

LOWER TEMORA

Also known as “Barktown” and “Chinatown”, Lower Temora was the most northerly of the three communities that developed on the Temora Goldfield.

Extending north along the eastern side of the Barmedman Road from Polaris Street, this was the richest section of the field.

By a happy co-incidence for Augustus Deutscher, he had selected the Temora Station ram paddock as a farm only months before the discovery of payable gold deposits in the area. Covering a square mile of land on the northern side of what is now Kitchener Road, his “Red Hill Farm” straddled much of the northern alluvial gold deposit, a situation upon which he was quick to capitalise.

In mid 1880, the alluvial deposits to the north of the original finds had been discovered and the population of the field gravitated there. As a special reporter for The Wagga Wagga Advertiser observed: *“The township at the new lead has far outstripped the old one, known as ‘Watsonford’. The new township is represented from all districts within a radius of a hundred miles. The street at the new lead is more than half a mile long, with business places on either side”*.

The northern extremity of the field was represented by a small strike near the “Grecian Bend”, a watering hole in the Trigalong Creek now lost beneath Lake Centenary.



A.L. Deutscher's House at “Lower Temora”



Temora Goldfield

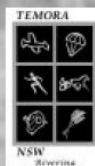


Goldfield Sketch Map

Temora Heritage Committee



Temora Shire Council



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Temora Town Map 1888.

While the best claims at Lower Temora richly rewarded the efforts of their owners, success was by no means universal and by early 1883 only about two thousand people, perhaps ten percent of those lured here in the first rush, remained at Temora. As Warden Charles De Boos reported: *“A large number of business houses had been closed; in many instances the building wholly removed, in others partially so, and in others they had been allowed to go to ruin and decay. Both Upper Temora and Lower Temora, especially the latter, looked like deserted villages.”*



Temora Goldfield



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“Dew Drop Inn”, Lower Temora

Among the mullock heaps and abandoned mineshafts of Lower Temora a new industry began to take shape as the promise of precious metal faded. A Chinese market gardening community developed on the site and swelled to become a substantial presence there well into the twentieth century.

Perhaps one of the most enduring landmarks of Lower Temora, through much of the twentieth century, was Skelly’s “Dew Drop Inn”. Located beside a lane once known as “William Street”, the old hotel, like so many of its contemporaries, has now gone and even the street upon which it stood has vanished from the modern map.

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