



YANGAN QLD (2)



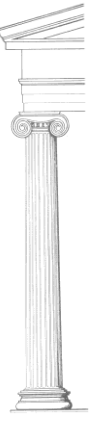
Name: School of Arts Yangan (from 1912)

Address: King Street, Yangan, Queensland 4371

The Town/District

Yangan is a small village in the Swanfels Valley of the South Downs region of the Darling Downs in South Eastern Queensland. It is about 18 km east of Warwick, the major regional centre, and about 160km south-west of Brisbane. It is situated on the banks of Swan Creek. The population recorded in the 2011 census was 394.

In 1827 when the explorer Allan Cunningham reached the area, travelling from Brisbane across the seemingly impenetrable Great Dividing Range, he was trying to find new grazing land for the burgeoning wool industry. He found in the Swanfels Valley a region with rich volcanic soil, good pasture, and abundant forests: everything the aspiring settler would wish to have. In his history of the settlement of the Darling Downs, Thomas Hall¹ reports that Cunningham saw only glimpses of the indigenous population. *We remained encamped for about a week, in which one solitary aborigine (a man of ordinary stature) was seen, and, when camped on the Condamine: Three natives were seen in the adjoining forest ground on the opposite bank, firing the dried herbage of these woods.* We now know that the local indigenous tribes were the Kienjan, Cathabul, Jageia, and Garaomna² people who spoke a common language, Wakka Wakka.



The Leslie Brothers were the first to take up land, arriving in 1840 to stake out the claim for the vast estate which they named Canning Downs. In 1847 the Governor of New South Wales asked Patrick Leslie to select a part of the property to divide into smaller allotments for a township, which was to be called 'Cannington,' although the name 'Warwick' was eventually chosen. Land sales were held in 1850, and the first allotment was bought by Leslie.

Canning Downs was a very large pastoral estate (nearly 160 square miles) with a number of outstations. One was "Heifer" which encompassed the Swan Creek valley. The stock yards and house established there on the knoll where Alan Cunningham had camped in 1827, later became the site for further settlement¹ referred to as Upper Swan Creek. By 1860 a township had grown up on the bank of Swan Creek near the "Heifer" outstation and the name was changed in 1887 to Yangan, an aboriginal word thought to mean "going forwards", or "going upwards".

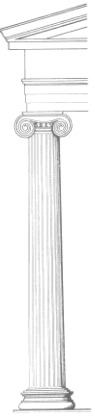
In 1859 the State of Queensland was created and the Canning Downs region came under the jurisdiction of the government of Queensland. With this came the decision to break up the larger pastoral holdings within the State. Hall¹ (page 80) reports *that the Queensland Lands Department provided a large area of agricultural land in 1863, comprising part of the holding of Canning Downs, Glengallan, Swan Creek and Campbell's Gully for subdivision and sale. In 1868 a further decision was made³ to provide freehold blocks of up to 10,000 acres to encourage closer settlement.*

The land was cleared for farming, initially by workers of Scandinavian descent. Sawmills were established in 1855 by Thomas Hall's father to provide timber for the construction of the settlers' houses, barns, and other outbuildings. And because the land was rich, the dairy industry flourished and a wide variety of grains was cultivated.



Swanfels Valley 1899: Moving a threshing machine by bullock team

Freestone was quarried and taken in bullock drays to Warwick to be used in building houses and fine civic buildings. Milk and other dairy products were transported daily to Warwick by horse and cart.



A one-teacher school was established in Yangan in 1874. Its pupils came from farming, sawmilling, and quarrying families. The history⁴ of the Yangan and the Swanfels schools produced for their 125th anniversary shows in the class roll for Yangan School in 1888 such names as: Anstey, Therkelsen, Hansen, Hendricksen, Hammelswag, and Nielsen. The preponderance of Scandinavian names mirrors the fact that the Danish workers who came to fell trees remained as settler-farmers.

The construction in 1879 of the Warwick to Killarney railway line⁵ which passed through Yangan, meant the settlement became a hub for the transport of wheat, barley, oats, chaff, fruit, vegetables, potatoes, sheep, and dairy products. The transport of timber ceased in 1884 when the principal sawmill closed. The railway greatly facilitated the transport of perishable goods such as dairy products and fruit and vegetables to the major centres of Warwick and Toowoomba.

