



STEP BACK IN TIME...

19.9.08

with members of the Temora Shire Council Heritage Committee

St Joseph's School

Catholic services can be traced back to the baptism of James and William O'Brien of Gundabindyal Station on October 27, 1847.

Mass was being regularly celebrated by 1880, in a large marquee off Hoskins Street, and it was reported that as many as 2000 men and women had been seen at mass.

"Movement (was) initiated that Temora by Catholic inhabitants to subscribe and collect funds to build a church" (Freemans Journal, Sydney, October 30, 1880).

The church was commenced in 1881, and by August 16, a Catholic school began, with Mr AJ McCarthy and Mrs O'Rourke as the teachers.

The church was used as a temporary classroom, with 160 children in the school in 1881.

On January 11, 1887, Sisters M Evangelist (Superior), Paul, Xavier and Brigit of the Sisters of St Joseph arrived.

Shortly before their arrival, on December 31, 1886, the Temora Presbytery and Convent burnt down.

Insurance from the fire, a successful bazaar and the donation by "Dimmy" Buckley of a nugget "as big as a cup" made it possible to proceed with the laying of the foundation stone of the St Bridgids Convent in October 1887.

On February 19, 1888, a ceremony of blessing and opening of St Bridgids Convent occurred.

In 1895, Father Edward Fallon arrived as the Temora Parish Priest.

He was previously the Goulburn Diocesan administrator and with

"organising tact, business capacity, his subtle power of influencing people for high and noble purposes" he was destined to have a profound influence on the lives of the people of Temora.

During his time the new convent was built, as was St Joseph's school (opening in 1900) and the new church was also erected, with the building commencing on March 19, 1907.

By 1913, increasing enrolments were making it necessary to extend St Josephs and the foundation stone of the extension was laid on April 3, 1913.

By the time Sister Kevin took position at the completed St Joseph's, there were 191 pupils.

By 1930, with school enrolments having risen to 252, with a teaching staff of eight sisters, the need for a new school became obvious.

Fundraising efforts such as Juvenile Ball, Fashion Parade, Queen competition, fete and carnival were carried out.

An appeal was launched by Mrs PF Meagher, MT Farrell and PJ Meagher.

On October 7, 1934 the granite foundation stone of St Anne's was laid and blessed by Bishop Barry.

St Anne's School was opened by Doctor Barry, Bishop of Goulburn on Sunday, May 12, 1935.

The Temora Independent of May 10, 1935, states "There are 10 spacious classrooms, five on each floor, with sitting accommodation for 500 children.

"Three of the classrooms upstairs are to be allocated for the teaching of secondary school work."



■ An image capturing the early days of education at St Joseph's School