

KANGAROO VALLEY SCHOOL OF ARTS

Conservation Management Plan



PREPARED FOR
Shoalhaven City Council

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Cover Photograph
Kangaroo Valley School of Arts, 1910
(Narissa Morrissey: Pictorial History of the Shoalhaven)

Introduction

This Conservation Management Plan was commissioned in April 2000 by Shoalhaven City Council.

A Conservation Management Plan was required by Council to ensure that appropriate long term decisions are made with respect to the conservation, ongoing maintenance, redevelopment and future use of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts and surrounding curtilage.

The content and format of this report follow the guidelines of **The Conservation Plan** by J S Kerr and the assessment of significance is based on the **State Heritage Inventory** criteria of the NSW Heritage Office.

Objectives of this Conservation Management Plan

In summary the objectives of the report are to:

- Establish the cultural significance of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts and its component parts.
- Formulate appropriate policies for the conservation and ongoing management of the former School of Arts Building, taking into account both the significant physical fabric and the ongoing usage requirements.
- Determine guidelines or constraints for appropriate development of the building, outbuildings and site whilst acknowledging the significance of the building, its immediate curtilage and its contribution to the streetscape.
- Relate the proposals to objectives of Council in relation to usage of the site.

Study Area

The study area is the Council owned Lot 1 DP 1003243

Figure 1:
The Study Area

The study area is bounded by Moss Vale Road, Kangaroo Valley Police Station, and the Osborne Park Recreation Reserve incorporating the Kangaroo Valley Showground.

Figure 2: Locality

Study Team

The study team comprises:

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Consultant Historian: Robyn Florance

Client Representatives:

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Kangaroo Valley Historical Society

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This Conservation Management Plan was commissioned by the Shoalhaven City Council for the conservation and ongoing management of the Kangaroo Valley Mechanics Institute.

The significance of the site is now widely acknowledged, and this report seeks to identify the nature of and relative levels of significance applicable to the building and its component parts, and establish appropriate conservation policies. The assessments of significance take into account historical documentary material, and physical examination of the fabric of the building.

Preliminary recommendations regarding implementation strategies for the conservation works have been prepared

Summary of Recommendations

The Assessment of Significance has determined that the building has a high level of Historical, Associative, Social and Aesthetic significance. This report generally recommends that the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts should be appropriately conserved and maintained, and continue to serve the local community in its present role.

Conservation policies should be vigorously implemented to preserve the interpretive value of the building, and maintains its important contribution to the townscape of the Kangaroo Valley Village.

The major outcomes include the following:

- The building fabric should be appropriately conserved using advice from conservation professionals and appropriately qualified tradespeople.
- Guidelines are proposed for appropriate ongoing conservation, management and maintenance of the precinct.
- Guidelines are proposed for upgrading and development of the functional areas and amenities for patrons to enable the Hall to become more relevant in continuing to fulfill its role serving the community into the future.
- Policies are proposed which recognise the contribution of the building to the streetscape and townscape of Kangaroo Valley and the historical fabric of the township.

Definitions:

This report refers to the subject building as the *Kangaroo Valley School of Arts* in the historical context or when referred to in a formal sense. The proposal for the building originated with the Mechanics Institute and the closely affiliated School of Arts movements. The building became established as the *Kangaroo Valley School of Arts* and was known as such in the district during the early years.

In recent times the building is referred to in common usage simply as the *Kangaroo Valley Hall*. Therefore the term *Kangaroo Valley Hall* is used in this report only in a contemporary context.

PART 1: INVESTIGATE SIGNIFICANCE

The first step in the process of assessing the heritage significance of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts and its site is to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the history of the site, in the context of the broader social history of Kangaroo Valley and the Shoalhaven. This involves the assembly of all relevant available documentary material, including photographs, surveys, drawings, news items, together with verbal accounts from people with first hand knowledge of the place.

The physical fabric of the building and existing configuration of the site were inspected. The building revealed a clear account of its history and usage, providing confirmation of the available documentary evidence.

1.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE:

Historical Background

Robyn Florance

Brief Historical Background

Kangaroo Valley is located in the northern part of the Shoalhaven, nestling between Cambewarra and Barrengarry Mountain. It was originally known as Kangaroo Ground, and was called 'Parronrah' by local Aboriginals.

The first man to obtain a Land Grant in Kangaroo Valley was Captain Richard Brooks who was given a promise of land in the valley by Governor Macquarie in 1815. Soon after he had a hut and stockyard built on the north bank of the river opposite the site of the present township.¹

On October 31, 1823 Cornelius O'Brien, a pioneer of Illawarra and first settler at Bulli, obtained a 'Ticket of Occupation' covering ten square miles of hilly country called "the Kangaroo Ground" for use of his herd as a grazing run.²

In October 1838 Surveyor Burnett marked 650 acres for James Fleming and in 1840 he marked 2560 acres for Henry Osborne. The deed for Osborne's land was issued on 25 February 1840. The grant was recorded at 'Balingarry' although the land had long been known as "Barrengarry".³

After the death of Captain Brooks his grant of 700 acres passed to his widow and thence into the hands of James Osborne, a nephew of Henry Osborne. Later Henry Osborne purchased it and by the 1860s the greater part of the valley was under the control of two men; Henry Osborne of Barrengarry and S. Gray at Bendiela.

From 1862 to 1870 free selectors, under Sir John Robertson's Act of 1861, flocked from all parts of the country to Kangaroo Valley and many obtained good holdings. Dairy farming was becoming the main industry on the rich flats and along the arms of the river.

¹ Griffith John, *The History of The Osborne's of Kangaroo Valley*, K.V.H.S., 1988, p.11

² McDonald W.G. Nineteenth Century Dapto, Illawarra Historical Soc. 1976, p.12

³ Bayley William A., *Kangaroo Valley*, K.V.H.S., 1953, p.13

Among the earliest of those selectors was Daniel McIlwraith, from "Sea View" Kiama. He was successful in securing a good block of meadowland in the Barrengarry. John Milligan bought Bendiela from Gray in the sixties and was soon followed by Rendall, King, Bryen and Rous.⁴

Thomas Rendall took up land there about 1866 after making three attempts to negotiate the mountain from Cambewarra. Other early selectors were Neil Harper, Charles Robinson, J. Barnier and George Tate.

Henry Osborne became established at 'Marshall Mount' in the Albion Park district in 1829 and was the father of ten sons and three daughters. Although he owned land in the valley he never lived there.

His son Alick took up residence, with his wife, Isobel, in the late 1860s and by the late 1880s had more than 40 tenant farmers working the land.⁵

The family owned 7500 acres of the most fertile land in the Valley; they had a manorial home with substantial quarters for servants; they provided (at a price) the land on which the Anglican Church, the Rectory, the Roman Catholic Church, the Kangaroo Valley School and the Barrengarry School were built; they helped to establish the "Township of Osborne".⁶

The Church of the Good Shepherd, (1871) was built from funds mainly supplied by Alick & Isobel, and designed by the architect John Horbury Hunt. The church was Hunt's first independent commission. He also designed - the Rectory, Barrengarry School and Barrengarry House extensions (1880) as well as Hamilton House at Moss Vale, (1890) for Alick and Isobel, and The Osborne Memorial Church at Dapto (1883).

The township of Osborne was laid out in 1876 when G.K. Waldron, auctioneer, on behalf of A. Osborne, offered eighty-five building lots for sale, at his Kiama office on 12 October 1876.

*"...now judiciously laid out in the most central position and in the immediate vicinity of churches, chapels, schools and commercial business places in the highly favoured and rich locality of Kangaroo Valley and now named the
TOWNSHIP OF OSBORNE..."⁷*

Some lots reached £80 and the 24 acres realised £1000.⁸ The name of Osborne did not continue. There is no record in the Land Titles Office of its existence, so the village remained Kangaroo Valley with a village called Barrengarry on the other side of the river.

Osborne's action in 1876 of sub-dividing his 50 acres and putting it up for sale was quickly followed by a similar piece of enterprise on the part of Charles Wiley who owned the 96 acres adjacent to Osborne's on the eastern side. His advertisement in the Kiama Independent of 2nd January 1877 offered 274 allotments.⁹

⁴ Bayley, *Kangaroo Valley*, op.cit.p.18

⁵ Clark Alan, *Villages of Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Tourism Board, Nowra, 1994, p.7

⁶ Griffith, A History of the Osbornes of Kangaroo Valley, op. cit. p.30

⁷ Griffith John, *A History of Kangaroo Valley Australia*, K.V.H.S. 1978, p.46

⁸ Bayley William A., *Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Shire Council, Nowra, 1965, p.114

⁹ Griffith, *A History of Kangaroo Valley*, op. cit. p.46

Osborne's attempt to sell off a large number of small lots was not successful. He disposed of his land but not in individual building lots and much of the area remains 'undeveloped' to this day. Wiley had some

Subdivision of Osborne's land for the future Osborne Park, 1888.

Site of the School of Arts marked *.

success and it is on his portion that most of what is now the Township of Kangaroo Valley came into being.¹⁰

At the same time as the school and the two churches were being built on Osborne's land, the western end of 'Wiley's Paddock' was also being built on. Within a few years the area included:

“two other churches, several stores, a smithy, a saddlery, a baker, a dressmaker, two banks, the Cosmopolitan Hall, two Hotels, the School of Arts and (in 1888) a Recreation Park of 10 acres. Later on it was the site also for the courthouse, the new police station and ultimately the A. & H. Pavilion and the new Show Ground on the area of the former Recreation Park.

Just to the east of Wiley's Paddock there was the Post Office (1869) and Nugent's Store and just beyond that a "suburb" referred to on an old map as "a small township known as Maguire's". There were quite a few houses in this locality and the old Showground and the Cemetery.

The original school building of 1871 was dismantled in 1884 and re-erected opposite the showground. It was called the Union Hall or "Maguire's Hall" and was used for public meetings and entertainments.¹¹

For several years there was rivalry between this locality and the developing Township at the other end of Wiley's Paddock. This rivalry finally was settled in 1909 when the postal department decided to move the Post Office from Nugent's Store to a building of Wiley's at the side of the Commercial Hotel (The Friendly Inn).¹²

The first industry in the Valley was cedar cutting but this was short-lived and it soon became obvious that the country was ideal for dairying. The first Butter Factory was opened in the Valley in 1888 and a further four had been established by 1901. With the improvement of transport, they had all closed by 1925, but Kangaroo Valley continues to be an important dairying area.¹³

“the valley reached a population peak during the period 1885 to 1895...at the height of the population peak there was probably 1400 residents in the Valley...it was at this time that the community became largely self sufficient”¹⁴

The drought and depression of the 1890s, the rabbit plague, changes in the dairy industry, the opening up of new farming areas and the establishment of better paying industries elsewhere in the state contributed to the substantial decline in the area's population in the early years of the twentieth century.¹⁵

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Griffith, *A History of Kangaroo Valley*, op.cit. p. 47

¹² Kangaroo Valley Post Office Files held at The Australian Archives Office

¹³ Green Annette, *Kangaroo Valley Townscape Study* prepared for Shoalhaven City Council 1991-92 p. 16

¹⁴ Griffith, *A History of Kangaroo Valley*, op.cit. p. 50

¹⁵ Griffith, *A History of Kangaroo Valley*, op.cit. p. 58

Census Year	Male	Female	Total Population	Occupied dwellings
1891	318	234	552	90
1901	679	574	1,253	218
1911	497	438	935	169
1921	387	322	709	145
1933	407	303	710	171
1947	349	317	666	157
1954	348	290	638	167
1961	350	271	621	163

*Population Figures for Kangaroo Valley, Upper Kangaroo River, Bendiela, Beaumont, Budgong, Barrengarry, and Broger's Creek.
Source: Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics*

The closure of the Pioneer Hotel (1916) and Presbyterian Church (c.1925) reflected the decline and the demolition of both Campbell's Hall (1928) and the Union Hall (1931).

The Shoalhaven Water Scheme, which began in 1970,¹⁶ caused the greatest population boom in the history of the Valley, and the resultant progress benefited the town. In recent years a significant amount of land has been sub-divided into "hobby farms".

Kangaroo River is popular with campers, hikers and canoeists, while tourists cross the historic Hampden Bridge to visit the Pioneer Farm and Museum, which provides an interesting overview of life as it was a century ago.

