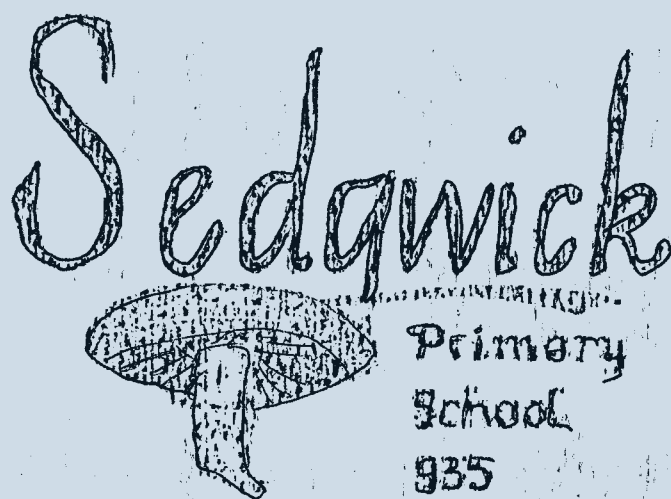


No. 935
Sedgwick
Primary School



SEDGWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL
NO. 935

A history compiled by Mr. James. Frederick, Head Teacher 1989 - 1990.

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SEDGWICK

PRIMARY SCHOOL

NO. 935

A Brief History of the Sedgwick District

" When the first freehold land was granted in 1854, the area that is now Sedgwick was known as Upper Emu Creek. The Emu Creek rises in hills south of the district and runs into Axe Creek which in turns runs into the Campaspe River.

The earliest settlers known to hold leases in the area were named Howard, Simpson, Williams, Sallows, Carter, Osborne, Brennan, and Broadbent.

In 1865, an acre of the land was reserved for a common school which was to be built by the local committee at a cost of 60.0.0d. The unlined weatherboard, bark roofed structure housed 27 pupils whose education cost 1/- per week. In 1868 the school was recognised by the Board of Education, and a year later there was a head teacher in residence in a bark hut on the property.

In 1901 the school name was changed to Sedgwick, in honour of the English Geologist, Adam Sedgwick. 1785 - 1873. The first School Committee was elected in 1911 under Richard B. Brennan, Chairman, and Albert Steen, correspondent.

The first church in Upper Emu Creek was a Methodist one, built on Osborne's property. Unfortunately this has fallen into disuse since the late 1920's.

The only mine in the district, Great Eastern, gave its name to a hotel. Children from the mining families attended "Upper Axe Creek School." The mine, hotel, and school are now gone. Creamery Hill was named for the local creamery.

Water was essential for an agricultural community. A channel runs from Malmsbury to Bendigo along the western boundary. At one point, the water cascades over rocks and "The Springs" was a favourite picnic area for the people from Bendigo and the district, in the days before motoring made longer journeys possible.

In Sedgwick, irrigation water from the channel, supplemented by private dams, supplies many acres for fruit and tomato growing.

The earliest industry in the area was bark stripping. This was followed by successful plantings of vines and fruit trees.

At one time Sedgwick produced thousands of cases of apples and pears for export. The last vines in the area were destroyed in bush fires in 1924. For some growers, tomatoes took the place of fruit. Drechsler Bros. won first prize in America for tomato pulped by the White Crow Factory in nearby Bendigo. Cattle thrived in the area and the Young Bros. Jersey Cattle Stud was famous throughout Victoria. It closed down only recently.

Since the introduction of electricity in 1952, the area has attracted a number of "Hobby" farmers to the community."¹

1. A Brief History of Sedgwick (Date and source unknown).



Orchardists from the Sedgwick District. Circa, early 1900's
Photograph courtesy of Mr. Norman Steen .

935 SEDGWICK P.S.

" Sedgwick began as a private school in 1865 and was known as Upper Axe Creek until 1901. However, in March 1868 the Board of Education granted aid in the form of the salary for HT T.J. Grainger until November 1870. As this pay was back-dated to October 1867, the centenary of the school was celebrated in 1967, when the school reopened after being closed in 1966 because of falling enrolments. The original building, only 8ft high, was condemned as a result of termite damage and replaced in 1968. The school has a residence, built in the 1950's to replace an earlier residence destroyed by fire. " 2



Sedgwick Primary School, circa 1916.

From Left to right - Back row - Albie Osborne, Bill Broadbent, Ned Osborne, Alan Semmens, Bill Kronk.

Centre row - Miss Ellen Gleeson, Ilma Osborne, Doris Kronk, Maggie Kronk, Bea Steen, May Tobin, Albert Young.

Front row - Bill Tobin, Dell Steen, Norman Steen, Alan Osborne, Lizzie Tobin, Hugh Costa, Bill Drechsler, Percy Tobin, Gracie Girvan.

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Norman Steen

2. Vision and Realisation - A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria , Education Department of Victoria, 1973, Volume 2, page 455.

1. A PRIVATE SCHOOL: 1865

A site of one acre was gazetted on 4 April 1865 as land reserved for the building of a common school at Upper Emu Creek, 10 miles from Bendigo. Mr. Michael Brennan of Strathfieldsaye, who had earlier made a preliminary application to the board of Education for aid, was notified about the grant of land on 5 May 1865.

From the evidence of letters written in 1886, it seems that the local committee erected and opened a school in 1865 in a building later described by the District Inspector as "new, of weatherboard, unlined with bark roof. Dimensions are 24' x 14.4' x 8' to wall plate ." According to correspondent Michael Brennan, the cost was 60 pounds 8 shillings and 8 pence. Evidently the school was conducted at first as a private one: in February 1866 a letter of Mr. Enoch .P.Stephenson mentions " that the school is improving in numbers ,32 being placed on the books, with 27 in attendance this week." These children were paying 1/- each per week as school fees.

The purpose of E.R.Stephenson's letter mentioned above was to inform the board of advice that the Local Committee had received an application form , but had decided to wait a month to consider the advisability of applying to have the school vested in the board of Education.By April 1886 the committee had decided to apply for aid and accept whatever conditions were laid down by the board.Mr. Brennan's letter of 12 April requested aid from the board " for the purpose of furnishing the school and building a teacher's residence."

