

Booklet produced for the  
**Gilgandra Public School Centenary**  
**1981**

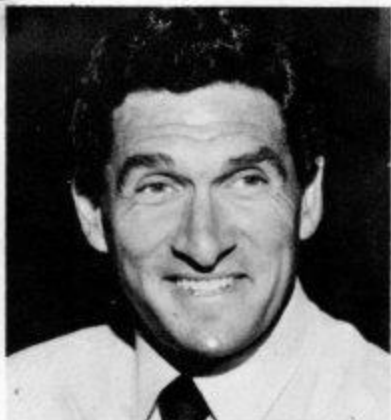


# GILGANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL



9826.

## CENTENARY 1881-1981



### **MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER**

During the past hundred years the Gilgandra Public School has blossomed from a fledgling into a shining example of what today's school should, and can, be.

This school has also been a pioneer in the field of education for the mentally and physically handicapped. Five years ago, it was one of the first schools to welcome handicapped pupils into its fold so that their education could take place in a community atmosphere alongside other children more fortunate than themselves. Thus, Gilgandra has much to be proud of as it reflects on its achievements so far and looks forward to upholding these high standards as it faces an exciting future.

In fact, history tells us that this school is a little older than one hundred years, if we take into account a false start in about 1876.

One teacher and a handful of children formed the first Gilgandra Public School then but closed after only two terms. But that was the only real handicap in the history of the school which re-opened in 1881 and has flourished since that day.

Since then, two new school buildings have been erected on this site; the first in 1913, and the second, six years ago when the first became outworn and outdated.

The wealth of activities planned for Gilgandra Public School Centenary Celebrations reflect the depth of community involvement in this school. The week of festivities marks the culmination of months of effort by the Centenary Committee to ensure that the celebrations live up to the fine reputation which the school has earned in the past one hundred years.

Congratulations! I send you my best wishes for the success of the celebrations and for the future of the school.

**Paul Landa,  
MLC  
Minister for Education**



### **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

For the children enrolled at Gilgandra Public School today a look back one hundred years would feel like a glimpse into "ancient history", but many of those who will join to celebrate the school's centenary it will no doubt feel just like "the day before yesterday".

As people join in happy reminiscing I hope they will remember with affection, the many teachers who have served the Gilgandra community so well through one hundred years of public education in Gilgandra. The record shows that the professional educators who have toiled in Gilgandra schools have been given wonderful community support with the result that girls and boys have been given really outstanding opportunities to learn, to develop, to grow. That so many of them have made so much of those opportunities is a source of great pride and satisfaction to all who have contributed to their education in so many different ways.

May Gilgandra Public School continue to serve its girls and boys in the same outstanding manner in the next one hundred years.

**D. E. Rickard,  
Director of Education  
Western Region**

## CENTENARY

Each century - a passing night,  
Its heroes staunch, soon gone,  
Their triumphs brightly shone;  
Brave ideals taxed their might.  
We, framed in desperate plight,  
Take courage from their vision,  
Fulfil their strong ambition,  
Put daunting fears to flight.  
From forebears and their striving,  
From students of the past,  
Comes a bond so binding -  
Living values we hold fast,  
Temper true our thriving,  
While strength and learning last.

C. K. Acland,  
Principal



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL INSPECTOR

Today Gilgandra honours education — a century of schooling in the town. Its people, old and young, remember and respect the Australian heritage gained in the classrooms, in the homes and in the countryside of Orana's pioneer place.

Education serves the town faithfully, accepting its junior citizens, able and disabled, advantaged and disadvantaged, helping them towards the goals of "Honesty and Courtesy" and "Nothing Without Labour".

Education is proud to be a springboard to progress by offering modern facilities for all to use and enjoy. It is Education's way of returning the salute to gallant Gilgandra.

Charles Doughty,  
District Inspector,  
Orana Central





This photo of the school was taken about 1915, by principal Mr J. D. Simon.

## GILGANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL HISTORY

A formal application for the establishment of a public school at Gilgandra was made on 7th May, 1881 by a local committee, Messrs J. F. Smith (Secretary), G. F. Cox and John Morris. The application was referred to the Chief Inspector on 13th May and approved on the 26th August. Prior to this, on 18th July, the District Inspector, Mr Bridges, recommended that Mr W. C. Kensett be appointed as teacher.

Mr Kensett opened the school on 10th October, 1881, classes being conducted in a cottage rented from Mrs Hannah Morris. Mr Kensett travelled from Wallerawang by coach to take up this position — a distance of 185 miles over very rough roads.

Although 34 pupils were enrolled during the first weeks of operation, attendances were poor. Mr Kensett, in a report made on the 5th November, stated that the low numbers were due to a shortage of furniture and because a number of children were required to assist with shearing.

During November numbers increased considerably and the temporary premises, suitable only for 30 pupils, were considered insufficient. Mr Bridges therefore recommended that a tent, measuring 24 feet by 16 feet be supplied, together with additional furniture.

On 9th February, Mr Kensett reported that the furniture had arrived but that nothing had been heard of the tent. By the 17th February he was able to report that the tent had arrived and was being erected. At the same time Mr Kensett brought up the matter of fencing the school site.

This matter was set aside until the two acre site was finally approved. In addition, a reserve of 20 acres was granted, dedication being completed on 19th October, 1883.

Two of the pupils at the first school were Mr Mayford Morris and Mrs Ruth Martha Mudie.

The contract for the erection of a permanent school building was let to Mr George Shaw. There is no record of the cost of the building but it was completed by 1st April, 1884. After classes had moved to the new building, a request for the use of the tent for church and Sunday School purposes was granted. In 1887 a verandah was added to the classroom, the work being carried out by Mr R. G. Hitchen at a cost of £24/10/-.

In 1888, Mrs Morris' cottage was again leased for use as a teacher's residence, the rental being 10/- per week. It was decided to erect a residence; the contract going to Mr Edwin Davies of Dubbo. This work was reported completed on 1st November, 1889, the cost being £180.

Early in 1890 minor repairs to the schoolroom, fencing and the erection of weather sheds was carried out by Edward Collison at a cost of £66.

In 1895 it was reported that the well in the school grounds was useless. Approval was given for the provision of guttering and two tanks at the cost of £15.

On 18th November, 1895, the local Progress Association complained that the school was too small for the numbers enrolled. The District Inspector reported that he considered the accommodation adequate and the Progress Association was informed of this. However, in 1896 it was decided to make additions to the school building. Mr Percy Soane, of Dubbo, contracted to add 15 feet to the original room which measured 24 feet by 16 feet with an enclosed verandah on the eastern side and an open verandah on the west. In addition he repainted the building and carried out minor repairs, the total cost being £64.

In an attempt to make the buildings more comfortable during the summer months, permission was given in November, 1897, to coat the roofs with "refrigerating paint". This was evidently a reflective paint commonly used at this time. The work was carried out by Richard Hodges of Gilgandra at a cost of £7.

On the 23rd March, 1898, the teacher, Mr Johnston, reported that the enrolment had risen to 80 and requested that an assistant to be appointed. This application was granted and Miss Isabella Vance was appointed to the position in May. Further increases in enrolment meant that further additions were necessary. Therefore, a contract was let to Rigby Brothers of Bathurst for the erection of an additional classroom, together with essential painting and repairs. The contract was completed on 19th September, 1899 at a total cost of £274.

In 1901, Mr Johnston applied for a special living allowance for himself and Miss Vance, reporting as follows:

"The necessities of life are so dear here - fully 50% above Sydney prices - that I find it almost impossible to save any money for future needs."

As Gilgandra was not in the area granted any special allowance, the application was declined.

Early in 1902, Mr John Francis, Chairman of the Local School Board requested that a well be sunk in the school grounds. The request was declined as it was considered that the tanks provided satisfied most demands. In times of water shortage, permission had been given for the purchase of water.

In 1904, discussions began on the suitability of the site and conditions of the buildings. Mr Inspector Kennedy considered that the site was suitable but that building renovations were necessary. In June, the architect inspected the premises and recommended the erection of a new residence. Shortly after this the headmaster moved into a rented cottage.

By 1908 the enrolment of the school had reached 200. As the staff consisted only of the headmaster and two assistants, an additional teacher was urgently needed. Mr F. Vick carried out essential repairs to the school building at a cost of £35. A shortage of accommodation was temporarily relieved by removing a partition in the old residence and using this as a classroom.

In July, 1909, the headmaster, Mr Johnston, moved to a seven-roomed brick residence rented by a Mr Whiteman for £39 per annum. Mr Johnston's replacement, Mr J. D. Simon, decided to build a home of his own and accordingly purchased land next to the school. Agitation for removal of the school to a new site in Waughan and Deri Streets which had been dedicated in 1892. However, in 1911 when approval was given for the erection of a new building, the site chosen was Lot 1 of Section 11, two acres on the corner of Wamboin and Wrigley Streets. This land was purchased from the trustees of the Morris Estate for £350. Tenders were called in 1912 but, as all those received were considered excessive, it was decided to erect the buildings using day labour, the estimated cost being £260. The building, of brick with an iron roof, consisted of four classrooms, assembly hall and offices. New weather sheds and toilet blocks were constructed of weatherboard. The building was completed late in 1913 and occupied on the 22nd December.

It was decided to sell the old buildings, except for the most modern classroom which was to be moved to a new site and renovated for use as a normal training room. Mr S. Gordon carried out this work at a cost of £90 in 1915. The other old buildings were purchased by Mr James Lewis for £86/15/- and the site and reserve handed to the Lands Department.

Mr Simon, a keen gardener, planted a number of shade trees in the new playground soon after occupation. Increasing enrolment meant that the new building was insufficient by 1915, when the assembly hall was put into use as an infant's classroom. Plans for two additional rooms



were drawn in 1915 but it wasn't until 1918 that tenders were called. The work was carried out by Mr A. Hitchcoe at a cost of £1,023, the rooms being ready for occupation in January, 1919.

In 1920, the Parent's and Citizens' Association requested the formation of Intermediate Certificate classes. They were informed that this would be done if twelve pupils, who had obtained the Qualifying Certificate, were willing to remain at school for a further two years. By 1924, about forty pupils were enrolled in Super-Primary classes and the Parent's and Citizens' Association requested that the school be gazetted as a Superior Public School. As it was considered that the educational needs of Gilgandra were met by existing arrangements, the matter was deferred. The classification of the school was reconsidered from time to time and in 1929 it was granted District School status.

