



# ORMISTON STATE SCHOOL

## The History of Ormiston State School



Ormiston State School was first opened in 1872. The following history is based on the T.O.P.S. "The Ormiston Primary School Celebrates 125 Years" book which was published in 1997 and is available from the school library. Additional information was provided in 2014 by DE TE Library Services.



### 1872-1880

- Cleveland No. 2 (Ormiston) School opened on 15 April 1872.
- The enrolment for the year 1872 was 47 pupils.
- Moreton Bay figs, silky oak and camphor laurel trees were planted in the school grounds after the construction of the school. Arbor Day was enthusiastically embraced by the school for many decades.
- Due to poor attendance, Cleveland No. 2 School was threatened with closure in 1875.
- On 1 January 1876 Cleveland No 2 School became known as Cleveland West. The first School Committee (P&C) was elected.



### 1881-1890

- In 1882 the Cleveland West School Master's residence was severely damaged by white-ants.
- Masses of lantana were removed from the grounds of Cleveland West (Ormiston) School in 1887.
- On 1 May 1889 Cleveland West School (originally Cleveland No.2) finally received the title of Ormiston School.



### 1891-1900

- 1899 saw an iron roof placed over the shingles of Ormiston School building. The play shed was also erected that year.



### 1901-1910

- The teacher of Ormiston School requested a larger school residence in 1904.
- On the 17th of September 1909 Ormiston School was included in the list of schools within the Metropolitan Area.



### 1911-1920

- Ormiston School was used by The Red Cross between 1914 and 1917 for fetes to support the Comfort Funds for Service Personnel overseas.
- In 1917, Ormiston State School contributed 10 shillings (\$1.00) towards a proposed secondary school.
- A rose garden was planted at the Ormiston school in 1917.
- In 1918 the P&C asked for a change of schoolmaster "in the best interests of the children". Four members of School Council resigned.
- An outbreak of influenza in the district closed the school temporarily in 1919.
- During 1919 the school "closets" were converted to pan toilets instead of the pit system.
- A school flagpole was constructed with timber from Mr Mander's paddock in 1919.
- The school residence was condemned in 1920. Mr WA Gibson bought it for removal at a cost of £75-0s-0d
- The P&C moved to have livestock barred from the school grounds in 1920.

82-110  
Gordon Street  
Ormiston 4160

Telephone  
(07) 3824 9111

Facsimile  
(07) 3824 9100



# ORMISTON STATE SCHOOL



## 1921-1930

- On the first of October 1925, Ormiston School students, began an exchange of essays with children from Country School Swanage Urban District (Dorsetshire England), to promote a better understanding of each other's country.
- Maypole dancing and pageants on the early history of sugar growing and milling were held at the school.
- The school's tank water became unfit to drink in 1926 and children brought bottles of water from home.
- In 1927, Mrs Kidd was granted use of part of the school grounds to grow pineapples, providing she kept the fence in good repair.



## 1931-1940

- In 1932 two bunya pines were removed from the front of the school house.
- Silky oak logs were removed from the school grounds and a decision was made to build a tennis court at the school in 1934.
- The new school building (part of the current Office), was opened in 1935. The old school building was disposed of by public auction.
- The Ormiston P&C requested a change of schoolmaster in 1939 because they wanted a young vigorous teacher. Mr AN Wilson was appointed.
- Two water tanks were renewed in 1940.
- In 1940 the Headmaster wrote to the Education Department asking what steps had been taken in the matter of "Air Raid Precautions".



## 1941-1950

- During 1941 electric lights were installed at the school at the P&C's expense and the school purchased a radio.
- Also in 1941, the P&C President Mr Barr, entered the fighting forces.
- The children held a concert in 1941 with the benefits of £8-12s-9d going to the Ormiston Patriotic Fund.
- The area under the school building was levelled in 1942.
- In 1943 the school purchased War Savings Certificates and was given an "Honour Certificate" which was later framed.
- The four chains by four chains (6400 square metres) plot that had been leased to various people for farming purposes was taken over for school use in 1946.
- The Scholarship Honour Board was unveiled in 1946.
- In 1947 the school was "bird-proofed".
- An extension to the "Office" building was made in 1948. Miss Fanny Ware (an original scholar of the school) was Guest of Honour at the opening of the extension.
- The school band was formed in 1948. Merle Bahr (Hohrman) taught the band on Saturday afternoons.
- Football goalposts were erected in 1948 and the playing area was graded.
- A see-saw, sand pit and swings were built in 1949.
- In 1950 a school cricket pitch was made and fences were erected to protect the pitch and the playground from horses and cattle.
- The trees in the school grounds were lopped and the roof repaired in 1950.
- A first-aid kit was provided free by the Department to the school in 1950.



