



A History of
Yandoit State School No. 691

B H Carruthers

Class of 2010



My home place is a little town,
It nestles in the hills,
And there you may climb up and down,
There beauty ever thrills.

And it is such a homely place-
So loved by birds and bees-
And life is at a leisured pace,
with sighing in the trees,

My home is a peaceful spot,
With very little sound!
In springtime, all the wild flowers dot,
And brighten all the ground.

Once there 'twas in the morning mist
when first I saw the light-
and now for me as sacred tryst,
and duty – it is right

My home place is the chosen place
Of those who went before!
There memory could not e'er efface,
I love it more and more!

Their home place that they loved so much,
Means evermore to me!
Still bears the print – the artists touch
The roses – tremblingly!

This home place is what they have left
Much better that they found
Two hearts that would have been bereft
If not as closely bound.

My home place is still home to me!
My home place it will always be!

Written by Regina A Righetti

Aborigines

The history of the Yandoit district begins with its first inhabitants, the Aborigines, who had lived throughout the region some twenty thousand years before the white settlers arrived.

These people were the Jajowurrong: referred to by early settlers as “the Loddon Tribe”, Or familiarly as “the Jim Crow Blacks”.

Their way of life had evolved from a close spiritual relationship with the land, the seasons, and the native creatures. Common birds and animals were accorded title and distinction: the Jajowurrong regarded the eagle as the “Lord of the Forest and mountain”, the crow as “Lord of the Hills and plain”, and the bat as a friendly spirit that watched over the traveller, warning of danger and providing a guide to safety.

Legends of the Dreamtime provided the Aborigines with a structure for tribal law, and were reflected in their way of life. For example, Boondyil (a supernatural creature), is credited with multiplying the animals of the area. This creature also taught them how to make and use the spear and other common weapons. His name came to mean “wisdom” or “knowledge” in their language.

Edward Stone Parker was appointed Protector of Aborigines under the Colonial Government, and in March, 1841 established the Aboriginal Station at Mount Franklin called Lar-ne-barramal, (“House of the emu”). Parker noted the Aborigines’ beliefs and quite cleverly sought to establish a relationship between such Aboriginal stories, and the behaviour that he observed. According to Parker the Aborigines believed that the evil spirit known as the “Mindi” (a giant serpent), had sent the scourge of smallpox in response to their appeals and incantations to be rid of the invaders of their land. Although this analysis was disputed for some time it is now accepted by some historians as a shrewd observation.

However, as the Aborigines tried to exorcise the settlers spiritually, their own physical impact was to inexorably decline over the first twenty years of white settlement.

On 30th December, 1843, approximately three years after the establishment of the station, Parker wrote in a report:

“Sir,

I do myself the honour to present the following report... At Lar-ne-barramal, the Loddon Central Station, the average attendance of natives has been 102, of whom 26 were boys and 14 girls. The total number visiting the station have been from 400 to 500. The estimated population of the district, omitting the numerous tribes on the Murray exceed 1000...

“ The number of natives who have attended religious service each Sabbath have averaged 100, and from 12 to 20 native children have been the average attendance. The want of a regular teacher is the assigned for the little progress made in this branch of instruction...”

In 1850 Parker ceased duty as Assistant Protector of Aborigines. He continued to depasture his stock and look after the welfare of the Aborigines.

The Aboriginal school was conducted by a Mr Carvosso, and had up to 12 pupils most of the time, the majority being boarders.

It is amazing to note that just 18 years later, in 1861, the census of Aborigines at Franklinford was listed at just 7, with only 23 aborigines listed for the whole district.

The decline of the Aboriginal influence in the area was reflected in the fate of their leaders. Authority for the Jajowurrong tribe rested in the group of its elders. No person was clearly superior, by rank, from this group of elders. However, some important individuals were accorded status through various titles: viz. “Mar Mar” – father; “Wooringarpil” – leader, or commander; and, “Knevera Kneyerneet” – chief speaker.

One such leader that figures in the Parker writings is “King Jumbuk”, who, it seems, was a rather pathetic character – in the eyes of his white contemporaries.

His grave was noted as being “somewhere down by the swamp; however, this should not be taken to imply a disrespectful end to his life, but rather illustrates the apathy, even greater than the scorn and intolerance, that was shown towards the Aborigines.

Although Parker worked hard to help the Aborigines, such efforts were negated by the fact that the Government had difficulty over giving land to them, coupled

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with the impact of diseases and alcohol upon them.

Parker maintained before a Parliamentary Select Committee on Aboriginal Welfare (November, 1858), that given the right assistance from the Government by way of financial and legal considerations, much could be done to help the Aborigines.

Yet even Parker was mostly convinced that the reason for the decline of the Aborigines was their innate lack of moral constraint. He believed strongly in the education of the young natives as a way to reverse their “moral degradation”.

To this end the Aboriginal School was some hope. A regular supply of rations acted as an inducement for the children to attend. In his evidence given before the Parliamentary Select Committee Parker offered details of children’s attendances at the school as further proof for justifying Government expenditure.

The following excerpt from *The Daylesford Express*, 4th April, 1864, chronicles the end of the Aboriginal School, and the fate of the remaining Aboriginal children:

“Mount Franklin has for the last thirty years been the seat of a Protectorate for this people under the superintendence of Mr. E S Parker. The blacks have so diminished in numbers that the Government has resolved no longer to subsidise the Institution.

“The building long used as a School for the young and as an asylum for the adult black people is fast falling to ruin. A few children of both sexes have remained to within the last few days under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Judkins the teachers.”

The school was closed, and the remaining members of the Loddon Tribe transferred to a settlement on the Badger Creek, near Healesville, called Coranderrk Station.

Two years later, the school was moved to a site just two hundred yards away, becoming the Franklinford School which continued until recently.

Early Pastoralists

The Central Highlands was partially settled as early as 1837. By that year squatters such as Thomas Learmonth, Henry Anderson and William Cross Yuille had moved in around the future site of Ballarat. The next year Thomas Waldie was at Mt. Rowan, and Scott at Buninyong. Other men brought their flocks and herds south across the Murray, from New South Wales, bound for Port Phillip, following the route set by the expedition in 1836 of Major Mitchell.

The first to follow the Major's Line, as it was known, were Hepburn, Hawdon and Gardiner, who came later in 1836, reaching Melbourne in December. They set up a cattle station on the south side of the river near the present Gardiner's Creek. Hepburn sold out to Gardiner, returned to New South Wales and bought stock, then started out again for the upper Loddon Valley. On 15th April, 1838 he took a run at Smeaton Hill: as he moved south he had skirted the eastern boundary of the present Yandoit parish.

At about the same time A F Mollison took up the Coliban to the north of Yandoit. E S Parker followed in 1841, establishing in the Franklinford area, to the east of Yandoit.

The region suited pastoral occupation admirably, thus many others followed within the space of a few years. The tracks made by these squatters, and the drovers and teamsters, formed the first routes through this new country.

However, during the 1840s, a period of depression followed by arguments about land tenure slowed this pastoral development. The land that had been set aside for Parker's Aboriginal Station was some 66 square miles: an area that corresponds fairly closely to the present parishes of Yandoit and Franklin. This placed some restriction on land available for pastoral development.

However, when the Aboriginal Station was closed at the end of 1849, Parker did not continue his leasehold. This opened the way for those seeking to secure land in their search for that elusive yellow metal: gold.

Gold!

It is clear that gold was discovered during the 1840s but the most lucrative fields were worked first: Ballarat, Creswick, Clunes, Fryers Creek, Forest Creek, Campbell's Creek and Mt Alexander.

Alexander Mollison wrote in 1850 of a supposed gold mine in the Pyrene Range in 1848. By 1851 a correspondent of *The Argus* reported Ballarat nearly deserted – the miners leaving for Mt Alexander. As these diggers moved north they no doubt passed through Yandoit. If gold was discovered in those first few years of the 1850s the quantities must have been fairly modest. A report in the *Mount Alexander Mail* in 1854 talked of no “new” ground being opened – implying diggings before this date.

E S Parker reported gold discovered on the Aboriginal Reserve in 1854. Even if gold was not being taken in any quantity before 1854, the effect of the migration of miners through the area was well and truly being felt. Joseph Parker (son of E S Parker) recalled later in life the increase in crime:

“...the discovery of gold on the ‘run’ brought a number of bad characters into the district, and then our trouble began, for in the space of fourteen months in 1854 and 1855, with all our watchfulness and care, we lost by theft 8,000 sheep, over 200 head of cattle and 20 horses.”

The first well documented ‘rush’ to the Yandoit area occurred about 1855, the population exploding to around 5,000 persons. The correspondent for *The Melbourne Morning Herald* of 31st March, 1855 reported:

“The Zandit Creek diggings as the new gold field is at present called, forms part of the Mt Franklin or Jim Crow district, they being about fifteen miles south west of Castlemaine, six miles from Mt. Franklin and five from Parker’s Station, which cannot fail to be benefited by the great influx of people now congregated in its neighbourhood.... You travel on a good road, practicable for a horse and dray for about twelve miles on the ordinary Jim Crow road: after which by diverging to the right for about three miles and crossing the creek and portion of Mr. Parker’s broad acres you suddenly find yourself on the summit of an amphitheatre of hills, beneath which lies spread a lovely and hitherto secluded valley which is now overspread with tents, vocal with the busy hum of the digging fraternity. ... It certainly took us by surprise to find so large a community of persons assembled in this place in so short a space of timeThere being no gold office every man becomes his own banker; but should diggings answer public expectation, banks, restaurants, and places of amusements will soon be established”.

However, the population decreased rapidly in the space of few months. It was not until 1859 when deep lead mining first took place that the second ‘boom’

was to occur.

In February, 1859, the lead known as “Forty Foot” was rediscovered. “Forty Foot” and “Yandoit” became interchangeable names for the gully where the present Yandoit township is centered. The population soared to 2,000 quickly, but within a few months had fallen to a mere tenth of that figure.

Again, in early 1860, another rush found King William’s Gully, Yandoit, as “literally swarming with Chinamen”. The numbers of diggers this time was at least in the order of 1,500. Much gold was extracted between 1859 and 1860: approximately 2,500 ounces.

The population peaked at this time, and although thousands more ounces were to be taken over the following years, the number of miners in the township was to steadily decline. Between 200 and 500 miners worked the Yandoit diggings over the next thirteen years.

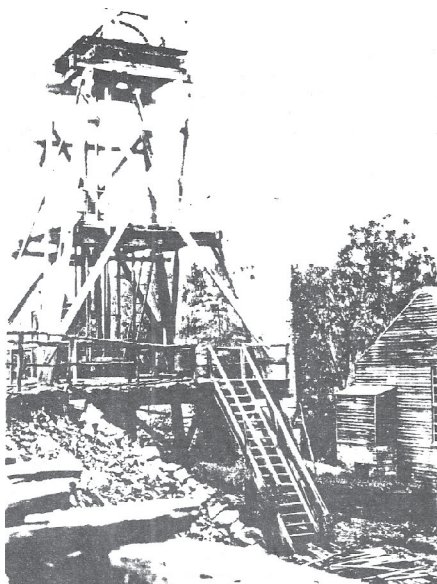


Plate 1: The “Belgian” mine, formerly known as the “Hamburg” Yandoit

Commercial activity in these first years of gold discovery rose and fell in concert with the finds made. Most ‘stores’ consisted of tent structures, whose operation, whilst more stable than mining, was still quite precarious.

Until the rediscovery of “Forty Foot” in 1859 there were few established businesses. However, by November, 1860 *The Daylesford Advocate* noted that Yandoit now had numerous canvas stores and was gradually assuming the settled appearance of a town.

When the first gold discoveries in the area were made, around 1855, they coincided with the first land survey of Yandoit. Unlike other areas, in Yandoit only fairly small allotments were taken up, the average size being 36 acres for the 3,500 or so acres sold between 1855 and 1864.

In 1861, reef mining declined markedly, and pastoral development continued. In July, 1861 the confidence in Yandoit as a township was sealed, by the surveying of the land along the main road into 50 ‘town’ blocks. (see Plate 2: Parish of Yandoit Survey Map). In November, 1861, 22 of these blocks were sold. In

February, 1862 a notice appeared in *The Daylesford Express* that the site for the National School at Yandoit was to be temporarily reserved from sale. It is amusing to think that if it were not for that 'notice', one of the very few institutions established at that time, and operating to this day, may well have disappeared.

