



CANUNGRA QLD



Canungra School of Arts Hall 2016

Photograph NW

Name: Canungra School of Arts

Address: 3-7 Pine Street, Canungra, Queensland

The Town:

Canungra (Yugambeh), is derived from 'gungungai' which means 'a long flat or clearing'¹. It is also thought to be from 'Coonoongra' meaning "the small grey owl that has its home along the creek" or perhaps "good place with plenty of game". 'Kununguh' with the accent on the last syllable, is the name of a tree (Austromyrtus or scrub iron-wood) whose spurs were used to make boomerangs and grew only on a small by-creek.² The township of Canungra stands today on Portions 61 and 62 of the Parish of Tamborine.² Canungra is a suburb of Gold Coast & Hinterland, South Eastern Queensland, approximately 63 kilometres or one hour from Queensland's capital city of Brisbane, midway between Nerang, some 20 minutes away, and Beaudesert, and is in the federal electorate of Wright. It had a population of 1,147 in the 2011 census, but due to the recent 'tree change' this has been increasing. It is a picturesque 40 minute drive to the Gold Coast and all the tourist attractions that offers. Artists and craft workers have made it their home. Local galleries, excellent cafés and nearby wineries attract visitors.

The main industries providing employment for Canungra workers are accommodation and food services, construction, manufacturing, health care and social assistance, public administration and safety, education and training, retail trade, professional, scientific and technical services, administrative and support services.



Early picture of Canungra township and the river with sawmills in the background.³

Photographer unknown.

Canungra forms part of the Scenic Rim region whose close knit communities value their history and traditions. The area was first settled in the 1800s with farming, including arrowroot and timber-getting being the early industries. Sugar cane, potatoes and maize were attempted unsuccessfully. Nindooibah was held by A W Compigne around 1847 and in 1852 he took out a lease of Sarabah (Canungra Creek) known as CLO/13 District of Moreton.⁴ A village settlement was first established at Canungra in the 1880s when the Lahey Brothers built a sawmill. It grew around the Duncan and Christie families' selections from 1873 which were at the 'The Willows' and later on Finch Road in a large house still occupied by a descendant today.



The Duncan family home moved to Canungra⁴



Bullock team snigging logs in the Canungra District, 1917



Canungra Mill, Canungra, ca 1918

Photographer unknown

In 1884 David Lahey established the Canungra Sawmills. They were totally destroyed by fire in 1897 but rebuilt on a larger and more modern scale. In 1900 construction of the tramway began. Once more the Sawmills were destroyed by fire in 1906 but were rebuilt. In 1912 new machinery was installed. In 1920 Lahey's Limited went into voluntary liquidation. (Description supplied with photograph)⁵

**Front Row**, left to right:

Dick Martin; W. Wilkinson;
McGuiness; Tyson; Kingston; J.
Wilkinson; T. H. Hunt; ?.

2nd Row, left to right:

George Howard; George Binstead;
Falkiner (snr); J. McGuiness; F.
Walters; Needham; T. J. Lahey; S.
Lawton; J. Lawton; J. Falkiner; A.
Needham; W. Taylor; F. Gannon.

3rd Row, left to right:

A. Williams; ?; McGuiness;
Stringfellow; Waterson; ?; Joe Wood;
?; ?; Horne; Wright; ?

Back Row: second from left

J. McGuiness; end, right hand side
Wharton.

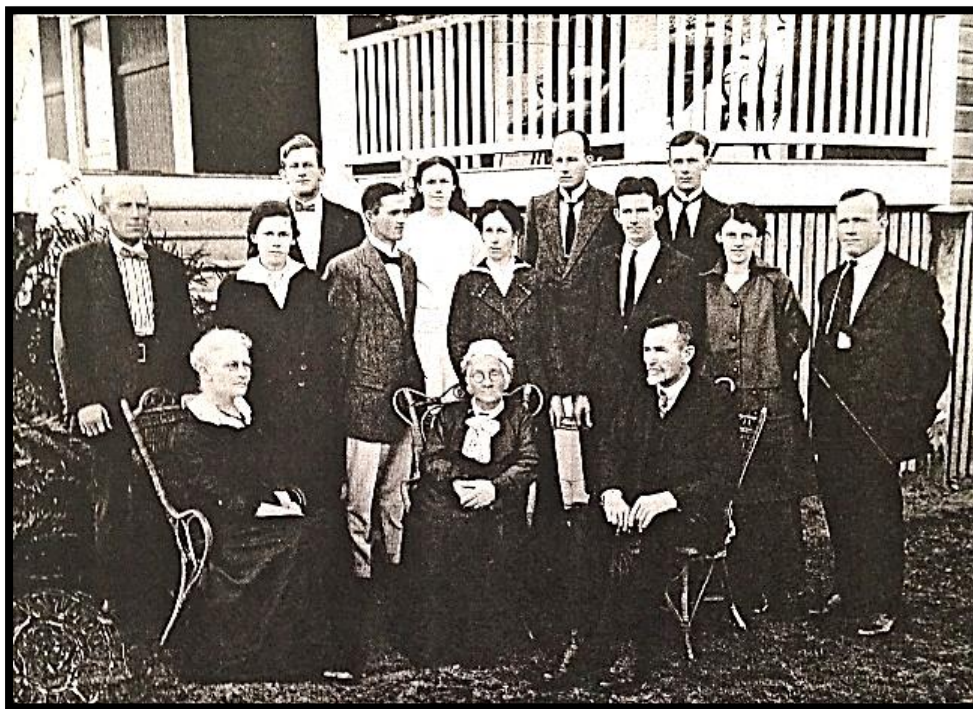


(Description supplied with photograph)⁵

Workers at Lahey's Mill, Canungra, ca 1908

Romeo Lahey and his father, David Lahey, were men of vision who believed in reafforestation and a policy of not cutting the young trees. Romeo was responsible for planting the hoop pine and silky oak plantations in the Canungra Valley. Lahey's mill was to become the largest softwood mill in Queensland and the largest softwood processor in Australia.⁶ His daughter Ann Neale (nee Lahey) and niece Shirley Lahey said

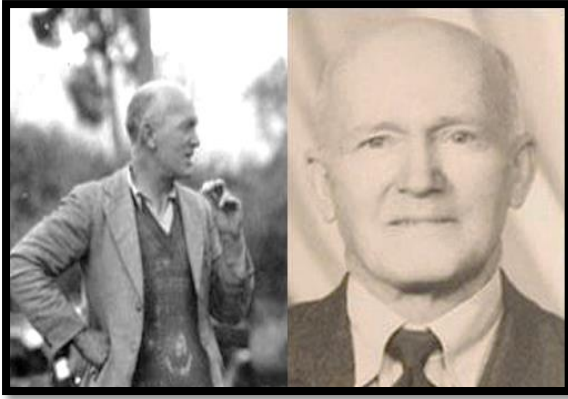
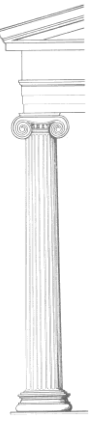
*Certainly, it's not the usual image of the timber industry of that time, this extraordinarily avant-garde conservationist coming out of a timber family.*⁷

**Mr and Mrs David Lahey and Family**²

Back: Noel, Jayne, Bert, Jack.

Centre: Percy, Mavis, Eric, Vida, Oswald, Esme, Romeo.

Seated: Mrs Jane Lahey, her mother Mrs Costello, Mr David Lahey



Romeo Watkins Lahey
b.Pimpama Q. 1887 d.Yeronga Q. 1968

Romeo Watkins Lahey¹⁰

Conservationist
Civil Engineer
Army Officer
Company Chief Executive
Timber Merchant

Romeo Lahey campaigned for five years till the Government agreed to designate National Parks status to land in the region. He then went off to the war in France leaving Vida Lahey, his sister, the artist, to continue the pressure for legislation. Lamington National Park was proclaimed in 1915.



The private Lahey's Tramway, carrying timber from nearby forests to Canungra, opened in 1900. This was a 'toothed wheel and cog' traction system and ran behind the School of Arts Building.

The tramway tunnel was built in the days of the Lahey's Timber Mill to transport timber from the surrounding area. It was used as an ammunition dump during World War II and was restored in 2001 to commemorate 100 years since its opening. Today it is highly regarded as one of the most amazing historical attractions on the Gold Coast as it is so rich in history with so many amazing and inspiring stories.⁸



The Laheys had eighteen bullock teams by 1911 carting the sawn timber to the railway at Logan Village. Following a survey in 1908 for a railway from Logan Village to Canungra, construction began for the line in 1913 which was opened on 2 July 1915. The line followed the east side of the creek and crossed Christie Street about where the Canungra State Primary School Administration Block stands today. What are now the school grounds were the railway yards until 1962.

Timber traffic started to decline from 1923 and most of the timber in the area had been cut by the 1940s. There was substantial traffic on the line during the Pacific War after the Jungle Warfare Training Centre opened at Canungra in November 1942. Traffic declined after World War II and the line eventually closed in 1955.⁹



Canungra Railway Station 1918

In 1915, Canungra was formally surveyed and the Canungra Branch Railway was opened. In the early 1920s the Commonwealth Bank of Australia opened a branch in Canungra, promoting growth and development to the town and general area. The Bellissima Guest House was built in 1916 by the Lahey family to support business to their sawmill¹¹. This was named after the barque 'Bellissima' on which Francis and Alicia Lahey* sailed to Sydney from Ireland in 1861.⁴ The Guest House was later sold and became the Canungra Hotel in November 1927 but was destroyed by fire in January 1937. It was rebuilt and still stands today as a welcoming stop for thirsty visitors.

