



Willow Grove Primary School
2520
(Formerly Latrobe River State School &
Willow Grove State School)
1883-2023



The Latrobe River State School 1883-1890



The Latrobe River State School

The Latrobe River State School had four teachers between 1883 and 1890. Herbert S. Hammet (1883-1885), John G C Aurisch (1886), Maria Kelly (1887-1888) and Brett Pettigrove (1889-1890).

Reports from the newspaper at the time describe the events occurring within the school and the community.

17 Mar 1887, Gippsland Farmers' Journal and Traralgon, Heyfield and Rosedale News

The Latrobe State School referred to in my last, has been opened, Miss Kelly having been appointed. From what I can learn, the parents are highly pleased, and, judging from the number on the rolls (28) who have attended regularly since the re-opening, the change has been appreciated by one and all.

1 Jul 1887 Traralgon Record

A highly successful celebration for the State School pupils in honour of the Queen's Jubilee was held yesterday (at Morwell). ...children enjoy(ed) the sports and refreshments provided... the host providing banners for each school. The brass band ...(was) followed by the Mirboo North school,....Latrobe River (school). The procession moved along Tarwin-street the route ... to the Show grounds, the children of various schools to the number of 2000 singing on the way and waving banners... medals were distributed...During the evening the committee gave a good display of fireworks. (All the students arrived by train from their closest station into Morwell station.)

17 May 1888, Gippsland Farmers' Journal and Traralgon, Heyfield and Rosedale News

I have great pleasure in penning you an account of a pleasant party given by the inhabitants of Latrobe River at the State School room.... In honor of Miss Kelly, the lady school teacher, who has earned golden opinions from alland who, we regret to say, is about to leave us. The schoolroom was beautifully decorated with flowers, ferns and flags.There were about sixty present, and it was a sight to witness at the break-up, when each shook hands with the "little lady," and bid her goodbye...

12 Nov 1889 The Traralgon Journal

NEW POST OFFICE- establishment of a post-office at State school No. 2520, Latrobe River ... the post office to opened at the place mentioned on the 9th inst., to be called Willow Grove, and Mr. Brett Pittigrove, school teacher, has been appointed to the position of postmaster.

(In February 1890 a meeting was held and the Post office was removed to main Tanjil Road, as Mr B. Pettigrove was resigning.)

17 Dec 1889 The Narracan Shire Advocate

The Latrobe River State-School, No. 2520, was examined last week for results under the new programme, and passed an excellent examination by Inspector Mr. T.W. Bothroyd, whose report is as follows:- Present for examination 39; percentage, 87.339; buildings, in order. I am pleased to note that an attempt to beautify the playground by planting trees has been made. Records, correct and neatly kept; discipline, good; moral lessons, satisfactory; organization, & c., the school has passed a good examination and excellent progress has been made...

4 Nov 1890 Warragul Guardian and Buln Buln and Narracan Shire Advocate

The Narracan Board of Advice(have) resolved to fence in the school ground at Willow Grove....

(The fence was erected in May 1891, made of post and rails with split pickets. The cost being nineteen pounds and fourteen shillings.)

Newspaper articles can be found at: trove.nla.gov.au