

Stories from the Archives: Why do we call it Evandale?

EVANDALE, the building on Boundary Street near Robinson Street for our Pre-Kindergarten to Year 2 students, was officially opened on 9 March 1993. But both the name and the structure have a longer history.

The name Evandale is taken from a mansion of that name built in 1868 for Captain Henry T. Fox, a merchant captain and shipowner. His estate Evandale occupied present-day Blair Park, bounded by Blair Avenue, Acton Street and Queen Street, Croydon. Captain Fox, who migrated to Australia from Devon in 1841, named the estate and his home Evandale because his wife, Isobel Williamson, was born in Evandale, Tasmania.

Captain Fox was keen to see a public school built in Croydon and in 1880 offered to sell the Department of Public Instruction a block of land in Boundary Street for a school. Ultimately an infants' school was built on the site in 1927. Between 1969 and 1992 the building was used for students with special needs, disabled adolescents, and briefly as a centre for adult migrant English services. In 1969 the Department of Education named it Evandale to perpetuate the memory of Captain Fox.

PLC Sydney purchased the building in November 1992 and since 1993 it has housed our youngest students.



*Evandale, built 1868,
home of Captain Fox*



Captain Henry T. Fox



Moving into Evandale, early 1993



*The Moderator at the official opening
of Evandale, 9 March 1993*



Evandale, 1993



Evandale classroom, 1996