

Situated on Wadawurrung land

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<https://torquayhistoricalsociety.com.au/>

VICTORIAN COLLECTIONS

<https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/torquay-district-historical-society>

CONTACT:

President: Frank Vagg

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Secretary: Carollyn Williams

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OPEN:

Thursdays 1pm to 4pm

OR by appointment

MEETINGS:

Committee:

Quarterly Feb, May, Aug, Nov

Archive group:

Thursday at 1pm

AGM is in August

**TORQUAY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY Inc
NEWSLETTER – MAY 2026**

NEWS

Our collection on **Victorian Collections** is growing thanks to our archivist member Barbara Kowalski. Visit our collection at <https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/torquay-district-historical-society>

Have you visited our **You Tube** channel via the website? <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EItOIQq7y-kW68S-viE4A>

EVOLUTION of HEALTH SERVICES IN TORQUAY

- c. 1952 – **Dr James Lawson** & his wife **Winifred** set up a practice in Cowrie Rd
 - 1956 – **Dr Erina Batt** (nee Lawson) & her husband **Dr Vernon Batt** took over the practice
 - c. 1965 - **Dr James Lawson** (brother of Erina) joined the practice
 - c. 1967 – Erina & Vernon left the practice
 - c. 1968 – James was replaced by a **locum**
 - c. 1969 - Practice closed
 - 1973/74 - **Sr Joan Willams** ran a summer emergency clinic from Boxing Day to the end of January.
 - 1974 – **Dr Darryl Jones** set up a practice in Boston Rd.
 - 1974 –Torquay Community Health Centre (TCHC) established at 15 Bell St. **Dr Darryl Jones**, hon medical officer, & **Sr Joan Willams** occupied the new premises.
 - 1975 – **Barbara Hanna** appointed Nursing Coordinator followed by additional nursing and administration staff.
 - 1977 – Nursing Coordinator **L McErvale** with three nurses. District Nurse **Ann Stinton**. **Dr John Waddell** resident medical officer.
 - 1983 - Emergency treatment area was expanded.
 - 1988 – **Drs John Waddell, A Scanlan & Frank De Rio** in practice. **Dr Stephen Bourns** dentist. Nursing Coordinator **K Batson** with 10 part time nurses inclusive of district nurses.
 - 1993 - Torquay CHC moved from Bell St to 100 Surf Coast Hwy.
 - 1998 - Barwon Health Amalgamation.
- Today TCHC site offers primary care services, mental health services, medical clinic, pathology services, optometry, medical imaging & pharmacy.

History of the Torquay Community Health Centre In Baines J (date) *A History of Torquay*. Annual Reports TCHC, 1975, 1977, 1988.

OLD JAN JUC LIFE 1900s

This is a snippet of what life was like in the early 1900s and is written by I. Anderson remembering when her father **James Thomas Anderson** was the head teacher at old Jan Juc PS 1900 to 1903.

*Along Spring Creek were market gardens and orchards; one family grew lovely cherries. The schoolhouse and the school were across the bridge on the left after coming from Geelong. The school was later moved up the hill as it was liable to flooding. The nearest railway station was at Pettavel. We shopped in Geelong every Saturday and stabled our ponies at **Fred White's** livery stable.*

The house was small and our furniture was just bare essentials. Cupboards were scarce and we used packing cases as kitchen cupboards by removing the lid and making it a shelf for pots and pans. With a strong cord strung with material like cretonne and hooked on each side we had a door. Our wardrobes were similar with something strung across a corner of the room with a high shelf with hooks to hang clothes and shoes on a low shelf. We had three brass double beds, a tin trunk and a tin hat box, two washstands equipped with crockery and one good Duchess set of drawers with a mirror on top. There were no inside taps or bathrooms so the galvanized iron tubs outside were wash troughs and a bathtub in the kitchen. Floor coverings were linoleum and had to be taken up when we shifted. We also took curtain poles and curtains and blinds as no schoolhouse had them.

Our friends at Freshwater Creek school were worse off. They had a 4-room house attached to the school and an outside kitchen. The dining room was a tent with a wooden floor. They had four children and two grandparents living with them. We were a family of five and sometimes we were invited to tea on our way home on a Saturday (Anderson I. (1985) Lorne, Jan Juc & Weering. *Investigator* 20(4) No 81 pp 112-124)



