



*Painting by Tom Ferris in late 1880's of Bronte Beach and unimproved Park. Baths can be seen at top left corner.*



*Picnics at Bronte Park and Beach about 1912. Note small bridge in centre.*

of bathers. On November 29, 1890, the Waverley Swimming Club held a swimming tournament at the baths. This was, no doubt, the first important function held there. In March of the following year, this Club held a swimming carnival for which an admission charge of one shilling was made.

A renewal of the five-year lease of the site of the baths was granted by the Department of Lands on September 20, 1892, at £10 per annum. On June 2, 1893, heavy damage to the baths in a recent gale was reported, and removal of the dressing sheds was recommended at a cost of £50.

It is interesting to note that permission was given to a Mr. Rabbits for the use of the pavilion at Bronte in connection with drill by the Life Saving Society. This could have been the beginning of an unofficial Surf Life Saving Society at that time. Charles Kindred took over the lease of Bondi Baths in 1894, but H. A. Wylie secured a lease for five years from November 1, 1895, at £100 per year and Phillip Farmer secured Bondi Baths for a similar period from January 1, 1896 at £150 per annum.

An article on Bronte Baths in the "Sydney Mail" of April 12, 1898, gives us an idea of the setting of the baths, and is well worth quoting here:

"Bronte Baths are situated on the southern shore of . . . Nelson's Bay . . . the baths are the property of the Waverley Municipal Council and Mr. Harry A. Wylie, the champion distance diver of Australia, is the popular lessee. Taking a straight line from end to end, the baths are in length about 150 feet, while on the sea wall the measurements are considered longer. In width the widest part is 72 feet. The basin has concrete walls on the sea side, and on outside of this large boulders are thrown up to break the force of the waves when . . . very high seas are running, but there is no fear of danger even at that time, while at low tide the smoothness of the water is agreeable to nearly all bathers. The depth varies from 1ft. to 6ft. 6ins. There is one particular feature in favour of these baths, the crystal waters of the Pacific flow into these baths through a shoot which is made for the purpose of catching all tides, and the overflow goes over the sea wall at the opposite end of the baths. This goes to prove that dirty water at Bronte is an unknown quantity. Shower baths are provided and lately Mr. Wylie has added a most important branch to his establishment, that of hot sea-water baths. This class of bath is being largely popularised by the medical profession for certain ailments, such as sciatica, rheumatism, etc., and Mr. Wylie has every reason to be satisfied with his experiment. Adjoining the baths and beach are the picnic grounds . . ."

Wylie, as lessee of the baths, was supplanted by G. H. Rowles who secured a five-year lease for £125 per year. To keep things in good order he was also sworn in as special constable. This was in July, 1901.

Following a petition to Council in 1905, the "Bogey Hole" at Bronte was extended, but later some particularly rough gales washed in some big boulders which had to be removed.

It was not until March, 1907, that a tender for £295 for enlarging the "Bogey Hole" was accepted. It was submitted by Mr. Bradshaw.

A change of lessee of the baths occurred in July, 1908, when Mr. W. H. Bond's tender of £201/10/- including cottage was accepted by Council.

Another change in the lease of Bronte Baths came in June, 1923, when John Bond's tender of £325 for a term of three years was accepted and a new departure was the introduction by him of Continental Bathing on Sundays, holiday afternoons and evenings from 1 p.m.

A number of improvements to the baths were made in 1925 including the swimming club's room attached, running into about £1,700 and the installation of a centrifugal pump. Dennis Brown secured the lease of the baths about the end of 1925 but in 1928 it was in the hands of Les Bond at a rental of about £538 a year.

#### **BRONTE BEACH AND BRONTE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

It is quite evident that from references made under the origin of "surf or sea bathing" this healthy sport was enjoyed by some people before the 1880's and the years following. So far as Bronte is concerned a letter published in the "Sydney Morning Herald" of February 10, 1885, by R. Hansard, Birrell Street, Waverley, is sufficient to establish surfing at Bronte. Parts of this letter are here quoted:—

"Would you mind making known a danger which exists for bathers at Bronte Beach, Waverley. About 30 feet from and extending the length of the beach the waves have beaten up a sand-bank, forming between it and the shore a sort of lagoon, . . . which is being continually filled to overflowing by the breakers and which as continually empties itself by a strong current at the southern end of the beach . . . no current is suspected . . . it is there and you cannot swim against it . . . recently three lives had from it been in danger. It would not be a bad plan if the Waverley Aldermen had a board put on the beach with a notice for bathers of the danger which exists . . ." Flags are used today for a similar purpose on all beaches.

A letter written by H. Carle in January, 1886, to the Council drew attention to the necessity of compelling bathers at Bronte Beach to adopt some suitable costume.

The Bronte Surf Life Saving Club, according to its long series of annual reports, was founded in 1903.



*First Bronte Baths, about 1889.*



*Scene of Bronte about 1912. Building on beach is Bronte Surf Life Saving Club's first Club-House, built 1910.*

The Club claims that it owes its origin to a drowning fatality which occurred at Bronte Beach on Boxing Day of 1902. Following this incident, and with a view to preventing such happenings, Warrant-Officer (later Major) John Bond organized a squad of local surf swimmers whom he undertook to drill and coach in life saving methods. That original group of enthusiasts which included Alex Frazer; E. Bailey; Sam Boyd and W. (Billy) Bond, increased in numbers and after learning the art of resuscitation of the apparently drowned, progressively carried out much valuable experimental work. In the course of this work they developed a strong organisation from which stemmed the present Bronte Surf Life Saving Club — a well-known unit of the Australian Surf Life Saving Association. Of that original squad, Major Bond was still Chief Instructor of the Club to the end of the 1911-12 season and Alex Frazer, Vice-Captain during the 1910-11-12 seasons. The late Alderman Tom Hogan once said that the Bronte Surf Club was formed in 1902 and its club room was in a stable or outbuilding owned by one Mackenzie, in what was then Nelson Bay Road (now Bronte Road) in the vicinity of the tram terminus.

It was only to be expected that, in the early developmental days, much difference of opinion would arise as to methods and procedure, thus creating marked divisions within the Club and, as a result of this, it is known that at one period feeling was so strong that, temporarily, two Clubs were in operation on Bronte Beach. In the early days members of the Bronte Club were strongly opposed to the use of the cork-filled life belts which for many years continued to be standard equipment of the Surf Life Saving Association. Whilst Bronte members persisted in adherence to their own leather belt, this attitude precluded them from engaging in inter-club competition.

According to the booklet "Sixty Years' Recollections" by Mr. G. B. Phillip and his friend, Mr. Thomas Brooks, written in 1939-40, the first Life Saving Club at Bronte was formed in 1905 by the late Mr. Biddell and was called the Bronte Life Saving Brigade, and was the first club to use a surf boat for life-saving purposes.

During the period 1906 to 1908, Walter V. R. Biddell, a man of very strong ideas on life-saving matters, recruited a number of young swimmers to practise his methods. Walter Biddell strenuously opposed any departure from the non-cork belt and he carried out experiments with a torpedo-type buoy similar to that at present being used in America, but which is still considered to be unsuitable to Australian surfing conditions. He was also responsible for Bronte being the first Club to have a surf life-saving boat — the "Albatross"—and it has been said that he was able to maintain a crew for it only by ensuring them weekly pocket money. Walter Biddell's reign ended

when his swimmers insisted on using the cork-filled belts so that they could compete against others, following upon which he abandoned Bronte, and his followers became incorporated in the old Club, then known as the Bronte Life Saving Brigade.

An interesting and illuminating article on "Surf Bathing at Bronte" was published by the "Sydney Morning Herald" of May 8, 1907, parts of which are here considered worthy of quoting:— "The Bronte Surf-Bathing Association which has been formed at the request of the Mayor of Waverley, consequent of a complaint that improper use was being made of the life-lines, has taken control of the beach life-saving apparatus . . . a brigade of strong surf swimmers is now being formed who will be drilled in the use of the line, and be available in case of need. Two new revolving housings with life-lines on reels have been procured, and the President of the Association, Mr. W. V. H. Biddell, has at his own expense, erected a revolving housing fitted with reel for life-lines and furnished with lifelbelts and line in working order.

The Waverley Council is supplying another apparatus of the same kind. It is intended to hold a concert at an early date, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to paying for the apparatus." The same paper on July 31 of the same year reported "that the concert resulted in about £11 being received in all."

Further light is thrown on the establishment of the Bronte Surf Bathing Association by the President, Mr. Walter V. A. Biddell, in a letter published in the "Daily Telegraph" of October 30, 1907, in which he said:— "The Bronte Surf Life Brigade was formed by the Association (Bronte Surf Bathing Association) to be of use in case of emergency, and is therefore under its control, and is affiliated with the Royal Life-Saving Society. Furthermore, it is the pioneer organisation of the kind, constituted in March last (1907) and was quickly followed by life-saving clubs on other beaches. (The writer's comment here is that Bondi Club was formed in February, 1906.) The Bronte Surf Life Association is not a pastime club, but accepted the responsibility, charge and sole control of life saving apparatus and all things appertaining to surf-bathing at Bronte when it was properly constituted under the authority of the Mayor of Waverley . . ."

Mr. Biddell ordered a surf-boat for use at the beach which he expected to launch in August, 1907, when it was believed the boat house and shelter sheds, being built by Waverley Council, would be finished.

In view of the lack of surf bathing facilities at Bronte, the Metropolitan District Surveyor, Department of Lands, Mr. Furber, was requested to investigate and report on the surf bathing accommodation at Bronte. On February 21, 1908, he reported that, "the nearest tram was  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile distant at Waverley



*A more recent view of Bronte Park, Baths and Beach.*

Cemetery but extension to the beach was under consideration by the authorities . . . the beach was greatly used by local and outside people . . . the only structure on the beach was a dressing shelter for women capable of accommodating a dozen persons, erected partly by municipal council and partly by private subscription at a cost of about £80 . . . also a shelter for the life-boat against high overhanging rock at the back of the beach. It was proposed when funds were available to erect a men's dressing shed above the women's dressing rooms." Mr. Furber recommended, ". . . dressing accommodation for men to cost £140 . . . life line and life-boat shed. Council had spent about £25 in improving paths in the park and about £400 in swimming baths the last year. It was understood that the Council had accepted tenders for shelters to cost £40 or £50 . . ."

That report gives us a fairly clear picture of Bronte's facilities for surfing and it appears that little was done until Mr. Biddell took up the matter.

On October 30, 1909, Biddell, on behalf of his Association, applied to the Government for a grant for the building of dressing sheds. He said:—"We have positively no dressing sheds for men. An ordinary hardwood fence is all we want erected on a very elevated position, which cannot be overlooked and is

admirably adapted for dressing shelter and sun bathing as well — a most inexpensive structure — I have within the last few months expended over £60 for the Association." It was pointed out that other places had received similar grants. The Waverley Council supported Biddell's application.

The result of this application is not known. In the following year, however, an enclosure of galvanized iron, without a roof, was erected on the high ground at the south end of the beach. This rather primitive structure was used by men surf bathers as a dressing shelter free of charge. Some information concerning surfing accommodation at Sydney beaches is gleaned from a Report made on March 14, 1912, by a committee appointed by the Department of Public Works in 1911, to inquire into bathing facilities at the various beaches.

In regard to Bronte the Report stated in part:—" . . . While the Committee does not regard this beach as an eminently safe one for surf bathing yet, in view of the fact that the tram only recently opened, does and will carry an increasing number of bathers to this beach, additional dressing accommodation will be needed.

The existing women's accommodation is an absolute disgrace. The men's accommodation provided free, on the rocks above the beach, is not adapted for suitable supervision; and the configuration of the surrounding country renders it difficult for persons dressing and undressing in such a shed to keep out of range of vision of passengers in the trams, and of people on the heights. We think that the present men's accommodation should be pulled down, and that a reasonable amount of free accommodation should be provided by the Council adjoining the dressing pavilion which we propose shall be erected as the paying section . . ." The report further stated:—  
 ". . . We are of opinion that 'sun bathing' as it is called, or lying on the open beach clad in bathing costume, should not be permitted and even when sun bathing enclosures are provided, the bathers should be required to wear V trunks or other adequate covering . . ."

The Committee recommended an expenditure of £1,580 for a dressing pavilion at Bronte.

Following an application by the Bronte Surf Life Saving Club for a club-house on the beach, the Municipal Council on March 8, 1910, adopted a recommendation for the preparation of plans for the building. On April 19 of the same year the tender of £130 by James Redmond for its erection was accepted. It was built in 1910. One of the conditions of occupancy was that the Bronte Surf L.S. Club be "tenants at will" and pay 10% of the cost of the club-house. In December (1910) Mr. Thomas Brooks, Club Secretary, requested Council to consider a reduction from 10% to 5% of the cost but the request was refused.

In December, 1914, a beach improvement scheme was decided upon by Council which included—a sea wall—band stand—shelter sheds—and kiosk. The surf sheds were to be removed to the other end of the beach so that when the lease expired the Baths and Sheds might be run under one control. The scheme prepared by Roberison and Marks was estimated to cost £5,000. In 1916, the expected revenue was shown at £200, while the working expenses were estimated at £265 and repairs £25. The tender of Stuart Bros. for the building of the sea wall for £2,400 was accepted by Council and the Local Government Department in September, 1916. It may be interesting to mention here the purchase of bathing costumes for hire at the Bronte Surf Sheds in 1919, and perhaps make a comparison with present-day prices:—

From W. & A. McArthur Ltd.—

|                                  |      |          |
|----------------------------------|------|----------|
| 4 doz. women's Canadian costumes | 60/- | per doz. |
| 5 doz. small women's costumes    | 57/- | " "      |
| 2 doz. men's costumes            | 53/- | " "      |
| 1 doz. each one piece, 22 inches | 28/- | " "      |
| 24 inches                        | 30/- | " "      |
| 26 inches                        | 32/- | " "      |
| 28 inches                        | 34/- | " "      |

From Henry Bull—

|           |      |     |
|-----------|------|-----|
| 2 doz. Vs | 10/9 | " " |
|-----------|------|-----|

It would be interesting to know what the cost of such costumes would be today.

Apparently Bronte was fairly popular as a surfing beach, as the attendance at the surf sheds for the year 1921 numbered 38,246 with the revenue £492 and the wages for attendants £350.

In August, 1930, the Bronte Surf Life Saving Club accepted the plan prepared for its new club-house, and in 1931 the tender of H. Mitchell of £1,920 for its construction. The club entered into possession of the new quarters in June, 1931 — the official opening being fixed for June 20 of that year.

It is generally acknowledged that, apart from the peculiarities of its surf, Bronte Beach is not easy to patrol. This is due largely to the fact that Bronte has always been regarded as an ideal family picnic ground. It certainly is not a true surfer's beach and the members who control it must be well imbued with the ideal of "Vigilance and Service." Notwithstanding the fact that Bronte is not a "glamour" beach which will attract the top swimmers, it has produced some champions and the Club can look with pride on the achievements of Jim Reilly (deceased), Red. Chapman, Jon Donohoe, Roger Boswarva, and Ken Foster, without mentioning the unceasing efforts of the ordinary members on regular patrol duty who ensure the safety of Bronte Beach. Apart from its swimmers, Bronte Club has earned success with its boat crews under the leadership of Harry Woodhill and Bill Serge Denman and Keith Edwards. Briefly, the Bronte Club has good reason to claim that, since its inauguration in 1903, it has done an excellent job in safeguarding those who use Bronte Beach and that such care and attention will not cease to be available to the surf-bathing public.

If mention is to be made of outstanding services to the Bronte Surf Life Saving Club it would bring to mind Mr. Michael Burke who served for 17 years—between 1926-27 and 1946-47 — as President of the Club and also the work of Mr. A. B. Paterson as Hon. Secretary for nineteen years in all. He was re-elected to the position in August, 1957. His assistance in furnishing some parts of the history of the club is appreciated.

### BRONTE HOUSE AND BRONTE ESTATE

Reference was made earlier in the purchase of grants of land at Nelson Bay by Mortimer William Lewis and the subsequent purchase of his estate of 42 acres there, by one Robert Lowe, about the year 1843. It was stated at that point that the story of "Lowe and Bronte House" would be continued under "Bronte House". We shall now proceed with the story.

Robert and Mrs. Lowe arrived in Sydney by the ship "Aden" on October 8, 1842. They were then in their early thirties. Robert Lowe was a distinguished Oxford graduate and a member of the English Bar.



*Drawing of residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lowe, at Nelson Bay, 1846-50, by Mrs. Lowe. The home is now known as "Bronte House." The road running along left side of picture is the early track of present Bronte Road to the beach.*



*Another drawing by Mrs. Lowe. The cottage to the right (with fence) is the gardener's house.*

*(Pictures by courtesy of the Trustees of the Mitchell Library.)*

He brought credentials to Governor Gipps who was a distant relative of Mrs. Lowe, but came to Australia principally to practise his profession and for health reasons. He was an albino with its usual peculiar characteristics of white hair and pink eyes. He was tall, walked with a stoop and wore goggles on account of weak eyes.

He was soon admitted to the New South Wales Bar, and the Lowes took up residence in Horbury Terrace in Macquarie Street, between Bridge and Bent streets, Sydney. Less than twelve months after his arrival in the colony, Robert Lowe stepped into the political arena.

Governor Gipps must have been aware of his latent abilities, for he induced him to nominate for a vacancy in the Legislative Council in 1843. Although practically unknown, he accepted. The press comment on the appointment read:— "Who is Mr. Lowe, the new member of Council? . . . It does not say much for the Governor's choice. All that is known of Mr. Lowe is that he is a Junior Barrister. What claims has he . . . no colonial experience . . . no stake in the country and almost a stranger." The first measure . . . the Monetary Confidence Bill he opposed with skill and vigour against the formidable Mr. Windeyer and even the magnificent Wentworth and caused a sensation. The press paid tribute to his eloquence and asserted that on the whole his was more effective than Wentworth's with its usual mixture of elegance and vulgarity, of good sense and coarse abuse.

In this debate Lowe had made an impressive debut on the political stage, but it was the same political stage that subsequently caused his sudden departure from the colony about seven years later.

It was fortunate for the Lowes, though not so for Mortimer W. Lewis, that his property at Nelson Bay, because of the economic depression then existing, was for sale at this time. Lowe bought the property on which the foundation of a house of large dimensions had been laid and Lowe carried the structure on to completion about the last months of 1845 or early in 1846. Intimation of this is revealed in a letter written by Mrs. Lowe to her mother from their home at Nelson Bay (present Bronte House) in which she said:—

"Robert is quite well and making for himself much fame and a little money, which is a good thing, and certainly more substantial. I still hope fame may in the end be turned into gold. The colony is progressing, and if wool continues steady in price is likely to improve much. Our friend, Sir Thomas Mitchell, is on the point of setting off on an expedition of discovery to Port Essington. He thinks he shall make discoveries of importance to the country, and will then write a new book. We have a little estate of 42 acres, four miles from Sydney, on the sea; it is lovely beyond conception. We have given only £420 for it. It is fenced, and the foundations of the

house laid, the value of the improvements about £200. We are furnishing the house; it was sold by an unfortunate mortgagee in England, put up by auction, and by a lucky chance fell to us. £4,000 was refused for the land four years ago. I shall make some drawing of the views. The scenery resembles Jersey, but is far more beautiful — the vegetation is so lovely. We have a beautiful bay to ourselves; I may say it is our own. The trees line the shores, with drives through them; we have a waterfall of 60 feet, and this runs through a fine gully. It is a most romantic spot, and just suits my tastes. You can form no idea of the beauty of this climate: our winters are so delicious. The finest October day you can recall to mind has only a faint resemblance to the weather here."

The house or cottage in Lowe's time might be briefly described as containing most elegant and spacious drawing rooms with numerous sleeping apartments and all other necessary additions — built in Swiss style with light and airy verandahs and supported at the angles by some turrets, the eastern side commanding a majestic view of the South Pacific Ocean whilst the western verandah looked upon the picturesque valley and surrounding scenery. The stables and outhouses were most complete—a short distance from the house stood the farm with its servants' cottages, paddock, poultry yard, cowhouse, stabling and calf pens. The garden, formed at great expense, occupied the bed of a most romantic valley where vegetation luxuriated and a waterfall of natural beauty irrigated the whole 54 acres, the area of the farm in 1849.

Mrs. Lowe is described in the "Echo" of May 22, 1890, as a "handsome" though rather masculine woman, who was fond of driving herself to town, a custom which excited some comment as lady drivers were not so common in those days as they have since become. From another source we learn that she supervised the growing of vegetables in her grounds, and herself on horseback accompanied the cart to market to attend to the selling. Her fondness for horse riding is also evidenced in that she is said to have ridden to country courts when her husband was on circuit, and also that she once rode along the coast through the bush tracks from Bondi to Wollongong. Settlers knew her as "the Black Angel."

On the other hand she was highly accomplished — an excellent pen woman and a good artist. She disliked ladies, but the seaside house was always open to the male celebrities of the day whom she treated right royally.

It was the favourite resort of a select few, including William Macleay, Sir Thomas Mitchell and Sir Alfred Stephen. With Lowe, what a bunch of intellectuals were these! Another visitor before the house

was quite finished was the Governor, Sir George Gipps.

Evidence of Mrs. Lowe's love for her new home at Nelson Bay is shown in a further letter to Mrs. Sherbrooke of Oxton in 1847:

" . . . I have just been planting some seeds that were collected on Dr. Leichhardt's expedition. A gentleman who accompanied him gave me a few seeds of each new flower which they discovered. I intend to make a drawing of our new place. I only fear you will think that I have exaggerated its beauty but I assure you that it would be beyond my power to do so. I lead a very quiet life now, seldom go to Sydney, Robert rides backwards and forwards every day (to his chambers and Legislative Council). The horses in the country are as safe and as sure-footed as the mules in Switzerland."

About a year before Mrs. Lowe wrote the above letter, Robert Lowe, in writing to the Rev. D. R. Mitchell, B.D. Oxford, said:—

"I have got a beautiful place on the shores of the Pacific about five miles from Sydney. My wife is well and happy and laying out her grounds"

For the letters or parts quoted herein, I am indebted to the Mitchell Library for making available Patchett Martin's biography of "The Life and Letters of the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, Viscount Sherbrooke."

It was not long before Lowe was to become famous in the legal world. It was the case of the Queen versus John Fitch alias John Knatchbull indicted on the charge of murdering Ellen Jamieson by cleaving her skull with a tomahawk, one of the causes celebres in the records of criminality which came up for hearing on January 6, 1844, in the Supreme Court before Justice Westbrook Burton. Mr. Robert Lowe was retained for the defence. The evidence against Knatchbull was of the most fatal character, the Coroner's jury, on the preliminary hearing, having returned a verdict of murder against him without the slightest delay or doubt. There was no doubt he was caught red-handed. Never before had Lowe such a desperate case to handle, but desperate cases require desperate remedies and Lowe's plea startled not only the Court and community but the legal world everywhere, for it was the first of its kind. In brief, it consisted of an argument that Knatchbull was one of those unhappy persons who, although not insane in the ordinary acceptance of the term, are "yet so diseased in that portion of the brain wherein the human will has its seat, while free of disease in that portion of the brain wherein the intellect resides" that they may with full knowledge of what they are doing feel compelled, irresistibly compelled, to crimes which, if perfectly free agents, they would be last to commit.

The plea failed — and Mr. Justice Burton was greatly shocked by its unorthodoxy both legally and morally; it was the first time he said that such a line of argument had been advanced in a court of law. He



*Waterfalls in glen — Bronte Estate, 1881.*

dissented from it and strongly summed up against the prisoner who was forthwith convicted, sentenced to death and hanged a few days later.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" took grave exception to Lowe's plea on religious grounds, but it was not until a year later that the conflict between the "Herald" (newspaper) and Lowe came to a head. The "Sydney Morning Herald" attacked Lowe as an impious person and referred to the question what Justice Burton had said about the irreligious character of Lowe's plea. Lowe was not the man to refuse a challenge and he promptly asked the "Sydney Morning Herald" to define for his edification the principles of Christianity. The battle royal which followed created quite a stir and did not end wholly favourably to the paper. The "Sydney Morning Herald" asserted Lowe's plea opposed the principles of man's free agency and the whole tenor of that sacred history which is designed to exemplify and demonstrate the depths of human depravity and to justify the ways of God to man. Lowe's retort has been described as "a masterpiece of polemical discussion"; the tail of it, like the scorpion, contains the sting. After insinuating that the "Sydney Morning Herald's" opposition was political and quoting from the Articles of the Church of England etc., he concluded —

"And now, gentlemen, I have done with you. I ask you for principles and you gave me inferences. I ask for Christianity and you gave me Methodism. You are now at liberty to enter this slander by the side of his deceased brother of last week . . ."

The "Sydney Morning Herald" had the last say, however, and took toll of Lowe in scathing terms, summing him up — as a Legislator, a Challenger and an Ethical Philosopher — and found him wanting in all three.



*Robert Lowe, Barrister and Politician, 1847.*

One unhappy and sad result of the Knatchbull case was that Mrs. Jamieson (the murdered woman) left two little children. These two children were legally adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Lowe, who took them to England when they left Australia in January, 1850. Unfortunately the girl died at the age of thirteen, and the boy, though given a good start in life, caused Mr. Lowe a great deal of worry in after years.

Some few years after the court case a remarkable change was to come over the affairs of the Lowes in Sydney.

In addressing the Legislative Council in a debate upon the "Price-of-Crown-Lands Bill" in June, 1847, Lowe declared that if the Orders-in-Council to which he had moved an amendment were carried he would leave the colony. They were carried, and Lowe gradually prepared to leave the colony, as determined. He completed his arrangements and left in January, 1850, in the ship "Kate" to a destiny which led him in turn to the House of Commons in 1852, Chancellorship of the Exchequer in 1868 and to a Peerage as Lord Sherbrooke in 1880.

Robert Lowe was allowed to depart from the colony without any public recognition or comment by

the press whose leader writers he provided with a constant supply of exhilarating "copy."

On December 28, 1849, Lowe's estate at Nelson Bay (house and grounds) was put up for auction sale. When Thomas Mort, of wool fame, heard of the reserve of £5,000, he wanted to write a cheque for the amount at once, but his family were against living at Nelson Bay. It was unfortunate, too, for Lowe that the estate had to be in the hands of agents for disposal for so long after he had departed from the colony. The estate was not sold until January, 1853, when it passed to G. A. Lloyd for a modest £1,300. Lloyd was an auctioneer and merchant in Sydney, and in 1872, Colonial Treasurer in the Parkes Ministry.

### BRONTE NOT NAMED BY LOWE

During the ownership of his villa and estate at Nelson Bay no reference whatever has been found of the mention of the use of the name "Bronte" by the Lowes either in letters or in the auction sale in 1849 where the cottage is described in detail in the advertisement, nor in the transfers of land. It is generally understood that Lowe named the house "Bronte", but there is no evidence so far discovered to prove that contention. Neither did Lowe have anything to do with the naming of the bay "Nelson Bay" at Bronte, as this name was already on the official plans of the original grants to Lewis some six years before the Lowes came to Sydney. There is, however, a clear link between the names of Nelson Bay and Bronte which was revealed (not for the first time) when the British troops, in 1943, captured Bronte and Aderno in Sicily during the last war. At that time, when the German defence system of Mt. Etna was shattered, it recalled to our minds that the King of Sicily, after Admiral Nelson's victory at Aboukir, in 1798, created Nelson, Duke of Bronte, and gave him estates at Bronte in Sicily. Viscount Bridport, a kinsman of Nelson, owned the Bronte Estates in Sicily in 1943.

To revert to Lowe's estate at Nelson Bay where, as previously stated, it was sold to G. A. Lloyd. Lloyd held it only for a few months when he sold it to a Mr. J. Lublin for £2,000. In April, 1854, it then passed into the ownership of Mr. J. J. Falconer, Manager or Superintendent of the Bank of Australasia, Sydney, for £3,500. Falconer advertised the estate on October 5, 1857, as "Bronte Estate" for auction sale on October 28, 1857, but no sale was effected. Now this is the earliest reference so far found in which the name "Bronte" has been directly connected with this estate and house. It leads one to believe that the name "Bronte" was first applied by Falconer during his ownership, and not by Lowe, as generally accepted. During Falconer's ownership there was a picture of Bronte House painted by "Janz 1857" which was shown at the Australian Historical Exhibition, Sydney, in 1938. No earlier record of the use of the name Bronte than 1857 has been traced.

On November 11, 1861, Falconer again placed the estate up for auction sale in one or in 16 lots to suit buyers. It was bought by J. B. Holdsworth of the firm of Holdsworth Macpherson, Hardware and Ironmongery merchants of George Street, Sydney, for £4,750 and then contained 57 acres. The villa "Bronte" was at that time described as a stone-built family residence of Italian villa style, perfectly sheltered, with verandahs flanked by round towers (4), drawing room with large bay glass windows overlooking Nelson Bay, six bed rooms, library, wine store, scullery, larder, laundry, stables and out-buildings. Near the house there was an enclosed well plentifully supplied by springs and on the other side a meandering rivulet, cascading through the beautiful glen, of pure fresh water. There was a pleasure ground, lawn and flower gardens, wild shrubs, shady walks ("The Lovers' Walk") along shady avenues overshadowed with evergreens leading to a wide spreading sandy beach washed by the blue waters of the Pacific. That was something like "Bronte" when Holdsworth took it over from Falconer in 1861. (See page 161 for above auction sale advertisement.)

During their occupation, the Holdsworths made some important alterations including the two-storey addition on the south wing fronting present Bronte Road, which caused one of the turrets to be removed — the old shingle roof was replaced by slates (except on one turret) and a few other necessary improvements for the preservation of the building. Another feature was the little lodge at the corner of Murray and Bronte Roads built by Holdsworth as the entrance to "Bronte House" which still stands today. Holdsworth will be remembered as a most punctual man. When you saw him passing through Waverley in his tray buggy and pair of well-matched ponies on his way to business you could set your clocks by him. Holdsworth died in 1875, but his sons carried on the Bronte Estate until 1882 when it was subdivided for sale on the 15th and 22nd of April of that year. From this sale historic "Bronte House" and about four acres came into the hands of Mr. Stanley Ebsworth. He was a bank manager and had been at Brisbane, Parramatta and Bathurst before he purchased "Bronte House." Ebsworth married Miss Eliza Mitchell, sister of the Rev. Stanley Mitchell, first Rector of St. Mary's Church of England, Birrell Street, Waverley. Some member of the Ebsworth family has occupied "Bronte" right up to its acquisition by the Council of the Municipality of Waverley in 1948. The last Ebsworth to be in occupation was Mr. Austin Ebsworth, which made three succeeding generations over a period of 66 years.

The Council's motive in purchasing this historic house, which cost £4,000, was in order that it would be preserved for all time for the people and not meet with the demolition axe.

Today "Bronte House" is a guest house for wedding receptions, social gatherings and similar functions run by a lessee of the house from the Council — one of the only ways this building could be preserved at the present time without economic loss to the Council. Perhaps it may yet become an historical museum for Waverley, as Wentworth's Vacluse House is for Vacluse district.

Before passing from the story of "Bronte House" we should call to your minds two links with Lowe's period at Nelson Bay. The first concerns the waratahs which grew there so well, and Dame Mary Gilmore. This distinguished Australian writer and poetess said in the "Sydney Sun" of November 13, 1938:—

"The first waratahs grown at Bronte were planted there by my grandfather (Hugh Beattie) for Mrs. Lowe at Bronte House. They were, I think, the first successfully grown in a Sydney garden. My grandfather brought a dray load of their native earth to plant them in so that they would grow. Over fifty years ago I saw the remains of them and 'a maze' he had made for Mrs. Lowe. Mrs. Lowe knew botany and loved flowers. My grandfather was their manager, or as then called 'bailiff'."

The second link has reference to Robert Lowe by a wit of the 1870's who boldly suggested the following epitaph to Lowe, some 20 years before he died in Surrey in 1892:—

"Here lies poor old Robert Lowe;  
Where he's gone to I don't know —  
If to the realms of peace and love  
Farewell to happiness above;  
If, happily, to some lower level,  
We can't congratulate the devil."

Lowe, it is said, was delighted with this epitaph, and promptly translated it into Latin.

### TAMARAMA PARK

(Formerly Fletchers Glen)

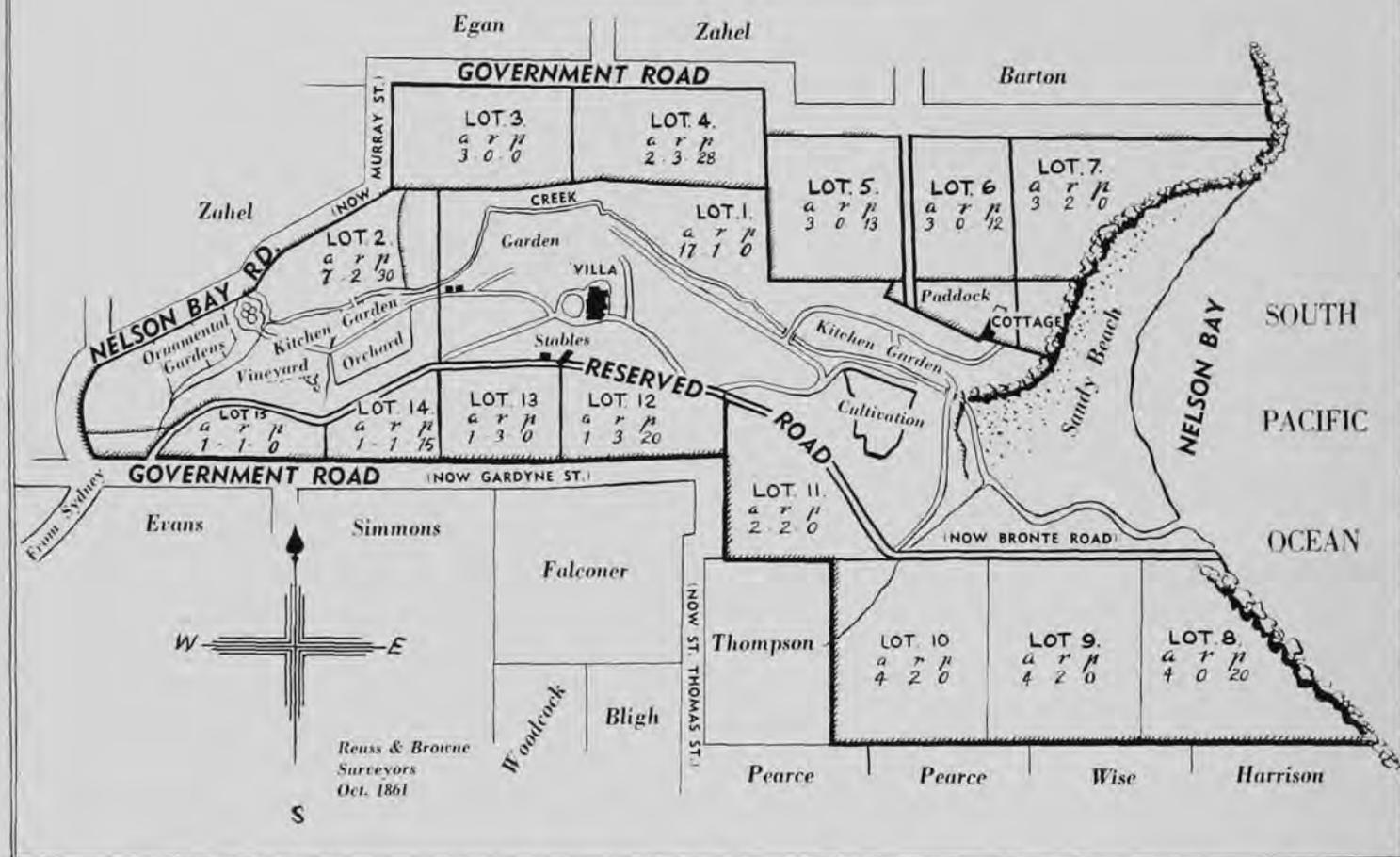
This park fronts what is now generally called Tamarama Bay. When J. R. Hatfield received his grant there, in 1839, it was referred to, as already stated under Hatfield's grant, as at Nelson Bay. In the late 1860's the bay was called "Dixon's Bay" said to be after a Dr. Dixon, a nearby land owner.

Then followed "Tamarama" no later than early in 1885 when a fatality was recorded at the beach by that name. The official name of the beach today is Dixon's or Tamarama Bay. It was noticed that a map of the coast line in the 1860's by the military or naval authorities showed the name as "Gamma Gamma", probably a native name.

There was a 100-foot reservation along the beach frontage of Hatfield's grant, the Department of Lands informed Council in July, 1887. The next year the

# "BRONTE."

For Sale by  
**MESSES RICHARDSON & WRENCH.**  
 AT THEIR ROOMS  
 Pitt Street, Sydney.  
John & Henry, Builders



Bronte Estate as subdivided for Public Auction Sale on November 11, 1861. (See page 161 for Advertisement.)

Council requested the Government to dedicate this reservation, with an additional area at Tamarama, as a public recreation reserve. The request was in vain and it was not for thirty-two years afterwards that this reservation was made.

