

Dinga Dingi School

The head teacher, Mr Joseph Kelly, arrived at the school on 2 June, 1886. He found everything locked up, no key and no school furniture. The school furniture was finally sent from Sydney on 18 June 1886, but was lost in transit by the railway, so the exact date of opening is unknown.

Mr Kelly was married while in his first years of teaching at this school. He was well liked by the parents, but apparently not so his assistant, Miss Margaret O'Halloran. In July, 1889, a request, signed by all the parents was sent to Head Office asking for the removal of Miss O'Halloran. This was not granted and she was not shifted until 18 October, 1890, when she was then aged 26 years. Her replacement was Miss Evangeline Frost.

In 1894, Miss Margaret Irving was appointed but she asked for a transfer on 12 March, 1894 stating "that she did not like the people or the place". At the time the assistant teacher was lodging with Mrs Littlewood at Bretton Park, which was about half a mile away. Miss Irving was removed in June, 1894.

On 18 January, 1894 damaged at the school was done to the windows, black boards and a punishment book was torn up. A tap on an outside tank was also damaged, allowing all the school water to run away. Police enquiries were carried out by Constable John L Belgrave of the Stockinbingal Police Station and the repairs were done by Mr Littlewood, the total cost being £1 (\$2).

Miss Violet Hancox was placed in temporary charge on 15 June, 1894 and she asked for a transfer to West Wyalong on 25 July, 1894.

Correspondence was forwarded to the Department on 1 September, 1894, requesting that the department reconsider closing the school. The reason for the low attendance was that the season was excessively wet and the children had been unable to attend. The letter was sent by George Littlewood, Charles Longhurst, John Hull, George Francis, Mrs H Whalen, James Gay and Joseph Stokes.

The building was destroyed by fire on 26 Decemeber, 1894 and was described in the Cootamundra paper on 2 January, 1894 as follows:

"We have been informed of the destruction by fire by the Dingy Provisional School. The building was not a valuable one. We have not ascertained how the fire was caused, but it is thought to have resulted from the carelessness of travellers, who as we have already pointed out, take charge of any unoccupied buildings, whether in the town or country area. A traveller was seen passing along in the evening before the building was found to be destroyed." An inquest was held at the home of Mr Gentle on Dinga Dingi Station, where evidence was given by a boy named Sidney Hull. Constable Belgrave stated "that he had not the slightest doubt that the building was burnt down by some person that does not want the school."

There was feeling within the local community that there was some people in those days that were adverse to compulsory education and some of those people decided to solve the problem by having a bon fire with the school as the guy.

Children who attended the first school were: George Littlewood, Tom Wilson, Annette Wilson, James Wilson, William Wilson, Arthur Wilson, Ernest Hull, Sid Hull, Don Hull, Hercules Hull, Arnold Hull, Alexander Jessup, Donald Frances, Matthew Whalen, Elizabeth Whalen, Mick Whalen, Heneretta Stokes, Elizabeth Stokes, Joe Stokes, Martha Stokes, Lette Stokes, Susie Stokes, John Stokes, William Stokes, George Gay, Agnes Longhurst, Florrie Longhurst, John Longhurst, James Longhurst, William Longhurst, Sarah Sheather, Samuel Sheather, William Sheather, Elsie Sheather, Florance Sheather and Eva Sheather.

After the Dingi School burnt down some of the students attended a school at the property of Charlie Longhurst, "Braidwood". Six of the Longhurst children and three of the Wilson children attended the school. Two of the teachers were Miss Grant and Miss O'Hare.

The Second Dinga Dingi School

The new school was built on a reserve East of Dinga Dingi Station, five miles from Stockinbingal. It was completed in January, 1911. A letter was sent to the President of the Local School Board, Cootamundra, advising that the new school had been completed. It was signed by Thomas Barry, William Hennessy, Patrick Hennessy and Cornwall Reynolds. Two tenders to paint the school were received from Smith and Smith, building contractors, Stockinbingal for £12 (\$24) and Thomas Edward Friend for £10 (\$20), the latter being accepted.