Jan Juc (Bellbrae) PS 1900. Source: K. Cecil Collection

At the time of James Anderson. Student names unknown

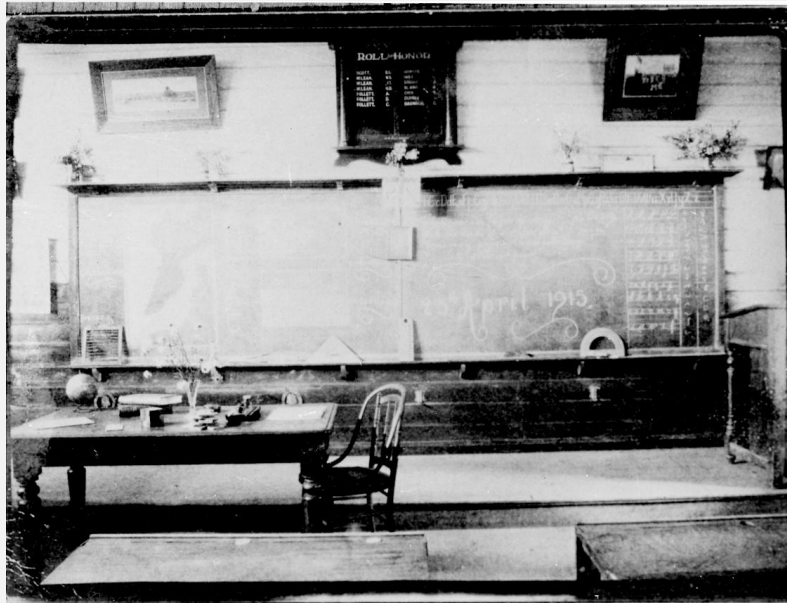
OLD JAN JUC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The condition of the school residence was also described in 1897 by acting head teacher **J. James** when he wrote to the Education Department.

Sir

I have the honour to respectfully ask when repairs will be done to the residence of the above-named school [Jan Juc] to render it fit to live in. I expected it to fall in the storm of Friday last week and hope to not put in such a time of anxiety. The building settled a little lower on the south side during Friday night. Is it healthy to live in these rooms where the breeze is applying nightly through every chink and crevice and the floor carpet rising and falling in time to the inrush of air? (and creaking with every wind). One tank is empty on account of spouting - and in a dry locality. No springs here of fresh water; a rotten roof – panes of glass falling out of windows with age – and many other faults – all for 15/- a month. I have done a great deal to improve the property of the Department, and amongst which was buying an oven for the kitchen. The Building Inspector has long ago reported on this matter, and if I am not mistaken will show by his report that I have reason to complain. It would be hard to find a worse residence in Jan Juc or so dilapidated in appearance. I never trouble the department except when the case is urgent. Your obedient servant J. James

Note: The head teacher replacing Mr. James found no stove in the house when he took occupancy.



Interior of Jan Juc (Bellbrae) PS 1915. Source: K. Cecil Collection

By 1914 the condition of the school was in an unsafe condition with the floors and walls in a poor state. The building was over 50 years old. Nonetheless the school had won the ANA prize for the best kept school grounds. A visit to the school by the Victorian Premier **Sir Alexander Peacock** agreed with school Chairman **J. F. Seiffert** that it was not worth repairing and a new school site be developed. This did not occur until 1916 when the present site was purchased for £116.18.6 from the **Amos** family. The old school building was sold to **Mr. Helps** in 1921 for the value of the materials for £12. (Source: History of Bellbrae PS).

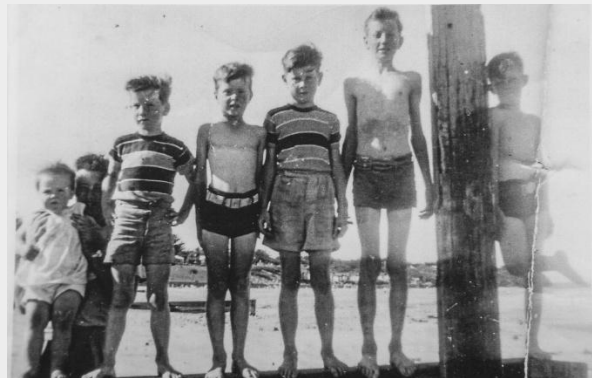
RESOURCES AT WEBSITE

- Library catalogue
- Membership forms
- Research request forms
- Walking trail brochure
- Back issues of the newsletter
- History of Torquay HS

Next newsletter
August 2026

BEACH GROYNES

Coastal erosion is a continuous, natural process that challenges infrastructure built near the sea. Groynes are structures built perpendicular to the shoreline that help prevent beach erosion and maintain beach width by trapping sand and sediment. The installation of groynes also alters local current patterns and wave reflection, which can disrupt local marine and intertidal ecosystems. Effective coastal management now involves planning to mitigate these negative impacts (Source <https://biologyinsights.com/what-is-a-groyne-and-how-does-it-prevent-erosion>). It is uncertain when the groynes were erected on the Front Beach. The groynes become covered by the sand for long periods of time and are then exposed after prolonged large high tides wash the sand away.



Standing on a groyne c. 1950s

L-R

*Diane Morgan nee Duff,
Eustace Murphy, Owen
Moore, John Duff,
Desmond Moore, Daryl
Moore & Peter Duff.*



Exposed groynes Front Beach c. 1950s

Photos TDHS archives

Find the GORCAPA **Coastal Erosion Fact Sheet** at this page

<https://www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/Environment/Climate-Action-and-Resilience>