

GRESFORD

PUBLIC SCHOOL

FIRST

HUNDRED

YEARS

1868 . . . 1968

This Booklet is Published

to

Commemorate

GRESFORD'S FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Opened

August 1868

by

Mr. John Bush

in a

School Building

originally used as a

Church School

Centenary Celebrations

4th---10th August, 1968

Centenary Week Programme

Sunday, 4th August:

a.m.—CENTENARY WEEK CHURCH SERVICES.
p.m.—GALA BOWLS AFTERNOON, Bowling Club.

Tuesday, 6th August:

SCHOOL OPEN DAY.

Thursday, 8th August:

FAMILY DAY AT SCHOOL.

Saturday, 10th August:

CENTENARY DAY.



Centenary Day Programme

12.00 p.m.—FLOATS ASSEMBLE AT SHOWGROUND.

1.00 p.m.—PROCESSION COMMENCES.

2.00 p.m.—OFFICIAL OPENING AND UNVEILING OF THE
SUNDIAL.

CUTTING OF THE CENTENARY CAKE

ROLL CALL

HISTORICAL DISPLAY

3.30 p.m.—AFTERNOON TEA.

BARBEQUE

GRESFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

. . . HISTORY

Just on 100 years ago, the residents of Gresford had a problem. Their parish school had closed down, and so a group of local citizens, including Rev. F. W. Adams, Messrs. W. Lindeman, Charles Boydell, Robert Park and G. B. Townshend made application for a provisional school on 6th July, 1868. The application stated that the nearest school was eleven miles away, while thirteen boys and sixteen girls resided in the locality and were in need of educational facilities. As a school building, measuring 24ft. x 15ft., and a teacher's residence, comprising four rooms and a kitchen, were available for school purposes, the signatories to the document urged that the school be established as soon as possible. The name of John Bush was submitted for the position of teacher, as he had previously been in charge of the closed Gresford Church of England Denominational School.

Mr. Inspector Dwyer was sent to investigate the position, and after consideration, the application was approved, and the school opened in August. Mr. Bush, who incidentally was also the local postmaster, was given the position as teacher. There is no record of the initial enrolment, but we do know that by December the enrolment comprised eighteen boys and sixteen girls, and that the average attendance was 20.7.

From research into information supplied by the Department of Education and the P.M.G. Department, it has been established that John Bush was the teacher until 1881. During 1880 he lost the use of one of his arms through illness, and his wife was allowed to assist him in his duties as Postmaster, but he gave up his teaching career.

In 1881, the year in which the present building was opened, Mr. William Parker was appointed teacher in place of Mr. Bush. He remained the teacher until 1903, when Terence Rogers was appointed. We know he had an assistant, Miss Crowfoot in 1905.

The 1881 building was made of brick and was a single room approximately 40ft. x 17ft., with a brick porch attached in front. The floor was arranged in three tiers. Pupils sat at long cedar desks on long forms. At the same time, a comfortable brick residence was built adjacent to the school building, and this, with several structural alterations, has been in use ever since. Well worn sandstone steps in the residence are a silent testimony to the countless footsteps which have passed over them. Hand made bricks for both these buildings were produced at the brickworks, evidence of which still exists about a quarter of a mile east of the school.

It is also interesting to note that a fireplace once existed in every room of the residence, but these have now been covered in. From the solid cedar mantelpieces, a bookcase was made for the headmaster's office by Mr. Stan Lawrence, who is famous in the district for his work in cedar.

Following Terence Rogers came Thomas Page, who stayed until succeeded by John Thompson on 28/12/1914. John Roberts relieved from 26/2/1919 until 21/10/1919, and he was succeeded by Captain T. A. White, who was appointed at the beginning of 1920.

Some time in this era, we are not quite sure when, an extra wooden room, approximately 19ft. x 20ft. was added, with a glass partition opening onto the eastern end of the first long room.

A piano was purchased in the time of Mr. White, and the same piano, excellently preserved, is still in use today. It is interesting to note the name of Mr. D. Smith on the small silver plaque attached to the piano. He was

for many years a very active president, whose two daughters became teachers, and one, at least, taught in Gresford for several years.

Incidentally, in Mr. White's time too, a school magazine, "The Gresfordian", was produced. Some copies of this are greatly treasured by local residents, and they shed quite a deal of light on the early history of Gresford itself. It appears pupils in those days, too, did quite a deal of historical research as part of their educational activities. I'd like to quote one incident recorded in "The Gresfordian" of July 1922.