It was recorded in *The Queenslander*⁶ that by 1900 Yangan had become *one of the most thriving centres on the [Warwick-to-Killarney] line. Here there are two cheese factories which have done an inestimable amount of good for the whole district. The township which is growing larger every year, has several stores, a couple of black-smith shops, a hall.....and two boarding-houses. There was also a very natty little School of Arts and reading room.*

With the development of cheap and efficient road transport the rail link became unprofitable and was closed in 1964, having a marked effect on potential for growth. The population declined but has remained relatively constant since then.

Establishment....a new building!

A School of Arts had been established on another site in October 1897 with a building already erected by May 1898.⁷ Notification of the formal opening of the Yangan School of Arts was on 17 May 1898. A full report⁸ of the opening ceremony was given in the *Warwick Examiner and Times* of 21 May 1898. The building comprised simply a library and a reading room.



The first School of Arts building (1898) was extended in 1900

The Committee Minutes show that as early as 1899 the committee was planning to enlarge the building to twice its existing size. The decision was delayed because *the harvest had been poor*



but in October 1900 the committee resolved^{7, 8} *that the building be extended and be relocated further back from the road.* This work costing £49.13.6 (including additions and shifting the building further back on the site) was undertaken according to plans prepared by the School of Arts caretaker, C Berthelsen.

Billiards was all the rage at that time and pressure was being applied to extend the hall to incorporate a billiard room. Agitation for this amenity was to continue for almost a decade. On 7 December 1909¹⁰ a special meeting of the committee considered a proposal for a billiard room to be constructed in connection with the School of Arts. But on 14 December 1909 another special meeting resolved that instead¹¹ ... *The Railway Department be written to asking for a site for a School of Arts. Also that Mr Grayson MLA be asked to support the application;and... that the President procure an estimate for the removal of the present building.* At the Annual General Meeting on 29 January 1910 it was resolved that¹² *a billiard room be added to the School of Arts; and further....this meeting is of the opinion that a new School of Arts including a billiards room be erected provided that expenditure does not exceed £300 and that a suitable site be procured.*

Much negotiation was to take place subsequent to this meeting and on 31 May 1910 it was resolved that¹³ *the Secretary write to the local Masonic Lodge asking them to make an offer for the School of Arts Building either for removal or as it stands; a plan and specifications for a [new] building 48' x 24' be obtained....* Mr Grayson MLA contacted the Railways Department concerning the acquisition of land. The Committee minutes show that *the Railways Department be written to offering £25 for the site on Railway reserve at Yangan.* On 14 June 1910 it was decided that¹⁴ *the School of Arts Trustees...meet with the Masonic Trustees and Warwick Hospital Committeeto come to some arrangement about the sale of the building; tenders be invited for the erection of a building, to be submitted by 6pm on 18th inst, the plan and specifications to be seen at Mr Kirkland's....*

The land belonging to the Railways Department (resubdivision 1 of subdivision 1 of portion 205;18.5 perches), was acquired on behalf of the School of Arts in September 1911 by the Trustees, Redmond Brewer, Alexander Kemp jnr, and Thomas Kirkland. The new School of Arts was opened on 19 October 1912 by the Minister for Railways who was touring the Darling Downs region with a parliamentary deputation. The *Warwick Examiner* reported his remark that it is *a well-found little institution of high public utilityon Saturday night 80 books issued from the library* ¹⁵.

The New Building

This is set low to the ground: the entrance is from King Street by a short flight of just three steps which leads to a symmetrical verandah with a central gabled entry porch, and bull-nosed verandah roofs to either side. Above the entry is a cast iron lace archway, and to either side are lace spandrels between paired chamfered timber posts. Fixed to the corners are cast iron lace brackets. The verandah and short shallow entry stairs have timber balustrade panels, with a timber handrail. Wooden lattice (required in an amendment to the tender) screens the verandah. The building has elements of Federation style, together with elements of the earlier period of terrace housing.

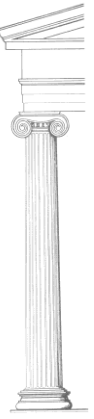
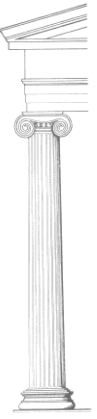


Photo: *The Queenslander* 19 January 1933

- ▲ The photograph above¹⁶ shows a view of the building constructed in 1912. The hitching posts on the street in front of the building were essential because many users came either on horseback or by horse and buggy.
- ▼ By comparison a photograph of the building in 2014 is shown below. A former railway building, a corrugated iron structure, can be seen at the left. Tennis courts are adjacent on the right of the building.