David Fletcher (first Mayor of Waverley Council), it is understood, bought the frontage of 10 acres from Thomas Dickson for about £150. It later became well-known as "Fletcher's Glen" and about the 1870's also as "Fairlight Glen." But to tell the real story of this spot we intend to quote Waverley's historian again — the late Major Johnson, writing as "Plugshell" in the "Eastern Suburbs Daily" of August 19, 1924:—

"Between Bondi and Bronte lies one of the prettiest beaches along the whole coastal boundary of the borough. The bay, beach and glen are certainly still there, but the surroundings

nowadays gives one little idea of the lovely spot it was in the early eighties. The high lands on both sides, particularly on the north, are now nearly bare of the native shrubbery which clothed the rocky slopes. Modern bungalows crowd each other along laid-out streets and avenues — and on the south side the increasing traffic and building is fast destroying the remaining remnant of vegetation."

[In 1887], "the glen's underfiled naturalness was threatened, when the first Aquarium was built, and the grounds and beach were invaded by an army of spoilers. Rocks, worn and honeycombed by centuries of weathering, callously chipped and fashioned into steps, native trees, shrubs and ferns (such as will never be seen there again)

SALE BY  
**PUBLIC AUCTION,**

AT THE

*Rooms, Pitt Street,*

ON

**Monday, 11th November, 1861.**

BY

---

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**Richardson and Wrench,**

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THAT CHOICE AND ROMANTICALLY  
SITUATED ESTATE,  
**BRONTE.**

NELSON BAY, WAVERLEY.

Consisting of 57 ACRES of highly improved land on the shores of the PACIFIC OCEAN, including the whole of NELSON BEACH AND BAY, distant about FOUR MILES FROM THE CITY, by a fine made roadway, and bounded by Government roads on the whole of one side, and half the other, the whole being the MOST EXTENSIVE AND VALUABLE SUB-URBAN ESTATE in NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Estate comprises,

LOT 1. — BRONTE HOUSE WITH GROUNDS, of upwards of 17 ACRES, exquisitely laid out as Garden, Orchard, and pleasure grounds, extending to the smooth golden sands of Nelson Bay, to which they have a frontage of about a quarter of a mile.

BRONTE HOUSE is a STONE BUILT FAMILY RESIDENCE, situated on an elevated position, though perfectly sheltered from the south and west winds by hills on either side, clothed with indigenous and planted ornamental trees. It is built in the style of an Italian Villa, with Verandahs flanked by Round Towers, containing the following accommodation. Entrance porch and hall, with corridor leading to the various apartments. Drawing room, 23 feet x 20½ feet. Dining room, 27 feet x 19 feet, each with large bay windows overlooking the panoramic scenery, lawns and pleasure grounds; six bedrooms, with dressing room to the principal one, library, together with wine store, dairy, pantry, kitchen, scullery, and larder. Detached are a laundry, and other outbuildings. Close to the house, is a fine enclosed well, supplied by springs, and on the other side of the grounds is a beautiful meandering rivulet, a continual stream of fresh water, forming the head of Nelson Bay, and running into the ocean.

The stabling, which is at a short distance from the house, though not visible, is approached by a separate drive, and consists of coach house, 3-stall stable, and ostler's room.

Nothing can exceed the extreme beauty of this suburban seat, which commands in scenery all that is grand and majestic—the natural advantages of position having been carefully improved by the judicious application of art and taste.

The pleasure grounds include lawn, flower garden, wild shrubberies, hotbeds, etc., all well arranged, and planted with valuable shrubs and flowering plants, in the best style of landscape gardening. They extend to the rivulet, and are intersected with gravel walks and shady avenues, overshadowed with evergreens, leading to a wide-spreading sandy beach, washed by the dark blue waters of the Pacific.

ruthlessly uprooted and burnt to make pathways and roads for care-free sightseers. Fairy dells and cool, shady nooks ravaged and despoiled to mark the sites of gimcrack, tawdry amusement booths and summer houses.

"One can praise the selection of an unsightly area in order to beautify it, but to seize upon such a charming, restful beach as at Tamarama and to destroy so much of its beauty in order to lay out the grounds of a "catchpenny" show is unforgivable. It is not too late yet for our local councillors to save, at least that portion of the glen which has been reserved, from the unthinking vandalism and destruction which is daily making itself more visible. . .

"Looking down at the beach nowadays, whilst sitting on the seat (at foot of Birrell Street), so thoughtfully provided by our civic fathers, I have often wondered what the thoughts of Mr. David Fletcher (from whom the glen is named) would be if he could see now the gradual disfigurement and spoilation of the delightful view which greeted his eyes in his time from the windows of his home perched upon the edge of the cliff at the head of the gully. He could see falling into decay the stone steps and pathways, so laboriously constructed, which traverse the glen in all directions, leading at every turn to some new view—the rustic stone houses perilously close to the edges of cliffs — the boat pond, with its boat-bottomed dingy, — the rustic bridges spanning the stream in the gully — the gradual pollution of the once-watered rivulet, which from its beginning in Dickson's Paddock, carved its peaceful way through the fields, to enter the glen and precipitate itself over a precipice as a waterfall — then rippling its journey through the ferns to its outlet in the southern side of the beach . . .

"Now all is changed — villas nestle amongst the trees and rocks in well laid out grounds, and every day sees new buildings breaking ground on the surrounding hillsides. The old-time break-neck track down to the beach is replaced by a well made path, so the climb back is much more easily performed than formerly . . .

"The remains of pathways, rockeries, etc., can still be seen — the last remnant to go being the rope of the aerial boat, stretched from point to point. It just rusted to death, and was removed a few years ago as a menace to the safety of the public . . ."

For the first spoilation of the beach and glen in 1887 by the opening of the Aquarium, and the Wonderland City in 1906—see under those headings.

In 1916, an attempt was made by Council to have an area resumed for a public park, but the

Government's reply was "no money available." It was not until 1920 that the Government finally purchased an area of 7 acres fronting the bay and extending up the glen for public recreation. The area was proclaimed on September 24, 1920 as "Tamarama Park." Wonderland City Estate adjoined on the northern side and Wonderland City Estate South on the southern side of the park.

A scheme for the general improvement of Tamarama Park and Beach was proposed to be financed from a part of a £100,000 loan to be raised by the Municipal Council. It included tar-paving of paths and steps, provision of access to Tamarama from Bronte and path to Tamarama Life Saving Club-House—construction of a pipeline, £1,163; the erection of surf shelter sheds at a cost of £360; the planting of suitable trees, £30; the building of a retaining wall and regrading the park, about £500. The Council approved of the proposals with the exception of the surf sheds and a proposed bathing pool at a cost of £1,500 which it considered unnecessary at the time.

Although Tamarama is a small park and beach compared with its neighbour parks, those who live near it and those who visit it and enjoy its beauty and its beach are very justly proud of this serene beauty spot.

#### TAMARAMA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

In endeavouring to place on record a brief history of the above Club nothing better could be done than to quote extensively, with comments where necessary, from the booklet, recently published by the Tamarama Surf Life Saving Club, entitled, "Fifty Years of Life Saving, 1906-1956." It was compiled by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Ron Buist, with the assistance of some of his fellow officers and club members. It is a splendid record of the Club's activities from the first years of its existence. Well-deserved credit is given to foundation members E. E. (Pop) Weir, G. B. Philip, F. Denham and W. Stewart. The exact date of the formation of the Club does not appear to be known, though the booklet quotes the year as 1906. Later events will show that perhaps 1907 is the correct year.

The booklet opens with the reminiscences of E. E. (Pop) Weir from which it is at first intended to quote a few lines.

"... I always regard it as one of the greatest blessings of my life that I found the surf at a time when surf swimming really started and just before the birth of the Surf Life Saving movement. It would be a crowning blessing if I could claim any credit for the formation of the Tamarama Club or the Surf Life Saving Association. I had come from South Australia and somehow had stumbled upon Tamarama and gradually came to know a few of the men swimmers and when a suggestion was made that a club be

formed I was happy to be part of it. Just who those men were I cannot recollect. To me they were just casual acquaintances and it is over fifty years ago. That is not much of a foundation upon which to build a stable history. I clearly remember, though, that I parted with 2/- to help pay for a reel. I remember that, because for the next fortnight I had to walk down to and back from the beach. Later, of course, I got to know them all very well. A casual sort of beginning for a club. I have no doubt that most of the clubs that sprang up like mushrooms about that time had just such a beginning, and the Surf Association, too. Who could have dreamt that it would have grown into the amazing altruistic association it is in the present day?

"... At a very early stage of Tamarama's career we were in grave danger of having access to the beach cut off, owing first to Wonderland City, and later to the subdivision and sale of land adjacent to the club.. The public owes much to the vigilance of some of our early members, notably G. B. Philip, father of our president, who, more than any other man, was responsible for the birth and growth of the club. Then Bill Stewart, grandfather of our worthy member Ken. Bill, I think, was a leader of the band that kept cutting the barbed-wire that the Wonderland City people stretched from the cliff-tops toward the water. Later Tom Brooks, grandfather of those two fine swimmers, the Marrott brothers, was responsible for having the surveyors' pegs moved back so that roadway was left at the top of the cliff. . . . As matters stand, it is the one true amateur sport, one in which no member can gain profit for himself. It stands as a bright and shining example of unselfishness and self-sacrifice in a brutally materialistic world."

Quoting from the booklet again:—

"The Beach we know as Tamarama has been known variously as Dixon Park, Aquarium and Wonderland City Beach . . . The beginning of the Club is somewhat clouded in obscurity. It appears that the gathering of local men, who regularly bathed at the beach, formed a Club for the protection of life following the death by drowning of one G. Banks at Tamarama. This was sometime in the year 1906, but exactly when is not known."

The date of the drowning fatality in question was Sunday, June 9, 1907. The death was referred to at a meeting of the Waverley Municipal Council of June 11, 1907. The Council accepted no responsibility in the matter as it had already discouraged surf bathing at Tamarama knowing the dangerous nature of the surf and beach. It decided, however, to erect notices at the beach as a warning to others.



*First Club-House of Tamarama Surf Life Saving Club and members, 1908.*



*Tamarama Beach and Wonderland City about 1906-07.*

Letters relating to the fatality which appeared in the "Sydney Morning Herald" in June, 1907, indicated that the Bondi and Bronte Surf Life Saving Clubs were asked for assistance to rescue the man, but there was no mention of a club at Tamarama at this time. The man was some 300 yards out to sea and the life lines then in use were not long enough to reach him. There appears to be no known date of the official formation of Tamarama Surf Life Saving Club, but most assuredly after June 11, 1907.

It might be appropriate here to again mention a previous death at Tamarama Beach on February 15, 1885. It was reported in the "Sydney Mail" of February 21, 1885, as follows:— ". . . a man named Ryeand lost his life. He went with his brother to bathe in Tamarama Bay . . ."

Quoting again from the Booklet:— ". . . The members of the newly-formed Club believed that some form of equipment for the saving of lives in the surf was necessary, and they designed and had built, the first reel used in Australia. This is fact, and not hearsay or legend." This claim, I suggest, would be certainly challenged by Bondi and Bronte Life Saving Clubs. The claim would have been more convincing had it been substantiated by factual evidence.

The foundation members of the Tamarama Surf Life Saving Club had plenty of life in them. The first application of this Club for permission to erect a Club House at Tamarama was made on August 11, 1908. The Council in the month of September following, raised no objection to its occupancy of an area of 75 feet by 50 feet on the heights of Tamarama as a site for a Club-House. This house, according to the tender of Andrew McKay, which included concrete piers, cost £62 in November, 1908. McKay received £25 on account, the remainder — £37 — was borrowed from one of the members. So the accommodation house was paid for by the members. In September, 1909, the Tamarama Club applied to the Council for a reel and line. The Council agreed to transfer an unused set from Bondi Baths. The booklet continues:

"After the Clubhouse was opened in 1908, members of the Bondi Club periodically visited the Club and gave instruction in Life Saving. At this time the Wonderland City was still open, and the Club, in connection with them, held the first Carnival on Tamarama. These gymkhanas, as Carnivals were known then, were held each year until the Wonderland City closed up, and after the closing and cessation of the Carnivals the Club became less and less inclined towards Life Saving and more inclined towards social interests. This inclination towards social life was given added impetus by the declaration of a Surf Bathing Commission that Tamarama was unsafe for surf bathing. Outcast from the Surf Association and the surfing fraternity in

general, the Club carries on with little or no help from outsiders, and although this state of affairs existed there was not one life lost at Tamarama during this period . . . The majority of the actual rescue work in the next few years, following the war, was done by Gordon Bricknell and Ernie Philip. In 1923 the President, E. G. Philip, took over the office of Secretary of the Club, a position he held for 23 years.

"Up until 1927 the Club ambled along in its unhurried way, and then the jolt that was to mean so much to the Club came along. The Waverley Council requested the Club to sign a five years' lease for the Club premises, one catch being that the Club had to supply six Beach Inspectors to patrol the beach from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays, and these Beach Inspectors had to hold the Bronze Medallion in the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia. This placed the Club in a quandary as to how to carry out this clause of the lease, as none of the members held the award, when the S.L.S.A. sent out a delegate with a request that Tamarama affiliate with the Association. The delegate, Mr. T. Glazebrook, gave a lengthy address to the Members and it was decided that the Club should, in its own interests, affiliate with the Association. . .

"This affiliation with the Surf Life Saving Association paved the way for the beginning of a new era in the history of Tamarama S.L.S.C. In the season 1928, 13 Members gained their Bronze Medallions after they were coached by Instructors kindly provided by the Surf Association, thus allowing the Club to fulfil its obligations to provide qualified Beach Inspectors at Tamarama. From this time on, Tamarama has never looked back . . .

"In the season 1938-39, the Foundation President, Mr. G. B. Philip, retired from office after 32 years of splendid service. Due to "unfortunate" circumstances the old Clubhouse was destroyed by fire, and alas Tamarama came to the end of the season 1938-39 without a home. Waverley Council came to the rescue and the present Clubhouse was started and completed in the season 1939-40. Also in the season two Members, N. Gray and A. Warne, were awarded the Certificate of merit from the Royal Ship Relief and Humane Society of N.S.W., for their rescue of a man from the Cliff at McKenzies Point. In this season the Club mourned the death of its foundation President, Mr. G. B. Philip . . . Season 1947-48 saw the Club presented with its first new full size surf boat, the "Ted Hallstrom I". This boat was donated to the Club by Mr. E. Hallstrom (now Sir Edward Hallstrom)."



(Photo.: Max Dupain and Kerry Dundas.)

*Tamarama Beach with present Club-house of the Surf Life Saving Club at top of cliff.*

At the Club's annual meeting held at the end of the 1955-56 season the Report stated:—

"... We can all take pride in the achievements of our Club, a Club which to our minds is a 'big' Club on a small Beach. Of all the achievements of the Club surely the most important is that for fifty years, whilst our patrols have been on duty, there has not been a life lost at Tamarama."

### QUEEN'S PARK

Queen's Park is located in the south-west corner of the Municipality with frontages to Carrington and Darley roads and other streets. It comprises about sixty acres and originally formed a part of the Lachlan Swamps Water Reserve under the control of the City Corporation Council, Sydney. As the area lay within the boundary of the Waverley Municipality, the Council thought it should be set apart for the use of its

inhabitants. In February, 1862, a committee was appointed to wait on the Minister for Lands to request the Government to dedicate that portion of land lying in the south-west corner of the Municipality (now Queen's Park) for public recreation, water supply and commonage for the residents of Waverley and to place the same under control of the Council. Whatever the result of that deputation, no action favourable to Council appears to have been taken and so it remained as part of the old Water Reserve until it was included in the resumption under the "Centenary Celebration Act," as gazetted on July 16, 1887. Like Centennial Park, it was placed under the control of the Department of Agriculture.

In 1938 the Christian Brothers College, Waverley, with the assistance of the then member for the district, now the late John Waddell, secured a lease of about six acres of the eastern end of the park for its exclusive use as a home-playing ground for the school. Considerable improvements were later made

by the College, with the voluntary assistance of the "Old Boys" of the College, including turf wickets, football fields and dressing sheds. This is the most improved portion of the park, but provision is made for cricket, football and other games on the larger part of the park.

Although the Government contemplated legislation in 1954 to place the park under the control of the Waverley Council, no such legislation has yet been passed — at least up to the middle of 1959. Under the Council the park could be made a self-supporting proposition as there is room for other recreational activities if improvements were made.

### DICKSON PARK

This area of about 2½ acres was originally left in the Government subdivision at the corner of Edward and Wellington streets and was intended as a water reserve. It so remained until 1887 when on May 13 of that year it was dedicated for public recreation and proclaimed as Dickson Park on September 30 of the same year. It was so named after Alderman Dickson. The park, the area of which was 2a. 2r. 37¼p., came under Council control on December 6, 1887.

Apparently it was not used by the public for many years, but in 1887 it was decided by Council to enclose it with a suitable fence at a cost of £22. About five years later it was used by Council as a garbage tip, but this ceased in 1904 when it was discovered that the tip was too close to first-class residences. The tip was, on that account, moved to Rossitters at North Bondi.

In 1923, the Bondi Parents and Citizens' Association decided to take action towards making the park a suitable playground for children. It proposed to raise £400, requested Council to contribute a similar amount, and the Government £500, making £1,300 in all. Through the help of Mr. C. W. Oakes, M.L.A., the Member for the District, the Government joined in the scheme. The improvements agreed upon were re-grading and turfing of the park which cost about £1,380. By June, 1925, however, it was estimated that the total amount of improvements then made had cost £2,155 — £500 by the Government, £552 by the Bondi P. and C. Association and the balance of £1,102/14/6 was provided by the Council.

An application for a four-rink green on Dickson Park was made by the Eastern Suburbs Ladies' Bowling Club in July, 1929. It was estimated to cost £1,000 of which £500 was to be expended on the green, £250 for a clubhouse and £250 on fencing and other improvements. Its establishment on the park, however, did not meet with Council's approval.

At the date of March 29, 1957, this park was described by a Council report as a "Rest Park and Playground," containing an area of 2a. 2r. 37p., with

"two open level areas, 180 feet by 120 feet and 100 feet by 50 feet" — the remainder steeply sloping, trees, seats, retaining walls, fence, pathways and concrete practice cricket pitch."

### VARNA PARK

Varna Park is an irregularly-shaped piece of land containing an area of 3a. 2r. 22½p. situated at the corner of Varna, Wallace and Leichhardt streets.

It was originally a water reserve left in Crown subdivision, but in June, 1886, the Department of Lands was requested to dedicate the reserve for public use. The dedication was gazetted on May 13, 1887, and subsequently proclaimed as "Varna Park" on September 30 of the same year. This name was given by Council which Council was appointed trustees in December, 1887. The origin of the name Varna is not revealed, but it is probably after Varna Street or lane adjoining. Tenders were called for the fencing in of the park in December of the same year, the successful one being James Redmond at 15/- per rod, which included check posts and gate — similar to the fence erected at Bronte Park.

The amount expended on the park to April, 1888, was £57/15/-. Then came an offer by a Mr. Broughton to rent the park as a cattle run, but this could hardly be considered for such a purpose.

It was later used for tennis courts, a three years' lease being taken by Mr. Williams at £15 per year. This was apparently St. Luke's Tennis Club. In 1923, this lease was again continued.

The park in recent years has been used as a "rest park and playground." It is a small flat-cleared valley with gently sloping sides. The improvements include re-grading, tree planting, children's playground, seating, concrete wicket and practice strip.

About an acre of adjoining land is being developed as a bowling green by the Bronte Bowling Club. (See under "Bronte Bowling Club.")

### WILLIAMS PARK AND MUNICIPAL GOLF LINKS

Williams Park forms part of an old military reserve, at North Bondi, which extended from about Hastings Parade to Blair Street between the Ocean and Military Road, comprising about 13 acres. The Commonwealth Defence Department in April, 1929, granted the Waverley Council a permissive occupancy of the land at a rental of £1 a year for the purpose of making it a public recreation ground. The Council rejected an offer by J. F. Brown of a ten-year lease of the ground to make a 9-hole golf course. It was then refused as a cricket ground and children's playground in October, 1930. Further consideration followed and permission was sought from the Military authorities



*Queen's Park. The centre section is used as a sports playing area. The white buildings behind the trees in centre of picture are parts of the Eastern Suburbs Hospital, 1959.*



*Portion of Dickson Park at the corner of Edward and Wellington streets, 1959.*



*Varna Park at corner of Varna, Wallace and Leichhardt streets, 1959.*

for Council to establish a golf links. There seemed to be local opposition to the latter establishment and no further action was proceeded with. The question was subsequently revived and the establishment of the golf links proceeded to completion. The links were open to the public as from April 13, 1935. Mr. Eric Richardson was the first green-keeper. An extension of the golf links over a further portion of military lands to about Murrivierie Road was agreed to by the Defence Department in 1936 — a big advantage in length to the links.

The Golf Links are wholly controlled by the Municipality of Waverley.

The popularity of these links may be gauged to some extent by the attendances as recorded in the following years:—

|      |                 |        |
|------|-----------------|--------|
| 1954 | 18-holes course | 20,024 |
| 1956 | " " "           | 16,283 |
| 1957 | " " "           | 15,283 |
| 1954 | 9-holes course  | 14,148 |
| 1956 | " " "           | 11,743 |
| 1957 | " " "           | 11,957 |

Rising costs have affected the finances of the links, as the total deficit at December 31, 1957, amounted to £559.

#### WAVERLEY CRESCENT RESERVE

This reserve is a small triangular piece of land at the junction of Bondi Road and Waverley Crescent containing about half an acre. It originally formed a

part of Barnett Levey's grant and was no doubt intended as a reserve for the purchasers of allotments in Waverley Crescent before Bondi Road came into being. After that a portion of the land between that road and the Crescent was subdivided and sold, but the eastern half remained unclaimed.

In 1884 a petition to Council by the occupiers of property in Waverley Crescent was made to have this triangular piece of land set apart as a reserve for public recreation and vested in the Council as trustees. The question of the legal status of the land arose and Council decided to obtain legal opinion on the matter.

What the nature of that opinion was is not now available, but in December of the same year Council resolved that a picket fence with openings similar to Waverley Park be erected on Waverley Crescent frontages of the reserve. This action suggests that the legal opinion given to Council was favourable to Council expending money on it.

For some years after this period the area had been looked upon as under Waverley Council control but following an investigation of more recent years it was found that the registered owner was Edward or Edward Ormond O'Brien in 1879. As the Council had been in possession beyond the statutory period, the Council, under legal advice, applied to the Registrar-General in 1953 to have the land brought under the Real Property Act and vested in the Waverley Council, which, of course, put all doubt as to ownership at rest.



*Waverley Crescent Reserve, Bondi Road, 1959*

**OTHER PARKS, RESERVES AND ADDITIONS AS AT MARCH 29, 1959**

| Name  | Type                                    | Area |    |    | Description   |
|---|---|------|----|----|---|
|   |   | A.   | R. | P. |   |
| Diamond Bay Rve.<br>R 63960                                 | Rest Park                               | 0    | 3  | 14 | Unimproved area.  |
| Eastern Rve.<br>R 63286                                     | Rest Park                               | 3    | 0  | 0  | Rough unimproved cliff reservation.   |
| Weonga Rve.   | Rest Park                               | 0    | 2  | 32 | Ocean Cliff reserve unimproved  |
| Caffyn Park   | Rest park &<br>children's<br>playground | 1    | 2  | 16 | Small level area remainder gently sloping; improved by re-grading, construction of paths and steps, fences, tree planting, seats and playground equipment.                          |
| Raleigh Rve.  | Rest Park                               | 1    | 2  | 0  | 100' ocean cliff reserve improved by re-grading.  |
| Barracluff Park<br>Reserve Nos.<br>64374 & 43289            | Rest park &<br>children's<br>playground | 3    | 2  | 38 | Level area 250' x 200' remainder gently sloping. Improved by 3 bowling greens leased to club. 1/1/34, re-grading, tree planting, seats, children's playground and protective fence. |
| Wairoa Rve.<br>R 64433                                      | Children's<br>Playground                | 0    | 2  | 10 | Improved by re-grading, fencing, seats and children's playground.   |
| Wairoa Rve.<br>R 71808                                      | Child centre<br>reserve                 | 0    | 1  | 12 | Health Clinic and space for Day Nursery.  |
| Ben Buckler Park  | Rest Park                               | 0    | 3  | 11 | Ocean headland reserve improved by re-grading and construction of concrete parking area.  |
| Hunter Park<br>R 38281 and<br>addition.                     | Rest Park                               | 2    | 3  | 39 | Improved by re-grading, tree planting, seats, pathways, steps and fences.   |
| Wilga Reserve<br>R 50351                                    | Rest Park                               | 1    | 1  | 10 | Unimproved ocean cliff reserve.   |
| Tamarama Foreshores<br>R 41603                              | Rest Park                               | 2    | 0  | 21 | Ocean Cliff reserve, surf life saving club house, steps and pathway.  |
| Gaerloch Rve.<br>R 65558                                    | Rest Park                               | 3    | 0  | 0  | Ocean foreshore reserve. Improvements — steps and scenic pathway.   |
| Bronte Reserve  | Rest Park                               | 3    | 0  | 0  | Unimproved 100' ocean cliff reserve south of and adjoining Bronte Park.   |
| Simpson Park  | Rest Park                               | 0    | 1  | 33 | Gently sloping, re-graded.  |
| Macpherson Park   | Rest Park                               | 0    | 2  | 30 | " " "   |
| Centennial Park<br>Administered by<br>Dept. of Agriculture. | Rest Park                               | 17   | 2  | 0  | Part of Centennial Park undulating with scattered trees.  |



*Thomas Hogan Park, Francis Street, named in memory of the late Thomas Hogan, 1959.*



*Hunter Park, near "The Boot," Bondi.*

### LEASED AREAS

| Name               | Type                           | Area |    |     |  |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------|----|-----|--|
|                    |                                | A.   | R. | P.  |  |
| Clarke Reserve     | Rest Park                      | 2    | 2  | 0   | Commonwealth land, improved by regrading, fencing, seating, one swing and a picnic shelter.  |
| Dover Heights Rve. | Rest Park and<br>Playing Field | 4    | 3  | 23  | Met. W.S. & D.B. reservoir, open level area 600' x 250', remainder sloping. Open playing field, children's playground and seating. |
| Blake Reserve      | Rest Park                      | 1    | 3  | 31½ | Dept. of Education land. Unimproved.   |
| Military Road      | Rest Park                      | 6    | 3  | 30  | Commonwealth land north of Williams Park.  |
| Gilgandra Rve.     | Children's<br>Playground       | 0    | 0  | 17¾ | Met. W.S. & D.B. land. Improvements include regrading, seating and children's playground.  |
| Wairoa Reserve     | Rest Park                      | 1    | 1  | 20  | Dept. of Education land. Regraded.   |
| Marks Park         | Rest Park<br>and<br>Playground | 6    | 2  | 0   | Commonwealth land. Improved by regrading, fenced playing field, children's playground and seating.                                 |

(It was named after Walter Marks, M.P., by Waverley Council, 3/12/29, because of his efforts in securing it.)

|                 |  |   |   |   |  |
|-----------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| Clementson Park | Rest Park, Day<br>Nursery, and<br>Playground | 2 | 0 | 0 | Dept. of Education land on which has been erected a Day Nursery, a Scouts Hall and a Children's Playground, seating, fencing, and tree planting. |
|-----------------|--|---|---|---|--|

(Named after William A. Clemenston, M.L.A., Waverley.)

### AREAS ACQUIRED BY PURCHASE

|   |           |   |   |    |  |
|---|-----------|---|---|----|--|
| Bronte Park Addition                          | Rest Park | 1 | 3 | 32 | Bronte House and Grounds. Improved Garden area. House occupied by Bronte Red Cross and another tenant.         |
| Bronte Park Addition                          | Rest Park | 2 | 1 | 30 | Steeply sloping area.  |
| Bronte Park Addition                          | Rest Park | 0 | 2 | 0  | Sloping area planted with trees.   |
| Glen Roona Rve.<br>(Now Thomas Hogan<br>Park) | Rest Park | 3 | 0 | 34 | Small level area, balance steeply sloping, trees, seating and Scouts Hall, small area leased to Girl Guides.   |
| Loombah Rve.                                  | Rest Park | 1 | 0 | 4  | Sloping area now being developed as bowling greens by Dover Heights Bowling Club.                              |
| Marlborough Rve.                              | Rest Park | 0 | 3 | 7¼ | Sloping land, regraded with swings, roundabout and seating.  |
| Kimberley Rve.                                | Rest Park | 1 | 0 | 2¼ | Area regraded with tree planting, playground equipment and seating. A small portion occupied by a Scouts Hall. |

|                            |                               | A.  | R. | P.  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| DEDICATED AREAS            | Total 25 with a total area of | 197 | 3  | 15  |
| LEASED AREAS               | Total 9 with a total area of  | 42  | 1  | 2   |
| AREAS ACQUIRED BY PURCHASE | Total 8 with a total area of  | 12  | 0  | 24¼ |

### OTHER OPEN SPACES INCLUDE

|                       |              | A. | R. | P. |                  |
|-----------------------|--------------|----|----|----|------------------|
| Waverley Bowling Club | 2 Greens     | 1  | 0  | 7  | Private Property |
| Rodney Street         | Defence Area | 8  | 2  | 0  |                  |

# CEMETERIES IN MUNICIPALITY

## WAVERLEY CEMETERY

The question of providing a General Cemetery for the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney (excluding the one-acre area for the residents at South Head in 1845) was first raised in the Waverley Municipal Council at a meeting on December 4, 1863. A resolution moved by Joseph Dickson was to this effect, that the Council, in recognising the great want for the use of the inhabitants of Waverley and neighbourhood, make application to the Minister for Lands for the purpose of obtaining a grant of land or area suitable for the purpose of a cemetery and sought the co-operation of the Woollahra and Paddington councils in the matter. This was followed by a deputation in the year 1866 to the Minister for Lands who, in reply, said that it was the intention of the Government to purchase 10 acres within the Municipality for a cemetery. In 1868, £1,200 was placed on the Estimates by the Government for that purpose and Council was asked if it was prepared to take control of the cemetery when secured, to which Council replied: "Yes, providing no expense would be incurred by so doing."

The first area purchased was five acres from John Starkey (formerly John Durbin's grant) fronting Trafalgar Street for £200 which transfer to the Council was made on February 25, 1875. Another 5-acre block adjoining the former on the east was purchased from the original grantee, V. J. Zabel, for £350, which land was transferred to the Council on December 15, 1875.

These two areas comprised the Waverley Cemetery until negotiations began for the acquisition by the Borough Council of about 12 acres from Zabel's land easterly along Trafalgar Street to the ocean early in 1877. This land formed two original grants to James Hart in 1855, but was subsequently bought by W. A. Starkey for £143/19/- in January, 1877. Starkey offered the land to the Council under unusual conditions, namely, that only the interest, 7%, need be paid until January 1, 1880, when the principal, say £500, was to be fully paid. Council appeared to have accepted this arrangement, as improvements, including fencing, were started on the area in 1877. The land then passed into the hands of Messrs. John Macpherson,

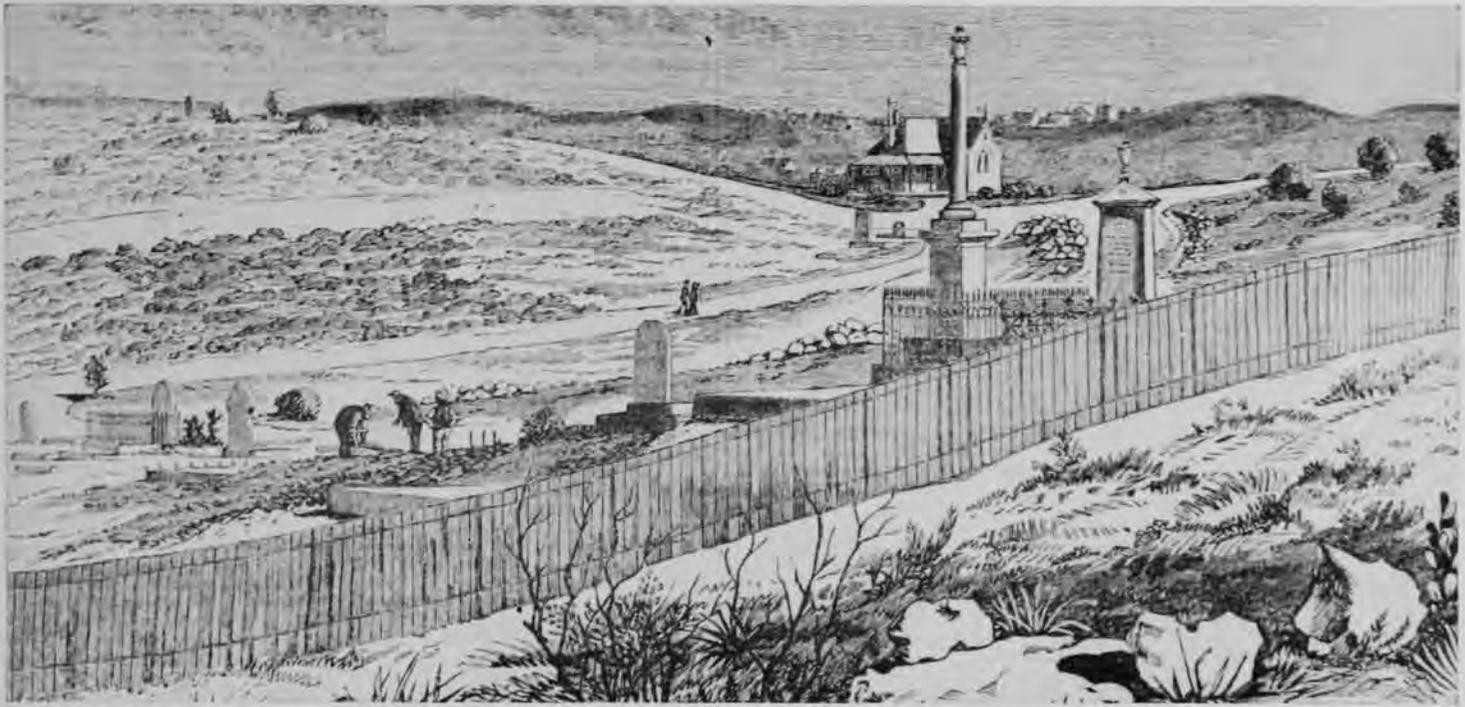
John H. Newman and William Henderson as partners for £500, who in turn sold it to the Borough Council for five shillings. This was a nominal amount which can only be construed as meaning that the land was a gift to the Council for cemetery purposes. It would certainly have been worth not less than the £500 which was paid for it. Although the transfer to the Council was not made until April 25, 1885, it is quite clear that the area had been fenced and improved for some years, as already stated. The cemetery had also been trenched and laid out with trees by S. H. Pearce of Randwick. In anticipation of the opening of the cemetery at the beginning of August, 1877, the first manager, Mr. William Thomas, was appointed on July 1 of that year at a salary of £12/10/- a month and the Council Clerk acted as secretary at £30 per annum from the same date.

## FIRST BURIALS

The first burial in the cemetery took place on August 4, 1877, when Ruth Allen aged 85 years was interred in the General Section of the cemetery. In the Church of England Section the first burial was Emma Scanlon aged 29 years on August 9, 1877, and the first Roman Catholic burial was Wee Davie Youth, January 14, 1878, in the Roman Catholic Section. The internment fees for these burials were £1/5/- each. The clergyman's fee was 7/6 each and the purchase of graves 15/- per grave.

The By-Laws of the Waverley Cemetery, dated August 1, 1877, came into operation on that date, and later it was found that Ordinance No. 68 under the Local Government Act, 1919, which dealt with cemeteries and burials affected only those cemeteries and burials to which it had been applied by Proclamation. As Waverley Cemetery was not proclaimed it was not affected by that Ordinance. It appears that Council decided to act in accordance with the effect of Ordinance 68 on other cemeteries rather than the gazetted By-Laws of Waverley Cemetery.

The work of Surveyor Parrott in 1878 in laying out the cemetery for which he had been engaged by Council at a fee of £55 was so satisfactorily done that Council voted him a gratuity of £10/10/-. Improvements under way in that year were caretaker's house and Cemetery Lodge, the latter being built by R. Watkins for £450. Other improvements in view for the following years were Waiting Room and Cemetery Gates.



*Sketch of Waverley Cemetery in 1879, eighteen months after it was opened in August, 1877.*

In July, 1883, a move was made in Council to take steps through the legislative representatives to induce the Government to acquire the land adjoining the south side of the then cemetery between Ocean, St. Thomas and Boundary streets for additions to the cemetery. This will be referred to later.

The manager of the Cemetery, Mr. Thomas, resigned in November, 1884, and his work was considered so well done that Council voted him a bonus of £25. Mr. John Bustard filled the position at a salary of £200 a year. He resigned in 1886 following charges that were made against his management. Mr. J. F. Martin was appointed to the vacancy in April, 1886. Some of the charges against the management were a double interment because of no kerbing of grave, and neglect to mark off in cemetery books graves sold by a former manager. It is understood Council contemplated action for the recovery of deficiencies discovered. Council decided later that the charges were not sustained.

Action by Council to acquire the land on the south side of the cemetery, as before mentioned, was taken when Mr. Charles Frith offered two portions comprising a little over 10 acres to Council for £3,000 which Council accepted. These portions were originally held by J. H. Atkinson. The transfer of the land to Council by Frith was effected on August 1, 1892. This was followed by another purchase of 5 acres from the Hon. L. F. de Salis, formerly J. H. Atkinson's grant, for £675, the transfer to the Council being made on July 1, 1893. The last block of 5 acres, formerly a grant to Robert Billis, was purchased from the trustees of the J. Birrell Estate for £700 which was

transferred to the Council on July 7, 1894. These acquisitions made the area of the Waverley Cemetery a little over 41 acres and wholly within the boundaries of the ocean, Trafalgar, St. Thomas and Boundary streets, as it is to-day, if we include the Council subdivision made in the south-west corner.

If the trustees controlling other cemeteries had done what the Waverley Council did at its meeting on May 3, 1892, perhaps many cemeteries would not be the eyesores they are today. At this meeting Council resolved to establish a Sinking Fund for the future maintenance of the Cemetery as from August 1 of that year. From the last-mentioned date ten per cent. of the revenue was directed to the Sinking Fund. Thirty-seven years later this fund had accumulated to about £56,000 but later figures will be given. The proposal to establish a Crematorium in the cemetery at this time was refused and has never since been allowed.

Although the tenders for the new cemetery office were at first unsatisfactory, the contract of P. Beddie was finally accepted, and the building completed at the end of 1915.

The Valuer-General's Department estimated the value of the cemetery for residential purposes in January, 1923, at £1,250 per acre. Mr. Hoffmann was appointed Clerk in Charge of the Waverley Cemetery on August 4, 1925, in lieu of Mr. W. M. Brown. In his Report two years later, Mr. Hoffmann stated that provision had been made for 160 more graves near Boundary Street at a cost of about £535. The value of the graves would be about £4,000.

The need for a greater return of interest from the investments of the Waverley Cemetery Fund was

one which concerned the Council at this time. In April, 1929, there was an accumulated fund of £56,000, of which £18,500 was invested in Government Stock and £35,520 was on fixed deposit with the English, Scottish and Australian Bank Ltd. Eleven years later the cemetery funds had increased to £60,900 the interest on which amounted to about £2,000 per year. By 1950 the total funds of the cemetery had reached £76,000.

### INVESTMENT OF THE TRUST FUNDS OF WAVERLEY AND SOUTH HEAD CEMETERIES

Towards the end of the year 1950 the Waverley Council, as Trustees of the Waverley and South Head General Cemeteries, gave consideration to a change in the investment of the Trust funds of the two cemeteries. At the end of that year the Waverley Cemetery Fund amounted to £76,500 held in Commonwealth Loans, and the South Head General Cemetery Fund, £27,170, also held in Commonwealth Loans.

Subsequent legal difficulties prevented the investment of the trust funds of the South Head General Cemetery from being changed similarly to that of the Waverley Cemetery Trust Fund. Negotiations for this change of investment were somewhat protracted and it is not proposed to go into detail, though it might be considered to have been a rather unusual investment of trust funds.

Extracts from a report on the particular investment by the firm of Cooper Bros., Way and Hardie, Chartered Accountants, will suffice for the purposes of this history. The report, made at the request of the Mayor of Waverley, states:—

“The Council was faced with the position of the income of the trusts remaining relatively fixed while expenses of operating the cemeteries tended to increase as a result of the continuous rise in wages and other expenses. Consideration of methods of increasing revenue from investment of the trusts was first commenced towards the end of 1950. However, no changes were made in investments held, other than redemption of securities reaching maturity. We are informed that, as a result of the trusts' investments, commitments were entered into during 1951 and 1952 to make the undernoted new investments from funds of the trusts:—

Loan to Balgowlah Building Society No. 2 Limited — Interest at 3½% per annum on demand £75,000 (Repayments calculated on basis of 20 year period) . . . Approval was given by Council for an advance to the Balgowlah Co-operative Society No. 2 Limited on March 27, 1951 . . . completed 9th October, 1951. The realisable value of Commonwealth loans held by the Waverley Cemetery Trust decreased . . . and a loss of £2,621 was incurred on sale in Decem-

ber, 1951 and January, 1952 . . . The interest rate on advances to the building society . . . was increased to 4½% per annum from 1st December, 1952, will remain unchanged from that date to 30th June, 1957 . . .

. . . it appears to us that Council as trustees has acted within the scope of its authority in making the change in investments . . . Whether the changes which have been made in this instance will, in fact, achieve the desired object of increasing income and recouping the loss suffered on sale of Commonwealth Loans is dependent on the events of future years. To date, there is no indication in the long view that the objective will not be attained . . . We suggest that the Council might review the advance made to the building society to ensure that this loan is, in fact, a suitable investment of monies of the Waverley Cemetery Trust. An investment of this nature seems to have . . . disadvantages for a Local Government body when compared with other trustee investments now available . . . The responsibility placed on Council to ensure that the society is being administered satisfactorily, that the correct payments are being received from the society, that members are making the regular repayments at the agreed rate. This involves periodical inspections . . . by senior officers . . . In our opinion the Council should consider appointing a firm of stockbrokers or some other persons with the requisite specialised knowledge and experience in investment of funds to advise from time to time on the most suitable avenues for investment in accordance with terms of the Trust Deeds . . .”

A subsequent inspection of the many properties in which advances had been made to the Balgowlah Co-Operative Building Society No. 2 Limited was made by Alderman Thomas Hogan, the Engineer and the Health Inspector of the Waverley Municipality. In all, 30 properties were inspected of the 32 listed — Most were found to be of a good standard of construction and finish. Except for a few cases, all appear to be progressing satisfactorily towards completion. There seems to be adequate security for the money advanced. The properties at Wahroonga and Oatley were not inspected. So far the investment experiment is satisfactory.

To revert to the cemetery itself. Some particulars relating to its capacity, etc., may be of interest. The total number of graves in Waverley Cemetery up to April, 1957, was 41,703 and the number of interments to the same date 71,745. Approximately 30,000 burials can yet take place. It is estimated that by the subdivision of wide pathways about 200 graves may yet be made available at prices up to £100 per single allotment. So far as new graves are concerned it will not be long before the Waverley Cemetery will be closed to such purchases.



*Governor Duff Memorial in Waverley Cemetery, May 2, 1896.*

### **SOME HONOURED NAMES**

It would be a difficult task indeed to select all the most notable persons who have been buried in the Waverley Cemetery, but an endeavour will be made to mention at least some of the prominent people who now rest there. They are as follows:— Colonel Johnston who came to the Colony with Captain Arthur Phillip in the First Fleet and was subsequently mixed up in the Governor Bligh deposition. Johnston's remains were removed from Annandale to Waverley Cemetery. Another person was Nicholas P. Bayley, well-known Mudgee squatter; Professor Smith, M.D., M.L.C.; Dr. Nott who practised in Woollahra and Paddington; David Fletcher, dentist and first Mayor of the Municipality of Waverley; Robert Butcher, Mayor of Woollahra and M.L.A. for Paddington; Sir Robert Wisdom M.P.; William Bede Dalley, orator, scholar and statesman; Daniel Henry Deniehy, brilliant Irish-Australian orator, scholar and writer; William Edward Sheridan, the tragedian; Henry Kendall, Henry Lawson, Victor Daley and Roderick Quinn, all notable Australian poets; Sir Adrian Knox, of legal fame; Sir James Martin, Chief Justice; Dr. Fiaschi; Hon. Thomas Black, M.L.C.; Victor Trumper, the

"incomparable" Australian batsman; Sir Herbert Maitland, surgeon; Harry Rickard, of Tivoli fame; Sir George Bowen Simpson, judge; Sir Charles MacKellar; Sir Frederick Darley, Chief Justice; James Dowling, judge; Mr. Justice Inness; Sir Robert Duff, a Governor of New South Wales; John Witton Flynn, surgeon; Judge Studdert; and Dame Constance D'Arcy, an eminent gynaecologist of Sydney.

### **SOUTH HEAD GENERAL CEMETERY**

If we are to get to the origin of the old South Head Cemetery we must turn to the diary of the late Rev. S. E. Threlkeld, dated, South Head, February 15, 1845, which records a petition to His Excellency the Governor thus:— "May it please your Excellency. We the undersigned inhabitants of South Head and its vicinity respectfully solicit your Excellency's attention to the necessity of a public cemetery for the Burial of the Dead without any restriction as to the religious persuasion of the deceased persons. It has happened that individuals whose circumstances were not affluent were put to the most serious inconvenience arising from the heavy expenses for conveying the dead several miles to the nearest burial place, the charge in a late



*Unveiling of the Henry Kendall Memorial in Waverley Cemetery, January 11, 1887,  
by W. B. Dalley.*

instance amounting to six pounds for the mere conveyance and very plain interment of a poor Fisherman's child. The object of this memorial is therefore, humbly to request that your Excellency will be pleased to set apart a suitable portion of land in this place for a public Cemetery . . . open for all persons, without distinction of any Religious persuasion or preference in the way thereof."

(This memorial was signed by some 30 persons.)

Following this petition, Governor Gipps caused an area of one acre to be surveyed near the South Head for a burial ground. This area is now part of the present cemetery and is situated between Old South Head Road, Young and Burge streets. Shortly after the appropriation of the ground Messrs. Siddons, Moffitt and Drake collected subscriptions for the fencing of the area and a bottle was buried in each corner on the east side of the old South Head Road, between the houses of Drake and Curtis. It appears that the first trustees were Messrs. Siddons, Gibson, Jenkins, Bethel, Hosking and Fisher. In 1870, the trust comprised T. J. Fisher, J. C. Scarfe, George Thorne and E. M. Hunt. Two years before this trust was appointed, the Waverley Municipal Council was asked if the Council would accept control of this cemetery. The Council agreed to do this provided no expense was incurred. What happened is not clear, but the appointment of the trustees just mentioned was made by the Government. Trustees carried on the management of the cemetery until 1888 when special rules and regulations were gazetted in November of that year. In 1892, however, it was found, after investigation by the Minister for Justice, that the records of the cemetery were in a most unsatisfactory state — no proper books were kept — the general receipt book being the only one and worthless as a record — the names of persons buried there was another serious omission and only with difficulty could they be traced. Mr. Sladen, the manager, subsequently resigned and in November, 1895, Mr. E. S. Sautelle was appointed Secretary of the Trust.

Additional areas were acquired for enlarging the cemetery in 1890 and 1902, making the area of the cemetery about 4½ acres. In 1915, Alderman Kavanagh, of Waverley Council, was appointed to the Trust and the following year Waverley Council applied for control of the cemetery. However, the Department of Lands refused the request because it was satisfied with the existing management.

A very significant resolution was moved by Alderman Barracluff and seconded by Alderman Kavanagh in October, 1916, to the effect that a letter be sent to the Minister thanking him for refusing to vest control in Waverley Council. Although the motion was lost it is clear where these aldermen stood in the matter.

For some time prior to 1925, the Trustees of the Cemetery were negotiating for land in the vicinity of the cemetery for purchase of areas to increase the

size of the cemetery. Protest against extensions of the cemetery were made by the Vaucluse and Waverley municipalities in 1925 following petitions of protest which had been lodged with councils for such action. In 1926 the Department of Lands referred the matter for inquiry by the Land Board.

At the time of the inquiry the South Head Cemetery comprised an area of about 4½ acres, the average number of burials each year during the previous five years being 205. There were about 1,200 lots available for sale, 373 lots already sold were unused. In addition, there were 500 graves in which another interment might have been made. The Trust had in hand about £12,000 and the Crown Solicitor's advice was that the trustees were not empowered to spend this money on a new or extended site. The proposed new site contained about 17 acres fronting the ocean and Rosa Gully, Marne and Mons streets.

The Board by majority decided in favour of the resumption by the Crown for extension to the cemetery and recommended that the area be placed under the control of the existing trustees. W. J. Kenny, the Chairman of the Board, dissented and gave as one of his reasons that an area in that location should be resumed by the Government for the use of the public.

An appeal against the Land Board's decision was lodged and dealt with by Mr. Justice Pike who reported against the trustees of the cemetery on all questions. He said a great deal of the time before the local Land Board was occupied in the examination as to the manner and method and the circumstances surrounding the acquisition of lands by the trustees and particularly by the purchasing trustee, Mr. Kavanagh, who was acting on behalf of the trust and taking commission from the vendors of the various lots sold to the trust. But this, he said, was not a matter for inquiry except insofar as it was material in determining the weight to be given to the evidence of those trustees on the main issue.

Waverley Council's request for control of the South Head Cemetery was again refused in 1927 by the Department of Lands.

In 1928 it was then proposed to sell all the lands purchased by the Trust which E. S. Sautelle, the Secretary of the Trust, valued at £24,000 but suggested that a lump sum of £21,500 should be accepted by the Trust. The actual cost was about £19,500. Finally the land was sold to the Vaucluse Estates for £21,500 under certain conditions. The Vaucluse Estate Company went into liquidation in 1930 after paying only a small proportion of the full amount, leaving the land in the hands of the Trust. It was estimated that the land was then only worth about £8,000 and was not very saleable.

Waverley Council still pressed its claim for a dissolution of the Cemetery Trust in 1933, but again it was refused. Later the Waverley Council requested the Department of Lands to require the accounts of

cemeteries administered by private trusts to be published annually, but the Department again declined.

The management of the South Head Cemetery Trust might be summed up in the latter part of the 1930's by the remarks made by the Hon. R. R. Downing, Vice-President of the Legislative Council, in the House on October 16, 1941, when the South Head Cemetery was under discussion. He said ". . . The unfortunate history of South Head Cemetery during recent years is very well known and need not be recounted in detail. During 1938, the late secretary of the Trust . . . was committed for trial on forty-seven charges of larceny as a servant and forty-eight charges of forging time and pay sheets. He was brought to trial on three charges of larceny as a servant and three charges of forging, and was convicted and sentenced to three years.

"At this trial evidence was given of twenty-four additional cases of larceny as a servant and twenty-four of forgery. Subsequently (the late Secretary) pleaded guilty to these last-mentioned charges and was sentenced to a period of three years concurrently with the first sentence. In consequence of this, no further charges were brought to trial by the Attorney-General, as no good purpose would have been served thereby. Matters arising out of the auditor's report and the trial of (the late Secretary), affecting the trust of the cemetery, which appeared to call for consideration, were looked into by the Minister for Justice and the Crown Solicitor, but no action resulted. It is sufficient in this connection to state that there seems to have been unsatisfactory relations between sections of the trustees—as then existing. It was approved that the trustees be asked to resign; this they refused to do, and they were ultimately removed by Act of Parliament.

A single trustee, Mr. Hughes, of the Local Government Department, was appointed as administrator, whose duty it was to straighten out the affairs of the trust, and in this connection Mr. Hughes performed a very creditable job, and so ordered the affairs of this cemetery that it became evident during 1940 that its management could again revert to some corporate body or trust. The matter of its future control received the careful consideration of the then Minister for Lands, the Hon. C. A. Sinclair, and became the concern of the Council of the Municipality of Waverley within whose territory the cemetery is situated, and the Council of the Municipality of Vacluse whose territory closely adjoins this cemetery . . . ."

The transfer of control of the cemetery to the Vacluse Municipal Council was ruled out following advice from the Crown Solicitor in 1940.

After considerable amount of discussions and deputations the result was that by "N.S.W. Government Gazette" Notice of October 10, 1941, the Trust of the South Head General Cemetery was dissolved and the care, control and management of the Cemetery vested in the Municipal Council of Waverley. A further proclamation in the "N.S.W. Government Gazette" of October 17, 1941, provided the Council with full power in every respect. Actually Waverley Council had been fighting for this day since 1916.

### SOME NOTABLE NAMES

It would be impossible to record all the notable people who are buried in the South Head General Cemetery, but the names of some that come to mind are the following:—

Sir Walter Davidson, Governor of N.S.W.; Archbishop Wright, Primate of Australia; Sir John Robertson, ex-premier; Sir Joseph Carruthers, ex-premier; Sir Phillip Street, Chief Justice; Sir Charles Wade, ex-premier; Sir Richard Richards, ex-Lord Mayor; Sir Archibald Howie, ex-Lord Mayor; Rev. D'Arcy Irvine, Coadjutor Bishop; Sir Samuel Walder, merchant; E. G. Theodore, ex-Federal Treasurer; Dr. Stuart Anderson, surgeon; Archdeacon Davies, Principal, Moore College; Howard Smith, shipping proprietor; Washington Soul, chemist; Mark Foy, merchant; Sir Edmund Barton, first Prime Minister; Sir William Lyne, ex-premier; George Lauri, actor; Dr. Steer Bowker, surgeon; George Musgrove, theatrical manager; General F. Lassetter, military and business man; the Fairfax family, "Sydney Morning Herald"; John Norton, "The Truth"; the Longworth family, of swimming fame; Alex Weigall, Headmaster, Sydney Grammar School; Professor McIntyre, Presbyterian Church; Sir William Manning, ex-Lord Mayor; Consett Stephen, lawyer; Sir William Vicars, woollen mills owner; Jack Moses, author of "The Dog Sits on the Tucker Box"; Geo. W. Lambert, sculptor-artist, etc.; Alfred Gibson, signal master, South Head Signal Station; Judge Curlewis, District Court Judge; Ethel Turner (Curlewis), author; Dr. Archibald Aspinall, Principal, Scots College; Warwick Armstrong, Captain, Australian XI; and William Latimer, ex-Mayor of Woollahra.

The first burial in the cemetery was that of Mary Warren, of Vacluse, a gardener's wife, in 1869. The number of graves in the cemetery is approximately 6,200 and the number of interments, to July, 1957, about 8,000. It is interesting to note that the first grave digger was a resident of Watsons Bay and, in those early days, when his services were required a messenger was despatched to his home to inform him.

## CHURCHES

In recording the history of the various Churches in the Municipality it was decided to keep them in denominational rather than chronological order of establishment.

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

On May 15, 1857, a school house, situated on the site of the present post office, at the corner of Alison Road and Avoca Street, Randwick, was licensed for public worship for the adherents of the Church of England. It was for the united parish districts of Randwick and Waverley, under the charge of the Rev. W. H. McCormick.



*St. Mary's Church of England, Birrell Street, built 1863.*

In the same year, the erection of a small stone building was commenced in Church Street, Waverley, and opened by the Lord Bishop of Sydney, Dr. Barker, on January 24, 1858. It was dedicated to St. Mary, the Virgin. This site now forms a part of the Poor Clare's Convent and St. Clare's College. The Rev. W. H. McCormick died in February, 1859, and the Rev. Stanley Mitchell became the first Rector of St. Mary's at Waverley. It was soon realised that the building in Church Street was too small for the needs of the parish and a new site for St. Mary's was acquired in Birrell Street on the heights of Waverley. It is understood that the land was purchased from Mr. R. Newman who interested himself in the subsequent advance-

ment of that Church. It formed a part of the south east corner of the grant of land to Barnett Levey who built Waverley House which has already been referred to.

The foundation stone of the new St. Mary's Church was laid on June 5, 1863, by Sir John Young, K.C.B., K.C.M.G. Sir John was afterwards Lord Lisgar and later became Governor-General of Canada. An extract of part of the ceremony, said to have been taken from the "Sydney Morning Herald" of June 6, 1863, was published in the booklet "St. Mary's Church, Waverley, 1863-1933," commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the Church from which the following has been taken:—

"The foundation stone of the new church to be erected for the members of the Church of England



*St. Mary's old Rectory, demolished 1921.*

residing at Waverley was laid yesterday afternoon by His Excellency the Governor. The structure will be in the Early English style—the Nave will be seventy-two feet by thirty and the Chancel twenty feet square. The contract which has been taken by Mr. W. Bailey, of Newtown, is for the masonry and the roofing, leaving the spire and the internal fittings to be subsequently contracted for. The architect for the church is Mr. E. T. Blacket.

"His Excellency, who was accompanied by Lady Young, Miss Dalton and Lord John Taylour, arrived at about 3 o'clock at the Waverley Schoolroom, where they were met by Reverend Stanley Mitchell, the Incumbent of St. Mary's . . . His Excellency was conducted to the site of the new church, followed by the

school children, wearing blue rosettes, and carrying a gay banner, and by a large number of visitors . . . forming an imposing procession . . . The Rev. S. Mitchell then delivered an address . . . during which he said: 'I am unwilling to lose this opportunity of making honorable mention of a few gentlemen who, although residing in other parishes, have contributed very handsomely towards the erection of our church. Mr. Thomas Dyer Edwards, a well-known and much respected Colonist, now residing in London, besides giving an acre of land and promising to supply the books and Communion Service, has presented the magnificent donation of £150. The Honorable T. W. Smart and Mr. F. Mitchell contributed £100 each, and Mr. W. F. Norie, a gentleman who has not an acre of property in Waverley and does not even reside in the Parish, nobly came forward of his own accord amongst the first contributors, and unsolicited became responsible for raising £100. . . .'

"The Dean of Sydney then read the inscription on the scroll, which, together with a copy of each of the daily papers was thereupon placed in the bottle that was deposited under the Foundation Stone . . . His Excellency then addressed the Assemblage . . . (List of individual contributions published in "Herald," 4/6/63 = £1,522/13/-. Chancel Special, £284/15/-)."

The new church, though not completed, was dedicated by Dr. Barker, Lord Bishop of Sydney. Some of its features were—it was built of white stone—an elegant bell tower graced the western end—an Anglo-Norman cross stood at the eastern gable of the main building. The east window was a gift of Mrs. R. Newman. About 1868, an area of approximately 2½ acres intended at first for a cemetery was subsequently used as a Rectory site, part or the whole of the land being donated by the then owner, Mr. T. D. Edwards. The Rectory erected thereon was demolished in 1921 and the land cut up and sold. The original school-church in Church Street was used as a Sunday School by the Church of England until about the 1880's. The new school was built adjacent to St. Mary's in 1885 at a cost of about £2,500.

A move towards the completion of the original design of St. Mary's was made in 1872 when a contract was let for the erection of two porches and an organ chamber at a cost of £800. The tower and spire had, at this time, yet to be added. In 1882 the Rev. Stanley Mitchell resigned. He had been in charge at St. Mary's since 1859—almost a quarter of a century of faithful service to the church and parishioners of St. Mary's. After some 16 years of retirement, the Rev. Stanley Mitchell died on board the ship "China" in the Mediterranean Sea on January 10, 1898, aged 64 years. He was buried off the island of Crete. The Rev. S. Mitchell was one of the first of the Moore College

students. He was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. McKeown and one of his first works was the erection of the new school already referred to. In 1889 the organ was installed at a cost of £500. Since 1884 the parish of Waverley has been subdivided and St. Matthew's, Bondi, and St. Barnabas, Mill Hill, have come into being.

The Rev. McKeown was succeeded by the Rev. E. A. North-Ash in 1920, the Rev. F. Riley, M.A., in 1928 and in 1937 the Rev. E. Pattison-Clarke. Owing to the limit of space, the many improvements that have been made by the last-mentioned cannot be enumerated, but these may be mentioned:—the eastern window beautified in 1939; altar and sanctuary improvements; tennis court constructed; debt of hall built in 1926 liquidated in 1945; Church gates erected; free Kindergarten School opened in 1951; shingle roof of St. Mary's replaced by concrete tiles in 1955; Carillon placed in Church in 1956 and in 1957 an attractive Columbarium for the repose of ashes of the departed erected behind the church building.

#### ST. MATTHEW'S, BONDI

The origin of St. Matthew's Church of England in Ocean Street is contained in an interesting Memorandum, a photograph of which is in the possession of the Rector of St. Matthew's Church. The original document with copies of the "Sydney Morning Herald" and "Daily Telegraph," a list of the people who made promises and donations to the church and an account of the receipts and expenditure were found under the foundation stone of the church laid on November 23, 1889, when the church was recently reconstructed. The historical documents were placed under the new foundation of the reconstructed church in 1956-57 after they had been photographed.

Let me quote now parts of the historic Memorandum:—

"In the year 1887 the Trustees of Saint Mary's Church of England, Waverley, were empowered by Act of Parliament to sell certain Church land at 'Lugar Brae', Waverley, and devote the proceeds of such sale (inter alia) to the purchase of a site or sites for Church purposes within the Parish of Saint Mary's, Waverley—In February, 1889, some 60 residents of Bondi petitioned the said Trustees to secure the site of this Church and they accordingly purchased the land at a cost of £522/6/6 including expenses of conveyance, etc., out of the sale of the land at Lugar Brae aforesaid.—On the 24th June, 1889, a meeting of Parishioners was held at Saint Mary's School-Room at which it was unanimously resolved to build this Church and

the following Committee formed to carry the resolution into effect:—

The Trustees and Church Wardens of Saint Mary's Parish: also Messrs. —. Mackenzie, —. Grey, —. Lattie, —. Elliott, —. Marwood, —. Clarke, —. Colyer, —. Robinson, —. Robertson, —. Gibbs, —. Blanchard, Hon. Treasurer —. Sloman.

Subsequently the plans of Mr. Vernon, A.R.I.B.A., Architect, were adopted and tenders called for the erection of the Church and that of Messrs. Maguire Bros. accepted for £875 and the contract entered into in due course. The Church is to be called 'St. Matthew's,' Bondi, and the ceremony of laying the foundation stone was performed by the Very Reverend Dean

change took place in April, 1900, when the Rev. Reginald Noake, B.A., became the new Rector. Eight years later, the Rev. C. C. Dunstan succeeded the Rev. Noake and continued as Rector to September, 1933. He had previously served at the country centres of Bourke, Dubbo, Orange and the suburb of Enmore. Parochial financial difficulties were a worry to the Rector in 1908 when a small portion of church land was sold to a Mr. Shaw. A few years later an area was purchased behind the school hall for £60.

Various young organizations were instituted between the years 1910 and 1920 with varying degrees of success. In 1923 land for a church at Ben Buckler was acquired. A new Curate, the Rev. W. G. Coughlan, was appointed in 1928. During his ministry he made the branch Church (St. Barnabas) at North



*Old St. Matthew's Church of England, Ocean Street, Bondi.*

Cowper, the present Administrator of the Diocese in the presence of a numerous assemblage of Clergy and laity this 23rd day of November, 1889, at 3.30 p.m. in the 53rd year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. . . ."

The memorandum from which the foregoing has been quoted clearly indicates the beginning of this Church.

In addition to the contract price of the Church, extra expenses brought the total cost to £1,000. This debit was met by Donations £289/18/6, Loan of £100, promises and an overdraft from the bank.

The Church was opened on March 8, 1890. One of those who played an important part in the selection of the site for the Church and its erection was the late Mr. H. Lattie (or Latty). The Rev. J. W. Pope was the first Minister of the new district. He died in September, 1892, and was succeeded in the following month by the Rev. Joseph Best at which time the new district was formed into a parish. Another



*(Photo.: C. Cameron)*

*New St. Matthew's.*

Bondi his special charge and interested himself particularly in the youth. He was later succeeded by the Rev. Dransfield who during the depression period of the 1930's found the Church, and himself because of the low salary, in such financial difficulties that he resigned. Later the Rev. Richard Jones took over the St. Barnabas Church.

Owing to ill-health the Rev. Dunstan was forced to give up his charge of St. Matthew's after 25 years of devoted service. The Rectorship was taken over by the Rev. R. A. Pollard in August, 1933. In this same year the Rev. C. Baker became the new Curate. The stipends paid at this period were Rector, £300, and the Curate, £130. The latter was at St. Barnabas, North Bondi, where services had been curtailed for some time. This also happened during World War II. In 1951, the Rector, the Rev. R. A. Pollard, retired because of his wife's ill health. The Parish was then taken over by the Rev. K. Marr until the appointment of the Rev. J. R. Noble, B.A., Th.L.



*St. Barnabas' Church of England, with residence on top. Wairoa and Ramsgate avenues, Bondi.*

Since 1951 some important changes have been effected. The old weatherboard Church of St. Barnabas at Ben Buckler has been sold and a property purchased at the corner of Ramsgate and Wairoa Avenues which serves as a temporary church and Sunday School. St. Matthew's, as before-mentioned, has been renovated and altered with two vestries and tower. The Church has been given a completely "new look." In July, 1958, the Rev. J. R. Noble accepted a Call to Marrickville Parish. He was succeeded by the Rev. D. H. Crawford, Th.L.

#### **ST. BARNABAS — MILL HILL**

The church of St. Barnabas in Mill Hill Road was erected for the Church of England and the foundation stone laid on February 1, 1902, by Archbishop Saumarez Smith. It was opened for service on Whitsunday, 1902. The origin of the establishment of this church dates back to the year 1896. Mr. A. V. Drew who was, at the time, an active member of St. Matthew's Church, Bondi, proceeded to take action to have a Church of England established at Mill Hill. At first there was strong opposition to the plan, mainly from the two Rectors whose boundaries were affected by the proposed new district. From 1896 to 1901 the opposition continued until finally, in the last-mentioned year, Archbishop W. Saumarez Smith appointed the Rev. D. J. Knox, L. Th., to take charge of the newly-formed Conventional District. At the beginning a tent was hired and erected on a piece of land—the present site of St. Barnabas' Church.

In this tent the first service was held on Advent Sunday, 1901. In the following week a meeting was held of all those who were interested in the building of a church and it was decided that tenders be at once called for its erection. The cost of the church with furnishings amounted to about £1,387. When opened in 1902 as above stated, the late Canon Jones, the Principal of Moore College, preached in the morning and the Curate in charge in the evening.



*St. Barnabas' Church of England, Mill Hill. The weatherboard building adjoining was the first Church building.*

Following the opening of the church, there arose the necessity for a school hall in which parochial meetings and Sunday School could be held. Tenders were called, and the hall was built at a cost of £459.

On April 28, 1914, the residence of a Mr. Briggs, at the corner of Mill Hill Road and Oxford Street was purchased as a Rectory for the Minister. Of the Rectors who have served at the St. Barnabas Church and worthy of mention are the Revs. D. J. Knox, 1901-1912; R. L. Houston, 1912-1921; E. W. Coates, 1924-1931; J. F. Huthnance, 1931-1936; R. F. Tacon, 1936-1941, and H. C. Dunstan, 1941—.

This parish is relatively small and is in the Rural Deanery of East Sydney. It contains about 800 Church of England families and a few outside the parish attend the Church. The usual church organizations operate, but as the population is considered a moving one, it is difficult to have thriving activities. The Church property is all in tolerably good order.

#### **THE SAILORS AND SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL CHURCH OF ST. LUKE — ARDEN AND VARNA STREETS**

The foundation stone of the above Church, which is outside the Municipality, was laid by the Most Rev. Archbishop Wright on Anzac Day, 25th April, 1923. It was erected in memory of the sailors and soldiers who served in World War I, 1914-18, from the Clovelly district. A new Rectory, which is inside the Municipality, was built and opened on May 12, 1957, fronting Arden Street, for the Rev. F. J. Price, the Rector of the Church.

## WAVERLEY METHODIST CHURCH— OXFORD AND GROSVENOR STREETS

In recording the history of Methodism in the Waverley Municipality, it will be necessary to include the Church formerly at the corner of Grosvenor Street and Oxford Street and the present church, although in the Municipality of Woollahra. The reason of this is that Methodism had its beginning in the Eastern Suburbs in the Waverley Municipal area.

It is doubtful if any better or more interesting record could be found than that prepared by the Rev. C. J. Wells in 1938 and published in a booklet "Jubilee Celebrations" of the Waverley Methodist Church, 1889-1939, from which the following extracts are taken, with paragraphs reduced:—



*First Wesleyan Church or Chapel, Newland Street, Waverley. Built 1844, used as a Sunday School and Church until erection of Church in 1858 at corner of present Oxford and Grosvenor streets, Bondi Junction.*

... Methodism in Waverley had very humble beginnings. It was in 1843 that the Sydney Circuit decided to 'start preaching' at Waverley, the first class meetings being held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vickery. In 1844 the District Meeting reported a gift of land, 30 feet by 60 feet, in Newland Street (by T. W. Smart), and it was on this site, in the same year, that there was commenced 'the first sanctuary east of Surry Hills.' Standing 25 feet by 15 feet 'in the clear,' the chapel was a substantial building of stone, and was erected at a cost of £75. An interesting reference to this chapel is to be found in the Mitchell Library in the original manuscript, 'The Life of an Early Methodist Preacher, John Purnell.' John Purnell arrived in Sydney in 1843. After referring to the fact that he attended York Street, and met in the Class Meeting, he states that

he was requested by the Rev. D. J. Draper to take small appointments. 'I was soon put on the plan,' he says, 'my first memo. of preaching being of Waverley, in a little building, with two windows on each side, and as plain as could be, with very poor forms for seats, and no pulpit. This was on Sunday, 1st December, 1844, and at that time Sydney and suburbs made one circuit.' (It is understood the official opening was December 24, 1844.) The Church seated 150, and in 1850 was attended by about forty people. Used as a Gospel Hall, the building still stands in Newland Street. Under the superintendence of Mr. Joseph Vickery, a Sunday School was commenced, with an enrolment of ten scholars. In those days children tramped the sandhills and through somewhat dense Australian bush on their way to the little chapel.

"For about fifteen years the work continued at Newland Street. Then the little Church was sold and another site secured on the corner of Old South Head Road (now Oxford Street) and the present Grosvenor Street. Mr. James Vickery was responsible for securing the site from the Cooper Estate. And so, on 11th September, 1859, there took place the opening of a new Church, erected at a cost of £1,500. (The Bank of N.S.W. occupies this site today.) To commemorate the occasion, a great Tea Meeting was held in a marquee, some 400 people attending. Mr. Richard Watkins, who had been associated with the work from its beginnings in Newland Street, supplied and put up the stone of this Church.

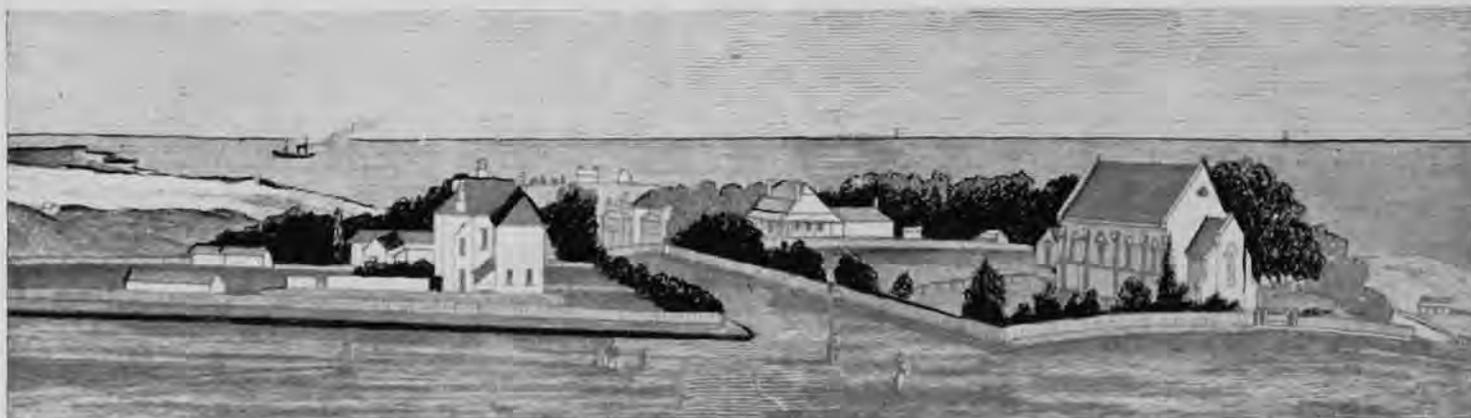
"Waverley Parsonage in those early days stood in Old South Head Road (Oxford Street), between Denison Street and Mill Hill Road. In 1877, however, it was resolved to dispose of the property, and a site for a new building was purchased. So in 1879 a tender for £1,300 was accepted for the erection of a new parsonage that still is the minister's home at 38 Botany Street. Sunday School life had made great advances at Waverley and in 1884, when the School Hall facing Grosvenor Street was erected, there were 24 teachers and 270 scholars enrolled. The peak year came in 1895, when the school boasted an enrolment of 45 teachers and 640 scholars. . . The movement for a new church building, 'more suitable to present requirements and more worthy of Waverley,' dates back to 1885. Interest in the movement grew rapidly, and eventually plans and specifications for a new Church were called for, Mr. William Martin being the successful architect. The foundation stone was laid on October 1, 1887. In Colwell's 'History of Methodism,' the matter is referred to in the following terms: 'In 1887 a forward movement commenced, the dedication services of their new and beautiful Church taking place on Sunday, 6th January, 1889.' The Rev. J. B. Waterhouse commenced the morning service, and the Rev. James Woolnough, the resident minister, preached the sermon.

"A Public Meeting followed the Sunday services, with the Hon. E. Vickery in the chair. It was stated that, up to that time, the disbursements had been over £13,000. Liberal promises of help were given by Mr. Vickery and Mrs. Schofield, whose generosity made the building of such a Church a possibility. The Church is capable of seating 1,000 people; the height of the spire from the ground is 137 feet, and the Church itself, to use the words of the Rev. George Lane, is the most beautiful belonging to the denomination in the Southern World." The "Sydney Morning Herald" of January 8, 1889, reported the opening as of the "new Wesleyan Church at Waverley." As this Church is actually outside the Municipality of Waverley, further details concerning it are not necessary.

Today the scene is changed, and the spire that once rose high above scrubland and sand lifts itself above a densely crowded portion of one of the world's

there is no doubt that Taylor named it about 1860, after a stream (Lugar River) near his home town in Scotland. Taylor came to Sydney in the 1840's and was manager of the Commercial Bank in Sydney from 1852 to 1857. He was later attached to the firm of Gilchrist Watt & Co., Sydney. He died about 1863. Miss Jessie Taylor occupied "Lugar Brae" from 1864 to the early 1870's.