"The morning after the Gresford Hotel was burnt, the boys sent a deputation to Mr. Hancock (the owner) to ask him for the ashes for their gardens. It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good."

They were enterprising lads, weren't they?

Then followed Melville Levitt in the latter part of 1922, and Garrett Fitzgibbon relieved until Edward W. Culbert took up the duties of headmaster in 1924. Mr. Culbert was a fine teacher and citizen, and much of the planning and organisation of the Gresford Centenary celebrations of 1929 were due to his drive and initiative. The Gresford Agricultural Society, too, knew his worth. Except for one period when he was ill and was relieved by Keith Best in 1928, "Ted", as he was affectionately known, remained in Gresford until the end of 1934.

At this stage the staff increased to three, and Selby Starr was appointed in January 1935. His stay was quite short, and Hugh Thompson relieved for a month in April until Albert Chanter came. About this time, too, the building was again changed, and the long brick room was cut into two 17ft. x 20ft. rooms, and the glass partition between the two original rooms was bricked in.

Quite a few quick changes in headmasters occurred from 1939 on until 1941, when Arthur Holmwood, Robert Lord, Edwin Rose and Clyde Graham each occupied the position for a few months.

Then came Charles Clark, who was here from 1941 until the end of 1953. During his time the enrolment dropped back until only two teachers were needed. Both Charlie and his wife, who also taught here, will be remembered as very generous, kind persons, who always had a spare place at table, or a bed, for any young teacher in the district who might have had need of either or both. We learned only in June of Charlie's passing.

1954 saw the coming of Mr. Ron Hestelow, who left Gresford to go to Paterson in 1958. Incidentally, Mr. Hestelow is the only practising headmaster of all those who have occupied that position here at Gresford. Other living ex-headmasters are all retired.

Then came Mr. Alexander Tanner, who remained until 1961, when Mr. Arthur Meany was appointed. Quite a deal of change took place in his time. The office and storeroom were added, and many additions were made to the school residence, too. I've also a sneaking suspicion that he planted that delicious "Monstera Deliciosa" which grows in the small garden adjoining the patio. Mr. Meany's fame as a gardener is still talked of in the township.

Then came Clifford Garske, who was appointed to Gresford in 1964. For a well-earned rest after quite a deal of ill-health, Cliff retired last year to a new home in Tamworth.

At the beginning of 1968, Bryan Spencer was appointed principal. An ex-student of the school, he is looking forward to renewing happy associations with both the school and the community.

List of Headmasters at the School

Name	Date Appointed
JOHN BUSH	? August, 1868
WILLIAM PARKER	1881
TERENCE ROGERS	17/2/1903
THOMAS PAGE	8/1/1913
JOHN THOMPSON	28/12/1914
JOHN ROBERTS (Relieving)	26/2/1919 to 21/10/1919
T. A. WHITE	15/1/1920
MELVILLE LEVITT	17/7/1922
GARRETT FITZGIBBON (Relieving)	9/11/1923 to 24/4/1924
EDWARD W. CULBERT	15/3/1924
KEITH BEST (Relieving)	4/9/1928 to 30/10/1928
SELBY STARR	8/1/1935
HUGH THOMPSON (Relieving)	17/4/1935
ALBERT CHANTER	30/4/1935
ARTHUR HOLMWOOD (Relieving)	10/11/1939 to 19/12/1939
ROBERT LORD (Relieving)	25/1/1940 to 19/4/1940
EDWIN ROSE	22/1/1941
CLYDE GRAHAM	17/6/1941
CHARLES CLARKE	10/12/1941
RONALD HESTELOW	2/2/1954
ALEXANDER TANNER	9/9/1958
E. WATTERS (Relieving)	1960
ARTHUR MEANY	31/1/1961
CLIFFORD GARSKE	28/1/1964
BRYAN SPENCER	30/1/1968

List of Assistant Teachers

From various existing school records and from information received from ex-pupils and teachers the following list of assistant teachers has been compiled. We apologise for any errors that may become evident to individual readers, but to the best of our knowledge they were:

Miss CROWFOOT	Miss E. RYAN
Miss M. MARTIN	Miss TROWBRIDGE
Miss MAURER	Miss PERRAU
Miss D. EVERETT (Mrs. Cattell)	Miss DICK
Miss C. SMITH (Mrs. Maguire)	Miss P. WILSON (Mrs. Roy Hancock)
Miss H. SMITH	Miss L. CREW (Mrs. Knight)
Miss M. CARTER	Miss M. REID
Miss E. DODDS	Miss R. THOMPSON
Miss B. PRIGG (Mrs. Wells)	Miss M. O'DONNELL
Mrs. H. L. HANCOCK	Mrs. C. CLARKE
Mr. RON ALLEN	Miss D. GLASS (Mrs. Walker)
Mrs. M. FLOOK	Mr. JOHN TAYLOR
Mr. B. JAMES	Mr. PATE
Mr. H. WEDESWEILER	Miss N. SCOTT
Miss R. RUSSELL	Miss S. BURTON

