

# Eastwood Heights Public School School History

## The Establishment of the School

### 1949:

The Ryde Council Engineer indicated that considerable development was planned in the Balaclava Road area by both the Housing Commission and private builders and that the Department of Education should consider the acquisition of a site for a school. At this stage the Department felt that the area would be served by Marsfield Public School until further development took place, then a site for a school would be investigated.

### 1950:

A group calling itself "The Eastwood Heights Improvement Association" requested the Department consider a school for the "east Eastwood" area. (No trace has been found of the origin of the name Eastwood Heights in this area. There was a subdivision known as the Eastwood Heights Estate in 1916, but this was located well to the west of the railway line.) The Department started investigating possible sites for a school including one in Threlfall Street and one in Oakes Road. A Department of Education Inspector then recommended two sites on either side of Lincoln Street, one for primary and one for infants, which would later divide into girls and boys departments. It was felt there was an immediate need for an infants department and action was commenced to acquire the land.

### 1951:

Four parcels of land were acquired. Lot 13 and part of Lot 12 in D.P. 15393 were resumed. Lot 14 was purchased at a price of 380 pounds and Lots 11-15 of D.P. 6737 were purchased at a price of 1750 pounds. The owners on the north side of Lincoln Street all had plans to build and did not wish to sell so this land was not pursued.

### 1952:

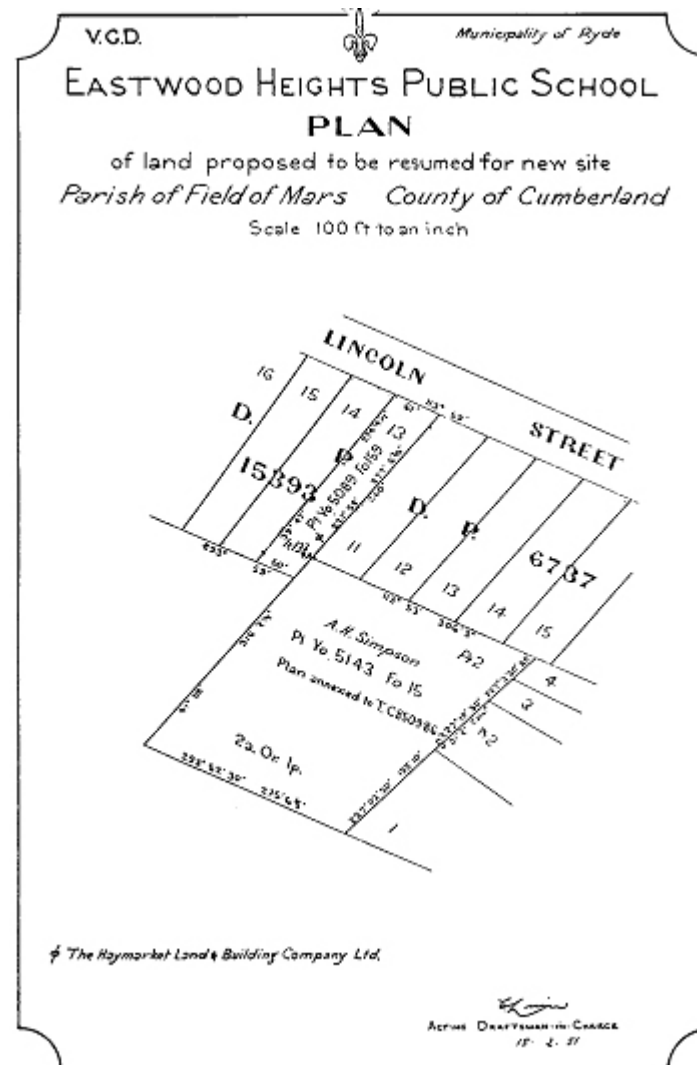
The proposal to establish a new public school at Eastwood Heights was published in Government Gazette no. 146 Of 11th July 1952, however it was not to eventuate for another few years.

### 1953:

A further parcel of land was acquired.

### 1955-56:

Establishment of the school was given approval in January 1955 and in October 1956 construction of a four room infants block commenced.



### 1957: (photograph of Year 2 in 1957)

The infants classrooms were occupied during Term 1.



### 1958: (Photographs – Years 5 & 6 1958, Concert 1961)

Four more classrooms had been built, and between 150 and 200 students transferred to Eastwood Heights from Marsfield Public School. The school buildings were constructed by Monier Building Pty Ltd for a final cost of 65,386 pounds.



### 1966: (Photograph of new site)

Two roomed brick Infants block constructed and occupied.



