

**BACK**  
**to**  
**MANDURANG**  

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*Souvenir*

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Celebrations to be held on  
15th, 16th, 17th October, 1938

— IN —

**Mr. G. KOFOED'S PADDOCK**  
(Opposite State School)

Opening Ceremony to be Performed by

**The Hon. Maj. Gen. Rankin**

at 10 a.m.

on Saturday, 15th October

Mr. G. KOFOED,  
President

Mr. J. KERR,  
Hon. Treas.

Mr. J. THOMAS,  
Hon. Secretary

## BACK TO MANDURANG CELEBRATIONS, 1938

### Time Table

#### SATURDAY, 15th OCTOBER

10.45 a.m.—March into School.

Back to School and Roll Call.

12.1 p.m.—Opening Ceremony, Speeches of Welcome and Dinner.

2 p.m.—Sports. 6 p.m.—Tea. 8 p.m.—Concert and Dance.

#### SUNDAY, 16th OCTOBER

11 a.m.—Back to Church.

3 p.m.—Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. Band Selections.

Chief Speaker, Mr. A. E. COOK, M.L.A.,  
assisted by Mr. COYLE, M.L.A. and others,  
Vocal Selections.

#### MONDAY, 17th OCTOBER

Visiting Places of Interest and Basket Picnic.

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### SPORTS PROGRAMME

Commencing at 2 p.m.

**CHILDREN'S RACES**—Prizes gifts of Mrs Lenthall and Mr. G. Hampton.

**LOCAL FOOT RACE**—1st, Trophy valued at 10/6, gift of Jas. Andrew & Co.  
2nd. 5/-.

**SINGLE LADIES' RACE, 75 yds.**—1st, Torch, gift of Bendigo Motor Spares.  
2nd, Hat Box, gift of Pizzey & Co.

**MARRIED LADIES' RACE**—1st, Trophy, valued £1/1/-, gift of J. H. Lienhop,  
M.L.C.; 2nd, Thermos Flask, gift of Hartleys.

**AMATEUR FOOT RACE, 100 yds.**—Trophy.

**GENTS' COMEBACK FOOT RACE**—1st, Cup, valued 10/6, gift of Hume & Iser.  
2nd. 5/- Open Order, gift of Forster's Bootery.

**LADIES' COMEBACK FOOT RACE**—1st, Cup valued 10/6, gift of Hume & Iser.  
2nd Open Order gift of Beehive.

**LADIES' STEPPING THE DISTANCE**—1st, Half doz. Knives, gift of Chandlers.

**GENTS' STEPPING THE DISTANCE**—1st, Cup, gift of J. McDonald.

**BOWLING AT WICKET**—1st, 10/6, gift of Carters, Drapers.

**KICKING FOOTBALL THROUGH HOOP**—1st, 10/6, gift of Ashmans.

**LADIES' NAIL DRIVING**—1st, Cake Plate, gift of Stilwells.

**BLUNT AXE CHOP**—1st, Axe, gift of Golden City Timber Co.

**SHEFFIELD HANDICAP, 130 Yards, to start at 3.15 p.m.**

1st. £3/10/-; 2nd, £1/10/-; 3rd, £1. Entry, 3/-.

**WOOD CHOP (Unregistered), 40 inch Logs. 3.30 p.m.**

1st. £3/10/-; 2nd, £1/10/-; 3rd, £1. Entry, 3/6.

**LADIES' TAILING THE PIG**—1st, Pair of Slippers, gift of Curnow's Bootery.

**GENTS' TAILING THE PIG**—1st, Wallet, gift of Bendigo Leather Shop.

**TIME JUDGING COMPETITION**—1st, Trophy valued 10/6, gift of J. H. Curnow & Co.

**JUDGING WEIGHT OF SHEEP**—1st, Open Order, gift of Bennetts.

**STORK DERBY, Largest Family on the Ground**—Prize, One 50 lb. Bag of Flour, gift of Tomlins & Simmie.



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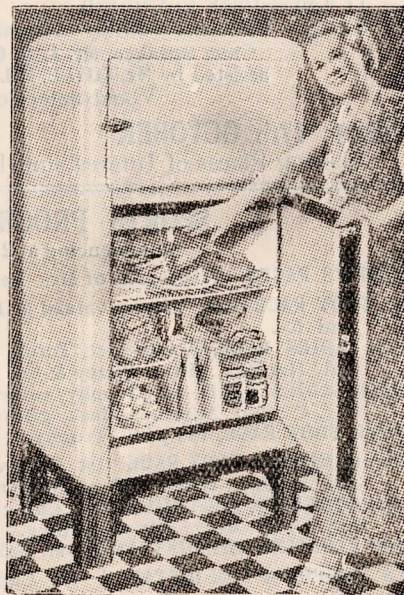
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## **History of Mandurang State School and District**

**T**HE Parish of Mandurang dates its origin back to the days when the shepherds of Sutton Grange and Ravenswood drove their flocks to graze on the grassy slopes in and around Sandhurst (Bendigo and Mandurang).

