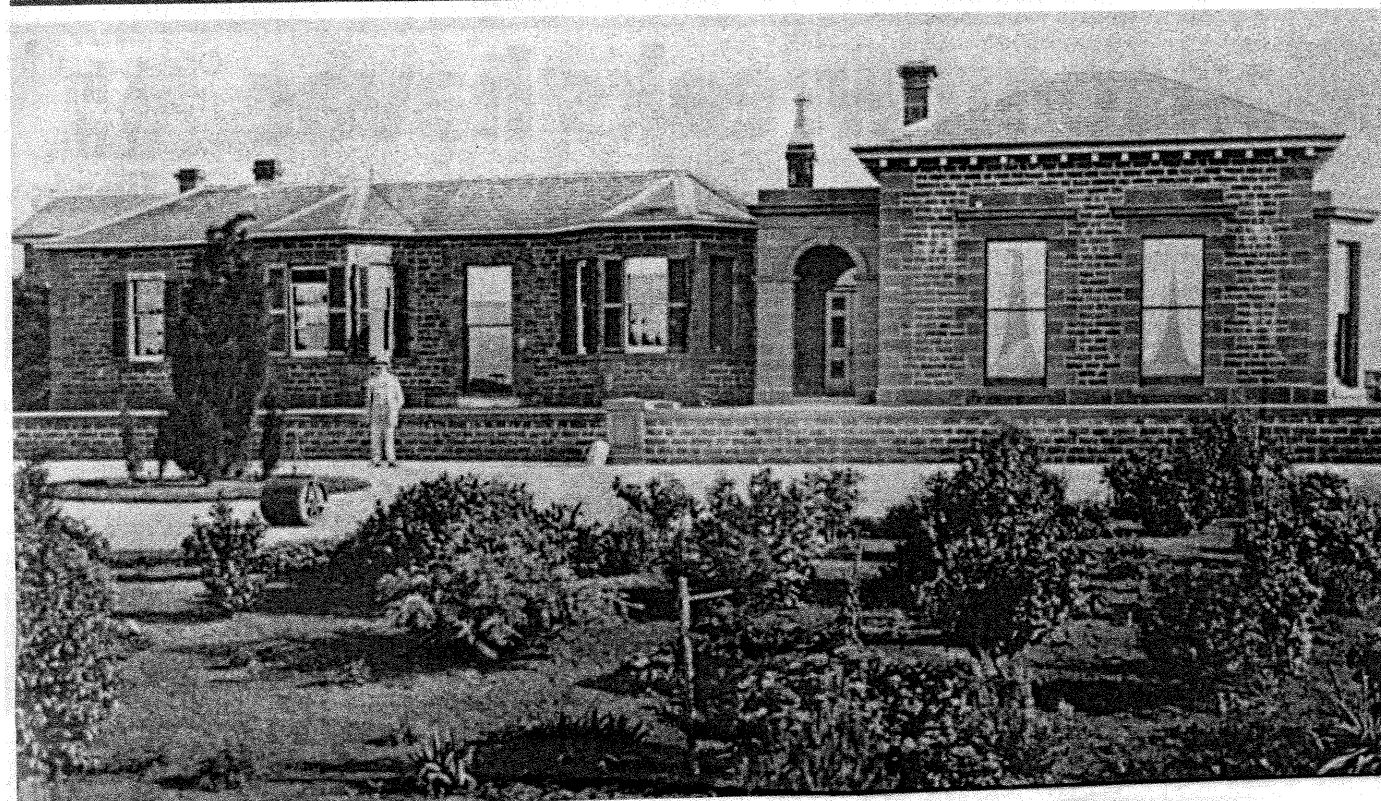


PICTURE THE PAST WITH PETER BEGG

journal@news.com.au



An early photo of Sladen House. The figure on the left is probably Charles Sladen.

Address for a Premier

MANY Geelong residents would remember attending wedding receptions or other functions at Sladen House at the river end of Pakington St.

Sladen House was for many years a function centre but was turned into luxury office accommodation after it was sold in the early 2000s.

