

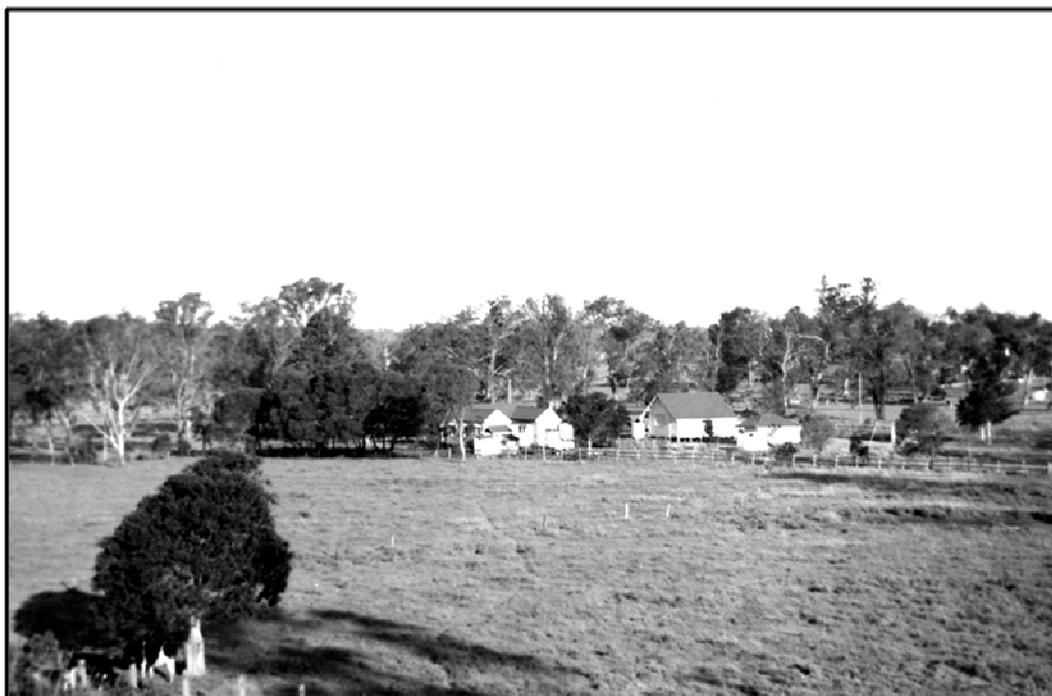
## Seventeen Mile Rocks State School – School no. 98

The Seventeen Mile Rocks State School, now on Seventeen Mile Rocks Road, was originally on the western side of Goggs Road on a site now occupied partly by the shopping precinct. It was purchased and relocated in the late 1980s by Sir Hercules Sinnamon to save it from removal or demolition.

The school was built during 1877 and opened in early 1878. It replaced an earlier school that had operated on a site a short distance south of it since 1870.

The Seventeen Mile Rocks State School was a one teacher school with all grades seated in the single classroom. A school house, school, shelter shed and two external toilets were on the site. It provided educational services to the district until shortly after Jindalee was established. One of the early teachers was Henry Burner Palmer, father of Australian writers Vance Palmer and Emily Hemans Bulcock.

For much of its operational period, the school serviced the small Seventeen Mile Rocks farming community. Because of the low population, it was at times threatened with closure for having too few pupils. The school was closed for a period in the early 1940s but later re-opened.



*School house on left, school next to it to its right – back view, with shelter shed behind school (building on right): taken from top of silo on Coolooie Farm, 1950s. Gladys M. Bailey collection, SLQ. Vantage point was approx. 11-12 metres above ground level on the river side of Sinnamon Rd., near Aged Care Qld and Direct Factory Outlet, looking across northern side of Homemaker City Shopping Centre*

During the school's operational period, the school building was used as a community hall from time to time. Electioneering addresses and other public lectures were delivered there, and the building was also the local voting place for elections. Dances were also held in the school: these had a dual function of community entertainment and fund-raising for the school.

When Jindalee was established, the number of pupils increased dramatically. As the population expanded, a larger school was needed and one that was based in Jindalee itself. This resulted in the closure of the Seventeen Mile Rocks State School at the end of 1965.



### SCHOOL IN A RURAL SETTING IS CLOSING

Just across the road a herd of cattle grazes peacefully . . . from a tiny one-room building comes a muffled sound of young voices in unison.

The place is the 50-pupil State School at Seventeen Mile Rocks, 25 miles from the GPO (and) September one of the few one-teacher schools in Brisbane.

But today there is an air of sadness, for tomorrow is the school's last day.

last year it was as low as 18. The rapid development of the new suburb of Jindalee boosted the attendance and an extra teacher was appointed in cope for the last term this year.

The head teacher Mr. R. Craig, always has

A little United Nations . . . that's what 17-mile Rocks head-teacher, Mr. A. R. Craig, calls these six of his 50 pupils, who each comes from a different country.

There are 13 pupils at the school who are not native-born Australians.

The six in the picture are, from left, Trevor Jones, 9, from Wellington in New Zealand, Jane Tarbett, 10, a Canadian, whose father is with an oil company in Queensland, Fred Fels, 12, who arrived in Brisbane only three months ago from Malaya.

December  
1965.

In order to preserve the school for posterity, Sir Hercules Sinnamon purchased the school building and had it moved to a site on his land on Seventeen Mile Rocks Road with the intention of it becoming part of a Heritage Precinct. It now forms part of the Heritage-listed Sinnamon Farm precinct.

The school house remained on the original site for many years and was used by Girl Guides, being known as the Jindalee District Girl Guide Hut.

**For more information about the Seventeen Mile Rocks State School, see sections 1.5.3 and 1.5.4 of *When River Was Roadway*. Details about this and other books can be found at <http://cshsoc.wordpress.com/our-books/>**

**For more photographs from the period when the Seventeen Mile Rocks State School was operating, see the School section of the Historic Images gallery on this website at <http://cshsoc.org.au/seventeen-mile-rocks-state-school/>.**