The National versus Denominational System of Education

During the 1850s, across the new Colony of Victoria, the tussle for control of schools between the various denominations often created waste. Often several small schools, (sometimes of the same denomination), developed within close proximity, all requiring operating funds from the government through the Denominational Board.

The Government, realizing the strains this placed on its moneys, sought to curtail such developments. Thus, increasingly it made it difficult for the Denominational Board to freely disburse its allocated monies.

Indeed, by Circular No. 58/2, 29th June, 1858, the Denominational Board advised that savings were to be effected by reducing the number of small schools in populous places that had an average attendance of less than 50. This dramatic move closed 52 schools within 3 weeks, and caused financial hardship for many teachers.

But some were to outwit the Denominational Board by circumventing the regulation (whereby, if two schools of the same denomination were within 2 miles of each other no funds would be provided to the second school), by 'loaning' schools to other denominations so that funds could be obtained.

The Board of National Education was set up along the lines of the Irish model, and attempted to regulate the formation and management of schools. The Board offered aid to any school so long as it complied with the conditions it set. Religious education was allowed, so long as no child was compelled to attend, and at least 4 hours of secular instruction must be given each day.

To obtain a grant for building, the Board needed to be convinced that : 1. the district needed a school; 2. the Crown had granted "an eligible site"; and 3. applicants contribute towards building and furniture costs - generally, one third.

It was the predominance of this National Board system of education which predilected the establishment of the Yandoit National School in 1861.

The First Building

The first reference to any school at Yandoit (see (1) below) was made in July 1861, when Thomas Gannon forwarded a petition seeking aid.

In June, 1861, Gannon, as the first teacher, had established a day school, which had an average attendance of 25 pupils. The school consisted of a weatherboard building measuring 38 ft X 18ft X 10 ft. The building was also used as a church until Government aid was granted.

The dilemma for the early settlers of Yandoit when establishing this first school was: Should they – 1. develop a denominational school, knowing funds would most likely be slow to come (delays of years occurred at this time), and could be withdrawn sometime in the future by the Denominational Board if a similar school was to open nearby; or 2. develop a “National School”, complying with the Board of National Education’s rules regarding secular instruction, yet being confident of receiving reliable funding for building and teacher’s wages. The surer course was chosen. So, on the 1st September, 1861, the Yandoit School became a “National School”. This date is taken as the official commencement date for the Yandoit School.

(1)

a. It is possible that another site for the first Yandoit School, or a ‘proposed’ Yandoit School, was that adjacent W Fairless’ property (as marked on the Survey Map), near Christmas Reef. This is a small site marked as “Common School”. The explanation that this is the original Christmas Reef / Clydesdale School (No 900), does not appear to be in accord with the facts for that School as presented in the book of the Education Department and its history, *Vision & Realisation* (Vol. 2).

b. Another school was established sometime in the nineteenth century and apparently operated as a private institution known as ‘Yandoit College’. Its location may have been on S Brentall’s property (as marked on the Survey Map), at Yandoit. However, this writer has not come across any written records to substantiate its existence and establish its role.

c. It seems most probable that the first school at Yandoit was located in the Yandoit township, and most probably on or near the present site.

(2)

The name “Common School 691” is first cited in an Education Department document of 16th February, 1870.

As it turned out, the Denomination Board was abolished in August, 1862 with the Common Schools Act, and became part of the Board of Education – which was really an extension of the National Board idea. This new Board had the power to appoint local committees – known as Boards of Advice.

Like most schools at this time, the Yandoit School was maintained by “patrons” from the local community, and very little aid from the government, compared with today. Almost all building/repairs work was possible only through Government Assistance being on an equal pound for pound basis with the local school community.

Hence, the Yandoit School had to charge fees. They were: 1 shilling and 6 pence, and 1 shilling – with a reduction made for numbers from the same family. The time was yet to come when all education was “free, compulsory, and secular”. Local “patrons” at this time were; James Morrison, John Crockett, Patrick Keane, and John Robinson.

The Yandoit School

The Second Building

The first Yandoit School remained until only April 1862. As explained earlier, the site for the School became reserved from sale in February 1862. This site was given as a Crown grant consisting of 2 acres: Allotment 4,5,6 & 7, of Section F, shown on the survey for the Yandoit township, dated November 1861 (see Plate 2: Parish of Yandoit Survey Map).

On that site, on Monday morning, 1st April, 1862, the new Yandoit School building was opened. This new building was also weatherboard, but smaller: just 22 ft X 16ft X 9 ft. Considering the way schools were financed then, its small size is understandable. It cost 70 pounds to erect. On that first day in the new building the School had an enrolment of 43.

Some assistance was given towards the teacher’s salary, with 80 pounds per year being granted by the Government.



Plate 3: Yandoit School, 1875. Thomas Gannon, HT.



Plate 4: Yandoit School, about 1885. George E S Robinson, HT.

We can get an idea of what that School of 1862 must have looked like by referring to Plate 3 (notice this photograph was reversed when original printed, and therefore the image presented is a mirror reversal of the true one).

However, the 1862 building was only half the size shown in that picture. The building shown in Plate 3 was constructed in 1865, and was, in fact, the 1862 one doubled in size. That increase was achieved by doubling the original width with a new structure to all appearances identical to the 1862 one.

The new extension was built on to the old part that contained the chimney. The centre wall (one of the 1862 building's long walls) was then removed and the twin roofs supported in the centre of the floor by two posts.

The School was very basic inside. As a consequence of the low wall height, there was no room for any ceiling, and the walls were lined with unpainted timber only up to a height of 6 ft from the floor. A large, but apparently ineffective, fireplace attempted to keep the little building warm in winter, while wooden shingles covering the roof kept the rain out.

Looking at Plate 3, the front peaked section is the original 1862 structure. In Plate 4 the delineation of the two roofs is more clearly seen. This later photograph was taken from the opposite direction and therefore the rear peaked section is the original 1862 structure.

The Yandoit School

The Third Building

In June, 1865, the finishing touches to the new extension were being done. A letter from the patrons of the School at this time gives an insight into the way such major works were carried out:

“Yandoit No. 691 application 349. 17th June, 1865

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant and with reference to the alterations I may state that the Patrons visited the school and found that the half sash would not give sufficient light. Also that it was advisable to place spouting around the Building as stated in the Specifications of the 10th January, the Contractor agrees to do all the work for



Plate 5: Yandoit School, about 1890. George E S Robinson, HT (second from left).



Plate 6: Yandoit School, 1894.

Margaret Morrison, SM. William Fleischer, HT.

50 pounds.

As I have become responsible for the timber required for the repairs and taken every precaution to get everything done in a substantial manner I trust the extra half sashes will be allowed by the Board.

As the contractor is nearly finished you will please advise per Return Post and say whether we will adhere to the Specifications of the 10th January or those approved of by the Board on the 6th instant.

The spouting is required to keep the rain off the walls and the extra half sash to admit more light. I send you a plan of the Gable end showing the half sash.

I have the honour to be Sir

Your obedient servant

James Morrison, Correspondent"



Plate 7: Yandoit School (right) and residence (left), about 1900.



Plate 8: Yandoit School residence, 1913.

A note attached to this letter contained a “draft for 25 pounds” – the local patrons provided half of the cost of the extension. Thus, it is little wonder that the Board did not refuse their request regarding the windows.

The extended School was now 32 ft long X 22 ft wide, with the twin roof structure previously described. A ground plan was also included with the letter sent by the patrons.

Seventeen months later, in November 1866, an application was made for “fencing the school reserve”. The cost was 20 pounds and again half was raised locally. The “Local Committee” (the signatories to that Publication) were: Christian Schroeder, Vincenzo Pedrini, David G Staley, Peter Nicol, Edward Elliot, and James Morrison was the “Correspondent”.

The Teacher’s Residence

An Inspector’s report on an application for building a teacher’s residence was dated 19th December 1868. In the report the Inspector noted that “no provision for the teacher has been made hitherto”, and recommended the application receive “favourable consideration”. The cost was considered a “reasonable 35 pound”.

This residence was built, and contained 4 rooms. The floor plan was drawn in 1898, when the teacher proposed alterations to the original residence; these are written in as “proposed verandah” and “Proposed building to be erected by me”. An idea of the original residence’s exterior can be obtained by looking at Plate 8. In that photograph (taken about 1913), the right hand half of the house contains: a middle chimney in front of a peaked roof section (this was the original front room), and a chimney to the right in front of a sloped roof section (this was the original kitchen).

The Education Act of 1872

The formulation of the Education Department, under the Act of 1872, focused the responsibility for providing education, buildings and teachers. No longer were small communities going cap in hand, begging whatever assistance they could from the Government, Now they made demands - which they expected to be met.

The growing Education Department bureaucracy assisted this change by codifying the processes for getting things done. Local committees now forwarded petitions and letters requiring the Department to, at the very least, issue some response in its bureaucratic way.

It is interesting to compare the rapid progress in the provision of school buildings in the 1860s with the lethargic action demonstrated by the Department after 1872, with regard to similar matters;

Petition for a new School Building

In May, 1879, a petition was sent to the Department asking for a new School building to be built:

“The Hon. The Minister of Education

23rd May 1879

Sir,

We the undersigned residence of Yandoit do hereby respectfully draw your attention to the necessity that exists for erecting a new school at this place, the present building being old, draughty, and uncomfortable.

The building is of weatherboard, and the first part was put up in 1861. Two

years ago the roof was condemned by the Building Inspector, who said that a new roof was required, but the walls were not worth the outlay.

Since then, we have been informed that the Department contemplated building a new school here, but as there is no indication of that being done, we respectfully ask that our request may receive your present favourable consideration.

We are Sir

Yours respectfully

George Dixon	Store keeper
Vincenzo Pedrini	Baker
Hedges Bros	Storekeepers
David G Staley	
Battisto Righetti	Farmer
John Walker	Blacksmith
Jonathan Little	Wheelwright
Richard Spaul	Farmer
Nazzaro Sartori	Farmer
John Seedhouse	Storekeeper
George Fleischer	Blacksmith
John Uhl	Miner
George Gray	Storekeeper
William Robertson	Farmer
Edward Chapman	Farmer
Christian Schoeder	Butcher
Edwin Ryan	Constable
James Morrison	Agent
S Docking	(Dressmaker)

Peter Nicol	Bootmaker
James Bear	Miner
Joseph Main	Storekeeper
Elizabeth Kelso	Dressmaker
Margaret Judkins	
Lydia Draper	Deputy Registrar
Robert Bowles	Miner
Thomas Thomas	Hawker

The petition was dealt with by the full force of the Department's bureaucracy. The cover sheet attached to the petition is overwritten in several hands – ranging with notations from 30/5/1879 to 13/8/1879. Two of these notations show that the Department recognized the problems of the old building, and planned a course of action:

1. “I am certainly of opinion that a new building be erected at Yandoit. The present structure is not worth repairing and is not well suited for satisfactory conducting School work. There will always be a population here sufficient to maintain a school of a.a. (average attendance) of 40-50.” - 2/6/1879
2. “A 30 X 18 school should be built when funds are available alternative tenders for wood and brickbeing called for. Inform petitioners of action to be taken” - 11/6/1879

However, bureaucracy was to triumph, and the plans shelved in favour of producing more ‘paper’:

3. “My instruction was that the Building Inspector should report on the existing building...Refer accordingly” -13/8/1879.

A compromise was then reached. On 21st August, 1879 a tender for a new roof was accepted from Charles Sicker for 36 pounds and 10/-. At least the School had received a new roof for the efforts of its patrons/petitioners.

The conditions teacher and pupils endured in that old building can only be imagined. They had to wait another 10 years before a new School building was built.

Amalgamation Proposal

The Yandoit School was to face its greatest challenge in 1882. In that year the Department seriously considered amalgamating the Yandoit School with the nearby Yandoit Creek School (also known as the Yandoit Hill School and, more commonly the Bald Hills School No 2052).

