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your laudable endeavours, to provide for the  
 rising generation in your lovely district, the  
 inestimable benefits of a sound education,

I subscribe myself

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) A. M. Ramsay

Minister of the Presby. Church

The Educational Committee } Stephen Street, Melbourne,  
 at the Wannon }

Ed. M. R.

No. 50/228.

National Educational Office,  
 Sydney 1<sup>st</sup> May 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor, by direction of the Board  
 of National Education, to acknowledge the receipt  
 of your letter, dated Wannon River, Port Phillip, 1850,  
 recommending Mr. John Browning of Melbourne  
 as a person well qualified to fill the office of teacher  
 to the Wannon National School, likewise Copy of  
 letter from the Rev. A. M. Ramsay addressed to  
 the local patrons in Mr. Browning's behalf.

In reply, I am indebted to acquaint you  
 for the information of the local patrons, that the  
 Board have in all instances deemed it inexpedient

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to appoint any regularly ordained Ministers of Religion, as Teachers to the Schools under their Superintendence.

3. Without the slightest disrespect to Mr. Browning or to the testimony as to his capabilities from the Revd. Gentleman who writes in his behalf, and at the same time anxious in every case to adopt the recommendations of the local patrons, still, the Board desire to see the Teachers of National Schools, selected from the laity, to preserve, without a shadow of doubt, the strict neutrality which belongs to the system.

I have the honor to be,

Sr,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. C. Wells

Secretary

Henry Waterman Esq.  
Secretary, National School  
Wannon River, Port Phillip.

W. C. Wells

No. 50/286,

National Education Office,  
Sydney 8<sup>th</sup> May 1854.

Sr,

I have the honor, by direction of the Board of  
(National

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30th April 1850.

National Education, to forward to you for the information of the local patrons at Warran, Copy of the Colonial Secretary's Letter respecting the land applied for at that place as a site for a National School.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. C. Miles

Secretary

Henry Waterman Esq  
Secretary, National School,  
Warran River, S. D.

Ed. H. C. Miles

Warran River, S. D. Phillip -

25th of May 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated Sydney May 1st 1850, recommending Mr John Browning of Melbourne as fit for the office of teacher, likewise your letter dated Sydney May 8th 1850 No. 50/236, containing Copy of Colonial Secretary's letter No. 50/34, with reference to the site of land for the Warran National school.

I am directed by the Local Patrons to inform you that since my last communication upon this subject, Mr Wade Surveyor in Charge

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of the Portland District has marked out a Township in this place and the survey being now completed Mr. Wade has strongly recommended a different site for the school house,

The local patron, therefore beg to solicit the Commissioners of the Board of National Education to grant them allotments (1/2 acre) Nos. 18 and 19 Section 6, as laid down in Mr. Wade's plan, instead of the land applied for in the first instance.

The reason of the proposed alteration in the site is, the allotments Nos. 18 & 19 Section 6 are better adapted for a school, the ground being higher, more easily approached by the children from all parts of the Township, and at the same time affording to the children a beautiful eminence at the back of the Township which would make an excellent playground.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your most Obedt. servant,  
(Signed) Henry Waterman,

Secretary to the  
Local Patron, Warran,

To  
W. C. Willers,  
Secretary,  
National Education Office,  
Sydney

Ed. M. W.

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Warron, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1850,

Sir,

1<sup>st</sup> The undersigned Patrons of the Warron National School having met for the purpose of taking into consideration the letter from the Educational Board refusing the appointment of Teacher to Mr. John Browning and not having found a quorum of Patrons present hereby beg to intimate individually our opinion on the subject,

1<sup>st</sup> The printed rules furnished us give no hint as to the teacher being chosen from the laity and therefore Mr. Browning has been rejected by the introduction of a New rule which was neither foreseen nor could be provided against.

2<sup>nd</sup> We beg most positively to disclaim any design or intention of making the National school the tool of any sect or party, and were the teacher to infringe that neutrality which we as well as the Board desire, we should be the first to complain.

