

SEDGWICK



REFLECTIONS OF OUR PAST

FOREWORD

For most of us who drove up the Emu Creek valley today, the picture on the front cover of this book says it all. We are once again, as it were, at the 'Gateway to Sedgwick'. We are nearly home. This same feeling would probably have been in the minds of the first settlers in our district well over one hundred years ago.

The 'Back to Sedgwick' has been planned as a time for everyone, old and young, to get together and share a 'do you remember' day. To re-live the coming of our ancestors to Upper Emu Creek, as it was first known, and to talk over all the changes that have taken place since those early years.

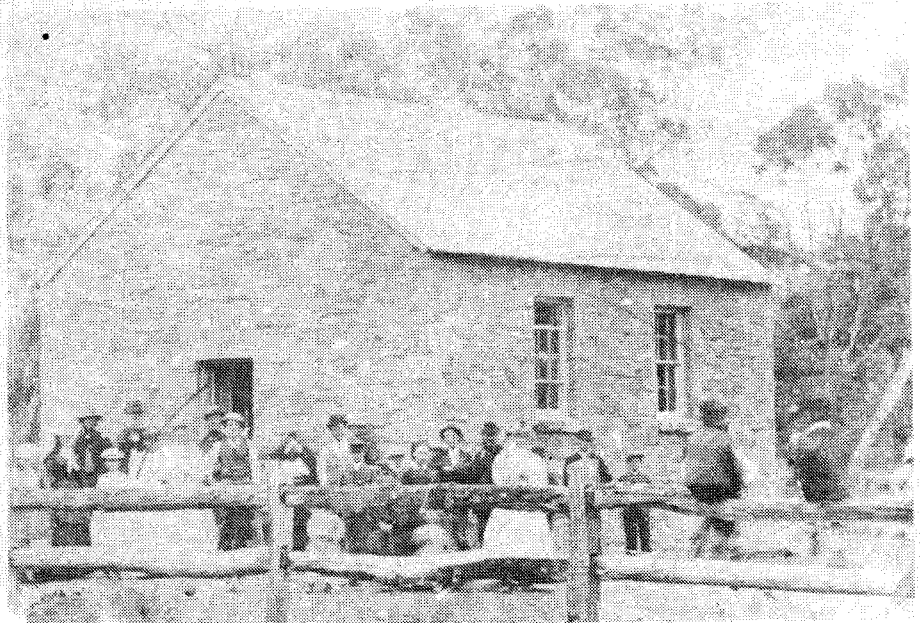
The hope is that this book will help revive those memories which may have become dim with the passing of time, and that it will also serve as a reminder to future generations of the struggles and achievements of their forefathers.

May this be a happy day for all. A day of joyful reunions and shared memories. A day to look back on with pleasure over the years to come.

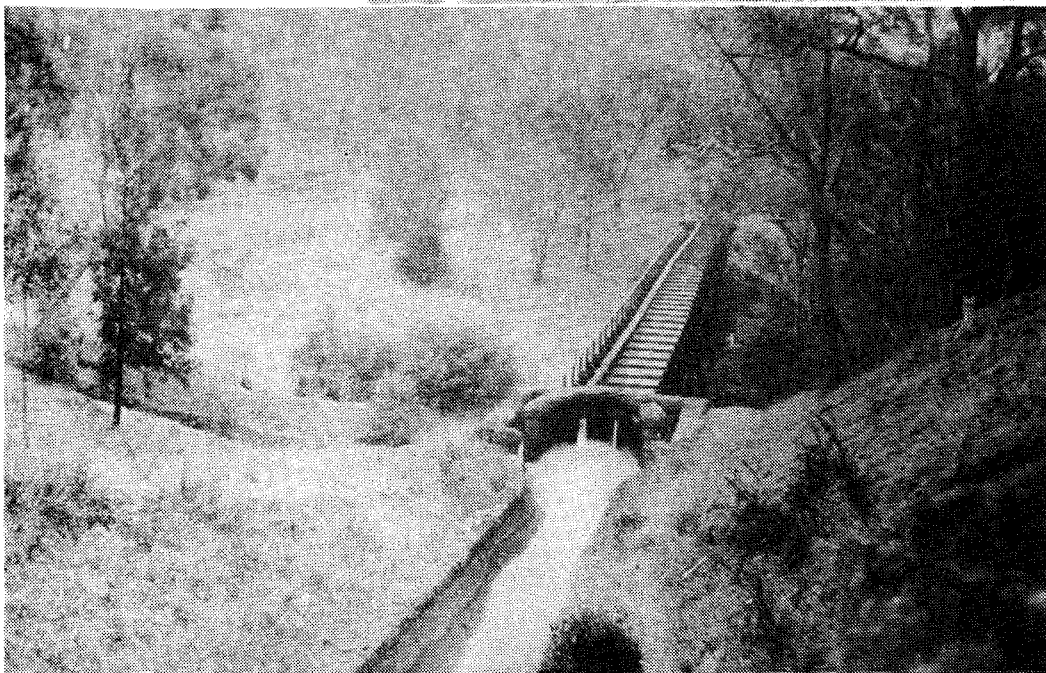
Gwen Shaw



Workers
at the
Great
Eastern
Mine



Methodist
Church



Wooden
Flume
(Coliban
System)
Across Springs
Road

Chronology of Sedgwick (Upper Emu Creek)

1854

The first freehold grants to Messrs Brennan, Broadbent, Carter, Howard, Osborne, Sallons, Simpson and Williams.

1861

Strathfieldsaye Road District Proclaimed.

1863

Mining started at the site of Great Eastern Mine. The Mining Companies employed many workers over the years, and in the mine's most productive periods was kept working 24hrs. a day. Some of the workers lived around the mine so there was a store and also a hotel (The Great Eastern.)

1864

Strathfieldsaye Road District divided into three subdivisions-Mandurang, Strathfieldsaye and Axedale.

1865

A private school started at Sedgwick. (Upper Emu Creek)

1866

Shire of Strathfieldsaye Proclaimed.

Big fires burnt through district and destroyed all improvements on Drechsler property.

1873

Methodist Church Opened.

The first official recorded meeting to discuss the building of a chapel was held at Mr. Henry Osborne's on Nov. 20th. 1872.

Present:- J.Teague, H.Osborne, J.Steen, J.Young, J.Broadbent, T.Bell.

Mr. Osborne offered $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land on north east corner of his allotment to build the Chapel on. After examining the collection books, it was decided to build a stone chapel 20ft. x 18ft. x 11ft. high, with 1ft. 6ins. walls. The Chapel was opened on 9th. April 1873 and was used until the 1920's. (The Chapel was situated on the corner of Drechsler Rd. and the Main Sedgwick Rd.)

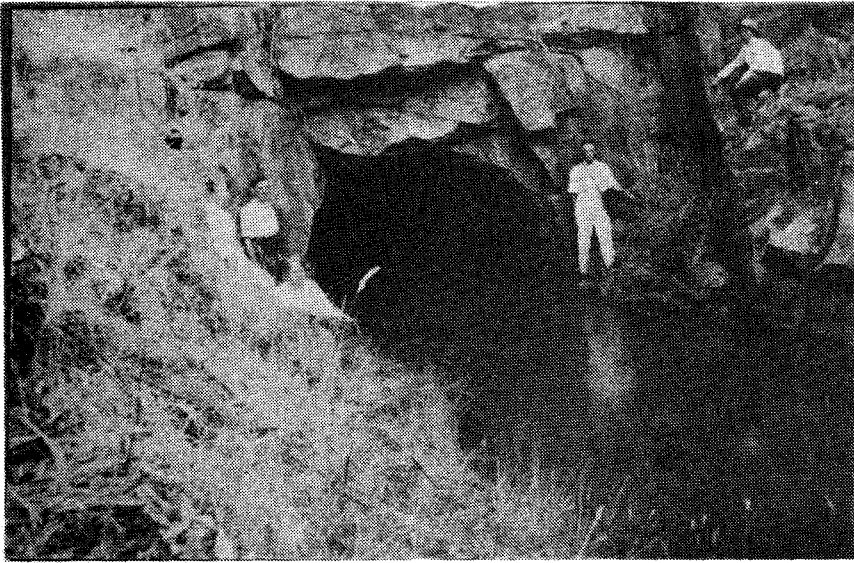
1876

Upper Axe Creek South School Opened. (Black Eagle)

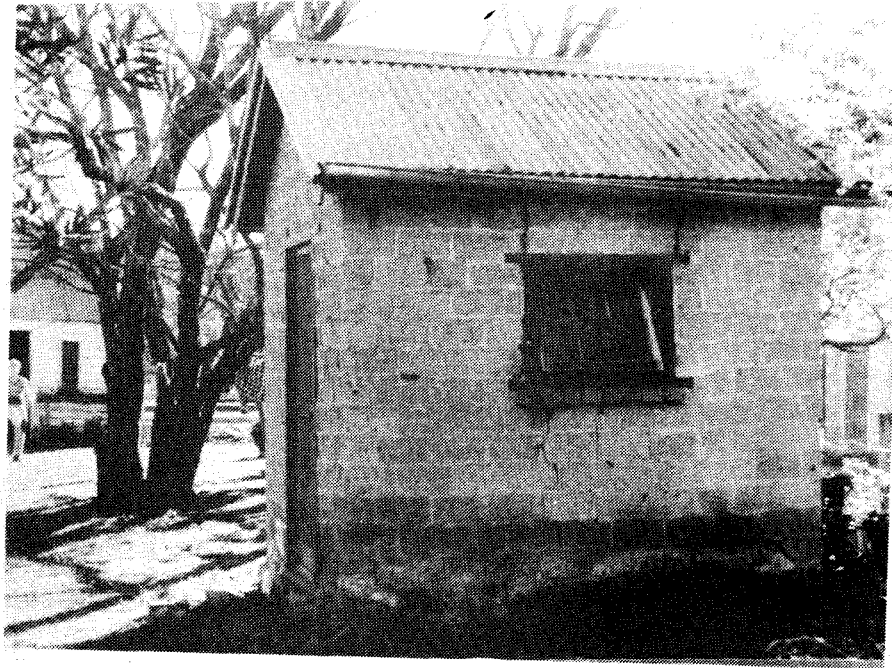
1877

The water channel from Malmsbury to Bendigo was completed.

