

❧ MUNICIPALITY OF WILLOUGHBY ❧

THE WEST WARD

BY
NANCY BOOKER
AND
IDA BENNETT

*One of a set of eight locality booklets compiled by voluntary effort
to commemorate Australia's Bicentenary,
comprising*

*Artarmon, Castle Cove / Middle Cove, Castlecrag,
Chatswood East, Chatswood West Ward, Naremburn,
Northbridge and Willoughby.*



Australia
1788-1988

THE WEST WARD OF WILLOUGHBY

by
Nancy Booker
and
Ida Bennett



Published for
THE BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
of
WILLOUGHBY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
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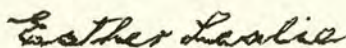
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THE PROJECT

In 1983, under Section 530A of the Local Government Act of 1919, as amended, the Willoughby Municipal Council established a Willoughby Bicentennial Community Committee to manage, on a voluntary basis, Council's involvement in Australia's Bicentenary celebrations in 1988. It comprised members of the community and representatives of Council. The Committee set up several subcommittees within its infrastructure, including a 'Community History Projects Subcommittee' which unanimously decided to compile historical booklets on each of the nine suburbs in the present-day Municipality of Willoughby; locality boundaries to be local government boundaries irrespective of postcodes. An exception was made for the booklet on Chatswood West in favour of the boundaries of the West Ward.

Work on the project commenced in 1984 and was undertaken by five members working independently on separate booklets — Nancy Booker, Vince Egan, Esther Leslie, Grace Warner and Eric Wilksch. Each member had power to coopt assistance. Regular meetings of the Subcommittee were held at which administrative and financial matters, in the main, were dealt with. It is hoped that each booklet will be seen as a contribution to any comprehensive and authoritative history of the Municipality that may be written in the future and not in itself as a complete history of the suburb/ward; the latter scope was never the intention of the Subcommittee and neither time nor resources would have allowed such detailed and in-depth research.

The project was endorsed by Willoughby Council and by the New South Wales Bicentennial Council; publication costs have been shared by the Australian Bicentennial Authority and Willoughby Council under the Authority's 'Local Government Initiative Grants Program'. Eight booklets have been published. They are: Artarmon, Castle Cove/Middle Cove, Castlecrag, Chatswood East, Chatswood West Ward, Naremburn, Northbridge and Willoughby. Each compiler takes responsibility for the accuracy of facts, within the limits of the available research resources and for any viewpoints which may have been expressed. Any additional or variant information would be welcomed and should be forwarded to the compiler c/o Willoughby Municipal Council.



Esther Leslie
Convener, Community History Projects Subcommittee

FOREWORD

This booklet deals with the establishment of the West Ward, its growth and the people who contributed to its growth.

It traces the development of the West Ward against its historical background and provides information which might serve as a basis for a definitive history at a later date.

The authors wish to acknowledge with thanks the assistance of the staff of the Local History Section of the Willoughby Municipal Library and also the co-operation of Marjorie Willans and Brenda Norwood in the collection of material for the booklet.

RECOMMENDED READING

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| LEPLASTRIER, Claude | <i>Willoughby's fifty years, 1865-1915</i>
Willoughby Municipal Council, Chatswood, 1916 |
| McLEAN, Lachlan | <i>The Golden Jubilee of Chatswood West Ward Progress Association — 50 years of history, 1930-1980</i>
The Association, Chatswood, (1980) |
| PHILLIPS, Valmai (ed) | <i>The good old days; reminiscences of early Chatswood and Willoughby</i>
Willoughby Municipal Council, Chatswood, 1983 |
| RUSSELL, Eric | <i>Willoughby, a centenary history of the Municipality from earliest times</i>
Willoughby Municipal Council, Chatswood, 1966 |

PREFACE

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the eight Community Histories of Willoughby and to commend all those responsible for the necessary research, comprehensive preparation and their publication.

Many people are interested and fascinated by our social history and I am certain the local history contained within these booklets will add to this interest. It will certainly extend our knowledge of our immediate surroundings and bring better understanding to the origins and meanings of the streets and their names, so that they will become significant, as will the names of our parks and other landmarks.

The booklets also contain information about our local residents and provide a fund of information for those wishing to learn more about those who have had an influence on our Municipality.

The Bicentennial Project therefore is a fine way of celebrating this important event, particularly in Willoughby, which was first established as a Municipality in 1865, and which has a wealth of history to celebrate.

The Project itself is a heavy and intensive undertaking for a local group and I publicly acknowledge the major role played by Esther Leslie as Convener of the Project and thank both her and her co-authors Nancy Booker, Vince Egan, Grace Warner and Eric Wilksch for their efforts.

I hope you enjoy, as I have, the histories and the opportunities they present to learn more about our past.



Noel Reidy

Noel A. Reidy
MAYOR

Willoughby Municipal Council,
Civic Centre, Chatswood.
July 1988

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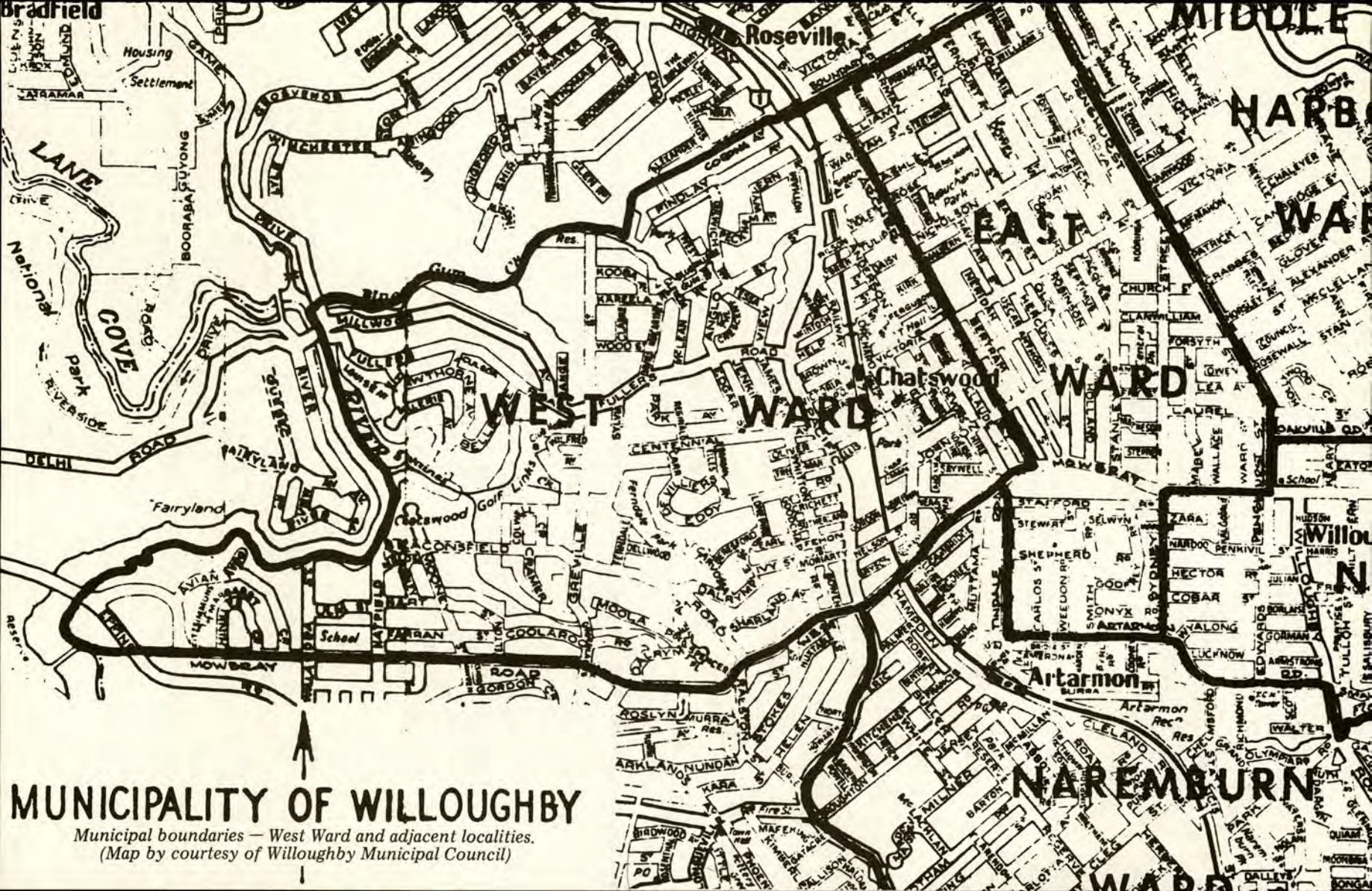
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MUNICIPALITY OF WILLOUGHBY

Municipal boundaries — West Ward and adjacent localities.
(Map by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Council)

INTRODUCTION

WEST WARD

For administrative purposes the Municipality of Willoughby is divided into five Wards — West Ward, East Ward, Middle Harbour, Naremburn and Northbridge Wards.

The West Ward consists of an area lying between Archer Street on the east, Boundary Street and Blue Gum Creek on the north, Lane Cove River on the west and Mowbray Road on the south. It was formed in 1901 by the division of the existing Chatswood Ward into Chatswood East and Chatswood West.

The Pacific Highway, first known as the Lane Cove Road and later Gordon Road, runs midway through the area. Originally the road from Blue's Point divided at Crows Nest. One track followed the route of Willoughby Road, the other followed that of the present Pacific Highway. This track entered Chatswood close to where the Great Northern Hotel now stands and continued north to the toll gate at Boundary Street, thence to Pearce's Corner and beyond. About half way between Mowbray Road and Boundary Street on its eastern side, Pacific Highway forms a junction with Victoria Avenue, and a few hundred yards further north, on the western side, with Fullers Road, which drops to the Lane Cove River to link up with the suburb of Ryde.

The Ward is also cut by the railway line, which runs about two hundred yards to the east and roughly parallel with the Highway. Chatswood Railway Station stands at a point where the line crosses Victoria Avenue.

Except for the shopping centre along Victoria Avenue, which extends into some side streets and the commercial area along the railway line, Chatswood West is a residential area. It is closely settled on its eastern side where the land is level and where the first development took place. Development on the western side came later, partly because of the terrain. On this side the land is rough and hilly, dropping suddenly to the Lane Cove River. Originally a number of creeks ran through it; these were tributaries of Swaine's Creek which runs into the Lane Cove River. Most of these creeks have disappeared. They now

run underground as part of the street drainage system. The creeks, the hilly terrain and the rocky outcrops account for the odd directions some of the streets take today, and the angles at which they run into each other.

Blue Gum Creek, which forms part of the northern boundary of the Ward, skirts the site of the old Rifle Range before running into the Lane Cove River close to Fullers Bridge.

Following the establishment, in about 1807, of Billy Blue's ferry service between Dawes Point and the North Shore, an overland route to Hornsby developed along the track from Blue's Point which later became the Pacific Highway. The settlers, timber-getters, orchardists, market gardeners and grass cutters who lived and worked along the river then began to make their way to this overland route up the track which later became Blue Gum Creek Road and then Fullers Road.

In its earliest days, the Lane Cove Road was a dusty track winding through heavily timbered country, with coach stops at the Union Hotel at North Sydney, the Great Northern Hotel and the Greengate at Killara.

Along the way the traveller would have, on the left, a view through the trees of the rough bushland dropping towards the Lane Cove River and rising towards a distant view of the Blue Mountains. On his right the land was flat, a plateau stretching almost to Middle Harbour. This plateau, heavily timbered in the earliest days, became eventually the residential areas of Chatswood and Willoughby.

THE NAMING OF WILLOUGHBY

It is generally accepted that the Parish of Willoughby was named by Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell, Surveyor-General 1828-1855, after his friend, Sir James Willoughby Gordon, who had been his superior officer during the Peninsular War.

Early in the 1800s the Secretary of State in England had instructed the Governor of New South Wales to divide the Colony into Counties, Hundreds and Parishes to facilitate identification and development of areas within the Colony.

In 1835 the Governor, Sir Richard Bourke, issued a proclamation in the Government Gazette No. 169 "erecting the County of Cumberland and dividing same into Hundreds and Parishes". One of these Hundreds was the Hundred of Packerham, which later was divided into five parishes, each roughly twenty-five square miles — Broken Bay, Narrabeen, Manly Cove, Gordon and Willoughby.

The suburb of Willoughby and the Municipality of Willoughby (both originally called North Willoughby) took their names from the Parish of Willoughby.

THE TOWNSHIP OF CHATSWOOD

A small township began to develop at the junction of Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway) and Mowbray Road as early as the 1860s, when John Bryson established himself as a builder there. The Great Northern Hotel was built on the western corner opposite Bryson in 1870. In the same year Hammond's butchers shop opened a few hundred yards further north, on the corner of the present-day Moriarty Road. The Chatswood South Methodist Church was built on the southern corner diagonally opposite Bryson in 1872.

For travellers on foot or on horseback, making their way north along the timbered track which led from Blue's Point to Hornsby, the Great Northern was the first drinking stop between the Union Hotel at North Sydney and the Greengate Hotel at Killara.

It was thought that the township would continue to develop here, but with the coming of the railway line in 1890 and the establishment of the railway station at Victoria Avenue, it moved north and the shopping and residential area developed along Victoria Avenue.

THE NAMING OF CHATSWOOD

There is a local legend that Chatswood was named after Richard Hayes Harnett's second wife, Charlotte, or 'Chattie', who used to wander in the nearby woods.

This story gained substance from a poem by Henry Lawson published in the *Lone Hand* in 1919, about an old respected settler " . . . we'll say his name was Hayes", who had a "small place in the country" with a little wood on it . . . and "his young wife used to dream there, so he called it 'Chattie's Wood'". It is unlikely that the name Chatswood derived directly from 'Chattie'.

In a letter dated 7 April 1879, the Town Clerk of the Municipal Council of North Willoughby suggested to the postal authorities that a new post office be named 'Chatswood', "that being the name of the property on which the greatest amount of improvements are being made in the immediate vicinity". The property referred to, called Chatswood Estate, was owned by Richard Hayes Harnett. Part of this land was later purchased by the Department of Railways for the construction of the station, railway line and goods yard. This letter is contained in the archives of the General Post Office, and bears a notation which says: "This name will suit, I think. S.N.L. Sec. G.P.O."

The name 'Chatsworth' was never considered for the name of the suburb. It was used in error by the Department of Lands in the printing of a set of Rate Books requested by Willoughby Municipal Council following the establishment of a new west ward. These books were used from 1889 to 1895. The next set was given the correct title.

EARLY YEARS

ABORIGINES

In the settlement of the North Shore one of the problems was the Aborigines, who were extremely troublesome in the Lane Cove district, burning houses and killing stock. They roamed the area, living often in the caves on Middle Harbour and along the Lane Cove River.

The most powerful of the tribes at the time of the first settlement was a family group, belonging to the Ku-ring-gai tribe, the Camaraigal, from which is derived the name of the suburb, Cammeray. The tribe was distinguished by its numerical size, by the robust and muscular physique of the men, and by the authority the tribe held over surrounding groups.

The new settlers had many contacts with the Camaraigal as they fished around the harbour or explored inland from Middle Harbour. There is evidence of the Camaraigal still living in the area in the 1820s but by 1830 there were no Aboriginal communities following a traditional life style in the Sydney area.

At the 1981 Census one hundred and thirteen Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders were living in the Willoughby Municipality, but it is highly unlikely that any of them were directly descended from the original inhabitants of the area.

PIONEER LANDHOLDERS

When settlement began in New South Wales, land grants were made to soldiers on the expiration of their service, to induce them to settle in the country, and also to free settlers. These grants ceased in 1829; after that date settlers had to buy land from the Crown. Many of the soldier grantees had no desire to settle. They sold their land or disposed of their title to it, sometimes for a gallon or two of beer.

In 1794 John Fleming and William Hall each received grants of twenty-five acres which today would lie within the West Ward of the Municipality of Willoughby. For their exact location see the list of grants which follows.

John Fleming, a convict employed as a general overseer at Norfolk Island in 1794, received a warrant of emancipation on his return to

Sydney. He then enlisted in the New South Wales Corps and was promoted to the rank of non-commissioned officer. It has not been possible to identify William Hall; there were several persons of that name in the colony at the time.

Isaac Nichols arrived in the colony in 1791 as a convict and later became its first postmaster. He accumulated an estate of some nine hundred acres in the Lane Cove district through grants made directly to him and by buying up soldiers' grants. In 1805 he was granted two hundred acres by Governor King, which became known as King's Plains. This area straddles the Pacific Highway and takes in Chatswood Railway Station and part of the shopping centre.

In 1810 Nichols was granted another three hundred and ninety acres, an irregularly shaped block, commencing near Burns Bay and stretching north to Mowbray Road, whence it continued to the north-west corner of the King's Plains block. It stretched south and east of this block to about Anderson Street.

Today, that part of the West Ward north of Mowbray Road and east of Greville Street lies on part of Nichols' three hundred and ninety acre grant; the remainder, between Greville Street and the Lane Cove River, consists of land granted to early settlers such as George Stubbs, Robert Ball and Thomas Woodhouse.

The counties of New South Wales were divided into parishes in 1835. Each separately measured area of Crown land within a parish is called a portion and each portion has a number allotted to it.

Following is a list of portions which lie within the West Ward. It has been compiled from a map of the Parish of Willoughby issued by the Department of Lands of New South Wales, 27.10.1964. This list is arranged in chronological order of the dates on which the grants were made, and shows for each portion the name of the grantee, the date, the acreage and the location of the grant.

Portion No.	Grantee	Date of Grant	Acreage	Location
398	John Fleming (or Flemming)	3.12.1794	25	North of Mowbray Road, west from Pacific Highway to Stokes Street.
306	William Hall	3.12.1794	25	Around junction of Mowbray Road West, Beaconsfield Road and Ralston Street.
294	Isaac Nichols	8.12.1805	230	King's Plains straddles Pacific Highway; takes in Chatswood Railway Station.
295	Isaac Nichols	1.1.1810	380	Best Street Lane Cove, through Epping Highway and Mowbray Road into Chatswood.

EARLY YEARS

Portion No.	Grantee	Date of Grant	Acreage	Location
189	John Jones	7.3.1833	25	Between Mowbray Road West and Lane Cove River.
292	Robert Ball	5.9.1836	100	Between Lane Cove River and Blue Gum Creek.
136	George Stubbs	30.11.1837	40	Between Ball's land and Swaine's Creek.
94	J. Hatfield	14.11.1839	31	Between Mowbray Road West and Lane Cove River.
95	J. Hatfield	14.11.1839	32	
96	J. Hatfield	14.11.1839	30	
293	John McMillan	15.4.1840	60	Between Corona Avenue and northern boundary of Nichols' King's Plains grant.
139	Thomas Woodhouse	4.2.1841	30	Between Swaine's Creek and Beaconsfield Road.
137	Henry Wood	13.1.1842	40	Between Lowanna Park and northern boundary of Municipality.
138	W. Greaves	5.10.1853	25	Between Ball's grant and Beaconsfield Road.
163	Edward Cohen	21.3.1855	11	Between Beaconsfield Road and Mooney's grant.
166	S. H. Terry	30.8.1855	10	Between Mowbray Road and Beaconsfield Road and adjoining the grants of Cohen and Mooney on the west.
167	S. H. Terry	30.8.1855	11	
160-162	Francis Mooney	12.8.1856	27	Between Mowbray Road and Beaconsfield Road.
164-165	Francis Mooney	12.8.1856	17	
143	Michael Bennis	18.1.1859	9	Corner of Greenlands Avenue and Mowbray Road.
140	Thomas Jones	Cannot trace	20	South of Henry Wood's land, north of Bennis' grant. Bisected by Greville Street.
141	Thomas Jones		18	
142	Thomas Jones		10	

THE MUNICIPALITY OF WILLOUGHBY

Local Government in New South Wales dates from 1858 and the passing of the Municipalities Act 1858 (22 Victoria No. 13) "to establish Municipal Institutions in certain Cities, Towns and Districts".

Thirty-five municipalities were incorporated during the nine years this Act was in force. These became the first Boroughs under the Act of 1867, which repealed the Act of 1858 and divided municipalities into Boroughs and Municipal Districts.

Willoughby (first named North Willoughby) was proclaimed a Borough on 23 October 1865 (the date of its original incorporation). The date of its proclamation was 26 June 1897. The Municipality of North Willoughby was the first Municipality on the North Shore. The Act of 1867 and amending Acts were consolidated in the Municipalities Act 1897.

The Local Government Act 1906 abolished the Boroughs and Municipal Districts and divided practically the whole State into Shires and Municipalities. The Councils of the Shires and Municipalities became the bodies corporate charged with the administration of local affairs.

Elections: Municipal elections, at which the West Ward elects three aldermen, are held every three years. The aldermen elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor from their number at the end of every twelve months.

Administration and Services: The Municipality, which is divided into five wards, is administered by the Town Clerk and the heads of various departments, supported by an indoor and an outdoor staff.

Technical departments of Council comprise Engineering, Town Planning, Health and Building and Parks and Gardens. The Administrative section covers sundry public services, rates, charges, levies, accounting and stores.

Council also provides services for the aged and infirm: Meals on Wheels, Home Library Service, Neighbourhood Aid, Home Care Service, Linen Service, Helpmates and activities for senior citizens.

Rates: Council began the rating of property almost as soon as the Municipality was established in 1865. Early rating was on the rental value of the property. With the passing of the Local Government Act 1907, this was changed to rating on the unimproved value of the land.

Henry Russell, first elected as an alderman in 1866, succeeded in

establishing with Council that rates should be spent over the area in which they were collected. Additional revenue came from the toll collected on the Lane Cove Road at the northern boundary of the Municipality, that is, at the junction today of Pacific Highway and Boundary Street. (See the chapter of this booklet entitled 'Tolls and the Toll Gate'.) The exact period during which the toll was collected is not known. It was probably between 1870 and 1875.

MAYORS:

ALCORN E. E.	1933-34
(Alderman West Ward)	
BACKHOUSE C. N.	1912-13
BAILEY G. F.	1899-1900
	1908-09
BALDWIN A. R.	1950-52
BALES J. R.	1932-32
	1936
	1938-42
	1945-47
BAVIN L.	1928-30
BEST J. P.	1874
	1883
BLIGH J. W. (Chairman)	1865-67
BLIGH H. H.	1869-70
BROADFOOT D.	1868
CATT H. C.	1891
CAWTHORNE D. J.	1955-57
(Alderman West Ward)	
CHARLISH E.	1873
	1881
CLARKE H. W.	1922-25
CLELAND W. (Jr.).	1906-07
DEANS E. A.	1953-54
DIXON W. T.	1914
DONNELLY J. W.	1981-82
DOUGHERTY R.	1968-72
FLEMING H.	1884-86
	1894
FORSYTH J. Snr.	1875
FORSYTH T. T.	1882
	1887-88
FORSYTH R. T.	1911
	1915-18
	1920-21
	1926-27

FRENCH J. H. O. G. P.	1872
GORDON R. H.	1896-97
HARNETT R. H.	1871
JACK W. M.	1948-49
LEPLASTRIER C.	1898
MASON J. N.	1905
McDOWELL N. R.	1958-59
McGINTY L. F.	1960-67
MELDRUM A. V.	1937
MUSTON W. T.	1890
PETRIE F. C.	1902-04
	1909
PIPER H. P.	1935
REIDY N.	1975-80
	1983 -
ROBEY H. H.	1910
SELDON R.	1876-80
SIMPSON A.	1889
SMALL R.	1892-93
WARNER D.	1973-74
WILLIS F. S.	1901

TOWN CLERKS:

ANDERSON James	1876-97
BAILEY G. A.	1918-56
BASTIAN A. A. C.	1900-18
BLIGH H. H.	
COLEMAN James	1865
CONOLLY Richard	1966-71
FORSYTH E.	
PAYNE Alan	1984 -
REID Harold	1957-65
ROBERTS F. P. R. (acting)	
SOLLING	
STACK Francis	
WOODWARD LEITH	1972-83

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The administrative offices of the Municipality have always been in the West Ward. Council meetings were held in a house on the corner of Mowbray Road and the Pacific Highway until the first Council Chambers were established in 1879 in Mowbray Road opposite Hampden Road. In 1903 they were moved to the Town Hall which had been erected in Victoria Avenue. In 1967 the present Council Chambers were built on the site beside the old Town Hall.

In 1875 a small stone building had been erected in Mowbray Road as a School of Arts. This was taken over as the Council Chambers in 1879. A Council Clerk's office was added and a safe purchased in 1883 for the keeping of Council documents. This building still exists, but in a different position and now used for a different purpose. In 1957 when Sydney County Council acquired the site, the building was demolished and removed stone by stone to 46 Beaconsfield Road where it was re-erected as Holy Trinity Church.

