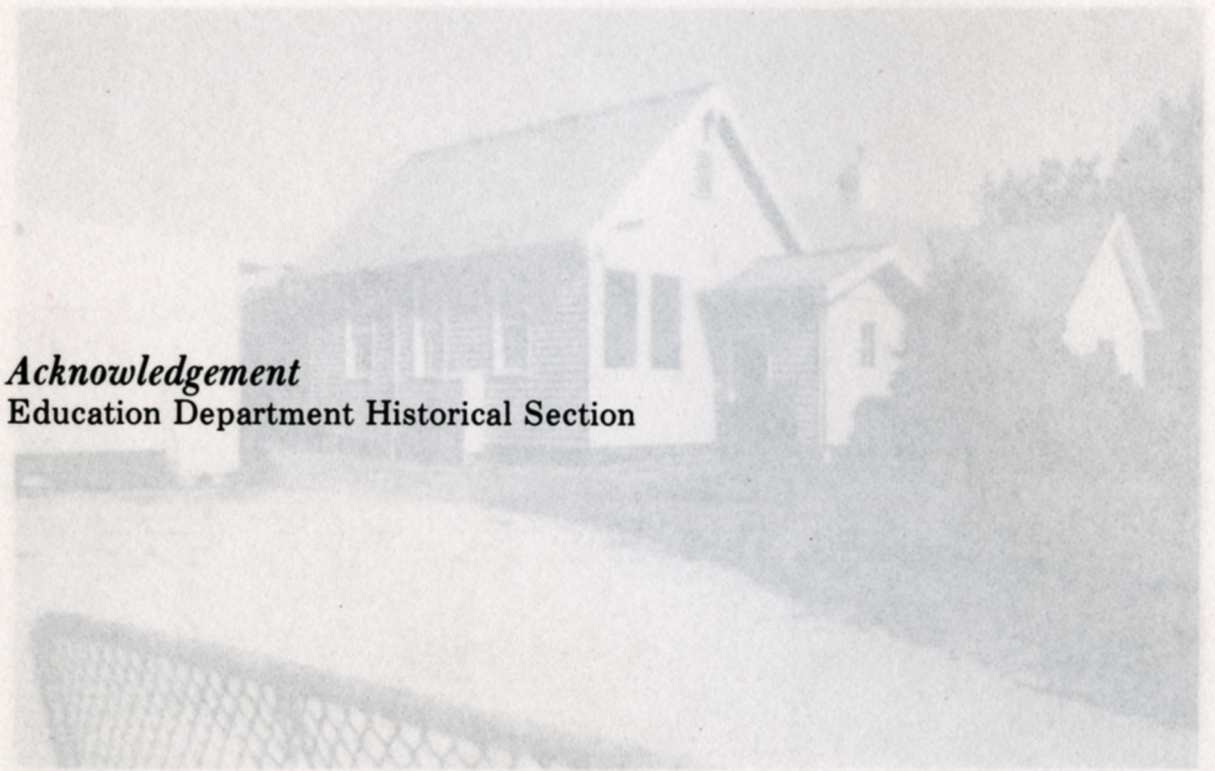


SS No. 256
Freshwater Creek



1883 - 1983

22 No. 256
Freshwater Creek



Acknowledgement

Education Department Historical Section

1883 - 1983

Should an error in reporting be found we would appreciate being notified to enable correction of books given to Historical Centres, School Libraries and Councils.

Early Days

Foreword

This booklet has been prepared by the Freshwater Creek School Centenary Committee as a souvenir to be treasured by all who read it. It will bring back fond memories to all ex pupils and the older folk who know the earlier days of the School and district. It will take us back to the turn of the century and on through the hardship years of wars, droughts and fires and also the happier times that only the true pioneer knows how to relate and treasure.

Our younger generation will gain invaluable information from it and hopefully use it for future reference on historic occasions. On behalf of the Centenary Committee I would like to sincerely thank Mr. N.S. McAdam, Honorary Historian of Shire of Barrabool for his help during the preparation of the celebrations, and the compiling of this Booklet.

L. A. Grossman
Chairman



Centenary Committee

Standing: R. Dickins V/Pres., P. Steel, Mrs. V. Connelly, C. Hunnam, B. Lugg, J. Steel, Mrs. L. Grossman, D. McQuillan, Cr. W. Lugg. Seated: Mrs. R. Dickins, L. Grossman Pres., K. Stones Sec., Mrs. K. Stones, G. Lugg Treas.

Early Days

This booklet attempts to record events of the century that has elapsed since the erection of the present school building in 1883. However, we must for a moment look back a further 30 years during which people had inhabited this region before that date.



Early 1900's

If we disregard the certain presence of the Wild White Man, William Buckley from 1803 on, we believe that the first whites to traverse the local bushland and creeks were the members of Batman's party led by Wedge. Their reports survive in Government files.

Some years after the establishment of Geelong, Dr. Alexander Thomson, with headquarters at "Kardinia" on the Barwon, had a large sheep run extending from there to Paraparap and Bellbrae. At times his runs were held in conjunction with Armstrong at stations known variously as "River Station", "Bush Station", "Bream Creek". It is interesting to note the names "Salt Creek" and "Freshwater Creek" bestowed on the creeks. The name "Thomson" was not given to the larger stream until some years later. On the earliest voting rolls available residents of this district were listed as being at "Thomson's Creek"/ When an actual village was established later it was on the fresh water stream and the village became known as Freshwater Creek and the name has remained. It is recorded that Dr. Thomson topped London markets for wool in 1848 with 27 pence per pound. When the lands south of the road to Colac were sold in 1854/56 they were surveyed mostly in 80 acre blocks. They were quickly taken up by settlers who had arrived in the main following the gold rush. The pleasant open farm land of today differs greatly from the wild bushland served by mere tracks that became a problem in wet winters. A simple living was made by sowing a few cleared acres, milking a few cows and cutting wood. Primitive homes and rough post and rail fences had to be erected immediately.

