

By Jenny Davison



# Mabel Creek Station “Schoolie” in 1967

On Sunday, August 28th Historical Society members and friends were given a rare treat, being entertained with hilarious and sometimes touching stories, as well as with photos and songs by Graham McGrath and his wife Jo, in the library.

Graham told us how in 1967, he was appointed to his first teaching position at Mabel Creek Station, a one teacher school, where he, being city born and bred, found everything and everybody totally new and foreign. He was greeted with the expression, “Eh Schoolie!” a name which remained with him that whole year, and is the name of his book written about those early teaching experiences, and later life.

Music became a central part of Graham’s life, starting from his early teaching days when he was taught to play guitar by the stockman at Mabel Creek, Bango Walkington. Years later, with Jo and their two children, their family band performed at functions, and now in retirement, Graham and Jo travel the country, entertaining residents in Nursing Homes, singing favourites from the 50’s and 60’s as well as songs written and arranged by Graham himself.

Graham’s book “Eh Schoolie” will soon be available to buy from Underground Books and will also be in the School Library. In August next year, Graham and Jo are planning to be in Cooper Pedy again when it is hoped that a larger venue can be arranged for a bigger audience.

For the Historical Society, Graham’s photos and information about Mabel Creek were a much appreciated addition to the history that we are presently collecting in preparation for a day trip planned on Sunday September 25th to Mabel Creek Station. Be watching in the next edition of CPRT’s for more details of the Outing.



Graham with a photo of his 1967 class

Photos: Jenny Davison



Enjoying Graham’s stories



Ian Crombie telling about Mabel Creek Station today

## “WILL IT EVER STOP RAINING IN COOPER PEDY?”

By Margaret Mackay

### What can we say about another rain event in Cooper Pedy?

So much rain in one year isn’t really front page news, even though we received a decent soaking on Thursday 1st of September that measured 61.4mm on top of the rain on Mon/Tues (16.6mm) totalling 78 mm for the week.

Not bad if you are able to catch (harvest) this wonderful, nitrogen enriched water and use it on the garden (or the oval). This time round we should spare a thought for the Work’s Department who by now will be planning the road repair process, once again!

Cooper Pedy’s Total rain for 2016 **225.6mm** 40 Day(s)  
 Total rain to this day 2015 **65.2mm** 26 Day(s)

Last week’s downpour 1st September Cooper Pedy’s nearest neighbour Oodnadatta came in at **26mm**

Caroline Thomas from Evelyn Downs Station who sent in some photos of their trip home in the rain that week said, “It’s not often that Cooper Pedy has more rain than Oodnadatta. Will it ever stop raining in Cooper Pedy?” she said.

Although for the whole year Oodnadatta pipped Cooper Pedy at the post by a narrow margin.

Oodnadatta’s Total For 2016 **232.2mm** 44 Day(s)  
 Total To This Day 2015 **81.8mm** 24 Day(s)



Driving home-Evelyn Downs Station



Caught in the rain driving home on Monday 29th August - Evelyn Downs Station



Coming out of Flat’s Drive Cooper Pedy



Potch Gully Road Cooper Pedy 2-9-2016