* The Lahey family came immediately to Brisbane, then settled at Pimpama in 1870, moving later to Canungra.

See the account for **PIMPAMA** in this ADFAS series.



Bellisima Guesthouse

Kidston Street, Canungra, ca. 1920¹²



Canungra Hotel

Kidston St., Canungra, 2016

Photograph: ML

There was Frank Horner's drapery store in 1919 on the corner of Kidston and Appel Streets, later becoming W Martin's and J McAllister's only to be burnt down twice during which time Frank Lake had a billiard saloon on the site. There was a fruit shop with an awning which became Seib's boot repairs and later Lund's drapery. Of course there had to be a blacksmith with most transport dependent on horse power. D J Smith's 'country store', butcher and baker were closer to the creek crossing where the supermarket stands today. Churches and a hospital were built, the latter being closed after WW2.



St Luke's Anglican Church

2016

Photograph: NW



The Australian band, Redgum, sang of Canungra in their iconic song of the Vietnam War, '*I was only 19*'. All the young soldiers for the Vietnam War, including those who were conscripted, trained at the Kokoda Barracks, Land Warfare Centre in Canungra. The Barracks still operate today, training Australian soldiers to a high level of proficiency for jungle warfare.

*Mum and Dad and Denny saw the passing out parade at Puckapunyal
It was a long march from cadets
The sixth battalion was the next to tour and it was me who drew the card
We did Canungra and Shoalwater before we left.....*



Troops jumping off a 20ft high platform into water with a full kit at the Australian Training Centre (Jungle Warfare).

Canungra, QLD 1943.

Establishment:

A public meeting held on 3rd July, 1886 opened discussions for the building of a Public Hall in Canungra. Mr J E Payne, Mr H J Delpratt and Mr John W Lahey were elected to oversee the project. In late 1886 the first School of Arts Hall was completed by Louis Howells on Portion 19, parish of Tabragalba⁴ for the Lahey Brothers who owned the Canungra Softwood Mill which had begun in 1884. A committee was formed on May 1887 to manage the Hall for the benefit of the community, including local families and single mill workers. This committee consisted of J E Payne, A Jerome, J H Delpratt, J Scarborough, E Franklin, J Duncan, C Marks and J W Lahey. A piano and lamps were to be bought for the Hall.

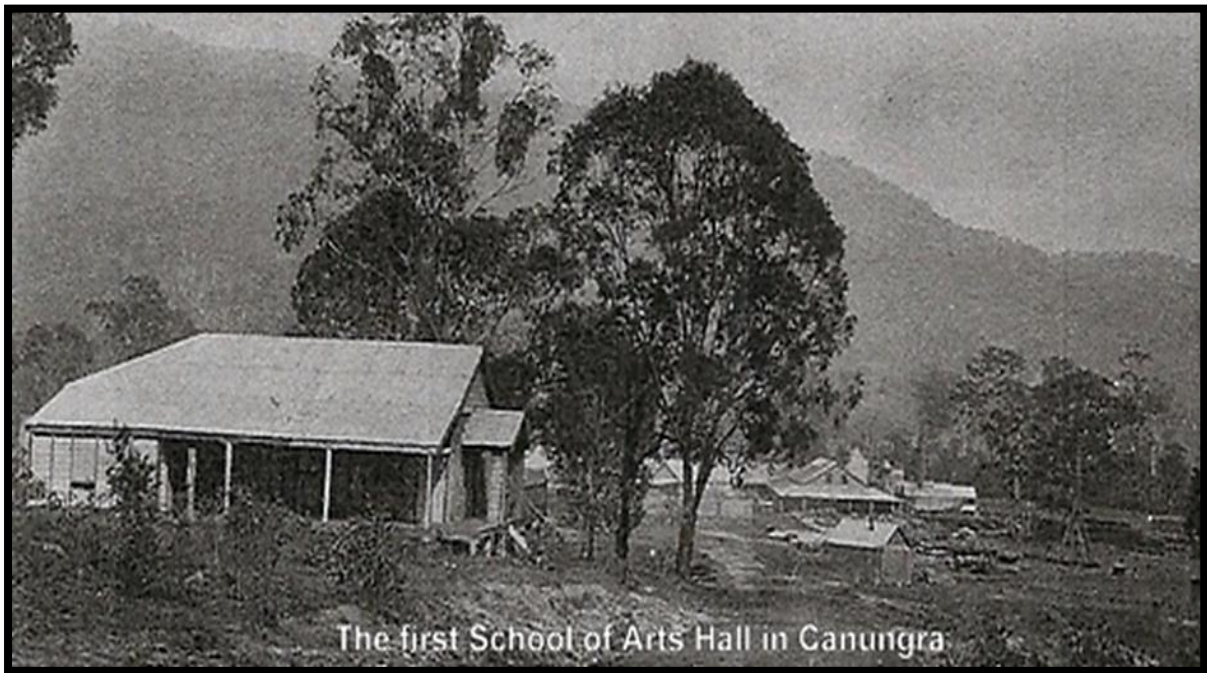


This piano stands on the stage in the hall today.