The foundation of Freshwater Creek followed a pattern of most Victorian settlements. A township comprising school, church, store and post office, hotel and smithy were soon providing basic needs. Many of these townships blossomed into sizeable towns; others gradually disappeared over the last half century and Freshwater Creek was one of these.

Difficulty is experienced in naming the earliest permanent settlers in the district. Some are certain to be omitted. Where were the boundaries of Freshwater Creek? No municipal rolls survive. However it is possible by wide reading of old newspapers, electoral rolls, and records of church, school and post office to build up a list of families known to have been present in the first decades following settlement.

Alexander, Ash, Angus, Armstrong, Brooks, Biscoby, Brien, Buckle, Beattie, Cummins, Cook, Cantwell, Cragg, Carman, Drummond, Davidson, Dee, Dunn, Dow, Fivash, Fogarty, Freeman, Gebbie, Grace, Hillard, Hampson, Harlock, Harding, Harkness, Hollins, Hunt, Jacka, Keith, Kent, Kubiel, Lugg, McKenzie, McLean, McIntyre, McConachy, McQueen, McKinley, Mann, Mudd, Mitchell, Mansfield, Mayall, Melhuish, Murray, Maher, Milner, Moore, Ormiston, Palmer, Pearson, Plumb, Passall, Rankin, Rowe, Sheridan, Smead, Spowart, Trigg, Thorp, Town, Vains, Wallace, Wilson, Windsor, Young.

We know from Lutheran records that some of the German families had become established about Thomson Creek. They must at first have met a serious language barrier. We can name with reasonable certainty Leibhardt, Seiffert, Kroschel, Stein, Schmidt, Kurzman, Baensch, Blobel, Rau, Nitschke, Grabasch, Grossman.



About 1921



About 1925

School Beginnings

Finding the exact date of the opening of the earliest school has been difficult. It seems likely unofficial tuition began in the Wesleyan building by 1856. actual Denominational School records indicate that it was more likely 1858 before official education began with Government subsidy, appointment of teachers and inspectors.

The denominational system was abolished in 1862 and the Common schools were instituted. If a suitable building was available during the church schooling period it was retained as the common school. This was the case with Freshwater Creek, and the building was leased from the Wesleyans, not always harmoniously as we shall see later.

A newspaper report states that 60 pupils attended the opening period. If so numbers must have declined rapidly by 1862 when Inspector Sasse reported 27 in attendance, and incidentally that he had returned to Geelong that night by horse "thoroughly drenched". Perhaps at the opening, numbers were swelled by over age pupils previously denied any schooling. Four early teachers mentioned are Hillard, Bowen, Miller and Wake. Bowen certainly taught in the years 1858/1861 and Wake later. Were Hillard and Miller locals who taught unofficially in the church building until 1858? Newspaper reports of the 1933 Jubilee tend to conflict with departmental records.



1924

Back: Arthur Simmons, C. Coombs, L. Dyer, W. Lugg, T. Lugg, N. Price, C. Dyer. 2nd: N. Dickins, I. Day, M. Coombs, L. Leibhardt, P. Hopgood, V. Ford, E. Ford. Front: Alan Simmons, R. Dyer, M. Dyer, L. Day.



1929

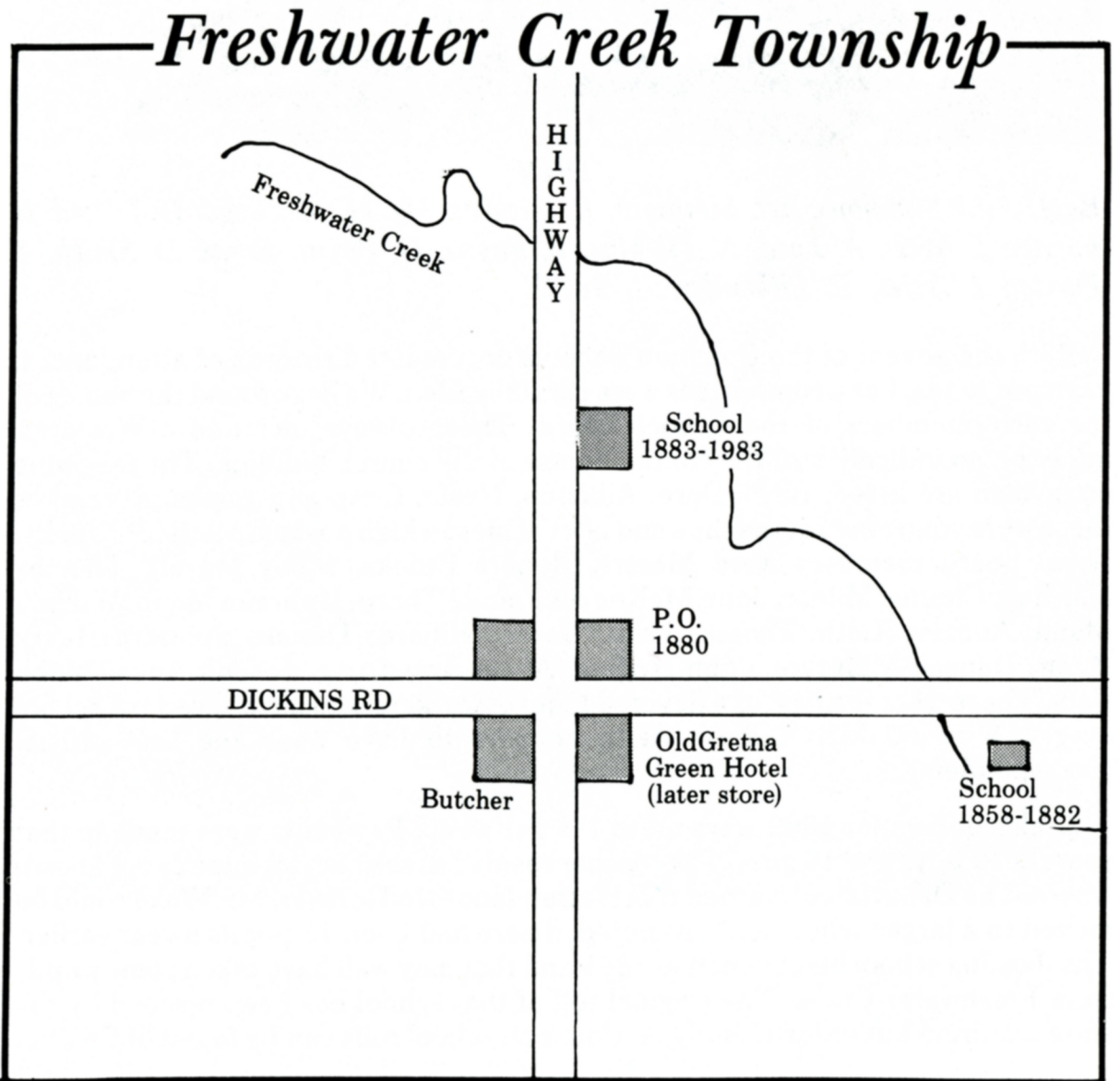
Back: Alan Simmons, Art. Simmons, R. Dickins, Mr. H. McGregor H. T. 2nd: B. Forster, J. Ayers, A. Ford, N. Dickins, B. Payne, D. Payne. Front: D. Smith, A. Forster, I. Ayres, E. Lilkendey, R. Smith.