Following the establishment of the new Methodist Church in Grosvenor Street, Bondi Junction (then the Tea Gardens) and the extension of tram lines, new horizons for church and school expansion attracted the authorities to the present site of "Lugar Brae." A subdivision of the Lugar Brae subdivision was made in 1880 by the then holder, Mr. John Macpherson of the firm of Holdsworth and Macpherson, hardware merchants of George Street, Sydney (but no relation to Dugald).



*Lugar Brae Methodist Church, on right, in 1884, looking eastward.*

mightiest cities, wherein throbbing machines, rumbling traffic and innumerable modern flats and business houses are evidence that "the fashion of this world passeth away."

The foundation stone of the Waverley Christian Community Centre, conducted by the Waverley Methodist Church, in Grosvenor Street was laid in 1946 and a new enterprise in the social activity sprang into life.

### **LUGAR BRAE CHURCH—LEICHHARDT STREET**

Lugar Brae Methodist Church stands on a grant of land containing 5a. 0r. 7p., purchased by Dugald McPherson for £106, in 1851. It fronted what was then called Coogee Bay Road (now Leichhardt Street). The church takes its name from the old home "Lugar Brae" which was nearby on the same grant. McPherson's land, with some adjoining land of about four acres, came into the hands of Mr. John Taylor about the late 1850's. Taylor is recorded as living in Coogee Bay Road in 1858-59 and in 1861 as at "Lugar Brae," Nelson Bay, which would correspond to Leichhardt Street. It is not clear who built the stone house, but

The land for the church was purchased at the request of Mrs. Ellen Schofield, and the deposit paid by Mr. Ebenezer Vickery, both well-known benefactors to the Methodist churches.

On July 25, 1881, Mrs. Schofield laid the foundation stone of the Lugar Brae Church and was presented with a silver trowel as a memento of the occasion. Such progress was made in its erection that, on a warm summer Sunday on December 4, 1881, Lugar Brae Church was officially christened. The services on that great day were held at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7.15 p.m., at which the Rev. W. Boyce, the Rev. J. Gardiner and the Rev. W. Kelynak, were inducted. Then on 17th of the same month a Tea Meeting was held in a large tent. It was so largely attended that three sittings were required to accommodate the people. The Mayor of Waverley, Mr. John Macpherson, presided over the meeting which followed, at the end of which the Treasurer, Mr. E. Vickery, announced that the total cost of the church and land amounted to about £1,578. The next progressive movement was made at the beginning of 1882, when a Sunday

School, under the leadership of Mr. Hammond, was opened. Soon after this, Mr. John Corbett resigned as Superintendent of the Waverley Sunday School, and came to Lugar Brae where he remained for some 20 years. The need of a school room was found necessary, and this was built in 1883 at the back of the church. It could accommodate more than 120 scholars, about the number which attended.

It is proposed from here to quote from the pamphlet "These Passing Years" a pamphlet published to mark the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of Lugar Brae Church, in Leichhardt Street:—" . . . Came the First World War, and many young men from Lugar Brae were among those who answered its call. To their memory, an Honour Roll was unveiled on Sunday the 13th day of February, 1916 . . . As our needs grew, Lugar Brae grew to meet them. In 1924 the Parsonage was built, first occupant being the Rev. Dr. R. B. Lew. During the Ministry of Dr. Lew, a scheme for building a new Sunday School was initiated: and in October, 1932, the foundation stone of the Sunday School, as we know it today, was laid by Mr. Frank Firth. This hall was opened on January 18, 1933, at a cost of £1,284, the opening ceremony being performed by the Rev. Lew. Later, a second storey was added to accommodate the kindergarten.

"World War 2 then cast its shadows across our lives, and once again many names were added to the Honour Roll, while a Book of Remembrance was also compiled and dedicated by Rev. N. Kline . . . Beneath the dome which, long ago, was designed by a former choirmaster, Mr. Saxton, the choir each Sunday night is an integral part of our service, with Miss Quarmbly who has held the position of organist for 31 years, and Mrs. D. McHugh for 29 years has been pianist, and earlier than this was pianist before her marriage . . ." In post-war years these were followed by Youth Groups which have played a valuable part in our church life. In 1949, during the ministry of Rev. M. L. Yayton, a Community Centre was commenced. Its activities included leatherwork, basket making, cake decoration, pottery, glove-making, art weaving, and it operated until the end of 1955, doing much to increase the impact of Lugar Brae on the community.—A long list of Ministers served on the Waverley Circuit from the Rev. J. A. Nolan and the Rev. F. E. Fletcher in 1882, the Revs. W. E. Bourne, K. A. Corner and J. W. Winspear in 1883-85 to F. W. Hynes and R. B. Lew in 1922-24. Then followed the Ministers who became attached to Lugar Brae Church from 1924 to 1957, namely:—R. B. Lew, 1924-25; N. H. Parr, 1926-28; H. S. Doust, 1929-31; E. Coplin Thomas, 1932-36; J. W. Barrett, 1937-38; N. H. Kline, 1939-42; H. E. Bellhouse, 1943; M. K. Gilmour, 1944-45; M. L. Layton, 1946-50; S. G. Claughton, 1951-54; A. F. Oliver, 1954—.

The 75th Anniversary of the Lugar Brae Church was marked by special services and celebrations which commenced on Sunday, March 24, 1957, and terminated on Sunday, April 14, 1957, by a "Church Anniversary Service".

We conclude with the following quotation from "These Passing Years":—" . . . This is our Church today, a place of hallowed memories, a place of warm fellowship: a church that is alive and planning for the future. For we look to the youth of today to carry on, with eagerness and joy, the service of God begun here 75 years ago."

#### **METHODIST CHURCH, WELLINGTON STREET**

Early records in the Methodist Church in 1889 indicate that a meeting was held with the purpose of forming a Trust to acquire the land at Bondi for church purposes offered by Mrs. Schofield, under certain conditions, in a letter dated June 4, 1889. The trust was formed at its first meeting held in the "Old Waverley Church" on July 8, 1889.

Consequently we may regard the beginnings of Bondi Methodism to date from June, 1889. At the first meeting the Rev. George Lane presided and the following gentlemen were present: Messrs. Hon. E. Vickery, R. Watkins, H. Ross, J. Corbett, Jas. Terry, M. Marrick, B. Corbett and E. Vickery, Jr. The offer of Mrs. Schofield was, to sell to the Trust the site, which is still the property of the Methodist Church in Wellington Street. The land measuring 150 x 140 feet had been purchased by Mrs. Schofield at a cost of £750 in January, 1885, and provided that steps were taken to erect a church immediately, it would be sold to the Church for £550, on easy terms. The offer was accepted by the meeting and the chairman nominated those present, together with Messrs. T. Iredale, T. F. Rossbach, T. H. Dickson and W. A. Firth, as trustees of the Bondi Methodist Church. It was agreed to proceed with the erection of a church-school building about 37 ft. by 20 ft., to accommodate 100 adults. The Hon. E. Vickery was appointed treasurer and Mr. E. Vickery, Jr., secretary.

Two meetings of the Trustees were held in July, 1889, and plans prepared by Mr. Martin were adopted, and the tender for £395/5/9 by Mr. W. Carter accepted. Mrs. Schofield was invited to lay "an inscribed memorial stone", "the position of the same to be at the S.W. corner of the Building". This old hall still stands and serves a most useful purpose as the L.C.A. & M.G.C. room, kitchen and S.S. secretary's office, at the rear of the present church. The inscription on the stone read "This Stone was laid by Mrs. Ellen Schofield on the 3rd August, 1889."

It is worthy of mention that this was the first memorial stone to be laid where the Trust Deed of

the property is registered under the Wesleyan Methodist Model Deed of 1888, and the Wesleyan Methodist Church Property Trust Act of 1889. Those taking part at the ceremony were the Revs. G. Lane (circuit minister), J. Woolnough and J. Austin, and the Hon. E. Vickery, M.L.C. The cost of the undertaking was estimated at £1,250: £750 for the land and £500 for building, fencing, etc. Towards this Mrs. Schofield had allowed £200 off the cost of the land and £314 had been collected.



*Methodist Church and School, Wellington Street.*

The church was opened by the Rev. Richard Caldwell, President of the Conference, on Sunday, 22nd September, 1889, at 3 p.m.; and the service at 7 p.m. was conducted by the Rev. Joseph Woodhouse, of Randwick. A Sunday School was commenced immediately, with Mr. E. Vickery, Jr., as superintendent, and Miss Wright was the first teacher to be appointed. Mr. Marrick was the first class leader. The names of Vickery, Marrick, Cummins and Bolus occur with great frequency in the history of the cause.

During the ministry of the Revs. R. East and E. King (1901-1903) a scheme for the erection of a parsonage on the Wellington Street frontage was prepared. The total cost of the parsonage was £957/18/6. Rev. A. Parsons was the architect, but neither the contractor's name nor the date of the opening of the house appears in the records!

In 1906 the need for a larger church was so urgent that steps were taken to erect the present building; a meeting of the trust having been called for 30th April of that year to consider a definite proposal for the erection of "a new church to cost not more than £1,000". The Rev. Adin Parsons was asked to act as architect, and the plans were duly prepared and approved at a meeting held on 8th June, just fifteen years from the date of the first proposals. On 3rd July the tender of J. Elstone (£1,079) was accepted, and the foundation stone ceremony was fixed for 18th August, 1906. Two stones were laid, one by Mr. E. Vickery, Jr. and the other by Mr.

Hugh Ross. On Saturday, 15th December, the new church was opened by Mrs. E. Vickery, and the President of the Conference (Rev. James Woolnough) preached the dedicatory sermon with the Revs. F. Colwell and T. F. Potts taking part in the service.

The new and commodious School Hall was opened on the 21st November, 1912, by Mrs. T. H. Dickson; and the opening meeting "took the form of a birthday party" to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of the formation of the Trust. The cost of this building, with necessary alterations to the old school, amounted to £1,000.

#### **METHODIST CHURCH, NORTH BONDI**

The next move forward was in 1923, when on 6th October of that year the foundation stone of a new church at North Bondi was laid, as the result of the strong advocacy of the Rev. F. W. Hynes, then superintendent minister of the Waverley circuit. This church at the corner of Warners Avenue and Niblick Street was opened on Saturday, 2nd February, 1924, with a seating capacity of about 180. The ex-president of the conference, Rev. Eldred Dyer, preached the dedicatory sermon.



*Methodist Church, North Bondi, at the corner of Warners Avenue and Niblick Street.*

The Conference of 1925 divided the old Waverley circuit, and constituted the Bondi circuit, comprising Bondi and North Bondi with the Rev. J. W. Dains as first superintendent. In 1926 the Rev. L. Peacock was appointed to the circuit, and during his time further extensions were made to the Bondi property. The Rev. R. Piper followed Mr. Peacock in 1931 and maintained the work during the difficult "depression" years. In 1935 the Rev. H. W. Woodhouse was appointed to the circuit, and in the following year the School Hall at North Bondi was built. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. H. A. Bush on 25th July, and the building opened on 19th September. Later, an ornamental brick fence was erected round the property, through the generosity of Mr. Bush, whose gifts had made possible the building of the hall.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
GRAHAME MEMORIAL, VICTORIA STREET,**

To find the origin of the establishment of the Presbyterian Church and Services in Waverley, we must turn to the very matter-of-fact intimation in the "Presbyterian," of Saturday, January 17, 1885, which stated: — "Services to-morrow begin at Waverley". The first service was held in the Oddfellows Hall in Church Street, January 17, 1885 — over 74 years ago. The first congregation numbered about one hundred — thirty-nine being placed on the First Communion Roll. The first inducted Minister for Waverley was the Rev. John MacNeil, B.A. The event took place on May 26, 1885, and was followed on September 19 by the first Congregational Meeting held. A site for a church was acquired in Victoria Street and on November 7 of 1885 the corner stone of the first Presbyterian Church at Waverley was laid by Mrs. William Grahame. It appears that this building, with added front, forms what is now the Parish Recreation Hall, alongside the present church. Mention should be made here of Messrs. J. D. Rutherford and H. C. Cook — the first Elders, inducted on January 13, 1886.



*Grahame Memorial Presbyterian Church, Victoria Street. The white-gabled building alongside on the left of the church was the first Presbyterian Church in Victoria Street.*

The Rev. John MacNeil resigned the charge in July, 1888 and was succeeded by the Rev. Brown Greig in May of the following year, but he demitted the charge the next year. Then came the Rev. John Macauley, M.A., who was inducted in April 6, 1891, and remained in charge for thirty-six years until his retirement on July 31, 1927. One of the most outstanding works of the Rev. J. Macauley was the erection of the present massive stone church adjoining the original small church. The foundation stone of the new stone church, it is significant to remark, was also laid by Mrs. W. Grahame, a great benefactor to the church in more ways than one. This event took place on May 8, 1897. The new Church was opened in February, 1898. It was fitting, of course, that on January 17, 1900, the beautiful church should be designated the "Grahame Memorial" Church in recognition of a noble and charitable lady in the work of the Church.

Two names which come to mind in the early years of the church in Waverley are, the father of the late Hon. Archdale Parkhill, one-time Minister for Defence, who was a member of the Committee of the Church in 1886, and the father of Sir Frederick MacMaster, University Benefactor, who was an elder of the Church in 1896. There is another who was also an elder of the Church in 1893 and is remembered by a tablet in the Grahame Memorial Church, namely, P. Dodds McCormick. P. D. McCormick took up missionary church work at Dover Heights, North Bondi, and the cultivation of music among the young folk. He is well-known for his composition of that remarkable patriotic song "Advance Australia Fair," which was first sung by Andrew Fairfax in November, 1878, and for a time was one of Australia's national songs. He died at "Clydebank," Birrell Street, Waverley, in 1916.

Coming to later years, the Kindergarten Hall, which had been discussed in Committee for some time, materialised by the generosity of the Beat family, of Henrietta Street, Waverley. Following the retirement of the Rev. J. Macauley, as previously stated, came the Rev. H. E. Hulme, who was inducted on November 30, 1927. He served as minister in the Grahame Memorial Church for 22 years, when ill-health forced his retirement. In December of the same year, a new Manse was purchased in Carrington Road, the previous one, situated in Lugar Street, having been purchased in 1903.

The year 1935 marked the Jubilee of the establishment of the Presbyterian Church at Waverley. Commemorative Services commenced on September 8, 1935, and terminated on September 22 by an address given by Mr. N. H. MacNeil, M.C., M.A., Dip. Ed., son of the first Minister at Waverley. A small booklet, "Grahame Memorial Church, Waverley, New South Wales, 1885-1935," showing the progress through

the years was issued in connection with the Jubilee and has provided most of the information recorded here.

The Rev. H. E. Hulme (now deceased) was followed by the Rev. K. W. Burton as minister in charge of the Grahame Memorial Church until June, 1957, when he transferred to the Strathfield Parish and was succeeded at Waverley by the Rev. A. W. Seal in 1959.

And so the Church continues her testimony. A visit to the Sunday School gives every hope for the future — spiritually and socially. The women folk supply Guild, Auxiliary and Missionary Associations with good and loyal workers.

### **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BONDI**

With the intention of establishing a Presbyterian Church at Bondi a band of Presbyterian people met for public worship on June 7, 1914, at the School of Arts, Bondi Road. Mr. John Waugh was the minister on that occasion. The office-bearers of the congregation were:—Mr. Allan Baillie, Secretary; Mr. H. Thompson, Treasurer; and Miss Ina Allan, daughter of the Rev. David Allan (later Mrs. Allan Baillie), Organiser. The first official divine service was held on October 25, 1914, under the conductorship of the Rev. Thomas Morgan. The Rev. John Waugh concluded his work at Bondi on September 19, 1915, and was followed in turn by other students — Mr. L. B. Parker (1916), Mr. F. W. Hewlett and Rev. Hugh Paton.



*Presbyterian Church, Castlefield Street, Bondi.*

Under the latter's guidance the work increased and the congregation having acquired a site at the corner of Castlefield and Miller streets, Bondi, proceeded to build a school-hall. The contract was let to Mr. Peter Beddie. The foundation stone of the new building was laid on January 11, 1919, by the Rev. Hugh Paton and Mr. H. H. Thompson. In the new school-hall the congregation met, for the first time, on March 8, 1919, in a building of their own. At that time steps were taken to have the congregation recognised as a "sanctioned charge". This was agreed to by the authority of the Presbytery of Sydney,

and on July 8 of that year, the Home Mission Station at Bondi was raised to the status of a Sanctioned Charge. In 1920, the Rev. John Enright succeeded the Rev. Hugh Paton.

Action towards the erection of a church was finalised on May 28, 1922, when a tender was accepted from Mr. Peter Beddie for its erection at a cost of £2,779. It was to be located adjoining the school-hall. The foundation stone was laid by the Right Rev. A. S. McCook, B.A., then State Moderator, on July 1, 1922. The total cost of the church on completion amounted to £3,177. In 1926, the Rev. John Enright was succeeded at Bondi by the Rev. James Hannan, who, during his ministership, made considerable inside improvements to the church. He was followed by the Rev. G. E. Pocknell, who had to face the dark days of the depression which affected the attendance at the church. After trying several schemes to revive the attendance of the congregation, he resigned his charge in 1937. Admiring the courage of a few faithful souls who refused to desert the sinking ship, the Rev. A. S. McCook came to their aid and laboured without payment to provide spiritual assistance. Then came the Rev. Percy Hope, followed by the Rev. J. H. Costello, of Forbes, who took charge, in 1939, of the Bondi Church.

Most of the information in this brief history has been obtained from the Bondi Presbyterian Church "Silver Jubilee Souvenir, 1914-1939".

The Rev. J. H. Costello's ministry ended in March, 1945, when he received a Call at Grafton. Then followed a five-year vacancy at the Bondi Presbyterian Church in Castlefield Street until the vacancy was filled by the Rev. Thomas Howie Turner. He was inducted as Minister of the Charge on February 9, 1950 and carried on the good work until June 13, 1954, when he accepted a Call at Kogarah, Sydney, and once more the Charge was vacant until a Call was accepted by the Rev. Yuill, of Moree, who was inducted as Minister in Charge on November 9, 1955.

Some of the early benefactors of the church were Messrs. J. J. Jagelman, O'Brien, David Hunter, Power, Adams, P. Beddie, T. Leslie, D. Park, W. Puckett, Stone, Snr., and J. R. Allan.

### **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BOTANY STREET**

The history of the Congregational Church in Botany Street was published in "The Congregationalist" Church paper of November, 1957, page 10, by H.W.D.

Probably nothing better could be done than to quote extracts from this publication to record briefly its history. The extracts with a summary are as follows:—

"There is evidence that the desirability of establishing a Congregational Church in the Waverley district had been the subject of private conversations in 1879, or even earlier; but the first recorded steps in this direction were taken when, in response to a circular invitation issued over the names of Messrs. J. Hubert Newman and T. B. Walker, a dozen gentlemen met in the Waverley Council Chambers on the evening of Friday, 23rd January, 1880, when there was moved and seconded a motion that "This meeting considers it desirable to establish a Congregational Cause at Waverley and pledges itself to use its best energies to carry out that object. . . .

"The motion was carried unanimously, and a Committee of Management was formed and charged with the task of giving effect to it.



*Waverley Congregational Church, Botany Street.*

"Land was purchased in Botany Street and, on the afternoon of 26th November, 1881, Mr. Josiah Mullens laid the foundation stone of the church building of which Mr. Herbert Thompson was to be architect and Mr. John Johns the builder. Mr. John Thompson presided over the gathering and the Rev. J. Warlow Davies (Chairman of the Union), George Campbell, J. P. Sunderland and W. Curnow and Messrs. Newman and Green took part in the ceremony.

"The opening services of the new church were held on Sunday, 23rd July, 1882, when the Rev. J. Warlow Davies and the Rev. Walter Mathison took the morning and evening services respectively. For six months the Rev. A. S. Badsen acted as pastor; but he declined a Call to the permanent pastorate. The Rev. T. E. Owens Mell became the first minister in 1884; and in the same year the church was affiliated with the

Congregational Union of New South Wales.

"It was not, however, until 1885 that the Committee of Management was replaced by a diaconate, the first deacons being Messrs. A. C. Hewlett, R. T. Orr, G. J. Wiley, T. Wills Pulsford (Secretary) and J. H. Newman (Treasurer).

"Mr. Mell's ministry was to prove short. He resigned in 1885 and was succeeded in 1887 by the Rev. Arthur T. Collier, a gifted preacher and well-loved pastor. When Mr. Collier resigned in 1890, he was followed a few months later by the Rev. Thomas Hope, who had an uneventful ministry of four years. Mr. Hope left Waverley in 1894 and in the next year the Rev. A. J. Griffith was inducted to the pastorate.

"Mr. Griffith resigned in 1901 and, in 1902, the Rev. R. F. Becher began a ministry of four years. In 1907 the church celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. . . . On 29th November, 1907, Mr. Frederick North was ordained to the Christian ministry in the church, and was later inducted to the pastorate. . . . In 1914 the Rev. Vincent Hillcoat became minister. Those who knew him expected great things of him. But war came. He enlisted and in 1917 laid down his life. . . . The Church Honour Roll contains the names of thirty-seven other members of the congregation who served in the forces, of whom ten made the supreme sacrifice. Then the Rev. J. J. Williams undertook the oversight of the work for a period of six months. . . . The ninth minister was the Rev. H. M. Riley (1918-24). . . ."

He was succeeded by the following ministers:— Ernest Monk to 1928, then a pastorless period, G. A. Simpson, 1930-34, a period of depression, the Rev. C. Venton Hayman, 1934-39, Mr. Eric Ewin to 1945, the Rev. Bernhard Martens, 1947-49, the Rev. Sidney Watson, 1950-1959. A. J. McWilliam is now Secretary and G. H. Stevens the Senior Deacon. Numerous loyal church workers should be mentioned here, but shortage of space will not allow their inclusion.

The church cost about £1,400 to build.

### **BAPTIST CHURCH, BONDI JUNCTION**

The first Baptist Church in the Eastern Suburbs held its services in a building in Wallis Street, Woolahra in the year 1885. Twenty years later a church was erected in Ebley Street, Bondi Junction, where services have been held ever since. The foundation stone of this Church was laid by W. Buckingham, Esq., on December, 10, 1904. The first minister at Ebley Street was the Rev. C. Noon.



*Baptist Church and Hall, Ebley Street, Bondi Junction.*

The Manse and school-hall adjoining were built in 1930. Quite a number of pastors have served in the Ebley Street Church including the Revs. A. G. Dube, E. G. Gibson, A. C. Maynard, S. G. Thompson, S. T. Earl, and the present Minister, the Rev. J. J. Weller. Mr. C. E. Klenke is the Honorary Secretary of the Waverley Baptist Church.

#### **THE SALVATION ARMY CITADEL**

The Salvation Army Corps commenced its work at Waverley in February, 1891. For some time its meetings were held in Stratton's Hall, Ebley Street. Later a wooden hall was brought from Lower Botany and re-erected in Brisbane Street at Waverley in the location of the present brick Citadel. This property also consists of a lower hall and primary room for the young people's meetings.

In the intervening years the Salvation Army has maintained its Evangelical and Social work in Waverley. Owing to the housing shortage many of its followers have had to leave the district but there still remains a good number of faithful workers.



*The Salvation Army Citadel, Brisbane Street, Bondi Junction.*

## **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OLD ST. CHARLES AND MARY IMMACULATE**

The first indication of the extension of Catholicity into the Waverley district was the establishment, by Bishop Polding in 1837, of a Catholic Orphanage for children. This institution was conducted in that historic building, "Waverley House". Under the guidance of a matron it was carried on until 1843 when the house was given up and the orphans transferred to a larger home adjoining the Female Factory at Parramatta.

A little over a century ago the spiritual needs of the scattered Catholics of Waverley were attended to from St. Mary's Cathedral, or from Darlinghurst after the establishment of a church there, in the early 1850's. The pioneer Catholics of Waverley, however, were anxious for their own church. Towards the end of 1854, the Rev. S. A. Sheehy (later Vicar General) acknowledged the gift of a portion of land from Mr. John Madden as a site for a church and school at Waverley. This site is today occupied by St. Charles Hall and parish school in Carrington Road. No time was lost in collecting monies and making preparation for the laying of the foundation stone of the building. In November, 1854, Archdeacon McEncroe, assisted by the Rev. Father Sheehy, blessed and laid the first stone of the intended church, at what was then said to be "the rapidly improving village of Waverley." It was called St. Charles Borromeo. When it was sufficiently completed, the building was used as a church and school, and it was there that the first Catholic denominational school was conducted. (See under Schools.)

One of the first priests to celebrate Mass in the church-school was Dean Sheridan, who probably came from Darlinghurst. Prior to that period he used to celebrate Mass in John Madden's home, which was situated on the present site of the post office at Charing Cross. Indications of the enthusiasm of Waverley Catholics were shown by a report in the "Freeman's Journal" of March 9, 1861, which stated:—"The Catholics of Waverley have begun collections for the building of a new stone church—the present wooden structure not being found sufficiently capacious." Within a few years there came to Waverley that grand Cistercian Priest—Father Norbert Woolfrey. He was the first resident priest at Waverley and was father, friend and medical adviser to the people. Father Woolfrey was born in England in 1801. After studying in France he then went to Mt. Mellery, Ireland. Later Father Woolfrey proceeded to Tasmania, thence to South Australia, and in the 1850's to Sydney. After labouring for eleven years in Brisbane Water district, he was finally attached to Waverley in August, 1865. He occupied the first



First Catholic Church at Waverley, 1866. The dark, low building to left of Church is the first Catholic Chapel School (arrowed) built at Waverley in 1854.

presbytery at Waverley, a small, low cottage in Carrington Road — demolished in recent years to make way for duplex flats. It was the home of the late Mrs. (Grannie) Cosgrove, well known to all Waverlians.

It was Father Woolfrey who built the first stone Church in Waverley, the first evidence of which is reported in the "Freeman's Journal" of December, 1865, thus: "The Catholics of Waverley, at present under the spiritual guide of the Rev. N. Woolfrey, are making great exertions to erect a church for the increasing population. Already sufficient funds are collected to warrant a commencement and on Monday, 8th January, 1866, the foundation will be laid." This was duly carried out by the then Vicar-General, the Very Rev. S. A. Sheehy, assisted by the Venerable Archdeacon McEncroe. A procession proceeded from the old school-church to the new foundation stone. The new church at St. Charles of Borromeo was a cruciform structure—70 ft. by 25 ft. with entrance from what is now Carrington Road and adjacent to the north side of the old school-church.

Speaking on the occasion, Archdeacon McEncroe remarked that, when he attended that spot to bless the foundation stone of the small wooden chapel of St. Charles Borromeo, that it was now proposed to supersede—little had he supposed that he should ever live to be present when a further change would have become necessary.

Father Woolfrey was forced through illness to retire from active service in the early 1870's and died in March, 1872, in a small cottage in Church Street,

about the site of the present St. Clare's College. He was succeeded at Waverley by Father J. M. Garavel, who came to the parish about September, 1870. During his pastorate, the chancel of the church was completed and opened for service in July, 1873. Father Garavel had previously laboured in New Zealand during the Maori wars with Britain. He will be remembered as the priest who rushed into St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, to remove the Blessed Sacrament on the night that St. Mary's was destroyed by fire in 1865.



Waverley's first presbytery, the old stone cottage in Carrington Road where Father Norbert Woolfrey resided during his pastorate at Waverley.

#### FRANCISCAN ORDER TAKES CHARGE

Following the departure of Father Garavel from the Waverley parish in 1879, after nine years' service, the Franciscan Order of Priests took over the Waverley Parish. When the Order was giving thought to the question of future expansion, a generous lady, Mrs. C. Logue, of Waverley, humble in life as she was large-hearted in her charity, solved the difficulty by making the Franciscan Fathers a gift of a magnificent property, of ideal situation, in Victoria Street, containing nearly three acres of land worth, it was said, about £10,000. It is now the site of the Friary, Mary Immaculate Church and adjacent buildings. Local Franciscan history was made on March 1, 1891, when the corner stone of the present handsome Friary was laid by Cardinal Moran. Describing the important event, the "Freeman's Journal" of March 7, 1891, stated: "It is many a day since we have had a more imposing and more enthusiastic Catholic ceremony in or around the city; and, judged on all points, the celebration of the beginning of what is destined to be a great Australian religious institution . . ." Father Slattery was at the time Commissary Provincial of the Order. The three-storied Norman style, freestone, rock-faced, Friary need not be described in detail here as it still stands today. Messrs. Tappin, Dennehy and Smart were the architects. The estimated cost was about £12,000. Two years later, the Friary was blessed and opened by Cardinal Moran. Additions were made to the back of the Friary in 1928 to make a preparatory College for aspirants to the Priesthood in the Franciscan Order, who were subsequently transferred to Robertson, N.S.W.



*Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Victoria Street.  
The Friary adjoins on the left.*

With the increasing Catholic population of Waverley, the stone church was too small for the growing congregation and a new church-school was erected along-side it in 1902. This building was used for Church Services until 1913 when the new Mary Immaculate Church was built on the land given by Mrs. Logue and opened in 1913 by Archbishop Kelly, the foundation stone of which had been laid by him on June 2, 1912. The Church was estimated to cost £15,000 of which £5,000 was donated by the Franciscan Fathers. The subscription of the laity amounted to £3,000. Messrs. Hennessey & Hennessey were the architects and Mr. John Ptolomy the builder. The exterior is designed in the Ionic order with columns, caps, pedestals and entablature. There is a large Ionic portion in the front of the building and lofty bell towers. These were added in 1929 and a large bell, which was donated, hung in one of the towers. They were blessed and opened in 1930.

The Rev. Father Benedict O'Donoghue, O.F.M., is the Parish Priest of Waverley in this year of 1959 and has been for some years.

#### **ST. ANNE'S, O'BRIEN STREET, BONDI**

Up to the year 1895, no Catholic church existed along the coast between the South Head lighthouse and Waverley. The hilly nature of the terrain made it difficult for Catholics in Bondi to attend Mass. Good fortune favoured the Franciscans when a Miss O'Mara made a gift of a piece of land in O'Brien Street, at the foot of Bellevue Hill, to the Order, for a school-church. Land originally provided by the Government in Cuthbert Street, Waverley, was not in a suitable position for a church so, with the permission of the Government, it was sold to a Mr. Michael Hegarty for £350. This sum was used by the Franciscans towards the erection of "St. Anne's"

school-church in O'Brien Street, as it was designated. The foundation stone of St. Anne's was laid on October 20, 1895, by Cardinal Moran in the presence of about 500 people. The men of the parish had levelled the ground for the occasion. The Cardinal congratulated Father Kennedy on the possession of the site most generously given for the erection of a building, which would be a centre of piety and enlightenment in that rapidly advancing district. The contributions amounted to about £180. St. Anne's was designed by Mr. E. Hobbs with Mr. E. Evesson the builder. Its cost was £400, all of which was then in hand. The building was 60 feet by 30 feet. It was completed and the first Mass celebrated in St. Anne's on August 2, 1896, by Father Kennedy. For ten years the Franciscan Fathers attended St. Anne's — first celebrating Mass at St. Clare's Convent and then travelling by hansom cab to St. Anne's for a second Mass.

In 1906, an important parochial change was made by the Church Authorities creating a new Bondi Parish, taking in a part of the Waverley Parish including St. Anne's, and placed it under the charge of Father Peter O'Reilly. Another parochial change was made in 1914 and St. Anne's was attached to Rose Bay Parish. A further change in 1917 attached St. Anne's to the new Bondi Parish under Father Fitzpatrick. In October, 1925, the Parish of Bondi was divided creating the new Parish of St. Anne's, Bondi Beach.



*Old St. Anne's Catholic Church, O'Brien Street, Bondi,  
in foreground. Built 1895, now demolished.*

#### **ST. ANNE'S SHRINE, BONDI BEACH**

Father Daniel O'Sullivan was transferred from Albion Park to take charge of this parish in 1926. St. Anne's in O'Brien Street was his parish church. The necessity for a more central location with room for schools and other Parish buildings resulted in the purchase of the present Parochial centre, bounded by Blair Street, Mitchell Street and Oakley Road, at a cost of £9,200. The old St. Anne's in O'Brien Street was demolished in 1928 and the site sold. Flats have now been built upon the land. It was no longer required because a school-church had been erected in Oakley Road at a cost of £4,300. Two years later a



*St. Anne's Shrine, Blair Street, Bondi Beach.*  
(Photo.: C. Cameron)

Presbytery was built in Mitchell Street for £4,000 and in 1934 St. Anne's Shrine for £12,000 (incomplete). The Architects, Messrs. Fowell and McConnel, of Sydney, were awarded the Sir John Sulman Medal Award for 1935 for the design of St. Anne's Shrine at Bondi Beach. It was described in a letter in the "Sydney Morning Herald," June 1936, as "something more than a scholarly essay in historic style, and a fine piece of architecture in these somewhat barren times". It was recognised as one of the most striking churches in the State. Erected during the difficult depression years, with a population small and scattered, its erection was a remarkable achievement. One result of Father O'Sullivan's courageous pioneering work was the influx of a large number of people into the sandhills and the laying down of many new roads, including Mitchell Street and Blair Street.

Father O'Sullivan had accomplished a great deal in thirteen years of far-sighted planning and ceaseless activity. But the work and worry had taken serious toll of his health. He collapsed while saying Mass at the altar of St. Anne in his beloved Shrine on 24th March, 1941, and died in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital a few hours later; he was buried at South Head Cemetery.

His successor was Very Rev. Monsignor W. J. Hurley, P.P., P.C., who had been Administrator of St. Mary's Cathedral for the previous seven years. Monsignor Hurley died a few years ago while on a visit to Ireland and was succeeded at St. Anne's by Father Prendergast. In 1957 he was transferred to the Fairfield parish and Father Cunningham of that parish took over St. Anne's, Bondi Beach.

### **ST. PATRICK'S, BONDI ROAD**

In 1917, the old St. Joseph's convent which had been replaced by a new convent in Wellington Street was used as a temporary church for the parishioners in the Bondi Road area. The first Mass was celebrated there in April, 1917. Father Fitzpatrick had purchased a portion of the land owned by the Sisters of St.

Joseph and erected thereon a new school-church, called St. Patrick's. The foundation stone of this school-church was blessed and laid by Archbishop Kelly on March 17, 1918, and opened the following year. This was used for about ten years when the last big work of Father Fitzpatrick, namely, the building of a new St. Patrick's Church, was well in hand. The foundation of this new church was blessed and laid by Archbishop Kelly on August 18, 1929. The old convent building, which had stood on the site for 36 years, was demolished to make way for the new Church which was opened in 1930.



*St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Wellington Street and Bondi Road.*  
(Photo.: C. Cameron)

Father Fitzpatrick died in 1938 after 24 years' service in developing the Catholic Faith in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney. He was succeeded by the late Right Rev. Monsignor McElligott. After him came Monsignor Galvin who was recently appointed as Parish Priest. The latter had, some years previously, been a Curate in the Parish.

### **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, ARDEN STREET, CLOVELLY**

This Church was actually built by the Franciscans of Waverley, but in 1917 it was created a separate Parish under the charge of the late Monsignor Peoples. (This church is not in the Municipality of Waverley.)

### **ST. THERESE, DOVER HEIGHTS**

The Church of St. Therese has an interesting origin. It is a memorial Church erected to the memory of prisoners of war of the infamous Changi Camp. In



*St. Therese Catholic Church and Presbytery, Dover Heights.*

*(Photo.: C. Cameron)*

that camp a Sydney Priest built an improvised chapel from mud and any other material available. He vowed that if ever the opportunity came he would build a church which would be a fitting memorial to his comrades who died in that sector of World War II. Their memorial is the Church of St. Therese in Napier Street, Dover Heights, the foundation stone of which was laid by Bishop Carroll on May 20, 1956. It was estimated to cost £43,000 when completed. The building of the church has had a military flavour. Working on the church was Father Sexton himself, a fellow prisoner of war Mr. Reg Napper and the architect, Mr. John Hall, B.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., A.R.A.L.A.; winner of the D.F.C. while serving with the R.A.A.F. in World War II. Great encouragement to the project has also been given Father Sexton by old comrades of Changi Camp and others who worked on the Burma-Thailand Railway.

The church was blessed and opened by His Eminence Cardinal Gilroy in 1957. With the altar

at the east the Church is cruciform in plan, the sanctuary with side altar transepts forming the top arms of the cross, and the nave forming the remainder. A huge aluminium cross backed by a pentagonal window is a dominant feature above the door, whilst aluminium lamps and a stone statue of Saint Therese, to be placed on a carved corbel in the adjoining niche, will complete the composition.

Internal walls throughout are brickwork of the same cross-patterned bond as the exterior in blended honey-coloured tones.

The church seats about 420 people in comfort, and additional space is provided for increased attendances at missions and special occasions. The building contractors were L. G. Price Pty. Ltd.

The church is surmounted by a tower rising to 340 feet above sea level. It is visible from far out to sea and from many parts of Sydney. St. Therese Church will be a lasting monument to the men who died in the war under most inhuman circumstances.

# EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

## *Public Schools*

Education of children in the Municipality of Waverley was at first provided under a scheme controlled by a Board of National Education created by the Government in 1848. The scheme embraced two classes of schools, namely, National and Denominational — the latter being partly supported by Government aid. This control of education operated until it was replaced by the Public Schools Act of 1866 under the control of a Council of Education comprising five members. Up to this period and for about thirteen years later the education of the children in Waverley was carried out by the denominational schools of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England and the Presbyterian Church.

### **WAVERLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL, BRONTE ROAD**

The proposal for the establishment of a public school at Waverley originated by a resolution in the Waverley Borough Council on May 4, 1875. It was moved by the Mayor, Alderman Macpherson and seconded by Alderman Watkins that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Public Instruction requesting the erection of a public school at Waverley. This was followed by a deputation, comprising the Rev. J. C. Kirby, Mr. Macpherson (the Mayor) and Alderman Newman, to the Minister for Public Instruction, the Hon. Joseph Docker, concerning the desirability of the building of the school. The deputation guaranteed an attendance of 200 pupils from the opening of the school, although there were three denominational schools in the district.

Apparently the deputation was not successful at first for the Borough Council was later advised that the decision regarding the public school at Waverley was not to be regarded as final, as their claims would not be overlooked. However, after considerable delay the Borough Council was advised in October, 1877, that tenders had been called for the building of the Waverley Public School. It was over 12 months before the school was ready for occupation. The official opening of the school took place on January 13, 1879. Prior to that date education was provided for the children of Waverley by three denominational schools — Church of England, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic. The Waverley first school building was

erected on a site containing 1 acre, 2 roods, 8 perches, which had been acquired from Messrs. Walker and Richardson. The contractors were Messrs. Usher and Fischer. The school was opened under the headmastership of Mr. D. W. Harrison who had been previously in charge of the Presbyterian school in Grosvenor Street, Bondi Junction, for about 10 years. There was an attendance of 95 pupils on the opening day of the school and the enrolment for the first year was 210. One of the first boys to pass through the front gate as a pupil of the new Waverley School was the late Major Johnston — one-time manager of the Commonwealth Savings Bank at Bondi Junction. He tells us that there was a big number of boys waiting at the front gate when Mr. Harrison tried to unlock it. He was so hustled by the boys, each wanting to be the first in, that he got annoyed. Johnston was the first to get in accompanied by a cut of the cane. Harrison proved to be a strict disciplinarian. Most of the boys had come from the Presbyterian school at Grosvenor Street, where Mr. Harrison had taught until it closed when the Waverley Public School was opened. Johnston also reminds us of some interesting incidents about the Waverley School. The most interesting, described in the "Sunday News," March 22, 1925, is as follows:— "The school fence at the rear did not in those days as now reach to the edge of the gully. The intervening space was the recognized battle ground where all the fights took place . . . One classic fight was between Bill Lusty and Billy Cansdell. All the boys were there and the girls looked on, perched on the fence. The outcome was more disastrous to the onlookers than to the boxers, because one of the girls, peeping through the fence, recorded on a slate the names of the boys present, which was duly presented to the headmaster who rejoiced in the nickname of "Ginger." As the names were called out the boys lined up in the classroom . . . the two fighters stood apart from the rest for special attention. The master began to hand out 'sixers' to the rest. Because the girls were looking on the boys took the cuts without a whimper. This annoyed Mr. Harrison who began to lay it out on their legs and shoulders. By this time the girls were worked up to a pitch bordering on hysteria. Some were crying and others were telling the master what they thought of him until at last the storm broke. The

girls flew with one accord at the girl who supplied the names, pulled her hair and nearly tore the clothes from her. The school was in an uproar. Inkpots were flying round, slates smashed and forms overturned. There was general confusion. All made a dash for the open. The boys 'wagged' for the rest of the day and the girls spent the afternoon in the playground. The next day school was resumed as usual and nothing more was said of the incident . . ." "Bobbies and Bushrangers" in the scrub was the game generally played in the early days by the boys.

About this time an offer was made to the Board of Education of about 1 acre of land, adjoining the school site, for £900 by Mr. J.



*Waverley Public School, Bronte Road.*  
(Photo.: C. Cameron)

Robbins. Unfortunately, it was declined, as it was thought at the time that so much land was not required. Later, in 1882, it was found necessary to enlarge the existing site, and a block of land containing 1 rood 32 perches, was resumed at a cost of £884/12/-. The increased attendance in 1883 rendered necessary the provision of a separate girls' department and new premises were erected at a cost of £4,500. Further additions were made in 1889 when new classrooms to accommodate 200 pupils were constructed. Requests to the authorities for improvement of the neglected state of the school site and playground met with no success. The residents then decided to hold a three-days' bazaar in December, 1889, to raise money for the improvements to be made to the grounds. It was most successful.

In a report dated 1891, Messrs. Allpress and Dawson, who were inspecting schools in the district at the time, commented favourably on the attractive appearance of Waverley Public School with its "Trees and flower borders." No doubt this was the result of the people's bazaar previously referred to. The playing area was enlarged by 6,100 sq. ft. about 1912 by filling in portion of a gully at the rear of the school and erecting a retaining wall. This work cost £617. The remodelling of the school and residence was completed in 1913 at a cost exceeding £4,000, and the over-crowding at the school was temporarily relieved.

It was not long before the need of further accommodation was felt but, owing to the shortage of funds nothing could be done beyond the preparation of plans, and the provision of temporary portable classrooms. Tenders for the work were invited in April, 1923, and that of Mr. G. Hogden for £11,169/15/7 was accepted. The final cost was £11,717. The work consisted of extensive additions and remodelling to the Boys' School building. An additional storey was added and the building now contained eighteen class rooms, four staircase exits, Headmaster's room, three staff rooms and necessary store and hatroom accommodation. The building was constructed of brick, having fireproof floors to all first floor class rooms, and the building roofed with fibro cement slates and bituminous flatroofing to flat roofs. The plans and specifications were prepared by the architect to the Department of Education.

Over the period of about eighty years of the school's operations there have been ten headmasters, namely, Messrs. D. W. Harrison, D. Ferguson, L. M. Price, W. V. Brown, H. J. Bennett, D. Laney, C. Jay, Donald Taylor and K. Iverach. During Taylor's headmastership the school was regarded as a Class 1 and was responsible for the change of classrooms, no longer wanted, into an Assembly Hall for the school. Mr. Taylor in 1954 became President of the N.S.W. Teachers' Federation. Improvements in the hall were later carried out by Mr. Iverach with the assistance of the Parents and Citizens' Association. A dental and medical clinic is his next objective.

In the scholastic field the school supplies a goodly percentage of students to Sydney Girls' High School, Sydney Boys' High and Randwick Boys' High School and of recent years, also, to the Dover Heights Home Science High School.

It might be mentioned that one of the earliest successes of the pupils of Waverley School was achieved in the International Exhibition of 1879 when, in the Public School Awards the following Waverley pupils were successful in the Needlework Section:—

A. Frith, 12 years, 2nd Prize; A. Dickson, 14 years, 3rd Prize; M. Allen, 15 years, 3rd Prize and E. Allen, 7 years, 3rd Prize. (vide "Sydney Mail," May 22, 1880).

Mention of the lady teachers of the early days of Waverley School brings to mind the names of Misses Lachlan, Annie Gibson, Hooper and later McInnes.

#### **WAVERLEY PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION**

It is not clear when the Parents and Citizens' Association of Waverley Public School was formed. It does appear, however, that there was a body of residents interested in the improvement of the school as

early as 1889. In that year the school ground had become so neglected in appearance that the residents decided to raise money for its improvement. None could be obtained from the Department for that purpose. A Bazaar was held at the school and sufficient money was raised to effect some improvement of the playground and school generally. This would be one of the earliest records of parents and citizens' assistance to a public school.

We do know that in 1925 the Parents and Citizens' Association was actively engaged under the presidency of Mr. E. J. Martin, with Mr. E. H. Howard as Secretary. An amount of £350 was raised by the Association in 1924 for books and equipment for the school. This apparently coincided with the opening of the newly-constructed Waverley School. The Association was also responsible at this time for the provision of two new basket ball fields in Queen's Park for the girls.

Energetic officers of the Association have been unsparing in their time and efforts to make their own period one of the best for the school. During World War II the nature of the meetings underwent a change. The necessity of daytime meetings arose owing to lighting restrictions at night. As a result, the mothers of the children have more or less taken over from the men with excellent and happy achievements. The death of Mrs. M. Willington in March, 1958, was a serious loss to the Association.

The activities at present are under the control of Mrs. D. Lees, President with Mrs. E. Cruickshank as Hon. Secretary and Mrs. P. Wimborne as Hon. Treasurer. These are assisted by Mrs. J. Tucker and Mrs. M. Reid as vice-Presidents.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday in each month and anyone interested in the school, whether parent or citizen, is always welcome.

#### **BONDI CENTRAL JUNIOR TECHNICAL SCHOOL, WELLINGTON STREET, BONDI.**

An application for a school at Bondi was made to the Department of Public Instruction on 4th May, 1880, and was approved by the first Minister for Education, Sir John Robertson. The first part of the present site was purchased in 1881, at a cost of £500, and comprised an area of 3 roods, 17½ perches. On this site a school building providing accommodation for 180 pupils was erected at a cost of £3,373. The school and a teacher's residence were ready for occupation in March, 1883. The first teacher was Mr. Fred Campbell, a young married man who had formerly been a teacher in a denominational school. He was assisted by one pupil teacher, Miss Ellen Woodlark. The first week's enrolment was 66 pupils; this number had grown to 89 after the school had been in operation for a month. The history of the

school in its first fifty years featured a steady, and at many times embarrassing, growth in enrolments. A report in the archives of the Department of Education refers to Arbor Day tree planting ceremonies at the school as early as 1890. On a similar occasion in 1892 one of Sydney's newspapers had this to say:—



*Bondi Central Junior Technical School,  
Wellington Street.*

*(Photo.: G. Cameron)*

"At the conclusion of the tree planting, refreshments were served round to the scholars and visitors. The inadequacy of school accommodation was spoken of by members of the Board (i.e. local School Board) during the afternoon. It was stated that the ordinary pupils number 230 and the whole school accommodation consisted of two rooms, one 48' x 25' and the other 14' x 18'. Into this latter room had to be crowded 80 infants every day, the result being that the little ones often suffered much. The hope was expressed that greater accommodation would be provided shortly."

Additional accommodation in the form of an enlargement to the original school building was provided in 1893. This was designed for a further 150 pupils, and cost £1,233. In 1897, Mr. Campbell was replaced as teacher-in-charge by Mr. William Small. In one way the next two years were unfortunate ones for the school in that there was a considerable amount of illness among the staff. The children were affected, too. It was reported early in 1899 that "the classes were thinner" owing to "sickness, the Plague Scare, wet weather . . ." An advance in the school's facilities was made in the same year. The playground which had formerly been "in a very rough state . . . consisting of loose stones and sand" was paved at a cost of £178. The Headmaster, Mr. Small, was very ill during the year and in June, 1902, Mr. George Bolus was

appointed to the school in his place. The rapidly increasing numbers at the school and the very effective work of Mr. Bolus and his staff resulted in Bondi Public School being proclaimed a Superior Public School in 1904. In July of the same year (1904), the Rev. R. Noake, a local Church of England clergyman, acting on behalf of a number of local residents, made application to the Department of Public Instruction for an Evening Public School at Bondi. The District Inspector, Mr. Black, in August, 1904, commented:—

“A meeting of those interested in the establishment of an Evening School at Bondi was held in the public school at that place on the evening of the 3rd inst. (July 1904) when all the intending pupils whose names were on the petition . . . were present as well as four others who had not signed the petition. In addition some of the parents also attended. All promised that every effort would be made to prevent the attendance diminishing and that trouble would be taken to render the existence of the school well-known and to increase its popularity.”

The school was established and Mr. Bolus was appointed as the teacher. However, this evening school closed on 30th June, 1906 for want of attendance. During 1904 the girls' weather-shed in the school playground was enclosed for teaching purposes, as the smallest class at the school contained more than 50 pupils, and was taught in a room 18' x 12'. A request for the establishment of a separate girls' department at the school was made successfully in 1905, for there were then 274 boys and 226 girls attending the school. Letters from members of the School Board, the Mayor of Waverley, local clergy and the Postmaster at Bondi, were sent to the local member in support of a plan for a girls' department. The Headmaster's reasons for the re-organization were given in full in a letter written in April, 1905, with the result that the girls' department was established under Miss Edith Fisher as mistress. In 1907 an area of one rood 15 perches, purchased from M. A. Hayman for £575, provided a northern extension of the school site. This land measured 100' x 15' and was preferred to a more level site of somewhat larger dimensions being auctioned at this time exactly opposite the existing school building.

The staff had increased in a few years from 5 to 14 members. Because of urgently needed increased accommodation a plan to raise the school building another storey was decided upon. This was designed to provide five more classrooms and required the abolition of one ground floor classroom to provide two access staircases. It was estimated that, when complete, the enlarged school would be able to accommodate 553 pupils. The cost was £3,000. Work began in July, 1907, and while the alterations were being made lessons were held in temporary premises. The



*Additional buildings on Central School site for boys. (Photo.: C. Cameron)*

girls' department was housed in the St. Matthew's Church of England Hall and the boys' department in the Methodist Church Hall. Two weather sheds in the playground were also occupied by classes. As it eventuated, some of these "temporary" premises were used by the school for twenty years. The enlarged school was re-opened on 16th March, 1908.

As the number of children attending the school continued to increase, in 1909, two more weather sheds had to be enclosed and used as classrooms. Planning for a new building of six classrooms for boys (now the infants' department) was commenced. The new school building cost £4,000 and was occupied by boys' classes in October, 1912. In the meantime the Methodist Hall near the school had had to be rented for 25/- a week for the use of some infants' classes. A separate infants' department had been established in 1911 with Miss Elsie Stephens as the first Mistress. The school now had three departments.

Mr. Bolus, the Headmaster, was very anxious to have equipment for manual training and science teaching at the school, despite accommodation difficulties. Makeshift accommodation in an enclosed weather shed was used.

The enrolment in 1913 rose to more than 1,200. There were 437 boys, 365 girls and 405 infants pupils. The Headmaster pointed out that ten more rooms were urgently required because:— (1) all suitable buildings near the school were rented; (2) long before the new buildings would be ready available accommodation would be sorely taxed and (3) the rent and expenses occasioned by temporary classrooms amounted to £4 per week.

A new boys' school on the southern border of the school site where the school residence had formerly been located was completed on 10th December, 1916 at a cost of £6,600 and was officially opened by the Hon. A. G. James, M.L.A., Minister for Education,

on 21st June, 1917. In March, 1922, a large verandah in the original school building was enclosed to form a room for assemblies. This room was subsequently used as a classroom and is now the school library. Mr. Bolus, who had been Headmaster of the school since 1902, died on 15th June, 1925. He had been a teacher with the Department of Education since November, 1890. Mr. A. E. Reay was the next Principal. In 1927, a property adjoining the northern end of the school site was purchased from Mrs. Emily Kean for the sum of £1,750. During 1928, the tender of Mr. L. Pither for the erection of additional accommodation was accepted, and on February 2, 1929, work commenced on a building of three storeys to contain manual training rooms, science rooms and classrooms. This building was opened by the Minister for Education in September of that year and was occupied by pupils on October 2 of the same year. A residence at the northern end of the school grounds was converted into a domestic science block in 1931. Verandahs of the boys' school (the building opened in 1917) which had been used as open air classrooms since about 1920 were reported to be unsatisfactory as the exits from the top storey were through these verandahs. New exits to by-pass the verandahs were therefore installed, but it is thought that these verandahs, although being used as classrooms, were not glassed-in before 1932.

The 1930's saw the end of a period of rapidly increasing school population at Bondi, although accommodation at the school remained at a premium. The number of pupils in attendance was maintained at a high level, with large numbers of post-primary girls and boys until the first portion of Dover Heights Home Science School was opened in 1946.

The enrolments of the school in 1957 were as follows:— Secondary boys—415, Primary boys—182, Primary girls—195, infants—280. Total, 1,072. Headmasters since the school opened in 1883 have been as follows:— Fred Campbell—March, 1883; William Small—1897; George Bolus—May, 1902; A. E. Reay—June, 1925; John Faulks—January, 1929; James Henry—January, 1931; Bernard Reilly—January, 1937; Arthur Cooper—January, 1939; George Madgwick—January, 1947; Cecil Foley—January, 1952; John Nicholls—February, 1954; George Madgwick—February, 1955.

The assistance of Mr. Phillip Jones, Senior Research Officer of the Department of Education is hereby acknowledged for much of this historical data.

#### **MILL HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE, EBLEY ST.**

In December, 1888 a deputation from the Municipal Council of Waverley waited on the Minister for Public Instruction regarding the establishment of a

public school at Mill Hill. About three months later Council was informed that it was proposed to establish a school, but it was to be for infants only. The site chosen was at the corner of Ebley and Newland streets, the land at this time being owned by the Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage Board. Some delay occurred, however, before transfer was effected to the Department of Public Instruction.

In February, 1891, it was then decided by the Department to leave the erection of the school in abeyance. Seven months later the Minister promised Council that the building of the school would proceed. A similar assurance was given to Council the following year. That is now over 65 years ago and the school has not yet been built and never will because it is now Clementson Park and is occupied by the Waverley Day Nursery School under lease at £1 per annum. The site comprises 2 acres. It was proposed in 1915 that the site should be used for a Technical High School at Waverley, but that idea was abandoned.

#### **CLOVELLY PUBLIC SCHOOL, ARDEN STREET**

The site of the present Clovelly Public School forms part of land purchased by R. G. Massie in the 1850's. The school occupies the site of R. G. Massie's old mansion called "Chesterfield" later lived in by John Macpherson, ex-Alderman and Mayor of Waverley Council in the 1870's and 1880's. Its main entrance was Arden Street. A school was first suggested in 1889, but nothing was done at the time.



*Clovelly Public School, Arden Street.*

The first official application was made for a Public School at Little Coogee, now Clovelly, as early as May, 1891, but was declined on the grounds that Randwick and Waverley public schools sufficiently met the educational requirements of the district. A renewal of the application in 1895 was more successful, however, and the establishment of an infants' school was approved by Mr. John Garrard, then Minister of Education. The school was opened on 30th April, 1897, by Miss E. McDonnell and the attendance for the first month was 82. The school premises belonged to the Church of England authorities and

were rented by the Department. In 1909 it was decided to transfer the school to a more central position and convert it to a primary school to meet more satisfactorily the growing demand of the district.

Accordingly, the first section of the present site was acquired, being purchased from the A.M.P. Society at a cost of £1,000, the area of the land being 1 acre 1 rood 20 $\frac{1}{4}$  perches. On this land the school building was erected, being completed about the end of 1912, at a cost of £6,986. Mr. Robert Taylor was appointed as Headmaster at the beginning of 1913.

The name of Little Coozee Public School was changed to Clovelly on August 26, 1915.

Clovelly has advanced in line with other popular seaside suburbs of Sydney, and the continually growing population has constantly created a demand for extra accommodation at the school. A further area of land was resumed for school purposes in 1913, the area on this occasion being 1 acre 0 rood 21 $\frac{3}{4}$  perches, making the total area of the site 2 acres 2 roods 2 perches. The cost of resumption of the second piece of land was £1,584. In 1916, plans were prepared for a new building to accommodate 288 primary pupils to be erected opposite the existing building. Owing to the financial stringency due to war conditions during the following years, however, the building was not completed until the end of 1922, and the cost was £8,722. Mr. G. Hogden was the contractor.

The school was then one of two departments—Primary and Infants—but, so rapid has been the progress of the locality that a separate Girls' department was formed at the commencement of 1923, and still further accommodation became necessary shortly after the occupation of the new additions. The school was promoted from 3rd to 2nd Class on 1st January 1924, and on 10th April, following, it was reported by the Clovelly Parents & Citizens' Association that the "attendance capacity of the School had reached its limit." In reporting on the need for more accommodation, Mr. Inspector W. E. Black recommended the addition of 8 classrooms for Infants. Plans and specifications were prepared for the additions in September, 1925, and the Minister approved of tenders being invited on 2nd December following. The tender of Mr. J. Manser was accepted and the work completed.

The additional accommodation at Clovelly Public School consisted of a new building for infants, facing Inverness Street. It is a two-storey building having accommodation for approximately 450 children.

The building is constructed of brick on concrete footings and the roofs are covered with fibrous slates. The central classrooms on both floors are divided from the Assembly Hall by folding doors which, when open, will form a spacious assembly area. Special attention has been given to lighting, heating and ventilation.

The whole of the playing area with the exception of border plantations is tar-paved, and the brick dwarf

wall is surmounted by picket fencing. Plans and specifications were prepared by the Departmental Architect, and the cost of the work was about £7,682.

Mr. Robert Taylor was in charge of Clovelly from January, 1913 until he was relieved by Mr. Thomas Stafford on 10th December, 1917. Mr. A. W. Pattinson succeeded Mr. Stafford in October, 1920. Then followed James Henry, in 1948; William Morris, in June 1929; H. Warden, in 1931; Leopold Cumming, in August 1943; William McKee, in 1944; Fred Dibley, in 1949 and Rolfe Dunn in June 1953.

Important repairs and painting of the school were carried out in 1930 at a cost of £950. This work was done under the Unemployment Relief Scheme which was operating on account of the economic depression then existing.

### CLOVELLY PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

Let us now refer to the Clovelly Parents and Citizens' Association which has rendered most valuable assistance to the Clovelly Public School. This Association was founded in the year 1921 and was intended to promote the interests of the school by bringing parents, pupils and teaching staff into closer co-operation to assist in providing desirable aids to teaching, such as library books, pictures and other useful equipment not usually supplied in sufficient quantities by the Department of Education. With the growth of child population within the Clovelly Public School area, further accommodation for pupils became necessary and the combined efforts of the Parents and Citizens' Association, the Waverley and Randwick municipal councils were successful in inducing the Department of Education to erect a Boys' School in 1921-22 and an Infants' School in 1927.

The staff and pupils of this school have benefited enormously through the Association's steadfast work from those early times. The Infants' School was greatly improved by the addition of a first class stage erected in their Assembly Hall complete with heavy curtains, back drapes and piano. Of recent times parents and friends have enjoyed many entertainments on this stage, and it is a great asset to the school in general. Another instance of its activity was shown when a special appeal was launched in the year 1944 to raise funds for the purpose of installing a complete radio equipment throughout the boys' and girls' schools, at an estimated cost of £150. During the year 1950 a long overdue objective was obtained by the installation of modern visual equipment in the shape of a projector. Other equipment of great benefit to the school purchased about this time were a duplicator and pictures to brighten the otherwise drab classrooms, and many books for use in the school library.

One of the most urgent needs at present felt in the Primary Departments of the school is an Assembly Hall, and through the combined efforts of the Association, Waverley and Randwick councils, and many generous public-minded citizens, this now promises to be an accomplished act in the very near future, at a cost of £6,000.

The Association, with the help of its many supporters, has made great progress since 1921. It is believed that the Assembly Hall will have a tremendous influence for good in curbing teenage delinquency which is apt to flare up if young people are at a loose end for somewhere to go or something to do.

We are grateful to Mrs. T. Field, the Hon. Secretary of the Association for supplying most of the record of the Association's work.

### **NORTH BONDI PUBLIC SCHOOL, CAMPBELL PARADE**

Owing to the overcrowded state of the Bondi Public School about the period of 1915 it was strongly felt that another school was needed in the Bondi district to serve the Bondi Beach area. In December, 1916, a site was secured at a cost of £250.



*North Bondi Public School, Bondi Beach.*

In response to urgent appeals by the Bondi Beach North Progress Association and the Bondi Vigilance Association for the school to be erected, the then Minister of Education, Mr. Augustus James, visited the site and decided that, in view of the probable cost of filling in the land, it would be better to wait until a more suitable site were secured. In 1918 another site was submitted for approval, but this was also regarded as unsuitable. As the need for the school was becoming still more urgent, it was decided to proceed with the erection of the building on the original site, and plans and specifications were prepared accordingly. The filling in of the site was authorised on July 2, 1919, and the work was finally completed on September 17, 1920, at a cost of £5,531. More delay with regard to the erection of the building was then experienced owing to lack of funds.

During these years land had increased considerably in value, and when all was ready to proceed with the building the Minister, the Hon. T. D. Mutch, decided that the school should not be built on land worth forty or fifty pounds per foot. Moreover, there was a certain amount of local opposition to the school being erected on the site selected. Another proposed site was visited by the Minister with a view to having the school built thereon, but it was estimated that it would cost at least £4,500 to level this land. More delay was occasioned until the Minister reviewed the whole situation and was convinced that the necessity for the school was probably the most urgent in the State and decided that the building should be erected without further delay on the site originally selected and prepared. The additional cost of repairing this site due to non-occupation was £500. The building erected was a two-storied structure of modern type, carried out in brick on concrete foundations, with darker brick and stone dressings, and with a spacious stone portico at main entrance. It was roofed with asbestos cement shingles, and the upper floor and staircases were of reinforced concrete. The building accommodated about 450 pupils, distributed over nine classrooms. An assembly verandah 70 feet by 25 feet had been provided on the ground floor and an assembly balcony 58 feet 6 inches by 25 feet on the first floor. The building also contained Headmaster's and Staff rooms, corridors, hatrooms, stores and two staircases. The infants' classrooms were fitted with continuous free-arm blackboards. The subsidiary buildings which completed the scheme included two large pavilion playsheds and lavatories and the usual sanitary accommodation for both sexes. The plans and specifications were prepared by the Departmental Architect, and the work was carried out by the constructor of Government buildings at a cost of about £13,120. It was officially opened July 21, 1923, by the Hon. A. Bruntnell, M.L.A., Minister for Education.

Because of the need of further accommodation a new wing was added to the school in 1932 and a prefabricated unit containing two rooms erected in 1954.

The greatest peak of enrolments at the school was reached in 1937 with a total of 1,450 pupils. From then there has been a general decline to 1,110 in the year 1947, and 1,060 in 1957. Mr. H. W. Brown was Headmaster from 1923 to 1932. He was followed by Messrs. A. Hall, S. Callaghan, H. D. Long, R. D. Hunt and D. W. McQualter in 1952. D. Hogg has been a member of the staff for more than 25 years.

The school has a record almost unequalled by any primary school in the State in athletics and swimming. Notables in the latter sport were Pam Singleton, Pat Norton and Garry Winram.

## **BONDI BEACH PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION**

The Bondi Beach Parents and Citizens' Association was formed shortly after the North Bondi Public School was opened in July 1923, at the time when Mr. Brown was headmaster. The purpose of the Association was to provide amenities necessary for furthering the education of the children at the school. This Association has progressed from small beginnings to a membership of many hundreds of enthusiastic parents who work in perfect harmony with the teachers and the Infants' Mothers' Club which also works for the Infants' School. During the last fourteen years Mrs. Hugh Bamford has been untiring in her efforts to help the school children. Her husband, Mr. Hugh Bamford, who had been President of the Association since 1942, died on October 28, 1958. His death was a great blow to this organisation. The Association recognises the assistance given by the Waverley Council and the Bondi Progress Association which has contributed to the smooth running of the Association. Over the years the Association has expended many hundreds of pounds annually in providing books, seating accommodation, necessary repairs, playground improvements, visual educational needs, sporting equipment and pictures for the children. This work has made the North Bondi Public School at the beach one of the best equipped in New South Wales.

### **NORTH BONDI INFANTS' SCHOOL (WARNER'S AVENUE) MOTHERS' CLUB**

This Club was formed by Miss Young, then Headmistress of the North Bondi Infants' School in 1948. On March 15, of that year, Miss Young brought together a band of mothers of the children at the school with the intention of raising funds to help the purchase of amenities for the children and so make their life at the school happy and contented.

The Club was formed with Mrs. A. E. Fellows as President; Mrs. R. Sams, Hon. Secretary; and Mrs. D. Murphy, Hon. Treasurer. They might be called the first builders of the movement. The Club felt that the school was in such a beautiful setting beside the blue Pacific that the amenities should be in harmony with the school's surroundings. Today this school, by the efforts of the Mothers' Club, is completely furnished and many extras added which have given pleasure to the infants. Nothing is achieved easily and without some sacrifice. The Mothers' Club, with the help of the teachers and the then Mistress, Miss D. Howie, had accomplished much more than was envisaged in its first years. It is hoped that the children who pass through this school will remember with pleasure the days spent at the Infants' School and those who tried to make their school days happier.

## **DOVER HEIGHTS HOME SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, HARDY STREET**

The above school was commenced during World War II and completed in 1947. There was a sharp difference of opinion between the Department of Education and the Waverley Council as to the site on which this school should be built—the latter favouring an available site in Ebley Street, Bondi Junction. For several reasons the Education Department was satisfied that the Hardy Street site was preferable. The school is believed to be one of the most modern in New South Wales. Its spacious Assembly Hall is capable of seating 1,000 students. Its well-lighted class rooms, parquet floors, modern kitchens, change and fitting rooms and large library make all that could be desired as a home science school.

When Miss Williams, the first Headmistress, took charge, the last wing of the school was not finished. Miss Williams brought with her 460 girls from the Bondi School in Wellington Street, in September, 1944. Success came to the school two years later when the Leaving Certificate candidates gained an almost 100% pass. Although the school had been in operation for a considerable time it was not officially opened by Mr. Heffron, the Minister for Education, until September 17, 1947, when it was proclaimed a High School.

Since then the enrolment has increased from 634 to 1,090. Students for the "home science" and commercial courses come from all parts of the Eastern Suburbs. Joy Russell was the School's first Captain, Doreen James the first to obtain a University Degree and Miss Adelina Agbayani a Philippine student, the first to gain an M.A. degree at the University of Sydney. Students of the school in Lorna Mackenzie and Gwen Wallace took part in the Empire Games in athletics; and Pam Singleton, an ex-student, captained the Australian Women's Olympic swimming team at the Melbourne Games in 1956.

After a long and distinguished educational career Miss Williams retired in December 1953. Her place was taken by Miss Payn who very kindly supplied most of the information concerning the school. Not only did Miss Williams, with the help of the staff and students, provide the school with many material benefits, but by her forceful leadership laid the foundation of the school's tradition on which those who succeed her will be proud to build.

### **BONDI-WAVERLEY EVENING COLLEGE, WELLINGTON STREET**

The establishment of the Bondi-Waverley Evening College seems to have had its origin in a visit by G. L. Taylor, B.A., to the Mayor of Waverley Municipality, Mr. C. A. Jeppesen, early in 1954. The

lack of such an Evening College in the district had been the concern of a number of experienced teachers and others for some time. In March, 1954, the Mayor called a public meeting to consider the establishment of an evening college. This meeting was addressed by Mr. R. Healey and Mr. G. L. Taylor. The speakers outlined the nature of, and work achieved by such colleges. A committee was elected to discover the needs of the community of which Alderman Jeppesen was the Chairman. More than 900 persons were interested in attending the proposed courses. The committee then petitioned the Minister for Education for the establishment of the evening college at the Central School, Wellington Street, Bondi. This was agreed to and Mr. G. L. Taylor was appointed the first Principal of the Evening College. He was assisted by Mr. and Mrs. D. M. McGrath, Miss Horan and Miss Gammel.

The College opened on June 16, 1954, under trying conditions and poor lighting. A branch of the College was conducted in the well-equipped Home Science High School at Dover Heights. A grant of £500 was made to the College for the purchasing of equipment in Wellington Street. After the College commenced operations in June, 1954, the official opening took place on August 16, 1954, by the Assistant Director of Education, Mr. T. R. M. Sloane. About 450 people attended the function which was held in the Methodist Hall, Wellington Street.

In 1955 a new lighting system was installed in the lower floor of the building by Mr. Price. Considerable progress was made by the school and in August each year there has been a display of the students' work, which was of considerable merit. Amongst those who contributed greatly to the early success of the College may be mentioned Mr. Dooley and Mrs. Crane who organised the College Library, Mrs. G. de Lanoue, Miss Y. Yeomans, Miss J. Howard, Miss D. Payn, Headmistress of the Dover Heights Home Science High School, Mr. J. J. Nichols, and Mr. G. E. Madgwick. At its peak the Evening College had 1000 persons in forty classes attending each week.

The introduction of fees caused a drop in the membership, but this is gradually being overtaken. As Mr. G. L. Taylor said, "This Evening College caters for the vast army of adults who wish to spend their leisure time acquiring a skill, developing a talent, or finding a satisfying means of self-expression —."

The Bondi-Waverley Evening College stands as a tribute to those who worked so hard for its formation and will always be something of great value in the Municipality.



*Bronte Public School, Hewlett and Murray streets.*  
(Photo: C. Cameron.)

### **BRONTE PUBLIC SCHOOL, HEWLETT AND MURRAY STREETS**

Although public schools had been operating at Bondi and Clovelly for some years, it was felt by a number of people that the area near Bronte was not adequately provided for by the educational authorities. As a consequence a deputation of citizens representing the Waverley Municipal Council and the Bronte-Waverley Progress Association waited on the Minister for Education, Mr. A. Bruntnell, in July, 1922, seeking the provision of a school between Clovelly and Bondi public schools. Four months later, October 13, the Minister approved of the establishment of an infants' school on a block of land at the corner of Hewlett and Murray streets in February, 1923, for the school in question. A two-storey brick building of six rooms was built on the site at a cost of about £9000. The school opened on January 24, 1927, with 19 boys and 22 girls. By the end of the year the numbers had increased to 69 boys and 71 girls embracing three infants' classes. Some 10 years later the school became a primary school. In 1950 an additional portable classroom was found necessary to cope with increasing attendances. Records show that the appointments of those in charge of the school were as follows: May, 1927, Miss M. Rubie; May, 1937, Miss O. Scofield; 1938-40, Mr. T. Murray; 1941-45, Mr. F. Dibley; 1946-51, Mr. C. Carter; 1952-57, Mr. C. Hunt; 1958—, R. S. Levy.

Let us now refer to an organization which has rendered valuable assistance to this school, namely, the

### **BRONTE PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION**

The Bronte Parents and Citizens' Association seems to have had its origin in the formation of a "Mothers' Club." The mothers felt that something should be done to make the early years of the children at the Bronte Public School happy and comfortable. The Club was in operation some time before 1940

because, in that year, it had set itself the task of supplying everything a school needed, except desks and blackboards. Even, they say, the kindergarten furniture had to be provided by the Club. In 1946, the Mothers' Club became the Bronte Parents and Citizens' Association with a membership of 122.

First President was Mr. E. J. Clear; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. A. Birrell; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. A. Beeby—the latter was still holding the position in September, 1957.

The Association, since its inception, has been responsible for the introduction of a Public Address System, Movie Projector, Piano, Sewing Machine, a Library—fully furnished and equipped with books for the use of the children. The Library has outgrown its original room and needs further space.

No doubt the school's present attractive entrance hall, with rubber flooring and large picture of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, lends an air of graciousness to the school. Events at the school during 1954 and 1955 have been recorded in colour, which adds interest for the pupils. Though the school is now well equipped, the Association will not rest until it has a much-needed Assembly Hall erected. This is its present main objective.

Presidents who succeeded the first President were: Mr. G. Beeby, Mr. A. Howard, Mrs. G. Anscombe and Mr. V. Green. We must thank the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. West, for assistance in this review of the Association to the year 1957.

## *Denominational Schools*

As previously stated under "Educational Institutions" the education of the children of Waverley was carried out by the denominational schools of the Church of England, the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian churches. Consequently the early history of these schools is the story of the beginning of education in Waverley. To these may be added Miss Amelia Hall's private school conducted in Waverley House.

### **ST. CATHERINE'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, ALBION AND MACPHERSON STREETS**

Contemporary with the founding of the North London Collegiate School by Frances Mary Buss in 1850, and the development of Cheltenham College by Dorothea Beale in 1858 (the two great pioneer English schools for girls), St. Catherine's School, Waverley, N.S.W., was founded by Mrs. Barker, wife of the Lord Bishop of Sydney, in 1856, and is said to be the oldest existing girls' school in the Commonwealth of Australia.

In those days, when the Diocese of Sydney meant the whole of New South Wales, and when devoted men of culture and learning were working for the Church in the backblocks, a school was provided for the daughters of these men so that they could obtain a good education under Church influence and at a moderate expense.

The Governor of the Colony, Sir William Denison, and his Lady, aided by generous laymen, supported the plan, and on March 5, 1856, St. Catherine's was opened as the Clergy Daughters' School, at "Thorn Bank" (later "Winchcombe") Point Piper Road (now Ocean Street, Woollahra) with Miss Loftus as Super-

intendent, and six boarders. Seven came soon afterwards.

So far St. Catherine's had no school site of its own, but following an application by Bishop Barker of Sydney, early in 1856, for such a site, the Surveyor General reported:—"The Colonial Secretary having intimated to me in his letter of the 12th July, 1856, that His Excellency the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council had been pleased to approve of the land applied for the Bishop of Sydney . . . as a site for the education of the Daughters of the Clergymen of the Church of England the grant should issue to the Bishop . . ." Instructions were then issued to Surveyor Burrowes of the Surveyor General's Department to survey the land which Burrowes completed on the 16th October, 1856. It contained an area of 3a 2r 3p situated in Frenchmans Road (now Albion Street) and a then unnamed road (later Nelson Road and now Macpherson Street). Adjoining the east side of the school site fronting the last mentioned Street and extending to and along old Coogee Bay Road was a block of 2 acres of land originally set apart for Church of England purposes, one acre for a church and half an acre each for parsonage and school requirements. Apparently the Church of England authorities must have considered the sites then unsuitable and disposed of the land. In 1887 the area was subdivided into allotments and put up for sale in October or November of that year. On a part of this land stands a villa "La Vicompte" which it is understood St. Catherine's has recently acquired as an addition to the school.

