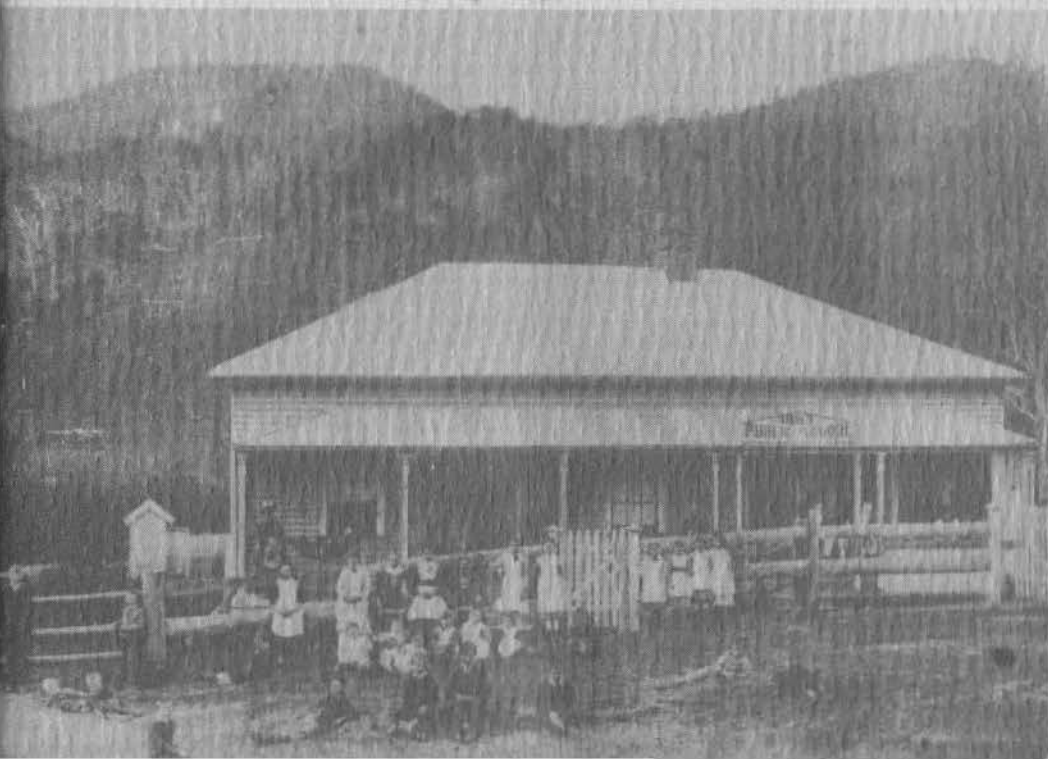


*LOSTOCK PUBLIC
SCHOOL*

1878-1978

CENTENARY



DISTRICT INSPECTOR'S MESSAGE

In a country as young as ours a Centenary is an important occasion.

Since it began, Lostock has served many generations and provided opportunities for many boys and girls. When Lostock first came into my district, the dam was still under construction and I had to keep a watchful eye on the narrow road to make sure I did not meet a heavy truck in an awkward place. The citizens of Lostock faced the same hazards. The school had two teachers, one of whom taught in the nearby hall. With the completion of the dam, and the moving away of the construction workers, numbers gradually dwindled as the present young generation moved on to high school.

Schools in relatively isolated areas, such as Lostock, are an essential part of the Australian scene. I am in my last year. One of the pleasures of my job has been to meet so many fine people in country areas. Many of you I have come to know, your children and their teachers — all will have a special part in my memory.

To all of you on this, your special day, I offer my best wishes and my thanks.

H. M. Morgan,
Inspector of Schools, Maitland.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS LOSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL

7th October, 1978

Lostock Parents and Citizens Association 1978:

President	Mr. Keith Litchfield
Vice Presidents	Mr. Malcolm Cowley Mr. John Pocock
Secretary	Mr. Colin Dent
Treasurer	Mrs. Patricia Litchfield
Teacher in Charge	Mr. Glen Clarke
Minister for Education	Mr. Eric Bedford, M.L.A.
Member for Maitland	Mr. Milton Morris, M.L.A.
Member for Paterson	Mr. Frank O'Keefe, M.H.R.
Director General for Education	Mr. D. A. Swan, B. A., M.A.C.E.

Director of Education (Newcastle) Mr. C. M. Willoughby, B. Ec.,
Dip.Ed. (Admin.)

Inspector of Schools (Maitland) Mr. H. Morgan, B.Ec., Dip. Ed. (Admin.)



LOSTOCK SCHOOL — 1978

Back row — Colleen Burns, Sarah Dent, Mr. Glen. Clarke, T.I.C.

Third row — Stewart Haynes, Kim Litchfield, Ian Wilson.

Second row — Ashley Litchfield, Rodney Wilson, Belinda Haynes.

Front row — Sharon Sellens, James Dent, Brett Greenwood,
Michael Pocock, Gary Haynes.

LOSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL

The establishment of a school at Lostock on the upper Paterson River owed much to the drive of H. H. Brown, M.L.A., the local member for Paterson. This is how it happened. In May 1878 the residents of Lostock made a formal application for the establishment of a Provisional School. A Provisional School was smaller than a Public School and required the local residents to provide the schoolhouse and keep it in repair. In return, the government education authority (the Council of Education from 1867 to 1880, and the Department of Education from 1880 onwards) would provide a teacher and pay his salary. Provisional Schools operated as Public Schools, teaching the same course of studies and being under the control of the central education authority whose local arm was the inspector of schools. When Provisional Schools reached the required enrolment they were automatically raised to the status of Public Schools, which meant that the school site and buildings were the responsibility of the government, not the local community.

Lostock's application for a Provisional School was signed by a small committee of residents, Thomas Turner, Edwin Wilson, Robert Hipwell and Alfred Holden. The back of the form contained the signatures of seven heads of families who promised to send their collective sixteen children to the "said School" if established. But all the remaining details about the location of the school and its buildings were H. H. Brown's work; and it was he who dropped the application into the Council of Education on 9 May 1878.