Establishment of Community Halls

When the first Kangaroo Valley Public School was erected in 1871 it became the centre for community activities. By 1876 the school had been used for public purposes over a period of several years for Balls, a phrenological lecturer, a troupe of minstrels and conjurers and a private quadrille party.¹⁷

Robinson's Cosmopolitan Hall was possibly the first hall available for public use in the Valley. It was described as *a building 50 feet by 25 feet, of galvanised iron on a wooden frame*. Publican Charles Robinson erected it in 1874 at the eastern end of his Pioneer Hotel.¹⁸

The Union Hall, described as 'fairly large' was built by Mr E. Maguire in 1885. He purchased the old school building, which had been built in 1871, dismantled it and re-erected as a hall at the east end of the village, and it became known as 'The Union Hall'. It was initially used for dances and entertainment, and later became a cordial factory.¹⁹ *The Union Hall was pulled down in 1931 and re-erected as a farmhouse at Bendiela.*²⁰

Campbell's Hall or the National Hall was built and owned by James Campbell. One of the earliest references to the hall's existence appears

¹⁶ Bayley, Kangaroo Valley, op.cit.p.23

¹⁷ *Kangaroo Valley Public School 100 Years of Education 1871-1971*, Kangaroo Valley Public School Centenary Celebrations Committee, Bomaderry, 1971, p.16

¹⁸ Bayley William A., *Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Shire Council, Nowra, 1975, p. 122

¹⁹ *School Days in Kangaroo Valley*, Kangaroo Valley Parents & Citizens Association, 1996, p 65

²⁰ Bayley, Kangaroo Valley, op.cit.p. 51

in the *Berry Register* 25th August 1894. It was situated on the riverside of the main road between the village and the bridge (behind the present tennis courts) and was the only other public building erected on Osborne's land.²¹ The hall was a large one and was used for public concerts, dances and a lodge meeting room until it was demolished. When *Hampden Bridge* was officially opened on 19th May 1898 a Banquet for the adults was held in the hall, which was decorated with ferns. Ninety sat down to the banquet.²²

The Friendly Societies

Both the Oddfellows "Lodge Carrington" and the Protestant Alliance "Lodge Lily of the Valley" were established in mid 1886 and their influences contributed much to the welfare and good living of the citizens in the valley. The *Broughton Creek Register* of 1st May 1886 published a report of the regular monthly meeting of the 'Star of the Valley' Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars.

Annual sports meetings were arranged by the lodges and results published in the *Berry* and *Shoalhaven* newspapers, which circulated in Kangaroo Valley. The Masonic Lodge of the Silver Oak, No. 216, was opened with a banquet at the Commercial Hotel in August 1894. Their lodge room was the National Hall.

Mutual Improvement Societies

Mutual Improvement Societies, Schools of Arts and Literary Institutes, fashionable towards the end of the nineteenth century, flourished in many parts of the valley. At that time slow road transport did not encourage night journeys of any distance so the residents of the valley localities of Barrengarry, Bendiela, Brogher's Creek and Wattamolla, each formed their own social groups. Various known as Literary and Debating Societies, Mutual Improvement Societies and other names, meetings were held by the light of kerosene lamps.²³

Through such societies the educational needs of both adults and children could be augmented. The institutions were well supported by local subscription and Government endowment and became the focal point of village and town activities.

Although Brogher's Creek and other valley centres probably established their societies earlier; the first meeting of the Kangaroo Valley Mutual Improvement Society was held on Monday 11th January 1870. Readings and recitations were given, followed by a debate. A subscription list opened, to establish a library, brought in £5.

The Literary & Debating Society, in the late 1880s, met in Maguire's Union Hall, a place where many public and society meetings were held. The beginning of the nineties saw the establishment of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts and Literary Society. No building existed at the time but books were issued and debates were held.

Kangaroo Valley at the end of the nineties had an Amateur Minstrel and Dramatic Club, which raised funds for worthy causes. In 1899 it supplied funds to establish a library at the public school.

The *Kangaroo Valley Times* in September 1900 referred to the Kangaroo Valley Glee and Dramatic Club, which had a membership of eighty-three,

²¹ Griffith, *A History of Kangaroo Valley*, op.cit. p. 49

²² Clark Alan, *Hampden Bridge – A History*, Kangaroo Valley Historical Society, Nowra, 1998

²³ Bayley, *Kangaroo Valley*, op.cit.p.51

were staging a concert in the National Hall to raise funds for the School of Arts.

The School of Arts Movement Established

The original movement for the establishment of a School of Arts seems to have begun in May 1886 when the *Broughton Creek Register* reported that the Kangaroo Valley Progress Association hoped to erect one. Although the project lay dormant for many years the School of Arts was founded in the Valley in 1893 and members met temporarily in the Church of England Sunday school room for a nominal fee.²⁴

The first committee comprised Dr Samuelson as President, G. Forsyth as Secretary with J. Miles, Langley, H. Joyce, W. Caldwell and Robert Wilkinson forming the committee.

While Dr Samuelson was President, £54 was collected in 1894 towards the cost of a new building. Life members elected were H.D. Marshall, solicitor, Sir John Ewing, surveyor, and J.L. Nugent, for services rendered to the society.

First School of Arts Building

James Lambert Nugent donated the block of land on which to build the School of Arts. It was situated to the east of the Methodist Church [Uniting Church], on the same side of the road.²⁵

The building “a humble structure of galvanised iron”, erected by R. Lumsden and C. Sinclair was officially opened on the 30th April 1895 free of debt.²⁶ Tea was served to the forty people present at the formal opening. Soon after a boundary fence was erected.

The building was demolished in 1910.

New School of Arts Building

The land on which the building stands was part of a Grant of Land purchased by Charles Wiley, a farmer, of Broughton Creek on 11th March 1862 for £1 per acre. The original grant consisting of 96 acres was a conditional purchase and therefore Charles Wiley did not become the full owner of the land until 3rd June 1876.

The site, almost opposite the original building, containing 22 perches, and measuring 50 feet wide and 100 feet deep, was resumed in 1895 for the site of a Mechanics Institute.²⁷ The Institute was closely affiliated with the School of Arts movement, and the project was proposed as a School of Arts in order to attract government subsidies at the time of construction. Provision of a library in the new facility formally distinguished it from a Mechanics Institute.

The Building

The new weatherboard building was erected at a cost of £400 and was completed by May 1907. Mr Mark Morton, MLA officially opened the new building at a Dinner and social, which was held in the main hall.

²⁴ *The Shoalhaven News* 11th May 1907

²⁵ LTONSW Land Transfer dated 3/1/1895 James Lambert Nugent to Henry Tate of Kangaroo Valley, Clerk in Holy Order and Gerald Septemus Samuelson of Kangaroo Valley, Medical Practitioner, part of land comprised in Grant of 25th March 1875 Vol. 234 Folio 101 was transferred unto us as joint tenants.

²⁶ *The Town & Country Journal* of 25th March 1903

²⁷ See Appendix for Certificate of Title Information

The new building was described in *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* dated 15th May 1907 under the heading of Local Intelligence.

*"The new School of Arts building at Kangaroo Valley is an ornament to the township. It was designed by Mr J.T. Burrell, of the Public School there, who is at present the President of the Institute. It provides a large reading room, 40 feet by 22 feet, the back portion of which is cut off by folding doors. On the western wing is the library and a committee room, and on the eastern wing, a spacious room rented by the Cambewarra Shire as an office. The design is rustic, the position central, and the accommodation should be sufficient for years to come"*²⁸

The event was also recorded in the 11th May 1907 issue of *The Shoalhaven News*.

School of Arts Building A Demonstration at Kangaroo Valley

The dinner and social, to celebrate the opening of the new School of Arts at Kangaroo Valley was held on Friday night last week were attended by a large crowd of people. At eight o'clock the dinner was served in the large reading room by Mr Brook, of the Commercial Hotel.

The Designer

Mr James Thomas Burrell was appointed Headmaster of the Kangaroo Valley Public School on 18th January 1905. He had been transferred from the Yalwal Public School where he had been Teacher in Charge. Burrell began his career with the Education Department in 1881, aged 16 years, when he was first appointed as a Pupil Teacher at Gerringong Public School. He then gained teaching experience at Wollongong, Marrickville, Mitchell's Flat, Byrock and Avoca Vale Public Schools before being transferred to Yalwal as Head Teacher in January 1900. According to his employment record, Burrell studied 'Drawing', probably through a correspondence course, and accordingly received a pass in that subject in July 1902.²⁹ His drawing skill was put to good use in designing the School of Arts building.

He married Helen Ada Winton of Campbelltown on 31st March 1893 and the couple had four children: Arthur, Sylvia and Jenner and a son dying in infancy in 1894.³⁰ Burrell remained at the school for four years leaving in December 1909.³¹

*Mr J.T. Burrell, for five years Head Master of the Kangaroo Valley School has been notified of his transference to Wyong.*³²

In the short time that Burrell lived in the Valley he was very much part of community life and was President of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts in 1907.

Building Extensions, Renovations & Improvements

Following completion, it was not long before extensions were contemplated. A detached gable roofed structure existed to the rear of

²⁸ *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 15th May 1907

²⁹ SRNSW Teachers Roll No. 3 Page 27

³⁰ NSW Registry BDM Indexes. Indexes record the marriage in 1891 while the employment record at the State Records NSW give the date of the marriage as 1893

³¹ *Kangaroo Valley Public School 100 Years of Education 1871-1971* op.cit. p.21

³² *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 12th January 1910

the Shire office prior to 1919, however its purpose is not known. The building may have become the library or billiards room.

In the matter of improvements to the building for the year ending 20th June 1925 it was reported that "it was decided an additional room adjoining the back of the room recently occupied by the Shire Council, would be a step in the right direction. This room would be the Library (and would the means of pleasing the librarian in close touch with the Billiard Room) whilst the room known as the Shire Office, would be the reading room and the present Library and Reading Rooms would be converted into ladies and gents rooms. Some difficulty has been experienced in securing the services of an Architect but the matter is now well in hand, and the Architect is expected at an early date."³³

According to the Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 1926 'Various repairs and improvements were carried out during the year. The principal one being the alteration of the porch and erection of ticket office and cloak room. This work was carried out by Messrs Jarrett and Skelton of Berry, at a cost of £50/1/-.'³⁴

In 1928, Mr Sheaf, an architect, drew up plans for the enlargement of the building, to provide a meeting hall. Campbell's National Hall, the main entertainment hall, had been pulled down and the School of Arts assumed added functions, becoming the centre for community life in the valley. Baker Brothers were the contractors. The stone blocks from the National Hall were used in the building extension. The cost being £370.³⁵

According to a letter received by The Under Secretary, dated 16th May 1928, from the Secretary of the School of Arts, Mr Frank Daley, "*The committee of the above Institute have decided to enlarge the building and Plans have been approved by the Chief Secretary, and work will commence today*"³⁶

A new Supper Room facility was planned in 1937³⁷. Date of construction is unknown, but cost was reported to be £300.

Records of subsequent building improvements have proved elusive until 1964 when ownership was taken over by Council. Detailed records through Council Minutes outline all upgrading works and maintenance from 1964 up to the present day.³⁸

Cambewarra Shire Council Office & Meeting Room

The Cambewarra Shire Council was proclaimed on 7th March 1906 and held its first meeting as a Temporary Council, at the Post Office on Beaumont on 13th June 1906.³⁹ By April the following year Council meetings were held in a private room.

In April 1907 it was offered the exclusive use of a room in the new School of Arts building and use of the main hall for the holding of Council meetings. The annual rental was fixed at £20, paid quarterly. Council

³³ Annual Report of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts Dated 30th June 1925 SRNSW20/13171

³⁴ Kangaroo Valley School of Arts SRNSW 20/13178

³⁵ Bayley, *Kangaroo Valley*, op.cit. p. 54

³⁶ Kangaroo Valley School of Arts SRNSW 20/13183

³⁷ Bayley, *Kangaroo Valley*, op.cit.p.54

³⁸ Council Minutes refer, see Appendix 2

³⁹ Antill R.G., *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co., Kiama, 1982, p. 173

readily accepted the offer and continued at that rate until 1st January 1910, when the rental was reduced to £15 per annum.⁴⁰

The first Council meeting in the new School of Arts building was held on 15th May 1907.⁴¹ The room occupied by the Shire Council was no longer required from the 31st March 1924.⁴²



*School of Arts and Cambewarra Shire Office, 1919
with detached building to rear
(Kangaroo Valley Historical Society)*



*Moss Vale Road, view to west circa 1920
School of Arts and Court House on right
(Wollongong City Library)*

Library and Billiard Room

At the time of the erection of the new weatherboard building, Harry Packer was librarian and he continued in that role in the new building until he died in 1912. Packer was well known as a pilot who helped to

⁴⁰ *ibid*

⁴¹ *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 15th May 1907

⁴² Annual Report Kangaroo Valley School of Arts dated 30/6/1924 SNSW 20/13171

save the sole survivor of the wreck of the *Dunbar* near Sydney Heads in 1857.

The School of Arts Library and billiard rooms were used extensively in the early days of the institution. The rooms were opened three nights a week but with the increased popularity of the motor cars and modern home entertainment in the form of the radio, in the 1920s, the attendance fell very low, and the billiard table fell into disuse and was sold. During the Second World War (1940) about 500 books were handed to the Red Cross for distribution to the troops.

During 1952, the committee purchased a number of new books and started a library on a new principle. The books were kept in John Weaver's Café and were issued to readers by him.

Community Role

The School of Arts has always been a focal point in the life of the local community. The Hall has been used as a meeting room by most Kangaroo Valley clubs and organisations and during the First and Second World Wars was used to Farewell and Welcome Home local servicemen. It has also been used for a variety of functions including dances, balls, flower shows, and moving pictures.



*Debutante's Ball, early 1970's
(Mrs Peggy Synold)*

Mr. J. Juleff, of Berry, showed the first Moving Pictures at the School of Arts but they proved unsuccessful and were discontinued. [Date not known]

When a lighting plant was installed in the School of Arts in April 1946 the current was used for the running of the projector, which was operated by the proprietor, Mr L.C. Snodgrass. The following year the installation of power made possible improved screenings of sound or talking films. In April 1950 Mr J. Fox of Mittagong commenced screenings.

