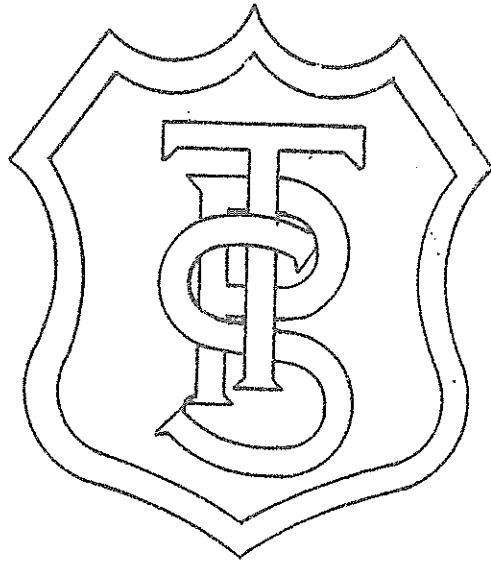


994.4/TAR

# Diamond Jubilee



## Taren Point Public School

1925-1985

Including early history of Taren Point

## FOREWARD

If, at this moment you are leafing through these early pages and wondering if it's worth the time to trip down memory lane, may I suggest you take the time, as coming up is only a brief description of our school, standing proudly among the handsome pine trees in Taren Point.

The period covered in this book is from our school's beginning through to its 50th Anniversary and the ten years since. During the nine years since I have been associated with the school the atmosphere has always been full of friendliness, generosity, excitement, sadness, success and despair. The students at our school have always been fortunate to have dedicated teachers and small class numbers, allowing them personalised attention. The education gained in these formative years is just a stepping stone to a future which could rise to great heights in any chosen profession, and indeed some of our ex-students have achieved that goal leaving their mark in education, arts, politics, sport ... careers achieved from an education begun at Taren Point Primary School.

Also in this memento of our Diamond Jubilee can be seen the development of Taren Point from the small settlement on the Georges River to the area we are all familiar with today.

I would like to extend my thanks to members of the P. & C. for the time and effort put into the organisation of the Diamond Jubilee Ball, on the 13th July, and the planning of the Fair on the 3rd August and to all the people who have assisted in the publication of this booklet.

*Robyn Ihnen*

*for the P. & C. Jubilee Committee.*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE METROPOLITAN EAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR

*G. E. SPRING*

I am delighted to be associated with the Diamond Jubilee of the Taren Point Public School. The production of a suitable booklet to mark the occasion reflects the sense of pride and achievement of the school and its Community..

There are many special occasions in the life of a school when teachers, students and parents have an opportunity to reflect on the past; to evaluate the services being provided for children in the present day; and to plan learning-programs that continue proven community skills, understandings and knowledge and also take into account the rapid changes affecting all of us.

A Diamond Jubilee is such an occasion. Taren Point Public School has a proud history of service which is being continued and developed vigorously to-day.

The key to the successful future of your school lies in the quality of teaching and in the contribution that parents, teachers and children make to the building of supportive relationships between home and school.

I trust that this booklet and all the activities planned for the Diamond Jubilee, provide opportunities for everyone to share happy memories of times spent together at the Taren Point Public School.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS

*R. A. PROWSE, B.A., M.Ed.Admin., M.A.C.E.*

I congratulate all associated with the Diamond Jubilee of Taren Point Public School. The affection shown for this school by students, parents and other members of the community has been demonstrated in many ways but support has been seen to be particularly strong in recent years when a lower birthrate has brought a decline in enrolment. The local community is obviously proud of its school and I have been delighted to see the ways in which the school has been developing as a community centre. Parental and community support is the backbone of any school and I feel confident that Taren Point will continue to enjoy the confidence of local residents.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*R. B. CHALLINOR*

The early history of Taren Point shows that even 60 years ago the sense of pride in their own school was very strong among the residents of Taren Point. This pride in the school and its pupils' achievements is just as strong today, and pupils' achievements have broadened to cover far more than the traditional 3 R's.

The fourth R, Responsibility, is one of our main aims at Taren Point, and it is one which in the five years I have been here the children of "The Pride of the Point" have mastered exceptionally well.

Our increasingly technological society has imposed greater demands, at an earlier age, on children but with the support of, and encouragement by, parents, children are able to cope with this multitude of subjects.

Children at our school now include one hour of gymnastics each week, and computer usage, as part of this expanding curriculum.

May I thank all those parents, and children, who have supported the school so well in the past, and who have worked so hard to make our Diamond Jubilee such a success.

## TAREN POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL 1925-1985

In 1923 Taren Point was a small village lying to the south of the city of Sydney. The settlement of the area had rapidly increased since communication between Sans Souci and Taren Point had been established by the introduction of the steam punt. It was this development of the area that led in 1923 to a request by the families living there, for a school.

The parents of the children at Taren Point were concerned at the dangers the children had to face when travelling to and from the nearest school at Sans Souci. They had to cross by punt from Taren Point to Sans Souci and then walk or ride on a public conveyance for over one mile. Because of this long journey some young children were unable to attend school.

Mr. John O'Meagher, the honorary secretary of the Taren Point and District Progress Association, on the 29th May, 1923 wrote a letter to the Honourable C.W. Oakes, M.L.A., Acting Premier, requesting assistance and advice about the erection of a school hall at Taren Point. The suggestion was made that a multi-purpose building should be erected that would also "fill the wants of a Social and Meeting hall, also a Church and Sunday School with tennis courts and recreation grounds adjoining". The Progress Association was interested in a grant of a suitable piece of land at Taren Point on which they would erect a hall, with the voluntary help of their members. The Department of Education replied by saying that it would be many years at the present rate of progress before there would be any necessity for a local school.

A request for a school was made again in December 1923 in which the Taren Point and District Progress Association offered to erect the building on their own land and rent it free of charge if the Department would equip the school and provide a teacher. At this time there were 29 children of school age living in the district of Taren Point, but once again the Department refused the request.

However the citizens of Taren Point were persistent. Ernest Abigail in July 1924 wrote a colourful letter to the Education Department. He argued that the children disliked the distance covered and the time taken to get to and from school, but he made the point that they enjoyed the hours in school. His request was based on the arguments that the children as well as the parents were anxious for the establishment of a school at Taren Point. Mr. Abigail offered to provide a block of land at Taren Point, the size being 50 feet by 150 feet, and to raise £100 towards the building of the school. Once again the request was unsuccessful.



*Early photo of Progress Hall*

At the end of March in 1925 the Taren Point Welfare Association made a two pronged attack — they sent letters to the Chief Inspector of the Department of Education and to Mr. Bruntnell, Minister for Education. At this time there were 35 children of school age living in the district. The local hall was being constructed and was to be offered rent free to the Education Department and, furthermore, accommodation for a teacher could be easily provided. These actions led to the filing of an official application for the establishment of a Public School at Taren Point on the 18th May, 1925.

Mr. E.G. Wilson, the inspector for the district, was requested to report on the need for a school at Taren Point. His report stated that the settlement at Taren Point was permanent, that there would be about 30 children to attend the school and that the dangers for young children in using the punt were real. His recommendation was that a school should be established at Taren Point. Soon after the report was received by the Department of Education, approval was granted. Before the school could begin functioning, the building had to be completed, furniture such as desks and seating accommodation, and other equipment, had to be provided and a teacher needed to be appointed.

The families of the Taren Point district anxiously awaited the appointment of a teacher to the school. In July, Mr. Ernest Taylor was offered the position and accepted it. Mr. Taylor was teaching at Telegraph Point Public School. He was to begin his new duties at Taren Point Public School on the 13th July, 1925.