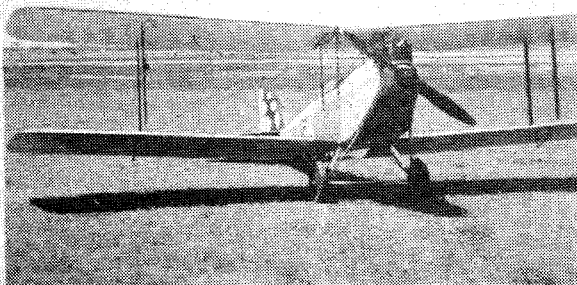
The channel goes through the south and western sides of Sedgwick. Two tunnels had to be driven through two hills on the south end and a wooden flume constructed across the Springs Rd. While the construction was taking place many of the workers lived on the job, some of them had their families with them. There was a small temporary township at the south end of Sedgwick (in Young's or Wirth's near the tunnel on the south side of the Sedgwick-Harcourt Rd.) Some of the children of the construction workers came to the Sedgwick School during this period.



Tunnel
Through
Bald Hill



Post Office
at
Costa's



Alan Steen's
Plane

1880

Postal Service to Sedgwick started.

The first Post Office was situated at Costa's in the mud brick building in the front of the house (Costa's is the brick home opposite the hall on Main Rd.) Mrs. Costa, the postmistress, continued until 1922 when the Post Office was moved to Steens.

The Steen family have continued to run the Post Office to the present time with Mrs. Ethel Steen as the present postmistress.

1889

Flash flood on New Year's Day.

Emu Valley Irrigation and Water Trust gazetted. The channel through the north end of the district was constructed after this time. (Emu Valley No2.)

1901

Upper Emu Creek was renamed Sedgwick.

1902

Michael Brennan killed within sight of home when a tree was felled on him.

1910

Sedgwick Tennis Club formed.

1918

Cricket started.

1922

The Telephone service to the district started with a manual exchange operated from the Brennan home. The Brennan family operated the exchange until 1945, when it was moved to Steens.

They continued to operate it until an automatic exchange was started in 1961.

1924

Last vineyard at Sedgwick destroyed by fire. (Brennans)
The School House burnt down.

1934

The first plane to land in Sedgwick. It was piloted by Alan Steen and landed on the Steen's property between the house and the creek on the south side.

1942

Bushfire Brigade formed.

1944

Big fire burnt through district, started at Ravenswood and burnt to near Kyneton.

1946

School Bus commenced.

1952

S.E.C. connected to Sedgwick district. It was the first single line constructed in Victoria.

1958

Sedgwick Hall opened.

1959

Sedgwick Branch C.W.A. started.

1969

C.F.A. tanker recieved by Fire Brigade (Austin 300 gal. cap.)

1970 Onwards

The period since 1970 has been a time of change in the Sedgwick District. This change has been brought about by the number of people choosing to live in rural atmosphere, mostly on farmlets. As a consequence forty new homes have been built in the area during this time.

1990

Sedgwick School closed.

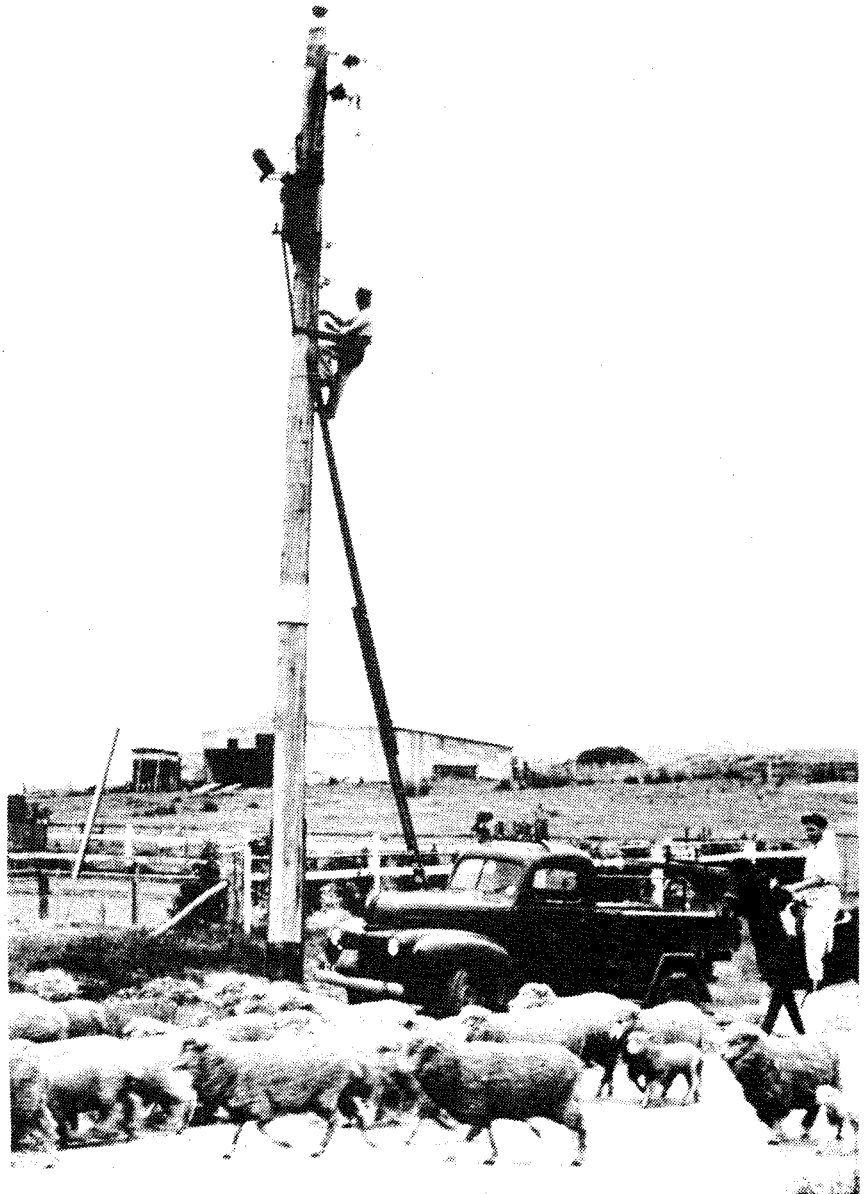
Constructing

the

S.E.C.

Line

(Wilkins)



**Country Women's Association of Victoria
Sedgwick Branch**

Our Motto:-

Honour to God
Loyalty to the Throne
Service to the Country
Through Country Women
For Country Women
By Country Women.



Not long after the completion of the District Hall, the Inaugural Meeting of the Sedgwick Branch was convened on the 19th. August 1959.

Among the foundation members were:-

Mesdames C. Abbott, R. Allot, Mary Brennan, Helen Cahill, Bess Coghill, Mary Conway, D. DeVisser, Jessie Drechsler, Sylvia Drechsler, Pat Flood, Gwen Grose, Ethel Ham, Susie Kerr, Sheila Noonan, Mavis Osborne, Ollie Osborne, Win Osborne, Bea Semmens, Jean Semmens, Maude Rooney, Gwen Shaw, V. Sommerville, Gertrude Steen, Ethel Steen, Elsie Story, Elma Story, Jean Truscott, Iris Thomas, Joan Wilkin, and Bertha Wirth.

The Office Bearers Elected were:-

President: Mavis Osborne.
Secretary: V. Sommerville
Treasure: Ethel Steen
Vice Pres.: Silvia Drechsler and Iris Thomas
Magazine Sec.: Joan Wilkin
Market Stall Captain: Win Osborne
Flower Stall: Ollie Osborne

Over the past 32 years the Branch has met regularly each month.

Meetings have given the opportunity for neighbours and district residents to meet and have been a great source of pleasure and companionship.

Fund raisers in the early days included Dances, concerts, Pet's Parades, Cake Stalls, Games Afternoons and a Wild Flower Show.

The late Gwen Grose, for some years trained a choir which did very well in Group Music and Drama.

Some of our ladies have been successful in the Bendigo Show and C.W.A. Exhibitions in the fields of Cookery, Craft, Floral Art and Flowers.

We extend an Invitation to any interested lady to attend any of our meetings as a visitor or new member.

Inquires may be made from

President Mary Brennan. Phone 396369.

or

Secretary Gwen Kennedy. Phone 395501.

(Information compiled _ Mary Brennan.)

Sedgwick Tennis Club.

From the records available the Sedgwick Tennis Club was formed at a meeting on the 2nd. Dec. 1910. A motion by Mr A Steen sec. Mr T.A. Young that a club be formed. Miss A Young was the first secretary. Yearly subscriptions were one shilling per member.

The first Club tennis was played on a dirt court at the Sedgwick Primary School. Social tennis and matches against neighbouring district teams were played.

There was a period of recess in the 1930's. The club reformed again after a meeting on Aug 2nd. 1938. A motion was passed that courts be built on the present site. After permission was granted the area was cleared and levelled.