As business and shopping facilities began to develop in Victoria Avenue, it became clear that not only were the Council Chambers too small but they were not well placed in Mowbray Road and a more central position should be found, closer to transport and the Post Office.

After much discussion and viewing of possible sites, a committee of aldermen recommended in July 1902 the purchase of a site in Victoria Avenue — "This piece, coming 149 feet from the corner of Victoria Avenue and Anderson Street, 100' by 270', is offered for £400". The Committee also recommended that the vacant land adjoining the Council Chambers in Mowbray Road should be sold and the proceeds used towards the purchase of the new site.

The Town Hall, designed by B. Hadley, was erected on the new site and officially opened in 1903. It remained in use until it was demolished in 1969 to make way for the building of the Bailey Hall and the Main Hall, which were opened by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, in 1972.

An administrative building was erected in 1967 on the block to the west of the old Town Hall. The Library, erected to the east of the Main Hall, was opened in 1977.

On the front of the administrative building, rising almost to its full height, is a representation in ceramic tiles of *Yonti lifting the sky*, an aboriginal legend as portrayed by Byram Mansell.

The main hall of the Civic Centre has a seating capacity of one thousand for concerts. Its stage will take an eighty-piece orchestra; there are choir stalls at the rear, with the Wurlitzer organ, originally in the Arcadia Theatre, in the background. The acoustics of the hall are most satisfactory. Acoustically designed panels on the walls and ceilings

act as deflectors and throw the sound back into the orchestra and the audience.

The Bailey Hall seats three hundred and has a fully equipped stage for musical comedy and stage shows.

POPULATION

Since the establishment of the Municipality in 1865, the population has risen from about 400 to an estimated 52,950 in 1987.

Population figures over this period at various intervals are:

1865	400
1871	583
1891	3,411
1900	5,103
1911	13,036
1921	28,067
1933	42,511
1947	51,945
1954	52,090
1961	53,683
1971	53,758
1981	52,120
1987	52,950

The marked increase between 1891 and 1911 was primarily due to improved transport facilities, in particular to the extension of the railway line from Hornsby to St Leonards in 1890.

The population figure of 64,610, anticipated by the Planning Committee of the Municipality in its *Report on Town Planning, 1960*, has not yet been reached.

Between 1911 and 1961 the density of the population rose from 2.35 persons per acre to 9.70 persons, and was still roughly at that figure in 1987.

The Municipality was divided into five wards in 1895, but figures are not available from which population changes can be broken down into wards. One can only use the figures for the Municipality as a whole as a rough guide to changes in any particular ward.

The West Ward from Pacific Highway to Archer Street is residential, except for the commercial area along Victoria Avenue and its side streets. Towards the south of the Ward, between Albert Avenue and Mowbray Road, high-rise units which have been erected in recent

years, have increased the density of the population in this part of the Ward.

The western side of the Ward, from the Pacific Highway to the Lane Cove River, is a residential area only. Because of the rough terrain, settlement in this area was difficult, but it is now fully developed as an area of single storeyed brick houses, with a population density averaging that of the Municipality.

Apart from its resident population the West Ward has a daytime population of some thirty-five thousand shoppers, office workers and commuters. The daily population is served by buses from outlying localities such as Frenchs Forest, Longueville, East Roseville, Parramatta, etc., which terminate at Chatswood railway station.

IDENTITIES OF THE WEST WARD

Following are brief notes on some of the identities of the West Ward of the Municipality of Willoughby. For persons whose activities require further treatment, longer biographies follow this list; they are indicated in the list by the word *article* after the person's name. * Indicates persons after whom streets in the Municipality have been named.

Persons closely associated with developments and activities in the Municipality have usually been treated fully under these developments. References are given in this list to headings under which a full account of their work will be found. See also previous list of Mayors and of Town Clerks.

ALCORN, Ernest Edward:

Lived on the corner of Beaconsfield Road and Greville Street from 1921 to 1934. Alderman 1931-32. Mayor 1933-34.

* **ANDERSON, James:** Article.

* **BAILEY, George Arthur:**

Town Clerk, 1918-56.

BAILEY, George Francis:

Mayor 1899-1900, 1908-09. Active in planning Willoughby's sewerage system. President of the Master Tanners Association.

BALL, Robert:

Acquired one hundred acres of land in 1836. This land lying between the Lane Cove River and Blue Gum Creek, later became the property of Thomas Fuller (q.v.).

BARNETT, Andrew Vern: Article.

BASTIAN, Alfred Arthur Copeland: Article.

BAVIN, Lance:

Founder and Headmaster of Mowbray House School (q.v.). Mayor 1928-30.

BAVIN, Thomas Rainsford (1874-1941):

Barrister, politician, alderman, public servant. Born in New Zealand, practised law in Sydney. Alderman, Willoughby Municipal Council, 1911-14. Premier of New South Wales 1927. Brother of Lance Bavin (q.v.).

BENJAMIN, Albert Julian:

Proprietor of a large department store (now demolished) at the

western end of Victoria Avenue. A full account of this store will be found in the *Journal of the Willoughby District Historical Society* (No. 16, July 1986).

BODEN, William:

Proprietor of a drapery and haberdashery shop at 428 Victoria Avenue adjoining Washington Soul, chemists. He had previously been employed by A. J. Benjamin (q.v.). The shop closed in 1961.

BROMLEY, Samuel Herbert (1892-1983):

A teacher at both Chatswood and Willoughby Public Schools. He took over the management of the Chatswood School of Arts Library in 1963, shortly after his retirement from teaching and gave service for fourteen years until the Library closed in 1977.

* **BROWN, John:** Article.

* **BRYSON, John:** Article.

BURRELL, James:

Watchmaker and jeweller at 398 Victoria Avenue. The jeweller's work bench which he set up in the window of his shop was of great interest to passers-by, especially children, who were fascinated by the optical magnifying glass which he held in one eye.

Jimmy Burrell was a Scotsman. According to *The Good Old Days* he marched up and down Victoria Avenue on Armistice Day 1918, playing the bagpipes.

BURT, Agnes (1853-1940):

Headmistress 1883-94 of the first Chatswood School. (q.v.).

CAMPBELL, Donald Alexander:

Alderman 1937-40. Enlisted 1941, died in Sandakan Camp, Borneo in 1945 while a prisoner-of-war. Campbell Memorial Park (q.v.), on the corner of Dalrymple Avenue and Sharland Road, was dedicated to his memory by Willoughby Municipal Council and a plaque placed there in 1972.

CAMPBELL, Harry: Article.

COOTE, Charles Reginald:

Dairyman. Owner of a large dairy at the western end of Centennial Avenue. Coote Avenue (which in 1938 became Park Avenue) was named after him, as was Reginald Street, off Centennial Avenue, in 1944.

CRANSTON, Eleanor:

Established Brackley College (q.v.), first in a house opposite the present Civic Centre in Victoria Avenue and later in Archer Street.

CRISPE, Edmund Arthur:

Baker and pastrycook with a bakery on the southern corner of Lane Cove Road and Thomas Street, now 775 Pacific Highway. In 1909 his business was taken over by William Henry Gartrell (q.v.). In 1915 Crispe built the Arcadia Theatre in Victoria Avenue. He died in 1916 and his two sons continued to manage the theatre.

* *DALRYMPLE HAY, Richard T:*

Lived in a house which he named 'Dunragit' in Beresford Avenue near the present Dalrymple Avenue. He was Commissioner of Forestry from 1916 to 1926. Dalrymple State Forest in St Ives is named after him, also a species of mountain gum growing in the Southern Alps.

DAWSON, John:

Born in Florencecourt Estate, County Fermanagh, Ireland, John Dawson migrated to New South Wales in the 1860s, living in Sydney and later moving to North Sydney. He was appointed police officer in charge of the Chatswood-Willoughby area. In 1871 he laid the foundation stone of the Chatswood South Methodist Church. In 1889 he built a large house in William Street, Chatswood which he called 'Noswad'. This house was sold after his death in 1905. It is still standing.

DOLAN, Patrick: Article.

DOLAN, Peter: Article.

DOUGHERTY, Robert Henry: Article.

ELKINGTON, Miss Florian:

Headmistress (1920-36) of Astraea College (q.v.).

ELLIS, Henry Newton: Article.

FARLEY, The Misses:

These two sisters conducted a dressmaking school at 442a Victoria Avenue in the 1920s.

* *FATHERS, William J:*

Orchardist and landholder. His children attended the first Chatswood School. The track from his property to Pacific Highway was known as Fathers Road until its name was changed in 1888 to Centennial Avenue.

FINLAYSON, Mrs Margaret:

Draper and haberdasher, with a shop at 366 Victoria Avenue during the 1920s and 1930s. This shop is now part of the site of Westfield Shopping Town.

FISHER, Arthur E:

Baker and pastrycook with a shop in Victoria Avenue next to the old Town Hall. Ferguson and Bishop later took over the business.

* *FULLER, Thomas:*

Owned a large area of land on the southern side of Fullers Road, part of which he acquired from an early landholder, Robert Ball. The present Bellevue Street, off Fullers Road, was cut through the property 'Bellevue', owned by Mrs Isabella Fuller, a member of the family of Thomas Fuller.

GARTRELL, William Henry: Article.

* *GREVILLE, H. J:*

Borough auditor in the 1880s.

HAMMOND, Joseph: Article.

* *HARNETT, Richard Hayes:* Article.

* *HELPS, William:*

A soldier orderly attached to Government House. He owned land in Help Street (later Help Street) which in 1888 was acquired by Richard Hayes Harnett (q.v.).

HENRY, William: Article.

HILL, Ernie:

Hairdresser and tobacconist, 398 Victoria Avenue. According to *The Good Old Days* Mr Hill used to stand outside his shop during slack periods and entertain both himself and passers-by by whistling tunes varying from opera to music hall ditties.

HOGARTH, Robert:

His drapery shop at 370 Victoria Avenue was almost next door to the similar shop of Mrs Finlayson. This shop was a family concern, all members working in the shop. The family home was 'Edrogarth', 9 Kirk Street, Chatswood, now demolished.

HORDERN, Edward Carr: Article.

HUMPHREYS, Mrs Mary Ann:

Confectionery shop, milk bar and tea rooms at 448 Victoria Avenue. The shop had an elaborate soda fountain and, following the opening of the Arcadia Theatre in 1915, catered for theatre patrons.

IRVING, Sydney Richmond:

He lived at 17 View Street and represented West Ward on Willoughby Municipal Council 1911-17. Associated with St Paul's Church Chatswood. A surveyor by profession, he was an amateur actor, playing usually at St James Hall, Phillip Street, Sydney.

* *JENKINS, Thomas:* Article.

* *LAMB, John de Villiers:*

Purchased eight acres of land in Centennial Avenue in 1891 on which he built a house in 1892 which he called 'Marroombah'. This was sold in 1900 to K. Weidmann, who then sold it to Edward Carr Horder (q.v.) in 1906.

It was purchased in 1954 by the Minister for Public Instruction and is now the site of Chatswood Co-Educational High School. De Villiers Avenue is named after him.

* *LEPLASTRIER, Claude:* Article.

LOANE, Marcus:

He lived in Whitton Road and attended Astraea College (q.v.). Born in 1911 he completed his education at The Kings School, Parramatta. He attended St Paul's Church Chatswood and married Patricia Knox, the daughter of the Rector. He was Archbishop of Sydney from 1966 to 1982.

* *McLEAN, Duncan:*

A landholder and orchardist. He held seven and a half acres of land in Fullers Road, close to present day McLean Avenue, part of which

he leased to Chinese market gardeners. In 1917 McLean Avenue was cut through this land.

McLEAN, James McGaw:

Surgeon. From 1912 he practised in a large house, 'Knighton', with an extensive garden and a croquet lawn at 441 Victoria Avenue, now part of Lemon Grove shopping centre.

McLEAN, Lachlan:

Compiler of the booklet *Golden Jubilee of Chatswood West Ward Progress Association. Fifty years of history, 1930 to 1980*. An Alderman 1944-50.

MONTGOMERY, James:

Landholder, orchardist and builder. He became postmaster of the first Chatswood Post Office in 1879.

NICHOLS, Isaac: Article.

NOBLE, Alexander (1858-1943):

Headmaster (1896-1904) Chatswood Public School.

ON LEE, George:

Surgeon, specializing in the treatment of tumours, with professional rooms in Wynyard Square. He was born in Canton, China in the 1860s and obtained his medical degree there. He migrated to Australia when he was aged twenty-three and purchased land on the Pacific Highway between Nelson Street and Albert Avenue, and also an area near William Street, both of which he leased out as Chinese market gardens. Chatswood Bowling Club is built on part of the land once owned by On Lee.

PARK, Robert Wallace:

Builder, lived in Mowbray Road near Hampden Road, Artarmon. He owned and leased shops on the east and west sides of Chatswood Station. He quarried stone at Boronia Park, moving it by barge to build retaining walls for properties on the Lane Cove River. He built the cupola of St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill.

PRENDERGAST, Mrs M. E:

After Sharland's Royal Hotel (q.v.) lost its licence in 1919 the building was named Chatswood House. Here Mrs Prendergast conducted a library, confectionery shop and milk bar and catered for the needs of children attending Chatswood School.

READ, Clarence:

Surgeon, lived in 'Llanberis' on the corner of Pacific Highway and Fullers Road and practised at 238 Macquarie Street, Sydney. He was Honorary Surgeon at Royal North Shore Hospital. He was active in local government, an alderman in the 1920s and involved in plans for waste disposal and the building of a new incinerator. In November 1908 Dr Read treated the American author Jack London when he was forced to abandon his world cruise on the *Snark* because he was suffering from pellagra and psoriasis.

* **RUSSELL, Henry:** Article.

* *SELDON, Richard (1817-1885):*

Born in Devonshire, England. Migrated to New South Wales and in 1872 owned twenty-eight acres of land on the Lane Cove Road. Was successful in his efforts to have this road taken over and maintained by the Government. Later lived in Seldon's Road which became Albert Avenue.

He served on Willoughby Municipal Council for ten years, holding the position of Mayor five times.

* *SHARLAND, Alfred William:*

Licensee of the Royal Hotel on the corner of Pacific Highway and Victoria Avenue from 1889 until 1919, in which year the Government reduced the number of licensed hotels and the licence of the Royal was not renewed. Sharland Avenue is named after him.

SIMPSON, Alexander: Article.

SLESSOR, Kenneth:

Journalist, war correspondent, editor, poet, writer, raconteur. Lived at 712 Pacific Highway near Western Park in the 1960s. His home was a popular meeting place for writers and artists.

SNELL, Oswald H:

Blacksmith, residing in Orchard Road. He had a blacksmith's shop in a lane off Thomas Street at the rear of Pacific Highway. *The Good Old Days* says it was next door to the old Fire Station. Nearby was a saddler's shop and a horse trough.

SQUIRE, Hilton Bell (1868-1948)

Headmaster (1915-32) Chatswood Public School.

STUART, Mrs Elizabeth Emily:

District Registrar (1908-30) of Help Street. (See article on Registry Office.)

TRICKER, Joseph Charles:

Builder. In 1907 he built and occupied 'Goulburn Grange' at 104 Fullers Road. He also owned the adjoining block which in 1942 became Lowanna Park.

TRUMPER, Victor: Article.

WATERHOUSE, Lionel Lawry:

Geologist, lived at 'Cairnleith', 13 Archer Street and at 42 Archer Street 1920-64. His son, John D. W. Waterhouse, ornithologist, grew up at 42 Archer Street. See details of the Waterhouse Family in the Chatswood East booklet.

WATERS, William George:

Proprietor of a furniture sales room in Anderson Street on a site now occupied by Grace Bros. It was formerly a roller skating rink. The rink closed after 1918.

* *WOOD, Henry:*

Early landholder. Acquired forty acres of land in 1842 in the vicinity of Fullers Road and Greville Street. See under 'Pioneer Landholders'.

WRIGHT, Dorothea Amelia (Dora) (1866-1946):

Headmistress (1903-32) of Chatswood Public School.

* * *

James Anderson: James Anderson was employed by Willoughby Municipal Council from 1876 to 1897, holding the positions of Council Clerk, Clerk of Works, Collector and Valuer. He was a highly decorated ex-army engineer who had served in the Crimean War.

Leplastrier, in *Willoughby's Fifty Years*, testifies to Anderson's efficient services. He says, "One of his office peculiarities was his system of making memos. These he wrote on little bits of paper and pinned them to the table like entomological specimens. Any sudden disturbance upset the old man's specimens and chaos reigned until they were arranged again".

James Anderson owned a large area of land in Victoria Avenue, between Archer and Anderson Streets. The part of this land which faced into Archer Street south of the present Roman Catholic Primary School he leased as Chinese market gardens.

It is not known when James Anderson died. He was still alive on 25 October 1908, when he attended a Smoke Social in Chatswood.

Andrew Vern Barnett (d.1946): Andrew Vern Barnett lived for many years in Whitton Road, Chatswood. He was an organist of note and was for many years organist at St Stephen's Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney. It is said that this church was packed to the doors for his memorial service in 1946. He died while adjudicating at a music festival in Goulburn.

His wife Doris, who was born about 1897, lived in Critchett Road, Chatswood until her recent death. Her father was William Henry Gartrell (q.v.).

Their son, Andrew Elgar Vern Barnett was for many years a dentist in Chatswood.

Alfred Arthur Copeland Bastian (1871-1918): After completing his education at Fort Street School, Alfred Bastian worked for the Sydney Municipal Council for thirteen years. He was appointed as Town Clerk for Willoughby Municipal Council in May 1900. He was also a Justice of the Peace and a Commissioner of Affidavits. As well as his heavy official duties he held other offices and rendered service to the residents of the Municipality in both semi-public and private positions. Claude Leplastrier tells of thanks being expressed to Alfred Bastian for the efficiency of staff under his leadership. He had "carried out his duties in a highly creditable and efficient manner".

Bastian purchased land at the western end of Albert Avenue in 1900 and built a house where he raised a family of five sons. Later in life he went to live with his sister Miss Emily Bastian at her home 'Takapuna', 33 Neridah Street, Chatswood. He died there in 1918 aged forty-seven years.

John Brown (1829-1884): John Brown, born in Parramatta, New South Wales, was a timber-getter and timber merchant. The present Browns Road which runs from Turramurra across Fox Valley to Thornleigh, was named after him. In 1860 he purchased a large stretch of virgin forest in the Fox Valley, Wahroonga area. The sale of the timber from the trees on this land brought him more than he paid for the land itself. John Brown had at least one team of eighteen bullocks which he used to drag the timber from the forest, and for other contracts, such as moving whale oil from Mossman's whaling station in Mosman Bay.

His significance in the history of Willoughby is that in 1882 he set up a timber yard on the northern corner of Gordon Road (now Pacific Highway) and Victoria Avenue. The present Brown Street, known as Brown's Road before it was officially named, is on part of the site of this timber yard.

Brown was married to Mary Waterhouse, daughter of the owner of the Greengate Hotel in Killara. Their family home, 'Woodstock', still stands on the Pacific Highway at North Sydney. He lived in Gordon after his wife's death and died there, aged fifty-five years. St John's Church of England and Ravenswood College now stand on part of his Gordon land.

John Bryson (1810-1882): John Bryson was born in Ireland in 1810. He was the son of Robert Bryson, a carpenter, and his wife Penelope nee Campbell. In 1831 he married Mary Ann Campbell and in 1840 migrated with his family to New South Wales.

He purchased land on the Lane Cove River which is said to have been sold to Thomas Jenkins (q.v.). It is now part of the Lane Cove National Park.

In the 1860s Bryson purchased more land on the north-east corner of Mowbray Road and Pacific Highway and built a house in which he lived until his death in 1882.

Bryson was elected to the first Council of the Municipality of Willoughby in 1866. He seconded the motion of J. H. French requesting a proclamation of Public Roads, the first motion on roads recorded in Council Minutes. During this period he followed his trade as a builder. Council elections were held at his home in 1866 and 1867. In 1867 he was re-elected for three years. He was not re-elected in 1870 but continued to work for the improvement of the district.

John Bryson held religious services in his home prior to the building, in 1872, of the Methodist Church, of which he was one of the Trustees. He also worked for the construction of the first School of Arts in Mowbray Road, which later was used as the Municipal Council Chambers.

Harry Campbell: Harry Campbell was a farrier and blacksmith, with a smithy on the western side of Pacific Highway just north of



*Harry Campbell, farrier and blacksmith.
(photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*

Fullers Road. He was closely associated with the veterinarian Patrick Dolan (q.v.).

Campbell had a magnificent singing voice. In *Willoughby's Fifty Years* Leplastrier says, "the ever popular Harry Campbell here sang *Mountain Rovers* and *My little grey home in the West*". The occasion was the Jubilee Banquet held in the Town Hall on 23 October 1915.

Peter and Patrick Dolan: The Rate Books of the Willoughby Municipal Council show that Peter Dolan was in business on Gordon Road (now Pacific Highway) Chatswood, as a blacksmith in 1882. He may have been there earlier but this cannot be checked. He was a tenant of the property until 1888 when he purchased it. By 1894 the business was in the name of Patrick Dolan, probably Peter's son, and was carried on until 1956 when the Department of Main Roads resumed the property from Patrick Francis Dolan and Robert James Dolan for the widening of Pacific Highway.

In early Rate Books (1882-1910) the business is described variously as a smithy, blacksmith's shop, wheelwright. However, in 1910 Patrick Dolan was also describing himself as Registered Veterinary Surgeon as may be seen from the printed letterhead of a letter to the blacksmith Harry Campbell (q.v.) on 16 July 1910. Whether there had been any change in the nature of his business at this date is doubtful. He writes to Campbell as if he, Dolan, was a farrier, and as if they were both engaged in the same line of business. Patrick Dolan's specialty was horses, as may be deduced from the same letterhead on which the head of a horse appears within a horse shoe and, below that, a medicine bottle and the name, Dolans. The change to a more general veterinary practice probably occurred when motor cars came into more general use.

Robert Henry Dougherty (1920-1980): Robert Henry Dougherty was born in Penrith, New South Wales. He was an alderman of Willoughby Municipal Council from 1959 to 1980, Deputy Mayor in 1963 and Mayor from 1968 to 1972. His interests were wide and varied — his church, welfare work, youth, local government; he worked actively in their support, both as an individual and within organisations, many of which he himself helped establish. He was elected to the Executive of the Local Government Association; he was a member of Austcare from 1976 until his death and National Director for many years. He helped to establish, in conjunction with the Health Commission, the first community health organisations to assist in the control of drug addiction, alcoholism, mental health, etc. He was Chairman of the Chatswood District Community Hospital. Robert Dougherty was interested in youth and supported the scouting movement, youth clubs, and sports. He was involved in musical activities in the district. His work with his church (Methodist) was a lifetime commitment.

In recognition of his work for the community, Willoughby Municipal Council named the Robert Dougherty Community Centre, opened in March 1982, after him; the Dougherty Apartments for the elderly have recently been built close by.

Henry Newton Ellis (d. 1950): In 1916 Henry Newton Ellis, a civil servant, purchased a two-storeyed brick house which had been built by Mr J. Starkey in 1911. It was on a large block of land at 387 Mowbray Road. This was a fine house, with verandahs and balconies on three sides, ornamented with iron lace. A driveway led to the front entrance and the property was enclosed by a wrought iron fence with an ornate gateway. Henry Newton Ellis continued to live in this house, which he called 'Iolanthe', until his death in 1950. The property was then purchased by a construction company and the house demolished. A block of units and a house now occupy the site. Ellis had a family of two daughters and one son. The son married, in Paris, an actress, Emilie Polini. They had one child, a daughter, who was brought back to Australia and raised by her two maiden aunts at 'Iolanthe'. Her parents remained abroad, Emilie continuing her profession as an actress. When the parents returned to Australia the two aunts refused to give up custody of the child. A long legal battle ensued which was covered extensively in the newspapers and aroused considerable local interest. Custody was won by the aunts and Emilie Polini retired to live in the Gosford area.

William Henry Gartrell (d. 1917-18): A baker and pastrycook with a shop, bakehouse and stables on the Lane Cove Road. Gartrell was a Cornishman who migrated first to New York, U.S.A. and married there. He, together with his six brothers, then migrated to Australia, arriving on the ship *Annie H. Smith* in June 1877.

William Henry Gartrell set up a bakery business in Bathurst, and in 1909 in Chatswood, taking over Edmund Arthur Crispe's bakery business on the corner of Lane Cove Road and Thomas Street, now 775 Pacific Highway. He died in 1917 or 1918 and his sons carried on the bakery business. His daughter Doris married Andrew Vern Barnett (q.v.).

Joseph Hammond: Until a few years ago, on the corner of Pacific Highway and Moriarty Road where a garage now stands, there was a shop with a raised notice built into the plaster wall of its upper storey — 'J. Hammond, Butcher. Estab. 1868'.