The Welfare Association's Hall, which was the temporary school building, was 30 feet by 40 feet. This was a large area for a classroom of only 30 children. The desks and forms were movable so that the hall could quickly change its role from a school house to that of the local dance hall or a general meeting place or for whatever purpose the local citizens needed it. The floor was very slippery being constantly used for dances and the desks and forms would move on the smooth surface. Moving around the hall was also hazardous. Mr. Taylor was the only teacher apart from his wife, who was employed for some hours per week as the sewing teacher. This was the setting of the school which was opened on the 13th July, 1925.

As the summer approached the Welfare Association became concerned about the water supply for the hall. The water was supplied by drainage from the roof of the hall into one 600 gallon tank. The Education Department was consulted as to the need for a new tank but the answer was that the square footage of the roof was large and that the supply of water was reasonable because of the frequent showers in the area.

The Taren Point Welfare Association was concerned about another matter at this time. They wished to know who would be responsible in the case of an accident at the school. A legal opinion was sought by the Education Department and it was found that the liability for accident depends not on the ownership of the building but on possession and control. The Department withheld the information from the Trustees of the Welfare Hall, believing that should this fact that they were not liable for accident be known to the Trustees, possibly they would not be interested in making the necessary repairs and alterations to the building.

Mr. Wilson, the Inspector for the area, was requested to check on the safety of the Welfare Hall building. He considered that there was some risk involved for the children and suggested that the Taren Point Welfare Association's offer to take out a policy to cover risk, on condition that the Department pay 5/- a week nominal rent, was a reasonable proposal. This rent was paid from the 14th December, 1925, the date appearing on the insurance policy.

Economic conditions played an important part in the many negotiations between the Department and the Trustees of the Welfare Association's Hall that were undertaken in the next years. The citizens of Taren Point erected a shelter shed in the grounds of the hall for the use of the school children during the lunch break and in bad weather. The Department agreed to pay 2/6d. extra per week for the shelter shed. This increased the rent for the hall to 7/6d. In May, 1931, the rent paid for the use of the Welfare Hall was increased by 2/6d. to 10/-. But by August the decision made at the Premiers' Conference, to reduce controllable government expenditure by twenty per cent during 1931-32, led to a request by the

Education Department to the Trustees of the Welfare Hall, for a reduction in rent of 2/6d. By the end of September the rent for the hall was once again 7/6d.

During the early years of the school, there was friction between two groups of citizens. Just before the appointment of the teacher to the school, the first signs of trouble appeared. The Education Department received a letter from a resident of Taren Point warning it that a local resident was trying to obtain the appointment of his relation to the teacher's job and that this would cause serious trouble among the residents. The Department knew nothing of this matter and made their own appointment. But the friction between the two factions remained.

One group of citizens appeared to be interested in closing the school and were making conditions uncomfortable for the teacher. This led to anxiety on the part of the teacher, the pupils and some parents. The inspector for the district, Mr. Wilson, in 1927 reported on the matter. He maintained that there was no chance of the hall being sold because the three associations of Taren Point, the Welfare Association, the Progress Association and the Parents and Citizens' Association all wanted the school to continue there. Mr. Wilson also pointed out that there was no chance of the school closing if the parents supported the teacher in his efforts to make the school a success. Following the inspector's investigations there was no further talk of the school closing.

The school population increased slowly in the first years but there were dramatic increases in 1932. In July there were 41 pupils, by September the number had increased to 52 and by October the total enrolment was 56. It was at this time that Mr. Taylor, the teacher-in-charge, applied to the Education Department for an assistant teacher. He based his request on the increased number of pupils and the difficult conditions existing in the school, particularly the sliding desks on the dance floor. An assistant teacher was appointed near the end of the year. Although the assistant teacher was an aid to Mr. Taylor he found that there were complications. Both teachers taught in the same room. There was no privacy as there was no retiring room, and the fact that the assistant teacher was a female was an added embarrassment to Mr. Taylor.

Early in 1933 Mr. Taylor suggested that a site should be selected and a school erected. However, because of the lack of funds at this time, the idea was not approved. Requests were also made by the Parents and Citizens Association to their local member of parliament. The parents were concerned that the children played on an unfenced adjoining block of land facing the main road. One child had been knocked down by a car and seriously injured. They also claimed that two female teachers had left the school because of the unsatisfactory conditions. Arising out of these conditions the P & C. maintained that parents were sending their children to the Sans Souci Public School.

In July, 1933 approval was given for a site for the school to be selected. Mr. Taylor, and the Inspector of Schools, Mr. D.J. Hayes, began their search for a suitable site. They found that most of the area was divided into privately owned small allotments. A site was chosen but was not acceptance to the Education Department. The next site that was elected was looked upon favourably by the Department. Inspector Hayes, in his report on the site, stated that:

Sufficient land is not easily secured as the settlement is scattered and many portions are rather low-lying. However, the proposed site is large enough and well drained.

The land selected was 2¼ acres in area consisting of 12 allotments. The land was thinly timbered with some young undergrowth. It was centrally situated in a pleasant and healthy area, and, being reasonably level, offered no difficulties for building purposes.

In November a valuation of the land was obtained. It was valued at £500. The funds became available for the purchase of the site in December, 1933 and in January negotiations began for its purchase. Offers to sell from the vendors were received by the Valuer-General in February, for a total price of £453.10.0. Conveyances had to be prepared, surveys made for each block and titles and money exchanged. These legal matters were completed in September, so the site then belonged to the Education Department.

What type of school building would be erected? At this time there was no suggestion of a new school building being erected at Taren Point. The school building was to be a portable one which was to be transferred from St. George Girls' High School. The building had two classrooms 24 feet by 21 feet each, a verandah 48 feet by 6 feet and two closets 7 feet by 4 feet and 5 feet by 4 feet. The new building was to be transported to the site and ready for occupation early in 1935.

During 1933 the children at the school had obtained a low percentage of passes in the Primary Final Examination. The head teacher was questioned about the poor results. Mr. Taylor's reasons for the low pass rate were firstly, the inflow of pupils from other schools some of whom had low abilities, and secondly, the lack of ability and ambition on the part of the local children. Mr. Hayes, the Inspector of schools urged Mr. Taylor to improve the general results of the children at the school.

The Welfare Hall was vacated on the 12th December, 1934, after nine and a half years. The conditions had been extremely difficult and no doubt both the children and the teachers looked forward to the beginning of the next year when they would have their own school site and building.

School began in the portable building on the new site on the 29th January, 1935. The building had been transported, re-erected, the plumbing installed and the glazing completed during the long vacation. The undergrowth had grown at a surprising rate during the holidays and there was some anxiety about the danger of fire destroying the building. For this reason the clearing of the bracken and ti-tree was attended to promptly.

The new school became a target for theft and vandalism. Piping was stolen from the grounds and the school broken into with a small amount of property being stolen. In December malicious damage was done to the school building. Gelignite was placed in a down pipe and exploded. These events led to many discussions with the police. The school had been subjected to a number of happenings of this nature and it was suggested that the school be placed under special surveillance by the local police. No suspects were caught at this time. A few years later the cyclone gate was removed from the school premises and was never recovered. In 1939 the police were successful in catching some of the vandals. They were children who lived in Sans Souci. The parents were perturbed and were very willing to pay for the damage their children had done to the school property. The site for the school was in an isolated position, the school house being set back from the road. During the week-ends many cyclists rode past the school and it was not uncommon for some of them to stop there for a drink.

For some years the playground was unfenced. A few months after the new school was opened the Inspector, Mr. Cantello, reported to the Education Department on the need for a fence. In his report he said:

Taren Point playground immediately adjoins the road from Taren Point to Cronulla and is a typical piece of standstone, scrub and hillside so common in the Port Hacking area.

