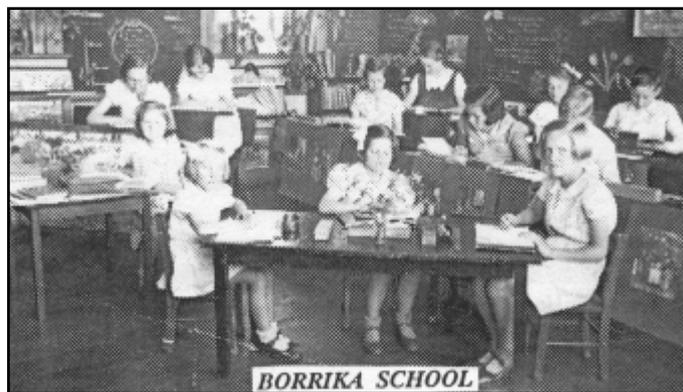


Borrika

At a public meeting called by the Vigilance Committee on March 7th 1914 it was decided to ask the Education Department to open a school at Borrika. The request stated there were 26 children of school going age and 11 more over 4 years who would soon be requiring schooling. The policy of the Department was not to erect buildings in newly settled areas, whose long term suitability for agriculture had not been proven. It was, however, willing to rent a suitable building and supply a teacher if there was no other school within three miles of the building. The community proceeded to erect a building on the gazetted Institute site - a corrugated iron building 30ft x 15ft. It had a ceiling and a fireplace, but the walls were not lined. On January 10th 1915 the Education Department was notified that the building was complete and a description forwarded. However, the reply from the Education Department said the building could not be accepted until it was lined. This was done almost immediately using small fluted iron. The building was then approved and rented by the Education Department. Borrika school opened in this building on March 10th 1915.



In 1926 the Education Department began building a Mount Gambier stone classroom and shelter shed on the area reserved for a school. The school was transferred from the old hall to this new building on March 16th 1927 and school was conducted in this building until Borrika school closed on May 8th 1941.

Borrika school was a one teacher school for all the time it was open - 26 years. Nine teachers taught at Borrika all boarding with local residents.

Teachers who taught at Borrika were:	Walter May	1915 March - September
	Winifred Foster	1915 - 1921
	Dorothy Watt	1922 - 1923
	Eugenie Harris	1924 - 1925
(the first teacher in the new school)	Alexander Stuart	1926 - 1928
	Ellen O'Malley	Sept 1928 - March 1929
	Richard Pitman	1929 - 1930
	George Jackson	1931 - 1934
	Adelaide Galley	1935 - 1941

The new school had a woodwork room and a piano was procured in 1937. A band was formed in 1939.

During the years Borrika school was open, 261 children were enrolled.

Borrika school was regarded as a very advanced school during the years Miss Galley taught there. Miss Galley lived in a caravan parked near the school reserve. For the last few years of its existence Borrika was run as an experimental school adopting the individual progression type of working similar to the methods of progress used in today's teaching.

Some of the pupils who attended Borrika school remember how important the QC was to their lives - and how an independent supervisor was present for the exam which was held in a different school each year. The results were always announced at the school concert. The school concerts were something to remember.

One student who had all of her schooling at Borrika remembers how at recess time the children would look for witchetty grubs and sell them to the train drivers on their way to the Riverland, for pocket money.

Another student remembers how two of them plaited their horses' tails together so they would keep the same pace on their way to and from school.

There was one lesson a week of hand sewing and the girls would complete one full garment in a year.

The horses the children used to ride to school used to be tied under the trees and in summer had to be ridden to the Borrika bore to be given a drink. The girls were told that three falls from a horse was necessary before one qualified as a good rider.



First Borrika School Bus