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WEE WAA

HOME OF AUSTRALIA'S COTTON INDUSTRY

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Wee Waa, Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Wee Waa celebrates 125 years of education

The future is here for Kindergarten pupils at Wee Waa Public School. Kinder kids of 1995 do all the traditional learning exercises - and enjoy themselves while learning on 1995 technology. In the picture, right to left, Emma Rose, Laura Maxwell, Niki Lee Penn and Sophie Burke are using new literacy software "WiggleWords" on their Macintosh 575 computer. Wee Waa is marking the 125th Anniversary of Education in the town this week. When the Kindergarten pupils in the picture perhaps look back to 1995 they will wonder at the "primitive" Mac, as they carry out their HSC studies on computers the size of a paperback book.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The future is here - Kindergarten 1995



Wednesday, November 8, 1995

Wee Waa News

Education in Wee Waa 1870 to 1995



Tom Brown enrolled at Wee Waa Public in January 1947, at the school still on the same site. Tom is pictured outside the 1937 building with current Year 6 students, left to right, Stuart Smith, Tiffany Jackson, Chloe Jackson and Jason Bartz.

Education in Wee Waa now in its 125th year

(by Ian Thompson,
President, Wee Waa His-
torical Society).

Public schooling in Wee Waa had its humble beginnings 125 years ago.

An application for the establishment of a public school was made in March 1869 and in the following year on April 11, 1870, and signed by three local residents John Doherty, Charles Trindall and George Whitton, another application was made.

Twenty-eight children were promised to attend.

Meanwhile a small private school was operating in the township and had been for some time.

Education had not been

considered a high priority among the early settlers.

The average length of schooling of children up to 1861 was a mere two years. Many of the outback children received no formal education at all.

During the 1860's, Narrabri grew rapidly at the expense of Wee Waa.

The population of Wee Waa remained almost static with 100 people at the beginning of 1860 then in 1871 the population was 94 while Narrabri's population had increased to 400. This delayed the establishment of a public school in Wee Waa.

The Council of Educa-
tion decided to assist with

the establishment of a Pro-
visional school at Wee
Waa. From April when the
application had been pro-
cessed there were difficul-
ties in finding a suitable
teacher. Then in Novem-
ber 1870 all the efforts
came to fruition and the
School commenced.

The first permanent
school building was
erected at Wee Waa for
111 points in 1874.

The Council determined

that this building should
be erected on a reserve held
by the Council at the cor-
ner of George and Cowper
Streets (Section 11 - the
site of the present school)
but records show that the
school building was con-

structed on vacant crown
land.

The Provisional School
was raised to Public School
status in 1878, the enrol-
ment was then 38.

The Wee Waa Public
School was accommo-
dated in the original build-
ing area erected in 1874.

It consisted of a school
room 30' x 15' connected
by a common wall to an
attached residence com-
prising three rooms and a
verandah.

In 1884 the Department
erected a new public school
on Section 16 (present
site).

In 1937 a weatherboard
building to accommodate
190 pupils was completed.

Cost was 2,770 pounds.
This building accommo-
dated the secondary pupils
before the new Secondary
school was completed.

In 1939, for 976 pounds,
the present residence was
constructed.

Since then Wee Waa
Public's building and in-
frastructure has grown to
meet the demands of a dy-
namic community.

New classroom accom-
modation has been
matched with the latest
teaching technology.

Active parent support
has brought ongoing im-
provement to the school's
facilities

Education in Wee Waa



Four generations of pupils who attended Wee Waa Public School - Clare Madden, Dorothy O'Brien, Antoinette O'Neill and Shae O'Neill.