



A short history of Adamstown Public School

Est. 1877

Our school has a long tradition of dedicated teachers and students that love both music and sport. The population of Adamstown has survived depressions, mine disasters and an earthquake. This is a brief look at how life has changed throughout the years, as Adamstown Public School looks ahead to celebrating its Sesquicentennial anniversary in 2027.

2012



History of Adamstown



Adamstown Shopping Centre, NSW, Australia [c.1960's]

[Cultural Collections](http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/5551744749/) at the University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/5551744749/>

Adamstown was originally a speculative residential venture to provide housing for the miners of neighbouring Hamilton. The title Adamstown was first mentioned in September 1868.

In the 1870's Adamstown was isolated from the rest of Newcastle and the neighbouring villages of Lambton, Hamilton and Merewether. Newcastle, while only seven kilometres away, was an arduous journey through the dense bush and scrub, which surrounded the little township. There was no water or sewerage and generally unhygienic conditions prevailed, especially after rain. Residents of the area relied upon tanks and wells for drinking water and water had to be carried from Newcastle during periods of dry weather.

Like most of the early settlements in Newcastle, Adamstown's early industries revolved around coalmining. Miners worked in either the neighbouring Borehole mine (Hamilton), or the Waratah Mine. There were also a number of brickyards and potteries in Adamstown due to the excellent clay soils in the area.

Adamstown was gazetted as a Municipality in 1885. The first council was elected in March 1886 with council chambers being completed in 1892. In 1938 Adamstown

merged the other municipal councils and Newcastle council to form the City of Greater Newcastle.

http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about_newcastle/city_and_suburbs/suburbs/adamstown



Adamstown Railway Station, Adamstown, NSW, c1898

Cultural Collections at the University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/3306863839/>



Adamstown Public School

celebrated 125 years of education on September 13, 2002.

The school was established in July 1877 in the Methodist chapel on the site of the present district education office. Two years later, a new two-room school building and a four-room teacher's residence was completed.

The school has actually been located on three sites since it was established.

The first was this parcel of land at the corner of Glebe and Brunner Roads, the second an infant's department building in Narara Road.

This was built in 1922 after the population grew to 700 and proved to be too much for the buildings. New rooms were added to this school in 1934.

In 1956, five acres of land was purchased in Bryant Street, the location of the school today. The primary department was completed on this site in 1971, with the infants children continuing on at the Narara Road site.

However, the Narara Road building was badly damaged in the 1989 earthquake and all the children were moved to the Bryant Street School.

Constructed and opened in 1879 as the Adamstown Public School to serve the large local population following the establishment of several mines in the area. It was last used as a school in 1971 and is currently the regional office for the Department of Education, having been re-opened as the Adamstown Teacher's Centre in 1973.

Newcastle Star, The- Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Author: By TAMARYN RYAN

ADAMSTOWN

PART OF THE MEREWETHER ESTATE

MUNICIPALITY OF ADAMSTOWN

37 ELEVATED BUILDING SITES

DAY OF SALE **Saturday**
May 8th 1915

at 3 O'Clock, on the Ground

GREER & BERKELEY

NOTE LIBERAL TERMS

Auctioneers
WOLFE ST
NEWCASTLE

15 per cent Cash
Balance
1, 2, 3, 4 years
4% Interest

Local Sketch

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A-F-Hall
Auctioneers
NEWCASTLE

All Measurements are Subject to Deposited Plan

William Greer & Berkeley 176 St. George Street N.S.W.