The official application form, dated 29 May 1866, named as members of the committee: Michael Brennan , correspondent ; August Kollé; James Boyd; John Daly; Henry Osborne. A list of children who would attend the school was included; these children, numbering 46 in all, came from 15 local families.

Michael Brennan wrote again on 18 April 1867 complaining that he had not received any reply to his application of the previous year. The cause of the delay was a misunderstanding. District Inspector J. Elkington had thought that the Local Committee at Upper Emu Creek " did not intend to prosecute their application , and therefore I deferred my investigation until more pressing business had been disposed of."

The Inspector acted quickly: he submitted his report on 17 May 1867, recommending that the Board of Advice grant aid to the school at least in the form of salary for the teacher. Inspector Elkington was not happy about the fact that the building did not conform to the requirements of the vested schools.

Correspondent M.Brennan submitted to the board on 27 June 1867, a



Sedgwick Primary School Community. Circa,1915.

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Norman Steen.



Sedgwick Sunday School Methodist Church Picnic, November 1908.

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Norman Steen.

description of the school and its furniture , its geographical position, and as well, a list of seven residents " whom the contributors have nominated as a committee."

Evidently no action was taken by the board for Michael Brennan wrote once more on 30 January 1868, renewing the application for aid. Brennan stated: " For the last year there has been an average attendance of over twenty -two (22) scholars; during the preceding year (1866) the attendance also averaged more than twenty (20). I therefore beg to renew the claim of the Committee for aid to the above school, as it is impossible to secure the services of an efficient Teacher, with no other inducement than that of the school fees."

The Board replied asking the Committee for a copy of the rolls, a declaration as to the effect that the information supplied was correct,a description of the school's equipment and the measurements of forms used for the infants! Brennan replied promptly on 20 February , supplying the requested information.At this stage Upper Emu Creek school possessed 7 maps, 4 desks, 8 forms and one blackboard. The forms used for the infants were 5'6" long, 9" wide, and 12" high.



Picking Fruit ,circa early 1900's.
Photograph courtesy of Mr. Norman Steen.

2. A COMMON SCHOOL

On 10 March 1868 the school was vested in the Board of Education. It was then called Common School No. 935, Upper Emu Creek, and was granted aid in the form of salary to the teacher, Mr. Thomas Grainger. Head Teacher Grainger had commenced duty on 14 October 1867; therefore his salary was back - dated to that time. The Board officially approved the Local Committee and Michael Brennan as correspondent, but it declined to grant aid for building a teacher's residence on the grounds that " the school -house already erected does not conform to the board's regulations."



Sedgwick Primary School - 1917

From Left to right - Back row - Doris Kronk, Albie Osborne, Maggie Kronk, Bill Kronk, Bea Steen, Norman Steen, Alan Semmens, Bill Broadbent, Albert Young, Ned Osborne, Lizzie Tobin.
Centre row - Bill Tobin, Percy Tobin, Leo Brennan, Miss Goulden, Hugh Costa, Adela Steen, Gracie Girvan.
Kneeling - Alan Osbourne, Dick Osborne, Ilma Osborne, May Tobin.

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Norman Steen.

The individual record of Thomas.J.Grainger (born 1837) shows that he was appointed Head Teacher of 935 Upper Emu Creek from 14 October 1867. Hence the opening date , (14.10.1867), as shown in Departmental records represents the date from which salary aid was first paid by the Board of Education, and from which the school was first recognised as vested Common School No. 935. (Hence also the school celebrated its centenary on 14 October 1967.)

3. THE STRUGGLE FOR AID

On 17 July 1868 Michael Brennan asked the Board of Education how the term " vested in the Board " applied to Upper Emu Creek School, since the residents had erected it themselves without aid from the Board. The reply given him on 30 July was that the school must necessarily be vested in the Board (as opposed to existing in a private school) since it was standing on a site of crown land granted for Common School purposes. The Board expressed its regret that financial aid could not be made towards the building because it was not constructed in accordance with an approved plan. The Committee were asked , therefore, to prepare plans of a new school building which would conform to the Board's rules, or to make satisfactory alterations to the existing school. The suggestion was made that if the Committee decided to erect a new building,

- 1) the Board would be able to make a grant towards the expenditure;
- 2) the old building could be converted into a teacher's residence and its value as such could be counted as a local contribution towards the cost of the new schoolhouse.

Michael Brennan replied to these suggestions on 26 September 1868, stating : " The Local Committee erected a teacher's residence in November last , at a cost of 35 pounds - a sum of 13 pounds has been obtained , leaving a debt of 22 pounds still owing by the Committee."


Brennan went on to say: "This deters them from undertaking any fresh obligation at present , more especially as they are of the opinion that their School-room is sufficiently commodious for existing requirements."

The Board gave definite instructions on 8 October 1868 that unless the residents built a School-room which conformed with the Board's regulations for vested schools, they would receive only the kind of aid granted non-vested schools, i.e. aid toward the teacher's salary, but no aid for buildings. The residents , however, did not put up a new building but continued using the existing buildings in the capacity of a vested Common School which received only non-vested financial aid.

The net enrolment in 1868 was 28, (15 boys, 13 girls) and the average attendance was 22 (12 boys, 10 girls). However, in all, 49 children passed through the school in that year.

Schools that make do



 **PUPIL** Garry Ames, 10, peers through the hole in the wall of his school, the Sedgwick State School. Termites have eaten into the school walls. Boarding has been used to cover one large hole.

4. UNDER THE DEPARTMENT: A STATE SCHOOL. 1873

The industrious Michael Brennan wrote on 10 March 1873 to call the newly formed Education Department's attention to the state of the building which was now State School No. 935. Mr. Brennan pointed out that the nine year old wooden building was not only in bad repair with inadequate furniture, but the accommodation designed originally for 25 to 30 children was now quite inadequate for the increased attendance of 40.

The Department requested Mr. A.McIntyre, one of the Building Inspectors, to visit the school and submit a report. Mr. McIntyre expressed the opinion on 23 May 1873 that a new school was necessary and that in the meantime the teacher should have temporary repairs carried out and that 4 new forms should be obtained. The final recommendation made by McIntyre was that when a new school-house was being erected, the materials from the old one should be used to erect a teacher's residence and closets, at the same time.