Extensive renovations were carried out in 1927 and at the same time electric lighting was installed in the assembly hall, the office and one classroom. Accommodation at the school was not quite satisfactory, except for facilities for the teaching of science. For some time science classes were taught in the manual training room. As this proved unsatisfactory it was decided to offer an alternative subject until funds were available for the erection of a laboratory.

In 1929 the question of a school residence was raised. When Mr Simon left Gilgandra at the end of 1922, the Department declined to buy his home. Later headmasters lived in rented premises, but after the question was raised by the P & C, it was decided to build a residence. A site was purchased from Mr I. R. McManus for £40 and the house erected by S. W. and R. C. Potter of Ryde at a cost of £707, the funds being provided under the Unemployment Relief Act. The residence was occupied early in 1933 with only tanks for water storage. As the cost of connecting the residence to the school windmill would have been prohibitive, an offer from the Church of England was gratefully received. The residence was therefore connected to the mill on adjacent church property, thus ensuring a constant water supply.

During 1934 and 1935, a number of minor repairs and improvements were effected to the school and residence, the total cost being about £115.

In March, 1937, funds were allocated for the erection of a new building to contain a manual training room, science laboratory and staff room. In addition, extensive renovations and ground improvements were carried out and the existing manual training room converted for use as a kindergarten room. All this work was carried out by Messrs Beddie and Brown, of Bathurst, at a cost of £1,555. In addition, the expenditure of £263 was approved for the fitting of fly-proof screens to all rooms.

Repairs and painting affected at the residence in 1938 cost £58 while further improvements to drainage in 1939 cost £33.

The remaining portions of Section 11 were added to the school site in 1937 when Lots 4, 5 and 6 were bought from H. Beveridge, and in 1945

when Lots 7 to 11 were bought from Gordon Christie.

When A. R. Bain came to Gilgandra as Principal in 1950, the school was a two-department Intermediate High School, with combined Primary/Infants and Secondary to 5th year. Both departments continued to grow and in 1952 a separate Infants' Department was created and Miss N. Efremoff (Mrs K. McAllister) was appointed Mistress of the Infants' Department. Increasing numbers over the next few years led to the school being divided into three separate departments, Infants, Primary and Secondary.

In the mid-fifties, strong pressure was brought to bear upon the Education Department to establish a separate High School on a site which had been acquired from the Police Department in 1940. Although these pressures were maintained over the years, it was not until the 1960's that a High School became a reality.

As early as 1950 the old school showed signs of cracking up and year after year repairs (mostly ineffective) were carried out. This led to the eventual demolition of the school in 1973-1974 and the provision of fine, new buildings.

In early 1977 the Department of Education assumed responsibility for the Birralee School for Handicapped children and incorporated this group in the Gilgandra Primary School. This was the first integration of moderately handicapped children within the normal primary school situation in the State. Original numbers were 18, but many of these have since graduated to Westhaven Senior School for secondary education. The numbers now stand at approximately 11.

Mr Dennis McKay, Mrs Ann Irvin (Teachers), and Mrs Lorraine Burrell (Teacher's Aide), first staffed this unit. During 1977, Mrs Lyn Fisher replaced Mrs Irvin, who transferred to Teacher's Aide duties within the Primary School and since 1978, Bill and Margaret Whalan have taught the OF classes.



The school as it is today. This is the front view of a modern complex.



**Students 1915 or 1916:**

Back Row: G. Nelson, E. Mudie, D. Tibbit, R. Tyrrell, G. Varcoe or R. Holswich, G. Lithgow, J. Parslow, J. Rolls.  
 2nd Back Row: R. Ewen, I. Mudie, K. Fitzgerald, D. Humphrey, R. Tyrell, I. Pymble, N. Holswich, J. Smirthwaite,  
 M. Buckridge, E. Cosier.  
 Middle Row: A. Garling, Simon, B. Campbell, L. Hewson, I. Humphries, M. Whittler, E. Beams, C. Campbell, E.  
 Bairstow, N. Rankin, .....  
 2nd Front Row: A. Varcoe, R. Blackall, E. Barwick, M. McDonald, L. Edwards, Perkins or Weaver, G. Astill.  
 Front Row: C. Willis, V. Whiteman, I. Woods.

## MODES OF TRANSPORT

In the very early days of the school most of the pupils walked. The majority of the students wore boots with steel toe caps because of the wear and tear on footwear.

Other modes of transport included bicycles for distances of up to 18 miles (usually only twice a week for that distance); horseback (Una Long recalls that she rode to the Marthaguy siding and then caught a train); horse and sulky (Elva Pagan came 8 miles along the Coonamble Road by this form of transport); and by train - several pupils recall travelling from Eumungerie by goods or passenger train.

Mrs Shirley Habgood (nee McAllister) writes of her war-time experiences as a school girl travelling from Breelong by bike.

Many country children of the war years era did not enjoy the convenience of transportation as today's pupils.

In order to obtain their daily education it meant riding bicycles, sometimes great distances, for some daily and for a great number of children, each weekend to their parent's properties. If the distances were too great, then boarding in town for the week and riding home each weekend was an ordeal confronting many young people and their parents.

The name, Mr William Creenaune, who owned the Saddlery and Bicycle Shop will be still well remembered as being the most patient man in Gilgandra; the number of tyres repaired and pumped up "ready for the road" to get his many customers off home would have been countless. When the rubber shortage was at an all time high, a special permit form, filled in and signed by both the parents and headmaster, entitled the child to acquire tubes and tyres for their bicycle, even after the war the quota system still worked.

Mrs Winsom Miller (Johns), remembers the horse and sulky days: She writes: "Many country children (myself included) drove sulkies or rode horses to school. The unharnessed horses and the sulkies were left in the horse yard. Many brought a nose bag and fed their horses and mostly the horses were rugged in the winter. Whenever there was a storm brewing — be it dust or rain — the teacher would tell the country children to hurry along and get your horses harnessed and get home because there's a storm coming. Very often we didn't get home before the storm struck, so we were either drenched or covered in dust according to the storm. I've seen the dust so thick you couldn't see more than a yard or two and the horse and the sulky would stop and just stand there with his head down and we children huddled in the sulky till the storm passed.

## SCHOOL CANTEEN

A special meeting was held on 7th November, 1968 of both the Parents and Citizen's Association and the Mother's Club, the purpose of the meeting being the formation of a canteen committee. The purpose of the Canteen was to be two-fold:

(a) to provide at a minimum cost balanced and nutritional lunches for the children of the Gilgandra Public School preserving a high standard in the preparation and serving of these lunches.

(b) to help establish better conditions and facilities at the school for the children for the receiving and eating of food.

The canteen was commenced on 24th February, 1969. These standards have been maintained at all times since then and the canteen serves a useful purpose in the life of the school. It is housed in a modern building and relies heavily on volunteer labour to function effectively.

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## PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

This was first formed in March 1917. At the inaugural meeting Mr Alban McLachlan, BA, District Inspector of schools, gave an address touching on the functions of the old school boards and the new organisation which was to take their place. It was on the motion of the first secretary, Mr J. Smirthwaite, that the P & C Association was formed.

Original office bearers were: Patron, Mr Alban McLachlan; President, Mr A. F. Garling; Vice-President, Dr H. Peet and Mr G. Rankin; Secretary, Mr J. Smirthwaite; Treasurer, Mrs G. Rankin.

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## SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council was started in 1978 with the aim to give us pupils a greater involvement in overall school affairs.

Our council achieves alterations and improvements for the school; deciding on donations and changes in conditions for pupils by making suggestions with the School Council Co-ordinator - a member of staff - who, in turn, confers with the Principal. Members of our council are elected at the commencement of each year; one member for each class.

The council meets approximately

once a month (more often if needed) in the lunch hour.

Recent activities include donating a microphone for the audio-visual equipment, organising socials, running cake stalls for IYDP and our own stall for the Centenary celebrations.

The council, through its activities, strives to help and improve the school with practical ideas through pupil thoughts and suggestions.

Members of the School Council  
and Andrew Gillett  
(Co-ordinator)

## A MESSAGE FROM LAGUNA STREET

Laguna Street's association with Gilgandra Primary School spans only a little over ten of your one hundred years but, in that time, many warm and lasting friendships have been forged.

It is with enormous pleasure, therefore, that the Principal, staff, pupils and the entire community of Laguna Street School send you their congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the celebration of your centenary.

We look forward to a continued happy association with your town and school and hope that the exchange visits between our schools will continue well into your second century.



**Des Steen,**

**Principal**

**Laguna Street School**

**Caringbah**

### LAGUNA STREET EXCHANGE VISIT

In 1970 the pupils and staff of Laguna Street decided to invite fifty pupils from a country school in the Western area to share in some of the celebrations for the bi-centenary year. Through the Western area office and the school inspector, Mr A. R. Bain, the invitation found its way to Gilgandra Primary School where acceptance was immediate.

So cordial was the relationship formed, that negotiations were immediately begun to arrange a return visit by Laguna Street to Gilgandra during the third term. This duly took place in November of the same year.

Every second year pupils from 5th and 6th class of Gilgandra Primary School are taken to Laguna Street where they are offered hospitality and shown the sights of Sydney. The following year students from Laguna Street visit Gilgandra and are given a taste of country life with visits to Miniland, Dubbo Zoo and Old Dubbo Gaol, farms etc, high on the list of favourite attractions.

### EMPIRE DAY

This loomed as an important event in the school calendar for many years and most of the older citizens referred to it with fond memories. In the early days of the school, the first half of the day was given over to an assembly, where patriotic songs were sung and the flag was saluted and various oaths of loyalty and poems were recited. Mrs Bensley reports that A. F. Garling gave a tin of boiled lollies and conversation lollies each year and a lolly scramble was held.

From a newspaper report dated 26.5.1905, "A fine School picnic was held on Wednesday (Empire Day). Refreshments were provided by the parents of the children and a most enjoyable day was spent. Part songs and recitations were in the school during the morning. The whole affair was well carried out and Mr Johnson and others deserve every praise for the way in which they worked to make the outing a success".

## GILGANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE 1900's From the memory of Jack Nelson

The school building was a timber frame structure and consisted of two large classrooms and a lobby leading to class rooms all under the one roof. The building was rectangular with the length running in a north-south direction, the largest partitioned area providing three classrooms for 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes whilst the remaining area, running in an east-west direction, providing class areas for 5th and 6th classes. There was a weathershed located to the east of the main building and on the southern end of the playground. My earliest recollection of the teaching staff was that Mr Johnston was the headmaster.