The amalgamation was strongly resisted – which seems understandable considering the work done by the patrons to establish the School, and keep it going, since 1861. On the 1st June, 1882 a petition was forwarded to the local Board of Advice:

“To the Members of the Mt. Franklin and Yandoit Board of Advice

Gentlemen, we the undersigned Parents and Guardians of Children attending the Yandoit and Yandoit Creek Schools, hearing that the proposed amalgamation of the above Schools will come under consideration of your Board, we most respectfully request that you will recommend that the above Schools may be allowed to remain as they are at present as we are of opinion that one School in lieu of the above two would not meet the requirements of this district.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray

A.H. Neven	Antonio Gervasoni
George Oliver	Luigi Germano
Luigi Gervasoni	Susan Case
Thomas Arthur	Mark Balanach
Carlo Gervasoni	Antonio Pavich
W McDonald	George Gray
A Invernizzi	George Webb
Peter Marivech	Mrs Robertson (by proxy)
George Walmsley”	

The request of the petitioners seems understandable. The two schools had a combined enrolment of 119 children: 50 at Yandoit School, and 69 at the Yandoit Creek School. However, it seems unlikely that these were ‘average attendances’

– particularly in the case of the Yandoit Creek School. The lists of pupils submitted with the report on the amalgamation of Inspector Cox (see Appendix 4) reveals 10 children under 5 years of age, which makes the reliability of the list, as a reflection of actual regularly attending pupils, suspect.

Even so, the combined number of children would have severely strained any small school. Why then, was amalgamation seriously considered? The answer to the question lies in part, with the history of the Yandoit Creek School.

The Yandoit Creek School

In August, 1873 a petition was sent to the Department requesting the establishment of a school on the east side of the Yandoit Creek, near the Yandoit Bald Hill.

A one-acre site was given by Mr. C Gervasoni from his own property, on which the school could be built. A school was duly constructed: a wooden building, 24 ft X 16 ft, costing 200 pounds. It opened on the 15th June, 1878. By October, 1878 the average attendance was 52. As a consequence of the rising enrolment, the School was extended by 9 ft at a cost of 80 pounds in 1879.

That date is significant because it corresponds with the time the patrons of the Yandoit School were asking for a replacement for their now “old, draughty and uncomfortable” School with the “condemned” roof. The outcome of their petition, as has been seen, only resulted in the Yandoit School receiving a new roof. It is little wonder that 3 years on, the patrons of the Yandoit School would be less than happy seeing the Department building a new school nearby.

It is reasonable to assume that they might have used the argument of increasing numbers at Yandoit Creek to pressure the Department into giving them a new school, even if that meant amalgamating with the Yandoit Creek School. However, that was not the case. It seems the patrons/parents of the Yandoit School wished to retain ‘their’ school in ‘their’ township. After all, Yandoit was a thriving (if not perhaps, booming) township.

The Yandoit Township

A summary of the township was given about this time in *The Daylesford*

Advocate, and the obvious pride for Yandoit which comes through in the article was no doubt shared by the School's patrons:

"Your correspondent has often been asked 'where is Yandoit?' (what a question). Everyone should know. Yandoit is seventeen miles northward from



Plate 9: Yandoit Post Office and Hedges Bros General Store, about 1895.
Police Constable Ryan (right).



Plate 10: Yandoit General Store and Registrar's office, date unknown.

Daylesford, and fifteen miles southwest of Castlemaine. It is the center of a large agricultural and mining district, with a population of nearly two thousand souls. We make annually about 100,000 gallons of wine. The soil around Yandoit is rich. The early sown crops are growing rapidly owing to the late rains, and cultivation is greater than last season. Our mining prospects are good considering the small amount of capital invested.

The Yandoit Grand Junction Mining Company promises to be a good claim. They are washing about three machines a week. Martin's Freehold Company have erected their puddling machine, and have started washing. The Hamburg and Glamorgan Company (see Plate 1) are driving for the Western Reef. They are 60 feet from the shaft and expect to strike the reef in about 80 feet.

A Yandoit correspondent for your contemporary has written that another butcher could do well here, perhaps he could, but I don't think so, as we have four butchering establishments already.

Good bread is available at 7d for a 4 lb loaf. Flour is 9 pound 15 a ton"

-July 1883.

Amalgamation Report

In Inspector Cox's report – regarding the amalgamation proposal – he goes into great detail to describe the site for a new, amalgamated School midway between the Yandoit and Yandoit Creek Schools. Perhaps some of the patrons of Yandoit may well have been trying to get a new school building for their children, even if that meant changing the site about a mile to the west:

Report 9th June 1882

Correspondent : Inspector Cox.

"....I walked across the ranges between the two schools in the morning of 31st May and back again in the evening. In a position as nearly as possible half way between them in a place called King William Gully, I selected a site that I think would suit well for an amalgamated school. It is about two acres in extent – more could be obtained of a suitable character – level and dry. It forms a sort of table land at the bottom of a gully where there were formerly workings. To get to it from the side of Yandoit two hills would have to be crossed, and the same

from the Bald Hill side...at the present time a dozen children walk across it from the Yandoit side to school No. 2052. It is besides, the road used by all the people who walk from the Bald Hills to Yandoit for letters, groceries, etc...on the Yandoit side access to the Crown Lands between the school can be obtained at almost any point, but on the Bald Hills side, the land is private property...but Mr. Gervasoni, the gentleman upon whose land School 2052 was built (he gave the land to the Department without charge) told me that he would give a right of way from the present site of 2052 to the point marked.... If the Department gave him back the old site and fenced the wall....”

Yet, there was no unanimous support for an amalgamation of the two schools. In fact, quite the opposite: Inspector Cox continued –

“ ...I invited the members of the Board of Advice to meet me for the purpose of discussing what would be the site that would best suit the convenience of the majority of the children attending both schoolsOnly two – Messrs McDonald and Schroeder – attended, and they seemed to think that the site marked at the north of the Crown Lands at the corner of Gray’s selection would be the best. I must however state that the feeling against the amalgamation is so strong among the inhabitants that a large number favour this site because they think it unlikely that the department would erect a school within two miles of Christmas Reef No. 900, which would be about the distance of Gray’s corner from it....”

Thus, amalgamation was not at all well supported by either school’s patrons – as can be deduced by noting that the signatories to the petition against amalgamation came from both schools (compare petitioners with family names in Appendix 4).

The local Board of Advice were apparently divided in their opinion on the matter – finally opting for the alternative least likely to be acceptable to the Department :

“...The Board of Advice are to meet this week and have proceeded to let me know thus their views on this subject. The correspondent Mr. Colquhoun has forwarded me a letter enclosing a petitionagainst an amalgamation. When I saw him on Friday morning last, the 2nd Inst, he seemed to think the site in the ranges would be the best, but in his letter he appears to think that the site at Gray’s corner would be preferable....”

It is only in the final paragraph of Inspector Cox’s report that the crucial

undercurrent is revealed: one which was the most likely catalyst for the original amalgamation proposal :

“... in conclusion I beg to report that from conversation with a number of the inhabitants I am satisfied that the principal objection to the proposed amalgamation arises from the strong dislike entertained to the proposer of the scheme, Mr. Morrison, and to the belief that his action in the matter results from the dislike that he entertains to the teacher, Mr. Gannon, which he hopes to gratify by having his school closed.”

The Department, in its wisdom, considered the proposal, and allowed the status quo to prevail. Perhaps due to some of the feeling generated by the amalgamation proposal of 1882, and considering he had served at the Yandoit School for such a long time (24 years), Thomas Gannon transferred from the School on the 13th April 1885. He retired from teaching just 7 years later, in 1892.

Yandoit Creek School continued to operate for many years – closing finally about 1930. The enrolment pattern for that School is interesting. By 1884 there were 81 children on the roll. This was its peak time : it was a new School offering competition to the ‘old’ Yandoit School, whose Head teacher had been there for 23 years, and was less than well-liked by some. Contrast that situation to the one that existed just 7 years later. In 1891 the Yandoit Creek School’s population had dramatically dropped to just 22: it was now Yandoit School which boasted a fine new building, and new Head Teacher.

The New Yandoit School of 1889

The Fourth Building

A report appeared in *The Daylesford Advocate* on the 26th May, 1888:

“A petition is to be forwarded to the Hon. The Minister of Education, praying him to give us a new school. This will be a great boon to our teachers and children as the present structure is very uncomfortable, and should have been replaced years ago. It is a down-right injustice that our children should suffer in health through being compelled to attend in such dilapidated places.”

This petition was duly passed on from the Board of Advice to the Department, which proceeded to call for a report on the matter from the Inspector of Works,

from the Public Works Department. He reported, in his letter of the 30th June, 1888:

“...the room is very draughty and cold in winter, although a large fire is burning it does little good in warming the place. The walls could be lined up to the top, but a ceiling could not be put in, the walls being so low.

It would not be advisable to spend any more money on this building, the time has arrived when a new building should be erected. There is an average attendance of 50, the furniture also should be replaced with new, there is not a decent piece of furniture in the School.”

This report was accepted, with the completion date for the new School building the 8th February, 1889. The P.W.D. Estimated the cost at 300 pounds. The old building was sold; with 3 tendering for its removal. John Pearson and J Morrison both wanted it, with the latter offering 10 pound or 12 pounds for it in a letter to the Department dated 11th February, 1889. However, George Fleischer's tender of 25 pounds /2/6 was accepted, and his cheque remitted in a letter dated 21st May, 1889.

The new building was 30 ft X 18ft, containing a chimney centrally on its western wall. (This structure is still the bulk of the present School building). The building contained a gallery (a raised area of floor), which was to be the subject of many letters pleading for its removal in latter years.

The enrolment one year later, in 1890, had jumped to 82 children, obviously many new pupils came from the smaller and less 'modern' Yandoit Creek School.

Assistant Teachers

At this time, children were educated in a very different manner to that of today. To begin with, much emphasis was place on rote learning, and committing facts to memory, rather than more modern methods which emphasise the assimilation of concepts.

Nevertheless, dealing with such a large number of pupils presented the Head teacher with a daunting task. Naturally, control was absolutely vital at all times; therefore, strict discipline was not just a reflection of the Victorian attitude

to child-rearing, but a necessary precondition for the education of so many children by so few teachers.



Plate 11: Yandoit School 1902-1904.

William R Austin, HT (left), Margaret Morrison, SM (right).

The Head Teachers were aided in their tasks by “assistant” teachers – often a “sewing mistress”. The tasks she performed were not just related to “sewing”, although the pastoral care and home duties training of the girls was her prime concern. In those times, when most children at the Yandoit School were only educated up to the 8th grade, and then went either back to the farm or into apprenticeship, the great emphasis on physical skills consequently most readily channeled boys and girls into the occupational stereotypes of the time. Although education was one way parents could ensure their children received more than just the skills their later occupations would demand, school curricula still reflected the conventional roles the children were expected to adopt as young adults at the end of their State School life.

One such “sewing mistress” at the Yandoit School was Miss Margaret Morrison. She was appointed to the position in 1877, and retired 27 years later on 5th November, 1904. This outstanding service to the School, like that of Thomas Gannon, was remarkable for its duration. Considering the numbers of pupils under their guidance, and the difficult physical conditions for many of those years, such dedication to service stands out as a remarkable achievement.



Plate 12: Yandoit School, date unknown.

Many others, Head Teachers (HT) Sewing Mistresses (SM) and Singing Teachers (ST) were to follow these two ‘pioneers’ (for the complete list of teachers, see Appendix 5.)

A need for additional teachers, especially those with special skills, was perceived by the patrons early on. In the petition asking for a new building (May 1888) the signatories also remarked :

“... then again, it is a shame that our children are not taught singing and drawing, as well as children in the towns. What is to prevent a drawing master

to start from Daylesford in the morning and give half an hour or an hour twice a week? Let him take the Shepherd's Flat and Franklinford schools in the forenoon, and the two Yandoit schools in the afternoon. The same system could apply to the singing master."

However, such specialist teachers were not high on the Department's list of priorities. Yet, it is interesting to read successive District Inspector's reports of more recent years and note the often-repeated remarks complimenting the School on its high achievements in Art. Also the successive Head Teachers and School Committees since 1914 (from which time good records are available), all have shown a keen interest in music. In 1950 the School Committee took out a loan from one of the local residents (Mr. W G Sartori) for the purchase of a piano for the School. The cost was quite considerable, bearing in mind values of the day: 60 pounds, to be repaid with 4 % interest! To compliment this purchase, a teacher of singing was engaged at the committee's own expense, to give lessons to the children for 2/6 per week. Not until very recently (1983) did the Department provide a specialist music teacher for the School. Indeed, the Department (since 1985) has also provided the School with a specialist physical education teacher. How those early teachers, coping with 50 and more children, could have used such "assistant" teachers.

Yandoit in the late 19th Century

At the time of the amalgamation proposals of the 1880s, Yandoit was still maintaining a mining population of around 100, and a total population of around 2,000 for the area. The decreasing amount of gold being extracted came from reef mining – there was no easy alluvial gold left.

