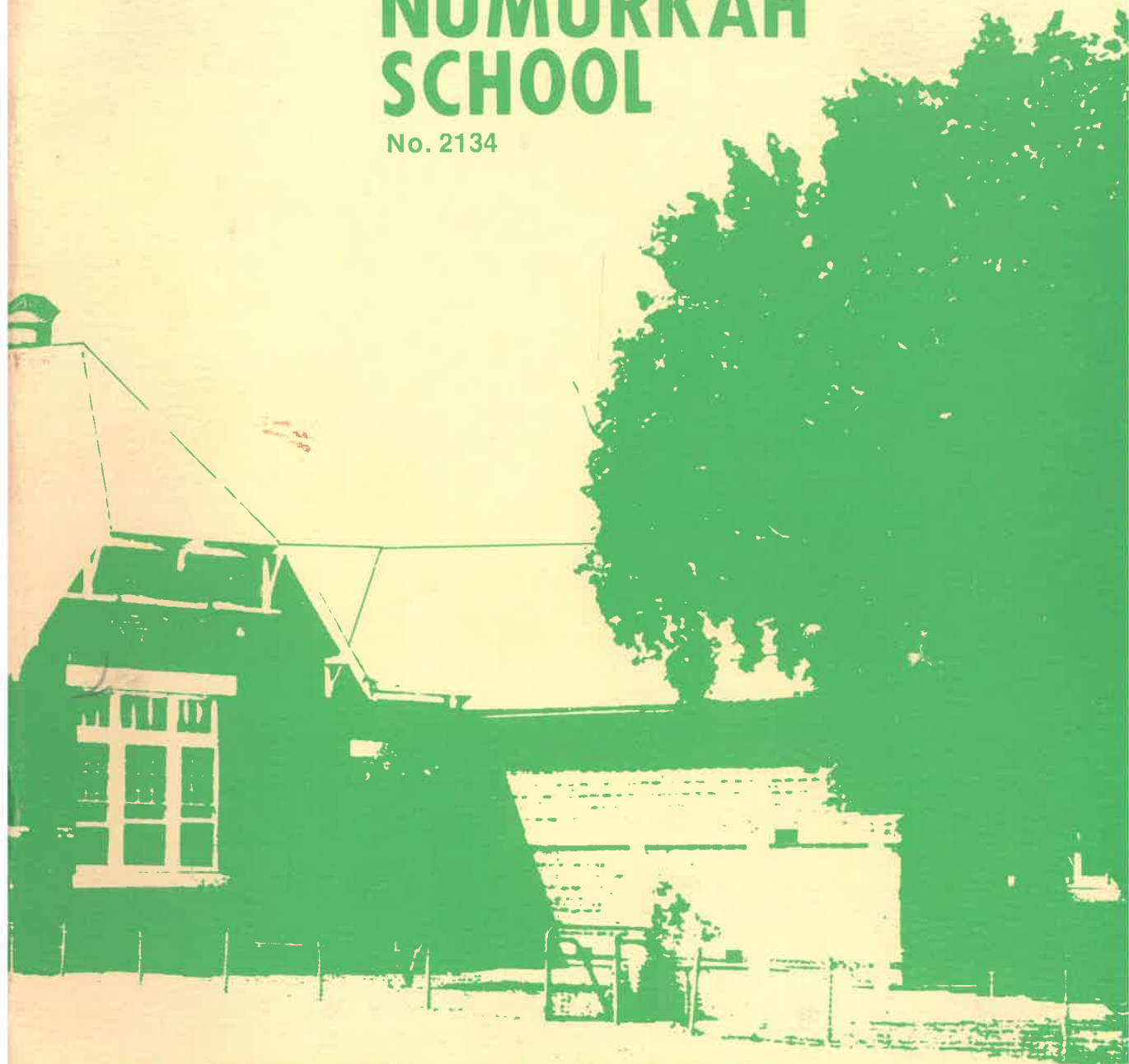


Box 28  
Numurkah, Vic. 3636

# CENTENARY

## NUMURKAH SCHOOL

No. 2134



# 1879-1979

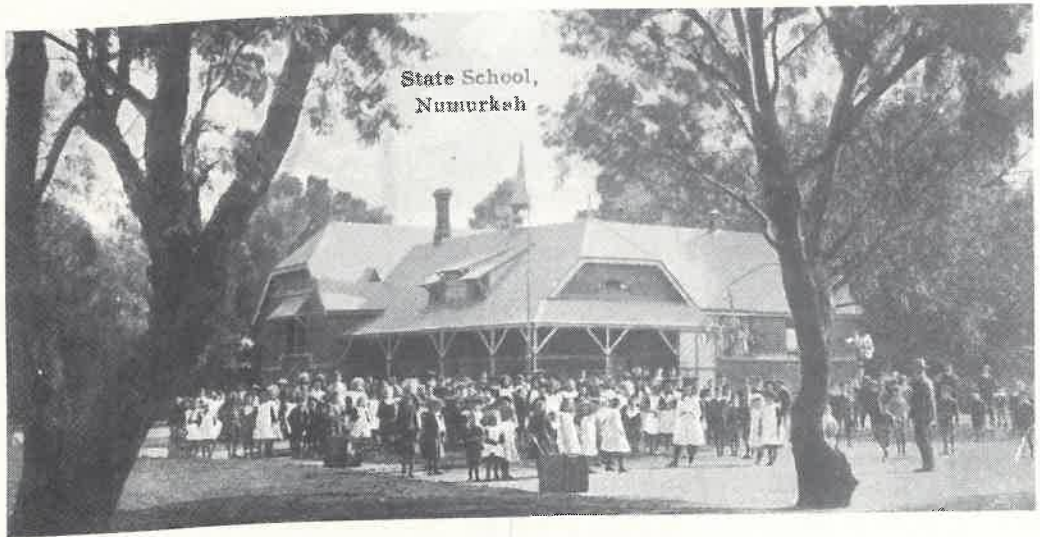
THIS SOUVENIR BOOKLET  
HAS BEEN PUBLISHED TO  
COMMEMORATE  
THE

**CENTENARY  
OF  
NUMURKAH  
SCHOOL**

**No. 2134**

**Held on  
AUGUST 17, 18 and 19, 1979**

**AND  
IS DEDICATED TO OUR  
PAST PUPILS AND  
TEACHERS**



## FOREWORD

When Numurkah Primary School started its life, education was still regarded as something of a privilege, rather than a right. At that time only about fifty percent of children of school age were actually at school, and unfortunately, the rest remained almost illiterate. As can be expected in the 100 years since, the story of all schools, and this school in particular, is a story of changes. Some of these changes took place slowly; in recent years perhaps they have been more rapid.

Past teachers and pupils coming back for the celebrations will see many changes—

- the old well is concealed for ever under asphalt and concrete,
- the bell room is now the Art room,
- no army huts are to be seen,
- there is a modern library, a new staffroom, the office area has been altered,
- grounds are watered by a high pressure raw water system.

I believe many people will be justifiably proud when they see the fruits of their hard work over the years gone by.

Somebody planted that tree. Extensions and alterations don't just happen — the library certainly did not just appear. Did you know that the tennis courts were once near the canteen, and that they have been upgraded at least three times? There are the grounds — outdoor gymnasium playground, adventure playground, newly made basketball court, and of course grassed grounds all the year round.

Thank you for your contribution whatever the year.

KEITH HIGGINS  
PRINCIPAL 1979



# NUMURKAH SCHOOL CENTENARY

The early settlement by the white people of the Numurkah District was similar to that of most areas in Victoria, when the land, in vast tracts, was occupied by the squatters for the grazing of their flocks and herds.

Earliest occupation of this area was Strathmerton run which comprised some four hundred square miles of country having a frontage of two miles to the Murray River and extending southwards to include the area at present including the township of Numurkah.

In 1842 a licence was taken out for this run by Benjamin Boyd who held it until 1847, when he applied for a lease of 192 000 acres for grazing purposes. He was instrumental in importing ram-bouillet rams and horses from overseas to improve his stock.

Until the early 1870's squatters continued to occupy the land although many of the original holdings were reduced in size and new runs established.

With the passing of the Land Act 1869, we find selectors coming into this area and making selections of up to 320 acres on the runs previously occupied by the squatters.

After occupation for three years at a rental of 2 - per acre and complying with the condition of the licence, the selector, by paying a further sum of 14/- an acre to make a total of one pound an acre, could obtain a Crown Grant for the land, which denoted the ownership of the freehold.

This resulted in an influx of settlers into the more fertile areas with the result that many selections were taken up in the vicinity. With their wives and families they greatly increased the white population, which became a closely knit community.



*William and Agnes Saxton at their Golden Wedding 1915.*



This increase naturally led to the formation of the township of Numurkah to provide for their requirements in household goods, machinery, religion and culture etc. Parents, with children of school age, desired that they received an adequate education and hence the need for a State School arose.

Prominent among the residents who were instrumental in having the school established on the present site was Mr William Saxton whose selection had as its southern boundary, the present Saxton St from Tocumwal Road east.