With the advent of the Common Schools documented records of attendances, payment to teachers, committees were carefully filed. We have found the names of the early members of the School Board. These always included a Wesleyan minister, an indication of the continued use of the church building. The following clergymen are listed: Rev's Dare, Albiston, Neale, Crisp and Banks. Several of these were young men at the time and later achieved high posts in Methodist ranks. Local board members were Messrs. Robert Brooks, Miles Mayall, Thomas Harding, Charles Milner, John McKenzie, Daniel Thorp, Ephraim Mann, William Mann, Andrew Keith, Thomas Pratt, George Hillard, Thomas Spowart, Henry Brien, Duncan McIntyre, John Hollins, Adam Armstrong, Joseph Angus, John Dow. These were the first of a devoted band of workers who have seved the school over 125 years. Mr. Andrew Keith appears to have been the first official correspondent.

Scales of fees for 1862 were up to 1/6 per week. Payments were made in that year for 12 boys and 17 girls. The teacher resided in the district but it is not known where. The Department warned that if attendances fell further, Mr. Wake could be moved to a larger school and promoted. There had been 43 pupils a year earlier. The Jan Juc school had opened in 1861 and that may well have taken some pupils from Freshwater Creek. The original roll of that school has been rescued by the shire historian but unfortunately no Common school rolls can be found of SS 256.

Robert Brooks was the next teacher in Department records from 1864. He was rated on a property of 17 acres and presumably lived nearby. Brooks was succeeded in 1868 by Joseph Edwards. He is said to have held classes for adults, a practice that seems to have been carried on by several of his successors with great benefit to the community. Thomas Job was the teacher from late 1872 and he was to stay 10 years, with his wife Miriam (nee Gliddon) as an assistant. At the age of 80 Mrs. Job was an honoured guest at the 1933 jubilee.

As was the case with all Geelong districts Freshwater Creek experienced a minor exodus of population in the 1870's. The small holdings could no longer support a family and many eagerly availed themselves of the chance to buy a selected block inland where huge areas were being thrown open. For many it was a return to the hardship of pioneering life. With many families departing the school enrolments dropped. In the parish of Duneed in 1867 there were 240 holdings rated. Ten years later only 195 are listed. Larger grazing properties became the order with extension of "Ghazeepoore", "Matterdale", "Cromer" and "Ardtornish". The White properties swelled to almost 11,000 acres.



New School

The need for a new school building dominated the correspondence in the 1870's. It is a long story commencing with the first application by Mr. Harding in 1871.

We have noted that the site belonged to the Wesleyan Church and this fact proved to be somewhat of a stumbling block. The residence consisted of 3 rooms (wood) and was valued then at £70 (\$140). A petition was forwarded to the department with estimates for a new school being £270 (\$540). The signatories were John Hollins (butcher), Daniel Thorp (contractor), Miles Mayall (storekeeper), Charles Milner, Thomas Harding and Adam Armstrong (all farmers).

A plan was returned by the Department for a proposed bluestone building 36 feet by 18 feet. The Inspector added a note that the "district was generally poor". The building of the school would depend on a priority list. Mr. Harding protested at this "queue system" and said that a new building was badly needed before the winter. The building inspector supported this, while Mr. Dow of the district Board of Advice added his strong recommendation.

The Wesleyan authorities then intervened. Rev. E. Watkin, of Geelong, suggested that a rent of 15 shillings per week be paid and this would enable repairs and maintenance to be carried out. A minute on the Department file described the rent charge as "outrageous" - 2/6 would be a more realistic fee. A meeting of interested locals framed a motion that the church demand be ignored. It was moved by Mr. Angus and seconded by Mr. Armstrong.