3<sup>rd</sup> Mr. Browning is the choice not only of the Patrons but also of the whole body of the subscribers, and on the recommendation of the Patrons individually he has been waiting unemployed in expectation of the appointment since the Board first assented to have a National School at this place.

4<sup>th</sup> We therefore most respectfully request

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that the Board will take this renewed application in behalf of Mr. Browning into their favorable consideration and grant him the appointment or if this be still deemed incompatible with the views entertained by the Board, that in that case the Board will relinquish their claim to the Land marked by the Assistant Surveyor for a National school, in order that it may be purchased at the ensuing land sale for the purpose of a private subscription school. We are constrained to make this request from the unanimous feeling in favor of Mr. Browning, of the subscribers, the heads of families and others in the district interested in this educational movement, and from the positive wish expressed on all hands rather to keep the Teacher personally known to them and known to be qualified for the office than risk the search after another.

The Building for the school is in course of erection, and Mr. Browning is waiting. We therefore request that you will communicate with the Board and furnish our Secretary with their reply at your earliest convenience.

We have the honor to be,  
 &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) John Walker,  
 Thomas McKellar }

The Board of Natl. Education }  
 Sydney }

Ed. M. P.

(true copy)

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P.S. I beg to add Mr. Phillips name to  
the above and being authorized to act for  
him in his absence, and knowing his sentiments  
to correspond with Mr. Walker's and my own,  
(Signed) Thomas McKellan

Copy of  
Letter from a L. Patron of the Wannan N. School,  
accompanying the preceding letter,

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1850,

Sir,

I was unable to attend the meeting  
of the Local Patrons of the Wannan National  
school to which I was summoned, but Mr. Walker  
has shown me the letter which he & Mr. McKellan  
intend to send you, and I therefore judge that I  
may take the liberty of communicating to you  
my views on the subject, in the same way  
they have done.

The universal feeling in the district in favor  
of Mr. Browning's would render it a difficult  
task to find another that would be received by the  
people who have children to be educated, and  
indeed the very generally expressed opinion of the  
people to abandon the National school and  
establish a subscription one would make it  
next to impossible.

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There is no intention to infringe a strict neutrality in religious matters either on the part of Mr. Browning or the people here. His services are asked as a teacher without respect to party, and the fact of his being a Licentiate of the Scotch Church is merely a proof of his being well qualified for the office as he must have received a College education and less likely to prove a bigot than any other we could find.

I trust the Board will review their decision in reference to Mr. Browning, or if not, at all events to grant the wish of the people and abandon their claim to the ground allotted for a Natl. school that it may be bought and appropriated for a subscription school.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

W. C. Wiles Esq. } Your obedient servant  
Secretary } (Signed) S. Ladden,  
Natl. Education Board }  
Sydney }

*Ed. J. L. W.*

Copy of letter from another of the Local Patrons of the Warran Natl. school (on the same subject, accompanying the preceding 2 letters) on next page.

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(2<sup>nd</sup> June 1850.)

Gentlemen,

As one of the Local Patrons of the National School, Wannon, I have been requested to attend a general meeting to be held this evening at the Bunyip, Wannon River to take into consideration the most approved method of proceeding in consequence of the Board of Commissioners in Sydney refusing to appoint Mr. Browning as teacher to the Wannon National school.

It would have afforded me much pleasure to do so, but owing to circumstances I am unable to attend. I therefore take the present method of expressing my opinion.

You will find by consulting the Rules laid down for the directions of the Patrons that the Board of Commissioners reserve the sole right to themselves of appointing teachers, altho' in all cases bind themselves to pay special regard to the recommendations of the patrons. I feel much disappointment by their refusing Mr. Browning as I consider him as a person fitting in every respect to hold the situation, and regret that he has so long waited and at length he is rejected by the Board, that I cannot feel myself justified in throwing up my office or giving my approval of taking any part of the teacher or funds subscribed

Yours

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for the purpose of erecting a National school, without again making application to the Board in behalf of Mr. Browning and further explaining to them the great difficulty and improbability of getting a person so well qualified for the situation as Mr. Browning,

If an entirely separate subscription should be got up for the erecting of a private school, I shall be happy to subscribe the same amount as I have already done towards the National school,

I am, Gentlemen,

(Signed) George D. Lockhart

The Patrons of the  
National School,  
Warran River.