Yet, 'gold' of a different nature was being profitably obtained by the local landholders: Battista Righetti had his own idea of how gold was to be found. He developed his property by establishing a creamery to which dairymen from miles around brought their milk to be separated each day. He was reported to have said that butter was "the gold that never glittered, nor left one man embittered." His successful creamery exported to Denmark and Switzerland, and won prizes at international exhibitions for some years. Yet such achievements were not easy. *The Daylesford Advocate* of 10th November, 1888 reported a "terrific hailstorm" on the 3rd, which had destroyed the highly

productive grape vines. At the same time it congratulated Miss Sylvia Righetti from Yandoit for receiving the top prize for butter. On the 7th January, 1891, the same paper reported:

“ The dreaded locusts have come and are playing havoc with our crops. It is pitiable to see the fine upstanding heavy headed oats covered with the pests, all busy with their mandibles sawing off the heads, and covering the ground with the precious grain.”

Later, in the 1890s, a fungal blight decimated the Yandoit wine industry: a tragedy from which it never recovered. The creamery closed sometime between 1902 and 1905, and although dairying is still an industry today at Yandoit, the production has dropped from the peak of those times.

But miners are an ever hopeful lot; and so it was on the 26th September, 1900 when the Department of Mines forwarded an application to the Education Department inquiring if there was any objection to a mining lease being made that included the “School Reserve”, that is, the whole of the School property. Similarly on the 2nd August, 1905, another mining lease involving the School property was forwarded. It was in that atmosphere of increased mining activity that the School’s enrolment was to soar to its historic peak.

Once again the School was under pressure – this time from having to provide for more children than the School was capable. In March, 1901 the correspondent for the Board of Advice made the following request :

“ Sir, I beg to ...draw your attention to the great want of increased accommodation at the Yandoit S.S. No 691. 1. There are at present 72 children attending this school and the average attendance since the beginning of the month is over 60. The school is built to hold 54 as its full number and on Thursday and Friday of last week there were 67 and 68 scholars present. Two of the members of this Board attended on Friday...as the day was warm, though all the windows and doors were open, one of them declares the atmosphere to have been very oppressive, and both consider the overcrowding to be inimical to the health of both pupils and teachers.

2. There is a great revival now in the quartz mining in Yandoit, and claims are now at work at Criterion, Golconda, Golconda North, Ashfield’s Reef and Steel’s Reef. The whole line of reefs from the Criterion to Christmas Reefs as well as those in King William Gully have been taken up by syndicates from

Ballarat and other places, and work is to be commenced on some of these at an early date. All the local men are employed at present, and in order to open out these new claims, miners will have to be brought from other parts. Since Christmas, five different families have come to reside here and more are expected....’



Plate 13: Yandoit School grounds, 1913.

Bee Keeping Activities, Earnest Francis, HT.

The New Yandoit School

The Fifth Building

The concern of the Board over the overcrowding was not theirs alone. They also stated in their letter: “...The Health Officer of the Mount Franklin Shire has already condemned the building as being too small....the residence at the school is too small (being just four small rooms without any outside accommodation for kitchen etc) for the teacher and his family...”

The Board went on to suggest a solution to problem of the overcrowded School:

“...I think it has been shown that both for the present and future, greater accommodation is required and the recommendation of the Board (is) to bring the Limestone Creek School and residence here...” The Board was suggesting that the Limestone Creek School and residence be added to the Yandoit School’s building and residence, as both were too small. The Limestone Creek School was situated only a few miles away, and had not been used for the past 3 or 4 years, at that time.

However, this suggestion was not taken up. (The Limestone Creek School was finally sold for removal in 1903, and the site revoked in 1910.) Instead, the Department followed up the suggestion made by the School’s patrons who sent a petition, also in March 1901, which recommended the School be lengthened by 13 feet, and two rooms be added onto the residence. The petitioners were: E Morrison, H.P Fleischer, R Bowles, J Mills, F Bear, J Gillies, A Higgins and I Hefford.

The School was extended by 13 ft at a cost of 167 pounds, and the residence received two additional rooms (13 ft X 13ft, and 13ft X 14 ft), in 1902. Of course, such improvements came at some cost: the residence’s rent now rose by 4 pounds to 16 pounds per year.



Plate 14: Picnic at Yandoit Creek, 1914.

The Patriotic Response : 1914 – 1918.

The time until the First World War seems to have passed quietly enough except for some problems with the Head Teacher known as “Cocky” Austin (HT 1902 – 08). He appeared to have at one time so angered some parents by his brusque manner, that many withdrew their children, taking them to nearby Franklinford School.

The War was to focus everyone’s attention – and the Yandoit School was doing its best for the soldiers abroad in many ways. The School ‘policy’ may not have been formally written down, but was certainly vigorously put into practice by the vigilant members of the School Committee: Meeting 2/10/1914 “...the Lady members of the committee be asked to call a meeting of local ladies to see what can be done in the way of making garments for the soldiers...”

But, another matter also arose at this Meeting concerning the patriotic response of the Head Teacher: “ The Head Teacher here reported that a complaint had been laid...that the Flag had not been hoisted every Monday morning, and that if it were not hoisted the Head Teacher would be reported....” However, the Head Teacher responded: he “considered that his loyalty to the British Flag was unquestionable”! At the Meeting of 28/10/1914, the way such an issue could disturb a school is clearly noted. It was moved at the meeting: “That the Secretary be instructed to bring under the notice of the Department the annoyances and worry the Head Teacher is being subjected to.... giving full particulars of the incidents and persistent attacks made upon the Teacher, and pointing out the injury this is causing to the moral (sic) and discipline of the School and upon the influence and authority of the Teacher with the pupils”. This matter was to be raised regularly many times over the years up until the 1980s even if the flag itself was not always. Yet, this was no light matter at the time.

However, the misplaced patriotic zeal of one was over-ridden by the good actions of the many. School Concerts were organized to raise money for the British Red Cross Society. The “Flower Day” became a time to raise funds for the relief of returned soldiers, hospitals, etc. A “Patriotic Sewing Class” was set up to aid the War effort, and must have provided the children with real incentive in their sewing lessons.

When the War ended, the school children were not to forget the moment.

Meeting, 6/6/1919: "The Head teacher...read an article from the *Education Gazette* referring to the celebrations to be held should the peace terms be signed and that the children be impressed with a proper spirit of thankfulness..." A speaker was to address the children on the day, and trees planted by them in honour of the soldiers, on Arbor Day.

Other Issues : 1914 – 1918

Whilst Australia as a nation came to nationhood during the War, it was to Britain, the King, Flag and Empire where sentiments of loyalty were directed. Empire Day was observed each year, and coupled with a patriotic address on those occasions. But there were other more pedestrian matters that concerned the School, also at that time.

Consolidation and improvement of the School's facilities continued. In a letter from the Department of Lands and Surveys, Melbourne, 11th November, 1913, the School had "1 acre, 2 roods of land" added as "an extension of the site for State School purposes in the Town of Yandoit", more than doubling the School property. The School Building and interior were also undergoing change. In a letter to the Department of 22nd July 1915 the Head Teacher mentions such details:

"Sir,

I have the honour to bring under your notice the following, when I took charge of the school a year ago last April, I asked for the gallery to be removed and hylo-plate blackboards to be erected....the school is to be painted within and without....two windows have been taken out of the east side, and put beside another window in the south side...There are 72 hat pegs in the School room. This I consider not hygienic, I would ask that the existing porch be enlarged for a cloakroom and lavatory..."

All the above was attended to. The galleries were removed at a cost of 26 pounds, and the schoolroom was partitioned to make room for the hat pegs. New windows, a sink and water service were installed and the painting done, in late 1915.

The letter also details the effort required on behalf of the School Committee to get such improvements. "My School Committee takes a keen interest in the

School and the way its requests have been unnoticed is not very encouraging.” It often comes through at this time and later, how the Head Teachers seemed to always be siding with the sentiments of the School Committee and were often openly critical of the Department. Perhaps this is why the Department tried to keep them ‘on side’ by substantially improving the residence. By 1916, alterations and additions to it (such as a new laundry and bathroom) were completed at the considerable cost of 275 pounds.

The School’s furniture and equipment was often poor, out of date, and inadequate. Further in his letter, the Head Teacher observed: “Some of the desks are quite worn out, As far as I can learn they have been in use since the school was built...” At a later date, in December of the same year, a request for a new “book press” (bookshelves) was made. That letter stated that there were 125 books in the library. Considering there were 25 pupils at that time, the ratio of books to pupils was hardly impressive!

If such facts did not sway the bureaucratic Department, an appeal to its prime tenet of existence - equality of opportunity - could always be tried: “I fail to see why this school should be neglected when I here (sic) are others in the vicinity, much smaller in attendance than this, being made thoroughly up-to-date.”

The Shelter Shed

In July, 1915, a series of Meetings of the Committee and correspondence to the Department over the building of a school shelter shed give an insight into the complications of local decision-making.

It began simply enough: the Committee set up a fund to build a shelter shed. The Department was to assist with funding on a pound for pound basis, as usual. A plan was submitted by a contractor for a building 14 ft square, to cost 30 pounds.

Then, the Department produced a plan for a shelter 20ft X 12ft, which was to complicate matters. The Committee was anxious to have the work done at this time while the rest of the School was being upgraded. However, the local who tendered for the job (Mr. R Righetti) at the agreed price had some opposition. A minority of the Committee sought to have the contract reviewed, stating in a letter to the Department:

“...we, the minority at the special meeting, having obtained from another person a price for the larger shed according to the place submitted by the Department, find his price is 28 pounds and we respectfully request that under the circumstances the Department would insist on have tenders called for the work so that the best shed obtainable for the money might be procured in the interests of the surrounding public who so generously donated the money...”

At this meeting the Head Teacher attempted to alter the plan so that “the side facing the east (be) open, thereby allowing the sun to shine over floor in the mornings,” however, “...this was ruled out of order”!

This time, the sluggish Department was over-ruled by the local majority for a change. The shed was built, by Mr. Righetti, within a month of the correspondence, and for 31 pounds. The Department paid its half within a month also. The differences within the committee must have been smoothed over, as there appears no more mention in the minutes. And as for the Head Teacher? The building had its opening facing east.

Traditions

The Annual School Concert

The tradition of holding an annual School Concert, usually at Christmas time, goes back until at least 1915. Prior to this, “break up” gatherings were held, but the detail of them is unclear; although, in 1914, mention of providing a “Christmas tree” for the children was made. The collection made for that seems to indicate that gifts were provided for the children.

The first School Concert was held on Thursday, 17th December, 1915, arranged by the Head Teacher, Mr. Smith. The Committee “expressed their pleasure at his action and offered to assist him and wish him every success in his effort”, the minutes for the 4th December, 1915 reported. At the next Committee Meeting on the 4th March, 1916 a profit of 2 pound²/₅ for the concert takings was noted, which was “to go towards School equipment”.

At these Concerts, the children displayed their singing and musical talents, recited poetry and performed items appropriate to the Christmas season. The formal side of the evening was the presentation of prizes to the children for

their achievements. The minutes of the meeting on 7th December, 1923 noted: "That the Committee prizes be left in the teacher's hands to purchase the 4 books for the most popular Boy and Girl in the lower school and the same for the upper school, and the successful ones to be chosen by votes from the children." The 'voting' would have been interesting to witness!

Such prize-giving should not obscure the fact that these concerts were primarily for all the children to enjoy. Collections were taken up among the locals before the Concert, to provide the children with gifts from the 'tree' and other niceties such as lollies and drinks.

As the Annual School Concerts became an event on the local calendar, it became a self-funding proposition, with most times a balance left over to be spent on the School, or directed to some charity. Door charges for the 1940 Concert were 1/.

Traditions

Excursions

In the period up until the Second World War, most excursions consisted of local picnic days for the pupils. These were held regularly, and must have been a



Plate 15: Yandoit School, 1920. J R Smith, HT.

welcome break in School routine for all.

Sometimes the visit of royalty to the region prompted an excursion. The visit of the Prince of Wales in 1920 to Castlemaine, was such an occasion. In 1953, the Coronation of the Queen led to a picnic day, and the planting of an Oak to commemorate the event. In 1954, the visit of the Queen to Ballarat saw the School making the journey, joining the many other school children there for a glimpse of Her Majesty.

In recent years, with most parents having a car, children have been involved in joining with other rural schools from the local cluster in “Group Day” activities at host schools.

Old Problems

Essential Equipment

As stated elsewhere, the School was never bursting with equipment. Many of the aids and books were obtained by persistent efforts from the Committee and Head Teachers, and local fundraising.