It took until 20 May, 1911 to appoint a teacher, Mr Cyril A Daley, who applied for the repayment of the following expenses; travelling by coach from Eugowra to Canowindra and by train from Canowindra to Stockinbingal, a total of 13s (\$1.30). In March, 1916 with an enrolment of 30 pupils, Mr Daley applied for promotion to enable him to teach 6th and 7th classes. At the time Miss Ida Reynolds was the assistant teacher.

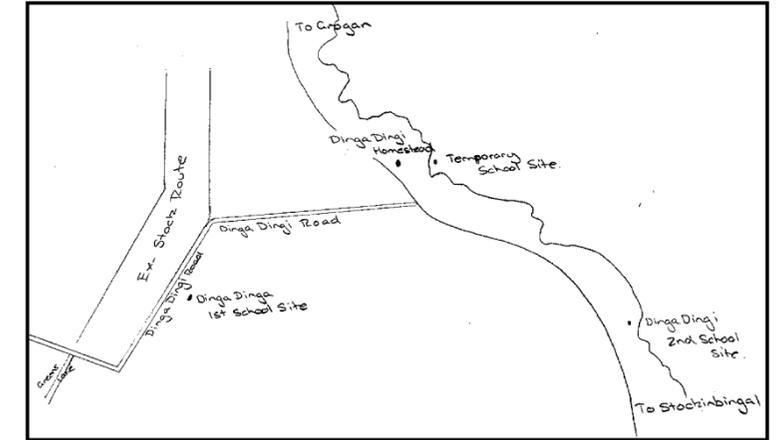
On 4 February, 1918 Miss Reynolds was appointed teacher in charge. She lived at Runnymede and walked to and from school each day (about 1 mile) crossing the Bland Creek over a set of rocks or a fallen tree.

Floods surrounded the school in July, 1920 and it had to be closed for four days. In October, 1920 enrolment totalled 19 by November, 1921, enrolment was down to 14 pupils. In September, 1921 a request from the parents to have the school moved to a more suitable spot on "Yarranvale" was refused.

On 11 November, 1926 the school was broken into and damaged by six young boys aged 12, 13 & 14 years.

Miss Reynolds informed the Department of Education that there would not be enough pupils to warrant re-opening the school after the Christmas holidays and the Department closed the school in December, 1930. The following were pupils at the school when it closed. Bessie O'Brien, Esther Reynolds, Muriel Masters, Hilda Reynolds, Amelda Morton, Jean Reynolds, Greg Morton and Gerald Begley.

Despite protest to retain the building in case it could be reopened, it was sold to Mr HJ Loiterton for £16 (\$32) and shifted to the property "Kyra".



**GEORGE REYNOLDS, JIM MARTIN, CYRIL DALEY (TEACHER),
DOROTHY REYNOLDS, ANNIE GLEDHILL, MARCELLA HENNESSY, IDA
REYNOLDS.
2nd Row: BILL MASTERS, ARTHUR REYNOLDS, MICHAEL HENNESSY,
LAURIE HENNESSY, PAT HENNESSY, MARY HENNESSY, AMY GLEDHILL,
EILEEN HENNESSY, KATH HENNESSY, MAY
3rd Row: JACK HENNESSY, JOE MARTIN, TOM HENNESSY,
STEWART MASTERS, BILL REYNOLDS, ASHLEY HULL, DORRIE
HENNESSY, DOROTHY GLEDHILL, ALMA REYNOLDS.
FRONT ROW: LES HULL, FRANK HENNESSY, WALTER GLEDHILL.**

**DINGA - DINGI SCHOOL
1915.**



**Back Row: THELMA WILSON, DOROTHY GLEDHILL, IDA REYNOLDS-
(teacher), JACK HENNESSY, BILL REYNOLDS, WALTER GLEDHILL,
LESLIE HULL.
Front Row: KATH HENNESSY, OLIVE HULL, IVY WILSON, BILL
BOYD, JACK WILSON, HAROLD GLEDHILL, ALEXANDER BOYD.**

**DINGA - DINGI SCHOOL
APPROX: 1920.**

Panel research by Brian Smith and erected by Combaning/Springdale Heritage Committee April 2014