A fence is necessary — some quarter of a mile down the road there is a dairy and cattle stray on to the school site. There is much traffic down the road and a fence will keep out more people than at present.

He recommended that posts and wire be supplied for the fence and suggested that perhaps the parents of the children who attended the school could erect it. He knew that many parents in the district were on the dole at this time. On investigation it was found that there were only two male parents in the Parents and Citizens' Association so Mr. Cantello's suggestion was not able to be put into effect. It was finally decided that the costs should be shared by the Education Department and the other owners whose land bordered on the school property. This led to lengthy negotiations between the Department and the owners. Numerous letters were sent to one party, a Mr. Miller, who finally was never located. The Parents and Citizens' Association was also anxious to have the site fenced. The following is an extract from a letter sent to the Education Department in March, 1939, restrained but subtly persuasive:

At the annual meeting of the Parents and Citizens' Association it was suggested to ask the

department to carry out fencing of school grounds at Taren Point. Members wish to start tree planting and gardening and a general beautification scheme.

The state of the playground had caused some uneasiness. The bracken and ti-tree were fire hazards as the secondary growth kept reappearing. One child had fallen on a broken glass bottle which was covered by a pile of sand and gashed her knee. Mr. Taylor said that the very strong westerly wind had removed the sand and left the bottle partly exposed. As teacher-in-charge, he reported to the Department that the school grounds were still rough and unsafe, and at certain places the children were forbidden to play. He also said that much time and effort was put into clearing and burning the rubbish in the playground by pupils and teachers. By November, 1936, nearly two years after the first report by the inspector, the school site was finally fenced.

The Parents and Citizens' Association of the Taren Point Public School was quite active. They held monthly meetings, and arranged Socials in the winter months. Money was collected and donated for school equipment. At the end of 1935 the organisation was pressing for improvements to the school. They made a request for seating accommodation on the verandah which they suggested should be enclosed. They also wanted doors provided for the lavatories so that they could be locked to keep out the public. These improvements were completed in the following year. In 1938 the Parents and Citizens' Association sent a letter to their local M.L.A. stating the need for additional washing and drinking facilities at the school and a weathershed for the playground. Eventually at a cost of £27 the washing and drinking facilities were improved but the weathershed was refused. The Department considered that the verandah accommodation that had been provided was adequate and suitable.

Mr. Taylor, the teacher-in-charge of Taren Point Public School, became ill at the end of 1935. He was to begin his duties at the beginning of the school year but was unable to do so. In December Edith Lindsay became teacher-in-charge for one week and was replaced by Arthur Quigley for the last week of the year. Ernest Mansfield was appointed as teacher-in-charge for the first weeks of the new school year. By then Mr. Taylor had recovered and continued as teacher-in-charge of Taren Point Public School until the 17th March, 1938. Mr. Taylor was born in March 1881 and had entered the teaching service in July, 1898. When he was appointed to Glenbrook Public School in 1938 he had completed 39 years of teaching, and had been the teacher-in-charge of Taren Point Public School for nearly 13 years.

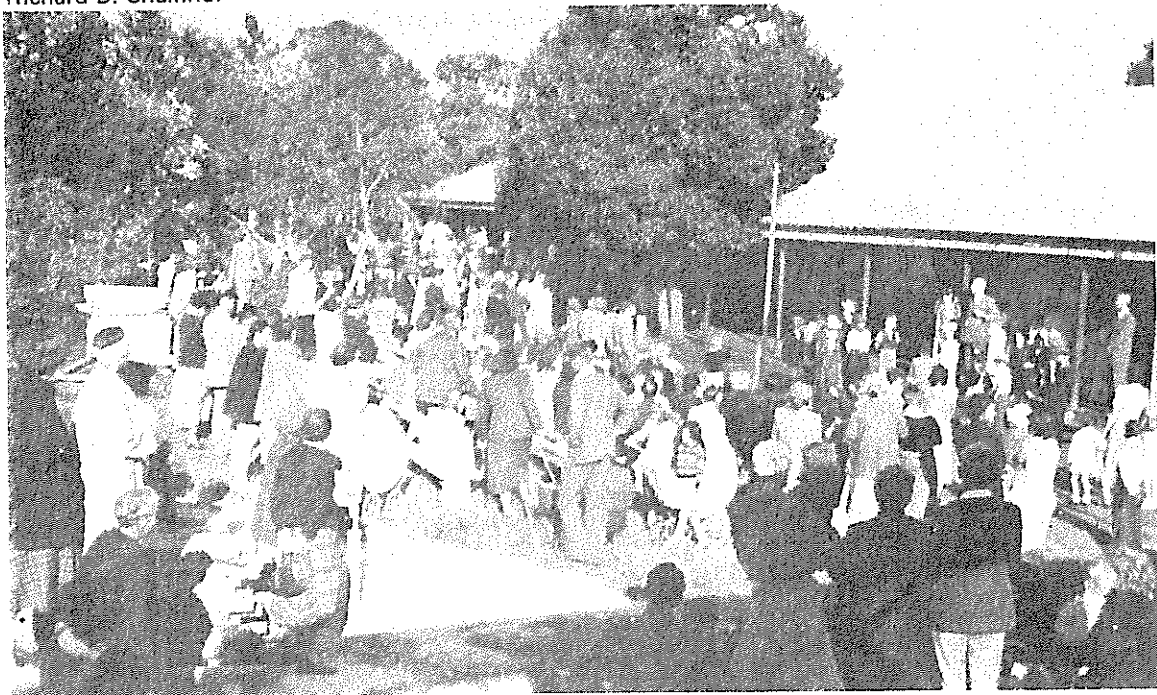
Mr. Francis Wilson was the next appointment as teacher-in-charge of the school. At the end of his first year at Taren Point, the Inspector, Mr. Cantello, commented on the excellent work being done by the teachers at the school. He was impressed by the spirit of the school. Mr. Wilson, after a short period of about two years, enlisted in the A.I.F. and Mr. Robert Tuxford was appointed as teacher-in-charge of the school.

It was not until 1952 that Taren Point Public School gained a permanent school building. Strong representations were continually being made for better school conditions. Mr. Williams, the local member of parliament, was a strong advocate for the new building. The school site had to be enlarged to accommodate the new building so in 1947-8 land was acquired enlarging the site to a little more than 2½ acres. The site was not considered large enough but it was the best that could be done at the time. The building cost £15,000 and had two primary classrooms, an infants classroom, with rooms for staff, stores and hats, and shelter sheds and conveniences for pupils. The building was designed on the most up-to-date lines with adequate provision for lighting, heating and ventilation. The enrolment in 1952 was 156 as the school population had increased five-fold in 27 years.



