

SCHOOL 483 ESSENDON

State School No. 483 Essendon developed from the Pascoe Vale National School which opened on 29 July, 1850, according to our records. This was a 7-roomed brick building, (including Master's residence) with a roof of shingles. Sizes of the rooms were - 26 feet by 16 feet; 22 feet by 16 feet; 22 feet by 15 feet; 12 feet by 12 feet (2 rooms) 12 feet by 14 feet (2 rooms). Built at a cost of £600, it stood on a 2 acre site described as "situated at Moonee Ponds east of the Pascoe Vale Road, between the Salt and Fresh Water Creeks, within 200 yards of the Catholic Chapel". This (the school) was probably in a bend of the Moonee Ponds Creek, next to (south of) Block 53 and Block 55 which was on the east side, (perhaps frontage to the present Government Road).

When the site and buildings were sold for £70 in 1863, doubts arose as to whether the original grant was of one or two acres and, of its precise boundaries.

Date of the school's opening was not stated in the file of correspondence, but it was certainly in existence in August, 1851, when the Master was John Thomas Hiskens, and his wife, Catherine, taught the girls. A great supporter of the school and a generous contributor to its founding was John Pascoe Fawkner, M.L.C. He was also Chairman of the Board, from which office he resigned on the 17th January, 1854, because of extreme ill health.

For the quarter ending 30 June, 1852, returns state that the number on the Register was 166 (later 197), total number in attendance - 59 Girls; 68 Boys; that £3.1.3. had been paid for books and £22.18.7. paid in school fees.

In April 1852, John P. Fawkner said the average age of the children was 7 to 8 years and that there was no other source of education in the district.

Additions and repairs were made to the school in 1853, the local contribution being £145.

In that year Hiskens was dismissed (Fawkner objecting at first), and in November, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nelson were appointed to the school.

The Nelsons did not remain long - Mr. and Mrs. Gilsenan were at the school in 1854, but were dismissed in 1855; Mr. and Mrs. Martin being appointed in their places.

Because of the low attendance the school was closed in December, 1856, but by 1859 was in operation again with Mr. George Morgan as Head Master.

In 1861 moves were being made to move the school to Essendon. District Inspector Orlebar agreed that the 2 acre site at the corner of Raleigh and Nicholson Streets was a suitable one. He advised that the master of the Presbyterian school be made master of the new school - thus ensuring that the Presbyterian school close. (It was destroyed by fire.)

The move to Raleigh Street was probably made in 1862 or early 1863. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor were Head Teacher and Assistant in February, 1863. The name was changed to Essendon in March, 1863.

In 1868 the brick building consisted of 1 large room 45 feet by 18 feet and 1 small room 14 feet by 14 feet - the roof being covered with slates.

On 10 September, 1869, 2 roods 4 perches - Allotment 2, Section 29, Raleigh Street, was added to the site.

In 1871 the Board granted a sum of £170 for an additional room the local Patrons finding a similar amount.

In 1876 the attendance often reached more than 200. The Yan Yean water supply was connected to the school in this year.

In 1877 a brick 30 feet by 20 feet extension (Infant Room) was made at a cost of £419. The old Infants' Room was demolished. A further 36 feet by 25 feet addition was made by 1886.

In December, 1884 there were 449 on the roll; in July, 1888, 483.

Numbers increased and in 1889 the Methodist School Room in Mount Alexander Road was leased at 15/- per week. In 1890 a room of St. John's Presbyterian Church was leased also.

A contract for extensions to cost £1800 was let, and the new rooms were opened on June 17, 1890. During building a portable from Yarraville was used and later converted into quarters of 4 rooms for a Caretaker. (These quarters were probably demolished in June, 1916.)

On 20 August 1895, 680 pupils were present.

In 1899 the Presbyterian Sunday School was again leased for £52 per year.

There were 1056 on the roll in 1900.

In 1902 a contract was let for a detached Infant School and Hall of 2156 sq. ft.

