

CAMDEN NSW



A lithograph of part of John Street in 1888. The buildings from the left are St. Paul's Catholic Church, built in 1859, the Temperance Hall built in 1837 by The Sons of Temperance Camden Division, **the two storey façade of the School of Arts building** with the hall behind (indistinct) and a cottage of unknown history which is now the site of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

This drawing is taken from a Hardy and Gorman catalogue (artist unknown) for a land sale at North Cawdor in 1888

Name: Camden School of Arts

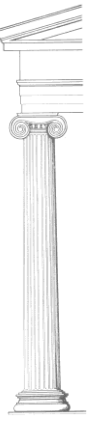
Address: John Street Camden NSW

The Town:

Camden is an historic town located 65 kilometres south west of the central business district of Sydney, Australia's largest city. It lies at the northern edge of land of the Gandangara (Gundungurra) people of the Southern Highlands of New South Wales.

Established in 1840, Camden was named after the Colonial Secretary, Lord Camden, who had ordered New South Wales Governor King to grant 2000 acres in the Cowpastures area to John Macarthur. The Macarthur family were to be among the most influential figures in the growth and development of the colony of New South Wales.

Camden lies on the banks of the Nepean River which flows north, then east to the coast as the Hawkesbury River, thus virtually encircling metropolitan Sydney and providing most of its water storage. At the 2011 census, the population of the town proper was recorded as 3,244



residents. It is the administrative centre for the local government area of Camden Council and is part of the Macarthur region, currently (2016) one of the fastest growing areas in New South Wales.

The locality is of significant historical interest, with some of the small towns retaining much of their character. It is among the earliest sites of settlement in inland Australia, with the land granted to John Macarthur being developed in the early days of the colony into his significant pastoral and agricultural interests. It is considered to be the birthplace of the wool, wheat, and wine industries, the basis of Australia's early prosperity, and still amongst the most important rural industries. Many historic properties survive, including *Camden Park*, the home of John and Elizabeth Macarthur, dating from 1805.

The village of Camden in the 1840s and 1850s

In 1828 John Macarthur and his sons owned 28,000 acres of land west of the Nepean River. The Great South Road ran across their property from a bridge across the Nepean [site of present day Cowpastures Bridge] through Cawdor then across the Razorback Range on its way to the southern parts of the colony.

In the 1830s after the death of John, two of his sons, James and William Macarthur, became the first land developers west of the Nepean River. They had a plan prepared for a proposed village and a ground survey was carried out on the site. The village was to be just west of the Nepean River and The Great South Road was to become the main street of Camden [now Argyle Street]. Thus the location of the village placed it in a strong strategic position because all traffic, in both directions, between Sydney and the southern parts of the colony had to pass through it.

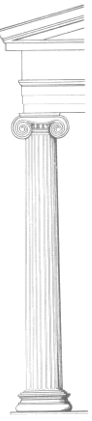
In 1841 an auction sale was held and numerous blocks of land were sold. To support the future development of the village the Macarthurs built the first hotel in Camden, gave land for the Anglican Church, and reserved land for the Catholic and Presbyterian churches and for a post office and Police Court.

In the next twenty years the village developed and the population grew. Thus the scene was set for the formation of a School of Arts and the construction of its building. Camden had an active School of Arts between the 1860s and 1930. This story relives this period of its existence and of its building.

Establishment of the School of Arts

In the 1850s there were early stirrings which preceded the formation of the School of Arts. In 1854, only about ten years after the establishment of Camden, a small reading and discussion club was formed. Later this became the '*Literary and Scientific Institution*' and '*The Camden Farmers' Club and General Improvement Society*'. These faded away but they did indicate a desire in the community to have some form of educational facility.

On 12 May 1858 there was a meeting of the Rector of St John's, Rev E Rogers, the Clerk of Petty Sessions, HRJ Martin, the Master of the Church of England School, HP Reeves, and a storekeeper, T Burnett, all prominent citizens of Camden. This led to the formation of the Camden School of Arts. The earliest members were Dr Walker, Mr James of the National School, Mr J Lakeman (Snr),



Mr JP Ollis, some members of the Thompson family, Mr J Martin, Mr HP Reeves, Mr Burrett and Mr A Simpson. They had many vigorous debates and pleasant evenings, and at last decided to collect for a building fund.

Land in John Street had been purchased in 1864 from a subdivision of an area of 20 perches (507 square metres), originally from a land purchase of 5,400 acres (2,185 hectares) by John Macarthur. On 5 December 1865, on the site of the proposed building, a *large gathering of people from all quarters, including the elite of the neighbourhood, testified by their presence their interest in the undertaking*. The purpose of the function was the laying of the foundation stone for the School building. (*Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)* 5 Dec 1865)

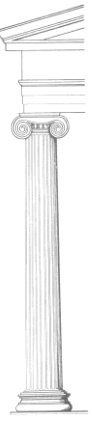
Elizabeth Macarthur, daughter of James Macarthur, laid the foundation stone under which was a time capsule containing documents and coins. [Both the stone and the capsule were lost when the front of the building was demolished in the 1960s]. James Macarthur then ‘delivered a very interesting and elaborate address which was listened to with great attention and apparent delight’. The speaker then went on to say that:

... he hoped for those whose special benefit institutions of this kind were established, would not stand aloof, but avail themselves of all the advantages that they might reasonably expect from membership. The library of the institute would be most useful to all classes – the mechanic would find works which would enlighten him on matters connected with his craft, and the farmer such as would teach him to avoid and overcome the pests of past years. Those who sought light reading of a useful kind could have their wants supplied.

The Building

The School of Arts building was constructed in 1866 on an allotment fronting John Street with a frontage of 41 feet 3 inches (12.6 metres) and a depth of 132 feet (40.2 metres). The architect was HP Reeves, Anglican School Master and later Mayor of Camden. The design of the two-storey building was Italianate Palladian in origin, set back from the street and it may have had a garden. The building was substantially of locally made bricks and plastered. The front portion had a single level meeting hall behind with separate access. It was built by Messrs McBeath and Furner.

Construction of the building took less than one year and it was officially opened on 26 October 1866. (*SMH* 29 Oct. 1866) Camden had a public holiday for the occasion and a large number of residents were present at the ceremony and at the festivities which followed. The Hon. James Macarthur delivered the inaugural speech in the presence of the Premier and other ‘influential gentlemen’. His speech and that of Mr Chisholm were long and discursive. In contrast Mr Reeves, the secretary, gave a concise report showing that the cost of the building was £1,250; that £450 had been raised by the Committee from local activities; £400 was given by the government; £300 advanced by a friend and it was hoped that the final £100 would be raised at this opening function. Reeves stressed that the building was for the use of the public and was open to all. At this time the members of the School of Arts Committee were JB Martin, Chairman. HP Reeves, secretary, and committee men F Ferguson, E Simpson, J Lakeman, CT Cross and T Burnett. There were also three trustees, Martin, Lakeman and Simpson.



A description of the building at the time of its opening was given in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 29 October 1866:

The library was on the ground floor, facing the street [John Street] – a lofty well - proportioned apartment sixteen feet by fourteen feet with a panelled ceiling, two circular beaded windows (with stained glass and clear centres) a fireplace, and other suitable accessories. Above this chamber is another apartment lighted by three large windows, the committee room nineteen feet by fourteen feet to which access may be gained by a convenient adjacent staircase. At the back of this portion of the building, so arranged that it may be entirely cut off if required, with separate avenues and doors, is the Hall of the institution, fifty feet in length by twenty two feet in width, running easterly. This apartment, the most striking feature in the edifice, has an open roof, three large windows, a door on the northern and southern aspects, and lastly an apse, for the convenience of lecturers, at the eastern end. The height is sixteen feet six inches at the top of the walls and twenty five feet to the ridge-piece. The room is capable for at least 250 persons, but nearly double that must have been assembled therein on the first social gathering which signalised its opening.*

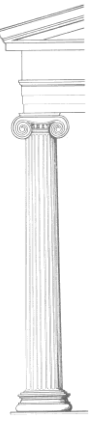
* Later reports give the correct length of the hall as 75 feet (22.0m).
The apse at the east end was likely a raised platform with side wings.