This, as far as can be discovered, was Willoughby's first butchery. Joseph Hammond started business as a butcher in Miller Street, North Sydney in 1864 and moved to Chatswood four years later. Here he bought the area now known as Beauchamp Park, where he farmed and also established his slaughteryard. He lived on the site for a short while and several of his children were born there. He then built for himself a residence and a shop on Lane Cove Road (now Pacific

Highway) where he remained in business for forty-eight years.

Joseph Hammond was a good butcher, as were the sons who followed him into business. For almost a hundred years the name Hammond was synonymous with good meat and good service. Customers did not have to visit the shop in the early days. The Hammonds delivered their meat in small horse-drawn carts, the drivers wearing their badges of office, navy and white striped aprons. Nor did the customers always order ahead. One could go out to the cart and watch the butcher cut off what was needed.

Joseph Hammond was originally a farmer. He came from Suffolk, bringing with him a reputation as a ploughman who could plough a straight furrow. He had won a ploughing competition at Bury St Edmonds. Though he began to farm on his Beauchamp Park property, the rough timbered sandstone country of Sydney's North Shore did not lend itself to the kind of farming he had known in England. Perhaps this is why he turned to butchering. Very likely he was astute enough to recognize the greater possibilities in butchering with the growing population, the use of meat as the main item of diet and the lack of competition. One can be certain, however, that he did not choose butchering because it was easy. Visualize the district as it was then. The regular way to the North Shore was across the Harbour by ferry. The main road was a narrow winding track from the Harbour to Pearce's Corner. The saleyards were at Flemington and stock had to be driven north, crossing the Lane Cove River at a narrow point which brought them to Gordon. They were then spelled down the Lane Cove Road, resting in paddocks along the way, until they reached the slaughteryard.

Richard Hayes Harnett (1819-1902): Richard Hayes Harnett was born in Cork, Ireland and arrived in Australia in the 1840s. He came to reside in Willoughby with his family in the 1860s, the district then being a small community made up of farms and orchards of five to ten acres. The district gradually developed into two settlements, Willoughby and North Willoughby. Harnett became Mayor of Willoughby 1871-72, previously holding the position of Council Auditor from 1867 to 1868.

He acquired 1,200 acres of land in Willoughby, which he subdivided and sold, initiating the first Saturday outdoor sales of land and providing a free horse bus service from Milsons Point for prospective buyers. The land offered was Willoughby Park Estate and these land sales greatly assisted the development of the district.

Harnett purchased most of the Isaac Nichols Estate. In 1876 he opened up the area with a subdivision which he called Chatswood Estate. In 1879, following a request from Willoughby Municipal Council, a post office was established in the area and given the name Chatswood after the Chatswood Estate. When the Government

purchased land at £25 (\$50) an acre from Harnett for the building of the railway line, station and goodsyard, the station was named Chatswood.

Harnett had some of the bad roads repaired at his own expense, laying corduroy tracks. He was a keen yachtsman, and designed and owned the yacht *Australian*, the design of which revolutionised yacht building and sailing on Sydney Harbour.

Richard Harnett died in 1902 at 'Cumeen', the modest weatherboard cottage owned by his daughter in Orchard Road, Chatswood.

William Henry: William Henry, born in Ireland, was a sergeant of Marines. He landed in New South Wales in 1801 from the ship *Earl of Cornwallis* and was accompanied by his wife.

Following his discharge from the Marines he was granted a thousand acres of land in the Lane Cove district by Governor William Bligh. This was a verbal grant only and because Governor Bligh was recalled to England before he could make the grant valid, William Henry was never able to claim ownership. He lodged several petitions without success, and Governor Lachlan Macquarie who was sympathetic to William Henry's claim, granted him forty acres of land on the Lane Cove River. Here, Henry established a farm and orchard, 'Millwood' and built a house out of local timber, which he called 'Waterview'.

In 1849 William Henry's grand-daughter Maria Maher married Thomas Jenkins (q.v.) and they carried on the farm which Jenkins had purchased, together with several hundred additional acres.

Edward Carr Hordern (d.1940): Edward Carr Hordern was one of the Hordern Brothers, Drapers and Tailors, of Pitt Street, Sydney, a business established in the 1870s. He was an overseas buyer and spent his time travelling between London and Sydney, often taking his family with him. Two of the Hordern brothers had settled on the North Shore, one at Warrawee and one at Hornsby. The North Shore was regarded as a healthy region. All the brothers were something of cranks on fresh air and fitness and on the North Shore there were opportunities for outdoor living, horse riding, tennis, etc.

Edward Carr Hordern purchased the property 'Mooroombah' in Centennial Avenue in 1906. This was a two-storeyed brick house on about fourteen acres of land, built by John de Villiers Lamb (q.v.) in 1892 and sold to K. Weidmann in 1900 for £3,750; it is described in *Sands Directory* 1898 as a "14 roomed house, stables". Edward Carr Hordern renamed the house 'Chislehurst' and added to it a billiard room, ballroom, hothouse, a lift and stained glass windows. He lived in the house until his death in 1940 and his widow and sister remained there until the house was vacated in 1953-54.

Approaches were then made to Willoughby Municipal Council to acquire the estate as an integral part of the West Ward Parks scheme. Lachlan McLean writes: "It was envisaged that this magnificent estate

of tall timbers, with a miniature rain forest and spacious flower gardens would provide a botanical garden for Chatswood". The approaches to Council failed; the main obstacle was the cost, £7,000. The property was acquired by the New South Wales Education Department in 1953. Chatswood Co-Educational High School was built on the site and opened in 1959.

(Details about Hordern Brothers from Mr and Mrs M. C. Hordern, Warrawee.)

Thomas Jenkins (1829-1890): Thomas Jenkins was born in the Lane Cove District. In 1847 he opened a fruit business in the York Street Markets; the firm remained in the family until 1963.

Jenkins married Maria Maher, a grand-daughter of William Henry (q.v.) in 1849. He acquired by purchase, the land on which William Henry had settled originally. Between 1851 and 1872 he bought 272 acres in the Lane Cove River area at approximately two pounds an acre. Here, on Millwood Orchard in the old homestead 'Waterview', built by William Henry from local timber, Thomas and Maria Jenkins brought up their family. The original fireplace of the old homestead remains as a relic in the Lane Cove River Park.

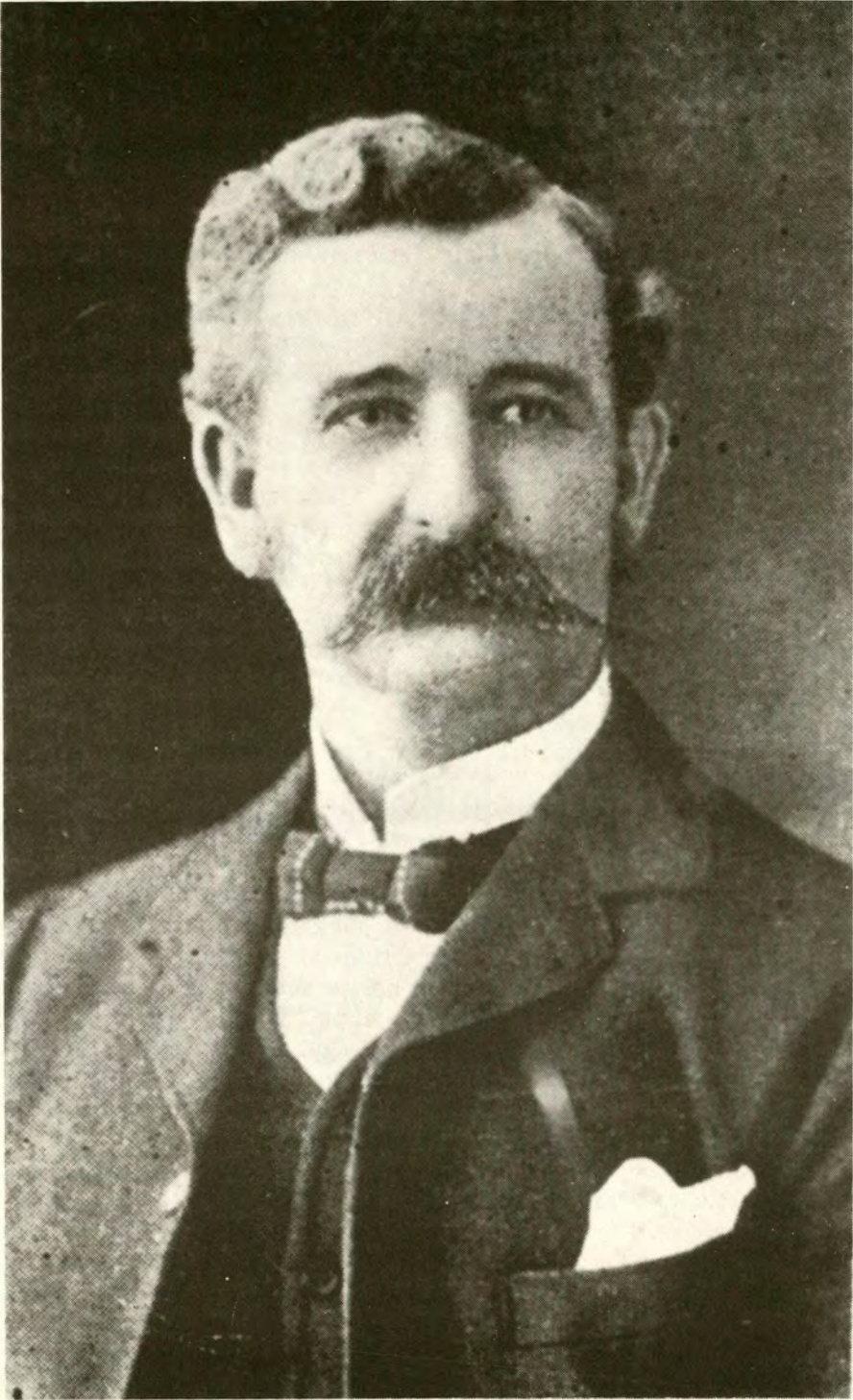
Jenkins and his family worked the property and sent fruit, vegetables, timber and coal-mine props to Sydney by the steamship *Nelly* from Jenkins Wharf near Fullers Bridge.

Claude Leplastrier (1860-1941): Claude Leplastrier was born in St Kilda, Victoria and from about 1894 until 1912 lived at 'Kewsbury', Sutherland Road, Chatswood. In 1887 he married Annie Vickers, a singer and actress, by whom he had two sons, Claude Vickers Leplastrier, killed in France during the first World War, and Henry Charles Leplastrier who became an Anglican clergyman.

By profession Claude Leplastrier was an accountant. He served on Willoughby Municipal Council as an alderman from February 1896 until February 1902, serving one term as Mayor in 1898. He took a keen interest in all matters relating to the Municipality, including the construction of the North Shore Railway, the provision of sewerage facilities and the foundation of The Royal North Shore Hospital. He was a foundation member and member for fifty years of the North Sydney Orphans' Club. Claude Street, formerly High Street, was named after him in 1898.

Claude Leplastrier was a recognised authority on early Willoughby and prepared for Willoughby Municipal Council the historical retrospect *Willoughby's Fifty Years 1865-1915* issued in 1915 in connection with the Jubilee celebrations of the Willoughby Municipal Council.

Claude Leplastrier was also noted as a lightning sketch artist. A sketch of a Hawkesbury River scene which he made at the Willoughby Jubilee Banquet on 23 October 1915 and presented to the Mayor, Alderman R. T. Forsyth, now hangs in Willoughby Municipal Library.



Claude Leplastrier
(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)

Isaac Nichols (1770-1819): Isaac Nichols was transported in 1791 for seven years on a conviction of petty theft. He was a large and powerful young man and was soon employed as foreman of a convict labour gang. In 1799 he was charged with receiving stolen goods and sentenced to transportation to Norfolk Island for fourteen years. However, following intervention by Governor Hunter, the conviction was overturned.

After Governor Macquarie arrived in the Colony in 1810 he appointed Nichols as postmaster, the first in the Colony. Nichols later became Overseer of Government Works, shipbuilder, trader, innkeeper and trusted friend of Governor Macquarie. He was granted several large portions of land in the Lane Cove district and also purchased properties in various parts of the Colony. At the time of his death he was a wealthy landholder. Nichols married in 1805 and had three sons. His second son became the first native-born Australian to be admitted as a solicitor in the Supreme Court, and later became Auditor-General and Secretary for Lands.

See also the section of this booklet entitled 'Pioneer Landholders'.

Henry Russell (1832-1896): In the minutes of one of the early Willoughby Municipal Council meetings between 1866 and 1872, it is recorded that the Mayor threatened to close the Council meeting because Alderman Henry Russell, Harry, as he was known, had called another alderman a liar. Russell responded, and so assured a quick closure by repeating the assertion with, in the words of the minutes, "an adjectival prefix". What he really called him this time was, no doubt, "a bloody liar".

This incident sums up Henry Russell as a man, and as a man at the service of his fellow men. Russell was an alderman for six years, and was a good one. His defeat at the elections of 1872 was due as much as anything else to his manner. He was honest and outspoken but with an abrasiveness which offended many people. On the other hand he, himself, was often frustrated. He had a quick fertile mind and was exasperated when suggestions he brought before Council were rejected, only to be taken up by someone else at a later date. Russell seems to have been a restless man, moving from place to place and from occupation to occupation. In Willoughby he was at various times brickmaker, orchardist, publican. Later he went to Western Australia where he engaged in pearling, and also became an alderman in Perth. It is said there is a Perth street named after him.

Henry Russell was born in England, at Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, the son of John Russell, a farm labourer, and his wife Sarah, whose maiden name was Barrett. In 1853 he married a Mrs Meadows, née Chesson, the widow of a workmate with whom he worked on the railway, and who had been killed in a railway accident. Three sons and three daughters were born of the marriage. The descendants of one

daughter, Caroline, were said to be still living in Willoughby in 1983. The newly married couple came to New South Wales in 1853. They must have found the landscape in great contrast to the leafy Buckinghamshire they had left behind. Nothing more is known of them until 1860, when they were living in the present Greenwich Road where they had built a brick kiln.

At this time interest in local government was growing, and in 1865 Henry Russell was one of the signatories in a move by residents to achieve government of their own local affairs. Sixty-seven citizens resident in the rural District of Willoughby sent a petition to the Governor, praying for the incorporation of the Municipality of Willoughby. At Council's second election in 1866 Russell was elected for a three-year term, and re-elected for a further three years in 1869, but he failed to gain election for a further term, partly for personal reasons. Many people did not like his manner, but his platform was good and he was a great fighter for it. In particular, he wanted a more equitable expenditure of rates over the area in which they were collected.

After three years on Council and brickmaking at Greenwich Road, Russell sold the Greenwich property and proceeded to build a hotel on the corner of Mowbray Road and Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway). This new hotel, which he called the Great Northern, was well placed. To that date the only stops for refreshment along Lane Cove Road were the Union Hotel at West Street, North Sydney and the Greengate at Killara. Travellers along the rough, dusty road, whether on foot or travelling in vehicles, were glad of another stopping place. Life as a publican did not seem to suit Russell. Soon we find him in Chatswood, again brickmaking. He set up a brick kiln in Archer Street. Its position has not been identified; it was perhaps on land where Chatswood Chase now stands. For many years there was an abandoned brick pit there, which eventually filled with water and became a danger, especially for children who played around it. At least one child was drowned there. After this accident the pit was filled in.

In 1886 William Mashman set up a pottery and pipe works on an area of land bounded by Victoria Avenue, Jacques Street, Albert Avenue and Septimus Street. It is thought that Russell had advised William Mashman of the presence of suitable clay in the area, and so was indirectly responsible for the setting up of the industry there.

Henry Russell returned to Sydney from Western Australia, and died at Paddington on 20 November 1896, aged sixty-four years.

Alexander Simpson (1847-1895): Alexander Simpson was a mason and a builder, building mostly in stone. He built St Stephen's Church (1884), one of the first stone buildings of any size in the Municipality of Willoughby, and is reputed to have been associated with the building



*Alexander Simpson, builder of St Stephen's Church.
(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*

of North Sydney Post Office and the former Suspension (now Cammeray) Bridge, completed in 1892.

By 1887 he had built the two-storeyed stone house on the corner of Mowbray Road and Devonshire Street, called in his day 'Yamala' and later, 'Clearview'. Built on the crest of Mowbray Road, it commanded a view to the north of Chatswood and, to the south, of Artarmon and beyond. Simpson owned this house until his death in 1895. He lived in it for two years, then let it to a tenant, A. F. Robinson, who continued to occupy it until 1908. On Simpson's death in 1895 the property came into the possession of the London Bank of Australia.

Simpson was active in local affairs. He was an alderman of Willoughby Municipal Council for some years and Mayor in 1889. As an alderman he moved, in 1887, for the payment of the wages of Council employees in cash. To that date they had been paid by cheque on a Sydney bank.

Simpson's house is described by B. Kable in an article, "283 Mowbray Road, Chatswood" (*Journal of the Willoughby District Historical Society*, No. 2. August 1979). (See also chapter 'Fine Houses', P. 32.)

Victor Trumper (1877-1915): Victor Trumper was one of Australia's, and perhaps even one of the world's most famous cricketers. He was a skilled and graceful batsman.

Trumper was the son of English parents who settled in Paddington, where Victor was born and grew to manhood. As a youth he joined the Waverley Cricket Club. By 1908 he had married, and he and his wife, his two children and his parents settled in Chatswood in a bungalow at 10 Help Street. Following this move to the North Shore, Victor Trumper joined the Gordon Cricket Club, remaining a member until his death in 1915. In addition to playing Club cricket, Trumper also represented New South Wales in Sheffield Shield matches and played for Australia in many Test matches between 1895 and 1914.

Trumper died at thirty-eight, after a period of ill health. A pavilion built in Chatswood Park and opened in 1924 was named in his honour. The home at Help Street has been demolished to make way for commercial development. The Guardian Royal Exchange Insurance Company which now occupies the site, has consented to a plaque in Trumper's memory being placed in the foyer of the building.

FINE HOUSES

The houses in the West Ward are chiefly small to moderate sized single storeyed brick bungalows with tiled roofs and two or three bedrooms. Generally they are owner occupied. There is little rental property in the area.

In this respect the West Ward differs in no way from the rest of the Municipality. Housing in the Municipality generally was studied by Max Kelly and Terry Kass in their *Chatswood Area Heritage Study*, 1982 to which reference should be made for information on streets and houses.

Some of the residents work in Chatswood, in shops, businesses, as Council employees, etc. but many work in the city, travelling usually by the frequent and fast train service. In recent years high rise apartment blocks have appeared, chiefly south of Albert Avenue. Of particular note are the Dougherty Apartments in Victor Street, a joint project of Willoughby Municipal Council, the Department of Housing and the Uniting Church.

Scattered throughout the Ward are a number of older and larger houses which might be described best as 'gentlemen's residences'. These are usually two-storeyed houses which may contain three to five bedrooms, living, dining and family rooms and servants' quarters. These larger houses were often built in the early part of the century by successful businessmen who preferred to bring up their children outside the city itself. The North Shore was regarded as a healthy region, with opportunities for outdoor activities such as horse riding and tennis.

Listed below are some of these residences, most of which have now either been demolished or converted into flats.

'YAMALA', later 'CLEARVIEW', corner of Mowbray Road and Devonshire Street. Built 1887.

This two-storeyed sandstone house, with its decorative iron lace balconies, was built by Alexander Simpson. Simpson, who was a builder and stonemason, was the contractor for the building of the stonework of St Stephen's Church, Willoughby and is reputed to have been associated with the building of North Sydney Post Office and the Suspension Bridge. After Simpson's death in 1895 the house had a number of occupants. The present owners have restored this picturesque house to its former condition and appearance.

'NOSWAD', 57 William Street. Built 1889. See Dawson in chapter 'Identities of the West Ward', P. 15.

'MARROOMBAH', later 'CHISLEHURST', Centennial Avenue. Built 1892.

A two-storeyed brick house built by John de Villiers Lamb (q.v.). It is described in *Sands Directory* 1898 as a "14 roomed house, stables". It was sold in 1900 to K. Weidlmann, and in 1906 to Edward Carr Hordern who renamed it 'Chislehurst'. The property was resumed by the Education Department in 1954. The house was demolished and Chatswood Co-Educational High School (opened in 1959) was built on the site.

'DILKUSHA', 130 Fullers Road (corner of Bellevue Street). Built 1893.

This house originally stood on five acres of land bought by H. G. McKinney from T. Fuller in 1893. The two-storeyed brick house was built in the same year. Later it was owned and occupied by J. R. Clucas. It contained five bedrooms, library, ballroom, drawing room, formal and informal dining rooms. It was last offered for sale by auction in March 1987.

'ASTRAEA', Centennial Avenue near Pacific Highway. Built 1893-94.

Built and owned by J. W. R. Jenkins. In 1906 Miss E. R. Keays moved her school from Thomas Street to this house and gave the school the name 'Astraea'. This school later became the Church of England Girls' School, Chatswood, and closed, as Astraea College once more, in 1936. The house has since been demolished and there are now units on the site.

'LLANBERIS', corner of Pacific Highway and Fullers Road. Built 1900.

A large brick two-storeyed house, with a tennis court on the adjoining block on Pacific Highway. It was built by J. B. Cook and later owned and occupied for many years by Dr Clarence Read (q.v.). This house has since been demolished and the site is occupied by Toyota Car Sales.

'LAURISTON', 2 Chapman Avenue (corner of Orchard Road). Built 1904.

Formerly 'Monteith', a large brick single storeyed Federation-style house with wide verandahs. It was built by George Chapman who was New South Wales Bowls champion for several years and who lived in the house from 1904 until his death in 1941. This house is now a nursing home called 'Wylie Lodge'.

'ELDORA', 26 Fullers Road (corner of Edgar Street). Built 1905.

A two-storeyed brick house with a tiled roof, with a ground floor verandah and large balcony on the upper storey. It was built and occupied by J. E. Scrutton until his death in 1908, when it became the

property of his daughter Miss Hannah Scrutton who resided there until her death about 1936. Miss Scrutton bequeathed the house to Miss Lucy McWilliam. It has since had several owners, and is now divided into flats.

'KNIGHTON', 441 Victoria Avenue. Built 1906.

A two-storeyed brick house built and occupied by Dr F. Goldsmith. In 1912 it was bought and occupied by Dr James McGaw McLean. This house had an ornate arched sandstone front porch and was set in a large garden with a croquet lawn. After Dr McLean's death about 1950 this house became professional rooms. The house was demolished and the site is now part of Lemon Grove shopping centre.

'WYCLIFFE', 20 Tulip Street (corner of Anderson Street). Built 1906.

A large single storeyed brick house with a slate roof, built and occupied by William Ford. Features are a surrounding verandah decorated with iron lace, and a small tower. Built on a double block, it originally had a tennis court adjoining. The house which contains five bedrooms and large formal living areas, was last offered for auction in March 1987.

'GOULBURN GRANGE', 102 Fullers Road. Built 1907.

A single storeyed brick house with a slate roof, built and occupied by Joseph Charles Tricker, who also owned the adjoining block which later became Lowanna Park. The house is now divided into flats.

'IOLANTHE', 387 Mowbray Road. Built 1911.

A large brick two-storeyed house with balconies on three sides, decorated with iron lace. It was built on a large block and enclosed by a wrought iron fence with an ornate gateway. It was built by J. Starkey and later owned and occupied by Henry Newton Ellis (q.v.). This house has since been demolished and a house and units built on the site.

'THURLES', 24 Fullers Road (corner of Edgar Street). Built 1917.

A two-storeyed brick house built by David William Neely, a builder who occupied the house until 1921 when he sold it to Alfred Ernest Thomas, a pharmacist from Inverell. The house contains four bedrooms and a balcony upstairs, and formal living areas downstairs. It has a tiled porch on the eastern side overlooking the tennis court which later became a rose garden. The house is now divided into flats.

'COTSWOLD', 9 View Street. Built 1926-28.

A two-storeyed brick house commanding a view over the Lane Cove valley to the Blue Mountains. It was occupied in the 1930s by Frank McDowell of McDowell's Limited. It was last offered for sale by auction in March 1987.

GARDENS, PARKS AND RESERVES

The West Ward of Willoughby Municipal Council is well endowed with parks and reserves, particularly on its western side where it has the Lane Cove River as a boundary, running from Blue Gum Creek in the north to Mowbray Road in the south. The major parks in this area include Fuller Park, O. H. Reid Memorial Park, Burns Park, Mowbray Park and the Rotary Athletic Field. Possible reasons for so many parks in the West Ward may be found in its topography and in the fact that it was settled later than the central and eastern wards of the Municipality. The land falls steeply from the ridge, along which the Pacific Highway now runs, to the Lane Cove River. In its natural state it was rough, tree covered land with marshy flats along the river bank. It was cut by several creeks which rose just below the ridge and flowed rapidly between the sandstone outcrops into Swaine's Creek, which in turn flowed through a narrow valley to empty into the river between the O. H. Reid Memorial Park and Burns Park.