In 1911 Lots 19 and 20 (Corner of Raleigh and Shaftesbury Streets) and Lot 21 of Lodged Plan No. 1964 being part of C.A. 3, 4, and 5 of Section 29, Town of Essendon, a total area of 0 acres 2 roods 15 5/10 perches was bought at a cost of £590.

The Presbyterian Sunday School was again leased on 1911 (40/- per week).

The first Committee of 1911 had G. H. Shugg, Correspondent and W. Royle - President. In July, the Committee arranged a Parental Visit to stimulate interest in the school. Dr. Spring gave an address "Ailments Affecting Children of School Age".

Sewerage was connected in 1912.

In 1914 a Pavilion was provided and by February, 1916 with 1068 children on the roll, there were 4 pavilions altogether. (They cost £140 each.)

By 1916, remodelling and additions were being proposed at a cost of £6,755.

An extract from the School Committee's Annual Report for the year ending 1 March, 1917 states, "The Committee has used every effort to get the present school building remodelled - it is badly ventilated, ill-lit, and overcrowded". Enrolment at this time was 1000; 150 children being taught in the Infant Hall and 50 in the shelter pavilion. Later, it was found necessary to rent two church halls to accommodate the over-flow. At this stage, the building consisted of Main Building (brick), a new Infant building (detached) and 3 pavilion classrooms.

On 15 August 1917, the Minister, the Hon. H.S.W. Lawson, received a deputation from the Essendon City Council and the School Committee urging that more accommodation should be provided, and that the school building should be renovated.

Overcrowding was relieved to some extent by the opening of new schools at Moonee Ponds and North Essendon, but remodelling of the present building was still an urgent necessity.

Additions and remodelling were carried out in 1921-1922 at a cost of £9411.10.7. and first occupied in May, 1922.

The state of the building was now:-

- (a) Infants' Block 4/24' 6" x 22'.
- (b) Main building - ground floor 1/23' 3" x 25'
  - 1/28' 6" x 20'
  - 2/25' x 23' 6"
  - 2/26' 6" x 24' 6"
  - 1/25' x 36'

- (c) Main building - first floor. As for ground floor.
- (d) Three pavilion rooms (renovated) 3/30' x 20'.

The new building was officially opened by His Excellency, the Right Hon. Earl of Stradbroke on 20 October 1922. Mr. Fussell, Chief Inspector was also in attendance. (Your local paper may have an account of this function.)

LIST OF HEAD TEACHERS:

John T. Hiskens	No record in Teachers' Branch, but probably Head Teacher as early as 1850. Left the school in 1853.
Charles Nelson	14.11.1853 - 21.1.1854
Elijah Gilsenan	1854-1855
..... Martin	1855-1856 (?) No record in Teachers' Branch

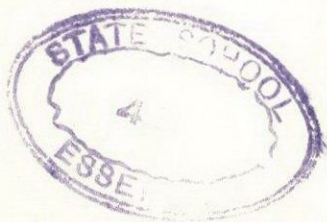
School closed December, 1856

Re-opened 1859

George Morgan	1859-1862
Robert G. Taylor	1863-1873
Jabez Culcheth	1873-1879
William T. Lewis	1880-1893
George Mackay	1893-1910
John Stewart	1910-1915
Robert Scott	1915-1917
Alexander Winning	1917-1919
Arthur J. Edwards	1920-1927
Theodore H. Cory	1927-1930
Ernest W. Blenkiron	1931-1939
Ian B. de Hugard	1939-1942
William C. Smith	1942-1945
Henry R. Paul	1946-1952
Stephen A. Price	1952-1954
Edwin A. Worcester	1955-1957
Gary A. Olney	1958
Clifford L. Greenmay	1959-1961
Henry R. Taylor	1962-1965
Norman F. Prendergast	1966-1968
John J. Ryan	1969-

Although there were in existence two denominational schools in Essendon, an application was made, in 1858, to the National Board of Education, for the establishment of a National School in the area. This school was opened in 1858 with Mr Robert McEwen as master, and Miss Lois Krown as his assistant. It was a wooden structure, with tiled roof and plastered walls, 30 feet <sup>long</sup> ~~wide~~ and 30 feet wide, front elevation 15 feet, and provided accommodation for 26 boys.

