

Perponda

The first move to develop a town at Perponda came in 1923 when there was a request for land for an Institute Hall. The residents were aware that the Education Department required a stable attendance before they would erect a building but would supply a teacher if the average attendance was over 6.

There were 13 children of school going age in the vicinity.

On September 11th 1923, Mr WC Packer contact the Education Department. He wanted to make sure the Department would supply a teacher if the community went ahead with the erection of a building.

Allotment 3 of Perponda township was approved for the Perponda Institute. The parents set to work erecting the hall. It was not until April 1924 that Mr Packer could tell the Education Department the building was completed. It was a 30ft by 22 ft building with a wooden ceiling and a jarrah floor. There was a stove for heating and a shelter shed at the back. School opened in the hall on April 28th 1924.

Teachers who taught at Perponda were:	Minetta Ford	1924 - 1925
	George G West	1925 - 1928
	Olive Lloyd	1929 - 1931
	Catherine A Brown	1932 - 1935
	Frank Plummer	1935 - 1936
	Leo P Fogarty	1936 May - December
	Cletus M McEntee	1937 - 1941
	Dorothy F Diprose	1941 - April 1942

Perponda was one of the large one teacher school. In 1934 the average attendance as 24.3.

In 1940 the Perponda school committee was approached about their school being consolidated with Karoonda Area School. On April 7th 1942, Mr Francesco Bassani commenced running the school bus from Perponda to Karoonda, picking up the Mindiyarra children on the way.

Perhaps it was fitting that seeing Mr WC Packer instigated the first application to the Education Department for a school at Perponda, that his son Harold is the owner of several book prizes - all presented for good attendance. On the other hand when one hears stories of boys who did not wish to play football being held over a porcupine bush until they promised to play, or, how when "the" boys were caught smoking Dad Brobble's pipe filled with Yankee Doodle plug tobacco, by a student this student was made to partake of the pipe too, making him quite violently ill, it's not hard to realise why one son did not get awarded good behaviour prizes. The incident of the pipe smoking gained some boys six handers each of the cane.

The teacher Mr George West, after leaving Perponda, became a league football player for Norwood.

Mr Cletus McEntee was also known for his artistry in ball handling and kicking on the football field whilst teaching at Perponda.

Mr McEntee has kept in touch with pupils and friends made, not only in this district but wherever his teaching career took him throughout the years. He has been known to remember birthdays, weddings and attend funerals of acquaintances all over South Australia. It is quite common to hear his name mentioned at reunion gatherings.

Mr McEntee did quite a considerable amount of research for the Karoonda - East Murray History book as well as information of staffing of Karoonda Area School in the early days.

His loyalty to and interest in the well-being of all families he came in contact with during his career must surely be what friendship is all about. A remarkable man, loved by many.