The Department approved the Building Inspector's recommendations, authorising the Head Teacher to incur not more than 1 pound expenditure in repairs to the building, as well as ordering the 4 new forms to be sent up to Bendigo.

Then on 7 November 1873, the Correspondent for the Board of Advice, Mr. James.W. Veitch, wrote urging the Department to improve conditions at the school. Veitch stated that the school was both too small and very much in need of repairs, and that the furniture was defective. He requested that the Department provide two closets and a tank " to furnish the children with water, there being no provision for that purpose....."

It was decided that two closets (to replace an old outdated one) should be erected first and should be immediately situated in the positions " they should occupy when the new school is erected. The Department decided that for the time being it would be useless to provide a tank since the roof of the building was made of bark. These decisions were communicated to the Board of Advice, plus the assurance that a new wooden school, 30' x 18', with a shingle roof would be erected at an early date. The new building would accommodate 54 pupils.



The old School Building and Residence - circa 1919.
 Photograph courtesy of Mr. Norman Steen

5. A NEW BUILDING : 1874

On 8 April 1874 six tenders for the erection of the new school building were received: these tenders were from Thomas.H.Grenfell, of Maldon, and Messrs. James Thorpe, Z.Button, John Nicholls, William Sheridan and Robert Galbraith, all of Sandhurst. The successful tender was that of William.F. Sheridan for 203 pounds.

Once arrangements were under way to obtain the promised schoolroom, Correspondent James Veitch, on behalf of the Board of Advice, called the Department's attention on 25 May 1874 to the state of the residence. Possibly the Board of Advice hoped that while the contractor was at the school, he might also either repair the residence or put up a new one.

Mr. William. Dobbie, Clerk of Works for the new school, was instructed to submit a report on the state of the residence, which he did on July 17 1874. The picture of the teacher's residence painted by Mr. Dobbie, gives a very realistic idea of the conditions under which country teachers lived. The residence was in such bad shape that it was considered not worth repairing to any extensive degree. It was decided instead to effect temporary repairs to the roof, and to erect a new residence " at some future time ." Instructions were given to the contractor to rebark the roof of the residence with the bark from the old school.

On 6 November 1874 Head Teacher H. Beetson requested the Department for the addition of an extra room to " the bark hut in which I am now residing and which is on the school premises" Beetson mentioned that the workmen were at that time building the new school; he asked if they might erect the extra room from the timber of the old

school. However because the Department deemed that the residence was not worth spending money on, H.T.Beetson was informed that he could have the materials of the old building to use in making any additions he chose, himself.



Sedgwick Primary School, 21/05/1920.

From Left to right - back row - Leo Brennan, Joe Tobin, Gracie Girvan, Vera Raymond, Ilma Osborne, Jack Drechsler, Percy Tobin, Hugh Costa.

Centre row - Miss Jones, Bob Osborne, Alan Drechsler, Jack Noonan, Norman Steen, Albie Osborne, Dick Osborne, Bill Tobin, Alf Costa, Alan Steen.

Front row - Percy Brennan, Mollie Costa, Kathleen Girvan, Mary Drechsler, Julia Drechsler, Mollie Brennan, Mick Noonan, Alan Osborne.

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Norman Steen

In January 1875 Charles Daley's tender of 8 pounds 10 shillings for additional furniture (a Master's desk and stool combined, a stool, a table and chair) was accepted and completed by May 1875.

6. IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS : THE 1880'S.

The 1880's were a time of improvements and repairs at Upper Emu Creek School No. 935 . These improvements had to do with both the school and the residence, although, naturally, it was the very old residence which was the subject of correspondence for the first five years of the 80's. The first complaint about the state of the residence, and with it, the first request (in 1880's) for the erection of a new residence came in 1880 in a letter written by H.T.Beetson. (See photocopy for details.) At first the Department simply stated that Mr.Beetson's predicament was a common one for teachers requiring houses; the Department regretted that the erection of a residence could not at that time be undertaken and it saw no reason for treating Mr.Beetson's case as an exceptional one.

Then the Board of Advice took up H.T.Beetson's case for better living conditions. Three letters were sent from the Board urging the Department to look into the matter. The first letter dated 10 September 1880 came from Correspondent L.A.Samuels; the second, of 20 October 1880, written by a new Correspondent, Hugh Nixon, asked the Department " to instruct the Inspector of School buildings in this district, to furnish a report, so that the work may be commenced as soon as funds are available."

The third letter, again written by Hugh Nixon, was dated 19 February 1881; however it was impossible at that time to undertake the erection of a residence. Meanwhile H.T.Beetson was not inactive. In February 1881 he purchased materials himself and erected a verandah to shade the residence sitting-room where the heat was " unbearable ". Since this verandah was a fixture, Mr.Beetson asked the Department to grant him one-half of the outlay. This request was refused on the grounds that no rent had ever been charged for the residence.

However by Ministerial Order of 24 March 1881 the Building Inspector was instructed to repair the residence but not to exceed 20 pounds in expenditure. When Mr.McIntyre received these instructions he replied on 13 April that spending 20 pounds on the old residence was sheer waste of money. He recommended the erection of a new residence, and repairs to the new school which was being white-anted.

But the Department insisted that 20 pounds be expended to make the residence " as comfortable and secure as possible ", and instructed the Building Inspector to treat the school timber affected by white ants, at the same time. By June 1881 the teacher's residence was reported to be " in a

fairly habitable state ", and repairs and painting at the school at a cost of 14 pounds 10 shillings were effected by contractors Aitken and Kean of Sandhurst.

Nearly four years later, H.T.Beetson wrote on 14 February 1885 describing the dilapidated condition of the residence and requesting the erection of a new one. Provision of a three roomed wooden residence was authorised on 26 February. The cost was 220 pounds and the estimated time of completion, 25 July 1885. It appears that the building took several weeks longer to erect for rent of 11 pounds 5 shillings per annum was charged from 1 October 1885.

In May 1886 the building of an underground tank was approved and a tender for 36 pound by Benjamin Rawiller was accepted . Then on 15 June 1886 the Correspondent for the Board of Advice, Mr.W.Jones, asked the Department to replace the shingle roof of school No. 935 with an iron one, for the water was so spoiled by the shingle roof that the new tank would hardly be an improvement. The Department concurred with this request ; the tender of T.J.Connelly and Company for a new iron roof at a cost of 23 pounds 7 shillings and 6 pence was accepted.