In accordance with its long established practice the Council of Education instructed its inspector in the field, in this case Mr. J. D. Bradley, to investigate the application and to report on the prospects of the proposed school. Bradley visited Lostock in May 1878 and sent in a damning report. The proposed school building was in fact the Wesleyan Chapel which was used each Sunday for divine service. There was nothing unusual about the use of a church building as both church and school; Bradley's concern was its age and dilapidated state; moreover the only furniture available were the church pews and these would not allow for any writing on paper to be undertaken, although they would not interfere with the use of slates. Bradley also found that six of the sixteen children on the application form already were in regular attendance at Mount Rivers Public School, which according to Bradley was only three miles away. (This distance, judging from the variety of estimates over the years, has been elastically reckoned at between three and six miles.) Regardless of how far Mount Rivers actually was from Lostock, Bradley's point was that ten children could never produce average attendance figures of at least fifteen which were necessary for a Provisional School. Bradley was convinced that not even a part-time school could be established with such a small clientele. He concluded his report thus: "The establishment of such a school at Lostock is of doubtful expedience in view of its proximity to Mount Rivers". He strongly recommended against the application being approved.

The Council of Education also had no doubts in the matter; it declined the application and informed the parties concerned. H. H. Brown was not prepared to allow the matter to rest there. Using fresh evidence supplied to him by Thomas Turner, he again wrote to the Council explaining that there were now twenty-six children available in the area and that the church building was in good repair; indeed, he expressed surprise that Inspector Bradley could have said otherwise; just a few small windows were broken but that was all. Local residents had promised to repair these and provide suitable furniture. Faced with these new facts from an honourable gentleman of the New South Wales parliament, the Council of Education reversed its earlier decision and approved the establishment of the school. That was on 15 July 1878.

LIST OF FOUNDATION PUPILS

September, 1878

Frederick Turner	Alexander Wilson
Mary Ann Kimber	Edward Soper
William Kimber	Catherine Soper
James Mann	Thomas Lawrence
John Mann	Samual Lawrence
Mary Mann	Job Lawrence
Patrick Mann	James Lawrence
William Wilson	William Jones

Inspector Bradley was very angry at what had happened. Although he could not afford to show his displeasure too openly, he informed the Council that he believed his office as inspector had been brought into contempt. He hastened to add that he was in no way presuming to interfere in the Council's right to establish schools as it saw fit, but he believed that the Council had accepted Brown's word against his. He was still convinced that what he had reported earlier about the probable enrolment and the dilapidated state of the building was absolutely correct. His only explanation was to suggest that Brown, rather than actually misrepresenting the true state of affairs at Lostock, had been misled by false information from his Lostock constituents. Bradley wanted the Council to defer its decision until he had revisited Lostock and reported on the substance of the new claims for a school. The Council rejected Bradley's request on the ground that it had already made a decision which was impossible to rescind. On 29 August 1878 the Council appointed James W. Bourne as teacher of Lostock Provisional; a few days later, in early September, Bourne signed the following statement and began teaching school.

PROVISIONAL SCHOOLS.

Declaration as to Public Schools Act and Regulations.

I, the undersigned *James W. Bourne*

appointed by the Council of Education as Teacher of the Provisional School at *Lostock*, hereby declare that

I have read and understand the Public Schools Act and Regulations of the Council framed thereunder. I further engage to duly observe the said Act and Regulations, and to conduct the School under my charge in all respects as a Public School as required by Clauses 91 and 92 of the Regulations of 29th November, 1875, particularly in regard to the provisions which require that I shall abstain from giving special religious instruction to the pupils, *at any time, on the school premises*, and that I shall use "such books only as are supplied and sanctioned by the Council;" (Clause 25 of Regulations.)

(Signed) *James W. Bourne*

Signed by *James W. Bourne*, on the

2 Sept 1878 at *Holloway*

in the presence of *Frederick Elliott*

This undertaking on Bourne's part seems rather strict especially in regard to religious instruction and the use of school text books. Some background is needed to understand why this declaration was signed. In the first half of the nineteenth century most educational provision in New South Wales had been made by the churches, with considerable financial backing by the government. A system of separate denominational schools had developed in competition with each other. Attempts to introduce a system of schools which taught a "common Christianity" and which could be attended by all children regardless of their denominational affiliation, was at first unsuccessful. Each denomination was keen to retain its own schools, but by the late 1840s there was sufficient support for the introduction of a system of government schools which would give non-denominational religious instruction in addition to the normal secular course of instruction; at the same time the denominational schools were to continue receiving government financial assistance.

Bourne was in fact promising to give no "special" (meaning denominational) religious instruction — that could only be given by visiting clergy, and the government schools made provision for clergy to instruct their flock during part of the normal school hours. However, Bourne was obliged to give "ordinary" religious instruction to his pupils, by reading Scripture extracts from a series of books supplied to the school by the Council of Education.

There were more than just Scripture books sanctioned by the Council of Education. The Council also specified the titles of readers, spellers, geography texts and grammars which teachers were permitted to use as part of their school course. Such a practice has not been in vogue in primary schools in New South Wales for many years, but in the nineteenth century, especially in the 1860s and 1870s teachers were often untrained and required very careful prescription in the areas of study which should be attended to. For a considerable period last century textbooks virtually were the course of study and were followed religiously by teachers. This comment applies more particularly to one teacher schools in which the children were divided into a number of classes, but could not all be taught simultaneously. Those who were not under immediate instruction by the teacher were set work from textbooks. In many cases, of course, this system still applies in small schools today, with some variation: textbooks are no longer prescribed as the only sanctioned books to be used, and there is far more educational equipment, such as reading and mathematics instruction schemes, available so that less reliance is placed on textbooks. At Lostock the amount of educational equipment was a bare minimum. An inventory in 1879 showed that the school possessed 6 sets of Scripture books, 12 sets of readers (from primers through to quite difficult material), 18 reading sheets, some slates, pencils, pens, ink powders, chalk, maps of Australia and New South Wales, and a blackboard on an easel. Apart from the blackboard, all the other material would have been easily stored in a small press.

Bourne's stay at Lostock was only brief, and he was replaced by Margaret Griffin in May 1879. Miss Griffin was 18 years old and had been trained over a period of two months at East Maitland Public School where she had observed teaching method and been shown how to conduct a school in the proper manner. She lasted even less than Bourne and was replaced by James Roughley in June 1879.

Lostock

13th May, 1880

To The Honourable the Minister for Public Instruction.

Sir,

At a Meeting of the inhabitants of Lostock I was instructed to apply for a Public School at this place in lieu of the Provisional now in operation here No. 1486. This step has been taken owing to the fact of there being an average of 23 Scholars for a period of about 10 months attending the Provisional School here. I may also state the number of pupils will be greatly increased during the future whereas the decrease will be very small. The land where the School stands in a portion of the Gygalling Estate, and Morehand & Young of O'Connell Street Sydney are the Agents for that Property.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
(signed) Thomas Turner
Sec. Local Board.

Under Secy. Await action of list of proposed conversion from Inspector, 17-5-80. List returned. This school is included in the list of proposed conversions.