The surveys for the township of Numurkah were made in 1875, and an area of 5 acres, centrally located and comprising one complete block, was allotted for the building of a school.

On September 6, 1877, the Hon G. Sharp, MLA was forwarded a petition by the residents of the Numurkah township, urging the establishment of a school; 40 children would attend.

C. Sharpe Esq. M.L.A.  
Dear Sir

The undersigned, residents, in and within, about two miles of the township of Numurkah, would respectfully draw your attention, to the want of a school here. There is, within the said distance, forty children. And the nearest school is distant five miles. We therefore hope that you will urge on the Minister of Education, the necessity that exists for a school here. By so doing you will oblige.

William Saxton  
Timothy Hare  
John Apples  
James Rogers  
Replimus Stalwart  
John Bourke  
William de Chene  
J. McCune  
Thomas Collett  
J. J. G. Hill  
Ruben Rockliff  
John Rockliff  
Peter McCathie  
John Walters  
Conrad McEwen

Sarah Johns  
John de Groot  
Archibald Johnstone  
Thomas Devine  
John Murray  
J. Murray  
Thomas Huscock  
J. Simpson  
J. McCaughey  
John Gray  
J. Gray  
A. Bridge  
J. McCaughey  
Mrs. Murray

Yours the petitioners I have the honor to be yours very respectfully

J. McCaughey

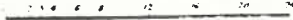
Numurkah  
Sept 1st 1877 Address Wingham by Shepp

# Township of NUMURKAH.

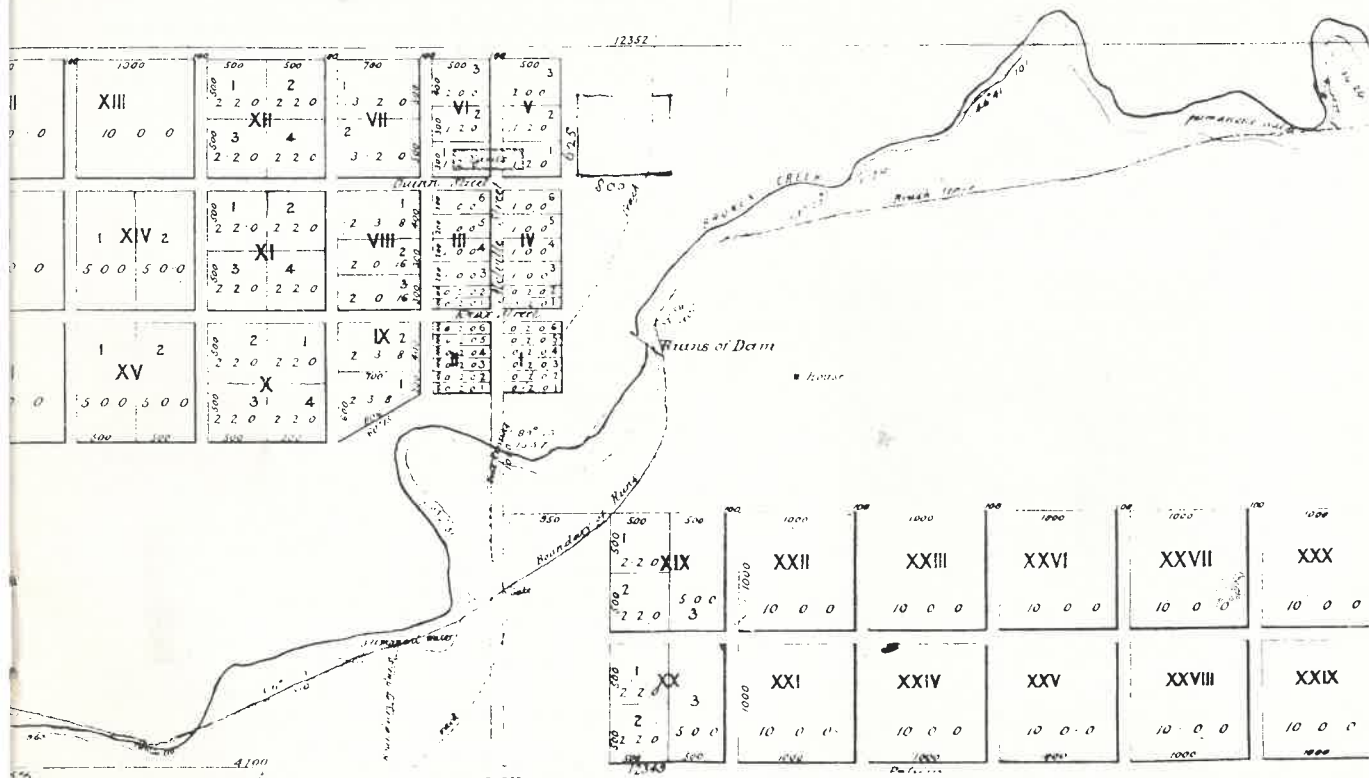
PARISH OF KATUNGA  
County of Moira

To Township

Scale of Chains



L. 5088



Photolithographed at the Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne by J. Noone 15/12/78

District Inspector Robert Craig visited the Parish of Katunga on October 13, 1877, and reported on the situation. He found that a Crown land site of five acres in the township of Numurkah could be used for school purposes. He stated that: "the present population would scarcely warrant the establish-

ment of a school; but, as I confidently believe, it will have increased considerably by the time the school is ready, I recommend erection!"

The site was surveyed by Alfred Leahy for 3 pounds 10 -, and gazetted on March 22, 1878.

The residents of Numurkah were informed in June of the same year that "no funds were available to send portable buildings." After the establishment of a private school was suggested, a portable timber building with a two-roomed residence attached was promptly forwarded from Melbourne and erected on January 18, 1879, the cost of the building and residence being 133 pounds, 19 shillings and nine pence plus 20 pounds, 19 shillings for cartage. The building arrived on waggons complete with the new stove, pipe chimneys and green painted windows. Some maps, and charts of birds and snakes arrived with the school. These were thought to be most unattractive by some of the scholars who thoroughly disliked the idea of school.

SS 2134 Numurkah was officially established on March 4, 1879, under Head Teacher Thomas Livingstone.



THOMAS LIVINGSTONE,  
first Headmaster of Numurkah State  
School, 2134.

**Pupils enrolled were:**

BRENNION, Rosetta, Annie, Maggie and Robert; CALLANDER, Jim and John; COLLETT, George and Salome; CUTHBERT, L; ELIOT, Emily and Charles; GREEN, Louise and Arthur; McAULIFFE, Johanna, Anne, Mary and Cornelius; MORTILL, Rebecca; PATTERSON, Jack and William; RALSTON, Elizabeth; SAXTON, Anne, Joseph, John, Frances and William; TILBURN, Grace and Louisa.

Amongst the names of the scholars submitted for enrolment were some living as far away as Katunga, but they found the distance too great for attendance and did not put in an appearance.

At this time the township was situated in forest.

The settlers had not been able to clear much of the big timber and scrub for their selections. Amongst the timber were thick areas of pines and bull-oaks.

Mr Brenion was one of the parents who had to plough a furrow from his home for the children to follow on the way to school. Mr Saxton cut notches on trees to blaze a trail for his family.

The aim of many children in those times was to secure a certificate of exemption from compulsory attendance at school. This was perhaps understandable as many of them were much older, when they first commenced school, than children of the present day. Naturally school life would be rather dull in comparison with their experiences beforehand, particularly so in the case of the older boys.

An interesting memory of some of the scholars at the time tells of Mr Livingstone adjourning school to referee a shearing contest between Mr Fred Haynes, Manager of the Commercial Bank, and Mr Hugh McCaskill, who ran the Numurkah Hotel.

It is of interest to note that Mr Livingstone retired to enter newspaper work with Mr Nat McKay, later became a director of the Gippsland Dairying Co, and then entered Parliament as a member of the Legislative Assembly to finally become Minister for Education in Victoria.

The Rev John Urquhart, the first Presbyterian minister, voluntarily took evening classes in shorthand, Latin and mathematics.

Mr Joseph Crow, the first newsagent in the town, was interested in educational matters, and regularly supplied parcels of books for prizes.

No record of the official opening of the school has been located in newspaper cuttings, or other sources, but it is known that Mr Robert Craig, District Inspector of Schools, represented the Education Department.

John Saxton later became Chief Inspector of Primary Schools.

31	Boxon John
32	Harrands Ruby
33	Glinny Vera K.
34	Willcosc Edith Stella
35	M <sup>rs</sup> Pherson Doris Ellen
36	Hiatt Nellie
37	Bignell Elsie
38	M <sup>rs</sup> Cleary Edna
39	King Mabel
40	Bignell George
41	Bowden Victor
42	Sloley Edward
43	Fraser Keith
44	Paterson William
45	Heard Clarence
46	Sooty Mabel Lilian
47	Selleck Ida
48	Nicholson Elsie
49	Baker Lily
50	Webster May
51	M <sup>rs</sup> Whinney Jean
52	Nightingale Elsie

On May 19, 1881, Livingstone wrote, saying that "the average attendance has so considerably increased that the present building is far too small to accommodate the (45) children with sitting room." The partition between the quarters and the schoolroom was consequently removed in June 1881, for one pound.

