

# Marama

Late in 1917 settlers around Marama applied through their local MP for a site for an Institute Hall. This was granted in March 1918. A weatherboard hall 24ft x 16ft was erected. A school opened in the Marama Hall on January 27th 1919 with Miss Constance Polle in charge with an enrolment of 10. The school closed from April 1920 - October 1921 and again for three months up to July 1922. Average attendance grew until it reached a peak of 20.3 in 1929. From 1921 - 1926 five teachers had charge of the school, most staying only a year.



**School Band - Mr Corbett (teacher)**

In 1935 the Education Department built a new portable school building. This classroom was one of the newer 20ft x 20ft size with a porch and shelter area under the main roof. Enrolment was 21 when the decision to build the new school was made. However, average attendance started to decline and in 1943 only 5 children were enrolled on the first school day. Two of them were travelling over 8 miles. Closure of the school was inevitable. Parents fought to keep it open as there were a lot of children under 5 years who would need schooling but the school closed on March 27th 1943. The building was moved to Karoonda in 1948.

In 1953 parents renewed their efforts to get a local school reopened.

Children were being taken to Yurgo to catch a bus to Karoonda, others to catch a bus to Geranium Area School. Both schemes meant too much travelling.

The Education Department was reluctant to open a primary school at Marama as the shortage of teachers was acute. The District Inspector, Mr Albert W Jones (who later became Director General of Education) was aware of the problems for Marama parents and their school age children. He recommended that Marama School be reopened. The Superintendent of Primary Schools was sympathetic to the case but, owing to the shortage of teachers, the school could not reopen until February 9th 1954.



**Marama School  
"Empire Day" 29/5/36**

The Hall was rented for use by the school and the average attendance in 1954 was 9.3. The school closed again in June 1956 but reopened in March 1958. The average attendance that year exceeded 10.

The school was then open continuously until it closed "temporarily" on August 25th 1967. Classes did not resume and Marama school officially closed on December 15th 1967.

Teachers who taught at Marama were:	Constance Polle	1919 - 1920
	Edna Teagle	1921
	Maud R Cornelius	1922
	Faith D Milne	1923
	Gladys G Paech	1924 - 1925
	Thelma MJ Edmondson	1926
	Walter R Ninnes	1927
	John L Gasperino	1928
	Henry I Champness	1929 - 1931
	James W Corbett	1932 - 1937
	John B Selth	1938
	Oliver R Whittington	1939 - 1942
	Katherine M Willington	1943
	Walter R Humphreys	1954 - 1955
	Muriel E Sweetser	1956 (school closed)
	Warren Spencer	1958
	Paul T Vandeppeer	1959
	Robert E Iversen	1960 - 1961
	Robert EF Gross	1962
	Kevin L Hutton	1963 - 1965
	Max A Kitto	1966
	John G Howard	1967