New fencing was constructed in 1887 by the Board of Advice, the previous fence being extremely old and in disrepair, despite the efforts of H.T.Beetson to keep it in order, even at his own expense. However this new fence, a picket one, did not survive a severe flood of January 1889, so repairs were again carried out in the latter half of 1889.



**The Old
School Building.
Circa 1915.**

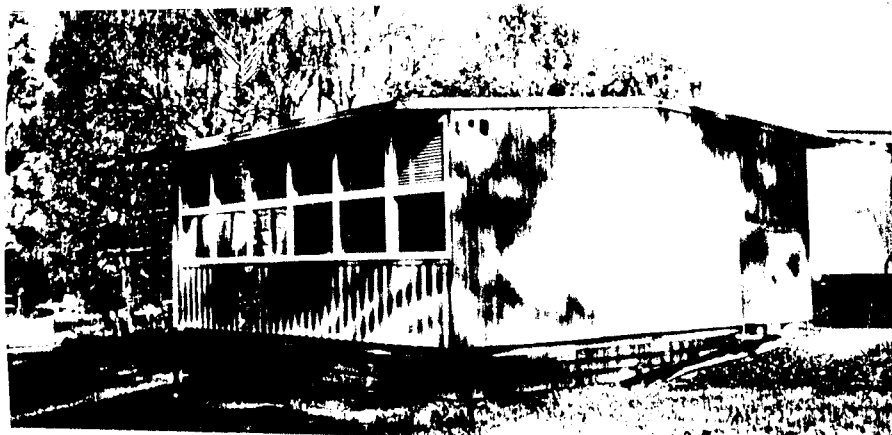
Photograph courtesy of
Mr. Norman. Steen.

7. A HALF - TIME SCHOOL : 1894 - 1902.

By 1893 the general financial depression forced the Department to economise and H.T. Beetson was asked if he was prepared to conduct Upper Emu Creek school on a half time basis with Mandurang South school No. 1628. The net enrolment at the time at both schools was almost the same : 28 pupils at No. 1628, 27 at No. 935. The average attendance likewise was practically identical. The cost of operating No. 935 was 165 pounds p.a. and for No. 1628 it was 180 pounds p.a. If the schools were worked together on a half time basis, a greater economy could be practised.

H.T.Beetson agreed to teach at both schools and submitted a list of children attending Upper Emu Creek school in April 1893. In June 1893 a Departmental memo recommended that the two schools be worked together and the Head Teacher of Mandurang South School, Mr. J.P.Moore, was instructed "to hold himself in readiness for transfer". The Minister approved the arrangement but by January 1894 nothing had been done, for H.T. Moore's transfer was still pending.

On 4 January 1894 one of the residents of Sedgwick, Mr. R.B.Brennan, wrote to the Department suggesting that both Mandurang South School and Upper Axe Creek (No. 1783) be closed and all children be conveyed to No. 935, so that full time instruction could be maintained. This suggestion was acknowledged but not accepted. From 11 April 1894 State Schools No. 935 and 1628 were worked half time under H. Beetson who lived at the residence of Upper Emu Creek school.



Head Teacher Henry Beetson retired on 30 September 1898 after spending twenty-seven years of service at Upper Emu Creek No. 935. His successor, Henry.G.Shugg appears from records to be imbued with the same spirit of service. On 28 July 1990 Mr. Robert Bath, Correspondent of the Board of Advice, advised the Department that the Head Teacher had planted a number of trees in the school ground at his own expense, and requested a permission " to place a post and wire fence to protect the same , the amount to be taken out of Board's allowance." This permission was granted.

On 5 November 1901 H.T.Shugg requested that the name of the school be changed from Upper Emu Creek to Sedgwick. Both the Board of Advice and the District Inspector agreed to the change of name , which took effect from 11 December 1901, and No. 935 became known as Sedgwick State School.

When,in the first few months of 1902,the average attendance figures for both Sedgwick and Mandurang South schools were consistently over 20,it was decided to separate them and work both as full time schools again. On the 6th of June 1902,Mr Shugg was informed of the decision to make the schools full time again and he was in favour of No. 935 Sedgwick; a new headteacher commenced duty at Mandurang South No. 1628 on the 12th of August 1902.



At the Sports

8. INTO THE NEW CENTURY : 1902-15

On the 3rd of June 1904,H.T. Jackson advised the Department that the school had been closed for a fortnight for repairs and painting.

On the 2nd of May 1906,the same Headteacher informed the Department of the co-operation of the local parents and residents in supporting the school,and helping both older pupils as well as ex-pupils to understand civic affairs : such things as the Parliamentary system ,trial by jury,local Council meetings,etc. This co-operation and keen interest of local citizens,with leaders such as Councillors Osborne, Drechsler and Shire Secretary R. Brennan,says a great deal for the spirit of the Sedgwick civic community and for the Headteacher,George Jackson. At the time,both the Headteacher and the Correspondent of the Board of Advice,Robert Bath,requested that the gallery be removed from the schoolroom and the floor made level. The idea seems to have been that the schoolhouse could be used for local entertainment and social gatherings.

However,the Department was not prepared to remove the gallery as,with attendance figures at an average of 16,there was plenty of room for pupils.



Sedgwick Primary School,circa 1924.

From Left to right - Back row - Ernie Mansfield,Bernie Drechsler,Bob Osborne,Mick Noonan,Joe Tobin,
Leo Brennan.

Centre row - Molly Brennan,Mary Drechsler,Peggy Brennan,Loretto Brennan,Julia Noonan,
Jessie Montgomery,Alice Montgomery.

Front row - Alan Drechsler,Alfie Mansfield,Alan Steen.

