

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

name: Former Clear Lake State School
Address: 4006 Harrow - Clear Lake Road CLEAR LAKE
Place Type: School - State (public)
Citation Date: 2022



Former Clear Lake State School, 4006 Jallumba - Clear Lake Road Clear Lake

**Recommended
Heritage Protection** **VHR -**

 HI -

 PS
 Yes

Integrity

High integrity internally and externally.

History and Historical Context

Following the proclamation of the Grant Land Act of 1869, vast tracks of land previously occupied by 'squatters' was opened up for intensive closer settlement. Parcels of 320 acres were taken up in the Wimmera district by yeoman farmers and their families, leading to a dramatic increase in population and the development of small settlements such as the township of Clear Lake.

In 1876 the Clear Lake Wesleyan Church was erected by parishioners below the lake's southern shoreline. Lessons were conducted in the church from April 1879, with Thomas Hall appointed to teach approximately 37 children drawn from the surrounding area. While the building was a cherished community asset and the nucleus

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of the growing settlement, it was an inadequate classroom. Head teacher Hall documented its shortcomings in a letter to the Education Department stating, 'there was no fire and no warmth. Most Children travelled more than two miles and at times arrived drenched and cold and were forced to sit in that state all day'.^[1]

Mr Hall was joined by members of the Clear Lake district in lobbying the Department for a new, standalone school building. The proposed site of the school was a key concern. Past students recounted that the journey to school was so treacherous that 'pupils were guided to school in the early days by a plough furrow through the heavily timbered country.(and) trees were also blazed for their guidance'.^[2]

By February 1881 a one acre site was reserved at nearby Carchap addressing the Jallumba - Douglas Road (application no. 2135).^[3] This site was subsequently revoked in favour of a four acre site reserved in 1882 (allotment 22G, Parish of Carchap) opposite the existing church.^[4]

The new school was assigned no. 2135 and a small portable building and attached living quarters, measuring a meagre 22 ft x 9 ft, was erected in March 1882.^[5] Hall lived in the attached residence with his wife and five children until his departure in 1886. Miss Lilla Morrison replaced Hall, although she boarded with a local family, rather than residing in the teacher's quarters.

In February 1886 land sales were held to establish the township of Clear Lake (originally named 'Jangeowra'). The site for a township had been surveyed the previous year and officially gazetted on the west bank of Clear Lake addressing the Arapiles - Balmoral Road. Half acre parcels were auctioned at £2 per lot, but the sale didn't stimulate immediate development, rather 'blocks were taken up by established residents for future use and none was lived on by any newcomer. No business premises or public buildings emerged'.^[6]

While the turn of the century saw a general decline in population and the subsequent closure of nearby schools such as Toolondo, Clear Lake School survived this period of low enrolments and economic hardship. Indeed, by 1901 the school community continued to lobby the Department:

'We, the undersigned, urgently request better accommodation at S.S. 2135. At present things are so unsatisfactory and in such an unsanitary condition that steps are requested for an immediate improvement. 36 children are huddled into one small room where the atmosphere is poisonous and unbearable' [7]

Although the petition called for a new building, refurbishment of the existing building was also suggested, including minor alterations such as the 'partition between the residential section and the class room be removed' to enlarge the space.^[8] Correspondence over the next twenty years documents even further deterioration of the building, including white ant and rabbit infestation, poor lighting and over-crowding.

At last, in 1927 a new school building was approved and erected on land acquired in the township grid addressing the Arapiles - Balmoral Road. It was officially opened on 23 March 1928. The West Wimmera Mail described the new school as 'neat in design with congenial surroundings and the interior the last word in comfort and hygiene in the midst of a eucalyptus charged atmosphere'.^[9]

A teacher's residence was constructed in 1958 and a new class room added in 1960. As a consequence of the Soldier Settlement Scheme a second wave of settlement occurred in the district and school enrolments rose to 53 by 1963. Other improvements included new shelter sheds, toilets and bike sheds.