According to Mrs Edith Chittick "...the gabled entry porch was replaced by the present entry to accommodate facilities for the projection of films..."⁴³

As well as the School of Arts being the focal point of district activities the supper room was made available to the Department of Education for lady's technical classes since 1943.

Committee of Management

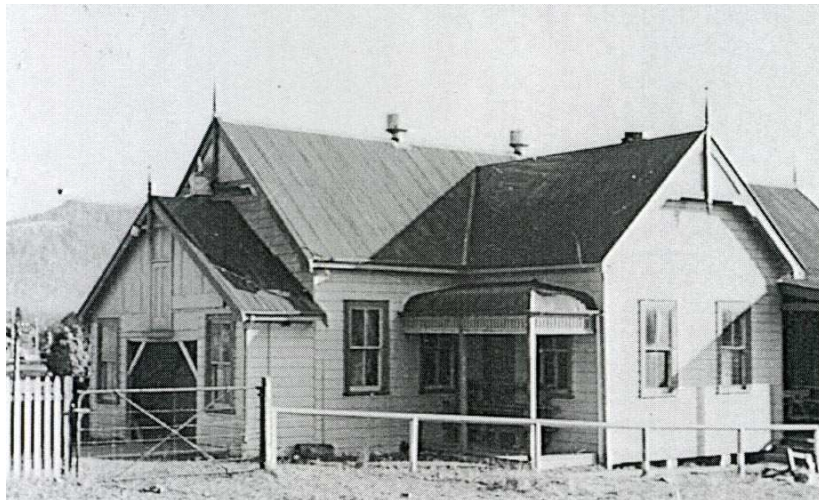
Though the School of Arts was included in the Osborne Park Community Centre Plan the committee, was able to carry on retaining a credit balance. In 1963, faced with the need for extensive repairs and renovations combined with enlargement of the hall estimated to cost over £1000, the School of Arts building was taken over by the Shire of Shoalhaven.

On taking it over Council asked for a local committee of management, which would also raise funds for maintenance, suggesting that it be the same committee as appointed for Osborne Park.

The committee accepted the added responsibility. Desiring that the School of Arts retain its own bank account the treasurer, Robert Cochrane, was placed on the committee designated by Council to be known as the "Osborne Park and Kangaroo Valley School of Arts committee by delegation".



⁴³ Green Annette, Kangaroo Valley Townscape Study, p 178 Kangaroo Valley Hall



*School of Arts 1953, WA Bayley collection
(Courtesy Wollongong City Library)*

The Kangaroo Valley Agricultural & Horticultural Association

As with all settlements established in the colony of NSW, agricultural and pastoral development was encouraged in the valley by the farmers themselves who combined in the early 1880s to form the Kangaroo Valley Agricultural and Horticultural Association. The first annual show of the association was 'held at Osborne, the township of that district' on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March 1886.⁴⁴

The Association continued to stage attractive shows, people travelling great distances to be present. The want of a Showground was an early difficulty to the committee, which found "the erecting and pulling down of buildings and yards a serious drain on its resources".⁴⁵

In 1888 the society sought to secure a permanent Showground where it could stage its annual exhibitions and build permanent structures including show pavilion, luncheon booth and cattle yards. Offers of land were made to the society by A. Osborne, Nugent, McGuire and Nelson, and the committee resolved to accept the offer of Osborne of ten acres opposite the Union Hall. The land was leased to the society for a period of twenty years at an annual rental of £10, with the first year being rent free, and with the proviso that the land was bought at the end of the period of the lease.

Tenders were called and the ground fenced and stumped, serving the valley for 65 years until 1953 when the reconstruction of the sporting area in the township brought the association into unity with all town bodies by the use of the one area for all purposes.⁴⁶

Osborne Park

Osborne Park developed to serve its many purposes, stands as the district's greatest community achievement. The project involved local residents in considerable hard work and expense, together with a splendid district effort in voluntary labour both by hand and with mechanical equipment lent for the job.

⁴⁴ *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 11th March 1886

⁴⁵ Bayley William A., *Kangaroo Valley*, Kangaroo Valley Historical Society, Kangaroo Valley, 1966, p.85

⁴⁶ Bayley op.cit. pp 35-36

Following the levelling of the area by council a local committee was formed delegated to council to direct works and to raise funds for further construction of the grounds. H.O. Cox was president of the combined show society and Osborne Park works committee, J. Weaver, treasurer and L.W. Vance, secretary.

As President of the committee H.O. Cox gave considerable time to organising the work. He managed supply of materials, rostered labour and kept detailed records of costs. On his retirement in 1964 a public presentation was made to him in appreciation of his service.

During the development work, tree planting received attention and facilities erected included show and poultry pavilions, soft drink booth, public bar and committee room, broadcasting stand, hot and cold showers with dressing rooms and septic toilets served with water from the town supply. Cattle and horse exhibition facilities were provided together with well-grassed oval and trotting track. Electric power and light were installed.

The ground was ready to hold its first show in 1956 by which time £12,373 had been spent on improvements, including £4,800 by the council £3699 locally raised and voluntary labour estimated at 9d per hour and mechanised labour at 30/- per hour represented £3874.⁴⁷

The Osborne Park Memorial Gates

The Back to Kangaroo Valley week was organised by the Kangaroo Valley Historical Committee to pay for the publication of a history of Kangaroo Valley and to mark its publication. From the sales of the publication an amount of £225 was set-aside for the installation of entrance gates to Osborne Park. The gates were unveiled on 17th November 1956. Mrs Osborne unveiled the plaque "Osborne Park" and George Throsby unveiled the plaque "In Memory of the Pioneers". Mrs G.E. Chittick, Mayoress of Gerringong, a member of the well-known Nelson clan of valley pioneers, performed the ceremony of switching on the lights.⁴⁸

The Kangaroo Valley Village Swimming Pool

Shoalhaven Shire Council erected the Kangaroo Valley swimming pool for the residents in 1976 at a cost of \$61,000.⁴⁹ Through the efforts of the Kangaroo Valley Lions Club the local community had raised a great deal of money towards the cost of the pool. The pool came under the control of the School of Arts & Osborne Park Management Committee until 1999.



⁴⁸ Bayley op.cit. p. 68

⁴⁹ *The Shoalhaven & Nowra News* 12th May 1976 site preparation and preliminary drainage work had been completed.

*The first Show at Osborne Park, 1956, School of Arts in the background
(Kangaroo Valley Historical Society)*

Background to the School Of Arts Movement

(Adapted from the files of Stanton Library, North Sydney, and the Nowra School of Arts Conservation Management Plan, Simpson Dawbin 1999)

The school of arts and mechanics institutes movement in the nineteenth century stemmed from literary and philosophical societies in the late eighteenth century and the expansion of the study of natural science. In response to the social and upheaval wrought by the industrial Revolution, the movement was essentially a philanthropic effort on the part of social reformers who promoted the belief that such amenities would *lead to greater industrial efficiency and productivity*.⁵⁰ Institutions extended throughout Britain, the British Empire and the United States.⁵¹ The movement was founded in 1802 in Scotland by Dr George Birbeck. The first branch in Australia was the Hobart Town Mechanics Institute established in 1827 followed by the Sydney School of Arts in 1833.

The character of an institution developed according to the community it served.⁵² The movement flourished in rural communities where education and cultural facilities offered by the cities were less accessible and for this reason the School of Arts movement survived longer in country areas than the city.

The School of Arts was conceived as a means of remedying deficiencies in elementary education by classes in arithmetic, geometry and algebra. In the early stage of its development, teachers came from the church, the legal, medical and teaching professions as well as the civil service. It became the forum for radical politics, lecturing and debating which continued throughout the depression of the 1890's, Federation and the development of the Labour Party.

The library met an important need in society, with large emphasis on fiction, and its aims were stated in terms of "intellectual improvement of our members by means of the cultivation of literature, science and art." The depression and bad management in the 1890's led to a decline of the School of Arts movement and government funding was substantially

⁵⁰ *Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle Bundaberg School of Arts*

⁵¹ *Schwager Brooks and Partners School of Arts Rockhampton CMP*

⁵² *Schwager Brooks and Partners School of Arts Rockhampton CMP*

reduced. The first experiment in adult education had shifted towards an “intellectual recreation” focus. Commercial classes, a few classes in languages and chess, draughts and billiards were, except for the library, about all the institution still offered.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, Schools of Arts had spread throughout the suburbs of Sydney and NSW countryside. Their aim was still intellectual, social and moral improvement, but those established after the First World War period were generally reduced to recreation facilities typically with a library, billiards rooms and card tables.

The achievement of the School of Arts movement was in articulating some important needs of a rapidly changing technological society. The institution was the first to bring to the masses the concepts of technical education, adult education, libraries and public debate. Its early comprehensive functions have now been taken over by official education departments, Universities, TAFE and technical institutions, the WEA adult education, a free library system, and a multiplicity of clubs and societies which provide for the educational and recreational needs of contemporary Australians.

1.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE,

Introduction

This Section describes the physical fabric of the Kangaroo Valley Mechanics Institute within the boundaries of the Council holding.

The Building

The building as it exists in 2000 retains much of its original fabric, however the building has adapted readily to changing requirements of the times through a series of alterations and extensions during subsequent years. The legibility of the spaces remains clear and the layering of each stage of alterations is visible within the fabric

SCHEDULE of BUILDING ELEMENTS

Location No Element Name

External Areas

A1	The setting, site and boundaries
A2	Police Station (Old Court House)
A3	External yard areas within boundaries
A3.1	Garden beds
A4	Car park
A5	Gates to car park
A6	Osborne Park gates
A7	Osborne Park (Showground)
A8	Public toilets
A9	Swimming Pool
A10	Pavilion building
A11	Childrens' playground
A12	Caretakers Cottage

Building exterior

B1	South Elevation
B1.1	South west verandah
B1.2	South east verandah
B2	East elevation
B2.2	Entry steps to east porch
B3	North Elevation

B3.1 Rear steps to kitchen
B4 West Elevation

Building Interior

C1 South entry porch
C1.1 Ticket office
C1.2 Stairs to Projection room
C2 Hall
C2.1 Hall Annexe 1
C2.2 Hall Annexe 2
C3 Stage
C3.1 Under stage Store
C4 Store/ Dressing Room
C5 Hall furniture Store
C6 Supper Room
C7 Kitchen
C8 Doctors Room (Meeting Room)
C9 East Entry Porch

Site Plan of the School of Arts and Osborne Park



*Aerial View of Osborne Park and the School of Arts, circa 1990
(Courtesy Shoalhaven City Council)*

Key Plan of the Building
ELEMENTS of the Building - Description

External Elements



School of Arts and removable gates to Osborne Park



View to north across Kangaroo Valley and Osborne Park

A1 The Setting; The Site and Boundaries

The site is located in the Kangaroo Valley towards the east end of the township. The School of Arts is located close to Moss Vale Road with pedestrian access via a break in the weldmesh fence on the street boundary. The façade and front entry porch contribute to the streetscape approach to the village centre from the east.

The site was subdivided from the original Wiley property (now Osborne park) for the construction of the School of Arts and comprises a total area of 556.4 sq metres.

A2 Police station

The present Police Station was originally the Kangaroo Valley Court



(Photo: WA Bayley Collection, Wollongong City Library)

Court House (Police Station)) and School of Arts, 1953 and 2000

A3 External yard areas within the boundaries

In the area to the south of the building, a wide path extends between the street boundary and the front entry porch to the building, with grass to either side. A secondary path extends to the east to steps at the east entry porch adjacent the carpark. The front entry is rarely used these days, with patrons apparently preferring the east porch due its proximity to their vehicles. There is no direct pathway link or break in fence between the south porch and car park.

Fencing to the site comprises 1.2 metre weldmesh to street boundary with no gate at the entry; single pipe railing to the east boundary (carpark side) between the street boundary and the east porch only; open to Osborne Park to the rear, north boundary; and 1.8 metre paling fence to the west Police Station boundary.

Originally the fence to the street frontage was a timber picket fence with acorn pattern pickets. The fence was later replaced with a timber batten fence prior to the present day weldmesh. Side boundary fences were standard paling to the west The east boundary was defined by a solid timber fence originally, then a post and single rail replaced by the pipe



rail barrier to the car park



Planting and landscape to the School of Arts and gates to Osborne Park

A3.1 Gardens and landscape

A low level garden bed extends around the building from the south west verandah to the east steps. Featured plants include a rose bush to each side of the front entry porch, azaleas and other flowering shrubs to garden beds adjacent each verandah, and a bed of agapanthus to the

eastern (Supper room) side of the building. The surrounding area is dominated by *Eucalypt* spp and Cypress (*Callitris* spp) in Osborne Park, willows to the rear of the site, and street planting opposite of *Callistemon viminalis*.

At the time of original construction, the road was unformed with no tree planting. The village precinct is dominated by tall pines, possibly *Radiata* sp, visible in early photographs. The garden to the School of Arts is a recent inclusion as early photographs indicate no trees, shrubs or garden beds in the immediate vicinity of the building. As late as 1953 there is no evidence of any planting apart from rough grassed areas in the south precinct.

A4 Car park

The car park comprises an asphalt sealed section of driveway leading to Osborne Park, with a limited concrete area adjacent the east porch of the building providing the only available hardstand surface for parking. Remaining parking space is gravel or dirt areas to either side of the drive. The extensive grass areas to south end of the drive or in Osborne Park are used for overflow parking.



