554. The land resumed was 15 acres 2 roods in what was to become Teralba Rd and the school grounds. The land had been part of portion 47, of G.A.Lloyd's 61 acre original grant, dated 23rd February 1854, reference Department of Lands Ms. 4, 708 Sy Gov't Gazette 21 Feb 1902 p1482 The parcel resumed for the School was '4 acres, 3 roods, 26 perches' almost 5 acres, under authority of W.P.Cullen Lieutenant-Governor and Mr Gus James Minister of Public Instruction. Gov't Gazette 1917. Work on the School began in mid August but did not begin in earnest until December 1916, because of delays in sourcing timber from the NSW State Timber Yards.NSW Archives Dec 1917 BLS School files 1913-1920

Negotiations with the Education Department for a Public School from 1898-1916.

The first attempt to provide a Public School began with the developer of Brighton Thomas Saywell.

Mr Saywell had long been a supporter of local schools and in August 1891, had entertained the children of Rockdale and Arncliffe Schools providing 'bags of fruit and cakes, skating (at his rink), and running... at his spacious grounds and pavilion at Lady Robinson's Beach The Australian Star 24 August 1891 p3

His New Brighton hotel lost its licence December 1892. Evening News 29 December 1892 p6, , due to the unruly behaviour of patrons, in the 1890 Depression years. Mr Saywell leased the hotel to the Presbyterian Church from 28 January 1893 for a school. It was called the **Scots College**. Grafton E. 4 f 1893 p2. It was the vision of The Rev Arthur Aspinall, and his wife. It was opened by the Governor of NSW Victor George, Earl of Jersey. The Mayor of Rockdale, Mr W. Taylor and all of the Aldermen were present. SMH 30 J 1893. There were 10 day students and 25 boarders. It was removed from Lady Robinson's Beach and re-opened on 27th July 1895 at Bellevue Hill. Scots College History

Mr Saywell was involved in The Illawarra schools group swimming carnival which was held on ' 5 Mar 1898 at Saywell's Baths'. Goulburn Evening Penny Post 8 March 1898 p2

In 1898 Rockdale Anglican College' on the heights of Rockdale' opened SMH 11Dec 1897

The opening of this private school no doubt prompted Mr Saywell to press for **a public school** in Lady Robinson's Beach. In November 1898, a deputation led by Mr Thomas Sellwood Huntley, Manager of the Thomas Saywell's New Brighton Hotel, and residents Thomas Spong of The Parade and Charles Drummond-Matthews, Princess St, met with The Hon. John Alexander Hogue, Minister for Education, They acted on behalf of 'over 100 children in the locality 'A petition was presented, signed by 43 residents including Thomas Saywell, and 4 Napper families. Mr Huntley outlined the time and safety concerns for children then travelling to Rockdale School. Evening News Tuesday 8 Nov 1898 p5 NSW Archives Brighton le Sands school files 1913-1920

Mr Hogue promised that a report would be prepared. Subsequently the St George area Schools Inspector Mr Henry Skillman wrote to Mr Huntley on 25th August 1900, that 20-30 children were adequately catered for at a private school at Lady Robinson's Beach run by Miss Woolley. Also a second private school existed for a dozen children at Mrs Lingenfelder. Mr H. Skillman wrote that 'it was an unjustifiable expenditure of public money. State Archives Brighton School file 1913-1920 The low school numbers and shortage of departmental funds were insufficient at that time. Research has not found either of the 2 private schools allegedly run at Lady Robinson's Beach.NSW Archives B I S school files 1913-1920In July 1900 the steam tramway, was converted to Electric SMH 28 July 1900

In August 1900 Mr C.E.Broome the new Headmaster of Rockdale School (formerly of Windsor) reported that children from Brighton le Sands 'travel (to his School) on Mr Saywell's Electric Tram without payment. 'There were 15 boys, 4 girls and 4 from the infants. State Records Kingswood It was noted that Mr Broome had gained the A1 certificate, which assured him of preference at better Schools, and an 'increase of 6 pounds a month' Hawkesbury Advocate 30 March Mr Broome remained Headmaster at Rockdale at least until May 1921, and knew the Headmaster at Brighton le Sands Mr Cox from 1917 quite well. St George Call May27 1921

Notes for Thomas Saywell

*Thomas Saywell a wealthy businessman, purchased 100 acres, in 1883 on the western shore of Botany Bay, which he called **Sandridge Park** NSW Gov Gazette 12 Mar 1884. 20 acres were developed as his New Brighton Estate; It was a summer week end resort for Sydney siders.Mr Saywell had substantial interests in Coal Tobacco Land and wine.*

On both 3rd and 17th April 1883, Mr T.S.Huntly manager for Saywell's businesses, in the district, proposed to West Botany Council to build a tramway from Rockdale to Lady Robinson's Beach. The proposal was recommended unanimously on the 17th. Rockdale Its Beginning and Development Geeves and Jarvis p80

Saywell's vision for the suburb, began when it was publicly announced that a railway would be built from Sydney to Rockdale on 6 September 1883, SMH Saywell's Tramway Act dated 6th March 1884 provided Government approval Rockdale Its Beginnings The Tramway opened to traffic on November 9, 1885.SMH 6 Nov 1885 His resort included a multi-storied Hotel, a Swimming Baths and Wharf, and a large park Shady Nook '.SMH 1 Dec 1883

In January 1887, Saywell built the large 'winter use' Pavilion Hall, which could accommodate 1500 people and it was opened by The Hon James Inglis, Minister of Public Instruction (Education). In December 1895 he built a racecourse in Bay St next to the Hotel. Referee 11 Dec. His company Saywell's

*Tramway and Estates Ltd first auctioned residential land near the Hotel on Jan 9 1886, a 'Marine Resort' at **Lady Robinson's Beach**. SMH 4 Jan 1886*

Mr Saywell also owned much of what is now Rockdale CBD, around King St. Ron Rathbone Brighton. It is a pity that no memorial exists in Brighton for this extraordinary man.

Help from local MLA's

'Messers Taylor and Parkes MLA'S today (Oct 1913) introduced a deputation to Mr Board Director of Education ...for increased accommodation in the St George electorate. ...It was pointed out that withrapidly increasing population the schools at such places at Kogarah, Rockdale and Bexley were overcrowded. In **new centres of population such as Brighton le Sands**, Carlton, Kingsgrove new schools was asked.' The Sun 20 October 1913 p 6. Both Carlton and Kingsgrove Public Schools were opened in 1918 NSW Education Department

Finally approval to build the school November 1914.Mr Ambrose Carmichael

Following the deputation by William Taylor (member for St George) and Varney Parkes, (member for Canterbury), the Minister for Instruction Mr Ambrose Carmichael in a sitting of State Parliament in Nov 1914 'promised that Brighton le Sands School would be constructed without further delay' SMH 26 Nov 1914.

Notes for Ambrose Carmichael Mr Ambrose was appointed as Minister for Public Instruction in March 1911 until March 1915. He enlisted in the army at Sydney's Victoria Barracks on 5 Jan 1915, at age 50 but had put his age as 44. He enlisted as a private, and by 1918 had risen to the rank of Captain. He was twice wounded Dictionary of Biography He was awarded the Military Cross for his actions in Houplines, France April 1917. Minister for Education Wikipedia/ Army Service Records National Library of Australia

Selection of the School site

There were extensive deliberations over the selection of a suitable school site. The discussions were complex, and involved many stakeholders, including parents, two Progress Associations, Scarborough (Ramsgate) and Brighton le Sands, Rockdale Council, the local member, Mr William R. Bagnall, , elected in December 1913, the Inspector of Public Schools Mr Robert Grieve B.A., the Director of Education, Mr. Peter Board, two Ministers for Education, Mr Ambrose Carmichael, a former teacher (from 1912 to 1915) and later a winner of the Military Cross, and Mr Arthur Griffith (March 1915 to Oct 1916), land site owners and the leading real estate agent, E.W.R.McMillan and Freeth, all of whom had an input.

At least 4 sites were considered. Initially a small and distant 2 acre site in Monterey, located in Banks Avenue near President Ave nearer to Ramsgate was endorsed. State Archives NSW Kingswood Department of Education School files 1913-1920, Brighton le Sands Public School. A map of the 4 sites was located in State Archives and a copy is held by the Author.

'The Brighton le Sands V and P approached Rockdale Council... (with a) petition of over 300 names' objecting to the new school site' at President Avenue and the Council agreed and openly supported the 'site at **Crawford-road** was the only fair and central site.' The St George Call 2 January 1915 p4

Scarborough Park had virtually no residents until 1921. The streets were all laid out but there were almost no residents. The selection of the site closer to Scarborough Park was apparently all based on the minimal cost of the land. It site was too small and too far away. The parents and children of Ramsgate would wait until January 1929, before their school was opened.

After Rockdale Council's input, the Director of Education, Mr. Peter Board decided that a property in Crawford 'Street' was to become the new school site. The final decision followed pressure from parents, who mainly lived around Bay St, who strongly favoured Crawford Rd as the closest site to their homes. They refused to accept the Monterey site because it was more than 1km away from residents living around Bay St and the new Sunrise Estate, north of Bay St.

The much larger garden site was owned by **Mr Francis Foy**. 'The Minister for Education has decided to resume for school purposes that portion of land known as the 'Foy' site M.L.Salmon Minister's Secretary' St George Call Sat 4 Sept 1915 p3

Mr Bagnall speaking in NSW Parliament quoted a speech made by the new Minister for Instruction Mr Arthur Griffith had decided it would build a school at Brighton le Sands at 'the finest school site in and around Sydney and suburbs' St George Call 18 Dec 1915

The key to the selection of Brighton as the Model School for the NSW Department of Education was the wonderful garden site with many large mature trees, and extensive play areas.

Publicity about Brighton le Sands School continued not only in the district but on a much wider area. The Real Estate Company acting for the Department of Education McMillan and Freeth was quoted saying 'a good deal of activity in the vicinity of Brighton le Sands... including the erection of a public school' Sunday Times 25 June 1916 p6

The Minister for Education Mr Griffith outlined the necessity for schools 'to enlarging playgrounds all around the metropolitan area' and highlighted the case of Brighton le Sands providing shelter from rain and wind ...but was an open-air school SMH 25 August 1916 p8

The plans for an open-air school was reported by Dame Mary Gilmore Australian Worker Sydney 21 Sept 1916 Women's Page p11 Mary Gilmour was a teacher at Wagga Wagga, from 1882-1885 and an extreme socialist. Wikipedia Mary Gilmour

'New School for Brighton le Sands October 1916' At the laying of the Foundation Stone Mr Bagnall MLA for St George said 'the cost of the building would be about 6000 pounds'. The land on which it was built belonged to Mr Francis Foy, who at first would not sell. When it became apparent that the site would be resumed 'Mr Foy not only offered no objection, but made a substantial donation of one half of the cost 'The site was infinitely better than the first proposed site which had no shade trees whatever' The St George Call 14 October 1916 'By 1st March 1916, the land was in the hands of the Department of Education, and was being cared for by Mr W. Arnold who used it as a camp site' Mr W. Arnold lived in President Ave Tenders accepted in Construction and Local Gov't Journal 18 June 1917.p2 See notes below Frederick W Arnold living in President Ave north side between Crawford Rd and the Avenue in 1917 and Wycombe Ave in 1918 *Sands Directories*

Building of the School

The foreman, Mr Warwick Bovey entered on the site on in mid August 1916.

The project was supervised by Lieutenant-Colonel Mr Richard M.S. Wells, Architect who was appointed Head of Architects Dept Department of Public Instruction on 18th Sept 1912 and construction was supervised on a day to day basis by Mr D A Craig, an Assistant Government Architect. The School was built around 3 sides of a courtyard of Brick and Oregon pine. The very

high hipped roof was covered in red asbestos-cement slates. The ceilings were 30 feet high. The bell and post were brought from Austinmer. (Austinmer School was celebrating their 50th anniversary in 1917). All rooms were provided with green Holland blinds, from Hordern Bros and linoleum to most rooms. The cost of the school was pounds 8837/15/1 and pounds 1000 for the manual training block'. The information came from an article dated 30/5/1950 provided by Mr James McRorie employed by NSW Education Department copy held by Brighton School/NSW Archives school files 1913-1920/ R.C. Peterson Australian Progressive Schools 1970

Difficulties with sourcing Timber

Building this large school began when the foreman, J.Warwick Bovey attended the site in early August. The order for timber was placed on 17th August on The State Timber Yards, Uhr's Point Rhodes. The Architect on-site wrote to Mr Board advising that the timber had still not arrived by mid November. The timber finally arrived on December 14. State Archives Kingswood BLS School files 1913-1920

Note on the State Timber Yard Uhr's Point Rhodes

State Timber Yards was the single largest investment made of more than 14 NSW Government enterprises, operating in 1916, which included clothing, The Power House, Motor Garage and more. The combined profit of all of these businesses was 421 pounds. Early Conference Report Labour Party 1916 books Google

The timber yard struggled to make a profit at any time, and in late August 1917, a strike began involving yardmen and cranemen. In December 1920 two fires, within 12 hours believed to be arson with damage to the amount of 50,000 and 30,000 pounds occurred at the yard. Hamilton Spectator 9 Feb SMH 15 Nov. In November 1923, the State TimberYards were sold.

Copper pipes were delivered from Watson and Crane on 28 December. Many other items were delivered in the first week of January. There were no Christmas holidays for those workmen on the Brighton School project. The State Metal Quarries delivered 20 tons of toppings for the playground and pathways on 20th February. State Archives Schools files B L S 1913-1920. The land was purchased for 760 pounds, and the area was greatly enhanced by a subsequent purchase in 1924' Rockdale its beginnings' Geeves and Jervis p 144

The School Catchment Area.

After the selection and construction of the new school was made, it was decided to reset school pupil catchment boundaries, in the Rockdale/Kogarah/Brighton region so that families would enrol their children in a public school, with reasonable class sizes.

Mr W. Bagnall member for St George addressed the State Parliament said 'Each time I have visited the schools in my electorate... children were seated on the floor because there was no other seating accommodation for them'. St George Call 18 Dec 1915.

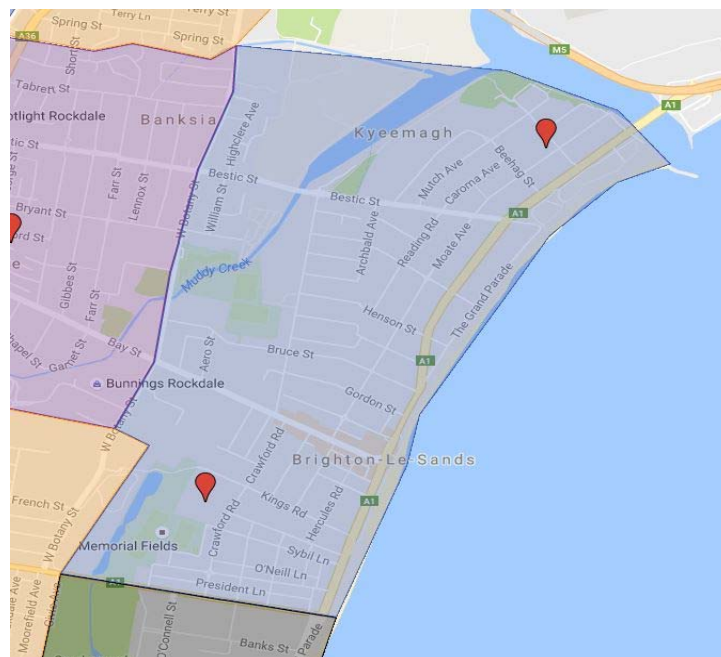
The western boundary for Brighton School enrolments was determined as a line east of Garnet St, Rockdale off Bay St and Cross St, Kogarah, which meets President Ave. Many children close to Kogarah and Rockdale were to be enrolled.

On 29 February 1917, just a month before Brighton School opened, Mr Board wrote to the Headmasters at Kogarah and Rockdale Public Schools, asking them to indicate how many of their students fell into the newly determined Brighton School catchment area. These children living in

southern Rockdale and Kogarah would need to relocate to the new school. State Archives Kingswood B L S School files 1913-1920

The Principal of Kogarah Public School Mr W.P. Sanderson indicated there were 81 children, (28 boys, 16 girls and 37 infants). Of these 1 girl and 11 boys were in year 6, approaching their Qualifying Certificate. The Principal of Rockdale Public School Mr C.E.Broome indicated 148 children (46 girls 50 boys and 52 infants) were in the Brighton catchment area

The total of 229 students from Kogarah and Rockdale would presumably enrol at Brighton Public School in 6 weeks time.



¹The western border of the current Catchment area for Brighton le Sands Public School has been moved further east from 1917. The red balloons indicate Kyeemagh Infants School, top, Rockdale School, left and Brighton le Sands School below. [www.schoolcatchment.com.au/Sydney Public School Catchment Map/ Brighton le Sands](http://www.schoolcatchment.com.au/Sydney%20Public%20School%20Catchment%20Map/Brighton%20le%20Sands)

Peter Board NSW's longest serving Director of Education 17 years 1905-1922

Brighton-le-Sands Public School was the brainchild of the Director of Education Mr Peter Board, who created a model school, and introduced unprecedented teaching methods, for a new era in public school education. Although he was responsible for primary, tertiary and manual arts training, for more than 3000 NSW education centres, he personally promoted Brighton School, as the future blueprint of Primary School Education in NSW. Mr Board directly oversaw every phase of Brighton School's beginning, from selection of the Crawford Road site, the construction and design of the buildings by the Education Department, not the Public Works Department, the selection of its teachers, the catchment area, which included southern parts of Kogarah and Rockdale and particularly its unique syllabus and teaching methods.

Note Fort Street High School

At that time, Brighton Public School ranked alongside Fort Street High School, which was the model for secondary school education in NSW. Established in 1849 at Observatory Hill 'Fort Street was to be not only an institution where boys and girls of the colony could be taught, but it was also to serve as a model for all other schools. In 1916, Fort Street Boys' High was relocated at the present site on Taverner's Hill, Petersham'; Fort Street Wikipedia

When Brighton school opened both from an educational and physical sense, it was unlike any of the 6000 other public schools in Australia. Only Leichhardt Public School was known to have a comparable garden site.

Notes for Mr Peter Board

Peter had an outstanding career.

Peter was born in 1858 at Wingham, of Scottish parents, attended Fort Street School and gained his BA in 1889 and an MA in 1891 both from The University of Sydney.

He travelled overseas in 1903, while on Long Service Leave, following criticism of educational standards by the Premier Sir Joseph Carruthers, before his appointment as Director, in 1905. He established The Teachers College at Blackfriars School.

*He proposed the introduction of **The Leaving Certificate** for secondary education in 1907.*

*He travelled extensively, first to **America and Canada** in 1909 and to the **UK and Europe** in 1911. He wrote a report on his return in 1909, titled 'Report on American Educational Systems'. Many of his views were to find their way into education methods in NSW, including Brighton-le-Sands Public School.*

*In 1912, Peter Board outlined a system for **Technical Education**; the model for Tech Colleges now called TAFE. He sent Miss Martha Simpson, from Blackfriars Practice School, abroad to study the methods of Dr Maria Montessori, on early childhood teaching which was adopted at Brighton le Sands.*

He was a courageous man who would not accept the introduction of fees for high school students, proposed in 1922 by his Minister Albert Bruntnell and resigned from his position in protest.

He was succeeded by Mr Stephen Smith, a close friend and colleague of Mr Board, who came to the school in 1916, with the Herald Reporter J T Henry.

*Peter Board was very interested in teaching **pre-school children**, and incorporated these age groups in his statement of principles underlying the primary school syllabus.*

In October 1922, High Schools would charge 2 pounds 2 shillings per quarter to pupils. Tweed Daily 20 Oct p2 Letters were sent from High Schools to The Minister for Education (Mr Albert Bruntnell) indicating 'strong disapproval' National Advocate Bathurst 9 Aug 1922 p2

Mr Tom Mutch the N S W Minister of Education in the newly elected Lang Labour Government in 1925 abolished High School fees on the first day of office Launceston Examiner 18 June 1925 p5

Mr Board continued his work in Education. He subsequently helped education departments in Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. And he served as Chairman of the Kindergarten Union in NSW. He is still the longest serving NSW Director General of Education, having served for 17 years from 1905 to 1922.

'No director of education in New South Wales has matched Board's achievements.' Biography by Sir Harold Wyndham Director General of Education NSW 1952-1968 and a primary teacher for 8 years and author of The Wyndam Report

In 1916, he was awarded the CMG Companion of St Michael and St George by the U.K. Government. Peter in his retirement lived in Leura and died in 1945 aged 87. His portrait by Norman Carter hangs in The Art Gallery of NSW.

Mr Percy Cox B.A. The First Headmaster 1917-1926

He was the first headmaster at Brighton le Sands Public School. Sands Directory 1918 -1926. He transferred from Blackfriars Practice School, in Buckland St Chippendale where he was a correspondence teacher to the lonely children of the outback. Percy was at the forefront of long distance education, introduced on 1916, under Peter Board's direction. In 1917 there were 27 children in NSW, enrolled in this school studying writing, composition, spelling and arithmetic. Percy came from a background in public school teaching in a remote rural area, and was an ideal choice for this specialised teaching role. It was this close liaison with Mr Board at Blackfriars, which led to Percy's selection at Brighton. Mr Board also knew Percy's father, Ben who was also still teaching in 1917 at Seven Hills Public School.

Notes on Mr Percival Benjamin Cox, B.A

Teacher, Headmaster, husband, father, community leader and a long time resident of Drummoyne.

Mr Cox was born 7 October 1884 in Paterson near Maitland to Benjamin and Alice Cox.. NSW Education Dept Record at Paterson, the eldest of 8 children NSW bdm. His father Benjamin was a school teacher at Paterson from 1884 until 1892. His parents moved to Vacy, the next village north of Paterson in 1892, where his father taught for 24 years until 1912. His father was finally promoted to Seven Hills School, in 1912, and passed away in 1918 aged 56.

Percy Cox left home at age 14, initially as a pupil-teacher at Clarence Town Public, on the Williams River, about 20 km east of Vacy, from 7 Feb. 1899, Gov Gazette 8th March 1899, Gov't Gazette F 18 May 1900 p3883 then Islington Public for 18 months, from 15th June 1901 -1903, Muswellbrook 8 Feb 1905 Birchgrove 27th 1905, Birchgrove Evening Aug 1906 Sydney Mail 1 Aug Teachers Training College Sydney in Feb 1904, and then Blackfriars October 1906, He taught at Blackfriars Evening from 3rd July 1906 to 31st January 1907, and from 1907 to 1913 Appointed Blackfriars Practice School Govt Gazette W 28 July 1909 p4311

Percy Cox married Ms Ethel Jane Rowell at Petersham in 1908 NSW Births.ref 11859/1908. Ethel passed away 14 Aug 1982 age 98 at Drummoyne. Ryerson Index

Percy and Ethel had 3 children William R Cox born 1910, John B Cox born 1911, and Leah J Cox, born in 1914. All were born at Drummoyne.

He was an office bearer in the YMCA soccer club in Feb 1914 SMH 19 Feb

On Saturday 14th April 1917, Percy received his Bachelor of Arts Degree at a ceremony at Sydney University from the chancellor Sir William Cullen and the vice-chancellor Dr Cecil Purser, 3 cheers were given for The King and the National Anthem, was sung. SMH 16 April 1917 p4

2 days later, Percy served his first day as Headmaster at Brighton le Sands Public School from Monday 16th April 1917 until 23rd March 1926, a period of 9 years. Percy Cox was community minded and served on the Finance Committee of Rockdale's Peace and Victory Celebrations in 1919.

Mr Cox transferred from Brighton School to Wellington Intermediate High School on Thursday 23rd March 1926. He was farewelled at Brighton Hall in Bay St. He thanked the unswerving loyalty of his staff, the pupils and 3 Associations, P and C, ex-pupils Union, and Mothers Club. St George Call F 2 April 1926 .In 1928 he was Headmaster at Wellington Public School, at a salary of 618 pounds. The term

'teacher' was allocated to Mr Cox, and only the senior teacher at a High School was designated officially as Headmaster, Dubbo Liberal 5 Dec 1931.

After more than 5 ½ years, Percy left Wellington Public School in Dec 1931 and transferred to Newtown Practice School Dubbo Advocate 5 Dec 1931 p1 Mr Cox taught at Newtown Public School, in 1934 He was a keen fisherman and fished at Tea Gardens every year from 1909. Dungog Chronicle May 1934

On Monday 16 October 1933, Mr P.B.Cox North Newtown Demonstration School spoke on National Station 2FC at noon broadcast to Primary School on 'The seven Wonders of the Ancient World' SMH 16 Oct 1933 p6

He taught at North Newtown Demonstration School (Intermediate) in 1938. He retired from teaching at North Newtown Central School on 31st December 1948 Govt Gazette Fr 28 Nov 1948. Mr Cox continued teaching until he was 65 in 1949.