The earliest known photograph of the School of Arts building. It was taken in the early 1870s by HP Reeves.

Reeves designed the building and was a keen photographer.

It was reported in the local press in 1886 that the hall had a stage of 20 feet (6.1m) deep and the width of the whole building. Most interesting was that it reported that there were two dressing rooms under the stage. It was also reported in 1890 that there was water leaking into the dressing rooms. These were later converted into the billiard room, the work completed in 1897; however, with the building extensions of 1900, the billiard room was later removed to the new extensions. It was further reported in 1911 that a lavatory basin (now sewered) was ordered for the billiard room and water was still a problem for the cellar with the water level being several inches deep.



A poster advertised the official opening of the new School of Arts building on 26 October 1866.

This was followed by 'A Literary and Musical Entertainment' in the evening.

The proceeds were to go towards the liquidation of the debt on the building.

CAMDEN SCHOOL OF ARTS.

THE CEREMONY OF FORMALLY OPENING THE

NEW BUILDING

WILL TAKE PLACE

On Friday, October 26th,

AT THREE O'CLOCK.

The Hon. JAS. MACARTHUR

Of Camden Park, will deliver the INAUGURAL ADDRESS;

And the Hon. JAMES MARTIN, Premier, with several other Gentlemen, are expected to take part in the Proceedings.

The Public are respectfully invited to attend this interesting Ceremony.

In the Evening, after the opening of the Building,

A Literary & Musical Entertainment

Will take place at half-past Seven, when a First-class Selection of Music will be performed by the Members of the Camden Choir; also Speeches and Recitations by gentlemen friendly to the Institution.

THE CHARGE FOR ADMISSION WILL BE

RESERVED SEATS, 2s. 6d.; BACK, 1s. 6d.; CHILDREN, Reduced Price.

The proceeds will be applied to liquidate the debt due to Treasurer.

TICKETS can be had at Mr. BURRETT'S or Mr. CROSS'S Store, or any Member of Committee.

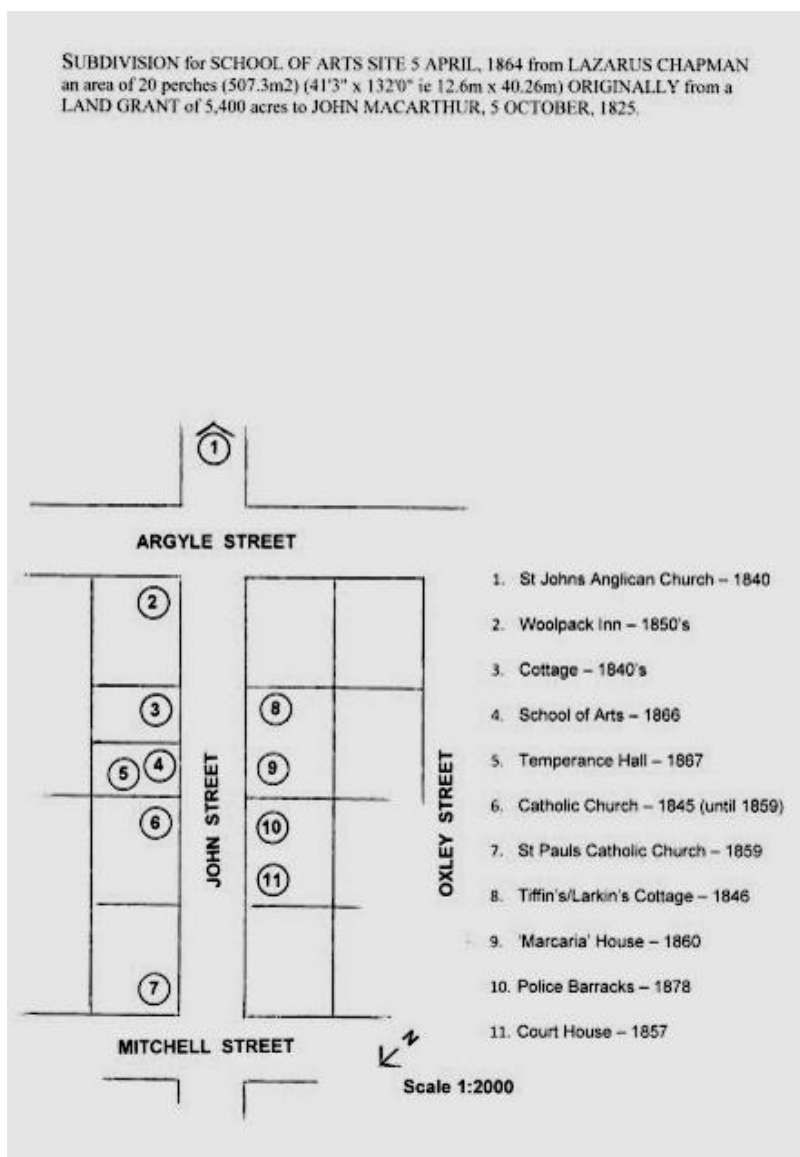
H. P. REEVES, Honorary Secretary.

READING AND WELLBANK, PRINTERS, BRIDGE STREET, SYDNEY.

POSTER School of Arts
OPENING 1866
ITEM No. 99.068



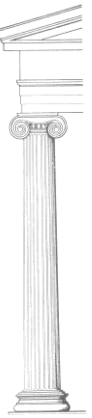
A photo taken in the 1870s from near the John and Mitchell Streets intersection looking south towards St. John's Church on the hill. The two-storey School of Arts is at left in the middle distance.



Subdivision for **School of Arts site**
5 April, 1864 from Lazarus Chapman
an area of 20 perches....
Originally from a land grant of 5,400
acres to John Macarthur, 5 October,
1825.

This diagram identifies buildings
and shows the dates of their
construction.

4. School of Arts - 1866



CONCERT
At Camden.

AN
ENTERTAINMENT

Will be given at the
SCHOOL OF ARTS,
CAMDEN.

By the Members of the Camden Glee Club,
Assisted by some Friends, which will consist of
GLEES, SONGS, RECITATIONS, &C.,
On Friday Evening,
NOVEMBER 27th.

Doors open at half-past Seven, to
commence at Eight o'clock.

TICKETS
Can be obtained from Mr. T. BURRETT, or Mr. C. T. CROSS.

The Proceeds will be applied to the reduction of the debt
on the Building for the
CAMDEN SCHOOL OF ARTS.

FRONT SEATS 2s; BACK SEATS 1s.

J. READING AND CO. PRINTERS, BRIDGE STREET, SYDNEY

◀ Advertisement for a concert and entertainment at the School of Arts on Friday 27 November 1868.

This was to be held in the evening so lighting must have been adequate, presumably kerosene lamps and candles.

Again, the purpose was 'the reduction of debt on the building'.

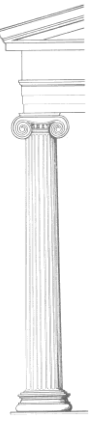


A later photo c.1900. On the right is the 1866 School of Arts two-storey office, library and reading room and the single-storey hall showing behind with its separate entrance visible (centre left).

On the left is the 1873 Temperance Hall.