A5 Gates to car park,

Memorial brick pillars were erected in 1956 when Osborne Park was officially opened as a showground, comprising a pair of pillars each at the entry from Moss Vale Road with bronze plaques commemorating the pioneers of Kangaroo Valley. Gates were originally installed but are now removed. Lights were installed at that time but were later removed. The piers were extended with another attached brick pier with provision for lighting.



A6 Osborne Park gates

At the entrance to Osborne Park, a low brick wall was constructed to define the park from the car park, and another pair of high piers mark the driveway entrance. Decorative wrought iron gates were installed at the driveway opening, but were removed in 1976 when the pool was built. These gates are temporarily stored under the Hall and are often used to control crowds during some events at the showground.

A7 Osborne Park (Showground)

The main element of the showground is the oval used for most show events. A field track and timber rail fence extend around the perimeter of the oval. The pavilion is the largest building, and open areas to the east are used by spectators and visitors during events at the showground.



*Showground
Pavilion in Osborne
Park*

A8 Public toilets

Male and female public toilets were constructed as separate pre cast concrete pavilions in 1956. They continue to be heavily used by visitors to the showground, swimming pool, the general public including coach tours to the village who frequently use the facilities, and often picnic in the adjacent park. Patrons and staff at functions within the Kangaroo Valley Hall also have no choice but to use these external facilities.

The public toilets are in run down condition and suffering from spalling concrete to precast elements.



Public toilets and dressing sheds to rear of School of Arts

A9 Swimming Pool

The swimming pool to the rear of the Hall constructed in 1976 provides its own separate change rooms and showers. The pool itself is fenced off from Osborne Park by a 1.8m high chain wire fence.

The accessibility of the public toilet and shower facilities has proved popular with unofficial campers attracted to the area.

A10 Pavilion building

The corrugated iron structure located opposite the car park from the Hall is used almost exclusively during show periods only as an exhibition and internal show space. It is accessible from a roller shutter to the car park

but faces the showground to the north. Other show buildings and admin facilities are attached to the east side of the building.

A11 Childrens' playground

A play area adjacent the carpark near the road frontage has proved popular with children in recent years, particularly as a diversion for families involved in shows or other events at the showground. Unfortunately recently Council has removed most items of play equipment for safety reasons, greatly reducing the appeal of this facility.



Playground and Caretakers cottage

A12 Caretakers Cottage

This simple timber and fibro cottage was built in 1934 apparently from timber salvaged from the demolition of the Presbyterian church opposite. It has deteriorated in condition in recent years, and is currently occupied by the caretaker of the Hall and Osborne Park and her family.



Building Exterior

B1 South Elevation

The main street elevation is generally altered entry porch.

All windows in front section are relative frames to approximately the original divided into four panes rather than the c

The condition of weatherboard and fibro



B1.1 South west verandah

Bullnose roof structure appears to be original, features a decorative fretworked frieze

Deck boards have been recently replaced.

**B1.2 South east verandah**

As for B1.2, but deck not replaced.

B2 Gable detail and porch to south elevation

The Supper Room is clearly evident. The gables and roof pitch vary from original

The brick chimney to the meeting room is prominent, and is at 45 degrees to the axis of building. It is the only remaining chimney.

Garden bed to south east verandah



East elevation

B2.2 Entry steps to east porch

The steps to the east entry porch are in poor condition.

B3 North Elevation

The rear is dominated by the extension of the kitchen. The gabled profile of the extended rear hall repeats the decorative infill of the original front elevation.

A brick compound at ground level houses gas cylinders for the kitchen.

B3.1 Rear steps to kitchen

A set of concrete steps and timber landing provide a service entrance to the kitchen.



West Elevation (above)



North elevation (left)

B4 West Elevation

Evidence of several stages of alteration and extension are visible in the fabric of the wall linings and the underfloor structure.

The change of weatherboards and join visible at the north west corner of the southern gable indicates the existence of an extension or infilled verandah. However consistent floor structure of 150x50 floor joists throughout this area and to the rear of the original 1907 section of the Hall, indicate this as original structure.

The adjacent panel of differing weatherboards however was originally open and the concrete steps to an early exit door from the hall annexe (Space C2.2) remain under the floor to Space C5.

A set of timber stairs existed until 1964 on the western side providing escape exits from the stage and the north east corner of the hall.

The stone substructure of a chimney remains under Space C2.1. This chimney is the mirror reverse of the chimney in the Doctor's Room, demolished in 1964.

A concrete path extends from the south west deck along the west of the building as access to the public toilets at the rear.

Roof

The roof is corrugated iron and gutters standard quad profile, both in poor condition, with indifferent and variable stormwater drainage. The original roof was short sheet galvanised iron with ogee profiled gutters to main roof and verandahs. Verandahs had painted stripes to each of the bullnose roofs, as was the fashion of the period.

Interior Spaces

Generally:

The interior fabric is relatively intact, and throughout most spaces, fabric from each period of construction remains or is readily able to be interpreted.

PRESENT CONFIGURATION OF EACH SPACE

C1 Front Entry Porch

The front double entry doors are solid timber with two diagonal board panels to each leaf.

The porch is open, and unlined to the ceiling, and forms the soffit to the floor of the projection room. The ticket office and projection room are accessed by doors off opposite sides of the porch.

C1A Ticket office

The interior is quite intact, complete with ticket window and counter and bench opposite. Graffiti and scrawled notes on the wall recall its use as a box office.

C1B Stair to Projection Booth

The narrow stair leads to the projection room at the mezzanine level. This is now empty space and is permanently locked off for security reasons



Ticket window

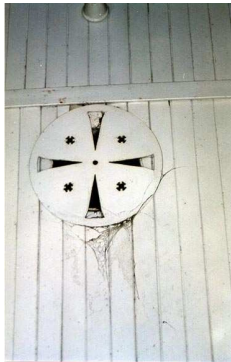


Projection Box within Hall

C2 Hall

The ceiling is wide timber lining boards, with wide timber cornice. A join in the ceiling 13.8 metres from the front defines the junction of the 1928 hall extension. Similar profile boards line the full extent of the hall, and a dado at 1.1 metres with vertical timber and bolection moulding to the top define the extent of the original 1907 space, and in addition extend around the internal stage area.

Lighting is modern suspended fluorescent fittings



Top
Hall interior



Bottom
Annexe C2.1



C2.1 Hall annexe

Originally the Library wing to the west of the building, this space subsequently became the 'Ladies room' and the first Supper Room. It was opened up into the Hall in 1964. It retains intact many original finishes including ripple iron ceiling and decorative rose vent, timber panelled dado and timber wall lining.

C2.2 Hall annexe

A low roofed section of the building, possibly dating from original construction (it is visible in a photograph of the west elevation taken in 1920) Originally used as a Committee Room it later became the 'Gent's room' and was opened up to the Hall in 1964. Finishes are simpler than the adjacent spaces, timber wall lining with no dado and timber ceiling.

C3 Stage

The stage, originally timber is now oversheeted with particleboard. The proscenium arch appears adequate if not somewhat temporary.

A set of unsafe stairs access the stage from the hall.



Under Stage Storage

C3.1 Under Stage Storage

The space under the stage provides valuable storage for heavy furniture items in the hall such as tables and hauling trolley.

Three pairs of doors open into the hall.

C4 Dressing Room

Formerly used as a dressing room, this ante room off the stage is in poor condition and now used only as a stage storage area.

C5 Store

This space provided the only escape exit to the rear of the building until 1964 and access to the external public toilets. It was then enclosed as female change room, and later became a furniture store for the hall. The space has never been properly finished off and many gaps are open to the weather.

C6 Supper Room

The Supper Room provides an annexe off the Hall and milling and serving space for refreshments from the kitchen. A concertina door provides some separation from the hall. Double doors lead directly onto the eastern entry porch. The interior is in fair condition, requiring some new finishes.



Supper Room

Kitchen

C7 Kitchen

The kitchen is a well equipped commercial standard kitchen but is let down by the deteriorating condition of much of the benches and cupboards.

C8 Meeting Room

Now known as the 'Doctor's' room due its regular use as a medical clinic, the old meeting room is a multi purpose space which frequently doubles as the main entry point into the Hall for functions due to the lack of



external lock function on the double doors to the Hall from the porch or the Supper Room.

The fireplace hearth and mantelpiece remain intact but the hearth has been closed off since 1964.

A complete examination table and screen dating from the 1950's remains intact and continues to be used by medical staff.

The Meeting room is the only space retaining complete finishes from original construction including ripple iron ceiling with decorative ceiling vent, timber lining boards, and complete dado configuration, fireplace and two panelled doors. The doors also retain their original rimlocks, (together with several later lock replacements.)



Doctor's Room

1.3 ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY AND PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Documentary evidence

Original construction drawings have been lost, and we have relied on contemporary description and physical evidence to determine the extent of original fabric remaining. Good photographic evidence remains which reveals the form of the building particularly the Moss Vale Road elevation in 1910 shortly after original construction, in 1920, and 1953.

Much valuable information regarding building detail can be confirmed through analysis of early photographs, including gutter profile, joinery to friezes, gable infills and shading of exterior colours.

Photographs taken in 1910, 1919 and 1953 indicate the dearth of introduced planting or landscaping in the vicinity of the Mechanics Institute. Pathways and driveways were unformed and the only improvements visible are fences to the boundaries.

Research for this study has failed to confirm the purpose or history of a square gable roofed building detached from the School of Arts visible in a 1919 photograph to the rear of the Shire Office. No records describing this structure have been located, except for references to a new library to the rear of the former Shire Office in 1925, after this photo was taken. The site development plans of this report have ascribed its use as either a library or billiards room, based on conjecture only.

Since Council ownership in 1964, detailed records survive recording all work to the building through drawings and Council minutes⁵³.

The building fabric as evidence

The fabric of the building itself has provided detailed and reliable evidence as to the development and history of the building. Much of the original fabric has survived to confirm available documentary evidence in tracing the history of the building.

The floor was replaced throughout in 1964, which has obscured evidence of changes to the internal layout of the Hall. However, the floor structure indicates clearly the areas which dated from original 1907 construction using heavier 150x50 hardwood joists. All other areas use 90x45mm joists, including the extended section of the Hall. The junction of the 1928 extension is visible by a join and cover bead in the wall and ceiling lining boards within the hall. Stone piers were used throughout and piers to the extended sections were acquired from the demolished National Hall.

Variations to the size and profile of weatherboards also indicate progressive stages of development, 200mm to the original section and 145mm to subsequent extensions. Alterations to openings are also clearly visible in the fabric. The status of each room is reflected in the standard of finishes, ripple iron ceilings, rose vents and timber dados defining the more important spaces.

⁵³ Appendix 4 refers



Dado to C2.1



Junction of weatherboards

Footing to chimney
C2.1

Steps to C2.2

The Building fabric as evidence

Oral Evidence

A long time resident of Kangaroo Valley and former caretaker of the Kangaroo Valley Hall, Mrs Peggy Synold has provided a first hand account of the operation and form of the Hall and facilities of the showground, during the 1960's. This has confirmed the use of the doctor's room and the types of functions held in the hall at that time. Her account supports our conclusions from physical evidence regarding the configuration of the spaces along the west side of the hall including the old supper room and former exits.⁵⁴

Mrs Synold described the functioning of the old supper room and the cooking and food warming facilities provided by an outbuilding to the rear. This situation prevailed until around 1950 when the new supper room and kitchen were finally completed. It is assumed that this was the extension planned in 1937, delayed through intervention of the War. Photographs of 1953 indicate this extension in its completed state.

⁵⁴ Appendix 3 refers

Outline of Changes Based on Analysis of History and Building Fabric

The following account of the various stages of upgrading, alterations and extensions to the School of Arts since 1907 is derived from an interpretation of the preceding historical research. The nature and extent of work was supported by investigation of the physical fabric of the building (Refer Section 1.3).

1907 - 1919

A detached gable roofed structure existed to the rear of the Shire office prior to 1919, however its purpose is not known. The building may have become the library or billiards room.

1925

An additional room was constructed adjoining the back of the room occupied by the Shire Council until 1925. This room became the Library whilst the room known as the Shire Office, became the Reading room. The original Library and Reading Rooms were converted into Ladies and Gents rooms.

1928

The first major extension was required to make the building more suitable for public performances and to improve its viability as interest in billiards and the library declined. The work involved lengthening the Hall by 6 760mm, and incorporated a raised Stage, Dressing Room and proscenium. The design and detailing of the extension was compatible with the original, although lighter timber structural elements were used.

1937- 1950

Supper Room facilities had always been a major shortcoming in catering for functions and groups. Food preparation facilities were primitive and comprised an outbuilding with boiler to the rear, necessitating a convoluted access to the Hall via outside doors, steps and pathways. The room vacated by the library and ladies room became a supper room until the late 1940's. Plans were drawn up for a substantial extension in 1937, however records do not indicate when the extension was actually constructed. Apparently the War intervened and the work proceeded soon after. The extension provided a new Supper Room to the rear of the Doctors Room and side entrance. It was conveniently accessible from the side of the hall and extensive kitchen facilities were provided with a service access to the rear. The extension comprised a low pitched skillion to the east side with a gable return to the rear. In spite of different details such as the roof, window sizes and narrow weatherboards, the extension blends successfully with the original structure.

