

Local News

➤ **NORTHVIEW TO SARINA** | Former Mt Pelion school house will be given new life as part of tourist information centre.

Old school building moves on

Centre keen to preserve area history

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ALMOST 100 years old and still "moving".

The old Mt Pelion school building was to have travelled more than 300km to Sarina today on the back of a truck.

Loaded and ready to go, the former single-teacher school building was farewelled by students of Northview State School yesterday.

The historic Queensland-style building was last used by Northview State School as an exhibition building to show students what school was like in the early 1900s.

But Northview State School deputy principal Wendy Ross said the school could not continue to maintain the deteriorating building.

"It became a safety hazard, so we had to keep the students away from it," she said.



MOVING: Northview State School deputy principal Wendy Ross and students Tyler Allen, William Bradford, Jayden Jones, Liam Cochrane and Aaron Powell farewell the old Mt Pelion school building before it heads to Sarina. PHOTOS: DOMINICK CZAKIEW/DAILY MERCURY FILES

The historic building was today being delivered by police escort to Railway Square Sarina, where it will form part of the Sarina Tourist Art and Craft Visitor Information Centre.

Board member Ron Allwood said the Mt Pelion

building would give the registered information centre new character.

"It will be attached to the existing visitor information centre," he said.

"The information centre is the old Sarina watch-house.

"The arts and craft centre

is the old courthouse.

"It's going to be a great complex when it is finished. All staff are looking forward to it."

Keen to preserve history, Mr Allwood said he was glad the old school house could be re-used.



A crowd gathers for the opening of the old Mt Pelion school building after its move to Northview State School in 1998.



"We will give the building new life and put it to good use."

— Ron Allwood

"We will renovate it, of course," he said.

"It needs a bit of work done, we will give the building new life and put it to good use."

"We always tell visitors about the history of our buildings, people are very recep-

tive of that information."

Most people in the Mackay region would have missed the move. Police vehicles were scheduled to escort the house at 3am today to beat the morning traffic.

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