## TAREN POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL 1925-1985

HEAD TEACHER	DATE APPOINTED
Ernest Taylor	1.7.1925
Edith Lindsay	7.12.36 (Relieving)
Arthur Quigley	10.12.36 (Relieving)
Ernest Mansfield	25.1.37 (Relieving)
Francis Wilson	17.3.38
Robert Tuxford	10.7.40
Jack Pauling	11.12.40
Randolph Cavan	3.2.48
Alfred Moye	31.1.50
Rupert Woodhouse	29.1.57
Thomas Jones	28.1.58
Alwyn Nickolas	29.1.63
Robert Thomas	2.2.65
William Still	31.1.67
Alex Elphinston	28.1.69
Neville Palmer	10.4.73
Richard B. Challinor	19.5.80

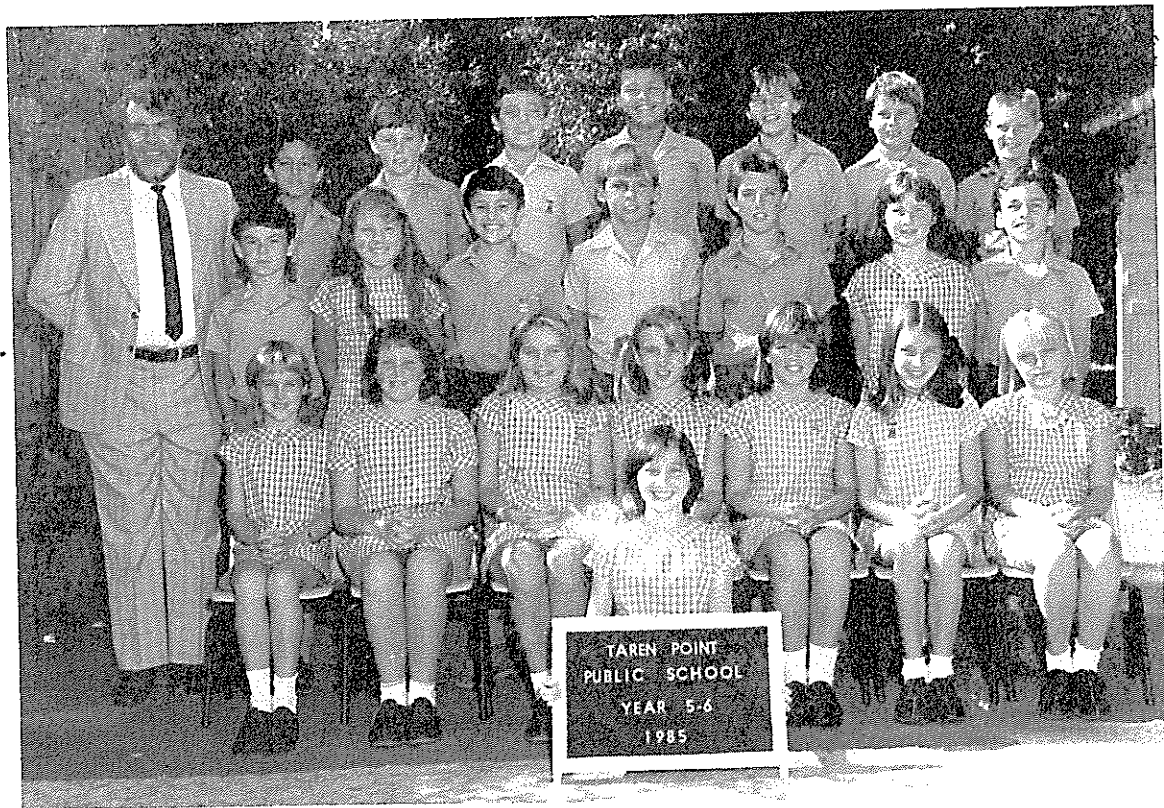
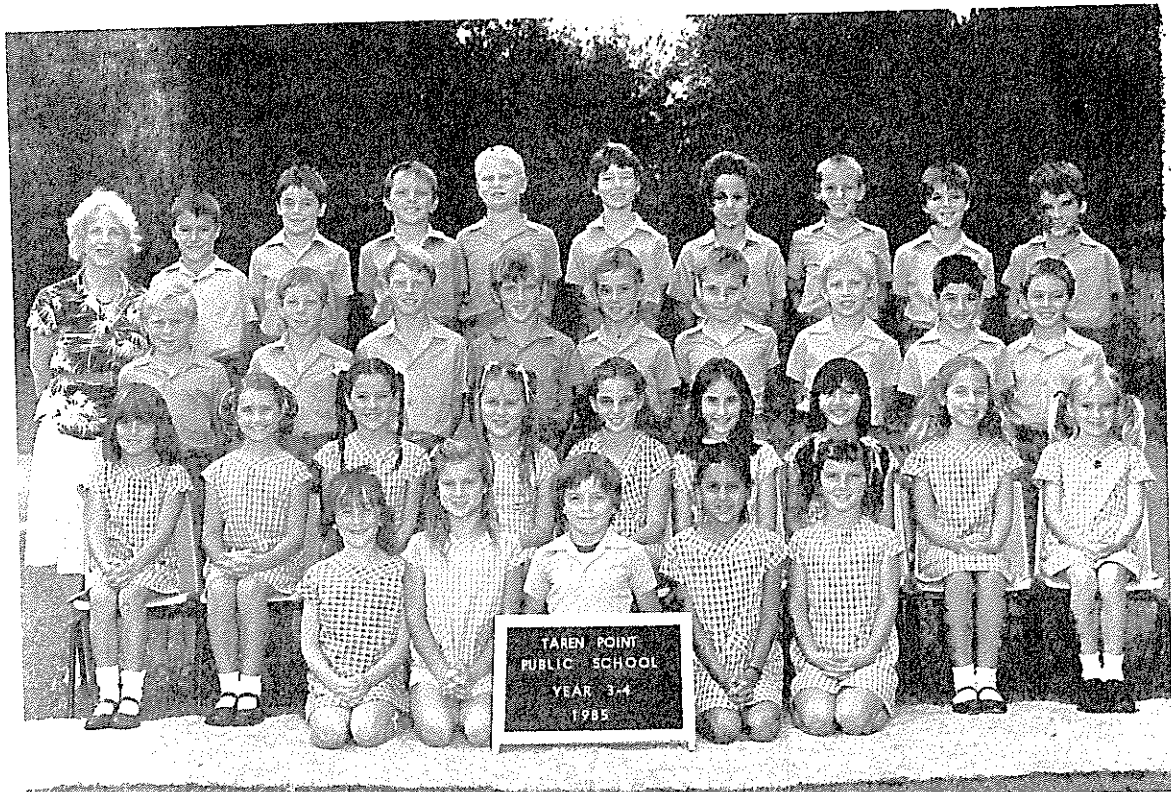


*Opening of the first school building in 1935, on present school site*

First-day students at the School, 50 years ago:—

Beryl Riley	Barry Brown
Ruth Holley	Cyril Taylor
Betty McDonald	Kevin Taylor
Ronald McDonald	Nita Markquick
Norman Cartwright	Doreen Markquick
Tassie Cartwright	Allan O'Meagher
Cecil Beusbery	Arthur Woods
Bert Beusbery	Jean Woods
Marie Auld	Jean McGeachan
Charlie Peel	Jack McGeachan
Ron King	





## GARY DAVID COX

*Athlete*

During his years at Taren Point Public School, Gary won his first sporting award with a Rugby League, Sutherland Shire P.S.A.A.A. Pennant in the 3rd Grade Premiers, 1960.

After leaving Primary School, he continued his education at Sydney Grammar School, where he was involved in the Athletic team.

In 1968, Gary joined the Sutherland Shire Amateur Athletic Club and in 1970 he won the Australian Junior 400 m hurdle title in Adelaide, and in 1972 he held the State senior title.

1974 saw Gary placed second to Gary Knoke, (the Olympic competitor) in both 400 m flat and 400 m hurdles state championship. He also gained second plate in the National Championship.

In 1975 Gary won the 400 m hurdles in the State Championships, again in Adelaide and was also awarded "Sportsman of the Year" at the Sutherland Amateur Athletic Club 1974/1975.