1950

Following experimental efforts after 1947, the front entry was modified in 1950 to incorporate a mezzanine level projection room (or Biograph Box) for showing of movie films.

This addition involved demolition of the original entry porch and reconstruction of two level annexe. Unfortunately the charming small entry porch was replaced by a larger structure at the most conspicuous location. This annexe and the new gable attempted to acknowledge the original design, but was less successful than the original porch, to the extent that the roof pitch of the two gables do not quite match.

1950- 1964

There was little further improvement until 1964 - 65 and the building is reported to have deteriorated in condition through lack of funding and declining usage

In 1964 Shoalhaven Shire Council acquired the property, and immediately initiated a program for improvement. This work involved extensive maintenance and alterations such as opening up internal spaces to enable the building to meet the changing needs of the community at the time including the following:

- Replacement of floor throughout with new tallowwood.
- Removal of the walls to the three enclosed annexe spaces, the former supper room and library to enlarge the Hall, making it more suitable for cabaret entertainment.
- Catering arrangements were to be re-organized for cabaret dances, which required food and drink to be provided on tables around the dance floor rather than a sit-down supper, in the supper room.
- Repairs to foundations
- Demolition of the fireplace and chimney in the old west wing
- Refacing the Biograph Box to improve the finish within the Hall as it had become redundant for movie projection.

The alterations had little effect on the exterior of the building, but internally, resulted in the loss of some original fabric and finishes.

1973

In 1972- 73 Council planned further upgrading work to the Entry Foyer and Kitchen. The design for the front entry involved a brick flat roofed porch completely incompatible with the character of the building. Fortunately, only the Kitchen fitout proceeded at that time.

Development of the Site, 1907 – 2000

Sequential Plans

(The following plans illustrate the major stages of development of the building as described above, based on information derived from contemporary documents, oral history and physical investigation of the building)

1907- 1925

1928

1937-1949

1950

1964- 2000**PART 2: ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE****Basis of Assessment**

This study uses the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria⁵⁵ to evaluate the nature and degree of significance of the site as a whole and key contributory components. The nature of cultural significance is assessed under four categories including **historic, aesthetic, technical/scientific and social significance**.

The **degree** of significance takes into account the rarity or representative nature of the item or feature.

Citations and Existing Listings

The Heritage significance of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts is recognised by the following listings:

- The Shoalhaven Heritage Study 1998 by Peter Freeman and Roger Hobbs, Inventory listing (Appendix 1), and is listed on the Shoalhaven LEP 1998.
- Kangaroo Valley Townscape Study, Annette Green 1994 (Appendix 1)

The School of Arts is also located within the Kangaroo Valley Conservation Area, a precinct of high significance listed in Council's LEP, Draft REP and the National Trust. The site is adjacent the Kangaroo Valley Pastoral Landscape DCP zone.

Statement of Significance

The Kangaroo Valley School of Arts is significant principally for its contribution to the cultural advancement of the local community. This was its intended role initially as the Mechanics Institute and School of Arts, in advancing the cause of education and trade skills among the working class and people in rural areas. As the influence of such institutions receded after the First World War, the School of Arts building continued to play an important role in community affairs, as Council Offices and Council Chambers, billiards room, library, venue for local drama and musical productions, and later the screening of feature movie films. Throughout its existence, the Hall has provided a much sought after facility for all types of private and community functions, unavailable elsewhere in the district.

The success of the building is largely due to its continued relevance as a central community facility, in spite of a rapidly changing world and lifestyles since 1907. The building has readily adapted to new requirements and accommodated alteration without loss of integrity.

In addition the building has become a prominent landmark entering the main street of the village, through its distinctive steeply pitched gable

⁵⁵ NSW Heritage Manual, (Heritage Office 1997)

roof, elegant proportions, and fine joinery detailing to the verandahs and gables characteristic of the Edwardian period.

It has heritage significance through its value to the local community and its aesthetic contribution to the townscape.

The building continues an important role for the community as the multi purpose Kangaroo Valley Community Hall.

Nature of Significance

The building and its site display high significance within the three of the four major *heritage assessment criteria*:

Historical Significance

The Kangaroo Valley School of Arts has historical significance through its intrinsic association with the development of community activities in Kangaroo Valley. The building embodied the establishment in the Valley of the Mechanics Institute and the School of Arts movement, a strong influence in early 20th century adult education and cultural advancement. It continues to perform an essential role in the major events in the Valley, in particular its support role to the showground. It has provided the venue for many important social events in the Valley including weddings, cultural receptions, political gatherings, dances and performances.

Aesthetic Significance

The building is an excellent example of amateur architecture, designed by the local school master, Mr James Burrell. It is clearly the work of a designer with talent and ability, more remarkable through the fact that his career was in a totally different field. The adaptability of the building to accommodate future alterations and continue to serve the community in different ways attests to the original designer's aptitude and vision.

The design of the building is Gothic in style, with distinctive joinery detailing to gables and verandahs characteristic of the Edwardian period prior to the First World War. Subsequent alterations have been sympathetic to a greater or lesser degree, and some of the integrity of the original has been lost. For example the supper room has varied the form of the roof from the original and the original well proportioned entry porch was replaced by the less successful two storey projection room structure.

The facade is a prominent landmark on approach from the east to the township along Moss Vale Road. It is contemporary with the adjacent Court House and other buildings in the vicinity, and as a group they provide an important contribution to the Kangaroo Valley townscape and Main Street. The domestic scale of the School of Arts and the gabled roof forms are complimentary to the Court House/ residence, with the importance of the Court being reinforced by the use of stonework in contrast to the weatherboards of the School of Arts.

Social Significance

The Kangaroo Valley School of Arts was highly significant for its impact on the educational welfare, social structure and contemporary community of Kangaroo Valley at all periods since original construction.

The success of the building may be measured by its continuing relevance to present day community activities, and its value to the local district in the unique facilities it provides through health care, tourism, social functions, performing arts, dance and cultural activities.

Technical/ Scientific Significance

Some areas of the Hall display evidence of craftsmanship representative of the Edwardian period, notably the intact interior of the Doctor's Room and remnants of ceilings elsewhere and gable joinery. However these elements are not considered to be of sufficient significance to qualify under this criterion, but as contributing to the *Aesthetic Significance* of the building.

**Levels of Significance,
Local Significance**

It is highly significant at a local level through its cultural value to the community and aesthetic value to the Kangaroo Valley townscape.

The building is representative as a good intact example of a rural vernacular School of Arts building, retaining its original setting and the integrity of its original form.



Significant streetscape

Assessment of Significance of Component Parts

The Statement of Significance describes the general nature of the significance of the building as a whole.

To enable decisions to be made regarding the long-term conservation and development of the place, the following assessments of the degree of significance of the various elements of the place has been made.

The degree of significance of the various elements has been divided into four categories:

"	High significance	A
"	Considerable significance	B
"	Some significance	C
"	Little significance	D

" Intrusive elements Int

Schedule of Significant Items within the School of Arts Precinct

Annotations refer to Key Plans and Site Plan.

Assessments are indicated for Significant Items within curtilage of School of Arts only.

Conservation recommendations for each item are included in Part 5 of the report.

Annotation	Location	Assessment
A: CURTILAGE AND SURROUNDING AREAS		
A1	The Site and Setting	
Sign on post		D
Views of site from Moss Vale Road		A
Contribution to streetscape		A
Views from site to north across Valley		A
A2	Police station	A
A3	External yard areas within the boundaries	
Wide path to front entry porch		B
Side path to the east		D
Garden beds		C
Fencing to the site:		
1.2 metre weldmesh to street boundary		Int
Single pipe railing to the east boundary		Int
1.8 metre paling fence to the west boundary		D
A4	Car park	
Asphalt sealed driveway		D
Concrete hardstand		D
Grass areas to south end of the drive		C
A5	Gates to car park	
Piers and Plaques		A
A6	Osborne Park gates	
Piers		A
Low brick wall		A
A7	Osborne Park (Showground)	N/A
A8	Public toilets	
Precast Male and female public toilets		Int
A9	Swimming Pool	
Change rooms and showers.		
Swimming Pool Compound		N/A
A10	Pavilion building	
		N/A
A11	Childrens' playground	

N/A

A12 Caretakers Cottage**N/A****B: BUILDING EXTERIOR****B1 South Elevation**

Main street elevation	A
Altered entry porch	A
Reconstructed windows to front	B
Building sign	Int
Projection Room exterior	B
Gable joinery	A

B1.1 South west verandah

Bullnose roof and structure	A
Decorative fretworked frieze.	A
Deck boards.	C

B1.2 South east verandah

As for B1.2

B2 East elevation

Supper Room extension	B
Brick chimney.	A

B2.2 Entry steps to east porch

Int

B3 North Elevation

Kitchen extension	B
Gable joinery	A
Brick gas bottle compound	Int

B3.1 Rear steps to kitchen

Concrete steps and timber landing	Int
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B4 West Elevation

Weatherboards indicating stages of development	B
Original floor structure of 150x50 floor joists.	A
Concrete steps under C2.2	B

Roof

Corrugated iron roof	B
Gutters	Int
Stormwater drainage	na

C: INTERIOR SPACES**C1 The Entry Porch**

Front double entry doors, solid timber	A
Porch	B

C1A Ticket office

Ticket window and counter	A
Side bench	A
Graffiti and scrawled notes on the wall	B

C1B Stair to Projection Booth

Stair	B
Projection room	B

C2 Hall

Timber ceiling and vents	A
Junction of the 1928 extension	A
Timber Dado	A
Enclosed window reveals to south end	B
Projection room	B
Exposed Conduits	Int
Fibro linings	Int
Fluorescent fittings	Int
Tallowwod floor	B

C2.1 Hall Annexe

Fluorescent fittings	Int
Ceiling rose vent and ripple iron ceiling	A
Timber dado	A
Wall linings	A
Escape doors	Int
"Ladies " inscription to wall	B
Floor	B

C2.2 Hall Annexe

Timber lined ceiling and bulkhead	B
Floor	B
Wall linings	A

C3 Stage

Stage	A
Particleboard oversheeting	Int
Proscenium arch	B
Stairs access to stage	Int

C3.1 Under Stage Storage

Internal linings	Int
Three pairs of doors	B

C4 Dressing Room

B

C5 Store

Int

C6 Supper Room

Concertina door	D
Double doors	B
Fire hose reel, wall mounted	Int
Lino floor	Int
Servery to kitchen	Int

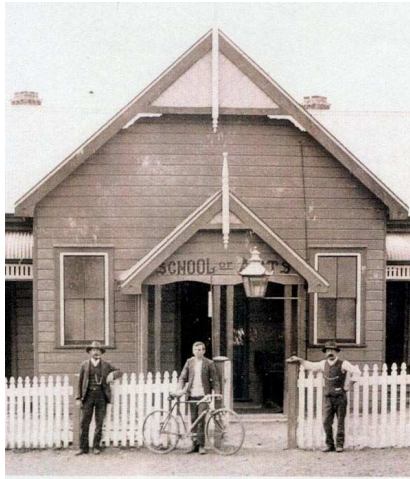
C7 Kitchen

Benches and cupboards.	na
Floor	na

C8 Meeting Room

Fireplace hearth and mantelpiece	A
Examination table and screen	A
Ripple iron ceiling with decorative ceiling vent	A
Timber lining boards	A
Timber dado	A

Panelled doors.	A
Rimlocks	A
Lockwood locks	Int
Lino Floor	Int
Generally, to all areas	
Fluorescent fittings	Int
Ceiling fans	C
Wall heaters	D



With construction of the new porch, ticket office and projection booth, the building lost a well proportioned elevation and finely detailed porch. However the new addition represents an important stage in the history of the School of Arts



Comparative significance with other Heritage Sites

The Kangaroo Valley School of Arts is similar to many contemporary Schools of Arts and community halls in rural areas of NSW, and is typical of the scale and type of building to serve a town and district the size of Kangaroo Valley. However it is rare in the Shoalhaven as one of the only remaining weatherboard School of Arts. The only other example is at Tomerong. It bears no comparison with the grand buildings of major centres such as Nowra but has somewhat more in common with the simpler brick structure of Berry. Jamberoo is another example of a typical timber framed School of Arts in a comparable community to Kangaroo Valley. However this building has been extensively altered to provide improved facilities for the performing arts, and the significance of the original vernacular community hall has been lost.

The overall planning of Schools of Arts/ Mechanics Institutes have certain common features, and consistently provide similar facilities. A School of Arts was established with the purpose of providing library and reading room facilities and a venue for education and instruction. As public education expanded and community needs changed, the School of Arts concept changed to serve these needs. The use of Schools of Arts varied from community to community, however the following facilities were typically provided, and the facilities at Kangaroo Valley were no exception:

- Auditorium
- Supper room
- Billiards rooms

- Meeting/ committee rooms
- Library/ Reading Rooms

PART 3 - MANAGE SIGNIFICANCE

DEVELOPMENT OF CONSERVATION POLICY

Introduction

The previous section has established that the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts has considerable historic, aesthetic, and social significance

The development of an appropriate set of Policies for the conservation, use and management of the site must take into account the opportunities and constraints arising from:

- 1. the Statement of Significance**
- 2. the requirements of the site owners and the community, the available resources and feasible options for future use of the place**
- 3. the physical condition of the place**
- 4. requirements imposed by external factors**

Opportunities and Constraints arising from the Statement of Significance

The Kangaroo Valley School of Arts is significant for a variety of reasons, consequently the building and its curtilage need to be protected and exploited in an appropriate manner.