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Norman Steen

On the 3rd of October, 1906, H.T. Jackson advised the Department that Mr Rettie of the P.W.D. had visited the school "some months ago" to report upon the removal of the gallery. According to the Headteacher, Mr Rettie on this occasion had recommended new flooring. Mr Jackson continued : "Since then the floor had gone through and is dangerous to the children." Evidently contractors worked on the new flooring in the Christmas vacation; on the 23rd of January 1907, H.T. W. Williams wrote : "I have the honour to report that school work was resumed here this morning. It was impossible to start earlier as the building was in the contractor's hands. Little more than half the floor has been done, but I have arranged that for this week, school work may go on without interfering with the contract."

In 1911 the first School Committee was elected with Mr Albert Steen as Correspondent and R.B. Brennan, Chairman. The Committee had not been in existence very long when they proposed to the Department in July 1911, the erection of a new fence for the school.

The Committee guaranteed to provide labour if the Department met the cost of materials, at roughly ten pounds. To ensure assistance, Mr Steen approached the Member, the Hon. D. Smith, M.L.A., also. The Department agreed to this request.

The average attendance for the years 1912-15 was 15 children.



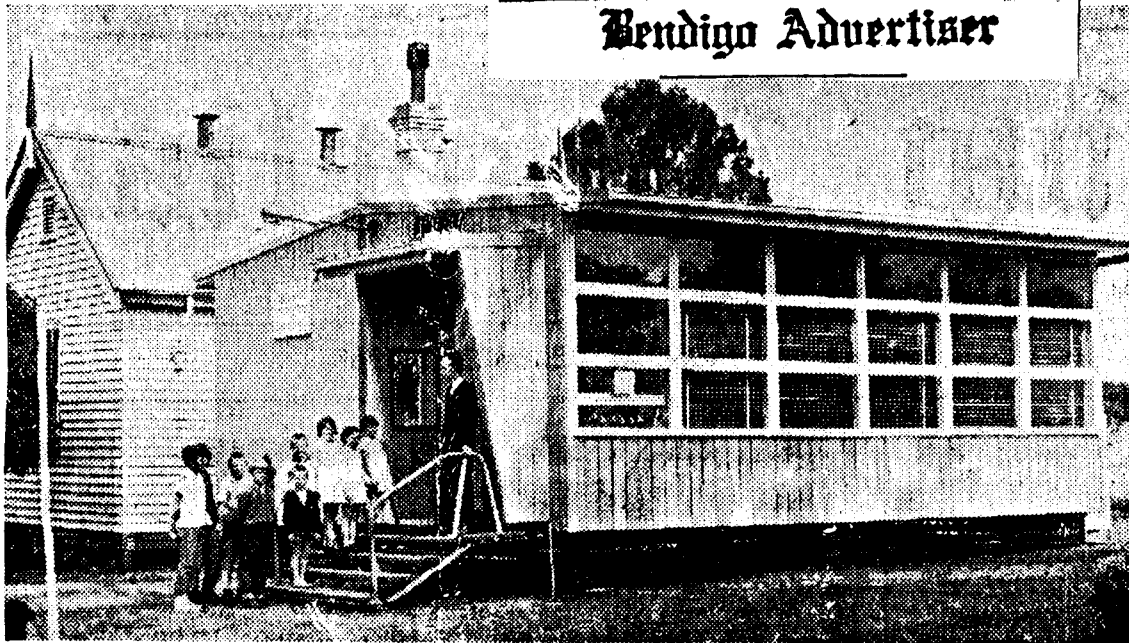
9. A NEW ERA 1968 - 1990

On the 2/2/1966, Sedgwick P.S. closed its doors for the first time in its 99 year history, due to falling enrolments. The school remained closed for all of 1966 and the first two terms of 1967. It re-opened on the 9th of September, 1967. The School Committee was then, able to give a guaranteed assurance that enrolments would be available in the area for the next twenty years. The Headteacher, Mr. C.N. Alexander, had a net enrolment for 1967 of 10 children.

The 100 year old school building, however, was in urgent need of repairs and rebuilding. The school, as reflected in a newspaper article (April, '68), had been seriously damaged by white ants and condemned by local authorities. The Headteacher, Mr. Ian Tappe, and the School Committee made representation to the Public Works Dept. and the Education Dept. to assess this pressing problem and replace the existing building with a new structure. With uncharacteristic speed, the Education Dept. erected a portable classroom, type 352, on Wednesday the 13th of November and demolished the old weatherboard building 4 weeks later. The average attendance for 1968 was 10 children.

2-Bendigo Advertiser, Mon. Dec. 2, 1968

Bendigo Advertiser



NEW CLASSROOM REPLACES OLD SEDGWICK SCHOOL

The new-type class at Sedgwick which has replaced the old building which, after several reprieves, will be demolished

Over the next 22 years the school has continued to educate children of the surrounding district and provide a focal point for many community activities.

In the mid eighties, Sedgwick joined with six other rural schools to form the Emu valley Cluster. Mandurang, Mandurang Sth, Axedale, Eppalock, Tooleen, Longlea and Sedgwick schools were initially responsible for minor maintenance issues and, later on, the supervision of Shared Specialists appointed to the Cluster. Excursions, Group Days, Vic. Arts Council performances plus Student and Teacher welfare have also been the responsibility of this Cluster of schools.

10. SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS



● The delighted students of Sedgwick Primary School, winners of this year's rural school sports in the Strathfieldsaye Shire. Back row: Anna Drechsler, Anne Langley, Allan Drechsler, Mathew Noonan, Catherine Conway, Amanda Steen;

Sedgwick Primary School children were the victors in last week's Strathfieldsaye Shire Primary School Sports held at the front row: Claire

centre row: Timothy Noonan, Matthew Ovendon, Simon Conway, Lauren Drechsler, Leigh Graham, Elizabeth Osborne, Susan Osborne;

Drechsler, Trent Wilkin, Ross Graham, Steven Wilson, Julie Drechsler, Andrew Steen and Glen Sanderson were away on the day of the sports.

On the 3rd of October, 1906, H.T. Jackson advised the Department that Mr Rettie of the P.W.D. had visited the school "some months ago" to report upon the removal of the gallery. According to the Headteacher, Mr Rettie on this occasion had recommended new flooring. Mr Jackson continued : "Since then the floor had gone through and is dangerous to the children." Evidently contractors worked on the new flooring in the Christmas vacation; on the 23rd of January 1907, H.T. W. Williams wrote : "I have the honour to report that school work was resumed here this morning. It was impossible to start earlier as the building was in the contractor's hands. Little more than half the floor has been done, but I have arranged that for this week, school work may go on without interfering with the contract."