Moreover, by September 1881, increased accommodation was again requested. The introduction of the railway had opened up the area, and so a new brick building, 40' x 20' was proposed, while the old building would be converted into a residence. No action had been taken by August 1882, and so Head Teacher Livingstone inquired if a building could be leased to house the children. The average attendance was then 75. The Bible Christian Church building, 40' x 18' was procured for 2/- per week on September 1, 1882.

A tender submitted by Messrs Tuck and Kittle was forwarded in March 1883 for 660 pounds, seven shillings and sixpence, and was accepted on April 25, 1883. By March 8, 1884 the final certificate of completion, for both the new building and the residence (old school building) had been forwarded.

In early 1884, the average attendance at 2134 had risen to 97. The Bible Christian Church was once again leased for 36 pounds per annum until the Department stated "sufficient funds will permit the erection of a further building."



J.T. Saxton, Chief Inspector of Primary Schools.





*Celebration at the school in the early days.*

A new brick wing, 36' x 20', was proposed on January 13, 1885. This additional building would provide accommodation for 152 pupils at 10 square feet per child. A contract was let in October 1885 and the structure was completed by April 20, 1886.

The school was being extensively renovated in October 1897, and so school instruction was taken, once again, in the Bible Christian Church from February 1, 1898. However, the building was mysteriously burnt to the ground on February 9, 1898.

As a consequence, a room 26' x 15', in the Mechanics Institute Hall was rented on July 18, 1898. On March 15, 1899, Head Teacher Julius J. Schilling reported "the rented room . . . is of late unsatisfactory . . . the room is used by various lodges . . . and after these meetings . . . smoked cigarettes make the room disagreeable . . . today one of these cigarettes was still smoldering!" The cleaner was reminded of his duties, and no further action was taken.

District Inspector William F. Gates recommended, in July 1899, that an additional room 30' x 18', be built for 450 pounds. A contract was let which was completed on April 11, 1900.

In 1906, two rooms were added to the Head Teacher's residence.

Head Teacher James B. Brunton stated, on December 7, 1911, that "there are 95 children in the Senior classroom."

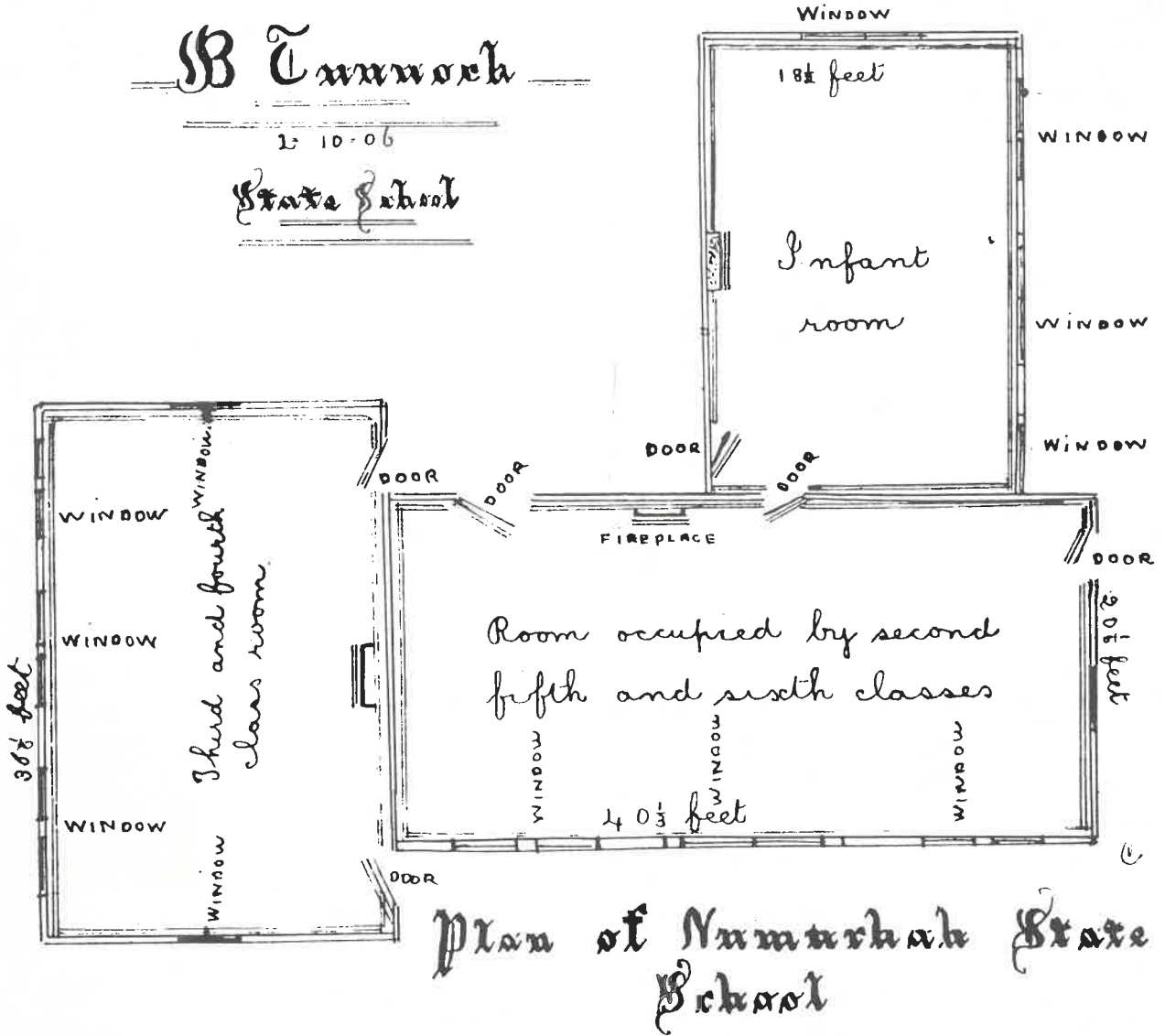
remodelling, in the form of four classrooms measuring 26'6" x 24', 36' x 20', 30' x 18' and 21'6" x 20' was completed by April 18, 1912.

Correspondent T.S. Lancaster requested on February 26, 1914, that the residence be moved to the south-west corner of the reserve, as its "present" central position offered no privacy from the children at playtime. Consequently, on November 6, 1914, the removal and remodelling of the residence was authorised for 365 pounds, the completion date being set for May 26, 1915.

# Numurkah

2-10-06

## State School



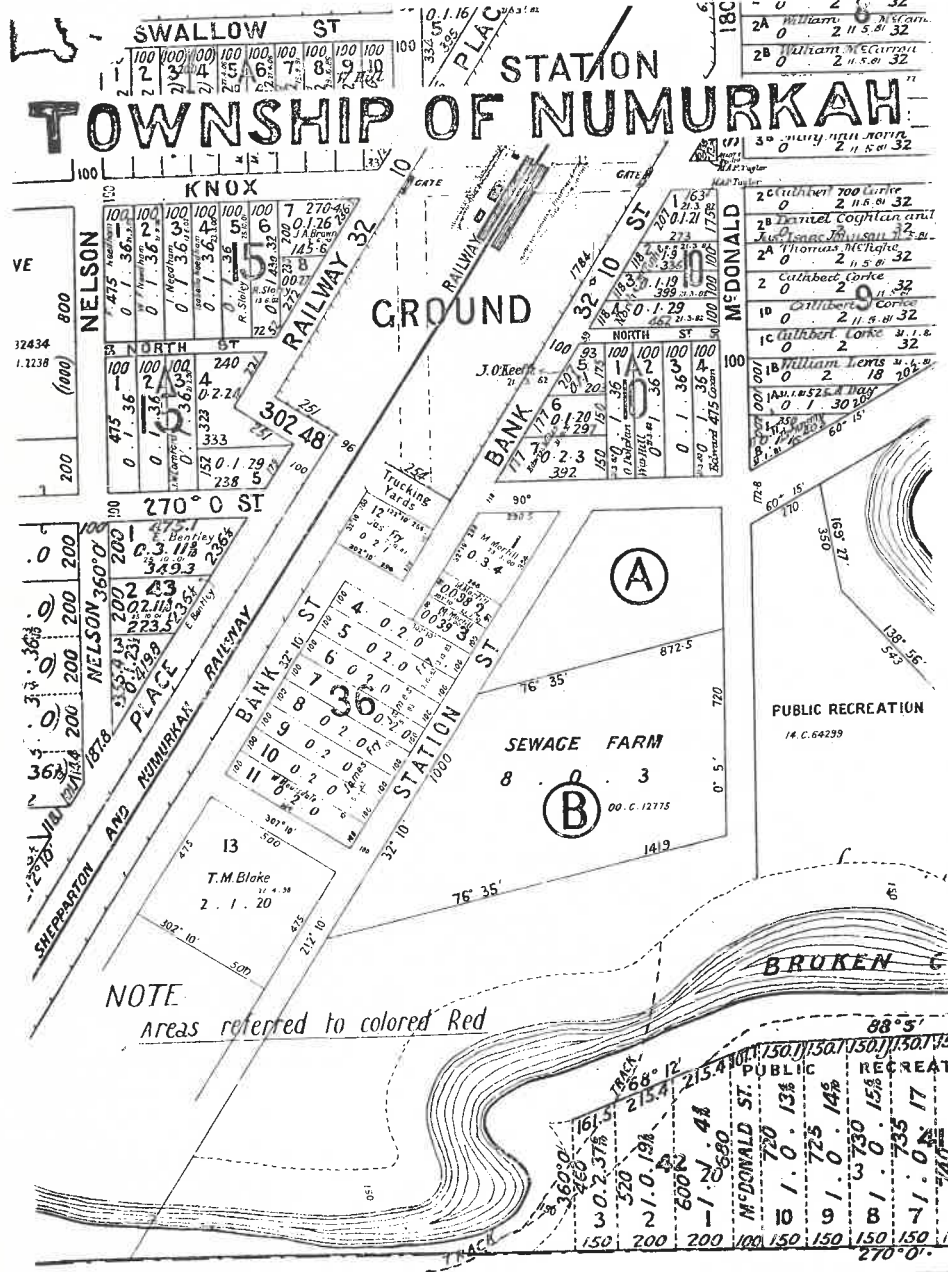
Mr A.E. Morris, from the "Numurkah Leader", inquired in October 1923, as to the correct procedure in applying for the establishment of Higher Elementary classes. He stated: "Might I anticipate an argument that there are already such schools at Shepparton and Nathalia by stating that many parents are loth to send their children to either, on account of the absence of control outside school hours, (consequently) they have been compelled to send them to colleges in Melbourne." In reply to Mr