(signed) 7-6-80

Mr. Turner informed.

(signed) 8-7-80

Lostock,
July 12, 1880

Sir,

I wish to know are we allowed to hold Divine Service in the Lostock School house now that it is converted into a Public School. The building was built for a Church a number of years before it was used for a School and therefore the inhabitants of Lostock consider they should be allowed to hold service in it.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant
(signed) Thomas Turner, Hon. Sec.
Local Board.

District Inspector
For report
B.C. 15-7-80
B.C. Chief Inspector

As the building belongs to the residents and the Minister has only the use of it for school purposes, I beg to recommend that Mr. Turner be informed that, pending any arrangements that may be made in the future, whatever practice has been in force hitherto in regard to holding service need not be disturbed, provided that service shall on no occasion be held during the hours normally set apart for school duties.

J.C.M.
Maitland, 19-7-80

B.C. Under Secretary.

I concur.
22-7-80

(signed)
5-8-80

W. Turner, Teacher, & Inspector
Informed.
11-8-80

PETITION BY RESIDENTS OF LOSTOCK, Upper Paterson,
lodged by H. H. Brown, Esq., on 5th April, 1881.

To the Honourable The Minister of Public Instruction,
The humble petition of the undersigned residents of Lostock,,
Upper Paterson, showed.

That we are warranted in applying that a new Public School and master's residence may be built here, as soon as possible, for the following reasons:—

First:— The present building is getting in a very bad state, and is very little protection against wind and weather.

Secondly:— The furniture, according to the representation of our present Teacher, is inadequate to the requirements of the children attending this School. The number of children on the note is 32, and there is only desk accommodation for 15. Besides the number attending at present, there will be at least 7 more attending within six months from the present date.

Thirdly:— The present school contains no fire place, and being very much out of order the children suffer much in Winter.

Fourthly:— The Teacher's residence is also too small and not fit for the purpose. It was put up hurriedly, as when our present Teacher arrived with his family there was no building for him to go into, and he had to occupy part of the school room till the present residence was built.

Your petitioners therefore request that you will be pleased to give your honourable consideration to this prayer.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed)	LUKE SULLIVAN	GEORGE SOPER
F. P. WILSON	EDWIN WILSON	PATRICK MANN
ASHER KIMBER	SAMUEL SOPER	CHRISTIAN GELLWILER
THOMAS TURNER	EDWARD JONES	PHILLIP DENNIS
THOMAS LAWRENCE	FRANCIS WILSON, Jnr.	RALPH TURNER
JOSEPH HOWE	Wm. NINNESS, Jnr.	WILLIAM LAWRENCE

Lostock Public School.
30th November, 1881

Sir,

In reply to yours of the 23rd. Inst. I beg to inform that the present Public School at Lostock is centrally situated to all the residents.

It is a non-vested building. The owner is Mr. Webber at present residing in England, the agents are Messrs. Morehead & Young, O'Connell Street, Sydney.

The present site is within 30 yards of water of excellent quality.

The part near the present site is very thinly timbered

Accompanied herewith I enclose a rough sketch of the district including all the residents who send children to the school.

In a year or two more there will be some more children attending belonging to families that at present have no children attending: the present site is centrally situated for them also.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

J. W. Roughley,
Teacher.

J. L. Smith, Esq.
Taree.

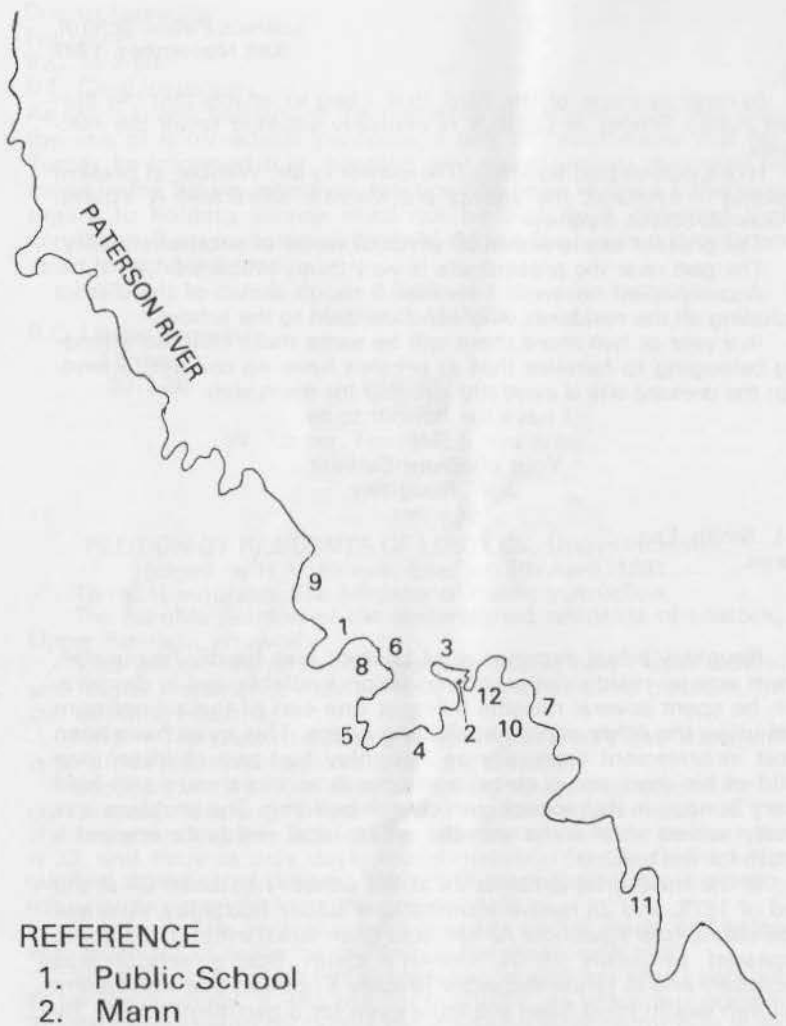
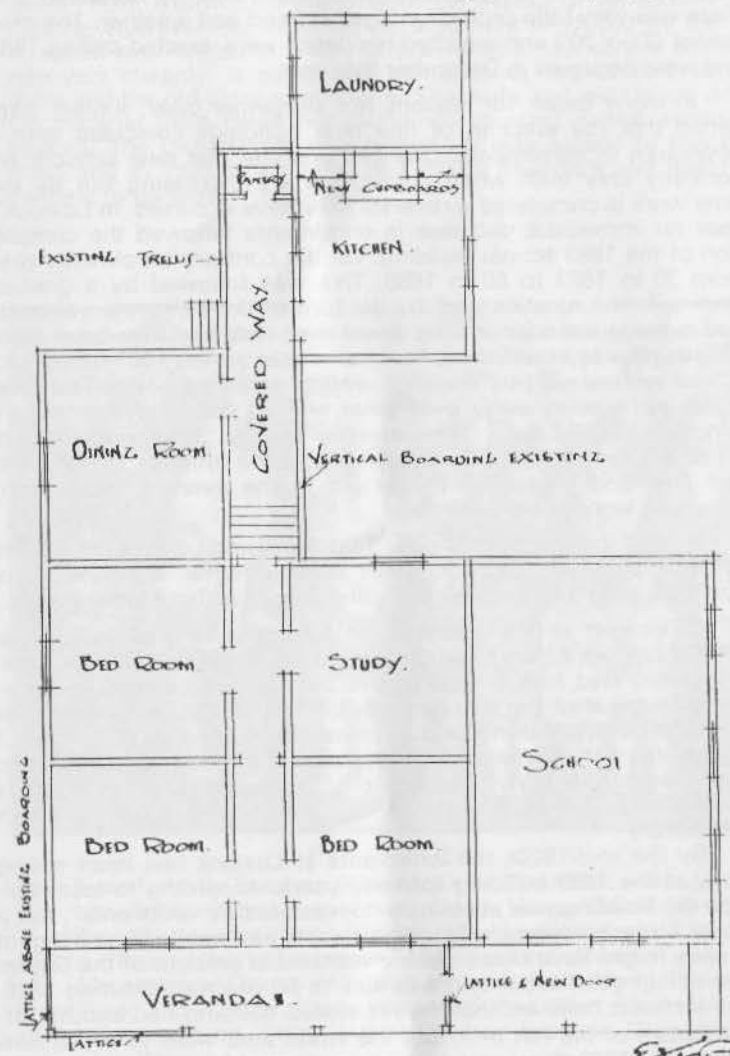
Roughley's first experience of Lostock was hardly favourable. There was no residential accommodation available and in desperation he spent several months living at one end of the schoolroom and using the other end as a teaching space. This must have been most inconvenient especially as Roughley had two children (one child of his own and a niece) and church services were still held every Sunday in this school cum church building. The problem was finally solved after some months when local residents erected a house for the teacher.