Items of Interest from Gresford's History

Some time about 1826 large grants of land were given to free settlers in the vicinity of the Paterson and Allyn Rivers and Parke's Creek. George Townshend was given extensive holdings at Trevallyn and numerous other blocks along the Paterson between Trevallyn and Lostock. Charles Boydell held land from Gresford to Allynbrook while Dr. Alexander Parke took up holdings at Parke's Creek.

Good Welsh names were used for such places as . . . Allyn, Caergwrle (now Allynbrook) and Camyrallyn. Soon English, Irish, Scottish and German assisted settlers arrived to work on these holdings and formed the bands of tradesmen and skilled farmers who made up the population of the early settlement. Flour mills, tobacco factories, a jam factory, vineyards, a brick yard and a butter factory were all to be found in the early days.

The fire that destroyed Hancock's "Pub" in Gresford changed the settlement's development completely as the loss of such an important institution for weary and thirsty travellers encouraged East Gresford's development where such a business existed. "East" also was at a position to serve all roads leading into and out of the settlement. Of the shops, hotel, School of Arts, church, school, brickworks and Post Office, all that exist now are the church, the school and the Post Office, while East Gresford has developed as the business and residential centre. It possesses, in addition, two churches, the School of Arts, an R.S.L. Club and Bowling Green and a Showground.

The Centenary of the settlement of Gresford was celebrated in 1929, and funds raised then built the present School of Arts.

The present St. Anne's is the third Church of England building. The first was over the river opposite the first hotel, which was in the building in which Mr. S. Everett now lives. The second was a wooden building on the present site.

Stores were to be found at "Wallah" and "The Willows", properties now occupied by Mr. R. Wells and Mr. K. Crew. "The Willows" also was the site of a tobacco factory. Very high grade tobacco also was grown and processed by a Mr. J. Beatty, one time owner of "Hotel Beatty".

In St. Anne's graveyard we find the grave of a Mr. Rodwell, who fought at the Battle of Waterloo (1815), and also of Charles Boydell, one of the first settlers. At St. Helen's we find the grave of Mr. Inspector Kevin, poet and Inspector of Schools, who became ill and died at Bird's Wineshop and Inn at Allynbrook. Mr. Kevin published a book of Australian poems under the name of Arthur Ferres in 1901, and also was the founder of School Libraries.

Dorothea McKellar spent some of her early days at Trevallyn, in the home in which Mr. Eveleigh now lives.

CENTENARY YEAR DIRECTORIES

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Minister for Education: Hon. C. B. CUTLER, M.L.A.
Director-General of Education: Dr. H. S. WYNDHAM
Director of Primary Education: P. W. BECKENHAM, M.A., B.Ed.
Director of Education, Newcastle Directorate: E. E. GRAY, B.Ec.
Inspector of Schools: C. H. J. HARGREAVES, B.A.
Staff Inspector of Schools: Mr. J. McQUALTER
School Counsellor: Mr. J. JANE

Principal: B. SPENCER
Teachers: Mrs. H. HANCOCK, Miss S. BURTON

School Captains: JANE HALL, WAYNE LAWRENCE
Vice-Captains: LYNETTE GEORGE, WAYNE JOLIFFE
Prefects: SUE MONAGHAN, GARRY RICHARDSON

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

P. & C. Association

President: Mr. R. WELLS
Vice-Presidents: Mr. D. LAWRENCE, Mr. H. SMITH
Treasurer: Mrs. R. COLLISON
Honorary Secretary: Mr. N. JUPP

Ladies' Committee:

Mesdames R. COLLISON (President), B. CAPP, D. DARK, N. GEORGE,
N. JUPP, S. KELEHEAR, D. LAWRENCE, H. LONGBOTTOM, H. SMITH,
B. SPENCER, A. WELLS and R. WELLS.

Centenary Committee:

Mesdames R. COLLISON, N. GEORGE, A. HANCOCK, A. WELLS, Miss S.
BURTON, Messrs. M. HALL, I. HUDSON, N. JUPP, D. LAWRENCE,
H. SMITH, B. SPENCER, R. WELLS.

