

MARY OF THE CROSS MacKILLOP

Australia's First Saint



SCHOOLS OPENED IN LOCAL AREA

- St John's in 1869
- Bagot's Gap or Fords as we know it, in 1869
- Tarlee in 1870
- Greenock in 1870
- Marrabel in 1870
- Baker's Flat or Kapunda mine area in 1876
- Bagot's Head Station or Koonunga in 1876 as well as Freeling in 1877

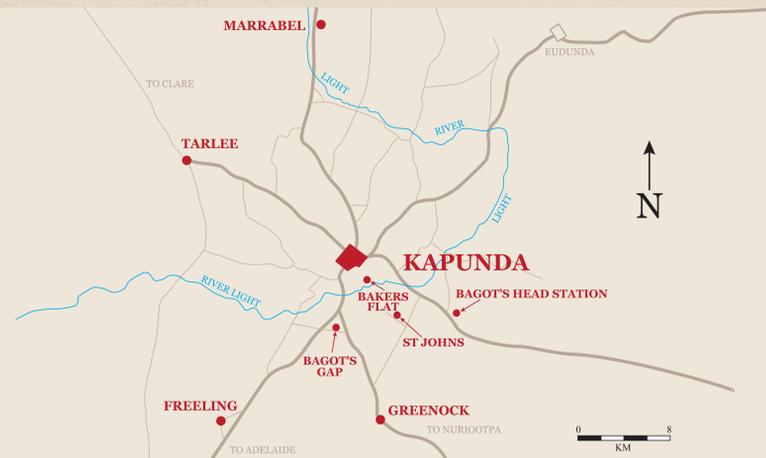
Many of these schools were conducted in the existing churches. Some of these include:

- St Rose, Kapunda
- St John and Paul, Tarlee
- St Agnes, Marrabel
- St Boniface, Greenock.



Josephite School at Bakers Flat, 1878

LOCATION OF ST. JOSEPHITE SCHOOLS



"Never see a need without doing something about it"

quote by Mother Mary MacKillop

All text are excerpts taken from: "Kapunda and the Mary MacKillop Connection" by Peter J Swann (Date: October 2010)

Northern Light Parish

First Parish in SA to be dedicated to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

GIRLS REFORMATORY OPENED 1ST MAY 1897

Mary MacKillop arrived at St John's, with Sister Helena (Mary O'Brien), who had been appointed as Matron and three other sisters, to prepare for the opening of the girl's reformatory. Mary MacKillop stayed at the reformatory, she was there for at least six weeks.

First group of 10 girls arrived 4 June 1897 aged 13-17 years of age.

THE KAPUNDA HERALD - October 1899 (excerpts)

Their work is a labour of love, their sole desire is the very highest welfare of the girls - they desire to train them to a religious, moral, and useful life, to make them an acquisition to the community ...

The work of the girls ... A neatly-kept and well planted vegetable garden ... who trench and dig, lay out beds, and plant seeds, and care for the plants in quite a business-like manner.

The work... taken in turns... having a week at a certain kind of work - in the garden, in the work-room, in the kitchen, or at the washtub, ... In the sewing-room work is done for some of the stores in Kapunda, ... The girls are taught to be scrupulously tidy and methodical, and the training in some respects is superior to that even of the average family.

During its time 85 girls were sent to St John's. The reformatory was closed in November 1909, after 12 years and five months.



St John's Reformatory, 1959

MARY MACKILLOP WALK

Many people had trouble attending Mass at St John's because they had to walk, and this entailed crossing the River Light which had at that time quite a flow of water and was often flooded.

The road from East Terrace, Kapunda, and passing the Kapunda Rifle Range was used by these parishioners going out to St John's for Mass. Later on Mary MacKillop and the Sisters from St John's used it when walking into Kapunda (attending mass at old St Rose's Church).

It has been renamed Mary MacKillop Walk by the local council, as a tribute to her.

Born: 15/1/1842

Died: 8/8/1909

Canonised: 17 October 2010

Feast Day: 8th August

DATES

- 1868-1877 Opened Local Schools
- 1880 Purchased Convent, Hogan Street, Kapunda
- 1894 Withdrew from Kapunda
- 1897-1909 Returned opened St John's Reformatory

HISTORIC ELEMENTS

Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph played a major role in the education of children throughout South Australia.

In 1866 she started her first Catholic School in a stable at Penola. Mary then came to Adelaide and opened the first City school in a hall next to the St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Wakefield Street. Many young and willing helpers came to help Mary by joining the Sisters of St Joseph and this resulted in Schools being opened in country areas, the first of these was at Yankalilla.

INVOLVEMENT & INFLUENCE ON OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

On 20th January 1868 they started teaching in the old St Rose's Church, with 100 children on the roll, soon this increased to 190. A large school room was built in 1885 on the site of the present St Rose's Hall.

Although Mary MacKillop herself did not teach at these schools, she regularly visited to check on their progress.