At about this period of my life, which would have been about 1905, I had great difficulty in convincing myself that I should attend school where I was a pupil in 1st class. Our teacher, a man, was thought to be tough and the pupils found it difficult to convince him that it was necessary to be excused to leave our class for the toilet. He also had great skill in throwing pieces of chalk at pupils who become sleepy, inattentive or yawned. He frequently scored a bullseye by lobbing the chalk in the throat of an offender. For these and other reasons I sometimes objected to going off to school; would wag it beside one of the trees; be found by my mother; be punished then and again when I finally got to school.

At about age 7 my parents moved to a farm about 2 miles from Gilgandra to the east and we, my brothers and I, walked to school and crossed the river at a point directly east of the present oval, then the school site.

There were several families on the eastern side of the river - the Marchants, Turveys, Madgwicks, Diggs, Waldens, Gormans, are family names I recall. The Diggs boys, of whom there were three, Charley, Ted and Ray, rode horses and gradually other families provided this form of transport for their children. Later, many graduated to horse-drawn sulkies. Some rode bicycles and sometimes doubled younger brothers or sisters. I recall walking for a fairly lengthy part of my school days. A great treat was to be offered a double on a horse. This was appreciated always but one had to be constantly on guard against slipping off the rump of the horse when the rider charged up the very steep bank of the river.

When the river came down in a fresh and was still fordable by the tall boys, they frequently gave the younger boys a piggy back across the river. One strong, tall boy became very popular when he dropped his charge into the stream.

The river was a constant source of worry and, if running a depth for any length of time, lengthened our journey by about 2 miles as we had to walk to the Bridge Street bridge to cross.

I only vaguely recall the shift from the Oval site to the new school. It

was possible that living in the country I was exempted from some of the tasks that would usually fall to children. I recall however, that we, the boys, spent some afternoons planting trees in the new school grounds and I claim that I planted a gum on the Wamboin Street side which has grown to a massive size. It is, I think, a lemon scented gum. Mr Simon was a great lover of trees and delighted in taking us for walks through bush near the school.

### **FROM THE MEMORY OF A. R. BURRELL**

In the year 1918, I was one of a seven pupil class at the Gilgandra Public School. The building was the portion that has recently been demolished and was situated in the south-east corner of the school block and is now the playground area.

The north-west corner, where some of the school buildings are now, was the horse paddock where the pupils kept their horses and sulkies during the school hours. At that time, in the north-east corner of the present school ground, was the residence of Mr Beveridge, a local solicitor.

The seven pupils were children who had passed the Qualifying Certificate the previous year, and though there was at that time no official advanced class above the upper sixth, Mr Simon the Headmaster, continued on with these pupils and gave them further studies in what was called the Seventh class. This was something greatly appreciated, because we knew it was something that he wasn't obliged to do and did out of his own goodness and consideration for the pupils.

It was fortunate to be one of those seven. I rode in each day from my home at "Thistledown", a distance of seven miles. The First World War was on then. I was not, however, able to finish that year at school. While breaking in a horse I suffered a broken leg in a bucking accident. This effectively finished my school days. But I have fond memories of those months at the Gilgandra school. It was like a new world with so many children of all ages around me. I think about three hundred were attending then and the competition and challenges were so new to what I had encountered in my little country school.

We were Mr Simon's class and in that sense, a little apart from the ordinary programme of the school, having on occasion, lessons during playtime, and little extra attentions that he showed to us. We learned to respect him deeply and enjoyed the privileges of his special care and friendliness.

The other pupils in this class were Wally Fenton, who unfortunately died a couple of years ago but who still has relatives in the town and district; Mrs Minnie Howard, being his sister. Wally started working in the office of the local flour mill when he left school, then went on to Sydney, entering into some commercial life and occupation.

George Lithgow was another pupil, again with relatives still living in



the district. At that time his father had property along the Coonamble Road, ran a dairy and delivered milk to the town. After he left school George worked on the land for a while, then joined the Police Force. He did well, I believe he later became a Police Prosecutor. He died fairly early in life.

Jack Morris belonged to a Gilgandra family and spent his life in the printing and newspaper business. He was well known as a local man and worked many years in the local paper office. His wife, Mrs Bonnie Morris and son John, still live in Gilgandra.

Edna Beames - Her family lived in the Breealong area. Edna is now married to Archie Anderson and they are living in retirement at Buderim, in Queensland.

Ada Mason - I think belonged to a Eumungerie family and possibly came to school by train each day. I think she married a soldier settler in the Balladoran district, named Matthews. All I can find out about her is that she is thought to be dead.

Joyce Rankin - Her father was the manager of the Commercial Bank for many years. After they moved from Gilgandra, I heard nothing of them or met anyone who could give me a clue to their whereabouts.



Third year, 1948: Barry Priddis, Neil Hodgekiss, Brian Long, Malcolm Leslie, Geoff Hiatt, John McGrath, Alan Foran, Ken Wilson, Max Elsom.

John Ferguson, Carlton Richardson, Michael Serisier, Margaret Tomlinson, Dawn Marchant, Dawn Collison, Judith Coomber, Mena Eason, Jan Hunter, Una Irvin, Bob Andrews.

Merle Wakefield, Patsy Palmer, Pat Scholz, Nan Lewis, Janette Weir, Patsy Williams, Judie Mullhall, Margaret Bensley, Iris Wrigley.

Melita Graham, Dot Howard, Janet Brook.

## DISTRICT SCHOOL, GILGANDRA, 1936

A. J. Northey, MBE

I was appointed to the Gilgandra District School on 30th January, 1936, as a teacher of Industrial Arts (or Manual Training as it was then known). I well recall my arrival by motor train via Dubbo — it was a very hot, dry day. By the time I adjusted myself and lodged my luggage at the railway stationmaster's office, there was no sign of any means of transport to the town or school, so I set out on foot. The walk was through paddocks of burrs, as streets were not then well defined. In fact, there were only two sealed streets in the town I later found, Miller Street and Warren Road, and then for short distances only.

En route to the town I enquired directions to the school and by chance happened to be seeking the information from the Methodist Minister, Rev W. Jones. He kindly drove me the rest of the way, and for this I was very thankful.

For the first month, my appointment combined teaching both at Gilgandra and Coonamble, travelling by train to Coonamble on Wednesday morning, and back to Gil on Friday afternoon. In those days, only school principals ran a car.

My commencing salary was £4.16.4 per fortnight. From this I paid board, 25/- per week, and saved hard for a train fare to Sydney for school holidays. Following the first few weeks I settled in and had a very happy three year session in the town. Fortunately, my salary increased when I turned 21.

Initially, boarding accommodation was a problem. Subsequently, I enjoyed boarding with Mrs Jimmy Foran of Myrtle Street, and after she gave up boarders, with Mrs Hilda Smith in Miller Street, Mrs Foran and Mrs Smith provided a real home for me.

The school principal in 1936 was Adam Schuemaker, B.Ec. I well remember him, particularly his fancy for a cream alpaca 'coat', and a starched collar with turned-down peaked corners. He was succeeded in 1937 by Owen Jones, MA, who subsequently became an Inspector of Schools at Broken Hill and later Director of Education, Sydney.

Other fellow teachers I recall over a three year period are Eric Doherty, George Cooney, Rod Anderson, Barbara McLachlan, Ruby Rush, Edith Swain, Nell Dormer (Mrs Alf Anderson), Marj Edwards, Vi Arnold, Dot McLennan (Mrs Doug Horwood), Dot Rayner, Marcia Helms, Dora Riach, Jeff Day.

In 1936 the Headmaster and I constructed an Honour Board, made from old cedar desk tops, measuring as I think about three to four metres by two plus metres. It was built in the old woodwork room, and on completion we found it necessary to remove part of a wall in the old building to get it out. It was mounted at the end of the assembly area inside the old school, now demolished. The first name to appear on it was that of Mollie Withers (now Mrs Mulhearn), and the second name, Ivy Nalder, who is now my wife.

In 1937, a Triangular Sporting Contest was inaugurated between Gilgandra, Coonabarabran and Coonamble schools. I happened to be sportsmaster during 1937 and 1938. In those years we travelled firstly to Coonamble and then to Coonabarabran and the mode of travel was by Ray Diggs' truck — school forms for seats under a tarp cover. Most of the road to Coonamble was blacksoil; that to Coonabarabran corrugated gravel.

School fetes were held at the school; concerts in the Western Monarch Theatre. Headmaster, Owen Jones, brought an innovation with a planned direct giving scheme whereby parents made an annual donation of an amount to support the school, instead of contributing from time to time by support of the fete, raffles, etc.

The scheme kicked off with a ball in the Theatre, with supper in the then newly rebuilt ABC Cafe next door, by courtesy of Mr Manuel Poulos. One ambitious objective was to purchase a radio for the school. In those times the only teaching aids we had were a blackboard and chalk, and a few textbooks. There were no clubs or groups following activities of today in the school.

The Parent's and Citizens' Association was strong and gave good support, President was Mr Eddie Townsend.

Gilgandra, during the time I was there, was a very busy little town. Late night shopping followed a full day of trading on Saturday; Wednesday afternoon was a half holiday for the shopping centre. The Western Stores (Myers), Garlings and Bensleys were the leading retail stores in the main street, with Collisons and Kellehers elsewhere. Balls and dances were held either at the Theatre or the Australian Hall. Tennis was strongly supported, as was the Literary Institute. The Gilgandra Weekly was very popular and Harold and Bena Campbell saw to it that everything was fully reported.



1940 4th Class:

Back Row: Doug Bray, Ray Garlick, Stan Dumbrell, Bill Skinner, .....Lindsay, Colin Jeffries, Keith Dennis, Kevin Herring, Bob Alderman, ..... Ted Copelin, Ivan .....  
 2nd Back Row: Alison Diggs, Lorna Skinner, Joan Irvin, Nola Morris, Collette Easman, Gwen Diggs, Joan Collett, Leila Hitchen, Wanda Dunsmore, Una Mallison.  
 2nd Front Row: Brian Jackson, Henry Eason, Lawrence Smith, Joyce Ferguson, Joy Brook, Greta Paul, Evelyn Dodd, May Clarke, Joan Chivell, Cecil Coxsedg, Don Stevenson.  
 Front Row: Bob Horwood, Ted Mortimer, John Patterson, Ivan Johnson, Bob Brown, Lloyd Smith, Bob Walker, Bill Holland.