Some of the initial clearing of the trees, some being very large, was done by hand by the Sedgwick members. More work was carried out by some of the council workers on the "Susso" programme of the time. The courts were then fenced and nets purchased. Tennis was played on the new dirt courts by May 1939. In 1940 a pavilion was built on the road side of the courts.

In 1942 a motion was passed asking members to bring half a cup of tea and some sugar for the afternoon tea. (It was because of food rationing due to the war)

The club was very active during this time having around 30 members. Social tennis and matches against other neighbouring district teams were played. During this period the courts were resurfaced with coals and creek sand.

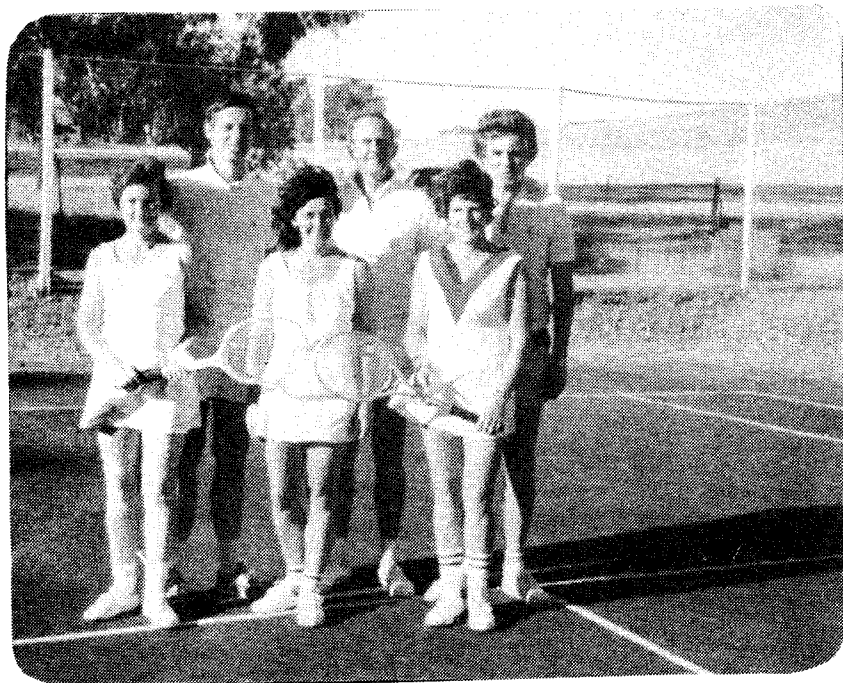
About 1950 money was raised for the tennis club by holding rabbit drives on a Sunday. Over 100 pair would be caught in an afternoon.

There was another period of recess from about 1964 until it reformed in 1971. Social tennis was played until 1973 when it joined the Redesdale Tennis Association, and has played in it to the present time.

The club has had up to three teams participating in one season but at present has only one A Grade team and one Junior team. Over the years the club has won premierships in A, B special, B and C Grades and also in the Juniors.

Remember the paddocks of oats and the pitched hay stacks?

Do you remember when the first cars came into the district?



A Grade Premiers 1977
 Back: J.Barton, J.Langley,
 B.Hagland,
 Centre: A.Drechsler, E.Langley,
 J.Conway.

Cricket Team

Back: N.Osborne, H.Osborne,
 A.Young, W.Young,
 Centre: N.Steen, A.Semmens,
 B.Semmens, T.Young,
 J.Semmens,
 Front: H.Semmens, A.Osborne,
 A.Steen



Cricket
 in
 Steen's
 Paddock

Sedgwick Cricket Club

The first cricket that we can trace was played about 1918 in Brennan's paddock (opposite house) near the Springs Road. The wicket was a track made hard by its use from the horses and drays.

After a short time there, cricket was then played on the south end of Costa's paddock. (The remains of the concrete wicket is still there today.)

The cricket team was made up with players from Sedgwick and Mandurang South areas, and great interest was shown at that time.

About 1920 some of the players started a team called the Sedgwick Comrades with Josiah Semmens as captain. This team played on a pitch in Steen's paddock (on the north side of the hall.) So for a time Sedgwick had two cricket teams.

After Mandurang South started its own team, the two local teams eventually combined and played on the pitch in Steens. Matches were played on most Saturdays in the cricket season against neighbouring district teams and teams from Bendigo.

In the mid 50's the Emu Valley Cricket Association was formed and Sedgwick joined that Assoc. Sedgwick played in the E.V.C.A. until 1970 when the club disbanded.

Latter a dam was built on the pitch in Steens paddock to supply water to a new house built by Peter Steen.

The club reformed for the 1977-78 season and again joined the E.V.C.A. using Mandurang oval as a home ground. Since 1977-78 the club has played in five grand finals, four in A Grade and one in B Grade, unfortunately losing them all.

Sedgwick was the first sponsored side in the E.V.C.A.

Over the years there have been many talented cricketers play with Sedgwick, but one who had a great record as a player then as an administrator and umpire, was Bill Drechsler. His outstanding record was recognised when he was made a life member of the Emu Valley Cricket Association.

(Early history- thanks to Norman Steen).

Remember our lovely valley where there were orchards with apples, pears, peaches also tomatoes. Where are the factories that purchased the fruit in our area?

Sedgwick Fire Brigade

On November 30th 1942 a public meeting was convened by Cr. C Wirth for the purpose of forming a Bush-fire brigade. The following were elected officers that night President Cr. C Wirth, Secretary N. A. Steen, Captain Mr T Young, Vice Captains H Semmens and C Wirth.

1942- December 28th: Sedgwick Brigade registered with Victorian Bush-fire Brigades Association. Firebeaters ordered.

1943- November: The first 6 "Rega" knapsack sprays supplied to Brigade by Forest Commission.

1944- January 14th: The last big fire to burn through the Sedgwick District, burnt from Ravenswood to near Kynton.

February meeting: A minute of appreciation was passed at that meeting "to recognise the fine work done by the Brennan family in the operation of the telephone service (continually for almost three days) and also in the manner in which they directed fire fighters to where they were urgently required."

October: J Drechsler appointed Captain. Brigade representatives attended first group meeting in Bendigo.

December: One 120 gallon tank with pump and hose received from Forests Commission.

1950- The Brigade had 1x400 Gallon tank, 2x200 Gallon and 1x180 Gallon tank.

Applied for a power pump.

Sedgwick first entered team in competitions.

1952- Power pump supplied by C.F.A. to put on 400 Gallon tank.

1953- Clive Wilkin showed his model of a loading ramp. The ramp he designed would enable a fully filled 400 Gallon tank and motor to be loaded onto a truck. The Brigade installed one of the ramps in 1955, this facility created great interest with the C.F.A. building some of the ramps in different districts around Victoria.

1957- Sedgwick won driving and pumping event at the State Demo. Team was P. Brennan, C. Wilkins, A. Story, E. Osborne, and J. Kerr.

1963- The Strathfieldsaye Group of Rural Brigades formed.

- 1969- The brigade received its first C.F.A. truck.
An Austin 300 gal. cap.
- 1970- Two way radio put in truck.
- 1975- Opening of new Fire Shed.
- 1972- Austin Truck replaced with International truck also 300 gal. cap.
- 1979- Fire Reporting Service started. The four phones were connected at the homes of G. Wilkins, M. Drechsler, B. Conway and Jack Drechsler.
- 1983- Started to raise money for a "Brigade owned" second truck.
- 1984- Radio put in Captain's vehicle.
- 1986- Brigade received Acco four wheel drive 3000 ltr. cap. truck replacement.
Manual Siren fitted at shed.
- 1987- An International truck was purchased by the Brigade and tank and motor fitted by C.F.A. This vehicle is the property of, and controlled by the Sedgwick Brigade.

The Sedgwick Fire Brigade has provided a great service to Sedgwick and surrounding areas on numerous occasions over its fifty years of existence. In recent years brigade members have fought fires in various parts of Victoria eg. Mt. Macedon, Hattah National Park, and Maryborough.

There have been some officers and members of the brigade who have served the district for long periods eg. Norm Steen was Sec. for the first 20 yrs., and has taken a keen interest throughout the brigade's 50 yrs. The late Jack Drechsler was Captain for 29 yrs. until 1973, and was then succeeded by his son Vin, who has been Captain for the past 19 yrs. Other officers who have served for long periods are Paul Brennan 24 yrs., Glen Wilkin 20 yrs., Bernie Conway 31 yrs. and the late Bill Drechsler 25 yrs.



Sedgwick Competing in Fire Demonstration



Winning Shield Team

Back: I. Sermens, C. Wilkin, N. Story,
Front: A. Story, G. Kerr, J. Prechsler (Capt.), W. Mannix.



Sedgwick Fire Shed

Sedgwick Recreation Reserve.

After applying for land to be used for recreation, that land where the hall and tennis courts now stand, was granted and was published in the Government Gazette on the 17th. Dec. 1947. The area granted was one acre, three roods, thirty perches.

In 1948 the first Trustee's were elected for three years, at a public meeting called by Shire President Cr. Nankervis. Those elected were Cr. C. Wirth, W. F. Drechsler, N. A. Steen, L. T. Conway, T. A. Drechsler, F. W. Osborne, and J. E. Drechsler.

In 1949 a collection for donations to help finance improvements at the Recreation Reserve with £121 being collected. A Govt. Grant was received that year for clearing, grubbing trees, fencing and also to provide toilets at the Rec. Reserve.

Over the years other improvements have been made, such as playground equipment erected, more clearing and maintenance.

