

Kulkawurra

The new settlers who took up vacant country on the southern part of the Marmon Jabuk around 1926-27 were a long way from Karoonda, and they wanted to have a school and a meeting hall of their own.

The first proposal by residents in 1927 was for the erection of a school on the water reserve at Whyte's Well. This proposal was replaced by another one in 1928 - to build an Institute Hall and rent it to the Education Department. By 1929 the parents were getting disturbed, as their children were growing up without education. In 1929 an Agricultural Bureau was formed with meetings held in settlers' homes. Applications were made for a telephone exchange but the PMG Department would not accept Whyte's Well as a name, so the name Kulkawurra was adopted and the Kulkawurra Progress Association was formed.



This association requested the Education Department provide a portable school building. The Minister of Education approved and after a small area of scrub was cleared, a 20ft by 20ft building was erected.

Kulkawurra School opened on January 28th 1930 with an enrolment of 12.

Teachers who taught at Kulkawurra were:	Violet HD Coates	1930 January - March
	Jane I Ridler	1930 April - May
	Florence EM Whitehead	1930 - 1935
	Gwendoline M Wilson	1935 - 1936
	Garfield Colin Clapp	1936 - 1938 (death)
	Mary Kennedy	1938 August - October
	Yvonne Nicholls	1938 October - November
	Aunger Whitehead	1938 - 1940

Kulkawurra school closed in December 1940 and the school building was transported to Karoonda. It became the Boys' Craft room of Karoonda Area School and is still part of the school.

Kulkawurra Snake Story

One sunny morning in November 1940, the two youngest, both in Grade 2, to finish their reading lesson for the day were allowed on to the verandah to read to each other whilst the teacher concentrated her efforts on her other six students in three grades. The musical element of their young voices obviously had its effect as the youngsters rushed back into the classroom with cries of "snake".

The teacher was petrified, but the oldest student was a strong Mallee girl in Grade 7 who armed herself with the school broom and challenged the reptile to move on, which it did over the doorstep and under the building, but not before receiving two mighty whacks from the broom.

Out of sight, out of mind, school resumed. Several days later a certain aroma made the building uninhabitable. The teacher responded by closing the school and advising parents.

The snake episode convinced parents of a possible cause. One of the students' older brothers and father made a close examination and removed the stench or rather the only snake to have caused a school holiday.



Kulkawurra School 1935
"Christmas Break Up Party"