

History of the Strand Theatre

Through the early decades of the twentieth century, a weatherboard residence in Hoskins Street, beside the old Municipal Council Chambers, had served as consulting rooms for a succession of local doctors, the last of whom was Dr. Archie McKillop.

On January 31, 1925, local property developer, Peter Calligeros purchased this building for the sum of £1325 and set about redeveloping the site as the Strand Theatre.

On May 7, 1927, the Temora Enterprise reported: "Thanks to the enterprise of the Temora Amusement Company (headed by Mr. Calligeros), our town is now the possessor of a picture theatre which is equal to any other on the southern line..."

On that very evening, the closing credits of "Her Big Adventure", starring Grace Darmond, brought the curtain down for the last time in Temora's "Crown Theatre".

Three days later, on Tuesday, May 10, "Go West", starring Buster Keaton, and "The Call of the Road" with Victor MacLaglan, comprised the first offering of the new "Strand Theatre".

The Independent noted: "The Strand has a frontage of 50ft. to Hoskins Street and extends back 141ft 6in."

It was designed by Mr. Clement Glancy, of Sydney, and built by Mr. A.G. Brown, of Young. There are two shops on the frontage, each 11ft. wide and 22ft. deep. The vestibule is 28ft. wide and 22ft. deep, and on either side is a sloping stairway, with terrazzo treads and 7in. risers of blue Dutch tiles. The big entrance door is of the accordion fashion, with a maple frame and bevelled clear glass. Under each stairway there is a little room -

one containing electric switch gear controlling all the theatre lights excepting those on the stage, and the other housing the dynamo and converter.

(Upstairs) the gallery is 50ft. wide and 36ft. deep, capable of accommodating approximately 200 people. It is splendidly seated, with adjustable chairs...similar to those in use at the Palace Theatre. They...are the last thing in comfort. The gallery seats are terraced, each platform being about 6in. above the floor in front of it. The parapet is about 3ft. high with a top rail of maple, and the plasterwork in front is artistically decorated with plaques of dancing ladies.

The projecting room is of the latest design, and every provision has been made to prevent an outbreak of fire or the spread of one should it occur...The (projectionist) will have a one-slide projecting lantern and two of the latest type silent running machines. Made in Sydney, these are declared by (the Strand's manager), Mr. J.T. Carson, to be 'the best in the world'. A machine for flooding the stage with spotlights is being installed. Among the numerous switches in the projecting room is one which operates the proscenium (stage) curtain...

Looking from the gallery towards the (stage) one is struck with the ornate furnishings." The curtain is of heavy blue poplin, trimmed with gold and carries the initials 'S.T.'. "Plain Grecian columns support the prominent cornices...The proscenium opening is 24ft. wide and 18ft. high and immediately behind it is the picture screen. When this is lifted it discloses the stage setting, including the wings...The picture screen can be instantly lifted and as quickly

replaced if it should ever be necessary to include some vocal or dramatic item or spectacular dance in the program. The windows along both walls are beautifully draped with blue poplin valances and curtains, trimmed and fringed with gold and the side ventilators are covered with ornamental plaster urns...

The ceiling, which takes off from the walls at a height of 24ft. and is carried up another five or 6ft. to the centre, is of fibrous plaster, heavily paneled, with lattice squares...to allow the hot air to go up to the ventilating cowls...

The floor space of the hall is about 96ft. by 50ft., and provides seating accommodation for from 650 to 700 people...The seats are of similar design to those in the gallery, but those in the front part of the hall have wooden backs and are not upholstered...The 13 chairs in the centre are set straight, but on either side there are seven others set at a slight angle so as to give a perfect view of the screen. The orchestra well is commodious and will be surrounded by a rail and curtain. For the present the pianola will be the only instrument used...

There are steel roller shutters on the side of the right hand shop in lieu of windows and these will allow customers a lot of counter room when seeking refreshments...

The verandah in front is of the cantilever pattern and there will be five big lights beneath it and about 90 around it. In addition there will be streamer lights from each of the parapet corners up to the flag-pole, which should be very attractive...

About 270,000 bricks were used in the erection of the theatre...

The Strand Theatre became a pop-



■ The Strand Theatre in Hoskins St contributes to the history of Temora.

ular focus for community entertainment. It was originally built without a 'dress circle' and a decision to add this feature a few years after the theatre opened, saw the entire roof structure raised eight feet and the façade extended to complement the new roofline.

The popularity of the movies soon found The Strand extending its original four evening programs per week to six, plus a Saturday afternoon matinee.

By the 1950s, Les Meale had become manager of the theatre and Mrs. Meale worked with him. Cecil Lynch became projectionist, Herb Dunn and later, Cal Lynch, were employed to put up the large movie posters, Mrs. Russell and then Mrs. Daphne Loiterton, were ticket sellers

and Mrs. Wally Kelly was cleaner. Betty Gozma and Fay Richards were usherettes.