Ed. A. C. W.

Copy of letter from Mr. Browning accompanying the preceding letters, viz 3

Bungip Inn, Warran River  
3<sup>rd</sup> June 1850.

Sir,

Mr. McKellar and Mr. Walker have informed me of their intention to transmit to Sydney a second application in my behalf (along

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along with letters from the other local patrons on the same subject, Now, although, properly speaking I can have no voice in the matter, yet I trust you will not deem it presumption if I address a few words to you on this subject which so closely affects my interests,

It is true that I hold license as a preacher from the Scotch Presbyterian Church, but this (without ordination, which I have not received,) neither qualifies me to take charge of a congregation nor to administer the sacraments, And further, before leaving home, I had made up my mind not to prosecute the ministry as a profession, and in accordance with such resolution, I released myself from all ecclesiastical connections with the church at home, and since my arrival in the Colony I have not sought connection with any sect or party, nor do I mean to seek any.

I need not trouble you with the reasons which have induced me to turn my attention to the office of teacher of youth - suffice it - I have already had some experience in that way and, for the future, desire to devote my whole time and attention to it. Hence to all practical interests and purposes I am nothing more than a layman, nor do I wish to act in any other capacity.

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What Mr. Ramsay may have said in his letter I know not, because I had no opportunity of reading it. But, if it has led the Board to the conclusion that I designed to become the Factor as well as the teacher of the district, such a conclusion is unwarranted by any thing that I have said or done, and contrary to my designs.

I believe the question was asked you whether a teacher of a National School would be allowed to preach, but between the Wampan people and myself there is no private understanding on such a subject. I wish to settle among them as a teacher, and they have not to me expressed a wish to have my services in any other capacity. I trust, therefore, you will see there is no design either expressed or understood to infringe that strict neutrality in religious matters which the Board wish to be characteristic of the National System.

Should this explanation prove so satisfactory to the Board as to warrant my appointment I shall deem it a duty dictated not only by the rules of the system, but by sound sense to avoid partizanship on a subject which too frequently has proved a bone of contention and the occasion of worse than profitless disputes.

I have been living in town for several months in expectation of this appointment (having

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Having been urged to do so by all the patrons whom I had an opportunity of seeing and by others who promised me considerable support, I arrived here a fortnight ago and then learned that an unfavorable answer had been <sup>that day</sup> received from the Board. On hearing this I would have left the place instantly, but every person whom I met urged me so strongly to wait till the meeting of the patrons that I thought myself justified in doing so, but I shall be most sorry if my presence should in any way prove detrimental to the Educational interests of this district.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

To,

W. C. Mills Esq.

Secretary

National Educational Board

Your very obt. servant

(Signed) John Browning

Ed. B. M.

Copy of letter from another of the Local Patrons of the Wannan National school on the same subject,

Wannan Store, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1859,

Sir,

We are all anxious to have our school in operation at once, we have not been able to get a

(quorum)

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quorum of the Petitioners to attend the meeting, they being mostly busy with their labours. But instead thereof I send you the letters transmitted by them to be read at the meeting. Mr. Waterman, our Secretary, is absent on business, and Mr. Riley has gone with his family to reside at the Barrow, hence I cannot furnish you with their views, but I trust what is now sent will be satisfactory, and warrant the Board to grant our first request, viz. to confirm the appointment of Mr. Browning as teacher to their school.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant.

W. C. Willsby  
Secretary

(Signed) John Walter

National Education Board

Ch. P. C. W.

No. 50/310.

National Education Office,  
Sydney 12<sup>th</sup> June 1850.

Sir

I have the honor, by direction of the Board of Nat. Education to acquaint you that application has been made to the Government for an exchange of land for the site of the proposed  
(National

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National School at Wannon River, agreeably to  
the request contained in your letter date 25<sup>th</sup> May  
last.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obt. servant,  
(Signed) W. C. Willis Esq  
Secretary.

