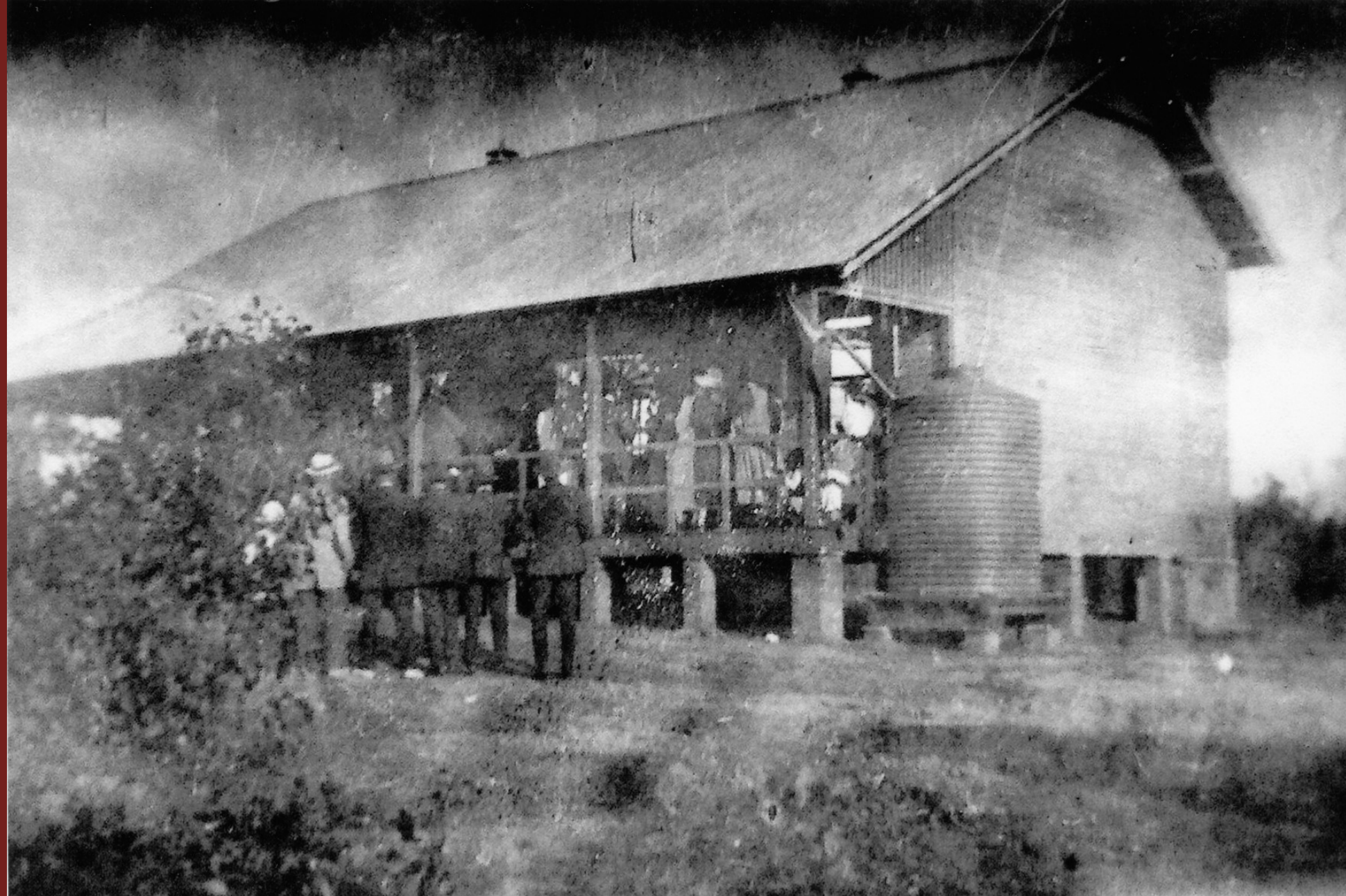


SCHOFFIELDS PUBLIC SCHOOL



Schofields Public School, c1923.

Source: Riverstone and District Historical Society
Photo courtesy of Saundercock family.



Schofields class of 1933, Headmaster Mr Thomas at centre.

Source: Riverstone and District Historical Society
Photo courtesy of Dawn Whitehead.



Schofields Kindergarten and 1B Class 1960.

Source: Riverstone and District Historical Society
Photo courtesy of Saundercock family.



Schofields Public School is on land originally granted to Robert Fopp in June 1815. In 1845 the land was purchased by ex-convict John Schofield, who was transported at the age of 17 to Australia in 1821. The suburb Schofields is named after him. By the end of the 19th Century the land was subdivided into vineyards, orchards and farm blocks.

In May 1915 an application for the construction of a public school was lodged with the Department of Public Instruction but it was refused. The third attempt to construct a school was approved in January 1919 and teaching began two months later in Durham Hall, originally located at Marsden Park and relocated to Schofields in 1918.

Construction began on a permanent building on the school's site in June 1923 and the school was officially opened by the Minister for Education, Albert Bruntnell, on 10 November 1923.

The new building was a standard type, similar to many built in small rural communities at this time. It accommodated 39 boys and 41 girls in two classrooms. Some improvements were made to the school during the 1920s and 1930s, notably connecting it to the water mains in October 1934 and to electricity supply during 1935. However, despite its best efforts, the school's Parents and Citizens Association was unable to get a weather shelter for the children.

In 1945 a tree was planted at the school to commemorate Prime Minister John Curtin after his death. This tree still remains in the School today.

In 1951 additional land was purchased for school expansion, but further development didn't happen for several more years. Construction of a two class room building was ready for occupation in May 1960. Additional classroom and support buildings were constructed during the 1960s. A number of portable and permanent buildings were constructed over the years, the last of which, the hall, was completed in 2010. The land acquired in 1951 was retained as open space, providing the school with a generous playground.