The site chosen for St. Catherine's commanded a fine view of the heaving waters of the Pacific on the



*The entrance to the 100-year-old building, St. Catherine's School, corner of Albion and Macpherson streets, Waverley.*  
(Photo.: C. Cameron)

one side, and a wide expanse of country and moorland on the other. The foundation stone of the new building was laid by Bishop Barker on September 15, 1857, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The "Sydney Morning Herald" of September 16, 1857, reported the function and the Bishop's words at the laying as follows:—

"I lay this foundation stone of a school to be called St. Catherine's, intended for the education of the daughters of the Clergy of the United Church of England and Ireland, administered in Australia in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen."

There were about four hundred people present, amongst whom were representatives of the leading families of the Colony, as well as several members of both Houses of the Legislature, Bishop and Mrs. Barker, Sir Daniel and Lady Cooper, the Dean of Sydney, and many leading clergy. St. Catherine's then consisted of seven rooms, as planned—estimated to cost £3,000. It was opened in 1859 with thirteen pupils. Miss Law, selected in England, was the first principal at the new school—appointed in 1860. After twenty-five years of devoted service she was succeeded by Miss Helen Phillips, of Bedford College, London. The girls under her studied for University examinations, and were most successful. Several brilliant passes with medals were recorded. In 1884 it was decided to admit a restricted number of daughters of the laity to St. Catherine's, (at first 20) and an extension was made to the building. A tennis court was also provided, and a detached hospital.

At the annual distribution of prizes it was made the occasion of a public meeting, and the Primate, Dr. Barry, delivered an address on education. We read of scholarships for the daughters of clergy, among them

four given by Sir Edward Knox in 1886 and continued until his death. By 1886 extensive improvements for increased accommodation had been made.

Miss Phillips resigned in 1890 and was succeeded by Miss Darling and Miss Fox. It was on November 11, 1898, that the Old Girls' Union was formed with 94 members. The next Principal was Miss Lenthall, B.A., in 1903, and served the school as Principal for thirty-one years, taking her M.A. in 1926 for the honour of the School. During her term of office the number of daughters of laity steadily increased.

St. Catherine's celebrated its Jubilee in 1906 with an interesting programme of sports in the presence of Miss Rawson, daughter of the Governor, Sir Harry Rawson, the Archbishop of Sydney and the Bishop of Newcastle. It marked fifty years of constant progress. Those were the days when the girls had memories of a shilling a week pocket-money out of which threepence had to be put on the collection plate on Sundays.

In 1912 a hall and four new classrooms were built and opened by Lady Chelmsford. In the following years additions were made for sleeping out accommodation, the ground levelled and provision made for tennis and basket ball areas. Before Miss Lenthall resigned St. Catherine's had taken its place among the other Sydney girls' secondary schools of more recent foundation. The year 1915 saw the beginning of the school's magazine "The Catherineian," sponsored by the Old Girls' Union as "a link between past and present."

In 1934 a new principal, Miss Isabel James, of English birth, education and teaching experience, was appointed from the staff of Havergal College, Toronto, Canada. During 1935-36 the original building was renovated and refurnished, and maids' quarters and the Kindergarten were extended. A new wing comprising new Chapel, three additional schoolrooms, more accommodation for boarders and for staff in residence, was completed, and the old Chapel adapted for use as a science room in 1937.

Miss James, who married Mr. Hall in 1943, continued as Principal until 1947. She was succeeded by Miss Mitchell and then Miss Fitzhardinge, an "Old Girl" of the school. During her term renovations were carried out, two more class rooms added, and a new science laboratory, art room and a new dormitory for children were additional improvements.

In 1954, No. 1 Leichhardt Street, "La Vicompte," once lived in by the Leverriers, of legal fame, was purchased for use as junior classrooms and staff quarters.

Miss D. F. Patterson, B.Sc. became headmistress in 1955 and has already made some transformations.

The year 1956 brought to St. Catherine's the most thrilling event of its history—The Centenary. In March of that year it had reached its 100th birthday. The celebrations commenced at St. Andrew's Cathed-

ral when it was filled to capacity for a Thanksgiving Service conducted by the Primate of Australia, Archbishop Mowll (now deceased). In his address he traced the history of the school for the 100 years of its existence. Many distinguished guests were present, including the oldest "Old Girl" of St. Catherine's, Mrs. Money Penny, who had reached the age of 89 years. It was Mrs. Money Penny who cut the four-tier, 100 lbs. Centenary Cake, ably assisted by the youngest pupil in the school, Judith Hayes. A sumptuous afternoon tea was provided for all the guests and 700 "Old girls" of the school shared in a buffet tea, both being provided by the "Parents and Friends" of St. Catherine's. Numerous other functions, both cultural and sporting, were held during Centenary Week with special references to the memory of the foundress, the late Mrs. Jane Barker.

A recent addition to St. Catherine's School was made by the purchase in 1957 of St. John's, an adjoining property occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Honner. This old home, an imposing two-storey building, was erected about 1891. The residence was officially opened on February 7, 1958, as an addition to "St. Catherine's" and will be used as dormitories for boarders and staff upstairs, and teaching rooms and tuckshop downstairs.

One hundred years have now passed in the life of this school, but St. Catherine's will live on, not as a scholastic institution only, but as a continued embodiment of its first ideal, to send out into the world of womanly effort successive generations of girls inspired and equipped to make their contribution of service to the community, either in the home or in professional life, and to worthily carry on the great British traditions.

### ST. GABRIEL'S SCHOOL, BIRRELL STREET

St. Gabriel's School is conducted by the Sisters of the Church—an Educational and Religious Order of the Church of England with headquarters at Kilburn, London. The school was founded in 1893 in old "Waverley House," Waverley, by the "Kilburn Sisters", as they were called. The old house had been a school for many years before, run by Miss Amelia Hall who died in 1891. It was during the early occupancy of Waverley House by the Kilburn Sisters, actually in October of 1893, that a Garden Fair was held in the house and grounds for the funds of the orphanage which was apparently run by the Sisters. The Fair was opened by Lady Duff, wife of Governor Duff, attended by Captain Fielding, A.D.C. The building and stalls were beautifully decorated for the occasion with various kinds of flowers. Musical entertainment was also provided. Amongst the stall helpers were Miss Duff, Miss Sylvia Darley, Mesdames Hutton, Noyes and Chisholm and Miss Haycock. The fair lasted two days with a nett result of £150. After nearly ten years in

Waverley House, the Sisters had to vacate the old home.

In 1904, the tenancy of Waverley House ended, because it was purchased for demolition and rebuilding purposes. The school was then moved to "Glen Ayr" in Glenmore Road, Paddington. There had been some orphan children in Waverley House before moving, but a home for these was made at Chatswood, and later at Burwood where the work was carried on by a committee under the name of "The Children's Home." In 1912, the Sisters acquired the property "Preston," originally the mansion house of the Cravens. It was officially opened and blessed on September 22 of that year by Bishop Stone-Wigg. Lady Chelmsford was the Patroness of the school. Archbishop Saumarez Smith paid the school a visit on October 18, 1912. Included amongst the many friends of the early school were Archdeacon Spencer, Canon Mort, Lady Darley, Lady Northcote, the Revs. R. McKeown, Garnsey, and Dr. Pritchard. "Preston" was beautifully decorated throughout in ornate Italian style with many crystal windows, lofty ceilings, balcony space and ballroom. With spacious grounds and Waverley Park opposite, it was a delightful setting for a girls' school.

Then came the acquisition in 1914 of John Macpherson's old home, "Glenburnie," on the corner of Birrell Street and Henrietta Street. This contained another ballroom and its grounds extended to Langlee Avenue providing further playing area. The beautiful Chapel in the garden was built in 1919 and consecrated by the Archbishop of Sydney in the presence of Lady Davidson in April of that year. It was erected by the friends of the Community of Sisters to the memory of Sisters Stella and Irene, both of whom had worked with distinction for many years in Sydney. Embedded in the Alms Dish used in the chapel is the silver medal awarded by the Queen to Sister Stella for nursing in the Boer War. The history of the school is enshrined in the "House" system, the pupils being in three houses named after "Kilburn," "Waverley" and "Preston." A Daughter School was established in



*St. Gabriel's School, Birrell Street, Waverley.*

Canberra in 1925 and the Sisters sponsored the parochial school of St. Saviour's at Redfern for some years. Amongst those of the pupils of St. Gabriel's who have achieved success are Phyllis Boissier, O.B.E., a Matron of Prince Alfred Hospital, Fifi Hawthorne, headmistress of Kambala School, and Lois Laurie, B.A., M.B., B.Sc. This was of course the period prior to the Second World War.

In 1941, fears were felt of a possible Japanese invasion of Australia and this fear communicated itself to the parents of the pupils because of the proximity of St. Gabriel's to the coast line. The question of evacuation for a time was discussed and fortunately the Community of the Ascension at Goulburn offered their beautiful home and spacious grounds to St. Gabriel's. This offer they gratefully accepted. They took possession in February, 1942, and gladly remained there until the end of 1942. In February 1943, with the fears of invasion considered over, the school re-opened at St. Gabriel's, with the pupils possibly benefiting by their sojourn in Goulburn. The junior school remained for a further period.

The next big event of St. Gabriel's was the Golden Jubilee of the school, celebrated on August 13, 1944, with grateful thanks for the fifty years of progress. Then came the world wide rejoicings for the declaration of peace in 1945. The schools joined in loyal and joyful demonstrations on the occasion.

An outstanding event in the life of the school was the building of the beautiful Assembly Hall in 1950 and its opening and unveiling of the memorial tablet on December 7 of that year by the Archbishop of Sydney, Archbishop Mowll. A large gathering of parents and friends were present.

To celebrate the Jubilee of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1951, St. Gabriel's held a Commonwealth pageant in its own school grounds and joined in the Secondary Schools' Jubilee Musical Festival held in the Sydney Town Hall.

In April, 1953, the school observed with rejoicing the Diamond Jubilee of St. Gabriel's which was

celebrated with a thanksgiving service, many social gatherings and a Debutants' Ball, the Guest of Honour being Miss Northcott, the daughter of Governor Northcott, to whom the debutants were presented.

During the last 20 years, the Sisters have been greatly assisted by the Parents and Friends' Association and the Old Girls' Union. The work of the school has steadily progressed from Kindergarten to Matriculation and University degrees for many of its pupils, notable being Shirley Shevill, Grace Perry, Judith Hart and Betty Herron. The teaching, nursing and commercial fields have also attracted many St. Gabriel's girls.

And so we come to the year 1959 with the Sisters looking forward with hope and confidence that St. Gabriel's will long carry on its work of Christian education, as embodied in the school motto—*Pro Ecclesia Dei—For the Church of God.*

### THE STORY OF THE POOR CLARES, CARRINGTON AND CHURCH STREETS

We go back to the year 1883 for the beginnings of the convent and schools of the Poor Clares, Waverley. On November 3 of that year a small band of Sisters arrived in Sydney by the S.S. "Cusco." They had been invited here with the approbation of His Grace Archbishop Vaughan, then Archbishop of Sydney. Three of the nuns came from Newry, Ireland, and the other three came from St. Clare's Abbey, Keady. The names of these pioneer Poor Clare Sisters were Mother Mary Antonio Clare O'Hare, Sister Mary Teresa Joseph Lawless, Sister Mary Dominic Clare Cunningham, Sister Mary Aloysius Clare O'Hare, Sister Mary Francisca Sloan, Sister Mary Patrick Murray. Four years later saw the completion of the band of pioneers in the arrival of the late Mother Mary Anthony Watters and the gifted Sister Mary Elizabeth Moens who died in 1906.

It was Rev. Father Dunne, O.F.M., by the way, who, after having laid his plans for schools independent of the State before His Grace Archbishop Vaughan, secured the above colony from Ireland. The six Poor Clares, on arriving in Sydney, on the date already mentioned, were welcomed by a ladies' reception committee, who presented them with an address. Reporting their arrival, the "Freemans Journal" (November 24, 1883) tells us that from the steamship the sisters were conveyed to Waverley, where suitable entertainment prepared by Mrs. Barlow and other ladies awaited them. Two houses in Lilyeth Terrace, Cowper Street, (now Bronte Road, Waverley) had been secured and simply furnished for them. The Poor Clares took temporary possession on November 23, 1883.



Waverley House — The Kilburn Sisters' School, 1893.

It was in 1884 that Archbishop Moran (afterwards Cardinal) came to Sydney, and in due course became a friend and protector to the little Community of Poor Clares in Cowper Street (now Bronte Road). On October 26, 1885, a new school erected in Waverley by the Franciscan Fathers at a cost of £1,750 was formally opened and blessed by Archbishop Moran. The sisters at Waverley were given the charge of it, and since that time have faithfully discharged their duty amongst the children who have been entrusted to their care. Subsequently an adjoining property was purchased from the Church of England authorities for £900 in Church Street, and suitably remodelled as a school for young ladies. It soon became a flourishing centre of musical and general education for the surrounding districts. A time came when more accommodation was imperative, and old St. Charles' Church was placed at the disposal of the nuns for the senior girls, the first school being retained for the infant classes.



*First Convent School of Poor Clares, Waverley, 1885.*

### ST. CLARE'S CONVENT AND COLLEGE

The present St. Clare's College is built on the property that was purchased by the nuns on January 21, 1885—premises at the corner of Carrington Road (formerly Vickery Street) and Church Street. The cost was £1,730, and the terrace of three houses, which the Poor Clares made their abode, became the cradle of the Order in Australia. A room was requisitioned for an oratory and alterations were effected to make the building more convenient. As the educational work of the Sisters increased, additions were made from time to time to the original buildings, and on April 15, 1917, the foundation stone of the beautiful chapel of Our Lady of the Angels was laid by His Grace Archbishop Kelly. The site chosen was alongside the convent, of which it is a part, and now adds considerably to the attractiveness of the convent grounds. The architect was Mr. J. O'Sullivan, and the cost of the building was £2,000. When it was com-



*St. Clare's Convent. On the left of the picture behind the trees are St. Charles' Boys' and Girls' Schools and the Parish Hall.*

*(Photo.: C. Cameron)*

pleted it was generally admired by visitors, the sanctuary and high altar attracting special attention. A memorial window, handsomely designed by Mr. Maroney, is to be seen in the chapel, and adds to its beauty. It was erected to the memory of Mother Mary Anthony Watters, and Sister Mary Dominic Cunningham, who were among the pioneers of the Order in Australia.

In 1930 with more than 500 pupils of all grades under their control, the pressure on accommodation became acute, and the Poor Clares decided that the problem of additional room for scholars and novices required immediate solution. The Sisters enlisted the services of Messrs. W. H. Herwig (architect) and Mr. J. Boulton (builder) who, taking the existing school as a basis, expanded it into a fine two-storey structure, containing four additional class-rooms and a large assembly and concert hall. Adjoining the chapel and at the rear of the college, the new Novitiate was erected. The last Sunday in June, 1930, His Grace Archbishop Sheehan blessed and opened the completed building, stating that the new works had cost £6,200. Of this, he said, £1,000 had already been paid, and the balance had been advanced on favourable terms. He announced subsequently that £1,276 had been handed in by well-wishers for the further reduction of the debt. As His Grace said at the time, the extensions were particularly well adapted for their purpose, and the whole pile of buildings could be regarded as a splendid monument to the indomitable spirit of the Sisters who have built so well on very humble foundations.

In 1920, St. Clare's College obtained full registration under the Bursary Endowment Board, and its pupils have acquitted themselves well at the public examinations. Some have graduated at the Sydney University, others have won scholarships for the Teachers' Training College, whilst the profession of nursing has claimed a number.



*St. Clare's College, Church Street, Waverley.*  
(Photo.: C. Cameron)

By the year 1931 the Sisters had secured possession of three houses in Church Street which were later demolished, making room for two tennis and one basket-ball courts. Demolition of the old stone Church of England School was commenced in 1929, the stones being used to erect a wall enclosing the convent grounds. November, 1933, marked the Golden Jubilee of the foundation of the Order in Waverley and ex-pupils came from far and wide to rejoice with the Sisters.

Plans were drafted in 1941 for a new Girls' School, at the instigation of Very Rev. Father Bernard Nolan, O.F.M., then Parish Priest of Waverley, to supplant the old Church School which had become obsolete in size and equipment. All the latest ideas were incorporated in the new building, including a sound system which carried radio programmes into every room and announcements to all parts of the playground. This, together with other improvements, made the new St. Charles' Girls' School one of the most modern in the Archdiocese of Sydney. It was solemnly blessed and opened by His Grace, Archbishop Gilroy, on Sunday, 20th July, 1941.

Further expansion took place in 1953 when a new Novitiate, Commercial-Room and Tuck-Shop were commenced by Messrs. Kennedy and Bird, under the direction of Mr. W. B. Murphy. The foundation stone was laid by His Eminence, the Cardinal, on July 12, 1953, and the new building was solemnly blessed and opened by Rt. Rev. Monsignor O'Donnell, on January 28, 1954.

Under a direction from the Diocesan Authorities, the following year the Primary portion of St. Clare's College was absorbed into that of St. Charles' Girls' School, while the Home-Science Section was transferred from the Primary to the Secondary Department of St. Clare's College. Of several vacant rooms on the ground floor, one then became available for the

installation of a Pottery Section and another has since been converted into a properly equipped Science Laboratory.

The Sisters are loyally and efficiently assisted in their work by Miss E. Macdonnell, M.A., whose long association with the College has earned her the affectionate regard of all the girls.

The Members of the P. & F. Association have contributed substantially to the Library and also towards providing technical equipment for the Science Laboratory.

A very important part of the daily life of the school is the provision of the modern Tuck-Shop which is organised by the members of the P. & F. Association, ably assisted by other friends of the Sisters.

The College colours of Royal Blue and Silver appear on the Badge which bears the College Motto: "Deus Meus et Omnia"—"My God and My All."



*No. 32 Penkivil Street, Bondi, the first building used by the Sisters of St. Joseph for a school, in 1894.*

(Photo.: C. Cameron)

## ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, WELLINGTON STREET

The Sisters of St. Joseph came to Bondi in 1894, about two years before the opening of the school church of St. Anne's in O'Brien Street. Their first school was conducted in a small two-room cottage still standing, No. 32 Penkivil Street, Bondi, to which the Sisters travelled each day from "The Providence," an institution for "working girls and old ladies" in Cumberland Street, Sydney. The first teachers were Sister S. M. Aiden and a postulant Sister M. Beatrice. A little later the Sisters of St. Joseph purchased a large block of land at the corner of Bondi Road and Wellington Street on which stood a small cottage into which the Sisters moved permanently about 1896. This cottage became their convent. It is now the site of St. Patrick's Church. In this new location the Community consisted of Sister M. Agnes, Superior, Sisters Gerard and Aiden, followed by Sisters Angelica, Gabriel, Josephine, Philomena and others.



*St. Patrick's Commercial and Home Science College, Wellington Street, Bondi.*

(Photo: C. Cameron.)

In August, 1896, the school classes were transferred to the new school-church of St. Anne's, in O'Brien Street. The Nuns walked each day up and down the hill in Wellington Street to St. Anne's, whether in the pouring rain or the mid-summer heat. The street in those days was only, more or less, a sandy track. In 1919 Father Fitzpatrick bought a portion of the Sisters' property in Bondi Road and Wellington Street and built a new church-school on it. A few years later St. Anne's School which had been retained as a Kindergarten, was given up as a school, and the children transferred to the new St. Anne's school-church, at Bondi Beach.

As St. Patrick's parish grew, the school-church was found to be too small and Father Fitzpatrick decided to build a new church. The foundation stone was laid on August 18, 1929, and the church

opened in March 1930. A further decision was made to build a new school and use the old school-church as a parish hall. The new school faced Wellington Street and was built of brick. It was a building of two stories estimated to cost about £5,000. Two old cottages were demolished to make way for the school. A new convent had been erected on the Wellington Street frontage of the convent grounds prior to the demolition of the original convent. Since then the school has progressed and in 1958 it had an attendance of between 300 and 400 children under the charge of Sister Rita. Sister Dolores is the head Sister of the Convent.

## ST. COLUMBANUS SCHOOL-CHURCH (NOW ST. MARY MAGDALENE), STRICKLAND STREET

In 1914, Father Michael Fitzpatrick was placed in charge of the Bellevue Hill Parish and celebrated his first Mass in St. Anne's Church, O'Brien Street, on Easter Sunday of that year. On the following Sunday, at the home of a Mr. Bailey, Rose Bay, a small number of Catholics attended the first Mass in that locality. A gift of £1,000 from Mr. Bailey made it possible to purchase land in Strickland Street for a Presbytery and future school-church. The school was to be used as a church until a church proper was built.



*Sisters of Mercy School, Strickland Street, 1919.*

Father Fitzpatrick had acquired land at a cost of between £3,000 and £4,000, for a church, convent and presbytery.

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Rose Bay, had a primary school on their grounds. This school was taken over by the Monte Sant' Angelo Sisters of Mercy in February, 1917, who travelled to the school every day from their convent at Watson's Bay. When the new school was completed at Strickland Street, the children were transferred from the school in the Sacred Heart Convent grounds, to Strickland Street, in April 1917.

When Father O'Regan (now Monsignor) took charge of the new Rose Bay Parish in June 1917, the presbytery in Strickland Street was the cottage next door to the school. He decided that the proper place for the Parish headquarters was on New South Head Road and tramline at Rose Bay. Father O'Regan then sold the land that had been previously purchased in Strickland Street for the church and convent, and built the present St. Mary Magdalene Church at Rose Bay. The school in Strickland Street continued but the name was changed to St. Mary Magdalene. Since its opening more than forty years ago the school has served the children of the district, ably conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, who now come from their Convent in Ian Street, Rose Bay.

It became evident in recent years that more up-to-date accommodation was needed at the school. This need was met when a new St. Mary Magdalene Primary School was erected in 1957. This school was blessed and opened by His Eminence Cardinal Gilroy on December 23 of that year. The building formed additions to the original school called St. Columbanus, which has now been converted into a fine parish hall. The cost of the new school was estimated at about £20,000, of which about £12,000 had been already subscribed. Mr. Cruikshank was the builder of the new St. Mary Magdalene's Primary School.

#### **SISTERS OF MERCY GIRLS' SCHOOL, BLAIR STREET, BONDI**

In 1926, Father O'Sullivan purchased a large block of land in Oakley Road, Bondi, for £9,200, on which he built a school-church the following year. At this period Glenayr Avenue and Oakley Road were trafficable roadways, but Mitchell Street and Blair Street had not then been properly laid. The Sisters of Mercy came to teach in St. Anne's School-Church in 1929, travelling each day from Holy Cross Convent near Bondi Junction. With the ever-increasing number of children at this school and the need for more teachers, the Sisters of Mercy decided to erect a convent at the corner of Blair and Mitchell streets, Bondi



*New Girls' School, built 1956, Mitchell Street, and Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, corner Mitchell and Blair streets, Bondi Beach.*

Beach, to accommodate a community of about ten or twelve nuns. This building was ready for occupation in 1935. It was quite evident that the school-church was too small for the increased attendance, so Father O'Sullivan undertook to erect a large Girls' School in Blair Street. It was a splendid modern building in red bricks, well lighted and appointed and built to accommodate over 400 pupils. It was completed in 1939. When the girls moved into this school the Marist Brothers were invited to take over the old school.

After the death of Father O'Sullivan in 1941, Father Hurley succeeded him at St. Anne's Shrine, Bondi. In 1944 Father Hurley added a new wing to the Girls' School thus making room for another hundred children, at the same time completing the attractive architectural design for the school. Four years later a block of land was purchased opposite the convent for a playground for the girls' school.

The foundation of a new girls' school for the Sisters was laid on a site in Mitchell Street in May, 1956. It was planned as a three-storeyed school, containing eighteen rooms with accommodation for 700 girls. It was estimated to cost about £80,000. The building is adjacent to the convent and near their recreation ground—once a sandy waste. The new school was opened in January, 1957. The old school vacated by the girls became the Marist Brothers Boys' School.

#### **ST. CHARLES SCHOOL, CARRINGTON ROAD**

The first denominational school at Waverley was conducted in the school chapel of St. Charles, Carrington Road. Mention of the laying of the foundation stone of this building in November, 1854, was made under "Churches." This school was subject to the control of the New South Wales Denominational School Board. In an official report of this Board in November, 1858, it is revealed that "the school-chapel was a wooden building containing an area of 512 square feet, in tolerable condition." The school at that time had thirty-eight pupils enrolled, eighteen of which were boys and twenty girls. The school fees paid amounted to £42 1s. 7d. which with the Government aid of £52 10s. 0d. made a total income of over £94 for the year.

The first teacher at St. Charles was Miss Mary Ann Oddie whose appointment was dated January 1, 1855. It is assumed that the school opened about that time. Miss Oddie resigned in July, 1859, and was succeeded in turn by Miss Ryan, Miss Purcell and in August, 1860, by Mr. James Southwell. Catholic inspectors visited and reported on the school periodically. Mr. Southwell resigned in February, 1862, and his place was taken by a Mrs. Shine. Those comprised the early teachers at old St. Charles. From 1862 it has been found difficult to trace all the names

ot teachers, but the "Franciscan Messenger" of November, 1952, refers to the following as teachers who taught at the school after 1862: Miss Johanna Cregan, Miss H. M. Duffy (assisted by Mrs. O'Grady), Miss McCambley (assisted by two pupils, Mr. "Pan" Bennett and Lizzie Fitzpatrick) and Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell resigned in 1883 to take charge of the Bondi Public School in Wellington Street. It was the next year that the Poor Clare Sisters opened their first school for girls at Waverley in Short Street. About the 1890's two Franciscan Brothers, Brothers Joseph and Alexander were engaged teaching in the Franciscan Parishes—no doubt in Waverley. Then came Mr. Jeremiah O'Keefe (assisted by Mr. William Singleton). O'Keefe was well-known to many Waverlians about the 1890 and 1900 period. With the coming of the Christian Brothers to Waverley in 1902-03 a new parochial school was built by Father Birch, O.F.M. for the Brothers which was also used for Church services. This building cost about £2000. In 1917 a second storey was added which became the boys' school and the ground floor was used as a parish hall. The old stone church of St. Charles was eventually placed at the disposal of Sisters for school accommodation and the original girls' school in Short Street was occupied for infant classes. In 1941 a complete rebuilding and remodelling took place which brought into being a new two-storey girls' school for the sisters and a remodelled parish hall—the Christian Brothers still occupying the top floor of the parish hall. This scheme involved the demolition of the historic stone church of 1866. Many other improvements have been carried out in these educational buildings in Carrington Road which makes the whole a worthy contribution to the Catholic educational establishments in Waverley.

#### **OUR LADY'S MOUNT, CHRISTIAN BROTHERS COLLEGE, WAVERLEY, BIRRELL STREET**

In January, 1903 Waverley College, conducted by the Christian Brothers, opened with an enrolment of twenty-two boys. Over fifty-four years later, at the end of 1957, the roll call totalled 979 boys. What a remarkable development has taken place in those fifty-four years! The College, known as "Our Lady's Mount", is situated on what was referred to in the early days as "Waverley Heights", a rocky ridge extending from Bellevue Hill to Randwick. From these heights a fine panoramic view opens out. To the east stretches the South Pacific Ocean with its glittering fringe of beaches on the foreshores; to the south in the distance historic Botany Bay, landing place of both Captain Cook and Governor Phillip; to the west, Centennial Park and Queen's Park, formerly known as the Lachlan Swamps (Sydney's early water supply); to the north a broken vista of Port Jackson's winding waterways surmounted by cliff headlands. The present boarding school is the highest residential build-

ing in the Eastern Suburbs and within many miles of Sydney. The College site forms part of two grants purchased by William Manners Clarke in December, 1837.

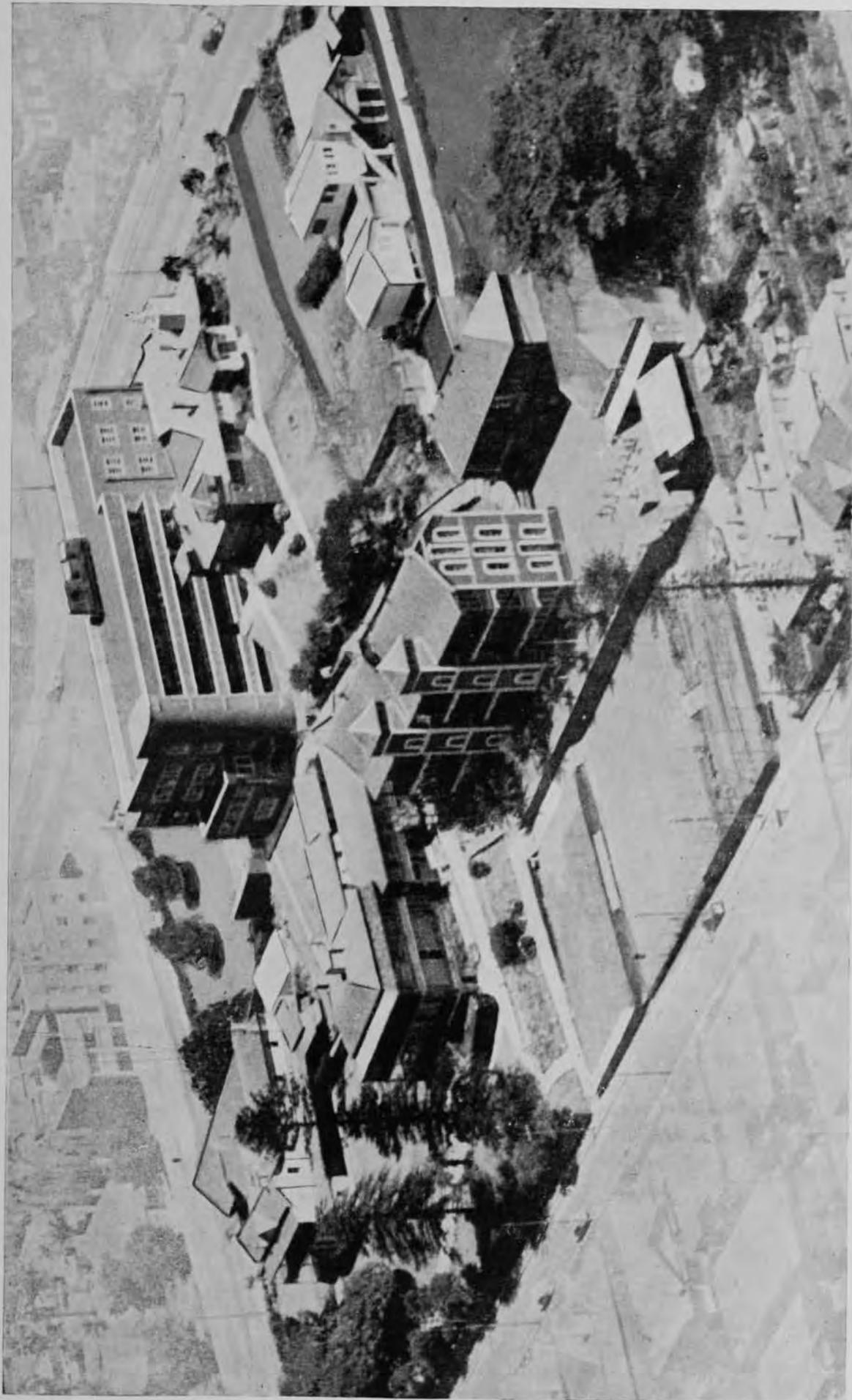
The first site of the College was bought from the Barlow family by the Franciscan Fathers in October, 1902, and comprised an area of one acre, one rood, thirteen and a half perches with frontages to Birrell Street, Salisbury Street and Carrington Road. On this site stood the Barlow home, "Airmount"—formerly called "Ellerslie", with stone walls eighteen inches thick. It was built, probably, by John Birrell. It is a two-storey building occupied as Brothers' quarters. A further area adjoining the school site on the east was secured in July, 1903.

The school was opened by His Eminence Cardinal Moran on January 18, 1903, and the first twenty-two boys enrolled on January 27 of that year by Brother Quinn—the first Principal.

The first school building was not finished before the end of 1903, consequently the early classes were conducted in the Brothers' residence, "Airmount". Fortunately, the Brothers had many good friends, but the one outstanding was the Rev. Mr. McKeown, who was in charge of St. Mary's Church of England in Waverley. He gave the Brothers the use of his Church Hall for classes while Waverley College was being completed. This most charitable gesture was deeply appreciated by the Brothers and friends of the College.

The gradual expansion of the College necessitated the further acquisition of land and buildings from time to time. In December, 1911, the Brothers bought from John Macpherson a small brick-on-stone cottage adjoining their property in Salisbury Street. A second storey was added to the College building in 1914 and a third storey in 1920. Further expansion was found necessary in 1934 when an adjoining property, "Merrowie" was secured from John Field for the Brothers' residence in Birrell Street.

When the Brothers decided in 1938 to have resident students they purchased another house called "The Grange" formerly "Strathearn." The numbers seeking admission as boarders soon overtaxed "The Grange", so it was decided to build a complete new boarding block facing Birrell Street. When finished in 1940 it contained class room, dining room, four spacious dormitories, library, kitchen, laundry and storehouse—a welcome addition to the evergrowing college. In 1951 another cottage, "Braidwood", facing Birrell Street was acquired which gave two further schoolrooms and accommodation for Junior boarders and two Brothers. The most recent purchase is that of eleven cottages adjoining the college property on the east and facing Salisbury Street. Today Waverley College covers over four acres of ground with entrances from Birrell Street, Salisbury Street and Carrington Road.



*The College is in centre foreground. Boarding School is the large building in centre background. "Merrowic," Brothers' Residence facing Birrell Street, is to right of Boarding School.*



*Bede Kenny, V.C., officially welcomed back to his old college—Waverley, October, 1918, by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Walter Davidson. (Bede Kenny, V.C., died in April, 1953.)*

One of the big problems of a College like Waverley was the difficulty of securing playing fields. Waverley Park nearby has been of great benefit, but it was felt that a College of the size of Waverley should have its own playing field and oval. During 1937 the Eastern Suburbs District was literally scoured for playing space but without success. Finally, through the efforts of the local member, the late Mr. John Waddell, M.L.A., the Premier of New South Wales entered into a contract with the Waverley College for the leasing of a portion of Queen's Park to the college as a playing field. This rough end of the park was soon levelled and put in order. With the generous assistance of the Parents and Friends' Association of the College, a long-felt want at the ground—a Pavilion—was provided in 1951. In addition, dressing sheds and showers for teams and refreshment room, etc., were also included in this valuable improvement.

#### **FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF COLLEGE**

The fifty years of College history were celebrated in 1953. By then the scope of Waverley had extended beyond the limits of Sydney for there were boys attending from Victoria, Queensland, New Guinea, China, Malaya, Norfolk Island and Saigon. Day boys attend the school from almost fifty of the Sydney parishes. From the earliest years, Waverley has made

a liberal contribution to the spiritual, professional, academic and civic life of Sydney. Over one hundred young men have given their lives to the special service of the Church and the Community. Ex-students of the College are to be found on the staffs of Australian universities, in the highest positions in the Army, Navy and Air Force, in the professions (notably Medicine, Law and Dentistry) and also in the commercial life of the city and country.

#### **OLD BOYS' UNION**

The uniting bond of the college is the Old Boys' Union, formed in 1908. The year 1958 marks its half-century milestone. It was this Union that was responsible for one of the most notable events in the history of the College, namely, the building of a Memorial Chapel and Assembly Hall to the memory of the boys of the College who had fallen in the two World Wars. The first move towards the building of this Memorial Chapel and Assembly Hall was made by the President of the Old Boys' Union, Mr. Max Coleman, in 1950. Various functions held between that year and 1952 resulted in about £5,000 being in hand. By 1954 the fund had reached about £9,000. This was increased by over £2,000 when the Rev. Father Capistran, O.F.M., made the appeal and a further £3,700 was made by a College Fete. Plans for the building were prepared by Hennessy & Hennessy &

Co., with Brother Lacey. The tender of £49,890 submitted by A. R. Hinwood & Son was accepted and work commenced in 1954. On October 6, 1956, the Memorial Chapel and Assembly Hall were blessed and opened by the Most Reverend James Carroll, D.D., D.C.L. After the blessing, Major-General J. A. Chapman unveiled a plaque recording the names of the Old Boys who fell in both World Wars. The Major-General said:— "The names on this honoured plaque must be ever an inspiration to the present and future generations who pass through this College . . . however, plaques and tablets erected to the fallen may crumble and tarnish, records may grow old and musty but the glory of their sacrifice written in the hearts of the people must endure forever."

Brother Lacey, who supervised the plans, in his remarks at the opening dwelt on the part the Old Boys had played in initiating this wonderful memorial to the members of the Old Boys' Union who had died for their country. He singled out three of those heroes of peace, Max Coleman, John O'Brien and Bede Kenny (V.C.) who served their country as heroically in peace as they had in war.

Rev. Brother Fields was in charge of Waverley College during the building of the Memorial Chapel and Assembly Hall. Following his transfer to Canberra he was succeeded in 1957 by the Rev. Brother M. M. O'Connor who had been on two previous occasions Principal of the College.