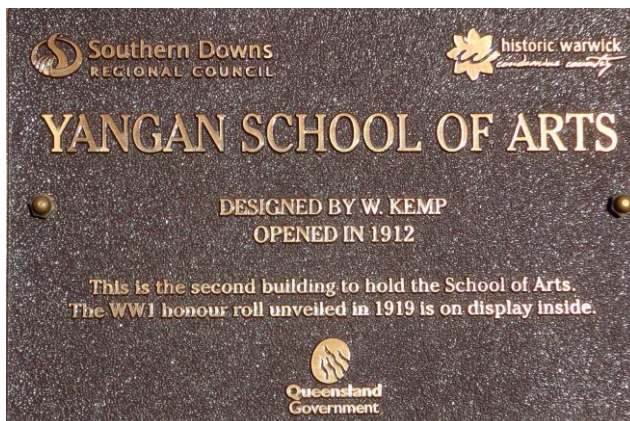




Originally a paling fence and hitching posts were installed to separate the building from King Street and to provide for the tethering of horses.



Façade of the 'new' School of Arts building



Plaque commemorating the new School of Arts in Yangan

**Designed by W Kemp
Opened in 1912**

In the photo above, the plaque is located to the left of the stairs

The central french doors are surmounted by a skylight. The double doors to the left and right of the entrance enable access to the library and the reading room respectively.

The School of Arts sign is painted on a sheet metal escutcheon which is mounted on a decorative pressed metal panel.

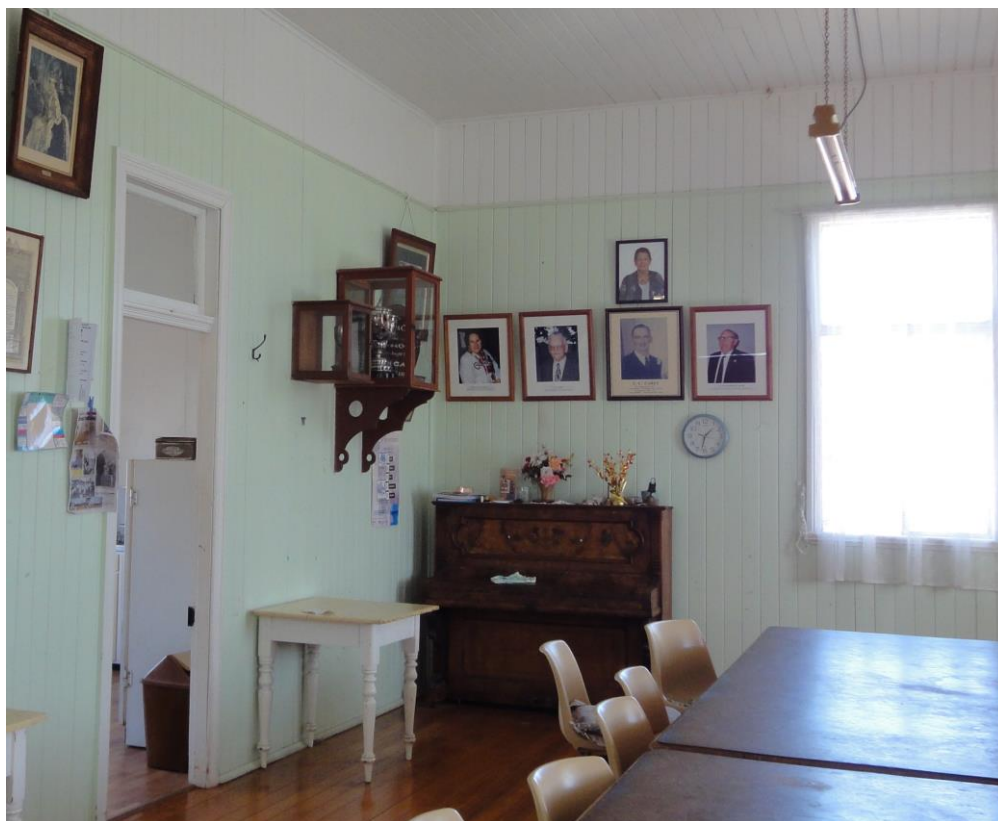


Covered window: detail



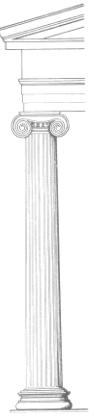
Painted School of Arts sign mounted on pressed metal