But some shortages were a little ridiculous. No school should have had to be in the situation whereby the Head Teacher needed to write such letters as the following of 6th July, 1925:

“Sir,

I have the honour to ask if the Department would supply a chair for use at this school. As there was none here when I came.... I have been using a borrowed one, but wish to return it...”

There was no ‘sitting down on the job’ for teachers in those days. Incredibly, twelve months later the matter was still unresolved. Two Head Teachers, 4 letters, and over a year later the Department was still annotating the requests; “Has another chair been forwarded, please?” (27/7/1926)

Later on equipment deemed ‘essential’ for the School was of a different kind. During the Second World War, the patriotic response mirrored that shown in the First World War. However, this time the issue of the flag ceremony was clarified by Parliament – though just ‘which’ flag was to be flown was unclear to some:

“Dear Sir,

I hereby apply for an Australian flag, Preferably the blue ensign....for the saluting the flag ceremony...in view of the new system whereby the ceremony is made mandatory by Special Act of Parliament – the flag being now virtually an absolutely essential piece of equipment....” (5/11/40)

New Issues

The Threat of Closure

In 1973, the number of pupils had diminished to just 7. The area was now stable, but there were few new families in the area to provide the School with constant numbers.

The Committee, realising the School must close if the number dropped under 7, surveyed the area looking for suitable families with school aged children, in November, 1973. However, this drew a blank. Fortunately the minutes of the first meeting of 1974 had good news: “Report on school remaining open:- Despite some effort no local school pupils were attracted to Yandoit. However, thanks to several members and residents, esp. Mr. T Cox, a family moved in to save the school.”

If it were not for the efforts of the committee at the time, the Yandoit School would not have survived. The new pupils saved the School from closure, and also gave the township a reprieve, partially arresting the decline of this once thriving community.

The Ballarat Courier in its editorial of Saturday 2nd February, 1974 recognised that the victory of the saving of the School was more an occasion for sober reflection than celebration:

“*The Courier* has been delighted to take part in a scheme that prevented the small town of Yandoit from losing its small school...So altogether everybody is happy....at least on the surface. Privately, most residents...are deeply concerned about the reasons why a small township can find itself in danger of losing the local school. Faced with this prospect, local people come to realize something is happening to their little settlement... The small town is dying!”

This dramatic editorial claimed the absentee “Collins Street farmer” and the

“weekenders” were killing the ongoing stability of the town. Whether that was true or not does not matter. The facts were clear.

Thus, the future looked to be: how can the small, rural Yandoit School continue to survive? In recent years that question has occupied the thoughts of the School Council:

“At the VICCSO Annual Conference (September, 1980), the delegate from Yandoit School moved that the following items be placed on the agenda...1. The desirability of retaining small rural schools as they not only provide the children with a sound education and a higher level of responsibility and self assurance, but provided a most important community focus....”

It seems likely that the threat of closure will remain for some years. The Yandoit School is the only continuous institution in the town from the very earliest days of settlement. Its preservation is not just a question of hanging on to a romantic relic or symbol from the past, but rather of ensuring that there is a Yandoit ‘town’ for the future. For with all the local businesses, Post Office, and Police Station, now gone, the School is the only institution remaining. If it goes too, Yandoit may lose its identity as a ‘town’ and seem just a scattering of houses within an ‘area’ called Yandoit.

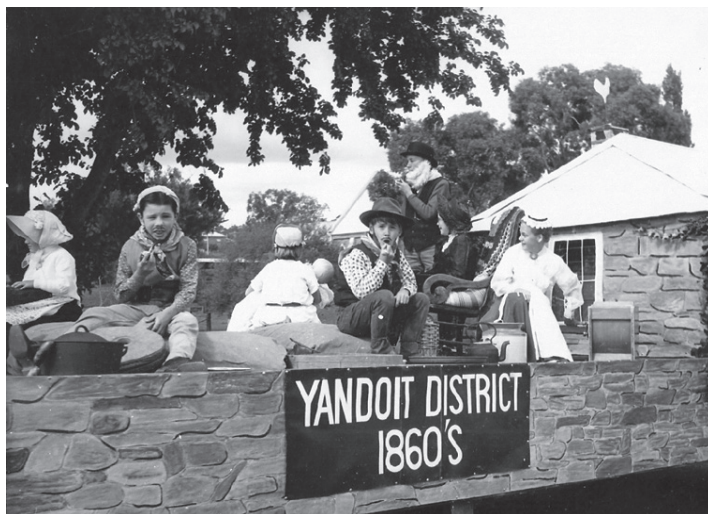


Plate 16: Yandoit School pupils on district float, 1968.

APPENDIX - 1 A Recent History of Yandoit Primary School

By Debra Rauber

In the 1990s, change came about in how Victorian Government schools were administered. 'Schools of the Future' and a program of 'Quality Provision' were introduced by the Education Department.

Primary and Secondary Government Schools were to be given the responsibility of self-management. The Education Department decided that every school had its own identity and needs and therefore decisions could be made at the school level. This included managing and employment of all staff. Schools were also provided with an annual budget based on the number of students and also considerations of the number of families from low-income, indigenous, ethnic (migrant) background and rural backgrounds.

Schools were required to be economically viable and required to manage their own finances i.e. pay the bills! Sadly, a power bill was still the same for 20 students as it was for 8. The funds allocated to the schools were related directly to the NUMBER of students! The wide use of the school bus system meant that students could travel to the larger schools in a district. The buses had been used for years to transport Secondary students, so why not transport Primary students as well?

Annexation

'Schools of the Future' was meant to be the way forward for schools and for many it was. However, for small rural schools these changes were huge. For some of the local schools, this meant that they had to close – Glenlyon PS, Korweinguboorra PS, Little Hampton PS, Mt Prospect PS and Musk PS were closed at this time. However, there were a few small rural communities who were able to be successful and keep their school running. The Yandoit Community was one of them. According to Erica Higgins (parent of Aidan, Annie and Marcella and a Yandoit School Council President),

"We were told that a rural school could stay open if we had projected numbers that showed that the school could sustain itself economically with a satisfactory number of students. We also knew that we were geographically a long way from our closest schools. This was a real factor in our favour. We had fingers crossed that we would be safe. We worked hard to get names so that we had a number that would allow us to stay open.

“Yandoit Primary School wanted to remain a ‘Stand alone school’. Sadly this was just not possible, as the Government set strict guidelines on this. We had to become an Annexe of a larger school that would be required to manage our staffing, curriculum and financial needs. But we could keep our School Council. This meant a great deal to us.

“Hepburn was the closest school but not large enough. Fortunately, Daylesford Primary School’s Principal, Mr Max O’Shea and the School Council, agreed to take on not one, but 2 Annexes –Drummond and Yandoit Primary Schools. We really wanted to stand alone but realised that this was just not possible. We HAD to accept that to become an Annexe of Daylesford Primary School was the ONLY way that Yandoit Primary School could keep its doors open.

“We did fight hard to retain our own School Council, which I think has been the most significant achievement overall; as it allowed us to retain a sense of identity, ownership and remain responsible at a local level which I think has contributed over the years to the fact that we stayed open for business, successfully recruited families (often ones who commuted long distances) to try small school learning, retained enthusiastic and dedicated teachers who provided excellent learning and teaching environments.”

And so Daylesford Primary School-Yandoit Annexe came to be. Officially, this was the school’s new name but it was rarely used. Even the Education Department did not really understand this new status of small rural schools, so often mail and formal communications were directed to Yandoit Primary School and not Yandoit Annexe.

Staffing

Officially, Yandoit Annexe was a classroom or campus of Daylesford Primary School, so a Staff member of Daylesford Primary School was allocated. Mr Winston Silbereisen had been the District Relieving Teacher and with the changes to the rural schools, Winston became a staff member of Daylesford Primary School.

Daylesford’s Principal, Mr Max O’Shea, asked Winston to take on the role of teacher at Yandoit Annexe, where he stayed for 3 years. Apart from being the first Annexe teacher at Yandoit Primary School, Winston Silbereisen introduced the game called ‘Mr S’s Hidey’; a game that is still played at Yandoit Primary School today. (Over 17 years later!) Winston, a keen cyclist, also involved Yandoit PS in the

annual 'Ride to School Day'. Yandoit was successful for quite a few years to have EVERY student in the school join in the fun of the day. One year they received a bicycle as a prize for 100% participation!

Ms Anne Mc Dougall became acting Principal of Daylesford Primary School in 1999, after the retirement of Mr Max O'Shea. Later that year, Mr John Jackson was appointed to the position of Principal of Daylesford Primary School and the two Annexes, Drummond and Yandoit. It was around this time that Ms Dianne van Baalen joined Daylesford Primary School Staff and took over the role of teacher at Yandoit Annexe from Winston Silbereisen.

Partly to provide Annexe teachers with preparation time, Music Specialists were employed to support the Annexes curriculum. Ms Helen Cox was the first Music Specialist, followed by Mrs Wendy Hawker. Mr John Jackson was able to secure funding for a toilet block and a portable classroom. The new toilet block arrived in 1998 and the portable in 1999.

Yandoit's portable classroom was placed south of the original building and was a much needed addition as the number of students was steadily growing; as were the assets of the school (with the introduction of computers.) The school community warmly welcomed the portable classroom, despite being second hand, as the extra space was greatly needed.

It was this year that Ms Dianne van Baalen returned to teaching duties at Daylesford Primary School and Mrs Debra Rauber became Yandoit Primary School's teacher. At this time, the administration role, as well as teaching responsibilities of the teacher of the Annexe Schools, was recognised by the Principal, Mr David Broadbent, and senior staff at Daylesford Primary School. The role of the Annexe Support Teacher was introduced to provide Classroom Preparation time and necessary Administration time for the Co-ordinating teachers.

Mrs Bryony le Poidevin had been travelling to Drummond and Yandoit Schools from Daylesford Primary School. It was then decided to advertise a position of Annexe Support and this role would be shared between Drummond and Yandoit. The position commenced at .4 and fluctuated over the years, between .4 and .6 depending on the number of students at both Annexes.

Our Annexe Support teachers

Ms Bryony LePoidevan

Mrs Cate Daish

Mrs Christa Botsman

Mr Richard Wallace

Ms Virginia McLennan

Ms Joanne Patching

Ms Libby Fullard

Mr Allan Cumming

Ms Suzanne Hobson

Mrs Annette Cumming

Mrs Susan Priest

Ms Jose Berto

Languages Other Than English was introduced into the Victorian Primary Curriculum in 1993. Schools from the Hepburn Shire chose Italian as our LOTE, due to the history of Swiss-Italian migration and settlement of the area.

At first, the teaching of Italian was carried out by the class teacher and then Ms Bryony le Poidevin, who knew a little ‘high school Italian’, took over the teaching in the Annexes.

In 1998, funding became available for schools to employ a LOTE Teacher and Ms Trudi Blick was employed as the LOTE-Italian teacher of Daylesford Primary School and Drummond and Yandoit Annexes. Ms Trudi Blick continues in this position until today.

New Buildings

During the 14 years that I have been the teacher at Yandoit Primary School, there have been many changes. Most recently we have seen quite a few financial grants and building projects that have brought about huge changes to Yandoit Primary School.

The first one that arrived was ‘Investing In Our Schools’ Program. This was a federal government initiative. We didn’t think that we would be considered, as at this point we only had 14 students, and were an Annexe of Daylesford Primary School. BUT we were contacted directly, and I remember being ‘asked’ to apply.

The grant being offered was up to \$100,000 and all we had to do was complete an application ‘by the end of the week’. Our Principal, Mr Peter Burke and I had to make such a quick decision. It appeared that the most immediate need was a new playground, a sunshade (as we all knew what the Yandoit Summers were like)

and an outdoor table. This became our application for our 'Outdoor Learning Centre'.

Although we all dearly loved our adventure playground, the use of treated pine in school playgrounds had been disallowed many years before and it really should have been replaced. Sections of it had been 'lovingly' repaired many times, but some parts were becoming quite a safety hazard. It was with much sadness and many happy memories that we said 'Goodbye to our beloved Adventure Playground'.

We were then offered funds for a building project of up to \$50,000 through the National Schools Pride Program. It was suggested by School Council that we use this for a complete refurbishment of the Art room. This was originally the school's shelter shed and had been worked on over the years, to turn it into a classroom. Art, LOTE-Italian and Music had all been taught in this classroom for about 20 years. So our Art room was totally transformed. It had a new high ceiling space, windows installed on the north side, 2 sinks and bench space and cupboards with doors! The room was painted and new electrical and plumbing work was carried out. We had just enough money left to buy 3 tables as well. What a wonderful Transformation!