Shirley Temple and Charlie Chaplin were popular stars and Tuesday night became "Cheap Tuesday" when sixpence bought one feature movie, a serial such as "Flash Gordon" and some cartoons. This was also the Saturday matinee format.

The mid 1960s brought television to Temora and by August 1968 the "flicks" were reduced to Saturday night. Within a year, The Strand had closed its doors and "renovations" had begun to convert the once grand theatre into a motor showroom. Much changed, it has since hosted a hardware enterprise and its spacious hall is now home to a discount variety shop.

sport

swimming, basketball, golf

Swimmers make a splash

Temora Swimming Club "Catchers" roster for November 13

Jessica LaTrobe, Joshua Dunn, Thomas Maguire, Sam Hartwig, Ryan Kennedy and Maddison Turner.

Timekeepers roster for November 13

Julie Wynd, Keith Pellow, Jodie Thomas, Jackie Collins, Julie Mills and Deanne Moses.

Pointscore for week three, November 6

12 metres - Victoria Brennan 1, Meg Gerhard 29, Mollie Goesch 13, Hunter Hartwig 31, Isabella Jennings 25, Sidney Jennings 25, Mathew Lennon 14, Edwina Marchant 14, Callum Morton 14, Paddy New 17, Lara Quinn 34, Lleyton Quinn 19, Isaac Turner 18.

25 metres - Jessica Brace 37, Thomas Breust 21, Jemaya Burgess 13, Phoebe Bushell 9, Tom Bushell 8, Olivia Collins 44, Scarlett Denzel 28, Sean Doughty 9, Mikka Drummond 4, Beatrice Drumore 42, Dominic Drumore 39, Aaron Flakelar 4, Duncan Flakelar 8, Lloyd Galloway 12, Emma Gerhard

30, Claire Heinjus 23, Nicholas Horan 40, Hamish Kurtzer 26, Siobhan Kurtzer 50, Lachlan Leary 36, Callum McLaren 40, Zoe McLaren 44, Abby Mills 27, Emmaline Munro 35, Emmison Neven 35, Lleyton Neven 24, Brodie Osborn 45, Maddy Pinney 12, Meg Reinhold 30, Will Reinhold 39, Georgia Thomas 22.

50 metres - Callum Bett 56, Jamie Brace 40, Eliza Brennan 23, Adam Breust 30, Sophie Bushell 13, Savannah Denzel 27, Anastasia Drumore 35, Cecilia Drumore 34, Kathleen Dunn 51, Nic Elwin 37, Brendan Heinjus 18, Wade Kelly 13, Hayley Krause 17, Alex McLaren 38, Jill Mawbey 39, Holly Mills 27, Natalie Moore 37, Tom Morton 32, Beth New 33, Chloe Moses 2, Brad Nixon 8, Sam Olfen 48, Alana Richards 10, Brittany Turner 12.

100 metres - Jada-Lee Bett 20, Nicholas Brace 17, Madison Breust 60, Joshua Dunn 35, Luke Dunn 37, Carly Elwin 36, Joshua Gaylor 2, Charlie Hartwig 44, Sam Hartwig 50, William Hartwig 46, Brayden Kennedy 35, Ryan Kennedy 45,

Taylor Krause 27, Jessica LaTrobe 51, Chelsea Leary 44, Daniel Leary 35, Hayley Maguire 13, Jack Maguire 24, Kaitlin Maguire 47, Tom Maguire 53, Claudia Marchant 41, Glen Mawbey 47, John Mawbey 37, Brianna Morton 32, Darius Neven 38, Adam Nixon 4, Anthea Pellow 5, Hayden Philp 43, Josh Philp 40, Chloe Richards 9, Sam Richards 20, Emma Southwell 35, Jacob Turner 28, Madison Turner 20, Ebony Weeks 29, Jessica Wynd 39.

50 metres no promotions (adults) - Mathew Harmon 3, Paul Kennedy 19, Rodney Kurtzer 2, Michelle Mawbey 8, Stephen Mawbey 25, Naomi Young 14.

200 metres - Josh Dunn 17, Sam Hartwig 20, Paul Kennedy 17, Ryan Kennedy 24, Kaitlin Maguire 23, Tom Maguire 24, Glen Mawbey 11, Stephen Mawbey 15, Sam Olfen 3, Anthea Pellow 1, Hayden Philp 9, Emma Southwell 1.

Relay teams - Avanti 2, HGAC 0, Kung Fu Dragons 2, Limping Turtles 2, Shauneys Crew 2, Water Babes 2.



■ Local golfer, Ian Morris, lines up a putt on the ninth hole during the first round of the Scott Fuller Shield at Temora Golf Club on Sunday.



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