Mrs F. Bensley Senior and Mr Will Fisher, the two oldest ex-students, seen at the official opening of the new school.



About 1930 or 1931:

Back row: Peter Beveridge, Bert Gobsall, Harold Barling, Albert March, Rawdon Middleton, John Hay, Jack Stanley, Alf Palmer, Doug Horwood, Jack Bartley, Allan McKellar, Frank Withers, Frank Weston, Leo Ryan, Winston Withers, Dick Frazer.

2nd Back Row: Willy Turner, Marion Fishpool, Olga Weston, Mary Proctor, Winnie Elsom, Eileen Smithers, Edna Lawrence, Joyce Wheaton, Jean Vearing, Eileen Bensley, Mary Leonard, Ida Diggs, Jean Challenge, Margaret Pagan, Flora Miller, Allan Beveridge.

2nd Front Row: Edna Parker, Nell Pagan, Gloria Donnelly, Lois Offner, Edna Conn, Irene Hodge, Jessie Brown, Muriel Smithers, Rita Thompson, Mavis Parker, Doreen Brown, Mena McClure, Mary Fitzgerald, Daphne Hillier, Jean Williams.

Front Row: Doug Haig, Alex Stockings, Alex Ross, , Noel Cornwell, Arthur Bensley, Bernie Bensley, Ossie Middleton, Graham Bartley, Ron Miller, Bill Parker, Ivan Reichelt, Norman Christie.

Written in 1912 by Miss Nytha Simon

as an entry in the

Gilgandra Show

When Oxley discovered the Castlereagh it was in flood. When he reported the land as fertile, settlers came and commenced cattle breeding. They preferred sheep to cattle but as there was no railway, or means of conveyance, or even roads, it cost more to send the wool to Sydney than it was worth, therefore they engaged in cattle rearing. When the railway was brought further west, the settlers sold their cattle, and bought sheep. But when the railway extended further, wheat-growing became profitable. This caused an influx of farmers from southern New South Wales and the other states.

Another factor in the growth of the town was the extensive surrounding forests of cypress pine and iron bark, which the advent of the railway enabled to be profitably worked. The value of the timber industry to this district may be estimated by the fact that for some years, an annual output of 150,000 sleepers was maintained valued at over £300,000 a year. In addition, there were a number of sawmills working, which gave employment to many cutters, teamsters and mill hands, this substantially increased the ready money available for circulation. The falling off of the timber supply by the thinning out of the forests and the longer distances which logs have to be carted has been more than compensated by the larger area put under wheat, and an increasing number of permanent settlers. The consequent increase in business has necessitated the enlargement and the increase in the number of stores and other business places and giving the town the appearance of permanent prosperity and makes the outlook for the future very hopeful.

Already, under the care of the energetic shire council, the roads are being made and metalled. We hope that the streets will be better lighted and planted with shade trees.

In the course of time we wish to have an up-to-date water supply which I am sure will greatly alter the condition of most of our gardens.

Perhaps we shall have garden beds in the park and fountains similar to those in Dubbo and Bathurst. I should also like to see a portion of the park used as a children's playground, with swings and see-saws erected.

It is almost too much to hope for, but if practicable, public swimming baths would add much to the pleasure of residents and visitors.

A nice roomy buildings must be erected for a school of arts and public library to form a social centre where friends may congregate in pleasant reunions.

In a dry climate such as this where there is so much risk of serious outbreak of fire an up-to-date fire station will be necessary with a permanent staff of firemen.

These are a few of the improvements which I foretell must come to a town which is the centre of such a large and flourishing district.

## BACK TO POST WW2 YEARS

From an old copy of the "Gilgandra Weekly" dated Thursday, 7th August, 1947, we have the following school report:

Merit Awards: Awards for week ending 8th August, 1947 in Primary Department- Kindergarten - Sounds, Noel Shields; Modelling, Alan Wagstaff.

First Class - Writing, Doreen Wilson; Dictation, Margaret Holmes; Arithmetic, Deiren Cronson.

Second Class - Reading, Jennifer March, Modelling, Peter Burrell. Tables, Betty Foran and Beverly Lewis.

Third Class - Writing, Doreen Marchant Juile Giddens, Don Jarvis; Drawing, Ian Smith; Dictation, Helen Sandry, Beverly Ferguson, Dorothy Prout.

Fourth Class - Spelling, Ivor Burrell; Arithmetic, John Nelson.

Fifth Class - Credits Race, Helen Pentes 10, Jill Garling 9, Noel Priddle 8; Written Arithmetic, Derek Roberts, Lea Jackson, Judith Kember.

Sixth Class - Mental Arithmetic, Jill Nelson; Improved, Margaret Wrigley; Dictation, Joy Alderman; Improved, Norma Alchin; Written Arithmetic, Cecily Morris, Margaret Wrigley.

House Marching - Macquarie 31½, Bogan 25, Darling 23, Castlereagh 20½.

## SCHOOL CAPTAINS

## BOYS

## GIRLS

1938 Max Stockings	Margaret Hutchison
1939 Roy Alderton	1938 Margaret Hutchison
1940 Charlie Brander	1939 Josephine Adams
1941 Ken Marchant	1940 Jo Adams
1942 Norman Ross	1941 Thelma Mumford
1943 Geoff McAlary	1942 Barbara Long
1944 Ron Irvin	1943 Margaret Fisher
1945 Stuart McKellar	1944 Una Long
1946 Neville Wilson	1945 Ruth Nalder
1947 Robert Horwood	1946 Isobel Howard
1948 Robert Horwood	1947 Gwen Diggs
1949 Walter McGarity	1948 Patricia Foran
1950 Max Elsom	1949 Marie Thomas
1951 Barry Nangle	1950 Dorothy Howard
1952 Doug Diggs	1951 Shirley Laybutt
1953 Doug Diggs	1952 Jill Garling
1954 Wal Foster	1953 Brenda Moore
1955 Graham Weston	1954 Judith Weston
1956 Ken Nelson	1955 Beryl Keen
1957 John Hickmott	1956 Georgina Linklater
1958 Edwin Powter	1957 Una Gardoll
1959 Edward Laybutt	1958 Anne McKinney
1960 Ian Horwood	1959 Margaret Stockings
1961 Geoff McLane	1960 Bron Bales
1962 Errol Flood	1961 Margaret Horwood
1963 Ian Owens	1962 Marie Berry
1964 Peter Hodgeman	1963 Susan Foster
1965 Ian Owens	1964 Kathy Bartley

## EXTRACTS FROM "THE CASTLEREAGH"

20.1.1905 "The Minister for Education does not see his way clear to agree to an extension of the school holidays in country districts on account of the extreme heat. No doubt the scholars and teachers who have remained in the country have not had a very enjoyable recess this year, through the bush fires, so it is a pity that their appeal cannot be granted...."

26.5.1905. lengthy report of a school board meeting held recently in the school room. There were present Messrs J. Francis (Chairman), A. F. Garling, J. Barling, G. B. Stanley. Main points from the report —

"It had become evident", said the chairman, "that many residents were dissatisfied with the low standard of education obtained at the public school. They wanted their children taught something more than an imperfect knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic." After a lengthy discussion, Mr Stanley moved, Mr Barling seconded, that the chairman write to the Minister for Education requesting that this school be declared a Superior Public School.

2.6.1905 — Letter from A. F. Garling criticising report of previous week describing it as "rather one-sided," praised Mr Johnston (the teacher) and added that various official reports show that the children at Gilgandra school have passed very creditable examinations. He went on to say that he found that Mr Johnston imparts a sound, useful education to those capable and desirous of learning.

18.5.1906 — "It was our privilege to have a short chat with School Inspector Kennedy, who was on an official visit to the district during the week. He is a robust type of man, physically and intellectually, with a big fund of sound sense. Just the sort of official you would select to organise a department. He is also refreshingly free from the insufferable pedantry which the dry, lifeless bones of educational formula too often beget".

1.6.1906 — "The Vandal has been at work in Gilgandra, destroying young trees intended to shelter the Public School children from the heat of the summer sun, as well as for ornamental purposes. If the creature who could perpetrate an act of that kind had the power of introspection for about five seconds he would shrivel right up, and then go and commit insecticide.

11.10.1907 — "If the Education Department is not absolutely wanton in its niggardliness, one of the urgent matters that should claim its attention before the sweltering summer heat is upon us, is a verandah round the north and western sides of the classroom of the local school".

5.5.1938 — "Several matters of great interest of residents of Gilgandra and surrounding districts were discussed at a meeting of the P & C Association, held in the District School Assembly Hall on Monday evening. June 1st was selected as the date for the annual school picnic and it was decided to make representation to the Educational Depart-

ment to have a Domestic Science and Science rooms added to the school and also to have the standard of the school raised so that children could continue on to the Leaving Certificate Examination. In an effort to secure essential school equipment, it was also decided to launch an appeal for ?100, the objective being 100 donations of ?1 each.

Mr Jones stressed the advantage that would be obtained from a film slide projector at the school. An illustrated lesson was more real than the spoken lesson. No modern school today was equipped without one. The wireless set was required, particularly for music and French. Mr Jones said that he realised that times were bad, but he thought that surely there were 100 people in the district that could afford to give ?1 each.

### THE HONOUR BOARD

In the Assembly Hall of the original Wrigley Street School hung the Honour Board. When this school was being demolished this Honour Board was taken to the High School for preservation and was hung first of all in the entrance and then moved to the Multi-Purpose Hall where it is now hanging.

This board presents a very interesting historical record. It originated in 1929 when the school was granted District School status. In the centre of the board at the top is a shield on which is mounted a brass plaque.

In January, 1942, the school was granted the status of an Intermediate High School, the first Leaving Certificate candidates having taken that examination in 1940. So Mr Clive Evatt, KC, MLA, the Minister for Education, was invited to come to Gilgandra for a celebration to mark the change of status of our school and to unveil a new plaque that was being fixed to the Honour Board to record the occasion. Evidently, the word "Intermediate" was too long to fit onto the plaque which simply reads "Gilgandra High School". This is a misnomer as the status of "High School" did not become official until 1966, when the High School was officially opened.