Percy lived at 20 Bowman St Drummoyne Sands from 1912 until 1920 then 14 Tranmere St Drummoyne from 1921 until 1926 and in Wellington from 1926 to at least 1932-33 Sands Directories

In 1934 and 1935, he was living at 33 Drummoyne Av Drummoyne, listed as a Teacher, with his wife Ethel NSW Electoral Roll. They lived there until 1949.

Later he served on the Executive of the Teachers Federation, and became the first President of The Henry Lawson Society (1939 to 1946). Lawson's iconic poem 'Ballad of the Drover' may be recalled by some. Mr Cox continued teaching until he was 65 in 1948. His Superannuation payment was duly authorised by C E Martin Gov't Gazette 8 April 1949

He passed away on 26 April 1956 at Royal South Sydney Hospital age 71, late of Drummoyne. SMH 28 April and NSW deaths ref 10960/1956 His Will was dated 9 Jan 1950. Probate was granted Aug 1956 Gov't Gazette 10 August 1956 p2349 Ethel moved to 17 Day St Drummoyne in 1958. Ethel was at the same address from 1972 to 1980 with their daughter Leah Jean Cox assistant cook E.R 1972

Original Staff Members of Brighton le Sands Public School

In the first year apart from Mr Cox there were 7 teaching positions, 'each a specialist' but the following teachers taught at some time in the first year. See SMH 13 Dec 1921 p10

Messrs Percival Cox, Mitchell, Mr D.N.Robertson, first assistant from Homebush, Neil, Lauchlan, and Eagle.

Misses Fletcher, Dedden, Swyny, Miss Vera Stephen, from North Broken Hill infants, Burnett, Dwight, Hubbard, and Mrs Bayliss

Each teacher taught their specialty course/s, and did not take the same class for all subjects. Source Brighton School Records Percy Cox transferred to Brighton le Sands in 1917, as Headmaster and teaching class 1B, at a salary of 328 pounds per annum another teacher was David Norman Robertson his first assistant (born 1883) teaching class 2A, and James Algernon Eagles (born 1889) teaching class 3A Government Gazette 1917.

The first assistant in charge of the Kindergarten was Miss Vera Stephen, who transferred from Broken Hill North School. Barrier Miner 7 April 1917. Originally from the Clare valley in S.A., she taught in

Launceston, before teaching in NSW. For full details of her background see later in the history. Miss Stephen transferred to North Newtown at the end of 1918. Government Gazette 15 November 1918 see notes.

Although Mr Cox remained at Brighton School, for 9 years, there was a regular and constant exchange of teachers.

Donald Neil replaced David Robertson in 1918, as Mr Cox's 1st assistant, and Mr Cox's salary rose to 390 pounds p.a. and Messrs Neil and Eagles also continued. In 1920 Mr Cox's salary rose to 430 pounds, and Mr Neil remained as 1st assistant.. In 1921 Mr Cox's salary, rose to 533 pounds p a. In 1923 Mr Cox's salary rose to 543 pounds pa, but his staff changed to include Reginald Dunlop 1st assistant, Ms Amy McCook Mistress Infants , Ms Helen Wood, Ms Lillian Barnett , Ms Dorothy Bull, Ms Kath Deasy, Ms Nellie Hodge, and Ms Alice Mansfield. Government Gazettes

The First Dux of Brighton le Sands Public School 1917

The first girl dux was Ivy May Alexandria Gendle, was born 1903 at Leichhardt, daughter of Thomas, a tailor and Elizabeth Gendle. She lived at 20 Trafalgar St Brighton le Sands. Sands Directory 1918. She married Jack Spence Cooper b23 Dec 1901, Goulburn, a tram conductor in 1931 at Randwick. They were living at 73 Park Rd Sans Souci in 1936. In 1949 they were living at 39 Kings Rd Brighton le Sands. Jack was a soldier Jack died 18 June 1972 age 70, and buried at Woronora.. She died in Mosman, on 29 Nov 1999, aged 96.NSW births/Ancestry/Sands Directory/Ryerson index

The first boy dux was Emslie/Emslee Lindsay Taylor Burrows, born 19 March 1905. Hopetoun Victoria, eldest child (5) of Alfred and Ethel Burrows. His family moved to Manly in 1909 and Gosford 1910, the family lived in President Av Kogarah, and his father died there in 1927.

He used the first name of Lindsay. He joined the Royal Australian Navy 7th October 1919, aged 14 ½, the minimum age for recruits on the training ship HMAS Tingira, naval file a6770. Service number 11705. He served, to 1 April 1932, with the rank of Leading Seaman, aboard the battle cruiser HMAS Sydney, the light cruiser HMAS Melbourne, the minesweeper HMAS Marguerite, the shore station HMAS Penguin, Balmoral, and the light cruiser HMAS Australia. WW1 Service Record National Library Australia

He married Ivy Isobel Lee in 1925 at Rockdale. They lived in Curlewis St Bondi. He was an electrician. They divorced in September 1937. He then married Marie Vera Lauder 1938 at North Sydney NSW births He then served in 2nd AIF Army service no NX94453. These records are currently unavailable.

He was a Sydney Taxi driver from 1954 to 1958, he died 28 February 1959 aged 53.NSW deaths

The unique school Syllabus introduced at Brighton le Sands Public School

The existing syllabus for NSW Primary Schools was written by Peter Board in 1903, and was known as 'Board's Syllabus'.

However the Syllabus adopted for Brighton in 1917, by Peter Board was a radical departure from the existing syllabus in use at all other NSW Primary Schools Australian Dictionary of Biography 'Peter Board'

'At least 3 strands of progressive theory seem to have come together'. The first Strand was Montessori'. The second strand was the modern curriculum suggested by Professor of Education at Manchester J.J.Findlay who visited Australia in 1914. Which included 1 time in the workshop 2 due time in leisure culture music drama. 3 The part for 'drill' i.e formal technical exercises in arithmetic, reading, writing, physical exercise. The 3rd strand was in Brighton's conception was self-government.

It was to reinforce the British idea of State.' Decision making by committees.' R.C.Peterson, un-published Ph.D thesis, Sydney Univ 1968. Archives NSW See web site journals.sagepub.com

The classes were co-educational. Children attended for 2 years in the kindergarten, and 4 years in the Primary School. School vacations were 9 weeks per annum, 6 weeks Christmas, and 1 week in Easter, winter and spring. NSW Department of Education Vacations,

The 'experiment' for which additional accommodation is required... now 540 students SMH 13 Dec 1921 p10

'Under this new system about 50% of the school hours... are spent in regular study... and the other hours are spent... on "practical subjects" with ample time for the gymnasium and physical culture classes' Peter Board SMH 13 Dec 1921

An article appeared in the St George Call Newspaper on March 10 1917 outlining further details of the school and its syllabus.

'Brighton le Sands Public School'

Set in six acres of beautiful grounds which formerly surrounded the home of **Mr. Hook**, known as '**Carrington Park**,' and bowered among noble specimens of the glorious white magnolia, and Norfolk Island and Stone pines, stands the new Public School at Brighton le Sands — a monument to the tireless energy and indomitable perseverance of Mr. W. R. Bagnall, Labour M.L.A. This school, which cost over £10,000, including the resumption of the site, and which is the finest of its size in Australia, is a revelation to (those unacquainted with modern school architecture. It contains eight large rooms, which are beautifully cool in summer, can be made similarly snug in winter, and are fitted with the most up-to-date appurtenances; it has an indoor tan court or playground which would excite the envy, and admiration of the most hypercritical circus proprietor or Stadium Manager; it has spotless stoves and ranges and washtubs for the girls' domestic classes; and it has a spacious workshop for the boys which cost over £1,000. Here, in addition to the ordinary curriculum, will be taught all manner of useful occupations from poultry raising to furniture making, and taught among the most perfect surroundings which it is possible to conceive. If the 'young idea' fails to 'shoot' under conditions such as these, surely, it will never burgeon towards fruition.

This item appeared to be a part of a political broadcast by the local member 'the indefatigable member for St George' under a major heading 'Bagnall spells business' including details of other local infrastructure, including St George Cottage Hospital under Matron Cameron. Bexley Public School, abolition of the Sewerage farm at Kyeemagh, Kogarah Trades Hall source St George Call 10 March 1917

The Montessori Education System

In September 1918, it was suggested that the Syllabus at Brighton School was based on the Gary System of Education USA from Emerson School near Chicago in 1908, introduced by 3 educators including Mme Montessori. Northern Champion 21 Sept 1918

Maria Montessori was an Italian physician and educator who introduced a unique system involving freedom of movement within the classroom, and which was adopted at Brighton le Sands Public School from the first day. On the school plans published 1916 in the SMH 2 rooms were clearly identified for this form of teaching for infants.

Notes on the Montessori style of teaching

In August 1912 an experimental Montessori class was begun in the Blackfriars Practising School. The first international Montessori Training Course was held in Rome between January and May 15 1913. Australian teachers who attended this course included sisters Rhoda and Norma Selfie, Harriet Barton, and Ruby Starling Montessori, The Australian Story

A wonderful book Montessori, The Australian Story researched and written by Susan Feez, and published by University of NSW Press in 2013, outlines the 'core principles of liberty and independence p14

This system provides free choice of classroom activity, and under this system, the children showed more interest in practical activities and Montessori's materials than in toys provided for them, and were surprisingly unmotivated by sweets and other rewards. By 1913 there were more than 100 Montessori schools in America.

Montessori Schools operate in Monterey and GyMEA. A Montessori School for children 0 to 6 years, is expected to open at 52 Waratah Rd, Engadine in March 2017

In May 1917 The Stock and Station Journal wrote an editorial 'This is a revolution'. The school at Brighton le Sands promises to be a breakaway from the cramping, deadening uniformity of the old system' May 15 p4

The Sydney Morning Herald ran a series of articles about Dr Montessori praising The Minister Mr Carmichael and The Education Department 'for adapting this new Montessori method' SMH 30Aug 1912.

On 9 September 1919, an article appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald written by J T Henry. P6

The article outlined the Brighton le Sands system of teaching.

In the morning theoretical instruction was provided, (reading, writing and arithmetic) all requiring the mind. In the afternoon subject teaching was taught, including manual arts, cooking, sewing for girls and physical exercises for every child in the afternoon. It was designed to co-ordinate the brain, the hands and the eyes. He specifically included the Montessori classes for 60 children from ages 5 to 7. A lady teacher played the piano and children marched and danced in time with the musical rhythm. Also children were taught to speak and behave in a courteous manner. The downside of the system was the cost was 50% dearer than a standard syllabus, but attendance was at least 90% every day'.

Just 4 years later in December 1921, enrolments at Brighton had exploded with 'accommodation for 540'. An article in the Sydney Morning Herald on December 13th p10 'The children began from tiny tots and remain until they pass the qualifying Certificate Examination usually at 14. The syllabus provides 50% study and 50% practical subjects'. The headmaster Mr Cox has under him 7 teachers, each a specialist with workshops, vegetable and flower gardens, a photographic club, a magazine, a debating club, a poultry run, and a market garden. Classes include drawing, mapping, basket weaving, sewing, cooking, laundry, wood carving, and tin smithing.

Brighton School adopted membership of the **Gould Bird League**, introduced by Walter Finigan a teacher at Wellington Public School, which in later years brought a focus on Environmental Education to children. The Gould league introduced the first recycling Education Centre in Australia.

Vegetable gardening was adopted in N S W schools as a training guide for children and their families, from the very beginnings at Brighton School, during a period of war when food rationing was prevalent.

With male teachers enlisting in the Army, there were shortages of male teaching staff. There were also shortages of writing paper, ink and chalk. Many retired teachers filled the shortage, including married ladies. However once the war finished married ladies were expected to resign, and The NSW Education Department enforced this directive. Anzacportal.dva.gov.au



Cooking class 1919

Note the blackboard and easel on the top photo. The cooking room was at the rear of the right wing.

Brighton School from 1918 to 1924

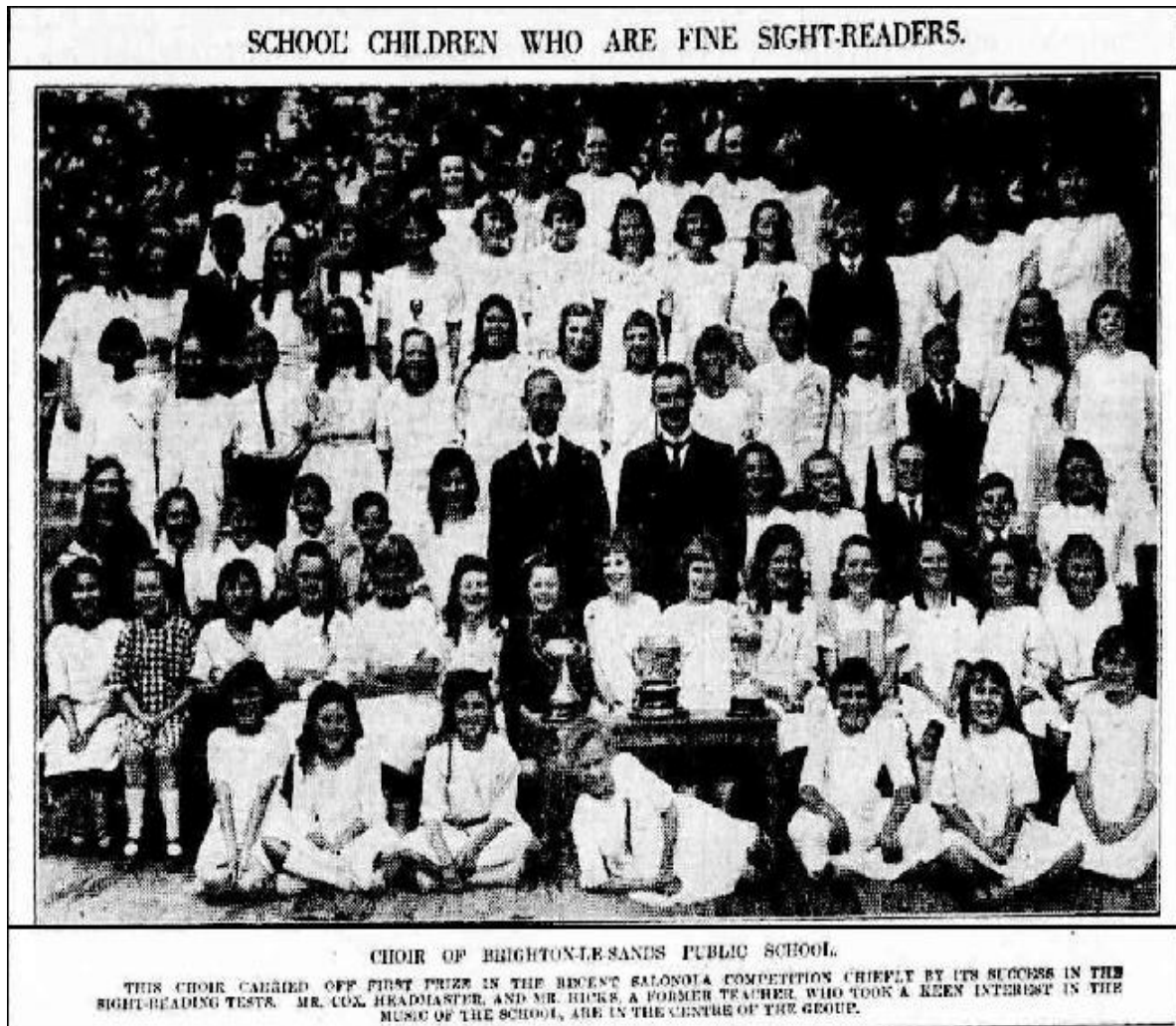
The World War 1 Armistice (ceasefire) was negotiated on 8 November, 1918, with hostilities ending on **11 November**. Because of the massive number of Australian troops serving overseas, most soldiers did not get home until 1919. Nor should we forget the role played by more than 2500 nurses. The Australian War Memorial has an online history of Australian nurses 'Devotion' written by Robyn Slers in 2013. Most will not be aware that the military nurses had to be unmarried. They were mostly aged between 25 and 40. Nurses wore the silver rising sun badge. Two of my uncles served, Bill Chambers, who was severely injured in Gallipoli and Sydney Gibson on the Western front. Author.

All NSW schools were closed during parts of 1919, because of the Influenza Pandemic brought home by the soldiers from 21st June until 7th July Riverina Grazier 20 July 1919 p2

In December 1921 Farmers Department Store, one of Sydney's largest, located on Pitt, Market and George Sts, (now Myers) featured a Christmas display of the children's work in their windows of Brighton le Sands Public School. '...certainly it is the most efficient school among the few of its kind in Australia' Sydney Morning Herald Mon 19 December 1921

In 1921 Brighton School had increased its school numbers from an initial 288 to 540 after 4 years P.Board SMH13 Dec 1921

Brighton le Sands School was awarded 48 guineas in 1924 as winners of the all school sight reading proficiency. Northern Star Dec 1926



Above 1924 Choir of some 70 children of B.L.S Public School with Mr Cox Headmaster, (left) and Mr Hicks (right) former teacher and choir master first prize source SMH 24 Dec Mr Hicks joined South Goulburn Public School in Jan 1924 as first assistant to the headmaster Goulburn Evening Penny Post 22 Jan

The Teachers Federation held a meeting at the Education Department Assembly Room, On March 31, 1923 Mr Hicks Brighton le Sands , under the heading of Country Schools, 'will give a short practical demonstration in the teaching of music as required by the new syllabus Daily Examiner Grafton 23 March 1923 p1



Above Mr George Edmund Moate President of Brighton le Sands Progress Association (1862-1941), and an Alderman of Rockdale Council 1922, photo with his family, conducted proceedings at both the opening of the School May 1917, and laying of the Foundation Stone October 1916. The Avenue off Bay St was changed to Moate Avenue in his honour.

Photos of class activities Brighton le Sands School 1919.



Poultry keeping 1919



Gardening class 1919

Photos of class activities at Brighton le Sands Primary School in 1919. The top photo was taken behind or west the Annex building, and the Main Building was to the left, beyond the Annex.

‘ Here in addition to the ordinary curriculum, will be taught all manner of useful occupations from poultry raising to furniture making ‘ St George Call 10 Mar 1917



The lower photograph highlights the mature trees, which were then at least 30 years old, with numerous Norfolk Island Pines, and a Stone Pine at the left behind the teacher,



Brighton le Sands Public School 1920 'play time' photo courtesy NSW State Records

After 1919, female teachers could only be employed while they were unmarried. The Women (Lecturers and Teachers) Act of 1932 stated 'upon her marriage shall cease ... to be employed, unless the Minister certifies that there are special circumstances. If the married woman had a husband and their combined income was the only just adequate way to live, this was to be a valid reason to retain

her employment. Under these terms, Mrs B. Croucher was teaching at Brighton-le-Sands Infants Department in June of 1928.

The Qualifying Certificate

In 1916, classes in NSW education classes were divided into 2 years of kindergarten, 4 years, Primary, and 2 years super Primary

This Certificate was introduced in 1911 as an entrance test for entry to high school. It was discontinued in 1922. NSW Department of Education Schools from 1848

Note on NSW School Magazine

The NSW School Magazine was introduced in February 1916. Doris Chadwick headed the magazine from 1922 until 1959, 37 years. I well remember receiving this magazine. It was reading for pleasure not a school text book, for the articles, the poems, and the workings of The Gould League of Bird Lovers, which appeared in every issue.. Sadly this organisation, which began in Wellington Public School, in 1910, has ceased. From 1910 the Director-General of Education has held the honorary position of President.

School enrolments exploding 1917 to 1931

‘In reply to your representations... Brighton le Sands School... it has been decided to proceed with the erection of the requisite buildings... for 300 children. Peter Board St George Call 26 August 1916

Later pronouncements in 1917 suggested that it was intended that the school would have a capacity of 600 children. From the original 288 enrolments, the school’s population grew to 376 by October 23rd, 6 months later, with 7 classes, at an average of 54 per class. There were 200 children in the Primary section. Miss Swyny was in charge of the infants with 176 children.

One of the reasons for the increase in enrolments was the amendment to the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act of 1880 in 1916. Children aged 7 to 14 from that year, were now required to attend school, morning and afternoon for at least 4 hours per day. NSW Dept of Education Compulsory Attendance For some older children, they were forced to stop working in their parents small land holding.

By September 1918, 380 children were enrolled at Brighton School, ‘and attendance has to be limited to children of Brighton-le-Sands’.

H.W.Horning held an auction on Saturday 19th October for 32 allotments’ very close to Brighton le Sands Model open-air School, water and gas available’ SMH 28 Sept 1918

A visit by a reporter from The Sydney Morning Herald T.J. Henry to Brighton School in company with Mr S.H.Smith Inspector of Continuation Schools (and in a few years Director of Education) 450 pupils accommodated with an attendance of 90% SMH 9 Sept 1919

Mr Smith indicated it cost ‘50% more’ to run. When he took over from Mr Board this was one reason he decided to stop this form of Primary School Education. SMH 9 Sep 1919 p6

By 1919, there were 451 children enrolled in 8 classes of which 4 classes had over 60 students. Brighton le Sands School Records

‘In 1919 the influenza had played havoc with school attendances, most of the schools having been closed for nearly 3 months’ article by T.J.Henry reporter for SMH 2 Oct 1920

The Honourable Tom Mutch became the Minister for Education from April 1922 to April 1925.

From 1927 until 1941, David Drummond, a farmer from Armidale, served for 12 years, as Minister for Education Department of Education

By 1921, just 4 years later, there were 540 children at Brighton School, and 8 teachers. By now there were 65 children in each class. One class was taught in the tan-barked floored gymnasium, and another in the open air. A junior cadet corps operated in the School.

By March 1922, a double portable classroom room was installed, to accommodate the increasing numbers of children.

By Nov 1925 there were 600 children at the School. In September 1926, there were 751 children enrolled, including 221 senior girls (yrs 3-6).

Mr Curry, the 2nd headmaster, established a girls department in early 1927. There were 750 children enrolled in November 1926 SMH 29 Nov.

On 22 August 1929, Mr Curry wrote a letter to Mr Ewing School Inspector of Kogarah, about overcrowding. The boys department pupils were **Room 1**, 6A 50 pupils; **Room 2** 6B, 57 pupils; **Room 3**, 3B 38 pupils and 4B 39 pupils, **Room 4** 4A 54 pupils; Room 5 55 pupils, **Veranda** 3A 37 pupils, a total of 324 boys. It was proposed to build an additional classroom, at the rear southern corner of the Main building and a builder Johnson quoted 793 pounds 12 shillings. The addition was never constructed. NSW Archives BLS school files 1930-1933

By April 1932 there were 309 boys and 7 teachers in the boy’s school alone from years 3 to 6. By October 1932 there were 373 enrolments, and 9 teachers in the Kindergarten.

At the end of 1932, there were 1000 children enrolled at the school.

By 1933 there were more than 2000 homes in Brighton. 90% of the suburb was now fully developed and resulted in a massive increase in school numbers. Sands Directory 1932-1933

In 1939 the minimum age was dropped from age 7 to 6, further increasing the enrolments to around 1100 children. The opening of Infants School in Kyeemagh in 1939, slightly reduced the numbers of children, enrolling at Brighton.

In the NSW Education Public Schools web site comments that school numbers have grown ‘from 300 to over 750 students in the last 14 years.’ School background 2015-2017. It lists the current enrolment at Brighton-le-Sands as 783.

Notes on Attendances

Mr Gus James Minister for Education in 1918 drew attention to the remarkable improvement in attendance, in the Metropolitan area. It was now 86.4 %. Various data was provided about attendances at boys, girls and infants departments, indicating 85% was about average. Brighton school on this basis would have 60 children out of their 380 absent most days. The Sun 21 Jan 1918 p2

Our Oldest lived School boy Mr Don Gunn 1924-1929

It was my honour to have known, Mr Don Gunn a student of the first headmaster Mr Cox.. In an oral interview in 2014, Don referred to Mr Cox as 'that blond young man, medium height and build'. In the 1920's Don as a child lived at 21 Gordon St, and later for many years as a husband and father of 3 Brighton school children, in Bruce St near the Bay. Don passed away in 2015, at the age of 98. Don was also was a student during the stewardship of the second Headmaster Mr John Curry.

Because of the very difficult economic conditions during the Depression, in the 1930's Don attended Brighton School from 1924 at age 6 until 1929 at age 11, and he left the School, and worked on a farm at Werris Creek, returning to Brighton le Sands about 1932. Don recalled the timber Maypole at the rear of the main building, on which children used to swing. There is a record of him in the Bay at age 19, catching a 10 foot (3 metres) grey nurse shark off the beach at Brighton. Telegraph, Brisbane, Feb 1937, He married Peggy McLoughlin (1922-2012), in 1940 at Rockdale.

Don worked as a sales representative, for most of his life. Because of his strong Christian beliefs, he set up Sydney's first recorded telephone message line, 'Dial a Prayer' to provide comfort to the residents of Sydney, during the 1960's. He also opened his home to missionaries, from the 1960's.

