

# Noonameena (later called Mindiyarra)

In 1928 residents in the South West corner of Hundred of Vincent petitioned for a school to be erected on a site six miles from Wynarka and Perponda and seven from Karoonda. However, because it would have been difficult to maintain the average attendance of 6, the Chief Inspector did not recommend the opening of a school.

Later, after the arrival of more children in the area, a further application was made and approved for the erection of a building in the South West corner of Section 58. A portable building 15ft x 15ft was erected. It had three windows, 2 doors and an 800 gallon tank. Noonameena School was opened on February 18th 1929.

A little over 21/2 years later the first move to have the school relocated nearer the Mindiyarra siding was made. Over the years there were several meetings and disagreements among residents regarding the relocation of the school. Finally, approval was granted in 1938 for a new site for the school, in North East corner of Section 58. It was decided to rename the school and give it a new image. So Mindiyarra School opened on September 19th 1938. There had been no school for eight weeks whilst dismantling and rebuilding of the classroom took place.

Teachers who taught at Noonameena were:

Vera Modistach	1929 - 1930
Myrtle Hammond	1930 - 1931
Mary Hodson	1931 - 1932
Edward Edwards	1932 - 1934
Allan Lum	1934 May - December
Julie Warrick	1935 January - May
Iris Murray	1935 - 1936
William O'Brien	1936
Iris Sexton	1937
Arthur Dolling	1937 - 1938

Mindiyarra School	Arthur Dolling	1938 - 1939
	Elsie Amos	1940 - 1941
	L Joyce Currie	1941 - 1942

Mindiyarra school committee was invited to consider closing the school and consolidating with Karoonda during the planning stages of Karoonda Area School in 1940 but they declined.

However, at the end of 1941, the Education Department decided to close both Perponda and Mindiyarra schools and transport the students by bus to Karoonda.

Mindiyarra School closed on April 4th 1942.

The Radloff family of six children - the first pupils at Noonameena School - and other family (Rivett's) maintained the average attendance.

A student of Noonameena, Keith Radloff, still recalls quite vividly the day in 1936, he and his cousin Ray French were awarded an early minute for being obedient. As they both stood up to chant good afternoon to their teacher their desk seat dropped back rather suddenly and dislodged their Quandong stone counters all over the floor.

To their dismay they were both punished, receiving several cuts of the cane which made big welts on the calves of their legs. Their parents were not impressed and both rode on horseback to the school the next morning to voice their disapproval. The boys were in Grade 1.

Keith quotes "Not a happy occasion, but the discipline of those days possibly didn't do us any harm anyway".