

### BRIEF TIMELINE – TEMPE SCHOOLS

Information has been taken from the booklet *A History of Tempe Public School* by B. Leaney (2003), plus newspaper articles and documents kept in the Tempe High School Library.

A substantial file of photographs, documents and clippings on the history of the schools (Tempe High School and Tempe Public School) is stored at Tempe High School library – contact Ms Kim Salisbury.

Date	Event
1874	Tempe Public School, a stone building, including teacher's residence, opened on the site of the present high school. Sir Henry Parkes was in attendance. By the end of the year, there were 90 students.
1875	Drill teacher, singing master and pupil-teacher appointed – now over 100 students.
1882	Classified as a fifth class school – sewing classes two afternoons a week.
1885	Temporary wooden building completed to cater for increased enrolments (235, although attendance was only shown as 161).
1888	Despite poverty increased by brick makers' strike, enrolments increased; additional pupil-teacher employed in infants' department.
1891	Additional land added to the school site.
1894	New classroom in infants' department for the now 392 enrolments (288 attendance).
1903	By now there were 602 pupils, with accommodation for only 430.
1904	Additional land was acquired on the opposite side (eastern side) of Unwin's Bridge Road, as well as a part of Brooklyn Street.
1908	New two-storey building was erected on the new site; the infants' department remained on the original site (west of Unwin's Bridge Road), while the remainder of the students were housed in the new building.
1910	Separate Girls' Department established. By now, there were domestic science and technical subjects. An evening school was opened as well this year, for those working as apprentices during the day. This closed later in the year due to poor attendance. Gas replaced kerosene lamps.
1913	School's status was raised to that of Superior School.
1914	An evening course started for students going for exams in Trade Schools and Technical Colleges

	Domestic Science course for Girls started (exact year uncertain).
1917	Six more classrooms added to the new building.
During WW1	Married women, who had previously been forced to resign on marriage, were employed as temporary teachers. Also at this time, a teacher, Miss Kaltenbacher, changed her German-sounding surname name to Colebrook.
1922	Enrolments now stood at 1,600: 830 in the Boys' Dept, 422 in the Girls' Dept and 293 in the Infants' Dept.
1924	New building erected on the old Infants' site, with electric lighting replacing gas. Tempe was now one of the largest Junior Technical Schools in NSW. A Science lab was fitted out. A variety of subjects was being taught. As well as English, literature and Maths, boys were taught manual arts subjects and girls, domestic sciences and art. Sport and physical culture were also important.
1928-1932	Attempts to open a tuckshop failed as it was considered "an intrusion into (the) legitimate business" of local shops. However, the St Peters Tempe Branch of the Workers' International relief issued free bread and soup to children at the school.
1935	13 year-old Ronald Alfred Smith died after being hit on the temple by a stone thrown by another pupil. The coroner found the death was accidental.
1940s	Ex pupils remember the corner shop where they used to buy sweets and food, and the air raid shelters which filled with water after rain and was full of frogs. These shelters, on the northern end of the school grounds, were eventually filled in because they were a breeding ground for mosquitoes, and couples were using them at night for nefarious activities. War time memories also include the taping of windows, air raid sirens and trenches in the playground as a precaution against air raids. Girls made socks and scarves for soldiers.
1947	First female teacher appointed to the secondary staff: Miss Hunter, French and Latin. It would appear from this piece of historical information that the teachers of domestic sciences were not regarded as "secondary teachers" as they are today.
1949-1955	The high school became a Boys' Intermediate High school in 1949 and in 1955 became a Junior Technical School.
1958	A library, staff rooms and careers advisor's office were built and furnished. Enrolments were now: Secondary – 359 pupils; Primary - 292 pupils; Infants – 244 pupils.

1973-1974	Extensive additions were made to the high school buildings, including a new multi-storey block and the redevelopment an existing classroom block. Additional land was purchased to accommodate new buildings, basketball courts, a staff car park and the school oval. The original stone building became the staff common room. During excavations, an old well belonging to one of the properties acquired in 1924 was discovered, but was covered over.
1976	Tempe Boys' High and Arncliffe Girls' High amalgamated into Tempe High School. The new school motto became "Labora Fortiter" ("Strive to Achieve").
1991	Tempe High School, along with Strathfield Girls' High School, became specialist Languages High Schools, two of 15 NSW high schools to specialise. This title, although never officially relinquished, has been dropped from the school's name and promotional material, with the partially selective, partially comprehensive roles being emphasised.
1994	Tempe High school featured on an SBS documentary, "The School of Babel", on its multicultural ethos and excellent teaching of community languages.
1994	Tempe High School won the Director-General's School Achievement Award for the excellence o f its multi cultural literacy curriculum, while the principal, Peter James, earned an excellent service award (the awards were presented in 1995).
2000	Tempe High School won the Director-General's School Achievement Award for its language and literacy program (presented in 2001).
2003	Further substantial building works included classrooms, a staffroom, administration block and cafeteria.
2005	Tempe High School became partly selective, with the Year 7 intake of selective students sitting for the School Certificate in 2008.
2009	A lot is happening as this is being written. Watch this space.

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