The Honour Board records the names of students who gained the best Intermediate Certificate passes, the Dux of the School for each year and the names of the school captains. No provision was made for the best Leaving Certificate pass, but this was really covered in the Dux of School award from 1940 onwards.



## DUX OF THE SCHOOL

1929 Isabel Townsend	1941 Thelma Mudford	1952 Helen Pentes
1930 Leonard Convary	1942 Barbara Long	1953 Gordon Bellenger
1931 Frank Withers	1943 Betty Howard	1954 Walter Foster
1932 Alexander Ross	1944 Enid Lewis	1955 Sonia Porter
1933 Betty Conn	1945 Ruth Nalder	1956 Ken Nelson
1934 Mary Withers	1946 Isabel Howard	1957 Georgina Linklater
1935 Ivy Nalder	1947 Winifred Howard	1958 Edwin Powter
1936 Enid Brown	1948 Robert Horwood	1959 Edward Laybutt
1937 Jessie Wi	1949 Peter Barden	1960 Pat Linklater
1938 Lorna Howard	1950 Judith Coomber and Max Elsom	1961 Patricia Mowatt
1939 Nita Bensley	1951 Shirley Laybutt	1962 Edward Bain
1940 Jo Adams		1963 Jennifer Brain

There is no record of the 1964 or 1965 dux.

## BEST INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE

1925 Elsie Ralph	1945 Lester Hiatt
1926 Suzie Nelson	1946 Jean Wagstaff
1927 Joan Slater	1947 Alan Bellenger
1928 Barry Brown	1948 Geoffrey Hiatt
1929 Robert Smith	1949 Aileen Herring
1930 Edna Parker	1950 Betty Couley
1931 Jessie Brown	1951 Helen Pentes
1932 Alexander Ross	1952 Brenda Moore
1933 Alistair Taylor	1953 Sonia Porter
1934 Mary Withers	1954 Bev Lewis
1935 Isabel Lithgow	1955 Robert Childs
1936 Enid Brown	1956 Edwin Powter
1937 Joy Townsend	1957 Edward Laybutt
1938 Lorna Howard	1958 Geoff Johnston
1939 Dulcie Howard	1959 Patricia Mowatt
1940 Len Hosegood	1960 Susan Beveridge
1941 Leroy Serisier	1961 Jennifer Brain
1942 George Hosegood	1962 Susan Foster
1943 Geraldine Faul	1963 Kathy Bartley
1944 Betty Anderson	

The Intermediate Certificate ended in 1963 and the first School Certificate took place in 1965.



Student group, 1935:

Back Row: Jim Sutton, Len Long, , Ossie Gaynon, , Gware Hitchen, Victoria Wood, Blair Adams, , Alex Law, Jeff Hewitt, Ron Francis, John Hodge, Frank Bartley.

2nd Back: , , , , , Wilk Tibbits, Vic Quayle, Roy Brown, , Tom Harland, , John Serisier, Frank Bensley.

Middle Row: , , , , , Bruce Heiler, Aub. Howard, Bob Smith, , , , ,

Third Row: Betty Whiteman, Elva Pagan, Margaret Vearing, Jean Pagan, Isabel Lithgow, Fred Denard, Meg Davis, Joan Lithgow, Helen Haig, Dorothy Smithers, Dorothy Hodge, Betty Elsom, Marjorie Howard.

Second Front: Ina Earsman, Iris Nalder, May Marchant, Ivy Nalder, Enid Brown, Marjorie Marchant, Frances McClure, , , , , Rene Carter, Ruth Bensley, Phyllis Palmer, Alice Noonan.

Front Row: Mena Collison, Joyce Lithgow, Marion Hughes, , Joy Townsend, Dulcie Cameron, Alice Convary, Elva Looney, Joan Drabsch.



A 1937 classroom scene: Notice the "hands behind back" positions! And the wall decorations!

## HONOUR ROLL OF GILGANDRA DISTRICT

The following ex-students  
served in World War 1:

B. ALSTON	A. NELSON
C. CLARKE	B. NELSON
E. CRAIG	J. NELSON
P. BYRNE	A. LYNNE
H. DALMAIN	C. OWEN
C. DIGGS	V. QUINTON
A. EWAN	J. RUTTER
C. FINN	J. REDDEN
A. FINN	A. McDONALD
N. FARDELL	A. RYAN
H. GARLING	T. RYAN
B. HANNAM	J. REYNOLDS
C. HANNAM	B. SMITH
A. HOWLETT	C. SKINNER
S. HOWLETT	A. LITHGOW
T. HOWLETT	B. LITHGOW
W. HOWLETT	C. TURNER
T. HARRIS	H. TUPPER
C. HOMER	T. TURVEY, MM
J. MORTIMER	F. WALDEN
N. LOVETT, DCM, MM.	M. WALDEN
D. JACKSON	S. WALDEN
A. McDONALD	A. WESTON
R. MARCHANT	D. WILSON
C. MARCHANT	D. WRIGLEY
T. MARCHANT	H. WRIGLEY
H. MARSDEN	T. WHITTON
J. MUDIE	J. McGUIRE
S. JOHNSTON	C. LENNON

### RAWDON MIDDLETON, VC

Rawdon Middleton was post-humously awarded the Victoria Cross for "devotion to duty unsurpassed in the annals of the RAAF. After flying a Stirling bomber over the Alps to Turin, Middleton had his right eye shot out and sustained other wounds from fierce anti-aircraft fire. He flew the damaged bomber back over the Alps through more anti-aircraft fire over the French coast and reached England just as his petrol gave out. After ordering five of his crew to parachute to safety, he landed the Stirling in the sea and was killed."

The following served in World War 2:

B. ADAMS	C. MACH
F. ANDREWS	A. MILGATE
L. ANDREWS	E. E. MUDIE
R. BRAY	M. MORRIS
G. BRAY	S. MONK
A. BENSLEY	J. MONK
B. BENSLEY	A. NOONAN
A. J. BENSLEY	J. McALLISTER
K. BEVERIDGE	K. McALLISTER
D. CHANDLER	A. McKELLAR
E. CHANDLER	H. R. PROUT
A. CHRISTIE	B. PURDEN
J. COPELIN	O. MIDDLETON
C. COPELIN	R. MIDDLETON, VC
B. CATHCART	N. REYNOLDS
G. CAMERON	N. REED
I. CAMERON	L. REED
S. CAMPBELL	R. STANLEY
C. CARRETT	J. STANLEY
K. CARRETT	H. SAYERS
P. CORNWALL	R. SMITH
N. CORNWALL	C. SMITH
L. AMIES	G. SPITTLES
F. AMIES	J. SPITTLES
E. DAWSON	A. SLATER
R. BIGGS	F. SMITH
J. DRABSCH	E. TIBBITTS
J. BARTLEY	W. TIBBITTS
J. EASMAN	P. SERISIER
R. FETHNER	J. SERISIER
A. BEVERIDGE	W. TURNER
M. GAYNON	A. TIERNEY
A. HAPGOOD	W. TOMLINSON
P. HAPGOOD	K. TURVEY
L. HARVEY	R. THORNSBURY
I. HAY	C. WESTON
D. HORWOOD	J. WESTON
C. HORWOOD	W. WESTON
A. HODGE	A. WEAVER
J. HODGE	F. WHITFIELD
G. HAUESLER	J. WILSON
E. HAUESLER	W. J. WILSON
J. DUMBELL	L. WILSON
J. HAY	L. WHEATLEY
R. HURLEY	F. WHITFIELD
L. HURLEY	G. IRWIN
A. GOSPEL	N. McCLURE
D. HAIG	D. McCLURE
C. HAIG	R. JOHNSTON
P. LYNCH	B. W. CREENAUNE
L. LONG	J. CREENAUNE

### Vietnam War:

C. NELSON  
A. NOONAN  
P. LINCOLN

## SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

### Mrs Mrs Nellie McDonnell [nee Boxhall]

In my day there was no High School. Reg Ward and I planted two silky oaks one arbour day, one of which is standing in the corner facing Wrigley Street. How hard we all worked weaving, knitting, etc for the 1914-1918 war soldiers. The first radio to be heard in Gilgandra was demonstrated in a classroom at a demonstration organised by the P & C.

### Bal Dohnt

On the morning that it was announced that World War 2 had ended we went to the school grounds and rang hell out of the school bell.

### Muriel Robards [nee Devine]

I remember a flood - 1920 - which reached the top of the old bridge late at night and then receded. I remember the 'flu epidemic and we all had to wear masks. Also the start of the "Cooee March" from Gilgandra. Vaguely remember the "Breealong Mass-acres".

### Decima Nalder [nee Alderman]

I remember Empire Day. Fred Brook, of the Western Monarch Theatre gave the schools free admission to an afternoon matinee. The pupils would march down, spend an enjoyable afternoon with a bonfire at night.

### Catherin Kember [nee McDonald]

In addition to the responsible position of Headmaster and often teaching two classes (5th and 6th), Mr Simon supervised work done by those of us who, after gaining our Qualifying Certificate, were still too young to leave school (leaving age was 14) and we were encouraged to work in the sewing room at History, Geography, Algebra, Geometry and Religion, and he continued to show great interest in our results in this final period. I realise how fortunate we were to have such a dedicated teacher, as he must have given up a great deal of what probably would have otherwise been his free time, to help us gain as much education as possible under difficult conditions.

I particularly remember, with pleasure, our Nature Study periods as these meant a pleasant outing to Linke's Lane (now Chelmsford Avenue), then a bush track, or a little further on to where the District Hospital now stands, which was heavily timbered with small and large pine trees.

### Peggy Ballard [nee Smithers]

My years at school were in the years of the great depression and the majority of us were extremely poor. There was no attempt made to make us wear school uniform. Most of us wore whatever we had, quite often without shoes. Mr Byrnes was the principal who made the most impression on me. He seemed to me to be a

very just man. He was a returned soldier from the first war and very active in the RSL. I remember when I was quite small that some daring souls among the boys decided that if they let the horses out of the horse yard they would get some time out of school to round them up again. This worked a couple of times and then a stout padlock appeared on the gate and the fun was over.

### William Burrell

One notable event in my school life — Bertie Garbutt cut off Chris Offner's toe with a spade!

### Douglas John Holland

The most notable event in my school days was being chosen to accompany Jack Renshaw on a tour of the different towns around as a Junior Farmer rep.