In order to protect this unique visual character and to ensure that both the integrity and legibility of the site is not lost through inappropriate development, certain constraints should apply to any future redevelopment in the vicinity:

- usage which may impact on the significance of the building and its curtilage, including the showground, should be prohibited;
- reconstruction of fabric should be limited to ensure that the legibility and integrity of the original fabric is not obscured.
- alterations or new development should be strictly limited and controlled to ensure that there is no loss of visual character;
- significant fabric should be appropriately conserved;
- views and vistas to and from the site should be preserved;
- any development with potential for physical and visual impact on the School of Arts and all other heritage items in the vicinity, including the streetscape should be prohibited
- conservation and other work on the site should be carried out under the supervision of specialist consultants and tradesmen

Opportunities arising from the significance of the site should be considered in any redevelopment program, and include:

- The potential to regain the visual character of the interior of the building.
- Retention of the aesthetic value of the building and positive contribution to its setting
- Retention of the legibility of the fabric which enables interpretation of the changes to the fabric and adaptability in the use of the spaces.

Management policies must ensure that the structure is fully protected from inappropriate alterations, poorly executed conservation, and inappropriate usage.

Opportunities and Constraints Arising from Ownership and Use

Ownership by Council:

The property has been in community ownership since original construction, but under the direct responsibility of the Shoalhaven Shire Council then Shoalhaven City Council only since 1964. The building was very run down at that time due to lack of resources of the previous management committee, and Council immediately undertook a comprehensive renovations and improvement program, including replacement of the floor in the Hall. Unfortunately, maintenance work since that time has been spasmodic, with resulting inconsistency in finishes and ad hoc alterations. It was a period of many upgrades including lighting, ceiling fans, fire detectors, emergency lighting etc, all adding to the clutter of exposed services such as electrical conduits.

The building has visibly suffered through the lack of any clear direction or plan of management.

Council recognises that an opportunity now exists during the current maintenance program for the building to address the shortcomings of the piecemeal approach of the past. The building needs to be comprehensively refurbished and appropriately redeveloped to ensure future viability as a valuable community asset for the long term future.

Council objectives

There are no plans for any redevelopment or change of use to the building, beyond the current maintenance program. However a recognised problem for many years has been the necessity for patrons to use the outside public toilet facilities, and opportunities should be investigated to provide internal facilities. The lack of internal toilet facilities has inhibited greater levels of use of the Hall. This should be achieved without impinging on existing spaces or detracting from the use of the building.

Present and Future Use of the Building

A noticeable decline in the use of the facility has occurred in recent years. The building are used regularly for the visiting medical officer, aerobics classes and occasional meeting, however these activities usually occupy only one room for short periods several times a week. Many of the activities which highlighted full use of the Hall such as flower shows, many of the balls and dances and performing arts are held at other venues or are suffering a declining interest in the community. The Hall continues to provide the important venue for receptions associated with the Shows and King of the Mountain events, but occur only several times through the year. The hall is often used for private functions and

wedding receptions. Members of the local community are strongly attached to their Hall and are anxious to retain the facilities entirely for the community benefit. Declining use is a serious concern for many in the community, particularly the older generation, and any proposal for a any future commercial involvement must be approached sensitively to fully accommodate the interests and aspirations of the local community.

During the 1950's and 60's the Hall was a popular venue as a cinema. This use has declined in recent years, the projection box and ticket booth having been closed off for many years. Nevertheless in view of the resurgence in popularity of country cinemas elsewhere, the opportunity remains to reactivate this facility. The success of such venues in tourist areas is clearly demonstrated at other locations such as Huskisson, Jamberoo and Mt Victoria.

Opportunities for Tourism in the Shoalhaven.

In recent years Kangaroo Valley has experienced a surge in tourist visitation. This has daily impact on the outside areas of the Hall, in particular the public carpark and public toilets, frequently used by visitors. On regular occasions during the year, major events held at the showground such as the Show in February and the King of the Mountain Fun Run in June attract large crowds of visitors from far and wide. The hall provides an important facility in catering for special functions in conjunction with these events.

Any improvement in the level of facility provided at the Kangaroo Valley Hall will enhance the appeal of Kangaroo Valley as a tourist destination.

Public Access

Issues of access which must be considered include:

- adequate parking
- through a controlled point of entry
- disabled access
- fire egress compliant with code

Parking

The driveway to the site is shared by the Hall, the showground and the swimming pool, and is sealed without kerbing. Hardstand for 2-3 cars is provided adjacent the east porch to the hall and additional informal parking is available to both sides of the drive on gravelled or grassed areas. The space available for parking is more than adequate for most occasions, as overflow may extend into the showground itself. The present situation is high in maintenance and unsatisfactory in wet weather. Potential parking areas should be sealed and clearly defined.

Clearly defined access

The hall itself expresses its entrance through the entry porch facing Moss Vale Road. In reality however the sole entry for patrons and visitors for most functions at the Hall is via the eastern porch adjacent the carpark. The situation becomes more convoluted and untenable as both double entry doors onto the east porch are accessible only from the inside as escape exits, therefore the usual access for functions within the Hall is via the two doors of the Doctor's Room! The Moss Vale Road entry has not been used for years, and a regular pattern of entry has now been established via the eastern porch, possibly due to its closer proximity to the carpark.

Disabled Access

Disabled access is scheduled for inclusion in the current works program, to replace the steps to the eastern porch with a ramp. Such a proposal will further confirm the eastern porch as the prime entry point to the building.

Ironically the original Moss Vale Road entry is already disabled accessible, and consideration should be given to reinstate this as the main point of entry.

Fire Egress

At present all publicly accessible areas are compliant with the BCA requirements for egress, and a program of emergency lighting, smoke alarms and exit signs is being implemented during June 2000. Any future provisions for internal toilet areas must ensure that egress distances are maintained within code requirements and that the building is fully protected by thermal or smoke alarms.

Opportunities and Constraints Arising from Physical Condition

Current Maintenance program

Conservation policy should accommodate the effects of visitor usage and resulting wear and tear on building fabric.

The program should include external painting to a revised colour scheme based on paint scrapes and early photographs. Refer Appendix 2.

Potential for Extension

Currently, the perceived priorities for upgrading the building include internal toilets, disabled toilet and improved access. Such proposals will be subject to severe constraints, as the building does not lend itself readily to extension beyond the present limits of the fabric.

An opportunity to be exploited within the building which may be adapted to provide such facilities is available within the void created under the stage and the Dressing Room.

Additional space within the Hall

It is possible physically to provide additional seating for performances (should it be required) by inclusion of a gallery level or mezzanine replacing the projection room, accessible utilising the existing stairs. However the feasibility of such a proposal must be balanced by practical considerations such as fire egress, safety and security in areas that may be difficult to monitor.

Public Toilets

The present outside public toilets provide a valuable service to the community and visitors, and will be required irrespective of upgraded facilities within the Hall. Architecturally, the present outbuildings contribute nothing to the sensitive heritage context of Kangaroo Valley.

The outbuildings are currently programmed for demolition, and the opportunity now exists for replacement with structures of compatible design to improve their relationship within the heritage precinct.

Constraints and Requirements Imposed by External Factors

Statutory Requirements

Any conservation or development on the site must be cognisant of the regulations of relevant government agencies:

- Compliance with Worksafe, and Business and Consumer Affairs Food Preparation Code, re:
 - Controls for public places, performing areas, food and beverages, and businesses serving the public.
- Building Code of Australia re:

-Controls for buildings, amenities, fire protection and egress

- Council planning and zoning requirements
- State Government Heritage requirements

PART 4 CONSERVATION POLICY

Introduction and Conservation Objectives

The purpose of the conservation policies set out in this section is to provide a set of mandatory principles relating to the care and development of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts in a manner which retains its significance while allowing it to be effectively utilised as a community facility. Its use should recognise the value to the community, and future management should ensure this resource is enhanced to its full potential.

Management policy should recognise the following attributes of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts:

- It offers a specific community educational resource providing authentic and extensive evidence of past work practices, people and values.
- The building represents a significant contribution to the community's social historic awareness

In this section, policy statements are provided in italics and should be read with the associated text to aid interpretation.

Terminology:

"Should" in the context of this report implies mandatory requirement for compliance.

"May" implies suggested or optional compliance.

Conservation terminology including terms such as 'place', 'conservation', 'restoration', 'reconstruction', 'adaptation' etc follow the definitions of the Burra Charter

Conservation Work

Policy (1.1): The future conservation and development of the site (hereinafter referred to as the place') should be directed towards maintaining and interpreting its heritage significance in accordance with the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter).

Policy (1.2): The significance of the place should be made clearly evident to the observer and the means of interpretation should be compatible with the retention of that significance

Policy (1.3): The Statement of Significance as set out in Part 2, together with recommendations for specific items contained in this policy section, should be accepted as the basis for future conservation.

Policy (1.4) : The conservation of all elements of high degree of significance should be a combination of preservation and restoration.

Policy (1.5): The conservation of elements of some significance include preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and adaptation.

Policy (1.6): In some specific instances, limited adaptation and reconstruction may be allowed in accordance with the Burra Charter to allow and assist interpretation..

Policy (1.7): In some instances, elements of compromised significance may be reinstated to their original form and condition.

Policy (1.8): Intrusive elements should be removed.

Coordination and Advice

The recommendations of this Conservation Management Plan should be implemented via a co-ordinated decision-making process. Continuity of competent advice is also important for the successful long-term implementation of this plan.

Policy (2.1): A responsible co-ordinating and management body should be appointed to implement the recommendations of this Plan.

Policy (2.2): Persons with relevant conservation expertise should be engaged for the consistent interpretation of this Plan and the resolution of conservation issues as well as for the design, documentation and supervision of on site works.

Policy (2.3): The policies outlined in this document should be endorsed as a guide to future planning and work.

Policy (2.4): This document should be reviewed as the need arises but at a minimum of five year intervals.

Community Consultation and Management

Members of organisations of related heritage sites, other interest groups such as the Shoalhaven Historical Society, and the local community at large should have some means of contributing to the ongoing use and management of the site within the constraints of this Conservation Plan.

Policy (3.1): The community and stake holders in other related local heritage sites should be able to contribute to decisions regarding the use and management of the site.

The Setting, Boundaries and Curtilage

Policies are proposed which ensure that the contribution of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts to the streetscape and townscape of the Kangaroo Valley township is maintained and protected from inappropriate development on the subject site or adjoining sites.

Policy (4.2) Prohibit or restrict development in the immediate surrounding area that may adversely impact on the significance of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts, its designated curtilage or associated buildings, or views to the site.

Policy (4.3) Reconstruct the picket fence to the front boundary and other fences to the site in their original detail.

Compatible Uses

Since original construction, the building has provided a community and cultural facility. The building has readily adapted to changing community requirements since its original function as a school of arts and mechanics institute. A series of alterations and extensions have responded to the need for change without detracting from the original character and scale of the building.

Policy (5.1) Future uses of the School of Arts should be compatible with the form, scale and character of the original building.

Recovery of significant spaces

Certain sections of the interior of the building remain in near to original form and current uses are consistent with the objective of restoring the significant spaces.

Policy (6.1) Interior spaces and elements designated as significant shall be restored as closely as practicable to original form and finishes. Remove all elements identified as intrusive in the Schedule of Significance, Part 2.

Should current use be incompatible with this objective, reconstruction or restoration of affected interiors shall remain the long term objective.

Maintenance and repair

Maintenance programs in the past have been characterised by inconsistent maintenance activity which has resulted in piecemeal alterations, exposed services and variable standard of finish.

Policy (7.1): It is essential that a comprehensive refurbishment and upgrading program be implemented immediately, followed up by consistent ongoing maintenance at regular intervals.

External Conservation

The building exterior is the cumulative result of numerous alterations and extensions, which as discussed in the Assessment of Significance (Part 2) have not always enhanced the original character and quality of the building. The projection room entry porch and the supper room extension are the most visible examples. Nevertheless the progressive alterations represent important development in the historical significance of the School of Arts. Therefore generally this report recommends retention of the exterior fabric of the building in its present form. There remains some scope in the conservation process to recapture some aspects of the original character and improve the integrity of the building in its setting.

Policy (8.1): Reinstate missing fabric, including gable joinery and original doors.

Policy (8.2): Make good the projection room entry porch to 1950's form and detail.

Policy (8.3): The current maintenance program should include external painting to a revised colour scheme matching as closely as possible to the colours of the original School of Arts, based on paint scrapes and early photographic evidence. Refer Colour Scheme, Appendix 2.

Public Access, Traffic Management and Security

Policy (9.1): The building should be accessible to the general public within the constraints of safety, security and retention of significance of the site. Provide pedestrian access directly from the car park to the Moss Vale road entry and reinstate this as the principal public entry to the building.

Policy (9.2): Disabled access should be allowed via the step free southern entry porch, reinstated as the main public entry to the building.

Policy (9.3): The double escape doors to the south western porch shall be reconstructed consistent with the timber panelled doors in the building.

Policy (9.4): A carefully conceived sealed and landscaped carpark shall be provided to the eastern precinct. The paving shall be all weather and maintenance free, and landscaping arranged to reduce the impact of vehicles on the site.

