



# Frederick John Rose

## Founder of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution

Frederick John Rose was born on September 21, 1831 in Oxford, England. After a bout of Scarlet Fever at 4½ years old, FJ became deaf. He was educated at the Asylum for Deaf and Dumb at Old Kent Road in London.

At the age of 21, FJ Rose left England and sailed to Australia on the ship, Gloriana, with his younger brother to seek his fortune. He lived in South Melbourne and also worked for a number of years in the Bendigo goldfields as a carpenter.

After having read a letter from Sarah Lewis, a mother of a deaf child in 'The Argus' FJ Rose met up with Sarah and then set about setting up a school for the deaf in Melbourne.

In 1860 after a brief visit to England to marry, he started teaching his first student Lucy Ann Lewis who was the deaf daughter of Sarah Lewis. The School for Deaf and Dumb (later named Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution) was housed at a temporary location in Peel St, Windsor which was also FJ Rose's home.

In 1866 after a few changes in the institution's location due to the rapidly expanding number of students attending, the school moved to its new permanent home at 597 St Kilda Road where the Bluestone Building is still standing today.

FJ Rose was Principal and Superintendent of the VDDI and his wife, Elizabeth was Matron. FJ Rose taught at the school until 1882 and continued as Superintendent until 1891. FJ Rose was forced to leave the school after the school's committee of management decided to focus on oral education.

Between the years of 1897 to 1913 FJ Rose worked as a collector of donations and any moneys he collected was given to the school. FJ Rose's wife died in 1913 and in 1914 FJ Rose was given a pension.

Frederick John Rose died on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1920 aged 89 years. He is buried in St Kilda Cemetery.

Frederick and Elizabeth Rose had three children,

- Emma Louisa (born 1864)
- Ellen Blanche (born 24/8/1866)
- Frederick William Moss (born 12/10/1868) at the Institution