### George Clarke

I remember the Cooee March; end of World War 1 celebrations on the 11.11.1918; the first aeroplane in Gilgandra in 1918; and a huge flood in the Castlereagh River in 1920.-

### From the memory of Mrs Alfrieda Bensley

Red ink and green ink were supplied but if you wanted purple ink you made it yourself by boiling down prickly pear! On Empire Day there was a school picnic - A. F. Garling gave a tin of boiled lollies and conversation lollies and a lolly scramble was held. We assembled around the flagpole and sang "Soldiers of the Queen", "British Lion", "Advance Australia Fair". Mr Garling also gave a gold brooch every year to the most popular girl and also a present for the boys. Every child got a Christmas card at the end of the year if they didn't get a prize.

I remember a boy called Tom Horan who used to get out of school a lot by pleading sickness. The teacher finally caught on to his little larks and one day sent him on a message to the Principal's wife when he asked to be excused from class on the grounds of feeling sick. He duly delivered the note and was asked to wait a few moments while she prepared the answer. The request? That the boy be given a large spoonful of castor oil to help him recover from his illness. He had to take his medicine and that it proved rather effective — he didn't try to escape school again through feigned illness!

### Mrs Blanche Johnson

Old school grounds were made into a football field. There were no motor cars in the district. The trains were met by Mr Rowley and his 4 horse drawn coach. Mr Campbell also had a coach to Collie. There were gas street lights; no radios — but the town had a good band led by Mr Susser. They played in the main street every Saturday night when the shops were open until nine o'clock.

## DUX OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

1935 Nita Bensley  
1936 Marajorie Brown  
1937 Nonie Barwick  
1938 Paula Highfield  
1939 James Curran  
1940 Stuart McKellar  
1941 Neville Wilson  
1942 Lester Hiatt  
1943 John Morris  
1944 Jennifer Hunter  
1945 Geoffrey Hiatt  
1946 Peter Vaughn  
1947 Geoffrey Small  
1948 Judith Kember  
1949 Ian Burgin  
1950 Lynette Staggs  
1951 Beverley Lewis  
1952 Robert Childs  
1953 Edwin Powter  
1954 Nelda Dallinger  
1955 Janet Simpson  
1956 Jen Dart  
1957 Susan Beveridge

1958 Jennifer Brain  
1959 Denise Gibbons  
1960 Ian Simpson  
1961 Glenys Prout  
1962 Gregory Hodgman  
1963 Patrick Elliott  
1964 Colin Bensley  
1965 Lynette Christie  
1966 Janice Marchant  
1967 Heather Brown  
1968 Katy Beveridge  
1969 Kathy Hutchison  
1970 Helen McCutcheon  
1971 Stephen Greentree  
1972 Stephen Jewell  
1973 Narelle Rodway  
1974 Kim McEwen  
1975 Siobhan O'Connor  
1976 Helen Armytage  
1977 June Jenkins  
1978 Joanne McKenzie  
1979 Samantha Diggs  
1980 Anne Staggs



This picture shows the competitors in a staff v students hockey match in 1934.



Students, about 1907: Back row: , Harry Marsden, Billy Jubb, Vincent O'Brien, .., .....O'Neill, .....O'Neil, .., Charlie Diggs, ..... Billy Alston.  
 2nd Row: Herb Balmaln, Edgar Craig, .....Garbutt, .., Archie McDonald, .., .., .., Dick Hodge, Jim Mudie.  
 Front Row: Jack Nelson, ....., Sam Hitchen, ....., ....., Cleaver Hitchen, Gilbert Mortimer, .....

## THE WAR YEARS

### Recalled by Betty Bartley

I came to Gilgandra to school in 1939 and was at that time in first year. They were very troubled times and before the end of the year the Second World War was to break out. This event was to have considerable effect on our schooling.

Transport was a major difficulty for a lot of students. Most students walked to school, some of them walking four miles a day. Some students came to school by horse and sulky and a special horse yard was provided. This horse yard had many other uses, one of them being for the unofficial initiation ceremonies when new students arrived and the first action was to dip them in the horse trough. This was also a venue for most of the fights as it was cleverly concealed by the woodwork room. Students I can remember coming to school by horse and sulky transport were the Jim Wilson's, Joan, Nita and Eric; the Hector Wilson's, Thelma, Roy and Neville; Betty, Alison and Jean Pagan; Mick and Joyce Christian; Patsy and Erica Morris used to ride horses to school. I think Enid, Laura and Betty Lewis and Barwon Staggs used to ride horses too. The Len Roach family and the Prout's and the Childs used the horse and sulky too. One boy, Ian Craig, came from 6 miles out on the Forest Lodge Road and he rode a bicycle which he had adapted and he had shock absorbers on the front. Len and George Hosegood used to frequently ride bicycles home for the weekends and back again on Monday mornings and stay in town during the week. I think they lived about 18 miles out.

The students we envied most came by train. They never arrived at school before 9.30 am and had to leave again at 2.30 pm to walk to the station to catch a train home again. Most of these students came from around Balladoran, but Eila Moore and her sister came from Mogrigny. It would have been closer to go to Dubbo, but the trains did not run that way at suitable times so they had to come here. Petrol was severely rationed during the war years so cars were not used to bring students to school. Some of the students who came by train were the Dawes family, Ted Morris, Ted and Florence Sutton, Eila Moore and her sister, Helen, and Fay Dohnt, the Bellengers and Shirley Triplett.

We had exchange sports visits to Coonabarabran and Coonamble most years, the mode of transport here being an old covered-in motor lorry with long stools down either side of the table top. Those students unable to get a seat would have to sit flat on the floor the entire journey. The roads were very poor and completely unsealed so this was not very comfortable.

The most outstanding event I remember in 1939 was the opening of the Baths. This took place in October and I remember some of the boys diving and striking the water just as the opening declaration was made.

The War had an effect on our education. Butter, sugar, meat, petrol, clothes were serverely rationed. The scare of bombs over Sydney after the Japanese submarine entered Sydney Harbour caused many parents to send their children to the country for safety. The children who came to Gilgandra for this reason mostly had relatives and/or friends here with whom they stayed. Some of these students were Angela and Carmen Fones and I think their brother, Earle, was with them also; Edward Barrett, Vi Roberts and Pat and Charles Lithgow.

The war made a considerable difference to school routine. These were very sad and anxious times and hardly a student at the school would not have been feeling the effects of having someone fairely close to them in one or other of the armed forces. Hence, we had daily community singing sessions in the Assembly Hall when we sang all the war songs of the day; songs such as "Madamoiselle from Armentieres", "Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag", "Whistle While You Work", and many others.

As Gilgandra is on a direct air route from Sydney to Darwin, we had to take special precautions. At night all houses had to be completely blacked out, windows being covered with sheets of black parchment to make sure no chinks of light shone through. Wardens patrolled the town to enforce these regulations. This was reflected in school routine. The land were Peter Brook, John Barwick and Max Offner now live was vacant land and these blocks were honeycombed with dugout trenches and we frequently had Air Raid drill, when a whistle would blow and we would all race out and dive into these trenches for safety. Every student knew exactly which trench they would have to make for if an Air Raid did take place during school hours.

As a result of the War, many of us undertook courses in first aid. We all had to learn to detect the smells of various poisonous gases which could be used in war activities. This was one of our few excursions into the field of science which was not a subject studied because of the lack of facilities. We studied Botany instead. Other activities undertaken because of the war were knitting for the servicemen and making camouflage nets with a type of shuttle with which we tied knots.

The first students to sit for the Leaving Certificate did so in 1940. These students were Josephine Adams (Mrs Digger Martin), Edna Howard (Mrs Geoff Blackburn), Margaret Hutchison (Mrs John Cruickshank), Nita Bensley (Mrs Phil Meers), and Eila Moore (of whom I've lost track).

Accommodation at the school was not good, many classes being taken under the pepper trees. However, we seemed to a make out fairly well due to the dedication of a small band of teachers. In 1942 George Hosegood gained the distinction of 8 A's in the Intermediate Certificate. He was the only student at Gilgandra who ever did. This of course was a top State pass. The first Honours pass in the Leaving Certificate at



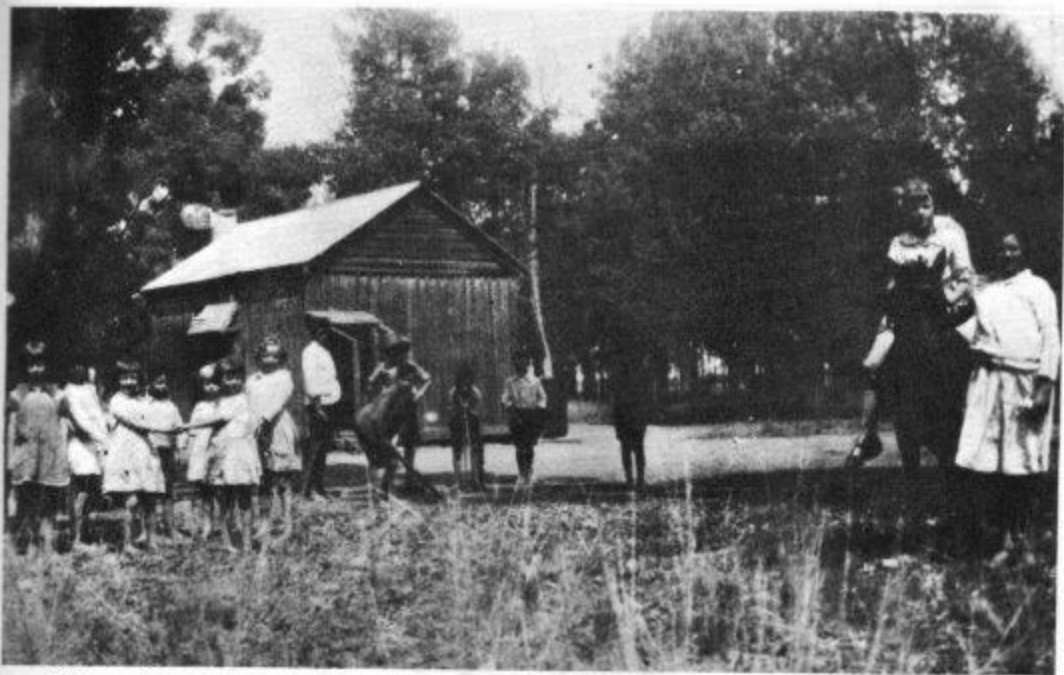
Gilgandra was in Botany in 1943 by myself.