Henry Waterman Esq. }  
Secretary. }  
N. School, Wannon River }  
Capt Phillip. }

Ed. McGr

No. 50/326,

National Education office,  
Sydney 19<sup>th</sup> June 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor, by direction of  
the Board of National Education, to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> June inst,  
signed also by Mr. McKellar, and enclosing letters  
from Mr. Cadden and Mr. Lockhart, reiterating  
a desire for the appointment of Mr. John Browning  
as teacher of the proposed National school at  
Wannon, and intimating the intention of the  
Inhabitants to relinquish their claim to the  
land marked by the Assistant Surveyor for a

(National

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National school, in order that it may be purchased at the ensuing land sale for the purposes of a private subscription school, unless such appointment is confirmed by the Commissioners, also enclosing an explanatory letter from Mr. Browning.

2. In reply I am instructed to refer you to the 1<sup>st</sup> rule of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of the published Regulations, stating in whom the appointment of teachers solely rests. Also to the following rule of the same chapter respecting the regard which the Board will pay to the recommendation by Local Patrons of candidates for the office of teacher.

3. With every wish to regard the recommendation of the Local Patrons at Warriner for a candidate for such office, the Board, however, felt bound to decline the appointment of Mr. Browning, deeming it, (as stated in my letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> May last) in all instances, inexpedient to appoint any regularly ordained Ministers of Religion as Teachers to the schools under their Superintendence.

4. Mr. Browning's explanatory letter above referred to states, "It is true that I hold license as a preacher from the Scotch Presbyterian

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Presbyterian Church, but this (without ordination which I have not received,) neither qualifies me to take charge of a congregation nor to administer the Sacraments, (and further, before leaving home I had made up my mind not to prosecute the ministry as a profession, and in accordance with such resolution, I released myself from all Ecclesiastical connection with the Church at home, (and since my arrival in the Colony I have not sought connection with any sect or party, nor do I mean to seek any

5. I am instructed to request your attention to the letter of the Rev. A. M. Ramsay of Melbourne, dated 24<sup>th</sup> December 1849 introducing Mr. Browning to the notice of the local patrons at Warrnambool which states, "He is a regular Licentiate of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland," — "He brings with him credentials of his College Curriculum and of his license to preach the Gospel." — "Last night he preached in my pulpit and gave an excellent discourse."

6. I am also to beg your attention to the request contained in the local patrons letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1850 recommending Mr. Browning for the office of Schoolmaster, which states, "The Local Patrons are desirous of ascertaining whether

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whether Mr. Browning, on receiving the appointment of teacher would be allowed to preach on Sundays, at the different stations in the neighbourhood, provided it did not interfere with his school duties." —

"Under these circumstances, I am desired to state for the information of the local patrons at Wannon, that the Board do not conceive themselves justified, in revoking their former decision with respect to the appointment of Mr. Browning, feeling that they are bound in carrying out the system of National Education, to protect it from any semblance or suspicion of sectarianism, with a view to its usefulness, and peculiar adaptation to the Colony.

I have the honor to be,

Sr,

(Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. C. Wells

Secretary,

J. S. Walker Esq,  
Local Patron,  
National School Committee  
Wannon River,  
Port Phillip,

Ed. A. C. H.

W.

Warrambool River, Port Phillip.

31<sup>st</sup> August 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor by direction of the Local Patrons of the Warrambool National school to forward you the enclosed letter addressed to the Board of National Education, certifying that the sum of £46.13.4 has been lodged in the Union Bank of Australia, Sydney to the credit of the "Board of National Education Building Fund, agreeably to your instructions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1850.

2. I am likewise directed to ascertain if there is any particular form of Draft required to be drawn in making payments, if so perhaps you would favor me with a Copy. — The Local Patrons are also very anxious to ascertain how long a period is likely to elapse before the transfer of the ground for the Building will take place, and also if the Board would now honor drafts made on them (the  $\frac{1}{2}$  of £140 being deposited in the Union Bank of Australia) as the Contractor for the Building has been put to some inconvenience and expense, and wishes for a draft of  $\frac{1}{2}$  according to his agreement as the work proceeds, he having some time since



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That the sum of £46<sup>13</sup>/<sub>4</sub> has been deposited  
in the Union Bank of Australia, Sydney, in  
accordance with instructions received in your letter  
No. 50/3, dated Sydney 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1850, towards  
the building of the Warran National school.