Photograph: ML



This first Hall was built of Hoop Pine on the west bank of the Canungra Creek. Sadly this was found to be of great interest to the white ants.



As the population in the district grew, so too did the need for a school, and in 1887 the Department of Public Instruction was asked to supply a teacher.

By January 1889 Miss Julia Gleeson commenced classes at the Canungra Upper Provisional School in the School of Arts Hall. Class numbers were not able to be maintained, often due to flooding in the nearby Canungra Creek (there were no bridges to allow the children or the teacher to get to school) so Miss Gleeson requested a transfer in October 1890 as her wages were not sustainable without the required average attendance.

By 1897 there was much white ant damage to the Hall and despite repairs, something more permanent was needed, so Walter and Albert Curtis moved the Hall in to the town where it was still used as a school.

Other teachers included Miss Dunlop and in 1896, Miss Markey.

Joseph Colvin recalled

..... the bullock teams with their heavy loads of sawn timber would crawl up the School of Arts hill one behind the other, bullocks with their heads lowered, all an attraction for the pupils when the classes were at work on the verandah of the Hall. I noticed when on the days these teams were due out Miss Markey contrived to have classes inside the building.⁴

Later a new school was opened off Finch Road on land bought from Mrs Duncan.

The School of Arts Hall continued to be used for recreational purposes, such as dances and concerts, as intended.



The Building:

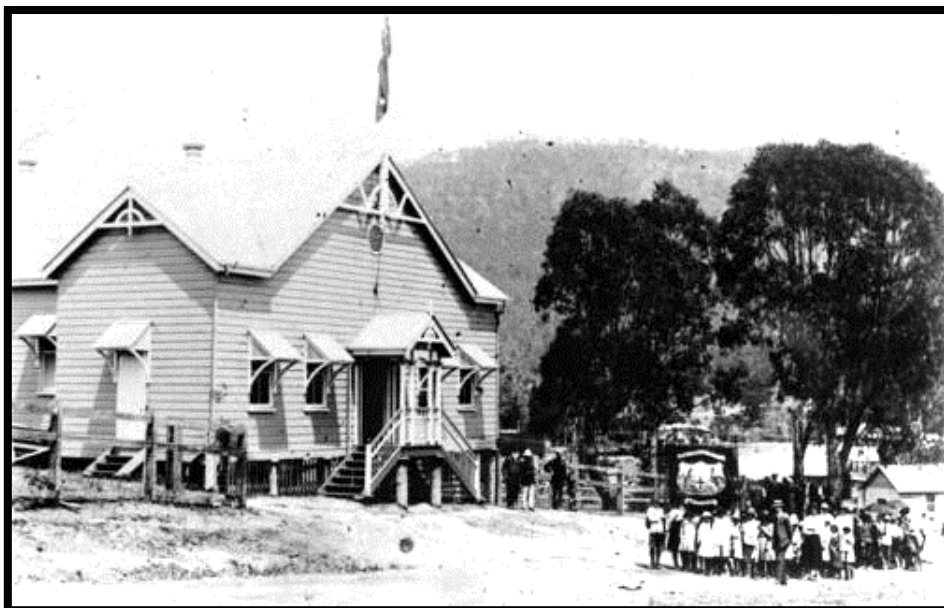


The Canungra Community, in 1912, organized for a much more impressive, gothic style School of Arts Hall to be built by Mr Day and Mr Parkinson on the present site.

The Brisbane Courier Mail on Tuesday 11 June 1912 page 6 reported:

CANUNGRA SCHOOL OF ARTS

The new School of Arts at Canungra was officially opened on Friday night by Councillor J H Delpratt of the Tamborine Shire Council in the presence of a large gathering including visitors from Brisbane and all parts of the district. Mr M Sharp presided. The treasurer (Mr D Toohey) said the building had cost £498 but the committee contemplated further improvements. The amount did not include the billiard table which was being financed by a Recreation Committee.



Canungra School of Arts building, 1918. Photographer unknown

Sam Cook and Ken Burton carrying the banner on Armistice Day on Pine Creek Road next to the School of Arts.¹³



It was dedicated as a Memorial Hall and in fact known as The School of Arts and Memorial Hall, with an Honour Board containing the names of those from the local region who served in WW1 being unveiled by the Queensland Governor, His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, on 17 June 1922.

The hall was lit by acetylene gas which produced a noisy naked light and piles of spent carbide. (The only good use of this was for the line marking of tennis courts).⁴ In 1934 electricity was installed, celebrated at a special function when drums and cymbals signalled the lights coming on.⁴ Disaster struck on 3 March 1946 when this Hall was destroyed by fire, and the Roll of Honour was lost to the community.



