

**What you should know**

■ The CSU Regional Archives is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building at the South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue.

■ Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with enquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straightforward enquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour, including copying and postage.

■ For further information, phone 6925 3666, email [archive@csu.edu.au](mailto:archive@csu.edu.au) or visit the website at [www.csu.edu.au/research/archives](http://www.csu.edu.au/research/archives) for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.

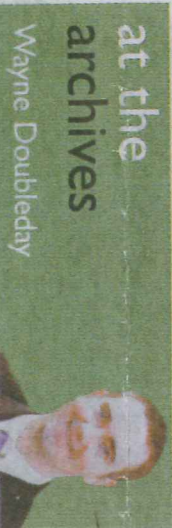


Above: Junee Kindergarten, 1955

Right: South Wagga Public School Year 5, 1922



# Remember the old school yard



at the archives  
Wayne Doubleday

For most people, their school days would be a standout period in their life, whether the memories are good or bad. For this reason, records that document the history of a school and its students are an important source for social and family history.

At CSU Regional Archives there is an extensive collection of records covering over a century of school history in the Wagga district.

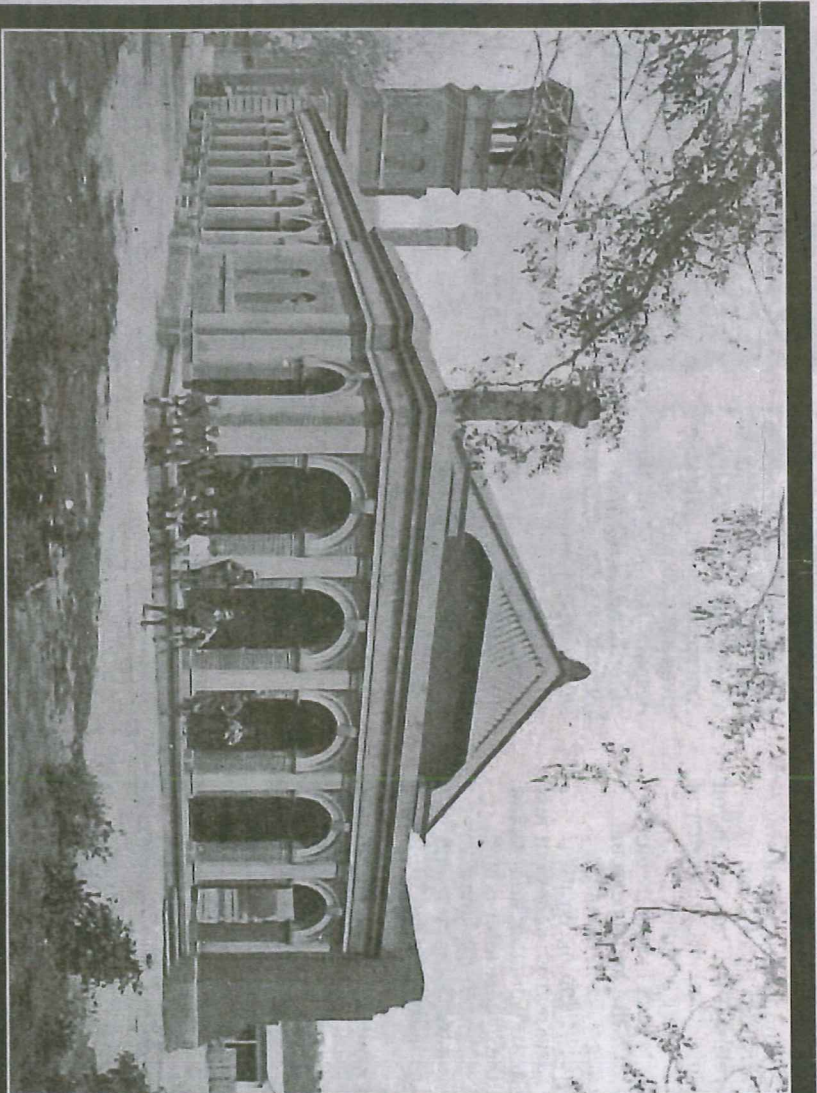
These school records have proven to be an invaluable resource and have generated much interest not only from past students, but from various researchers gathering information on individual schools and students.

The type of records held in the archives' collection include: photographs, class rolls, examination books, observation books, punishment registers, admission registers, visitor books, library accession registers, assessment records, program and lesson registers, P&C records, newsletters, school magazines, publications and subject files. The records available will vary for each school, of which there are approximately 50 local schools represented in the collection.

Some of these include Brucevale Public School, Currawarna Public School, Junee Central School, Koorngal Public School, Marrar Public School, North Wagga Public School, South Wagga Public School, Taton Public School and Wantabadgery Public School. For a full listing of school records included in the collection, contact CSU Regional Archives or visit [www.csu.edu.au/research/archives/collection/state/concise-guide/education.htm](http://www.csu.edu.au/research/archives/collection/state/concise-guide/education.htm).

Please note that the majority of school records held in the CSURA collection are considered state records and accordingly, some access restrictions may apply to certain records. For instance, records less than 30 years old are restricted and punishment registers must be more than 50 years old before they can be publicly viewed.

THE South Wagga Public School, situated on the corner of Edward and Best streets, was



South Wagga Public School, circa 1900

officially opened in January 1892. The contract to build the school was won by Charles Hardy & Co, and was completed within 11 months – one month ahead of schedule.

The establishment of South Wagga Public School in some ways coincides with the trends and growth of the town heading into the 20th century.

With the arrival of the railway to Wagga in the 1880s, the population of Wagga increased rapidly. Not only were there more people in the town, but a great movement towards the southern end of town had begun. This was to be called Newtown.

Businesses, stores, tradesman and accommodation started to relocate from the Fitzmaurice Street end and emerge along Baylis and Edward streets to make the most of the travellers coming into town from the railway.

With this southward shift and increased population, there was an urgency to establish a second school in Wagga.

At the time, the Wagga Superior School already existed in Gurwood Street along with schools at North Wagga and Lake Albert. However, there were two insufficiencies with the Wagga Superior School; it had grown overcrowded and Gurwood Street was proving to be too great a distance from the students living in Newtown.

Approval was given in May 1889 and plans were drawn up for a new school. It was requested that the plans allow for the ever-expanding population and that the building be of a permanent nature, constructed of brick and iron.

The cost of the new school was approximately £4223. The school opened with 69 boys, 75 girls, and 123 infants, a total of 267 pupils.

The teaching staff included Mr Graham (headmaster), Miss Dorothy Wright, Miss Burgess, Miss R O'Byrne and Master C Goode. **References: The Bellflower - A history of South Wagga Public School, WWA 19/01/1892**