Internally, the structure is divided into a library, a reading room, and a smokers' room which seems also to have been referred to as the Committee Room. This is now a kitchen, enabling the School of Arts to present catered functions. The internal walls to the main structure are of tongue-and-groove planks. The ceilings are also lined with tongue-and-groove planks. Picture rails are fitted, and photographs of Past Presidents of this and the original School of Arts are suspended from them. Because this is very much a working building, less formal decorations and notices are attached to the wall with 'blue tack'.



A view of the meeting room, formerly the Reading Room, showing details of its construction; and at left, the door to the former Committee Room, now the kitchen

Trophy cabinets contain cups and other memorabilia commemorating sporting achievements of local teams associated with the School of Arts. Items displayed include those from the period of the earlier building: one photograph shows the Yangan Football team of 1894.

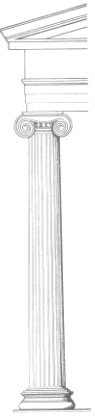


The Yangan Football Team of 1894



Another view of the meeting room showing tables probably original to the new School of Arts.

The library has fitted shelves and is well lit. The books which would have filled these shelves were handed over to the Warwick Regional Library in 2012 and since the books have been transferred elsewhere, the room is no longer a Library but at present seems to function as a



temporary store room. In the photograph below it contains the detritus of a State election when the building functioned as a polling booth. Glass panelled french doors lead out to the verandah and there is a window on the eastern side, all providing a well- lit space appropriate to its original function.



Shelving in the library



Storing election materials

Social History

The Committee minutes in December 1913 record that *a big effort is to be made in the coming year to clear the debt of the School of Arts*¹⁷.

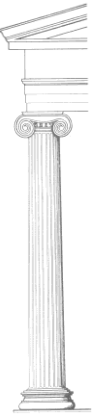
In July 1914 the committee¹⁸ *approved the purchase of the portion of land between the School of Arts and the Police Station; decided to acquire an acetylene gas plant; and proposed a dance be held in August to raise funds*. At that stage there were 1570 volumes in the library. In August the Warwick Amateur Entertainers¹⁹ gave a concert in aid of the School of Arts which provided *a programme full of interest with humour and vocal numbers for an audience full of appreciation*. This made £24 profit for the institution.

The Literary and Social Club held fortnightly meetings at the School of Arts. Discussion topics included

- The importance of a technical education
- Are the mental faculties of the sexes equal?
- The Evolution of Conduct
- The Choosing & Reading of a Novel
- Cultivating the Beautiful in Life.

It appears that topics of concern then were little different in essence from those of today.

During 1915, meetings were held to organize support for the Local Patriotic Fund. And farewells were held for those joining the War Effort. Over the year the fund-raising shifted from support for the War Effort to support for the Red Cross.



At the September 1915 Committee Meeting a discussion was held about those who come into the reading room to borrow papers and magazines but fail to return them and it was resolved to *ask the police to keep an eye on the matter*.²⁰ It is not recorded whether or not this stratagem was effective. But it should be noted that a library user would have a good view of the Police Station.....and its “lockup”.