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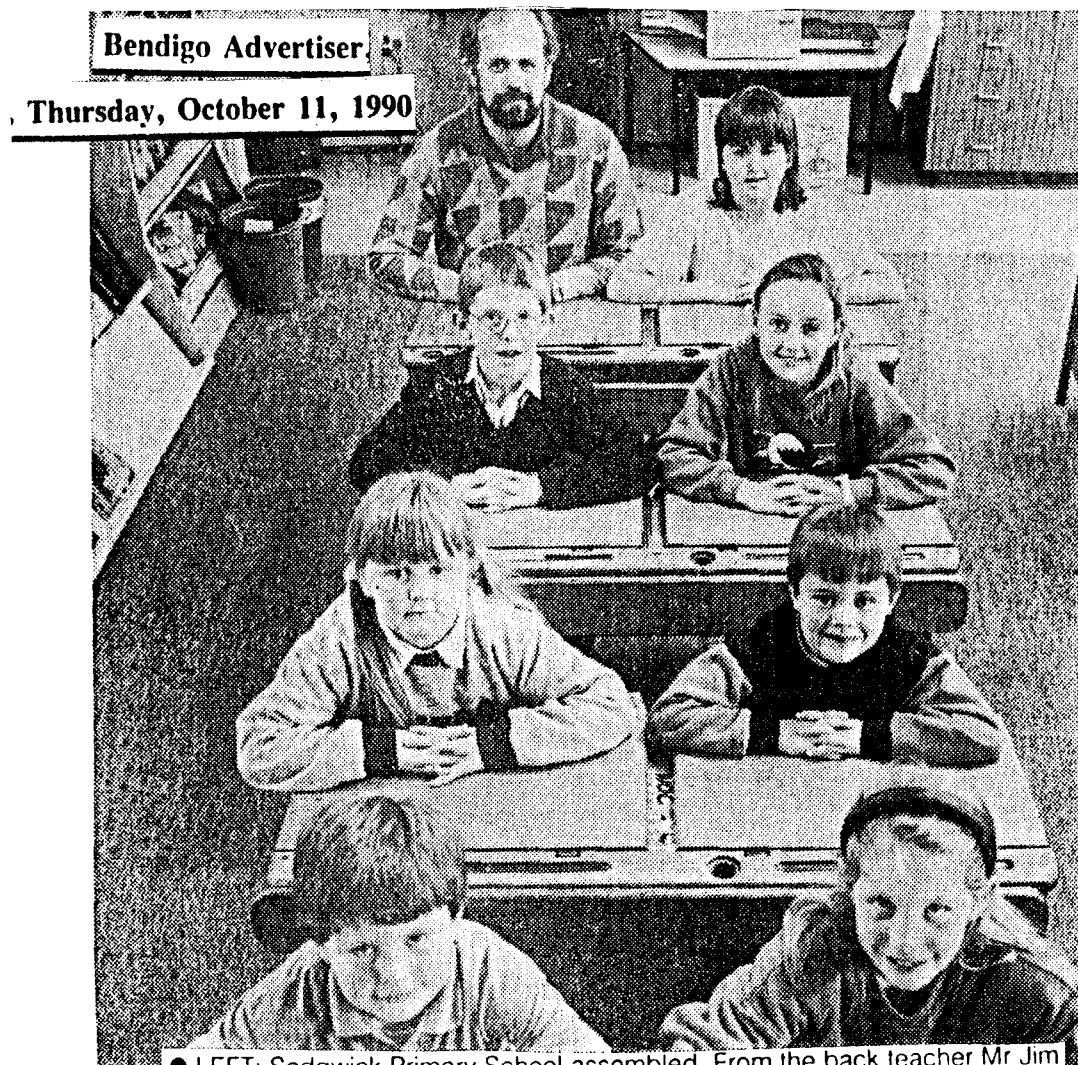
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11. THE PASSING OF AN ERA

With a steady decline in enrolments, coupled with changing population trends, job opportunities and differing educational goals, Sedgwick P.S. has reached a point in its 123 year history where its doors will close once again. Whether this will be permanent or not, will be decided in the future by the School Community. As in 1966, an assurance of future enrolments and a careful assessment of population trends would be required before any decision could be made.



● LEFT: Sedgwick Primary School assembled. From the back teacher Mr Jim Frederick, Elizabeth Moverley, 11, Peter Wright, 9, Nadia Burgess, 10, Caroline Osborne, 7, Heath Burgess, 7, Tony Drechsler, 7, and Cerise Wright, 10.

Staff and Students would like to thank the School Council, Parents, Past Students and the Community of Sedgwick for their long and untiring efforts to support the school.

This "History of Sedgwick P.S." is dedicated to those who have served and assisted this School. We would like to gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Norman Steen who kindly permitted certain historical school photographs to be reproduced in this booklet.

HEADTEACHER ROLL 1867 - 1990

DATE	HEADTEACHER
1867	Mr. Thomas Grainger
1871- 98	Mr. Henry Beetson
1898 - 1903	Mr. Henry Shugg
1904 - 1906	Mr. G. Jackson
1907 -	Mr. W. Williams
1911 -	Mr. Slater
1914 - 15	Miss Ellen Gleeson
1917	Miss Goulden
1918 - 20	
1920	Miss Jones
1920 - 22	
1923 - 26	
1927 - 28	
1928 - 29	
1930 - 35	
1936	
1937 - 39	
1940 - 46	
1947 - 51	Mr. K. Bubb
1952 - 7	Mr. David Marshall
1958 - 59	Mr. P. Hynes
1960	Mr. K. Cairns
1961	Mr. L. Shearer
1962 - 63	Mr. B. Lee
1964 - 65	Mr. L. Lolle
1966 - 67	School was temporarily unstaffed due to declining enrolments.
1967 (11/9/67)	Mr. C. Alexander
1968	Mr. Ian Tappe
1969 - 71	Mr. R. Huggan
1972	Mr. R. Harvey
1973	Mr. J. Amos
1974 - 76	Mr. J. Smith
1977 - 79	Mrs Joy Daniel
1979 (Half Year)	Mr. T. Thomas
1980	Mrs. Joy Daniel
1981 - 82	Mr. M. Saunders
1983	Mrs Vicki Coghill
1984 - 85	Mr. Kevin Brown
1986 (Half Year)	Mr. Paul Shapcott
1986	Mrs J. Hines
1987	Mrs Linda Gibson
1988	Mrs. Elizabeth Knox
1989 - 90	Mr. James Frederick