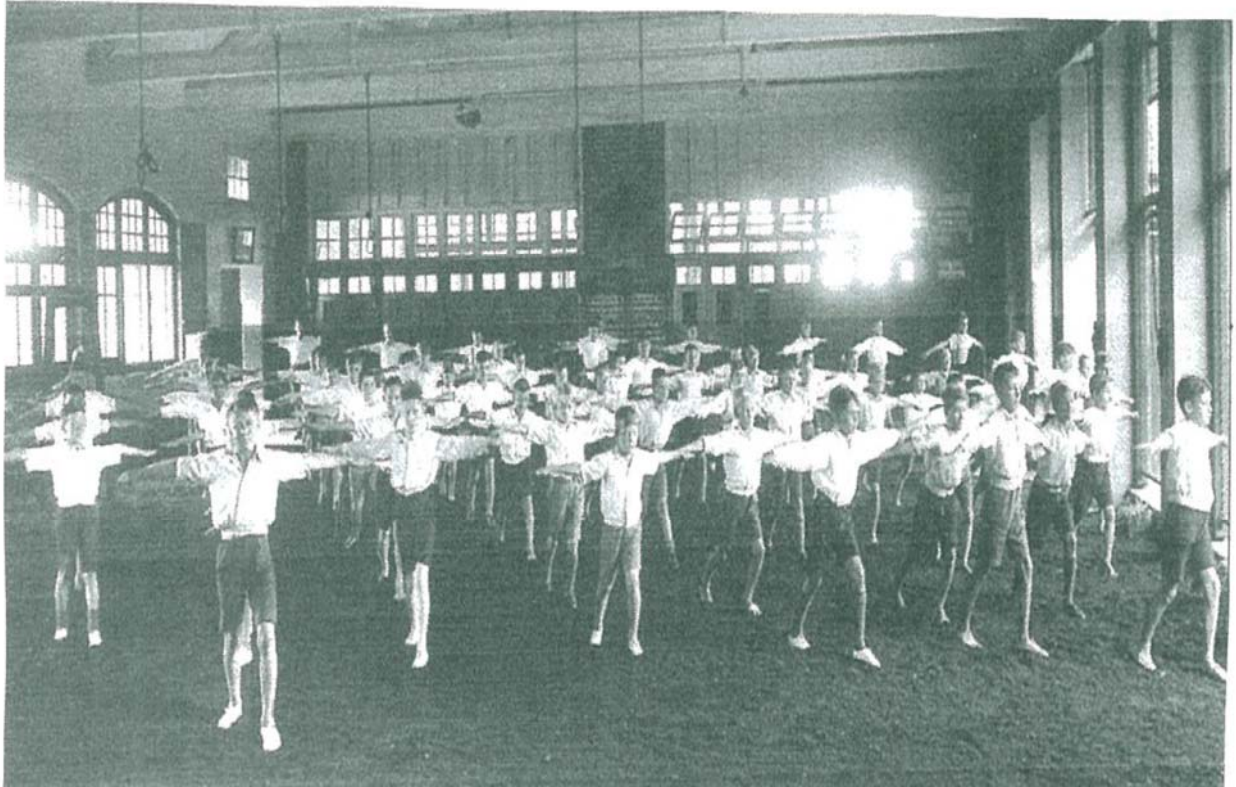
The Buildings

In 1917, the School had just 3 brick buildings, the Main School building, the Annex which was used for the manual arts classes for boys, on the southern side and behind the main building and a toilet block, at the rear of the site. The tenders of MR E.C.Donnely has been accepted for drainage and septic tank work 'SMH Wed 9 May 1917.p6. The main entrance, for horse and carriage and now vehicular entrance on Crawford Rd was on the left side of the school's frontage. With an additional land purchase for the Infants School, a few years later, it was centred in the School frontage. The Crawford Road entrance leads west about 100 metres to the central tarred quadrangle at the rear of the main building.

This **main school building**, with 30 feet high ceilings consisted of 8 rooms and just 4 classrooms, (and 2 for Montessori classes), and was shaped like the letter 'U' with 3 main porticos at the front left, centre and right. And there were 2 side wings to the rear of the building courtyard extending from the left and right. Between these 2 wings was a covered gymnasium, lined with tan bark, 75 feet by 47 feet (23m x 14m). On either side were boards 15 feet wide. It became the Assembly Room in later years. There were 4 chimneys located on both sides. Air flow vents were set into the roof, to ensure a good flow of air for the children. 'The building had been designed by Department of Education Architect, Mr Wells, and the special feature in the school will be the arrangement of doors, and windows.... which enables the whole of the two sides of the classrooms to be open for ventilation. St George Call 14 October 1916/ R.C.Peterson Ph.D Thesis 1968 Progressive School Education University of Sydney.

The roof of the building was Red Asbestos cement slates, but was re roofed with alternative tiles in October 1928 SMH June 17 1917 and 20 1919/ Oct 1928. The **Annex** was the manual arts block, running east-west, 100 feet long by 24 feet deep, and the brick toilet block running north-south. All 3 of these buildings survive and are used today.

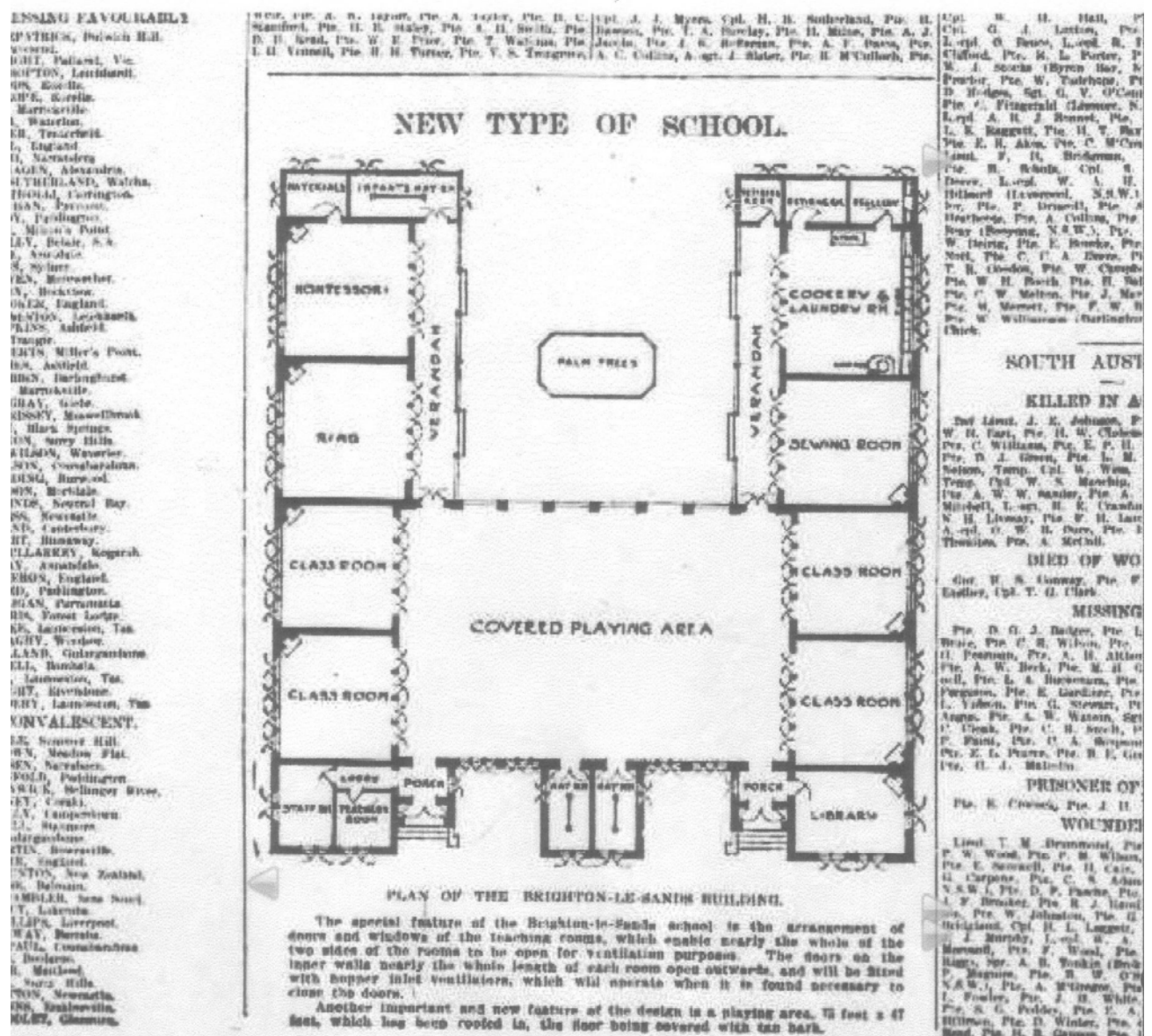
The toilet block was fitted with bubblers apparently a first for a school. Alderman Hattersley moved a motion that bubbler taps be installed at Rockdale School 'similar to the one in use at Brighton le Sands' Rockdale Council Minutes 21st February 1918



The North or Main Building. 'A covered playing area' Pupils exercising in the Gymnasium which was covered in bark. The exercise area at the rear of the Main school building Brighton le Sands Primary was covered in tannery bark. All children wore white shirts and dark shorts. Lighting was installed into this gymnasium in 1926, by a parent Mr Barker, free of charge for his labour.

10 Oct 1916 - NEW TYPE OF SCHOOL.

P



A plan of the Main School building. The information on both sides of the plan, cover details of those soldiers injured, convalescing, missing, prisoners of war and dead. SMH 10 Oct 1916.



The rear of the main School building Brighton le Sands 1917 photo taken mid morning. Note the School bell, on the top of the timber post, and the European Palms still growing around the School grounds in 2017.



The Manual Arts Annex Brighton le Sands School 1917 'a spacious workshop for the boys'
St George Call 10 Mar 1917



1920 Brighton le Sands Primary School, northern side of building, note 3 chimneys visible (there were 4 on each side) and smaller air vents used to allow air to circulate on windy days when side doors were closed. Courtesy NSW State Records

Play equipment, including a see-saw, swings, and a tubular metal climbing frame were located initially on the north side of the property, and later on the south of the central driveway, near the Kindergarten, and was in use until the 1950's. A sundial and a school bell were located at the rear. Bubbling fountains were installed in the playground, at the rear of the Main building near the toilet block. Don Gunn, a very early student, also recalled that a tall timber Maypole, with steel chains was erected in the playground behind the main building, so that children could swing around the pole.

The Gardens

'The school will be daintily situated on the site of an already 'grown up' park, which can show ornamental trees as good if not better than any park or school in St George' St George Call 1916 .

The gardens were originally planted by Mr George Hook, who occupied the site from 1870 to 1902

The site had been planted with large number of trees, including Norfolk Island and Stone Pines, White Magnolias, Moreton Bay Figs and many other species by George Hook at his home 'Carrington Park' from 1870 to 1902.

There were a substantial number of large trees on the former site Mr Francis Foy, and Mr Peter Board, wrote both to the Police, and to Timber Merchant. D.Hardy and Sons, "not prepared to dispose of any of the trees on the school site all trees are to be preserved and Police have been asked to prevent their removal" State Archives Kingswood 26 October 1915.school files Brighton 1913-1920. Hardy and Sons of Pymont were Sydney's leading timber merchant and on 1 August 1916 suffered a large fire destroying a considerable amount of timber SMH

‘As part of the Syllabus, all children were involved in gardening, and a large vegetable garden was built at the very rear of the property, near to the wetlands’. ‘St George Call

Brighton le Sands Public School In the vegetable garden about 1927 at the south western corner of the school

Brighton School from 1920

In 1922, a one day exhibition of work by pupils of the special open air school Brighton le Sands Mr P B Cox Headmaster was opened by Mr Board. There were 700 persons present. On show was toy making, coiled basketry, art work, map drawing, writing, photography, cookery, and laundry work. Ald Moate President P and presented Mr Board with a walking stick ‘in appreciation of the interest he had always taken in the School C’. St George Call 22 Dec 1922

In 1925 an article appeared drawing attention to the dangers on children at Brighton le Sands School of Patmore Swamp, in a report from the Board of Health. St George Call 1925



November 1923 Brighton le Sands School ‘The Annual exhibition of school work drew a large attendance. It comprised manual work, toy-making basketry, coiled raffia, Infant school occupations, cookery, and needlework. The fine display was much appreciated by parents and others. Our picture shows children of the infant school engaged in rhythm and folk dancing on the lawn’. Sydney Mail

In 1924 during Boys Week, a display of hobbies by the education department included items made by Brighton le Sands school children held at the Technical College Ultimo 14 SMH August 1924

An article appeared in The St George Call that the resumption of the land from Mr Foy’s Estate, was completed in two parts. The first was a resumption of 4 plus acres, and the second was a parcel of 3 acres, in 1924, also from the Foy Estate. The initial building cost was 8880 pounds and comprised 4 ordinary classrooms, two rooms for Montessori Method of teaching, sewing room, cookery, and laundry, combined library, a specially covered- in playing area, teachers’ rooms, hat room, store room etc St George Call 3 Dec 1926.

Although a toilet block had been installed, it was not until 1933, that sewerage was installed, along with part of the suburb. Rockdale Council had written to The Education Department 'to ask the Department to reconsider its decision with regard to a septic Tank system' Rockdale Council Minutes 10th January 1918

The Public Address system was installed in May 1946

The Impact of World War 1 on the School

Australia was aware that War was looming in Europe. From July 1911, all boys and men aged 12 to 25 were required by Federal Law to undertake non-uniformed military training. It was mandatory that physical activity be provided in schools 4 or 5 days a week.

World War 1 began on 28th July 1914. Australia's first action in the war was the capture of German New Guinea in September 1914, led by Major General William Holmes, after whom General Holmes Drive Brighton is named.

Bill Monaghan Mayor of Rockdale Municipality held the first Anzac Day service at 1pm, on Tuesday 25th April 1916 'in honour of our fallen heroes' St George Call

When Brighton School opened in April 1917, Australians had been fighting in a World War, for nearly 3 years.

From April to December 1915, Australian and New Zealand troops had fought a long campaign in Gallipoli Turkey. Australian troops returning from Gallipoli then fought in Egypt against Arab tribesmen and the Turks. The ANZAC Corps began fighting in France in June 1916, in battles including The Somme (1916), Bullecourt (March 1917) Messines (June 1917), and Ypres (Sept 1917), against a formidable German army until the armistice was signed in November 1918. Peace at last. Many Australian men had been injured or worse. These years were a sombre period in Australia's short history.

10 days before the first enrolments entered Brighton School, USA entered the war on April 6, 1917 declaring war on Germany and the Austro- Hungarian Empire after U-boats began sinking American ships. Every Brighton family had a father, a son or a cousin fighting overseas.

On November 17, 1917 'Mr C.E.Broome, Headmaster of Rockdale School, reported that his younger son Pte Geoffrey Broome had been wounded in France. His brother Trooper Stanley Broome of the 12th light horse is still fighting in Palestine, after being through the Gallipoli Campaign' St George Call The headmaster and staff would have been very aware of Mr Broome's position.

Details of a few of the Brighton men serving overseas include;

Gunner O.J.Aubusson of (Trafalgar St) Brighton le Sands was reported seriously injured SMH 6 April 1917 WW1 Service Records National Library

Private E.A. Pinkerton, a Blacksmith, age 24 of Gordon St Brighton-le-Sands was taken ill from trench fever and was hospitalised for 14 months from February 1917 to April 1918. SMH 10 April 1917 p8. His brother Joseph Frederick Pinkerton, also a blacksmith at the loco workshops Eveleigh 2nd son of wounded in Gallipoli SMH 12 June 1915

Private K. Jansen wounded SMH 4 May 1917

On June 7 1917, Bill Tamsett age 21, a printer of The Esplanade, now Grand Parade, was killed in action at Messines France. SMH

'Private A (Arthur Champion), Jennings 4th son of Mr and Mrs F (Frederick and Irene) Jennings of ('Avenel', Bay St) Brighton le Sands was awarded the Military Medal. Their 3rd son (Frederick) was gassed in France. Their eldest son Harold died of wounds in France on May 19 1917 (and buried in Grevilles British Cemetery France) and their 2nd son (Ernest) is now in Mesopotamia' Sydney Mail 17 July 1918,p18 The family home was 5 doors west of the Hotel source Sands Directory 1918

Trooper Harold Victor Tebbutt Australia Light Horse formerly a fisherman of Kings Rd Brighton le Sands killed 20 Sept 1918 buried Jericho Palestine SMH 9 Nov 1918/ WWI Service Records National Library of Australia.

420,000 Australians fought in World War 1, and 60,000 died.

The war affected Brighton residents in many ways. The army pay was low but there was at least an ongoing income for a soldier's family of 6 shillings a day. '6 bob a day tourists' The Road to War and Back Clair Greer Once the soldiers had packed their sacks and hopped on the ships to fight the War in Europe, women emerged from their houses to fill the jobs left empty in support of the armed forces at home and abroad. Skwirk on line Education

Some locals also were involved in Internment. Germans and Austrians were interred in camps. Holsworthy south of Sydney was Australia's largest. Sensitive war information was censored. Newspapers were not permitted to publish a considerable amount of 'sensitive' news. Prices of staple food items were fixed including bread. Food was rationed. A ban on essential travel was introduced. Electricity blackouts became commonplace.

Children of German surnames were sometimes bullied. An internment camp for German nationals was established in Berrima in March 1915. The Enemy at Home My wife's family changed their surname from the Germanic name of Lowen to Edwards, and moved 100km to avoid intimidation from local residents.



The 29th Berrima Guard, c.1917. The 29th was known as the 'Permanent Guard' as they served the longest. Courtesy of the Berrima District Museum.

Almost all adult sporting contests were suspended, and school sport became an important crowd spectacle. Brighton School had a sports master, Mr Schumack, and cricket and rugby league were the main sports for boys. Vigoro was one sport adopted by the girls in the school in May 1923.

School discipline became a problem with fewer male role models.

War news dominated the Sydney Morning Herald in every issue. The children sang 'God Save the King'. They saluted the British Union Jack, and its little cousin the Commonwealth flag. Although the red Australian Ensign had been designed in the early 1900's its use was not widely adopted until many years later. King George V had been on the throne 7 years. He was the first monarch in the House of Windsor.

On Saturday 21st November 1925, The Parents and Citizens Association at the School presented 4 flags to the School. Mr Mark Gosling MLA 'broke' the Union Jack, and the 600 children led by Mr Jeffries sang The National Anthem. The Australian Ensign was broken by Mr Arkell MLA. The Headmistress of the Infants broke out the Flag of St George, and Mr Cox broke out the School Pennant.

Brighton School participated in fund raising and our school girl's knitted clothing, especially socks and provided food parcels to assist Australia's soldiers. A bale of wool was donated from Manildra to Brighton school resulting in letters of appreciation from both Mr Cox and Mr Board. Mr Board wrote that 'the pupils efforts in supplying the soldiers with much desired comfits' Molong 23 March 1918



British Union Jack



Australian Red Ensign



Australian Flag 14 Feb 1954

Notes

Since Australia's Federation in 1901, the history of Australia's national flag has been complex. The Union Jack of England continued to fly alongside both the Red and Blue Australian ensign flags at most schools across Australia until the early 1950's. The 50 year celebration of Australia's Federation in 1951 and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953, focused on the issue. 'The Union Jack remained the national flag in Australia with precedence over the Australian blue and red ensign flags until the Queen assented early in 1954 to The Flags Act 1953. Australia now has two national flags or two ensigns' 'Flags Elizabeth Kwan 2006 p6

Whilst most Australian's revere the Australian blue ensign flag, not all do. Following the Cronulla Riots 'on Sunday 11 December 2005 where 5000 'Aussies' were intent on recovering their beach from men of middle eastern appearance, 'up to 200 youths from western Sydney in a convoy of cars retaliated in beachside suburbs (Cronulla and Maroubra) smashing cars, shops, and people... At Brighton le Sands RSL Club a youth pulled down the Australian flag and burnt it' Book 'Flags'p148 He was sentenced to 7 months in jail. Following his release he gave an apology and the President of the NSW RSL met him at a reconciliation conference. Wikipedia 2005 Cronulla Riots

Many members of the Labour Party favoured conscription, or forced military service. This was despite the fact that an incredible 39% of all Australia white males between 18 and 44 volunteered for service, and provided 420,000 people, which included more than 2300 nurses. Australia had a population of just 5,000,000. 60,000 were killed. 150,000 were injured or fell ill. The pro-

Conscription policy broke the Labour Party apart, and it was never adopted. Mr Holman the Premier of NSW left the Labour Party and joined the anti-conscription Nationalist party. The Nationalist Party won the election, held on 24th March 1917, and Mr William Holman, as a member of the newly formed Nationalist party retained his position as the Premier until 12 April 1920.

Soldiers and other volunteer service personnel began returning to Australia mostly in early 1919, but some not until later that year. Unfortunately they brought with them a deadly influenza virus which killed some 6000 people in Sydney. The hospitals could not cope, and many other public buildings were used to house patients. Rockdale Town Hall, became a temporary 'Relief Depot' open 24 hours and 7 days, and food was brought in from 3 local school cookery classes, including Brighton le Sands, Bexley and Kogarah. SMH 16 June 1919

An increase in the supply of building materials, and tradesmen returning from war service, contributed to a rapid increase in building homes, boosting the population, by 500 new residents in each of the next 10 years from 1918 to 1928.

The Second Headmaster Mr John Curry B.A. B.Sc. 24 March 1926 to Dec 1930

A revision of the Syllabus

The Second Headmaster was Mr John Nicholas Curry BA B.Sc. (1870-1941). It was a swap with Mr Cox, with the Headmasters transferring between Brighton le Sands Public and Wellington Intermediate High School. Mr Curry was headmaster for 4 years and 9 months, from 24 March 1926, at age 56, until 20 December 1930, age 60. On 24 May 1927 Miss S. Fraser was in charge of the Girls Department and Miss A. McCook the Infants'. There were 15 assistants including a manual arts teacher and a sewing Teacher. Boys 225 Girls 226, Infants 324 Total 775 students. The School was graded in the 3rd class according to number of students. St George Call 3 Dec 1926. With two degrees he was probably the most highly educated teacher in the NSW Department of Education.

Peter Board resigned on 31 Dec 1922, after 17 years in the role, a few years before Mr Cox transferred to Wellington, over his disagreement with the Minister for Education deciding to charge fees for high school students.

Notes on Mr John Curry. He was born on 25th October 1870 at Cox's River Burragorang NSW, the youngest of 7 children of Patrick Curry and Ellen Moore. He was appointed as a teacher on 5 Dec 1887 aged 17. He was teaching at Bungerellong in March 1899, half-time teacher at Galwary Creek and Mandagery Creek. April 1899, September 1899 Coffey Hill. He married Virginia Louise Gurnett 7 Aug 1908 at Tamworth. In 1910 he taught at Tamworth classification 1B in 1911 he was at Lithgow, the year he achieved his B A and again Lithgow 1912. He taught at Randwick in 1914. Paddington in 1915/6/17 Murwillumbah 1918/22, Wellington Intermediate High 1922-25. Their son was John (Jack) Louis Stanislaus Curry. He and his wife lived at 42 Gloucester St Rockdale. Mr Curry transferred to Adamstown Public School 1931 Mr Curry retired from teaching in October 1935, age 65. Newcastle Morning Herald 8 Oct 1935. He had been absent from school in May 1934. His wife died in March 1934 aged 51. Mr H. Martin replaced Mr Curry in 1936 Newc Morning Herald 14 Feb 1936 Mr Curry died on 23 Aug 1941 at Merewether and buried at Rookwood Catholic NSW Births /Ancestry family Tree/NSW Public Service Lists/GeiAus Family Site

Notes on Miss Vera Olive Stephen (21 April 1884-14 October 1974) first infants teacher in charge Brighton le Sands was born Jamestown Clare South Australia to John and Marie Stephen 4th of 6 children Ancestry.com Launceston teacher from 1910 .Launceston Examiner 18 Aug Miss Stephen

also taught at Patterson St Methodist School Launceston Examiner 16 June 1911 In 1914, she was teaching at the school located in the now demolished 4 storey AMP building Hobart Tasmanian Electoral Roll 1914. She was teaching at Broken Hill North, in 1916 and transferred to Brighton le Sands Infants as its first teacher in charge 1917 and 1918. She transferred to North Newtown in 1919, and was teaching in Armidale 1930, Dubbo 1932-35, and Randwick 1937-1943. NSW Electoral Rolls. Died 14 Oct 1974 interred 13 Dec 1974 Eastern Suburbs Memorial.