Services

Policy (10.1) All intrusive elements relating to necessary provision of services, fire safety and egress shall be reviewed and alternative systems compatible with retaining the significance of original fabric shall be incorporated. This shall include the concealment of all visible services conduits and pipe work.

Policy (10.2) Reconstruct the original gas lamp and arch over the gate entry via the picket fence to the south entry.

Policy (10.2): Replace fluorescent light fittings to all function areas with selected fittings of traditional character.

Policy (10.): All new services should be provided in a manner which does not adversely impact on the heritage significance of the building and site.

Future development and options for reuse of the building

Any redevelopment or upgrading of facilities must be achieved within the existing building envelope of the Kangaroo Valley Hall. Scope does not exist around the perimeter of the building to extend without unacceptable impact on the School of Arts, the Court House or the visual curtilage to the south and east of the building. Some alteration or upgrading to the supper room elevation and external precinct may be acceptable to enhance the eastern elevation of the building.

The building is not used to capacity and attendances to community functions have declined in recent years, therefore the feasibility of options for increasing the level of use should be investigated. This may include the possibility of some level of commercial exploitation, such as tea rooms, café, tourist information centre, in particular to take advantage of tourism opportunities and exploit the current revival in country cinemas.

Policy (11.1): Any expansion and upgrading must be within the existing footprint and building envelope of the School of Arts.

Policy (11.2): Sensitive and appropriate alteration to the supper room wing may be permissible in order to upgrade the facility.

Policy (11.3): New toilets and disabled facilities should be provided wholly within the existing building and shall not impact on significant fabric.

Policy (11.4): The feasibility of expanded use should be investigated, and the scope broadened to include commercial use of the premises, within constraints and conditions of this Conservation Management Plan.

Policy (11.5): Investigate the feasibility of reviving the regular use of the building as a cinema.

Landscaping

Throughout the life of the building, landscaping has been non existent or low key. The reconstruct the precinct in original form would involve rough unformed drives and roads, non existent gardens and plantings, and no trees in the immediate vicinity. The following policies accept the inclusion of garden introduced in recent years, adapted as a conjectural Edwardian

cottage garden precinct. Landscaping should be used as a device to screen detracting elements such as cars and buses, and should enhance the building in its natural setting with the spectacular backdrop of the escarpment and the valley.

Policy (12.1): Elements of significant landscaping should be retained, and intrusive elements removed. Existing garden beds shall be retained and enhanced with planting of appropriate small scale species consistent with Edwardian period of the building.

Policy (12.20): Landscaping should be introduced into the car park upgrading to provide suitable screening to vehicles, but should enhance the view and setting of the School of Arts and the vistas north across the Valley

Replacement of Public Toilets

Policy (13.1): The outbuildings are currently programmed for demolition, and they should be replaced with structures of compatible design to improve their relationship within the heritage precinct.

Project Funding

As a community based Council owned property, funding for conservation, interpretation and redevelopment work is available from a number of sources, in addition to promotion and marketing to ensure the maximum commercial potential is derived from the asset.

Policy (14.1): Opportunities for grant funding and sponsorship of conservation work should be pursued.

PART 5: IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Introduction

Implementation strategies should take account of the various factors that affect the 'what, how and when' for actions identified in the preceding policy section. The Client's requirements will have a major input together with such factors as availability of funding, resources for management, and community support for conservation and redevelopment work, all these impacting directly on the timing, extent of work, and priorities for work.

Shoalhaven City Council requires that the site be conserved and ensure that conservation objectives are compatible with the desire to exploit the heritage qualities of the site.

This section outlines an approach to the implementation of conservation policies taking account of the client's requirements and other external influences. This is not an exhaustive account of all possibilities for implementation, but is intended as a set of recommended practical guidelines. Any alternative strategies proposed by the client however should conform to the recommendations of the *Policies* section.

General principles for the Implementation of Upgrading and Conservation Program

The building has been consistently maintained by Council, but is now overdue for a comprehensive program of upgrading and maintenance work. This also offers the opportunity to reassess opportunities for limited redevelopment and improvement and appropriate management to ensure the long term viability of the facility.

Design, documentation and site supervision of all work should be carried out by specialist conservation consultants, and site work by specialist tradesmen.

Definitions

This section utilises definitions from the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (the Burra Charter) as follows:

Fabric means all the physical material of the place.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may according to circumstance include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction and it should be treated accordingly.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning the EXISTING fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses.

Compatible use means a use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.

Maintenance of the Asset:

Short Term Strategy

Policy (7.1):

A program of Conservation should be undertaken immediately by Council to upgrade the building to acceptable standards of safety, and to prevent further deterioration of the fabric.

The work shall be in accordance with the Schedule of Conservation Works outlined in Appendix 1, and should form the basis for further upgrading and improvement work.

Ongoing Maintenance of the Asset

Maintenance by Council's staff should be carefully controlled in accordance with this Conservation Plan, and using appropriate techniques materials and equipment. Specialist advice should always be sought where significant fabric is involved.

Medium Term Strategy

Improvements and Upgrading

Exterior

- Policy (4.3):*
 - Replace building sign with purpose made sign to suit building
 - Reconstruct picket fence and gate to original detail
 - Replace metal railing to east side with timber post and diamond rail fence.
- Policy (9.1):*
 - Reinstate main entry via south (Moss Vale Road) porch, and construct path with opening in post and rail fence.
- Policy (12.2)*
 - Construct new sealed car park to east precinct

External Conservation

- Policy (8.1)*
 - Restore and reconstruct missing joinery to west and north gables
- Policy (8.3)*
 - Adopt the proposed Colour Scheme for the current maintenance program.
- Policy (8.2)*
 - Restore exterior linings to projection room

Landscaping

The landscaping plan should be developed to remove large bushes to garden bed to front verandah and porch areas, and replace with additional roses and small flowering shrubs

Policy (12.1):

Policy (12.2):

The Car Park should be carefully planned to minimise impact on the School of Arts, and landscaping of low shrubs should screen vehicles, without detracting from vistas to the north.

Policy (11.3)

Interior

- Internal Amenities:

Construct new male and female toilets within the building, beneath the stage area, modify store for access corridor and convert to disabled toilet.

(As per sketch plan, Page 64)



Space available for internal toilets in void under Stage area



Store Room adjacent Stage suitable for use as disabled toilets

Proposal for internal toilets in Basement and Disabled toilet*Policy (6.1):***Recovery of Significant Spaces**

Having regard to compatible use for each of the interior spaces, finishes and detailing shall be restored as closely as possible to original.

*Policy (11.2)***Alternative Options for Future Use of the Building**

Investigate alternative options for use of the School of Arts. The feasibility of commercial use of the premises should be examined and within constraints and conditions of this Conservation Management Plan and close consultation with community and existing user groups.

Suggested Options for future use:

1 Tea Rooms

Development of the Supper Room and the outside precinct to the east of the building (Refer Sketch, Page 66) as a commercial Tea Room facility. This proposal would involve simultaneously upgrading facilities in the kitchen and supper room shared with traditional community user groups.

2 Cinema

Revival of former regular use as a cinema for movie feature films. Upgrade and reuse projection room, access stairs and ticket booth. Install permanent screen and lighting controls

3 Crafts Centre

Establish shop and showroom in Doctor's Room. Utilise main hall on occasions for craft workshops, meetings and workshops. May be compatible and complementary use to Tea Rooms proposal.

All the above options would support and service the growing tourist market in the area and increase the level of use of the old School of Arts. Given careful design, redevelopment along these lines would enhance the exterior and interior presentation of the building.

Grant Funding*Policy (14.1)*

Council may be eligible for grant funding to assist in meeting the capital cost of the conservation and upgrading work at the outset.

As grant funding is normally allocated on a \$ for \$ basis, this support for the work will be limited by local resources.

Potential sources for conservation funding include:

NSW Heritage Office, Heritage 2001 program – remaining 1 year from 2000 - 2001

Commonwealth Government Federation Funding for major high profile projects. Administered by the State Government most funds are accounted for by mid 2000.

Future Planning and Maintenance Strategy

The longer term management of the site should be overseen by an appointed management committee and be subject to the terms and conditions of this Conservation Management Plan. Decisions for the future will be dependent on Council's policies and community consultation.

Proposal for development of external precinct and Tea Room**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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- Hampden Bridge – A History*, Kangaroo Valley Historical Society, Nowra, 1998.
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APPENDIX 1

Citations:

Freeman, P Shoalhaven Heritage Study:

Kangaroo Valley Hall, 16/6/99

Kangaroo Valley Court house and Police Station, 1996

Green, Annette Kangaroo Valley Townscape Study 1994:

House, 181 Moss Vale Road

Kangaroo Valley Hall

Kangaroo Valley Police Station

APPENDIX 2

Schedule of work for Maintenance and Conservation

and

External Colour Scheme

Schedule of work for Maintenance and Conservation

With preliminary budget cost estimates

Exterior

East Elevation

Porch (B9)

- Replace fascia board to deck
- Replace boards to deck, inner area.

SE Verandah (B10)

- Replace boards to deck
- Replace fascia

South Elevation

- Seal gap to wall behind sign
- Reputty front windows
- Restore wall linings to porch

West Elevation

- Replace infill battens to gable joinery, both gables
- Check open drainage at north end under path

North Elevation

- Replace fascia to North west section of roof
- Realign two stone piers
- Reconstruct handrail to rear steps, including landing

East Elevation

- Repair damp affected weatherboards and joinery, ne corner

.....Allow 6,000

General

- | | | |
|---|-------|--------------|
| • Stabilise footings, straighten stone piers | Allow | 3,000 |
| • Repaint entire building | Allow | 15,000 |
| • Reconstruct missing elements of gable joinery | Allow | 4,000 |
| • Strip roof of existing sheeting 600sqm @\$10 | | 6,000 |
| • Replace roof , Colorbond Armour Grey and painted striped bullnose roof to verandahs 600sqm @ \$45 | | 27,000 |
| • Replace all gutters (ogee profile) 65m @ \$35 | | 2,275 |
| 75mm dia downpipes 6 @ \$250 | | 1,500 |
| • Connect downpipes to underground stormwater where existing are disconnected, check sw drainage | | 4,000 |
| • Check operation of old windows and reputty | | <u>1,500</u> |

Total Exterior..... \$70,275

Interior

Meeting Room (C8)

- Replace architraves to door to hall
- Open up and restore fireplace and surround
- Seal gap between wall and chimney
- Repair stile of door to Porch adjacent top hinge
- Standardise locks (rimlock + 2 Lockwood type)
- Replace lino to floor

- Clean and make good vent and ripple iron ceiling

Hall (C2)

- Reline inner face of double escape doors with diagonal lining as for other original doors
- Infill gap under skirting, east side
- Polish floor
- Clean and make good ceiling and vents and ceiling rose to ripple iron, to south west annexe.
- Replace steps to stage
- Repair doors to under stage store
- Check all internal lining boards, make good cracking and seal gaps
- Conceal services, south end

Ticket Office (C1A)

- Install glass to ticket window
- Clean and repaint interior, but retain graffiti on wall
- Restore bench

Stair to Projection Booth (C1B)**Stage (C3)**

- Reline store with particleboard, permanently fixed
- Repair damaged ceiling board
- Make good proscenium

Supper Room (C6)

- Replace vinyl tile floor covering
- Make good ripple iron ceiling

Kitchen (C7)

- Check source of damp in north wall
- Repaint cupboards
- Repair tiles

Dressing Room (C4)

- Install new door
- Replace glass pane to window
- Repair split in floor
- Repaint interior

Store Room (C5)

- Line internal walls with villaboard
- Replace architraves to window
- Repair lining boards
- Patch floor
- Refix corner moulds

..... Allow \$22,500

General

- Repaint 15,000
- Replace light fittings 8,500

Total Interior..... \$46,000

APPENDIX 3

***Extracts from Council Minutes regarding Maintenance of
Kangaroo Valley Hall, 1964 -1999***

The following information has been extracted from the only existing Minute Books of the School of Arts Committee Meetings which are kept in the Kangaroo Valley Hall

24th August 1964 J. Walker & C Dent moved that a special appeal to be made to Council to put down a new floor and to give immediate investigation into taking out the wall to enlarge the Hall, making it more up to date, by way of being more suited for cabaret entertainment.

Catering arrangements were to be re-organized for cabaret dances, which required food and drink to be provided on tables around the dance floor rather than a sit-down supper, in the supper room.

12th October 1964 Mr Roberts representing Council submitted a quote of over £1000 to repair foundations, gutterings, floor and painting of the exterior of the School of Arts. John Walker moved that Council be appealed to for a loan of £750 to be repaid from Annual Grants of £500 of 3 to 5 years.

29th March 1965 Mr R. Lumsden reported that he had arranged with Council the use of £104 remaining in the 1964 grant as a deposit with Reid & Herne for timber for a new floor.

Secretary reported Council was ready to work on the Works Programme for the School of Arts and desired a definite understanding with the Committee. He also explained that he had not done any organizing regarding the Annual Easter Dance expecting repair works to be started at that time.

Carrying out of work by Council: Pressing to have fireplace demolished and that the room be opened from the stage steps, corner ways across the old library, leaving half the room for a storage cupboard.