When the Common Schools Board was set up in 1862, the original building was sold, and a new structure erected in <sup>its</sup> place. ~~The school came under its jurisdiction, and was given its present number (483) and the name street. On August 11<sup>th</sup> 1863 this school was given its present number (483) and titled "Essendon Common School."~~



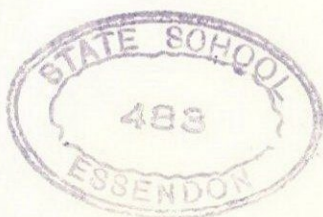
The school at Raleigh street <sup>in 1875</sup> ~~originally~~ consisted of a brick building of two rooms, each 45x18x18 and one room 14x14 to roof. Due to severe over-crowding a 30x20 brick extension was completed in 1877. Water <sup>direct</sup> from the yaw yaw pipe line was connected to the school in 1896.

Overcrowding 1899. Wesleyan Chapel. Chw also attending 2890 Victoria Street, Brunswick.  
Renovations 1911 (cost of £481)  
Sewerage July 1912. <sup>Blck.</sup>  
April 1913. Infant room ~~block built~~.

Considerable pressure was exerted on the Education Department for further accommodation at the school, and additions and ~~renovations~~ <sup>re-modelling</sup>, at a cost of £9,411/10/9, were carried out during 1921, - 1922. <sup>Church halls being used while this took place</sup> This building was officially opened by

~~The present building at the corner of Raleigh and Nicholson Streets was opened officially by His Excellency, the Right Honourable Earl of Stradbroke on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1922, and~~

Craft Room?  
Original Bell.



Atte Net enrolment 1026. November 1914.