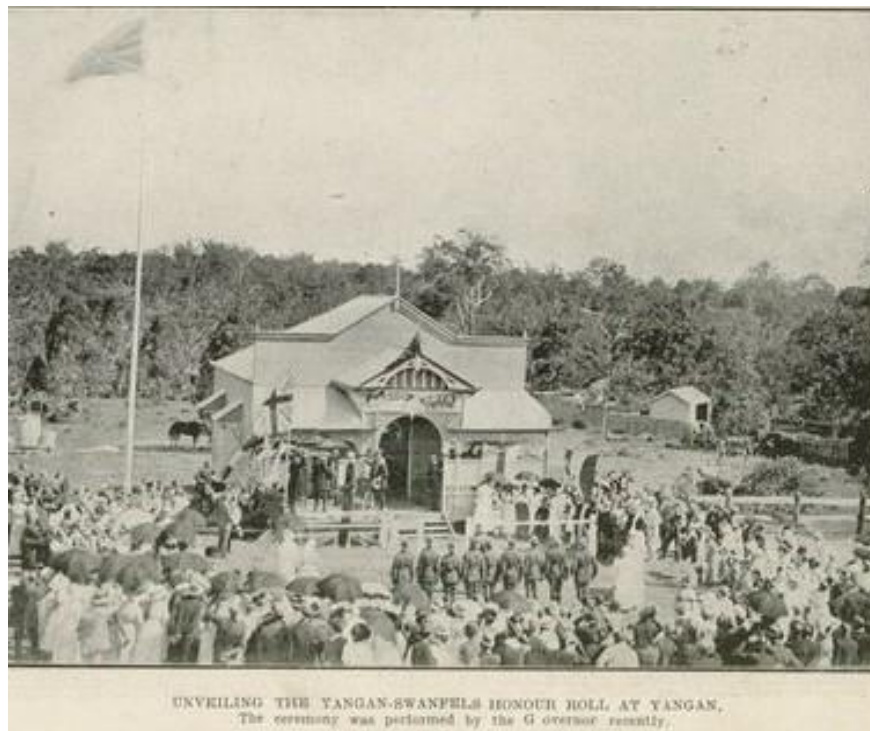
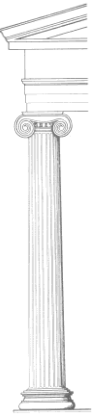


View from the Library/Reading Room window: the Police Station at Yangan..... and at right, its ‘lockup’

At the January 1916 meeting the Committee²¹ decided to *write to the Secretary of the Patriotic Committee to try to arrange for an Honour Board in the School of Arts*. There were 1800 books in the library; and the Committee donated books, papers, and periodicals to the Red Cross.

The largest existing hall in Yangan was the Oddfellows’ Hall. The Committee decided to join a conference of delegates from the various local public bodies to be held in October in order to discuss matters related to the creation of a School of Arts Hall. This meeting had delegates from the Dramatic Club, Choral Society, Independent Order of Rechabites, and the School of Arts. The feeling of the meeting was that a new hall should be constructed. A special meeting²² of the School of Arts Committee was called to deliberate on *a scheme for a new hall to present to the public very soon*. Presumably, with the war continuing, this hoped-for development was put aside for a more auspicious time.

The World War I Memorial Honour Board, discussed as early as 1916, was unveiled by the Governor of Queensland (Major Sir Hamilton John Goold-Adams GCMG CB) on 20 March 1919. This was not without drama. Mr Grayson MLA was to meet the Governor at the railway station in Warwick where he was to arrive by the Sydney - Brisbane express. But Mr Grayson missed the Governor and in a *state of some agitation* pursued the Governor’s car, finally catching it 5 miles from Yangan, as the Governor and his aide were lunching by the roadside. Thereafter all was well and they proceeded to Yangan to *enthusiastic acclaim from the people*. Before the unveiling ceremony the Governor *inspected a Guard of Honour comprising returned soldiers and Red Cross workers, commanded by Private W Schilt*.²³ Then the Honour Board was unveiled, speeches were given, and the Governor viewed the Swanfels Valley, for which he expressed *keen admiration of the beautiful valley and considerable interest in the locality*.



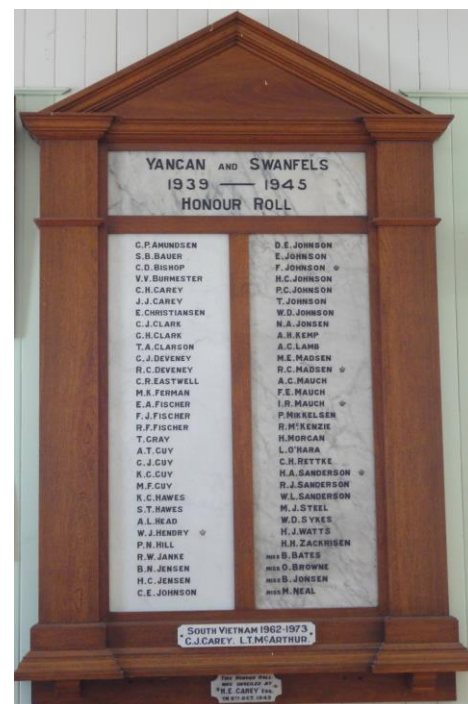
Opening of the Yangan-Swanfels Honour Roll at Yangan²⁴

The Honour Board was of mahogany with inner and outer frames of sycamore and silky oak respectively.

