

# HISTORY OF WAMBERAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

*The first school at Wamberal opened on the 11th June, 1877. A schoolhouse was built by William Long on his property and was leased by the Council of Education for 13 pounds per year. Miss Theresa Anna Gleeson was the first teacher. She was a girl from a well known local family. Her descendants still live in Wamberal today. In 1891 a new schoolhouse was built by Alma Charles Watkins for a total cost of 70 pounds, 12 shillings, 3 pence. The site of this school is still designated as Wamberal Public and is on The Entrance Road, Forrester's Beach, directly opposite the new Amusement Park Bowling Centre. This school closed in 1895. During the next five years many efforts were made to have the school re-opened.*



c.1920.

*In 1900 the re-opening of Wamberal School was approved on a new site. A Crown land site in Bellevue Road near the present intersection with Tumbi Umbi Road was set aside, and in 1901 a building was erected by Alfred Ernest Watkins (one of the original pupils). The school opened on 17th May 1901 with Miss Ethel Dent as teacher. In 1915 a school residence was provided and was occupied by the teacher at the time, Mr Paul Nolan.*

*The attendance at the school slowly increased and in 1924 a new building was erected. The teacher at this time was Mr William Hayes. Unfortunately, attendance again gradually declined and in 1947 instructions were issued to close the school at the end of the year. The buildings were moved to Toukley Public School, where they still stand. The present school, located in Lea Avenue, Wamberal opened in 1981.*



c.1924

*It is particularly interesting to note how far the pupils had to walk to school. The Taylor family came 5 miles from their home at the Entrance and Maggie Davis also came 5 miles from her home at Terrigal, where her father, Tom Davis, was a boat builder. Other children came from Tumbi Umbi / Killarney Vale area which at the time was known as Tuggerah Lakes, Wamberall. Three days a week many of the children had to walk to Wamberal Post Office to collect the mail before going home.*



Class of 1918.



Wamberal School c.1942