In the meantime enrolments at the school had been 24 at the end of 1878, and 28 twelve months later under Roughley. Average attendance (see Appendix A) had also been substantial. The figures appeared to justify H. H. Brown's claim that a school was necessary and to refute Inspector Bradley's opinion that insufficient children would have been available even for a part-time school. By 1880 the enrolment had reached 32 and under the easier conditions of the PUBLIC INSTRUCTION ACT, 1880 Lostock Provisional School had sufficient children to be reclassified as a Public School. This upgrading took place in July 1880. For Lostock residents there were a number of implications. The Department of Education (established as a result of the PUBLIC INSTRUCTION ACT) would now be completely responsible for the provision and maintenance of a permanent school building and would also arrange for the acquisition of a permanent site. Until a site was obtained and a new building erected the Department of Education was satisfied to make use of the existing school building, an arrangement which suited the residents because the Department had no objection to the use of the building for church purposes on Sundays.

LOSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL & RESIDENCE REPAIRS ETC.

SCALE 8 FEET TO 1 INCH.

NOTE - NEW WORK COLORED.



REFERENCE

1. Public School
2. Mann
3. Soper
4. Lawrence
5. Wilson
6. Turner
7. Ninness
8. Soper
9. Howe
10. Sullivan
11. Jones
12. Wilson

Negotiations for a suitable site proceeded in 1881 and although it was not until 1884 that the land was formally acquired by the Department, the Lands Department had no objection to the Department proceeding with the erection of a building sooner than this. In 1882 the local inspector of schools recommended a new building large enough to accommodate 40 children; he suggested it be built of weatherboard with a shingled roof and have a teacher's residence. He believed that the population of the Lostock area would be permanent and likely to increase. Local residents agreed that the old school/church building had outlived its usefulness; the furniture was inadequate, there was no fireplace, and there was very little protection against wind and weather. The new school (21' x 20') and attached residence were erected during 1883 and were occupied in December that year.

In many cases, for reasons not altogether clear, it often happened that the erection of fine new buildings coincided with a down-turn in enrolments. One can imagine that new schools are normally only built when enrolments are increasing but by the time work is completed a reversal may have occurred. In Lostock's case no immediate decrease in enrolments followed the completion of the 1883 school building. On the contrary enrolments rose from 30 in 1883 to 50 in 1889. This was followed by a gradual decline in the nineties until by the turn of the century enrolments and average attendance were lower than they had ever been since the school was established. For over a year during 1901-02 Lostock school worked part-time with a similar small school at Tea Tree, about eight miles away over what was in those days a "mountainous track". Edwin Tomkins, the teacher who worked both schools, lived at Lostock and each lunchtime rode for 1½ hours to Tea Tree and then back to Lostock in the evening. How many horses he wore out is unknown.

In 1902 the enrolments picked up again and Lostock once more became a Public School under the full-time supervision of Tomkins, and has since been a Public School without interruption.

Of interest at this time was the formation at least as early as 1905 of Lostock Parents and Citizens Association. Prior to this a district board had had a general oversight of educational arrangements in the area, but had had only limited impact on Lostock. The formation of the Parents and Citizens Association in 1905 ranks it among the very earliest in the State. Its first secretary appears to have been Mr. W. Leumenicht, sometimes affectionately (sometimes otherwise) referred to as the "old German Gentleman".

By the mid-1920s the white ants at Lostock had been eating away at the 1883 building for forty years. According to local opinion the building was absolutely "devastated by white ants", but a closer inspection revealed that the insects had not been as diligent as they might have been; quite a substantial amount of the timber was still in good order and was able to be renovated during 1926. The architect believed that the renovated building had another fifteen years of life left in it, but the white ants were to prove him wrong. By 1930 they were at work again and by 1934 the teacher,

Harold Candish, complained of the school and residence being in "frightful" condition.

During 1934 funds were made available under the PREVENTION AND RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT ACT, 1930-32 for repairs to the buildings. At first the Parents and Citizens Association greeted the news with joy, but when it was fully understood that the money was for minor repairs only, the Association campaigned against the allocation. It claimed that money spent on the school building was a waste — The school room needed to be demolished and a new one, separate from the residence, erected. The Association pointed out that the 1883 building was "ridiculously inadequate" both educationally and from the aspect of ventilation and lighting. However the most telling argument produced by the Association was related to a way of providing a new school building relatively cheaply. It suggested demolishing the Lostock school room and the old disused school at Strathisla and use the serviceable material from these two buildings to erect a new school at Lostock. The Department of Education finally agreed to this proposal and in 1935 at a tender of £350 to Saunders and Beech of Fairfield to undertake the project.