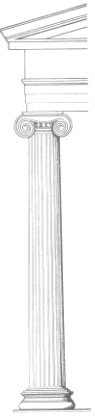
Shown below is the World War I Honour Board unveiled in 1919, together with the World War II Honour Board, which was unveiled in 1949. Names of those who served in the War in South Vietnam War were added later to this Honour Roll. The two face each other in the meeting room of the School of Arts and are made to the same pattern.



Honour Board WW1 (unveiled 1919)²³



Honour Roll WWII (& Vietnam War)



In November 1921 a Special General Meeting²⁴ of subscribers to the Yangan School of Arts was held to consider again the proposal to erect a Hall for the Institution, a matter which had been raised some years earlier. The cost was estimated to be *about £600; furnishings about £200*. The meeting decided in favour of pursuing this proposal and a committee (with President Mr Kemp presiding) was appointed to canvass subscriptions.

In April 1922 subscribers²⁵ made a presentation to Mr C Berthelsen to show their appreciation for his service to the Yangan School of Arts. He had been caretaker since the first School of Arts was erected in 1898. In November the School of Arts had a credit balance of £30/3/11 and the librarian reported that the *number of books added during October was 10, the total number was 1903, and the circulation 290*.²⁶

The Committee meeting of 12 March 1923 noted that the number of books in the library had increased to 1935. The committee noted also that²⁷ *a better lighting system had to be secured* and importantly, *the old complaint of persons using the library who were very much in arrears or not even on the membership roll had arisen*. It was emphasised that the rules must be enforced! By 1924 there was a healthy bank balance of £50/14/7. There were 2000 books in the library, despite 65 being withdrawn from stock, and the preceding month saw 267 books in circulation. The movement to build a new hall faltered and instead, estimates for the extension of the existing building were sought.

19th. It is proposed to have, in addition to cards, draughts, and chess, a ping pong set installed. It is also the intention to hold special literary evenings and socials. The fee has been made very small, and is open to all approved persons at 2/6 per quarter. Members of the Institution pay a nominal fee of 1/. It is hoped that the committee will be encouraged to extend the usefulness of the club. It has been decided to ask Mr. Crofts, of Swanfolds, to take charge of the euchre tournament on the night of the plain and fancy dress ball, 25th of September.

The following new books have been recently added to the library:—"The night Club," by H. Jenkins; "A Gentleman of Leisure," and "Pied-dilly Jim," by P. G. Wodehouse; "The Dude Wrangler," by C. Lockhart; "Mr. Wu," by L. J. Maitz; "Bar 20 Days," by C. Mufford; "Red Pepper Burns," and "Red Pepper Patients," by Grace Richmond; "Beyond the Frontier," by R. Parish; "The Illustrious Prince," by E. P. Oppenheim; "The Seventh Man," by Max Brand; "Sweet Strangers," by Bertha Ruck; "Cap'n Warren's Wards," by J. C. Lincoln; "Ashton Kirk, Criminologist," by J. T. McIntyre.

◀ Extract from the report of the monthly meeting of the Committee of the Yangan School of Arts.

As well as the ordinary business of the meeting, the newspaper report included a list of the new books recently added to the Library. This gives an indication of the popular fiction of the time.

Warwick Daily News

Saturday 8 August 1925 p.9

The *Warwick Daily News* (WDN) provided news of a forthcoming 'attraction'²⁸

on 25th September 1925 a euchre tournament at the School of Arts for the enjoyment of card players. For this good prizes are offered. At the same time a plain and fancy dance will be held in the Oddfellows Hall. (WDN 19 Sep 1925 p.2)



Also in 1925 inclement weather caused the annual fund-raising ball to be a *big disappointment*. The Annual Ball was a significant fund raising activity for the School of Arts. These were grand social occasions and were reported as such by the *Warwick Daily News*.