Sedgwick P.S. Pupil Register 1904 - 1990

1	Nettie Broadbent	60	Phyllis Hansen	119	June Tebb	179	Roberta Mansfield
2	Susan Moloney	61	Anna Hansen	120	Helen McMahon	180	Bernice Bryant
3	Ellen Moloney	62	Janet Wright	122	George Kerr	182	Janice Drechsler
5	William Broadbent	64	Alice Montgomery	123	Dorothy Young	183	Kor Kuler
6	Herbert Semmens	65	Loretto Brennan	124	Mary Kerr	184	Theo Kuler
7	Albert Young	66	Frank Graves	125	Alan Semmens	185	Yvonne Kuler
8	Elizabeth Tobin	67	Ernest Mansfield	126	Arthur Young	186	Veronica Kuler
9	Allen Semmen	68	Alfred Mansfield	127	Lyndsay Semmens	187	Glen Wilkin
10	Magdaline Tobin	69	Oswald Mansfield	128	Alan Black	188	Paul Drechsler
11	Beatrice Steen	70	Lawrence Drechsler	129	Margaret Storey	189	Jennifer Mansfield
12	Adela Steen	71	William Montgomery	130	Yvonne Osborne	190	Valerie Shaw
13	Margaret Kronk	72	Kathleen Girvan	131	Ernest Osborne	191	Geoffrey Shaw
14	William Kronk	73	Kitty Patterson	132	John Kerr	192	Nola Drechsler
15	Norman Steen	74	Maisie Patterson	133	Peter Steen	193	Carl Kirkwood
16	Doris Kronk	75	Bernard Brennan	134	Clara Young	194	Vincent Drechsler
17	William Tobin	76	Charles Callanan	135	Julia Pomeroy	195	Marie Noonan
18	Hector Bell	77	Anthony Cavagna	136	Bernard Conway	196	Judith Torey
19	Daisy Bell	78	Eric Mansfield	137	Ronald Drechsler	197	Ray Shaw
20	Ethel Bell	79	Alice Young	138	Elma Storey	198	Gary Mannix
21	Stanley Bell	80	Beryl Cherry	139	Joan Semmens	199	Lorna Mansfield
22	Leslie Bell	81	Anthony Cavagna	140	Pamela Steen	200	Lawrence Seguta
23	Percy Tobin	82	Loretto Brennan	141	John Drechsler	201	Jennifer Kerr
24	Grace Girvan	83	Robert Hollingshead	142	Elsa Mansfield	202	John Kerr
25	John Clark	84	Giveneth Young	143	Helen McMahon	203	Phillip Wilkin
26	Ilma Osborne *	85	Walter Young	144	Dorothy Young	204	Kathleen Drechsler
27	Olive Kronk	86	Paul Brennan	145	Mary Kerr	205	Shirley Coombe
28	Ronald Osborne	87	Raymond Williams	146	Alan Semmens	206	Lynette Mannix
29	Halbert Osborne	88	Vernon Williams	147	Arthur Young	207	Colin Paynter
30	John Rowe	89	Jean Young	148	Lyndsay Semmens	208	Darrell Paynter
31	Allan Osborne	90	Anthony Cavagna	149	Margaret Storey	209	Lawrence Zaguta
32	Kathleen Clark	91	Bruce Cherry	150	Yvonne Osborne	210	Olly Zaguta
33	Hugh Costa	92	Joan Wirth	151	Ernest Osborne	211	John Dilgee
34	Willie Drechsler	93	Teresa Watson	152	John Kerr	212	Teresa Noonan
35	Leonard Osborne	94	William Watson	153	Peter Steen	213	Mary Brennan
36	Eveleen Drechsler	95	Loretto Brennan	154	Clara Young	214	Judith Cairns
37	Katie Drechsler	96	Alfred Mansfield	156	Bernard Conway	215	Alan Cairns
38	Leo Brennan	97	Francis Conway	157	Heather Douglas	216	David Cairns
39	Jack Wharton	98	Leslie Semmens	158	Patricia Noonan	217	Nola Drechsler
40	Joseph Drechsler	99	Nancy Young	159	John Cahill	218	Vincent Drechsler
41	Gordon Osborne	100	Jean Tebb	160	Margaret Cahill	219	Maree Noonan
42	Michael Tobin	101	Clifford Ham	161	Mary Cahill	220	Colin Munro
43	Alex Girvan	102	Lola Tebb	162	Lorraine Noonan	221	Brendon Drechsler
44	Kath Girvan	103	Estelle McMahon	163	Kevin Noonan	222	Peter Thomas
45	Margaret Brennan	104	Lola Tebb	164	Kenneth Osborne	223	Dianne Thomas
46	Alfred Costa	105	Clare Conway	165	Margaret Steen	224	Bernadette Brennan
47	Valda Irvine Loys	106	Norma Semmens	166	Lois Semmens	225	John Munro
48	Alan Steen	107	Lola Tebb	167	Kenneth Semmens	226	Kaye Barter
49	William Drechsler	108	Joan Wirth	168	Helen Cahill	227	Merrylyn Munro
50	Correll Henderson	109	Elaine Conway	169	Maxwell Drechsler	228	Paul Flood
51	Vera Raymond	110	Alan Storey	170	John Noonan	229	Margaret Flood
52	John Drechsler	111	Anthony Cavagna	171	Helen Hiles	230	Jeanette Andrews
53	Allan Drechsler	112	Lola Tebb	172	Robert Mansfield	231	Richard Andrews
54	Mary Drechsler	113	Ian Semmens	173	Ronald Osborne	232	Ronald Andrews
55	Mary Brennan	114	Kevin Darvagan	174	Carmel Drechsler	233	Gary Ames
56	Mary Costa	115	Patricia Hodge	175	Noel Osborne	234	Warwick Strauch
57	Michael Noonan	116	Lawrence Hodge	176	Peter Osborne	235	Paul Ames
58	Julia Noonan	117	Elaine Kennedy	177	Paul Osborne	236	Jeldee Ames
59	John Noonan	118	Robert Semmens	178	Desmond Semmens	237	Mark Ames