EVENTS OF THE CENTURY

GRESFORD

- 1868 First Public School (John Bush).
- 1881 Present School building opened.
- 1884 First telephone connected to Gresford.
- 1886 First money orders available.
- 1887 John Bush died.
- 1898 } Boer War.
- 1901 }
- 1911 Railway line opened to Dungog.
- 1914 World War I commences.
- 1915 Mail contractor used a motor car.
- 1918 End of World War I.
- 1922 Gresford Hotel destroyed by fire.
- 1925 Gresford school's first wireless.
- 1927 First Gresford Show.
- 1929 Centenary Celebrations.
- 1930 School of Arts opened.
- 1937 Electricity connected.
- 1939 World War II commenced.
- 1945 End of World War II.
- 1953 Water supply established.
- 1956 "Clevedon" Hospital became an annexe of Maitland Hospital.
- 1967 St. Helen's centenary celebrations. Fire Brigade established.
- 1968 School centenary celebrations.

AUSTRALIA

- 1869 First Free Public Library (Sydney).
- 1870 Overland Telegraph Line.
- 1879 First steam tram.
- 1880 Ned Kelly captured. Public Instruction Act.
- 1885 Tamworth lit with electricity.
- 1890 First electric tram (Sydney).
- 1898 Douglas Scott Mitchell left his library to Sydney.
- 1901 Boer War. Federation of the Australian States.
- 1912 First automatic telephones (Melbourne).
- 1914 World War I commenced.
- 1915 Anzacs at Gallipoli.
- 1918 End of World War I.
- 1919 First England-Australia flight.
- 1923 Canberra begun.
- 1932 Sydney Harbour Bridge opened.
- 1939 World War II commenced. Population reached 7 million.
- 1945 End of World War II.
- 1949 Snowy Mountains Scheme begun.
- 1956 Australian Olympic Games.
- 1958 Lucas Heights Nuclear reactor opened.
- 1968 Population reaches 12 million.

THE WORLD

- 1869 Suez Canal opened.
- 1873 Bell invented the telephone.
- 1877 Edison invented the phonograph.
- 1879 First electric lamps.
- 1887 First Daimler car.
- 1895 Marconi invented the wireless.
- 1898 Radium discovered by Curies.
- 1898 } Boer War.
- 1901 }
- 1903 First aeroplane.
- 1914 World War I commenced.
- 1918 End of World War I.
- 1926 Baird invented T.V.
- 1929 Penicillin discovered.
- 1930 First jet plane.
- 1933 Adolph Hitler came to power.
- 1939 World War II commenced.
- 1945 First atomic bomb dropped. U.N.O. founded.
- 1947 India became independent.
- 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Hillary climbed Mount Everest.
- 1959 Russian moon rocket.
- 1961 First manned space flight. "Telstar"—communications satellite.

Message from the . . . School Captains

We are very glad that we were elected school captains in the year of our school's centenary. We also would like this year, out of the hundred years this school has been opened, to be a most successful one, not only because of the centenary but also because it is the year our principal came back to his own school. All of us appreciate the help given us by our teachers ever since we have been at school.

In conclusion, we would like to say we are sure that the centenary celebrations will be a great success, and we hope that very soon we will have new buildings to replace the old ones we have now.



SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Standing: Wayne Joliffe, Lynette George (Vice-Captains)
Seated: Wayne Lawrence, Jane Hall (Captains)

Message from the Principal

Clang! Clang! ' Clang!

"There's the school bell. It's time you were on your way."

How many mothers over the years have said just that? I remember mine did.

It's a wonderful feeling, and a thrill indeed, for me to be able to hear that bell again daily, as it hurries along yet another generation of Gresfordians to a day of living, learning and laughter in the old school building.

In paying tribute to all our pioneers in the school's first century, let us give thanks for the devoted folk who peopled that century, folk who became unselfishly involved with the needs of others.

For the future, let us all strive to do our best. Let us not forget, however great our success, the folk around us who daily, by their personal contact, help to make that success possible.

Let us, in all humility, ask God to help us become lovers of people, all people, and not only of success or of systems or of things. Then, perhaps, because of us, during our school's next century, mankind may find it a little easier to love and create rather than hate and destroy.



B. SPENCER

Message from the President of the Parents and Citizens Association



In this our centenary year, and in view of the fact that we are a rural community, it may be well for us to reflect on conditions as they were a century ago, as compared with the present.

It would be fitting for us to pay homage to the pioneers of the district, but at the same time, let us not forget the pioneers of our local educational system.

