

Pilchera Bore

In 1929 parents living within three miles radius of Pilchera Bore, who between them had 17 children of school going age, signed a petition requesting a school be established on Pilchera Bore Reserve. They stated the next school was 6 miles from the proposed site, and in some cases children travelled 8 to 9 miles to Borrika school. Other children took correspondence lessons, whilst others did not attend any school. Pilchera Bore was 6 1/2 miles south of Sandalwood.

The erection and opening of a school was approved by the Minister of Education on October 21st 1929. A 15ft x 15ft building was erected upon two acres of the reserve. Pilchera Bore school opened on August 26th 1930.

Teachers who taught at Pilchera Bore were:

Lucy E Millard	1930 - 1935
Mavis R Brown	1936 - 1937
CL Sexton	1937 March - April
Pauline Jenkins	1937 - 1939
Julie MJ Warrick	1939 - 1941

The school closed on May 10th 1941 and the children were transported to Karoonda Area School. The classroom remained on the site for several years and in 1945 was moved to another school out of the district.

Betty Fullston (nee Knight) remembers that the only playground equipment at the Pilchera Bore school was a seesaw. There were no flyscreens on the windows or doors. The children used to catch the flies and drown them in their inkwells. Sleepy lizards used to often pop their heads into the school room.

Betty can remember a snake coming in to a lesson but she says everybody screamed and yelled so much, it decided school wasn't for it so it went back out the door again.

Betty wonders if teachers and pupils of today could cope with the hardships encountered in the 1930s.

Keith Grocke recalls how he and Rex Knight would put their horses over hurdles which were in a paddock they rode through to school. Keith's horse *Rhubarb* tripped, threw Keith off and galloped off. When Keith limped home from school without his horse, he was sent to find it. Where was it? Out in the far paddock!

He also remembers how one day one of the boys climbed a tree outside the school boundary and ripped the seat out of his pants. The teacher offered to stitch the pants but the offer was declined. Consequently the lad sat all day and when he had to move he walked backwards. An embarrassing escapade, as this student did not wear any underpants.