

The History Behind Our House Names

Mackillop Scott Wood Cremin



Mackillop – Mary Mackillop Mary Mackillop had a desire for religious life and particularly, for helping children. Mary founded the congregation, Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, and helped establish a number of schools and welfare institutions in Australia. Mary was best known for her work with poor and marginalised children in South Australia however her work later spread with convents and Catholic schools being established throughout Australia. She was canonised as Australia's first Saint on 10th October, 2010 and is now formally known as Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop.

St John the Baptist School is proud of its long association with the Sisters of St Joseph which continued for over 30 years.

Scott – Sister Mildred Scott Sr Mildred Scott was born in Redfern, New South Wales in 1898. She taught in New South Wales before coming to Victoria to teach and to later become Principal in Bacchus Marsh. In 1936, Sr Mildred became the first Principal at St John's School, Koo Wee Rup, making the trip daily from Iona where she lived in a convent with other Josephite sisters working in schools on the swamp. She served here for 11 years, sharing the teaching of more than 60 children with Sister Padua Twomey.

Sister Mildred retired in Melbourne in 1947 and died in 1975.

Wood - Sister Rose Wood RSJ Sr Rose Wood, a Sister of St Joseph, came to St John the Baptist Parish Koo Wee Rup, in February 1983, commencing a teaching role at St John's Primary School which continued for seven years. In the years that followed Sister Rose maintained a close association with the school community through her Pastoral Ministry in St John's Parish. Sr Rose lived in the Convent in Station Street Koo Wee Rup, next door to our school.

During her 30 years at St John the Baptist Parish, Sister Rose was instrumental in the success of the RCIA (Adult Initiation into the Church) and Baptism programs, Lenten Groups, Liturgy team, RSJ Associates, Parish Pastoral Team, St. Vincent de Paul Society, providing Sacramental Education to students of Government schools and Visitation to the housebound, sick and elderly in hospital, the Nursing Home and Killara Hostel.

Until her retirement, late in 2013, Sister Rose displayed a great spirit of service, commitment to her vocational life and devotion to her Catholic faith which was recognised not only by St John's Parish Community but also the wider Koo Wee Rup community as well.

Cremin - Fr Patrick Cremin Father Patrick Cremin was Parish Priest of Iona, of which Koo Wee Rup was included at the time that our Parish school was opened in 1936.

Father Cremin showed great determination to have a Catholic School in Koo Wee Rup and saw it through in 1936, despite many believing the money would never be raised due to the hard times that people on the swamp were experiencing following the Depression and the Great Flood of 1934.

Koo Wee Rup and surrounds remained part of Iona Parish from 1905 until it became a Parish in its own right, in 1946, St John the Baptist Parish, Koo Wee Rup.