Notes on Miss Amy Isabel McCook Infants Mistress

Miss Amy Isabel McCook was the headmistress of the infants department under Mr Curry. She was born in 1864 in Berrima. She was a pupil teacher at Gundagai, in June 1880, a teacher at Provisional School, Run of Water 1886, Taree in 1890, Picton 1903, St Leonards, as assistant, North Sydney Infants 1919, Mayfield Infants 1920, then first assistant at Kurri Kurri Infants from May 1920 then Bellbird, then Greta in Feb 1922, and mistress at Cessnock West, Carlton South Feb 1923, and Brighton. She retired from Brighton School as Mistress, of the Girls Department on 18th Sept 1929, age 65. Government Gazette Sept 1929 p3959 She lived in Bobbin Head Rd Turramurra, and died 2 September 1945 age 81. Ancestry.com

Mr Stephen Smith became the Director of Education from 1 January 1923 to 1 August 1930. Following the transfer of Percy Cox and Mr Curry's appointment, the syllabus at Brighton was amended and within a short time it reverted to the standard NSW school syllabus and administration. But not quite. The Carpentry section remained at Brighton School in operation for at least another 30 years. Author

In November 1928, Brighton le Sands School participated in the NSW Athletic Championships, and finished equal 3rd. The girls especially were very successful, and Miss B. Lemaire of Bruce St, won the top event, the 12 years NSW 50 yards sprint. The girls also won the junior relay. 71 events were conducted over the 6 hours. SMH Nov 1928

Notes on Mr Stephen Henry Smith C.B.E. 1865 -1943 became a pupil teacher at Grafton Public School, under his father at age 13. He was promoted to Fort Street Model School and entered Fort Street Model School in 1884, age 19. Australian Dictionary of Biography. After the resignation of Mr Peter Board, he took over on 1st January 1923 until 1 st August 1930.

The Infants School 1927

In 1923, Inspector Nolan stressed the need for an infant's school building. Inspector Riley also made a 'strong recommendation' for such a building. In 1924, additional land, on the southern side of the main building was acquired (3 acres) was resumed again from property owned by the Francis Foy Estate. The resumption cost was 650 pounds, for 3 acres 2 roods 16 ½ perches. Brighton School was now sitting on 8 acres.

And plans for the new infant's school were completed in 1925. The Infants School, a single storey building, with tiled roof, was built by Messrs Patrick and Sons for 6985 pounds with 5 class rooms, kindergarten, assembly hall, headmistress' room, staff room and store rooms. St George Call 3 Dec 1926

Mr Mark Gosling MLA in the company of his wife laid the foundation stone of the infant's school block, in early December 1926 the presence of the new Headmaster Mr John Curry, B.A. B.Ec. and the Headmistress Miss McCook. See notes on former teachers. The population was now 751. Mr H. Pentecost President of the P and C President presided, and presented Mr. Gosling with a silver trowel and hardwood mallet, and Mrs Gosling with a bouquet of flowers. Mr Gosling said the

population of the school after 9 years was 750. Class sizes were obviously very large. Alderman Levey represented Rockdale Council. The St George Call Fr 3 Dec 1926. The small marble foundation stone is located on the eastern side of the building simply referring to 1916.

The Infants block at the front left of the school was opened on Friday 27th May, 1927 by the local State member Mr Mark Gosling Chief Secretary in the Lang Administration. It was 10 years after the opening of the school. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Arkins MLA seconded by Mr P Somerville Town Clerk of Rockdale and the local school Inspector Mr Price. The increase of a further 5 classrooms, relieved a difficult period for the headmaster and teachers. Lack of funds had not allowed The Education Department to expand as quickly as the development of the suburb. Miss McCook retired in 1929, whilst at Brighton aged 65. She was replaced by Miss Charlotte Tresilian. School History article Mr J McRorie 1950 Brighton School.

By October 1927, the Illawarra Railway Line was now running to St James Station poster Kent Estate

Brighton School is now listed in Rockdale Councils Heritage listing, Deposited plan 194470.

Part B The suburb of Brighton le Sands from 1812

The geography of Brighton le Sands

Brighton le Sands sits on a sandy flatland facing magnificent Botany Bay, ringed by the 6km long Lady Robinson's Beach. Behind the Bay, a ridge 2 km west of the beach, runs north south, and parallel to the beach, from Arncliffe, to Rockdale Kogarah and Hurstville, and was once heavily timbered.

At the bottom of the ridge, 2 waterways run mid way between the ridge and Botany Bay.

Patmore Swamp, is part of Patrick Moore's original land grant of 60 acres in 1812, and is 2.5 km long 'where it arises (at the rear of) Brighton le Sands (School) where it runs southward behind the sand dune formations to Ramsgate, where it turns eastward and discharges directly into Botany Bay south of Ramsgate Beach'. These wetlands are home to numerous birds including the Dusky Moorhen and the purple Swamp Hen, and migratory birds. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage web site

Muddy Creek is a canal-tributary of Cook's River and rises from Wialda St Kogarah, flowing east under Princes Highway near Rockdale Plaza, past Bunning's Hardware store, Rockdale across Bay St near West Botany St and travels south east. After Bestic St the creek widens for the last kilometre before draining into Cook's River, near General Holmes Drive, Kyeemagh Google Maps.

The two areas are quite separate.

Between the ridge and the Bay the land, was sandy and flat with a low scrub. Brighton School is located in this land strip. The soil was barren, with no trees. No market gardens were possible. Because of this, there was no interest by early colonists wanting to settle in Kyeemagh, Brighton, Monterey, or Ramsgate. This barren plain was also very difficult to access, blocked from Sydney by the Cook's River mudflats until the 1870's, nearly 90 years after colonization. And there were large sand stone formations in Arncliffe and Rockdale. There have never been vegetable or fruit farms on this sandy strip. There were 2 few dairies dating from 1917.

These rocky outcrops which led to the naming of the suburb Rockdale were gradually removed in the 1880's first along what was Rocky Point Rd and now Princes Hwy, near Arncliffe and also along Bay

St Rockdale to allow the tram line to run to Brighton. The Prince's Highway was named after the Prince of Wales, Edward who visited Australia in June 1920. The Secretary of the Royal Auto Club of Victoria Captain Wright, said 'that the main road be made fit for .. a first class route of the Melbourne to Sydney (a highway of 535 miles) would... a handsome compliment to for The Prince of Wales. 'The Border Mail 26 Jan 1920 The Government of NSW set aside 7893 pounds for the reconstruction of the main Road Princes Highway from Cook's River to Tom Ugly's Bridge. Gov Gazette July 1921



Banksia Scrub in Botany Bay

Early History of the Suburb of Brighton le Sands

In order to understand the beginning and the continuation of the school's history, it is important to know about Brighton le Sands the suburb, the original inhabitants, land development, social issues and major events until today. The school and the suburb are two sides of the same coin.

The current web site stresses the importance of liaison 'of the school and community communications strategies' and 'open sessions provided on Special days, include grandparents Day, Easter Activities, ANZAC, and International Children's Day' Brighton School Community engagement p5.

The 3 roads which initially opened up Brighton, in the 1880's all ran east from Rocky Point Rd. In 1885 there were just 162 homes in West Botany Municipality, now called Bayside Council. There were 45 market gardeners along the rich wetlands between Rockdale and Brighton. 25 were in West Botany St, and 10 off Bay St, in the wetlands. Sands Directory

Rocky Point Rd ran from Cook's River, to Sans Souci. The northern end was renamed Princes' Hwy, from Cook's River to Kogarah, named after The Prince of Wales, who visited Sydney around 1920.

These 3 main streets were Goodes Rd, renamed **Bestic St** to North Brighton and Kyeemagh, **Bay St** to central Brighton. This road is the main road east, and in its infancy 2 bridges were built across the roadway. In 1877, local MLA John Lucas obtained a grant to construct Bay St from Muddy Creek to the beach. Ron Rathbone p17. and **President Ave.**(constructed 1887) to south Brighton. Grand Parade was formerly called The Esplanade.

Crawford Rd, was called Quarter Sessions Rd. George Hook used this track, to get to his work every workday. His business was continually beset with employees stealing meat or cash, and as he left every day he would have need of the Sydney Court of General and Quarter Sessions. The track

Quarter Sessions Rd was listed in Sands Directories until 1912, and was renamed as Crawford Rd in 1913 Sands Directory

On 13th October 1874 the suburb of Seven Mile Beach was re named Lady Robinson's Beach on the authority of the Mayor of West Botany, Elias Godfrey and his council, 'being the wish of one of the principal landowners in that neighbourhood. 'Rockdale Its Beginnings Thomas Holt no less!

Blizzard and Co Real Estate Agents were located at 279 Pitt St They advertised the first blocks of land were 12 splendid allotments at 'Botany West' 150 pounds for all 12 SMH 10 April 1880 p 11 Another early sale was at Lady Robinson's Beach, a corner allotment by Blizzard SMH 4 January 1883... Blizzard also offered 2 blocks for sale one 12 acres another 5 acres shop 57 Sydney Arcade SMH 1 May 1886 p10

In March 1881, the final route of the proposed rail line to the Illawarra outlined Ron Rathbone p18 Mr Lackey, Minister of Public Works in the NSW parliament indicated that the rail line was to pass through Kogarah and Hurstville SMH 17TH Mar 1881 p 6

On May 11 1883 'wanted land clearers to clear about 40 acres at Sandridge Park , Lady Robinson's Beach, between Good's Rd (now Bestic St)and Bay St , This was land owned by Thomas Saywell at Brighton SMH p 10

Early pioneers and events of Brighton le Sands

Naming the suburb Brighton le Sands

Originally Brighton was part of **7 mile beach**, in the St George District of Botany Bay.

The first **resident** was George Hermann Hook, a master butcher who purchased 19 acres in 1870, including Teralba Rd and built his stone home on the site of Brighton School. He called his home **Carrington Park**, after the Governor of NSW. He lived at his home until his passing in 1902.

The beach was renamed Lady Robinson's Beach in 1874 by the Mayor of Rockdale at the request of Thomas Holt a prosperous land owner and developer of Sans Souci and Sutherland Shire. He named it after Lady Nea Robinson, wife of the NSW Governor Sir Hercules Robinson.

Thomas Saywell a wealthy owner of coal mines, purchased 100 acres, at **Lady Robinson's Beach**, near the current Bay St, in 1883 which he name '**Sandridge Park**' He sank a bore and located fresh water at 21 feet SMH 1 Dec 1883 Within his 100 acre estate he allocated 20 acres for his New Brighton Estate with his private tram way, and an elaborate multi storied 'New Brighton Hotel'.

In April 1902, Saywell wrote to Rockdale Council in 1902 suggesting that the name of the suburb be known as Brighton. 'The baths are known as Brighton, the hotel is known as Brighton, and the racecourse is known as Brighton. The council after discussion fell in with Mr Saywell, and as a first step, decided to ask the Postal Department and the Railway Commission, to effect the alteration. SMH 28 April 1902.

The suburb was renamed by both the Council, the Post Office, and the suburb name was expanded to **Brighton le Sands** to avoid confusion with Brighton suburbs in other states, in 1903 and Miss Ward who ran the tea room at Shady Nook park took over the first Post Office.

Patrick Moore born 1808 Ireland- died 1889 Picton NSW

Patrick Moore snr an Irish convict was granted a conditional pardon, and obtained a land grant of 60 acres in 1812 behind the School. He called it 'Moorefield'. The wetlands were known as Patmore's Swamp and water still runs from Kings Rd Brighton to the rear of Ramsgate School, Scarborough Park. He was the first settler in this area of St George District, near Botany Bay.

In 1854 George Alfred Lloyd 1815-1897

George Alfred Lloyd purchased 61 acres, portion 47, from the Colony, which included the area from the beach, along Kings Rd in the north to West Botany St to President Avenue. James Beehag owned all of the land on the southern side of Bay St to Rockdale, alongside Lloyd's property.

Surveys of a railway to Illawarra between 1874 and 1879 fuelled land speculation south of Cooks River along all the likely and unlikely routes. Thomas Holt and his friend George Alfred Lloyd, who went on to become The Colonial Treasurer in 1875 bought up most of the land in a line along the swamps from Muddy Creek to Rocky Point, Sans Souci early in the 1870s, in the hope that Sydney's industrial expansion would take place there. Later, politicians and their friends scrambled for estates on all the heights along Forest Road from Arncliffe to Oatley, believing that their guess about the route would be profitable. Following approval of the Illawarra line in 1880, an enormous real estate boom both north and south of the river cleared the forest from part of the catchment area and covered the land with houses and paved roads, but the consequent increase in run-off made the siltation of Cooks River worse. Dictionary of Sydney, Cook's River./ G A Lloyd

Lloyd sold his large 61 acre land 'grant' at Lady Robinson's Beach Brighton to William Lindsay, in about 1856.

July 1854 John England a blacksmith also purchased 55 acres at Seven Mile Beach on the southern side of Bay St in July 1854 from the original grantee James Rothwell, dated November 1854, a saddler and harness maker. In May 1868 John England transferred his 55 acres to his wife Sarah and her brother Thomas Hilliard. Samuel Warren, a duck farmer settled near West Botany Street. James and William Beehag purchased 79 acres on 12th October 1852, alongside Bay St. Rockdale Its Development p45

George Hermann Hook, former owner of the School site 1870

The Brighton le Sands Public School site school site originally belonged to Mr George Hermann Hook, a former German national. He owned the site for more than 30 years, from May 31st 1870 to 1902. Mr Hook's 19 acre site included all of the land from Botany Bay down Teralba Rd to Brighton School. His home occupied the site at the rear south-western corner of the school, and the estate was named 'Carrington Park', in honour of the NSW Governor Lord Carrington who travelled to Brighton le Sands with his wife in 1890. A stone lined well was built at the rear of his home, and a 30 metre long stone pathway facing the wetlands also occupied his home site. George planted a wonderful garden of large trees, many of which still survive.

The current Principal Mr Ian Power pointed out to me that the line of large Moreton Bay Fig Trees which run east to west, led to his home. Feb 2017. George was by far the earliest settler in Brighton, and indeed the only settler anywhere along the Bay from Cook's River, Kyeemagh to the small settlements at Sandringham. In 1866 Thomas Holt's isolated home 'Sans Souci' built after 1853, was

sold to William Rust in 1866, who enlarged and redeveloped the premises as 'The Prince of Wales' Hotel.

There were some duck farmers who farmed west of West Botany Street, but none within 500 metres of the Bay.

When Mr Hook purchased the land in 1870 the Bay was called 7 mile beach.

'The members of the Boccaccio Social Club held a very enjoyable garden party on Saturday last Saturday (6th May), at the residence of Mr Hooke, Carrington Park, Lady Robinson's Beach. About 30 couples took part in the proceedings. The music, supplied by The Oriental Band, and a young Mr Laurent E Margan, was all that the most fastidious could desire. The hall was tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens, and this... dancing and amusements of all kinds ... until... midnight. Messrs Garth Osgood and R.Twyer made efficient M.C's' Source Evening News May 12 and 19 May 1893

After 1874, this village became known as Lady Robinson's Beach, in honour of the Governor's wife Nea, who sometimes rode along the beach.

George Hermann Hook was born in 1830 in Hamburg Germany. He arrived in 1853 aboard the ship *San Francisco*, aged 23. He purchased this property in May 1870, at age 40, and lived here for 32 years until his passing in 1902. He called his home 'Carrington Park', after NSW's popular Governor Lord Carrington.

He was a master butcher, in partnership with his half brother William Uhde with 15 shops.. Their main store was located at the current David Jones Men's store site in Market Street. Another of his shops was located on the Princes Highway, Rockdale George was outgoing, gregarious, interested in local politics, holding parties at his home, and a leader in the 400 strong Master Butchers Association. Each day he drove his cart to Sydney via the unmade pathways re. Rd Bay St, West Botany St, and the Princes Highway to his store, in George St.

More importantly George was a gardener, who owned 19 acres of scrubland running from Botany Bay, the length of what is now Teralba Rd to Brighton School up to the wetlands. His 4 room stone home faced due north, with a stone walled well behind. His home was located on the rear southern corner of the School, with a stone pathway 90 paces long lined with pine trees.

He and his next door neighbour, on the north side John England, both offered part of their land along the beach front, enabling construction of The Esplanade now called Grand Parade.

Although his land was sandy and unsuitable for market gardening, he planted many magnificent trees, including Norfolk Island Pines, Stone Pines, White Magnolias, Moreton Bay Figs and European Palms. Most survive. The size, location and above all the mature garden was the major reason that the land was chosen as the school site and resumed by Education Authorities. It provided shade in summer and protection from severe southerly winds in winter. It provided a wonderful setting for the children and their teachers. It was and still is a unique school setting.

Some erroneous concepts have been drawn by some historian, about Mr Hook. R.C.Petersen said that he ran a piggery. It was never a piggery. It was Mr Hook's garden home. Mr Hook was a master butcher of Sydney's largest butchery. Mr Ron Rathbone in his book Brighton le Sands P 17 says he owned land on the corner of Bay St and Quarter Sessions Rd. This was a north-south estate. His land in fact ran from Botany Bay east west. 'He was a private man' He came from a business operation with 15 shops and was head of The Master Butchers Association of Sydney with 400 members. 'with

several dogs always trailing behind 'Mr Hook probably owned dogs but he drove most days in his horse and cart to his butcheries in southern Sydney over mostly unmade roads. He didn't have the time to socialise with neighbours. Author

Market gardeners in Rockdale 1880

Many of the early settlers were gardeners. There were 57 market gardeners in Rockdale in 1889 of which 23 were Chinese, 4 German. 12 were located in West Botany St, 5 in James St, 15 in Rocky Point Rd, and 6 in Goodes (now Bestic) St. This area, was the largest supplier of fruit and vegetables in Sydney. The market gardeners around Gardeners Rd North Botany (Mascot). listed 40 and Botany 8. There were none listed in Lady Robinson's Beach (Brighton)

The families of Bowmer (Alfred, John and Joseph) Beehag (Isaac, James, Samuel and William), and Napper (Charles, J and W), are well known, were mostly English or Irish immigrants. The large numbers of Chinese, had initially been attracted by the gold fields, drifted away, and settled in Rockdale. Less well known were numerous German settlers, most of whom arrived in Sydney around 1855.

George Hook was one, but so too were William and Sarah Heinbokel who lived next to the school at their small 2 acre portion, on the south west corner of the school site.. This small acreage became Fred. Parker's dairy from 1914, and one student Miss Marilyn Collis recalls walking from her home, in the 1940's cnr of President Av and West Botany St, past Patmore's Swamp, through the dairy. Some may recall her brother Billy Collis, Brighton's champion swimmer, St George Rugby League Footballer and Captain of the 300 strong Billy's Bushies from the 1970's. Miss Marilyn Collis.

German Community in Rockdale Municipality

Whilst the ownership of the Brighton School site, by a former German National, George Hook may surprise some, there were many German's living in Rockdale Municipality. Conrad Frank worked substantial land holdings, in James St now West Botany St and a neighbour of Peter Moore. Many will remember other notable immigrants including the celebrated explorer of central Australia Ludwig Leichhardt, studied by every school child, and Resch's Brewery.

Most of the Germans arrived in the 1850's, and were living and working in Rockdale from the late 1860's and 1870's.

The 1861 census of NSW gave the following statistics for St George immigrants total 1619, born in NSW 822, England 459, Ireland 166, Germany 73, Scotland 52 USA 4 Rockdale Its Beginnings p51

Joseph and Johanna Walz Rockdale His name was adopted and still exists on his home street. Joseph, a stone mason lived in Frederick St Rockdale, donated the land for St Joseph's Church, in Walz St Rockdale.

Wilhelm Heinbokel and his wife Martha were Mr Hook's neighbours in 1876 and for a short time owned about 2 acres on the south side of this site, which eventually became Parker's Dairy, in the late 1930-1958's.

Wilhelm Berghofer. Wilhelm Berghofer and his next door neighbour Peter Hermann were market gardeners on the Princes Highway near Bestic Street.

Johannes Lauff lived in Rockdale,

Wilhelm Hoffman, Beach St Kogarah market gardener

Philip Milhausen a market gardener lived at the top of Bestic S, on the old Rocky Point Road.

Peter Hermann a market gardener Rocky Point Rd

Gabriel Rueckert and Wilhelm Baldemann before 1860 Rockdale its Development p41

Notes on the German Community

Most of the Germans arrived in the 1850's, and were living and working in Rockdale from the late 1860's and 1870's.

In the 1850's in Germany, 50% of all labour was employed in agriculture, in general farming and especially in vineyards. Many will be aware of the large number of Germans who migrated to South Australia, to places like Barossa Valley and Hahndorf. Similarly many came to the Illawarra region.

Germany since 1846, had experienced severe economic conditions, underpinned by the high price of Rye, the main ingredient in the dark German Pumpernickel bread; the potato blight in 1845, famine, high food prices, unrest in political Europe including the February 1848 Revolution in Paris, and the dwindling farm land. Author

By 1900, Germans were the fourth-largest European ethnic group on the continent, behind the English, Irish and Scots.

By 1914, the number of German-Australians (including the descendants of German-born migrants of the second and third generation who had become Australians by birth) was estimated at approximately 100,000. German Australians Wikipedia

By 1991, there were 112,000 German-born persons in Australia. German Australian's Wikipedia

The Illawarra Rail line

As Sydney's population increased, it was important to open up building sites, and to provide access to the south. The rail line ran from Central to Hurstville. The rock formations around Arncliffe and Rockdale were demolished and Rockdale station opened in 1884. This allowed patrons to take Thomas Saywell's tram to Lady Robinson's Beach.

Thomas Saywell The Developer and inspiration of Brighton le Sands 1883

Thomas Saywell was born in England, (born 1837-died 1928) but was mainly raised in Calais France. He spoke both French and English. His family were lace makers, and they arrived in Australia in 1848, as paupers, and travelled to Morpeth, the upper reaches of the Hunter River. The family walked to The East Maitland Barracks.

Thomas made his initial fortune from tobacco retailing and later became a coal mining magnate.

'He planned to create a model suburb and seaside resort for working-class families. In 1884 Saywell's Tramway Act granted him a thirty-year franchise for a private tramway from Lady Robinson's Beach to Rockdale railway station. On his suggestion the new suburb was named Brighton le Sands and he lived there for many years.' Australian Dictionary of Biography

When the railway opened up from Central to Hurstville in 1884, Saywell built a private tram line, from Rockdale Station to Brighton Beach.

He built a 60 room Hotel, at his New Brighton Resort, a 20 acre playground, for weekend entertainment by Sydney siders, with a sea baths, and a wharf, an entertainment centre The Pavilion, later to become the site of the Picture Theatre and a large botanic park 'Shady Nook', on the southern corner of Bay and Grand Parade. On Monday 16 Dec 1895, Mr Saywell built a racecourse. B.L.S Ron Rathbone p49 and both gallopers and harness racing were organised. Such was his devotion to this suburb that he named his youngest child Vera Brighton Saywell. NSW Births



Photo of Thomas Saywell's Hotel, with the ornate 'Pavilion' on the left, and toast rack tram, at Bay St Terminus and waiting room opposite the beach c1890 The 'Pavilion' later became Brighton Hall and in the 1920's Brighton Picture Theatre courtesy Rockdale Council..

S.S. Erina

This vessel began offering Sunday services around Botany Bay in 1903. The Erina also allowed non-sailors to get a taste of Botany Bay by trailing sailing races on Saturdays from October to the end of March. The Erina was also used for excursions and fundraisers

It left Sans Souci at 9am. It called at Lady Robinson's Beach at 9.30am and 11.30am, 2.30pm Botany Pier 10 am 11am and 3 pm Sans Souci and Sandringham at 12 noon and 2 pm St George Call It ended its life around 1949 historyatbayside Council/ St George Call 19 Mar 1904 p6



Brighton Wharf with S.S.Erina

Mr Francis Foy, immediate previous owner of the School site.1911-16

After George Hook's passing, the 19 acre estate was left to his step brother and business partner, Mr Louis Uhde. Mr Uhde passed away, in 1907. A fellow German national Carl Schramm lived on the property as a caretaker from 1900 until 1909. Sands Directory Mr Francis Foy purchased the land around 1909. Francis Foy was born near Dublin Ireland in 1856. In 1915 the NSW Government decided, to resume part of Foy's land for the purpose of building the school. The Department of Public Instruction 'has decided for school purposes of land known as the "Foy" site at Brighton le Sands M.L.Salmon Minister's Secretary. St George Call Sept 1915.

Early in 1916 the lavish gardens were resumed, from the owner. Mr Foy was one of Sydney's wealthiest men, and the owner of the largest retail business Mark Foys. This store introduced the first escalators in Sydney.

The Education Department offered Mr Foy 12,000 pounds for his 5 acres, but Mr Foy generously accepted just 6000 pounds. Francis Foy, kind and generous, retired from business in 1908, suffering ill-health. It is believed that the Brighton property was used to accommodate race horses. Mr Foy also owned substantial horse studs, in Mudgee and elsewhere. A few years later a further 3 acres were resumed from Mr Foy's estate by the Education Department, to accommodate the Infants School, on the southern side of the existing school.