About this time a suggestion was made that school could be transferred to an empty house nearby. The Press was moved to inquire after it was reported that a year previously the owner had hanged himself in the building and a ghost still stalked the empty rooms. The amusing newspaper article is filed in Laverton school records.

Further correspondence followed from Messrs. Edwards (H.T.), Dow, Spowart, Brien and Fivash. The Department had had enough; a new site altogether should be investigated. Mr. McKenzie, donor of the old site was not interested, but offers came from Mrs. Dunn and Messrs Keith and Mayall to sell land. Thomas Biscoby offered 2 acres at £20 per acre near the corner on Dickins Road. A diagram submitted shows the post office in the corner. This fact probably decided the visiting Department Inspector to suggest a different site on Biscoby's block. This site was eventually chosen and is our present location - that is 6 chains north of the south west corner of Section 36 E and facing Anglesea Road. Biscoby had transferred to Buninyong and wished to finalize the deal, and the land was bought.

If the parents thought that was the end of the matter they were disillusioned. Even four years later the Board of Advice was moved to point out that the building still in use was "draughty, had no fireplace, and there was no security of tenure". A powerful petition was forwarded to the authorities. As the signatories probably include the parents of all children attending they are given in detail;

C. Milner, J. Cantwell, J.G. Schmidt, H. Paulke, E. Lugg, G. Plier, M. Mayall, A. Hartwick, D. McIntyre, W. Kurzmann, J. Simmons, W. Simmons, T. Harding, Sarah Dunn, H. Skinner, S. Smith, G. Seiffert, G. Kurzmann, C. Schmidt, G. Nitschke, J. Grace, J. Young, J. Town, G. Noble, A. Keith.
The list was virtually all local landholders.

No immediate action followed. Messrs Milner and Lugg returned to the attack, pointing out that 47 pupils now attended in unsatisfactory conditions. Finally Mr. Holyhoak's tender of £457 for school and residence was accepted.

There was a further dismaying delay when it was learned that the H.T. of Pettavel School had gained the ear of the Department with a suggestion that one large school to serve that district and Freshwater Creek be built along Dickins Road. Inspector Curlewis visited the district and rejected the proposal, reporting that Mr. Milner would not sell any land on Dickins Road and that the land opposite "was all crabholes".

A sigh of relief must have followed the appearance of builders on the scene. Eleven frustrating years had been spent in lobbying for a new school. The long suffering Mr. and Mrs. Job were not destined to occupy the new building as they had already moved on in September 1882 to Mount Duneed School.

If any official opening of the new school took place it has not been recorded.

Teachers



Mr. & Mrs. Job

Mention must be made of the teachers who followed the Jobs. Mr. John Hambly served for seven months while Mr. Thomas P. Martin was apparently the first occupant of the new building with its residence attached. Descendants expect to attend our celebrations.

From 1884 to 1917 only three full time teachers are listed, Hermann Lampe 1884-1890, John Clappison 1891-1903 and John Hawse 1903-1917.

Lampe was dogged by misfortune during his tenure as he lost both his wife and a child. In 1889 he acted as Post Master for deliveries three times weekly. Official correspondence details many of his difficulties of a personal nature, which led to his gaining a transfer.

The files produce other items of interest. There was an outbreak of typhoid fever in the Rau family in 1878. An epidemic of measles in 1886 led to a report on its effect on the school and conditions in various families from each household, with number of children from each. J. Simmons had 6 children attending, Wm. Simmons 3, Wm. Kurzmann 4, G. Seiffert 3, A. Keith 6, J. Schmidt 5, J. Forster 3, J. Skinner 4. This list fills a gap in our knowledge of the district and its school. That other well known complaint, whooping cough, led to the closure of the school for three months in 1890. Messrs Brien and Keith wrote to the Department expressing dissatisfaction with this state of affairs. In March 1882 Mr. Milner wished to know why the school had been closed during a heat wave. With over 40 pupils in the old church building it was no doubt oppressive. When the new school opened 4 desks and some seats 6 feet long were transferred from the old one. In 1888 the school received its first re-painting.



Mr. Martin
Teacher 1883



Russell Hanby
Teacher 1920-25

Recession

Words and phrases in frequent use today, such as “recession”, “depression”, “cut-backs”, “financial stringency”, began to creep into official correspondence in the 1890’s following the land boom collapse and its attendant hardships. Decreased funds led to the loss of the Sewing Mistress and other difficulties. Local families were affected by the conditions and population shrank again. The century turned with the Boer War in progress and in 1901 the children would learn of the death of their far-off Queen, Victoria, whose reign had covered the entire history of the district.

Twentieth Century

In recording events of this century we are on more certain ground. The Register details admissions and birth dates back to 1899. We believe that there are several pupils listed on the first page who are still alive. Two are Currah Thompson and Gladys Brien. Older still could be Betty Marks (nee Forster) who was born in 1891, but there is no record of her schooldays.

Mr. Hawse began his 14 year term as head teacher in 1903. Quite a few of the children of this district were to know no other teacher at Freshwater Creek.

School committee minute books are available from 1914 and provide an excellent source of facts on the life of the school. The first meeting of which minutes are available took place in September, when World War One had been in progress one month. Few realized at the time the carnage to follow in the next four years.

Prominent Committee members during the war years were Messrs. E. Dickins, J. Williams, Trigg, H. Harding, J. Cantwell, Seiffert, Kurzmann, Simmons and Milner, with the last named the correspondent.

