

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BALMORAL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Coleraine Road and Simson Street BALMORAL

STUDY NUMBER: 175

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: BALMORAL NATIONAL SCHOOL, BALMORAL PRIMARY SCHOOL,

PRECINCT: Balmoral

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: none **SECTION:** none

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 388J T3; Located between Balmoral- Coleraine Road and Hamilton Natimuk Road on Simson Street in the township of Balmoral

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Consolidated School, Balmoral

Image Date: 1/12/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the school buildings and all of the land

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Balmoral Consolidated School is located on the south west corner of the Cavendish-Balmoral and the Coleraine-Balmoral Roads, in the centre of the township of Coleraine. The school has been built in two separate blocks. The first part of the school is made up of several small timber buildings which were originally local timber school houses. These school houses were from surrounding areas of Kanagulk, Gringegalona, Brit Brit, Pigeon Ponds and Gritjurk. The timber school rooms have been placed in a long line with a central passage to join the individual classrooms. Later developments which have been added include a staff room, office and library.

A later building, similarly long in shape with classrooms off a central passage was added with a Library, Science room, art room, staff room, stores and offices. This building was used as the high school, while the earlier building was used as the consolidated school for many years until the Balmoral High School moved to a separate location.

The site also has toilet blocks, outdoor play equipment and traditional country primary school plantings, including many native plants dating from the early 1970s.

HISTORY:

Primary education in Balmoral dates from as early as 1856, when local dignitaries pressed the National School Board to establish a school at Balmoral. On May 25th 1856 Dr James Galbraith wrote to the National School Board in Melbourne requesting advice concerning the possible provision of a school at Balmoral. "On June 28th, 1856, from the surrounding stations men rode in to the public meeting held at the [Western] hotel, a gaunt unlovely stone structure" (Educational Magazine, 170). Discussion on the merits and demerits finally resulted in a decision for a National School. This was a liberal decision because in 1856 more than 80% of state aided schools were denominational. A proposal made at the public meeting to use an old building on a site some 100 yards from the hotel was critiqued by Robert Officer in a letter to the National Board. He supported the view of Mr. Inspector Glenn, who came to Balmoral to investigate the request for a school, which was that local demand called for a new school building on a site elsewhere.

Robert Officer was a well known, successful pastoralist was not only guarantor for the first school but is also said to have donated the site for it. The Board agreed in October 1857 and by late 1858 Officer could advise it that materials were available and that a teacher's cottage had been bought. The Board dispatched Abraham Lauder who had been teaching at Woodford to take up duties as head teacher at Balmoral. The first school was a one-roomed slab hut said to have been constructed on land owned by Dr James Galbraith on the banks of Mather's Creek. In 1859 14 boys and 11 girls were enrolled and the National School at Balmoral had started. After the passing of the Common Schools Act in 1862, the building was known as Common School No. 29.

After School Inspector's visit in 1862, the this first school was considered to be unsuitable and land was reserved for a new school in 1864 on allotment 2 of Section 12 of the Township of Balmoral. The land was later extended slightly to the south. A single classroom was built of bricks with a gallery in one corner. Some time later a wooden room for infants was built at the rear and a stone residence was attached to the school. In 1960 the entire structure formed the head teacher's residence but it was demolished in 1968.

Modern state education was established by an Act of Parliament in 1872. National schools became state schools under the banner of 'free, compulsory and secular' education. The Balmoral School became State School No 29.

According to Jack Rogers (32), 'during the summer of 1890 to 1891 while the Education Department enlarged the school room, the Mechanics Institute was hired as a temporary classroom at 15 shillings per week.'

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By the late 1920s it became obvious that the school did not meet the educational needs of the district. Between the school and the centre of the town lay the showgrounds where the Pastoral Society had started in 1887. A portion of this area, section 11 of the Township of Balmoral was acquired by the Education Department on 22nd of January 1930. A new two-roomed school building was constructed.

In the mid twentieth century there were moves towards the consolidation of primary schools in the area. In 1950-51, the school buildings of Brit Brit, Kanagulk, Gringegalgon and Pigeon Ponds were moved to Balmoral to be create a group school. In September 1952, it became the state's newest group school. Each building was isolated from the others and, in June 1953, it was recommended to start renovations, additions and other improvements. At this time the Gritjurk school building was also moved but not that at Gritjurk South because it was brick. Others not moved were the Vasey and Telangatuk East school buildings, the former because it was privately owned and the latter because it was not suitable.

The school continues today to provide education to the children of the township and surrounding areas.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 6 Educating

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

CONDITION:

The school is in good condition, although many of the early timber school houses which make up the early building have been damaged by insects.

INTEGRITY:

Little if anything surviving of the earliest school.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is Significant?

Balmoral Consolidated School is a State Primary School located on the south west corner of the intersection of Simson Street and the Coleraine - Balmoral Road in the township of Balmoral. The school is made up of several smaller school buildings which have been relocated from surrounding areas, as the move to consolidate state schools occurred. The school is a complex of mainly timber buildings. The construction of the first school was as early as 1856, when local pastoralists lobbied the Department of Education for a school at Balmoral to serve the growing township and the number of large pastoral holdings surrounding the town. A number of smaller 'satellite' schools were constructed in the early and mid nineteenth century at locations such as Gringegalgon, Gritjurk, Brit Brit, Vasey, Telangatuk East, Kanagulk, Gringegalgon and Pigeon Ponds. This was triggered by the increase in population in the district following the subdivision of many of the area's great pastoral estates for Soldier Settlement after the First and Second World Wars. These buildings have gradually been re-located to the current school site, and incorporated as classrooms.

How is it significant?

Balmoral Consolidated School is of historical to township of Balmoral the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The complex located at Balmoral Consolidated School is historically significant as an example of the way in which smaller 'satellite' schools were consolidated with larger schools in towns as closer settlement failed and rural populations moved to townships after the 1960s. The school complex provides a tangible link to the Soldier Settlement era, a particular phase in the long history of the pastoral industry in the area. The subsequent subdivision of the land at various times culminated in the creation of small landholdings acquired by returned servicemen following the First and Second World War. The school is a physical expression of the population

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boom which resulted from Soldier Settlement, and subsequent demise of small rural landholders as soldier settlement failed.

COMPARISON:

062 Nareen Hall Complex, Nareen Road, Nareen

089 National School (Former), Corner Henty and Church Streets, Coleraine.

103 State School No. 2118, 124 Church Street, Coleraine

195 State School No. 1418, Knight's Road, Byaduk North

160 State School No. 4362 (Former) and Residence, Zig Zag Road Konongwootong North

ASSESSED BY: tfh & aen

ASSESSMENT DATE:

26-Jan-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
L J Blake, ed.	Vision and Realisation , Vol 2	1973	15
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Balmoral, Parish of Balmoral, County of Dundas	1958	
Douglas Pike ed.,	'Officer, Sir Robert (1800-1879)' Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 2	1967	297-8
G McGaffin	The Wannon Shire Centenary 1872-1972 : A Brief History of the Shire of Wannon	1972	58-9
Jack Rogers	Balmoral	1967	32-3
L J Blake	'The School at Black Swamp', The Educational Magazine	1960	170-5
Lyall Harris with the Balmoral Historical Society	Welcome Back to Balmoral	1975	28-9