Mr Foy passed away not long after in November 1918. In early **1922** the developer auctioned The Brighton Beach Estate, which included 69 allotments which became **Teralba Rd**, running, from the beach front to Crawford Road and the front gates of the school. This estate included 5 lots in Crawford Rd, on both sides of Teralba Rd facing the school. NSW State Library sub division plans

Brighton le Sands Village 1904-1922

There had been residential land developments at Brighton le Sands from 1904. Most were unsuccessful, in the early years, before 1917. A few blocks were purchased, but building was slow if not non-existent.

Apart from land sold before 1900 by Thomas Saywell, at Sandridge Park, around Princess, Gordon and Bay Sts, the first estate in Brighton was **Borough Park Estate**, in 1904, with 146 lots with just 30 foot frontages. This Estate was located south of the school and ran from the beach down President Ave, and along O'Neill St to Patmore's Swamp, and included Crawford Rd south Wycombe Ave Roslyn Ave. Lots sold for 10 pounds each. The very small blocks did not sell. State Library Estate Plans/SMH 8 Oct 1904 p17/ Evening News 2 October 1906 p8

2nd SUBDIVISION
BOROUGH PARK
BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS
ROCKDALE

For Sale by **WATKIN & WATKIN** 301 Pitt St

Between Park and Bathurst Streets (opp. Criterion Theatre),
 OR
 W. J. McNeill, ROCKDALE, or J. H. Tidmarsh, By the Estate 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at Request.

146 Splendid Marine Building Sites.
 43 of these front President Avenue, which is 100 feet wide and planted with ornamental trees. These Lots are mostly 40 feet Frontage.
 Price, £15 (Fifteen Pounds) per lot.
 The remaining lots all front 60 feet wide Avenues, vary in frontage from say 30 to 40 feet.
 Price of these lots, £10 (Ten pounds) per lot.
 Terms: £1 per lot Deposit, 10s. per lot per month.
NO INTEREST.
TORRENS' TITLE.

QUARTER SESSIONS ROAD

The position of this Estate is A1, being the pick of the well known Lady Robinson's Beach, now known as Brighton-Le-Sands, is convenient to Saywell's Electric Tram which connects with every train at Rockdale.

The tens of thousands invested by that enterprising citizen, Thomas Saywell, Esq., upon Tram, Sea Baths, Marine Residences, Pleasure Grounds, Electric Light, &c., at Brighton-Le-Sands assure the great future before this District.

The First Sub-division of Borough Park was recently sold (without being advertised) and was snapped up mostly by local buyers.

The public are now offered this, the Second Sub-division of Borough Park, at prices less than one-fourth of the original prices.

We advise intending purchasers to inspect and purchase **WITHOUT** delay as such an opportunity may never occur again.

REMEMBER the Title is **TORRENS**, and the Terms £1 per Lot Deposit, 10s. per Lot Monthly,
NO INTEREST

Shady Nook Recreation Ground

L.A. CURTIS
 Licensed Surveyor under 2 P.A.C.
 -Hokery Chambers Pitt St

THE ESPLANADE
COOK
BOTANY
BAY
BRIGHTON HOTEL
Lady Robinson's Baths
Wharf

Poster advertising an early sub-division at Brighton-le Sands c1904. Brighton School would be built in Quarter Sessions Rd, later Crawford Rd in April 1917. Teralba Road would not be built until 1922.



Beach Estate formerly owned by John and Sarah England was located north east of the School, which includes Quarter Sessions Rd, renamed Crawford Rd, which was originally owned by James Beehag, sold from 27th January 1908. Brighton le Sands School lies in the south west corner of this map, below the word 'Title' NSW State Library subdivision plans Z/SP/B26 The England's divorced in 1892. Mr England that he was a tram conductor. SMH 8 Nov 1892 p3

Arthur Alexander Blackwood Sunset Estate 70 acres North Brighton 1912-1916

Arthur purchased 70 acres of land in North Brighton, along Lady Robinson's Beach from Saywell Estates. It was the largest offering of residential building blocks in Brighton. Probably more than 700 blocks were sold over 5 years between Jan 1912 and December 1916. This area was called Sunset Estate, and extended from Bay St to Bestic Street. His company was called United Land and Investment Society Ltd. Arthur lived in Marrickville Rd Marrickville, and passed away in September 1918, aged 60.

The sale of this vast estate led to the rejuvenation of Brighton le Sands with 230 homes built in 3 years, after 1914, and parents pressured the Education Department to build Brighton School.

Notes on The Sunset Estate

The location of existing homes in Bay, Princess, Gordon and Bruce Sts and The (Moate) Avenue, The Hotel, The Saywell Baths and wharf, the tram waiting room corner of Bay St at the front of the hotel, 7 of The Terraces facing the beach between Princess and Gordon still remain. There were cottages and Villas west of the Hotel, in Bay Princess and Gordon Sts. This area was the heart of early Brighton le Sands. 10 street blocks were listed A through K, involved many 100's of house blocks. The roads were 'metalled'. The Estate was again offered for

sale in December 1912, March 1913 and Feb 1914, and 22 Dec 1916 SMH various The Estate extended north to Bestic Street, but does not show on this initial release poster..

BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS SUNSET ESTATE

BIG LOTS FIRST SUBDIVISION OF THIS GREAT ESTATE Facing the Water. A few minutes from the Tram **SEA BATHING**

FOR AUCTION SALE, ON THE GROUND ON
EASTER MONDAY 8TH APRIL 1912 AT 3 P.M.

ARTHUR BLACKWOOD PROPERTY AUCTIONEER.
GEORGE & HAY STREETS, SYDNEY.

Balance **H** of

7	6	5	4	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Estate **K**

6	5	4	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

for **L** future

6	5	4	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

Sub'te **M**

6	5	4	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

ROWLEY **STREET** **ROSS** **PARADE** **PARK** **BEACH** **BAY**

READING **AVENUE** **ST** **GRAND** **COOK** **LADY** **BOTANY**

HENSON **SELWOOD** **THE** **BRUCE** **GORDON** **PRINCESS** **STREET** **SHADY NOOK**

Local Sketch

To VIEW THE LAND
Take Train to Rockdale
Tram to Brighton-le-Sands
Walk past the Hotel & Villas
4 minutes to the Estate.

TORRENS TITLE

TERMS £1 DEPOSIT
£1 MONTHLY
Interest 5% on quarterly balances.

Vendors
THE UNITED LAND & INVESTMENT SOCIETY LTD. GEORGE & HAY ST^S SYDNEY.

J. H. Lucas
Local Engineer & P.A.
Moore & Sydney

From Rockdale Station
BAY TRAM LINE
All Dimensions subject to Re-surveyed Plan

Baths
Wharf

B36/9

Other Estates around Brighton

But despite the land sales, building activity was minimal, around Brighton Village until after 1915

The Esplanade Estate (Monterey) March, 1912

Brighton Racecourse Estate (Bay St, near Hotel) Oct 1912

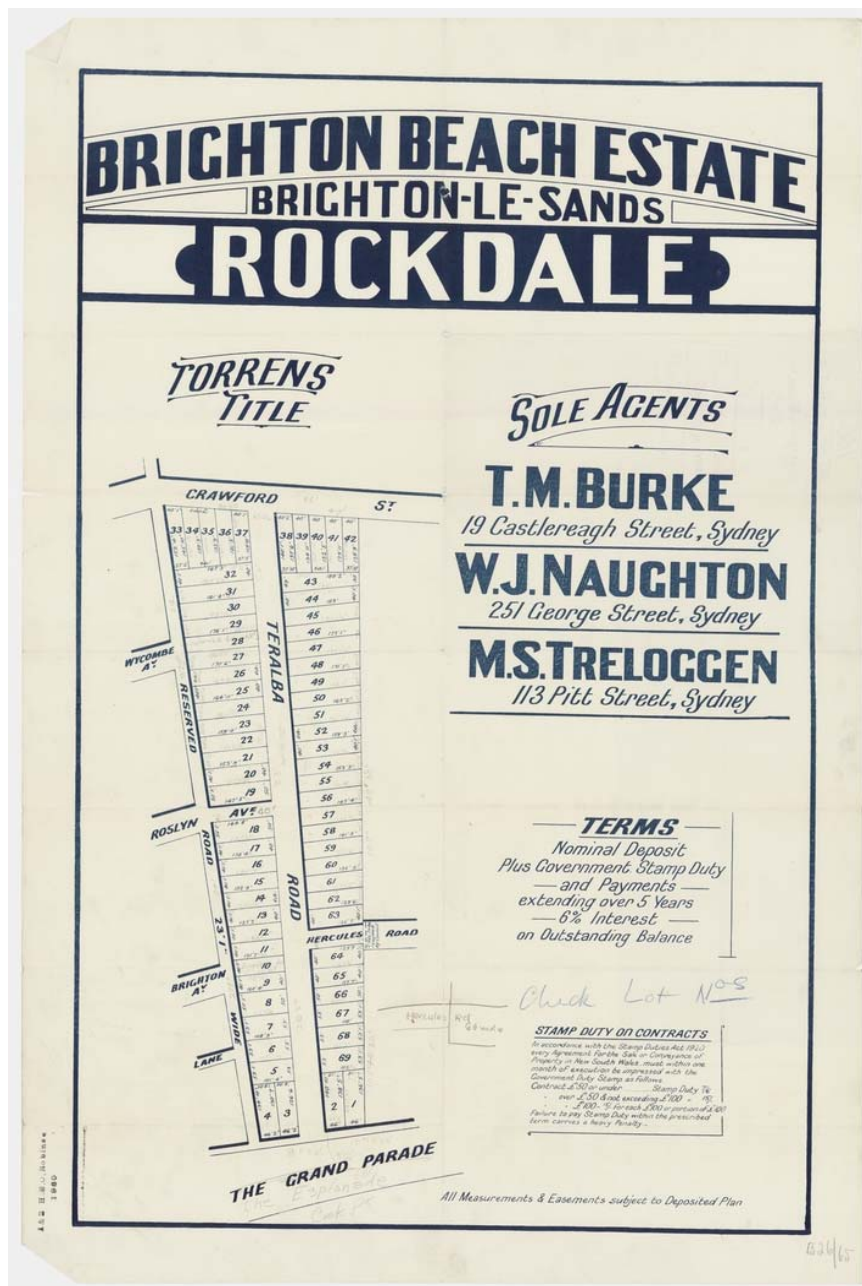
Wangarra Estate (President Av) Feb 1914,

Ailsa Estate **Ailsa Estate** (Bath St) May 1914, NSW State Library

Primrose Estate (South of President Avenue) Oct 1918,

Shady Nook, (Cnr Bay St and Grand Parade) Sept 1922

Brighton Beach Estate April 1922 **Teralba Road** and **Crawford Road** 1922



In April 1922, some 100 lots in The Brighton Beach Estate, running the entire length of Teralba Rd, were auctioned, and Teralba Rd was the first tar or macadam road laid. Teralba Rd was named by the developer, after the superior blue metal used in the roadway, sourced from Teralba Gravel Pits, in Newcastle. The first home built in Teralba Rd no 17, was also named as Teralba. NSW State Library Estate Plans / Sands Directory On 23 Dec 1921 the Mayor of Rockdale George Fortescue Jr, outlined his 39 articles from Council minutes, including article 28, which stated 'Arrangements have been made to try Teralba Gravel, on one of our main roads' St George Call 23 Dec 1921 p1

At the same time March 1922, Rockdale Council tarred Crawford Rd. This street was named after Alderman James Cameron Crawford. He was a resident of Scarborough from 1886, and was described as a squatter in the Sands Directory. Mr Crawford served on Rockdale Council from Feb 1906, until his passing in January 1918. He was a wonderful man, and donated 5 blocks of his land to returned soldiers.

Brighton le Sands Village 1914

There were only 103 homes in Brighton in 1914, mostly around Bay St near the Bay Sands Directory 1914. Brighton was an isolated and remote community of Sydney. But this number grew to 330 homes by 1917 Sands Directory 1917 More than 70 homes were built in each of the 3 years between 1914 and 1917. Brighton le Sands was growing at last.

In 1917 Brighton was a pleasant rural village in Sydney's south, but less than 10% of the land was occupied by homes. There was no hospital in Brighton. St George Cottage Hospital in Kogarah, provided health care for the entire St George District from 1894. The first Secretary was Mr Arthur Ormonde Butler in 1892 (1863-1945). Propellor Newspaper 15 June 1945/NSW Births. Mrs Saywell held a meeting at her home in Brighton le Sands 'for the purpose of raising funds' St George Call 24 Feb 1917. It would be 8 years before Dr Watson would begin his practice in Bay St Brighton see notes later

War

And because of the war, there were numerous single parent families in Brighton. Some 70 Brighton men served overseas in World War.1 NSW State Library A City of Rockdale First World War Centenary Commemoration website Teachers from Kogarah Superior, Kogarah and Rockdale Public Schools served but none from Brighton le Sands Research by Lynda Ward Over 800 Rockdale Municipality volunteers are listed in the WW1 Honour Roll. Rockdale Council

Over 38% of all Australian men aged 18 to 44 had volunteered for war service. Over 80% of all volunteers served overseas. Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour 2013. Many wives struggled to raise their family, without their husband. The reason that many men joined up was because of the high rates of pay for a soldier being 6 shillings a day. The Road to War and Back Claire Greer/ The Rush to enlist State Library of Victoria

An Advertisement appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald by Arnott's Biscuits featuring a drawing of (Eileen) Sowter 21 Gordon St Brighton le Sands with the caption "My Father has gone to the War" SMH 9 Mar 1916 daughter of George Henry and Annie Sowter NSW births

Because there was no industrial enterprise in Brighton, probably about 150 men and women travelled each day by tram. A few worked in Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville. There was no industry along the ridge from Arncliffe to Hurstville Most took the train to industrial work centres around Erskineville (brick making and tanning) The Waterloo Estate Alexandria, then the largest industrial area in Sydney, and Camperdown. And to work in retailing centres in both Sydney and Newtown.

More building blocks were offered after World War 1, included Primrose Estate (President Av) October

1918, Brighton Beach Estate(Teralba Rd)April 1922, and Shady Nook Estate (Bay St and Grand Parade) September 1922.

It is significant that Brighton has never had a Town Hall or a community centre. It was a pivotal factor in the interaction of residents in Brighton, then and now.

In 1917, the school, by default became the central meeting place for children, mothers and families to share their joys and burdens. Unlike its alter ego Botany, across Botany Bay, Brighton has never had any industry. Brighton has never had a major retail store; until a supermarket was built in the 1990's. Botany unlike Brighton had a direct roadway and tramway to the centre of Sydney. There was one exception, because Brighton had pasta manufacturing business in Bruce St which operated for about 40 years, in the 1920's to the 50's.

In addition to the opening of the new school, the wife of Brighton's developer, Mrs Saywell organised a fete at Shady Nook, a large park facing the beach in aid of St George District Hospital. The Rockdale Municipal Band and children from both Rockdale and Bexley participated. St George Call 129 th May 1917 The St George Cottage Hospital was 'under the benign control of Matron Cameron' St George Call 10 March 1917.

Rockdale Council aldermen were very keen to be seen in the suburb by the sea. Brighton and Botany Bay were the jewels of the district. For many years aldermen attended every important function of the school; including the opening of the school, every speech day, Arbour day, Empire Day, ANZAC day and the end of the war celebrations, in both 1919 and 1939.

In the Minutes of Rockdale Council early September 1918, the Mayor Alderman Henry Broe reported that on 12 September 'the Brighton le Sands Mission consisting of General Pau, Commandant d'Andre and others had visited the Municipality and visited the Model Primary School at Crawford Rd Brighton le Sands 'Rockdale Council Minutes 3rd October 1918

A week later Mr Cox's father Mr B Cox, age 56, teacher in charge at Seven Hills public school died suddenly Cumberland Advocate 21 Sept

Also in the minutes the Department of Education wrote a letter dated 2 April 1919 that 'the kerb and guttering in front of the Public School at Brighton le Sands at Crawford Rd (would be completed) as soon as possible. Rockdale Council Minutes 1st May 1919.

And the school was used by many other clubs and associations. And its use was nearly always free.

Brighton residents at every election for the past 90 years have voted at the school for local council, State and Federal Parliamentary elections. Another voting venue was the Congregational Church in Moate Ave.

On 26th April 1917, a meeting was held at Brighton le Sands for a candidate in the Federal Elections, Mr (Hector) Lamond at 8pm SMH 26 April. The Federal poll for Illawarra took place on 5th May 1917, and the polling booth in Brighton was Mr Neil Matterson's Tea Rooms in Bay St next to the Hotel. His opponent was Mr George Burns Labor Party of Hurstville, who had represented parliament for 2 terms. Mr Lamond representing the National Party won 17,376 votes to 15, 049 (In the Rockdale sub division Mr Lamond held sway 1724 votes to 1083). South Coast Times /Illawarra Mercury 11 May 1917

Later local Churches including Congregational, Anglican, Presbyterian and Catholic faiths built churches and commenced services in Brighton, which enabled people to meet socially. The Brighton RSL sub-

branch was formed 5th April 1945.RSL Brighton

The privately owned Brighton Hall, formerly Saywell's baroque Pavilion behind the Hotel in Bay Street was used for a short period, for meetings but in the late 1920's it was used both as the local theatre and the Catholic Church. Certainly the Hall was in use in July 1927 The Sun 29 July Residents would go to the picture theatres in Brighton or Rockdale.

The only other social centres were the old Saywell Baths from 1884 until Dec 1926. Incessant rain on Boxing Day 1926, reduced patronage at all Sydney resorts. Brighton Resort dropped from 87 tram carloads in 1925 to 15 in 1926.

The Council Baths were built in 1928, and The Brighton Hotel, which had seen its operations closed for a period, in the 1890's and had numerous changes in Licensees were the only other meeting places.SMH 28 Dec 1926. The hotel has been used for many sports groups, flower shows, service clubs council functions and since the Novotel was constructed in the late 1990's, many conferences have been run. It is also very convenient for travellers near Sydney International Airport. On New Year's Day 1929, 12,589 swimmers paid to swim at the baths.300,000 swam in the baths in the first 4 months of operation. Ron Rathbone Brighton le Sands



Photo Brighton le Sands Baths, located in Grand Parade, built by Rockdale Council December 1929, which was opened 1928 (State Library)

The suburb of Brighton le Sands, sat upon flat open fields, 13km south of Sydney. Brighton offered cheap land, a wonderful outlook over Botany Bay, with fast access to Rockdale for shopping and entertainment and to the industrial work and retail centres in Sydney. The real estate development in President Ave, in 1917 offered blocks at 50 pounds with 3 pounds deposit. The average wage for male factory workers in 1920 was 204 pounds a year (4 pounds a week) for a male and 320 pounds for a male manager/clerk Source State Library of Victoria What it used to cost.

In 1914, there were only about 100 homes, in Brighton. 60% were around Bay St, near the beach. Frederick Parker began his dairy behind but next to the School. The dairy continued to be run by his

son William and in 1952 his 2 grandchildren attended Brighton School in the 1950's. By 1917 there were 330 homes. There were just 20 streets and almost all were unsealed, including Crawford 'Street', with 20 homes. Teralba Rd did not exist.

In 1917 there were about 150 homes along the main street, Bay St, from Rockdale Station down to the Hotel area, and Bruce St, Princess St, and Moate Ave, near the beach.

There were about 70 homes near the school in Crawford, Trafalgar, Kings, Roslyn, and Queens Rd, 35 along Grand Parade, 35 in President Ave and Monterey. The Mayor of Rockdale Bill Monahan lived on the Grand Parade; in no 8 The Brighton Terraces facing the Bay. The developer of Brighton and builder of The Terraces, Thomas Saywell also lived there, initially at 'Nevada' no 8, and later no 12 until 1928. B.L.S., Ron Rathbone p41. 7 of these heritage-listed Terraces remain, all in private hands.

On the beach front, along General Holmes Drive, Botany Bay, the southerly winds continually blew the white beach sand onto the land, with large sand hills forming at Kyeemagh. After large storms pounded the Bay, the sand dunes would build 'up to 16 to 20 feet high'.

In June 1928 the NRMA put out a press release on weekend trips for motorists, and included, the following 'Good along General Holmes Drive, to within 100 yards of Brighton-le-Sands then exceedingly rough. To avoid this stretch turn to the right at Gordon Street and then turn left into Trafalgar Avenue to Bay St(tram) which is followed over good tarred surface to Prince's Highway at Rockdale' Source The Sun newspaper 21 June 1928.

Brighton was more rural than suburban. It was a low cost residential area. It was ideal for families, and gave city workers, a 10 minute ride in the electric tram, up the rise along the main artery of Bay St, to Rockdale Railway Station, and then a 15 minute trip in the steam train to Central Station. It was not until June 1926, before Sydney's first electric trains, ran on the Illawarra line.

In 1922 an **annual** combined tram and rail ticket, was 10 pounds 6 shillings 9 pence, or 4 shillings a week (The individual cost of an annual rail ticket was 8 pounds 19 and 3 pence, and 5 pounds 4 shillings tram) St George Call Sept 1922.



Brighton also provided a quiet and relaxed residential area, for the family. Safe swimming in the baths, fishing, boating, rugby league football, soccer, baseball, cricket, cycling tennis and athletics were readily available to all residents. Saywell's baths built in 1884 were operating opposite the Hotel, and on warm sunny weekends, the beach attracted thousands, each day, from suburbs all over

the city. And it had an electricity generation plant in Bay St, to power the trams, but which also provided the first electric lighting in Sydney from July 1900 for both Brighton and Rockdale. Sydney did not become electrified until July 1904.

In April 1920, The St George Social and Athletic Club held an amateur boxing night at Brighton Hall patronised by Mr Bagnall the local State parliamentarian. It was the only athletic club in the district. 6 boxing bouts were conducted. St George Call 10 April 1920

In April 1933 The NSW Amateur athletic Club held their opening run from Brighton le Sands baths, and 200 runners, from many Eastern Sydney suburbs participated.

In 1917 nearby in Rockdale, there were over 40 families, along West Botany St Brighton. Who ran market gardens, in two areas, either on the banks of Muddy Creek, draining from Rockdale, near Bunning's and the second on both sides of Patmore Wetlands, near President Ave, on the rich black alluvial soil, at the rear of the School, and along to Scarborough Park. On the south-east corner of James St (now south West Botany St), and President Ave, behind the school there were Chinese market gardens in the 1940's and 1950's .(Source Marilyn Mackintosh former pupil)

These gardeners were supplying vegetables to greater Sydney and were run by English, Irish, German and Chinese families.

In 1951 land was reserved for the F6 freeway corridor, running south from Sydney, through 4 council areas, including the Rockdale Municipality to Wollongong. It includes Patmore Swamp at the rear of the School. It is now land which holds many sporting fields and habitat. Road and Maritime Services Department in 2016 is carrying out geotechnical drilling along this corridor, with a view to planning a Southern Freeway, to overcome the colossal traffic flow along General Holmes Drive. 34,000 vehicles a day use the Grand Parade, both morning and night.

Australian Governance in 1917

A Federal elections was held on 5 May 1917 Wikipedia 1917 Nationalists under Billy Hughes won 53 seats to Labours under Frank Tudor 22

Monarch King George V. The Prince of Wales Prince Edward visited 110 cities in Australia from April until August 1920, in company with Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Governor General Sir Ronald Ferguson

Prime Minister Billy Hughes Nationalist seat of Bendigo

Mr Hector Lamond won the seat of Illawarra, until the next election in 1922. The electors in Brighton became part of the seat of Barton after 1922.

State Premier Mr William Holman

The Rockdale Council

Industrial Unrest. 1916

In NSW a strike wave began in early 1916. This combined with anger at the attempt to introduce conscription and the disaffection of Irish-Australians (The Irish immigrants were a considerable portion of the Australian population and their treatment in Ireland in the mid 1800's was still deeply resented). The 'New South Wales General Strike' involving 100,000 began in August for 6 weeks. It began in the railways and spread to coal mines, the waterfront, and workers in sugar timber, meat



Locomotive drivers from the Eveleigh workshop, during the 1917 strike. This was a great period of change for New South Wales.

The strike was accompanied by scenes of mass protest. There were daily demonstrations in Sydney and Melbourne. Ben Chifley, who would become Prime Minister in 1945, and Joe Cahill who would become Premier of NSW in 1952, participated in the strike.

The Piddington Royal Commission reported in 1920 that real wages in Australia fell by nearly 30% between 1914 and 1919 Wikipedia Australian General Strike 1917

Entertainment and News for Residents in 1917.

Newspapers

The **Sydney Morning Herald** was the main Sydney newspaper in the 1920's. It had been operating since 1831. The local paper, for the St George District was **The St George Call** was published from 1904, until at least 1957.