Wreaths laid at the Honour Board at the School of Arts Hall, Canungra, Anzac Day 1937.

Inscription on back of photograph reads: *Dad, Dave Day built this hall. Hall burnt down during 2nd World War.*⁵

The United States Army was dispersing from Camp Cable near Logan Village and so a temporary hall in the form of a hut 124 ft x 20 ft with an ablution building was acquired from them at a cost of about £300¹⁴ and placed on land beside the Hall. This is the car park today. For ten years this Hall was the centre of the community's social activities including the Jubilee Ball which was mentioned with photographs in *The Australian Women's Weekly* (begun in 1933). Mrs Page and Mrs Rielly organized concerts. The square dance evenings were popular when the girls could swirl their skirts and couples would swing to the music.

This temporary Hall eventually had to be replaced with a more permanent structure and two temporary residents, the local Police Sergeant, Gerry Germain and the Commercial Bank Manager, Les Emmett, supported the local business and residential communities to make this happen. So with concerts again organized by Mrs Page and Ken Rielly to raise funds, Fred Quiell, a carpenter from Southport was contracted to begin work on the new Hall.

The front doors of the Hall and other items were made from a Silky Oak felled from the local sports ground. The magnificent dance floor of Crows Ash originates from three trees – two from Eddy Rowe's and Jasper Jerome's properties at Pine Creek and one from Romeo Lahey's property near Lamington. The logs had been weathered over several years and at weekends were cut into one-inch thick boards by Jesse Daniels, Terry and Phillip (Pip) Mahony



at Archie Bobermien's sawmill near Logan Village. These were transported to Canungra on Sunday afternoons ready for the carpenters throughout the week. The work progressed gradually until completion of the Hall in 1956.



The Canungra Hall from 1956 - March 2011. The car park was added in 2006¹⁵



The Canungra Hall 2016

Photographs: NW

Entrance porch ►



Significant work has continued to maintain and enhance the Hall over recent years. In November 2010 the entrance porch and steps were replaced by Lindsay Ludwig and the Hall Crest was mounted above the steps. A new Colourbond roof was installed in September 2011 with the help of a grant from the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund.



Kitchen and Cold Room. 2016

The following month saw the completion of the kitchen improvements and a large cold room was installed.

In June 2013 Luke Russell of Rusty's Painting Contractors was given the contract to repaint the Hall. Another grant, this time from the Queensland Country Credit Union, Beaudesert Branch, allowed for further safety improvements to be made. Installation of a large solar panel system to the hall has meant a considerable saving on electricity bills.



Yet another grant from the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund in January 2015 went towards the re-sanding and polishing of the floor by Ben Lown Top Floor Finishing. The result is outstanding.



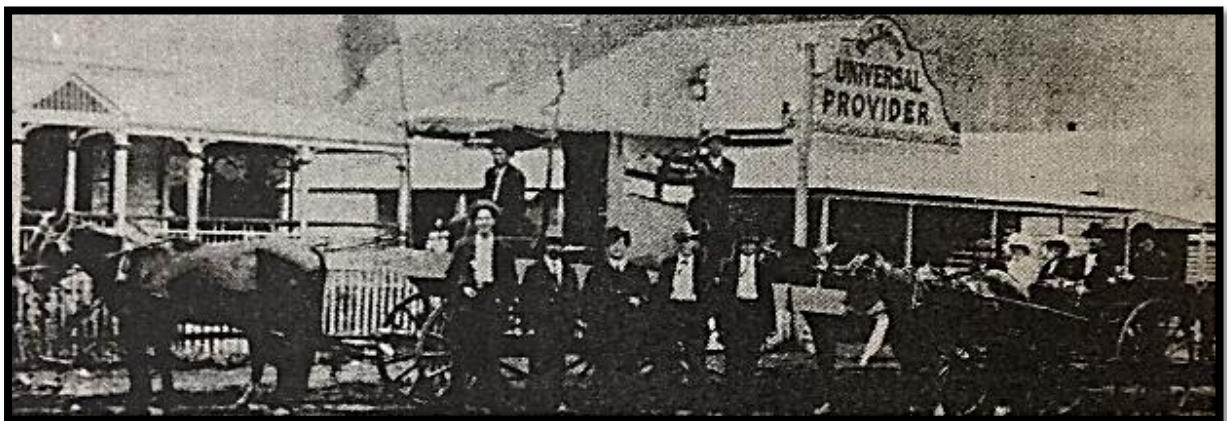
Canungra School of Arts Hall interior, 2016. Photograph: NW

The Hall Committee continues to maintain and improve the Canungra School of Arts Hall to a high standard and its constant use and the regular functions held in the Hall show the benefits gained by all the community as a result of this.

