



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

35-39 BRIDGE AND 24-30 LOFTUS STREETS, SYDNEY

ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS TO BOX 33, G.P.O., SYDNEY

IMPORTANT: IN YOUR REPLY QUOTE

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TELEGRAMS "SCHOOLS SYDNEY"

Mr V. Ainsworth,
Principal,
Mayfield East Public School,
Crebert Street,
MAYFIELD EAST. N.S.W.

18 MAY 1965

SUBJECT: School History

REFERENCE: Your letter of 30th April, 1965.

Departmental records reveal that your school was opened in 1858 under the name of Waratah. On 5th May, 1858 a Local Committee made a formal application to the Board of National Education for the establishment of a non-vested school at Waratah. This type of school was common at the time and usually meant that a school house and teacher would be provided by local residents, and the Board would grant aid to the school in the form of lesson books and payment for the teacher. The school committee at Waratah comprised Reverend W. Chaucer, Thomas Grove, John Robertson and Peter Crebert.

The school was opened in a small slab building containing three rooms, the schoolroom being 26 feet by 13 feet. Accommodation was provided for about 50 pupils. It is not ascertainable from the records when the school was actually opened but it appears to have been in July. Miss Marion Christie was appointed as teacher. The inspector said that she could read and write fairly well but her knowledge of Geography was poor.

Miss Christie appears to have continued teaching at the school until December 1861, when she was succeeded by Mr A. Magnay. Mayfield East, or Waratah, was the nearest public school to Newcastle at the time.

The school continued in its rented premises until the year 1874 when an application was made to the Council of Education (the Public Education authority established under the Schools' Act of 1866) for a permanent building. This application was granted, and, by the end of 1874, the building was completed by a contractor named Mr John Ash at a cost of £729. The residents supplied a portion of the cost, while the Council furnished the remainder. The school committee for this particular period comprised Messrs Richard Bell, A. McNulty, Peter Norgard, Peter Crebert, Robert Ingall and John Williams (secretary).

Mr James Kilgour was headmaster when the new building was opened in January 1875. The average attendance for that year was 81.2.

The name of the school was changed from Waratah to Mayfield on 8th March 1912. It became known as Mayfield East on 9th August, 1923.

Unfortunately, there is no indication in the records to suggest that the year 1867 has any significance.

A list of teachers since 1884 is given below:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Date Appointed</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| John Gillespie | Unknown |
| Donald Robertson | 12/ 1/1892 |
| Francis Wigg | 1/ 5/1917 |
| Torrington Pincombe | 13/12/1918 |
| Robert Shields | 19/ 5/1921 |
| Stan Callaghan | 14/11/1924 |
| John Adam | 19/ 5/1927 |
| Leopold Allan | 1/ 8/1928 |
| J. Learmonth | 11/12/1930 |
| Vincent Murray | 1/12/1932 |
| Robert Stove | 29/11/1938 |
| Charles Cash | 29/11/1939 |
| Maurice Hale | 23/ 5/1940 |
| Charles Ebert | 24/12/1943 |
| Cecil Foley | 22/12/1944 |
| Clement Hill | 12/12/1946 |
| Cyril Jopling | 30/ 1/1951 |
| Victor Ainsworth | 28/ 1/1958 |

O. R. JONES,
Director of Primary Education.

per:

