

# - NARRABURRA PROVISIONAL SCHOOL - 1884 - 1914

## The beginning.....

An application for the establishment of a public school was lodged by Mr Thomas Kite who claimed that he had 30 children nominated from the O'Keefe, Kite, Byron, Payne, Standen and Muir families, to attend the proposed new school. On the 26th July, 1884, Inspector LL Lawford recommended that the school had approximately 25 children confirmed with an average attendance of about 18, which was insufficient for a public school. He further recommended that a provisional school be established at Narraburra, and that residents be informed through Mr Thomas Kite that the Minister would grant them aid to the extent of 57 pounds, when they report that a building has been erected on the selected site, and furnished with a table, chair and bookshelf, that were to be obtained from the surplus stock at Temora Public School.

The Narraburra Provisional School was erected in 1885, on the Narraburra Creek, where the road to Young crosses the creek about 13 miles from Temora.

At its peak in the 1890s, over 20 children attended the school. Miss Morley (pictured below) was a teacher during this time.



NARRABURRA PROVISIONAL SCHOOL C.1890

## The merger.....

By 1898, enrolments had declined, with Chief Inspector Friend ordering the schools at both Narraburra and Willundry, be reduced to form half-time schools, with Mr Alf Phillips acting as teacher, travelling the nine miles between the two sites.

The schools went on to operate successfully in the half-time format, with WH Conroy engaged as the teacher in 1910, then followed James Becks, the teacher in 1913, who noted in a claim for forage allowance that he used a bicycle for travel in fine weather, but during wet weather found it necessary to rent a horse, to travel the 45 miles per week to service both schools.

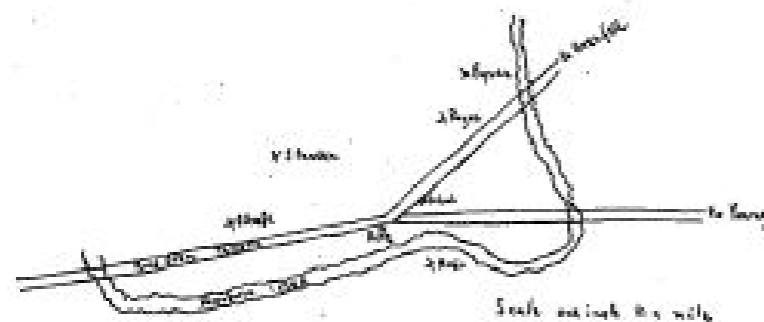


School Teacher - Miss Morley

## The end.....

Around 1914, numbers declined and the school was thought to have been closed, as application for re-opening Narraburra School was declined in March 1915, with students forced to travel to the proposed Provisional School at Narraburra East.

In 1931, it was concluded that the chances were against the site ever being needed for a school at least for a long time to come, as it was only three miles from the recently established Sunnymede School. Accordingly it was ordered that the land be disposed of, with portion 13, of two acres, and portion 75 of 10 acres, in the parish of Narraburra, County of Bland, be returned to Mr GS Noack, under a permissive occupancy.



School location in relation to Farm Houses - c.1884