Morris's request, a number of conditions pertaining to the establishment of a HES were forwarded by the Department in November 1923.

Chief Inspector L.J. Wrigley investigated the matter that same month, and, finding 82 "qualified" pupils could attend, he stated that a HES should be established and housed in the present Primary School buildings if alterations were made, but "a separate site should be reserved as soon as possible."

Correspondent James Martin stated in December 1923, that his committee would be prepared to get 8 acres of land vested for the Department, and provide a temporary building for the HES if their application was accepted. The offer was taken up and the HES was established, with classes commencing on January 29, 1924, in the Presbyterian Hall. (By April, classes had commenced in the 2134 building).

In August 1924, Correspondent Martin informed the Department that "the land selected for a HES is Government land being part of the local Public Park. The consent of the local Shire Council has been obtained to transfer to the Education Department, and my committee is of the opinion that any further steps necessary for having the land transferred from one Government Department to another would be undertaken by your Department.



By Adjunct  
A. J. McCall, Government Printer  
Melb. 1924



The site was duly gazetted on June 30, 1926.

Additions to the Primary School building, as recommended by Inspector Wrigley in November 1923, were authorised in November of the following year for 4358 pounds. Additions included a brick wing with two 26'6" x 24' classrooms, a 27' x 26'6" science room, a 14'6" x 12' staffroom and three storerooms. The average attendance at the HES at this time was 69, with 20 boys attending classes from grades V and VI. Average attendance at the Primary School was 175.

Until the new building was completed, the Presbyterian Hall was once again leased to alleviate some of the overcrowding problems. Leasing lasted from June 29, 1925 to May 14, 1926 for 2 pounds 10 shillings per week. The Hon the Minister for Education, Sir Alexander J. Peacock officially opened the new HES building.

The erection of a shelter pavilion to house 80 pupils, was requested on March 18, 1926. Expenditure of 163 pounds, 10 shillings was approved and the structure completed by August 1926 by local contractor J. Murray.

In September 1927, Head Teacher Norman McHutchinson informed the Department that "the PWD has recently erected a building in connection with this school for the purpose of instruction in woodwork. I should like to inquire when it is proposed to establish woodwork classes here?" Three unused woodwork benches were removed from SS795 Rochester to Numurkah shortly after May 21, 1928.

By 1932 the High Elementary section of 2134 Numurkah was occupying three ordinary classrooms, a science room and a sloyd room 26'6" x 24'6".

Agitation by parents and residents of the district had been occurring for some time, in relation to providing a "certificate" class for children who wished to further their education. On November 20, 1934, Correspondent A.F.H. Smith stated: "We are . . . desirous that Numurkah should be made an examination centre, as too much time is lost under the present system and efficiency of school working impaired." The Numurkah Chamber of Commerce granted their permission for the establishment of such a class in April 1940, but added, in a letter to the Department, that "what is required is an addition to the present . . . building to provide extra space for the class mentioned." Steps were taken, and an extra site, 11 acres 1 rood 9 perches was reserved in the Numurkah township and gazetted on August 28, 1940

A cookery centre, for use by the HES classes, was proposed on June 30, 1939. A tender was let to T. Tuttle and Sons for 663 pounds, 8 shillings 6d on November 2, 1939. By April 27, 1940 the building had been completed and was officially opened by the Director of Education Mr J.A. Seitz on July 10, 1940.



*Ruby Woodhouse, Teacher,  
Numurkah 1879-1919.*





*Photo donated by Miss Woodhouse.*

After receiving many complaints from Head Teacher Matthew Hogan, concerning the appalling state of the 50 year old residence, a health report was called for in October 1938, and the following conclusion was reached: "The house . . . is old and has been built onto from time to time; it is in a . . . poor state of repair . . . the ideal solution . . . would

be entire re-building." Before action could be taken in accordance with the report, Correspondent M.J. Little telegraphed the Department on December 8, 1938: "Numurkah school residence destroyed by fire this morning." A new building was promptly authorised and was completed on October 23, 1939 for 592 pounds 2 shillings.



The total attendance at 2134 Numurkah in 1940 was 242 pupils; the primary section having 134 and the HES having an average attendance of 108.

On October 15, 1943, Correspondent W.A. Retallick, on behalf of the School Committee, requested that the HES be raised in status to a High School. The following reasons were given:

“Numurkah HES has reached a stage of development when an extension of its educational facilities is not merely justified but urgently needed; this increased attendance must be given adequate accommodation; a high school will provide children with a specialised training to suit individual needs; and Numurkah faces rapid development in the near future, plans for irrigation will be put into execution . . .”

The Department replied on October 27, 1943: “The numbers in attendance do not warrant the addition of a teacher of commerce subjects, but pupils who desire tuition in these subjects may enrol with the Correspondence School.”

Conditions were so overcrowded in February 1944, that Head Teacher Carl Petterson informed the Department that the Manchester Unity Hall, 16' x 20', would have to be hired in order to house 79 prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 children. Consequently occupation took place on March 22, 1944 for 50 pounds per annum. (The leasing of the building, which later became the RSL Hall, was finally terminated on December 19, 1955, when the Infant grades could then be housed in government-owned buildings).



*Pupils at Numurkah State School  
about 1905.*

The Chief Commissioner of Police recommended in July 1946, that the "police paddock" in Section 31, be used as a playground for the Infant Department. This was accepted with much enthusiasm as the existing playground was very cramped.

The "Police paddock" is now occupied by the Apex and CWA Halls.

These were erected in the south-east corner of the school-ground, on the site of the present adventure playground. Other rooms were later placed in the north-west corner, and to the north of the residence.

Head Teacher David L. Bartholomew stated in August 1948 that "even when the Army hut is converted, the Infant classes will still have to be accommodated in the MUIOOF Hall." District



Head Teacher Petterson, in late February 1947, informed the Department that the Methodist Church Hall and an accompanying room would have to be hired for school purposes, as Form V scholars were completely without a room. This move was approved at a rental of 15 shillings per week and occupation took place on February 4, 1947. The average attendances for the HES in 1947 were: Form I — 68; Form II — 56; Form III — 37; Form IV — 30; and Form V — 9.

The Department took action to alleviate some overcrowding in July, 1947, by authorising the removal, re-erection and conversion into three classrooms, an Army hutment, 100' x 22'6" from Camp No 1 Tatura, the date of removal being August 5, 1948.

Inspector H.J. Bennett agreed and so a further hutment 60' x 16'6" was authorised in October 1948 to be converted into two classrooms for use by the Infant Department.

By late 1950 extra accommodation was still required, this time, by the HES, which had been proclaimed a High School from January 1, 1951. Two additional pre-fabricated classrooms were supplied on August 14, 1952 for 2216 pounds, 3 shillings 1d.

These Jennings classrooms are still in use.

The newly established High School vacated the Primary School premises in April 1956, and moved to new buildings situated on the 11 acre site in Tocumwal Road.







Consequently the vacant Domestic Arts block was suggested as the ideal building for the establishment of a Cafeteria.