The early use of the land was for timber getting; as the land was cleared it was then used for orchards and market gardens. These were established chiefly along the banks of the river and up the stretches of Blue Gum Creek Road which today is Fullers Road.

When subdivision of the land began, there were many areas where the conventional layout of right-angled streets could not be adopted. The unusual conjunction of streets which followed the slope of the land, and the twists and turns of the creeks, left areas which were unsuitable for building purposes. These today constitute many of the small parks and reserves of the West Ward. One good example is the reserve which commences below James Street, runs through the narrow gully formed by one of these creeks, crosses Park Avenue at its right-angled bend, and there turns into Ferndale Park, which itself is divided from Chatswood Golf Course only by Greville Street. The result is a narrow continuous stretch of open space from the Pacific Highway to the Lane Cove River.

By the time the large grants were being cut up for residential development, people were becoming more conscious of the value of open spaces and the need for them not only for sport and informal recreation but for creating diversity in residential areas. A large park such as Fuller Park was a place for picnics and excursions. A small

park in a neighbourhood provided a safe place for children to play and added to the value of adjoining properties.

Following is a list of Parks and Gardens in the West Ward:

CAMPBELL PARK — *2½ acres*: lies between Sharland and Dalrymple Avenues. It is a memorial park to Donald Alexander Campbell (N.X. 52524 2/18th Batt.), who formerly resided at 78 Beaconsfield Road. He enlisted in 1941 and died in 1945 after being a prisoner-of-war in Sandakan Camp, Borneo. This parkland was acquired by Council in 1940 with loan funds and first named Sharland Park. A plaque was placed in the Park in 1972 with the inscription:

This Park was named after the late D. A. Campbell, a former Alderman of the Municipality of Willoughby from 1937-40, who lost his life on the 11th May 1945 on Active Service.

R. H. Dougherty	L. J. Woodward
Mayor	Town Clerk

CHATSWOOD PARK AND OVAL (see below)

COOLAROO PARK — *3½ acres*: A triangular area between Moola Parade, Coolaroo Road and Greenlands Road, lying along one of the creeks which eventually form Swaine's Creek.

FERNDAL PARK — *11 acres*: lies in the valley formed by two small creeks which come together to form Swaine's Creek. It commences at Park Avenue and continues to Beresford Avenue, where it adjoins Campbell Park.

FULLER PARK — *approx. 6 acres*: lies in the small valley, just below Millwood Avenue, through which runs Blue Gum Creek. It is entered by way of Lady Game Drive, with a small section of the park lying along the bank of the Lane Cove River. In 1915 the Commonwealth Government acquired land at the eastern end for a rifle range, which was moved to Hornsby in 1955 at the request of local residents and the West Ward Progress Association. It lay idle until 1979, when the Commonwealth Government decided to build the National Acoustics Laboratory on it.

Formerly, a small pavilion stood in the Park, just below Millwood Avenue, at its junction with Lady Game Drive. It was a fairly elaborate structure with a tiled roof, which served chiefly as a shelter shed but contained a small shop, kept for some years by the Misses Lucas of Park Avenue. This pavilion seems to have come originally from Chatswood Park and was erected in Fuller Park some time after 1925.

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE: In 1949 a Memorial Garden was established in Dalton Street by Willoughby Municipal Council, in conjunction with the Returned Soldiers' and Sailors' League, Sub-Branch of Chatswood.

It contains a raised grassy mound in the shape of a tin hat

surmounted by an illuminated marble cross. Paths radiate from the mound, leading to different parts of the Garden.

Frank Channon, an employee of the Council and also a member of the Chatswood R.S.L. Club, was instrumental in obtaining permission for the import of cuttings of rose trees from War Cemeteries in France. These cuttings are now beautiful rose bushes, each one having a plaque at its base, carrying the name of a fallen serviceman from the Municipality.

The Garden is the scene of an annual Anzac Day dawn service, wreath laying ceremony and march. The Garden also contains a South African War Memorial in the form of a marble fountain, inscribed with the names of fallen servicemen from the Boer War. This fountain was moved from its original site in Chatswood Park.

LOWANNA PARK — *approx. 1½ acres*: is situated on the corner of Fullers Road and Greville Street. It was named on 26 November 1942. Lowanna is an Aboriginal word meaning 'beauty'.

MOWBRAY PARK — *approx. 37 acres*: is on the western side of Willandra Street extending to Epping Highway. In 1926 the Verbena Estate was subdivided and a parcel of land was purchased by the Sydney Land and Property Company, a subsidiary of T. M. Burke, Estate Agents of 279 George Street, Sydney. Part of this land between the Lane Cove River and the high cliffs of Avro and Avian Streets was found to be unsuitable for development and was presented to Willoughby Municipal Council on 2 May 1929 by T. M. Burke, Managing Director. This area, which has retained much of its original vegetation, is of great ecological significance and is used by students in the study of ecology.

O. H. REID MEMORIAL PARK — *approx. 3 acres*: This was part of the Peacock Estate. When the Estate was subdivided the Council acquired an area on the river front for recreational purposes. The Park, which runs from Millwood Avenue to Swaine's Creek, was named after a former overseer of the Council, who was also a foundation member of the Willoughby-Kuringai Cricket Association. It extends back to houses fronting Valerie and Hawthorne Avenues and then joins the Chatswood Golf Course. An oval has been constructed with a concrete cricket pitch, covered during the football season.

ROTARY CLUB WAR MEMORIAL ATHLETIC FIELD — *10 acres*: An area bounded by Mowbray Road, Epping Highway and the Lane Cove River. In 1961 the Rotary Club of Chatswood submitted a proposal to Willoughby Municipal Council for the development of the Whatmore Estate and reclamation of part of the river foreshores as an athletic field. The only athletic field at that time in the County of Cumberland was in Moore Park. Over a period of five years Rotary contributed \$27,000 towards its preparation. The intention was

to provide, through the numerous track and field facilities, a suitable field for the training of young people in athletics. It was officially opened in 1967 by the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler.

The Rotary Athletic Field is part of an original grant to John Jones of 189 acres bordering on the Lane Cove River, part of which later came into the possession of S. B. Whatmore. Along the River in this area were wharves and boatsheds used mainly in transporting hardwood timber and sandstone needed for the early construction of buildings and bridges in Sydney.

WALLACE PARK RESERVE — *approx. 1/3 of an acre*: is a small triangle of land at the intersection of Dalrymple, Pearl, Beresford and Lone Pine Avenues. On this site there is the Wallace Park Memorial with the inscription:

Erected by Alderman J. Park to the memory of Wallace Park and others who were killed at Lone Pine, Gallipoli, on 8 August 1915.

A single pine tree, propagated from seeds gathered at Lone Pine Ridge, Gallipoli, has been planted on the reserve.

WESTERN PARK — *approx. 1/3 of an acre*: A narrow reserve on Pacific Highway opposite Brown Street with a view directly across to the Blue Mountains. Originally part of the Fuller Estate, it drops steeply to James Street which forms its western boundary.

CHATSWOOD PARK AND OVAL

Ministerial approval was given to Willoughby Municipal Council on 18 July 1898 for the acquisition of almost five acres of land adjoining Chatswood Railway Station. This land, which later became Chatswood Park, was officially named on 1 May 1899, proclaimed as a public reserve on 7 June 1899, and seems to have been officially opened on Arbor Day, 4 August 1900.

The Park, which is bounded by Orchard Road, Chapman Avenue, the railway line and Albert Avenue, was formerly Chinese market gardens with a huge well in the centre. The draining and levelling of the park and the laying out of the present day oval were carried out by a band of workers headed by Alderman Norman Frederick Giblin, who also raised the bulk of the money needed for the work. This was supplemented by Government grants and grants by the Council. Additional revenue was raised by a scheme whereby residents paid ten shillings each for the privilege of planting a tree, with a suitable tablet attached. The tablets did not remain for long. Leplastrier wrote in 1915, "the Mayor (G. F. Bailey) and aldermen and other leading residents planted these trees, though the tablets have long since disappeared". Oaks were also planted along the railway embankment.

The Park has been enlarged from time to time. Properties at the eastern end of Ellis Street which abuts on to the Park were acquired by Council in 1909. They became part of the Park in 1924 when Ellis Street, east of the railway line, was incorporated in the Park and dedicated for public recreation. In Albert Avenue several houses between the railway line and Orchard Road were acquired between 1914 and 1932. These were demolished over a period of time. By 1973 the last of the houses, which had been rented to tenants for a number of years, had been demolished and the land incorporated into the Park, which now measures six and a quarter acres.

A fountain in memory of local volunteers who lost their lives in the South African War, 1899-1901, was erected in the Park by public subscription and unveiled by the Honourable John See, Member of the Legislative Assembly, on 10 March 1901. Among the names it carries is that of Trooper Horace Gilchrist, son of Major Gilchrist who for many years was Headmaster of Willoughby Public School. The fountain now stands in the Garden of Remembrance. There is a report of a funeral sermon for Trooper Gilchrist in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 26 March 1900.

Most of the Park is occupied by the Oval, with its pavilions erected to give the public better viewing and shelter. The original pavilion, built by W. J. Gibson at a cost of one hundred and fifty pounds, was opened by the Mayor, F. C. Petrie on 2 March 1903. Its cost was shared by Council and the Willoughby District Cricket Club. By 1906-07 the club in residence was known as the Gordon District Cricket Club.

By 1913 the pavilion had become too small, but plans to erect a larger building were halted by the outbreak of war. In 1920 Mayor R. T. Forsyth called a public meeting to consider the erection of a more modern building.

The original pavilion seems to have been moved to Fuller Park perhaps between 1926-27, after the erection of the Trumper Pavilion. This removal is suggested in a letter dated 15 June 1925 from Council to F. Homan, rejecting his tender for the removal of the old pavilion. This pavilion has since been demolished.

Trumper Pavilion: The Trumper Pavilion stands partly on the closed portion of Ellis Street. Foundation stones were laid by the Honourable R. J. Black, Member of the Legislative Council, President of the Gordon District Cricket Club, on 9 February 1924, and by Mayor H. W. Clarke on 11 February 1924. Black suggested that the Pavilion be named after Victor Trumper in commemoration of "a fine sportsman, one of the greatest cricketers known and a resident of the Municipality at the time of his premature death". Trumper had died on 28 June 1915. In February 1925 Council presented the Gordon District Cricket Club with a pennant bearing the name 'Trumper Pavilion'.

Cedric Pike Stand: This stand was named in memory of Cedric Pike, who died as a prisoner-of-war in Malaya in 1943. Pike was virtually the founder of the Rugby Union Code in the Gordon area and was the first President and long-time Secretary of the Gordon District Rugby Union Football Club. In a letter dated 8 November 1962 the Club suggested the stand should be named the Cedric Pike Memorial Stand. It was built in 1963 at a cost of £5,868, and opened the same year. It has a seating capacity of three hundred and fifteen.

Paul Harrison Pavilion: The foundation stone reads:

This pavilion erected in 1964 was named in honour of Paul Harrison, to commemorate his life time devotion to community sport and his active interest in this Oval for over 50 years. Paul Harrison was life member, Gordon District Cricket Club, life member of the Gordon District Rugby Union Football Club.

L. F. McGinty.
Mayor.

The pavilion was officially opened by the Mayor, N. Reidy, on 19 July 1980.

Jack Donnelly Stand: This stand was named after Alderman Jack Donnelly in recognition of his long concern for Chatswood and for Municipal parks and gardens generally. He was a former Rugby Union player with the Roseville Club, which later became the Gordon District Union Club, and played first grade competition for Gordon from 1936 to 1941, when he joined the armed services. He served as an alderman of Willoughby Municipal Council for twenty-one years, including one term as Mayor, and was involved in the decision to construct this pavilion.

The stand was named at the Council meeting on 7 July 1980 and opened on 19 July 1980. Its cost was \$99,000. Provision was made for T.V. and direct radio broadcasts.

ROADS AND STREETS OF THE WEST WARD

The earliest street in Chatswood West Ward was the dusty, often muddy track through the timber, taken by the foot travellers, the horsemen, the bullock teams, the dog carts and other vehicles on their way from Blue's Point to Hornsby and beyond.

This road, the present day Pacific Highway, crossed the southern boundary of the Ward at Mowbray Road, where the Great Northern Hotel now stands, and continued on to the northern boundary at Boundary Street. It became a toll road in the 1870s; the toll was collected at a gate at the northern boundary of the Ward. It was first known as the Lane Cove Road, then the Gordon Road. In 1932 after the opening of the Harbour Bridge it became the Pacific Highway. Whenever this road is referred to in the following list of roads and streets, it is designated Pacific Highway, regardless of the name by which it was known at that particular date.

The date following the name of each street is the date of its first assessment and is the most reliable evidence of the age of the street. However, some streets existed before there were any assessments; where this is known, it is noted. The original names of some streets which have since been changed, have been included.

ALBERT AVENUE – 1883: Named after the consort of Queen Victoria. Formerly Seldon's Road.

ALBERT STREET – 1907: Named after the consort of Queen Victoria. Later Boundary Street.

ALEXANDER PARADE – 1938: Origin of name not known.

ANDERSON STREET – 1888: Named after James Anderson (q.v.), Council Clerk (1876-97).

ANGLO STREET – 1907: Named after Anglo Park Estate, developed by the Anglo Australian Assets Company.

ARCHER STREET – 1882: Origin of name not known. First mentioned in Council Minutes in 1875. From Victoria Avenue to Mowbray Road was formerly called Nea Street. In 1891 the full length of street (i.e. from Mowbray Road to Boundary Street) became Archer Street.

ASHLEY STREET – 1882: First mentioned in Council Minutes in 1875. Named by William Lithgow in the 1850s when he purchased a

- large area of land in the vicinity and mapped out a number of streets which he called North Sydney Township. William Lithgow was a former Commissary General, Auditor of Colonial Accounts, and a member of the Legislative Council. This township never came into existence. Lithgow sold the land but the street names were retained by Willoughby Municipal Council.
- AVIAN CRESCENT** – 1937: Name derived from the Avro Avian aeroplane as flown by Bert Hinkler from London to Darwin in 1928.
- AVRO ROAD** – 1937: Name derived from Avro Avian aeroplane. (See Avian Crescent.)
- BAILEY AVENUE** – 1920: Probably named after George Arthur Bailey, Town Clerk, Willoughby Municipal Council 1918-56.
- BEACONSFIELD ROAD** – 1885: Probably named after Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister of England, 1874-80.
- BELLEVUE STREET** – 1947: Probably named from a house, 'Bellevue', built in 1894 in Fullers Road and owned by Mrs Isabella Fuller. The street first appears in Rate Book 1922 in a note against Fullers Road, "here Bellevue Street".
- BERENICE WAY**: In Valuation List for 1938. No assessments. Origin of name not known. A narrow street running from Centennial Avenue to Park Avenue.
- BERESFORD AVENUE** – 1916: Origin of name not known.
- BERYL AVENUE**: In Valuation List 1926-28. Origin of name not known. This appears to have been an unnamed street, named briefly Beryl Avenue, which merged with Eridsford Avenue in 1928.
- BLUE GUM AVENUE**: First record of assessment cannot be traced. Formerly part of Kareela Road. Name changed between 1963-66.
- BLUE GUM CREEK ROAD** – 1882-88: Named after Blue Gum Creek. Later Fullers Road.
- BOUNDARY STREET** – 1907: Boundary of Willoughby Municipal Council and Ku-ring-gai Shire.
- BOWEN STREET** – 1885-91: Named after Charles Bowen, landholder. Later Sutherland Road.
- BOWEN STREET** – 1905: Present day Bowen Street. Built on the site of a horse training track at the rear of the Great Northern Hotel. Named after the same Charles Bowen as above. As there was now no longer a Bowen Street, Willoughby Municipal Council gave the name to a newly formed street.
- BROWN STREET** – 1896: Named after John Brown, timber merchant (q.v.). As a named street this dates back to at least 1889. It ran originally from Pacific Highway to Anderson Street. The section east of the railway line was renamed Endeavour Street in 1970.
- BROWNS AVENUE** – 1897-1907: Origin of name not known. In 1907 became Wearne Street.
- BRYSON STREET** – 1884: Named after John Bryson (q.v.)

- Councillor of the first Municipal Council, who lived on the corner of Pacific Highway and Mowbray Road.
- CARLOTTA STREET** – 1888-90: Probably named after 'Carlotta Cottage', home of the Seldon family. Later Nelson Street.
- CARR STREET** – 1920: Probably named after T. W. Carr, a landholder in Centennial Avenue.
- CARVOSSA AVENUE** – 1916-66: Named after the wife of Captain Carvossa. She owned land in Mowbray Road, behind the Great Northern Hotel. Incorporated into Campbell Park in 1966.
- CENTENNIAL AVENUE** – 1888: Named in celebration of the Centenary of New South Wales. Formerly Fathers Road. See under Fathers Road for its history.
- CHANNON WAY**: A right of way with no assessable properties. Runs along the western side of the railway line from Albert Avenue to Gordon Avenue. Named after Frank Channon, active R.S.L. member involved in the creation of the Garden of Remembrance (q.v.).
- CHAPMAN AVENUE** – 1904: Named after George A. Chapman who lived in 'Lauriston', corner of Chapman Avenue and Orchard Road. A former New South Wales bowling champion.
- CHARLES ROAD**: Perhaps an early name for Anglo Street. Appears on a map of the Municipality, signed by Muston, Mayor 1890, as running from Fullers Road to the Pacific Highway along the line of Anglo Street and that end of View Street into which Anglo Street now runs.
- CLARKE STREET** – 1924: Probably named after H. W. Clarke, Mayor of Willoughby Municipal Council 1922-25.
- CLAUDE STREET** – 1898: Named after Claude Leplastrier (q.v.), Alderman 1896-1902 and Mayor 1898. Formerly High Street.
- COLWELL AVENUE** – 1928-51: Probably named after Colwell and Larcombe, Surveyors of the estate which was subdivided to create Colwell Avenue and possibly other streets included in the subdivision. In 1951 Colwell Avenue merged with Eridsford Avenue to form Colwell Crescent.
- COLWELL CRESCENT** – 1953: Created from the merging of Colwell Avenue with Eridsford Avenue. (See Colwell Avenue.)
- COOBA AVENUE**: See Kooba Avenue.
- COOLAROO ROAD** – 1926: Possibly an Aboriginal word but meaning not found.
- COOTE AVENUE** – 1937-38: Named after Charles Reginald Coote, a dairyman and property owner in Centennial Avenue. By 1938 had become a continuation of Park Avenue.
- CORONA AVENUE** – 1915: Origin of name not known. Forms part of the northern boundary of the Municipality.
- CRAMER CRESCENT** – 1956: Named after Sir John Cramer, Federal Member of Parliament. Alderman, North Sydney Council in 1937.

CRESCENT, The: See The Crescent.

CRITCHETT ROAD – 1892: Probably named after an official associated with the building of the railway line. Formerly Wickham Street. Name changed 1890.

CULGOA STREET: Aboriginal place name meaning 'returning'. Runs from Fullers Road to Hawthorne Avenue. No houses facing into this street, no assessments.

CULLEN STREET – Later Willandra Street. Name changed 1949. Originally a continuation of Cullen Street, Lane Cove.

DAISY STREET – 1894: Possibly named, together with Tulip and Violet Streets, by Mr George Harwood of Brown Street, Chatswood, a curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney and an acquaintance of Mr J. S. Smidmore who owned the land through which these streets were cut.

DALRYMPLE AVENUE – 1913: Named after Richard T. Dalrymple Hay, who lived in 'Dunragit', Beresford Avenue opposite the junction of the two streets. Dalrymple Hay was Commissioner of Forestry in New South Wales for ten years, 1916-26. Dalrymple Hay State Forest in St Ives is also named after him.

DALTON STREET – 1896: Probably named after Thomas Dalton, owner of land on the Pacific Highway between Albert Avenue and Thomas Street. Has now disappeared with the creation of the bus-rail interchange.

DARDANELLES ROAD – 1919: Named after the Strait where the Gallipoli campaign was fought during World War I.

DAVIES STREET – 1907: Origin of name not known. Appears in Rate Books 1899-1906 but no record of assessment until 1907.

DAY STREET – 1888: Named after E. H. Day, an official at Government House who purchased land in the original subdivision.

DELLWOOD AVENUE – 1928: Origin of name not known.

DE VILLIERS AVENUE – 1916: Named after John de Villiers Lamb, owner of 'Mooroombah', Centennial Avenue. Chatswood Co-Educational High School now stands on this site.

DEVONSHIRE STREET – 1888: Named after Devon, England, birthplace of Mr Wrench of Richardson and Wrench, Sydney, land agents.

DULWICH ROAD – 1913: Possibly named after the London suburb of this name.

EDDY ROAD – 1891: Named after the Chief Commissioner for Railways at the time the railway line was being constructed. Formerly Russell Street.

EDGAR STREET – 1898: According to *The Good Old Days*, an old resident of the street says it was named after one of the sons of Thomas and Maria Jenkins (q.v.).

ELLIS STREET – 1900: Probably named after Thomas Ellis, a land-

- holder in the area. It originally ran from Pacific Highway to Orchard Road, divided by the railway line. The eastern end was incorporated into Chatswood Park in 1924.
- ENDEAVOUR STREET:** Formerly the eastern end of Brown Street. Name changed in 1970 for the bicentenary of Captain Cook's landing. No ratable properties facing into this street.
- EPPING ROAD:** The short stretch in West Ward runs mainly along C.S.I.R.O. property.
- ERIDSFORD AVENUE — 1928-51:** Origin of name not known. Formerly Beryl Avenue. Merged with Colwell Avenue in 1951 to become Colwell Crescent.
- ERSKINE STREET — 1888:** Probably named after a commodore of the Sydney Yacht Squadron.
- FAIRWAY, The:** See The Fairway.
- FARRAN STREET — 1920:** Origin of name not known.
- FATHERS ROAD — 1886-88:** Named after William J. Fathers, an early settler and orchardist. The track from his property to Pacific Highway was known as Fathers Road from an early date. Name changed to Centennial Avenue in 1888 in celebration of the New South Wales centenary.
- FEHON ROAD:** No ratable properties. Named after a railway commissioner following the construction of the railway line.
- FELTON AVENUE — 1921:** Named after W. D. Felton, a deputy Town Clerk.
- FERNDAL STREET — 1928:** Probably named after the Ferndale No. 2 Estate, the name given to the subdivision through which Ferndale Street was cut.
- FINDLAY AVENUE — 1898:** Named after Miss Findlay. She married Frederick White, an early landholder who occupied a house next to the first public school in Findlay Avenue.
- FITZSIMMONS AVENUE — 1953:** Named after Fitzsimmons family, owners of a dairy in the area. The original Fitzsimmons' home is now at 19 Fitzsimmons Avenue.
- FREEMAN ROAD — 1891:** Named after H. G. Freeman, a landholder in the area. Formerly Henderson Street.
- FULLERS ROAD — 1889:** Named after Fuller family, orchardists and landholders. Formerly Blue Gum Creek Road.
- GIBSON AVENUE — 1903:** W. J. Gibson, a builder, owned land facing into Waratah Street; its side fence ran along the lane now named Gibson Avenue. Only one assessment in this street.
- GLENCOE AVENUE — 1941:** Glencoe Lane was extended and became Glencoe Avenue. Origin of name not known.
- GOODCHAP ROAD — 1892:** Named after a railway commissioner following the construction of the railway line. It dates back to at least 1890, when it appears on a map dated by Council, 1890.

- GORDON AVENUE** – 1905: Probably name was taken from Gordon Road.
- GORDON ROAD** – 1891: Formerly Lane Cove Road. Later Pacific Highway. For history of the road see notes on Pacific Highway.
- GREENLANDS ROAD**: No assessments. Formerly southern end of Greville Street. Renamed 1960.
- GREVILLE STREET** – 1893: Named after H. J. Greville, an auditor of the Borough of Willoughby in the 1880s. Formerly Salisbury Street.
- HARNETT STREET** – 1891-96: Formerly Mitchell Street. Named after Richard Hayes Harnett (q.v.), Mayor 1871 and a major landholder. Later became Johnson Street.
- HARNETT PLACE**: No assessments. Named in 1976 after Richard Hayes Harnett (q.v.).
- HAROLD STREET**: Shown on a map dated 1892 (see Aperture cards of estates, in W.M.C. Library), as running off the southern side of Ellis Street. It is unlikely that this street was ever gazetted. The site is now occupied by a residential block facing into Ellis Street.
- HART STREET** – 1921: Named after William Hart, prominent Sydney dentist interested in aviation. The first to qualify for a pilot's licence in Australia, he employed Bert Hinkler in his aviation workshop and started him on his career in aviation. It is not known whether he lived in the area.
- HATFIELD STREET** – 1929: Named after J. R. Hatfield who acquired ninety-three acres of land in 1839, between Mowbray Road and Lane Cove River.
- HAWTHORNE AVENUE** – 1926: Last street running off western end of Fullers Road before the Lane Cove River. Probably named after a house, 'Hawthorne', now demolished, set in an estate of five acres in Fullers Road which dated back to 1908. The street was cut through this property.
- HELP STREET** – 1888: Named after William Helps, an orderly attached to Government House who owned land in this street in 1887; it was then called Helps Street. Name was changed following the sale of the land.
- HENDERSON STREET** – 1889-90: Named after Scott Henderson, a landholder. Later Freeman Road.
- HERBERT STREET**: From Rate Books there appears to have been a street of this name 1888-92 but no assessments. Later became Rose Street (1893) and Young Street (1902).
- HIGH STREET**: No assessments as High Street. First ran from Victoria Avenue to Mowbray Road. In 1890, section Victoria Avenue to Albert Avenue renamed Spring Street. In 1898 section Albert Avenue to Mowbray Road renamed Claude Street.
- HILLSIDE STREET** – 1913: Probably named because of the

topography of the area.

