



TEMORA'S FIRST BIG FIRE

The fire depicted in the above photograph occurred in the early hours of 5th May, 1923 and was the most devastating conflagration up to that time. It started in Joshua Rosen's drapery store and quickly spread to George Arnold's blacksmith shop and residence, finally consuming O'Brien's Family Hotel. The report by the fire brigade Captain at that time, E.J. Mynott, gives a graphic insight into the problems faced by the brigade in those early days when most of the buildings were of wooden construction and there was no town water supply. The following is the laconic description recorded in the brigade log book.

"Saturday, May 5th, 1923. 1 am - 6 am. Called to a fire at Joshua Rosen's Draper, Hoskins St. Turbine No 48 and two men turned out. Went to Arnold's tank and took, no water. Returned to Arnold's tank and found report incorrect and started engine and worked splendidly, but water gave out at critical moment which caused the loss of Mrs Arnold's residence and O'Brien's Family Hotel. Engine shifted to Star Primary office and exhausted their tank. Again shifted to Railway Hotel tank and only about 600 gallons left which we kept in reserve to save Star Theatre, which we succeeded in doing. Owing to being mislead in the beginning caused all the trouble. 700 feet of hose used. E. J. Mynott, Capt."

Row Martin Research



Picture taken in the late 1920's, was Temora's first petrol driven fire engine, a 1924 Garford pumper.

Back L-R: Boyd Newell, Bill Smith, Harry Dunn, Tom McNamara.
Front L-R: George Giles, R O Wright, Jim Barrett, Ted Goodyer.
Driver Haydon (Banjo) Patterson, Edward (Ted) Mynott (Captain)



23/2/1931

BIG FIRE IN HOSKINS STREET, Three Two-Storey Buildings Destroyed
Including 2 Hotels, 12 Shops and Offices, DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £50,000. The most destructive fire that Temora has known broke out at 2.30 am in the premises of Worrall Bros., drapers, and, spreading both to the north and south, was not stayed till nearly 6 a.m., by which time the Royal Exchange Hotel and Tattersall's Hotel (with their several shops and offices) and also Messrs Worrall Bros.' Drapery store were destroyed.

Temora Fire Brigade

The earliest documented record of the Temora Fire Brigade, on 14th September 1881, details a meeting to form a brigade. Those in attendance were Messers: R. McIntyre, Dale, Gilligan, Gundry, Deitz, Hooke, Ireland, Webster, Summers, Hancock, Head, Collis, Shaw, Johnson, Smith, Griffiths, Rigg, Wehr (Brigade Secretary), A. C. Cameron, T Best and D. Heaton. The first Captain appointed to the brigade was R McIntyre with First Lieutenant Deitz and Second Lieutenant Rigg given control of the "Temora Fire Brigade".

Following a recess, the brigade was reformed in 1897 in response to desperate pleas from the community for it to be re-established. The new brigade was controlled by the Temora Fire Board. The Temora Fire brigade had a further change in its administration when the NSW Board of Fire Commissioners took control on 11th January 1910. This Board served until 1988 when it was succeeded by the NSW Fire Brigades.

The Station has had three known locations over the years. The first was in Hoskins St., when the fire engine (Horse drawn Turbine) was housed in the garage of the Temora Municipal Council building (adjacent to "Paleface Park"). Later the fire engine was relocated to a rented shed in Victoria St. (exact site unknown). The current station was built in 1915. A major extension and upgrade of this site was completed by the crew in 1997.

In 1924 the first petrol driven fire engine was acquired and "Sperry" the famous Brigade horse was retired from active duty. The upgrade proved timely because between 1924 and 1935, Temora had more fires than any other country town in NSW.

The Temora Fire Station currently has twenty active firefighters and three operational fire engines.

This history panel pays tribute to all the firefighters who have served the community of Temora since 1881.

FIRE BELLS AT TEMORA.

In the early days of Temora there were three fire bells located within the town area.


One was located at the fire station, another at the corner of Parkes and Hoskins Streets and one at Newtown.

Gradually the bells at Newtown and Parkes St. were de-commissioned, leaving only the one at the fire station.

The bell at the fire station was replaced by a siren in December 1951.

The rapid clanging of the fire bells, particularly when late at night was a terrifying sound, particularly when the buildings were mainly of timber construction and water difficult to obtain, if it could be obtained at all.

The bell in the photograph is the one that was located at the corner of Parkes and Hoskins Streets.





1950's photo of the Temora Crew
Back L-R: Tim Flint, Vince Lawrence, Richard Haines, Bill Renner
Front L-R: Jim Cooke, Bert Hindmarsh, Jack Leven, Cec Towers
Driver: Bill New



The current Fire Appliance stationed at Temora is a Type 2 Isuzu pumper which was installed on 28 June 2001. The identification number is Pumper 423. Compiled by Greg Matthews to commemorate 100 years under control of the NSW Fire Brigade, 11 January, 2010.



Back L-R: Paul Harmon, Stuart Wiencke, Bill Cross, Michael Mannion, Michael Matthews, Greg Matthews, David Freeman jr, Greg Pickersgill, David Freeman, Mark Cooper, Duncan McCrone, Lindsay Myers, Darryl Harpley.
Front L-R: David Giesch, Peter Harper, Mitchell Liebich, Stephen Steinhardt, Stephen Schmidt, Grant Reid



This Fire Engine is a Dennis Motor number 201 installed at the Temora Fire Station on 17 April 1931. The fire engine was purchased and restored by the Firefighters of the Orange brigade and remains on display in working order at the Orange Fire Station.