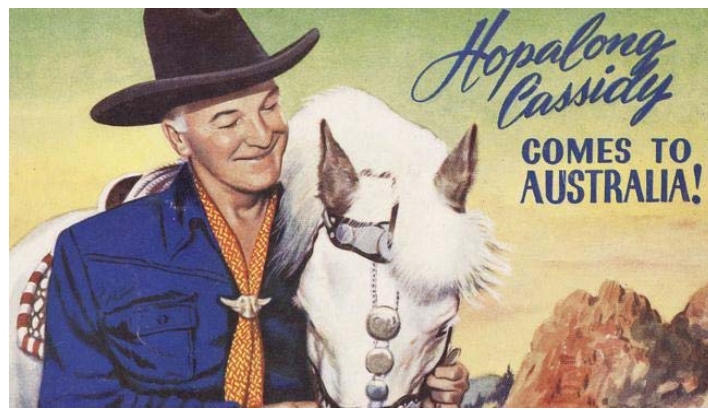
On the day that Brighton School opened, on Monday 16th April, The Sydney Morning Herald was 1 penny. It was just 12 pages. The headlines that day were

- 416 men volunteered for war service in NSW
- Fosters Lager 'not controlled by Germans, but by Britishers'. This was a barb against their competitor Resch's Beer.
- David Jones offered ladies coats from 21 shillings
- More than a page of job vacancies
- 2 pages of war news
- Details of a race meeting to be held at Moorefield Races on 28 April

The local picture theatre was located in Bay St at the rear of the Hotel. From 1884, for at least 30 years this land had been Saywell's ornate Pavilion, where dancing and dining were enjoyed. Neil Matterson, Brighton's world champion sculler, operated his tea rooms there, until the mid 1920's. Over time this property became Brighton Hall, then the picture theatre, built in July 1929 SMH 5 June.

Most residents also travelled by tram to the **Imperial** Picture Theatre, owned by J. Dalrymple a little south of and opposite the Rockdale Town Hall, in 1920-1928, in 1921 was owned by George V Hudson and the **Acme** Theatre, owned in 1921 by J. Beales in south Rockdale, operating from 1915, which became known as the **Odeon** Theatre in 1947. Another theatre in the 1950's was The **Rex** Theatre near Rockdale Town Hall. The gentle slope of the floor of The Rex allowed naughty school boys to roll Coke bottles to the front in the 1950's.

Another was the **Castle** Theatre Rockdale 1921, owned by J. Dalrymple.



Hopalong Cassidy played by William Boyd was a favourite of Children

Radio

Radio was still in its experimental stage in 1917. It was not until November 1923, that 2BL, began broadcasting. 2UE began broadcasts in January 1925, and 2GB in August 1926.

Mr Arch McKirdy the presenter of Australia's most popular radio show in the 1960's, 'Relax with me' on the ABC He passed away in 31 August 2013 aged 89. He moved from the ABC to 2KY to 2GB He lived in Teralba Rd and his 3 sons attended Brighton School.

The Brighton le Sands Baths

The first timber pylon sea baths were built by Thomas Saywell, in 1884. The New Brighton resort was the largest and most popular of three marine resorts, including Manly and Sir Joseph Banks resort in Botany. They were very popular on summer weekends. The old Saywell baths, were operated by Neil Matterson, in the 1920's who ran the Tea rooms, in Bay St. They gradually disintegrated after storms lashed the timber infrastructure. Remnant pylons were still visible until the early 1950's.

On Saturday 15th September 1928 Brighton le Sands shark-proof baths, based on a South African design, was opened, being built by Rockdale Council at a cost of 30,000 pounds The Sun Friday 14th Sept 1928 In mid October 1928 Brighton Life Saving Club launched their new life boat 'Australia'. In 1929 after 8 months of operation 460,000 had paid for admission to the baths.

Fishing Fishing was a main attraction for residents and visitors, from the wharf, the beach and from small boats. Professional fishermen netted fish off the beach using small boats. On one occasion I helped the fishermen drag in their large net.

Transportation in Brighton 1917

Walking was the most usual way to get around in Brighton. The motor vehicle was not in use in Brighton in 1917. Horse drawn buggies, and wagons were used. The original people's car, the T model Ford had begun manufacture in 1908, in the US but production was suspended during the war. And it was only affordable for the wealthy. There were no formed roads, in Brighton and no petrol stations. Horse- drawn carts, walking, bicycles or public transport (trams and trains) were the only means available to residents.



The Tram to Rockdale held large numbers of people was inexpensive and had a regular service.

Photo looking north along George Street 1920 (with a tram, Model T Ford and hansom cab) taken from the corner of Jamieson Street. The photo taken by Sam Hood, State Library of NSW collection PXE 789. The 'Toast Rack' tram had numerous side doors.

In Sydney in 1921 there were 1623 registered horse drawn commercial vans, and 376 motorised vans. The Department of Main Roads was not established until 1925 Source Dictionary of Sydney Transport



In a Sydney street, 1916 (City of Sydney Archives)



Horse and Buggy around 1917

Food staples such as milk, bread, ice and fruit and veggies were delivered by horse and cart directly to every home in Brighton in 1917.

In February 1927, Mr Herbert Fraser of Rowley St, Brighton le Sands whilst crossing Moate Ave was knocked down by a motor lorry. He was admitted to Hospital.... injuries to head and back. The St George Call 18th. This accident was among the first in Brighton, and in the next 2 years or more the local St George Call newspaper was filled with reports of motor vehicle accidents. Pedestrians were particularly unaware of the danger of a speeding car compared to a horse and cart. And drivers were sometimes intoxicated and unable to control their vehicles safely.

At Cook's River a 470 foot steel bridge at the back of Ascot Racecourse (Mascot) was built (with a draw bridge or bascule for vessels to pass) allowing traffic to run from Botany Road 'and thence to Brighton le Sands' SMH 22/25 November 1927 The original proposal for a road to connect to the existing beach road between Sandringham and Brighton le Sands would require' a bascule bridge'. St George Call 10 March 1917

By 1927, motor vehicle accidents at Brighton between motorists and pedestrians causing injury and worse became regular occurrences.

The opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge occurred in 1928

Health Care in Brighton

Another very important area for Brighton le Sands was the provision of health care. It would be not until 1925 that Brighton's first medical practitioner Dr Albert Watson physician and surgeon set up his practice at 311 Bay St near Trafalgar Rd. Sands Directory 1926 -1929 .He continued until Jan 1934.

Dr Noel Rau (1903-1969) began his surgery at 203 Bay St, about 1929 opposite Aero St. Uralla Times 12 Dec 1929 p1Sands Directory 1931/ SMH 3 Sept 1938 Dr Rau later located on the corner of Crawford Rd and Bay Street, in practice since 1929 until 1968. SMH Royal Commission in Doctors Remuneration Sept 1938/ NSW births

Dr Rau served in the Australian Army, from 1939 to 1948 Ancestry . My family used him as our family GP.

I was a patient of Dr Rau when I crashed my bike riding to a mate's place in Francis Av outside his surgery in 1951. I was delivered to St George Hospital by unknown persons, and lay unconscious for 4 hours. Author

The Pacific Private Hospital was initially located from around January 1929 on the Esplanade, now Grand Parade. In 1930 it moved to Queen's Rd, under Sister Evelyn Cuthel Bowles, who lived in Queen's Rd and Daisy Bowron to England St in August 1940, and then to Bay St (cnr West Botany St). Wikipedia Brighton-le-Sands The author and his siblings, and most of the children in Brighton were born there in the late 1930's up to the mid 1940's, and beyond.

The Commonwealth introduced pensions in 1908. Men from age 65 women from age 60. Pensioners needed to be residents for 25 years. A maternity allowance was paid from 1912. Widows pensions were introduced in NSW in 1926.Australian Bureau of Statistics 1988

There were 2 headmasters who served Brighton School, during this very difficult time, George McAlister, and Francis Middenway. History Card Department of Education former Historian

Australians looked to sport for some comfort. The great horse Phar Lap won The Melbourne Cup in 1930, and won 37 races from 51 starts. Wikipedia

Don Bradman in 1926-1927 travelled each weekend from Bowral to play grade cricket with St George. He moved to this district in 1928, at age 20. He began his illustrious international cricket career, representing Australia against England in 1928, aged just 20. His highest score of 452 not out, for NSW in January 1930 at the SCG was then a world record. His Test batting average was 99.94, is still by far the highest international cricket batting record.

Mr and Mrs Lazar Weingott ran their 'corner store' at 50 Crawford Road, opposite Brighton School from at least September 1927 until around 1950. The store provided morning tea and sandwiches and pies to children and teachers. Mr Lazar also sold used stamps to the school children. After 1950, Cliff and Mary Gaha ran the store for many years. Author

The Spring's and Warren's Estate on either side of Bay St Brighton with 80 allotments auctioned Sat 3 Nov 1928 St George Call

Brighton-le-Sands:



Formerly known as Lady Robinson's Beach, Brighton-le-Sands is on the western shore of Botany Bay. The beach is a favourite playground of residents of the near Illawarra suburbs. Swimming is made popular by reason of the shark-proof baths shown in the above picture.

Aerial photo taken 19 March 1930 'Formerly known as Lady Robinson's Beach, Brighton le Sands is on the western shore of Botany Bay. The beach is a favourite playground of residents of the near (by) Illawarra suburbs. Swimming is more popular by reason of the shark proof baths shown in the above picture,' Sydney Mail

On New Year's Day 1929, 12,589 swimmers paid to swim at the baths. 300,000 swam in the baths in the first 4 months of operation. Ron Rathbone Brighton le Sands

Some comments on the photo of the suburb of Brighton le Sands on Grand Parade. The baths on both sides it had 3 'steps' or terraces and at the apex, the structure was called 'Tower' 'Aerial Photo of Brighton le Sands 1930.

At the rear middle of the photo is the white roof of **Brighton le Sands Public School**, with large trees growing at the front left and at the rear of the school. The street leading from the left of the baths to the front of the school is Teralba Rd. Note that the large number of homes in 1930 indicates the extensive urbanisation of the suburb, after 1917.

The streets to the right are Duke St and further right The Boulevard. Saywell's multi storied New Brighton Hotel is out of sight and to the right of the baths, at the corner of Bay St leading back to Rockdale. A few Norfolk Island Pines are on the right side of the baths. President Ave can be seen at the top left hand side of the photo. The black strip at the rear of the school are the wetlands, then known as Patmore's Swamp.

The Depression 1929-1938

In early 1931, the State Government reduced the basic wage by 10%. In 1932 the Depression reached its height with 32% unemployed.

Men looking for work, 1930. National Library of Australia, obj-141685124.



The unemployed

A smaller camp housing the unemployed was set up adjacent to the Brighton le Sands school. State Archives BLS School files 1913-1920. Some of these men were used as labourers for works carried out at the school around 1933. 'Unemployed campers at Cook Park, near Kyeemagh, have created a little township, with a town hall in which mothers meetings are held. The council is intent on having the camps removed.' The Sun 13 July 1934 Brighton School P and C provided a soup kitchen for those children who had no lunch. The Sun 25 August 1930 Bread and dripping was used in many homes including mine, until the 1950's. Home gardens were adopted by many, but proved difficult to prosper in Brighton's sandy and non arable soil. Author



The School Soup line at lunch time 1932 Courtesy of State Library of NSW.

These two camps were the result of families who were unable to pay their rent. The large camp was located at Cook Point North Brighton, among the sand dunes 300 people were living at this camp in February 1934. Source The Sun 6th Feb 1934.



Group of Families outside a shack at 'Happy Valley' Brighton 1933 Dictionary of Sydney

Brighton le Sands Public School 1931 onwards

Headmasters/Principals

There have been 17 headmaster/Principals of this School, including the current Principal Mr Ian Power who has served in this role for more than 6 years from 2011.

Mr George Middleton McAlister

He was the 3rd Headmaster of Brighton le Sands School from 1931 until May 1935, a period of 4 ½ years, and then transferred to Hurstville School. He was born in 1887 in Tumut. He married Lilian King in 1912. He taught at Cowra 1913 to 1917, Lithgow 1921, headmaster, 1925 Manilla, Abbotsford 1928- 1930, returned to Abbotsford 1936 to 1954. Government Gazettes various From 1958 to 1968 he lived at 24 Wishart St Eastwood, retired, and in 1972 Ryde. He died 7 October 1976 aged 89.

Overcrowding of the school, required some classes to be taught in the tan bark floored gymnasium. The Education stopped this and some children, were transferred to nearby schools. St George Call 24 July 1931. Trove Education Postings list various years

In 1932 40 Brighton pupils went on to High School. 88 passed their Primary Final Examinations Article history Mr J. McRorie BLS School

On 8th June 1932 Miss Annie Fraser Mistress at Brighton le Sands Public School retired Government Gazette 18 Sept 1932

By 1933, Brighton was 90% built up. Sands Directory The population of the School would remain fairly static from this time onward. By the 1990's the school's enrolments fell to around 500, but have risen to beyond 700 in 2017. Mr R. Strachan former Principal

Empire Day was celebrated in May 1934 schools throughout the State today The Mayor of Rockdale Alderman E.G.Barton addressing children from Rockdale Brighton le Sands and Ramsgate urged children always to be loyal to British traditions to realise that Australia was a great nation, and to help make it greater still. The Sun Wed 2 May 1934 p8

In August 1934, 'about 60 scholars from Brighton le Sands School accompanied by their Headmaster Mr McAlister and assistant Mr Matthews attended' Rockdale Council for the purpose of seeing how a council meeting is carried on. St George Call 3 Aug

In the second half of the 1920's the Australian Economy suffered from falling wool and wheat prices. Unemployment in 1928 was 10%, about double our existing rate. The Wall Street crash of 1929, led to a worldwide economic depression. The Australian economy collapsed, and unemployment reached 32% in 1932.

'The immediate effect was on individuals and families: children with not enough to eat; men, the traditional breadwinners, humiliated and powerless; women scrabbling to hold families together.

Suicide rates increased dramatically. In the absence of unemployment insurance, charity groups became the only source of relief but were unable to feed the overwhelming numbers of hungry.' Gov't source

Some children were pressured to leave school and take a job.

Brighton Hall located in Bay St, ran movies from 1920, and became Brighton Picture Theatre in 1930. For quite a long time acted as both the worship centre for the Catholic faith, and the Movie Theatre, under the ownership of Mr Warburton. In November 1938 The Most Reverend Norman Gilroy blessed the foundation stone of the new Church-Theatre. Reverend later Cardinal Gilroy attended

Kogarah Marist Bros School, and his sister Mrs Ellen Bayliss lived in Wycombe Avenue, not more than 300 metres from Brighton School.

In the 1930's James Erskine ran a dairy at 35 Francis Ave History of Brighton le Sands Revolvly Macintyre Ave was constructed through the former dairy between Francis Ave and Archbald Ave. From 1952 houses were built in Archbald Ave Rockdale Council

In 1935, school vacations were varied back to 9 weeks annually, 6 weeks at Christmas, 1 week autumn and 2 weeks in Spring. NSW Education vacations

In March 1939, St Thomas More's Catholic Church was opened by Cardinal Gilroy.

The 4th Principal was Mr **Francis Middenway** who was appointed from May 1935, until the end of 1940, retired as Headmaster of Brighton le Sands Public School, to live in 81 Farr St Rockdale. He was raised in Rockdale, the son of John Middenway a teacher.

Notes for Francis Middenway His record was an outstanding student and appointed 12 Jan 1891. He gained promotion as a pupil teacher in 1892 at Greta. In Feb 1893, he was a teacher at North Wagga Public. In October 1894 he was teaching at Wagga Public School. in November that year at North Wagga. In 1895 he was teaching at Connorton NSW. He was married in Wagga in 4 July 1900, then taught in 1903 at Triangle Flat, From 1905 to 1910 he taught at Bathurst Public School. And from 1911 to 1918 he taught at Kelso Public School and was the Commanding Officer of their Cadet Corps. He then taught at Norfolk Island in 1919 and 1920, Como 1921 to 1923, Teacher Hunters Hill 1925 to 1928, He was appointed Headmaster at Guildford 1930, Headmaster Hunters Hill from 1929 until 1931, He lived at 81 Farr St from 1925 to 1954 with wife Bessie Mary and daughters Dorothy, Ida and Frances (b1910). His daughter Ida taught at this school until 1938. Article St George Call Obituary.

He joined the CMF from 1939 to 1948, service no N388555 while still headmaster at Brighton. In doing so he changed his date of birth from 1876 to 1892, in order to qualify. He put his age back 14 years to join. (Born 1 Dec 1876- 9 April 1954) He is listed in the NSW Education Dept Honour Roll for service 1946

His brother was John S Middenway headmaster of the School for 22 years, at Forest Rd Bexley, until 1917. He died 9 April 1954 aged 77 and was buried at Woronora Cemetery.

The First Assistant at Brighton was Miss Aileen Mary Hannam on 28th July 1940.

Miss Horton the Headmistress was farewelled in December St George Call 13 Dec

In October 1937, 300 children at the school were immunised against Diphtheria St George Call

The President of The St George Australian Football Club was Mr Alex.T.McLauchlan who was proprietor of The Brighton Hotel from September 1934 until his passing in October 1951 St George Call Oct 1936/ He was also a trustee of Brighton RSL sub-branch The Sun Oct 1951 He also was a leading racehorse owner The Argus Dec 1945

In July 1937, my dad, Stan who lived in Roslyn Ave Brighton, was the full forward, for St George Aussie Rules team, kicked 12 goals against North Shore at Kensington Oval, the most kicked in a single game in NSW competition for 29 years. He was selected to play for NSW against Victoria on August 7, at The Showground. St George Call.

‘Russell Hayhow BLS School is always happy when writing stories His ambition is to become an author’ The Sun Oct 1937

‘Pop’ Denny Deputy of Dubbo Primary with 1150 enrolments, transferred to Brighton School The Dubbo Liberal Dec 1938. Mr Denny Deputy at BLS was beloved by pupils at Brighton and taught there until at least 1952 Author

The War Years; 1939 to 1945.

The Second World War began on 1st September 1939, and lasted 5 years and 9 months until 8 May 1945. Germany overran Poland and England and Australia responded to the Axis powers advance into Europe. England and Germany, under the rule of Adolph Hitler were in a titanic struggle.

Closer to home Japan bombed Pearl Harbour Hawaii USA, in December 1941 killing more than 2000 people. Japan bombed Darwin on 19 February 1942, and more than 240 people were killed. Japan made over 100 air raids on Australia, including Broome (March 1942) Townsville (July 1942) Katherine and Wyndham. Sydney Harbour was attacked by midget submarines on 29 May 1942. USA dropped 2 atom bombs in August 1945 in Japan and their unconditional surrender was declared on 15th August 1945. Australians fought in every theatre of War and helped to stop Japan’s southern advance in the south Pacific in New Guinea.

Air raid wardens were appointed in Brighton le Sands and all homes built air raid shelters in their back yards. The School also built an air raid shelter. The son of one warden, Ian MacKay attended Brighton School, from 1943 until 1950.

The school shelters were removed in June 1945 because they had decayed so much they were more of a danger than any attack. NSW Archives BLS school files 1940-1967 , ref 14/7341

Over 990,000 served in our armed forces and 27,000 killed. 30,000 were taken prisoner of war, I well remember Mr Reg Sandon, Manager of Brighton Baths. He and wife Betty were an institution. They lived in Hercules Road. He was a very quiet man, who would maintain the baths in a very low key manner. I knew Mr Sandon very well, having swum at the baths for many years. What I didn’t know then, was that he had been a prisoner of War in Malaysia. Mr Sandon was born on 7 May 1917, a few weeks after Brighton School opened. He passed away in 1974.aged 74.Ryerson Index

Another Brighton student was June Salter, a ‘radio actress’ Miss Salter lived in Princess St near the baths, with her father a tram driver and mother Edna. Australian Electoral Roll 1954.

The War in the Pacific

The 2nd World War was fought in the Pacific, against Japan. The Japanese invaded south to New Guinea and the exploits of Australian troops and heroism on the Kokoda Trail was without peer. The Japanese were ferocious fighters, and their soldiers refused to surrender against overwhelming odds. The Japanese Islands stretch 3000 kilometres north to south .For 3 months the battle against US troops, from April through to June 1945 in the Battle of Okinawa, resulted in the death of 240, 000, including 100,000 civilians, US, and Japanese soldiers, Because of the massive loss of U.S. lives, the Allies warfare tactics changed and 2 atomic bombs were dropped in Japan bringing the war to an end.

The 5th Headmaster was Mr **Percy Oliver Nelson** from Nov 1940 until November 1944 a period of 4 years. He was born 8 July 1880, came from Euroa in the Macleay River area. He studied at Sydney University and received his B.A. He was appointed as a teacher on 19 Jan 1897 at age 17. He married

Catherine Graham, in April 1907 at Rockdale, and they lived in 1915 at Joseph St Rockdale, and later for many years at 103 Villiers St Rockdale from 1937 to 1943 'In his profession as a teacher, and in particular as a headmaster, he exercised a remarkable influence upon the scholars individually and in the school as a community. He served the Department of Education at Hay (1906) Corrimall, Penrith, Bexley, Narrabri, Enmore, Punchbowl, and Brighton le Sands from which last-mentioned he retired some years ago' Methodist Church Information. Aug 1951 He was a member of the Rockdale Methodist Church in Bay St Rockdale. He left a wife Cassie (Graham) and 2 children Dr Selwyn Nelson, and Mrs Kathleen Thomas He died on June 21, 1951, aged 70, and was cremated at Woronora Cemetery

Brighton le Sands became a Central School January 1944. 'Central Schools service isolated and even insular communities with relatively small populations. They provide a focus for community activities and through the staff, the buildings and other physical resources and the school's activities, contribute greatly to the social, cultural and sporting life of the community

The 6th Headmaster was Mr **Frederick William Mulholland** from November 1944 to November 1945, serving just 1 year.

A Mr Mulholland was headmaster at Nowra Intermediate High School in 1940. Mr Mulholland was absent on military importance. South Coast Times.

In January 1944 Brighton le Sands became a Central School for 7 years, until Dec 1950. NSW Department of Education

The government introduced a national system of welfare in 1945 for unemployment and sickness benefit. **The Post War period 1946 to 1956**

At last there was an end to rationing of food, blackouts, and a resurgence of manufacturing consumer products, and cessation of the supply of war armaments. Instead of small arms, and gun components we imported Ford and English cars such as BMC, Morris Minors, Morris Oxfords, and Standard Vanguards and locally built motor vehicles such as Holden cars. Many of the Holden components were manufactured in Carrington Rd Marrickville. The Holden motor car became available in 1948 and gradually became available and affordable.

My father bought his first vehicle a 1938 Chevrolet utility in 1949. He bought a Holden car in 1953.

The 7th Headmaster was Mr **Harry Heath** BA B.Ec from 1946 until 1950, a period of 4 years. Mr Heath was an outstanding educator. He had been Dux of Albury High in 1920. In 1952 he became President of the NSW Teachers Federation.

He was Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the NSW State Conservatorium of Music (1973-1977), Chairman of Sutherland Hospital board, trustee of the Art Gallery of NSW, chairman of the committee which founded the Riverina College of Advanced Education, and was awarded an honorary doctorate of science from the University of NSW in 1979. Source Australian Dictionary of Biography published 2016

Mrs Ruth Sandford Boyne, Brighton le Sands Public School was terminated on 4th Jan 1946, under section 3, of the Married Women (Lecturers and teachers) Act 1932-1935 A total of 80 women were terminated from NSW Schools at that time. Gov Gazette Friday 7 June 1946 page 1335

Miss E. Bowering transferred from Grafton Public School, where she held the position of headmistress of the girls department. Daily Examiner Grafton 30 Jan 1946 p2

The minister for Education visited Brighton le Sands School St George Call 17th May 1946 Mrs Elsie May Evans Mistress Brighton le Sands, retired 25 January 1947. Government Gazette May 1947 p 1136

In July 1949 Miss Anita Hatherly Assistant teacher B L S retired 31 Dec 1949 Gov Gaz 15 July 1949

A Brighton schoolgirl D.S.Barber was awarded a bursary to attend St George High School in 1950.

The 1/3 pint of milk provided to every school child, by the Government became breakfast for some. The free school milk program was first introduced by the Menzies Government in 1950 abc.net.au 17 8 2016

In about 1951, St George Rugby League team visited the School fully dressed in their red and white uniforms. In October 1949, St George Rugby League team beat South Sydney 19-12 in the final. The team visited Brighton le Sands School, fully dressed in their white football gear, complete with the big red V. The visit was organised by Mr Joe Matthews, teacher and football coach. The St George Captain was Johnny Hawke who was also Captain of Australia, and Frank Facer was Vice-Captain, and included greats Noel Pidding Doug McRitchie Matt McCoy and Ron Roberts. Source Author



St. George's 1949 premiership-winning team. Johnny Hawke (front row centre) later led St George to premierships in 1951 and 1952.

Notes on St George Rugby League Players Australian Rep Noel Pidding, Matt McCoy , Ron Roberts , Johnny Hawke , Jack 'Dutchie' Holland and Doug McRitchie all were Australian representatives

Another famous sportsman Eddie Root an Australian and St George Rugby League Footballer visited Brighton School, around 1952. Eddie was a resident of Brighton le Sands from 1934 until 1986. His son Stanton attended Brighton School 1933-1936 and was a noted school cricketer I.Gunn student /Wikipedia

The 8th headmaster was Mr **Harry Jacob** (1893-1967), who arrived in 1950 and served until 1952. Mr Jacob, served in the Field Ambulance Corps at Gallipoli, Egypt and France, in World War 1.