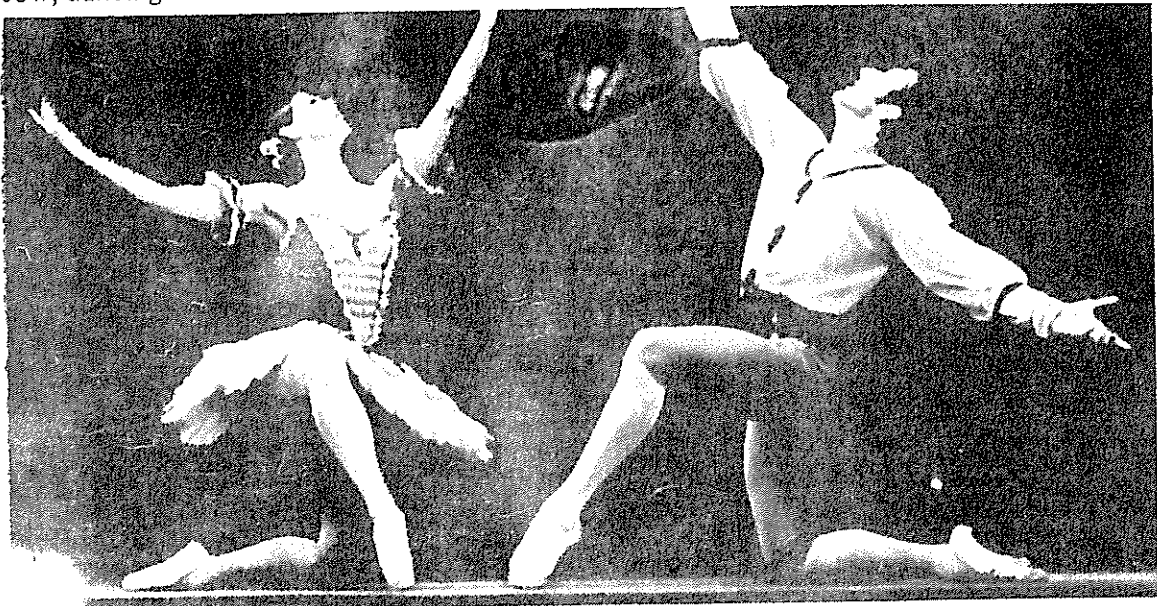
## MARILYN ROWE

*Ballerina*

Marilyn Rowe was born 20th August, 1946 and started school at Taren Point in 1952. She was six years old when she began to learn ballet at the Frances Lett School at Kogarah.

In 1964 she was accepted into the Australian ballet schools first intake of pupils. Marilyn became a member of The Australian Ballet Company in 1965. She now has the rank of Ballerina — the first completely Australian trained Ballerina in the Company.

The photograph shows Marilyn and Kelvin Coe on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow, dancing "Esmerelda".



## DAVID RING

### *Caterers Guild Apprentice of the Year (1975)*

For the fifth year in a row a Qantas apprentice cook had won the NSW Catering Institute of Australia Apprentices Cooking Competition. In 1975 it was 16 year old David Ring, a past pupil of Taren Point School.

But not only did David maintain what has become a Qantas tradition — he was the first First Year Apprentice to win the competition. In the past the competition has been won by second, third and fourth year apprentices.

In the contest each apprentice competes within his own division and is first judged in that division

Having won that, David's dish was then judged against dishes from all other divisions with the judges taking into account decoration, quality of cooking and how the flavours complement each other.

The photograph shows 1974's winner polishing the award trophy before handing it to David.



Peter Lewis  
*Shire President (As in Golden Jubilee 1975)*

A school reaching half-a-century is cause for congratulation and I am delighted both as Shire President and as a past pupil to offer such congratulations to the Taren Point Primary School.

The school has always catered for a comparatively small number of students and I believe that we were privileged in this. Personalised attention was and is practised — a luxury not available to the much bigger schools which, because of sheer weight and numbers, present an impersonal front. Too, the school has always been particularly well equipped - because of its active P & C Association.

As a new school starter, I was enrolled at Taren Point School in 1938 and then spent some of my most formative years there till 1944 when I was ready to go on to high school.

These were the war years, and yet we were fortunate in benefitting from the first "amenities" supplied to schools through the Education Department — Kosi stoves in the class rooms. I have a vivid recollection of our pleasure in the warmth thrown out by the stoves — even if coke supplies were restricted.

The late much respected Joe Monro was at different times Shire Councillor, Shire President, and Member of Parliament. On one of his visits to 'our' school he spoke so eloquently of local government, civic pride and citizen participation, that he triggered my interest in this field of activity. It is an interest which after ten years' service as a Shire Councillor and the last year as Shire President, remains as vital today as it did on that day long ago.

Each time I drive by the school and see the handsome stand of pine trees on the corner of Taren Point Road and Toorak Avenue, it recalls happy memories. I am conscious of how fortunate I was to receive my early schooling at Taren Point School and for this reason I was very pleased to have Stephen and Susan go there before graduating to Endeavour High and to have my younger son Jeffrey still attending.

I extend my congratulations on this 50th Anniversary to all those teachers and parents, citizens and children who have given the school a proud past and provide the promise of an equally proud future.

*Sgd. Peter Lewis  
Shire President*

July, 1975



*Peter Lewis, Shire President*



*Gary David Cox, Athlete*

## TAREN POINT ESTATE

The following is a Real Estate Guide published at the time Taren Point was being subdivided. After reading it one wonders how anybody could consider living elsewhere.

By 1921 the Point had 20 occupied dwellings and 92 inhabitants. In 1933 the village of Taren Point was proclaimed under the Local Government Act.

Today, although cut by an expressway, it still retains a lot of the charm so well described in the text of this early brochure.

The land's the thing! Whether you buy it in thousands of acres in some far-away region of the back country or whether you buy it in home-site blocks in or near Sydney, the land's the thing. It means money. How often do you read of somebody who chanced to get hold of an allotment of land a year or two ago and who has sold his purchase again at a price that means an advance of hundreds per cent. on the original cost. How often you meet a friend, just an average citizen like yourself, who tells you, with a twinkle in his eye, of his bit of luck. "Bought it at fifteen bob a foot, old man", he will tell you; "now it's worth anything between three and four pounds".

But those chances are gradually becoming fewer. Day by day the land-hungry are finding it more and more difficult to find satisfaction. Sydney grows apace. Its tentacles are stretching out to the four points of the compass. Expansion means an ever-growing land-need. The population increases by leaps and bounds and the progressive immigration policy of the Government is bringing in its wake a still greater craving for land. The resumption schemes of the City Council give us a case in point. The daily papers tell how the people have had to leave their homes, and how the cry for more houses, more houses, rises daily. There is no room in Sydney. You can't get a quart into a pint pot. The harbor foreshores are full. Sales follow sales in quick succession and gradually the radius of the metropolis is extending outwards. A few years hence and the few possibilities that are left today will have vanished with time.

Therefore, if you want to get a picked spot that will be a thing of beauty and a joy for ever, or, in the alternative, a money-making investment, you must follow the advice of the city man's office text and "DO IT NOW".



The pretty sylvan views in this booklet, cameos of land and water, snapshots of charming rural scenery, have probably taken your eye before you commenced to read. Your week-end jaunts have, more than likely, taken you out into the famous Cronulla district. Sylvania, Dover Point, the Ocean Head, are all indelibly imprinted upon your mind. You have seen hundreds of beautiful sites that you would have liked if you could have got them. But you were too late. Already they had been seized by others.

Don't despair! There is one part of the Cronulla district yet unsettled. Looking across from Sans Souci, you have, maybe cast envious eyes on Taren Point. Its old name of Common's Point is more familiar to you, perhaps. But what's in a name, and, anyhow, Taren Point is more fitted to grace the loveliness of the spit of land that runs out at that point into the smiling waters of the George's River.

Taren Point is, without a doubt, the pick of the district. It is perfect building land and it will lend itself admirably to the end that the owners have in view, the formation of a splendid little garden city of choice homes, wide avenues, and spacious water frontages running down to the shining, sandy beaches that totally surround the Point.