25th May 1965 Mr Lumsden reported that he was concerned about the timber being taken in carrying out the works as it was clear that estimated costs would be exceeded. He arranged to meet Mr Roberts and Mr Gray at the School of Arts. They explained that leveling the foundations was a much bigger job than expected. It had taken four days. There had been a hold up waiting for flooring, jarrah could not be obtained for perhaps six months, and so tallow wood was being used. Mr Roberts estimates over £900. The committee agreed that sanding the floor and interior painting were an immediate essential

Mr J. Butler and A. Russell moved that quote for painting be obtained from Ryan Hindman, a painter working in the district, staying at the Hotel. He was brought in and his quick estimate was 25 gls of paint, a little more than 2 weeks work at £35 per week. He advised getting a quote from Dulux and to ask for a colour scheme, being of the opinion they would send a man down to advise.

The committee instructed Secretary to write to Dulux as suggested asking for their reply to be received on Wed 2nd June on which night the committee would meet and further consider the painting. Mr Lumsden to get a quote from Council.

Biograph Box William Lidbetter moved that A. Russell place a facing on the Biograph Box to improve the appearance of it as it was unlikely to be used for pictures. Seconded by J. Butler. Carried.

2nd June 1965 Ryan Hindman to be employed to paint the building. A. Russell – Facing Biograph Box labour £5 Materials £5/9/10

As the landing and steps from the Ladies Dressing Room needed repairing committee considered a pathway, cement, be on that side of the building to the ladies toilet and the steps

be taken away. This would mean closing the doors leading outwards which probably would not be accepted in licensing a public hall.

29th June 1965 President reported that the sub-committee had met three Dulux Representatives who agreed that: -

Lower walls and doors and Architrave be	Spanish Olive
Main Walls	Incha Gold
Ceiling and Stage	Feather Blue

They also met Mr Hindman and he approved of the scheme and Mr Gray strongly advised that the floor be sanded and polished.

Mr Roberts had prepared a plan which was given to the local police who in turn had sent to the Chief Secretary's Dept. The plan did not show steps leading from ladies dressing room, which police consider must be approved in some sort of exit.

Mr Russell and Mr B. Nixon successfully moved that the floor be sanded and polished.

12th July 1965 Mr Russell reported that he had rebuilt the steps in concrete at the eastern approach to the hall. He also said he had assisted the painter and installed a new hearth in the copper.

23rd July 1965 The President suggested the committee secure a good photo of the late Secretary L. W. Vance for the purpose of hanging in main hall for a short period of time and then transfer same to a meeting room with an appropriate inscription fitted to it.

B. Nixon moved sec J Walker that 1 quart of paint stripper be purchased also 1 window frame. A. Russell asked to remove old paint from windows with stripper, and replace window and nail on palings at front of hall.

23rd August 1965 A. Chittick moved sec. A. Russell that tenders be called for the painting of the exterior walls and roof of the School of Arts. Advertisements for tenders to be printed for 1 week in the two Nowra papers. Carried.

28th September 1965 Tenders were received from Ryan Hindman and J. Rainsford for the exterior painting of the School of Arts. Mr Hindman's tender of £285 for a full complete job was accepted against Mr Rainsford's tender of £584.

20th October 1965 Mr Ryan Hindman attended for the purpose of advising on colour schemes for the hall exterior. Mr Hindman suggested 3 schemes from which the committee could make a choice.

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
Roof	Natural Steel Grey	Natural Steel Grey	Silver
Grey			
Walls	Ghost Gum	Haze	Mango
Eaves	Mango	White Corncob	Pine Moss
Doors	Olive Grove	Redwood	Olive Grove
Guttering	Ghost Gum	Redwood	Olive Grove
Woodwork	Ghost Gum	White	White

The suggestion was adopted by a motion and moved by B. Lidbetter sec. E. Condon that the No. 2 Colour Scheme be implemented with the alteration of the roof colour from Natural Steel Grey to Silver Grey. Carried

The President advised that Council plumbers were to have commenced roof and guttering repairs on 18.10.65 but were unable on account of wet weather, he expected a start when the weather cleared. The work would be completed in one month.

B. Nixon moved sec J. Walker in order we comply with the Public Halls & Theatres Act and enable the School of Arts to become eligible for registration the door openings into the main

hall on the western side be altered to open out and fitted with crash bars which must yield under pressure and that the doorway leading off the stage on the western side be sealed. Carried.

1st December 1965 Mr Lumsden advised that Council plumbers had completed renewing the gutterings on the School of Arts and roof repairs and said it is a 1st class job.

As a result of raising the northern end of the supper room during recent repairs a leak has occurred around the copper chimney allowing water to enter the kitchen area. However, the plumber said if an electric urn is purchased the chimney can be demolished and a sheet or iron placed over the hole in the roof and ceiling. Left in abeyance.

The President said he asked Mr Russell to assist the plumbers and painter by carrying out woodwork repairs around the roof. These comprised removing timber in the vicinity of the guttering area and replacing old fascia boards with new timber.

After a discussion on the suitable material to be used to screen the supper room from the main hall. B. Nixon moved sec. B. Lidbetter that A. Russell be in charge of making and erecting a curtain to be made out of the old stage curtain. Carried.

The matter of rain water running from drain pipes under the School of Arts was resolved by a motion moved by J. Graham Sec. A. Chittick that a box drain on the western side would combat the situation. The meeting was of the opinion that water could be carried overhead from the SE corner of the meeting room to supper room roof and then conveyed via a box drain along the eastern side of the supper room.

23rd March 1966 The President asked if the women could give an outline of their intentions re the improvement of the supper room with money raised by them recently. They received a quote from Peter Garratty to install an electric heater to boil water for supper requirements. It would entail a separate power line from the switchboard to the installation point. Permission granted to paint and carry out supper room improvements with the money they raised £68/17/6. Carried. W. Lidbetter offered to assist in painting the ceiling of the supper room.

The Methodist Church requested the use of the hall to hold Sunday morning and evening church services for a short period of maybe 2½ to 3 months whilst the Church was being remodelled.

3rd June 1966 A Russell advised that a double sink had been installed in the supper room. The urn had been installed by P. Garratty. W. Lawson offered \$8 for bricks from demolished chimney. Carried

10th October 1966 The President informed the meeting the Supper Room and Kitchen had been completed by Mr Ryan Hindman at a cost of \$94. [Painting]

12th April 1967 The cost of 9 Sunray Wall Heaters \$140.95. Installation costs and modifications to wiring to permit extra appliances to be used in the Supper Room \$180.50. Carried [The wall heaters were donated to the School of Arts]

28th September 1967 Bruce Lidbetter moved Sec. R. Smart the Education Department have the use of the Hall whilst the school is being remodelled for \$9.50 per week.

26th March 1970 W Lidbetter moved Sec. J. Walker the dance floor be repaired by A. Russell. Carried.

9th February 1972 Recommended blinds to be put up in Doctors Room.

4th July 1972 Tenders to be called for remodelling of kitchen.

30th August 1975 Moved a quote for carpet be obtained from J & H Carpets for Doctors Room and that the choice of colour be left in sec. hands.

12th May 1977 Mr B Wright was asked when the interior of the hall could be painted.

17th November 1977 Opening of Wall. Largest size would be 7 feet o twice the size of the present door. Sliding door or a double door would cost about \$700. Ray Shearer asked could we do something about covering floor and painting of walls in the meeting room for the Doctor. It would be more hygienic than at present time. P. Synold moved we purchase floor covering once the room is painted Sec D. Good. Carried.

16th March 1978 Sec. writes to Council thanking them for the excellent job of painting the hall.

21st December 1978 Strip of the door to Meeting Room seems to have rotted.

Secretary's Report 1978 During the year 1978 the Doctors Room had a new hardboard floor and good lino laid which has improved this room tremendously.

17th September 1981 The fireplace in the meeting room had been covered in by D. Winch \$6.

21st January 1982 (Annual Report) In the hall, cups were replaced in the kitchen, the fireplace in the meeting room was covered in and fans were installed in the Hall. One in the Alcove and one in the Supper Room.

21st July 1983 Franz Maringer had worked out a price for an ARC Weldmesh Roll Top Fence covering a distance of 140 metres and quote forwarded to Council.

17th November 1983 Gwen Nelson requested a hook to be placed over the fireplace in the Doctors Room so the CWA can hang a photo of the Queen. CWA also want to use the supper room for their meetings but requested they only be charged at the same rate as the Doctors Room.

19th July 1984 Concrete path from steps at hall to road.

17th January 1985 Painting of Store Room (Stage area) and anti-room also the sanding of the stage floor. Part closure of Porch (Doctors waiting Room)

May 1985 Section of wall under awning on hall porch. Moved by Bill Lidbetter sec. John Smart that a letter be sent to SCC requesting that Council carry out the work.

1988 Hall was painted \$1000.00 and the supper room floor was sanded and re polished at a cost of \$2,111.00

1999 Drawings prepared for disabled access ramp and internal disabled toilet was added.

2000 23/5/00 Council Minute 657.00

That the improvements to Kangaroo Valley Hall be advertised for public comment prior to any action taking place (re: improvement works to hall and toilet facilities).

APPENDIX 4

Transcript of interview by Robyn Florance with Mrs E.M. 'Peggy' Synold, held at Kangaroo Valley Pioneer Museum, on Thursday 27th April 2000.

Brief Background

Ethel Merle 'Peggy' Synold was one of eight children born to David Alexander and Ethel May Nelson. Peggy was born at Barrengarry House, Barrengarry on the 5th May 1915. She gained the nickname Peggy from of her love of clothes pegs, apparently she was always playing with them.

Peggy has been a member of the Kangaroo Valley Historical Society for many years and has been involved in the Pioneer Museum, as a volunteer and has also been on the management team since its inception in

Peggy is also a past caretaker of the Kangaroo Valley School of Arts/Hall and has been involved in many of the organisations who held meetings in the hall and has also been involved in many of the functions that have been held in the hall throughout the years.

***Questions are typed in bold. Answers are in regular type.**

1. What is the Doctor's Room?

Once the resident doctor left the valley doctors from Moss Vale have regularly been in attendance at the Kangaroo Valley Hall. Every Friday was doctor's day. He would stay overnight at the Pioneer Hotel and the next day would see patients in the Doctors Room.

The first was Dr Tudorhope from Moss Vale, then Dr Qong and the current doctor is Dr Flynn. The dentist visited the Valley every Thursday.

2. There is mention made in the minutes of the Doctors room being laid with lino at one time. Do you know about this?

I actually donated that lino. I also donated the kitchen sink. I purchased it from Huntley Grant in Nowra for £10. I thought it was a bargain.

3. Where was the meeting room?

The meeting room is the doctor's room.

4. What organisations used the hall as a meeting room?

Every one would meet at the School of Arts. I have a little book that I used to record bookings when I was caretaker. Osborne Park Committee, A & H Society, Historical Society, Tourist Association, Tennis Club, Hockey Club, Football Club, Medical Research Meeting, CWA, Red Cross, Rye Grass Meetings. Junior Farmers, Apex Club, Rural Youth, Nowra Dairy Co-op Meetings, RSL Auxiliary, Liberal Party Meetings, Methodist Church Services and Kangaroo Valley Race Club meetings. A lot of those aren't here anymore. We still have the CWA and Red Cross. We don't have cricket or football clubs or apex.

5. What types of functions were held in the hall?

Weddings, Kitchen Teas, Farewell functions, Dances and Balls. Oh we had wonderful balls. Most balls were held annually RSL 'Diggers Ball', Cricket Club and Football Club Balls, Hockey and Tennis Club Balls. The Spring Blossom Ball was held annually. It was wonderful. The hall was decorated and everyone dressed up. It was nothing to have 300-400 people there. We'd have 3 or 4 sittings for supper. There were P & C Fancy Dress, Teenage Dances, Concerts. We had a Drama Club and

they held plays. Mrs Cullen was very involved in them. P & C Dances and Christmas functions. We had film nights. The Church of England held flower shows.

When the Upper Kangaroo River Hall was opened a lot of functions used to clash. It was also like that when the school was used for functions.

6. Where was the supper room located in the early days?

The supper room would have been on the left side of the present hall. You had to go out the front door and round onto the verandah and go into the supper room that way. I used to help with the suppers. My children (three) used go to sleep on the floor in the Doctors Room in those days. You couldn't do that now. There was no alcohol served (only out of car boots). The library was at the end of the supper room.

7. What types of functions are held in the hall now?

Kitchen teas and the occasional wedding. The CWA and Red Cross still meet. School dances are still held. Ballet classes are held there now. But the floor is not as good as it used to be. It used to be the best dance floor. It used to be cleaned with kerosene. It was just wonderful. I think that once the hall was used for Cabaret's it lost a lot and the licensed club's made a difference to attendance.

8. Do you remember the first 'Picture' shown in the hall?

No I can't remember. I know that the pictures were held on Saturday Nights and the hall would be packed with people.

9. Do you know who used to be in charge of showing the 'Pictures'?

No.

10. Berry School of Arts was named the Lyric Theatre. Was the Kangaroo Valley Theatre known by any name?

No. Not that I can remember.

11. Has the stage always been at the end of the hall?

For as long as I know. To get access to the stage in the early days you went up the stairs, which were then outside the building. Once the stairs were removed I suppose that's when the stairs to the left of the stage were built.

APPENDIX 5

Measured Drawings of School of Arts

Simpson Dawbin April 2000