Two interesting items in the books are noted. Mrs. J.W. Seiffert wrote to the committee requesting that the H.T. be asked to dismiss the children promptly "to enable her children to reach home before dark". It is believed this family lived near Paraparap, and indicates the strain imposed on children of the day as they trudged across sodden paddocks and muddy roads. On another occasion the committee erected posters on the gate warning swagmen not to camp in the shelter shed (a common practice in early days).

The 14 year term of Mr. Hawse ended in 1917. Possibly because of enlistments in the army, male teachers were in short supply, and the school then had its first woman H.T. Miss Annie Walsh. Apparently the residence was not used as the Committee had to find lodgings for Miss Walsh and this proved difficult. They also had to provide a saddle and bridle indicating that she rode a horse to school, no doubt accompanied by some of the pupils.

The school fence was badly damaged in a district fire in 1918. Reports imply that the school itself was saved from destruction only with difficulty, a fate that has befallen many buildings in the fire prone state of Victoria.

There was great national and local relief when the war ended in 1918. It is believed that four ex pupils lost their lives in the struggle, Messrs. Hawse, Stripling, Thompson and Cantwell. A local thanksgiving was held in the school grounds and it was attended by the entire population of the district. A week later Mr. W.F. McIntyre provided a decorated car for the school to participate in a combined service at Mt. Moriac football ground (then the racecourse). Children were photographed in groups around the decorated cars and all sported a flag on their shirts.

In April 1921 the school was visited by Mr. Frank Tate (Director of Education), Sir. Alex Peacock, Minister and Mr. E.E. Morley, local M.L.A. The distinguished visitors complimented the H.T. Mr. Hanby on the excellent state of the grounds, and promised a new fence, presumably to replace the one damaged three years previously.

A tennis court was built in the grounds in 1921 and was available to the public under certain conditions. With tennis and football teams and a new hall in the district social amenities had been immensely improved. The school was able to hold fund raising functions in the new hall. On Arbour Days the children planted trees in the hall grounds. Mr. Hanby led the movement that brought a district telephone service. His five year term ended in 1925. He had served in France with the A.I.F. and resumed his career at S.S. 256 in February 1920 only three months after his discharge from the army.

Low Attendances

John Stonehouse (15 months), Mary Murray (7 months) and Sydney Pring (8 months) had brief sessions as H.T., but a more permanent state of affairs began with the appointment of Harold McGregor 1927-1930. However, in 1928 the school was threatened with closure. A note in the Geelong Advertiser of the day states; "Some time ago attendance at Freshwater Creek School fell to 13, and the Department asked if there would be any objection to its closing. A strong protest came from the committee, but eventually they agreed to carry on in conjunction with Mt. Duneed, children attending each school on specified days. The headmaster was asked to supply an inventory of the equipment at Freshwater Creek. As a result only the necessary number of desks remained, and when Arbour Day was held recently visitors had to be provided with fruit cases for seats". Mt. Duneed's low attendance and subsequent closure 1929-1934 was a far cry from the 108 pupils who once filled their old brick building.

In the case of our school it appeared that young children beginning and new district families such as Ashley, Edwards and Rau eased the attendance crisis and it was able to carry on.

Mr. Harry L. Tucker was appointed in 1930 and he was to stay for six years. Mr. Forster was chairman of the committee. The years following were difficult. The Great Depression had stifled the world economy. Department and local funds were difficult to obtain. Salaries of teachers were drastically cut and promotions dried up. Building was at a standstill. Some funds were raised by holding dances in the hall and occasional euchre parties. The children were not denied their annual picnic and Christmas break-up.

Jubilee



H.L. Tucker – Joint Secretary



Cr. W.F. McIntyre



Cr. E.R. Dickins – President



Jubilee Cake
donated by Mrs. E. Pattison



1933 Jubilee

Back: R. Dickins, A. Simmons, H. Hobbs, A. Duffield, C. Pattinson. 2nd: K. Mann, B. Payne, R. Tomkins, J. Tomkins, B. Forster, R. Smith. 3rd: D. Baensch, A. Ashley, D. Payne, D. Ashley, N. Smith. Front: L. Forster, J. Mann, D. Smith, K. Pattinson.

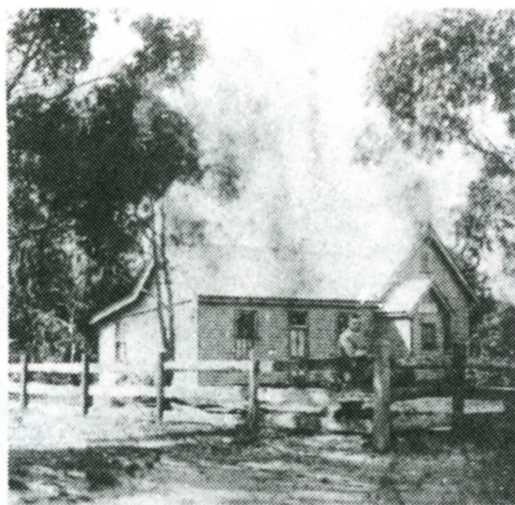
Despite the gloomy conditions prevailing on the farms as well as in the cities the committee began to plan a celebration of the fifty years occupancy of the school building from 1883 to 1933.

We are fortunate to have available the committee minutes and newspaper accounts of the celebrations. The school combined with other district bodies to hold a general "Back to Freshwater Creek" function in May. Prime movers of the committees were Cr. E.R. Dickins (Chairman), Messrs. A. Forster and H.L. Tucker (joint secretaries) and W.C. Preston (sports secretary).

