

Willow Grove Primary School
2520
(Formerly Latrobe River State School &
Willow Grove State School)
1883-2023



Moving The School to The Current Site



The school being transported by bullocks past the *General Store*

In 1932, after many years of submissions and public meetings the Education Department finally gave their approval for the Willow Grove State School to be moved to a more central site, the current site.

The renewed persistence of many began in July of 1929, when H.G. Lambert on behalf of the parents requested the removal of the school to a more central site. In August a petition followed.

J. S. Bacon, District Inspector, recommended the school be removed as 37 children would benefit and only 5 would have to go further. The Department initially rejected the proposal.

In November of 1931, A.R. Leckey corresponded with the Department saying the parents were willing to contribute towards the cost of the removal. The Department however wanted the parents to totally fund the operation.

Mr. S. Needham negotiated with the Department for an exchange of land. Allotment 15A became the property of the Education Department in March of 1932.

The Narracan Shire Advocate reported (Fri 10 Mar 1933):

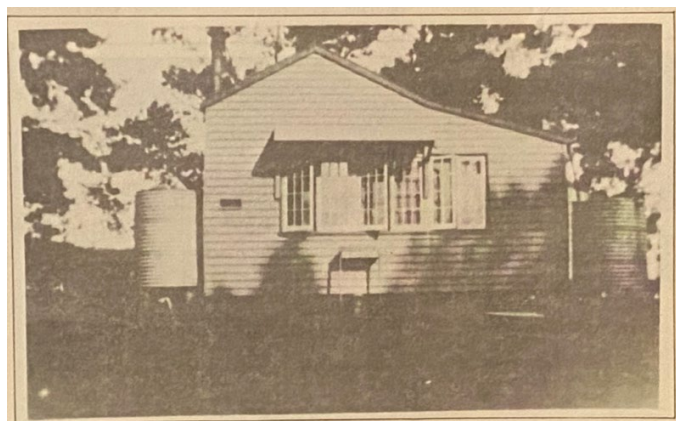
“After many years of agitation, the Willow Grove School is to be removed to the more central site – the corner at which the Trafalgar and Moe roads meet. The site being cleared by working bees, and the contractor is expected to move the school next week. The public works Inspector (Mr Orgell) has recommended the school committee to have a residence attached to the school.”

They applied for the enlargement of the school and the erection of the teacher’s residence in April of 1933. The teacher’s residence wasn’t built until 1949.

In preparation for the transferring of the school A.R. Leckey applied to the Shire for permission to fell any saplings along the roadway that may obstruct the passage of the school building to the new site. Permission was granted.

Contractor Tom McCrorey and bullockies Simeon Kent and his son Albert, assisted by local men, moved the school by bullock team.

After 26 years of trying the school had found its new home.



The school just before it was moved.



The school on the new site.