

# Sunshine Advocate

## Christ The King School fire

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### SCHOOLS BURNT DOWN: PROMPT ACTION FINDS PLACES FOR ALL PUPILS

About 1800 Braybrook children whose schools were burnt down last Friday and Monday have been provided with accommodation. The two fires were a disastrous prelude to the 1961 school year.

First of them was early on Friday evening, when flames swept through Christ the King School and adjoining buildings in Churchill Av., creating a holocaust against which firemen were powerless.

Damage was estimated at about £20,000. Hundreds of volunteers from surrounding houses worked desperately to save the buildings contents but were driven out by intense heat.

Sympathy and offers of help poured into the church authorities, who wish to make public the gratitude they feel.

Their beautiful buildings were admired by all sections of the community and were indeed one of the show places of the city, with attractive gardens and other evidence of progress and pride.

A conference to make arrangements for the school's 1100 pupils was held on Monday afternoon at Parliament House. It ended on a tragic note, because just as its members were preparing to disperse a telephone message was received from Mrs. G. R. Crick, wife of the local member, that Tottenham North State School was on fire.

Tottenham North school, in South Rd., was reported on fire about 2.30 p.m. on Monday and was a mass of ruins 20 minutes later.

It is remarkable that both fires started in a matter of hours after the delivery of books.

Until a new school is provided pupils of Christ the King will be accommodated at the Showgrounds and will be transported by buses.

For Tottenham North school, the following arrangements have been made, starting today: Grades I, II and part of Grade VI to Powell St., Yarraville.

Grades III and VI to Francis St., Yarraville.  
Grade V to Curtin St., Maldstone.  
Rest of Grade VI to Sunshine East (off Duke St.).  
Buses will be used for transport and pupils will be returned to Tottenham at 3.30 each day.

Top picture shows the charred and smoking ruins at Tottenham North. Below is a picture of Christ the King school at the height of the blaze with sightseers crowding the firemen's efforts. (R. & R. Mudford Photo.)





• Bandwagon . . . .

As far as most people are concerned, the swimming pool opened before Christmas. It could have been open a year earlier may have been matter for those who care less, but the ALP's criticism of council voices thoughts of those who care less and worked hard many ways to make the pool reality. When a plaque is unveiled by a government, tary one coming week-day will be interesting to see if mention is made of the workers or of those who public money only under sure of public opinion.

# Christ The King Primary School

## 1961

Parishioners worked tirelessly to produce new curtains to shield the classrooms from the summer sun. It was these curtains that on February 3rd 1961 contributed to a devastating fire that saw the pride of the Parish of Braybrook gutted. A fire of this magnitude tested the resolve of the parish but the community and, in particular, its parish priest, Fr Murray, rose to the challenge and immediately began the task of accommodating approximately 900 students. The answer came in the form of what could be termed the first 'state aid' as the school was given temporary access to buildings in the showgrounds by the government of the time. By the end of July the school moved back to its present site into portables rented from the Victorian Government.

Ref: Christ The King Primary School Web Site

[Christ the King, Braybrook \(ctkbraybrook.catholic.edu.au\)](http://ctkbraybrook.catholic.edu.au)