Proceedings opened on Saturday, May 6th. with a gathering of some 300 at the schoolground. Cr. Dickins welcomed the visitors and Cr. McIntyre gave a review of the past fifty years activities. Other speakers were Parliamentarians T.K. Maltby, E. Austin, J. McDonald, H. Angus and G. McArthur. Mr. Robert Hillard, 90, a native of the district spoke of the early pioneers.



1856



1883



1933

Following this rather formidable round of oratory the gathering moved to the hall grounds where a sports meeting had been arranged. A Jubilee Tea held in the hall in the evening was the highlight of the weekend, and led to high praise for the ladies who arranged it. A feature was the cutting of a huge cake by Mrs. Job, widow of the H.T. of the 1870's. This magnificent cake was the work of Mrs. Eric Pattinson. President of the Shire of Barrabool, Cr. J.W. Prowse welcomed the visitors and Mr. J. Drummond responded.

A Pleasant Sunday afternoon concluded the celebration with some 500 people attending. Speeches by R.G. Casey, MHR (later Governor-General), H. Angus, M.L.A. (a native of the district) and H.F. Richardson, M.L.C. were interspersed with musical and vocal items. Photographs of jubilee activities are available. It appears that the ancient Wesleyan school, said to be dilapidated in 1870, was still standing.

Excursions — War

The following year, 1934, marked Victoria's own centenary with widespread celebrations. Our school took part by joining the gathering at Indented Head for the re-enactment of the landing by Batman's party. Other venues selected for picnic excursions in following years included Melbourne Zoo, Ballarat Gardens and Queenscliff. 1937 saw the retirement from school affairs of Mr. E.R. Dickins (21 years service on committee) and Mr. E. Lugg (22 years). It is worthy of note that their sons Messrs. Bob Dickins and Bill Lugg are members of the committee arranging our present celebrations.

By September 1939 the nation was again at war. As the situation worsened many school activities were directed to patriotic purposes. Petrol rationing curtailed much activity. In the autumn of 1942 air raid trenches were dug in the property now owned by W. Wilson, a measure of the concern felt after Japanese naval intrusion into Australian waters.



1937

Back: L. Forster, K. Mann, C. Pattinson, D. Smith, K. Pattinson. 2nd: P. Leibhardt, N. Smith, M. Mann, M. Pattinson, J. Pattinson. 3rd: M. Forster, N. Stacey, J. Mann, R. Baxter. Front: J. Rau, G. Baxter, F. Rau, M. Gogoll. Head Teacher — Mr. E. Bingham.

Post-War Prosperity

The dark days of war finally ended in August 1945, but there were severe shortages and continued rationing of some commodities for a while. The Committee and new H.T. Mr. Laurie McFarlane, recently returned from war service, turned their attention to improvements. Electric power lines extended to Freshwater Creek and the school was connected in 1946, enabling the use of radiators, a projector and better radio reception. The telephone was installed.

The decades following the war witnessed a change in the general outlook of the district. Primary products were in keen demand and vast improvements in pasture and advent of machines like the pick up baler, led to comparative prosperity. Geelong expanded rapidly and this led to sharp rises in land values, with farms in adjacent areas selling at prices not previously dreamed of. Newcomers bought small holdings and erected dwellings in a quest for a quieter rural lifestyle. A glance at the school roll shows the occupation of parents as engineer, accountant, lecturer, etc. This process of hobby farming was accelerated by the provision of piped water. Attendances at school swelled.

The school was linked to the new water supply enabling it to improve the surroundings and install a toilet system.



1946

*Back: E. Seiffert, S. Rau, D. Leibhardt, L. Grossman, Mr. L. McFarlane H.T.
Middle: V. Martin, I. Harding, S. Grossman, A. Hobbs.
Front: Aileen Hobbs, B. Seiffert, M. Hobbs.*

The past 20 years of our school's activities may be better analysed by future historians so in this booklet we will refer but briefly to some aspects and innovations. The provision of secondary education for all after grade six lowered the numbers of those attending primary centres. The setting up of School Councils with better funds and freedom in allotting expenditure enabled amenities to be set up.

In 1932 Mr. Tom Kingston retired after 8 years. He now lives in the district. In his term Freshwater Creek was the centre for group meetings for rural schools in the surrounding district. On one half day per month the children participated in physical education and films were screened in the local hall. It provided an opportunity for children to get to know pupils from other schools and for teachers to discuss problems that arise in instruction or administration. This was of benefit to young teachers.

A group library was of considerable value to member schools. Twelve boxes containing a good variety of books were rotated each term so making available reading and reference material at a time when provision of funds was the responsibility of individual schools. In that respect Freshwater Creek was particularly fortunate. When funds were required the school committee organised hay-carting working bees. That community spirit was also evident in the enjoyable picnic days at Portarlinton.

A feature of those years were the end-of-the-year concerts organised by Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Dickins. A long and varied program attracted a large and appreciative audience at the hall. The recorder band was well received when it took part in a music festival in Melbourne.

In 1971 a mower was purchased at a cost of \$300. In 1972 the growing attendance necessitated provision of a mobile classroom. A second mobile classroom was acquired in 1979. In 1973 a television and gas heater were installed. Swimming classes for the children commenced in 1974 and these have continued with the children being transported by bus to Kardinia Pool and also to the home of Mr. D. Olliff to use his private swimming pool.

School Sports

During Mr. Kingston's period great success was achieved in the school sports. Mr. Kingston was himself an outstanding sportsman.

The school has participated in the Barrabool Sports Association since its inception. Although enrolment was small, enthusiasm compensated for lack of numbers. The most successful period was from 1955-63 when the school won the G.G. Honey Shield in 1956 and became permanent holders of that coveted trophy for successive wins in 1961, 63 and 63. Although there were few outstanding runners, including Frances Richter, Graeme Shearn and Peter Kingston, the careful training in field events compensated for lack of individual talent. During that time the teams only failed to take first place in one event. In recent years the school has been prominent in swimming carnivals.



