

125 Years Remembrance

**Dawson Street
Teachers' Training College**

**2009 marked 125 years since Mother
Gonzaga Barry established the Catholic
Training College for Teachers at
Dawson Street, Ballarat, in 1884.**

**The College's Prospectus stated that the aim of the
Catholic Training College was
*"to supply efficient Teachers for Catholic schools, by
training young girls who intend to adopt teaching as a
profession."***

Mother Hilda Benson, who had trained at Notre Dame Teachers' Training College, Liverpool, was the first Principal.

Students were admitted to the College at 14-15 years of age for a 5 year residential course combining preparation for matriculation with teaching methods.

One of the first institutions to provided tertiary education for women in Australia, the Dawson Street Training College, was the precursor of modern teacher training courses.

to Holy Communion at least once a month.

The sister who is appointed to call the pupils, should at the hour appointed for rising, ring a small bell, then walk round to each bed and say *Psuedicamus Dominus* to which each one answers *Deo gratias*.

When all are called the sister makes the sign of the cross, and all say together the Morning Oration.

The children of Mary examine clothes that come from the wash and that go to it. (It might perhaps be well if sisters could do this.)

When all the Pupils are assembled at their places in the Dormitory in the evening the sister presiding makes the sign of the cross when one of the children of Mary gives out the Litany of Our Lady to which all answer after which the Act of Contrition is said. The sister rings small bell when all should draw curtains and brush their hair for about 10 minutes or rather of an hour. Small bell should again be rung at about 20 min. past nine to

Saretto Training College Gullerut.

Pupils Teachers and Students are admitted to the Training at about 14 or 15 years of age. On their first entrance they should if possible make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament and ask the blessing of God and Our Blessed Lady on their future work.

The first Mistress of the Training College should give each one as she enters the Test Examination. When the Papers are examined the Mistress will decide the class in which each new Pupil is to be placed.

Each Pupil is taken on probation for Six Months. At the end of that time if the Principal after consulting with the sisters who assist her in the Training ^{College} is satisfied that the young

The 'Catholic Weekly' described the College –

“This College is Rev. Mother’s pet establishment, and the careers of the graduates have amply justified her predilection. They have turned out excellent teachers. Close on 100 have entered the various teaching orders of the colonies and they have proved themselves equally efficient and exemplary.”

and to endeavor for a scholar
she will communicate with the
Parents, and make arrangements
to bind the candidate for five
years, or for such a number of
years as is thought necessary.

If any parent will not agree
to this arrangement, the Pupil
must be withdrawn.

The Annual retreat and Sadulties
will be effectual means of promoting
virtue and piety amongst the
Pupil Teachers and Students.

The Students who have left the
College ^{and} are engaged teaching
in Schools should be invited to
the Annual retreat. At the close
of the retreat the 1st-mistress should
speak with each old student and
advise her on her work in her school.
She should also on the day the retreat
closes hold a conference with all the
old students and give them special

instructions in any points she
may think necessary. Any new
Methods or improved methods, or
apparatus should be made known
to our old students.

The first-mistress should either
herself or through others keep up a
friendly correspondence, ^{and} assist
in every way the Teachers who have
left us, so as to consolidate as much
as possible the work that has been begun.
For those who were once entrusted to
us by God should ever be the object
of our interest and our prayers.

As the most important of all
studies is that of Christian Doctrine,
all Candidates should receive
instructions every day for the first
year. Afterwards all should receive
Religious instruction every Sunday for
at least an hour. They should also
all study Bible and Church History.

All should assemble in the "Study"
for praying prayers, when the subject
of the day is read. All is possible

charges" to whether they have been visited.
The Sister charged to preside at this time
should go round and see that all do
their charges well and in silence.
She should show respect to those
those who do not know how to do
household work in the best way.

At 8 1/2 all classes have arithmetic.
At 5 min to 9 all go out. Those who
have to go to St. Joseph's School have
marched with them as postresses one
or two from St. Joseph's. When the
latter have gone half way they return
to be in in time for their own school
at 9 1/2.

Saturday is devoted to subjects
for which there is no time during the
week, such as Drawing, School
Management, History, and in the
afternoon to mending clothes &c.

Every Saturday evening the first
mistress makes "Observations" to all

in the schools, at lessons, in the
Refectory and Dormitory.

On Saturday morning from 8 to
9 the girls devote to manual work.
They should also if possible give
part of the Saturday in task months
to practical cooking.

Every Thursday morning the girls
brush and dust their beds.

When children are preparing for
Holy Communion the Teachers should
be allowed to give a little help in order
to prepare them for their future work.
On the morning of First Communion or
when there is Confirmation the Teachers
should assist to get children ready
that they may know how to do these
things themselves later on.

The Teachers should also be taught
how to lay vestments for Mass, and
should be instructed in everything

to them hereafter.

Teachers should also be allowed to assist in preparing children for distribution times. They should also assist in arranging prizes all with a view to make them more efficient in their own schools.

Nothing should be spared to make our Teachers what thoroughly good Catholic Teachers ought. Thoroughly well instructed in our Holy Religion, as also in every branch of secular knowledge that may be necessary or useful for their future work.

I forget to mention that the Teachers who can play even a little taste it in turn to play the Harmonium on Sunday at the Confraternity Devotions.

Examinations are held in all subjects at Easter, Midwinter, and December. An examination paper in one subject only is written every Saturday.