Uses:

Over the years the three different Canungra School of Arts Halls have been central in the Community's social and many other activities.

During World War 1 the Canungra Funmakers, organized by Messrs Slaughter, L Topping and D Seib, raised money for the war effort displaying their musical talents in the Hall,



Canungra Funmakers.⁴



There was a library at the Hall with Wm Lawton as librarian who regularly bought in new books.⁴ Auction sales of properties were held at the Hall including those of the Lahey Properties in 1916.⁴

Meetings of so many groups have been held, for example in 1937 the monthly meeting of the district hospital committee was held in the Canungra School of Arts on Saturday, 20th March.¹⁶

The Brisbane Courier reported on Friday 1st September 1933 that the Canungra and District Progress Association requested that the Canungra School of Arts Committee assist in expediting the gazettal of Canungra as a place for holding Courts of Petty Sessions by permitting the Hall to be utilized rent free.

On September 14th, 1938 a meeting of the Canungra School of Arts in the library welcomed a new member to the committee, Mr W Rowe, who stated that he believed there was not enough interest in the School of Arts by the general public and it was up to everyone to get behind the committee as he believed it was a very worthwhile institution.

Balls and dances have brought together local folk as well as those from far afield to join in many joyous occasions. Birthdays, weddings and various anniversaries have all been celebrated as well as funerals conducted. Movie nights have been well attended. Festivals, shows and markets have been held, often monthly, annually or bi-annually.

Today there can be found classes for dance and martial arts being held several days per week and the hall website gives a calendar of events which proves it is still a vibrant centre of the Canungra community.



The hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates. Beaudesert Districts Orchid and Foliage Society meets there regularly as well as holding its show and market in the Hall twice a year.

Photograph: ML

Social History:

When the first Hall was built in 1886 most of the mill workers were bachelors who called themselves 'Bachers' and lived in a row of small huts along the creek bank. The School of Arts Hall was to become a great venue for their entertainment. The Jubilee Concert Ball on 24th June 1887 was the official opening Ball with the admission charge of five shillings for a single ticket and seven shillings and six pence for a double.



Bill O'Farrell, educated at Trinity College Dublin and a playwright, actor and poet, directed and wrote for concerts at the Canungra School of Arts.

Ted Bode and his dog 'Scofalot' and his horse 'Theophalus' often featured in these concerts. Dancing followed till daybreak with Harry Hasler at the piano and Bill Taylor on his accordion.⁴



Ted Bode
Painter and Photographer, 1859-1926⁴

In the early 1900s Canungra could be entertained by a resident orchestra, brass band or other performing groups as well as visiting 'entertainment troupes', all in the School of Arts.

On 14th May 1914 a concert was hastily put together in aid of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty. It was opened with a piano solo by Mrs D Lawton and brought to a close by the Lower Canungra Amateur Dramatic Company staging 'Minding the Babies'.¹⁷

When the Government Railway was officially opened, a ball was organized in July 1915 and His Excellency the State Governor visited on board a special train.⁴

Phil Johns was made a life member of the School of Arts for his contributions as a versatile entertainer with his one man shows.⁴



Canungra Brass Band 1919

Photographer unknown

Back row: Jack Jennings; Tom Nolan; Chas Taylor; D. Banks; Bert Krarup.

Centre row: Vic Shogren; Matt Braiden; ? Dauth; Ernie Braiden; unidentified.

Front row: Ken Curtis; George Ward; Chas Kioske; Harry Dauth; Mark Burton; George Dauth.
(Description supplied with photograph).³



Canungra Choral Society – 1924²

Front Row - Rev..., Ernie Braiden, Mrs H O Wren, Jessie Braiden, Mrs Braiden, Annie Roach, Ivy Howard, Val Reschke, Nell Rankin, Mark Burton, Marj Reschke

2nd Row - -..., Matt Braiden, H.O Wren, Jack Jennings, N Raymond, Bell Burton, ..., Millie Burton,

The town even had a ladies cricket team in 1908.



Canungra Ladies Cricket Team, 1908^{2,5}

Back Row – (3rd) Elizabeth Colvin, Constance Monahan, Ruth Lawton



The second Hall with its good stage facilities became the centre of the town's social activities. Travelling picture shows came such as Penn's and Sid Cook's bioscope and by 1919 regular silent movies were enjoyed there, put on by Mr H D Franklin to the piano accompaniment of Mrs Page until 1933 when talking movies came along.

The Brisbane Courier reported on 3rd May, 1926 that a Baby Show and Cake Competition were held at the Canungra School of Arts on Saturday afternoon, the proceeds going to the Canungra Ambulance Brigade.

The Brisbane Courier also reported on Saturday 25th June 1927 that a very successful Bachelors' Ball was held at the beautifully decorated Canungra School of Arts Hall when over 300 were in attendance.

Madge Conaghan, daughter of Bern Conaghan who acquired a licence for the Hotel, (earlier Bellissima), in 1927, was a talented musician on both piano and violin. Madge held recitals at the School of Arts Hall accompanied by Harry Dean the Bank Manager.⁴

The Brisbane Courier reported on Tuesday 8th August 1933 that a successful Ball was held by the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia on Friday night at the Canungra School of Arts Hall.

The Beaudesert Times on Friday 29 June 1934 reported:

The Canungra and Standply Clubs held a combined dance on Friday night the 22 June in the Canungra School of Arts. It was not so well attended as usual only about £6 being taken at the door. Mr G Briscoe was the MC and he kept the music going at a lively pace. The Monte Carlo waltz was won by Mrs F Vowden & Mr Martin, & the winners of the Chocolate Waltz were Mr H Eadie & partner. Dancing was interrupted for a short time for the presentation of the trophies won at the tournaments arranged by the Canungra & Standply clubs respectively. In the tournament arranged by the Canungra club, Mrs Burton won the ladies' singles. She was the recipient of a handsome clock; other prizes were a flap jack, a pair of gold sleeve links, a silk scarf, a torch, a cigarette lighter & a string of pearls & silver cups.

The Beaudesert Times on Friday 10 September 1937 also reported:

The CWA Ball was arranged annually by the Wonglepong Branch of the CWA in aid of the Canungra District Hospital in the School of Arts on Friday evening. There was excellent attendance. The association's colours of blue, silver and white, were used in a decorative scheme, which consisted of streamers radiating from a central piece to the walls of the ballroom. Bowls of sweet peas were used in the decoration of the stage. Mr G Franklin acted as ticket seller and the doorkeeper was Mr F Pragnall. Chas Taylor's orchestra supplied very lively music keeping the dancers merry until the early hours of the morning, and Mr JP Carter supervised the dancing. The ladies of the Association served a dainty supper at midnight and had the assistance of a bevy of young ladies of the district. Several novelty dances were held and the gross takings were approx £16.



Thick red velvet curtains with the Hall crest emblazoned in yellow would open to reveal the Debutantes in their delightful dresses for their Debutantes' Balls in the old Hall before it was destroyed by fire in 1946 along with all the Hall's records.

The Beaudesert Times on Friday 11 July 1952 reported:

Last Friday night the Wonglepong branch of the CWA held their annual ball at the Canungra School of Arts having a mock debutante ball for a change. 200 people from the district turned up. The stage and surroundings had large wall vases of pinkish poinsettias which made a gay splash of colour on the walls of the stage, office and ladies powder room. Miss Bumps (Mr Ken Rielly in a tulle Deb frock with a blond wig) announced the names of the debutantes. There was much amusement. Some of the "girls" were quite beautiful and it was difficult to detect the deception. The Canungra ladies, assisted by Mrs Chas Benstead [?Binstead] did the cutting in the afternoon.



A Grand Opening Ball for the new hall was held on Saturday 7 July 1956 and there were so many present that it required two orchestras to keep the music playing throughout the evening so everyone could get their turn on the dance floor. Mrs. Madge Page on piano, Bill Page on drums, Keith Page on saxophone and Wally Row on the tenor sax played in one group alternating with Charlie Taylor on piano, Bill Pidd on the fiddle and Harvey Mahony

on accordion. Jesse Daniels (Snr) kept it all running smoothly as Master of Ceremonies. There was dancing all through the night until sunrise.

The dancing was enhanced by the use of 'pops' sprinkled on the magnificent Crows Ash dance floor both before the dancing began and during supper.



Five animal pictures were used as decorations at the Grand Opening Ball of 1956, (one has not survived), with four on the Hall pillars and an Owl above the entrance. They decorate the hall still today.

They were drawn by Joyce Curtis (m Libke), local resident and teacher, designed from children's book illustrations, and painted with white sandshoe cleaner, Indian ink and poster paint.

Photograph NW



The annual Bullocky's Barn Dance was popular with folks from far and wide, so much so that people were sometimes turned away. The old Hall next door where the car park is today was often used to serve supper when there was a large crowd attending.

Dances were held weekly, forty years ago, when a dance teacher would help with lessons before the dances when they would learn the Pride of Erin, the Gypsy Tap, the Tango, the Waltz and the Oxford Waltz. Barry Day's Mother and Father would dance together while everyone else watched before joining them on the dance floor. Sadly these dances are no longer popular.

Madge Page was not only the pianist for the Hall but also taught music lessons there. Barry Day had some lessons from her and recalls performing in the Hall a number of times.

The Canungra Show Ball was held regularly in the Hall.

Currently (2016):

The Beaudesert Districts Orchid and Foliage Society Show (Beaudesert and Logan districts joined 25-30 years ago) is held twice a year, spring and autumn. Stunning displays attract people from all around the district and further afield.



Beaudesert Districts Orchid and Foliage Society show and market.

Photograph from Hall website.



A market is held on the last Sunday of each month. The Hall is a popular venue for weddings. Charges are very reasonable for Hall rental.



Setup for a recent wedding.

Photograph from Hall website.

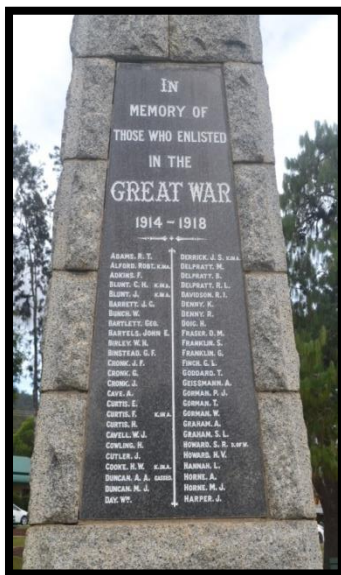
Dance classes are held in the Hall on a weekly basis as are Tae Kwon Do self-defence classes. There has been a Children's Music Group but this seems to be finishing in May. The Country Women's Association (CWA) has an annual booking for a Division Function. About 250 members of The Harley Owners Group gather in the Hall for morning tea in conjunction with their Muscular Dystrophy Bike Ride.

War Memorials:

Although the Memorial Board was lost when the second School of Arts was burnt to the ground in 1946, the 136 names of those who answered the call for King and Country in the Great War (1914 – 1918) can be found on the roughly hewn granite obelisk that is Canungra's Cenotaph, erected in 1938, in the D J Smith Memorial Park just down the road from the Hall.

After the end of World War II (1939 – 1945) another 170 names were added to this Cenotaph, making a total of 306 names of those men of Canungra and District who served their country in time of war.

Photographs: NW



A website [canungraansweredthecall](#) has been established to gather more information on these men.



At the 2016 ANZAC Day Canungra Dawn Service by the Cenotaph, Barry Day read this poem:

A Country Dawn Service

*It's just a simple service in a little place I know,
when steady stars are paling and the sleepy earth wakes slow,
with grassy smell of morning and the bright dew on the lawn,
It's just a simple service in a little town at dawn.*

*There isn't any grand parade, or marching, or a band,
but a little group of blokes who watch, and think, and stand.
There isn't any bugler to play a sad 'Last Post'
but from the mist of memories, the past steals like a ghost.*

*And all the intervening years the busy mind will bridge,
to deserts harsh, the beaches cold and ragged jungle ridge,
to laughter, fear, a thousand things, the faces and the jokes,
and how it all comes back again, just standing with the blokes.*

*It's just a simple service while the dawn is breaking red,
it's not the words a fellow hears, but those that stay unsaid.
It's not the glow of glory that the fleeting moment lends,
But just the recollection.... in the morning.... of your friends.*

Acknowledgements:

- **Barry Day**, Secretary of the Canungra School of Arts Hall, has been extremely helpful in giving permission to use information that he gathered to develop the website for the Hall. It is a very thorough and informative website. The authors of this project are very grateful to Barry for the time he gave to discuss the history and stories of the Hall.
- Much information for the website was obtained from **Joyce and Des Libke** and from **Cath Marsden**. Our thanks to them also. Joyce Libke's extensive knowledge of the history of Canungra was invaluable in fine tuning some historical details.
- **Canungra Visitors Centre** Volunteer, **Ann**, was generous in finding photographs and information on the history of Canungra. (Ann makes excellent Rosella Jam, sold in the Centre).

References:

- 1) State Library of Queensland
- 2) Canungra Visitors Centre
- 3) Photograph is held by John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland



- 4) *Canungra Heritage 1879-1979* by M Curtis (available at the Canungra Visitors Centre)
- 5) Photograph is held by John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
- 6) Lahey's Canungra Sawmill Complex – Wikipedia.
- 7) Romeo Lahey, visionary and man of principle. Visit Scenic Rim
- 8) Gold Coast Tourist Information Centre. Lahey's Canungra Tramway Tunnel
- 9) Wikipedia.org: Canungra railway line
- 10) Scenic Rim. Our Pioneering Families
- 11) Scenic Rim Stories and Communities. Visit Scenic Rim
- 12) Photograph is held by John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
- 13) Photograph is held by John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
- 14) The *Beaunesert Times* (Qld: 1908-1954): Fri 22 Nov 1946 p1 Canungra School of Arts
- 15) Canungra School of Arts website
- 16) The *Beaunesert Times* (Qld: 1908-1954): Thurs 25 March p7 Hospital Meeting
- 17) The *Beaunesert Times* (Qld: 1908-1954): Fri 22 May, 1914 p7 Canungra

Photographs: Naomi Wright (NW), Moira Lockhart (ML)

Contributors:



Naomi Wright (ADFAS Gold Coast)



Moira Lockhart (ADFAS Gold Coast)