Operation began on May 14, 1956, after much correspondence relating to the provision of equipment, and from July 1956, the woodwork room was officially used by the Primary grades as an art and craft centre.

A new wing, consisting of six new classrooms, staffroom and storeroom for Infant Room supplies was completed late in 1964. These rooms were built around the existing two Jennings pre-fabricated rooms, and linked with the main building by a corridor.

In 1971, the central library was added.

In 1979, further remodelling has converted two classrooms into a larger Art room complete with outdoor area, while the previous Art room has become the Staff room, with the Special Education Unit occupying the former small Staff room.

Current enrolment is 388.

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#### LIST OF HEAD TEACHERS

Thomas Livingstone .....	1879-83
John Lane .....	1883-94
Julius J. Schilling .....	1895-1906
Henry Crockett .....	1906-09
James B. Brunton .....	1910-13
William H. Bulleid .....	1913-17
Robert H. Cook .....	1917-19
John Calder .....	1919-24
Timothy R. Lehane .....	1924
Norman McHutchinson .....	1925-28
Joseph E. Youlden .....	1928-34
William J.A. Doherty .....	1934-37
Matthew A. Hogan .....	1937-43
Carl W. Petterson .....	1943-48
David L. Bartholomew .....	1948-50
Richard J. Clements .....	1950-51
William R. Tennant .....	1951-57
Leonard R. Spinks .....	1957-61
Bernard J. Blanches .....	1962-65
Eric W. Bunny .....	1965-66
Ian T. McCombe .....	1967-73
Paul K. Callahan .....	1974
Thomas M. Gastin .....	1975-77
Lindsay A. Wright .....	1977
Keith W. Higgins .....	1978-

## FROM THE SCHOOL RECORDS — INSPECTOR'S REPORTS

1914 — The writing of Grade 1 was fairly good. Pupils should, however, on no account, copy print. The agricultural plot is neatly and securely fenced with netting. A portion is irrigated by the waste water from the lavatories. Maize, Millet, Ambergane and Sorghum have been grown successfully on this corner. The garden is very extensive and though water is laid on, it is not available owing to the drought.

Despite this fact, it has some very good blooms and is well cared for. It contains 200 varieties of roses.

1916 — The school building is of modern type and in really good order. The floor, the desks, and in some places the walls are inkstained. There is a library of 175 volumes.

1917 — 23 candidates were presented for Qualifying Certificate, 21 for Merit Certificate. The contributions to the Patriotic Fund total 112 pounds, 3 shillings and 4d. In Grade 8, not one pupil would admit that the writing in books presented was the best that could be done in the time at disposal.

1918 — I was pleased to find throughout the school that the pupils are putting forth their best efforts. This is a commendable feature.

1920 — Vegetables are being grown very successfully, and prizes were gained at district shows. There are practically no late-comers. The work of Grades 1 and 2 was the best I have seen this year.

1922 — A new fence for the front and side (broken down by a cyclone) has been promised. The floors have been ant-eaten in many places and will need repairing. Pupils are very well behaved, industrious and interested in their school.

1925 — 120 children present. Matters undertaken by present H.T. and Committee include: Filling of a dangerous well. (Note — the well was uncovered again by workmen during the 1979 school alternations and improvements). Removal of the unsightly and condemned residence. Filling in of holes near school entrance.

1929 — The Sloyd Centre is a suitable wooden structure, well lighted, satisfactorily ventilated and in a good state of repair. It holds four benches comfortably, and provides accommodation for 16 boys.

1937 — A very fine shelter shed has been erected, and is quite suitable for occasional use as a classroom in the summer.

1938 — Enrolment 86 HES pupils and 136 Primary pupils. The grounds are compact, splendidly shaded and securely fenced, but are situated right in the centre of the town, with no room for future expansion. From donations of the Ex-Students' Association and the Mothers' Club, the office and staff room were completely re-furnished and refinements such as linoleum, curtains, table cloth, etc, supplied. A typewriter was also secured for the school at a cost of 27 pounds.

school, classes range from Grade 1 to Form V. With the extra form engaged in preparation for Leaving Certificate there is some difficulty in accommodation which could be remedied by the addition of an extra classroom.

1942 — During the year 13 pounds was spent on the school library while 7 pounds was spent in providing excellent additional books for the District Schools' Library.



1920

1939 — A district library scheme is in its initial stages, and will shortly be in full working order. This will embrace all the schools from Wunghnu to Cobram, and will result in an ample supply of suitable books being placed in every school, with an efficient scheme for transport, selection and exchange. This will operate from Numurkah as its centre.

1940 — The basketball court has disappeared as a result of the building of the new Cookery Centre encroaching on its area. A new court is being constructed in another part of the grounds.

1941 — Rooms occupied by pupils of the HES are taxed in accommodation, necessitating the use of the woodwork and domestic science rooms for lessons. For the first time in the history of the

1944 — The Infant Department has the use of a commodious hall near the school; working conditions are excellent.

1944 — The amount of recorded work to date is excellent, with generally high standards. Supervision is very good, but more care could be taken with ruling, while children should keep pencils sharp and nibs in good order. Food for Britain, Children's Hospital and Mooropna Base Hospital Appeals have been supported on excellent lines, while the move to establish a local Memorial Hospital is being enthusiastically supported.

1947 — Hot cocoa is provided for all children who desire it each morning at a cost of one penny per child per day. Social Service is very well fostered,

appeals totalling 22 pounds. Parcels have also been sent to Britain. 30 pounds has been spent on additional library books, and six new pictures in colour have been added.

1948 — Enrolment has further increased to 187 in the Primary section, so that the housing of grades has resulted in that portion of the school being scattered over four buildings — the school, army hut, MUIOOF Hall and a Church Hall. Post-primary forms also use the Church Hall.

1950 — Neither of the Army huts has yet been fully converted, nor has any work been done on them for several months, but both are being partly used for class purposes. Despite the most trying and oppressive day, the school worked steadily.

1957 — Equipment now includes a new P.A. system costing 273 pounds. (50 pounds subsidy). The present enrolment is 438.

1963 — A recent Mothers' Club Fete raised 149 pounds. The club members have undertaken to meet the local share of the cost of a new duplicator (97 pounds) and library books (150 pounds).

Much of the progress at the school has been due to the efforts of the School Committee. The members have initiated many projects and brought most of them to successful conclusions.

The earliest available record is contained in an official Minute Book with minutes of the meeting on September 22, 1918, but the Committee was in operation before that date.

On September 1, 1885 tenders were called for additions to the Police Station and State School, and on July 22, 1886 a notice in a local newspaper stated that the Numurkah School Board of Advice meeting was to be held at "The Standard" Office.



*Numurkah H.E.S. Orchestra.*

*M. Peddle, A. Lewis, P. Heard, J. Girder, G. McHutchison, J. Lewis, M. Girdler, E. Guenther, Graham Heard, Gerald Heard, N. Finlay.*



## FROM THE MINUTE BOOK OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

22.9.19. Application to be made for Sloyd and Cookery Centre. Honor Roll to be compiled.

18.5.22. Department to be again contacted about the dangerous state of the floors.

12.6.24. Department to be asked to pay the rent for the Presbyterian Hall which was being used by HES classes.

18.5.25. Plans for shelter shed and bicycle shed.

27.8.25. The Head Teacher reported that a Ladies Committee had been formed. This was possibly the beginning of the present Mothers' Club.

12.1.27. Decision to proceed at once with the making of two tennis courts.

24.4.27. Report to be made on the prospects of putting in a swimming pool.

2.5.29. An excursion to be arranged to travel by train to the seaside.

7.7.30. Discussion about installing lights in rooms.

18.3.31. System of bells to be installed for classrooms.

18.5.33. Committee to pay for electricity.

4.9.33. Consideration to be given to purchase of a wireless set at an early date.

7.12.33. Prizes to be awarded annually to pupils who pass Intermediate Certificate.



*School Choir, 1976*

*Back: (from left): L. Hooker; V. Hudson; L. McKeown; H. Fowles; J. Cohen. T. Woolcock; S. Wright; J. Cossens; K. Siegrist*

*2nd Row: J. Sutherland; T. Mayberry; J. McKellar; M. Waites; T. Visser; J. Rumble; F. Sutton; K. Maskell.*

*Front: J. Cunningham; J. McCarten; D. Dempster; W. Hooker; C. Hodge; H. Herbert; D. Bilston; J. Woolcock; P. Leys; J. Waites (with board).*

*Conductor: Mr. P. Callahan. Pianist: Mrs. E. Pell.*

*Numurkah School has always had a reputation for being musical. The H.E.S. Orchestra was conducted by Mr. J. Lewis, while Mr. P. Callahan trains the present choir.*



23.5.35. Wall panelling to be erected in Grade 3 and 4 room for displaying children's work. Cost — 1 pound, 12/6.

18.3.37. Correspondent to arrange to have telephone extended to school building.

2.2.39. A meeting of parents interested in the running of a bus service to the school to be arranged.

3.10.39. Gravel to be obtained for the construction of new basketball courts.

8.7.40. Arrangements to be made for the opening of the new Domestic Arts Centre.

19.3.41. Bicycle shed to be enlarged.

12.10.43. Necessary steps to be taken to have a High School established.

26.9.44. Committee to meet Mothers' Club to discuss the establishment of a school canteen.

1.11.46. Canteen showed a profit of 13 pounds, four shillings. May lessen costs to students to make a balance.

25.2.47. School overcrowded — two halls being used as classrooms.

24.2.48. 6 spades, 6 forks, 3 rakes and hedge-shears to be purchased.