But the position had always one great drawback. It was isolated. Getting to it meant a roundabout and wearying journey by buggy or bicycle, or, to the more favored, by motor-car; on the other hand, it involved a tiresome pull across from Sans Souci by rowing boat. But all that is a nightmare of the past. October 1st will see the establishment of a continuous and frequent ferry service. Three boats will be running all day, and in that way Taren Point will be linked up with Central Railway Station by train to Kogarah, tram, and boat, and thus brought within a little more than half-an-hour's call of Sydney at a small cost per week.

The prospect is almost as alluring as Mosman's or Watson's Bay, is it not?

Now, as to the land itself. It is to come under Messrs. Raine and Horne's hammer on October 28th at three o'clock in the afternoon. The sub-division has been the result of the experience of the gentleman who performed a similar task for the Bellevue Hill Estate, and who received the encomiums of a District Court Judge for the admirable way in which he did his work. There are to be dozens of perfect waterside lots. Not waterside lots like some you have seen, with a mountain of inaccessible rock descending to the water, but splendid, gradually shelving land, running down to the beaches. Now about the middle blocks. Every single one of these will have assured and splendid marine views, and, more than this, there is a Government reserve on the property with about 300 feet of water frontage, while the Taren Point Estate Company have reserved 500 more feet of the water in two reserves, providing thus for three parks that will be at the disposal of everybody. So, what better prospect could you desire? A lovely home site, a haven for rest and recreation — there is anchorage for scores of boats, and fine fishing grounds are all around — beaches for the kiddies to play and paddle, and park lands for all. It is the country brought right home to you. It is holiday ground in perpetuity at the city's very doorway.

All the blocks are large and have great depth. There is a hill of sandstone on the Estate that will provide the material for all the houses.

There are two splendid wharves, solidly built of stonework and piles, with waiting and refreshment rooms on the estate wharf.

The Taren Point Road that runs right through the Estate is 100 feet wide and will go right away to the Cronulla tram-line.

Everything bids fair to make Taren Point THE beauty spot of this district. It lies in an estuary of water as large and almost as full of charm as Sydney's own magnificent harbor.

Each resident will be in the position of being able to enjoy views of the river and of the scenery on its banks — scenery that will never be interrupted by buildings in any other quarter and the great additional advantage of constant rural environment, with not even the remotest prospect of the near neighbourhood of a workaday world. Factories will not





*Taren Point about 1900*

spring up at Taren Point because there will be no room for them, and even if there were, the situation would not be desirable. The main Taren Point road will take residents straight through to Cronulla and its fine sweep of ocean beach, with its surf-bathing and other pleasures.

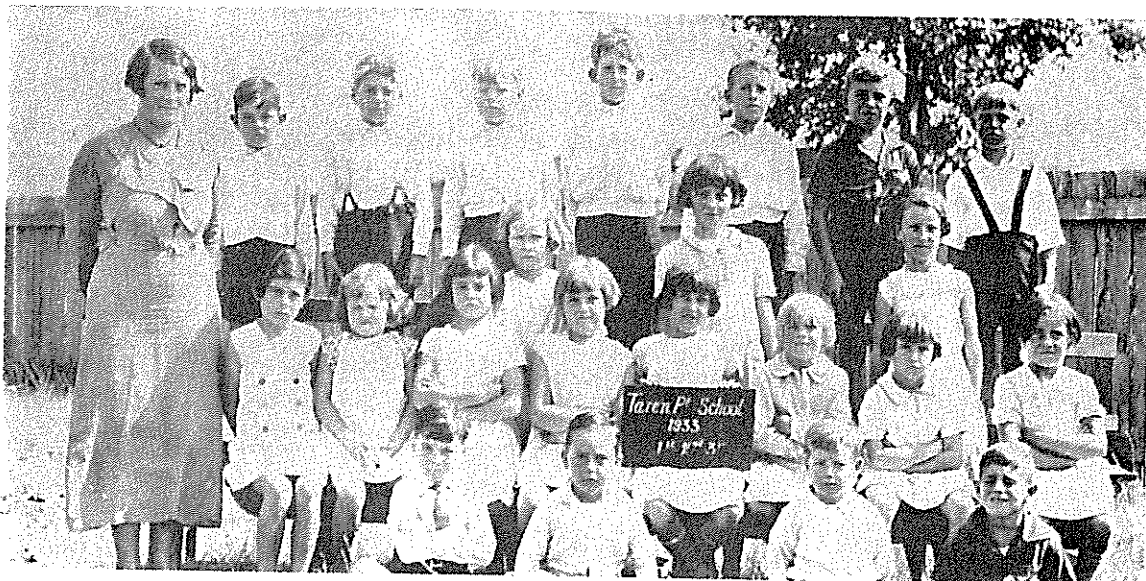
Look again at the pictorial representations of Taren Point contained in the pages of this little brochure. Compare them with any others that you have seen, and think of the delightful vistas of land and water scenery that the contours of the Estate will open up to the dwellers within its borders.

Then note the date of the sale down in your note-book or on your desk-book. See Messrs. Raine and Horne at 86 Pitt Street and ask them for further particulars. They will tell you that the terms are of the easiest description, 10 per cent deposit and 20 quarterly payments with 5 per cent interest. They will tell you also that the title is absolutely Torrens with every foot of the land. Remember that it is one of your last chances. Tot up in your mind the advantages. Then come out on October 28th and buy a block.



*Early shop at Taren Point*

EARLY PHOTOS OF FORMER STUDENTS



## THE CAPTAIN COOK BRIDGE

By far the biggest change to Taren Point in the last 50 years has been brought about by the construction of the Captain Cook Bridge and its associated approaches.

The first crossing between Sans Souci and Taren Point was a private launch service commenced in the early 1900's about the time that the Holt-Sutherland estate was being subdivided. Following appeals to the government a Public vehicular ferry was established in 1916. Another ferry built in 1921 ran until the opening of the bridge and then went into service carrying concrete mixes, tip trucks and materials from Woolwich to Cockatoo Island.

In the early days the Punt Master had ample time to enjoy fishing and motorists on the opposite bank found it very difficult to attract his attention on nights when the fish were biting. This changed as the volume of traffic grew heavier and prior to the opening of Tom Ugly's Bridge in 1929 delays of 5 to 6 hours were common in peak holiday periods.

After World War II traffic flow increased enormously and the necessity for another bridge crossing the river became apparent. Investigations were undertaken in 1950 and in 1960 detailed design work commenced. John Holland (Constructions) Pty. Ltd. were awarded the contract in 1962, the Department of Main Roads electing to provide the approaches themselves.

The bridge itself is a modern prestressed concrete structure using a variation of the cantilever principle. The deck is supported on four hollow girders and each girder extends beyond the pier and supports the end of the girder in the next span. The central part of the bridge is suspended between two cantilevers.

The foundations extend down to solid sandstone, in some cases 220 feet ( 67 metres ) below sea level. At this time this was an Australian record for driven pile foundations. The bridge is 1662 feet long ( 507 metres ) and 87 feet (27 metres) wide with six lanes for motor traffic and two footways. There are seven spans, the longest being 250 feet ( 76 metres ) providing clearance under the centre of over 57 feet ( 17 metres ).

The quantities of materials in the completed structure were:—

Concrete 18,000 cubic yards.  
Steel Reinforcement 2,000 tons  
High Tensile Steel Cable 55,000 feet  
High Tensile Steel Bars 8,200 feet  
High Tensile Steel Strands 220,000 feet

The cost of the bridge was \$3.2 million and the approaches \$1.5 million. The work was completed in 150 weeks and formed the first section of the Southern Expressway.