Elections take place every three years and the current Committee of Management (as it is now called) is Max Drechsler (Pres.), Bernie Conway (Sec.), Paul Brennan, Julie Drechsler, Wendy Drechsler, Max Graham, Julie Manypenny, Audry Drechsler, and Ken Osborne.

Since the inauguration of the Trustee's and now the Committee of Management some present and past members have served the district for a long period of time, such as Paul Brennan 43 yrs., Norm Steen 39 yrs., the late Bill Drechsler 41 yrs., and the late Jack Drechsler who served for 35yrs. as Secretary.



Recreation Reserve

Sedgwick Hall.

The building of the Sedgwick Hall by the district residents was a major undertaking. At some stage from the initial meeting in 1945 until the hall and improvements were paid for nearly all the community helped in some way.

The money for the hall was raised by holding dances at the Sedgwick School, and with dances and Balls held at Spring Gully or Strathfieldsaye Halls.

The New Years Day Sports also raised a considerable amount of money. The events held at the sports were Tennis Tournament, Horse Events, Stepping the Distance, Bowling at the Stump, Wood Chop, Guessing the Sheeps Weight, Ladies Nail Driving, Quoits, Childrens Races, Novelties, Catch the Rooster, Trading Table, and the sale of afternoon tea, soft drinks and ice creams.

After the hall was built fortnightly Saturday night dances were held for quite a few years. The Annual Sedgwick Hall Ball was very popular.

From the initial meeting in 1945 till his death in 1979 Allan Drechsler was the secretary of the hall committee, and his great enthusiasm and hard work was major factor in the hall being successfully built and paid for. After his death Wendy, his daughter in law, carried on as secretary until the Hall Committee disbanded in 1991. The running of the hall was then left in the hands of the Sedgwick Recreation Reserve Committee of Management.

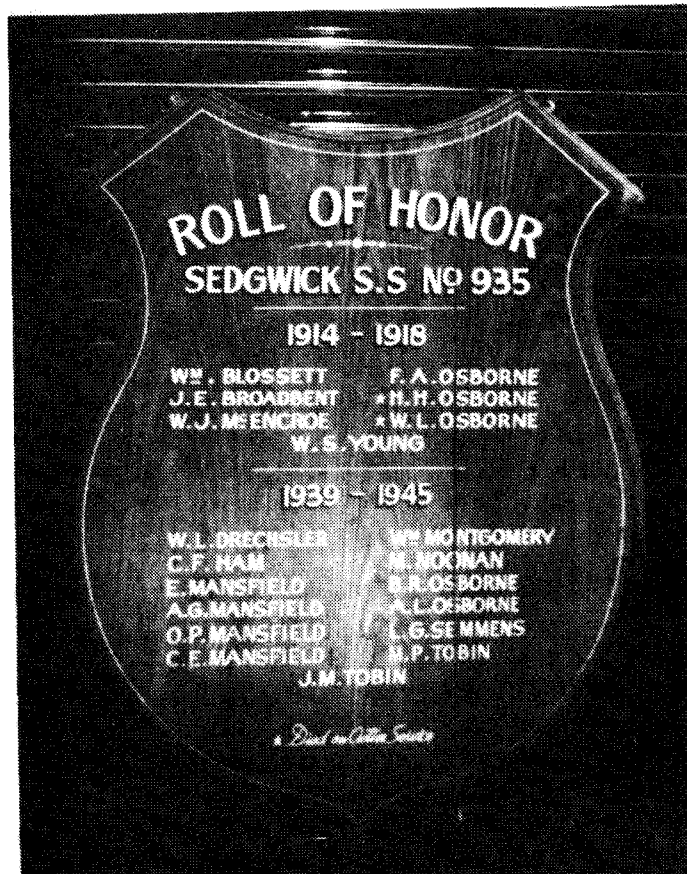


Sedgwick Hall

Chronology of the Sedgwick Hall.

- 1945 On 20th. Oct. Cr. C. Wirth presided over a public meeting at the Sedgwick School convened to raise funds for a hall in the Sedgwick District.
- Cr. Wirth was elected President
J. Drechsler Vice President
A. Drechsler Secretary
T. Conway Treasurer
- A hall committee to consist of elected office bearers plus Mr. R. Brennan, V. Young, N. Steen, N. Osborne, W. Osborne, K. Semmens, P. Brennan, J. Noonan.
- "That night a motion was moved that the secretary write to the Shire council asking that a portion of road near tennis courts be made available as reserve".
- Dances in the school and a Ball at Spring Gully were held and £168 was raised for the year.
- Dances and a Ball were held each year.
- 1949 New Years Day Sports held for the first time making £31-4-7 with a dance and raffle that night raising £75-11-7 in total.
- 1950 From this time on the only elected committee was President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and all meetings were public.
- Preliminary steps were taken to find cost of a hall.
- Over the next five years a great deal of discussion was held on types and sizes of halls.
- 1953 Best sports day result £106-13-9.
- 1956 Special meeting called and it was decided to build a hall 60 x 30ft. Also to apply for a Government grant through the council.
- Investigating a site for hall.

- 1957 More discussion on the types of halls.
£1500 grant made available to help build hall.
- 26th December- That we have plans drawn up for brick hall.
- 1958 Last New Years Sports held.
- 30th January- Hall plans received and approved by Health Department.
- 18th February- Tender accepted for building of hall. C. Coad and Sons.
- 7th July- Loan of £500 attained from Commonwealth Bank to help finance hall.
- 10th October- **Opening of hall** by Hon T. H. Grigg M.H.R. President P. G. Brennan, Secretary A. Drechsler.
- Ball held for opening night which a large crowd attended.
- 1961 15th August- Large tent brought to hold suppers in.
- 1964 18th August- Tenders accepted for kitchen and toilet block, to be erected by Leigh Williamson.
- 1987 Construction of a roof over the men's toilets and storage room with entrance from inside hall.



EARLY FAMILIES

The Brennan Family

Michael Brennan and his wife Mary were among the first settlers of Sedgwick to take up freehold grants in 1854, after an unsuccessful attempt at mining on the Bendigo Goldfields.

This generation of Brennans produced thirteen children most of whom sought careers in Melbourne. Two continued to live in Sedgwick. Today the original property as taken up by Michael is occupied by direct descendants.

The Broadbent Family

James Broadbent married his first wife Jane Steen in 1868 and had one daughter Jane. They lived in Emu Creek at that time. Before the death of his wife in 1883 they moved to Sedgwick. In 1889 James married Mary Ewing. From this marriage there were six children:- Irene, Ewing, John, Elizabeth, Nettie and William.

Ewing married Rebecca Story in 1927 and remained in the district, taking over as water baliff from her father George Story in 1927. After 1935 he was transferred to Elphinstone area and on retirement moved to Nth. Harcourt.

John who did not marry, continued to live in the family home until his death in 1975. The rest of them married and moved out of the district, but only the daughters had any children. Nettie died a short time ago in Brisbane.

The Cavagna Family

Guisseppi (Joseph) Cavagna from Locarno Switzerland arrived in Victoria in 1854. At first, he worked on the gold fields in Bendigo. He was naturalized in 1858. He married Caterina Balemi also from Locarno, at St. Francis Church in Melbourne in 1860. They took up land in Upper Emu Creek now known as Sedgwick.

As the years went by, they acquired adjoining properties until they had a comfortable fare where they lived until they died. The stone house on the property was built by Guisseppi and some of his country men, with stone taken from land near the creek on their property.

They reared eight children:- Vincent, Mary (Maranta), Joe, John, Jim, Kate, Elizabeth (Cahill) and Martin.

Guisseppi died in 1886 aged 60. Caterina died in 1910 aged 73.

In the early days, their main source of income came from vineyards and wine making. After that, orchards and dairy produce became their main source of income.

The Conway Family

Thomas Conway came from County Clare in Ireland. In 1871 he bought the land along the Emu Creek where he lived and later acquired more land across the road.

Thomas married Catherine McMahon of Sutton Grange at Castlemaine in 1875. They had six children and his descendants live on the farm to the present time.

The Costa Family

Joseph Costa came to Australia and bought the property in 1862, when the area was known as Upper Emu Creek. He married Mrs Sarah James, a widow with three children. Joseph and Sarah had five children four boys and a girl.

After Joseph's death in 1879 Sarah carried on the property, and also ran the Post Office. After Sarah's death the farm passed on to her son Lou who lived there till his death in 1964, the farm was sold in 1974 ending the Costa descendants ownership.

The Costa home was built from bricks burnt on the property.

The Drechsler Family

Wilhelm Drechsler was born in Hanover, Germany, on 15th. August, 1837. When 22 years of age he left for Australia, reaching Port Phillip Bay in 1859.

Immediately after his arrival he came to Bendigo and worked in the Axedale and Eaglehawk districts. In 1861 Wilhelm commenced farming at (Upper Emu Creek) Sedgwick. He had the misfortune to have his little home and practically all his buildings and fencing destroyed by a disastrous fire, which swept the district in the summer of 1865. He later built a fine home on the property, and acquired more land at Upper Axe Creek.

He married Miss Ann Flood, sister of the one-time well-known coach-builder of that name, in Bendigo. They had two sons Joseph and Patrick Drechsler of Sedgwick, and six daughters, Mrs.J.Clark, of Moonee Ponds; Mrs.M.Tobin, Sedgwick; Mrs.G.Clark, of Colbinabbin; Mrs.Paterson, of Goulburn Valley. The other two daughters entered the Convent in Armidale, N.S.W. Wilhelm died at the age of 86.

The original property is still being farmed by a direct descendant. There are a number of Wilhelm's descendants living in the Sedgwick district today.