26.4.49. Film projector to be bought at cost of 26 pounds, 15 shillings.

26.7.49. Electric wiring and power points to be installed in Sloyd room and army hut.

27.11.51. Power mower to be purchased.

18.3.52. Six sets of drinking fountains to be installed.

24.6.52. Information to be sought about the possibility of starting a kindergarten in Numurkah.

29.7.52. Cricket pitches to be constructed in grounds. Contract let for wiring of public address system.

31.5.55. Playground equipment purchased by Mothers' Club.

27.9.55. Letter to be sent to Education Department seeking the use of the Domestic Arts building as a cafeteria.

31.7.56. A holiday to be sought so that an excursion could be arranged to the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

28.11.56. An Opportunity Grade to be established in the following year.

26.3.57. A piano to be purchased.

29.10.57. Committee agreed to give a book to the Dux of each grade, and also to donate a Citizenship prize.

29.4.58. Moves to obtain details of gates suitable for a memorial to past pupils who served with the armed services during World War Two.

26.4.60. Request to Department to replace army huts with suitable classrooms.

27.2.62. Tape recorder to be purchased.

28.2.64. Practice concrete cricket pitch laid and fenced.



*School Fete 1976.  
Committee and Mother's Club members  
serving at the barbecue.*

## Ex-Students Association

A very active Ex-Students Association existed for many years, apparently being formed some time after the school was declared a Higher Elementary School. Annual re-union dinners and balls were

held, and donations of various kinds — money, trophies, encyclopaedia, library books and first aid equipment — were made to the school.

### Song - - The Best School of All

It's good to see the school we knew,  
The land of youth and dream,  
To greet again the rule we knew,  
Before we took the stream;  
Though long we've missed the sight of her,  
Our hearts may not forget;  
We've lost the old delight of her,  
We'll keep her honour yet.

Ch.: We'll honour yet the School we knew,  
The best School of all;  
We'll honour yet the rule we knew,  
Till the last bell call.  
For working days or holidays,  
And glad or melancholy days,  
They were great days and jolly days  
At the best School of all.

To speak of fame a venture is,  
There's little here can bide,  
But we may face the centuries,  
And dare the deepening tide;  
For though the dust that's part of us  
To dust again be gone,  
Yet here shall dwell the heart of us—  
The School we handed on!

—Newbolt

*The Leader print, Numurkah*

This is to certify that

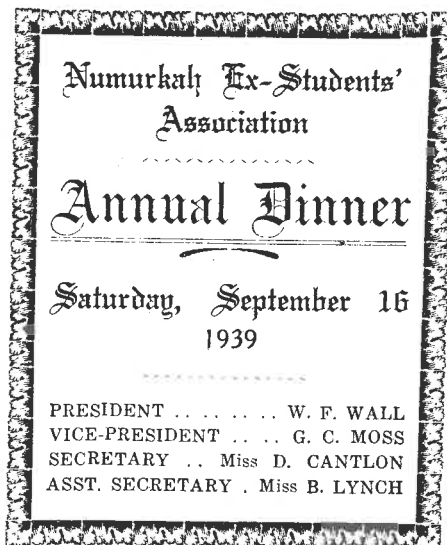
*for Bill Murray*

is a financial member of N.E.H.S.  
Ex-Students' Association for season  
1939-40.

*Blankin* Secretary

#### COMMITTEE:

U. CHILCOTT	W. BROWN
E. DUDLEY	G. DUDLEY
V. GUNN	A. HILLIARD
M. KELLY	C. JOHNSON
B. KINNAIRD	A. MATHEWS
G. LADGROVE	C. McPHERSON
V. McBRIDE	G. PATERSON
M. SIMPSON	



#### TOASTS

;

The King

The School

Ex-Students' Association

The School Staff

The Visitors

The Mothers' Committee

## WERE YOU THERE THEN?

When the swimming sports were held in the old swimming pool in the creek? And there were holes in the walls of the dressing sheds?

When "spitfires" were regularly produced as Nature Study specimens?

When, every Empire Day, the president of the School Committee donated a tin of boiled lollies to be distributed among the pupils?

When hopscotch, jacks and skipping were the most popular games for girls?

When Open Days and Nights were a feature of Education Week, with displays of folk dancing and physical education?

When children travelled in from Naring by horse and gig?

When the cafeteria was first established, and students ordering lunch received numbered plywood tickets to present at lunch time?

When the present library was opened in 1971?

When the schoolground used to flood every winter?

When active (or bored) students found unusual exits from the army huts, and would reappear innocently at the door, rather to the surprise of the teacher?

When a child was accidentally locked in a cupboard and forgotten until much later?

When a penny icecream was a rare treat?

When one particular tree was always known as the "bee tree"?

When the State Governor visited the area and granted a school holiday?

When playing marbles ranked as a major sport? Good luck if you had an agate or a brownie.

When the staff and students played against one another at cricket and netball?

When the old Sloyd Room was used as an Art room, but no fires could be lit because of the fire risk, so everyone froze in winter?



When St Joseph's school opened and pupils from both schools combined for a procession and sports meeting? The girls performed a maypole dance with coloured streamers and the boys did gymnastics.

When the Art room (now the staffroom) caught fire on Education Day, and evening visitors arrived to spend more time viewing the wreckage than the prepared display?

When the school colors were changed in 1963 to the present green and gold? Formerly they were blue and gold, which are now the colors of Numurkah High School.

When the HES was first established, and the office was used as the new classroom? This small room later became a staffroom, and has since been divided into a sick-bay and a dark-room.

When the HT had to explain to the Regional Fire Officer, who happened to be passing, why the incinerator was alight on a day of Total Fire Ban?

When a home-going country student lit some dry grass to smoke a rabbit out of a burrow, but the fire got away and burned 160 acres of grass?

When frosts were so heavy that the ice would crunch under your boots as you walked to school?



When the builders arrived unexpectedly to demolish the boys' toilets, and a stentorian voice bellowed over all the speakers warning the boys to use the new ones? At full volume, half the town got the message!

When marching competitions were a feature of the sports days? And the weeks of practising around the school grounds beforehand?

When everyone went to the railway station to farewell a child going to visit relatives in China, and his cafe proprietor father was so pleased with the gesture he provided snowballs and icecream for everyone?

When the Memorial Gates were officially opened by Hon G.C. Moss in October, 1959, and the school children were the first to pass through?

When the school residence was completely destroyed by fire?

When potato cakes and chips were the most popular items on the Caf. menu, and the long queues stretched across the schoolground, but only on one day of the week?

When a teacher, carrying a crate of eggs donated to the annual Egg Appeal, tripped down the front steps?

When the school gardens suffered during the early part of each year because of the shortage of water?

When the school dentist used to visit?

When the children of only one family were driven to school daily by car?

When the bell tower was above the present Art room, and monitors had the enviable job of ringing the bell?

When "Biros" were first permitted to be used — but only by "left-handers"?

When two pre-fab classrooms were removed without warning during one vacation, and their contents left on the ground?

When free milk was provided daily? And the day something was wrong, and many children became ill? Teachers ran a car ferry service to take sufferers home, and older children helped care for the smaller ones.

When a recorder was always played as accompaniment for the National Anthem on Monday mornings?

When pupils used to leave their horses and gigs at the back of Jeffray's Stores?

When the annual Christmas treat was an hour of cartoons at the Town Hall?

When Combined Sports meetings were held during the 1940's and all the surrounding rural schools competed?

When two pupils died, and all their schoolmates marched to the cemetery?



1975 Football.

Back row: D. Shelton, N. Holmes, S. Visser, D. Simpson, T. Sprunt, C. Hopkins, D. Billingham.

Centre row: P. Gleeson, N. Cossens, D. Partington, J. Hay, S. Chrisais, P. Watson, I. Roughsedge.

Front row: G. Baker, G. Stell, J. Eddy, G. Thomas, G. Munro, D. Beitzel.



1975 "A" Netball.

A. Allen (Capt.), R. Sinclair, L. Dick, J. Bloor, J. Fleming, J. Lees, Absent - K. Harbor, S. Munro.



*This group includes some of the original pupils of the school.*



*Class photo at the 1922 Back-to-School.*

Names of those who signed the Visitors' book at the  
last "Back-to-School", 1975.