1932-33

Back Row: L. to R. Teacher, Silas McKean, Thomas Lawrence, Ray Lawrence, Denzil Lawrence, Edric Horn, Geoff. Brooker, Arnold Lawrence, Brian Redden, Max Lawrence.
 Middle Row: Albury Lawrence, Mavis Horn, Gwen Lawrence, Marcia Horn, Clarice Wilson, Audrey Watson, Madge Furner.
 Front Row: Ted Watson, Valda Watson, Sylvia Horn, Mavis Wilson, Lola Lawrence, Betty Wilson, Audrey Brooker, Olga Wilson, Glen Wilson.

Appendix A

LOSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL

Head Teachers, 1878-1978

Teacher	Appointed
James Bourne	8,1878
Margaret Griffin	5,1879
James Roughley	8,1879
Mary Kealey	2,1883
Henry Perram	1,1884
James Drummond	6,1897
Edwin Tomkins	4,1901
Guido Weber	3,1907
Thomas Lynch	4,1911
Thomas Scott	5,1912
Silas McKean	4,1931
Harold Candish	1,1934
Herbert Walsh	5,1937
James Collins	1,1938
Valda Watson	9,1942
Ilma Kitto	5,1944
Hazel Hancock	9,1944
Bernadette Watson	5,1946
Jack Collins	9,1950
Daniel O'Donnell	11,1950
Robert Nicholls	5,1952
Bernadette Watson	2,1955
David Johns	1,1958
John Brown	4,1959
David Johns	7,1959
Sydney Baker	2,1960
Bernadette Dunstone	1,1961
Desmond Grissell	5,1961
Bruce Orr	1,1962
Valda Gleeson	1,1969
R. G. Chandler	3,1973
Anthony Adams	2,1976
Glen Clarke	2,1977

Appendix B

LOSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL

Enrolments and Average Attendance, 1878-1977

Year	Enrolments	Average Attendance
1878	24	22
1879	28	26
1880	32	26
1881	34	22
1882	33	21
1883	30	22
1884	40	32
1885	36	27
1886	39	28
1887	48	35
1888	48	31
1889	50	30
1890	47	30
1891	47	25
1892	40	24
1893	37	25
1894	33	23
1895	29	18
1896	32	20
1897	28	17
1898	31	23
1899	22	19
1900	22	18
1901	18	14
1902	24	20
1903	24	14
1904	29	18
Enrolments from 1905 to 1955 are not readily available; they are given here every 5 years from 1915 to 1955, then annually.		
1915	44	27
1920	35	29
1925	33	28
1930	29	26
1935	22	18
1940	15	13
1945	14	10
1955	—	14
1956	20	16
1957	19	16
1958	18	16
	15	

1959	16	14
1960	11	10
1961	15	14
1962	16	15
1963	17	16
1964	—	16
1965	11	10
1966	13	12
1967	16	14
1968	16	16
1969	—	—
1970	37	34
1971	26	20
1972	15	15
1973	15	15
1974	16	15
1975	15	14
1976	11	11
1977	8	8
1978	11	11



MODE OF TRANSPORT IN EARLY FORTIES

Malcolm, Zelma, Nora and Merle Cowley.

EARLIER MEMORIES OF EX-PUPILS

The problems of early inhabitants of the District were vastly different from those of today. The average settler lived on an almost subsistence basis with barter of goods more in evidence than cash sales. The recollections of Mrs. Fanny Mines, nee Gellwiler, would be typical.

Born at Lostock in 1890, daughter of Christian and Margaret Gellwiler, she was one of ten children — five boys and five girls. She first attended the school in 1897. Her father had immigrated from Germany and her mother was of German descent. The house they lived in was of slab construction, with some of the rooms being divided by a curtain. The kitchen floor was dirt with a camp oven at the back in which bread was baked. Water was carted from the river in a cask on a slide, towed by horses. Her childhood memories, were of a happy family with very few household or farming aids, but with a basic diet almost totally produced on the farm.

Her father, helped by the older members of the family, kept a large vegetable garden in which most of the common crops flourished. With the help of two draft horses, larger areas were sown to wheat and maize. The maize was mainly used to feed the animals, but the wheat was important as the families supply of flour. When the wheat crop was ripe it was harvested with a sickle and stooked in the paddock to dry. It was then threshed by hand, bagged, and loaded on a bullock dray. Mr. Gellwiler then set off to the mill at Paterson, where the wheat was ground, the miller keeping a portion in payment. A certain amount was also bartered for other essential supplies. The rest, which hopefully, was sufficient for the ensuing twelve months, was loaded on the dray for the trip home. The round trip took many days. Another crop grown was tobacco and the most immediate memory of Mrs. Mines was the stench given off by the smoker of the local weed! There were also a number of fruit trees.

The livestock apart from horses consisted of a few cattle which provided the family with milk, butter, cheese and a small amount of meat. The main livestock and practically the only cash earner was pigs. Mrs. Mines recalls that her father received about 5/- a side for bacon which was killed and cured on the farm. The cash was most necessary mainly to pay the rent on the farm, but also for any other small purchases needed. Another recollection was of hawkers coming to the farm, selling things such as cloth @ 3d. a yard, household and farm hardware — just about anything that was needed. Invariably the wagon had a number of poultry coops underneath. Apparently poultry was just as good as cash in those days and a lot easier to come by!

Mrs. Mines has happy memories of her childhood in Lostock. The other families who lived nearby that she remembers were the Jones, Sullivans, Dennis' and Sopers. Sunday School was held at the Jones' house and was eagerly anticipated. The only teacher she could remember at the school was Mr. Perram and that is understandable as he was well known for handing out packets of

lollies to all the children at end of term or some other notable occasion. One interesting observation is that the name Lostock was said to have evolved when H. H. Brown, Esq., lost a number of cattle in the district. The Gellwilers left Lostock when they learned that the land they leased would be offered for sale. It was later bought by Mr. James Richardson in 1901.