The Montgomery Family

William Montgomery married Janet Mc.Quaig in Glasgow Scotland and had two sons William and Don. He arrived in Victoria with his family in the early 1850's. Leaving his family behind he walked to Bendigo and staked a claim at the gold fields. Then buying a horse and dray he collected his family and brought them to Sedgwick.

Their family increased to eleven, two girls and nine boys. Most of the family were educated at the Black Eagle School. Only two sons and the two girls married. John, who worked the farm in Sedgwick, had five children, one dying in infancy. Dougal married Mary Marshall and lived in the de-licensed hotel called The Great Eastern. Maggie moved to N.S.W. married and had a big family. Mary married Peter Charlesworth and lived at Mandurang. She had one child, Thomas. James the last surviving son remained single and lived in the old home till his death in 1957.

The Osborne Family.

Henry Osborne was born on 14th. Jan. 1825 at St.Enoder, Cornwall. Henry married Keziah Symons on 10th. April 1851 at St.Enoder and arrived in Australia on 28th. July that same year. They arrived in the Bendigo area in late 1852.

He filed a claim on a gold mine at Spring Gully but later sold it and purchased the Cornish Store at Spring Gully: (Now under Spring Gully Reservoir). He was among the first to receive freehold grants at Sedgwick and his property is still occupied by his direct descendants.

The Semmens Family

The Semmens family, although not actually pioneers of Sedgwick, have been closely associated with the school, social and sporting activities of the district for many years. In 1909 Josiah Semmens was appointed Chief Forester for Bendigo district and with his wife Agnes and a family of five daughters and four sons settled on land purchased from G. Kofeod.

The four youngest children, Bertha, Alice, Herbert and Allen attended the school. As time passed four of the daughters and three sons married and lived in Sedgwick, and over the years 27 of their offspring, spanning 4 generations have learnt their A B C at No. 935.

At the present time, a granddaughter and her husband, Robyn and Rick Gillet, and little daughter, Jessica, live on the property, making 5 generations to have lived there.

Remember the dairy herds which produced milk and cream, also the beautiful stud cattle?

The Steen Family

John Steen settled in Sedgwick in the late 1860's. He married Matha Cail (a Welsh girl) and they raised one son and four daughters. Originally they lived in a timber cottage near the creek. After about fifteen years they built a house on the present site.

They farmed the land, growing oats, milking a few cows and sold wood. They planted orchards which produced apples and pears for export, as well as the domestic market.

Albert (the son) married Gertrude Down in 1903 and with their family (Beatrice, Adela, Norman and Alan) operated the Post Office which had been transferred from Sosta's across the road in 1922.

Norman with his wife Ethel (nee Henderson) and family continued farming. The friendly Post Office service exists there today.

The Story Family

Anne and George Story came from England to the Goldfields with two children Mary and Robert. Five more were born in Australia:- Rebecca, George, Annie, then William and John when they moved to Emu Creek in 1864.

Mary married John Young in 1868 and settled in Sedgwick. In 1885 Anne bought a Sedgwick property which was handed down to Andy Story.

George was Water Baliff in Sedgwick from 1880's to 1927, he retired to Sth. Mandurang. His three children Essie, Rebecca and Ray grew up in Sedgwick. Rebecca married Ewing Broadbent, who became the next Water Baliff.

William married the daughter of a hotel keeper Catherine Strauss and lived in Sedgwick for a few years in the 1890's. He had four children:- Herman, Jim, Ethel and Bill.

John had four children:- Jack, Andy, Tom and Jean. He remained in Emu Creek but his son Tom moved to Sedgwick after his marriage in 1933, onto property they bought in 1920's. (This property had originally been settled by the Pay family.)

They had two daughters Margaret and Elma. He remained in the district all his life having contracts for a fresh milk run and the School Bus Run.

The Tobin Family

Pierce Tobin came to Australia from Kerry, Ireland and settled in Sedgwick presumably in 1864. He first lived on land opposite to where he finally settled, and carried on farming activities until his death.

His son Matthew Tobin continued to farm on the family holding, which then passed to his son William Tobin. He continued to live on and work the property until his death in 1965. His death ended an association with the area of 102 years, when the property was sold in October 1966 by Family members.

The John Young Family

John Young was one of the pioneers of Upper Emu Creek arriving in the early 1860's. He selected land in the southern end of the Emu Creek Valley, and in 1868 he married Mary Story, whose family were also early pioneers of the district. Their thirteen children were all born at their home on Upper Emu Creek as it was known until 1901. John Young, who represented the Mandurang Riding in the Strathfieldsaye Shire Council from 1884 to 1898, died at his home, "Preston Vale", Sedgwick in 1914 aged 71.

The family gradually became scattered to points as far apart as Western Australia and Tasmania, but the three sons remained at home, Thomas, Albert and Walter carried on the farms, and under the name of Young Bros. became well known breeders of Stud Jersey cattle. They exhibited, with great success at many local Agricultural Shows, as well as in Melbourne.

The original land selected by John Young has remained in different branches of the family down to today's fifth generation, and since 1900 many of John's descendants have attended Sedgwick S.S. No 935.

The Joseph Young Family

Joseph Young came from Northern Ireland and settled in the Sedgwick Sutton Grange area in 1856. His daughter Francis married August Wirth and in 1902 settled on some of Joseph's land now known as "The Springs". His descendants farm in the district to the present day.

Early Residents

As well as the families that have been mentioned previously, some other early families in the district were Codiga, McEncroe, Moloney, Blossit, Kronk, Rundal, Ubrock, Horby, Buckoltz and Cotter.

Remember some of the characters who patiently cracked the quartz stones and put them into tidy heaps so they could be measured?

Remember the post and rail fences very few left today, in some areas stone fences. Latter fences with barbed wire and wire netting to keep out rabbits?

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Fairy Wax Flower

We are very fortunate in having a wonderful variety of wild flowers in our district which include the "Fairy Wax Flower".

About 1917 a plant was found on the property of Josiah Semmens which produced beautiful double blooms.

After years of experimenting the plant named Ereoxtemon "J.Semmens" has been successfully propagated and so will not be lost. A valuable addition to our cultivated native flowers.

Story thanks to Mrs B. Semmens.



Fairy Wax Flower

Do you remember the hump on the underground well and the big dish we used to wash our hands?

Do you remember the flies, how we used to cover the food, hang fly paper from the roof and even put out poison bait?

Remember the roads in the horse and buggy days. The tracks made by the wood drays where two and three would follow pulled by their ever honest horses in the tracks. Also remember the pot holes filled with cracked metal which was put in heaps at points along the road?

Cream and Milk Collection

Prior to 1934 Favaloro's collected cream from district farms. From 1934 on Albert Young collected fresh milk in cans from the Sedgwick, North Harcourt areas and later from Sutton Grange. Tom Story took over the cartage contract in 1943 he continued till the late forties when Len Ellery of Sutton Grange took over continuing until the mid fifties. The last courier was Allen Story who took over the contract continuing until 1970 when it was phased out with a bulk tanker taking over.

School Bus Run

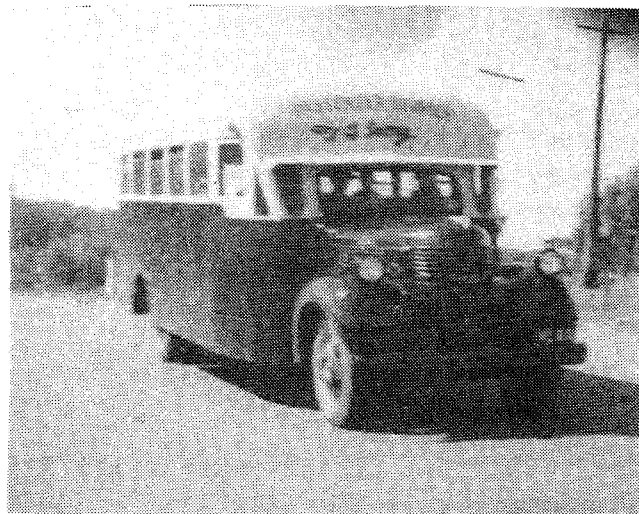
The Sedgwick School Bus commenced in 1946, when the Govt. decided that the Education Dept. would provide free school bus transport for country children to attend secondary schools in major cities.

Tom Story won the contract for this area, picking up children in Sedgwick, Sth. Mandurang, Mandurang and Spring Gully.

In 1950 Spring Gully was excluded and the route was altered to include Emu Creek and Strathfieldsaye. This was later modified when a bridge in Mandurang was renewed enabling the bus to travel down Tannery Lane to Strathfieldsaye.

This route continued for the rest of the 26½ years he drove the bus. He retired on his 70th. birthday in June 1972.

His nephew Noel Story drove for him until 1978. The contract was then transferred to Noel and he continued the same route until 1980. In 1981, due to the increase in the number of children going to various schools, two buses were required, and this was expanded to three the following year, and continues the same to this day.



School Bus

PILCHERS CHAFF-CUTTER

When we were children, the big event of the year was the arrival of Alf Pilcher's chaff-cutter.

A large steam traction-engine pulled the chaff-cutter from farm to farm. Dad would spend the previous day getting in a large wood stack. Then that evening a far off whistle would herald the machine's approach. The men would set it up beside the haystack and bed down right there or in a shed.

First thing in the morning they would come in for a breakfast of porridge, bacon and eggs. Then the engine was fired up and with a hissing and puffing and slapping of belts, the work began.