Alf Heap  
Charlie Johnson  
Mollie Richards  
Bill Kinnaid  
J. N. Findlay  
Thelma Newby  
Marie Staggard  
Frank Webster  
Dolly Ross  
Jean Gregory (McPherson)  
Alic McPherson (Lee)  
Jean Newly  
Maggie Ralls  
Ellen Dudley  
Ray Johnson  
Francis Thornton  
Ross Tennant  
Ruth Tennant  
Myrtle Lee  
Aggie Campbell  
Jean Spark  
Liz Spark  
Lorraine Frampton  
Bruce Simpson  
Betty Gray (McNamara)  
Allan Gray  
Margaret McNamara  
Keren Brown  
Mary Dunning  
Don McPherson  
L. Jorgensen  
Jim Warburton  
Myrtle Warburton  
J. Campbell  
E. Swords  
A. J. Spark  
P. Hunt  
J. Brown  
Helen Guthrie  
Norma Wade  
Bet Murray  
Alex Williams  
Jack Pavey  
Margaret Hocking (Charter)  
Jeanette Holland (Charter)  
Beatrice Stonehouse (Gainey)  
Ethel Sizer  
Ron Gardiner  
Norman Crighton  
Les Clark  
Ambyrr Huffer (Lewis)  
Margaret King (Knox)  
Dorothy Patrick (Miller)  
Olwynne Lewis  
Don Grinter

W.F. Saxton  
Ronald Lowe  
D. Blackley  
Bill Murray  
Jack Strawhorn  
Elsie Farnback (Bignell)  
Ivy Hunt (Bignell)  
Mervyn Alchin  
F. Strawhorn  
Lynda Buckley (May)  
Bruce Christie  
Allan Miller  
Gordon Crozier  
Jack Moore  
Dick Jackson  
Claude Wearne  
Maurine Hunkin (Wearne)  
Joan Ludington (Cave)  
Thelma Bryce  
Millie Ivory  
Joe Ivory  
Pat Scott (Adams)  
Joan Eaton (Miller)  
Doddy Evans (Saxton)  
Nessie Patrick (Saxton)  
Mary Morison  
Mavis Beck (Miller)  
Nanaye Green (Poad)  
Iris Homes (Green)  
Judith Hearn (Fussell)  
Dorothy Little (Fussell)  
Lila Munro (Fussell)  
Les Munro  
Eddie Holmes  
Pat Lancaster (Kirne)  
Elva Kelly (Brewer)  
Don Bitcon  
Noelene Surch (Heard)  
Bob Graham  
Max Lukies  
Jean Birt  
Ria Draper (Coxton)  
Una Belt (Eddy)  
Neville Payne  
Linda Bourke (Brooks)  
Audrey Hendy (Brooks)  
Lesley Hayes (Caird)  
Jack Doody  
Vera Mills  
Bill Dudley  
Gerald Heard  
E. M. Henderson (Christie)  
P. Green (Kelly)  
M. Haynes (Kelly)  
N. Taylor

K. Casley  
R. Madill  
Betty Prideaux  
K. Holmes  
Elaine O'Dwyer (Firman)  
John Hyde  
Molly Fitzpatrick  
Faye Booth (Gunn)  
Beryl James  
Eileen Tippett  
Jess Gazzard  
Ivor Gazzard  
Geoff Gainey  
Mavis Carlisle  
Kath Sutton (Henderson)  
Thelma Reynard (Hawker)  
Beryl Smith (Hawker)  
G. Cowan  
D. Cowan  
R. Cowan  
C. Warburton  
J. Wilson  
G. Wilson  
G. Harris (Lange)  
B. Alston  
Jim Pryde  
P. Payne  
J. Hodge  
Ethel Gillam  
M. Hendy  
Leigh Hendy  
John Henderson  
Ron Sanders  
Teddy Lee  
Betty Heard (Twitt)  
W.T. Tuttle  
Alan Patrick  
Mary Lee (Coxon)  
Joy Eddy (Coxon)  
Jack Dudley  
Roma Dudley (Miller)  
Anne Kennedy (Mapletoft)  
Dorris McNamara (Mapletoft)  
Stella Lee (Holmes)  
Thea Watters (Stringer)  
Pat Simpson (Sariders)  
Colin Eddy  
Agnes Farrands (Paterson)  
Elsie Williams (Paterson)  
Jock Paterson  
Jennifer Bennie (Farrall)  
James Bennie  
June Cowan (Lumsden)  
Joan Gates (Gray)  
Robert Cowan



Peter Cowan  
Cliff Moss  
Marion Stewart  
Joyce Stewart  
Kath Stewart  
Joan Doody  
Lorna Firman  
Agnes Constable (Richards)  
Allen Lee (Waddy)  
Nelson Findlay  
Mabel Firma  
Ted Ralls  
May Webster  
Doris Dixon  
Frank Johnson  
Winnie Newham (Smith)  
Dulcie Betts (Smith)  
Tudor Saxton  
Olive Cowan (Rolls)  
Jack Martin  
Dorothy Vickerman  
Alex Spark  
Hazel Robinson (Burland)  
Bill Twitt  
J. Farrands  
Phyllis Brennan  
Ada Shacklock  
Frank Rockliff  
Ken Pavey  
Phoebe Close (Sandow)  
Lorraine Maskell (Parry)  
Edith Sadler (Ross)  
Colleen Bisset (Beet)  
Ivan Barnes  
Jean Osborne  
W. Osborne  
Winnie Kane (Pavey)  
Bert Frampton  
P. Girdler  
Alan Girdler  
Bevyn Hargreaves  
Rosalie Cole (Sutcliffe)  
K. Cole  
Jim Cole  
Les Firman  
Arthur Anderson  
Moya Smith  
Margaret Henderson  
Betty Crowl  
Gavan Crowl  
Wendy Adams (Welch)  
Edna Ashenden (Dudley)  
Betty Stoley (Warren)  
Ruby Hilliard (Ambler)  
Athalie Mayberry (Decker)  
Keith Christie  
Judith Christie (Cumming)  
Valentine Ashe (McBride)

Val Taylor (Fussell)  
Gloria Woolcock  
Nance Adams (Ambler)  
Eunice Lubke (Coppin)  
Lois Lowe (McArthur)  
Howard Lowe  
Edna Twitt (Tyack)  
Jean Liersch (Coppin)  
Margaret Cox (Tyack)  
Norman McBride  
Eileen Overall (Hyde)  
Helen Eddy  
Ivan Hodge  
Elizabeth Lowe (Adams)  
Lorraine Wilkinson (Hodge)  
John Cossens  
Heather Martin (McPherson)  
Ala J. Thornton  
Lauris Cartledge (McPherson)  
Phyllis Woolcock (Twitt)  
Thelma Colling (Twitt)  
Edith Morris (Hendy)  
Joan Wyatt (Hendy)  
Eunice Holmes (Chanter)  
Bill McBride  
Beryl Tuttle (McPherson)  
Lil McPherson (Callander)  
Vic Chaffey  
R. Tuttle  
Catherine Fawcett (Sanders)  
Shirley Larsen (Sanders)  
Francis Christie  
Jim Eddy  
Joy Eddy (Coxon)  
Roy Eddy  
Ossie Marcus  
Col Firman  
Thelma Payne (Coppin)  
Ede Gunn  
Alan Dudley  
Roger Dudley  
Milly Cottrell (Piper)  
Max Cottrell  
Sharon Alston  
Douglas Brown  
Heather Brown  
Doris Nightingale  
Geoff Blackshaw  
Betty Moore (Bennetts)  
Albert Staggard  
L. Prentice  
Graham Heard  
Rena Heard (Stringer)  
Margaret Gunn  
Jan Alston  
Pam Gunn  
Ed Fitzpatrick  
Les Graham

Joan Carlisle Graham  
Les Coppin  
Russell Blake  
Jim Tuttle  
Gordon Daly  
Marj Lawson (Peddle)  
Graham Cowan  
Margaret Cowan (Gainey)  
Joan Bullock (Barbour)  
Marion Barbour  
Jim Hyde  
Jennifer Manley  
Valerie Dickinson (Retallick)  
W. Patrick  
J. Patrick  
N. Holmes  
C. Frampton  
C. Jeans  
V. Salter (Guthrie)  
A. Warburton  
C. Ritch (Callander)  
F. Clarke  
Joan Graham (Carlisle)  
Peg Cuseck (Stringer)  
Bill Pavey  
Doug Holmes  
Mrs K. Pavey  
Jessie Newby (Purdie)  
Isa Hendy (Thompson)  
Pat Martin (Hanscombe)  
Ada Coxon (Tyres)  
Ducka Newby  
Beverley Woolcock  
Brian Woolcock  
Jim Berryman  
Brian Hyde  
Elaine Sutton (McGlone)  
Marlene Thorne (McGlone)  
Una McMillan (Chilcott)  
Bruce McMillan  
Jean McMillan  
Helen Cowan  
Jan Stringer  
Win Hyde  
Isabell Bignell (Hyde)  
Eric Crighton  
R. T. Cowan  
John McNamara  
Isobel McNamara (Caldwell)  
Col McPherson  
Valerie Pendlebury (Scott)  
Geoffrey Scott  
Margaret Moss (Christie)  
Doris Stokes (Taylor)  
Melva McPherson (Harris)  
Merle Kingshott (Hodge)  
June Dudley (Charter)  
Iris Pendlebury (Patrick)

Alice Sim (Needham)  
M. Needham (McManus)  
Geoff Billingham  
C. Patrick  
Lois Curran (Blackshaw)  
Roma Brentnall (Harris)  
Lois Thompson

Aileen McPherson (May)  
Glenys Doody (Dunne)  
Angus McPherson  
Wilma Evans (Hamilton)  
David Doody  
Shonnay Sadler (Lee)  
Bette McKeown (Moss)

Gayle McKeown  
R. Bitcon  
N. Fowler  
Margaret Addison (Fowler)  
Brian Heard  
W. Newby  
M. Miller (Poad)

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### SCHOOL DAYS — A letter from a Former Student to the Pupils of Today.