Photo of Mr. Christian Gellwiler
Property of Mrs. Mines of Singleton

EARLY MEMORIES OF EX-PUPILS

HAROLD ALVEN LAWRENCE was born at Carrabolla on the 13th December, 1893 being the son of John Rueben and Sarada Lawrence (nee Kelehear). He started school at the age of 7. Other pupils at that time were:— Clyde Lawrence, Victor Lawrence, James Gillies, Verly Gillies, Dave Wilson, Frank Wilson, Ben O'Neil, Barbara Wilson, May Wilson, Sol Lawrence, Hesta Lawrence, Frank Lawrence, Dick Turner, Jack Turner, Cecil Hedge, Myra Hedge, Bill Hedge, and George Hedge. Teachers in his time of education were:— Mr. Drummond, Mr. Tomkins, and Mr. Weber. Having two sisters and five brothers in the family, they had to milk cows by hand in the morning before going to school and the same after returning. There was a distance of some two miles between home and school which they had to walk to and fro. His earliest recollec-

tion of a school house was a dwelling between the now present school and church, which in latter years was used to house a buggy. At some time of his teaching, Mr. Tomkins taught one day at Lostock and one day at Miranie, owing to numbers being low at Lostock.

With the permission of the teacher, the children were allowed to witness two weddings in the church. They were the wedding between George Lawrence and Minnie Soper and Albert Lawrence and Florrie Soper. Choir practice was held every Friday night and church was held each fortnight at 11 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. The Rev. Brown held service after riding from Gresford by horse-back. Miss Florrie Furner was the first person to play the organ in the church.

Mrs. Laura Jane Lawrence — nee Wilson attended the school from January, 1906 to 1916. She lived at Strathisla, about 3 miles from the school. Her usual method of transport to school was on a horse which she shared with three other children!

Her teachers were Mr. Tomkins, Mr. Weber, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Scott. The subjects taught were reading, writing, arithmetic, sewing and geography. The only teaching aid apart from books was a blackboard!

Other pupils remembered by Mrs. Lawrence who attended with her were, Mona and Eric Weber, Marj. Hopson, Alma and Lydia Patfield, Hannah, Harriet Hector, Sol and Artie Lawrence, Myra Hedges, Clive, Victoria, Rubin, Eric, Rose and Alice Lawrence, Minnie, Susan and Edith Lovett.

Mr. Roy Lawrence attended Lostock School for the whole of his school days from 1909 to 1917. He lived about 1½ miles from the School, and, like most other pupils, walked to school each day. There were up to forty pupils attending and as there was one teacher, the older children often had to help instructing the youngsters.

His first teacher was Mr. G. Weber who incidently drew up the plan to build the local Hall. Unfortunately, a few years later, whilst in charge of the school, he lost his wife in childbirth, and she is buried in the Lostock Church of England cemetery. Mr. T. Lynch was the next teacher, taking charge on 20th April, 1911. After Mr. Lynch, Mr. T. E. Scott was appointed, starting on the 20th May, 1912. He remained at the school until 1931, the longest unbroken term for any teacher.

The school room was joined to the residence, which was built in 1883. This building was used as such until 1935 when it was demolished due to the ravages of white ants. The present school was constructed in 1935 near the old site.

During school hours the principle game played was cricket. Inter-school cricket was played occasionally and quite a bit of tennis.

A person of note connected with the school was the late Stanley Drummond, son of a former teacher. As founder of the Far West Children's Health Scheme he is well remembered to this day.

One story remembered by Mr. Lawrence concerned teacher Mr. Edwin Tomkins, who was teaching at both Lostock and Tea-Tree (Mirannie) school on a 50-50 basis. On his many trips across the hills between schools, he would indulge in his favourite sport of shooting. As there were large numbers of kangaroos about in those times, he had many opportunities and his old horse was reputed to have learnt to hold his breath while his master took aim across his back.

OUR SCHOOL DAYS OF THE THIRTIES

We were children of the thirties,
Who attended Lostock School.
The original old school building,
With cedar desks and long hard stools.

The children were mainly Lawrences,
We named the families by their father's christian names.
There were George's, Fred's and Adrian's,
Willie's up the river, from the creek the Stanley's came.

There were Watson, Horns and Wilson,
The Cowleys up the trail.
Kelehears and Les's from Mt. Rivers,
And the Jenkins on the mail.

We rode our hardy ponies,
And some walked the long, hard miles.
No bus or car to take us,
As in modern school-day style.

But we were game and hardy
We did our best to learn
And we helped our parents on the farm
At the end of every term.

We still recall our teachers,
Mr. McKean of the singing voice.
He taught with strictest discipline,
And awarded with free choice.
Mr. Candish told the finest tales,
Us children ever heard.

Mimicing the characters in the stories,
And the clear calls of a bird.

We remember still the games we played,
Marbles, skipping, rounders, all.
The ball, Stan, bowled through the window,
The day the inspector called.

Soon, now, we all shall gather,
For the old school's centenary.
To welcome back our old school mates,
And recall the days that used to be.

Olive B. Gardner, (nee Cowley).



EMPIRE DAY PICNIC — LOSTOCK — 1908

CRICKET

The first recorded history of cricket in our possession was in the year 1921. Unfortunately most of the records have been lost or destroyed. It has been mentioned through the years that the first cricket pitch was in Mr. C. J. Watson's paddock opposite the church. It has been frequently mentioned that the next site was on Mr. Bill Lawrence's property. The last site as remembered by Mr. Roy Lawrence, was still on Mr. Lawrence's property close to the previous site. This was developed in around 1908 and during the intervening years a new concrete pitch was laid on the same wicket. It is not certain which year the Allyn and Paterson River District Cricket Association was formed for the specific purpose of playing competition cricket. It could have been in the late 1920's. The original Hon. Secretary was probably Mr. Bob Lawrie from Halton. During his reign in that position there were visits from some 1st grade cricketers from Sydney. A Shield was donated for competition in the A. & P.R.D.C.A. but the Lostock team did not make much headway in the competition until around 1934-35 season when Lostock had to play Gresford in the final on the Allynbrook wicket. Lostock won by 7 wickets, after several Saturday afternoon's play. The presentation of the Shield was carried out by the President of the Association, Dr. Brown, at a Social Function held in the Lostock Hall in June, 1935.



CRICKET AT LOSTOCK

L. to R.: Frank Eveleigh, Roy Soper, Clyde Lawrence, Edward Lawrence.

TENNIS CLUB

The first record of forming a Tennis Club which we have in our possession was dated June 10th, 1909.