A tender was let on 2 March 1950 for new closet blocks at Brighton Public School. Gov Gaz Mar 1950

'The Education Department has drawn up plans of a new boys secondary school at Brighton le Sands ...for which drawings and spec's are nearing completion. Gov Gaz 6 Sp 1950 p7

The school reverted to a Public School in January 1951 Department of Education web site

Mrs Kathleen Heterick resigned as an assistant teacher at the school Gov Gaz 13 July 1951

I met both of these men during my period of education at the School.

Kyeemagh Migrant Hostel

This operated from 1949 until 10 March 1953, in a 2 storey building made available by the Department of Civil Aviation, on the southern section of Kingsford Smith Airport. Initially 200 people were housed (but this number increased over the years). Rockdale City Council Migration Heritage Story p16/Author

Cyril Edwards, Manager of the British Migrant Hostel in early 1951, wrote to the Education department about the plight of children at the Hostel, who attended Brighton School, complaining about the difficulties and dangers to ferry Hostel children, to School. The children had to walk '0.7 miles to General Holmes Drive, take a 302/3 bus to Teralba Rd and walk 0.2 miles to the school each day'. 29 children were involved and a special bus was arranged at 9am from the Hostel, and another leaving Teralba Rd at 3.40pm. Dr H.S. Wyndham Secretary of The NSW Education Department organised the transport in April 1951. NSW Archives BLS public school files 1940-1967 ref 14/7341

Resumption of Land from Mr F. Parker 1949

No more unfortunate decision has been taken by The Education Department than with the resumption of Mr Parker's land on the south side of the School. It was gazetted on 9 Dec 1949. It was 7 acres in size. It was about 700 feet wide and 800 feet deep. It was located at the rear of no's 53 to 71 Crawford Rd. It was a small dairy farm occupied since the start of WW1, by Frederick Parker. The Department had ear-marked the land, for a future High School.

With the commencement of 2 High Schools, James Cook opened in August 1956 and Moorefield Girls High in Jan 1958, the land was never needed. In 1961, the land was valued at 35,000 pounds but the Department offered 4600 pounds. Mr Parker refused to concede defeat, and continued to occupy the land 'for his horses, cows and a week end riding school' Mr G.A. Williams. NSW Archives BLS School files 1940-1967

Residents of Crawford Rd, tried to have a 20 foot wide laneway, built, for rear access to park their cars which was acceptable to Rockdale Council but not to the defiant and obstinate Department. A petition from the residents was ignored.

The Principal of Brighton le Sands Public School, Mr Gerald Alban Williams, wrote to the Department, on 24 July 1963, suggesting a number of uses for the land, including development of the land as a sports centre.

Mt S. G. Wauchop, Inspector for Schools Kogarah replied and said the land was too small for a high School. (And it was now not needed). It should be noted that a pathway for the F6 Freeway from Ultimo to Waterfall, was gazetted in 1951, bisected the rear portion of Brighton School and the adjacent Parkers land F6 Southern Freeway history and Development / transport.nsw.gov.au / news

Rockdale Council were offered the land by The NSW Education Department apparently at a very low amount, to quit itself, from the protracted and bitter fighting. Brighton RSL eventually leased the land from the Council, for the benefit of the Brighton Community.

Note; The phone number on the School letter was LX5449

The area is now known as The Memorial Playing fields, in Sybil Lane and opened by The Hon Charles Cutler MLA, Minister for Education 1968 which has a soccer field, but which is closed 'for the foreseeable future....as the turf is too damaged' Rockdale City Council Parks for Hire 2017

Former Teacher Mr Bruce Robinson

I am also delighted to tell you that I searched for and found one of my teachers from 1952 Mr Bruce Robinson, who lives in the St George District.

Bruce was a very enthusiastic teacher who came from Junee, and attended Wagga Wagga Teachers College in its initial year, in June 1948, and was Dux in 1949. He became a relief teacher at Mudjee District in the farming district of Cooyal, 16 miles west of Mudjee. It was a one room school with 18 children from Kindy to grade 6.

He began teaching at Brighton in 1951 at age 19, lodging with the organist of Rockdale Presbyterian Church. I was 10.

Bruce taught for 5 years and 2 terms (2/3) at Brighton, until September 1956. The Headmaster was Mr Harry Jacobs, the deputy Mr Bert Denny, and the headmistress was Miss Poole. Teachers were Mr Joe Matthews, Mr Boardman, Mr Jim Sterling, and Mr Don Saunders in the Boys Department, and Mrs McKay, Miss Power and Miss Marjorie McDonald.

Each Monday morning a school assembly was held and featured an address by the Headmaster, outlining all the coming events and results of inter-school sports competitions. At the end, each class would present an item, followed by the school pledge 'I honour my God, I serve the Queen, I salute the Flag', and the singing of the National Anthem 'God save the King/Queen'

King George VI died on 6th February 1952, and Queen Elizabeth's coronation was held 2 June 1953.

Bruce then taught at Haberfield Demonstration School for 4 years until 1956, then was appointed Deputy at Armidale Demonstration until 1960.

Bruce became Principal at Coolah Central School, near Mudjee in 1965, for 4 years until 1968. Coolah offered education from Kindy to Year 10. Bruce recalled that co-education was introduced in public schools in 1962, the School Certificate after 4 years of High School in 1965, replacing the 3 years of instruction leading to the Intermediate Certificate.

In 1969, Bruce became Principal at Burraneer Bay Public School, then Principal at Gynea North, then Principal Belmore North, Principal at Gynea North, then Principal at Oyster Bay for 7 years, and retired in 1990. 41 years in teaching. A principled man!

Bruce managed Brighton School's cricket team on Friday afternoons.

Bruce was responsible for the introduction of soccer football at Brighton School, at the suggestion of Mr Andy Perie a local Scotsman soccer enthusiast and with the backing of the Principal Mr Jacob; and later with the next Principal Mr Frank Dwyer. He initiated the PSAAA inter-schools soccer competition, with Ramsgate, Rockdale, Sans Souci, and Kogarah, the initial schools.

Until that time only Rugby League was played at Brighton. in the 5 stone 7 pounds weight division



The Winners of the St George District soccer competition Brighton le Sands School 1952 Bruce Robinson is on the left and teacher and choirmaster Don Saunders on the right. Only 14 boys were involved in that sport. Most boys played no sport in the winter. And by year 5 and 6 most boys were heavier than 5st 7lbs. Bruce and another teacher and our choirmaster, Don Saunders, organised 4 teams of soccer players every Friday afternoon, walking to Scarborough Park, nearly 2km away and back 50 boys participated. Whilst at Brighton and Haberfield, Bruce completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1958. Bruce's eldest daughter is a primary school teacher in the Camden area.

Source Bruce provided most of his Brighton reminiscences about the school freely, and provided his photo album which has been copied by the School.



The winning soccer team of 1952, surrounded by all of the other soccer players, including the author. There were 42. Well done Mr Robinson and Mr Saunders. Bruce later in his retirement purchased the

Brighton le Sands agency of Harvey World Travel in 1999, now renamed 'Helloworld' which he still owns. Bruce is still part of Brighton.

The Korean War

Following the end of World War 2, unification of North and South Korea, proved to be un-workable.

North Korean troops crossed into South Korea, in June 1950. Australia committed troops to the conflict between North and South Korea, from June 1950 until 27th July 1953. 17,000 Australians served of whom 339 were killed. A cease fire was declared in July 1953, and North Korea continues to demonstrate its aggression to South Korea. U.S troops are permanently maintained on the northern tip of South Korea, even today and some 50,000 troops are within sight of the North Korean border .Australia in the Korean War Wikipedia

1952- 1954 The 9th Headmaster was Mr **Francis Dwyer** from 29 January 1952 to Feb 1954, transferring to Bellevue Hill, a period of 2 years.

The Melbourne XVI Olympics Australian Champions included Murray Rose and Betty Cuthbert, who each won 3 gold medals, and they were household names.

1954-1969. The 10th Headmaster was Mr **Gerald Alban Williams** the equal longest serving Principal of Brighton le Sands Public School. Mr Williams was born 16 March 1909 Taralga NSW appointed teacher Orange 23 Jan 1928 until 1935 1936 Haberfield, 1949 Dorrigo Rural School, until 1954,

Wauchope appointed Brighton 2 Feb 1954. He lived at 19 Trafalgar St Brighton. Appointed hon ranger Wild flowers and native plants 4 Mar 1960 Gov Gaz He retired at the end of 1969 after a period of 15 years service. He retired and lived in North Manly in 1972 Married Maisie 1935 Orange died 23 April 1980 Manly aged 71.

In January 1955, a strip of land 20 feet wide, being part of an area of '6 acres 3 roods 13 1/2 perches was resumed for the purpose of a Secondary School (9TH Dec 1949) Government Gazette 11 Feb 1955 p370

In Nov 1965 tenders were called for stripping and resheeting of the Roof at the school Gov Gazette 19 Nov 1965

In 1968, The NSW Minister of Education C. Cutler MLA opened the Brighton le Sands Memorial Fields on Sybil Lane ...with playing fields for football and Rugby League. It was dedicated to the men of the Australian Armed Forces who gave their lives. Panayiotis Diamadis entry Ron Rathbone Local History Prize 2015 p16



1956 Brighton le Sands School class 3A. There are 36 boys photo taken rear quadrangle. Are you in the photo? Photo courtesy Our Suburb School web site. It is the only class photo on the Web site, in 2016

1970-1975 The 11th Headmaster was Mr **Irvine Lloyd**, for a period of 6 years.

The Vietnam War 1965-1972

In 1965 Australia committed troops to the conflict in South Vietnam. 60,000 Australians served, in ground troops, air force and navy. By 1969 Australian anti-war protests were gathering momentum, because of conscription of young men, selected by birth date in a raffle. Australian troops departed mainly in November 1970, and the last troops in December 1972. The war was the cause of the greatest social and political dissent in Australia since the conscription referendums of the First World

War. Many draft resisters, conscientious objectors, and protesters were fined or gaoled, while some soldiers met a hostile reception on their return home. The Australian War Memorial

Two of my cousins served 1 year tours, one of whom died sometime later in Australia as a result of being sprayed with the deforestation chemical 'agent orange' by U.S. aircraft and the other unable to work for most of his life because of an explosive mine attack on his personnel carrier and the resultant trauma. Author

1976-1980 The 12th Headmaster was Mr **George Marshall**, for a period of 5 years.

In 1974 the school vacation increased by 1 week, with an extra week in autumn.

1981 -1983 The 13th Headmaster was Mr **Daniel Steel Sprott** from January 1981 to 22 May 1983, a period of 3 years. Taught at Young 1949, Lakemba 1954, Wagga 1958, Punchbowl, 1963-1968, Beverley Hills 1980,

1983-1991 The 14th Headmaster was Mr **Ken Mitchell Craig** from 23 May 1983, until 1991, a period of 9 years. He was born about 1935. He died 6 May 2014, aged 79 late of Caringbah.

In 1987 the school increased again to 11 weeks, with 6 weeks at Christmas, with 1 week in Easter and 2 weeks in winter and spring. This was now 3 additional weeks more than 1917.

In Jan 1989 a re-enactment of the landing of the First Fleet on Botany Bay Brighton Beach was conducted. Who knows why after 201 years?

In 1990 The *Education Act 1990* made it the duty of the parent of a child of or above the age of 6 and below the age of 15 to enrol the child at a government school or registered non-government school NSW Dept of Education Compulsory attendance.

1992-1995 The 15th Principal was Ms **Carolyn Anne Rice**, for a period of 4 years. Ms Rice was the one and only female Principal of the School. During her period of service the school celebrated its 75th anniversary, in 1992, but I was unaware of these celebrations and did not attend. This was a low key celebration and no notes were prepared or distributed to visitors on the day. The key note speaker was Jeannie Little, entertainer and former student, who talked of her life, and speech difficulties, which she overcame. Her presentation was a great inspiration of many of the girls.

During her service at Brighton School, the Education Department sold off the land next to the School, and at one time the gates to this parkland were locked by the Education Department, stopping any children from enjoying the facilities.

Ms Rice also focused on the large shade trees, and put in position successful recovery actions to save the White Magnolias.

Ms Rice retired from the Education Department at the end of her teaching career at Brighton School in 1995.

1996-2010 The 16th Principal was Mr. Robert Lionel Strachan. It was during his period of service that the disastrous fire to Brighton School occurred on Australia Day 26th January 2000. During part of this period Tracey McKinnier was Vice Principal and my teachers

In 1997 the School vacation was varied again with 5 weeks only at Christmas, but now 2 weeks in Easter, winter and spring. NSW Dept of Education Vacations

In 2010 The *Education Amendment Act 2009* raised the minimum school leaving age to 17 with effect from January 1, 2010. Students under the age of 17 can only leave school if they have completed the School Certificate and (a) participate on a full-time basis in approved education and training or (b) if the student is 15 years or older, paid work or a combination of approved education or training and paid work. NSW Dept of Education Compulsory Education

The Fire January 2000

The saddest day in the history of Brighton-le-Sands School, occurred on Australia Day 2000, when arsonists set fire to the 83 year old main building, The cost to rebuild the school, in exactly the same style, was \$750,000. The School rebuilt the north building which was re-opened 9 months later on 6th November 2000. School resumed only a few days later and during this period, the School utilised portable classrooms. Mr Strachan who lived nearby saved many of the School's computers on this Public Holiday.



Today at the School Principal Mr Ian Power

In 2016 Brighton le Sands Public School offers a modern and comprehensive Kindergarten to Year 6 education. The school enjoys an excellent reputation in the community, with a proven record of high academic, cultural and sporting achievement. The school is set in tree-lined and spacious grounds, with Pre-School, before and after School Care and Vacation. Our successful Welfare Programs reinforce that all students have the right to learn and a responsibility to allow others to learn in a respectful and supportive environment. The School Website Service offers a wonderful communication to parents, showcasing its facilities with homepage, news, events calendar. Another interesting web site allows students and parents to rate their teacher. Brighton le Sands Public School website

One of the major changes has been the introduction of Federal Government NAPLAN testing for children in years 3 and 5, includes testing of reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy.

Excerpts from recent School Newsletters

June 2012 Mr Power Principal Mrs Williams Deputy Principal , Principle's notes Premiers Reading Challenge, Debating,Canteen news,Student Welfare June 2012 Debating, Our veggie garden,2012 Brighton champion school at the Zone Athletics Carnival Sylvania Waters, Local neighbourhood walk with Paul Fiegel Architect Oct 12 Musical Theatre performance show 'fantastic' organised by Mr Campbell, UNSW Maths test results.

February 2015 congrat's to Miss Wright and Miss Maddern involved in 2014 film group, visit to Jenny Lynne Nursing home by Student Rep Council, News from P and C Fatima Melissa,Noelle Disco, Jellybean Jam, Fundraising, Easter Mothers Day and Uniform Room, Brighton School champion swimming school for 5 years from 2011, Clean up Australia Day.



View of Brighton le Sands Public School about 2010 photo courtesy our Suburb School Brighton

In 2017 Brighton le Sands Public School offers a modern and comprehensive Kindergarten to Year 6 education.

The Principal of the School Mr Ian Power has been in charge for 6 years. 2017 will be Mr Power's 7th year as Principal.

There is a Principals network and Brighton le Sands is one of 37 principals listed in the NSW Dept of Education Georges River principal's network.

His Deputy Principals are Mrs Tracey McKinnier, Student Welfare and Learning Support, and Mr Nicholas Potten, Curriculum and Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten).

The Assistant Principals are Mr John Sutton Stage 2 (years 3 and 4), Mrs Helen Gazis Stage 1 (years 3 and 4), Mrs Julie Hornigold Stage 3 (years 5 and 6) and Mrs Kim Carroll RFF and the Administrative Manager is Mrs Karen Jobson. This information is the latest available on the school website dated 29/10/2015. There are 29 classes at Brighton le Sands School in 2016. Mr Ian Power.

Botany Bay SESSA School East Zone

The following schools are members of this zone

Arncliffe, Athlestone, Baldface, Bexley, Bexley North, Blakehurst, Brighton le Sands Carlton, Carlton South, Connells Point, Hurstville, Kogarah, Ramsgate, Rockdale, and Sans Souci.

Sports listed include Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming, Cricket, boys softball, girls softball, Rugby Union, Rugby League, OZ Tag, football girls, football boys, tennis and netball. There are listed codes of conduct for players, teachers, principals, parents, officials, and spectators. Safe play, enjoyment and being a 'good' sport are all emphasised.



There will be 3 carnivals in 2017, Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming.

Ms Julie Bernhardt is listed as the 2017 office bearer on behalf of the school. Mr Rex Boaden, Mr Bob Strachan and the late Ms Olga Poulos are listed as a life member of Botany Bay SESSA Zone.

2017 RAM (Resource allocation model for a fair allocation of funds)

2017 represents the fourth year of additional Gonski/NERA funding to NSW public schools....it will allow them to focus on the priority of teaching and learning by reducing red tape.

The Department has a stated policy that 'Principals must ensure that their school implements an anti bullying plan that is developed collaboratively with students, staff, parents, caregivers and the community' NSW Department of Education

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Pupils at NSW Eastern Division Public Schools will return to school on Monday 30 January 2017. Term 1 finishes on Friday 7 April 2017, and return after a 2 week break on Monday 24 April 2017. Easter Good Friday is 14 April, Easter Saturday 15 April, Easter Sunday 16 April and Easter Monday is 17 April. All 4 days are NSW Public Holidays.

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One of the major changes has been the introduction of Federal Government NAPLAN testing for children in years 3 and 5, includes testing of reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy.

The postcode of Brighton le Sands is NSW 2216, the phone number of the School is 02 9567 5449.



Above is the North Building in November 2006.

Long Serving Teachers at Brighton le Sands Public School

In 1920, there were 7048 Primary School teachers in NSW Public Schools, 3096 males and 3952 ladies. This was a big increase in lady teachers from 2361, an increase of 1, 591. Male teacher only increased by 17. In 2010 there were 27, 493 Primary teachers, of which 22,675(82%) were ladies.

Research has not been kind to the ladies, and there is not a lot of information has been uncovered of these wonderful leaders, and teachers of the girls department, or those teaching in the Boys Department, or Kindergarten.

While many children served 6 or later 7 years at the school, quite a few teachers have served lengthy periods at Brighton. I am fortunate to have made contact with **Ms Anna Cooper** who served as Librarian for 25 years, until 2013. It was Anna who pushed me to return to Brighton School in 2013, after an absence of more than 60 years, and address both children and teachers, in 2 x 1 hour sessions about schooling in 1952. I was absolutely thrilled to have interacted with both the children and the teachers then and again in researching this history.

Mr John Sutton Assistant Principal has been at the School some 17 years.

2 of my teachers Herbert Morris (Bert) 'Pop' Denny, (1890-1966) the deputy Principal had transferred from Dubbo School. Pop originally came from Goulburn, teaching from 30 Jan 1907 Thornleigh 1928 Manilla, and served in 1914 and 1915 in the 1st AIF, no 1028 served 11 Aug 1914 to March 1915, and had long service at Brighton from 1939 until 1953. He lived at 52 Gray St Kogarah. He is buried at Woronora. Mr Reg Jackson, (1900-1964) a manual arts teacher transferred from Orange in Jan 1931 and was still teaching in 1952. NSW Electoral Roll

Brighton le Sands Public School Today

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View of Brighton le Sands Public School about 2010 photo courtesy Our Suburb School Brighton

School Dux

Honour Boards hang in the main school building, which list the award of Dux of the Boys and Girls departments of the School. Some years the Dux honour of the outstanding girl and boy pupil was not awarded by the Principal. *No record is currently known of the Dux awards made for the 10 years between, 1939 and 1948. If you know a pupil who was awarded this honour and have hopefully some documentary evidence please contact the school.

‘On Thursday 23 March 1926, Mr Cox Headmaster presented awards to the boy and girl dux, Master Cliff Kentwell and Miss Dixie Watson. Mr Cox announced he was transferring to another School, Wellington Intermediate High School’. Master Kentwell was the father of two children, who lived in North Brighton and both attended Brighton from 1945 to 1953, and I knew them well. His son became a pilot flying commercial jets for Ansett Airlines.

The list of pupils awarded Dux at Brighton le Sands Public School source School Honour Boards

1917	Emslie Burrows*	Ivy Gendle*	1925	Clifford Kentwell	Kathleen Watson
1918	Fred Baker	Margery Shaw	1926	Edw. McGovern	Ailsa Henry
1919	Brian Parsons	Clarice Asher	1927	William Parker	Narelle Keeley
1920	Will'm Robinson	Sylvia Cook	1928	Norman Ireland	Cath. Clarke
1921	Reginald Case	Audrey Russell	1929	Albert Witter	Isabel Cairns
1922	James Raw+	Cath. Reynolds	1930	Ch. Osgood	Pearl Merritt
1923	Ernest Rogers	May Landrey	1931	Glyn Shepherd	Marg. Reid
1924	Alex. Keeley	Jean Elliott	1932	Robert Hart	Jean Turner

*see information first dux +b1909, lived West Botany St, d 1983

1933	William Blakeney	Barb McConnell	1950	W(Bill) Tinson	C. Croucher
1934	Edmo. Thompson	Peggy Watson	1951	R.Hannon	W.Cassos
1935	Peter Thomas	Frances Wells	1952	G. Case	Barbara Jones
1936	Ray Bryant	Suzanne Symons	1953	J.Tollis	W.Brown
1937	Jack Weeks	Beryl Walsh	1954	M.Alger	I. Gibbs
1938	Wilfrid	Dibdin	1955	B.Ball	J.Lloyd
1939-1948 **	details	unknown	1956	S.Watson	Jean Parker
1949	John Grant	P. Kilburn	1957	P.Armstrong	W. Yates

** Brighton le Sands Public School Files 1940-1967 14/7341 held at NSW Archives do not provide any information about these awards.

1974	C.Kimber	T.Millican	1982	Stephen Efthimiou	Michelle Blakeney
1975	P.Scott	C. Johnson	1983	Paul Chai	Leanne Slowgrove
1976	P.Dobing	K.Dickson	1984	Mark Waller	Brigitte Zigon
1977	A.Millican	L.Malaxos	1985	Alan Dayeh	Georgin.Triantafillou
1978	Michael Rehburg	Karen Bourke	1986	Kai-Ping Huang	E.Huey Liao
1979	Peter Petotic	Vera Gaspar	1987	Rodrigo Perez	Sarah Laundon
1980	David Bleach	Margaret Franke	1988	Chris Nikolaou	Kellie Koroneos
1981	Andrew Keenan	Maria Anastasiadis	1989	Michael Hanner	Natalia Patron

1990	Ali Sepah Pour	Kelly Thomas	1998	Donna Nguyen	Sami Hakim
1991	Toby Newland	Bianca Magafa	1999	Samantha Redwin	Stella Sun
1992	not	awarded	2000	Sonar Sahan	George Varettas
1993	not	awarded	2001	Steven Dupenovski	Ewa Siedlecki
1994	not	awarded	2002	Connie Hui	Rachele Golding
1995	not	awarded	2003	Tim Yang	Michelle Graham
1996	Christian Chi	Caleb Chang	2004	Kenny Cheng	Jay Seto
1997	Axel Levitan	Ashleigh Warton	2005	James Yang	Diane Kim

Apparently the Principal decided not to award the honour of Dux, from 1992 to 1995. Nor do we know the names of Dux from 1939 to 1948. Research at NSW Archives has not provided any information. If you know who they were please advise the School Principal. From 1996 for a period Dux was apparently awarded to the top 2 students, not 1 male and 1 female.

2006	Wade Yang	Michelle Liv	2014	Bill Liaz	Phoebe You
2007	Jeffrey Lau	Hadyi Jiang	2015	Brendan Leung	Hy Anh Nguten
2008	Jeffrey Zhao	Kelly Tang	2016	Amy Zhong	Milos Mickoski
2009	Cynthia Turke	Nelson Liu	2017		
2010	Jasmine Tan	Catriona Calantzis	2018		
2011	Noor Ijaz	Marlena Janovic	2019		
2012	Terence Qi	Eloise Cooper	2020		
2013	Hoyori Maruo	Jahan Dawra	2021		

Selective High Schools

I know that Barbara Jones was Dux in 1952, along with Gilbert Case in my final year 1952, as listed on the School Dux Board. There have been many outstanding students, apart from Dux awardees, at Brighton School,

In my final year at Brighton, 8 boys were selected to attend selective High Schools 4 to Sydney Boys High and 4 to Sydney Tech High. I know that some of the girls that year were selected to attend St George Girls High. Most Brighton students began year 7, at Kogarah Intermediate High or Kogarah Girls High.

The main aspect for a successful life and well being, in later life is for students is to use the wonderful education provided at these schools, and to persevere to achieve the goals that you set yourself.