Our school socials took place in the Assembly Hall. Ballroom dancing was taught at school in preparation for these important events. Once a year, and if possible on 23rd April, we had what was called a Shakespeare Night. This took place in the Assembly Hall and there would be several items of extracts from the Shakesperian plays being studied for that particular year. It was an excellent scheme because by the time so much time had been spent practising for this, almost every member of the class, whether you had part or not, knew huge slabs of the play off by heart. This probably accounted for the large number of 'A' passes in English in the Leaving Certificate at that time.

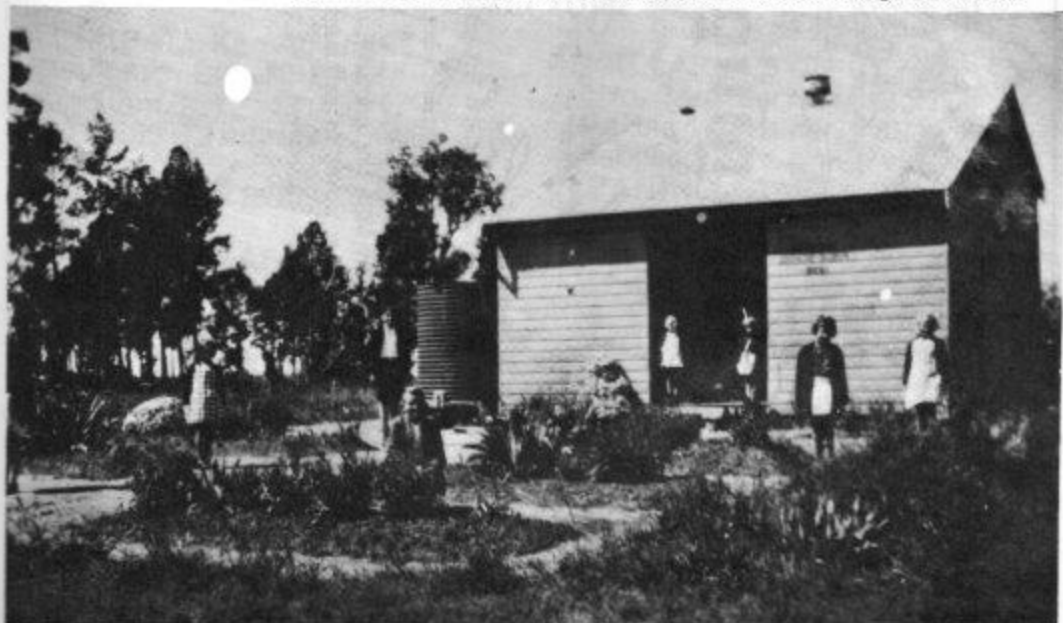
Students were much the same then as now, and liked their little piece of fun. I can remember one occasion when a young and rather volatile member of the teaching staff (male, of course!) became infuriated with one student, Norman Ross. He bore down upon Norman, saying "I think I'll kill you". Norman put up his arms in mock horror and replied, "Please don't. My father's overworked now!" This reply puzzled the teacher who asked, "What's your father's job got to do with it?". "He's the undertaker!" replied Norman.



Emagandry Creek School, about 1915, ready to go home! In the sulky - Alf, Ted and Mae Buck.



This was the "old" Breelong School. You can see there were some budding cricketers amongst the students.



The "new" Breelong School, which in its day, was a great step forward from the building it replaced.

*New South Wales.*



*Department of  
Education.*

# Qualifying Certificate

AWARDED TO

*John F. Morris,*

Pupil of the *Gilgandra* Public School

*This Certificate indicates that the above-named pupil, having completed the Primary School course, is qualified to enter upon a course of higher instruction.*

*P. Board*

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

*Alw. Lachlan*

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

*Dated at Sydney this first day of February, 1918.*



Gilgandra Primary staff in 1981: Back row, l to r Ian Shepherd, Andrew Gillett, Doug Leslie, Rodney Yates, Phillip Thurston, Bill Whalan. Middle row: Chris Gwynne, Jane Underwood, Helen Marson, Rosemary Hassall, Jenny McConnell, Denise Thurston, Irene Hartwich, Jenny Bunn, Ann Irvin. Front row: Lorraine Burrell, Margaret Whalan, Kay Diggs, Norm Kingham, Ken Acland, Di Harrigan, Una Gaff, Marcia Gardiner, Louise Howard.

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY 1981

**PRINCIPAL:** Ken Acland

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL:** Norm Kingham.

**MISTRESS (Infants):** Mrs Di Hannigan.

**DEPUTY MISTRESS:** Mrs Jenny Anderson.

**PRIMARY STAFF:** Mrs Kay Diggs, Andrew Gillett, Chris Gwyn, Mrs Louise Howard, Norm Kingham, Doug Leslie, Miss Jenny McConnell, Ian Shepherd Mrs Denise Thurston, Phillip Thurston, Bill Whalan, Mrs Margaret Whalan.

**INFANTS STAFF:** Mrs Jenny Anderson, Mrs Una Gaff, Mrs Di Hannigan, Mrs Irene Hartwich, Mrs Rosemary Hassall, Miss Helen Marson, Miss Jane Underwood.

**ANCILLARY STAFF:** Mrs Kath Bird, Mrs Lorraine Burrell, Mrs Marcia Gardiner, Mrs Shirley Habgood, Mrs Ann Irvin.

**CLEANING STAFF:** Ray Hughes, Mrs Oriel Barwick, Mrs Gloria Bell, Mrs Margaret Harvey, Mrs Val Offner

**P. & C EXECUTIVE:** President - Mrs Jean Bunter; Secretary - Mrs Bev Ostler; Treasurer - Mrs Margaret Schier.

**MOTHER'S CLUB EXECUTIVE:** President - Mrs Joy Marchant; Secretary - Mrs Rhonda Ferris; Treasurer - Mrs Robyn Ansoul.

**CANTEEN COMMITTEE:** President - Mrs Gwen Bennett; Secretary - Mrs Enid Marchant; Treasurer - Mrs Moira McKenzie.

## DISTRICT SCHOOLS HISTORIES IN BRIEF

### BALLADORAN SCHOOL

The earliest recollections of the Balladoran School date from 1913 and come from Mr and Mrs George McGarity of Gilgandra, who were pupils at one time. The school was a one room, wooden building and at that time approximately 60 pupils attended. Everyone had lessons together in the one room and were taught by one teacher.

Pupils came to school in sulkies, on horseback or walked and great respect was shown to their teachers. One memory of note was a large map of Australia which was cut into the playground and was still there in the 1960's.

Some of the early families to attend included Anderson's, Stockings, Smith, Garbutt, McVicars, Schusters, Hazeltons, Rindflesh. Teachers from that time included Moffatt, Mountford, Middleton, Cameron. The use of the cane was allowed and was the main form of punishment.

Some families attending during the war years and later were Dawes, Bellinger, Mortimer, O'Brien, Scholz, Williams, McLeod, Attenborough, Smith. Teachers for this time were Aldridge, Homebush, Bricknell.

Later memories come from Mr Merv Armstrong who taught in the school from 1952 to 1955. There were 7 pupils attending and to keep the school open more were encouraged to start. In May 1955 there were 23 pupils attending. Teachers after this were Malcom Hordes, Barry Cohen, Keith Smith and the last teacher at the school was Colin Hodder. The school closed its doors in the early 70's and the pupils were transported to Gilgandra Primary School by bus. The building was brought to Gilgandra High School as a temporary accommodation and is still there today.

### CURBAN SCHOOL

From Doug Lummis

The first Curban School was built on a piece of Crown Land on the property where John Bonnington now lives. Old peppercorn trees still mark the location.

In 1931 it was moved by horse and dray to the Curban village. This was a very high piece of land and no known floods had ever reached it. Curban School saw the coming and going of many different teachers and many families passed through its doors. Subjects taught at Curban were mainly Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, History and Geography. If you were lucky, there was half an hour's sport on Friday afternoons. Sports played were rounders, marbles, tennis and cricket.

Some teachers who taught at Curban were Jim Terry, Min Wickham, Jim Samuels, Wilfred Jennings, Bill Lowry, Doug Tate, Joy Champion, Ted Brown, Bruce McAllister, Clyde Frost, Barry Woolridge, Mr McKean, Mr Ford and John Tapscott.

Families who have passed through the doors of this old school were Waltons, Priddles, Marchants, Prots, Guthries, Sturrock, Garbutts, Blairs, Greens, Hassalls, Finleys, Bonnington, Altmans, Chandlers, Bardens, Champions, Gardolls, Herbig, Collisons, Dents, Qun-talls, Hunters, Ryans, Heads, Lummis, Wood, Law, Nalders, Hazletts, Palmers, McKechnies, and Norris.

In 1968 the Curban School closed and was moved to the Gilgandra High School where it still stands.

### EVERTON SCHOOL

Arden Burrell Senior

"Everton" was originally a grazing property of some seven thousand acres in this district that was resumed by the government for closer settlement. Subdivided into smaller areas, it was made available to applicants by ballot in the year 1910. The area is situated on the Collie Road on the north and the Leeches' Creek road on the south. The Marthaguy Creek runs through it on a N.NW course. A number of successful applicants were young men with families and there were enough children to warrant asking for a school, which was granted and erected, with a Public School status. Erected on two acres of ground on the NE corner of W. Burrell's property, "Thistledown", it was opened late in 1911.

The school was in a fairly central position and had a road that had access running along the boundary.

Miss Constance Morris was the first teacher and there were about twenty children assembled on the first day. The first enrolment included Reynolds, Collisons, Richards, Burrells, Aldermans, Baileys. As time went on other children from these families were old enough to attend and a fairly constant average was maintained for the school to keep its status for about 11 years.

The peak was reached with an enrolment of 24 or 25. Outside children came, mostly for short periods from the surrounding areas, or from families working in the district, coming as far as five miles by horse and sulky or by riding. Some of these were the Raglus family, the Wards, children named Smallman working in the area, Gordon Alderman, lived with his aunt at "Hilton", Roy Alderman rode from "Allaway", Joe Stevens from "Weeona", Harry and Ivy Eason from "The Pocket", Phoebe Matthews rode a pony to "Thistledown" and walked, Roberts children walked from "Goodwill", Cedric Horwood attended for a short time, Tom and Jack Robinson from "Windsor", two Jarvis families at different times from "Cornucopia", by pony and horse and sulky, Semmlers from "Bungey", Linkes from "Everton".