During that meeting the following are recorded as being present. Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Weber, Miss Clara Lawrence, Hazel Gillies, Verlie Gillies, Messrs. F. Hopson, J. Horn, D. Wilson, D. Lawrence, L. Lawrence, J. Watson, and G. Weber. Out of this meeting it was agreed to seek permission from Mrs. Watson to build a Tennis Court on her property on the same side as the Church, but close to Mrs. Watson's dairy. Apparently the necessary permission was secured and the Club proceeded forthwith. Members joining fees were: men 5/- and ladies 2/6. Tennis balls are quoted at less than 10/- a doz.

Around about 1921, it is recorded a new site was desirable and a committee was appointed and a site chosen opposite the Lostock Church of England Church. It appears that the old site was not really suitable. This new site was in need of levelling, and seeing that the newly reformed club had a number of members of the younger brigade, it was decided to do the job with sheer hard work. It was duly completed and many a happy day's sport was enjoyed.

Up to the year 1930, mostly social tennis was played. At a meeting held on the 22nd February, 1930, it was agreed to enter competition teams in both A and B grade.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, LOSTOCK, IN 1917

(Chancel added at a later date).

CHURCH IN LOSTOCK

The records of the Church of England in Lostock are somewhat sketchy. It is known that a Wesleyan Chapel was in existence, behind the present building on portion of the "Guygalling" Estate and was in a delapidated state at the time that application was made for a new school in 1880. The present Church of St. John was subsequently built by Harry Hailand and Bill Schmeerer and on 10th June, 1892 was consecrated. The timber was cut by Mr. R. Hands. It is of wood construction with iron roof, fibre plaster ceiling and was originally lit by kerosene lamps. It was built on land given by H. H. Brown, Esq. However, for over 60 years no formal deeds of the gift were registered, until Mr. Charles David Horn made a number of representations to have the matter put in order.

Parishioners of Lostock have always been most active and generous in their support and caring for the church. In 1924 a generous cheque for £100 was sent from the Gresford Parish for the Warriors Window in the Newcastle Cathedral, towards which the people of Lostock had contributed generously. In 1925, St. John's Church sent £10.3.5. to the Diocesan Registrar from the Harvest sale and offering, a tradition still existing today.

During 1926, the St. John's Heralds of the King met on alternate Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m. to sew articles which were sold at a stall at the end of the year to raise money for the Church. Other Organizations such as the Sunday School and Younger Set have flourished. The pine trees and roses in the Church yard were gifts of the Younger Set in 1930, the planting being done by Rev. Hobart and Mr. Ivan Horn. Services were held each Sunday and during the week. Miss Doris Wilson (now Mrs. Harry Foster of Vacy) made a generous donation of an Oak Hymn Board, from which the numbers of hymns are still read today.



LOSTOCK SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN — 1933

Back Row — Ray Lawrence, Clarice Wilson, Mavis Wilson, Sylvia Horn, Gwen Lawrence, Mavis Horn, Max Lawrence.
 Middle Row — Melda Wilson, Kath Lawrence, Lila Lawrence.
 Front Row — Ilva Lawrence, Olga Wilson.

A request dated 30-3-30 was sent to the Vicar General for a Faculty covering a brass cross "To the Glory of God and in memory of my brother Private Harold Lawrence. Died of wounds France, 13th August, 1918 — Presented by May Horn". — signed Arthur R. Holmes, Rector; A. O. Wilson, R. Lawrence, and Chas. D. Horn, Churchwardens. This was authorised on 5th April, 1930. The Cross now stands on the Altar, the original Faculty is in the care of the Rector in Gresford.

During the building of the Lostock Dam, the church was freshly painted, pews revarnished, carpet replaced and new flags of Australia and of St. John given by the Gresford R.S.L.

Existing records show the following Clergy came to Lostock and to Carrabolla to conduct Sunday services and dispense the churches' sacraments.

1858 Rev. F. W. Adams — from Paterson
 1883 Rev. Alfred J. H. Priest
 1890 Rev. George Moore
 1896 Rev. P. S. Luscombe
 1900 Rev. Stephen Taylor
 1901 Rev. G. W. Brown
 1914 Rev. C. Newton Mell
 1916 Rev. R. B. Davison
 1920 Rev. Cliff M. O. Stretch
 1926 Rev. Arthur R. Holmes
 1935 Rev. B. I. Hobart
 1942 Rev. F. W. Bush
 1935 Rev. B. Geary
 1961 Rev. J. R. Flook
 1967 Rev. Michael Clarke
 1974 Rev. Desmond Stuart-Fox

The General Cemetery was dedicated in 1903. One portion granted to the Trustees of Church Property for the Diocese of Newcastle for use as a Cemetery. The map dated 1902 of the area shows a private grant to the Church of England by H. H. Brown and portions for use by Wesleyan, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches. It is recorded that Mass was said at the home of a Mr. Jones, across the river from the School about the turn of the century.

CHURCH HALL

The Church Hall was built in 1910. It was designed by the teacher Mr. G. Weber. Apparently two sums of money were raised — to build a public hall and to build a church hall on land given by Mr. J. Richardson. A letter from Rev. Stretch to Mr. C. A. Brown, Diocesan Registrar states " . . . I don't think you will have any papers about Lostock Hall, as it was not built as a church hall . . . But as it is the only hall there, and as part of the money was raised for a public hall it is desired to protect the public interest and keep the hall available for dancing and public entertainments. At present the Church use the hall free and the Committee consists of the Churchwardens (3) — 3 men representing the public, the rector as Chairman and 2 more residents." The hall was finally made over to the Bishop's trust in case the local rector should object to dancing." . . . Apparently Bishops NEVER object to dancing, but Rectors do!!!.

LOSTOCK POST OFFICE

In June, 1860, some settlers sent a petition to the Postmaster-General, asking that a post office be opened at Lostock and a mail service established between there and Gresford.

The petition was signed by the following, amongst others:—

Geo. & John Lawrence	
Henry Lawrence	— Howes Valley
Edward, James and Wm. Bird	
Wm. Kelehear	—Carrabolla

John Bush of Gresford supported the petition and stated that there had been a dray road between Gresford and Lostock for many years past.

POST OFFICE

A post office was opened on 1st January, 1861, in charge of Henry Fowler, who was master of the Church of England school at Lostock. His sureties were John Lawrence and Thos. Wilkinson, both local farmers.

It would appear that the school was closed in 1863, and as the postal salary of £12 per annum was not enough to keep Fowler he resigned.

No suitable person was available, so the office was closed on 31st March, 1863.

Fowler then went to a church school at Morpeth and later to Upper Colo.

Efforts to find a postmaster failed, so the office was moved to the residence of Frank McNamara at Penhurst (four miles distant) and he became postmaster on 10th August, 1863.

During the interval the Lostock residents received their letters from the mailman.