Eldest of a family of eight, 5 boys and 3 girls, who all attended the Primary School No. 2134 from 1924-1943, I can recall some very interesting aspects of my own life as a student, firstly at Primary School and then at the Higher Elementary School level.

Living in the country, transport in those days was not in buses as it is today. My first year, I had to walk 1 mile to be picked up by my neighbours, all of whom also went to Numurkah Primary — 5 of them in all. Also in the gig were 2 others, who like me had to walk to the corner to be picked up, one a girl, and arguments often broke out as to whose knee she would sit on. The Winter trips were often in temperatures at freezing point, while in Summer with temperatures around 100°-110°F, things were often very uncomfortable.

Some teachers in those days were Joe Youlden, John Miller, Tom Cannon, Flo Legge, Miss Smith (Mrs. Alf Tyack), Miss Glasson and Joe Kershaw.

When the rest of our family came of school age, we had our own transport, firstly by pony, double-dinking my next brother, and then afterwards by gig, as more members of the family became of school age.

We used to leave our gig at the back of Hyde's blacksmith shop (now Esso Service Station) and the horse was let out in the paddock which is where the R.S.L. Hall stands.

Other families from the country who attended school at that time left their transport, horses and gigs at the back of Jeffray's Stores, on the site now operated by the Tourist Bureau.

Some interesting facts were, in my first year, we were coming home from school one night when we saw a rabbit run down a burrow, the driver of the gig stopped, and he decided he would smoke it out. Hence he produced a box of matches and with some dry grass lit the match, result - no rabbit, but 160 acres of grass burnt. As a result he was taken to court and fined one shilling.

Another time, a pupil from Wunghnu on his last day at school, had had 94 "cuts" for the year and decided to make it 100. Waiting for the headmaster to return after lunch, he deliberately rode his bike across the school ground in front of him, result - 6 "cuts" to bring up the 100.

I was not too keen on history and each Friday morning, history was the first lesson, so with 2 other students from the country, we were always late for school on those mornings.

Looking back now, I realize that our school days were the most important in our lives and were the guide for our future lives and though it seemed at the time a long time (10 years), I say to all students of today, take every opportunity you can whilst doing your education.

Allan G. Miller.



## Present Staff Photo



*Centenary Staff.*

*A. Smith, M. Watty, P. Callahan, E. Crothers, L. Wright, B. Watty, J. Lloyd,  
B. Ward, F. France, G. Byrnes, L. Young, B. Braybon, L. Murdoch,  
K. Higgins (Principal), D. Carlisle, V. Wright, B. Thomson.*

*On Leave — W. Hansen, E. Pell.*



*Former Pupils dressed to celebrate the town centenary in 1975.*



## CALAMITIES AND CATASTROPHES

Things have not always gone well at P.S. 2134. Some of the accounts written by teachers in the "Accident Book" make one wonder how so many students survived.

"Fell in a hole and cut head on piece of stick".

"Child suffered a small cut in the top of head, caused by jumping up and hitting head on another child's teeth whilst playing football".

"The boys were playing behind the toilets and one child touched a pile of ashes to see whether they were hot, and consequently burnt his hands".

"Tripped over white-ant hole in floor".

"While playing cricket the batsman forgot to drop the bat after he hit the ball. He ran down the pitch, and as he ran, threw the bat back. The bat struck the other batsman above the right eye, resulting in a cut".

"Broken nose after two boys collided at a corner of the building, one boy hitting his nose against the other boy's forehead".

"A small child fell over a brick near the pepper-tree behind the shelter shed, hurting his knee. An older boy decided to remove the brick, picked it up and threw it over his shoulder without looking. Another child was in the flight pat and was hit on the forehead by the brick".

"Girl's finger jammed in toilet door — top of finger cut off".

"One child hit the baseball, another ran to catch the ball, but the first child swung the bat to hit the ball again and caught the second child across the

face causing a lump under the left eye, bruising, skin off top lip, cut mouth and swelling".

"Whilst playing near the Grade 3-4 cricket pitch, one boy was hit under the eye by a shoe which had been accidentally dislodged from another boy's foot."

"Child was in a hurry to leave classroom to catch her bus and hastened through the doorway without sufficient attention to where she was going. A thin layer of flesh was sliced from the ball of her left thumb, and two punctures made near her elbow when her arm shattered the glass panel of the door".

"Cut arm with 'Stanley' knife whilst carving balsa".

"Girl fell out of her chair when it was accidentally pulled out by another child".

"Child was hit across the face with a cricket bat while retrieving a football".

Not that it was always easy for teachers. From the same source—

"Injury to right arm above elbow — strain whilst taking Phys. Ed. Grades 3 and 4".

"Finger cut with guillotine".

"Was involved in a car collision on the way to school".

"Packet of large coloured paper squares fell off shelf and hit teacher in the right eye with the corner of bundle".

"Fell from table".

"Slipped on edge of platform in front of chalk-board".

## JUNIOR TEACHERS

Part of the Education Department's system of training young teachers earlier this century included the employment of Junior Teachers in schools.

These young teachers had to study a wide variety of subjects, as well as prepare regular "Criticism Lessons", and often take the responsibility for a grade as well. Some later attended Teacher's Colleges, while others became classified teachers after completing their studies in the schools.

In 1920, subjects taught by various staff members to Junior Teachers included—

Theory of Teaching

Plant Drawing

Music

Needlework

Penmanship

Science

History

Modelling

Singing Practice

Physical Training

Memory and Model Drawing

Nature Study

Regular reports had to be written about each Junior Teacher by the Head Teacher, and presented for the District Inspector's inspection.

Copies of some of the reports are shown here.

30-9-13 As I took charge of the school yesterday I am not yet able to report on the progress and teaching proficiency of these juniors. All the work that has come under my notice has been of a very high standard.

13-12-13 Teaches well and puts a good deal of energy and enthusiasm into her work.

31-3-14 Has been in charge of Grade vi since the beginning of the year. Shows a good deal of skill as a teacher, and is managing her class very well. She is regular in attendance at instruction and gives criticism lessons twice monthly. She is a close student and has worked with a good measure of success.

30-9-18 Teaches Grade v, works hard and does very well. I have had many talks with her in reference to her work. She is inclined to worry too

much, inclined to take boys' pranks as personal insults. I think she is as a result a much improved teacher. With more practice she will still improve. She is a faithful servant.

10-12-20 Has done very good work indeed. Her grades have passed a good examination. She possesses marked teaching ability and is keeping herself abreast of the times.

9-12-21 All her duties are performed in a very satisfactory manner. Her grade has done very good work throughout the year. Takes a great interest in all her work and obtains the best that the child can give. Did good work for the exhibition.

29-3-23 Earnest and energetic methods are employed.

30-6-23 Has made a fair beginning. Is rather slow in movements and takes too much for granted. Has not so far shown a lively interest in his work, but the last fortnight shows a big improvement. The H.T. has had a heart-to-heart talk with him and hopes that the improvement and interest in his work will be continued.

2-4-24 He impresses me very favorably. He exercises very good control over his class. I am pleased to note and to record the bond of friendship that exists between his class and himself. He is always punctual and is willing to help. He is attentive to his studies and it is his ambition to enter the Teachers' Training College.

6-10-30 She is progressing in her studies and showing an interest in her work. She is keen to get on.

6-4-31 He is regular but not punctual in his school duties. He should show greater energy in carrying out his duties.

4-10-33 Attends Instruction periods regularly. Shunting of trains interferes at times with her punctuality. Her work is prepared well and she shows interest in her studies.

2-3-39 Continues to develop in class management, and presentation of subject matter to pupils. Should try to secure a more pleasant and friendly attitude towards children, who must be encouraged to work with rather than work for the teacher.

6-10-40 Although rather casual re punctuality is making good progress in class control and teaching methods.

10-8-43 Teaching can only be effective when control is secured and maintained. Any inattention etc, should be immediately checked, questions used to rouse inattention and a closer watch maintained on whole class during lesson periods.

16-12-48 This young teacher continues to do good work. In charge of a section of grade v, she has worked enthusiastically and keenly, securing neat work-books from her grade.

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(Signed)  
Evelyn Pell.