944 June 1912 (accommodation for 992 @ 10 sq ft).

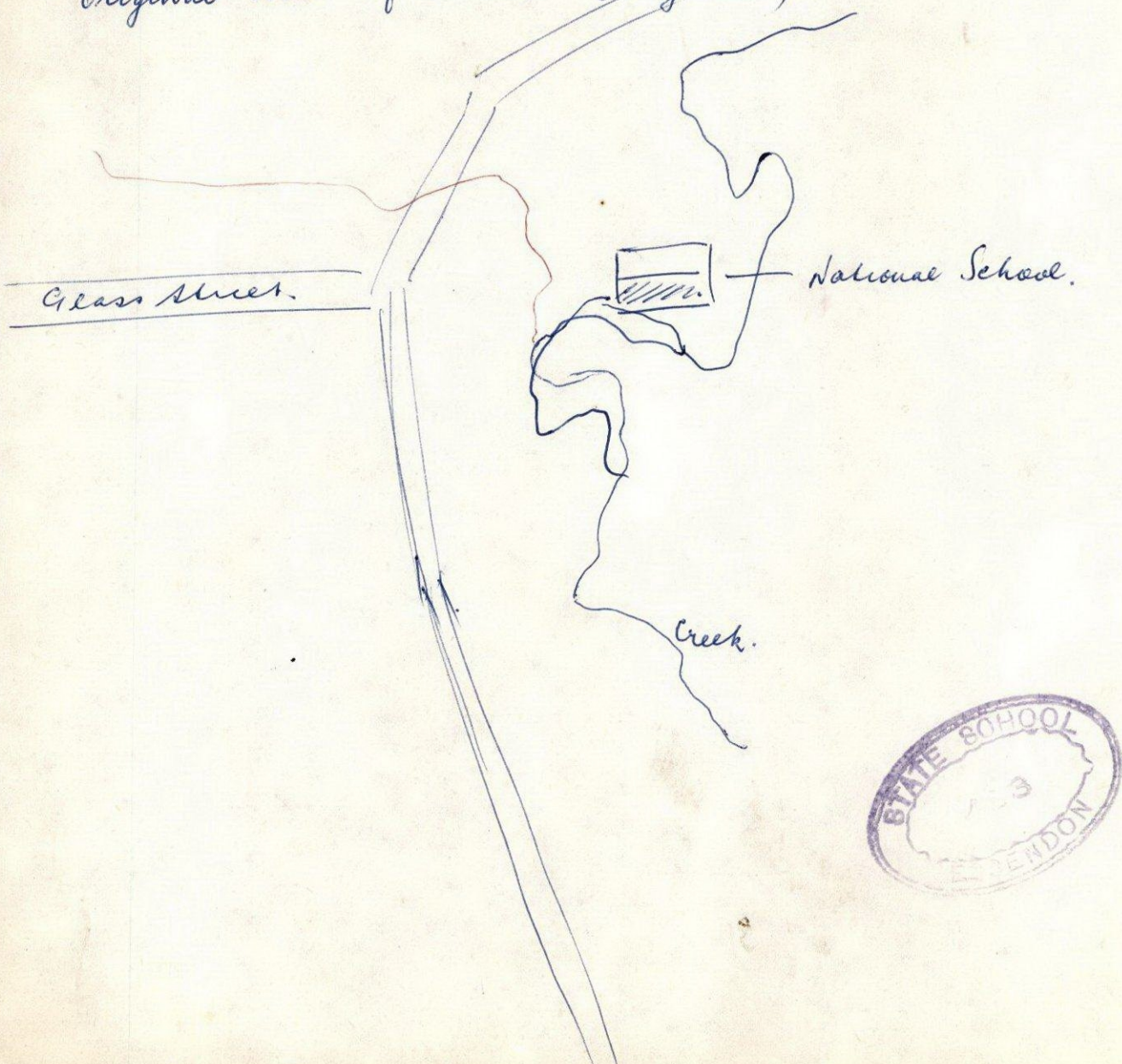
20/ang)

1874

Vandalism! Two panels of fence taken. Yard open to straying cattle etc.!

1901-2. Pres. Church hall rented while addition being made to 483 Ruluyk St.

Original site of school (Original)



## 474 OXFORD STREET (COLLINGWOOD):

HT John A. Christopherson, three assistants and five pupil teachers welcomed 128 children on 3rd of August 1857 when the first Oxford Street School opened in a church-owned basement, 65ftx40ft. A year later, when an above-ground room was acquired for an additional 60 pupils, the basement still 'accommodated' 120 infants. At this stage it became the Oxford Street National Boys School but, during the 1860s and despite local disapproval, began to enrol girls. Somewhat optimistically the Congregational Church's asking price for its building and perpetual lease of an adjoining property was £8,500. The Department's consequent report was that the basement was a 'dungeon', the building 'a cumbersome affair' and the proposition therefore unacceptable. A new school was built in Cambridge St; the 939 Oxford St pupils transferred to it and the school closed on 31st of August 1877. See also 1895 *Collingwood, Cambridge Street*.

## 481 COLLINGWOOD (OTTER ST):

This is the present St Joseph's Catholic School, and was established in 1860 as a girls school under Mrs Kate Bamber, having developed from a number of small Catholic schools previously in the area, e.g. Ryrie Street, No. 19 Kerr Street (1855), Budd Street (1857), No. 2 Wellington Street (1858) and Stanley Street (1858). In 1862 the school moved to the corner of Otter and Wellington Sts, and in 1863 to the nave of the new church in Otter St. About this time it became a mixed school, under the Board of Education, absorbing Moor Street the corresponding school for boys. The principal for some years was James Spellman (salary £100), but when attendance fell in 1871 he was replaced by M. O'Hara from Bacchus Marsh. The school was not taken over by the Department in 1864, and when State aid ceased on 31st of March 1874 (a.a. then being 250), the HT and five teachers left, and Mrs Taylor was appointed HM.

