



STEP BACK IN TIME...

with members of the Temora Shire Council Heritage Committee

"Gladstone" homestead 15.8.08

This edition of Step Back in Time features a slice of farming history from the Trungley Hall district.

"Gladstone" was originally part of Thurungley Station before being taken up by Thomas Cameron in 1885.

Some time prior to 1903, Denis O'Keefe purchased the property and commissioned the building of the magnificent homestead.

A story in the "Temora Independent" Wednesday December 13, 1905, reported...

"The new homestead is a fine large brick building, in the bungalow style, and consists of nine rooms, with kitchen, pantry, bathroom and cellar. All the rooms are large and lofty, especially the dining room. The house is entered by a fine large wide hall. All the ceilings are of stamped steel, that of the dining room being of very deep enriched panels (this room was used for Catholic Church servic-

es prior to the opening of Temora's Sacred Heart Church in 1908). All the bedrooms are fitted with built-in wardrobes, the doors of these being fitted with beat-plate mirrors and leaded lights. A 10ft verandah almost surrounds the building. The building is the best and most costly homestead erected to this district."

Mr O'Keefe expressed his pleasure with the excellent way the architect, Mr Henry Laker, and the contractor, Mr Alexander Falconer, had carried out their work.

Henry Laker came to Temora around 1893 where he pursued his architectural profession.

He left numerous local buildings as his legacy, most notably St Paul's Anglican Church and the John Meagher building.

Alexander Falconer arrived in Temora in the late 1890s and followed his trade as a builder and contractor.

There are many fine buildings in

Temora which stand as lasting monuments to his skill and workmanship, including the Westpac Bank and St Paul's Anglican Church.

Prior to Denis O'Keefe's death in 1915, two additional rooms (the maid's quarters) were added to the homestead.

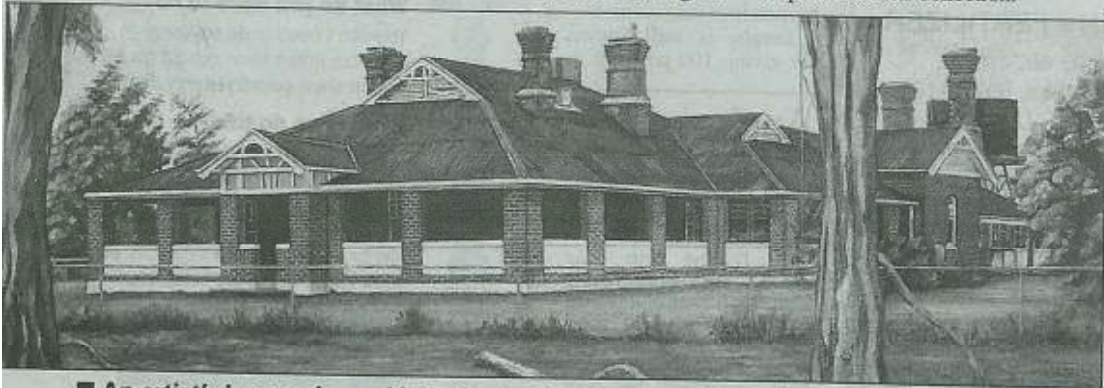
Following his death, the property remained in the name of his estate until 1952, when it was purchased by chaff merchant, Jack Dolden.

He undertook extensive renovations, but never lived in the homestead.

Eric Jones purchased the property in 1955, and farmed it until he sold it to Allan Robinson in 1964.

The property is now run by Allan's son, Glen.

Glen and his wife Tracey have been collecting photos and information about the homestead over the past decade, and are eager to hear from anyone who may be able to help add to their collection.



■ An artist's impression ... Linda Carter-Scott's painting of "Gladstone" homestead