All in all it was a happy and peaceful school, during the war years of 1914-1918 we seemed to be bound in a bond of unity and loyalty and often had demonstrations, songs, stories, etc, displaying our loyalty. Empire Day was a day of great importance and such emphasis was placed on it. The school was very saddened when Jack Robinson, an early pupil, was killed during the latter end of the war. Mr Reynolds was a Boer War veteran, which helped spark off the patriotism.

The school was fortunate in the teachers we had, particularly in the first few years. Miss Morris wasn't with us for very long, was loved by the children, she resigned, married a chemist in Grenfell and died a few months after. We were very distressed by the news. Following were Miss O'Connell, Miss Williams, Miss Schneider, Miss Turner, Miss Thomas, Miss Blake and Miss Bailey - the last public school teacher - now Mrs A. R. Burrell.

The school was used for some years after as a subsidised school, Miss Cathcart and Mrs A. R. Burrell being among the teachers. The school building was eventually sold and taken away so that the land is now a wheat field.

## BURAMALONG SCHOOL

Notes supplies by Mrs K. Bunter

The Buramalong School was shifted from Collie, about 1920, onto land now owned by Mr J. Curran, "Bundah". Mr Bert Williams was the teacher from time of opening till its closure in 1929. He boarded at "Alloway" with the Wilson family, whose children attended the school.

Pupils attending were Dick Wilson, Mary Wilson, Beattie Wilson, Rawdon Middleton, Ossie Middleton, Ursula Miller, Lottie Moorland, Sophie Curran, Merran Curran, Roy Barter, Edna Lawrence, Belle Lawrence and three other Miller children whose first names I can't remember.

After closure of the school, Mrs McKenzie was governess and teacher boarding with Mr and Mrs W. Bunter at "Roseview" until a school bus, driven by Mr Fred Grimes, commenced operation, from Collie to Gilgandra Public School.

The school building remained during the depression years and was often used by swagmen to camp in, the swaggies often leaving messages on the blackboard for fellow travellers.

The school building was pulled down and sold during the 1940's, some of the material being purchased by the Curran family and was used in the building of the present "Bundah" woolshed.

On a visit by the school inspector, the class was asked "If a white cow gives white milk, what colour milk does a black cow give?". Ray Bunter very smartly answered "Black milk".

## WILGA GROVE

This was a subsidised school on Bert Rankmore's property of the same name. He built a small building to house the children and the government supplied the equipment. Families attending were the Rankmores and Wheatleys.

The school started in 1934 and closed during the war years. The first teacher was Mrs Rowcliff (before her marriage). Others included Miss Murdoch, Miss Richardson. The actual situation of the school was between Gilgandra and Collie where the old Tucklebung Crossing used to be.

## BREELONG PUBLIC SCHOOL

The first subsidised school was in the paddock belonging to Mr Jim Lewis and now owned by Mr John Mudford. Some of the teachers were Ethel Mudford (Hodgekiss), Catherine Rich, Cath Barling (Garling), Bernice Stanely (Waters), Clarice Mudford (Butler).

Families that attended this school was Rileys, Andersons, Mudfords, McAllisters, Stanleys, Walkers, Cox, Morey.

In 1936, Mr Keith McAllister Snr gave 2 acres of land to the Dept. of Education for a school to be built and a proper school was put up by the Department with Mr Ray Moore being the first teacher, followed by Mr Ray Durham and a Mr Wotherspoon.

During the war, the school was closed and re-opened in with Margaret Lucas and then Ruth Mudford in charge.

It was closed and the building removed to Biddon in 1955 to be used there as a second classroom.

## KICKABIL PUBLIC SCHOOL

By Mrs Erica Craven

Kickabil Public School was built on "Weealla", on land donated by the late William Wheaton, and the timber used in it came from the surrounding properties.

It opened about the time of the First World War and the first teacher was Miss Jennings. However, owing to staffing shortages, it was closed in 1916 and re-opened in 1917 when the writer understands that the teacher was Miss Cheney, later to become Mrs Ralph Edwards. The school closed in 1945 and in 1952 was transported to Gilgandra. Some of the families attending the school were Wheatons, O'Connors, Bennets, Richardsons, Dawes, Pfitzer, Gilmores and Holswich.

The teachers boarded with different families in the district and many of the children came to school on horseback or in a sulky.

## KICKABIL SUBSIDISED SCHOOL

Kickabil Subsidised School was built and paid for by eight families in 1964 on Fred Wheaton's property, "Brooklyn". It opened for lessons at the beginning of the first term in 1965 and operated until the beginning of 1964 when a bus run started around the Kickabil and Balladoran area.

Children attending this school were the Wheatons, Cravens, Wilsons, Cullens, Richardsons, Sladden, Freeths, and Stuarts.

The teachers were Miss Walsh, Miss Houlahan, Miss Parslow, and Miss Dowd. The school, although small in size, was able to win the sports shield several times at the combined school sports held at Eumungerie each year.

## EMAGANDRY CREEK SCHOOL

This school was situated about 9 miles west of Eumungerie on the Old Mill Road. It was originally built to cater for the children of the workers associated with the mill, and closed about 1918. Some of the families to attend this school were Bells, Galleys, Byers, Tripps, Dawsons and Bucks.

One of the teachers, a Miss Gibson, not a noted horse-rider, was given quite a frisky horse to ride 5 miles from her boarding place to school and each afternoon one of the Dawson boys had to ride it up and down the road to take some of the "sting" out of it! Several spills were still experienced by this intrepid teacher in spite of these precautions!

## BUNDIJOE SCHOOL

It was situated near Merliwood and Yungundi on the Bundijoe Creek, on a property owned by Jack Kilfoyle, with materials and timber, etc donated by Paddy McGrane and Charlie Monk Senior following the settlement of the area in 1908-1910. There were some large families with 10 and 11 children in them. The first teacher was Minnie Meares. Some of the families that attended this school were Monks, McGranes, Smallmans, Edwards, Blights and McAnally.

## GLENROY SCHOOL

This was south of Kickabil on the Old Mill Road. The school opened about 1910 with families of Byers, Rolf and Darval Edwards, Bob Bell and the Smallmans, and also the children from the sawmill.

Bob Tuxford was the teacher. Many of these families were employed by the landholders in clearing, etc and

some pupils rotated to schools such as Kickabil, Milpa, Bundijoe, Glenroy, as at times the schools closed because of difficulties in getting teachers.

#### MILPA SCHOOL

This was at Milpa owned by John Warren from 1912-1914 to 1924-25 and was attended by Warrens, Colemans, Smallmans and McMillans.

Teachers were Miss Graham, Miss O'Shea, Miss Gladys Organ. The school was at first subsidised and later provisional. The Warrens went to boarding school in Dubbo, travelling to Balladoran by horse and sulky then by train to Dubbo, where the children were met by agent Claude Salter and family friend, Jack Fitzgerald who conveyed them to the convent making sure they had pocket money!

#### WILLOWBY SCHOOL

This was on Willoby owned by Harry Stockings, 8 km west of Armatree near Bullagreen and North Bullagreen. Children attending were 5 Stockings and 5 Sibbalds. The teacher was Tilly Stockings (Hateley). The school was opened in 1923.

#### GLENALVON OR BRUMMELS SCHOOL

This was near Marthaguy Railway siding on a property owned by Horwoods. The school functioned in the late teens, the teacher being Miss Florrie Smith, later Mrs Colin McKellar (Senator). Children were from the following families: Brummels, Stockings, Hargreaves, Wards and Chapmans. The school as in an iron hut with a firm floor made on rods.

#### RAINVILLE SCHOOL

This was at Rainville owned by the McCarthy's on the Castlereagh River upstream from Breealong and was in a room of the house. Children attending this school were 6 McCarthy's, 3 Clarkes, and 2 Pillons.

Teacher in the twenties was Mrs Iris McCarthy, wife of Don McCarthy. Miss Greta Ford (Lynch) taught in the 1930's.

## HEAD TEACHERS

W. C. Hensett	10.10.1881
Michael Kane	6.6.1883
Frank Lowe	4.1.1886
William Train	5.3.1886
Ambrose Ingle	23.3.1888
Thomas Johnston	21.5.1894
J. D. Simon	8.6.1908
Herbert Warden	17.1.1923
Cecil Slater	15.6.1926
Richard Byrnes	19.12.1929
Adam Schumacher	18.12.1934
Owen Jones	6.12.1937
John Madden	15.2.1940
John O'Connor	6.12.1944
Angus Bain	31.1.1950
Kevin Lane	29.1.1963
Alan Flack	2.2.1965
Robert Busch	27.1.1970
C. Ken Acland	30.1.1973

Longest serving Principal was

J. D. Simon with a total of 15 years.

## NOSTALGIA

BY HORATIO BEVERIDGE

I'd put up with meagre wages,  
 With the hours, daylight to dark,  
 To see again those sunsets,  
 To hear the sheep dogs bark.  
 I'd put up with the flies and the ants,  
 With the dust, heat and glare,  
 To hear again the voices,  
 Of my few staunch friends back there.

Oh! to ride again the dusty track  
 My horse sure-footed and strong  
 As I felt the joy of living  
 As I sang a carefree song.  
 (Printed by permission of the poet)



Getting a more modern look here as we see a 1969 hockey team: Back row, l to r: Mr B. Brennan, coach, Kathie L'Homme, Norelle Hazlett, Kerry Noonan, Chris Oehm, Rayner Pond. Front row: Joan Byrne, Vai Horwood, Dianne Sturt, Jenny Barden, Lin Sturt and Pam Bensley.



With this booklet we've tried to recapture some of the past for you. The reading of this book will surely bring to many of you a feeling of nostalgia as you remember once again the friends of your school days; as names on these pages remind you of your youth, long past for many; there will be many whom you know too have left this earthly sphere and to some this will bring a touch of sadness to your reading.

But to all of you who read this book may there be happiness in the memories thus evoked. May you be able to briefly relive those wonderful days of your schooling and may your nostalgia for those things long-gone and never-to-be-repeated in your lifetime have with it joy and peace.

**Robin Frost,  
For the Centenary Committee**

