

Sandalwood

Sandalwood was the only town along the railways in the district, where the school did not use the local hall at any stage of its history and the only town which had a school before it had a hall. In mid 1919 the Education Department allocated a portable timber school to Sandalwood. The materials for the school came by train, together with a carpenter from the Architect-in-Chief's Department to supervise the erection.

Sandalwood school opened on July 15th 1919 with an enrolment of 18.

Teachers who taught at Sandalwood were:

Auriol Johnson	1919 - 1920
Olive May Lloyd	1921 - stayed 7 years
George Schubert	1931 - 1932
Leo Fogarty	1932 - 1936
Milton Annells	1936 May - December
Leon Quiney	1937 - 1939 (March)
Albert King	1939 April - December
Owen O'Neil	1940 January - May
Jane Burns	1940 December
Paul Kloeden	1941 - 1942
D Hedwig Schulz	1942 July - September
Joan Travers	1942 - 1943
Florence Morgan	1944 February - August

The men teachers appointed to Sandalwood meant that the boys could be given woodwork instruction. A local lady was employed a few hours a week to give the girls sewing lessons.

The portable school became too small in the late 20's. A larger school room of Mt Gambier stone was erected in 1928. The portable building became Lalirra school.

Sandalwood school closed on August 17th 1944 and the students were taken by bus to Halidon.

Local residents requested that the children be enrolled at Karoonda Area School so that the Sandalwood children could have the opportunities of secondary education. A bus commenced transporting the Sandalwood children to Karoonda Area School in 1954.

The school building was used by the Methodist Church in the early 50's. The Education Department sold the building in 1966.

As in all the small schools the students got up to tricks. A goanna lived under the toilet in the school yard. On hot days it would sun itself under the bushes in the yard. The older boys would wait until their lady teacher went to the toilet then they would catch the goanna and direct it into the toilet. This act would send the teacher screaming out the door.

Another student, Doreen Mickan (nee Goodhand) often had to walk home as her horse had the uncanny sense of time and would leave the yard at 4 o'clock regardless of whether its rider was ready or not. The students used to gather their "morning's wood" on the way home from school for the family fire.



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