Winners – Shire Sports 1961

L to R: J. Meaney, P. Kingston, Mr. T. Kingston H. T., J. Dickins, J. Shearn, C. Meaney, B. Lugg, M. Dickins, S. Rau, L. Mann, S. Martin, B. Harrison, V. Bitcon.

Secondary Education

In 1945 a bus service from Lorne to Geelong, provided by Mr. Quick enabled some students to attend secondary schools in Geelong. First to avail themselves of this facility are believed to have been Geoff Baxter and the late Neville Seward. At the present time all pupils eventually proceed to higher schools, with most attending Oberon High School, Geelong Technical School and Grovedale Technical High School. All of these are south of the Barwon River.

With these facilities readily available many brighter pupils proceed to tertiary levels and serve the community in various spheres, with decreasing numbers following a life on the land. An example is Mr. John Mann, appointed some years ago to the high position of Director of Victoria's Water Resources. He was a pupil in the 1930's.

Earlier pupils enjoyed no such advantages. We read that William Wallace who attended in the 1870's constantly read through a large dictionary for his post-primary advancement. This improvement in his vocabulary was to stand him in good stead in subsequent days as M.L.A. for Maldon.

Mr. H. Angus, formerly M.L.A. for Gunbower, was another pupil in the last century.

John L. Dow was the son of D.H. Dow of the "Forest Station". He was a leading advocate of better farming methods and became agricultural editor of the "Age" and studied irrigation in the U.S.A. Following election to the Victorian Parliament he became Minister for Lands. He had the dubious task of introducing the first Land Tax bill designed initially to break up large estates, but eventually leading to a general impost on all land.

School Committees

Too numerous to mention in this booklet are the hundreds of devoted parents and citizens who attended to the needs of the school during periods of adversity, war, low attendances and comparatively better times. In the distant past they had to travel over rough roads in all kinds of weather by horse-back or buggy to attend night meetings.

Invariably budgets were insufficient for needs, but the committees ensured that the annual picnic and the Christmas treat were held. In many cases sons succeeded fathers in office, while in the case of the Lugg, Harding and McIntyre families three generations are noted.

Present office-bearers in the School Council are: Mr. T.R. Cliff (President), Mr. R. Webb (Secretary), Mr. D. McQuillan (Treasurer).

Mothers Club

The inaugural meeting to form the Mother's Club was held at the school on February 23, 1966. Mrs. E. Leach was elected President and Mrs. E. Gleeson Secretary/Treasurer.

Fund raising activities commenced with euchre evenings, and many varied functions have been conducted to build on this successful beginning. A fine array of equipment has been provided for the school. This includes a duplicator, urn, library books, material for art, craft, maths and sport, a motor mower, film projector, video cassette and both black and white and coloured television sets.

School picnics held locally and excursions further afield, with support of the Mother's Club, have been highlights for the children.

At a club meeting on 24 March 1982 it was agreed to change the name to "Parents' Association" with the hope of encouraging fathers to attend meetings.

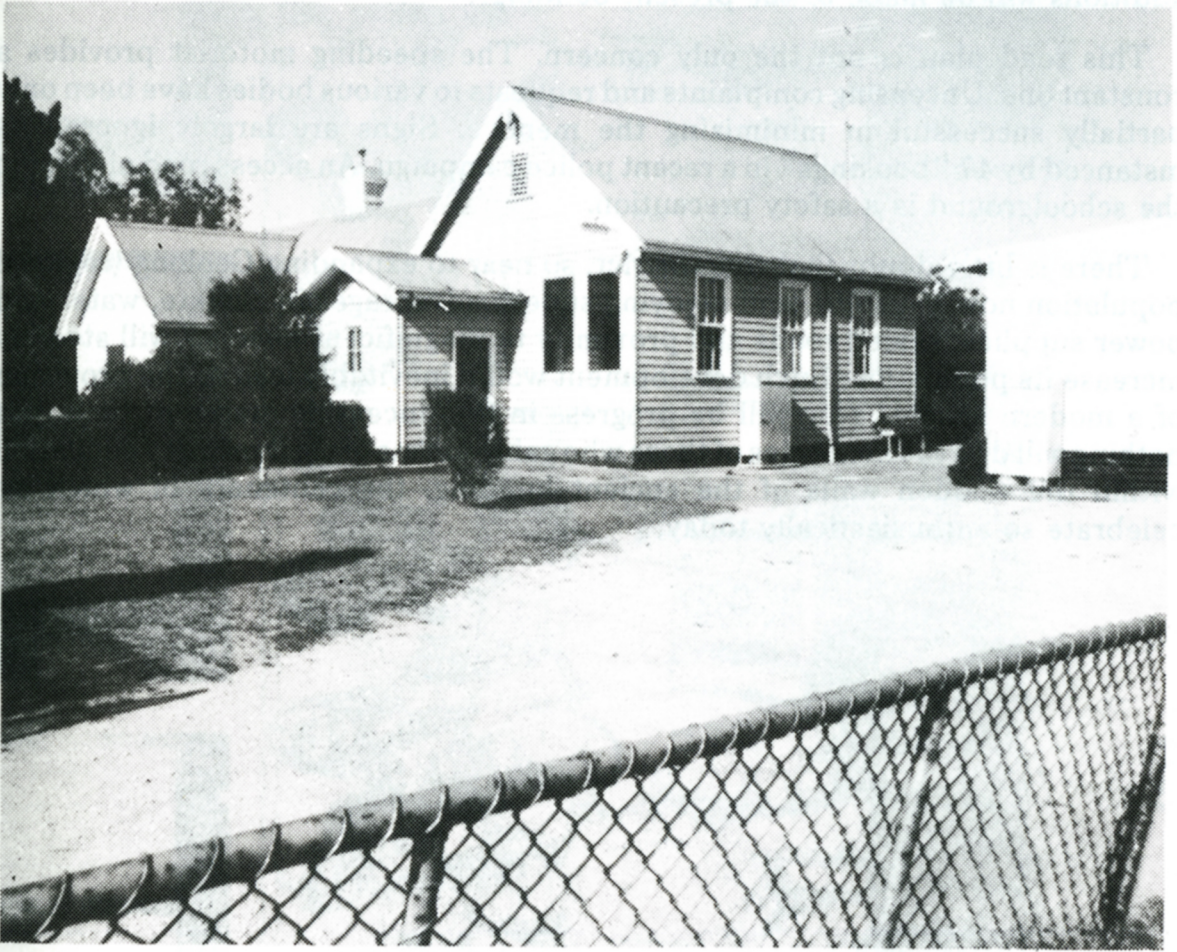
Current office bearers are: K. Webb (President), G. Chamberlain (Secretary), V. McCallum (Treasurer) and M. Cliff (Vice-President).