The Sixth Building

The 'Primary Schools For the 21st Century Program', saw Yandoit PS receive delivery of a MOD 5 Portable classroom. This included indoor toilets, 2 classrooms, a withdrawal room and kitchenette/wet area. This allowed 2 classes to be set up for a range of subjects offered in our Curriculum: One classroom for Developmental Curriculum and the other for Literacy & Numeracy, LOTE-Italian and Music.

Further funds became available in 2010-11 to provide a new outdoor toilet block, a sports equipment shed and refurbishment of the original classroom. We now have an entrance area, a kitchen to assist our Kitchen-Garden program and an office/library. This was made available through the Nation Building-Economic Stimulus Plan.

And Finally...

“Yandoit Primary School has always seemed to me that it’s a real “family”; with all the same ups and downs and dramas as any family, but it creates a special bond that interestingly continues long after the students have left high school, the state or even the country.” -Erica Higgins.

This idea became our promotion focus for many years because yes, indeed, we always have been a Family here at Yandoit Primary School. Whether 1861 or 2011, our P-6 multi-aged classroom, an ongoing teacher position and our close teacher/parent/community involvement have all contributed to our notion of the Yandoit Primary School Family.

As we look to the future, our 151st year, we can see that Yandoit Primary School has been and always will be a school with much heart and with incredible determination to strive against all odds. We will continue to offer a wide and inclusive education for ALL our children and for hopefully, another 150 years!

Happy 150th Birthday Yandoit Primary School

With Love Always,

Mrs R xo



Plate 17: 1935 (approx), Rene Morgan on bicycle.

APPENDIX - 2

29/10/92

Yandoit 3461

Dear Michael

Thank you for your letter which I will reply to, to the best of my memory. Actually, I could write a book about those years, but no doubt you will be able to complete your project from what I tell you. Your first question is quite easy - for me that is - but not so good for my mother, as I was supposedly a fourteen pound baby. This event happened on the 12th December 1922.

I was the youngest of the family and I had five sisters and two brothers, one of whom was a year and a half older than me and shared a big, iron double-bed with me.

We all lived on the farm and the house consisted of a big kitchen, dining room, lounge room and five bedrooms with a passage right through from the front door to the back.

The bathroom and laundry were in rooms outside. The toilets were called dunnies in those days, one for ladies and one for gents and were situated in places away from the house.

I almost forgot: the farm was situated in Yandoit and the name on the copper plate at the front door was "Moontah".

Michael, I will combine your question six and seven because I couldn't do some of my jobs without the help of my pets.

Being the youngest I had all the little, awful jobs such as collecting bark and sticks from the trees on the side of the road, so as my father could easily light the stove in the morning. Also I had to cut and split wood to fill the bin for the next day.

My father rose about four o'clock in the morning, cooked his breakfast and brought in the cows for milking.

We had about forty-five to fifty cows at various times and my brother and I used to get up at about five o'clock to help to milk. I used to use a small three-legged stool with a bucket between my knees to milk and it was awful on frosty mornings.

After milking and separating the cream from the milk, we used the milk to feed the young calves and the pigs. My next job was to take the cows to the various paddocks. This is where my big pet black and tan dog, Teddy (who I grew up with), would round up the cattle and together we would take them to the paddocks.

In the evening we repeated the same job, only in reverse.

We also had several Clydesdale horses that pulled ploughs, wagons, drays and all sorts of farm equipment. They were stabled at night during the week and let out into the paddock on Sunday. My job on that morning was to clean out the manure and soiled straw in a wheelbarrow and replace fresh straw.

These animals were all pets to me and I used to climb on their back if I wanted a ride home. We also had a black pony that Pop used to ride.

I was quite young - about your age - when I asked my father if I could join the Young Farmers Association and he brought me a pure-bred Shorthorn bull calf, and he and I more or less grew up together. We actually won some prizes at the country shows.

My school was really good. Its number - 691 - made it one of the early schools in Victoria. There was a school house and a big garden area with fruit trees and garden beds which we tended during "Nature Study". We did such things as tree grafting and vegetable growing.

The school won an awful lot of prizes relating to grasses and flowers at country shows. I have some of these prizes here which I will show you when you come up next time.

Our teacher was extremely good but was very stern and I experienced many whacks with the leather strap he had rolled up in his pocket.

This school went from Grade one to eight, which was the Merit Certificate.

The games we played were the usual ones such as hide-and-seek. I used to like hiding with the girls if I could.

Our school-ground was at the bottom of a steep hill and one of the favourite games was to roll old truck tyres down the hill and the kids down below had to jump and straddle the tyre as it went between their legs.

We also had horizontal bars to swing on but I was more interested in the high jumping, long jumping, and pole vaulting. I won trophies in these events at local sports and also later in the Regional Technical Sports at Corio Oval in Geelong. Of course, my favourite sport was tennis and I played in the Yandoit team when only nine years old.

Michael, I would like to mention that nearly all the time I was at the State School, I never wore anything on my feet except boots. They were for school or

for going out.

There were several mines in the Yandoit area but the only ones I saw working were two, one of which you know. It was called "The Yandoit" and the other, which is up the lane along the creek, was "The Yandoit South". From memory, there were about 100 people at both mines, as they worked three shifts.

They separated the gold from the dirt by the use of a large rotating machine called a "trommel", which had lots of different sized holes in it. This machine was situated on the first floor on the poppet legs. The cages from the mine would come up and the large rocks would be moved by rail to the heaps (which you can still see down there now). The smaller dirt would be railed and tipped into the trommel, and with a strong force of water pouring into the revolving machine, it was chewed up, and eventually fell through into the sluice boxes underneath and this is where the gold was trapped. (Boy, what a business!)

The mine was operating for several years. I really can't put a number on it but I do know that my father had a contract supplying the wood for the boilers. He employed two woodcutters and my brother and an employee carted the wood to the mine in the truck. I used to help when I was available.

The poppet head has been gone for many years but the big steam winch, which hauled up the cages, is now at the mine at Sovereign Hill, so if you go there you will know it came from Yandoit.

Michael, I did not play at any time near the mine but after school I helped my brother unload the wood at the mine and sometimes I would watch the engine driver bring the cages up and down.

Eventually, at the change of shifts, the fellows took me down the mine and as we walked along the tunnel to the face it was awfully wet and the pumps had to keep working to allow the men to work.

I will always remember the face of the tunnel. The water was running down the face and with the lights shining you could actually see the gold glistening in the dirt.

Then I went up with the outgoing shift to return home. I am sorry Michael. I have never found any gold.

Michael, I forgot one question. I walked to school, about one and a half miles. Twice a week, on the way home, I called at the local butcher's and had the job of

splitting the sheep's heads with a big axe and taking out their brains. I wasn't paid for this job but my mother received extra meat from the butcher.

Michael, this next page consists mostly of the things and games I did. Some were crazy, such as racing around the house (which had a path all around) with an old pram wheel in my hands making believe that I was a racing driver making horrible car noises rounding the corners.

I used to particularly like to lie on my back on a hot clear-sky night, on the dome of the underground tank and try and make shapes of the stars which are very clear and numerous at the height we are here.

From an early age I read anything I could lay my hands on, and I used to walk twice a week in the evening to the Mechanics Institute where there was a very big library and change my books. I also was taught by the hall keeper to play "Crib", a card game, and also to play quoits.

Michael, there are a stack of things I haven't told you about my early life on the farm, such as playing the accordion at the dances, singing duets with my sister on 3BO Bendigo etc.

I did have a slight advantage over you because I didn't have the diversions which you will experience.

I hope you will be able to sort out from all this information a project that will send you to the top of the class.

Lots of love

Grandpa

(This is a letter written by my father, Les Sartori, to his grandson, Michael, in response to questions for a school project in 1992. All Les's family attended the school, beginning with his sister, Rose, who was 16 years older than him. His niece, Carlene, and her brothers all attended in the Sixties and now his youngest grandson, my nephew, Corey Sartori, is a current pupil.)

Louise Sartori-Taylor

June 30, 2011

Origin of the name “Yandoit”

1. From a poem by Regina Righetti, local of Yandoit.

“One day, the gold rush started,
And they heard clink on stone.

In the hills so like the Tyrol,
And then the settlers came,
They saw this flying squirrel,
And asked the black man’s name.

The black man called it Yandoit,
The name then quickly caught,
They said – ‘We’ll call this Yandoit!’
It was a happy thought.

Now, the squirrel, it has vanished,
The black man gone his way,
But the little squirrel named it –
It is still Yandoit today”

2. Some locals assert that the name “Yandoit” is aboriginal for “where the parrot builds”. Indeed, there are many local varieties of parrot in the area.

3. Different spellings for Yandoit abound. Some, it is claimed are merely the result of misreading the “Y” for a “Z”, a confusion which occurred due to the nature of various handwriting styles for the last three letters of the alphabet in the copperplate script.

Some of the alternative spellings for Yandoit are: Zandit, Yandit, Yandet, Yandoort.

Some of the alternative pronunciations for Yandoit are : Yairn’doit, yairn’dite, yen’dite.

APPENDIX - 4

List of Pupils : Yandoit School Year 1882

Family Name	Given Name	Age (Yrs/ Mths)		
Ager	Thomas	11/7		
Bear	Robert	10/5		
	George	6/2		
Chapman	Esther	11/6		
	Joseph	9/10		
	Beatrice	6/11		
Cugley	Bridget	6/7		
Davies	Sarah	13/10		
	Margaret	8/7		
Dorsey	Louisa	13/7		
Draper	Rosa	9/0		
Fleischer	Christina	12/5		
	Annie	10/5		
Gannon	Annie B.	14/0		
	Samuel	11/7		
Ingram	Charles	12/7		
	James	9/9		
	Jane	9/0		
	Thomas	6/8		
Mills (Sartori)	Mary	13/2		
	James	10/4		
	George	11/5		
	Charles	8/3		
Morrison	Jane	9/1		
	Elizabeth	7/8		
	Alice	5/6		
Nicol	James	6/2		
Righetti	James	13/5		
	Sylvia	11/1		
	Peter	8/10		
	Lucy	6/6		
Schroeder	John	12/7		
	Frederick	10/7		
	Mary	14/10		
	Margaret	8/6	Walmsley	Margaret 8/10
Spaul	Louis	13/5		Louisa 6/6
	Jeanie	7/5		Richard 11/9
Staley	Daniel	10/10	Yelland	Joseph 9/4
Thomas	Mary	9/7		Charlotte 6/8
	Clara	6/7		Sophia 10/2
Uhl (Maas)	Annie	14/11		John 8/8
	Josephine	11/5	Total Pupils = 50	James 6/4

List of Pupils : Yandoit Creek School – Year 1882

Family Name	Given Name	Age (Years/Months)
Arthur	Anthony	9/2
	Jane	7/1
Batt	Emma	10/11
	Mary	9/5
	William	7/9
	Sarah	6/2
Blannch	Bridget	3/11
Case	John	13/1
	Joseph	11/7
	Kate	10/3
Fleischer	Elizabeth	14/11
	William	7/7
Ford	Sarah	9/11
	Agnes	8/3
Gervasoni (a)	Louisa	14/5
	Nicholas	3/6
Gervasoni (b)	Johanna	9/11
	Nicholas	8/7
	Louis	6/0
	George	3/11
Gervasoni (c)	John	3/5
	Peter	10/7
	Annie	13/1
	Mary	8/10
	Sarah	5/9
	George	3/11
Gray	Andrew	13/5
	Mary	13/7
	Isabella	8/3
Hallinan	Julia	13/0
Invernesi	Ellen	9/11
	Norah	8/0
	Frances	6/9
	Glorinda	3/11
Jarmine	Josephine	11/1
	Mary	8/8
	Samuel	6/11
Lowe	Arthur	12/5

Marovitch	Denis	8/8
	Thomas	4/7
	Margaret	13/0
McDonald	Walter	5/10
	Mary	4/5
Minotti	John	15/1
	James	9/8
	Daniel	7/10
	Elizabeth	4/5
Moroney	Ellen	8/10
	Matthew	7/11
	Daniel	5/7
Morrison	Alfred	14/3
Neven	Mary	17/1
	George	14/9
	James	8/11
	Jane	11/10
Oliver	Thomas	14/4
	Mary	6/10
	Edward	11/3
	James	9/0
Pavich	Thomas	12/0
	Nicholas	11/4
Robertson	Janet	11/9
Ryan	Alice	9/11
	Richard	7/11
	Louis	5/11
Sartori	Mary	7/0
	James	3/11
Sawyer	Oscar	11/5
Walmsley	Mary	13/6

