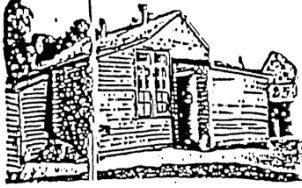


WILLOW GROVE  
P. S. 2520



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



## The Latrobe River State School

The Latrobe River State school, No. 2520 was established in May 1883, yet did not begin until the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1883. It had taken the local community 6 years to be granted the school, with the first applications for a school being lodged in 1877, however due to a lack of a suitable site the matter was left.

In 1880 the Lands department was authorised to reserve a site for the purpose of a school. In 1882, authorization was given for a portable classroom with attached quarters to be transported to the site. The site was cleared in June 1883 and the schoolhouse erected.

The site of the school was approximately 11 miles from Moe and ten miles from Trafalgar. The nearest school was Tanjil, about five miles away. The original site is marked with a plaque on "Old School Road".

The land for the school was donated by Mr. S. Needham.

Before the Latrobe River school was established some of the children attended the Tanjil School. The new Latrobe River School serviced those local families living along the Latrobe River.

The first head teacher at the school was Mr. Herbert Sydney Hammet (1862-1936). He began teaching at 16 years of age, in 1878 at the Bolwarrah/Upper Moorabool State School. His posting at Latrobe River State School began on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1883. In 1884, Inspector Hepburn described him as "active and promising" and again 1885, as "Good, earnest and painstaking." After 2 years serving the Latrobe River children, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1885 he was transferred to school 1957, Won Wron State School.

There were 23 children listed as being of school age who could attend the Latrobe River S.S., with a further ten in the future. Among the first families were the children of Mr. Needham (4 children), Mr. Walker (4 children), Mr. Shultz (4 children), Mr. Fritz (1 child), Thomas Irvine (4 children).

### References

Teacher record <https://prov.vic.gov.au/archive/3AD17403-F7E4-11E9-AE98-2535B4F19863/content?image=1>

Morwell Historical Society News, Vol 9, 1970 <https://www.morwellhistoricalsociety.org.au/newsletters/Vol91970.pdf>

Willow Grove P.S. 2520 (formerly Latrobe River P.S.) Centenary 1883-1983

Chalk sticks to memory sticks, 125 years of schooling at Willow Grove Primary School No. 2520.