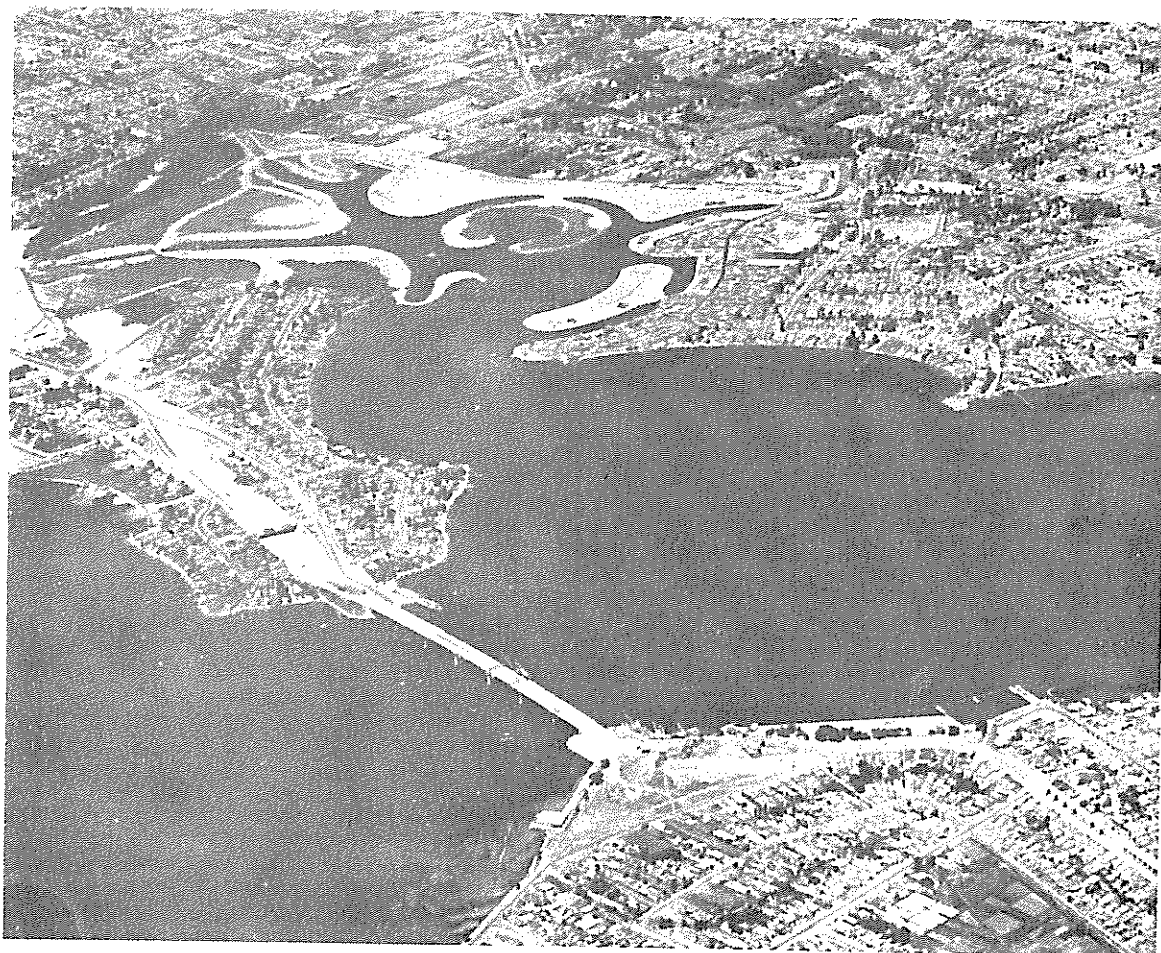
The bridge was officially opened by His Excellency, the Governor of New South Wales, Lieut. General Sir Eric Woodward on 29th May, 1965.



## SYLVANIA WATERS

Sylvania Waters was once the scene of an unsuccessful attempt to grow oysters by the French method. Thomas Holt, a Yorkshireman, had the flats at the head of Gawley Bay excavated into channels and imported French oyster spawn. The muddy waters and summer heat killed off the spawn and the project was discarded.

Holt built "Sutherland House" a magnificent structure on the foreshores of Sylvania. The long drive leading to the mansion is now the northern part of Belgrave Esplanade.



*Taren Point bridge under construction*

## TAREN POINT BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB

The first recorded meeting of the Club was held in the Welfare Hall, Old Taren Point Road on 27th July, 1950. At this meeting it was suggested that steps be taken to form a Bowling Club. However, we believe earlier unofficial meetings were held, some whilst members were travelling on the old Taren Point punt.

A General Meeting was called on 16th August, 1950 and a further meeting on 30th August, 1950 to draw up rules and a general constitution.

On November 15th, 1950 it was proposed that property of J. Willis, Holt Road be purchased as a site for a green and clubhouse. The first fund raising function was a Christmas Smoko on 22nd December, 1950. In March 1952, the land became club property and August 1952 saw many volunteers helping with ground clearing. The first stage of the club house was commenced in September 1952 with voluntary labour.

In January 1954, a start was made to form a Women's Auxiliary, which was operating by April 1954.

On 24th July, 1954, the first Bowls roll up day was held on the club's first green. The official opening took place on 21st July, 1956.

In 1958, further land was purchased and extensions made. The purchase of the remaining house and property of J. Willis being completed in 1964.

The opening of the Captain Cook Bridge and the Sylvania Waters project increased the membership and it was decided to build a bigger and better clubhouse. This was opened in 1969 at an overall cost of some \$168,000.

## TAREN POINT GIRL GUIDES

1985 is also a celebration year for the Taren Point Girl Guides, as this year we are celebrating 25 years of guiding in Taren Point, as well as 75 years of guiding in Australia. The movement was first formed in our district in 1960 with a Brownie Pack under the Leadership of Mrs. W. Sites, shortly after this a Guide Unit was opened under the Leadership of Miss P. Loveday and Miss P. Malcolm, to be followed by the opening of a Ranger Section in 1965 under the Leadership of Mrs. D. MacNamara.

During the 25 years the Brownies, Guides and Rangers have been active with only short recess periods in the Brownie and Guide Sections, and the Rangers folded a few years back following a decline in numbers.

At present the two packs are actively carrying out guiding, with past guides now leaders in the units and others active in other areas. Miss Pat Malcolm has held various positions throughout the guiding movement and is presently the Region Commissioner for the Sutherland Shire. Mrs. Ruth Lusty, who was a guide under Pat's Leadership is now our District Commissioner and one of three guides who achieved the highest award of their time, The Queens Guide Badge. Our Brownie and Guide Leaders, Jan and Lesley Taylor, were both guides and rangers under the Leadership of Ruth Lusty.

We would warmly welcome any girls interested in guiding, both our packs have vacancies, and our meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons in the Scout Hall situated behind the Youth Centre in Taren Point Road.

## TAREN POINT SCOUTS

1975 is a "Red Letter Year" for the Taren Point Scouts. It was just twenty-one years ago since the first scout group was formed by a group committee comprising of the following gentlemen; Guy Wagner, President; Bob Armstrong, Secretary; Mr. Denis Brown was Treasurer, Mr. Wells, and Mr. & Mrs Fred Fox were also hard working members. Stan Tuck was the first Scout Master. The first Group flag was kindly donated by Mrs. P.J. Taylor. A few of the scouts in the original group, whose names come to mind were John McLaren, Terry Castles, Joe Slibar and the late Doug. Sanders.

The first scout meeting was held in the Progress Hall in old Taren Point Road, and the first scout hall was donated by the Taren Point School, and erected on the corner of Curtis Avenue and Taren Point Road, it was demolished to make way for the expressway.