All should be in bed at $9\frac{1}{2}$ when all lights should be put out.

The sister presiding should be very vigilant, and enforce a strict observance of silence. (I did not know if it would be well to add here girls should never be left without at least under any circumstances).

The sister who presides in the Refectory should see that all are well attended, and if she observes that they do not take their meals, or seem to be losing their appetites, she should give immediate notice to the first Mistress. She should report any faults she notices in Refectory to the first Mistress who will speak of these faults in general to all on Saturday evening when she makes her observations in the week.

The girls return from Mass at about $7\frac{1}{2}$ when all make their beds. Then Breakfast. After breakfast all go to

Mother Gonzaga set out in detail her vision for the Training College.

Not only were the students to be carefully and professionally trained during the course but M. Gonzaga advocated continued professional development.



The Dawson Street Training College can be seen on the left, the south side of the main Dawson Street school. This wing was built in 1884 and provided accommodation and classrooms for the trainee teachers.



Mother Hilda Benson was the first Principal of the Dawson Street Training College.

M. Hilda came to Australia in 1876 and in 1877 introduced a five year program for pupil teachers at the Cathedral Parish School, St. Joseph's.

INSTITUTE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

LORETTO LADIES' COLLEGE, DAWSON STREET, BALLARAT.

CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF LORETTO.

LADIES' COLLEGE AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL,

Conducted by the Religious of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
And under the Patronage of the Bishop of Ballarat.

THIS Establishment consists of two departments. In the PREPARATORY SCHOOL the general course of instruction includes Religious Knowledge, Bible and Church History, English (Grammar, Composition, Reading, Literature), Arithmetic, Geography (Physical and Political), History, French, German, and Italian Languages, Drawing, Painting, and Illumination, Needlework (Plain and Ornamental), Music (Pianoforte, Organ, Harp), Singing, and Calisthenics. In the Upper Classes Algebra, Euclid, Latin, Botany, and Elementary Science are added.

In the SENIOR DEPARTMENT or COLLEGE special attention is paid to the subjects for Matriculation in the University of Melbourne.

Before entering for Matriculation the pupils are expected to be well prepared in seven subjects, and in five before entering for Civil Service. The College will not be responsible for any pupils who may desire to go in for examinations without having complied with these conditions.

For the accommodation of pupils who have matriculated, as well as others who have left school, but are still desirous to carry on their education, classes in the higher studies will be open on payment of a separate fee.

The School Year is divided into four equal Terms, which begin respectively on 1st February, 22nd April, 12th July, and 1st October. Fees are payable in advance. A term's notice or half-a-term's fee is required before the removal of a pupil. No deduction is made for any absence of less than a month.

CATHOLIC TRAINING COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS.

The aim of this Establishment is to supply efficient Teachers for Catholic Schools by training young girls who intend to adopt teaching as a profession. In order to place this opportunity within the reach of many, the terms have been made exceptionally reasonable.

The Training College is quite a distinct and separate establishment from the Boarding School at Mary's Mount, and the Loretto Ladies' College, Dawson Street. Girls are admitted to the Training College as Pupil Teachers at the age of Fourteen, and as Students at the age of Seventeen. Before their admission, a certificate of good conduct obtained from the Priest of their district, and a certificate of health from a medical man must be forwarded to the Principal of the College.

At their first entrance candidates must pass a test examination. The first six months after admission will be considered a time of probation. Parents or guardians will be required to remove a candidate who fails during that time to give satisfaction to the College authorities as to the conduct, health, talents, and aptitude for teaching.

The full course of training extends over a period of five years. During the first three years, candidates are considered to be Pupil Teachers. They are employed for some hours every day in learning the art of teaching in our primary schools, but the greater part of the day is spent in study. The course of instruction comprises Religious Knowledge, English, Arithmetic, Euclid, Algebra, Geography, History, French, Drawing, Theory of Music, School Management, Domestic Economy, Class-singing, Needlework, Calisthenics, and Drill. Pupil Teachers will be examined at Midsummer in the programme of studies for each year.

At the conclusion of the third year, Pupil Teachers become students, and commence their immediate preparation for the Matriculation Examinations. Students who pass these examinations before the end of their Course, will be required to continue their training; the term of five years being deemed necessary to train efficient teachers.

For Terms and further particulars, apply to the Lady Superior,

LORETTO LADIES' COLLEGE, DAWSON STREET, BALLARAT.



Loreto Abbey vs Training College Basketball match, 1901
Training College students have the white collars.
Loreto was one of the first schools to introduce the American game.



**Group on Mary's Mount Sports Ground – the Paddock in 1901.
Training College students can be seen in their uniforms with the white
collars.**

An Album of Illustrations of Various Kindergarten Occupations taught at the Training College was presented to
M. Gonzaga Barry in 1890.

It contains samples of work by student teachers to be taught to kindergarten students. A kindergarten was started in Dawson street in 1885. This was a very early kindergarten in Australia as the kindergarten movement, begun by Freidrich Froebel in Europe, was in its early days.

Work includes stencilling, paper folding, paper perforation, weaving and stick work.

The first page has the inscription *“Your children’s best Wishes for A Happy Feast 1890”*.



A. M.



D. G.

Convent of Our Lady of Loretto.

BALLARAT.

Catholic Training College for Teachers,

Conducted by the Religious of the Institute of the Blessed
Virgin Mary,

AND UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE BISHOP OF BALLARAT.

Established 1884.

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