

# Bowhill East

The initial request for a school at Bowhill East was made in 1937, but no building was available for rental. Parents were boarding their children so they could obtain education, and be a reasonable travelling distance from a school. In 1937 another application was made, as eleven children were available for schooling and the Noonameena school had been moved further east. This application was successful, but because of the extreme isolation of the area, it was recommended a make teacher be appointed. This was a very changed policy, as in earlier years of Education in the state; the Education Department had no hesitation in the sending of young woman of 19 to 20 years of age to very isolated areas of the state.

The Bowhill East school opened on 30th January 1940.

Teachers who taught at Nunkeri were:	Vernon R East	1940 - 1941
	Gwendoline M Cassidy	January - February 1942
	Oliver R Whittington	1942 March - May
	Arthur W Chiles	1942 - 1945
	R Stewart Hunter	1945 - 1947

Bowhill East school officially closed on February 20th 1948 when the bus run already taking Perponda and Mindiyarra children to Karoonda was extended to accommodate Bowhill East students.

Audrey Kubacak (nee Steinborner) realises now what a shock it must have been for teachers to try to cope with the primitive conditions at the isolated school of Bowhill East. They had no mode of transport except Arthur Chiles who had a bicycle - which was useless on the sandy corrugated roads. The school was near a disused quarry which provided hours of fun for the students. In winter it had tadpoles to catch from the pool of water in the centre. In summer great chasey, catchy games were played racing from one side to the other.

Audrey relates that the highlight of the year was the Sports Day held at Purnong. Bowhill East never won the shield but on several occasions came near the top teams.

The teacher R Stewart Hunter will always be remembered by some of the pupils of Bowhill East. He arranged for their first trip to Adelaide by train from Perponda. Three students who had left school also enjoyed the experience. The twelve children travelled unaccompanied to Adelaide where Mr Hunter met them at the railway station. Three wonderful, exciting days were spent sightseeing, travelling on a tram, being billeted with friends. A memorable experience for all involved.