Mr. Coghill, a Squatter of Sutton Grange and Mr. Fenton, a Squatter of Ravenswood held land adjoining this district but not included within their boundaries. It was usual, however in those days, for shepherds to exceed their boundaries. Therefore it is reasonable to believe that shepherds built their huts somewhere in the vicinity of Sheepwash Creek.



**Mr. George Kofoed,**  
President, "Back to Mandurang" Movement

The origin of the name seems to be somewhat obscure but appears to be a coined aboriginal word meaning "No Man's Land."

It is of very strong belief that Fenton's shepherds, whose huts were at what is now Golden Square, were the first to discover gold at Bendigo thus endeavouring to prove that Mandurang was once Mr. Fenton's property. This cannot be accepted as authentic as it was quite a common occurrence in those days for the Squatters to exceed their boundaries.



The gold discovery of Bendigo was the means of turning this hilly bushland country with giant gums, principally box, ironbark and stringy bark into a prosperous country district now enjoying the conveniences of a large city — Bendigo — a privilege that all districts cannot pride themselves upon.

The Sheepwash creek so called after a sheepwash, used by Mr. Coghill's shepherds, and the Emu creeks supply the district with many acres of valuable land suitable for all agricultural pursuits.

With the discovery of gold, Sandhurst soon had a population of 70,000 people, many of whom were not lucky and had to turn to other pursuits.

In 1853 Mr. John T. Deravin turned the first sod in establishing an agricultural industry to supply the needs of gold diggers. His home, a slab hut was erected on the west bank of the Sheepwash creek near the confluence of Piccaninny and Sheepwash creeks. Later he was joined by Mr. John Billman, wife and six children who camped in tents under large gums near the present Methodist Church.

Many settlers soon followed but the exact order of rotation or the exact number is not known but mention will be made of some of the earlier ones. Mr. Ewing obtained six acres which is now in possession of his son, Mr. W. Ewing, an ex-councillor of the Bendigo City Council and a former Mayor.

Two brothers, George and Jim Green took the next place. The next 30 acres brings us to the road and was bought by Mr. J. B. Loridan. This land changed hands many times and after being planted down with vines, passed on to Mr. Lansell who extended it, and on leaving for England, sold to Mr. August Heine who later sold to Mr. Myers and thence to Mr. Barth. Each change of ownership saw improvements to the vineyard till Phylloxera disease broke out, bringing about the destruction of the vines. The land today supports a dairy herd and is in the hands of Cr. W. L. Nankervis, a returned soldier who secured it under the repatriation scheme in 1919.

Across the Tannery road, Mr. Jones selected land which later was bought by Mr. McGuire, an ex-constable. It remained in possession of the family till 9 years ago when it passed into the hands of Mr. J. C. Thomas, the secretary of the "Back to Mandurang" movement.

On the East side of the Creek Mr. E. Huillier made his home with Mr. Sam Martin next and now held by Mr. Jack Billman. Mr. Oldsworth's property was opposite the present school. Dr. Backhaus secured a large paddock next, and with Andrew Monti's six acres brings us to the main road.

Across the road is land held by the Charlesworth family to this day, and mainly used for a market garden and an orchard.

Mr. Wm. Keating's hotel was next and on his right was W. Wenwright's two blocks. This brings us to the above mentioned J. Billman with his vineyard and orchard. Mr. Munroe joined with John Smith, once on Mr. Hoford's property, on his right.

Mr. Eldridge bought alongside and did blacksmithing for many years. On the next property was Mr. Wm. Wright, father of the late Mr. Wm. Wright of the Bendigo paper. He had a milk round and supplied early Bendigo.

W. Thomas Lowe his further neighbor was next. Mr. Taylor wife and two daughters also resided on this property and conducted a laundry mainly for the police and soldiers of Bendigo. Sam and George Lowe took over their father's property but later George Lowe became sole owner. Mr. Albert Pearce's farm originally belonged to Wm. Hargreaves and brings us next to the surveyed "township" of Mandurang.

Land along Piccaninny Creek beyond the church was occupied by George and Jim Green and G. Sherriff, today in the hands of Mr. S. Gledhill. To the west of this we pass on to A. Munro's and J. Corbett's sections.