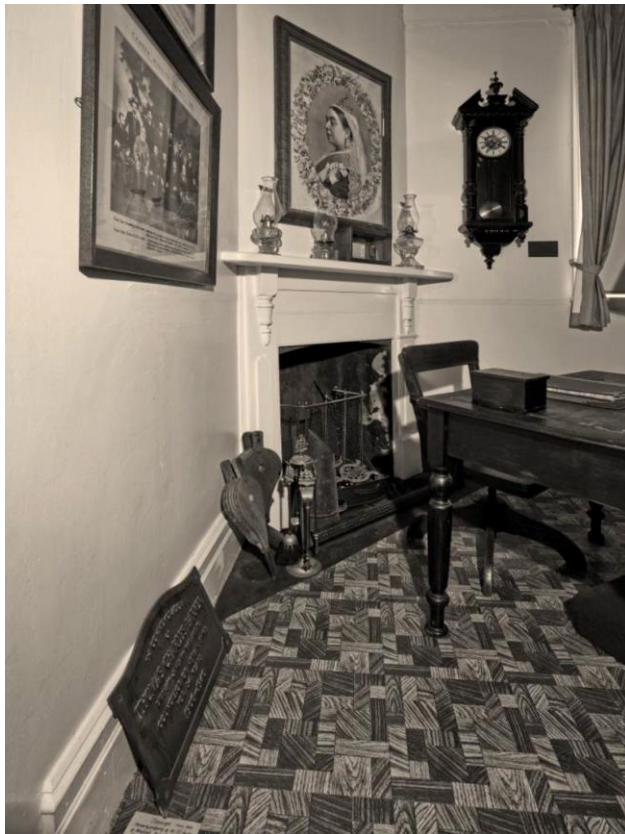
Note the two styles of picket fence with carriage entry on the John Street frontage, and the rustic tree guards.





A factor which was to influence the School of Arts, especially in the later years, was the granting of local government to Camden. The colonial government passed the Municipalities Act 1867 which allowed communities to petition for local government. In 1887 eighty-nine men of Camden (but no women) lodged such a petition which also stated that the proposed municipality had a population of 'not less than 900 persons'. The petition was accepted and the 'Municipal District of Camden' was created. The council met for the first time in 1889.

No further information about the fabric of the main structure arises until 1899. In that year it was proposed to erect a two-storey building at the rear of the existing hall and the Sydney architect, JE Kemp, was instructed to draw up suitable plans. The extension was to hold the library and billiard room. Tenders were invited and that of JD Rankin for £391 was accepted.



However it seemed in 1900 that the Camden Council would also use the new building. Thus it was reported that the new building would give *greater accommodation to the Council Clerk of the Municipality* and that the committee would see *that the Camden Council would be made comfortable*. The reports did not say where the Council, the library and the billiard room would be accommodated.

◀ The northern end of the upper storey of the 1900 extension to the School of Arts building where the Town Clerk was located.
Image: C. Cowell

Access to the ground floor of the 1900 two-storey addition was available on the Temperance Hall side but this has since been bricked up; the arch lintel is still visible inside the Camden Historical Society Museum. The main entrance was at the opposite side, which gave access to both floors via a timber staircase with turned balusters that still exists in the Museum.

The means of lighting the hall changed over the years. Up to 1906 lighting would have been by kerosene lamps. In that year an acetylene gas plant was installed to service both the School of Arts and the hall of the Sons and Daughters of Temperance which was the adjacent building. This provided 20 lamps at a cost of £40. This plant was replaced in 1912 when coal gas became available in Camden and gas lamps were installed throughout the building. The old acetylene plant sold for £5. The next change occurred in 1929 when electricity became available in Camden and continued as the main source of lighting and power in the building.

The original dressing rooms were made available as an air raid shelter during the Second World War. They were later filled in during major Council renovations in 1964.



The beginning of the end...

By 1928 there were concerns about the viability of the School of Arts as an institution, and the possible fate of the building. In August a deputation from the School of Arts attended a meeting of the Camden Council and advanced the proposition that the Council take over the School of Arts building and its functions. (*Camden News (CN)* 2 Aug 1928) Matters moved rapidly, and by December the Camden Council had passed a motion:

That council is prepared to take over the land and buildings of the School of Arts and a free reading-room, equipped with papers and magazines, would be maintained. The Council would also use its earnest endeavours to maintain the library and place same on a business footing. (CN 13 Dec 1928)

Because of some procedural difficulties it was not until July 1929 that a further motion was passed:

That this special meeting of members of the Camden School of Arts authorises the Trustees of the said School of Arts to accept the offer of the Camden Municipal Council. (CN 11 Jul 1930)



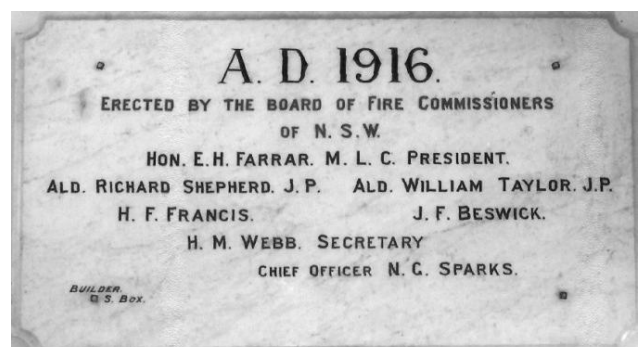
The two-storey 1866 **School of Arts** office and reading room with the hall behind. (right)

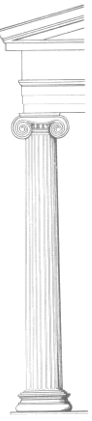
The 1900 two-storey building is at the rear; it included the Council offices.

The Fire Station (left) opened in 1916 by extending the 1873 Temperance Hall to house the fire engine.

The picket fences have gone in this pre 1930s photograph.

► Plaque to mark the opening of the fire station in John Street in 1916. The plaque was relocated and is now in the fire station in Macarthur Road.





Closure of the School of Arts as an institution - 1929

Apart from financial considerations, the main problem affecting the School of Arts was the lack of support by the Camden community, although the library continued to be popular. This lack of interest was attributed to many things such as the advent of wireless and the opening of a cinema in Camden. The fading value of the Camden School of Arts to the Camden population reflected what was happening to similar institutions throughout the state. The report of the 72nd Annual Meeting of the School of Arts was published in the *Camden News* on 1 August 1929. This was the last reference to appear in the *Camden News* dealing with the functioning of the School. This, in effect, reflected the demise of the School of Arts as an institution in Camden after a period of nearly sixty-five years.

The Camden Council took control of the School of Arts on 1 April 1930 and the first meeting of the council in its new quarters was held on 6 May 1930. (CN 15 May 1930) It was also decided to change the name of the building from Camden School of Arts to Camden Municipal Council.



The School of Arts building after it had been taken over as Council Chambers in 1930

Note that the name 'School of Arts' has been removed from the pediment, being replaced by more imposing signage 'Camden Council Chambers' across the mid-section of the building. The single-storey Hall is immediately behind, with the two-storey 1900 extension, which included the Council Chambers, at the back.

The Council offices remained in the buildings until 1963. In that year most of the School of Arts building was demolished with the exception of the rear portion of the original hall, measuring 10.8 m long by 6.7m wide (internally) which was used as the public meeting room of the council with the Aldermen and Council Officers seated on the stage. A new building was erected on the demolition site which was opened in 1964 as the offices of Camden Council.



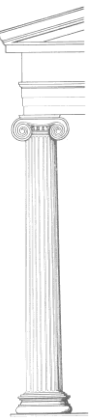
A meeting of the Aldermen and Officers of Camden Council held in the rear portion of the former School of Arts building, which is now the Fiction Section of the Camden Library. Circa early 1950s

Council later moved to a new building on the opposite side of John St which was erected in 1974 behind the two-storey stone house 'Macaria'. The Library moved back into the present building and there were further additions in 2007. The original rear portion was retained and is currently (2016) in use as the Fiction Section of the Camden Library.



The remaining section of the School of Arts hall after the conversion in 2007 - showing the original timber-planked roof lining, the iron bracing, and on the right, one of the original windows

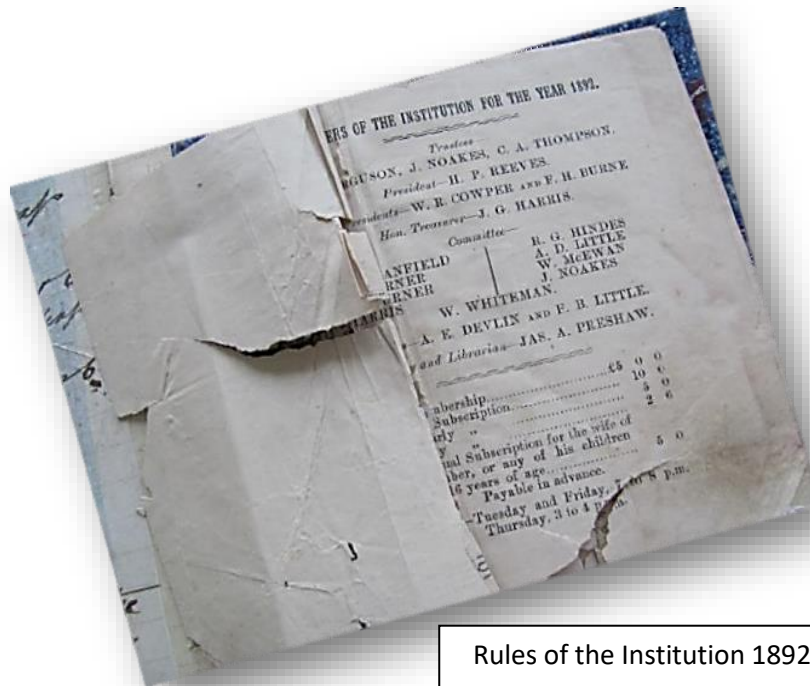
Image: C Cowell



Camden School of Arts Library and Reading Room (1866-1930)

From 1866 to 1930, the Camden School of Arts provided a library and reading room for the people of Camden. Mr Martin, during the ceremony for laying the foundation stone of the School of Arts building in 1865, described the community's desire to see a building erected for the social, mental and moral improvements of the local inhabitants. (SMH 5 Dec 1865)

The library and reading room were established within the School of Arts, a building described as *exceedingly neat and a substantial structure*. (Empire 30 Oct 1866)



Rules of the Institution 1892

The Reading Room and the Library had different operational hours. The Reading Room By-laws of 1892 stated that the opening hours of the room were from 9am to 10am every day, except Sunday. The Library By-laws stated that the opening hours of the library were from 7pm to 8pm on Tuesday and Friday and 3 to 4pm on Thursday. No one could use the reading room or borrow material from the library without producing their membership card for the School of Arts.

(School of Arts Brochure 1892:
Rules of the Institution)

Library hours were only three hours in the week for many years but by 1928 the opening hours had doubled to be six hours a week, proving how popular the library had become.

The subscriptions for belonging to the School of Arts and use of the facilities did not increase from 1892 until 1916:

Life Member - £5

Member - 10 shillings yearly; 5 shillings half yearly; 2/6 pence quarterly

Wife of a member or any of his children under 16 years of age - 5 shillings yearly

The Reading Room

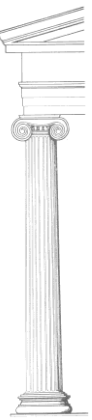
In 1892 renovations to the reading room were described as such:

The reading room, though small, is now worthy of a few hours of study, and forms a home for reading after the day's work is done by one and all of the workman or master.

(CN 6 Aug 1903)

The reading room was painted and renovated a number of times in its 65-year history. The tables held English and colonial magazines, government publications, illustrated papers and books.

Lighting was often improved as the reading room became more popular, and after 1892 kerosene mantle type lamps known as Bonza shades, were installed.



A desk and table covered in green baize was also in the reading room. By 1897 the library and reading room were much used under the efficient management of Horace Doust.



During the committee meeting of November 1903, there were complaints about boys interfering in the reading room and annoying members. The minutes state.....*the secretary will put a stop to this ...*

The 1908 annual report stated that magazines were being nailed to the reading table:

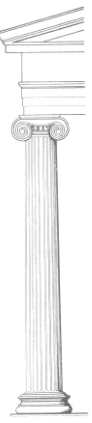
The Camden School of Arts reading room magazines are nailed on the reading table. One cannot understand such proceedings by a librarian. It may be wise, but unjust to students of literature. Yes, they may be otherwise taken away. Pity!

The reply to this concern came in a following edition of the newspaper stating that:

The nailing of the magazines to the table was a preventative from having them stolen. Indeed, the police were asked to assist with this matter. (CN 10 Sep 1908)

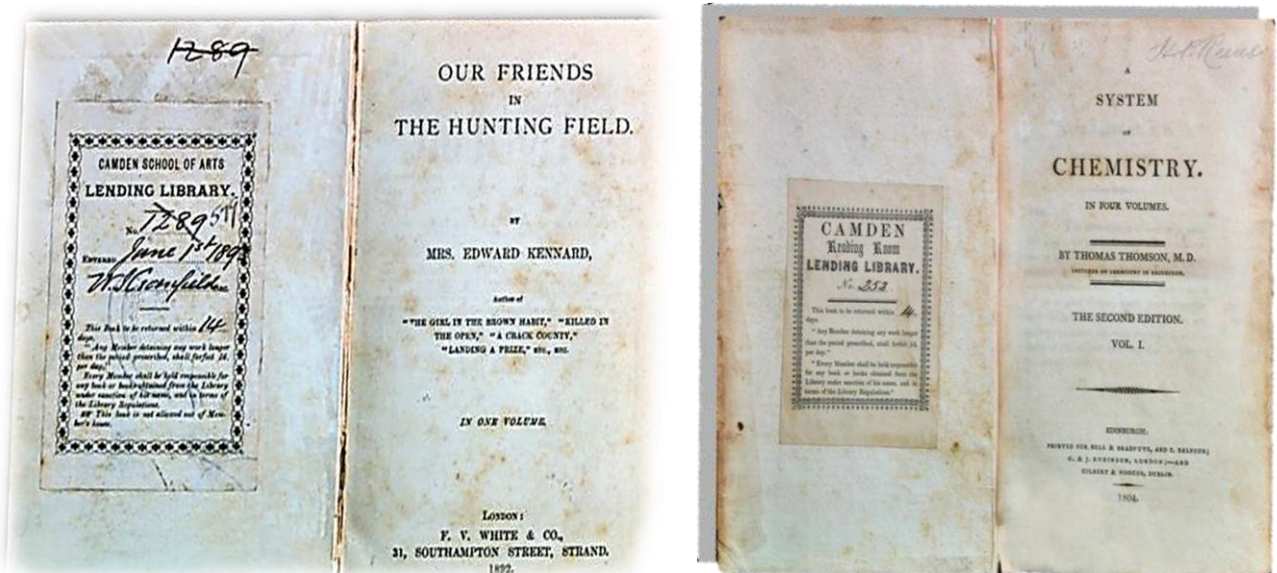
In 1916, ever thoughtful of the comfort of its members, the *Camden News* reported that the library committee had requested that all members who use the reading room were to receive an equal share of the fire. (CN 24 Aug 1916)

The reading room was always popular and extensively used by the members. During the First World War, magazines such as the *Anzac Memorial*, *Life Magazine*, *Smith's Weekly* and Sydney newspapers such as the *Sydney Mail*, were available. These newspapers were popular because they reported on the war and often included pictures of soldiers who had enlisted – or tragically, those who were killed. In action. (CN 20 Jan 1916)



The Library

The library was initially stocked with donations by benefactors who were largely the wealthier people of the district. Men such as William Macarthur, Mr George Macleay, Mr J Lakeman (Snr), Reverend George Macarthur, Capt. Oswald Watt, Mr FWA Downes MP, Rev CJ King and Mr JK Chisholm made substantial donations to the library and reading room. Gifts and purchases also meant that the library was comparatively rich in literature.



Examples of early items in the Library collection

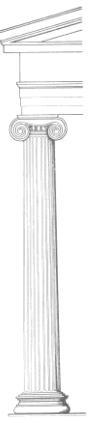
Expanding the offerings of the library and reading room was otherwise dependent on subscriptions from membership of the School of Arts, together with government grants and subsidies. After 1914 the School of Arts, and subsequently the library, found it more difficult to operate, as government resources were directed to the war effort and grants and subsidies were not available. The library had to operate with diminished funds to purchase the books and magazines for members to borrow and read. As a result, the community, through fundraising by the School of Arts, often supplemented the purchase of books for the library collection.

It was reported that in the first year of operation, 1866, the library issued 900 books and 6,000 people visited the School of Arts library. In 1891 the collection was 1,905 books, with the collection increasing in 1908 to 2,531 books, of which the largest number was fiction (1,898) followed by reference works (254). The other categories were biography, history, religion, science, politics, social science, travel, poetry and periodical and serial literature.



(The Empire 30 Oct 1866)

The *Camden News* advertised the new fiction that arrived in the library. The published lists give an indication of the popular authors of the time. Most were works of fiction - the classics,



westerns, religious, or romantic in nature - which satisfied the needs of the community for light reading and entertaining material.

Following is a list of books purchased for the Camden School of Arts and advertised in the *Camden News* in 1922:

The Unseen Player (Anne Weaver)
Tarrant of Tin Spout (Henry Ouyen)
Snowdrift (JB Hendryx)
The House of the Beautiful Hope (RS Christie)
The Valley of the Silent Men (JO Curwood)
Flower of the North (JO Curwood)
Triumph of the Scarlet Pimpernel (Baroness Orczy)

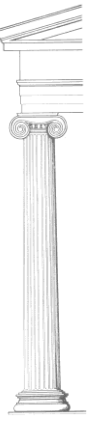
Vandermarks Polly (H Quick)
The Mountaineers (H Blindloss)
The Greater Good (SK Hocking)
Alias the Lone Wolf (LJ Vance)
The Man from Bar 20 (CE Mulford)
Man-Size (W. Macleod Raine)

The librarian was responsible for the library collection and was required to report to the School of Arts committee on an annual basis.

Many times, the librarian of the institution requested the members to 'be good enough' to return to the library for the purpose of stocktaking, any books that they may have in their possession. Often frustrated, the librarian would need to take firmer measures to have books returned. These measures included charging fees for late material or banning persons from using the library. The by-laws outlined many of the stock control measures that were adopted. In 1912, for example, recommendations were made by the library committee to inflict fines on members for retaining library books over the specified time. The borrowing time limit (7 or 14 days) was marked on all books and any person keeping books for a longer period than specified would be charged one shilling.



Complaints were made about marking books by initialling and dating books loaned from the library. The secretary put up a notice in the library prohibiting the marking of books issued to subscribers, with offenders in the future to be charged the full price of the book.



Prominent local resident, Dr Francis West suggested that there also be a notice posted setting out the rule relating to the time within which the books must be returned; and that the secretary keep full records and provide the names of offenders to the committee. A return was to be made of all outstanding books.



Prominent Camden Resident, Dr Francis William West (who died in 1932) forwarded this post card in the 1920s
'To my loyal and dearly valued friend Llewella Davies from an Old Pal.'

From the collection of Miss Llewella Davies in Camden Historical Society

Material for the library and reading room was obtained from a number of book suppliers such as Mudie's in England, Angus and Robertson's, Dymock's, and subscription agents for journals and magazines. Purchases were made for some newspapers, while individuals and organisations donated material. In 1903, the committee discussed the purchase of books from England and concluded it was too expensive. It was decided to keep purchases local and in Australia, so the library commenced a subscription service to the Sydney Book Club for future purchases.
(CN 13 Mar 1902)

The books and magazines were kept under control by conducting a stocktake each year. When completed, the stocktake enabled the collection to be counted, older material discarded, repaired, or sent to the bindery. The results of the stocktake provided the librarian with details for the annual report. The overall responsibility for the organisation of the library was through the Library Committee (usually consisting of four members from the School of Arts Committee). These men often selected the material to go into the library and reading room. The Library Committee met in the upstairs committee room and was able to inspect recent additions to the library. This room contained a number of books that were of immense value to readers seeking knowledge in science research and history and was always open to members, providing a secluded spot for reading. Books could be taken out in the usual way by signing for them with the secretary.

This committee reported to the School of Arts Committee who published their report in the *Camden News* for the community's information.



Initially, the committee appointed one of its members to run the library. The designated person was part of the library committee and also a committee member of the School of Arts. This situation existed until Mr Horace Doust was appointed librarian around 1896.

When Mr Doust proposed purchasing books from Dymock's, a monthly supply of books was sent for the committee to select items. Discounts were allowed on those purchased. In September 1903 a suggestion was made by Mr Procter to purchase books for young people 10-12 years of age and one or two shelves were set aside in the library for this collection. This may have been the first indication that a

separate collection of material was being proposed for the younger readers of Camden.

Donations of old library stock were given to local hospitals, such as Camden Hospital and Carrington Centennial Convalescent Hospital. In 1900, the School of Arts library sent unused books, magazines and light reading for the use of patients at the North Head Quarantine Station, after a request was sent to the committee.

Mr. Hodge stated in 1912 that he had heard from the public that half of the books in the library were not fit to be read. The library committee in 1912 consisted of Messrs AF Onslow, EH Street, Dr Francis West and Rev CJ King. This committee chose all the books and in reply to Mr. Hodge's statement, individually stated that the public was wide of the mark for it was impossible to read all books prior to their circulation, but the committee were careful in the selection of authors. The library had a suggestion box where members could suggest the name of the book they would like to have in the library. It was from this list that new books were generally obtained.

(CN 17 Jul 1913)

Library Scholarships were issued by the School of Arts to the local schools on an annual basis up to 1930. The scholarships took the form of free memberships of the School of Arts, and free access to the library and reading room. In 1914 the scholarships were awarded to Camden Public School (Ethel Boardman, Winnie Dunk and Grenville Mitchell) Camden Convent School (2), Cobbitty Public School (Miss CD Wates), Narellan Public School (Master T Anderson).



Mr Horace Doust

Four people were mentioned in the *Camden News* as being official librarians of the Camden School of Arts library:

- *Mr Doust* ran the library for 25 years (1896-1921) in addition to his other duties.
- *Mrs F Stuckey*, in August 1903, was acting as librarian, and seemed to be quite at home with her important task.
- *Mr R Lacey* replaced Mr Doust in 1921 and increased funds by collecting fines for overdue books. He kept the library in excellent order and also attempted to produce a catalogue of material held in the library.
- *Miss Lavercombe* supervised the library in 1927, and was still there in 1930.

The *Camden News* of 31 July 1924 reported –

Despite the falling memberships and lease of hall resulting in low funds, the library is still popular. The enforcement of rules about taking out books has been of great assistance to readers and has not inconvenienced anyone. The reading room is very largely used by members, and a good supply of literature is always available. It seems a pity that this useful room could not be made much larger.

By August 1928, Mr RAC Adams stated in the School of Arts 71st annual report, that

The institution (i.e. Camden School of Arts) had lost its usefulness to the public, and the lack of users proved this. By handing the institution as a going concern to the people themselves, through the local council, they would be helping the town and municipality.

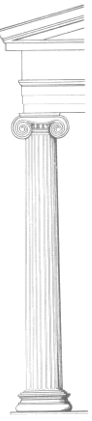
(CN 2 Aug 1928)

Whilst the School of Arts declined during the 1920s, the library and reading room, with their extensive collections, continued to entertain and educate the Camden community.

The Council stated in 1930 after the handover:

Constructional alterations are contemplated in the library itself by the removal of a portion of the partition dividing the library and the old office used by the Council. This will then provide one large room in which will be housed the circulating library and also the books of reference. Subscription fees and conditions have not yet been finalised, and will be the subject of a further report. The charges for the hiring of the hall and committee rooms have been adopted on the lines of those charged by the late School of Arts. The rules and regulations of the reading room, library etc. are under revision, and the Council looks forward to being able to meet the requirements of the town, both in hall accommodation and the reading public. (CN 29 May 1930)

The library and reading room, through the School of Arts, provided the people of the local district of Camden with great facilities for reading, entertainment, education and instruction. The library continued to provide a successful service long after the institution (School of Arts) had lost its usefulness.



In 1930, the library and reading room were handed over to Camden Council, along with the entire School of Arts building. The library continued to broaden and develop into a fine library service for the people of Camden.

How the Camden School of Arts was used

There were many uses of and activities in the School of Arts over its 64-year history though there are gaps in the available records documenting the use of the School of Arts Hall.

As well as being used by the School of Arts itself, the hall was used by other groups.

The Minutes of 14 May 1898 list various charges for the hire of the hall

- local concerts 25 shillings, including use of piano
- visiting concerts 30 shillings including use of piano
- public balls to 12pm 20 shillings, all night 30 shillings, including use of 'old' piano
- dinners or meetings, day or night, 20 shillings
- the Town Council, use of committee room £6 per annum
- the Agricultural Society, room 2 shillings, hall 5 shillings.

Charges were also listed for lectures, the dramatic club, skating, dancing classes and Australian Natives Rifle Club.

The functions organised by the School of Arts included programs of lectures, debates, concerts and plays, social gatherings, and a varied range of other activities. Some events, such as the lectures and debates, were to support the educational goals of the School of Arts movement. Others were designed to raise funds for the institution, as well as to provide interest and entertainment for both its members and the local community.

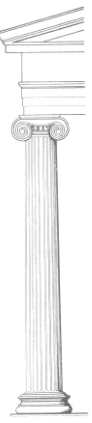
There were also functions organised by those who hired the hall for their own activities. These were an important source of revenue for the institution, as well as supporting the needs of the community.

School of Arts functions

- Art Exhibition (in 1886)
- Presentations - retiring citizens; welcoming people to Camden
- Social at School of Arts: every Saturday night 8pm-11pm, during winter of 1901.
Gents 1s 6d - Ladies invited.
- Debating - Debating and Mutual Improvement Club
- Concerts eg Smoke Concerts - live performances, usually of music, before an audience of men only; they were popular during the Victorian era. These social occasions were instrumental in introducing new musical forms to the public. At these functions men could smoke and speak of politics while listening to live music.

Some concerts were in aid of the School of Arts.

- Flower Shows to raise money for the School of Arts, mostly in the latter part of its history
- Drama/Plays - by local groups including the Menangle Dramatic Society which donated its takings to the School of Arts and also sold its props etc. to them when the Society folded
- Bazaars - eg a children's bazaar to raise money for a child's cot at the Camden Cottage Hospital (June 1902)



Lecture Program

Lectures were a part of the history of the School of Arts, both public lectures and those conducted by various societies. Many different lectures were offered by the School of Arts from its beginning to its demise in 1930. The speakers would complete a circuit, including the Campbelltown School of Arts. The first was held in September 1860. Some of those who spoke and their subjects were:

- 1860 - Mr W Gordon – *Eminent Men* (held at the Denominational Schoolroom)
- Mr Burnett - *George Stephenson, the great railway engineer*
- Mr F Sinclair – *The Marvels of the Age*
- Mr Ollis – *Maritime Discoveries*

The lectures continued to be an integral part of the educational program of the School of Arts but while they were well attended in the early years, this enthusiasm waned. At times, there was some focus on agricultural matters in an effort to attract local interest but though lectures continued, they became less regular and drew smaller audiences. Some of the lectures presented over the years are listed below:

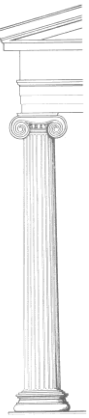
- Mr Ollis – *The Crust of the Earth*
- **Rev T Hassall - *Nineveh***

CAMDEN, July 23 [1861] - At the National School, last evening, a very instructive and interesting lecture was delivered by the **Rev T Hassall**, in connection with the Camden School of Arts. The subject **Nineveh*** was illustrated by diagrams, and made deeply interesting by the excellent way in which it was treated. The attendance was very numerous, the large school being literally crammed. The chair was occupied by Mr. Simpson at the conclusion of the lecture, which extended over a considerable length of time, and was listened to with marked attention.

*Nineveh, an "exceeding great city", as it is called in the (Old Testament) Book of Jonah, lay on the eastern bank of the Tigris in ancient Assyria, across the river from the modern-day major city of Mosul, Iraq. The historic Nineveh is mentioned about 1800 BC as a centre of worship of Ishtar. *Wikipedia*

* It should be noted the city of Mosul is at this time (2015) under siege from extreme Muslim Islamic State militants (known as ISIS).

- Rev S Wilkinson – *The pleasures and advantages of Science*
- Rev J Gibson from Campbelltown - *Knowledge in Connection with Schools of Art*
- Rev JJ Woods – *Natural History of Australia* (from Adelaide, in Freemans Journal, 1871)
- Mr Thomas Walker – *The Reign of Bacchus. Drinking of alcoholic beverages, social aspects, Australia Temperance, alcohol, physiological effect.*
- Rev WA Charleton – *New Guinea Missions* with magic lantern views
- Mr J Mitchell - *Geology of the Camden Region* (in aid of Carrington Hospital Funds)
- Mr HJ Cooley, naturalist - *Australian Birds - their wanton and ruthless destruction*
- Professor Jose – *Leaders of Modern Thought* (University Extended Lecture Series)
- Mr DA Ritchie – *Pyramids, Tombs and Temples of Egypt* - with optical lantern illustrations
- Professor Jose – *The Conquest of India* (University Extended Lecture Series)
- Alderman Henry Willis – *The Agricultural Society and the Recreation Ground*
- Mr GW Fuller – *Talks about issues of the day*
(*Federation, taxes, tariffs, industrial disputes, old-age pensions etc.*)
- Rev HE Andrews – *A Night In the Never Never.*



- Rev WG Taylor - Talk to be accompanied by 150 coloured views by acetylene gas lamp
- **Clement L. Wragge – in his splendid educational entertainment**

“A Voyage through the Universe”

illustrated by the finest pictures ever seen.

Wragge lectured at the Camden School of Arts in 1903 and 1913, speaking on scientific matters.

Clement Lindley Wragge (1852-1922), was born and educated in England and articled to a London solicitor. He went to sea, visited Sydney, and in 1876 joined the South Australian surveyor-general's department. Wragge studied meteorology and in 1878 returned to Britain where he established weather observation stations, including one on Ben Nevis, Scotland, for which he received the gold medal of the Scottish Meteorological Society.

Back in South Australia he set up similar stations at Walkerville in 1884; and founded the Meteorological Society of Australasia in 1886.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/23001081>

- JH Wilbur – *Farming in Western Australia*
- Chas. EG Tisdall – *Through Persia with Bible and camera* - Illustrated lecture
- Major AJ Onslow Thompson – *The Prospects of the Local Dairy Farmer*
- Mr FA Badgery – *The Advantages of Mixed Farming*
- Rev VC Bell – *A Moderate View of Socialism*
- Rev James Green – *My visit to the Durbar*

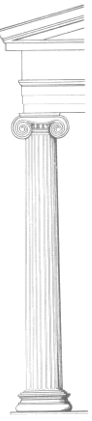
Note: This list is not comprehensive and it may indicate how male-oriented these lectures were. They were also educational and would suit a particular class of society. The agricultural lectures would be appreciated by the farmers and agricultural labourers of Camden.

Billiards and other games

Apart from billiards, facilities for other games offered at the School of Arts included ping pong (table tennis), chess, draughts, dominoes, and card games, euchre in particular, which were often played with much enthusiasm, especially when there were regular competitions among members as well as against teams from other institutions. Popularity of particular games seemed to ebb and flow, generally according to what was of interest at the time. The committee usually responded to such ‘fashions’ providing facilities for what seemed most in demand.

The suggestion to introduce Ping Pong (Table Tennis) came from Mr King.... *Another game which ladies could do...* and both men’s and ladies’ tournaments are recorded as being run. (CN 10 Jul 1902) Later, there was even a proposal to organize games for children. (CN 24 Jul 1902) Small tables were set up in the billiard room for games such as dominoes, draughts and chess and provided great enjoyment for those participating. (CN 1 Aug 1912) Euchre tournaments were also very popular and were often run by the School of Arts to raise funds for the institution, with prizes being offered for the successful players.

The Noble Game of Billiards was a game played amongst gentlemen during this era. Most of the large houses of the period and indeed those of the Camden area had a room specifically for playing billiards. It was noted that many of the winners of the tournaments were of the landed gentry and the professional and business men of Camden and the surrounding district. The passion for billiards in this period prior to World War I was similar to the passion for cricket in the era of Sir Donald Bradman.



It was in this time of great enthusiasm for the game that in September 1897, after much discussion, a billiard table was purchased for £83 18s 6d and installed a few weeks later. Over the next 30 years it was used constantly by subscribers for friendly games, as well as trophy and cash tournaments.

There were also matches against visiting teams, for example, the Menangle School of Arts, and members of the Fire Brigade. The Billiard Room was the focal point of the School of Arts during the period 1910-1919. The Minute Books of the Camden School of Arts show no record of women ever playing and presumably billiards was for men only.

Mr Huthnance as Billiard Marker was employed to oversee the Billiard Room as it was bringing in increased revenue. The billiard tables and accessories brought forth many requests for repairs and for items to be replaced: gauze screens to stop insects; almost constant repairs to the cushions and cues; and the levelling of the table and re-covering of the cushions; as well as repairing and turning the bed cloth (a large outlay). The players complained of noise and inadequate lighting, even wanting sound proofing to muffle bird noises outside the windows. Other amenities included baize swinging doors, extra heating and a new urinal.

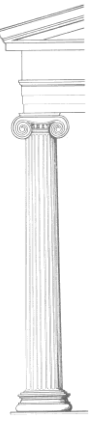
In 1916 the Billiard Room Committee was empowered to purchase the latest style of pockets. The takings of the two tables in ten weeks was £28.14.0 (\$57.40 but in today's value, equivalent to \$1,325.00). In 1917, a new stove was fitted and better lighting installed. And in the midst of World War One, a second billiard table was purchased, necessitating alterations to the hall.....yet only one of the committee members voted against this proposal.

Billiards was extremely popular and this activity remained a constant source of income, but the earnings were never stable and outgoings were quite significant. When the Camden Council took over the building in 1930 for Council Chambers, the decision was made to sell the last of the billiard tables.

Community use

The local community made good use of the hall for a wide range events. It was for many years, the only facility of its kind available and therefore a valued asset for all. Revenue from hire of the hall also helped sustain the activities of the School of Arts. Events included

- Sales: a sale of fancywork (ornamental needlework, such as embroidery or crochet) - June 1882
- Musical evenings
- Socials of particular community groups, such as The Wesleyan Band of Hope, Sons and Daughters of Temperance, and others
- Political: Elections, speeches, especially meetings at the time of Federation
- Balls, arranged by community groups and Lodges, often as fund raising activities
- Auctions: one was held on 18th May 1911; but the committee refused many auctions as not befitting a School of Arts building
- Anniversaries: eg The anniversary of the No. 81 Loyal Orange Lodge was a successful gathering when *the building was crowded to the doors*. (SMH 20 Aug 1880)
- Piano, organ and singing lessons; also dancing lessons
- Gymnasium and Children's Dancing and Calisthenics programs.



Meetings

Many meetings were held in the Camden School of Arts. Some were the inaugural meeting of a club, a society, or a lodge; council and public meetings were also held. Groups would hire out the space to hold their meetings.

- British and Foreign Bible Society -

The British and Foreign Bible Society dates back to 1804 when a group of Christians sought to address the problem of a lack of affordable Bibles. <http://www.biblesociety.org.uk>

- Bushmen's Contingent – Indignation meeting at the School of Arts (Feb 1900)
- Camden Fire Brigade – Public meeting to form a brigade (8 March 1900)
- Inaugural meeting for the Board of Trustees of Camden General Cemetery (22 March 1900)
- A.H. and I. meetings (Agricultural, Horticultural and Industrial Society)
- Numerous public meetings for elections, politics, lighting of the town, etc.
- Camden Mutual Improvement Society
- Proposal to form a juvenile branch of the Loyal Crusaders Temperance Lodge (18 June 1900)
- Dairymen Meetings
- Milk Suppliers meeting
- Camden District Tourist Association
- People's Reform League –
 - Sibella Macarthur Onslow helped form the Ladies Empire Club when on an overseas visit. Her brother George founded the People's Reform League of New South Wales to raise the standard of morality in public life. She joined him and spoke to women to awaken them to the importance of their vote <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/macarthur-onslow-rosa-sibella-7288>
- Camden Hospital meetings
- Sporting clubs: Camden Rugby Football, Cricket, Football, and Rifle Clubs.

Entertainment and artists

Concerts by brass bands, recitals by singers and instrumentalists, recitation and dramatization, plays and musical theatre, and combinations of any of these were part of regular entertainments offered in the School of Arts. The performers were often local residents, but there were also visiting professionals, occasionally from overseas.

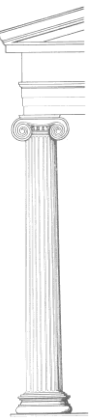
In many instances, the entertainment was organized by local groups to provide funds for a local cause, including at times, the School of Arts itself.

As an example: Camden Musical Society

The installation of acetylene gas throughout the Camden School of Arts was completed on Wednesday of last week, when in the evening the institution was brilliantly lit for the occasion of an entertainment promoted solely for the purpose of assisting 'to defray the cost of such lighting'. This entertainment had been arranged by the Camden Musical Society.....

A large audience was present and showed their appreciation of every item and also to the contributors. The first portion of the programme was entirely in the hands of the Musical Society, Mr. Leicester Johnson officiating as musical director and Miss Whiteman as accompanist.

(CN 27 Sep 1906)



Also reported was a concert given by Arthur Mason, organist of Sydney Town Hall and of St James' Church Sydney, assisted by a chorus from St James' Church and the well-known Feldwick Quartet. The concert was to aid funds for the organ of St John's Church Camden. It was acclaimed as *the most unique male concert ever heard in Camden*. (CN 11 Feb 1904)

Arthur Mason was appointed as the second Sydney City Organist. Holding the position from 1901 until 1907, he was the first Australian organist, in what has become an unbroken line of Australian musicians, to be appointed. Mr Mason, whilst presenting compositions in such a variety of styles that all present must have found something to their taste, also introduced several classical numbers.

Newspaper reports of entertainments often included detail such as names of the artists and of the items that comprised the programs.

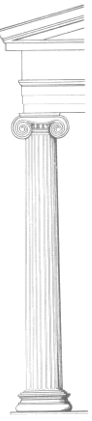
The hall was also the de facto local cinema - the venue for showing films from about the turn of the century. It was customary then for various travelling shows to visit and an outing to 'the pictures' was very popular entertainment. Titles such as *The Sign of the Cross* and *The Story of the Kelly Gang* appear in the advertising for these early movies.

Australian Red Cross - Camden Branch

On 14 August 1914, in the week following the outbreak of World War I, at a meeting convened by the Mayoress, Mrs Young, the Camden branch of the Australian Red Cross Society was formed – one of the first branches in NSW outside Sydney. Their first meeting was held in the Camden School of Arts. Miss Sibella Macarthur-Onslow thanked the committee for *Free of Charge* use of the School of Arts hall for their meetings.



Red Cross ladies organising a street stall in Argyle Street, Camden, about 1917 (Camden Historical Society)



A great wave of patriotism swept the county and Camden district women (and men) came *with wholehearted support beyond all expectations* to send everything possible to *the old country* and to our soldiers on overseas battlegrounds. Clothing of all kinds, tobacco and eggs (for London's food shortages) rolled in, even feathers for pillows. *Will those having poultry for Christmas please remember to save the feathers* appeared in the minutes of the time. Sewing meetings, every Tuesday afternoon, were held in the School of Arts (now the Camden Library) with as many as one hundred gathering to make up pyjamas, shirts, hankies, etc. Mrs Street alone, it is recorded, cut out 1000 shirts.

In October 1915, the "billies", costing five-and-a-half pence each, filled with Christmas cheer for our men at Gallipoli, were dispatched. For Camden's first year of Red Cross, 4000 garments were sent, and the sum of £2,145 raised – a huge total for those days when threepence was regarded as a worthy donation.



Christmas comforts package sent to soldiers at the front and prisoners of war

The School of Arts committee sent parcels of newspapers and magazines to Sydney for the use of soldiers.

Other groups allowed *Free of Charge* meetings at the School of Arts included:

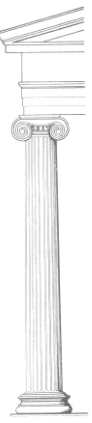
- The Belgian Fund
- The Military Authority
- The 43rd Werriwa Infantry
- An Empire Day concert in aid of The Belgian Fund
- A social on behalf of "The Australian Wounded Soldiers"

Camden School of Arts Roll of Honour – World War I

The following information was included in a report of the annual meeting of the School of Arts published in the *Camden News* on 5 August 1915 p.1:

With a view to recognizing in some way those Australians who are fighting for us in the present terrible war, your Committee has decided to place in the Reading Room a Roll of Honour in the form of a panel containing the names of those residents of the town and district who have gone to the front. It is intended to obtain, if possible, photographs of those who fall, these are to be enlarged and exhibited in the Reading Room.

A year later, the Committee of the School of Arts wrote to Camden Council requesting that the Roll of Honour be amended, presumably to add further names. (CN 24 Aug 1916) By early January 1917, Mr GF Furner told the Committee that the frame was ready for the photos of those who had fallen while on active service and it was proposed that the name, date and place of death should be painted beneath each photo. A Sydney firm was to undertake this work. (CN 11 Jan 1917) There was a lengthy discussion on the subject of the Honour Roll at the following monthly meeting, with the matter being left to Mr Furner to complete as soon as possible. (CN 15 Feb 1917)



Mr GF Furner reported that the Roll of Honour, containing the photos of Camden volunteers who had fallen in the war, had been completed and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr Furner for the trouble he had gone to in the preparation of the roll and making the frame which he presented to the School of Arts. The Honour Roll contains photos of the following Camden soldiers: Lt.Col. Onslow Thompson, killed in action Gallipoli, Capt. AW Macarthur Onslow, killed in action Ypres, Sergt. Rex Smith killed in action Gallipoli, Private JC Clarke killed in action Pozieres, Signaller Eric Lowe wounded Gallipoli died in England, Sergt. Frank Paul killed in action Gallipoli, Lance Corporal Hector Small (Gallipoli) died Egypt, and Bugler Milton Thornton killed in action Gallipoli. The photos of three other Camden heroes, who have given their lives in defence of their country, Sergt. Jack Poole, and Privates Fred Kelloway and Sid Brain, are in the hands of the committee to be framed when particulars of casualties are obtained.

The Honour Roll is being hung in the Reading Room.

(CN 15 March 1917)

The continuing battles of World War 1 resulted in further heavy casualties and it must be presumed that other names and photographs were added to this memorial. No evidence has been found of its ultimate fate.

George Frederick Furner (1858 – 1932) was appointed to the first Camden Council. He served as an alderman for 43 years and was elected mayor twelve times. He was Mayor of Camden through the duration of WW1 and a dedicated supporter of every patriotic and returned soldiers' movement. He was also a long time member of the School of Arts and served on its Committee.

(CN 13 Jul 1933)

From a population of just a few thousand, there are 493 names listed of those who volunteered from Camden and district for service in World War 1. Of this number, 93 died on active service.

The Twilight Years

From the time of the building of the School of Arts in 1866 until the 1890s the hall was the only such venue in Camden. For the years 1886 - 1897 the total amount of rent received each year ranged from £60 to £100. However, over the next few years the availability of the Army Drill Hall (now the Agricultural Society's Show Pavilion) which was opened in 1895 and the Royal Foresters Hall (corner Argyle and Oxley Streets, later converted into shops) which opened in 1908 provided competition. In 1917 it was decided to cease hiring the hall and use it to provide amusement and recreation solely for members of the School of Arts.

The first meeting of the Camden Council had been held in the School of Arts in 1889. The School of Arts property was transferred to Camden Council in May 1930 and the Council met in the building, the billiard room being used as the meeting room. The building continued to be used as the Council Chambers until 1963. Throughout, the Reading Room and Library of the School of Arts was maintained by the Council as a service to the people of Camden. When the new Council Chambers were erected, the building became the local library, continuing the tradition of the School of Arts.



Currently (2016)

The original School of Arts two-storey building with its Palladian façade is long gone and with it, the broader activities of the School of Arts movement. Nevertheless, some of the most significant elements of this movement survive in the same location. Work undertaken in 2007 brought together the separate elements of the complex of buildings to provide a cohesive grouping linking the existing Library, the former School of Arts Hall and the old Fire Station.

The Camden Library incorporates the former hall as part of the accommodation for its extensive collection. As well, appropriate to a location with the scope of Camden's history, the Camden Historical Society holds an important collection of material and, housed in the adjacent former Fire Station, the Camden Museum displays aspects of the town's history. All are co-located with the Library, and now physically linked, they provide a precinct as a focus for history, research and education for Camden and its people. All provide a succession worthy of the early vision of Camden's forefathers in establishing the School of Arts.



Camden Cultural Precinct 2016

Acknowledgements

Camden Historical Society*

Staff of Camden Library Local Studies Section

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National Library of Australia TROVE: Digitised newspapers: *Camden News (CN)*

Sydney Morning Herald (SMH)

Empire

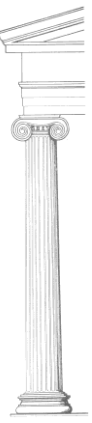
Camden School of Arts Minute Books*

1892-1900

1909-1919

Collections of the Camden Historical Society* and the Camden Library*

Website - Camden Remembers - www.camdenremembers.com.au



Photographs

Archival photographs incorporated in this account, together with photographs of items from the library collections of the former School of Arts, are reproduced with the kind permission of Camden Historical Society*.

Contemporary photograph from the website of Camden Council: www.camden.nsw.gov.au

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ADFAS Camden

October 2016

***Note**

This account of the Camden School of Arts is part of the ADFAS in the Community Project to document Schools of Arts, Mechanics' Institutes etc. in regions where there are ADFAS Societies.
 (See www.adfas.org.au)

Members of ADFAS Camden (A) have worked with members of the Camden Historical Society (*) to produce a history of the School of Arts. Some authors are members of both Societies.

This article is an edited version of that history. It includes some additional information relating to the scope of the ADFAS Project, contributed by the National Coordinators of the Project (named above).

The Camden authors (also identified above) have compiled the history published by the Camden Historical Society in 2016. It includes further detail on the nature and scope of functions held in the building, together with names of some individuals involved in the presentations.

The information is indexed.

Camden School of Arts - A History: 1850s - 1930s (2016)
 is available for purchase from the Camden Historical Society.