Our history tells us that facilities for, and conditions of learning, left much to be desired. In this day and age, high emphasis is placed on education. Since the inauguration of the Parents and Citizens' Association at Gresford, much work has been done by this association in financing the purchase of equipment for the furtherance of education.

Let us, therefore, pledge ourselves to continue this work so that our children may be equipped to take their places as citizens in the highly educated community of today.

R. F. WELLS



SCHOOL STAFF
Miss S. Burton, Mr. B. Spencer, Mrs. H. Hancock.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully extend our thanks to the following:

Members of staff and the P. & C. Association who helped plan this booklet; pupils of the school who did research to help compile our historical articles; members of the community who generously loaned photographs, letters and articles of interest for reference and displays; The Research and Planning Branch of the Department of Education and the P.M.G. Department for further historical data; the various contributors of goodwill messages included in our booklet; and lastly, but by no means least, those business firms and individuals listed on opposite page whose generosity and assistance helped make our celebrations and the production of this booklet possible.

DONORS

D. BOGAN, Auctioneers, East Gresford
CARR BROS., Auctioneers, Maitland
DALGETY-NEW ZEALAND LOAN, Auctioneers, Maitland
LEE AND LEWIS, Auctioneers, Maitland
LINDSAY AND COMERFORD, Auctioneers, Maitland
SID DRINKWATER, Butcher, East Gresford
A. & M. GEORGE, Butchers, East Gresford
GRESFORD BAKERY, East Gresford
SOUTHWELL BROS., Pastry Cooks, Maitland
COLLISON & EVERETT, Garage Prop., East Gresford
J. L. DIMMOCK, Garage Prop., East Gresford
E. M. MURRELL, Garage Prop., East Gresford
STOCKERS SALES AND SERVICE, Maitland
C.B.C. OF SYDNEY PTY. LTD., East Gresford
BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES, Maitland
COMMONWEALTH BANK, Maitland
C. LAWRENCE, Carrier, East Gresford
D. I. & M. I. DARK, Carriers, East Gresford
R. E. & M. R. & R. M. DITTON, Carriers, East Gresford
N. J. & J. H. SELLENS, Carriers, East Gresford
R. M. WARR, Carriers, Gresford
E. M. WATSON, Carriers, Gresford
J. K. & M. M. RICHARDS, General Store, East Gresford
I. H. & R. F. JAMES, General Store, East Gresford
NEAL HARDWARE, Hardware Merchants, Maitland
G. K. FRY, Hardware Merchants, Maitland
PENDER BROS. PTY. LTD., Hardware Merchants, Maitland
G. MOORE, Mercers, Maitland
HARVEY'S MAITLAND PTY. LTD., Mercers, Maitland
J. SSIION, Draper, East Gresford
GEORGE GALTONS PTY. LTD., Department Store, Maitland
THE GRESFORD PHARMACY, East Gresford
E. T. JAKEMANS, Chemist, Maitland
JOHNSTON'S LTD., The Boot Store, Maitland
H. J. PAYNE PTY. LTD., Boot Repairs, Maitland
J. F. O'BRIEN PTY. LTD., Supermarket, Maitland
KEN LANE, Draper
McDONALD BROS., Stationers, Maitland
ELPHICKS TOY AND HOBBY CENTRE, Maitland
PULLINS HOME FURNISHERS PTY. LTD., Maitland
J. KIRKWOOD & CO., Produce Merchants, Maitland
W. C. CAINES PTY. LTD., Produce Merchants, Maitland
BUTLER & PRYKE CO. LTD., Produce Merchants, Maitland
V. F. & N. C. JUPP, Nurserymen, East Gresford
LINTOTT BROS., Florists and Nurserymen, Maitland
SMITH & HINGSTONS, Cafe Prop., Maitland
T. REID, Optometrist, Maitland
D. McILWAIN, Sports Store, Maitland
Misses McLEOD, Millinery Specialists, Maitland
M. SMITH, Taxi Prop., East Gresford
A. & E. RICHARDSON, Publicans, East Gresford
GRESFORD BOWLING CLUB
HUNTER VALLEY DAIRY CO. PTY. LTD., Hexham
R. CHESWORTH, Radio Specialist, East Gresford
DAVID WELLS, Gresford
T. J. WILKS & CO., Electrical Stores, Maitland
K. BRIDGER, Sandgate
ELL'S PTY. LTD., Newcastle
HUNTER VALLEY COACH COMPANY—Maitland
WHITAKERS, Jewellers, Maitland
THOS. DIMMOCK PTY. LTD., Printer, Maitland
YOUNG & GREEN PTY. LTD., Maitland
R. F. HEADS, Maitland