

## GOONDARRIN SCHOOL: Further information

Coincidence strikes again! Just after Mrs. Murray's reminiscences on Goondarrin School had gone to press, the Society received from the Department of Education a 258-page publication entitled "Government Schools of New South Wales, 1848-1983," which lists alphabetically every government school of that period, all except subsidised schools which were the responsibility of parents and not regarded as government schools. The book contains an entry for a school at GONDARIN CREEK in the County of Camden which operated between 1885 and 1914, presumably with fluctuating enrolment which caused it to revert to provisional status twice and to close each time in the interim. The official dates of operation are:-

Public School: March 1885 to May 1900.

Provisional School: January 1903 to September 1905.

Public School: October 1905 to December 1912.

Provisional School: October 1913 to May 1914.

Historians will not be surprised at the variation in spelling, quite common for those days. It is highly likely that Gundarun Street, West Wollongong, is yet another variation of the same name.

When the category of Provisional School was first established in 1867 the requirement was for a minimum of 15 pupils, whilst a Public School required 25 pupils. During the 1880s the minimum for a Provisional School was reduced to 12 and in 1898 to 10.

As Gondarin Creek was established initially as a Public School the parents would not have been required to meet part or all of the cost of buildings and furniture as was the practice with Provisional Schools. In both types of school the Department of Education supplied books and equipment and paid the teacher. The main difference would have been in the qualifications of the teacher: "Provisional schools were generally staffed by untrained teachers or by teachers of the lowest classification." (p. 17).