We have the honor to remain,  
Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient servants,  
(Signed) George D. Lockhart  
" John Walker  
" John Phillip  
" Henry Waterman

L. Paterson

To  
The Board of  
National Education,  
Sydney

Exd. H.C. 1/11

50/498.

National Education office,  
Sydney 14<sup>th</sup> September 1850.

Sir,

I have <sup>had</sup> the honor to receive and to  
lay before the Board of National Education,  
your letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> ulto, stating that the  
sum of £46<sup>13</sup>/<sub>4</sub> has been deposited in the  
Union Bank of Australia, Sydney, to the  
credit of the Board of National Education, to  
be appropriated towards the building of the  
(Signed)

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proposed National School house at Warrnambool, and requesting information relative thereto,

2. In reply I am instructed to state that the Board will be happy to appropriate £140 to the proposed building, moneys on account thereof will be paid to whom and where you may direct on receipt of a certificate signed by the local Patrons, or a majority thereof, that the moneys asked for from time to time, are due and actually expended on the Building, there can be no objection to 1/3 of the amount being paid at once, as requested in your communication,

3. Until the receipt of your letter above referred to the transfer of the land last applied for has remained in abeyance, but application has now been made for the sanction of its appropriation for National school purposes, at the same time I may remark that in no one instance has the Government refused the sanction of the appropriation of land when otherwise unappropriated, and there can therefore be no doubt if the land at Warrnambool being granted for the purposes requested.

Section 6  
allotments 18 & 19

11 The Model training school in Sydney is now in full operation, and the Board will endeavour to send down for the Warrnambool National School

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School a Teacher duly qualified.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

(Signed) W. C. Willis.

Henry Waterman Jr.	} Secretary
Secretary	
National School, Wannon	

*Eid. W.C.W.*

50/529

National Education Office,  
Sydney 5th October 1855

Gentlemen,

I have the honor by direction of the Board of National Education, to hand to you copy of a letter from Mr. Brownell applying for the appointment of teacher at Wannon; the Board see no objection to such appointment provided the local patrons on enquiry should think fit to recommend him.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen

Your most obt. servant,

(Signed) W. C. Willis.

The Local Patrons,	} Secretary
Wannon National school	

*Eid. W.C.W.*

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Warran National School,  
Port Phillip, 7<sup>th</sup> October 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated "Sydney, 17<sup>th</sup> September 1850, No 50/198" relating to the building of the Warran National school.

I am directed by the Local patrons to forward you the enclosed letter to the Board of National Education, respectfully requesting the sum of £56-13-4 may be placed to the credit of the Contractor, Francis Woodhead, in the Union Bank of Australia, Melbourne.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most obedient servant,

(Signed) Henry Waterman,

W. C. Willsby }  
                  } &c &c }

Secretary

*E. J. M. H.*

Warran Natl school, Port Phillip,

7<sup>th</sup> October 1850

Gentlemen,

We beg to certify that Francis Woodhead, Carpenter, of this place has in accordance (with

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with his agreement with the Local Patrons of this school completed to their entire satisfaction 1/3 of the building of the Wannon National school (the remainder of the building materials being on the ground) and that 1/3 of the sum of £1440 has been actually expended thereon.

We therefore respectfully request you will be pleased at your earliest convenience to place the sum of £46-13-4 to the credit of the said Francis Woodhead in the Union Bank of Australia, — Melbourne.

We have the honor to be,  
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servants,  
(signed) John Phillip

John Walker

Geo. D. Lockhart

Henry Waterman

To,  
The Board of  
National Education  
Sydney

J.P.

No. 50/568.

Nat'l Education Office

Sydney 24<sup>th</sup> October 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor by direction of the Board of National Education to acknowledge the receipt