

Woodbrook State School No. 1077

The Woodbrook school was opened on 1st May 1872 with John Hocking as Teacher (1872-79). The site was on the North East corner of Crown allotment 38 Section 7, Parish of Watsons, County of Bendigo.

The 30 ft x 18 ft Brick and Stone building with a porch and shingle roof was partly financed by the Board of Education,

Although the local Contribution appears to have been £108-16-6.

The name was changed from Chinaman's Creek to Woodbrook in 1891. This school replaced the Common School No 842, Chinaman's Creek which had opened on August 6th 1866 in a leased building with Thomas Coulter as Head Teacher. He died suddenly in 1866.

Ven. Archdeacon A. Crawford of Castlemaine was the first correspondent. District Inspector O'Brien recommended aid be granted for a new building. A 17 ft x 17 ft softwood weatherboard building with shingle roof was erected on a two-acre site, at first owned by the Church of England. The building described by the Inspector, "as ~~the~~ about the most miserable apology for a school I have ever seen," was completed in July 1867. Twelve boys and nine girls enrolled. The school was sometimes closed and permanently closed on May 18. 1872.

In 1899 there were 20 pupils on the rolls at Woodbrook but in 1909 there were only 14 pupils when the school No 1077 was worked part-time with Glenluce school. The school closed on May 30. 1913. with only 5 pupils on the roll. The school re-opened on February 4th 1918 and closed again in 1932.

The last Head Teacher traceable in the records was Phyllis Talbot, Temporary Head Teacher from January 1. 1931 to Feb 12th 1932.

To Hedley James,

By courtesy of Neville Drummond, Special Services Division

Education Department, Carlton.