* Deceased while enrolled.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 238 Carmel Brennan | 303 Amber Geyer |
| 239 Simone Strauch | 304 Cameron Geyer |
| 240 Dean Kellet | 305 Christopher Wilkin |
| 241 Brendon Drechsler | 306 Grant Sutton |
| 242 Bernadette Brennan | 307 Nadia Burgess |
| 243 Mark McHugh | 308 Andrew Buik |
| 244 Frances Brennan | 309 Cerise Wright |
| 245 Darrin Strauch | 310 Peter Wright |
| 246 Ross Drechsler | 311 Lisa Dawson |
| 247 Anthony Brennan | 312 Eric Dawson |
| 248 Kerrie Drechsler | 313 Judith Dawson |
| 249 Christopher Bennetts | 314 Caroline Osborne |
| 250 Anne Conway | 315 Sherree Baker |
| 251 Pauline Drechsler | 316 Gary Watkins |
| 252 Andrew Steen | 317 Heath Burgess |
| 253 Nicole Scown | 318 Anthony Drechsler |
| 254 Lauren Drechsler | |
| 255 Simon Conway | |
| 256 Anna Drechsler | |
| 257 Luke Drechsler | |
| 258 Matthew Noonan | |
| 259 Christopher Liebert | |
| 260 Andrea Liebert | |
| 261 Timothy Harper | |
| 262 Allan Drechsler | |
| 263 Ann Langley | |
| 264 Heather Langley | |
| 265 Catherine Conway | |
| 266 Andrew Harper | |
| 267 Timothy Noonan | |
| 268 Elizabeth Osborne | |
| 269 Amanda Steen | |
| 270 Julie Drechsler | |
| 271 Claire Drechsler | |
| 272 Matthew Ovenden | |
| 273 Glen Sanderson | |
| 274 Susan Osborne | |
| 275 Trent Wilkin | |
| 276 Stephen Wilson | |
| 277 Ross Graham | |
| 278 Leigh Graham | |
| 279 Michelle Drechsler | |
| 280 Kylie Ovenden | |
| 281 Kate Noonan | |
| 282 Sonia Barton | |
| 283 Gay Wilkin | |
| 284 Craig Wilson | |
| 285 Camcron Shoebridge | |
| 286 Rebecca Shoebridge | |
| 287 Kimberly Cravino | |
| 288 Becky Henderson | |
| 289 Benjamin Henderson | |
| 290 Joel Henderson | |
| 291 Adam Steen | |
| 292 Owen Osborne | |
| 293 Jeffrey Manypenny | 298 Lyndal Buik |
| 294 Alison Manypenny | 299 Rebecca Sutton |
| 295 Bradley Sutton | 300 Louisa Causon |
| 296 Dale Holmes | 301 Peter Moverley |
| 297 Sharlene Holmes | 302 Elizabeth Moverley |



Teacher Ian Tappe
lights the fire
that is supposed
to heat the
draughty class-
room.

Declining enrolments a threat for Sedgwick

Sedgwick Primary School has a very long and distinguished history.

It began as a private school back in 1865 and was known as Upper Emu Creek until 1901.

In March 1868, the Board of Education granted aid in the form of the salary for headteacher T. J. Grainger until November 1870.

As this pay was back-dated to October 1867, the centenary of the school was celebrated in 1967.

Brick and straw

The original school building was built out of mud brick and straw.

Its replacement, a larger building, was a familiar sight to the people of Sedgwick for many years.

Unfortunately, the white ants took their toll and the building was condemned and replaced in 1968.

The school has had many ups

and downs over the past 123 years and it is about to face another crisis.

Declining enrolments have caused the numbers to decline to seven at present, when 11-year-old Elizabeth Moverley heads off to Flora Hill Secondary College next year, there will only be six children left and the school may be forced to close.

History is repeating itself as this situation occurred back in 1966 when the school was closed for five school terms.

However, on September 9, 1967, the school reopened when the enrolment increased and a new portable classroom was provided for the 10 students in 1968.

Those 10 students were Brendan Drechsler, Gary, Paul, Mark and Jeldee Ames, Warwick and Simone Strauch, Carmel and Bernadette Brennan and Mark McHugh and the headteacher was Ian Tappe.

The school council at the time

was able to guarantee a certain number of pupils would attend the school for 20 years.

This time however, there seems to be little prospect of enrolments increasing in the early 1990s.

It would be sad if the local community lost this valuable asset although Mandurang and Mandurang South Primary Schools are only 7 km away.

Cluster

Already these schools are part of the Emu Valley cluster with Eppalock, Axedale and Longlea Primary Schools.

This means that they participate together for sports days, have combined meetings and curriculum activities and share physical education and music specialists.

It will be interesting to follow developments on the future of the Sedgwick Primary School in the next few months.

Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, November 24, 1990 — Page 3.

Sedgwick almost certain to close

Sedgwick Primary School is almost certain to close next year.

A public meeting called by the school council this week failed to find a way to boost enrolments at the 123-year-old school.

Student numbers at Sedgwick Primary are expected to drop to six next year, one below the State Government's minimum enrolment mark of at least seven pupils per school.

Sedgwick's head teacher Jim Frederick says the school council would meet in two weeks and it was likely to recommend primary classes cease at Sedgwick Primary next year.

However it appears the school building will remain available for use by community groups.

The public meeting was

attended by about 13 people — the school council, Jim Frederick, a Bendigo Schools Support Centre representative and about four locals.

The school council had hoped parents in the district would come forward at the meeting and offer to send their children to Sedgwick Primary next year and therefore save the school.

So far there have been no such offers and Mr Frederick said those at the public meeting were resolved to seeing the school's closure.

"I think that was the general feeling in the end," Mr Frederick said.

The school council, which is made up of the parents of the seven students now at Sedgwick Primary, will meet to make the final decision on the school's future on Wednesday, December 5.

AUTOGRAPHS