

# HERITAGE SERVICES INFORMATION SHEET NUMBER 19

# WEIR STATE SCHOOL



**The Weir State School was originally known as the Black School because it was painted with creosote.**

On 24 May 1880 a group of eight parents of 22 school age children wrote to the Department of Public Instruction requesting a teacher be provided for a school in the Ross River-Mount Louisa area. With the help of money raised by local subscriptions the Ross River Provisional School was built on land on the banks of Ross River which had been excised from the Camping Reserve. The school opened in April 1881.

Until the 1930s Hervey Range Road and Ross River Road diverged at the school – Ross River Road following along the bank of Ross River inland towards Charters Towers and Hervey Range Road headed west.

### Francis McLauchlan remembers the Weir School in the 1920s:

*"It was just comprised of one room with two lean-tos on either edge and then a rainwater tank for the water. And of course the hooligans used to delight in knocking holes in the tank or turning the tap on and letting the water out."*



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*Eventually, Dad got on the Committee and they had a fete. Well, this fete was talked about for years to come and it was a huge success and from the profit from that fete a well was dug and a windmill was put on and a tank ... and from then on there was no problem with water for the school.*



### **And to get to school from the Kelso area**

*"When we first started school, of course, we used to go double dink Maud and I on a poor old grey pony, he was quiet, that I'll say about him, but he was so old, I think he was thirty odd years old, he was thirty three when he died. We used to ride him to school and the poor old coot stumbled, well of course he'd fall over and we'd fall off. He'd stand there and we'd get back on again. Eventually, of course, we got to the stage where we were to have our own ponies and we used to ride to school and the teacher was a Miss Gleeson."*

The school was acquired by the RAAF during World War II and an airfield constructed outside the school on Ross River Road.

As Weir School expanded in size in the post-war era, new buildings were constructed to replace old ones.

### **Acknowledgements:**

- Underwood J.C. *The History of the Weir State School*, 1981.
- Thuringowa Library Heritage Services Oral History and Photographic Collection