The pitch-fork man sent the sheaves down to the sheaf-board where others cut the bands and fed the hungry mouth of the cutter. The chaff came up the elevator to a double screw bagger, filling first one bag and then the other. The fireman stoked the engine, topped up the water from a furphy and sharpened the spare cutting wheel with a file in his spare time.

At ten o'clock Mum arrived with morning tea, a large billy of tea, lots of hot scones and cakes.

By the end of the day all that remained of the stack was a pile of cocky chaff for us kids to play in.

Ian Semmens



Stacking Loose Hay

STRATHFILDSAYE SHIRE COUNCIL

In the history of the council some nine residents have represented the district as councilors they were:

Michael Brennan	1866-1876
Maxwell.A.Drechsler	1979-1990
Patrick.E.Drechsler	1928-1936
Alan.T.Drechsler	1955-1979
Wilhelm Drechsler	1899-1915
Edward.R.Osborne	1953-1958
Fredrick Osborne	1903-1932
Charles.H.Wirth	1937-1951/1954-1965
John Young	1884-1898

The Brennan family had a remarkable record with three generations serving as Shire Secretaries starting with:

Michael Brennan	1882-1898
Richard.B.Brennan	1898-1944
Margaret Brennan	1944-1977

New Years Day Flood

Following a cloud burst, that extended across from Mandurang South in a line through the Semmens property across Sedgwick, flood waters poured down the Emu, Sheepwash and Piccaniny Creeks.

Alf Rundle 20 years of age lost his life trying to swim across the Emu Creek to his home. His body was found $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile away on the Story property by William Story, who with his brother John Story, and brother in law Edward Hall, were floating rubbish off their orchard. Considerable damage was done to farm land, roads and bridges.

Hotels

There have been 3 licensed hotels in the Sedgwick area the "Black Eagle Hotel" on the Axe Creek on the South end of the district. The "Great Eastern Hotel" that was situated near the mine of the same name. The other Hotel was first situated on what is now the corner of Conway Road and the main Sedgwick-Bendigo road (name unknown). This hotel license was then moved to a building on the corner of Story's Road and the Main Road, (where Story's hay shed stands today) it was then run by the Gambatti family.

Remember the rabbit drives, the rabbits sold to help pay for our tennis courts and hall?

GOLD MINING AT SEDGEWICK

BY DON CHERRY, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF VICTORIA

A few kilometres SSE of Sedgewick, a line of workings represents the remains of gold mining activity in this area.

Dickers Mining Record for July 1863 describes the location of several claims, comprising several shafts and 1 tunnel, across the ridge top about 1 km west of the Axe Creek. This historic account records the accidental discovery of the gold bearing quartz reef by a local land holder in 1858. The discovery attracted a little attention and early miners worked the outcropping reef in a haphazard manner, barely breaking even, although the reef is reported to have yielded upto 15 pennyweights to the ton (3/4 oz/t).

Then during the mid to late 1860's several serious attempts were made to make a profitable venture. Leases were taken out and expensive machinery was purchased (eg. engine, battery and winding gear were purchased from the Old Specimen Hill Co. Tinpot Gully, Bendigo for 700 pounds, Dickers Mining Record p164 July 1863). During the late 1860's several companies worked on the reef including Perserverance Co. Great Eastern Prospecting Co, Great Eastern United Co, Defiance Co and the Bendigo Great Extended Quartz Mining, Crushing and Drainage Co. The Prospecting Co built a chimney on the summit of the hill and water for the battery was supplied by pipe from the nearby dam. Three batteries, each with 6 heads, were also positioned on the hill. In 1863 most work was carried out from the tunnel which drove about 280 feet (85 m) into the hill. A shaft to 48 feet (14 m) was sunk nearby.

No record of mining at Sedgewick has been found for the period 1870 to 1897 when the reef attracted new attention when the Great Eastern Mine (worked by the Sedgewick Gold Mining Co) began operating.

Although involving extensive work in driving and stoping this mine ceased operations in 1909. For that period gold production amounted to 3444 oz from 9568 tons of crushed quartz. Also during that period the main shaft was sunk from 80 feet (24 m) to 630 feet (192 m) with levels at 140 feet (43 m), 193 feet (59 m), 300 feet (91 m), 400 feet (122 m), 500 feet (152 m) and 600 feet (183 m). The whip shaft 720 feet (219 m) to the north was 230 feet (70 m) deep with the main working level at 200 feet (61 m). Connections to the adit on the south side of the whip shaft were also made.

The reef continued to be intermittently worked by various parties until it was finally closed in late 1953. Total production and gold yields cannot be accurately given as few records were kept from the earlier period of working.

30 January, 1992.

History of Sedgwick School.

Private School: 1865

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

From the evidence of letters written in 1866, 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' by 14.4' by 8' to wall plate." According to correspondent Michael Brennan, the cost was 60 pounds 8 shilling and 8 pence. Evidently the school was conducted at first as a private one: in Feb. 1866 a letter of Mr. Enoch P. Stephenson mentions "that the school 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 1866 the committee had decided to apply for aid and accept whatever conditions were laid down by the board. Mr. Brennan's letter of 12th. April requested aid from the board "for the purpose of furnishing the school and building a teacher's residence."

The official application form, dated 29th. May 1866, named as members of the committee: Michael Brennan, correspondent; August Koller; 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 continued writing but no action was taken until early 1868.

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."

The individual record of Thomas 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 shows 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).

On 17th. 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 30th. July was that the school must necessarily be vested in the Board (as opposed to existing in 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.

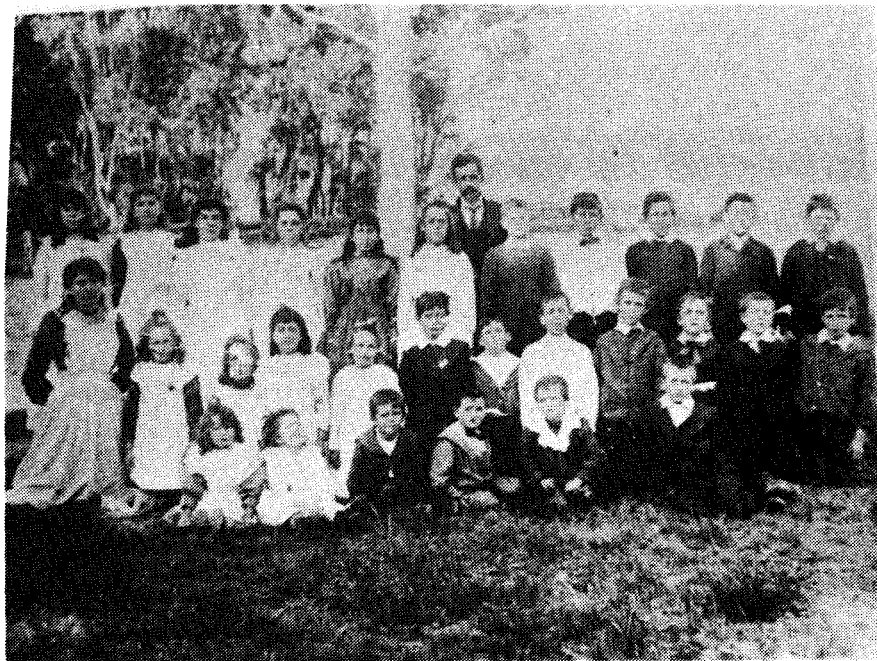
The suggestion was made that if the Committee decided to erect a new building,

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.

The Board gave definite instructions on 8 October 1868 that unless the residents build 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 towards 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.



S.S.No. 935

School Photo

1901

Back: N.Conway, B.Wirth, E.Blossit, T.Wirth, M.Moloney, I.Broadbent, E.Osborne,
A.Young, T.Brown, S.Blossit, H.McMahon.

Centre: A.Young, A.Moloney, O.Rundle, E.Blossit, L.Broadbent, W.Young, F.Osborne,
T.Moloney, H.Osborne, C.Wirth, J.Broadbent, J.Osborne.

Front: J.Osborne, N.Broadbent, W.Osborne, W.Blossit, H.Osborne, E.Broadbent.

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 condition 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 provided 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 position they should occupy when the new school is erected. The Department decided that for the time being it would be useless to provide 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.

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 on 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.

Improvements and Repairs : The 1880's

The 1880's were a time of improvements and repairs at Upper Emu Creek School 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. 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.

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.

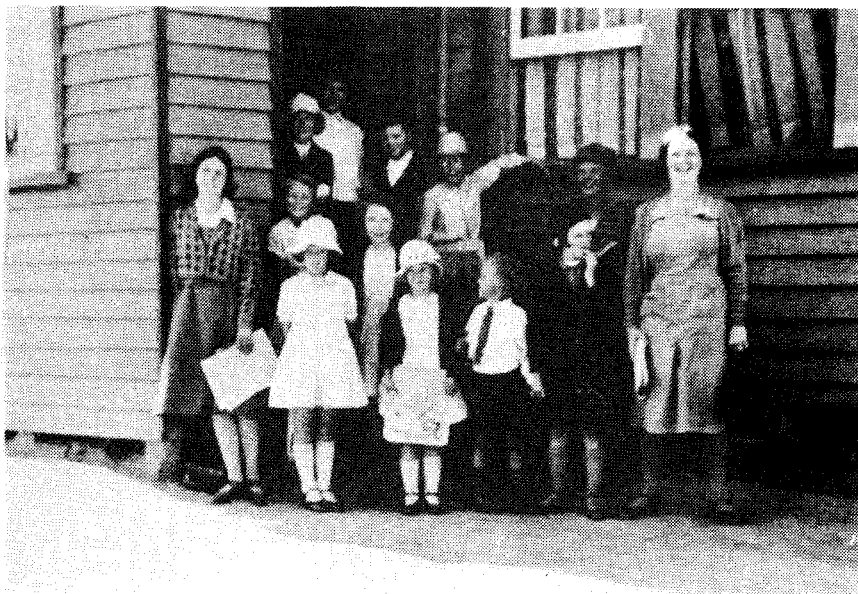
Nearly four years later, H.T. Beetson wrote on 14 February 1885 describing the dilapidated condition of the residence and requesting the erection of a new one. Provision of a three roomed wooden residence was authorised on 26 February.