## \* 483 ESSENDON (PASCOE VALE):

Two denominational schools functioned in the Essendon area, when an application was made to the National Board in the late 1850s for establishment of a National school. Known as the National Grammar School, it opened in 1858. It consisted of two rooms each 14ftx16ftx12ft and one room 14ftx12ftx12ft. Two served as classrooms, and the third as a diningroom. The wooden structure, 30ftx30ftx15ft had a tiled roof, and plastered walls. Four detached rooms formed a residence. The foundation HT was Robert McEwen, his assistant being Lois Krom. The school provided accommodation for 26 boys. During the common schools period, the original building, on a 2 acre site close to the junction of Five Mile and Moonee Ponds Creeks, was sold and a new structure erected in Fletcher St, Essendon. On 17th of August 1863 it became Essendon Common School No. 483. Rapid population growth caused overcrowding, so a new slate roof brick building of three rooms was erected on the corner of Raleigh and Nicholson Sts in 1875. Water supply from Yan Yean pipeline was

connected in 1876. Further extensions, a room 30ftx20ft, were completed in 1877. In 1907 plans to erect a new building did not eventuate. In 1911 renovations to the existing building cost £481. In August an additional playground area of  $\frac{1}{2}$  an acre on the corner of Raleigh and Shaftsbury Sts was purchased. Sewerage was installed in 1912.

The NE in November 1914 was 1,026 of which the a.a. was 994. The school however provided accommodation for only 792 pupils. Correspondence of that time stated 'Insufficient accommodation for infants. Teacher has to walk over desks when revising work individually.' In April 1917, the infant block, which still stands, was erected. Three pavilion classrooms, as well as two church halls, were also being used at this time. Using the original building as the foundation of a second floor, remodelling and additions at a cost of £9,411 were carried out in the years 1921-22. During this period, children were accommodated in various hired buildings. The new school, first occupied in May 1922, now consisted of an infant block of four rooms; a main building with seven rooms on the ground floor and seven on the second; plus three renovated pavilion rooms, each 30ftx20ft. The building was officially opened by His Excellency, the Right Hon. Earl of Stradbroke, on 20th of October 1922.

A cenotaph to perpetuate the memory of victims of the first World War was erected in the schoolgrounds in 1923, by the Old Boys' Association of the school. The original school bell stands in the grounds, having been presented by the Mothers' Club, School Committee, Old Girls' Association and Old Boys' Association on 5th of July 1933. The E.A. Worcester library room, was presented by the Mothers' Club, and officially opened by the Mayor of Essendon, Cr E.B. Basford, JP, on 16th of August 1956. The art and craft room was completed in 1962. The school in 1969 had a staff of fifteen assistants.

W.E. Denning

J.J. Ryan

#### 484 COBURG: formerly PENTRIDGE:

This area was first named after Joseph Pentridge who farmed by the Merri Creek. When Pentridge Stockade of 1851 became, in 1859, a substantial bluestone prison, residents sought a new name for the district. They honored a current Royal visitor, the Duke of Saxe Coburg. The first schools at Pentridge Village were denominational. In 1850, 50-60 children received week day schooling in the Holy Trinity Church, an arrangement typical of church schools. On 2nd of May 1853, a large tent erected on Government land, and a smaller tent for the Master and Mistress, comprised the National School. HT William Bryant gladly saw the tent replaced by a four-room school and assembly hall on 12th of August. Required to meet most of the cost, (upwards of £700) residents met most of this within months.

Pentridge National School became SS484 Coburg. It faced accommodation and other problems typical of the era, e.g. in 1890, 143 children were herded into a room 48ftx18ft; later, to dry out the damp walls, the school closed for a week. Finally in 1909, when the NE of