An office, store room and kitchen wing were added to the north-west corner of the school building in 1996. However, this investment was not enough to prevent the closure of the school in 1997 due to declining enrolments.

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The former school has been retained by the community and continues to provide a focus for community life under the custodianship of Clear Lake School Inc, formed in 2000.

[1] Committee of the Clear Lake Back To, *Clear Lake Reflections 2004*, p. 28.

[2] *Horsham Times*, Friday 9 November 1951, page 3.

[3] *Gov Gazette* 28, Date: Friday, March 25th 1881, page 876; *Horsham Times*, Tuesday 21 March 1882, p. 2

[4] *Gov Gazette* 29, Date: Friday, March 17th 1882, page 667.

[5] Education Department: *Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the year 1881-82*, p 125, 132

[6] *Clear Lake Reflections 2004*, p. 20

[7] Clear Lake Centenary Committee, *Clear Lake: Centenary 1978*, p. 28.

[8] *Clear Lake: Centenary 1978*, p. 28.

[9] *Clear Lake: Centenary 1978*, p. 30.

Description

Physical Description

Timber framed, weatherboard clad building approximately 11 metres by 9 metres with smaller entry porch under separate gable. Gable roof clad in corrugated sheet metal with wide eaves overhangs and exposed rafters. Large, multipane timber sash windows to north and south elevations; smaller timber frame windows to entry porch and kitchen area. Brick chimney. Internally the classroom retains its blackboard, timber panelling, fireplace and mantelpiece.

Physical Condition

The former Clear Lake school is in good condition and has had repairs conducted recently

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

Relevant HERCON Criteria:

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history. (as a marker of the evolution of Clear Lake as a town and community, and the changing requirements of educational facilities in the district)

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects. (typical design, configuration and materials for a small scale classroom building in the early twentieth century)

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. (as the focus for a regional community as an educational facility and more recently for the general community of Clear Lake)

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Comparative Analysis

Former Riverside State School No 3398, 158 Riverside Road, Riverside, Hermes no. 186111: Very similar configuration and style, but earlier date (1901)

Former Kalkee State School No 1840, Kalkee School Road, Kalkee, Hermes no. 186134: Similar configuration and style, date not confirmed

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The elements of heritage value of the former 1928 Clear Lake School, 4006 Harrow - Clear Lake Road, Clear Lake, include:

- . External form and materials of school building - weatherboard cladding, corrugated sheet metal roof, timber framed multi paned windows, and brick chimney;
- . Internal original fittings including timber wall panelling, fireplace and mantelpiece, and blackboard.

Exclusions: shelter sheds, toilets, water tank.

How is it significant?

The former 1928 Clear Lake School is of historic, representative, and social significance to Horsham Rural City.

Why is it significant?

The former 1928 Clear Lake School is:

- . Of local historical significance, illustrating the growing and later declining need for educational facilities in small rural communities outside Horsham. (Criterion A)
- . Of local representative significance, as an intact local example of a school classroom of the early twentieth century. (Criterion D)
- . Of local social significance, for its role as a focus for community activities and education of families in the Clear Lake district. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2022

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

References

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Literature title: Clear Lake: Centenary 1978

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Clear Lake Centenary Committee

Literature publisher: Clear Lake Centenary Committee

Literature year: 1978

Literature title: Clear Lake Reflections

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Committee of the Clear Lake Back To

Literature publisher: Clear Lake Back To Committee

Literature year: 2004

Literature title: Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the year 1881-82

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher: Education Department, Melbourne

Literature year: 1882

Literature title: Article: Tuesday 21 March, 1882

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Horsham Times

Literature publisher: Horsham Times

Literature year: 1882

Literature title: Article: Friday 9 November 1951

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Horsham Times

Literature publisher: Horsham Times

Literature year: 1951

Literature title: Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria Vol. 2

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Blake L.J (ed.)

Literature publisher: Melbourne, Education Department of Victoria

Literature year: 1973

Literature title: Victorian Government Gazette 28, Friday March 25 1881

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year: 1881

Literature title: Victorian Government Gazette 29, Friday March 17 1882

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year: 1882

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.