Originally named Barwon Crescent, the house was built in a Victorian Italianate mode in 1849-50 for Charles Sladen, a Geelong solicitor who later became Victorian Premier.

Extensive additions, including dining and drawing rooms, a coach house and stables, were made in 1863.

Sladen had arrived in Geelong in February 1842, and went into partnership with Geelong's first solicitor, Henry Tyssen.

Tyssen, however, died only

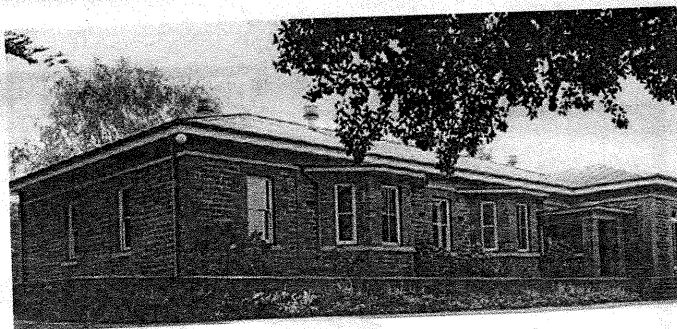


Sir Charles Sladen

three weeks later and Sladen succeeded to his practice.

In 1843, the laying of the foundation stone for Christ Church Anglican church at the top of Moorabool St was attended by Sladen.

The church's first minister,



Sladen House, which overlooks the Barwon River at the bottom of Pakington St.

Ebenezer Collins, however, did not arrive until 1846, leaving Sladen, as a layman, responsible for services.

He soon became involved in other community organisations.

He was first president of

the Geelong Benevolent Society, vice-president for the orphanage and a member of the committee for the creation of the Geelong Botanical Gardens.

In 1854 Sladen had quit his legal business and taken up a

property near Birregurra he named Rippon Vale.

About the same time he was approached by his friend W.C. Haines to take up the position of acting colonial secretary.

Haines soon became

Premier in Victoria's first Responsible Ministry, with Sladen as his treasurer.

In May 1868, Sladen became Premier by forming a stop-gap ministry from conservatives of both houses, which lasted two months.

He continued his church and community activities and was a member of the Church Assembly of both the Melbourne and Ballarat dioceses.

In 1876, he became the first president of the Corio Club, having earlier becoming a member of the Melbourne Club.

Sladen died at his home by the Barwon River in 1884.

A large funeral took place with 90 vehicles following the hearse to Eastern Cemetery and 400 people gathering at the graveside.

Contact: peterjohnbegg@gmail.com

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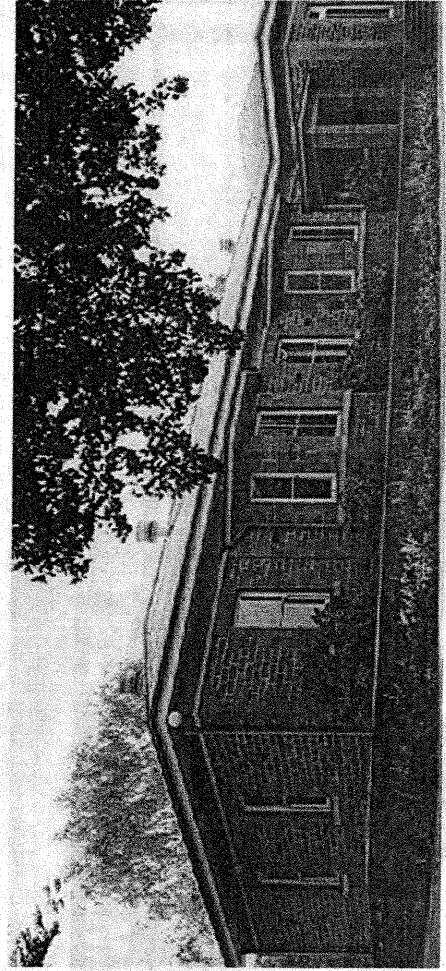


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