HINKLER CRESCENT – 1938: Named after Bert Hinkler, Australian aviator, who flew a single seater Avro Avian aeroplane solo from London to Darwin in 1928.

HOPETOUN AVENUE – 1903: Named after Lord Hopetoun, Governor-General of Australia 1901-03.

HOTHAM STREET – 1913: Probably named after Sir Charles Hotham (1806-1855), Governor of Victoria.

IVY STREET – 1920: Origin of name not known.

JAMES STREET – 1898: Named after William James, a landholder in the area.

JENKINS STREET – 1898: Named after the family of Thomas Jenkins (q.v.), orchardist and landowner with a property 'Millwood' on the Lane Cove River from the 1850s.

JOHNSON STREET – 1897: Probably named after Richard Johnson, a tanner after whom an earlier Johnson Street, which later became Fry Street was named. Formerly Harnett Street.

KARANA PLACE: First record of assessment not traced. Later than 1975. Origin of name not known.

KAREELA ROAD – 1935: Aboriginal place name meaning 'south wind'.

KINGSFORD SMITH STREET – 1928/29-1953: Resumed in 1953 by the Education Department for the building of Mowbray Public School. Named after Air Commodore Sir Charles Kingsford Smith who with Charles Ulm made a record breaking flight across the Pacific Ocean in 1928.

KIRK STREET – 1914: So named because it was built on land formerly owned by the Presbyterian Church.

KOoba AVENUE – 1935: Kooba, or Cooba, a native wattle willow growing chiefly in the New England area.

LANE COVE ROAD – 1872-90: Originally a track running from Blue's Point to Pearce's Corner. In 1890 became Gordon Road, then Pacific Highway. For history see notes on Pacific Highway.

LIVERPOOL ROAD: From Rate Book entry 1891/47 it appears as if Oliver Road may have been known originally as Liverpool Road.

LONE PINE AVENUE – 1921: Named after a hill above Anzac Cove.

LOUISE AVENUE – 1960: Named after Katie Louise Lhuede, wife of A. R. Lhuede, manager of Loxton Park Pty Ltd, the developers of the estate and also an estate agent.

MACARTNEY AVENUE – 1922: Named after Charles Macartney, famous Australian Test cricketer who resided at 'The Wicket', 22 Devonshire Street, Chatswood in 1922.

McINTOSH STREET – 1897: Named after Rev. G. McIntosh, a landholder. The Rate Books show him as living in McIntosh Street in

the early 1900s.

McLEAN AVENUE – 1918: Named after Duncan McLean, a landholder and orchardist who held 7½ acres of land in Fullers Road close to the present day McLean Avenue, part of which he leased to Chinese market gardeners. In 1917 McLean Avenue was cut through this land.

MARGARET PLACE – 1953: Named after Margaret Fitzsimmons, a member of the Fitzsimmons family who owned a dairy in the area. See also notes on Fitzsimmons Avenue.

MELROSE STREET – 1956: Origin of name not known.

MILLWOOD AVENUE – 1919: Named after 'Millwood', a farm and orchard on the Lane Cove River, settled by William Henry and later belonging to the Jenkins family (q.v.).

MITCHELL STREET – 1888-90: From Rate Book 1886 Mitchell Street was named but no assessments until 1888. Origin of name not known. Later became Harnett Street, then Johnson Street.

MOOLA PARADE – 1926-28: Name probably an Aboriginal word; meaning not found.

MOONEY STREET – 1920: Named after Francis Mooney, a local landholder and dairyman who acquired 47 acres of land in 1856, between Mowbray and Beaconsfield Roads.

MORIARTY ROAD – 1890: Named after Edward Orpen Moriarty, Engineer-in-Chief for Harbour and Rivers Navigation Branch. Formerly Wilson Street.

MOWBRAY ROAD – 1872: First named in Council Minutes in 1867 and surveyed in the same year by J. Boyle. Name derives from Mowbray Point, Sailors Bay, Middle Harbour.

MOWBRAY ROAD WEST – 1882: First mentioned in Council Minutes 1877.

NEA STREET – 1883-91: Ran from Mowbray Road to Victoria Avenue where it joined Archer Street. In 1891 full length of street became Archer Street. Possibly named after the wife of Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of New South Wales, 1872-79.

NEA STREET – 1892: Present day Nea Street. Formerly Stuart Street, renamed Nea Street in Council Minutes 21 May 1890.

NELSON STREET – 1891: Origin of name not known. Formerly Carlotta Street.

O'BRIEN STREET: No assessments, no properties facing into this street. In 1890 this previously unnamed street was named after a Mrs Rose O'Brien who owned land on Pacific Highway.

OLIVER ROAD – 1892: Named after a senior railway official. Formerly Scott Street. From Rate Book entry 1891/47 this street may have been first called Liverpool Road.

ORCHARD ROAD – 1892: Probably so named because of the many orchards in the area.

PACIFIC HIGHWAY – 1932: Formerly Lane Cove Road, then Gordon Road. First assessment as Lane Cove Road 1872; as Gordon Road 1891.

Named Pacific Highway in 1932 with the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

PARK AVENUE – 1913: Probably named after nearby Parks Estate. By 1938 Park Avenue had been extended to take in Coote Avenue.

PEARL AVENUE – 1916: Named after a relative of John de Villiers Lamb (q.v.).

PECKHAM AVENUE – 1914: Probably named after the London suburb, Peckham Rye.

RAILWAY STREET – 1891: Runs parallel to railway line. Formerly Station Street.

RANGE STREET – 1950: Road leading from Fullers Road to the site of the former Rifle Range.

REGINALD STREET: No assessments, no houses facing into this street. Named after Charles Reginald Coote who owned a dairy in Centennial Avenue. Dates from 1944.

REID DRIVE – 1976: Probably named after Harold Reid, Town Clerk 1957-65. This street dates from 1971 or earlier.

ROSE STREET – 1893-1901: No properties facing into this street, no assessments. Formerly Herbert Street, now Young Street.

RUSSELL STREET – 1889-91: Named after Henry Russell (q.v.) who established the Great Northern Hotel. An alderman of Willoughby Council. Later Eddy Road.

SALISBURY ROAD/STREET – 1885-93: No assessments as Salisbury Road. Appears in Rate Book 1884/196 as a note "Salisbury St off Blue Gum Creek Rd". Willoughby Municipal Library Street Index to Rate Books gives date as 1885 but may date earlier. Later Greville Street.

SAYWELL STREET – 1891: Named after Thomas Saywell who had a brickfield in the area. Formerly Station Street because of a branch railway line planned in the area but never built.

SCOTT STREET – 1889-91: Named after Scott Henderson, a landholder in the area. Later Oliver Road.

SELDONS ROAD – 1882-83: Named after Richard Seldon (q.v.), Mayor 1876-80. An oak tree called Seldon's Oak, used to stand at the junction of Albert Avenue and Pacific Highway. It was originally within Seldon's garden. Later Albert Avenue.

SHARLAND AVENUE – 1928: Name probably taken from nearby Sharland Estate. Alfred William Sharland also owned the Royal Hotel (Sharland's Hotel) on corner of Pacific Highway and Victoria Avenue until 1919.

SPENCER PLACE – 1960: Origin of name not known.

SPRING STREET – 1889: So named because of a spring near the site

- of the present Town Hall. Formerly High Street. Name changed 1890.
- STATION STREET** – 1889-90: Later Railway Street.
- STUART STREET** – 1883-90: Named after Sir Alexander Stuart, a landholder in the area. Renamed Nea Street in Council Minutes 21 May 1890.
- SUTHERLAND ROAD** – 1892: Named after the Hon. John Sutherland, Minister of Works at the time of the building of the railway. Formerly called Bowen Street, which should not be confused with the present Bowen Street.
- SYLVIA STREET** – 1917: Appears in 1916 Rate Book as a pencilled note against Fullers Road. Origin of name not known.
- TESSA STREET** – 1907: Origin of name not known.
- THE CRESCENT** – 1907: Name taken from the crescent shape of the street.
- THE FAIRWAY** – 1976: Probably so named because of its proximity to Chatswood Golf Course which was opened in 1935. Dates back to at least 1971 when it first appears in Gregory's Street Directory.
- THOMAS STREET (1)**: A map of the Municipality signed "Muston, Mayor 1890" shows a Thomas Street running north from the point where Anglo Street becomes View Street. No street of that name in that position today. Perhaps a proposed street, the other end of which became Wyvern Avenue.
- THOMAS STREET (2)** – 1888: Probably named after Thomas Dalton who owned land on Pacific Highway between Albert Avenue and Thomas Street.
- TINGHA STREET** – 1888: Aboriginal place name meaning 'flat level land'.
- TRYON STREET** – 1888: Named after an admiral of the Sydney Yacht Squadron.
- TULIP STREET** – 1894: Possibly named, together with Daisy and Violet Streets, by George Harwood of Brown Street, Chatswood, a curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and an acquaintance of J. S. Smidmore who owned the land through which these streets were cut.
- ULM STREET** – 1938: One of several streets in the area named after famous aviators. Charles Ulm and Charles Kingsford Smith made the first trans-Pacific crossing in *Southern Cross* in 1928.
- VALERIE AVENUE** – 1956: First record of assessment 1956 as an unmarked street "off Hawthorne Avenue". First assessment as Valerie Avenue, 1960. Named after Valerie Ann Lhuede, daughter of A. R. Lhuede, Manager of Loxton Park Pty Ltd, the developers of the estate, and also an estate agent.
- VICTOR STREET** – 1882: Origin of name not known.
- VICTORIA AVENUE** – 1882: Named after Queen Victoria. Listed

by L. Forsyth in *Roads Chronological* as being the first mentioned in Council Minutes in 1879.

VICTORIA AVENUE MALL: Running at present from Victor Street to Anderson Street, is for pedestrians. Vehicles may not use it with the exception of taxis and buses. Council intends to develop the Mall from Orchard Road to Archer Street to unify the heart of the main retail area. It is being designed to play an important community role by providing information kiosks, civic spaces and an amphitheatre. Full development of the Mall will commence on the completion of the bus-rail interchange, which it is hoped will take place in 1988.

VIEW STREET – 1904: Probably named from its position on a high ridge with extensive views towards the Blue Mountains.

VIOLET STREET – 1894: Possibly named, together with Daisy and Tulip Streets, by George Harwood of Brown Street, Chatswood, a curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney and an acquaintance of J. S. Smidmore who owned the land through which these streets were cut.

WARATAH STREET – 1894: Aboriginal name for a native flowering shrub, genus *Telopea*, family *Proteaceae*, accepted as the emblem for New South Wales.

WEARNE STREET – 1907: Probably named after J. H. Wearne who lived in adjoining McIntosh Street. Wearne Street no longer exists; probably used in the widening of Pacific Highway. Formerly Brown's Avenue.

WEST PARADE – 1913: Origin of name not known.

WESTERN WAY: No assessments, no houses facing into it. Runs from Pacific Highway to Edgar Street.

WHITTON ROAD – 1894: Named after Chief Railway Engineer of the time. Appears in Rate Book 1889 as a note, "here Whitton Road".

WICKHAM STREET – 1894: No record of assessment. Probably named after G. Wickham, a landholder in the area. Later Critchett Road. Name changed 1890.

WILFRED AVENUE: First assessment in Rate Book 1926-28. Named after the Wilfred Estate, which was subdivided to form streets in this area.

WILLANDRA STREET – 1950: Aboriginal place name meaning 'Little Waters'. Formerly Cullen Street.

WILLIAM STREET – 1882: Origin of name not known. First mentioned in Council Minutes 1874. See *Roads Chronological* by L. Forsyth.

WILSON STREET (1): No assessments. A short street crossing the railway line, north of Chatswood station. Named after a Mrs Wilson who owned land on Pacific Highway in 1881.

WILSON STREET (2): Later Moriarty Road. Name changed 1890.

WOOD STREET – 1896: Named after Henry Wood who acquired 40 acres of land in this area in 1832.

WYVERN AVENUE – 1896: Possibly named by Richard Hayes Harnett.

YOUNG STREET: No assessments. No houses facing into this street. Formerly Herbert Street, later Rose Street, then Young Street in 1902.

* * *

TOLLS AND THE TOLL GATE

In the 1870s a Toll Gate stood on the Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway), at the northern boundary of the Municipality, near present day Boundary Street. The exact date of its erection is not known, nor how long it remained. It was probably erected in the early 1870s, soon after the establishment, by the East St Leonards Council, of a barrier at the corner of Alfred Street and Junction Street (now Pacific Highway) for the purpose of collecting revenue for the construction and maintenance of roads to Milsons Point. Much of what is known about the Toll Gate comes from the recollections of Joseph Hammond, according to whom the first toll collector was a Mr Armitage. From the incidents recounted below, the Gate had probably gone by 1875.

The toll, a source of income over and above the Rates, was used by Willoughby Municipal Council to meet the cost of making and maintaining the Lane Cove Road, the surface of which was often washed away by torrential rains. In July 1870 the Borough of St Leonards was seeking a proportion of the North Willoughby Council tolls to help reform that part of the Lane Cove Road passing through St Leonards.

On 10 April 1873 the toll collector reported that James Archbold had refused to pay toll. Apparently there were many disturbances at the Toll Gate. Travellers who objected to paying the toll used to fasten their horses to the gate and pull it down. At a Council meeting on 3 January 1874, the Mayor (Alderman J. P. Best) informed the Councillors that he had ordered the toll board be repainted, and that a reward of five pounds was offered for information leading to the conviction of the person who had taken the Toll Gate away. Reference was also made to the Toll Gate in Council Minutes 19 September 1874 when it was decided "that all persons pay who go through the Toll Gate".

The amount of the toll is not known but it was probably comparable with that of North Sydney, which charged a two-horse vehicle one

shilling, a dog cart sixpence, fruit, vegetable and milk carts threepence each and horsemen twopence.

* * *

TRANSPORT

The first settlers on the North Shore came either by water, along the Lane Cove River, or by land from Blue's Point. Governor Phillip took a party up Middle Harbour and then overland to about where Pymble is today. This was an exploring party, of little significance in the later settlement of the area.

The North Shore was heavily timbered and interest centred on the timber, needed for the building of houses in Sydney. The trees were felled and dragged out by bullock teams, either to the tracks which later became main roads, and thence to Blue's Point, or down to the Lane Cove River where it was loaded on to barges or formed into rafts and taken to Sydney. Shells for lime were carried in the same way. The waving grass which grew abundantly above the shore line was cut for fodder and sent daily across the harbour.

Apart from the timber-getters and the other people engaged in these activities, the North Shore, in these early years, was almost uninhabited. The area now comprising the West Ward was settled from the Lane Cove River by orchardists and market gardeners, who came up Fullers Road to join the main road, which later became the Lane Cove Road. Travellers also came along this road by foot, horseback, coach or wagon, on the way from Blue's Point to Hornsby.

Lepplastrier in *Willoughby's Fifty Years* says "Buses were run along the Lane Cove Road by Tom Watson, on behalf of Messrs Harnett and Stuart, these being known as the Bianconi Line. In turn these were followed by those of Henry Russell, landlord of the Great Northern, and then by Mr Wilkes' line". These were of course, horse buses, and the Great Northern Hotel was used as a staging post where travellers were refreshed and the horses changed.

Chatswood West Ward is now served by trains and a number of bus services.

The railway line, first running from Hornsby to St Leonards, was opened in 1890. Three years later the line was extended to Milsons Point and linked with a ferry service across the Harbour to the city. This line was electrified in 1927, but until the building of the Harbour Bridge in 1932, both steam and electric services ran. After the Bridge opening the system became all electric and trains ran across the Bridge, to Wynyard and Town Hall stations and to Central and beyond.

In 1908 a tram service was extended from Willoughby, along Victoria

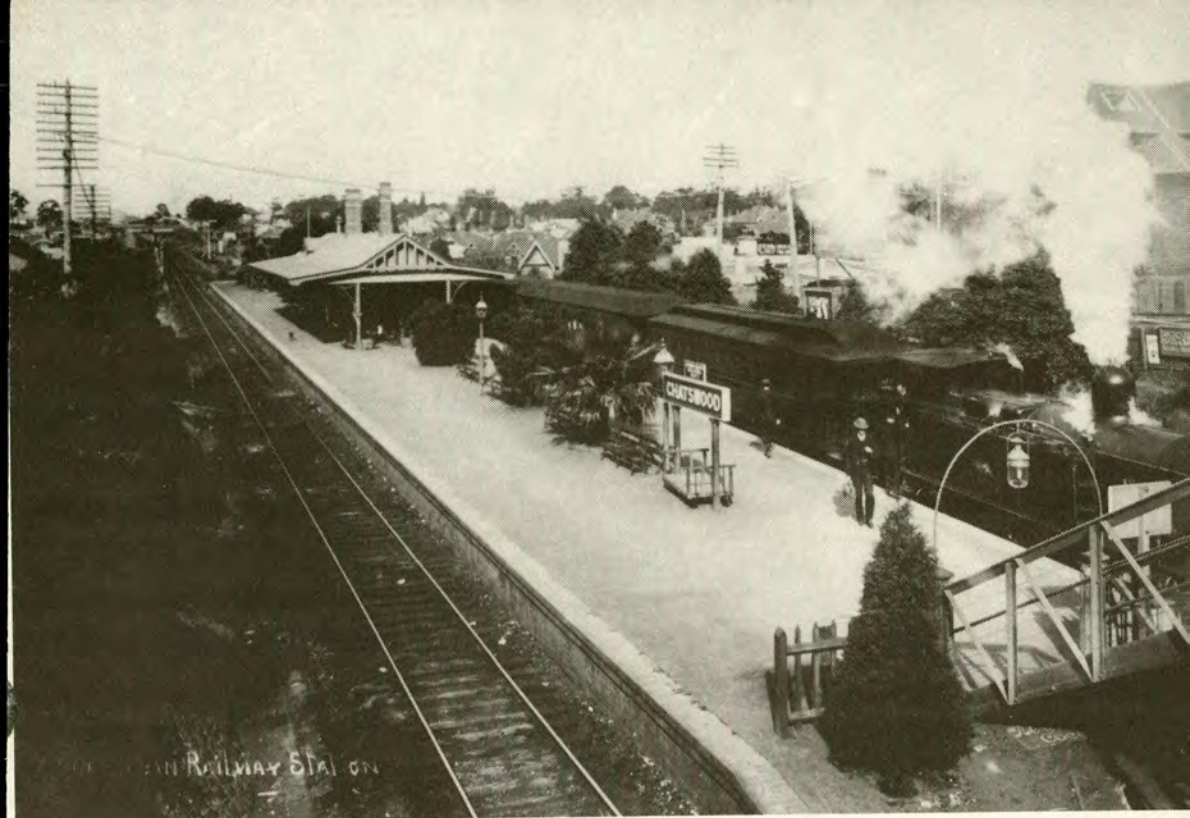


Above: Arrival of first tram at Chatswood Station, 1908.
Below: Railway timetable, Hornsby and St Leonards Service, 1895.
(Photos by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)

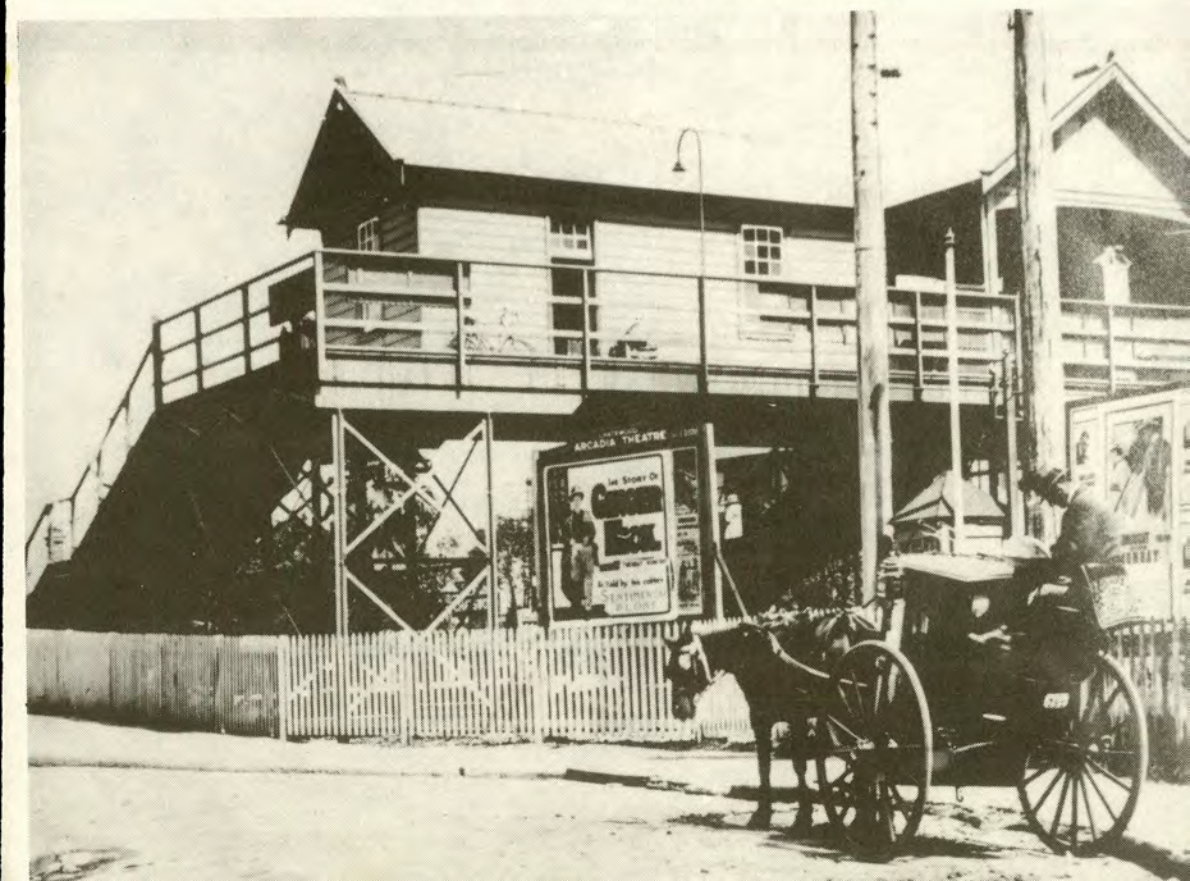
HORNSBY AND ST. LEONARDS SERVICE.

Height in feet.	Miles from Sydney.	Down.	WEEK-DAYS.				SAT. ONLY.	
			Pass.	Mixed.	Mixed.	Mixed.	Pass.	Mixed.
			a.m.	a.m.	a m	p m	p m	p m
—	—	Newcastle .....Dep.	.....	.....	9 10	.....	.....	1 30
62	—	Sydney .....Arr.	6 5	8 25	p m	2 30	1 25	.....
592	21	Hornsby .....Dep.	7 25	9 20	12 15	3 35	2 21	4 53
		"Dep.	7 40	9 25	12 20	3 55	2 30	5 0
619	22	Wahroonga"	7a45	9a30	12a25	4a 0	2a35	5a 6
554	24	Turramurra"	7a48	9a34	12a30	4a 3	2a38	5a 8
449	25	Pymble"	7 53	9 44	12 40	4 10	2 43	5 13
379	26	Gordon"	7a56	9a49	12a45	4a14	2a46	5a16
321	28	Lindfield"	8a 1	9a54	12a50	4a19	2a51	5a21
349	28	Roseville"	8a 4	9a58	12a55	4a22	2a54	5a25
321	29	Chatswood"	8 10	10 5	1 5	4 29	3 0	5 30
238	31	St. Leonards .....Arr.	8 15	10 10	1 10	4 35	3 5	5 35

Height in feet.	Miles from St. Leonards	Up.	WEEK-DAYS.				SAT. ONLY.	
			Pass.	Pass.	Mixed. Sat. ex.	Mixed.	Mixed.	Mixed.
			a.m.	a.m.	p m	p m	p m	p m
238	—	St. Leonards .....Dep.	8 30	10 15	2 55	5 40	1 40	3 15
321	2	Chatswood"	8 37	10 22	3 2	5 47	1 47	3 22
349	3	Roseville"	8a41	10a26	3a 6	5a51	1a51	3a26
321	4	Lindfield"	8a44	10a29	3a 9	5a54	1a54	3a29
379	5	Gordon"	8a49	10a34	3a14	5a59	1a59	3a34
449	6	Pymble"	8 55	10 40	3 20	6 5	2 5	3 40
554	8	Turramurra"	8a59	10a44	3a24	6a 9	2a 9	3a44
619	9	Wahroonga"	9a 4	10a49	3a29	6a14	2a14	3a49
592	10	Hornsby .....Arr.	9 10	10 55	3 35	6 20	2 20	3 55
		"Dep.	9 21	11 0	3 40	6 30	2 22	4 55
		Sydney .....Arr.	p m	p m				
62	31	Sydney .....Arr.	.....	12 5	5 1	7 15	.....	5 50
—	92	Newcastle"	12 23	.....	.....	.....	5 35	.....