82-110  
Gordon Street  
Ormiston 4160

Telephone  
(07) 3824 9111

Facsimile  
(07) 3824 9100





# ORMISTON STATE SCHOOL

## 1951-1960



- Tanbark was placed under the playground equipment for safety in 1952.
- A toilet was built for female teachers and the boys urinal renewed in 1952.
- On the 24th August 1953 an incinerator (44 gallon drum) was supplied to the school. Before this all rubbish was burnt in the open.
- In 1953 Ormiston School bought a piano.
- The Ormiston P&C submitted its Constitution to the Justice Department for approval in 1953.
- In 1954 wooden swinging boats were built for the playground.
- Also in 1954 the headmaster asked the department what would happen in the event of fire or theft of school property. The department advised that it would be replaced free of charge.
- In 1954 there was a proposal for the Ormiston Deep Freeze (Orrvale Gardens opposite the school) to become a knackery. The P&C sent objections to the department on health grounds.
- In 1956 a concrete incinerator was installed to replace the metal drum.
- In 1956 a new water tank was installed and in 1957 water had to be brought in as supplies were very low.
- The building was extended and a third classroom added in 1957.
- Also in 1957 a power point was installed to the room underneath the school to allow night-time functions.
- A telephone was installed at the school in 1958.
- In 1959 a new staff room and library were established and the school day changed from 9.30am - 3.30pm to 9.00am - 3.00pm.
- In 1960 a safety fence was erected around the jungle-gym, swinging boats and slippery slide in the playground. The wooden swinging boats were changed to metal ones. Also in 1960 a storeroom was erected and a powerpoint provided for the staffroom.

## 1961-1970

- In 1961 a portion of the playground was sealed.
- Also in 1961, floodlights were installed and a tank, stand and drinking trough were provided.
- A refrigerator was donated to the school in 1961, but the department denied its use because it was too expensive to run.
- In 1962 the "toolroom" was extended.
- In 1963 a ride-on mower was purchased for the school and the steel and chain wire fence was erected.
- The old water storage tank was removed in 1963.
- Also in 1963 the department refused to pay the school to be fumigated.
- Fluorescent lights were installed in the library and staff room in 1966.
- In 1967 six picnic tables were erected, the school was re-stumped and the toilets replaced.
- In 1968 a television was purchased, three overhead fans were installed and an asphalt area was provided in front of the school building.
- The swinging boats from the playground were sold in 1968.
- Stairs were repaired on the school building and bicycle racks were provided in 1969.
- Newly acquired school ground was cleared and fenced in 1969.
- A new classroom block was built in 1969 and extended in 1970.
- The old well was filled during 1970.
- Also in 1970, a new toilet block was erected and a septic tank installed.

82-110  
Gordon Street  
Ormiston 4160

Telephone  
(07) 3824 9111

Facsimile  
(07) 3824 9100



# ORMISTON STATE SCHOOL



## 1971-1980

- Water tanks and stands were removed and fluorescent lights installed in classrooms in 1971.
- School uniforms were decided upon in 1971. The Tuck Shop also began in this year.
- Mr Skinner presented a bass drum to the school in 1971.
- "B" block was extended in 1972, the storeroom was enlarged and the partition was removed from the old classrooms.
- In 1972, Ormiston School celebrated its Centennial with a parade from Cleveland, a pioneer ball, a fete and a barbecue.
- The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1972.
- A new school uniform and a house sports shield were introduced in 1972.
- The Instrumental Music Program at Ormiston began in 1972.
- Mr Ryan started as the school's first janitor-groundsmen in 1973.
- In 1973 Mr Ovenden and Mr MacKenzie taught sailing to the school students on Raby Bay.
- A new demountable building was erected in 1973.
- Two modular units and one demountable were erected in 1974.
- In 1975, a proposal was made to purchase more land north of Dundas Street for the school.
- Another demountable was erected in 1975 and a new tennis court was completed with a second court finished in 1976.
- "C" Block was built in 1977.
- The school was provided with a Post Office Box in 1977.
- "Ormy" the Octopus became the school mascot in 1978.
- 1.46 hectares of land was purchased on the north side of the school in 1979.
- In 1979 a Ford Escort was raffled by the school to raise funds for the new oval. There was also a proposal for a new school building in that year.
- Additional bicycle racks were provided in 1979.
- In 1980, the "Concertina Door" was installed in the modular unit.
- In 1980, Ormiston School toured HMAS Hobart and was presented with a ship's plaque.
- The Pre-School was opened in 1980 and "D" Block was erected. Two demountable buildings were removed and a bus bay was built in front of the school.

## 1981 - 1997

- In 1981 the children planted "koala" trees to help provide a habitat corridor for koalas.
- Ormiston State School won the Zone Tunnel Ball and Leader Ball Championships in 1981.
- The school toilet block was extended in 1981 with an addition of an extra toilet, cleaners room and janitor and sports rooms.
- In 1983, part of Dundas Street between Gordon and Wellington Streets was closed and became part of the school grounds.
- In 1983 the Senior Adventure Playground and new Library were built and a new classroom was proposed.
- The "Lolly-Pop" scheme was introduced and work on the school's Environmental Area began in 1984.
- Ormiston School was a finalist in the "Tidy School's Competition" several times during the 1980's.
- A severe storm unroofed part of the school in 1985.
- In 1986 the old play shed received a new roof and Dundas St in front of the school was resurfaced.
- In 1987, Queensland Rail built the underpass under the Northern Arterial Road to allow safe access to the school.

82-110  
Gordon Street  
Ormiston 4160

Telephone  
(07) 3824 9111

Facsimile  
(07) 3824 9100



# ORMISTON STATE SCHOOL



- The current Tuck Shop building and Undercover Area were built in 1988 and the new Adventure Playground was constructed.
- In 1990 the school suffered a severe vandalism during the September holidays. The local community pulled together magnificently to get the school "fit" for the start of the new term.
- From 1990-1992, the P&C battled with the department to retain the demountable building.
- A new classroom block was build opposite the Tuck Shop in 1991.
- The modular units were removed and the adventure playground covered in 1995.

82-110  
Gordon Street  
Ormiston 4160

Telephone  
(07) 3824 9111

Facsimile  
(07) 3824 9100