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.



School Photo 1915

Back: H.Osborne, W.Broadbent, E.Osborne, A.Semmens,
W.Kronk,
Centre: Miss E.Gleeson, I.Osborne, D.Kronk, M.Kronk,
B.Steen, M.Tobin, A.Young,
Front: W.Tobin, A.Steen, N.Steen, A.Osborne, E.Tobin,
H.Costa, W.Drechsler, P.Tobin, G.Girvan.



School Photo 1936

J.Young, N.Semmens, F.Conway, C.Conway,
B.Brennan, N.Young, E.Conway, P.Brennan,
V.Young, I.Semmens, E.McMahon, G.Young,
C.Mansfield.

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 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 1890 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 Head Teacher commenced duty at Mandurang South No. 1628 on the 12th of August 1902.

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 Head Teacher 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 understanding civic affairs; such things as the Parliamentary system, trial by jury, local Council meetings, ect. 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 Head Teacher, George Jackson. At the time, both the Head Teacher and the Correspondent of the Board of Advice, Robert Bath, requested that the gallery be removed from the schoolroom and the floor be made level. The idea seems to have been that the schoolhouse could be used for local entertainment and social gatherings.

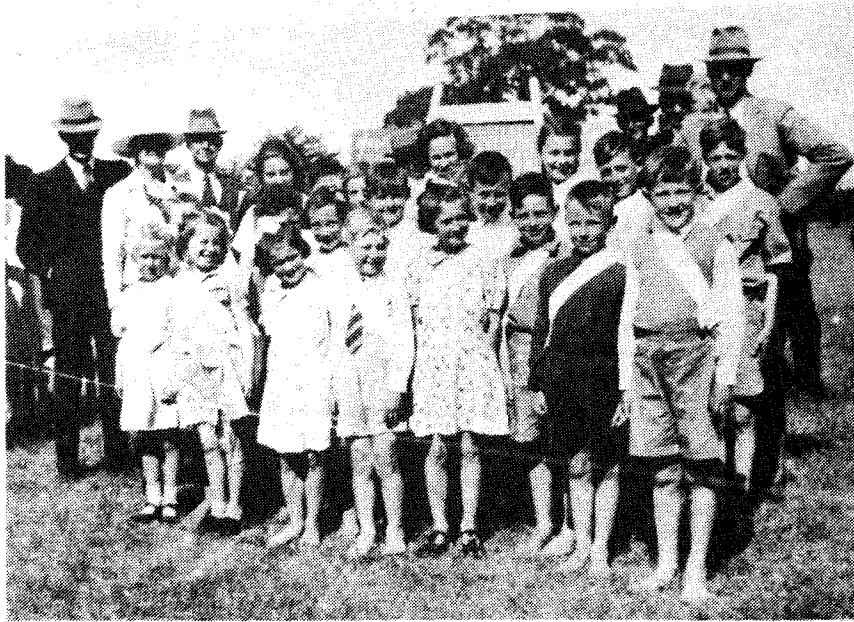
However, the Department was not prepared to remove the gallery as, with attendance figures at an average of 16, there was plenty of room for pupils.

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 Head Teacher, 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.

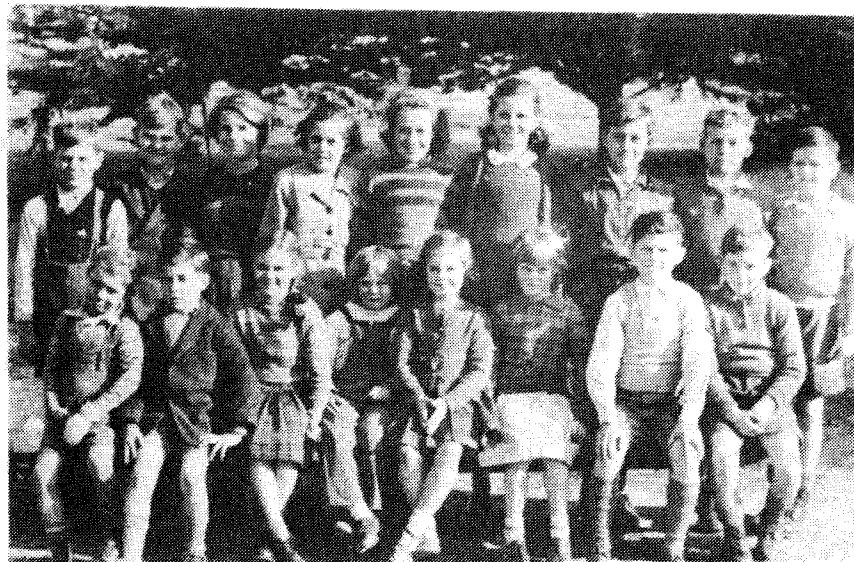
The Committee guaranteed to provide labour if the Department met the cost of materials, at roughly ten pounds. To ensure assistance, Mr Steen approached the Member, the Hon. D. Smith, M.L.A., also the Department agreed to this request.

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



School Sports 1945

J. Semmens, R. Drechsler, P. Steen, J. Tebb, K. Semmens, E. Story, Y. Osborne,
M. Kerr, B. Conway, A. Young, H. McMahon, M. Story, G. Kerr, E. Osborne,
D. Young, J. Kerr, R. Semmens, P. Steen, D. Semmens, L. Semmens, M. Young.



School Photo 1956

Back: P. Osborne, N. Osborne, H. Cahill, E. Mansfield, L. Semmens,
M. Steen, B. Semmens, R. Osborne, R. Mansfield,
Front: P. Drechsler, G. Wilkin, C. Drechsler, L. Mansfield, J. Drechsler

1920 - 1966

The numbers attending the school during the twenties were small with the school closing for a time in 1927. It reopened as a part time school with Mr Finian as teacher, he also taught at Myrtle Creek on a part time basis. In 1930 the school opened full time with Miss Eila Liddell as the teacher.

When Mr Clive Streader was the teacher in 1936 he started a group of the Young Farmers Club, this created great interest at the time. The next teacher Mr Alf Elliott continued giving support to the Young Farmers Club. School members continued to increase in the 1940's with up to twenty-five attending.

In the early fifties the numbers were between 15-20, later they gradually decreased and in 1966 when numbers were so low that the school closed for all of that year and did not open until the September of 1967.

A New Era 1967-1990

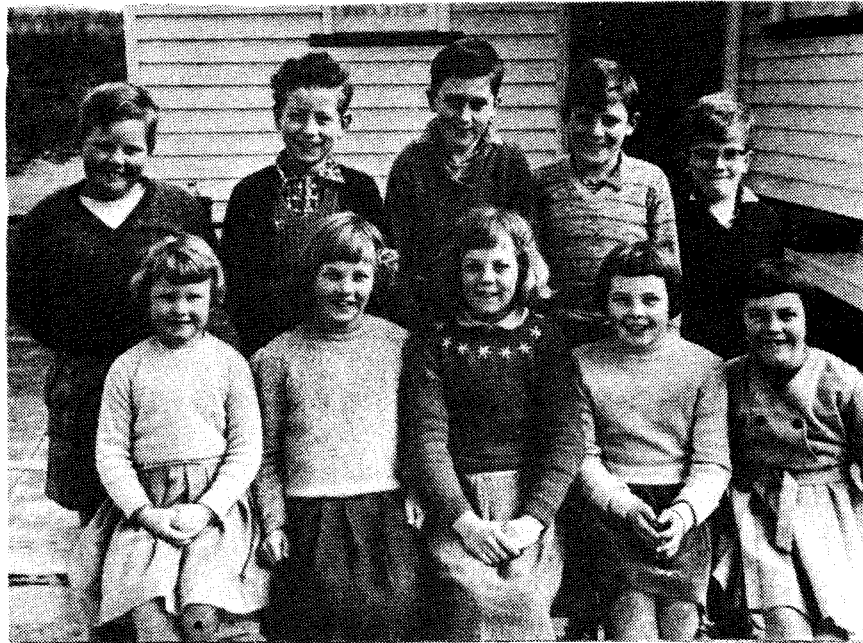
The school re-opened on the 9th of September, 1967. The School Committee was then, able to give a guaranteed assurance that enrolments would be available in the area for the next twenty years. The Head teacher, Mr C.N. Alexander, had a net enrolment for 1967 of 10 children.

The 100 year old school building, however, was in urgent need of repairs and rebuilding. The school had been seriously damaged by white ants and condemned by local authorities. The building was subsequently condemned and a new portable classroom, type 352 was erected. The average attendance for 1968 was 10 children.

In the mid eighties, Sedgwick joined with six schools to form the Emu Vally Cluster.

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 be closed once again.



School Photo 1960

Back: V.Drechsler, G.Mannix, G.Wilkin
P.Drechsler, P.Wilkin,
Front: L.Mannix, R.Mansfield, L.Mansfield
N.Drechsler, K.Drechsler.



School Sports 1979

Back: A.Drechsler, A.Langley, A.Drechsler, M.Noonan, C.Conway, A.Steen,
Centre: T.Noonan, M.Ovenden, S.Conway, L.Drechsler, E.Osborne, S.Osborne,
Front: C.Drechsler, T.Wilkin, R.Graham, L.Graham, S.Wilson, J.Drechsler.