1966

*Back: G. Larcombe, D. Baxter, J. Baxter, L. Meaney, G. Larcombe, W. Ham, J. Olliff
Middle: L. Newland, G. Wilson, B. Lemin, H. Lemin, S. Leach, L. Larcombe.
Front: C. Larcombe, K. Stones, R. Olliff, S. Newland, M. Grossman, V. Newland.*

The School Today



The original building comprising classroom and residence remains almost as erected a century ago. The residence is one of very few attached buildings occupied by a teacher of the State. It may be difficult to maintain it as a suitable home.

Two mobile classrooms are in use. There are modern toilets using piped water from the mains. Recreational facilities include a tennis court and a sand playpen.

The village opposite has been partially restored by the erection of two shops. One with an adjacent caravan park is also a landmark with its giant "bottle" structure.

The teaching staff for 1983 is:

Head Teacher – Mrs. Helen M. Kreeck

Assistant Teacher – Mr. K. Collard

Assistant teacher – Mrs. E. Constable

38 pupils are enrolled.

A recent map produced by the Country Roads Board is ominous for the present buildings. The proposed widened highway appears to pass through the old classroom and residence. It seems unlikely therefore that any major repairs or additions will be made to the present buildings.

This road plan is not the only concern. The speeding motorist provides a constant one. Unceasing complaints and requests to various bodies have been only partially successful in minimizing the menace. Signs are largely ignored as instanced by 47 "bookings" in a recent police campaign. An access road alongside the schoolground is a safety precaution.

There is little doubt that this district, so near to expanding Geelong (regional population now 170,000), and enjoying superb advantages in climate, water and power supplies, sealed roads and proximity to magnificent beaches will steadily increase its population. Such development would inevitably lead to the provision of a modern school. This will be progress in the unceasing march of time, but nothing will dim the memories of those who gained some of their primary education within the wooden walls of the ancient building, the centenary of which we celebrate so enthusiastically today.

Back L to R: Mr. Kevin Collard, Todd Duncombe, Marc Changer, Michael Cliff, Mandie Grossman, Ruth Cuttler, Eloise Connelly, Angela Larcombe, Natalie Chamberlain, Vanessa McQuillan, Mrs. Helen Kreeck (H. T.).

3rd: Mrs. Elizabeth Constable, Adam Duncombe, Robert Cuttler, Paul McQuillan, Simon Gower, Craig Stones, Jeffrey Goddard, Jamie Rundle, Paul Larcombe.

2nd: Coby Duncombe, Rachel Webb, Claire Gower, Kristy McCallum, Samantha Rundle, Wesley Reed, Alexander Denman, Susan Grossman, Andrew Cliff.

Front: Drew Connelly, April Rundle, Edward Connelly, Sarah Steel, Sarah Webb, Rowena Chamberlain, Narelle Williams, Elizabeth Denman.

Absent: Andrea Tomkins, Cameron Hilsdon, Rosalie Guthrie.



1983

List of Teachers

J. Bowen	1858	Ernest St. J.H. Bingham	1937-42
William H. Wake	1859-63	Malcolm Greer	1942-47
Robert Brooks	1864-68	Sarah M. Seward Mrs.	1942
Joseph Edwards	1869-71	Nancy H. Hanrahan	1943
Thomas Job	1872-82	Kevin P. O'Hagan	1947
Thomas P. Martin	1883-84	Laurence G. McFarlane	1947-53
Herman E.F.J. Lampe	1884-90	Kenneth M. Kirk	1954
John Clappison	1890-1903	Thomas J. Kingston	1954-64
John R. Hawse	1903-17	David Singleton	1965-67
Annie I. Walsh	1918-19	Donald T. Reeves	1967-69
Russell C. Hanby	1920-25	Howard W. Willis	1969-71
Mary G. Murray (Mrs Smith)	1925-26	Robert W. Smith	1971-75
Sidney Pring	1926	Graham F. Brown	1975-77
Harold McGregor	1927-30	George W. Meadows	1977-79
Harry L. Tucker	1930-34	John C. Evans	1980-82
Eileen J. Lynch (Mrs. King)	1934	John Bell	1982-83
Sidney H. Gray	1934-37	Kevin C. Collard	1983
Rosina E. Milne	1937	Helen Kreeck	