



*MacKillop Banner* Photo courtesy G Speirs

## MacKillop Banner

This banner was reputedly made by Mary MacKillop in Penola in the early 1860s. An article in the *Border Watch* in the early 1860s about a procession of children carrying the banner, led by MacKillop, described it in some detail. The banner is of red satin, with text hand lettered in gold and an embroidered representation of a lily in the centre. It is now on display in the Woods-MacKillop Schoolhouse in Penola.

Its significance stems from its association with MacKillop, likely to soon be Australia's first Roman Catholic saint. It appeared in the very early days of

the emergence of the Josephite order - indeed before the schoolhouse in Penola had been built, when MacKillop was teaching local school children in a disused stable. Apart from her letters, it is one of the very few personal effects she left behind.

## Shepherd Broadcaster

The 'Shepherd Broadcaster' was designed in 1923 by two farmers from Naracoorte, Bill Shepherd and Ted Schinkel. Its purpose was to spread superphosphate mechanically over a wide radius. It achieved this through the use of a spinning drum at the base of the hopper, driven by a chain from the axle of the truck to which the hopper was fixed. The design was patented by Shepherd and Horwood Bagshaw began production in the early 1920s. The broadcaster, with the tray from a Chevrolet truck, is on display at the Sheep's Back, Naracoorte.

It is significant in that it provided an ingenious technical solution to a mechanical problem. More importantly, it was the means by which a new idea could be tested - spreading superphosphate on clover pasture. The experiment proved successful. There was a dramatic increase in the growth of clover, which in turn enriched the soil by adding more nitrogen to it. This led to an increase in the carrying capacity of the pasture, opening the way for increased wool production, and the closer settlement which followed it.

*Geoffrey Speirs is the Museum Services Manager of the State History Centre. He was shown these treasures on a visit to museums in the South East in November 1993.*