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.

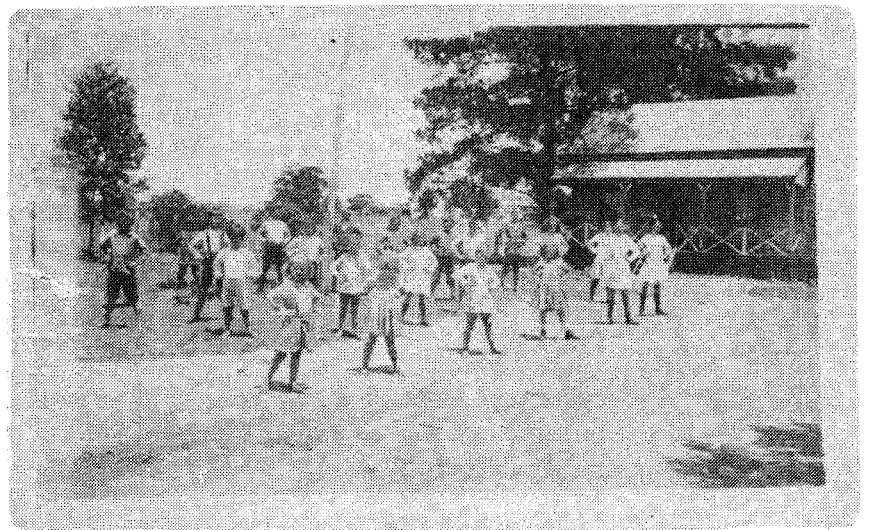
238 Carmel Brennan
 239 Simone Strauch
 240 Dean Kellet
 241 Brendon Drechsler
 242 Bernadette Brennan
 243 Mark McHugh
 244 Frances Brennan
 245 Darrin Strauch
 246 Ross Drechsler
 247 Anthony Brennan
 248 Kerrie Drechsler
 249 Christopher Bennetts
 250 Anne Conway
 251 Pauline Drechsler
 252 Andrew Steen
 253 Nicole Scown
 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 Cameron Shoebridge
 286 Rebecca Shoebridge
 287 Kimberly Cravino
 288 Becky Henderson
 289 Benjamin Henderson
 290 Joel Henderson
 291 Adam Steen
 292 Owen Osborne
 293 Jeffrey Manypency
 294 Alison Manypency
 295 Bradley Sutton
 296 Dale Holmes
 297 Sharlene Holmes

298 Lyndal Buik
 299 Rebecca Sutton
 300 Louisa Causon
 301 Peter Moverley
 302 Elizabeth Moverley
 303 Amber Geyer
 304 Cameron Geyer
 305 Christopher Wilkin
 306 Grant Sutton
 307 Nadia Burgess
 308 Andrew Buik

309 Cerise Wright
 310 Peter Wright
 311 Lisa Dawson
 312 Eric Dawson
 313 Judith Dawson
 314 Caroline Osborne
 315 Sherree Baker
 316 Gary Watkins
 317 Heath Burgess
 318 Anthony Drechsler



Sedgwick School and School House
 (The house was burnt down in 1924)



Morning Excercises at No. 935.

SEDGWICK HEADTEACHER ROLL 1867 - 1990

DATE	HEADTEACHER
1867	Mr. Thomas Grainger
1871 - 98	Mr. Henry Beetson
1898 - 03	Mr. Henry Shugg
1904 - 06	Mr. G. Jackson
1907 -	Mr. W. Williams
1911 -	Mr. Slater
1914 -15	Miss Ellen Gleeson
1917 -	Mr. Jack Caulfield
1918 -	Miss Goulden
1919 - 20	Miss Jones
1920 - 22	Mr. Wally Newman
1923 - 26	Miss Tredinick
1927 -	School unstaffed.
1928 - 29	Mr. Finian
1930 - 35	Miss Eila Liddell
35	Miss M. Ryan
1936 -	Mr. Clive Streder
1937 - 39	Mr. Alf Elliott
1940 -	Miss Angela Mitchel
	Miss Vernon
1941 - 46	Mrs. Beaty
	Miss Molly Frawley
1947 - 51	Mr. Kieth Bubb
1952 - 57	Mr. Graham Marshall
1958 - 59	Mr. Peter Hynes
1960 -	Mr. Ken Cairns
1961 -	Mr. Les Shearer
1962 - 63	Mr. B. Lee
1964 - 65	Mr. L. Lobbe
1966 - 67	School unstaffed.
1967 - (11/9/67)	Mr. C. Alexander
1968 -	Mr. Ian Tappe
1969 - 71	Mr. Robert Huggan
1972 -	Mr. Ray Harvey
1973 -	Mr. Jeff Amos
1974 - 76	Mr. Marty Smith
1977 - 79	Mrs. Joy Daniel
1979 (Half Year)	Miss Terry Thomas
1980 -	Mrs. Joy Daniel
1981 - 82	Mr. Michael 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

History of the Upper Axe Creek South School.

from "VISION and REALISATION", Vol. 2., (Education Department of Victoria).

Known alternatively as Black Eagle, Upper Axe Creek South School, opened 20th October 1876, under Edward L. Seymour, who remained as Head Teacher until January 1880.

During the first year the average attendance was 9 pupils from an enrolment of 22.

A site had been applied for in October 1874 and a portable classroom with a two-roomed residence attached, was provided.

The school faced the Bendigo-Sutton Grange Road, about 400 yards West of Axe Creek. A pine tree marked the spot until it succumbed to the recent drought.

The school catered for the children of miners working the nearby Great Eastern Mine. When the mine closed, attendance fell and the school closed on the 31st August 1908. It was reopened as Black Eagle in 1915, but closed the following year because of lack of pupils. Interestingly Kate and Bill Drechsler attended during this time.

The building was removed to Eppalock (once known as Upper Axe Creek North) in 1918 where it remained as a shelter shed until fairly recently when it was sold for removal.

The name BLACK EAGLE apparently came from the Black Eagle Hotel, situated at the road crossing on Axe Creek. During its life, the school worked half-time with Myrtle Creek from 1881 until 1889. It closed for a time in 1896 but again worked half-time with Myrtle Creek from August 1897. It was a full time school again in 1904 until its closure.

Teachers to follow Edward Seymour were Sarah Rynhart, Isaac Richards, William Black, William H. Tregallas, Emily F. Wilson, Margery Keyms, Thomas Tasker, Robert Montgomery, Coronetta Mead and Miss ("Dick") Henderson.

A green-gauge plumb tree remains in what was the yard of

SEDGWICK RESIDENTS 1992

1. R Besley	31. K Martin	61. P Drechsler
2. J Scarrott	32. K Richmond	62. C Wilson
3. P Goddard	33. Bertran/Raine	63. Derby
4. A Loverso	34. N Steen	64. S Baker
5. P Monckton	35. School House	65. R Sutton
6. A Swaffield	36. G Dalton	66. H Mennen
7. J Halleday	37. Oldenhuis	67. B Guest
8. D Manypenny	38. M Graham	68. J Adolphus
9. D Baud	39. M Glascott	69. F O'Connor
10. R Moverley	40. C Creek	70. L McEwan
11. R Kilby	41. P Brennan	71. R Georgeson
12. J Harvey	42. S Kellett	72. T Iser
13. N Story	43. Osborne	73. J Rooke
14. J Jewson (McKissack)	44. K Osborne	74. G Shaw
15. J Truscott	45. R Drechsler	75. R Moran
16. J McCormack	46. S Drechsler	76. M Lewis
17. R Dyson	47. J Drechsler	77. Ray Burgess
18. E Story	48. Ron Burgess	78. M Stephens
19. J Langley	49. JP Drechsler	79. S Lee
20. W Ovenden	50. J Noonan	80. C Frauenfelder
21. B Coffey	51. L Drechsler	81. G Wilkin
22. J Ford	52. B Tippet	82. B Semmens
23. M Kennedy	53. P Robinson	83. J Wilkin
24. K Blundell	54. L Maxwell	84. T Knox
25. B Rogan	55. Whelan/McDonald	85. R Moors
26. G Coutts	56. Hammond/Gammon	86. K Walton
27. B Gillott	57. Tipper	87. N Watkins
28. P Gooch	58. J Sanders	88. Gillette
29. B Conway	59. Davis	89. T Tweed
30. Steen	60. M Drechsler	90. J Foster



Fruit Picking (Steens)



Carting Fruit

The Hollow Gum Tree

The tree, a huge red gum, is estimated to be over 700 years old. The diameter of the tree is 4.5meters (15ft) the inside of the hollow is 3.6meters (12ft).

In the days of horse travel the hollow tree provided shelter from the rain and storms for many a weary traveller. Later those riding bicycles also found it a very useful shelter. It was also a favourite overnight sleeping spot for swagmen in the days gone by.

Today there is much more traffic on our once quiet road and few would notice the splendour of the hollow tree nor would they take the time to reflect on its past. If only it could share with us some of what it has seen.



Many individuals have contributed to this production of "Reflections Of Our Past", as well as to the display of Memorabilia, Press Articles and photos, and the Back To Sedgwick Committee is most appreciative of their input and support.

On behalf of the Residents of Sedgwick and the Back to Sedgwick Committee, I wish to place on record the sincere appreciation of all concerned to Bernard and Josie Conway for their untiring efforts in all aspects of this Back to Sedgwick project.

JOHN LANGLEY

CHAIRMAN BACK TO SEDGWICK COMMITTEE