## OVERHEARD IN THE KINDER ROOM

"I love your hair it reminds me of a birds nest".

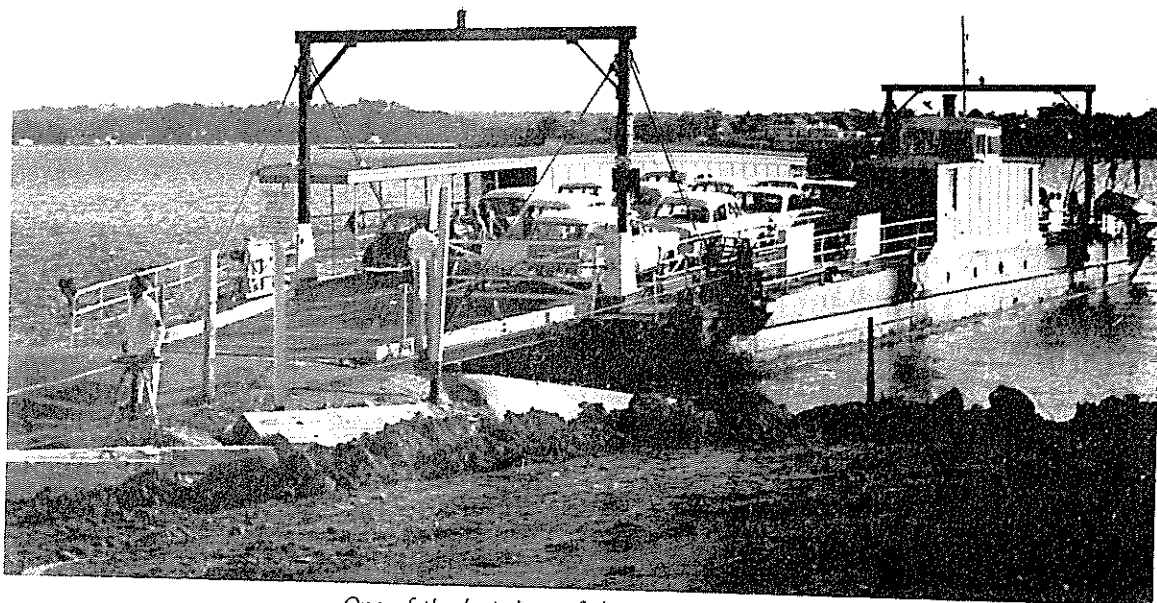
Kinder girl to kinder boy, "May I hold your hand" - "Not today dear".

Good morning boys and girls I have some good news this morning "My dad's friend is in gaol well, it was like this ....." (Steven Fell in Kindergarten, eventually became school captain 1981.)

## ITEMS CHILDREN BRING TO SCHOOL FOR NEWS

Blue Tongue lizard  
Cow Bell  
Broken toilet seat  
"Playboy" magazine





*One of the last days of the Taren Point punt*

### ST. STEPHEN'S C of E, TAREN POINT

Mr. T.S. Holt presented the block of land in Smith St. for a Church of England, some time prior to 1935. The population of Taren Point at this time was indeed scanty consisting mainly of fishermen and a few residents.

Before the Church was erected the Rev. Rutledge Newton, Rector of St. Andrew's, Cronulla, held a monthly service in the "Progress Hall" on Tuesday evenings at 7.30. Later it was decided to hold the service on Sunday afternoons hoping this would attract a larger congregation. The O'Meagher Family kindly offered their verandah for this purpose.

Building commenced in 1934, Mr. O'Meagher interested himself to the extent of purchasing timber, windows, doors, etc., from St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Macquarie St., which was then being demolished. The foundation stone was laid by T.S. Holt, Esq.

In 1954 it became necessary to enlarge the tiny church at a cost of approximately £600.



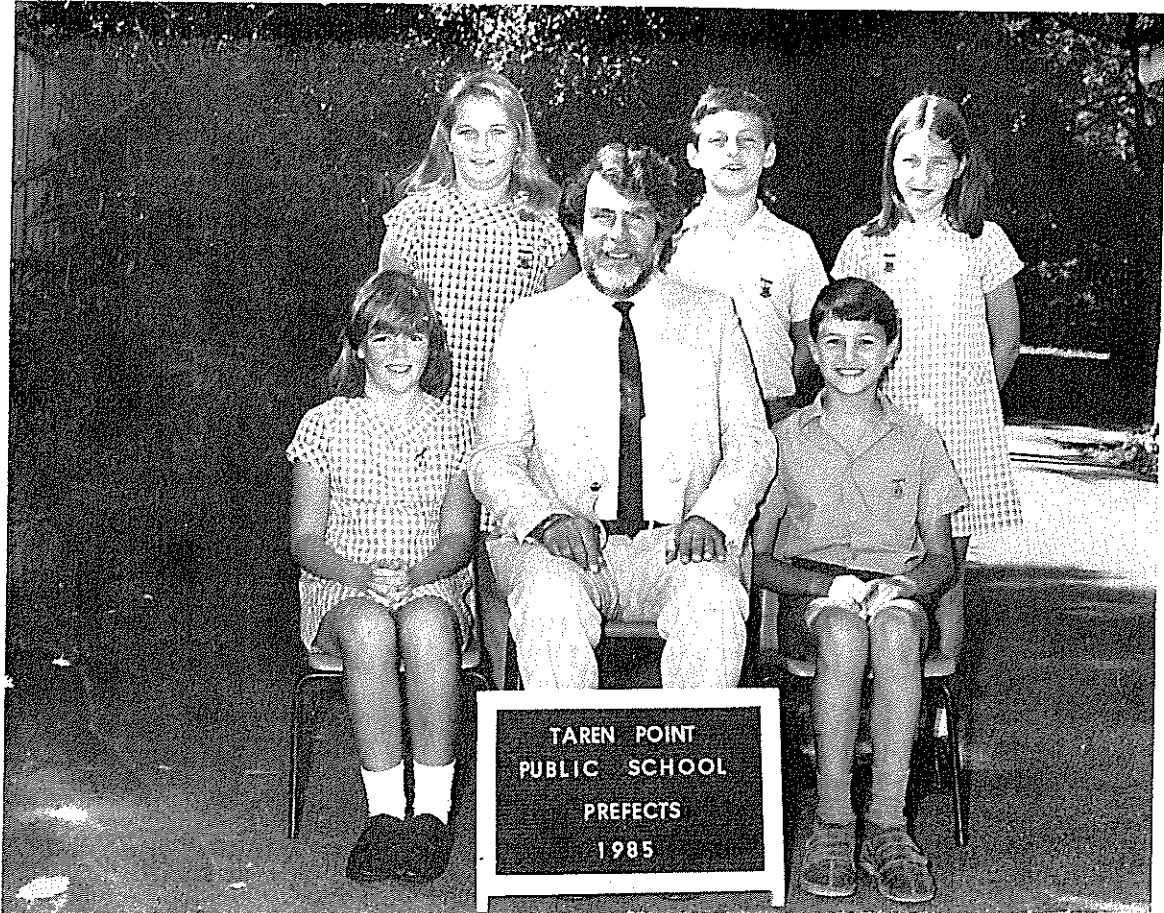
**STAFF 1985**

*Back (L to R) Mary Lee Shoy, Margaret Bacon, Val Britten, Glen Kelly --  
Front (L to R) Pam Vernon, Elaine McGuire, Rick Challinor (Princ.) Chris Dooling, Kerry Honsa.*



*PREFECTS 1985*

*Back (L to R) Kara Jones, Brett Sparkes, Vanessa Teuma  
Front (L to R) Natalie Lees, Mr. R. Challinor, Nick Hogios (Captain)*





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