With the settlement of Mandurang we find that the attention of Emu Creek also claimed many settlers such as Tobin and McEncroe in the year 1857, with Michael Brennan following in a few months, and later still Messrs Cramer, Henry Osborne, John Williams, later Mayor of Eaglehawk, Thomas Conway, Roy Rundell, Wm. Graham, and J. Stein.

## Industries

WITH Bendigo so far from Melbourne and the uncertainty of supply of many commodities which had to be brought by bullock drays, gave the early pioneers of Mandurang an opportunity to supply the fruits of their labours at fairly good prices.

With cartage costs as high as £30 and more per ton from Melbourne, the gold diggers looked to the settlers for the supply of many articles of food such as vegetables, fruit, meat and hay. Some of the prices realized were as follows: Milk, 2/6 a quart; butter, 2/6 a lb.; treacle and golden syrup, 1/6 a lb.; cabbages were often quartered and sold for 2/6 a quarter; spring onions, carrots and parsnips, 2/6 to 3/- a dozen bunches; grapes 2/6 lb.; bush hay at £50 a ton.

From this it is realized that the first industries were fruit and vegetable growing which later gave way to wine.

## Wine

JOHN Billman commenced this industry by planting 500 cuttings obtained from Adelaide. Mr. J. T. Deravin joined also in this venture in 1866 by planting half an acre in vines. This area was steadily increased to 20 acres. Other settlers engaged in this industry were Messrs. Loridan, August Heine, Myers, Barth, McGuire, Togno, Green Bros. and Jones.

However, through unfortunate circumstances, this industry terminated in 1893 when an outbreak of Phylloxera Vastrix was discovered at Mr. Gosse's vineyard within two miles distance. Thus, by law, the vines were ordered to be uprooted although this trouble was not discovered in the Sheepwash valley.



## Timber

**T**HE hills of Mandurang were once clothed in magnificent timber but most of it has not been put to the best use. Many Italians were lured to the gold fields and after the gold rush some of them turned their attention to the forests to burn timber for charcoal. Taking the forests in a face they had burnt the forest between Emu and Axe Creeks in 17 years. Today the forests are under Government control, and are thinned out and the wood used for domestic and industrial purposes whilst the young trees are preserved and cared for.

## Tannery

**S**CHILLERIO in a humble way settled on 10 acres east of Jones' and began by slaughtering a few beasts and supplying meat to the inhabitants of the district. His business was sold to Cleg-horn who commenced tanning hides, an industry which developed giving employment later to 30 men. The next owners were Goudge and Sibly, then Sibly and Lambert who sold it to R. H. S. Abbott who carried on an extensive business till 1904.

## Post Office

**T**HE Post Office was first in charge of I. Witworth and was carried on at the school until W. Casey's time when it was removed to Barth's. After a time it was returned to Franz Steilow at the school and in 1920, George Billman consented to carry it on. Since then it has remained in the hands of the Billman; today being conducted by Mr. Jack Billman.

## Telephone

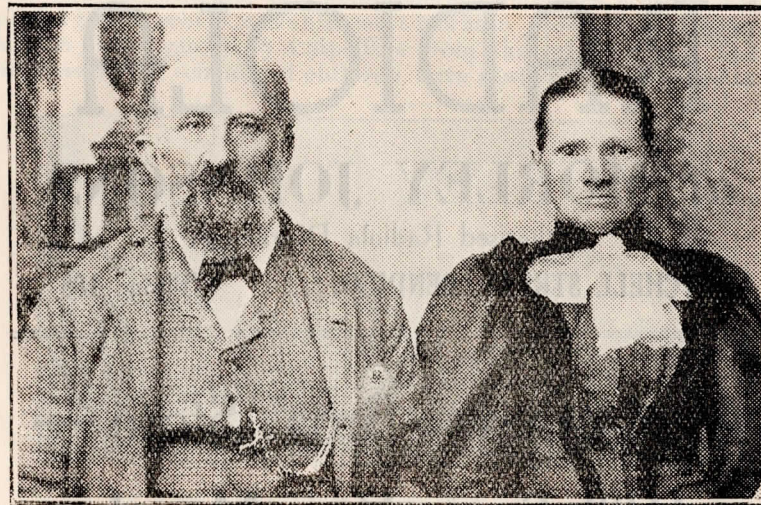
**I**N 1914, an agitation was on the move for a telephone, but as material was so costly, the work was held over. After the war, R. Brennan and F. Osborne took up the task again and went to Melbourne on a deputation to Mr. Webster, Director of Post and Telegraphs. Later Mr. W. M. Hughes granted a line on the pound for pound basis. £89 was subscribed by residents of Spring Gully, Mandurang and Sedgwick. In 1922 the line was completed and private installations made the same year.