‘Public Schools NSW helps young people become literate, numerate, and well-educated citizens while giving them the capabilities and confidence to make a positive contribution to our society’ web site
NSW Education Public Schools NSW

School Captains

2012	Matthew Bevan	Emily Yiu	2015	Keanu Cowley	Alana Ajami
2013	Jahan Dawra	Olivi.Christodoulou	2016	Theo Fedele	Eliz Kefallinos
2014	Billy Ijaz	Karli Agathopolous	2017	Marion Youssef	Michael Hatch

Source : Honour Boards hanging in Main School Building. There was some difficulty reading the names on the boards for Dux from 2001-2015 and School Captains, because of the height of the boards. My apologies if there are some errors.

A list of former students at Brighton School

From 1916, it was required under the Instruction Act, that all children attending a school would be listed in an enrolment register.

I have no knowledge of the existence of early registers of students who have attended this school. I estimate that up to 10,000 children received part of their education here. I also estimate that more than 800 teachers have also provided educational service at the school. The Privacy Act 1988 forbids disclosure of personal information of living persons.' Common examples are an individual's name, signature, address, telephone number, date of birth, medical records, bank account details and commentary or opinion about a person'.

Billy Collis (1935-2015) an outstanding former Student at Brighton School.

I have not attempted to provide a list of outstanding former students. There would be many. All former students are rewarded by their attendance at this school.

But there is one student that receives my commendation, for outstanding service to the community. Billy Collis.

Bill was born in 1935 and lived in President Avenue, near the corner of West Botany Street. He and his younger sister Marilyn would walk through the edge of the swamp to this school. He attended from 1942 to 1947. He was the swimming champion of this school. And the district. I saw him win the 100 yards, in open water at Brighton Baths in under 60 seconds, one Sunday morning about 1955. Not bad in open water.

Billy went on to play for St George Rugby League in the lower grades.

Billy ran Billy's Bushies a running group for 45 years, in Sutherland Shire. He was called 'The Captain' 80 to 90 runners would turn up every Saturday morning. Both men and women ran with Billy.

"He was rude, gruff, loud, irreverent, tactless, and he thought subtlety was something you got at Subway. The term 'negative motivation' could have been coined for him. He was an expert in its application, and what's more, it worked. 'said his mate Bill Hick, at his funeral, in June 2016. His passing was headlines on page 1 and page 2 of the Leader.

But the event that I know summed up this man was his run in an iron man. He swam 1.5 kilometres, rode a bike for 120km and then ran a marathon for 42 kilometres. He finished and but managed to beat only one fellow competitor. Bill had broken his arm a week before the event and but still completed it with one arm strapped to his body Vale Billy Collis.

Sources of Information about Brighton Le Sands School

Much of the research was sourced from **Trove**, The National Library of Australia's on line newspaper records.

A fair amount of information was obtained from Brighton le Sands School files held in **NSW Archives** at Kingswood near Penrith. But much of the information at NSW Archives is about minor matters, particularly about school maintenance and absenteeism of students and teachers. Some important information found included the map of St George area, from around 1914, marked with school sites.

A number of former **students and teachers** have provided information.

I have requested information from recent Principal's covering their period of tenure.

I am unaware of any former written history of the school, certainly the Principal in charge told me that there wasn't one for the 75th anniversary. Unfortunately the NSW Education Department closed its historical Department 15 years ago. R.C.Petersen included some details of the early years of the School, in his PhD on Progressive Education University of Sydney 1968, most of which had been documented

The lack of records from the school after the fire in 2000 was also unkind to research

The author Alan Powditch attended Brighton le Sands Public School from 1947 at age 6 until 1952. Some details of events that have been included. But there has been no intention to highlight students or activities during those years.

The author would welcome additional information, including non-class photos about the school. He may be contacted on email, barclay1@bigpond.net.au. Privacy laws however must be observed and individual names of living children cannot be identified. If readers have historic class photos, they would be very welcome and these should be passed onto the school.

It is normal to detail the source of quotes at the end of a history together with a numbering system. I find this time consuming and awkward for the reader and have adopted an unconventional approach of quoting the source alongside a quote. The most recent and prolific historian of Rockdale Municipality was Mr Ron Rathbone former Mayor of Rockdale and a teacher, who provided a bibliography, but almost no direct quotation source details in his 6 or more wonderful history books.



Aerial photo of Brighton le Sands School

Stewart House

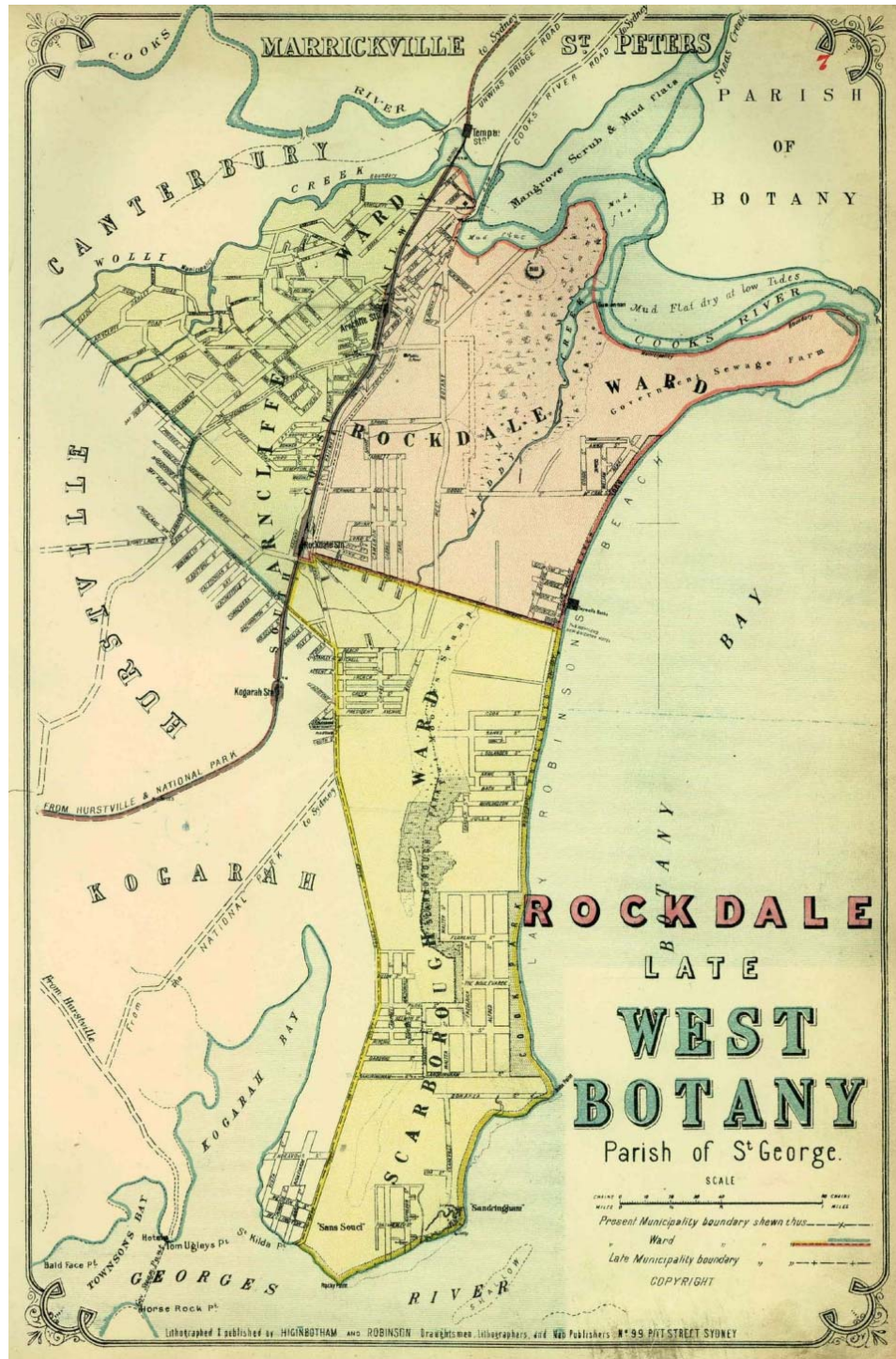
The story of Stewart House goes back to 1929 and begins with two men of vision, Dr. Harvey Sutton, then Principal Medical Officer of the Department of Education of NSW, and Mr. Arthur McGuiness, President of the NSW Teachers Federation.

Brighton-le-Sands Public School has been a supporter of Stewart House, located on Manly Beach, since its inception. This home and school provides aid, comfort and financial assistance to severely disadvantaged school children. Stewart House provides a 12 day residential programme for such students. In 2015, some 5000 children participated.

Students from Year 1 to year 11 are enrolled, but years 4, 5 and 6 have the biggest involvement. These children were enrolled for a variety of reasons, including abuse, neglect, domestic violence, alcohol issues, health, lack of opportunity and isolation. 13, 000 people, mainly teachers, donated regular fortnightly donations in 2015. In an exit interview 75% said they were listened to, and 95% said they made a friend. Brighton le Sands Public School was listed as a silver level donor averaging \$25 per student. NSW Department of Education was one of 3 major donors providing \$80,000 in 2015.

‘My son has just returned from Stewart House and he has not stopped talking about the ‘awesome’ time he had and the wonderful staff. ‘Annual report 2015

An early map of Rockdale, probably around 1890, showing development of Lady Robinson's Beach, now called Brighton Le Sands. The small black square on the beach represents the Saywell Baths, and the horizontal line, between pink and yellow is Bay Street.



Progress Associations

Brighton Vigilance and Progress Association were operating in 15 Jan 1915. Meeting attended by the Mayor Mr Monaghan. Sans Souci and Brighton set up in 1916 as an amalgamation of the two separate Associations. It was suggested by Mr Griffith Minister for Public Instruction in Oct 1916 after squabbles arose between Scarborough and Brighton Progress associations over the best site for the primary school

A Grand Council of Progress Associations was formed after a meeting held on 11th Sep 1928. It was convened by Brighton Progress Association at Rockdale School of Arts Board President Oct 1931.

Elected Pres Ald Barton, Scarborough, V.P.'s Mr Board Brighton, Mr Thomas Ramsgate, sec Mr Allen Central Scarborough, ass't sec Mr Boyd, Ramsgate, treasurer Mr Justelius, Brighton Mr F. Cull Brighton. St George Call 14 Sep 1928

Brighton le Sands Ratepayers and citizens association Denham t Board President in Oct 1931 Mr Board on behalf of the Brighton Progress Association applied to hold meetings monthly at the School NSW Archives 1930-1933

Sans Souci Progress Association operated in May 1930

North Brighton meeting held 4 July 1930 St George Call Also 1936 As well as lobbying for an infant's school, this association sought to have a shark proof swimming enclosure built. It was suggested that discharge of sewerage was a major reason for the presence of sharks.

Scarborough Ward Unemployed Relief Association, Ramsgate letter to Rockdale Council 28 Nov 1930 St George Call

North Scarborough Progress Association letter to Rockdale Council 28 Nov 1930

Brighton Ratepayers and Citizen's Association 28 Nov 1930 St George Call Denham T Board (1884-1963)

Scarborough Park Progress Association Alderman Loveridge was President in Feb 1940. They were also lobbying for shark proof baths SMH

Churches

St Mark's Anglican 1-3 Trafalgar St has held services from at least 1916 Rev George Mashman. A new St Mark's Church, with seating for 240 persons, was dedicated on Thursday 12th Jan 1939, by the Bishop Dr Pilcher assisted by the rector Rev L.T.Lambert St George Call Jan 1939

'St Thomas More' Catholic Church and primary school. Francis Avenue. Services held 14 June 1931 Archbishop Kelly in Brighton Picture Theatre for many years. Archbishop Dr Gilroy, later Cardinal, laid the foundation stone on Sunday 5th March 1939. School opened March 1940 cost \$3500 Catholic Freeman's Journal 22 Feb erected by Mr Harold Torr of Hurstville. Freeman 17 Nov 1938

St Andrews Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Herbert Robinson was rector in Dec 1926, and lived near the School at 45 Crawford Road. The foundation stone of the church was set in Oct 1938. SMH Mr David Ryrie was the Minister in the 1950's. The original site was in Teralba Road, but was destroyed in a storm, and relocated in Trafalgar St.

Congregational Church, on Moate Av. A Church hall was erected for a cost of 775 pounds in Dec 1926, The Sun Dec 1926 was sometimes used for meetings of the Progress Association in the 1930's. It closed in 1977, when the church merged with Methodists and Presbyterian Churches, to form The Uniting Church. BLS Ron Rathbone p83

Details of other district Schools

Sydney

In **Sydney** the first detailed outline of a Public school in Sydney appeared in Aug 1804, where a subscription set on foot, in August 1802, ...at **Hawkesbury** to build a Public School at the Green Hills The Governor has caused a spacious Brick Building which will be completed about October (1804) next... by command of his Excellency G.Blaxcell Acting Secretary Gov't House Sydney Gazette 12 August 1804 The brickwork of the Church and School at the Green Hills Hawkesbury ...101 feet in length, 24 feet and walls 24 feet high ^{S.G 26 Aug}

Rockdale (since 2016 part of Bayside Council area) **and Kogarah Council areas**

Arncliffe Public School initial public education began in Nov 1861. The first teacher was Mr George Turner. A stone building cost 2139 pounds. The opening was 12th July 1880 with 27 pupils. SMH

Bexley Public School opened 1887 330-354 Forest Rd A history of this school was written by Mr Ron Rathbone 1987. In 1918, an additional 6000 pounds was spent on the 'erection of at two-storied building at Bexley' SMH 10 April 1898 Kendal Hume was appointed a teacher in 4 May 1887 SMH

Bexley Ladies College 1908-1935 see Rockdale Anglican College

Brighton St Thomas More Francis Av, opened 1938 ^{SMH}

Carlton Public School 60 Cameron St Infants school opened 29 June 1918, by Mr Gus James Minister for Education. St George Call 6 July 1918, p7 opened in 1918, with Miss A. Ellis was in charge. St George Call 4 Sept 1920p6 The Primary School was opened on 14th April 1923 Miss Gifford Headmistress St George Call 27 April p2

Carlton South Public School Jubilee Av began in 28th August 1922, as an infant's school, under the control of Miss Amy McCook, who later taught at Brighton le Sands School. It was officially opened as a public school in 1924. Daily Examiner 25 Aug 1922

James Cook Boys Technology High School began in 1957.. The first headmaster was Mr William Foster.

Hurstville Boys School 'work..in progress Dec 1918' SMH 10 Apr 1918 at a cost of 8,800 ...over 2000 pupils Principal Mr W J Cunningham Sydney Mail 20 Nov 1918

Kingsgrove Public School opened 18 May 1918, by Mr James and Mr Bagnall ^{SMH 20 May} under the Headmaster Mr Donald Lobban. 'Rockdale its beginnings.

Kogarah St Patrick's Catholic School 36 Chapel St opened 1862 originally called Rocky Point Road Catholic School Celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2012. About St Patricks Catholic Church

Kogarah Marist Bros School, 52 Wolseley Rd Bexley a primary school for boys, began in December 1908. Marist Collage Kogarah From 1984 girls were enrolled at the school.

Kogarah Public School, Regent St, opened in 1871, according to the NSW Education Department records. In 1876, the main school building and a teacher's residence were built; another major building was built 1891. In June 1914, the SMH wrote that Kogarah School was the biggest in Australia, with 2000 students.

Kogarah Intermediate High School Most Brighton children completed their secondary education at this school. There were separate schools for boys and girls.

Kyeemagh Infants School, Beechag Street and Jacobsen Av, opened in March 1942 under the name of Brighton North. In August 1942 its name was changed to Kyeemagh. On a 6 acre site was purchased in Sept 1937. The first teacher in charge was Miss Elsie Hodge Rockdale Its Beginnings 1954 p147 NSW Dept of Educ. Chronological list/Wikipedia

The school is located 2km north of Brighton School, and 2km east of Rockdale School. Its purpose was to provide a safe convenient school for infants living well away from existing public schools with no public transport.

In the 1920's the area was known as North Brighton.. It was part of the original 300 acre land grant in 1837 to John Webb.

Almost no families lived in Kyeemagh in 1917, but there were families living along Bestic Street North Brighton. These few children would have attended either Rockdale or Brighton School at that time.

In 1934 The North Brighton Golf Links Estate, a 214 acre real Estate Development was auctioned on Saturday 7th April 1934, by Richardson and Wrench Ltd. There were 5 cottages and 47 home allotments, opposite Cook Park on Botany Bay, 'now being levelled' by demolishing the sand dunes. It was next to Kyeemagh Polo Ground of 55 acres, the Cricket Association Auxiliary Grounds, North Brighton Golf Links, and Barton Park..SMH 21 March

Rockdale Council received a letter from the local North Brighton Progress Association member Mr Cahill re proposed North Brighton infant's school St George Call Sept 1939 The small school was used for voting in the State Elections in February 1947.

Ms Barbara Jones attended Kyeemagh Infants School, around 1947 and 1948 and then transferred to Brighton School for years 3 to 6 from 1949 until 1952. Ms Jones was Dux in 1952. Provided by Ms Barbara Jones 2016

In 2017 about 900 people live in Kyeemagh, so children from Kyeemagh probably represent 10% of Brighton le Sands School years 3-6, today, over 40 children. A pre-school was opened in the local Boy Scouts Hall in July 1959. It is unusual but parents provide free maintenance to the school and grounds, with their own ride on lawnmower. Kyeemagh PS Facebook

Lyndhurst College Bellevue St Kogarah for young ladies run by Miss Payne day and boarding school from 1887 Mrs J W Ball 1903 SMH 9 Jan 1892/ 16 Mar 1893/ SMH 8 April 1901

Moorefield Girls High opened in 1955 on a 19 acre site. The Princes Highway site was opened in Jan 1956 with Miss Edna Taylor was headmistress.

Ramsgate Public School opened 1928, Chuter Av, as an infant's school. Miss A. Gosling was the teacher in charge Rockdale its beginnings....official opening was held on Saturday 2nd February by Mr James MacDowell M.A. .local inspector of schools, .Ald Barton Presided. From 1943 it became a Primary School.

Rockdale Anglican College, was a private college which opened on May 8, 1898, at 'The Heaning' a 13 acre site in Gladstone Road, Bexley, as a boarding college for Boys, under Rev C.Forsscutt. It

closed temporarily in 1906, until 1908 and was reopened as Bexley Ladies College until 1935. under the control of Mr Forscutt's daughter..

Rockdale Public School. Lord St Opened on 28th January 1889, its first Headmaster was Mr John Herlihy, with a staff of 6 teachers. By October 1889 it had over 500 children enrolled. Students west of West Botany St usually attended Rockdale, and east at Brighton. One of my close mates Dougy Light, a good runner, lived in James St, (south West Botany St) in 1952.

Rockdale Catholic Primary School Watkin St opened 1892, with 88 students. see St Joseph's

Rockdale School of Arts Building has been used from at least 1916 for Elocution Voice Production and Department Miss McIntyre, and concerts for many public gatherings.

Rydell High School of the Performing Arts commenced June 1978. It has been favoured by those with a Greek outlet. Two former students were Danny Zuko and Sandra Dee. It is the word that it's popular with parents and children alike.

St Finbar's Catholic School Sans Souci 21 Broughton St commenced 1926 2nd parish school in Kogarah

St Joseph's Primary School Watkin St Rockdale

St George Christian School Infants Rocky Point Rd

St George Special School 2a Marshall St Kogarah rear of Brighton le Sands Public School

St Mary's and St Mina's Coptic Orthodox College 339 Forest Rd Bexley

St Thomas More's School Francis Av Brighton le Sands

Sandringham Public School officially opened on 8th Nov 1919, by Mr P.Board MA C M G was still operating under the name operating in May 1928 Mr Lydon was the Principal see Sans Souci

Sans Souci Public School Rocky Point Rd opened in 1885, was formerly called Sandringham Public School until April 1923.

The Scots College In 1893, at the height of The Depression, the Brighton Hotel closed, after opening 10 years earlier. The owner Thomas Saywell offered to lease the building to the Scots College, part of The Presbyterian Church. It was founded in the former New Brighton Hotel at 'Lady Robinson's Beach' and formally inaugurated by the Governor of The Colony of NSW, Lord Jersey. It had an enrolment of 25 boarders and 10 day boys. The guest of honour was the Premier of NSW, Sir Henry Parkes. SMH 7 Jan 1893/Mon 30 Jan 1893 p4

In 1894, Thomas Saywell, decided to build a racecourse next door. Mainly because of the building of the Racecourse, Scots School decided to move. The smell of the sewerage works and the incidence of Diphtheria 'very rife just now in Kogarah and Rockdale' also contributed to the move Rockdale Its Beginnings p 123 It acquired the site of 'Saint Killian's' in Victoria Rd Bellevue Hill, and began in July 1895.

The nearest Presbyterian Church was on the heights of Bexley (corner of Forest Rd and Sackville Sts) and thither the pupils of Scots were marched every Sunday morning. Saywell's tramway, which ran between the Beach and Rockdale, would have saved the lads half of the two miles trudge, but the Principal Mr Aspinall insisted upon full Sabbath observance. Evening News 18 June 1929

Bexley Presbyterian was the pioneer Church in the St George district, built in 1887 SMH 10 Sept 1932 p7

On 3 December 2016, the NSW Government announced it had sold Primrose House to The Scots College, for \$15 million. The former 125 year old building will be refurbished. The site has been suggested as 'Brighton Campus' relating to the Schools origin in Brighton. The original school was established in the New Brighton Hotel site before 1900 was known as Lady Robinson's Beach, not Brighton.

Sources of the School's History

Much of the information came from the web site '**Trove**' provided by The National Library of Australia, operating since August 2008. It claims that it has 80,000,000 archived web pages. The Sydney Morning Herald articles are included from 1 August 1842 until the 1954. Back issues from The Sydney Morning Herald from 1st Jan 1955 to 2nd February 1995 are located on another paid subscription site. There is not a single mention of the school in these papers, and only about 40 of Brighton suburb, mainly real estate adverts. Information from the St George Call Kogarah has been, included from 9th January 1904, to 1957. The Government Gazette produced a lot of detail about teachers selections and rates of pay.

The second important source has been school records located at the remote site of **The State Archives**, which is near St Clare and Penrith. A lot of information about Brighton le Sands Public School is available but there are more than 100 bundles, much of which is of a minor nature, including maintenance of the school and absence from the school by students and teachers because of illness. Not all files have been searched.

It appears that a history of the school has not been previously been recorded, and the NSW Education Department closed its historical Department 15 years ago. The lack of records from the school after the fire was also unkind to research.

People in the history of Brighton le Sands Public School

It is impossible to list all those people who have contributed to the foundation and ongoing success of the School and the Suburb. It is acknowledged that countless students, teachers, the School Parents and Citizens committee, school administrative staff, Brighton Residents groups, parents, grandparents market gardeners, residents, shopkeepers, Rockdale Council, Novotel Hotel, Brighton RSL, and other stakeholders have built and maintained the reputation of the Brighton le Sands School. Please accept my apology if someone special, or some event has not been included.

I would be very pleased to receive details of leading people and events of the history of Brighton le Sands School, but privacy laws prevent the publication of names of living persons. Those teachers listed on the school web site have been included in this history as public information. I do not intend to make a list of famous or infamous past students. My contact details are barclay1@bigpond.net.au.

The important consideration for all students and teachers was the wonderful education they received or provided at Brighton School which led them to enjoy or provide a worthwhile life, to provide care for their family and friends and others less fortunate.

Bibliography

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Mrs Carroll **Bowman** former pupil

‘**Brighton le Sands** Public School’ by Catriona and Amelia Calantzis. Ron Rathbone History Prize entry

Brighton le Sands Primary School Web site and other records Newsletters June 2012 to current.

Brighton le Sands Public School records

Ms Kirsten **Broderick**, Historian Rockdale Library

NSW **Department of Education**

Barbara **Jones** dux 1952

Mr Don Gunn, and his son Mr Ian Gunn both former pupils

Land Titles Office of NSW Macquarie St Sydney

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Marilyn Mackintosh (nee Collis) former student

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There appears to be no on line information of The SMH from 1996 to 2017.

State and Mitchell Libraries of NSW.

Mr Robert **Strachan** Principal B.L.S 1996-2010

The **Sydney Morning Herald**. 1832-1954.

SMH archival web site 1955-1995. There are no mentions of activity at Brighton le Sands School.

There appears to be no on line information of The SMH from 1996 to 2017.

Ron **Rathbone** 'History of Brighton le Sands' former Mayor Rockdale Council and teacher

Saywell's Tramway Act of 1884 West Botany, parish of St George County of Cumberland Colony of NSW.

St George Historical Society monthly magazines

Stewart House Manly

The **Author's** personal reminiscences, who attended the school from 1947 to 1952.

Trove National Library of Australia.

This is the end of the history of Brighton le Sands Public School and its suburb Brighton le Sands