McNamara actually lived on the opposite side of the river to Penhurst. His sureties were Phillip Riley and Patrick Bogan, both farmers of Mount Rivers.

The following year McNamara became involved in a serious matter. Acting in good faith he had employed a bushranger for some time on his property. The bushranger was living under an assumed name when captured, he turned out to be "Thunderbolt".

The Lostock people were not at all happy about the removal of the post office to Penhurst and in 1869 sent in a petition asking for its removal to Lostock proper.

There was strong opposition to the proposed removal of the office to its original position (described as Upper Lostock).

The Gresford postmaster, John Rush, to whom the matter was referred, stated that the new site was the most central.

A petition urged the Postmaster-General to retain the post office at McNamara's.

UPPER LOSTOCK AND LOSTOCK

The Department finally decided to open a receiving office for mails at Upper Lostock in charge of Ralph Turner.

Turner agreed to convey the mails between Lostock and Upper Lostock three times a week on horseback, for £15 a year.

The receiving office, in charge of Turner, was opened on 16th September, 1878.

Turner was succeeded by Mrs. Mary Drummond, wife of the teacher at the Lostock Public School, on 1st July, 1900. The office was moved to the school which was about half a mile nearer to Lostock than Turner's place.

Mrs. Drummond suggested in October, 1900, that the name of Lostock Post Office should be changed to Mount Rivers, as it was on the Mt. Rivers Estate, whilst Lostock Proper was on Guygallen Estate. (This suggestion was not carried out until 1905).

On 1st April, 1901, E. S. Tomkins replaced Drummond at the school, and also took charge of the receiving office.

The status of the Upper Lostock Receiving Office was raised to that of post office on 15th September, 1904, and Tomkins became postmaster. His postal allowance was increased from £5 to £10 per annum.

NAME CHANGED

The upper Lostock Post Office was renamed "Lostock" on 16th December, 1905. Tomkins was still in charge according to a staff record.

Tomkins was succeeded by Christopher Watson. There is some doubt about the date of Watson's appointment, which appeared to have been made on 3rd December, 1905, although Tomkins was shown as being in charge at the time of the change of name. Watson's residence was reported to be 250 yards from Tomkins' premises.

Following the death of Watson, his widow, Mrs. Mary Watson became postmistress on 1st April, 1909.

TELEPHONE

Although it is possible that a private line could have been connected earlier, the first record available of a telephone appeared on 6th September, 1910, when Lostock became a telephone office, making it possible to send and receive telegrams.

Mrs. Mary Watson was succeeded in charge of the office by Allan D. Wilson on 21st January, 1913.

Wilson tendered his resignation on 1st March, 1920, and was succeeded by Frederick Hopson, President of Lostock Progress Association, on 12th April, 1920. The portable room, provided by the residents many years ago for use as a post office, was moved to Hopson's residence, about ½ a mile from the previous site.

The telephone office was temporarily closed pending the erection of a new line to Hopson's residence. It was eventually reopened on 1st September, 1920.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

The Lostock Telephone Exchange was opened on 6th April, 1922. The telephone directory for April, 1922 contained the name of only one subscriber, James Richardson of "Yamba Woota", whose number was 1.

On 3rd March, 1924, F. W. Wilson, Honorary Secretary of the Lostock Branch of the Agricultural Bureau, requested that the office be provided with money order facilities. However, the estimated revenue that would be derived from the money order system did not justify the establishment of the desired facility.

SUCCEEDING POSTMISTRESSES

The following list of postmistresses succeeded Frederick Hopson at Lostock Post Office:—

Marjorie C. Hopson	date appointed	16-8-1932
Norma D. Hopson	date appointed	1-1-1942
Laura A. Watson	date appointed	1-3-1943
Daphne H. Noonan	date appointed	1-12-1958

When Laura Watson took charge of the office it was moved to her father's residence, one mile nearer to Gresford, where it remained until it closed. Laura Watson married towards the end of 1943, and her name then changed to L. A. Lyons.

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

The telephone system in the district was cut over to automatic working on 4th December, 1969, thus ending 59 years of manual operation at the office.

POST OFFICE CLOSED

Daphne Noonan, sister of the previous postmistress Mrs Lyons, tendered her resignation on 17th August, 1971.

LOSTOCK

It was decided to close the office on a trial basis, and the residents were provided with a daily roadside mail delivery. No objections were received about the temporary closure of the office, so it was permanently closed from 30th September, 1971.

(Any of the information used might please be acknowledged to the Historical Officer, NSW, Australia Post).

NSW PQ454 J.J.O. Dec. 1969 — Revised D.J.S. May, 1978.
Refs: Australian Govt. Archives (NSW Br.) Syd.

LOSTOCK DAM

After representations by local residents, Lostock Dam was authorised by the N.S.W. Parliament in the Lostock Dam Act, 1967. The dam was constructed, under contract, by Dumez (Australia). Work was commenced in March, 1969, on establishment of Commission's Office, Laboratory and accommodation for staff. Preliminary work included the provision of water supply, electricity and sewerage service, and roads.

The contractor commenced construction of the permanent works on 14th May, 1969. This was followed by the driving of a diversion tunnel, 832 feet long. At the same time, excavation proceeded to provide a firm foundation for the embankment and spillway structures. Excavation materials were stockpiled for future use and a quarry was established upstream of the dam. River gravels from the Paterson River were obtained and processed for concrete aggregate and filter material.

To prevent water leaking through fissures in the rock foundation, a "grout" curtain was formed along its centreline. This was accomplished by drilling holes up to 90 ft. deep and pumping cement and water mixture (grout) under pressure, into the holes to fill cavities in the foundation rock.

Completion of the diversion tunnel enabled the construction of the preliminary small coffer dam and diversion of the river through the tunnel on 30th May, 1970. This was followed by the construction of the main section of the embankment in the river area and the spillway to allow storage of water. The dam was completed in 1971.

The dam has a storage capacity of 16,000 acre feet, a catchment area of 107 square miles and a submerged area of 545 acres. The maximum water depth is 98 feet approximately.

The main effect that the dam has had on the School is a gradual falling off in pupils due to the number of residents displaced by its construction. While the dam was being constructed, numbers soared to a maximum of 37 pupils in 1970, when Mrs. Gleeson had the assistance of another teacher, Mrs. Helen Camden, wife of one of the dam employees. The extra class was held in the Church Hall. Since then numbers have declined to such an extent that the future of the school is in doubt.

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Addendums:

Page 14 - R.G. Chandler (relieved 1 term only)
Back Cover - Donors: Mrs. Brenda Wark
Mr. R. S. Neilson