### 1968:

Two roomed brick Infants block constructed and occupied on the lower side of the primary playground.

### 1977:

Portable library brought to the school and placed at the northern end of the primary playground.

### 1979:

First portable classroom brought to the school and placed near the two roomed infants building.

### 1981:

Second portable classroom brought to the school and placed at the southern end of the primary playground.

### 1981:

Administration building brought to the school and installed in its current position adjacent to Lincoln Street.

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# CLASH NEAR ON CLASS CRUSH

**DWINDLING** classroom space is forcing a showdown between Eastwood Heights Public School and the Education Department.

Third, fourth and fifth grade pupils were last week being forced to share classes because of a teacher and classroom shortage.

And according to Parents and Citizens' Association president, Mr John Nichols, the situation will only get worse in the second term, when further enrolments take place.

Principal of the school, Mr Victor Fifield, and staff have thrown their support behind moves to get two extra demountable buildings for the school.

### **Dropped**

Mr Nichols said the demountables would become a necessity in second term when infant and primary school numbers increased.

He said the school should have got a demountable in November last year.

"But following a demographic study ordered by the Department two weeks before we were due to get the demountable, Eastwood was suddenly dropped from the priority list," he said.

"We believe whoever did the study didn't get their figures straight."

"The school is making do at present but at the beginning

of second term, we will be in real trouble," he said.

Mr Nichols said an extra nine pupils were expected in the infant section and six in the primary section next term.

"These are pupils who, due to their parents travelling overseas or moving from other areas, were unable to start school at the beginning of the year."

Mr Nichols said the regional department had made a fruitless attempt to head off the situation -- by freeing enrolments.

This would have left us high and dry, with no provision to ask for additional teachers or accommodation."

But following move to send a parents' delegation to the regional director to protest the move, the freeze was dropped last week.

"These additional students would have been taken on in second term, regardless of the freeze because they had already been enrolled at the beginning of the year," Mr Nichols said.

He said that while there was a chance of the school getting additional teachers at the beginning of second term, there would be no additional classrooms unless the school was back on the priority list.

"Last year the school was forced to run a class in the school basement, which teachers modified as best they could," Mr Nichols said.

"We will not make the same mistake -- it simply takes the pressure off the department and the teachers and children suffer," he said.



MR NICHOLS pictured inside the cramped basement classroom which pupils were forced to use last year.

### **1982:**

Third portable classroom brought to the school and placed next to the portable library.

### **1985:**

The Fun and Fitness Track was completed.

### **1986:**

The Weathershed and the Food Preparation Unit brought to the school and aligned with the two roomed primary block.

### **1991:**

Construction of the new permanent library commenced.

### **1992: (Photograph of opening ceremony)**

The demountable library was removed. The new library was opened.



### **1995: (Photograph of demountable being delivered)**

The Creative Learning Centre, purchased by the Parents and Citizens Association, was brought to the school and installed at the southern end of the primary playground.



### **1997:**

First shade structure installed at the southern end of the primary playground. The Wombat Crossing was installed on Lincoln Street to improve student safety.

### **2002:**

Demountable classroom installed adjacent to the Administration Block to provide accommodation for our fourteenth class.

### **2003:**

Our new computer room became operational.

### **2005:**

After ongoing representation from the school community, Eastwood Heights Public School received a capital works grant of \$3 000 000 in the state budget. The grant allowed for the construction of an assembly hall, free standing canteen, four new classrooms and the refurbishment of one block to provide a new administration area and staff facilities. A new entrance facing the street was developed and the car park and entry area landscaped.

# Eastwood Heights Public School *School History*



## **2007:**

The school celebrated its 50th anniversary.  
Demountable classroom installed for fifteenth classroom.

## **2008:**

All classrooms have an interactive whiteboard installed as part of Investing In Our Schools grant



## **2009:**

Demountable classroom removed due to falling enrolment

## **SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

1957	Mrs Leila Lawson
1958 – 1959	Mr Leo Walker
1960 – 1962	Mr Francis Donohue
1962 – 1967	Mr Leslie Cheetham
1968 – 1970	Ms Marion Edwards
1971 – 1974	Mr Benjamin Smith
1975 – 1980	Mr Robert Wallen
1981 – 1982	Mr Victor Fifield
1983 – 1985	Mr Gerry Attuell
1986	Ms Joy Ramage
1987 – 2000	Mr Kevin Coates
2001 – 2004	Mrs Denise Galbraith
2005 - 2007	Mr John Mularkyz
2008- 2014	Mr Laurie Van Ryn
2015 - 2017	Mr Nicholas Perkins
2018 - present	Mr Michael Kammerer