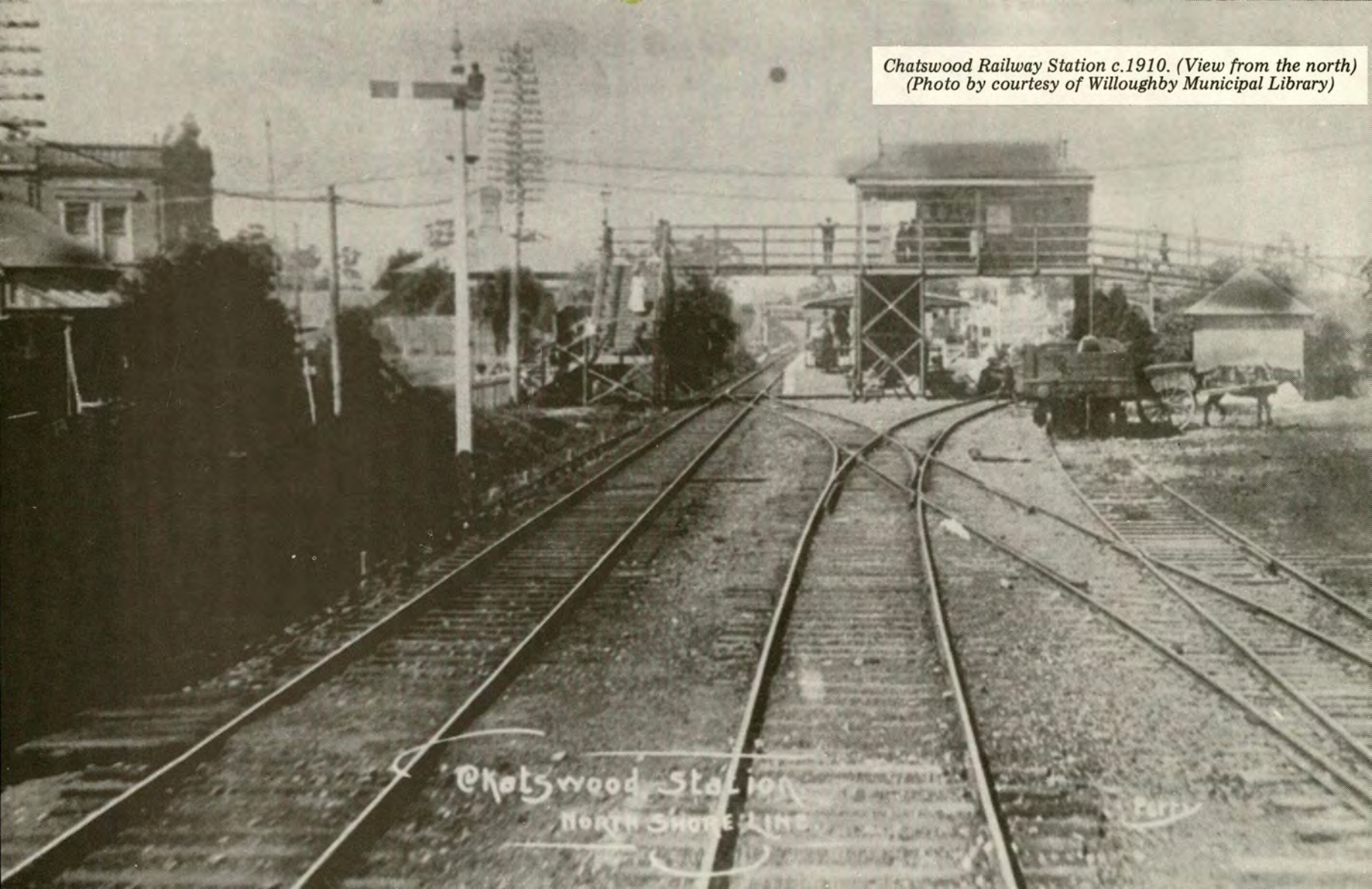
*Above: Chatswood Railway Station, 1910.
(Steam train in the station)*
*Below: Hansom cab at Chatswood Railway Station, 1922-23.
(Photos by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*





*Chatswood Railway Station, looking south, 1907. (Gas lamps on station)
(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*

*Chatswood Railway Station c.1910. (View from the north)
(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*





*Above: Chatswood Railway Station about 1920.
 (View from the east, showing picket fence, station stairs and telephone box)
 Below: Trams at Chatswood Station — looking east down Victoria Avenue.
 (Railway Hotel in the background)
 (Photos by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*



Avenue to Chatswood Station, and served the public for fifty years, closing in 1958 when it was replaced by buses. In addition to this service, a number of private buses serve the West Ward, running to Parramatta, Ryde, Gladesville, Macquarie University, Frenchs Forest, Terry Hills, and along the Pacific Highway to Hornsby and beyond.

In earlier days Chatswood West Ward had a hansom cab rank at the tram terminus, which was later replaced by a taxi service. The present taxi rank is in Victor Street, and gives a fast and reliable service.

After several years of negotiation with the Transport Department, a bus-rail interchange is now being constructed. This will enable buses to be taken out of the present Mall and also give pedestrian access to and from buses and trains by way of escalators.

PARKING

The rapid growth of the Chatswood Town Centre in recent years has caused many problems in traffic and parking.

Willoughby Municipal Council has created extensive free public parking areas around Albert Avenue, Victor and Claude Streets and in Albert Avenue west of the railway line. There are also parking areas each side of the railway line north of the Help Street subway, and a small area in Archer Street east of the Library.

Council has **also** erected two multi-storeyed parking stations:

- A three-storeyed station in Albert Avenue with additional parking on the roof. It is linked to both Grace Bros and Westfield Shopping Town by bridges.
- A two-storeyed station on the corner of Anderson and Help Streets.

Parking is usually restricted to two hours, with three and four hour limits on some of the areas. In spite of these provisions, cars line the streets close to the Town Centre and in all surrounding streets.

PUBLIC SERVICES

POST OFFICE

The earliest postal deliveries in Chatswood West Ward came from the North Willoughby Post Office (opened 1 September 1871) or as roadside mail delivered on horseback twice weekly by C. C. Fagan of Gosford, who held the contract to carry mail from the G.P.O. to as far as Gosford.

In the early years there were many petitions for the establishment of a post office at Chatswood. These were always rejected, apparently on the grounds that there were too few people living in the area. Eric Russell in *Willoughby, a Centenary History* quotes a postal inspector who in 1878 reported, "In the vicinity of the proposed post office there were only ten houses".

In 1875 the Mayor, James Best, made efforts to have a post office opened in the Lane Cove Road "between Mrs Brysons and Mrs Fullers", suggesting as a suitable postmaster James Sanday who was in business there, "as he had been postmaster at Pennant Hills for some years". (*North Shore Times*, 16.10.1985.)

In January 1879 Richard Seldon was pointing out in the press the need for better postal facilities, and in the same year the Council of the Borough of Willoughby was notified by the General Post Office of a decision to open a post office at James Sanday's on the Lane Cove Road. Chatswood Post Office, so named for the first time, was opened on 1 August 1879, with James Montgomery, storekeeper and builder, as the first postmaster. It was closed in 1886 for lack of business. The post office was opened again in the late 1880s during the building of the railway line, for the use of the workers in camps nearby.

There is a photograph in Russell's *Willoughby, a Centenary History* of the Post and Telegraph Office before 1900. It appears to have been a small weatherboard building on the southern side of Victoria Avenue, just west of the railway station. Later, a brick building was erected on this site, which served until the present post office was erected in Victor Street. The original site of the first post office is part of that building now occupied by the Telephone Exchange.

A post office was also established in the small shopping centre in Greville Street, just north of Fullers Road, in 1965. It was closed a

few years later and limited postal facilities were made available in the neighbouring newsagency.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the earliest settlers came from the creeks flowing through the area which now constitutes the Municipality of Willoughby. They flowed either east towards Middle Harbour or west to the Lane Cove River.

On the eastern side of the West Ward, Scott's Creek rose on the present Pacific Highway, close to Mowbray Road, and flowed almost directly north-east. It passed close to the site of Chatswood Chase and flowed on to empty into Middle Harbour at Sugarloaf Bay.

On the western side, several small streams ran just below the ridge of the present day Pacific Highway and flowed together to form Swaine's Creek, which ran into the Lane Cove River.

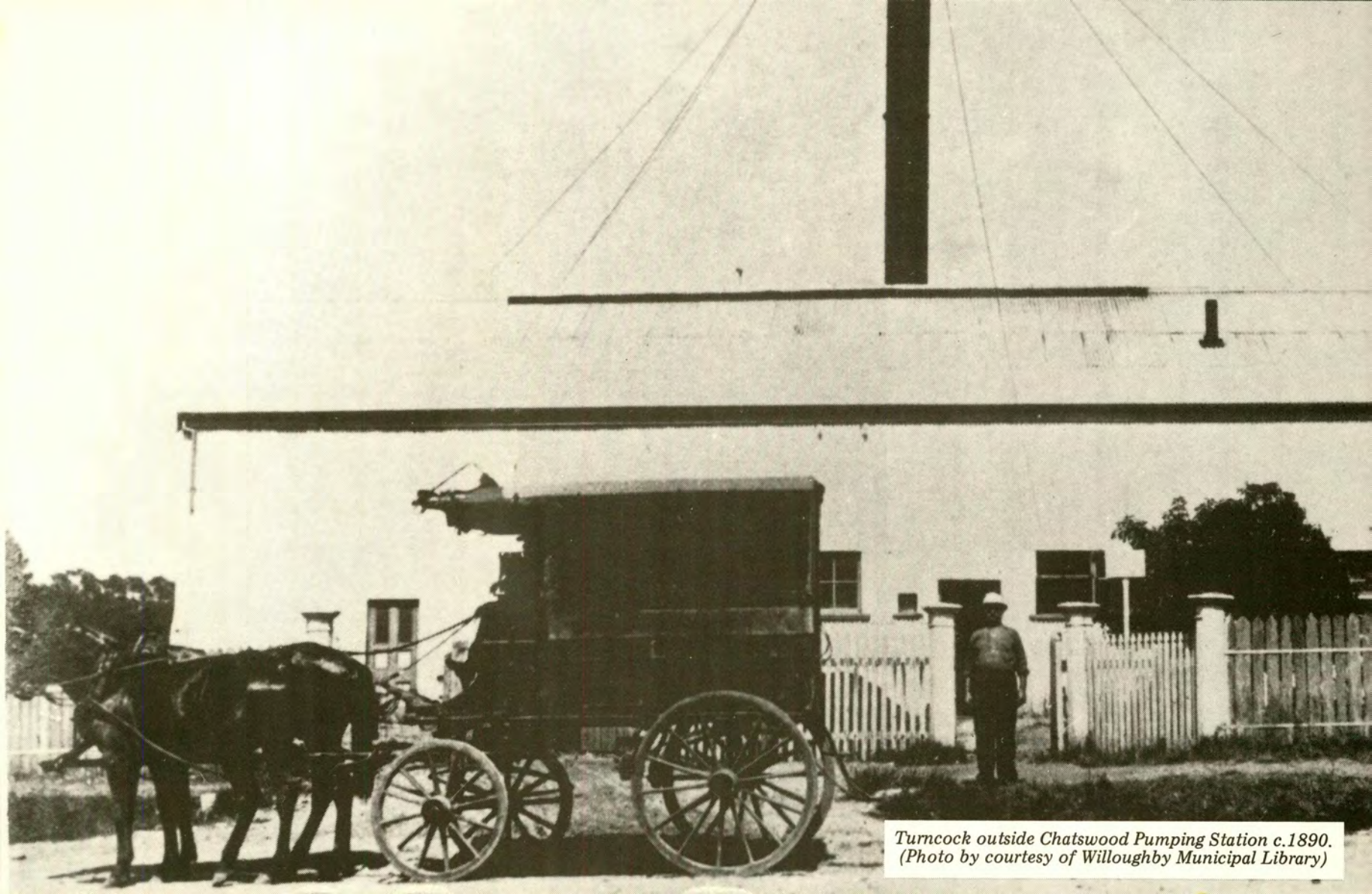
Towards the north, Blue Gum Creek followed the boundary of the West Ward, flowing west and slightly south until it too, joined the Lane Cove River, close to where Fullers Bridge is today.

These creeks supplied the settlers with water needed for their orchards and small farms. Some of the settlers built dams, wells and tanks for themselves, and later opposed proposals for the extension of water mains in the area because they did not want the added expense. Their opposition delayed the establishment of the Reservoir at the corner of Lane Cove and Mowbray Roads.

Some of the early water supply came from springs. Spring Street is a reminder of a spring which rose close to the site of the Civic Centre.

Water was brought into the Municipality in 1891 from a pumping station at Ryde and connected with tanks at the corner of Lane Cove and Mowbray Roads. These two tanks, each holding 1,500,000 gallons, served Willoughby, Mosman and North Sydney. Such was the growth of the district between Chatswood and Hornsby by 1895 that two tanks were installed at Wahroonga and a pumping station installed at Chatswood.

Water was in short supply during the first decade of the century. Leplastrier says: "Universal indignation was aroused throughout the District in December 1901 by the great water famine". Leplastrier was writing in 1915 so he would have had first hand experience of this water famine. The water shortage also raised questions about the possible breakdown of the sewerage system. An indignation meeting was held in the Victoria Hall (462 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood) at which the Water and Sewerage Board "received a severe handling". It tried to lay blame on the Department of Public Works, but in a letter to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 December 1901, the Minister for Works (Hon. E. W. O'Sullivan) attributed the problem to lack of foresight on



*Turncock outside Chatswood Pumping Station c.1890.
(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*

the part of the Board. Council tried to find a remedy and resolved on 6 January 1902 that experts be appointed to the Board. This resolution was forwarded to the Premier.

Water famines recurred however. On 15 December 1913 Council wrote to the Water and Sewerage Board regretting that the Board "is no longer making provision for an adequate water supply for the Northern Suburbs". By 1921 a larger pumping station had to be put into commission at Ryde to meet the increased demand.

STREET LIGHTING

Willoughby streets were lit first by gas and then by electricity, although there were oil fuelled lamps in some parts of the Municipality between 1908 and 1914.

On 26 June 1892 a lighting Committee was appointed, and it recommended to Willoughby Municipal Council that a contract be signed between the Council and the North Shore Gas Company for the laying of pipes throughout the Municipality. In the West Ward the mains were laid along Gordon Road, in Victoria Avenue, along Mowbray Road West, in Moriarty, Sutherland, Eddy and Oliver Roads and in Centennial Avenue to Goodchap Road.

The first gas street lamp in the Municipality was lit in the West Ward on 31 December 1896 outside Brysons, on the north-eastern corner of Gordon Road (Pacific Highway) and Mowbray Road.

On 28 May 1914 Council arranged with the Sydney County Council for the supply of electricity to the Municipality. Installations were delayed however, by the outbreak of war. Electricity was first installed in April 1916.

SEWERAGE

Before the advent of sewerage, nightsoil was collected in pans, by horse-drawn wagons known colloquially as 'dunny carts'. The household toilet was a small outhouse in the backyard, placed well away from the dwelling. Lanes separating properties in the older areas gave access to the backyards, so that pans could be carried to and from the cart.

Sewerage was dumped at the end of Beaconsfield Road until the 1930s, when residents began to complain about the siting of a sewerage farm close to residential property. They were successful in having the dump closed. Chatswood Golf Course now occupies the site.

Council first took action on the sewerage problem in March 1896, when it empowered the Sanitary Committee to seek information from the Government and the Water and Sewerage Board about the best way of dealing with it. By 1898 a workable scheme had been instituted.

By 1899 certain areas had been sewered and on 19 June 1901 Council was urging the Water and Sewerage Board to extend the system to all parts of Chatswood.

A 'carrier' sewer ran from Scott's Creek to Gordon Road (Pacific Highway) and was extended to West Chatswood in 1936. In 1959 Chatswood West Ward Progress Association asked the Water Board to extend the sewerage system to the Mowbray Road West area, i.e. west of Willandra Street. This area was sewered in 1962.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL

One of the main reasons for the formation of the West Ward Progress Association was local objection to the siting of a sewage farm and garbage dump at the end of Beaconsfield Road. By the end of the 1920s this had become a residential area and local residents were greatly inconvenienced by the dump and the smoke from the incinerator. Following a meeting of residents in a private home, plans were made for a public meeting to be held on 30 September 1930, the outcome of which was the formation of the Progress Association.

During the next couple of years the members were successful in having the dump closed. The Chatswood Golf Club took over the area and formed a nine hole golf course.

Another site had to be found for garbage disposal. According to research carried out by Eric Wilksch, a site was proposed either in or adjacent to Artarmon Park but this proposal was successfully opposed by local residents. An area of land at the eastern end of Market Street, Naremburn was purchased by Willoughby Council for the siting of a garbage dump. At this time Naremburn had a very active Progress Association which obtained legal advice and prevented this area from being used, on the grounds that it was zoned residential.

The next site considered by Willoughby Municipal Council was an area owned by the Water and Sewerage Board on Scott's Creek, Willoughby, on what is now Eastern Valley Way. This area was approved by the then Minister for Health but these plans were never carried through.

A site on Flat Rock Creek was then chosen, on land known as Kent's Paddock, and by 1934 the incinerator designed by Burley Griffin was constructed. All garbage is now disposed of outside the area by the Waste Disposal Authority.

CHATSWOOD FIRE STATION

Following representations to the Board of Fire Commissioners by local residents, a fire station was established on Gordon Road (now Pacific Highway) in 1900, opposite Centennial Avenue. It was manned

by volunteer firemen until 1912 when a permanent fire officer was appointed. Horse-drawn vehicles were used until 1922 when the first motor vehicle was brought into use. Chatswood Fire Station remained in use until 1945 when it closed following a re-organization of metropolitan fire services and the staff was transferred to other stations. Willoughby Fire Station in Laurel Street now serves the Willoughby and Chatswood areas.

The old fire station building still exists, minus its distinctive tower. It has been the subject of recent development proposals and its future is in doubt. At present it is being used as a shop for the sale of billiard tables.

CHATSWOOD REGISTRY OFFICE

Neither Chatswood nor Willoughby appears to have had a Registry Office or District Registrar until 1908. In that year the Rate Books of Willoughby Municipal Council show that Mrs Elizabeth Emily Stuart was the owner and occupier of a weatherboard cottage on the corner of Gordon Road (east side) and Help Street. This cottage, the name of which is spelled variously 'Merrimu', 'Merrima', 'Merrimi', had previously been owned and occupied by Mr W. H. Stuart, a public servant with the Lands Department. In 1908 Mrs E. E. Stuart is shown in the Rate Book as Registrar.

From the Rate Books Mrs Stuart remained at this address as District Registrar until 1914. In that year her address was given as 'Merrimu', Help Street and the house was described as a brick cottage. In 1931 the Rate Books show 21 Help Street as the estate of the late Mrs E. E. Stuart, the Executor being Dr L. Hughes.

In 1938, according to the Rate Book, the house was owned and occupied by Mrs Constance Adamson, the daughter of Mrs E. E. Stuart. Mr Douglas Adamson, the son-in-law of Mrs Stuart, was now District Registrar and the house at 21 Help Street was still the Registry Office. It remained the Registry Office until at least 1956.

In 1960 the property, 21 Help Street, became 815 Pacific Highway. By this date it had been sold by Mrs Adamson to the Three Crowns Investment Company. The house was subsequently demolished to make way for the erection of an office block.

RIFLE RANGE

The Rifle Range was on the western side of Greville Street (northern end) overlooking a gully between Greville Street and Millwood Avenue. Blue Gum Creek flowed through this gully into the Lane Cove River. The site was acquired by the Commonwealth Government during World War I.

As residential areas developed nearby, local residents wished to have the Range resited, partly because of the noise of the rifles, partly because these were considered dangerous in the built-up area. Steps for its removal were taken. The Chatswood West Ward Progress Association, in co-operation with bordering progress associations, was successful in having it moved to Hornsby in June 1955. The land lay idle until 1979 when the Commonwealth Government decided to build the National Acoustics Laboratory on it.

EARLY INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS

TIMBER-GETTING AND AGRICULTURE

The area which forms the West Ward of the Municipality of Willoughby was originally heavily timbered, except along the shores of the Lane Cove River where long grass grew in abundance. This grass was cut and carried by boat down the river and across the harbour to Sydney, to be used as fodder for livestock.

For some years timber-getting was an important industry in the area. Hardwood timbers, such as stringy bark and bluegum, needed for the building of houses in Sydney, were felled and carried down the river by boat and raft. Well into the 1840s almost the only inhabitants of the bush along the Lane Cove River were the tree-fellers, the sawyers and the shingle splitters.

Alexander Harris in *Settlers and Convicts* (1847) describes their work, "felling and squaring whole trees with the squaring axe for girders . . . some splitting . . . the slate-like shingles with which the houses here are covered in; some splitting posts, rails, palings for fences, some sawing the various sorts of building stuff, and some cutting and splitting firewood". The remains of one of the sawpits used in this industry can be seen alongside the Lane Cove River, just inside the National Park at Bradfield.

As the trees were felled, the patches of cleared land were used as small farms and orchards. These orchards eventually spread up Fullers Road into Chatswood itself, where orchards were already established (hence the name Orchard Road). Apples, pears, oranges, stone fruit and strawberries were grown. Strawberries were especially favoured. There was a strawberry farm on Pacific Highway near the site of the present day Nelson Street.

On the Highway also, close to the site of Chatswood Bowling Club, was a large area of land owned by Dr George On Lee and leased to Chinese market gardeners. Dr George On Lee, a medical practitioner specializing in tumours, practised in Wynyard Square. He had another area of land in the East Ward of Chatswood, a block bounded by Archer, William, Spearman and Boundary Streets, which he also leased to Chinese market gardeners.

The only other early industries of importance were brick-making

and dairying described below. Otherwise the West Ward was a residential area.

BRICKFIELDS AND POTTERY

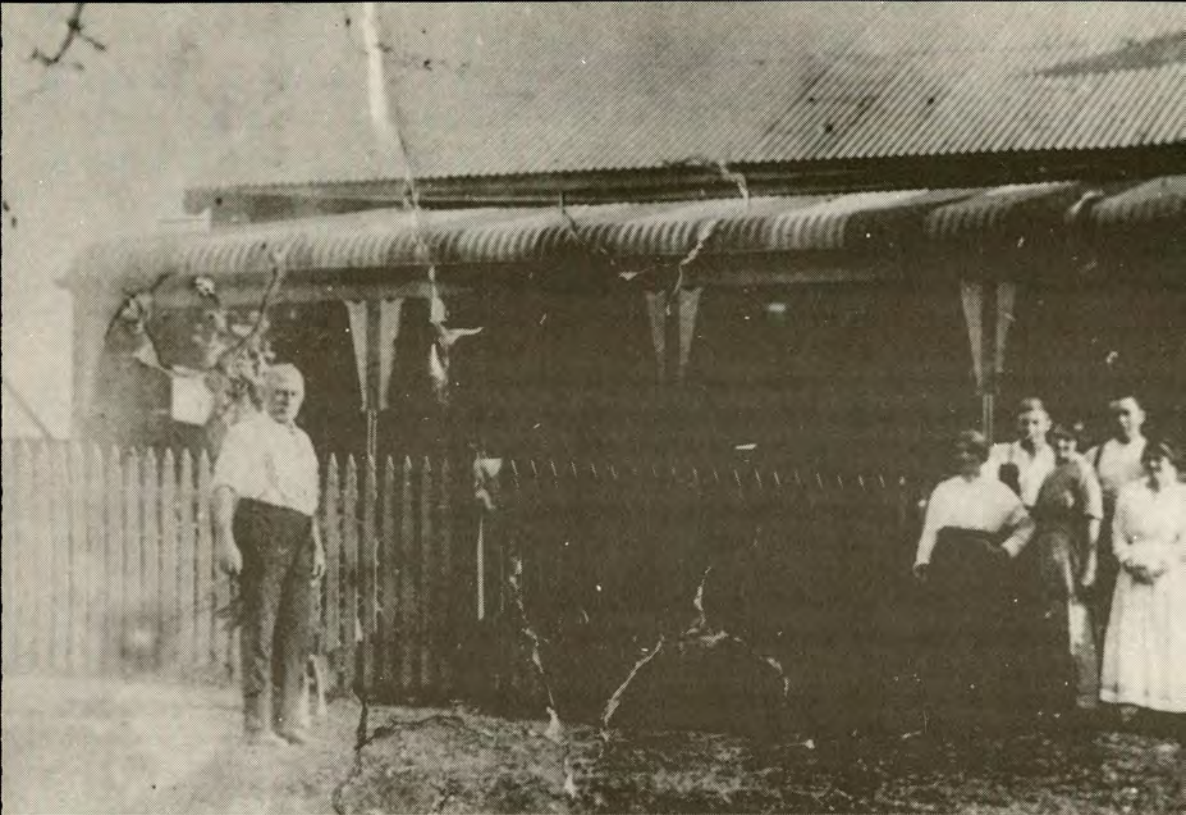
Clay underlies that part of the West Ward between Pacific Highway and Archer Street. Following is a list of brickfields and also a pottery which, from their addresses in the Rate Books, appear to have been in the West Ward.

The year preceding each entry is that in which the brickfield or pottery is first listed in the Rate Books, although it may have been in use at an earlier date. Most brickfields had disappeared by the end of the 1800s.

RATE BOOK	NAME	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
1874/158	George Janes	Mowbray Road between Pacific Highway and Sydney Street	House, land and Brick kiln
1882/462	Henry Russell	Seldon's Road (later Albert Avenue)	Brick cottage, Brickfield
1882/463	Henry Russell (Sold to Cox and Grant 1887)	Seldon's Road	Land 3 acres, Brickfield
1883/171	Henry Russell	Victoria Avenue	Land, Brickfield
1887/424	George Janes (Sold to Thomas Saywell)	Near Orchard Road (perhaps same as 1874)	Brickfield
1888/615	Thomas Saywell (Perhaps land originally held by Janes, 1874/158)	Station Street (later Saywell Street)	Brickfield
1890/534	John Boyd	Fullers Road	House, Land Pottery

DAIRIES

From its earliest times there were many dairies in the West Ward. Possibly, owing to slower residential development in this Ward, there were large areas of land available for this purpose.



*Michael White and family.
(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*

White's dairy, Eddy Road.



Some of these dairies were:

Michael White	Eddy Road. This is the first dairy mentioned in the Rate Books. It existed in 1898.
Charles Reginald Coote	Centennial Avenue. Mentioned in Rate Books for 1923.
Joseph Homer	Greville Street. Mentioned in Rate Books for 1923.
J. E. Norquay	Kareela Road.
Patrick Fitzsimmons	Mowbray Road West.
Alfred Shaw	Mowbray Road West.
Matthew White	Mowbray Road West.
Raymond Henry Gollan	Kareela Road. Appears to have taken over the dairy of J. E. Norquay. Closed in 1953.
Henry Alexander	Fullers Road. Two and a half acres. In 1955 the land was sold to George Bartlett who in turn sold it to Chatswood West Bowling Club. It was converted into a bowling green in 1956. Later two more greens were created. Officially opened as the West Chatswood Bowling Club on 17 May 1958.

In August 1948 a move was made by the West Ward Progress Association to have all dairies removed, the reasons given being the health threat to the ever-increasing population in the Ward. By the late 1950s all the dairies had disappeared, most of the land becoming residential.

ICE WORKS

In these days of refrigeration, it is hard to realise that not so long ago the general public and food stores were dependent on the 'ice man' for the preservation of food. As with the milkman and the baker, his visits were taken for granted.

The Chatswood Ice Works were established in Albert Avenue, next to the railway line, in 1908 by Jackson Brothers, on land which they bought from R. C. Stephenson. The Jackson Brothers carried on the business until 1922 when it was sold to Lennox and Willis. The ice works remained until 1932 when they were closed and the land, together with several adjoining cottages, was resumed by Willoughby Municipal Council. These resumed properties eventually became part of Chatswood Park.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The nucleus of a commercial centre in the West Ward existed as early as the 1860s at the junction of Mowbray Road and Pacific Highway. It consisted of John Bryson's builder's yard on the north-eastern corner, the Great Northern Hotel on the western side of the Highway on the corner opposite Bryson's and Hammond's butcher's shop at the junction of the Highway and Moriarty Road.

When in 1870 the Wesleyan Church was built on the southern corner opposite the Great Northern Hotel, it was expected that a township would develop here. But, when the railway line was built between Hornsby and St Leonards, the commercial centre developed further north, in Victoria Avenue, close to the railway station.

Shops began to spread along both sides of Victoria Avenue from Pacific Highway to Archer Street and into some of the side streets. A post office was established in Victoria Avenue just west of the railway station. The site is now a telephone exchange and the Post Office is now in Victor Street.

There were two hotels in the area. The Royal Hotel was first licensed in 1887 by Richard Palmer and bought by Alfred Sharland in 1889. Sharland remained the licensee until the licence was cancelled in 1919. The building then became Chatswood House with shops on the ground floor and residential rooms on the upper floor. The Railway Hotel, opened in 1900, has survived and is now the Orchard Tavern on the upper floor of the original hotel building on the corner of Orchard Road and Victoria Avenue.

Victoria Avenue early became the street it is today, a street of banks and of many and varied shops. There were also two department stores, Hill Brothers, later Benjamins, west of the railway line, established in 1898, and Whitchells, east of the railway line, near Victor Street, established in 1906.

In recent years commercial development in Chatswood has increased rapidly. In 1961 Grace Bros became one of the first city stores to spread into the suburbs. Its four-storeyed building occupies most of the area between Victor and Anderson Streets and between Victoria and Albert Avenues. It contains several levels of parking, and on the eastern side at the first floor level it connects by a bridge across Anderson Street with the Westfield Shopping Town. On the first floor

level also it is connected with Lemon Grove shopping centre and Wallaceway by a bridge across Victoria Avenue.

The Westfield Shopping Town, the building of which was commenced in 1986, occupies a one hectare site bounded by Victoria and Albert Avenues and by Spring and Anderson Streets, purchased from Grace Bros in 1980. Its main entrance is opposite Willoughby's Civic Centre. On the southern side on the first floor level it is connected with the Municipal car park in Albert Avenue. In addition to several supermarkets, it contains one hundred and twenty specialty shops.

The proposed Chatswood Connection will provide for further commercial development in Chatswood. North City Developments (Michael Williams, developer) have planned it as a retail, office and entertainment complex, to be built over the railway line north of the station. It will link the major shopping centre to the east with the commercial centre to the west. The concourse will lead to the bus-rail interchange. After negotiations with the developers concerning the number of car spaces and the height of the main building, Willoughby Municipal Council has approved the project.

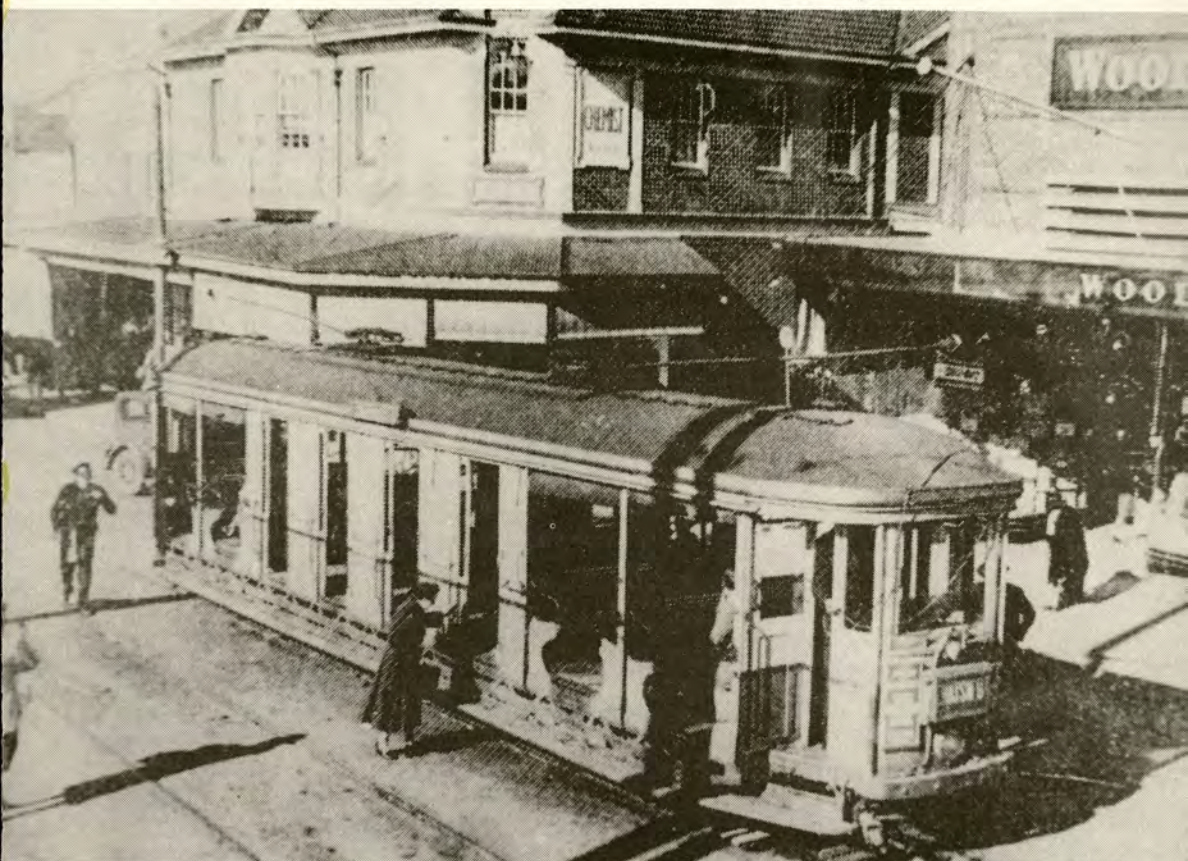
In addition, two buildings, the Zenith Centre on the block bounded by Pacific Highway, McIntosh Street and Railway Street, and the Aetna Centre in Victoria Avenue on the site formerly occupied by A. J. Benjamin Limited, both consisting of office space for lease, have been recently completed.

Following is a short account of the chief department stores and supermarkets which at one time traded in Chatswood:

A. J. Benjamin Limited: Mr Albert Julian Benjamin managed the department store of Hill Brothers, which was established in 1898. By 1908 he had become the owner, the business becoming known as A. J. Benjamin Limited. In 1965 the Company went into bankruptcy and the building was purchased by Woolworths Properties Limited and opened as Big W, a variety store. This remained until 1974 when it was also closed. After being used for a number of purposes and also changing ownership several times, the building was demolished and a large commercial development, the Aetna Centre, has been erected on the site.

Whitchell and Company: In 1900 Mr H. G. Whitchell opened a drapery shop in Victoria Avenue a few blocks to the west of A. J. Benjamin's department store. In 1906 he purchased a block of land on the southern side of Victoria Avenue, two doors west of Victor Street, and built a new shop. Some years later he purchased the adjoining property on the corner of Victor Street and enlarged his own shop. For a number of years it was the largest Chatswood store east of the railway line. In 1958 the property was sold to G. J. Coles Limited, and in 1962 Coles opened a chain store.

Woolworths Limited: first opened a shop in Chatswood in the 1950s



*Tram at Chatswood Station, outside Woolworths store
(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*

near the railway station on what is now the site of the bus-rail interchange. It later moved to the corner of Victor Street and Victoria Avenue, on the corner opposite G. J. Coles. This shop closed in the mid-1980s. There is no Woolworths store at present in Chatswood.

G. J. Coles Chain Store: First opened in 1962 on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Victor Street. It was burned down in the 1970s and never rebuilt. The site is now occupied by several shops.

Banks in Chatswood West today:

	No. of Branches
Advance Bank	3
A.N.Z. Bank	2
Bank of New Zealand	1
Commonwealth Banking Corporation	2
National Australia Bank	1
National Mutual Royal Bank	1
State Bank	2
Westpac	2

PICTURE SHOWS AND PICTURE THEATRES

Films were first shown in Willoughby Municipality in 1909 by Sol Syder Wilson at Chatswood Oval, predating by some months the popular showings of McIntyre at North Sydney. Wilson used a Pathe machine with power supplied by a small petrol driven dynamo and threw the pictures on to a screen set up on the Oval. Patrons sat in deck chairs in the open air.

Dreadnought Theatre 1912-1977: In 1912 Sol Wilson purchased two blocks of land, on the northern side of Victoria Avenue and close to Archer Street, from N. Breden and A. A. C. Bastian. On these blocks he erected the first real picture theatre in the district. It was an open-air theatre, with a galvanised iron wall which children used to rattle as they walked past. It had a dirt floor and wooden benches for seating. When it rained the audience dashed for the small covered area at the back.

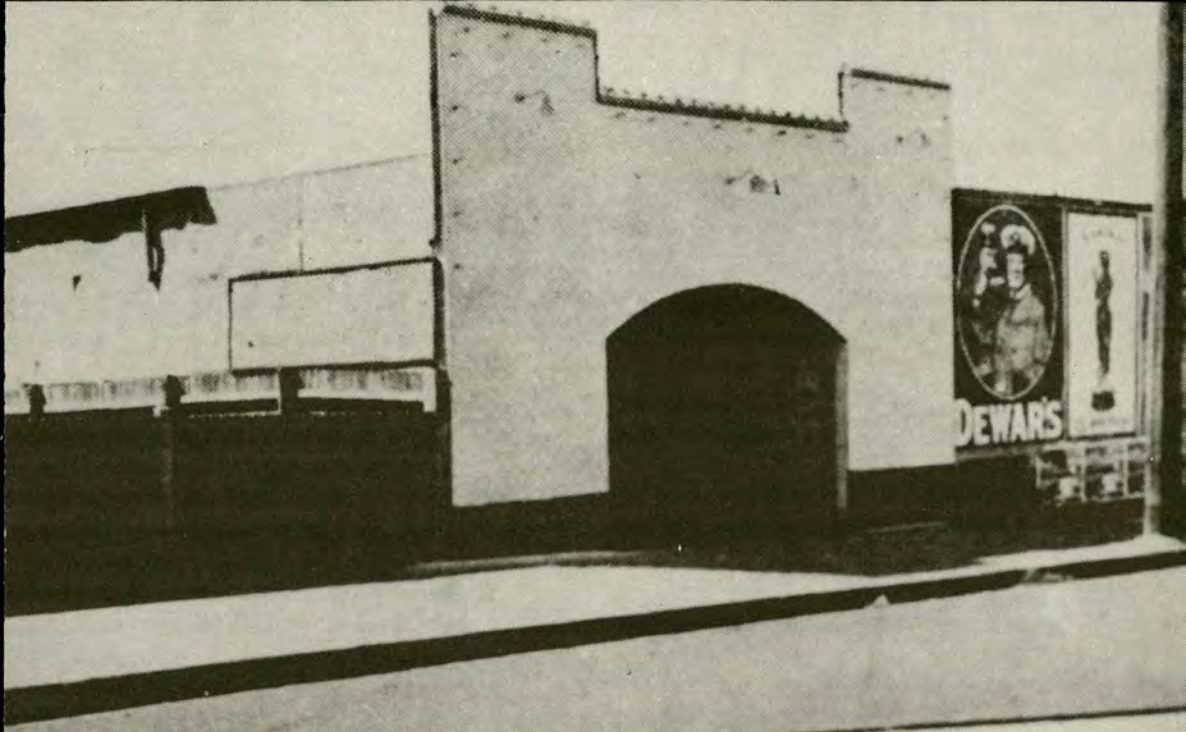
In 1926 this building was replaced on the same site by Wilson's 'new' Dreadnought, which was designed by Kaberry and Chard, theatre architects. This theatre was later named the Esquire and in 1961 became Hoyts Esquire. The theatre closed in 1977. The building was remodelled as a small complex of shops.

Arcadia Theatre 1915-1961: Before the advent of television this theatre was the popular Saturday night venue among North Shore people who streamed along Victoria Avenue and waited for its doors to open. There was an air about the place, the ushers wore dress suits and black ties, the more socially conscious members of the audience paid extra to sit in the boxes and the gallery.

The theatre was built in 1915 by Edmund Arthur Crispe, a local baker. The first film shown was *The Outcast* released by Triangle Pictures. Edmund Arthur Crispe died a year later and his two sons, Albert and Herbert, took control.

The building has been remodelled and almost completely rebuilt twice — in 1921 in a classical Roman Style of architecture and in 1936 in the popular Art Deco style, with the acoustics of the auditorium greatly improved.

In the early days there was first a piano, then the orchestra of E. James Davidson to entertain the audience while it waited for the film to commence, and during interval. In 1925 a Wurlitzer organ was installed, the only Wurlitzer on the North Shore at the time. The first



*Dreadnought Theatre, Victoria Avenue west of Archer Street, built 1926.
(Formerly open air, with dirt floor.)
(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*

*Arcadia Theatre, western end of Victoria Avenue, built 1915, modernised 1936.
(Photo by Willoughby Municipal Library, taken June 1981.)*



organist was Eddie Horton, who had come from America. He was followed by well-known organists such as Nicholas Robins and Charles Tuckwell.

'Talkies' came to the Arcadia on 15 June 1929 and the final screening took place on 26 April 1961. The theatre is now used as a rehearsal and recording hall by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation because of its acoustic qualities.

The Wurlitzer organ was donated to Willoughby Municipal Council by the Crispe family in 1962 and is now installed in the main hall of the Civic Centre.

In 1988 the Arcadia site was sold for commercial development.

A full description and history of the Arcadia Theatre is given in *The Story of the Arcadia Theatre, Chatswood* by Ian C. Griggs (1971).

Kings Theatre 1936-1982: The Kings Theatre on the corner of Railway and Brown Streets was opened in October 1936. Designed by Guy Crick and Bruce Furse, it seated one thousand. The theatre was demolished in 1982.

Chatswood Connection: There have been no picture theatres in Chatswood since the closing of Kings but it is expected that the Chatswood Connection will include a cinema complex.

SPORT IN THE WEST WARD

Following are various sporting clubs in the West Ward, with a brief history of their formation.

TENNIS

According to an article in the *Journal of the Willoughby District Historical Society*, No. 7 March 1981, entitled 'Hardcourt Tennis on the North Shore', lawn tennis was introduced to Australia in the late 1870s and was no doubt played on the lawn courts of some of the larger houses of the North Shore from that date.

In the early 1900s Dr Clarence Read lived in a large brick residence on the corner of Pacific Highway and Fullers Road, which had a lawn tennis court on the adjoining block. There were also courts attached to schools and churches. Chatswood Tennis Club was opened as lawn tennis courts beside the Chatswood Bowling Club in 1901. Its pavilion had been the first Chatswood Railway Station.

Hardcourt tennis appeared in the early 1920s and some hard courts were laid down in the West Ward, usually for small private clubs. There was one such court in Jenkins Street. In recent years hard courts have been laid down for the Chatswood Tennis Club in Fullers Road.

LAWN BOWLS

Chatswood Bowling Club: In November 1898 William Wilkie, originally a member of the St Leonards Bowling Club, took steps to form a bowling club in the Chatswood area.

The Chatswood Bowling and Recreation Club was launched in 1899 on its present site (just under two acres) on the Pacific Highway, leased from Captain McClemens. Chatswood Bowling Club was officially opened on 9 June 1900.

Chatswood West Bowling Club: Land (approximately two and a half acres) in Fullers Road, originally the site of a small dairy, was purchased from G. Bartlett in 1955 for two thousand pounds. The first green was ready for play in February 1956 and the Club was officially opened on 17 May 1958.

CRICKET

Willoughby District Cricket Club, which was formed on 10 August 1900, later became the Gordon District Cricket Club and used Chatswood Oval as its home ground. The Trumper Pavilion on Chatswood Oval was named by Willoughby Municipal Council in 1925 in honour of Victor Trumper (q.v.). (See 'Chatswood Park and Oval'.) Cricketers who played for Gordon in the 1920s included Tom Asprey, Charlie Macartney, Bert Oldfield, Charles Kellaway and Johnny Moyes.

CROQUET

Chatswood Croquet Club: Chatswood Croquet Club adjoins the Chatswood Bowling Club on Pacific Highway. In 1987 it was said to be the biggest club in the State, with more than one hundred members and a waiting list.

The land (approximately one and a quarter acres) for the croquet lawns was purchased in 1914 for two hundred and sixty pounds. The Trustees sold the property in 1922 to the Church of England Girls' School in Centennial Avenue as a recreation area and the Croquet Club then rented two lawns from the school. Later the Girls' School relinquished the property to Willoughby Municipal Council, which still retains ownership and the Croquet Club now leases its lawns from the Council.

ROLLER SKATING

In 1912 the Northern Suburbs Amusement Company built a brick hall in Anderson Street for use as a roller skating rink. A roller skating trophy presented to Arthur Spence in August 1918 is still held by one of his family.

The rink had been in use for about six years when the Company became bankrupt. The hall was purchased by William George Waters in 1920 and was used as a furniture salesroom. Stables at the rear of the hall were leased by Waters to people requiring stabling for their horses.

In 1923 the building was sold to Grace Bros and used by them as a storage depot and garage. It was demolished in 1961 for the building of Grace Bros Department Store.

The book, *Chatswood Public School Centenary, 1883-1983* mentions that the Roller Skating Rink was at one time used by the school for its Empire Day celebrations.

RUGBY UNION

Gordon Rugby Club was formed in 1936. It was formerly known as

the Roseville Rugby Club. Alderman Jack Donnelly was both a player and a Committee member of the Roseville Rugby Club, and played first grade competition for Gordon from 1936 to 1941. The Jack Donnelly Stand at Chatswood Oval was named after him in recognition of his continued interest in the development of the Oval and the Gordon Rugby Club.

GOLF

Chatswood Golf Club: In 1930 the Chatswood West Ward Progress Association was formed, and during its first two years was successful in having the Willoughby Municipal Council garbage dump and nightsoil disposal unit, at the end of Beaconsfield Road, closed. The Chatswood Golf Club laid out a nine hole golf course on the land.

In 1936 the Club wished to extend the course to eighteen holes but, after strong opposition from local residents headed by Alderman Sims, this application was refused by the Metropolitan Lands Board. By 1947 the area required by the Golf Club for extensions had come under the trusteeship of Willoughby Municipal Council who granted a five year temporary lease. This made it possible for the course to be extended to its present eighteen holes.

HEALTH CARE

Dr Clarence Read was one of the better known of the doctors who practised in the West Ward in the earlier part of the century. He lived in Thomas Street from 1897 to 1899 and then on the corner of Pacific Highway and Fullers Road from 1900 until his death in about 1950. In addition to his practice in Chatswood, he had professional rooms in Macquarie Street, Sydney. For some years he was Honorary Surgeon on the staff of The Royal North Shore Hospital.

Dr James McLean was also a well known doctor in the West Ward from 1912. He practised at 441 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood, now part of the Lemon Grove site. His house was called 'Knighton'. (See article on 'Fine Houses'.)

HOSPITALS, NURSING AND CONVALESCENT HOMES

Listed below are some of the hospitals and nursing homes in the West Ward:

'Willowood' Nursing Home	297 Mowbray Road
'Carinya' Private Hospital	407 Mowbray Road
	Ceased operation. Later a drug clinic but no longer in use as such.
'Hirondelle' Private Hospital	10 Wyvern Avenue
'Lynton' Private Hospital	40 Fullers Road
'Forest View' Nursing Home	2 Tessa Street
'Queen's Lynne' Nursing Home	19 Findlay Avenue
'Wylie Lodge' Nursing Home	2 Chapman Avenue
Multiple Sclerosis Society	293 Mowbray Road

HEALTH CARE FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES

After World War I notable changes took place in the health care of women. To that date births took place mostly at home, where midwives attended the mothers and babies, or in private hospitals which, under the Private Hospitals Act 1908, were regularly inspected. From 1919

there was a trend away from home births which led to an increase in private obstetric hospitals and to the establishment of maternity wards in public hospitals.