## The Look-Out

**O**N One Tree Hill, within full view of Mandurang, until some years ago, a single tree grew on its peak and was a landmark for miles. Through the thoughtlessness of Jerry Ryan, this tree was cut down. In 1893, a carriage drive was made to the top of the hill, the cost of which was shared by the Strathfieldsaye Shire and the Bendigo City Council. Later a stone look-out was built and opened by Mr. R. H. S. Abbott, the mayor of Bendigo. Of more recent years a wooden structure of an old mining poppet heads was erected but is now considered unsafe for the use of the general public.

## The School

**S**UCH a history as this could not be concluded without a fair portion being devoted to the history of the school. Mandurang has not been without a school. In 1859, without public ceremony, I. Witworth opened his school, a national school. He was ably assisted by his wife and daughter in the instruction of 50 or 60 scholars. Parents were obliged to pay a shilling a week for each child or perhaps three may gain admission for two shillings and sixpence.



Mr. V. Pranker, First State School Teacher, and His Wife

Some years later a State school, with a four roomed residence attached, was opened with Mr. Vernon Pranker as the first head teacher. The first Board of Advice consisted of Joseph Thompson (President), Joseph Charlesworth, James Coppock, William Kerr and Peter Hargreaves. In 1893, Mr. W. Casey was appointed Head Teacher and was followed by Jane Gunn in 1905. In 1908 she was relieved by Francis John who gave charge of the school to Florence Young in a few months.

In succeeding years such teachers as Miss Amelia Duggan, Mr. Barling, Miss E. Jennings, Mr. F. Stielow, Mr. L. L. Dungey, Mr. A. D. McCauley, Mr. W. H. Wilson down to the present teacher Mr. E. J. Watts have in succession been in charge of the school.

During the term of Mr. F. Stielow a very picturesque garden was formed on the sloping hillside facing the school. This necessitated much laborious work for both pupils and teacher for trees, stumps and rocks had to be removed but all were duly recompensed



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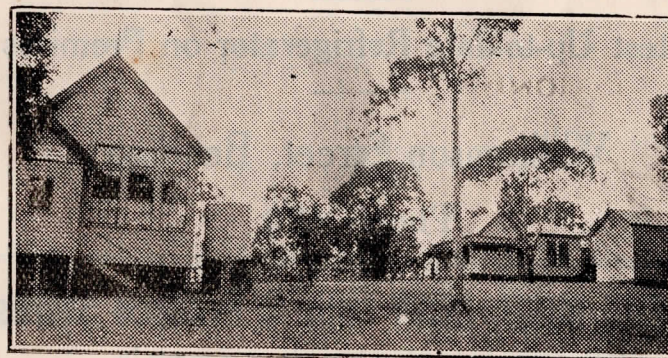
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— FOR —

ALL YOUR DRAPERY

by the winning of the coveted A. N. A. prize for the most improved ground of the inspectorate. During the term of Mr. L. L. Dungey the grounds were improved and the school was removed from the residence and the residence was considerably improved by extensive alterations. The Shelter Shed was also erected and the dam was made so that an adequate supply of water would always be available.

During the war period much money was raised for the War Relief Funds and an Honour Board was placed in the School. Through the energies of a sympathetic Committee a piano was placed in the school, a tennis court has been provided and water laid on to the garden by a pipe line from the school dam. The interests of the school and children have always been attended to



The First State School

by energetic Committees. The present Committee consists of Messrs. G. Carey, chairman; J. Thomas, correspondent; J. Billman, treasurer; J. Kerr, F. Monro, S. Gledhill and J. Pearce.

### Churches

IN 1863, the Protestant church was opened by the Bible Christians and remained so until it was taken over by the Methodists. W. Jones and G. Green were the first Sunday School Teachers and their work has been faithfully carried on by each, J. Jones, Miss E. Wright, W. Stephenson, Geo. Lowe, J. Hargreaves, Theo Deravin, and Wm. Pearce, in turn until Mrs. A. Deravin now superintends.

St. John's Roman Catholic Church was erected towards the end of 1871, the cost of erection, being borne by the local residents. Father O'Connell conducted the first service and was followed by a missionary priest, Father McKnab, who later was a missionary among the Queensland blacks. Many reverend gentlemen have followed in their stead. Services were first held once a month, now they are held twice a month.



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