This, then is a brief history of Waverley College. From small beginnings it has blossomed into one of the major schools of Sydney. Already plans are advanced for the building of a new class room block and a monastery for the Brothers. Thus will Waverley be ready for the future.

Mention should be made here of the magnificent work of the Parents and Friends' Association of the College. This band of unselfish workers was formed in March, 1951 with the purpose of assisting the College in its various social activities and to provide extra amenities for the College and boys in social, scholastic and sporting affairs. In the first year the Association had 160 members with the following office bearers:— President, O. C. Curtis; Vice Presidents, C. Hiosan, T. G. Hayes; Hon. Secretary, W. E. Fitzhugh; Assistant Hon. Secretary, A. B. Herne; Hon. Treasurer, G. Maxwell. The assisting committee comprised Mesdames Tome, Byrnes, Boulton, Fitzhugh and Messrs. F. P. Causer, M. Boland, A. Fegan, S. Johnson, M. Gray, T. Mooney, R. Walsh and R. Jelfs.

One of the important works of the Association was to cater for the social functions held at the College and also at the "Tuck" shop which was provided at "Green Gables" by the Association on the playing field at Queen's Park. It was under the charge of Mrs. Byrnes with her band of willing helpers. This is indeed a great boon to the boys and visiting players.

The presentation of a 16mm. Projector to the

college for the Brothers and boys has proved of immense value for entertainment and educational purposes.

Many services rendered to the college could be mentioned here but space is limited. The Ladies of the Parents and Friends' Association deserve the thanks of all students and friends for their wonderful work throughout the years 1951-59.

### MARIST BROTHERS' SCHOOL FOR BOYS, PAUL STREET

The Marist Brothers' School in Paul Street was opened in the year 1928. The Marists were introduced to Waverley by the late Father O'Reilly who was instrumental in purchasing the old home "Ben Eden" and grounds in 1927 for the Brothers' residence and a new school site. This old home is of historic interest because the Ben Eden Estate formed a part of Barnett



*"Ben Eden", built by James Campbell, 1863, now Marist Brothers' Monastery.*

Levey's grant of 60 acres on which Waverley House was built. In 1833 Barnett Levey sold a portion of his grant 100 feet along Old South Head Road by 500 feet in depth to Messrs. John Payne and George Payne. Later J. and G. Payne subdivided the block. On November 4, 1834, the property was purchased by Mr. James Doyle for £61/5/-. Following the death of James Doyle in March, 1836, his estate was left to the seven children of his brother, Andrew Doyle. In March, 1862, Thomas Bowden, who held the property in trust for sale, disposed of it to Mr. James Campbell. In the following year, Campbell erected the magnificent stone structure that bears the name of "Ben Eden" and now the residence of the Brothers.

In 1927, Father O'Reilly, then Parish Priest, of Holy Cross Catholic Church, Bondi Junction, purchased the "Ben Eden" property for the Marist Brothers at a cost of a little over £6,000. A new school

was built in the grounds costing about £3,300 and with furnishings about £4,000. "Ben Eden" was also renovated bringing the total cost to about £11,000. The Rev. Brother Brendan who was the Principal of the Marists at that time said that this new school would make the twenty-ninth Marist school in Australia. The foundation stone of the new school was laid by His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, Most Rev. Dr. Cattaneo in September, 1927, who also opened the school in 1928.

When a new girls' school was built in Blair Street, Bondi Beach, for the Sisters of Mercy in 1939, the Marist Brothers took over the teaching of the boys and moved into the vacated school building in Oakley Road in the same year. The Brothers lived in the Paul Street Monastery and travelled to and from the beach school until temporary accommodation was secured in 1942 in Glenayr Avenue. Six years later a Monastery for the Brothers was completed at the beach.

At first the school in Paul Street took the pupils to the Intermediate standard, but in recent years the school has been made a Primary or Bursary school. Boys for the higher standard to the Leaving Certificate are taken by the Bondi Beach School.

From time to time renovations and alterations have been made to the Paul Street Monastery and School, including a new toilet block costing £8,000, and a new tennis court in the school yard in 1956.

Although the Paul Street school attained quite a number of successes in the sporting field by the several teams, mention might be made of one student in particular who attained success in the sporting world, namely, Barry Smith. He was a member of the Australian surf team which gave a display at the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956. Barry Smith succeeded in winning the Australian Surf-Belt Championship title in the same year—an outstanding achievement.

The roll call for the school in 1959 numbered 175 boys—all Primary or Bursary standard.

The first Director of Paul Street school was Brother Barnabas in 1928. Since then there have been ten other Directors of the school, namely Brothers Patrick, 1932; Paulinus, 1932-38; Walter, 1939-41; Xaverius, 1942-43; Aubrey, 1944-46; Claude, 1947-49; Clarence, 1950-52; Dunstan, 1953-54; Vincent, 1955-56 and Thomas More, 1957-.

### **MARIST BROTHERS' COLLEGE FOR BOYS, BONDI BEACH**

When the old school-church was vacated by the Sisters of Mercy on their transfer to the new Girls' School in Blair Street in 1939, the Marist Brothers were invited to take over the teaching of the boys in the old school in Oakley Road. This invitation was accepted and the Brothers travelled each day from "Ben Eden" in Paul Street, Bondi Junction. Brother Bertrand was the first Director at Bondi. One hun-

dred and sixteen boys were enrolled on the opening day and the numbers grew rapidly. The Brothers felt the great loss of Father O'Sullivan in 1941, for he was instrumental in the Brothers taking over the school for boys. He was succeeded by Father Hurley who had been Administrator at St. Mary's Cathedral for seven years. His policy was similar to Father O'Sullivan's—one of expansion. He procured a temporary residence for the Brothers in Glenayr Avenue and installed the Community there on July 26, 1942. This, of course, ended the daily trek from Paul Street to Bondi each day. He then added two more rooms to the Boys' Secondary School and inaugurated a Fourth Year Class in 1943.



*Marist Brothers Boys' School, Blair Street, Bondi Beach (formerly Girls' School).*

In spite of the acute shortage of materials after the long war and the resulting high prices, regulations and restrictions, the splendid three-storey Monastery for the Brothers commenced in 1947 was ready for occupation by the end of 1948. It is one of the finest monasteries that the Marist Brothers have in this country. In that same year other improvements for the Brothers included a stone wall on three sides of the playground, asphalt on western side in front of school, a new stage constructed in the hall, and an entrance to the main quadrangle.

The headmasters of the College after Rev. Brother Bertrand—1939-40 were:— The Rev. Brothers Nilus, 1941-48; Fergus, 1949-53; Julius, 1953-54 and Venard, 1955-.

In January, 1957, the new girls' school for St. Anne's parish opened in Mitchell Street. This meant that the boys were able to move into the girls' former school—a two-storey brick building in excellent condition. Several spare classrooms allowed for a well-equipped science room, a demonstration room, a modern tuckshop and an assembly hall. This, added to the fact of new desks, meant that the school was as good as new. It also meant that the wooden buildings (part of the boys' old school) could be pulled down and adequate playground provided for the boys. The other part of the boys' old school is now used as a Church Hall and C.Y.O. club rooms. The roll call for 1959 is 275.

### TALMUDICAL COLLEGE, FLOOD STREET

The question of the establishment of a Talmudical College for the education of children of Jewish parents has been before the Municipal Council for some time. Objections have been lodged against the erection of such a college because of the possible noise

that may arise at such a college. It appears now that most of the obstacles have been overcome and, subject to the Jewish authorities observing the special conditions agreed upon with Council, the building will be allowed to be proceeded with to completion.

## *Other Schools*

### MISS AMELIA HALL'S PRIVATE SCHOOL AT WAVERLEY HOUSE

One of the early private schools with distinctive features was opened in the old Waverley House (now demolished) by Miss Amelia Hall in 1866. In the school she was ably assisted by her nephew, the late T. E. Hall. It was one of the most exclusive boys' preparatory schools at that period. Miss Hall was an English woman who arrived in Sydney in 1852. She conducted the school for about 20 years and ran it on English school lines—the boys wearing Eton uniforms and silk hats. Boys who were later to become leaders in State and Federal spheres were amongst the pupils, such as the late Sir Phillip Street, Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor, Sir Adrian Knox, Chief Justice of Australia, the Stephen family and the Dr. Bowkers of medical fame. In a private letter written by Mrs. Eleanor Robyns of "Elmwood," 31 Penkivil Street, Bondi, December 20, 1928, to the late Captain Johnston of Waverley, she stated:—"It was my privilege to be on the teaching staff of 'Waverley House' fifty four years ago (1874) . . . Waverley House was the principal preparatory school in the colony at that time. We had boys from all parts of Australia and Fiji."

### THE SYDNEY KINDERGARTEN TRAINING COLLEGE, HENRIETTA STREET, WAVERLEY

The above Training College was established by the Kindergarten Union of New South Wales (Inc.) in 1924. The Kindergarten Union of N.S.W. came into being in 1895, and opened in Charles Street, Woolloomooloo. The first premises for a college were secured at 17 Roslyn Gardens (Brent Terrace), and in 1904 transferred to 40-42 Roslyn Gardens. No. 44 was secured later. It was in these premises that the Kindergarten work was really established. In 1913 "Hilton," 278 Liverpool Street, Darlinghurst, was purchased for £3,500 by the Union for college purposes. When the move to Waverley was decided upon, "Hilton" was sold to the Marist Brothers Order for a school at Darlinghurst for £7,000.

Number 17 Roslyn Gardens (Brent Terrace) was a house in a terrace of seven. It consisted of three storeys and a basement, and is still standing. The rent paid by the Kindergarten Union for these premises was approximately £2 per week. Brent Terrace contained class-rooms and a small residence and the Kindergarten Union Office.

For the establishment of the Kindergarten Training College at 44-64 Henrietta Street, Waverley in 1924, the Kindergarten Union purchased two adjoining properties, "Woodlawn," now Froebel House and "The Bungalow," now the class-room, 44-64 Henrietta Street, Waverley. The land of the two properties, measuring nearly three acres, was part of an original grant of 15 acres made by Governor Gipps in 1839 to Lewis Gordon, Esq., of the Surveyor-General's Department. The whole grant extended from Birrell Street to Gipps Street. "Woodlawn" was sold to the Kindergarten Union by W. G. Brown, Esq., whose home it had been since 1916, and "The Bungalow" by A. C. Meredith, Esq., who had lived in it since 1908. The purchase price for the two properties was £9,024. As several thousands have been spent since the date of purchase, anything in the region of £35,000 to £40,000 would be a conservative estimate of the present value of the property. On coming to Waverley the buildings were used for class-rooms and residence only and the Kindergarten Union office was moved into city premises.

The story of the land on which "Woodlawn" stands can be traced through its various owners back to 1839, when a Crown Grant was made to Lewis Gordon, Esq., but it is not known when the original part of the house was built. A conveyance was made to T. B. Walker on 4th September, 1865, and it is known that he lived on the land in a cottage, "Dell-



*The Sydney Kindergarten Training College,  
Henrietta Street, Waverley.*

cotta" from 1871-1880. Whether the cottage was there earlier or whether Mr. Walker or someone else built it, is not known. In 1882 Alexander Reid lived in the cottage and the name is recorded as "Elsternwick." From 1883, the cottage, renamed "Woodlawn" in 1889, was the home of W. Harvey Armstrong, Esq., and owned by Andrew Rowan, Esq., a merchant of Victoria. On 18th June, 1887, Andrew Rowan made a declaration of trust as to one undivided half share in favour of W. H. Armstrong. When the Armstrong family first occupied it in 1883, the house was a single storied gabled cottage. Mr. Armstrong later built the second storey, enlarged the ground floor rooms, raised some of the ceilings, and built the stone retaining wall. At that time the two small eastern verandahs ran the full length of the front of the house. This front verandah continued right round to the northern side where the "Annexe" or "College Row" now is, and joined up with a fernery, now enlarged and remodelled as the sunroom portion of the new Harriet Dumolo Memorial Room. As the home of the Armstrong family, "Woodlawn" seems to have had a pleasing air of graciousness. Mrs. Armstrong had some modern ideas of education and was interested in social work. She was later an original member of the committee of Woolloomooloo Free Kindergarten and an early member of the Kindergarten Union Council.

During the Armstrongs' time the house was honoured by a visit or visits from the young woman who was later to become famous as (Dame) Nellie Melba. Her husband was Mr. Armstrong's cousin, and it is said that her glorious voice so delighted the maids that "they sat on the stairs to listen." The house next became the property of A. D. Strahan, Esq., of Victoria, and later passed into the hands of Alfred Deakin, Second Prime Minister of Australia, who was Mr. Strahan's executor. Alfred Deakin became the mortgagee in possession on 24th October, 1902, and the registered owner in 1913. After the Armstrong family left in 1893 the house had several tenants, the one living in it for the longest period, i.e. 1904-1916, being the distinguished William Houston, Esq., C.M.G., who was Commissioner of the Land Appeal Court and Deputy Administrator of Norfolk Island.

In 1916 Alfred Deakin sold "Woodlawn" to W. G. Brown, Esq. When Mr. Brown purchased "Woodlawn," pepper trees lined the Henrietta Street fence and bamboo grew round the iron gates and "down the carriage drive." As the "glen" was almost completely overgrown, much time was spent in clearing this and other parts of the grounds, and the tennis court was made. The "glen" with its cave was later enjoyed by his family for chop picnics. Mr. Brown sold to the Kindergarten Union in 1924. The bungalow was bought from H. G. Meredith who had resided in it since 1908. Many thousands of pounds have been spent on the places since purchased and these would at the present time (1959) be valued for sale purposes

at anything up to £40,000. To meet the requirements of a modern Kindergarten Training College and Residence, necessary alterations were made to "Woodlawn" and "The Bungalow" premises in 1924-1925 by Peddle, Thorpe and Walker, and in 1932 under the College Architect, J. K. Shirley. But more extensive alterations were made by the same architect in 1945, which included the changing of the air-raid shelter, built in 1941—the war period—to a modern library block. Further extensions were carried out in 1950 under Fowell, Mansfield and Maclurcan, then architects for the Kindergarten Union. Included in these improvements was the Memorial Room to the late Miss Harriett Dumolo. During the alteration work, particularly when the old walls were stripped, hand-made bricks of the lovely red colour and square-headed nails were said to have been revealed. "The Bungalow" already mentioned was a much smaller building than "Woodlawn" and less interesting. J. P. Perry, an accountant, occupied "The Bungalow" about 1868 and probably built it. The Perry family lived there until 1891, then several others until it was purchased by the Kindergarten Union.

The first Principal of the Kindergarten Training College, at 44-64 Henrietta Street, Waverley, was Miss Harriett Dumolo in 1925. Prior to this she had served as Principal at Roslyn Gardens 1911-13, and in "Hilton", 278 Liverpool Street, Darlinghurst, 1913-25. Miss Dumolo is said to have shown a unique gift for creating an attractive environment for the College and continually envisaged new possibilities for growth and development, in its wider aspects. This work had a lasting influence on the Kindergarten movement in N.S.W. Miss Dumolo died in 1944 after nearly a quarter of a century of Kindergarten work. She is commemorated in the Kindergarten Training College, Waverley, by the "Harriett Dumolo Memorial Room," which was opened on July 14, 1951, during the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the College in that year. The Nursery Kindergarten, 157 Bronte Road, called "The Harriett Dumolo Memorial" also commemorates her name.

For the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations just mentioned, a beautiful little booklet was prepared by the Principal, Miss Jean Wyndham, recording the history of the College premises. Apart from historical information therein, a unique feature of the booklet is the sketch drawings of the various premises occupied by the Kindergarten College since its beginning, by several students of the college, viz., "Ilma," "Pixie," "Margaret," "Brenda" and "Mary." It is an attractive feature of the booklet. It may be mentioned here that it is from this booklet that the main particulars of the history of the College have been taken and is consequently acknowledged.

Reference might be now made to all the Principals of the Training College of Waverley as they were appointed.

Miss Harriett Dumolo in 1925.

Miss Z. Benjamin was Acting-Principal during Miss Dumolo's absence abroad in 1927. Miss Dumolo retired in 1931 and Miss Benjamin was again appointed Acting-Principal for two years. In 1934 Miss E. M. Slack was appointed Principal. She was succeeded by Miss Jean Wyndham in 1939. Miss Wyndham was a graduate of the College at Waverley and of the University of Columbia. In February, 1955, Miss Wyndham was overtaken by a severe illness which subsequently forced her retirement as Principal.

Miss Mollie Walker succeeded Miss Wyndham in November, 1955. Since her appointment as Principal, Miss Walker, has continued, as former Principals, to give a vital lead to the students who are under training and has become a most valued Officer in the Kindergarten Union.

The College enrolment, for 1957, showed that there were 25 First Year students, 25 Second Year students and 30 Third Year students, making a total of 80 students. The number of resident students at the College is 30, which is its maximum capacity.

#### **BONDI-WAVERLEY SCHOOL OF ARTS, BONDI ROAD**

The idea of forming a School of Arts in Sydney was first mooted about 1823, but it was some ten years later that what was called the Mechanics School of Arts was first established in the town of Sydney.

A School of Arts was well established in Waverley, with Charles St. Julian as President, when the Municipality was constituted in 1859, because it was in the building occupied by that body that the Council held a few of its early meetings. It was a building located between Church Street and Charing Cross, understood to have been owned by a Mr. Richardson. It is not known just how long the School of Arts existed, although many efforts were made with the Municipal Council's assistance to secure a permanent site and building.

In 1877 two blocks of land were offered as a site for a building in Botany Street, but these were not acceptable. Then three lots were submitted in Vickery Street (now Carrington) near Charing Cross by Messrs. Mills and Pile at £3 a foot, which were accepted and purchased by Council in October, 1878. In the following year the Government advised Council that £300 would be placed on the Estimates for the building of a School of Arts, subject to Council finding by subscription an amount of £600. Apparently the old School of Arts Society had gone out of existence or changed its name, as the Council received a letter from Mr. W. W. Simpson, on behalf of the Literary and Debating Society in July, 1881, urging that steps be taken for the formation of a School of Arts. Council replied that a public meeting would be called with that object in view, to which Council would give its support.

Things seemed quite hopeful and the Council went to the trouble and expense of having plans drawn for a building which would include a Council Chamber, Town Hall and School of Arts. Just then a legal doubt rose as to the power of Council to use money raised by subscription for a School of Arts building on a building for a Town Hall, etc. The design for the inclusive building had been accepted by Council at an estimated cost of £3,500 by Clarke Bros., the Architects. Because of the legal doubt, no building was erected, and the site for long years afterwards was for sale and was finally disposed of for about £750.



*Bondi-Waverley School of Arts, Bondi Road.*

The great benefit to a community and district of a School of Arts was raised again in 1910 by the local branch of the Australian Labor Party in the Waverley-Bondi District. The question was then taken up by the Bondi District Ratepayers' Association, which called together the first meeting of citizens which was held in the Royal Hotel, Bondi on August 11, 1911. The Provisional Committee appointed, of about 16, included Messrs. S. Irvine (Chairman); J. S. Robyns, W. Gregory and H. Thompson (Joint Hon. Secretaries); G. H. Deaton (Hon. Treasurer); S. Irvine, G. H. Deaton and J. G. Chapman, as Trustees.

The Provisional Committee called a public meeting which was held in the Cricket Pavilion, Waverley Park, on September 25, 1911, and a large gathering was present, mainly due to the efforts of the organising secretaries. Ald. Campbell, the Mayor of Waverley, occupied the chair. All were enthusiastic about the great need and benefit such an institution would be. About £70 or £80 was promised or donated at the meeting.

An attempt was made to obtain a site on Waverley Park at the corner of Bondi Road and Park Parade, but this failed. Inspections of other sites were made, namely, a vacant block at the corner of Flood Street and Bondi Road; Scarba House, Wellington Street; the old site in Carrington Road originally bought for a School of Arts; a site in Bennett Street and a place called "Navestock," 138 Bondi Road. The last-mentioned place was chosen and recommended for purchase by the trustees at a meeting April 23, 1913. It was bought for £2,250 from the Gibbs Estate and was at first called the Bondi School of Arts.

Actually the first meeting of members was held in the Waverley Council Chambers on September 19, 1912, when the following officers were elected for the year:— Mr. C. J. Loewenthal, President, Mr. H. Thompson (Hon. Secretary) and Mr. W. Gregory (Hon. Treasurer). In that year the nucleus of the present book library was formed by the donation of 500 volumes by John Sands and 100 by Mrs. Ryan.

The building was officially opened on March 21, 1914, by that brilliant political leader, William A. Holman, K.C., then Premier of New South Wales. The first two life members were J. C. Robyns and R. G. Watkins, who were elected in 1915. The first two members of the School of Arts were Mr. and Mrs. C. Mathews-Drew whose receipts were Nos. 1 and 2, which, it is understood, are on the official files of the School of Arts.

Of course, as in most organizations, funds were the great need of a new institution and for this purpose it was decided to hold a carnival at Bondi Beach. Despite the incessant rain the carnival resulted in the handsome profit of £2,154. This enabled the trustees to considerably reduce the mortgage thereon and at the same time to build the present billiard room and enlarge the ballroom.

The Bondi-Waverley School of Arts is a two-storey building, having a frontage of 90 feet and a depth of 169 feet and is recognized as one of the social centres of the district. Generally speaking, the activities of the institution are:— The intellectual improvement of its members and the cultivation of taste for literature, art and science which is promoted by the maintenance of a library and reading room; a place for the delivery of lectures and for the encouragement of social intercourse and functions and physical recreation.

The library is well stocked with thousands of volumes of fiction, adventure, romance, detective and general literature. The sports room is equipped with four billiard tables, rooms for playing cards, chess and other social games. There are several meeting rooms

and two ballrooms for parties, weddings and lodge meetings.

The New South Wales Government through the Education Department paid a subsidy of 7/6 in the pound on the purchase of all new books bought by the School of Arts from its inception until 1929.

Considerable assistance has been given financially by the Waverley Council to the School of Arts. In 1921 and 1922 £50 each year was given and since then in varying amounts up to about £200 a year.

At the commencement of the period of 1939-40 the Bondi-Waverley School of Arts was burdened by a mortgage of £3,425 held by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. By annual payments of varying amounts this debt was gradually reduced until 1950 when it was finally liquidated. Great credit was extended to the then executive officers, Messrs. Conway, King and Anderson, by the Auditor, Mr. Norman Warton, for this satisfactory position. A rule had been in force for a number of years in this institution permitting aged and indigent residents the use of the reading room free of cost. During World War II membership of all those who enlisted for active service was maintained and their wives or next of kin allowed the use of the library. Advice received from Mr. J. A. Flood, Hon. Secretary of the School of Arts on May 15, 1957, stated that:— "According to the Valuer General the Improved Capital Value of the premises at the present time is—£15,000. Add to this the furnishings, the library contents and the six excellent billiard tables, and the assets belonging to members represent a very considerable sum. For this we must never cease thanking the memory of a fine body of gentlemen who inaugurated the institution—and the men who continued the work particularly Tom Hogan." He also said there were many family names connected with the institution, such as—"the Conways (Captain and three sons); the Hogans—Dad and three or maybe four sons; the Reeves, Abbertons—three generations at present; Andersons; Isaacs; Caddys and many others . . ."

Mr. and Mrs. Len Price are the present custodians. The office bearers for the year 1959 are:—

President, Mr. Tom Conway; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. A. Flood and Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. R. Hunt. The Trustees are Messrs. Tom Conway, Basil Ponting and J. A. Flood.

### FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

We go back to May 2, 1876, to find the first definite move towards the establishment of a free Public Library in Waverley by the Municipal Council. Although the motion for such establishment was before Council it did not have a seconder and consequently the matter ended.

It was intended by the proposal to fit up a room with about £200 worth of books. Some twenty-eight years later a committee was appointed by Council to report on the best means of establishing a free Public Library.

It had the support of the then existing Waverley-Bondi Progress League but the whole matter was once more fruitless.

The question was again reviewed in 1939 when consideration was given by Council to a report by the Town Clerk. It was decided that owing to the outbreak of the Second World War action towards the Library's

establishment was suspended until after the War. In 1951 the question was brought before Council by the Australian Labor Party which urged the opening of such a library. In a later report by the Town Clerk, it was indicated that such an establishment would cost £5,694 to enjoy a subsidy from the Government of a similar amount to provide an adequate service.

The matter is now held up pending the erection of a new Council Chambers and Town Hall. It is expected that provision will be made in this building for a free Public Library such as operates in some other municipalities.

## HOSPITALS

**EASTERN SUBURBS HOSPITAL, WAVERLEY**

Probably the earliest agitation for a hospital for the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney was commenced when the Paddington Municipal Council in 1893, requested the Waverley Municipal Council to join in a deputation to the Colonial Secretary, to urge the establishment of a Cottage Hospital for the district. Nothing appears to have come from this deputation. The next movement with the same objective was made in February, 1914, when Messrs. E. R. Abigail, T. Nurthen, Coulter and Tom Hogan asked the Waverley Municipal Council for the use of a room to hold a meeting. However, World War I broke out a few months later and the matter had to be held in abeyance. Ten years later a more definite effort was made when a public meeting was called on July 11, 1924, at Rose Bay, at which it was resolved, "that this meeting agrees to the necessity for a Public General Hospital for this district and declares the scheme launched."

The first officers elected were:— President, Alderman W. F. Foster, Vice Presidents, His Honour, Judge White; The Rev. John Edwards and Alderman W. Westbrook; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. C. Lough and Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. W. Mills. The meeting was attended by about forty enthusiastic supporters.

It will be of interest to refer briefly to those people whose interest was instrumental in bringing about the public meeting just mentioned. They were: Mrs. Alice Norton, co-founder and original organiser of this hospital movement; Dr. F. G. N. Stephens of "Harley," Macquarie Street, Sydney, and Dr. John McPherson, also of Macquarie Street. Early in 1924, a preliminary meeting took place at "Belhaven," the home of Mrs. Hamilton Brown, "for the purpose of hearing Mrs. A. M. Norton outline a scheme to provide a Hospital to meet the demands of the district." Those present were:— Mesdames Hamilton Brown, Clifford Jones, Foster, Batten and Norton also Dr. F. G. Stephens and Mr. A. Caffyn. All approved of the proposal and promised co-operation and help. This meeting prepared the way for the public meeting in July above mentioned.

With the generous assistance of ladies and gentlemen and an auxiliary the fund had reached an amount of £5,300 towards the erection of the hospital. The Minister for Health, C. W. Oakes, promised £1 for each £1 collected. The site chosen and approved by

the then Minister for Health was a portion of Queen's Park locally known as "Tucker's Hill." The latter name was no doubt so-called because the site which was a sand hill was levelled by the "unemployed" of the depression days of the 1930's. The land for the hospital was acquired by a Special Act of Parliament "The Centenary Celebrations (Amendment) Act 1930" (No. 41, 1930) and the Hospital was incorporated (April 15, 1931, under the Public Hospitals' Act of 1929).

The day set for the laying of the foundation stone of the hospital was April 21, 1934. It was a memorable day. A grand procession through the streets of Waverley led the way to the site of Queen's Park. More than 5,000 residents and visitors were present when His Excellency the Governor-General, the Right Honourable Sir Isaac Isaacs, P.C., G.C.M.G. set the foundation stone of the building, and said: "We are proud to see to-day what is the embodiment of our aspirations . . . this may be the initial effort, never to be forgotten, for the erection of a noble edifice which shall be an ever open temple of mercy—one that will be worthy of a great people who look upon the relief of suffering humanity as one of the highest forms of service of our times. We are here to dedicate a splendid structure." Mr. Weaver, the Minister for Health, laid another foundation stone after His Excellency had finished. The Board of Directors at this time were:— Chairman, Alderman W. F. Foster, M.L.A.; Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Arthur Mills; and twelve others from the districts in the Eastern Suburbs. This no doubt comprised the Board of Management. The first unit of the hospital estimated to cost about £10,000 of which the Government contributed £4,000 was a Casualty Ward. Before the foundation was laid the Directors had on hand over £7,000. In addition to this the late Mr. A. A. Hart bequeathed a sum of £4,000 to the hospital, subject to the hospital being opened within ten years from January 5, 1931.

For about the next five or six years conferences and discussions continued between Government representatives, Hospital Commission and Eastern Suburbs District Hospital Board concerning the cost of building plans, and financing of the hospital. Sufficient agreement was reached for the laying of the



*The Eastern Suburbs Hospital, Queens Park.*

foundation stone of the new hospital in March, 1938, by the Minister for Health. The late Sir John Dunningham, who was Minister in charge of Australia's 150th Anniversary Celebrations, was present and spoke at this function. He declared during his speech: "That when all other ceremonies had been forgotten, the one that afternoon would be commemorated in the fine hospital to be built here which would do a vast amount of good in the district and be a permanent record for all time."

In May, 1940, a wing at the hospital was opened for children at a cost of about £5,300. It was in memory of the late Hon. J. M. Dunningham. About half the cost was provided by the Dunningham Memorial Fund and the balance by the Hospitals Commission. The ceremony was performed by Lady Dunningham (wife of the late Sir John Dunningham). Children patients were admitted on October 21, 1940. Owing to the outbreak of World War II all proposals for the extension of the hospital building were shelved.

Following talks between the Australian Military Authorities and the American Army Chief, the Commonwealth Government decided that the Eastern Suburbs District Hospital should be handed over for the use of the American Naval Authorities as a Naval Base Hospital. As a consequence to this arrangement, all in-patients of the hospital had to be transferred to other hospitals and the services of members of the hospital staff terminated. The hospital closed on May 7, 1943. A temporary office for the transfer of patients was established at Bondi Junction.

Seven months later, in December, 1943, the American Naval Authorities vacated the Hospital and it was taken over again by the Eastern Suburbs District Hospital Board. It was not opened to patients until March, 1944, because it was vacated in such a

state that the whole of the interior had to be repainted and many repairs effected, before being fit for occupation.

Speaking at the opening of a refreshment kiosk for the hospital in June, 1945, the Hon. C. A. Kelly, M.L.A. and Minister for Health, said:— "a great Medical Centre would be established on the Eastern Suburbs Hospital Site . . . capable of providing 800 beds . . . and be gazetted as No. 1 Priority." Twelve years later the Annual Report of 1957 states:— "This is the first year that the hospital has functioned to its full capacity of 100 beds . . ." Owing to the shortage of steel and labour in 1950, it was proposed to build an 80-bed hospital and nurses' quarters of aluminium. Before this was done restriction imposed on the Hospital Commissioner's Loan funds held up construction. Then further discussion took place between the Eastern Suburbs Hospital Board and Hospital Commission as to the merits of a brick multi-storied building and one of aluminium construction. However, the latter was finally agreed to. The first brick of the foundation of the new hospital was laid in December, 1953, and the first component parts erected in January, 1954. By the end of that year (1954) the following buildings had been built:— Administrative Block; Operating Theatre and X-Ray Blocks; Ward Blocks, each containing 40 beds in one, two and four wards; Kitchen, Dining Room, Laundry and Stores Block; Nurses' home to accommodate 70 nurses with lecture and recreation rooms. A boiler room was under construction.

The new hospital was officially opened by the Hon. M. O'Sullivan, M.L.A., Minister for Health, before a distinguished gathering of about 1,200 people on November 19, 1955, and the first patients admitted on November 21, 1955. The approximate

cost of buildings, plant, equipment and furniture fittings is estimated at about £450,000. The casualty block was not opened until August 8, 1956.

The original hospital buildings have been remodelled and renovated and now contain an Outpatients office, new Dispensary, Physiotherapy and Pathological Departments; X-Ray Sections, Medical Record and Consulting Rooms.

The following have, since 1931, occupied the position of Chairman of Directors of the hospital:—Alderman W. F. Foster, M.L.A., September, 1931 to July, 1936; Alderman G. S. Grimley, July, 1936 to August, 1949; The Hon. M. O'Sullivan, M.L.A., August, 1949 to July, 1950; S. E. Payne, Esq., July, 1950 to February, 1955 and J. G. Fletcher, Esq., from March, 1955 to date. Secretaries to the Hospital included Arthur M. Mills, J.P., September, 1931 to October, 1942 (resigned owing to ill-health); Frederick G. Hallett, A.I.H.A., J.P., Chief Executive Officer and Secretary, June, 1935 to November, 1958—an outstanding service of over twenty-three years. He was an able, efficient and loyal Secretary.

Matrons:—Miss Dorothy Armstrong, February, 1935 to April, 1941 (granted leave of absence to join Military Forces but did not return to hospital); Miss E. Dunn, April, 1941 to April, 1943; Miss Margaret Moriarty, November, 1944 to date.

Without going into any specific details about the financial position of the Eastern Suburbs District Hospital it might be mentioned that it appears quite sound. The revenue for 1956-57 amounted to £130,000 inclusive of a Government subsidy of £77,000 and in-patients' fees of £43,734.

The expenditure totalled £131,746 of which salaries and wages, less board and lodging of £10,413, amounted to £93,270.

Comparing with the position in 1952, the revenue in that year was £32,995, including Government subsidies of £24,322. The expenditure was £32,884 of which salaries and wages took £22,433 less £1,545 for board and lodging. The year 1952 ended with a surplus of £111. It is interesting to note that the number of beds available in 1952 were 27 whereas in 1957 it was 100 beds.

In the Balance Sheet of the hospital at June 30, 1957, the site on which the hospital is built was estimated to be worth £70,000, the hospital buildings thereon about £427,000, and plant and equipment £24,000. The total assets of the Eastern Suburbs Hospital is estimated at well over half a million pounds.

#### WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, WAVERLEY

The above hospital stands in about six acres of land with frontages to Birrell and Church streets, Carrington and Bronte roads. The two main entrances to the hospital are from Birrell and Church streets. The original project was launched in the year 1919

as a result of its advocacy at the Methodist Conference by the Rev. James Green, C.M.G., who was then President of the Conference, and senior chaplain to the Australian Forces.

The War Memorial Hospital was opened on February 5, 1921, and reported in the "Sydney Morning Herald" on February 7, 1921, as follows:—"The War Memorial in this State of the Methodist Church of Australasia takes the practical form of another link in the chain of intermediate hospitals in the Commonwealth established by the Church. 'Ellerslie Hospital' which was opened on Saturday afternoon at Waverley by Mrs. G. J. Waterhouse, is the first wing of the larger hospital, which will ultimately comprise 'Edina,' the beautiful home of the late Mr. Ebenezer Vickery, whose widow and children have presented it to the Trustees of the Methodist Church for hospital purposes. Apart from the handsome gift of 'Edina,' it is intimated that a total expenditure of about £30,000 will be involved in the purchase of additional ground and villas adjoining, and in altering and furnishing in order to consummate the broad project, of which the opening of 'Ellerslie' within a stone's throw of 'Edina' is the happy beginning." Mrs. G. J. Waterhouse, who performed the opening of the hospital was the eldest daughter of the late Mr. Ebenezer Vickery, Senr. "Ellerslie" was for many years the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Waterhouse. Mr. G. J. Waterhouse was an alderman and Mayor of Waverley Municipality in 1897-98. The Boy Scouts formed a guard of honour for the opening ceremony which was presided over by the Rev. T. B. Holmes.

The War Memorial proper was opened on November 11, 1922, by Mrs. E. Vickery, in the absence of His Excellency the Governor and Dame Margaret Davidson. Mr. Vickery at this function said that the old home was named "Edina" by their grandmother after her birth-place in Scotland. The operating theatre was given by anonymous donors to the memory of about forty residents of Waverley who offered their services on the field of battle and fell. About £5,000 was collected for the hospital from all denominations.

The maternity block of the War Memorial Hospital was completed in 1935. Since then a new nurses' home with twenty-two single beds and a new operating theatre have been erected at a cost of about £50,000. In 1957 the hospital was registered for 134 beds with a nursing staff of about 88. The cost of this staff in salaries amounts to about £54,000 p.a. About 300 nurses have been trained at the hospital since its opening in November, 1922. It is estimated that some 3,300 patients are treated at the hospital each year including 600 mothers whose babies are born there.

Up to the year 1939 about £100,000 had been spent on the acquisition of lands, buildings and equipment, with the result that the hospital stood in the forefront of the intermediate hospitals in Australia. The hospital contained medical, surgical and obstetric



*Part of the War Memorial Hospital Waverley, formerly the mansion home of the Vickery family.*

wards, extensive nurses' quarters and a beautiful Memorial Chapel. In its early years the fees varied between three and five guineas per week. These, of course, had to be increased in recent years, because of the high running costs experienced by hospitals. The War Memorial is a Training School for Nurses and to the beginning of the Second World War was staffed almost entirely by its own trainees.

Matron Hunter, who had a wide experience both in Australia and England, had been in charge since the inception of the hospital, until about 1945. Matron Hunter had seen it grow to its present extensive proportions. She received the honour of M.B.E. for her services after World War I. Matron Hunter was succeeded by Sister Gould, who gave up her position in 1947. Then followed the appointment of Sister Gertrude McKenzie in that year. She has now over ten years' service as Matron.

The War Memorial Hospital is controlled by a Council appointed yearly by the Methodist Church, but its services are available to all, without any distinction in class or creed. Mr. Frank Vickery is the present Hon. Secretary.

In the hall of the main "Edina" building, under a picture of Ebenezer Vickery there is a small brass plaque inscribed:—

"THIS BUILDING WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY  
—EBENEZER VICKERY BY HIS WIFE AND  
CHILDREN ON APRIL 25, 1919."