Total Pupils = 69

APPENDIX - 5

List of Teachers – Yandoit School : 1861 – 2011

1861 – 1885:	Mr Thomas Gannon HT Born 1832 Commenced duty at Yandoit National School 1st September, 1861 Transferred on 13th August, 1885 Retired 1892 Died Alfred Hospital 1905
1877 – 1904:	Miss Margaret Morrison SM Born 1859 Appointed Sewing Mistress 1877 Retired from duty on 5th November, 1904
1885 – 1895:	Mr. George Edward Seaborne Robinson HT Commenced duty 2nd February, 1895 Granted Leave of Absence 20th January, 1895
1885 – ?	Mr. Egidius C W Fleischer ST
1896	Mr. Williams HT Transferred to Musk S S 1897
1897 – 1902:	Mr. George Edward Seaborne Robinson HT Resumed duty from Leave of Absence January, 1897 Transferred 31st August, 1902 Retired 31st January, 1918
1902 – 1908:	Mr. William R Austin HT Appointed 1st September, 1902 Transferred 25th August, 1908 Retired 1919
1908 – 1909:	Mr. Alexander E de Hugard HT Appointed 1st September, 1908 Transferred 18th April, 1909
1908 – ?	Miss Mary E Hepburn PT
1909 – 1913:	Mr. Ernest Francis HT Appointed 19th April, 1909 Transferred 31st December, 1913 Retired 1925 Died in New Zealand 1957
1914 – 1920:	Mr. James R Smith HT Appointed 10th April, 1914

1920 – 1922:	Transferred 3rd August, 1920 Mr John Price HT Appointed 1st August, 1920 Transferred 15th October, 1922
1922 – 1925:	Mr. Thomas E Hauser HT Appointed 16th October, 1922 Transferred 11th April, 1925 Retired 1950 due to ill health
1925 – 1926:	Miss May Wardlaw HT Appointed 31st May, 1925 Transferred 3rd April, 1926 (Married, became Mrs. Boardman of Steiglitz)
1927 – 1937:	Mr. Vernon J Stevens HT Appointed 18th September, 1927 Transferred 9th January, 1937 Died 1940
1937 – 1941:	Olive J Browne relieving HT Mr. Francis A Saw HT Appointed 16th May, 1937 Joined R A A F 28th January, 1941 Retired from Service 1948
1941 – 1944:	Mr. Gordon A Murdoch HT Appointed 27th May, 1941 Transferred 2nd July, 1944
1944 – 1954:	Mr. William E J Doolan HT Appointed 3rd July, 1944 Transferred 31st January, 1954 Died 1975
1954 – 1962:	Mr. Leonard W J James HT Appointed 2nd February, 1954 Transferred February, 1963
1963 – 1964:	Mr. F Stuart Morgan HT Appointed 2nd February, 1963 Transferred February, 1965
1965 – 1966:	Mr. David A Biloft HT Appointed 2nd February, 1965 Transferred December, 1966

1967 – 1968:	Mr. Ken MacKenzie HT Appointed 2nd February, 1967 on transfer from Douglas SS Transferred to Dimboola SS
1969 – 1971:	Mr. Lindsay Booker HT Appointed 4th February, 1969 From Frankston Teachers' College Transferred to Somers S S
1972 – 1974:	Mr. Marcel Van Leest HT Appointed 3rd February 1972 On transfer from Strathallan S S Transferred to Glen Park S S
1975	Wendy Smart HT Transferred to Little Hampton S S
1976 – 1977:	Mr. Peter Robertson HT Appointed on transfer from Talbot S S Transferred to Wandong S S
1978 – 1979:	Mrs. Jan Maloney HT Granted leave for 1980
1980	Mrs. Anne Jackson HT
1981 – 1982:	Mrs. Jan Maloney HT Resumed duty from leave Transferred to Malmsbury S S
1983 – 1987:	Mr. Bruce H Carruthers HT Transferred from Brunswick North West S S
1988 – 1989:	Mrs. Vivienne Severino HT
1990 – 1991:	Mr. Waddah Eltchelbi
1992 – 1993:	Ms. Sue Pitt HT
1994 – 1996:	Mr. Winston Silbereisen
1997 – 1998:	Ms. Diane Van Baalen Transferred to Drummond P S
1999 –	Mrs. Debra Rauber

Pioneer Families of Yandoit

Mr. & Mrs. George Fleischer
Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Gervasoni
Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Gervasoni
Mr. & Mrs. Luigi Paolo Gervasoni
Mr. & Mrs. William Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. James Morrison
Mr. & Mrs. George Neven
Mr. & Mrs. George Oliver
Mr. & Mrs. A Pavich
Mr. & Mrs. Battista Righetti
Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Sartori
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sartori
Mr. & Mrs. Nazzaro Sartori



Plate 18: Yandoit School, date unknown. Thomas Gannon, HT.



Yandoit School, 1922. Jack Price, HT (right), Florence Morgan (left).



Yandoit School, 1925.



Yandoit School, 1932. Vernon Stevens, HT



Yandoit School, 1937. Francis Saw, HT



Yandoit School, 1939.



Yandoit School, 1940. Francis Saw, HT.



Yandoit School, 1952 - 1953.



Yandoit School, 1955.



Yandoit School, 1959.



Ex - students, 1961 (100th Anniversary).



Sports Day, 1964.



Sunday School, 1969.



Yandoit School, 1974.



Yandoit School, 1974...with party hats.



Yandoit School, 1976 - 1977. Peter Robertson, HT



Yandoit School, 1978.



Yandoit School, 1979. Jan Maloney, HT



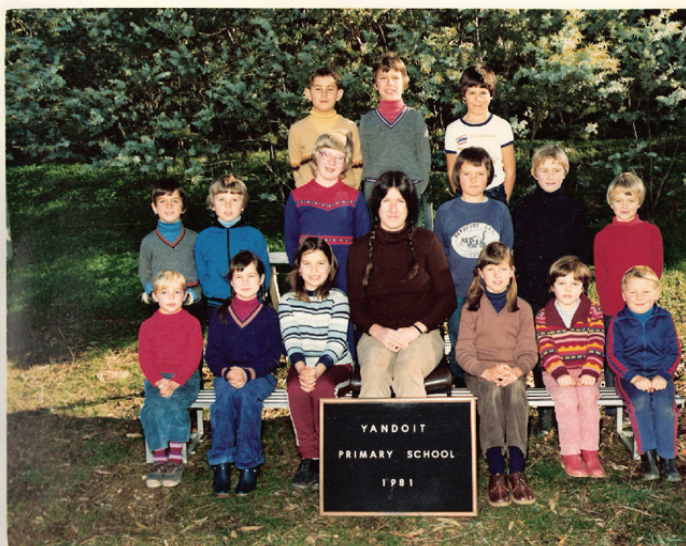
Yandoit School, 1980. Presentation of the flag.



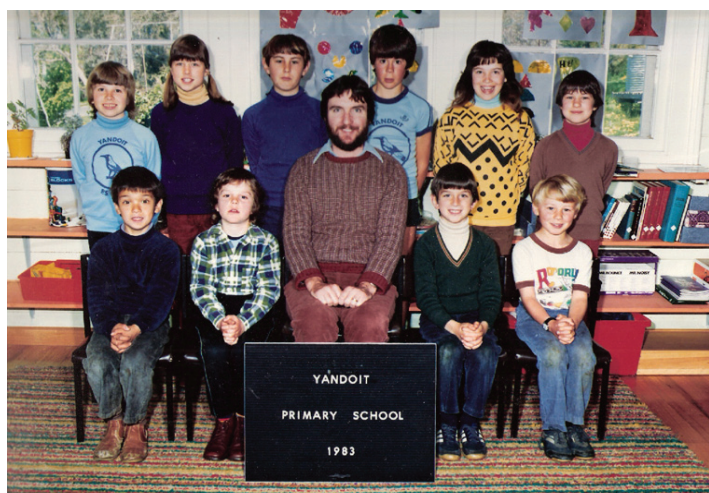
Yandoit School, 1980. Presentation of the flag.



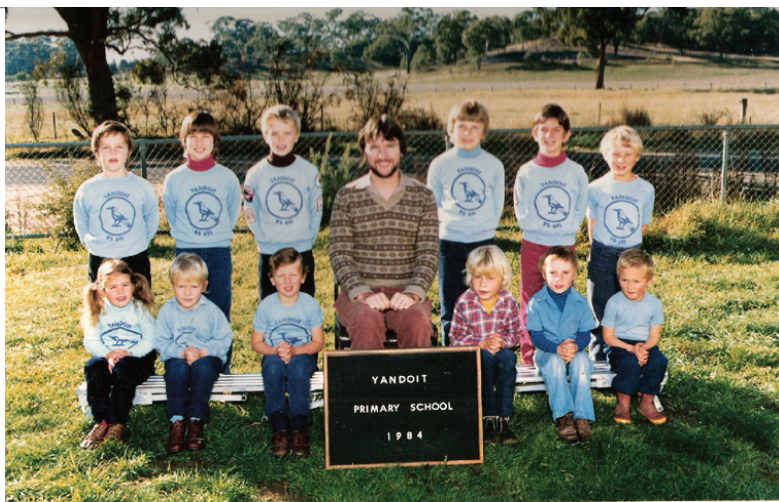
Yandoit School, around 1980. Guards' van.



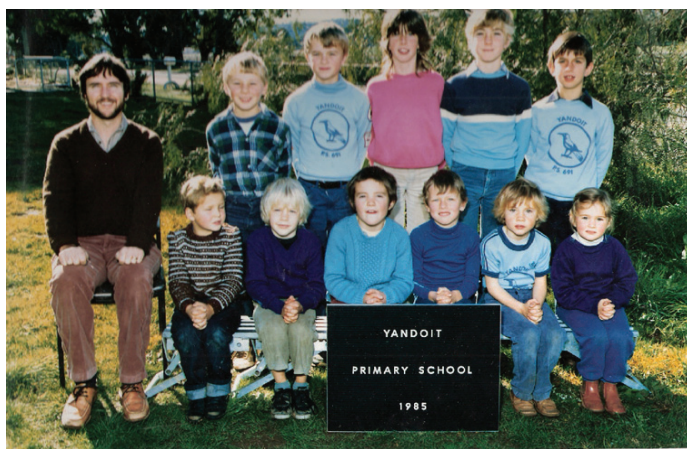
FRONT ROW: (L to R): Katherine Williams, Marita Righetti, Maxene Sartori, Julia Righetti, Juke Jeryns, Owen Pond.
 SECOND ROW: John Righetti, Darren Priest, Tania Priest, Michael Robb, Ben Cox, Sam Cox.
 THIRD ROW: David Pond, Paul Righetti, Tim White.
 VC 15160B Entire School Principal: Jan Raloney.



FRONT ROW: (L to R): Eric Eldridge, Juke Jeryns, John Righetti, Owen Pond.
 SECOND ROW: Darren Priest, Julia Righetti, David Pond, Timothy White, Maxene Sartori, Marita Righetti.
 VC 15401A WHOLE SCHOOL. Principal: Mr. Bruce Carruthers.



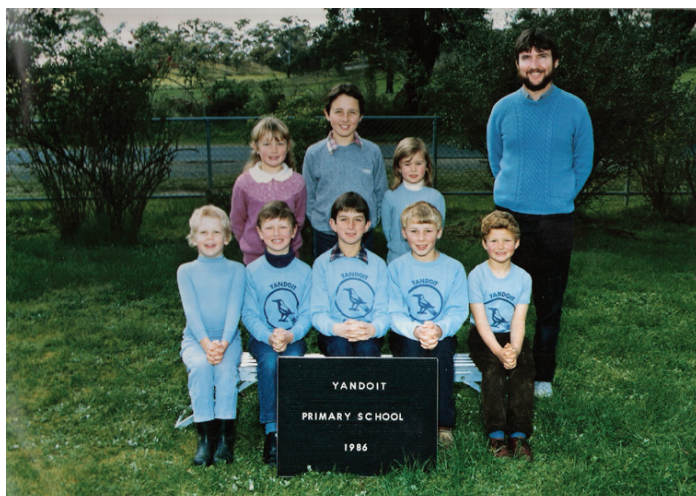
FRONT ROW: (L to R): Bridie Baker, Ace Jonyns, Mark Righetti, Peter Robertson, Gess Groves, Sam Prest.
 SECOND ROW: Juke Jonyns, Marita Righetti, Sam Cox, Darren Priest, John Righetti, Owen Pond.
 VC 13087 Primary Teacher & Principal: Mr. B. Carruthers.



