

# LOOKING BACK..... with Molly



Here we are in 2018 and the beginning of the year heralds the return to school of all our youngsters. It seems a good time to look back on the first schools in the district.

In 1931, just one year after the Walpole land settlement scheme began, there were eighty families in the new district with 128 children. As 74 of these were of school age, the settlers requested the provision of a school. The School Inspector at the time recommended that three schools should be provided and situated a few miles apart. The families were asked to assist with the clearing of the heavily timbered five acre sites.

No 1 School was built on Clarke Road, two miles (3kms) east of the North Walpole Road and two and a half miles (approximately 4kms) from the main camp in the Walpole townsite. It consisted of a relocated school room, a toilet and a playground for the 32 students in attendance.

No 2 School was built on the corner of Chatley and North Walpole Roads, seven miles (11kms) from the main camp. This had a new school room 30ft x 20ft (approximately 10m x 7m) a toilet and a playground for 18 students.

No 3 School was built on the corner of Wedding Brook Road and North Walpole Road and was thirteen miles (approximately 20kms) from the main camp. This catered for 24 students with a school room, a toilet and a playground.

With the completion of the school buildings a request was made to the Minister for Lands for water tanks. Subsequently each school was supplied with iron and tools. Fortunately Jim Snell, a blacksmith in the little settlement, was able to assist the settlers in the building of the tanks. Thus began the education of the children in the Walpole Land Settlement.



Information from '85 years in the Making'. Thanks to Don Burton for providing a photograph of No 1 school.

In coming months, additional details will be forthcoming on each school, as well as information on schools in the Tingledale, Hazelvale and Kentdale Group Settlement areas.