Adamstown: part of the Merewether Estate, May 8, 1915



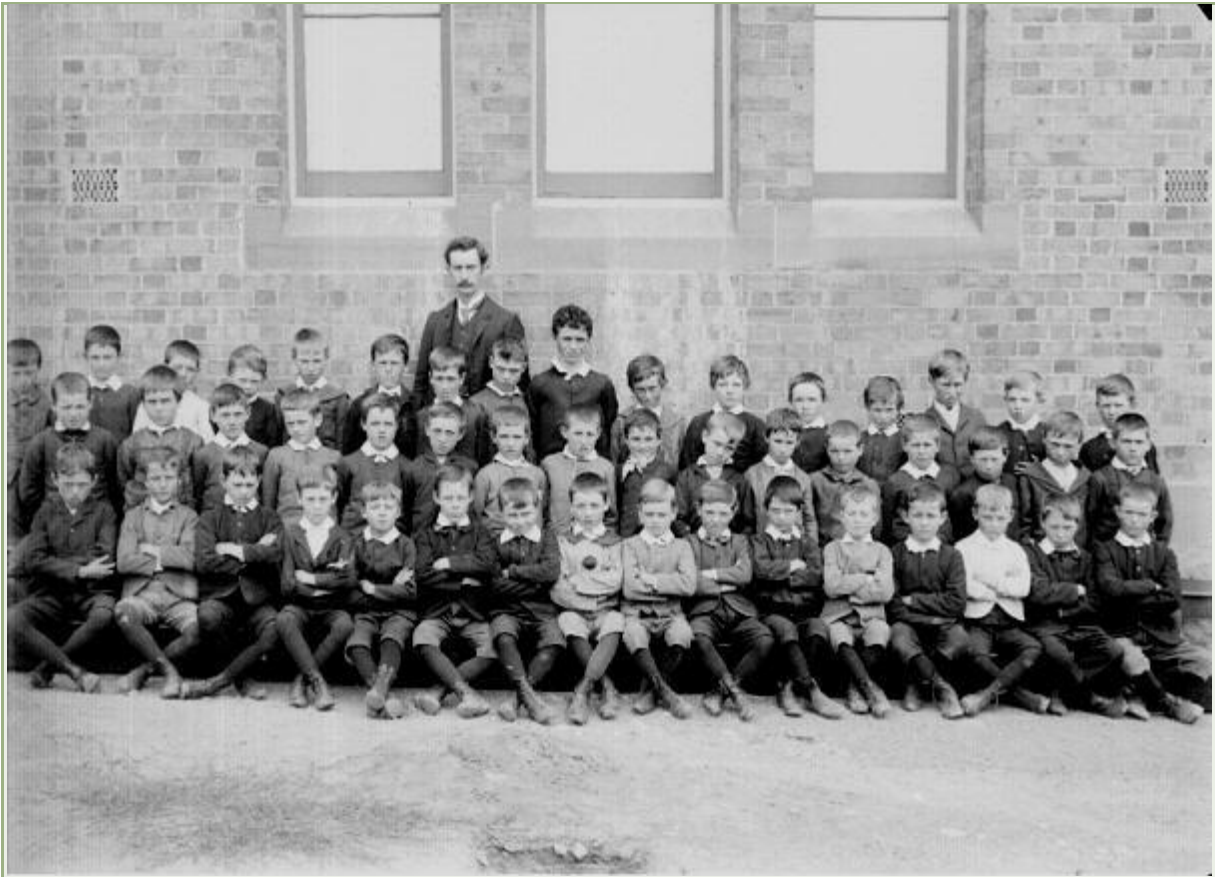
*Adamstown School procession, Adamstown, NSW, 19 June 1897
Image shows a large group of students, and adults standing near the Adamstown School.
A band can be seen in the bottom right of the image.*

[Cultural Collections](http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/3342970666/in/photostream/) at the University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/3342970666/in/photostream/>



Group of Adamstown girl scholars 1891

<http://collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/keemu/pages/nrm/Display.php?irn=16120&QueryPage=%2Fkeemu%2Fpages%2Fnrm%2Findex.htm>



Group of Adamstown boy scholars and teacher 1891

<http://collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/keemu/pages/nrm/Display.php?irn=16117&QueryPage=%2Fkeemu%2Fpages%2Fnrm%2Findex.htm>



Adamstown Public School Jubilee Celebrations 1933

<http://collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/keemu/pages/nrm/Display.php?irn=35023&QueryPage=%2Fkeemu%2Fpages%2Fnrm%2Findex.htm>

The former Public School has landmark qualities for its Victorian Gothic architecture and is in excellent condition. It is a fitting complement to the Post Office next door and the Adamstown Uniting Church adjacent. The school is now the regional office for the Department of Education so it continues its educational purpose. The sandstone and brick masonry has been very well restored.

http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_04_2.cfm?itemid=2170001





Adamstown Dunnies



Adamstown Public School Dunnies 1986 - they look as if they were built in 1875 when the school was first built. I was very surprised to see such a primitive set up. Maybe the decorations are to lift the eyes.

<http://www.osheafamily.info/chronicle-of-irene-nelson>

Sweeps barred at this school

Sydney, Tuesday

A NEWCASTLE headmaster today warned his pupils against running Melbourne Cup sweeps.

Mr. A. McMartin, headmaster of Adamstown Public School, told a preschool assembly of pupils today that gambling in schools, particularly in primary schools, was undesirable.

School sports, he said, gave ample opportunity for the right kind of activity.

He warned the pupils that he would take

"appropriate action" against anyone who flouted his instruction.

Mr. McMartin said tonight that he had no particular boy in view.

"I think they took my advice. I did not have to deal with any pupil," he added.

National Library of Australia

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), Wednesday 3 November 1954, page 2



Band practice at Adamstown Public School 1960s

http://www.governmentschools.det.nsw.edu.au/photogallery/album14/ph_govt_schools_mu14_text.htm





5 July 1977 Newcastle Morning Herald

<http://collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/keemu/objects/common/webmedia.php?irn=63260&reftable=ecatalogue&refirn=64258>



Figure 1:
Skipping, from left, Nadine Lavell, 9, Kim Blackburn, 9 and Maya Kumar, 9 while in the background, from left, are Darren 5, Chontell, 6 and Damien Jager, 6, Andrew Thursby, 8 and Samantha McCormack, 8

*"Earthquake damage fades into background" Newcastle Herald 31 January, 1990
Children from the earthquake damaged Adamstown Infants School would be accommodated in demountable classrooms at Adamstown Public School, with possible restricted use of the Infants Department once it had stabilised and been shored up. Picture shows children in the playground at Adamstown Public School.*

<http://collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/keemu/pages/nrm/Display.php?irn=49915>

*For more information there is a great book
Adamstown Public School centenary, 1877-1977 / Adamstown Public School
Centenary Committee*