FRONT ROW: (L TO R): Jason Blake, Tristan Mills, Ben Pryse, Mark Righetti, Gess Groves, Angela Richards.
 SECOND ROW: Owen Pond, Sam Cox, Tracey Chester, Corey Chester, John Righetti.
 VC13155C Combined School Principal: Mr.B.Carruthers.



125th Anniversary past students 1986
 Men in back row - Syd Lee, Geoff Morrison, Harold Schroeder, Ron Sartori, Kevin Sartori,
 Middle row - Shirley Schultz, Doreen Sartori, Dorothy Garsed, Loma Schultz, ?
 Audrey Gervasoni.
 Squatting - Maurice Gervasoni, Rex Gervasoni, Don Morrison, Barry Sartori.



FRONT ROW: Tristan Mills, Mark Righetti, John Righetti, Owen Pond, Jason Blake.
 SECOND ROW: Leah Bullen, Glenn Bullen, Angela Richards.
 VC1323365769 Yandoit Primary Principal: Mr. B. Carruthers.







YANDOIT PRIMARY SCHOOL 1990
Top Row: (L-R) Jason Blake, Paul Kuhle, Mark Righetti, Mr. Waddah Elchelebi.
2nd Row: Daniel Richards, Woody MacDonald, Karma Rumbelow, Sarah Klas, Mia MacDonald, Anna Blake, Erica Kuhle
1st Row: Michael Hobday, Brendan Tuun, Angela Richards.



Yandoit P.S. 1991
Top Row: (L to R) Mr. Waddah Elchelebi (Teacher), Lindsay Tuun, Brendan Tuun, Jason Blake, Sarah Klas, Michael Holmes.
2nd Row: Phillip Waters, Shona Towner, Paul Kuhle, Angela Richards, Carly Murphy, Karma Rumbelow.
1st Row: Krystan Franklin, Woody MacDonald, Kylie Wanless, Daniel Richards, Anna Blake, Clinton Wanless, Thomas Morgan.
Absent: Mia McDonald.



Yandoit Primary School 1992

Top Row: (L to R) Jason Blake, Ms. Susan Pitt (Teacher), Joshua Cummings, Paul Kuhle, Anna Blake, Sarah Klas.
 2nd Row: Karina Rumbelow, Shona Towner, Danielle Sartori, Phillip Waters, Brendan Taun.

1st Row: Daniel Richards, Carly Murphy, Lindsay Taun, Woody McDonald.

Teacher: Ms. Susan Pitt.

Principal: Susan Pitt.

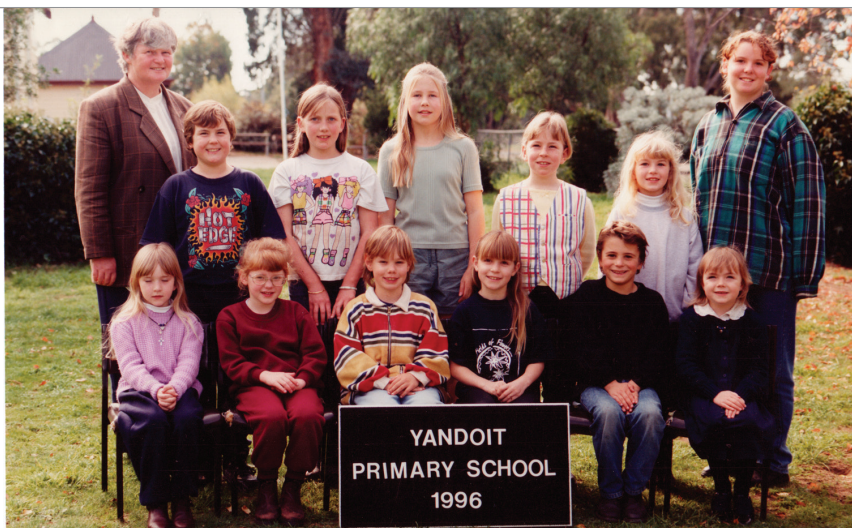


Yandoit P.S. 1993

Top Row: (L to R) Shona Towner, Ms. Sue Pitt (Principal), Danielle Sartori, Megan Helper, Anna Blake, Joshua Cummings, Phillip Waters.

1st Row: Kylie Wanless, Paul Kuhle, Daniel Richards, Woody McDonald, Mia McDonald, Sarah Klas.





YANDOIT PRIMARY SCHOOL - PREP-GRADE 5, 1996
 Back Row: Julia Howden (Teacher), Josh Cummings, Jessica Darling, Kendall Grierson, Megan Helper, Claire Richards, Jessie Richards (Work Experience)
 Front Row: Stephanie Richards, Bianca Klas, Aidan Kofoed, Amy Cummings, Alec Sundborn, Melissa Morrison

Photography: By Williams Studio - Gallant



YANDOIT PRIMARY SCHOOL - 1997



Back row: Amy Cummings, Aidan Kofoed, Alec Sundborn.
 Third row: Galen Sartori (bridge), Cain Charles (bridge), Dianne Van Baalen (teacher), Luke Franks, Joshua Cummings, Megan Helper, Kendall Grierson, Claire Richards.
 Second row: Stephanie Richards (beside bridge), Bianca Klas (in front of teacher),
 Front row: Melissa Morrison, Emily O'Connor, Lachlan McMurtrie, Rachel Cummings, Angus Sundborn.



YANDOIT PRIMARY SCHOOL - PREP-6 - 1998



Back row: Lachlan McMurtrie, Joshua Cummings, Megan Helper, Dianne van Baalen (teacher),
 Cain Charles, Emily O'Connor, Melissa Morrison, Annie Higgins, Aidan Kofoed, Claire Richards,
 Amy Cummings.
 Front row: Seireadan Smith, Rachel Cummings, Nicholas Morrison, Merlin Quinlan, Stephanie Richards, Galen Sartori,
 Bianca Klas.

Photography by Williams Studio - Sallart



Yandoit Primary School 1999



Back Row: Cain Charles, Bianca Klas, Megan Helper, Mrs. Debbie Rauber, Amy Cummings, Aidan Kofoed,
 Seireadan Smith.
 Second Row: Emily O'Connor, Johnny Bastin, Liam Mc Murtrie, Nicholas Morrison, Merlin Quinlin,
 Front Row: Melissa Morrison, Patrick Helper, Ruby Wright, Rachel Cummings, Annie Higgins,
 Lachlan Mc Murtrie



YANDOIT PRIMARY SCHOOL—2000

Back row: Mrs. Christa Botsman, Amy Cummings, Bianca Klas, Cain Charles, Emily O'Connor, Lachlan McMurtrie, Melissa Morrison, Seireadan Smith, Mrs. Debra Rauber.
 Middle row: Ruby Wright, Merlin Quinlan, Patrick Helper, Johnny Bastin, Mitchell Huebner, Annie Higgins.
 Front row: Rachel Cummings, Bear Hackenberger, Marcie Remedio, Olivia Ambrose, Nicholas Morrison, Katie O'Connor, Liam McMurtrie.
 Absent: Juno Petherbridge, Mrs. Wendy Hawker, Ms. Karen Harvey.

Photography by Williams Studios - Ballarat



Yandoit Primary School - 2001

Back Row : Katie O'Connor, Lachie McMurtrie, Seireadan Smith, Cain Charles, Bianca Klas, Mrs Debra Rauber, Melissa Morrison, Emily O'Connor, Annie Higgins, Mitchell Huebner, Rachael Cummings, Marci Remedio
 Front Row : Talfin Greentree, Liam McMurtrie, Mel Cummings, Gordie McMurtrie, Bear Hackenberger, Ricky Bastin, Nicholas Morrison, Johnny Bastin
 Absent : Mrs Susan Priest (Annexe Support Teacher), Ms Trudi Blick (LOTE - Italian Teacher)

Photography by Williams Studios - Ballarat



DAYLESFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

YANDOIT ANNEXE - 2004
Mr David Broadbent - Principal



Back Row: Katie O'Connor, Annie Higgins, Seireadan Smith, Johnny Bastin, Marcella Remedio, Mrs Cate Daish(Teacher)
Middle Row: Mrs Debra Rauber(Teacher), Jaymee Jose, Juno Petherbridge, Nicholas Morrison, Edwin O'Connor
Front Row: Owen Turbitt, Lotus Hackenberger, Wade Jose, Ricky Bastin, Madeleine Smith, Mel Cummings, Miranda Turbitt

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DAYLESFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

YANDOIT ANNEXE - 2005
Mr David Broadbent - Principal




Back Row: Mrs Cate Daish(Teacher), Madeleine Smith, Jaymee Jose, Marcella Remedio, Juno Petherbridge, Edwin O'Connor, Mrs Debra Rauber(Teacher)
Front Row: Owen Turbitt, Lotus Hackenberger, Bear Hackenberger, Wade Jose, Melanie Cummings, Miranda Turbitt
Absent: Katie O'Connor, Thomas Minchinton Kimpton

Copyright: David Torrington Master School Portraits








DAYLESFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

YANDOIT ANNEXE - 2009
Mr Peter Burke - Principal



Back Row: Trudi Blick(Teacher), Miranda Turbitt, Loti Hackenberger, Owen Turbitt, Thomas Minchinton Kimpton, Debra Rauber(Teacher)

Middle Row: Otto Saunders, Corey Sartori, Alfie Pleasance, Zephyr Ogden-Jones, Govinda Hackenberger

Front Row: George Minchinton Kimpton, Clancy Reid, Jaida Berridge, Flint Harley, Elisabeth Lewis, Rufus Pleasance

Absent: Renier Haneveld, Josie Berto(Teacher), Wendy Hawker(Teacher)

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Yandoit Primary School

WHOLE SCHOOL – 2010
Annexe of Daylesford Primary School



Back Row: Debbie Rauber(Teacher), Thomas Minchinton Kimpton, Owen Turbitt, Miranda Turbitt, David Lewis(Aide), Jose Berto(Teacher)
Middle Row: Otto Saunders, Govinda Hackenberger, Alfie Pleasance, Corey Sartori, Jaida Berridge
Front Row: Archie Sproat, Rufus Pleasance, Elisabeth Lewis, Flint Harley, Rennie Saunders, Renier Haneveld, George Minchinton Kimpton
Absent: Wendy Hawker(Teacher), Clancy Reid

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Daylesford Primary School

Yandoit Annexe - 2011
Mr Peter Burke - Principal



Back Row: Otto Saunders, Alfie Pleasance, Trudi Blick (LOTE), David Lewis (Aide), Jose Berto (Teacher), Corey Sartori, Jaida Berridge
Front Row: Lenny Sproat, Rufus Pleasance, Rennie Saunders, Flint Harley, Govinda Hackenberger, Elisabeth Lewis, Archie Sproat, Juno Harley
Absent: Renier Haneveld, Isa Van Osterom

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THE POPLAR AVENUE by Regina A Righetti

And now when small ones came home from school,
With one small foot deep in every pool,
We found the way here both soft and cool,
So follow our leader was the rule -
Through the poplar leaves,
Swish, swish!
And when the grass seeds were high and dense,
And the bright hot sunshine left us tense,
We walked quite close and followed the fence,
The long cool shadows our recompense -
Through the poplar leaves -
Swish, swish!
A tinker or tailor left us cold,
But a soldier or sailor! sounds more bold!
But - a rich man! that means lots of gold,
All the others, oh they were far too old!
Through the poplar leaves -
Swish, swish!
What manner of fancy, some who came
On the pure white trunks they carved a name,
And sometimes a heart, too, what a shame!
No, the little children were no to blame -
Through the poplar leaves -
Swish, swish!
And now, when the sun was sinking red,
When all little ones should be home and fed,
With little cheeks all hot, and a tousled head,
Just one more run 'fore they go to bed -
Through the poplar leaves -
Swish, swish!
If the robins such children they had spied -
They had not come yet, or woe betide,
If they'd found us there in all our pride,
Like the Babes in the wood we would have lied,
In the poplar leaves -
Swish, swish!

Regina Righetti

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Front Cover: Yandoit School 1980. Anne Jackson, HT.