Among the visiting midwives in the West Ward were Nurses Hammond, Curtis and Rothery. Nurse Rothery, who died recently aged 91, trained in midwifery at the Royal Hospital for Women in 1919. She practised as a private nurse for several years and then opened a maternity hospital, 'Eton' on the north-eastern corner of Victoria Avenue and Neridah Street. She later moved this hospital to 38 Anderson Street and maintained it there until she retired in 1955. Fees charged by Nurse Rothery in those early days were: private room, ten pounds; shared room with two patients, six pounds; ward, three pounds. The Baby Bonus (i.e. the maternity allowance established by the Federal Government in 1912) of five pounds was accepted as the fee in many cases.

BABY HEALTH CENTRE

In July 1948 Chatswood West Ward Progress Association requested Willoughby Municipal Council to acquire a vacant block of land in Help Street for a Baby Health Centre. Council eventually acquired a block for this purpose and a Centre was opened in 1959. Later it was moved to Victoria Avenue adjacent to the Community Hospital. The Help Street building was sold by Council and demolished.

CHILD HEALTH CARE

In 1964 a child health care centre was established by the Department of Health at 8a McIntosh Street. This Centre contains ear and eye clinics and a speech therapy unit.

NATIONAL ACOUSTICS LABORATORY

The National Acoustics Laboratory and Ultrasonics Institute in Greville Street occupies a complex of buildings recently built, by the Commonwealth Department of Housing and Construction, for the Commonwealth Department of Health, and opened in 1986.

It is situated on the site of the old Rifle Range, a site chosen for its quietness and low ground and vibration levels, both essential for the purpose it was to serve. The main building, "as big as two football fields", has been designed to fit into the landscape. Its function is to carry out research into audiology, the effects of noise on man and the protection of hearing.

COMMUNITY LIFE

WEST WARD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Chatswood West Ward Progress Association was founded in 1930 and is still active. In 1987 forty members were present at the Annual General Meeting.

In the 1920s, people in the vicinity of Beaconsfield Road were being greatly inconvenienced by the garbage tip at the western end of the road and the smoke and odour drifting across to their homes. A number of residents met to discuss how they might rid their area of this nuisance. It was proposed that a public meeting be called with a view to forming a progress association. The outcome of this meeting, which was held in September 1930, was the formation of the Chatswood West Ward Progress Association. The first office bearers were: President, G. Hurst, Beaconsfield Road; Secretary, G. Gazzard, Beaconsfield Road; Treasurer, L. Cooper, Greville Street.

The objects of the Association were "to promote the welfare and advancement of the Willoughby Municipality and in particular West Ward; to protect the interests of residents and ratepayers; to encourage a keener spirit of citizenship and mutual help among residents and to co-operate with other associations for such purpose".

Its interests ranged over flats, parks, transport, street beautification, amenities and town planning. Its activities and achievements to 1980 are set out in the publication, *The Golden Jubilee of Chatswood West Ward Progress Association, 50 years of history, 1930 to 1980*, compiled by Lachlan McLean.

CHURCHES IN THE WEST WARD

According to Willoughby Municipal Council's Rate Books, the Church of England acquired in 1888, possibly as a grant, about half an acre of land on the corner of Ashley and Archer Streets. In the same year the Presbyterian Church and Roman Catholic Church acquired land further south in Archer Street. Land for a Wesleyan Church was set aside on the corner of Archer and William Streets.

The Church of England, the Roman Catholic and the Presbyterian land grants were all intended for use as a church and a cemetery. Only

the Roman Catholic land was used for both these purposes. The Church of England land was considered too small. It remained vacant until 1909 when it was sold. The Presbyterian Church disposed of part of its land after the present church was built. It was used for the creation of Kirk Street.

St Paul's Church, Anglican, Fullers Road: Prior to the building of an Anglican Church in the West Ward, Church of England services were conducted in Chatswood Hall, Brown Street in 1901. In the same year preliminary steps were taken to separate the parish from St Stephen's, Willoughby. The Parish of St Paul's was proclaimed in 1905. Active in the promotion of this new Parish were H. L. Tress and K. Barnett.

The first church was opened in 1902. It was a brick building, architect designed, and erected by the builder David William Neely. The first rector was the Reverend H. G. J. Howe, appointed by Archbishop Saumarez Smith. The church contained a small organ, later replaced by a fine pipe organ, which was later transferred to the present church.

A new sandstone church on the corner of View Street and Fullers Road was erected in 1951, the foundation stone being set by Archbishop Mowll. The church was dedicated on 5 September 1955.

The old brick church on the site was demolished to make way for a new church hall and offices, with hall space for meetings and activities.

Our Lady of Dolours Roman Catholic Church, Archer Street: The Catholics of Chatswood were first served by Jesuit Fathers from North Sydney. In 1897 a parochial church was established in Archer Street. There was a cemetery behind this church which was eventually closed and became part of the playground when the adjoining school was enlarged. A Presbytery was built in 1911 and later a larger and more imposing church was built on the corner of Archer and Kirk Streets. St Pius X College for boys was built behind the church, and opposite, a girls' High School.

The Chatswood Parish also administers the Church of St Peter the Apostle (known locally as St Peter's) in Farran Street, Chatswood.

Presbyterian Church, Anderson Street: Presbyterian services were first held in a rented room in a hay and corn store on Pacific Highway near the Chatswood Bowling Club, and later in Chatswood Hall in Brown Street. The foundation stones of the present church were set in 1898. The church was enlarged in 1955.

Central Methodist Church, corner of Pacific Highway and Help Street: A site in Archer Street near William Street was set aside for a Wesleyan Church in 1888. It was considered unsuitable and sold for one hundred and seventy-six pounds. Chatswood Hall in Brown Street was purchased in 1908 and after renovation this hall became the Church. Services were held there for seventeen years. The main



*Our Lady of Dolours Roman Catholic Church, Archer Street, built 1897.
(Note trees in the grounds and post-and-rail fence.)
(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*

entrance was a narrow frontage in Victoria Avenue. The present church on Pacific Highway was built in 1926. It is now a Uniting Church.

Congregational Church, corner of Anderson and Daisy Streets: The first church was erected in 1911 and still stands but is no longer used as a church. A second church, erected in 1933, is now occupied by the Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Baptist Church, corner of Albert Avenue and Orchard Road: This church was built in 1919, the foundation stone being set by the Pastor, E. H. Swan and the Reverend A. J. Waldock, President of the Baptist Union. It was considerably enlarged in 1968 and a large pipe organ added. The original church was redesigned for use as Sunday School and Youth and Activities Centre.

Second Church of Christ Scientist, corner of Albert Avenue and Victor Street: Services were first held in the Town Hall in 1922. Land was purchased and a church was built in 1928-29. Later a library and a reading room were established in premises adjoining the church. This church has now been sold. There are plans to demolish it to make way for commercial development.

Holy Trinity Church, Anglican, Beaconsfield Road: This church was originally a sandstone building in Mowbray Road, where the Sydney County Council Works Depot is now situated. It was erected in 1875 for use as a School of Arts. The building later became the first Council Chambers and later again part of Mowbray House School. In 1957 the building was moved stone by stone to its present site, and became Holy Trinity Church, the foundation stone being set by Archbishop Mowll on 20 April 1957.

Seventh Day Adventist Church, 50 Johnson Street: This church had its beginnings in the U.S.A. in 1844. The first Australian church was opened in Melbourne in 1886 and by 1900 there were thirty-nine churches in various parts of Australia.

From 1895 to 1900 a house, on the corner of Johnson and Devonshire Streets, was used as an orphanage by a Church of England religious order, the Kilburn Sisters (q.v.). The house changed ownership several times before being bought about 1965 by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. By the 1970s the house had been demolished and a church erected on the site.

CEMETERIES

At the present time there are no cemeteries in the Municipality of Willoughby.

Claude Lepastrier, in 1915, referred to a cemetery at Cooper's Flat, an area in the vicinity of the present St Pius College in Archer Street. The land for this cemetery was given by William Lithgow in 1863; the cemetery contained the graves of several Jesuit Fathers which

have long been built over and the exact site of the graves is unknown.

Gore Hill Cemetery was established in 1867. Prior to this date most burials took place at Haslem's Creek, now Rookwood Cemetery, or in the cemetery of St Thomas Church, North Sydney.

Chatswood South Methodist Church, built on the south-western corner of Pacific Highway and Mowbray Road in 1871, has a cemetery adjoining it which was used by the parishioners for many years. This church and cemetery now fall within the Lane Cove Municipality.

Late last century, when land was being allotted for the building of churches in the Municipality, an area was set aside in Archer Street for the building of a Roman Catholic Church and for the establishment of a cemetery adjoining it. This cemetery was used for a number of years but was eventually closed and the land used for the extension of the church and school buildings.

The Presbyterian Church was granted land in Anderson Street running through to Archer Street for both a church and cemetery. The Trustees built a church fronting on to Anderson Street; the land allotted for a cemetery was sold.

There were no interments in Gore Hill Cemetery after 1967. By this time the Northern Suburbs Cemetery and the Northern Suburbs Crematorium had been opened in Delhi Road, North Ryde and most funerals from Willoughby and surrounding areas are conducted there.

SCHOOLS IN WEST WARD

Chatswood Public School: The first school in Chatswood itself was situated in the West Ward. A memo attached to the application for the establishment of a public school at Chatswood, dated 23 February 1882, was signed by local resident, magistrate and parent of three young children, Frank B. Treatt. The memo reads: "Just on the border of the Parish of Gordon, on the Lane Cove Road and most centrally situated, is a paddock, a farm known as McMillans . . . In this paddock is an unused stable, a very large one situated on a grassy slope. With a few additions it would suit for the purpose of a temporary school . . . Some of the families do not send their children to school and the little ones are growing up (near the Chinamen's gardens) as bad as heathens".

The original school, in Findlay Avenue, was opened in 1883 with Miss Agnes Burt as Headmistress. It stood on about two acres of land. The building, about thirty-three feet long and seventeen feet wide has been described as a typical bush school, built of weatherboard, standing on piers made from tree trunks, with a tank for its water supply. It opened with thirty-four pupils. This school later became Chatswood Public School and was transferred to its present site in 1896.

The present school occupies a large block fronting Pacific Highway,

with its southern boundary running down Centennial Avenue. The enrolment at Chatswood Public School today is about six hundred.

For a history of the school see *Chatswood Public School Centenary: 1883-1983* by Robert Wildie.

Roman Catholic Schools: In the early days of the Municipality, Chatswood was part of the Catholic Parish of St Mary's, North Sydney. In 1897 a small parochial church, later known as Our Lady of Dolours, was built in Archer Street. This also became the first Catholic school.

In 1910 the Parish of Chatswood was created and a separate school was built for primary pupils. Over the years the complex of schools has increased, until today there exists a large primary school and infants department and a large girls' school. St Pius X College for boys adjoins the Catholic Church in Kirk Street, with an enrolment of some hundreds of senior students. Several large cottages in the vicinity have also been taken over as extra classrooms and for library facilities.

Church of England Girls' School, Chatswood, formerly Astraea: This, the largest of the private schools in the Municipality of Willoughby, was situated in Centennial Avenue near Pacific Highway. It was a day and boarding school for girls but accepted boys in the kindergarten classes. Both Gough Whitlam and Marcus Loane (later Archbishop of Sydney) attended its kindergarten.

Astraea College, as it was formerly named, developed from a school commenced by Miss E. R. Keays in Thomas Street in 1900. In 1906 it moved to a large two-storeyed house in Centennial Avenue built in 1893 as a 'gentleman's residence'. This school was enlarged in 1912 when it took in the adjoining house, a similar two-storeyed residence.

From the Rate Books it appears that the name Astraea College was first used in 1908, which name it retained until 1919 when it became the Church of England Girls' School. Miss Florian Elkington became headmistress in 1920 and continued until the school closed in 1933. Miss Elkington re-opened the school as Astraea College but it finally closed in 1936.

Canon A. S. Langdon in a letter dated 5 October 1983, acknowledged the long and close association between the school and the Church, but doubted whether it was officially recognized as a Church of England school. He was of the opinion that it was simply an Anglican parochial school.

Mowbray House School: This boys' school, which was originally known as Chatswood Preparatory School, was opened and conducted by Mr Lance Bavin. It commenced in 1906 in a small stone building in Mowbray Road which had been built in 1875 as a School of Arts and had been used later as Council Chambers. When it became vacant Mr Bavin started his small preparatory school there with an enrolment of thirty-two pupils. Over the years the school was enlarged and in 1914 the name was changed to Mowbray House School, which name it

retained until it closed in 1954. The original small stone building became the Mowbray House School Chapel.

By the early 1950s the Electricity Commission had acquired the land on which the school was situated, but the little stone chapel which had played such an important part in the early history of the Municipality, was removed stone by stone and re-erected in Beaconsfield Road in 1957 to become the Church of the Holy Trinity.

Lance Bavin served as Headmaster for the forty-eight years of the school's existence. He was brother to Thomas Rainsford Bavin, one-time Premier of New South Wales.

Brackley College: This was a small college conducted by Miss Eleanor Cranston between 1911 and 1919. She closed the school when she married. The school was originally situated in a large cottage in Victoria Avenue opposite the present Civic Centre and between Anderson and Spring Streets. Early in 1914 it moved to the north-western corner of Albert Avenue and Anderson Street where it was first called Brackley College. Late in 1914 the school was again moved, this time to the western side of Archer Street (three doors south of Johnson Street) where it remained until 1919.

From the Rate Books it appears that Miss Cranston always used her own rented homes in which to conduct the College, and that it never outgrew this private home accommodation. Her house in Archer Street, originally called 'Backwell' was renamed 'Brackley College' in 1917.

Brackley College was a girls' school but small boys were enrolled in the lower classes. Among those who received their early education at Brackley College were John Conrad Jaeger, later Professor of Geophysics at the Australian National University, and the late Mr Justice McClemens.

For a description of Brackley College by a former pupil, Miss Ilma Taylor, see *The Good Old Days*.

Chatswood Evening College: In 1901 an Evening College was commenced at Chatswood Public School. In 1911 this was replaced by the Evening Continuation School. In 1912 a Commercial Evening Continuation School was opened. In 1946 the Continuation School was re-organized to offer a broader range of non-vocational courses. Its name was then changed to Chatswood Evening College and it became one of the largest in the State. In the 1970s the Chatswood Evening College was transferred to Chatswood Co-Educational High School.

Mowbray Public School: The increase in population of the Mowbray Road West area, following the creation of new streets, made the building of a public school in the district a necessity. In 1953 the Education Department resumed land in Kingsford Smith Street for the construction of a new school which was completed in 1957 and called Mowbray School. It faces on to Mowbray Road, and has infants and primary departments.

Chatswood Co-Educational High School: Before 1959 there was no boys' or girls' Public High School in Chatswood. Pupils attended schools outside the district. In 1954 the Education Department purchased a large property in Centennial Avenue, consisting of a house set in a garden of several acres. This property, called 'Chislehurst', had been the family home of the Hordern family, drapers, of Sydney. By 1959 the Department had demolished the house and erected Chatswood Co-Educational High School on the site.

THE KILBURN SISTERS ORPHANAGE

In the 1890s there existed in the eastern suburbs of Sydney a private school named Collegiate High School for Girls. Its address was 'Waverley House', Bondi, a large private home built in the 1820s, after which the suburb of Waverley was named. This building has now been demolished. The School was conducted by a Church of England order of nuns, with its headquarters in Kilburn, Yorkshire, England.

In 1895 the Kilburn Sisters occupied an eight-roomed house in Johnson Street, Chatswood in which, according to Sands Directory 1898, they conducted an Orphanage of Mercy for five years.

The house had several owners in the following years. In about 1965 it was purchased by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. It was eventually demolished and a church now occupies the site.

CHATSWOOD-WILLOUGHBY SCHOOL OF ARTS

The first move to establish a School of Arts in the Municipality of Willoughby was made as early as 1870. Known as the North Willoughby School of Arts and Mechanics Institute, it first met in John Bryson's cottage 'Belmore' on the north-eastern corner of Mowbray Road and Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway). The office bearers were all closely associated with the North Willoughby Council as aldermen or as auditors.

A site in Mowbray Road next to 'Belmore' cottage was purchased. This site is now occupied by the Sydney County Council Works Depot. A building fund was commenced and the foundation stone of the School of Arts building was laid in 1875. It was a fine sandstone building, which in 1957 was moved to Beaconsfield Road to become the Holy Trinity Church.

In 1877 Willoughby Municipal Council rented the building for use as Council Chambers. Council purchased the building in 1879 and it remained in use as Council Chambers until 1903. After Council takeover of the building, the School of Arts became defunct, although the building itself continued to be known as the School of Arts. The School of Arts was revived in 1904 and moved to a temporary position

in Victoria Avenue and then to a new School of Arts building erected in 1910 in Victoria Avenue almost directly opposite Spring Street.

The School of Arts was again taken over by Council in 1971. It was closed in 1977 with the opening of the Municipal Library and the building demolished. Samuel Herbert Bromley (q.v.) was in charge of the School of Arts Library from 1963 until its closure.

See also 'Schools of Arts in Willoughby 1870-1970' by John Pert in *Journal of the Willoughby District Historical Society* No. 2, August 1979.

LIBRARIES

Chatswood-Willoughby School of Arts Library: The first library in the Municipality of Willoughby was that of the School of Arts in Mowbray Road, built in 1875 on land now occupied by the Electricity Commission.

This library was moved temporarily to a building in Victoria Avenue opposite the present Civic Centre, and in 1910 into the new School of Arts building. It continued in this building until 1977 when the Willoughby Municipal Library was built. See also entry under Samuel Herbert Bromley, librarian 1963-1977.

Willoughby Municipal Library: This library was opened in 1977. In its central building in Victoria Avenue, the library houses a lending and reference collection, a local history collection and a library for children, in all some 170,000 books. In 1985 it became part of the Shorelink network, a computer link of five lower North Shore libraries.

As yet Willoughby branch libraries do not have computer terminals bringing them directly on line, but they benefit through their central library at Chatswood from the faster and more efficient service Shorelink provides for requests and inter-library loans. Also, all branch members with Shorelink cards may borrow directly from any branch library, as well as from the five major Shorelink libraries of Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, Stanton Library in North Sydney and Willoughby.

HOTELS

Chatswood West was well provided with hotels by 1900, the earliest being the Great Northern established in 1870. By 1900 there were in the West Ward the Great Northern, the Royal and the Railway Hotels. Today there are the Great Northern, Orchard Tavern and the Charles.

The Great Northern: Standing as it does, at the crossroads of Pacific Highway and Mowbray Road, the Great Northern Hotel is, today, on the outskirts of Chatswood. When it was built in 1869 it was at the heart of a small community, which it was thought would develop into a township. Across Mowbray Road was the Wesleyan Church; some hundreds of yards north, along what was then the Lane Cove Road, was

Hammond's butcher's shop; opposite was Bryson's general store with the first gas lamp outside, and around the corner in Mowbray Road, opposite Hampden Road, was the School of Arts building, where Sir Henry Parkes is reputed to have made some of his electioneering speeches and which became the first Willoughby Municipal Council Chambers.

With the coming of the railway line in 1890 the township moved north, to centre around Chatswood Railway Station, but the Hotel has remained, drawing its custom today, not from passing travellers but from local residents.

The Great Northern was built by Henry Russell, a brickmaker and one of Willoughby's first aldermen; a vigorous aggressive man who caused trouble within and without Council meetings but who got things done. He had moved his original brickyard north from near Greenwich Road, set up a kiln on the Reservoir corner of Pacific Highway, and established the Great Northern diagonally opposite.

For travellers along the dusty bush track from Blue's Point to Gordon and beyond, it was a welcome half-way house between the Union at North Sydney and the Greengate at Killara. It also became a staging post for the horse buses which travelled this road.

The opening of the Great Northern on 24 May 1870 was celebrated as a double event together with the opening of Hammond's butcher's shop. All the district was asked to the party, a bullock was roasted whole and served to six hundred guests in a marquee erected in a nearby paddock. Refreshments were provided by the publican and numerous sporting activities took place. Jack Hammond, recalling it much later, said, "All the big boys in the Village had all the roast beef and beer they could walk away with. Lighter refreshments were provided for the ladies".

The Hotel was completely rebuilt in the early 1930s, by which time it had lost its stables and most of its grounds and gardens, but it still remains the Great Northern, the first hotel built in the Municipality.

Royal Hotel: was built in 1887 on the corner of Pacific Highway and Victoria Avenue. Its first owner was Richard Palmer. In 1889 it was acquired by Alfred William Sharland who remained the occupier until 1919, when the licence was not renewed. It lost its licence when the Government decided to reduce the number of licensed hotels. It then became known as Chatswood House and was run for many years as a milk bar, confectionery shop and library, and also catered for the needs of school children. The building still exists but has been altered and is now a branch of the Commonwealth Bank.

Railway Hotel: was built in 1900, on land bought by the Australian Brewery Company for seven pounds per foot, on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Orchard Road. It had several owners before being bought by Tooth's Brewery. Leplastrier in *Willoughby's Fifty Years* has



*Royal Hotel (Sharland's), Gordon Road, now Pacific Highway.
(Horse trough, iron lace around balcony and wooden posts supporting balcony.)
(Photo by courtesy of Willoughby Municipal Library)*

a photograph showing the hotel in 1915, complete with tower and wrought iron enclosed balconies.

This hotel has now been rebuilt. The hotel section, now called Orchard Tavern, occupies the upper storey. The lower section has become an arcade of small shops.

Hotel Charles: situated at 14 Railway Street on the corner of Brown Street, was the last hotel to be built in the West Ward. In 1949 an application to Council to build this hotel was rejected. In 1956 approval was given and the hotel was built, despite objections from the Chatswood West Progress Association.

HALLS

Chatswood Hall: This was the first hall built in Chatswood. In 1895 John Whitehead built a dance and general purposes hall on a sixty-foot block which ran from Brown Street through to Victoria Avenue. It remained in general use until 1908 when it was purchased by the Methodist Church and used as a church and later as a church hall, until it was sold and demolished in 1968.

Victoria Hall: Very little is known of this hall. It is mentioned twice in Leplastrier's book, *Willoughby's Fifty Years* and once in a book on the history of the Chatswood Bowling Club, by B. J. Price. It was probably the small hall built over a shop and dwelling at 462 Victoria Avenue, in the vicinity of the Arcadia Theatre. It is first mentioned in the Rate Book for the year 1900.

Masonic Hall: Two blocks of land were purchased in Victoria Avenue in 1908, adjoining the site of the Town Hall, for £4. 5. 0 per foot. The purchasers were the Trustees of Lodge Kuring-gai Number 230. The foundation stone of the Temple was laid in 1922, the first meeting taking place in 1923. By 1966 Lodge Kuring-gai had transferred to 'Laurelbank', Penshurst Street, Willoughby. The foundation stone of 'Laurelbank' was laid and the Lodge dedicated on 8 January 1966.

Willoughby Municipal Council purchased the Temple site in Victoria Avenue. The Temple was demolished and the land incorporated in the site of the present Civic Centre.

School of Arts Hall: The School of Arts building was constructed in Victoria Avenue in 1910 and contained a hall and a library. This hall was used for many purposes — meetings, socials, concerts and dances. Following the building of the Willoughby Municipal Library, Willoughby Council purchased the School of Arts building which was demolished and the site used for retail shops. (See also 'Chatswood-Willoughby School of Arts'.)

Bailey Hall: Bailey Hall, named after George Arthur Bailey, a long serving Town Clerk, is the smaller of two halls in the Civic Centre

complex. It has a seating capacity of three hundred, and a fully equipped stage. It would be the most used of the halls in the area, having good amenities for social functions. This hall, together with the Main Hall, was opened in 1972.

Civic Centre, Main Hall: This hall, the larger of the two halls in the Civic Centre complex, has a seating capacity of one thousand. Its stage will hold a large orchestra and the acoustics are of high standard. It also contains a Wurlitzer organ.

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AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHIES

NANCY BOOKER, B.A., Dip.Ed., F.L.A.A., is a descendant of one of Chatswood's first settlers and a member of a family that has lived in Willoughby Municipality since its earliest days. She was born in Chatswood and educated at Chatswood Public School, North Sydney Girls' High School and Sydney University. After graduation, Nancy worked as librarian at Sydney and Armidale Teachers' Colleges, returning to take charge of the library of Sydney Teachers' College where she also lectured in School Librarianship. From there she moved to the Fisher Library at Sydney University before branching out on her own to become a school library consultant to private schools. Nancy is a member of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, North Shore and a foundation member of the Willoughby District Historical Society.

IDA BENNETT was born in Crows Nest and came to live in Chatswood when she was two years old. She received her primary and secondary education at Chatswood School and at a Sydney business college, afterwards becoming a legal stenographer. Apart from a short period away from the area, Ida has lived in Chatswood all her life, actively involved with various local groups. She is a foundation member of the Willoughby District Historical Society and Treasurer-Secretary of the Chatswood Branch of the Association of Civilian Widows. Ida has always been interested in the history of Chatswood, watching the area's growth and change with care and concern and with clear recollections of its earlier days.