Reference might be made to Ebenezer Vickery, whose old home, "Edina", forms the main centre of the War Memorial Hospital. He was born in London in 1827 and was one of a family of seven. The family embarked in the ship "Richard Reynolds" for Sydney in 1833—the journey taking six months. On arrival in Sydney, Ebenezer's father commenced business in

the boot, shoe and leather trade and laid the foundation of a big business. Young Ebenezer was educated at Cassell's and Cape's schools in Sydney. He entered the general warehouse and auctioneering business of R. Fawcett which he left to take over his father's business. He had a very successful business career and became a director of many companies and public corporations. He was closely associated with the work of the Central Methodist Mission, the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations. Ebenezer Vickery built "Edina" in Church Street which his family gave, as already mentioned, for the War Memorial Hospital. He died at Leeds, England, on August 28, 1906. He was a member of the Legislative Council of N.S.W. at the time of his death. (See also under Early Residential Homes for more information on "Edina.")

### BABY HEALTH CENTRES

When the establishment of the first Baby Clinic in Waverley was proposed in March, 1923, the Chief Secretary advised Waverley Council that there were no funds then available for that purpose. A little over a month later, April 17, the matter was reconsidered by the Department and approved. Since that period the following centres have come into being: Bondi Junction Baby Health Centre—Spring Street. This is the oldest Baby Health Centre in the Municipality. It was established in 1923, by the N.S.W. Department of Public Health and is staffed and entirely conducted by that Department at no cost to the Council. Rose Bay Baby Health Centre—475 Old South Head Road. This Centre was established in 1924, and, as in the case of the Bondi Junction Centre, was established by the Department of Public Health and entirely conducted by that Department. Truby King Baby Health Centre—Bondi Road, Bondi Junction. This Centre is conducted by the Australian Mothercraft Society. The Society in 1929 established a Travelling Clinic and the nurse in charge visited the homes of the various mothers of babies. It then established a Clinic in a chemist's shop at the corner of Denham Street and Bondi Road in 1930. In 1932 the Clinic removed to the School of Arts in Bondi Road where it remained for nine years, when it removed to its present location, No. 2 Bondi Road, Bondi Junction.

It is interesting to note that on July 17, 1946, a donation of £500 was made to the Day Nursery Centre at Bondi Junction by Mrs. E. Myerson. The money was intended for the furnishing of the Day Nursery in memory of Mrs. Myerson's son, Phillip, a pilot officer, who lost his life in flying operations in World War II. A plaque to his memory has been erected in the building. From its opening in 1946 to the end of May, 1953 the deficit in working the nursery amounted to £5,750. In November of that year an extension of the lease of the site in Ebley Street for ten years from November 18, 1953 was secured for one pound

per annum. Bondi Beach Baby Health Centre in Wairoa Avenue was established in 1948 by the Council, which erected the building and equipped it. By an arrangement with the Department of Public Health, that Department provides the necessary trained staff and conducts it. The Council is responsible for the maintenance of this Centre, both in regard to the building and equipment.

All these Baby Health Centres are in charge of fully qualified Nursing Sisters trained in Baby Welfare, who tender advice to mothers in respect of the care and diet of their babies.

### WELFARE HOMES

#### "SCARBA" WELFARE HOUSE FOR CHILDREN, WELLINGTON STREET, BONDI

The Welfare House "Scarba" is one of the institutions conducted by the Benevolent Society of New South Wales. The property, situated in Wellington Street, was acquired by the New South Wales Government in connection with an immigration scheme which was interrupted by World War I. "Scarba" was formerly the residence of the late A. M. Loewenthal, an alderman of the Waverley Council in 1914-1915. The home provides for children who are temporarily without a home on account of their mothers being in hospital, or who, for other reasons, are unable to care for them.

It was first occupied for children in May, 1917, but the official opening of "Scarba" by Mrs. George Fuller did not take place until September 26, of that year.

Miss E. Oldham, the first Matron, occupied the position until succeeded on April 26, 1920, by Mrs. A. M. Chapman, who is still in charge of the Home. Her remarkable record covers 39 years of devoted service to the children of "Scarba."

During 1957 about 400 children were cared for of whom a big number were under the age of four years. Also during that year there were 58 trainee nurses in residence at "Scarba," six having completed their course and each received her Hospital Certificate and Badge. A new Nurses' Home is the objective of the Office Bearers of the Ladies' Committee which comprises:—President, Mrs. O. F. Triggs; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. C. Hollander and Mrs. H. Salmon; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. M. Aronson; Hon. Secretary and Organiser, Mrs. B. Gaffney.

#### LADY WAKEHURST HOME, BIRRELL STREET

The Lady Wakehurst Home was formerly "St. Anne's", the private home of Mrs. C. C. Read over fifty years ago. Read Street in the vicinity is no doubt named after that family.

The Red Cross Society has advised us that the property "St. Anne's" was purchased in 1929 for convalescent ex-servicemen of World War I, and was called "St. Anne's" Red Cross Hostel. It was officially opened

by the Hon. T. R. Bavin, the then Premier of New South Wales. Between the years 1930 and 1940 it was the subject of a private lease. "St. Anne's", in 1940, then became a Red Cross Military Hospital, and was officially opened by Lady Wakehurst on April 14, 1941. The hospital was subsequently enlarged and named "The Lady Wakehurst Home" in honour of Lady Wakehurst who was President of the New South Wales Division of the Australian Red Cross Society—a Society in which she took a very keen interest.

The Home was carried on as a Red Cross Military Convalescent Home until released by the Army in 1946. Afterwards the Red Cross Society conducted it for ex-service men of the 1914-18 War until it was leased to The Women's Hospital, Crown Street, in 1952. The patients in the Home at that time were transferred to the Lady Gowrie Home at Gordon. The Lady Wakehurst Home occupies one of the choicest sites on the heights of Waverley with a clear view of the coastline and the blue Pacific.

#### **LORETO HOME FOR THE AGED**

A Home for the aged women of Waverley was blessed and opened by His Eminence, Cardinal Gilroy, on Sunday, 24th June, 1956, in the presence of the Honourable Hugh Robertson, the Minister for Social Services, Mr. W. Aston, M.H.R., Mr. J. Fitzgerald, Alderman C. Jeppesen, Mayor of Waverley, Father Benedict, O.F.M., Parish Priest at Waverley, and other Friars, and a large gathering of citizens of Waverley. Situated at 367 Bronte Road, this building was acquired for the purpose of a home for the aged

from Mr. W. J. Boulton, by whom it was used for residential purposes. Previously it was owned by Miss Kibble, then a Research Librarian, at the Public Library of New South Wales.

Located on a large block of land the property lent itself to conversion for the Home, and in addition to renovations throughout, a substantial lounge room, reception room and bedrooms were made. The Home can provide accommodation for 14 ladies.

The total cost of providing Loreto Home was £23,500, of which the sum of £9,337 was contributed by the Federal Government under its scheme of assistance in providing homes for the aged.

#### **BETHLEHEM MONASTERY OF THE POOR CLARE NUNS**

A foundation of the Poor Clare Nuns was established at 280 Bronte Road, near Charing Cross, in 1951. The Nuns came from Galway, Ireland.

These Religious are an enclosed contemplative Order working for the salvation of souls in conjunction with the Order of Friars Minor, or as they are commonly called, the Franciscan Friars.

The property for the Nuns was acquired from the late Dr. T. Bolger and abuts the Church property of Mary Immaculate. A chapel is reserved for the Nuns within the Church building to which they have direct access.

Substantial additions were made to the original property last year. This was made necessary by the number of Australian girls wishing to join the Community.

# EASTERN SUBURBS DISTRICT AMBULANCE SERVICE

One of the earliest known first-aid services rendered in the Eastern Suburbs was in conjunction with the Seagull Surf Club, Coogee, in the year 1906, when patients had to be transported by hand stretchers. The Eastern Suburbs District Ambulance Service was inaugurated in September, 1908, and the first Ambulance Station was located near the tram terminus at Coogee Bay. The plant then consisted of a two-wheel ambulance and a number of ambulance stretchers housed at Randwick. This plant was occasionally used in the Waverley Municipality. The first case was a female patient transported by hand ambulance from Macpherson Street, Waverley, to the Women's Hospital, Paddington. When a horse-drawn ambulance was put into commission in 1910, the first patient from Waverley was an old man who had been severely injured by falling over some rocks at Bronte. He was conveyed to St. Vincent's Hospital. Prior to these activities, there was no form of ambulance service available in the Municipality of Waverley. There were in earlier years, horse-drawn ambulances maintained by the Coast Hospital at Little Bay (now the Prince Henry Hospital), which were available to convey infectious cases, under orders from the Health Department, from within the boundaries of the Municipality.

In 1914 the Eastern Suburbs District Ambulance Service installed two motor ambulances at the District Headquarters, Coogee, for service in the Municipalities of Waverley, Randwick, Vacluse, and part of Woollahra. These two cars continued to meet all calls satisfactorily, until the increased demands upon the service made it necessary for the establishment of a Branch Station, with a motor ambulance. This Station was officially opened by the Hon. C. W. Oakes, C.M.G., the then Minister of Public Health, in October, 1922. It was situated at the corner of Old South Head Road and Hall Street, Bondi. The ambulance work continued to expand so much that the Hall Street property proved inadequate. A few years later it was disposed of, and more suitable premises were secured in Bon Accord Avenue, Waverley. Mrs. G. V. McMillan, J.P., was responsible for raising funds for the ambulance service in and around the Waverley district for some years prior to the opening

of the Bondi Branch. This lady called a meeting in the old Coronation Hall, Bondi Junction, on 2nd June, 1921. At this meeting the Bondi-Waverley-Woollahra Auxiliary Committee was formed, and Mrs. McMillan was appointed Honorary Secretary.

Prior to 1919, the Eastern Suburbs District Ambulance Service was conducted in conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and the Brigade still assists the ambulance service by attending the beaches, and all sporting fixtures in the area. The Eastern Suburbs Ambulance Service is now under the control of the New South Wales Ambulance Transport Service Board (the Ambulance Act 1919-1957). A local committee of twelve members controls the workings and functions of the service.



*Opening of Bondi Ambulance Station by Hon. C. W. Oakes, October, 1922.*

This Committee, looking to the future, in an endeavour to save precious minutes and mileage, has had the ambulance fleet fitted with two-way radio, which since its installation has been instrumental in saving many lives and unnecessary mileage on cases.

The Eastern Suburbs District Ambulance service has been under the charge of the following Ambulance Superintendents:—

1908-1944. Superintendent T. H. Henderson, M.B.E., C.St.J., F.F.C.A., J.P.

1944-1954. Superintendent A. J. Wingate, S.B.St.J., J.P.

and in October, 1956 Superintendent W. C. Menger, S.B.St.J., J.P. was appointed Superintendent, Secretary, and Organiser.

During the first year of operation, 1908, the ambulance service attended to 16 cases, and travelled 54 miles. During 1956, the Eastern Suburbs District Ambulance Service attended 14,418 cases and travelled 132,606 miles. Since the inception of the ambulance service in 1908, to the end of 1956, the service has attended to 532,594 cases and travelled 3,432,069 miles.

The 1957 staff consists of, Superintendent-Secretary-Organiser, W. C. Menger, Assistant-Secretary, Miss M. Burnham, Deputy Superintendent, N. Hyett, 6 station officers, 27 officers and one office assistant.

The ambulance fleet consists of twelve modern

ambulance vehicles fitted with two-way radio, oxygen, trilene gas and every modern convenience for the safe and comfortable transport of the sick and injured.

The income derived to finance the service is 30% subscriptions, 30% fees from non-subscribers, 20% donations and benefits and 10% government allocation, and the cost per week of operating the Eastern Suburbs District Ambulance Service is £1,000.

The area served by the Eastern Suburbs District Ambulance is from the South Head of Sydney Harbour to the North Head of Botany Bay, via Centennial Park and includes the municipalities of Randwick, Waverley and portion of Woollahra.

## VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES

The earliest indication of the establishment of a fire brigade in the Waverley-Woollahra district is shown by a letter to the Waverley Municipal Council of November 19, 1872, from the Woollahra Volunteer Fire Brigade Company, No. 2, soliciting a donation toward its funds. The Councillors responded by making a personal gift of five shillings each to the fund. A request by the Fire Brigade in 1877 to Council to be allowed to form a branch office at Waverley was not approved because Council had in mind the establishment of a Waverley Fire Brigade similar to the Woollahra Company No. 2.

In the "Sydney Morning Herald" of the 15th March, 1882, it was reported that the Woollahra Fire Brigade had given an order to Messrs. Howe & Rose of Waterloo for a light Manual Fire Engine with the latest improvements, suitable for the requirements of the Waverley District. "It is to be stationed at the Woollahra Branch Station at Waverley." It must be remembered that at this period water was not laid on as it is today. In the "Sydney Morning Herald" of April, 1882 it was recorded that a fire broke out on the 18th of that month at the residence of a carpenter at Waverley near the "Simon Pure" (Tea Gardens) Hotel. The alarm was given at the Woollahra Branch Station, Waverley. The Brigade was promptly on the spot and with its hand engine extinguished the flames.

In 1882 the Waverley Council helped the funds of the Woollahra Brigade by a contribution of £10. To meet the requirements of the Woollahra Brigade a second engine was obtained in that year. A christening ceremony was held by the residents and Sir John Hay broke the bottle of champagne to mark the event. Added interest was given to the day by a procession of Fire Brigades during which an unrehearsed incident occurred. A horse attached to one of the engines took fright at an approaching steam tram, played up, was knocked down and killed on the spot.

Fire-fighting was put on a firmer basis in 1884 by the establishment by the Government of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board—Waverley Borough coming within its jurisdiction. Under the Act it was compulsory for Council to make a quarterly payment pro rata to the assessed annual value of rateable property in the Municipality. The first quarterly payment

amounted to £15/0/9. Subsequent payments fluctuated in the early years between £13 and £17 per quarter.

Action towards the creation of a Waverley Fire Brigade was taken by Council when it appointed a committee to call a public meeting for that purpose in December, 1887. That was the birth of the first Waverley Volunteer Fire Brigade. Its establishment is verified in the remarks of the Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades in his Report for the year 1888. A grant of £80 was made by the Municipal Council towards the funds of the new Waverley Fire Brigade. It replaced the older Woollahra Brigade which served Waverley earlier. In February, 1889, the Mayor and Aldermen were invited to the christening of the new manual fire engine, supplied by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board—the first for Waverley Brigade. This was followed by a demonstration of fire fighting in Waverley Park in July of the same year. The Waverley Brigade was registered by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board in 1890 and received its subsidy of £90 for the then current year. This subsidy had no connection with that of Council's subsidy paid quarterly to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board.

The Waverley Volunteer Fire Brigade was housed in new premises erected on a site in Carrington Road, Charing Cross, Thomas Dickson being one of the trustees. Later the trustees sold the property to the Fire Brigade Board in July, 1889, for £250.

Records in the Board's Office show that in 1894 there were 16 firemen on the roll of the Waverley Brigade, and in 1895, 14 men. The amount of subsidy received by Waverley Brigade for 1894 was £110 and in 1895, £125. For the year 1894 there were only five fires and alarms, but in 1895 the fires and alarms totalled 15.

An additional site adjoining the then existing one in Carrington Road, with a 66 feet frontage, was acquired in 1903, on which a new fire station was erected in 1915. The new building was opened by Mr. Fred Flowers, M.L.C. Mr. T. J. Smith, late of the Board of Fire Commissioners, was then in charge of the new station. A relic kept in the station which linked with earlier days was an old brass lamp from a horse-drawn engine at one time attached to the station. In 1939 the station was staffed by an

officer and permanent firemen and was equipped with a Dennis Motor Fire Engine, 1,940 feet of hose, 3 chemical extinguishers, foam generator, scaling ladder and other fire equipment. At this time R. W. Joyner was Station Officer in Charge with eight firemen.

Waverley Fire Station was one of the three stations closed in 1945 in the Eastern Suburbs following the reduction of firemen's working hours from 78 to 56 per week. Its strength then was two officers and eight men. During the war years in the 1940's this station had additional personnel recruited to the extent of nine reserve firemen, twenty auxiliary reserve firemen and seventeen auxiliary fire-women. Since its closure the station has been used as a probationary training school for firemen, a place for the holding of its examinations, and also as a storage depot.

### **BONDI FIRE STATION**

Action towards the establishment of a fire station at Bondi was raised by the Bondi Vigilance Association in a letter to the Waverley Council in June, 1923, with a request to Council to co-operate in the matter. An investigation by Council revealed that the Fire Brigade Board could not see its way clear to establish a station at Bondi. Constant agitation, however, was

successful in having a site acquired for the purpose of a fire station in June, 1927, and a station erected in 1930. By 1939 it was staffed by an officer, W. E. Martin, and four firemen.

During the years of World War II additional persons were recruited for service in this station including seven reserve firemen, thirteen auxiliary reserve firemen and eleven women's fire auxiliaries—the latter being used for telephone and round the stations service whilst being trained for firefighting if the need should arise.

Improvements at the station were made in 1949 by removing the officers and firemen's rest rooms from the first floor to the ground floor. This allowed for the first floor to be converted into self-contained living quarters at the station.

Apart from the main duty of the Brigade of fighting fires, it is called upon to render a number of miscellaneous services of which the following may be mentioned:— giving instruction to St. John Ambulance Cadets, participating in public displays, explaining the Brigade activities to parties of school children, removing petrol from roadways, attending to ammonia fumes from burst refrigerators, and standing by at forced landings of planes.

## POLICE STATIONS

There was very little settlement between present Bondi Junction and Bondi when the "Australian" newspaper reported in January, 1838:—"Calvert the person who was cut at by a drunken constable in Castlereagh Street some time back, was in the bush near Bondi on Sunday, and came with a bushranger, who was in the act of robbing a man. Calvert presented his fowling-piece at the bushranger, who kept retreating until he plunged into the thick scrub, and effected his escape, and although followed some distance by Calvert, who was delicate of pulling the trigger. The circumstances were reported to the Police who went in pursuit but the bushranger has evaded the pursuit to the present time."



*Waverley Police Station, site purchased 1879.*

According to the Police Department, there was no complete organization of the Police Force of this State prior to 1862. At that period each Bench of Magistrates appointed the local police to act within the area covered by the jurisdiction of the Bench. In Sydney and Suburbs police duties in the 1850's were attended to mainly by members of the Military Forces. It is known, however, that police troopers operated under the Inspector-General of Police in the 1850's. What appears to be the first police appointments at Waverley were made in 1863 when a Senior Constable and another Constable were stationed at Waverley, but where they were located has not been traced.

Some attention had apparently been given to the requirements of Waverley by the Inspector-General of Police, for in March, 1877 he recommended the erection of a lockup in the locality, and fixed on a site the following year (1878). It was in that year that the Mayor of the Municipality stated in Council "that

he had received complaints of the increase of larrikinism in Waverley and it was resolved that the Council Clerk write to the Inspector-General of Police asking for extra police protection and that special provision be made to prevent annoyances rumoured to be contemplated on New Year's Eve . . ."

Apparently the Inspector-General had been moving for some time towards the erection of a Watch House (now called Police Stations) at Waverley, for we find that on March 17, 1879 an area of 0a. 1r. 3½p. had been purchased by the Government from G. F. Richardson for this purpose. The land was measured by Surveyor Hedgeland on August 30, 1879. The cost was not revealed, but as about £884 was paid for school land adjacent to the site a few years later it is likely to have been round about that figure. The building at present standing in Bronte Road near the Waverley Public School has all the appearance of being the original building with perhaps a few alterations.

Seemingly there must have been a shortage of police in Sydney in middle of the 1880's, for in July, 1884 the Waverley Council again applied to the Inspector-General of Police for increased protection. He replied that it was impossible to increase the number of police at Waverley with the men at his disposal. Two months later complaints were being made of the nuisance caused by loiterers assembling along the footpath in Old South Head Road.

In January, 1886 the Council proposed a by-law to prevent loitering, obstructing any street, standing or congregating and refusing to disperse when told to do so by the Police or Council Officer; otherwise they were liable to a fine of £2. The following year the larrikinism had spread to Bronte and the Inspector-General of Police was asked for a number of policemen for the protection particularly on the beach areas during holidays.

It would appear that the requests for increased police protection were not recognized, and it may have been through this neglect that there occurred later in the year the famous "Bondi Riots."

On Boxing Day, 1884 a building known as the Dance Hall at Bondi was the scene of a disturbance by a push or gang of larrikins which compares more than favourably with any "bodgie" effort of today. The

"Sydney Morning Herald" of December 27, 1884, reported the following: "A disgraceful fracas occurred at Bondi yesterday. The pretty little village was crowded with visitors, and amongst them were some members of the larrikin type. These latter got up a fight at the hotel at Bondi. Senior Constable Stapleton and Constable Gray and Stove were on duty, and immediately went to quell the disturbance. The roughs, however, turned on the police and assaulted them in a disgraceful manner. Constable Stove was severely cut about the head and the other members of the police force were badly treated. A bystander named Harrison Kerwan went to the assistance of the police and was also severely injured. The wounded men were treated at the Sydney Hospital. Several of the rioters were arrested."

Again, the "Sydney Morning Herald" in the issue of December 30, 1884, in a sub-leader stated: "The outbreak of blackguardism at Bondi has culminated in the death of the constable from injuries he received in his efforts to effect an arrest." The following day this statement was corrected:—"The rumour of the death of the policeman so seriously maltreated at Bondi turns out to be incorrect. The final stages of the affair was reached when on March 26, three men John Jones, James Kelly and Michael Healy were tried at the Criminal Court and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment each on the charge of maliciously wounding Constable Stove and two years' hard labour for rioting at the same place."

It is understood the row started in the dance hall over a girl, the disputants came to blows and a ding-dong battle raged, with the women joining in the fray. The constables were driven from the hall and were chased through the scrub. The Cliff House Hotel which was close to the dance hall was no doubt responsible for the drunkenness and quite a few private fights took place during the disturbance. There were quite a number of pushes or gangs in the city and other suburbs, but the Bondi riot gave rise to the "push" battle cry "Give 'em Bondi" when rival gangs were engaged in

fight. The area round about the old dance hall was all scrub with ti-tree and tall honeysuckles and a favourite spot for picnickers, particularly the site of later "Oceanmore." The picnickers came out in all kinds of vehicles, spring-carts, delivery vans, etc. Water for the picnickers was drawn from a spring at the bottom of the cliffs near the beach. The riot briefly described is no doubt the only serious affair that has occurred at Bondi.

### **BONDI POLICE STATION**

Apparently Bondi Beach district was controlled by the Waverley Police Station until 1916. In that year a station was established in rented premises at North Bondi with the staff strength of only one Constable.

It was not until 1931 that the Police Department erected a suitable police station to serve the Bondi Beach area, which by this time had made remarkable progress in building, population and as a tourist centre.

### **POUND SITE, WAVERLEY**

Some two years after the erection of the Municipality an appropriation of a small area of 2 roods was made at the south west corner of Cuthbert and Bourke streets as a site for a pound. The establishment of the pound, however, was not considered advisable because of some defects in the Impounding Act. The problem of straying stock in the Municipality was one in which the Council could do little. The question was before Council in 1868 but 20 years later the pound was still not in operation, although a report by the Chief Inspector of Stock in that year stated that the Government had ordered its establishment on the Waverley site. Objection to its operation on that site was raised by a Mr. Hegarty who owned land in the vicinity. Owing to the nuisance created by straying stock Mr. Francis O'Brien offered a temporary site but the Stock Inspector said the Waverley site was the most central. The result was that no pound was established on the Waverley site. In 1915 the dedication was revoked and the area was subdivided and sold.

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

## FIRST ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Under the Electoral Act of 1851 the district of Waverley and Bondi was included in the Electoral District of Cumberland which was in 1856 separated into North Riding and South Riding. These were some of the first electoral districts under Responsible Government in New South Wales in 1856. Waverley district was included in the South Riding or South Cumberland of County of Cumberland Electorate being that part south of the Great Western Road from Penrith but excluding other small electorates within that boundary such as Paddington, Sydney, Parramatta, etc.

The election for South Cumberland was held on April 9, 1856, when Mr. William Montague Manning and Mr. Elias Carpenter Weekes were duly elected. J. F. Downes was the Returning Officer for the election.

Manning was educated in England. In 1832 he was called to the Bar, appointed Solicitor-General in 1844 and 1849, and in 1851 a nominee member of the Legislative Council and Attorney General in 1856,

the first year of Responsible Government. He was knighted in 1858.

Mr. Elias Weekes succeeded Robert Campbell, who died in March 1859, as Colonial Treasurer in the Cowper Ministry and again in the Robertson Ministry of 1860 and Cowper Ministry of 1861.

Under the Electoral Act of 1858 Waverley became a part of the Electoral District of Canterbury.

The following schedule which is self-explanatory has been furnished by the Electoral Commissioner for the State of New South Wales, Mr. E. Bennets, on May 6, 1957. In 1920 the proportional representation system was introduced and Waverley became part of the five-member district of Western Suburbs and remained as such until 1927, when the Twenty-eighth Parliament was elected under the Single Seat Electoral Act of 1926. From 1927 until recently Waverley has emerged as an electoral district within its own right. It is now the Paddington-Waverley Electorate.

| Period of Parliament     | Parliament | Electoral District           | No. of Members | Members and Periods of Representation  |
|--------------------------|------------|------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 30/ 4/1856 to 19/12/1857 | First      | Cumberland<br>(South Riding) | 2              | Elias Carpenter Weekes—<br>9/4/1856 to 5/8/1856.<br>William Montague Manning<br>—9/4/1856 to 18/5/1857.<br>John Ryan Brenan—<br>21/8/1856 to 28/10/1856.<br>James Byrnes—17/10/1856<br>to 19/12/1857.<br>Stuart Alexander Donaldson<br>—4/11/1856 to<br>19/12/1857 |
| 27/ 2/1858 to 11/ 4/1859 | Second     | „                            | 2              | Sir Stuart A. Donaldson, Kt.<br>—30/1/1858 to<br>11/4/1859<br>Ed. Flood—30/1/1858 to<br>11/4/1859  |

| Period of Parliament     | Parliament | Electoral District | No. of Members | Members and Periods of Representation   |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| 30/ 7/1859 to 10/11/1860 | Third      | Canterbury         | 2              | Edward Flood—18/6/1859 to 13/1/1860<br>John Lucas—4/2/1860 to 10/11/1860<br>Samuel Lyons—18/6/1859 to 10/11/1860                                      |
| 31/12/1860 to 10/11/1864 | Fourth     | „                  | 2              | Edward Raper—15/12/1860 to 10/11/1864<br>John Lucas—15/12/1860 to 10/11/1864  |
| 24/ 1/1865 to 15/11/1869 | Fifth      | „                  | 2              | John Lucas—7/12/1864 to 14/2/1865<br>James Pemell—24/2/1865 19/5/1868<br>Richard Hill—16/9/1868 to 15/11/1869<br>James Oatley—7/12/1864 to 15/11/1869 |
| 24/ 1/1870 to 3/ 2/1872  | Sixth      | „                  | 2              | John Lucas—6/1/1871 to 3/2/1872<br>Richard Hill—23/12/1869 to 3/2/1872<br>Montague Consett Stephen—23/12/1869 to 13/12/1870                           |
| 8/ 4/1872 to 28/11/1874  | Seventh    | „                  | 2              | John Lucas—20/2/1872 to 28/11/1874<br>Richard Hill—20/2/1872 to 28/11/1874  |
| 25/ 1/1875 to 12/10/1877 | Eighth     | Canterbury         | 2              | John Lucas—28/12/1874 to 12/10/1877<br>Richard Hill—28/12/1874 to 12/10/1877  |
| 26/11/1877 to 9/11/1880  | Ninth      | „                  | 2              | John Lucas—29/10/1877 to 9/11/1880<br>Sir Henry Parkes—29/10/1877 to 9/11/1880  |
| 14/12/1880 to 23/11/1882 | Tenth      | Paddington         | 2              | William Joseph Trickett—18/11/1880 to 23/11/1882<br>William Hezlet—18/11/1880 to 23/11/1882   |
| 28/12/1882 to 7/10/1885  | Eleventh   | „                  | 2              | William Joseph Trickett—2/12/1882 to 7/10/1885<br>Robert Butcher—2/12/1882 to 7/10/1885   |
| 10/11/1885 to 26/ 1/1887 | Twelfth    | „                  | 3              | William Joseph Trickett—16/10/1885 to 26/1/1887<br>Robert Butcher—16/10/1885 to 26/1/1887   |

| Period of Parliament     | Parliament    | Electoral District | No. of Members | Members and Periods of Representation  |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
|                          |               | Paddington         |                | John Cash Neild—<br>16/10/1885 to 26/1/1887  |
| 2/ 3/1887 to 19/ 1/1889  | Thirteenth    | „                  | 3              | William Joseph Trickett—<br>9/2/1887 to 23/12/1887<br>John Cash Neild—9/2/1887<br>to 19/1/1889<br>Alfred Allen—9/2/1887 to<br>19/1/1889<br>William Johnston Allen—<br>12/1/1888 to 19/1/1889 |
| 22/ 2/1889 to 6/ 6/1891  | Fourteenth    | „                  | 4              | Alfred Allen—2/2/1889 to<br>6/6/1891<br>Robert John King—<br>2/2/1889 to 6/6/1891<br>John Shepherd—2/2/1889<br>to 6/6/1891<br>John Henry Want—<br>2/2/1889 to 6/6/1891                       |
| 11/ 7/1891 to 25/ 6/1894 | Fifteenth     | „                  | 4              | Alfred Allen—17/6/1891 to<br>25/6/1894<br>John Henry Want—<br>17/6/1891 to 25/6/1894<br>John Cash Neild—<br>17/6/1891 to 25/6/1894<br>James Marks—17/6/1891 to<br>25/6/1894                  |
| 3/ 8/1894 to 5/ 7/1895   | Sixteenth     | Waverley           | 1              | Angus Cameron—<br>17/7/1894 to 5/7/1895  |
| 10/ 8/1895 to 8/ 7/1898  | Seventeenth   | „                  | 1              | Angus Cameron—<br>24/7/1895 to 26/1/1896<br>Thomas Jessep—20/2/1896<br>to 8/7/1898   |
| 13/ 8/1898 to 11/ 6/1901 | Eighteenth    | Waverley           | 1              | Thomas Jessep—27/7/1898<br>to 11/6/1901  |
| 17/ 7/1901 to 16/ 7/1904 | Nineteenth    | „                  | 1              | Thomas Jessep—3/7/1901<br>to 16/7/1904   |
| 20/ 8/1904 to 20/ 8/1907 | Twentieth     | „                  | 1              | Thomas Jessep—6/8/1904<br>to 20/8/1907   |
| 26/ 9/1907 to 14/ 9/1910 | Twenty-first  | „                  | 1              | Colonel James William Mac-<br>arthur Onslow—10/9/1907<br>to 14/9/1910  |
| 10/11/1910 to 6/11/1913  | Twenty-second | „                  | 1              | Colonel James William<br>Macarthur Onslow—<br>14/10/1910 to 6/11/1913  |
| 29/12/1913 to 21/ 2/1917 | Twenty-third  | „                  | 1              | James Fingleton—<br>13/12/1913 to 21/2/1917  |
| 23/ 4/1917 to 18/ 2/1920 | Twenty-fourth | „                  | 1              | Hon. Charles William Oakes,<br>C.M.G.—24/3/1917 to<br>18/2/1920  |
| 21/ 4/1920 to 17/ 2/1922 | Twenty-fifth  | Eastern Suburbs    | 5              | James Fingleton—<br>20/3/1920 to 13/10/1920  |

| Period of Parliament     | Parliament     | Electoral District | No. of Members | Members and Periods of Representation  |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
|                          |                | Eastern Suburbs    |                | Colonel James William Macarthur Onslow—<br>20/3/1920 to 17/2/1922<br>Daniel Francis Dwyer—<br>15/12/1920 to 17/2/1922<br>Hon. Charles William Oakes—<br>20/3/1920 to 17/2/1922<br>Harold Vivian Jaques, B.A., LL.B.—<br>20/3/1920 to 17/2/1922<br>Robert Emmet O'Halloran—<br>20/3/1920 to 17/2/1922 |
| 19/ 4/1922 to 18/ 4/1925 | Twenty-sixth   | „                  | 5              | Hon. Charles William Oakes—<br>25/3/1922 to 18/4/1925<br>Cyril Joseph Fallon, M.D.—<br>25/3/1922 to 18/4/1925<br>Hyman Goldstein—<br>25/3/1922 to 18/4/1925<br>Harold Vivian Jaques, B.A., LL.B.—<br>25/3/1922 to 18/4/1925<br>Robert Emmet O'Halloran—<br>25/3/1922 to 18/4/1925                    |
| 20/ 6/1925 to 7/ 9/1927  | Twenty-seventh | „                  | 5              | Harold Vivian Jaques, B.A., LL.B.—<br>30/5/1925 to 7/9/1927<br>Robert Emmet O'Halloran—<br>30/5/1925 to 7/9/1927<br>William Frederick Foster—<br>30/5/1925 to 7/9/1927<br>Miss Millicent Preston-Stanley—<br>30/5/1925 to 7/9/1927<br>Septimus Denbigh Alldis, B.A.—<br>30/5/1925 to 7/9/1927        |
| 29/10/1927 to 18/ 9/1930 | Twenty-eighth  | Waverley           | 1              | Carl Frederick Spencer Glasgow—<br>8/10/1927 to 18/9/1930  |
| 21/11/1930 to 18/ 5/1932 | Twenty-ninth   | „                  | 1              | William Alfred Clementson—<br>25/10/1930 to 18/5/1932  |
| 30/ 6/1932 to 12/ 4/1935 | Thirtieth      | „                  | 1              | John William Waddell—<br>11/6/1932 to 12/4/1935  |
| 10/ 6/1935 to 24/ 2/1938 | Thirty-first   | „                  | 1              | John William Waddell—<br>11/5/1935 to 24/2/1938  |
| 26/ 4/1938 to 18/ 4/1941 | Thirty-second  | „                  | 1              | John William Waddell—<br>26/3/1938 to 15/3/1939<br>Clarence Edward Martin—<br>22/4/1939 to 18/4/1941   |

| Period of Parliament     | Parliament     | Electoral District      | No. of Members | Members and Periods of Representation  |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|--|
| 17/ 6/1941 to 24/ 4/1944 | Thirty-third   | Waverley                | 1              | Clarence Edward Martin—<br>10/5/1941 to 24/4/1944  |
| 22/ 6/1944 to 29/ 3/1947 | Thirty-fourth  | „                       | 1              | Clarence Edward Martin—<br>28/4/1944 to 29/3/1947  |
| 27/ 5/1947 to 22/ 5/1950 | Thirty-fifth   | „                       | 1              | Clarence Edward Martin—<br>3/5/1947 to 22/5/1950   |
| 19/ 7/1950 to 14/ 1/1953 | Thirty-sixth   | „                       | 1              | Clarence Edward Martin—<br>17/6/1950 to 14/1/1953  |
| 14/ 3/1953 to 6/ 2/1956  | Thirty-seventh | „                       | 1              | Clarence Edward Martin—<br>14/3/1953 to 5/9/1953<br>William John Ferguson—<br>31/10/1953 to 6/2/1956 |
| 5/ 4/1956 to 16/ 2/1959  | Thirty-eighth  | “                       | 1              | William John Ferguson—<br>3/3/1956 to 16/2/59  |
| 16/ 2/1959 to            | Thirty-ninth   | Paddington-<br>Waverley | 1              | William John Ferguson—<br>21/3/59  |

The Bondi Electorate, which forms a part of the Municipality of Waverley, was created in 1927. Since then the following persons have represented Bondi:

|                     |          |    |         |
|---------------------|----------|----|---------|
| Jaques, H. W. ....  | 8/10/27  | to | 9/9/30  |
| Landa, Abram ....   | 25/10/30 | to | 18/5/32 |
| Thomas, Norman .... | 11/ 6/32 | to | 10/5/41 |
| Landa, Abram ....   | 17/ 6/41 | to |         |

### COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT

The proclamation of the Commonwealth of Australia was made at Sydney on the first day of January 1901. Representatives of New South Wales in the first Federal Parliament included Sir William McMillan for the Division of Wentworth of which no doubt Waverley formed a part. The Electoral subdivision of Waverley appears to have remained a part of the Division of Wentworth until about 1949, when, as a result of the redistribution of Commonwealth Electoral boundaries it was included in the Division of East Sydney. The attached statement relative to elections held in the Commonwealth Electoral Divisions covers all elections held under the Commonwealth Electoral Act. This statement was furnished by the Commonwealth Electoral Officer, Mr. A. K. Parker in April 1957.

### DIVISION OF WENTWORTH VOTING FIGURES

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| 16th December, 1903.         |        |
| KELLY, William Henry .....   | 13,894 |
| Dalley, John Bede .....      | 5,459  |
| 12th December, 1906.         |        |
| * KELLY, William Henry ..... | 10,505 |
| Duncan, William .....        | 3,846  |
| 13th April, 1910.            |        |
| KELLY, William Henry .....   | 11,641 |
| Vernon, Arthur John L. ....  | 7,451  |
| 31st May, 1913.              |        |
| KELLY, William Henry .....   | 18,375 |
| Green, Sydney Temple .....   | 11,386 |