

Lowaldie

The first building to be erected in the town of Lowaldie was in 1916 and was purchased by Mr Harold Beckman.

It was a stone building 24ft x 12ft - no ceiling and a rubble floor. Later Mr Beckman had to leave Lowaldie because of his wife's ill health. After much negotiating with the Commissioner of Lands and lack of finance, the building was purchased as an Institute. In 1920 a jarrah floor was put down and a concrete hearth in front of the fireplace.

The residents around Lowaldie applied in October 1921 for the opening of a school in the Institute. The request was granted and the school opened with 9 children at the beginning of 1922. However, later in the year one family of four left. By July, the average attendance was 5.7 which was below the required minimum of 6. On August 7th 1922 the teacher Miss Dorothy R Simpson was instructed to close the Lowaldie school on August 11th. This was the only school in the Lowaldie township. Following the closure of this school, there were no schools along or near the railway between Karoonda and Borrika or north until Perponda.

On September 6th 1929 Mr AG Carslake who was farming close to the middle of the triangle formed by Karoonda, Borrika and Perponda, wrote to Mr Malcolm McIntosh MP, stating the obvious need for a school. Eleven children could attend. Some of these children were not receiving any education, some were enrolled with the Correspondence School, three were travelling six miles to Borrika and one was boarding and attending Bowhill School.

Approval was granted. Mr Carslake surrendered two acres of the land he was farming.

A weatherboard portable building 15ft x 15ft was erected and Lowaldie school opened on March 11th 1930.

Teachers who taught at Lowaldie were:

Rita Graham	1930 - 1932
Essie M Chapman	1932 - 1933
Williamina Stevens	1934 January - July
Edna Oliver	1934 July - September
Molly G Lawson	1934 - 1935
Iris E McAdam	1935 July - September
Mary C Miller	1935 - 1936
Lillie M Willmott	1937 - 1938
Hilda F Fray	1939 - 1940
Deborah Grigg	1940 April - May
Marie V Kies	1940 May - December



Lowaldie School (six Hoff children)



Opening of Lowaldie School - 10th March 1930

Lowaldie school closed at the end of 1940 ready for the opening of the Area School. For the first term of 1941 the children travelled by horse transport to Karoonda, but after Borrika closed the bus which picked up Borrika children, picked up Lowaldie children. Lowaldie school was moved into Karoonda to initially become a classroom, but soon afterwards became the library of Karoonda Area School.