1925 was a critical year for the School of Arts. Membership was falling because of lack of interest. Like so many similar institutions in Australia it had to compete with changes in public interests and the Annual Report presented on 26 February 1926 stated that it had been decided [in August 1925] to re-establish a recreation club which might undertake activities such as music, songs and games as a means of bringing young people together. The financial situation was good (£108/1/2) but there was only a small attendance at this Annual Meeting and one committee position was unfilled.

The School of Arts had a close relationship with Yangan School, the meeting²⁹ of 14 May 1926 recording that *strong comment was made upon the practice of motorists ignoring the danger signals near the school*. It seems that some practices never change. It was recorded also that there were 2192 books in the library, and the circulation was 306 for the month of April.

In 1927 Membership dues were fixed at £3 for men and women and 10s for youths under 18 years of age. Charges were made for casual usage of the reading room. Although the number of members was growing it was not increasing fast enough to sustain the construction of the extensions first mooted in 1924.

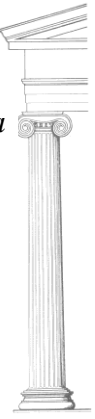
Warwick Daily News 2 June 1926 p.2 ►

Report of Yangan School of Arts Annual Ball

YANGAN.

(From Our Correspondent.)

The Yangan School of Arts annual ball was held on Friday night last in the Oddfellows' Hall and proved to be a great success in attendance and financially. Quite a large number of visitors came from long distances, thus attesting to the popularity of this annual function. A source of great attraction was the fact that the music was to be supplied by Misses Burns and Saal, of Clifton. These talented young players not only pleased the dancers with the time, but also delighted the large gathering with the harmony. Miss Saal played the piano, and Miss Burns the violin. A very popular young lady, Miss Peters, who has supplied music for many functions in Yangan, kindly assisted during the evening. Immediately after the supper had been handed round the secretary, Mr. A. J. Neal, on behalf of the president, Mr. N. Jensen, who was absent, thanked all who had assisted in making the function such a success. He also welcomed Mr. W. A. Deacon, M.L.A., who was present by invitation. Mr. Deacon briefly returned thanks. Mr. T. M. Mahony officiated as M.C. During the evening a trophy dance was held, and the prize of a bottle, which was presented by the president, was won by Master Kevin Ferman. This competition realised £3/4/. A chocolate waltz was won by Mr. Percy Gillespie, the handsome box of chocolates being donated by Mr. and Mrs. C. Hocker. Both prizes were handed to the winners by Mr. Deacon. The total proceeds for the ball amounted to £14/14/5. The lady friends, as usual, assisted to make the function the success it was.



On 19 May 1927 it was recorded that³⁰ *many were enabled to listen-in to the ceremony at Canberra at the opening of Parliament in that city by His Royal Highness the Duke of York. The whole program was distinctly heard and listened to with much attention.*

The annual meeting³¹ of 31 January 1928 recorded its cash-at-bank as £26/8/9 and that there were only 30 subscribers. Nevertheless 61 new volumes were acquired bringing the total number of books held to 2158. Old versions of Encyclopaedia Britannica were to be sold by tender.

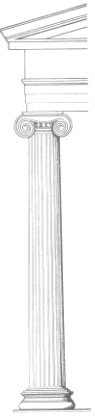
In the subsequent year, 1929, the Annual General Meeting³² reported that the circulation of books for the month of January was 345. *It was resolved to join the Queensland School of Arts Association.* No correspondence was attached to justify this move or to describe the benefits of being a member of the Association.

After World War I the interests of the School of Arts expanded to incorporate community activities other than the library and reading room. The role of the Annual Balls and other fund raising activities has already been noted. Regular tennis and cricket fixtures were held against other district community groups. There was a Rifle Club and a Brass Band. The Queensland Country Women's Association and the Women's Guild held their meetings in the meeting room. And many social and beneficial activities took place, including preparations for the annual Christmas Tree for the Yangan School.

The fortunes of the School of Arts fluctuated as the 20th century progressed, notably because of the impact of the Great Depression. Maintaining membership levels was a problem as families found the membership fees increasingly difficult to pay. Add to this the fact that this was a time of significant social mobility and societal dislocation. Nevertheless the Pastime Club and Debating Society continued to function and in 1932 ownership of the piano which formerly belonged to the Yangan Choral Society was transferred to the School of Arts Committee. There were suggestions made to make membership more attractive: a family membership fee, as opposed to cost for each individual; and a proposal to open the Reading Room on Sunday afternoons to make it more accessible.

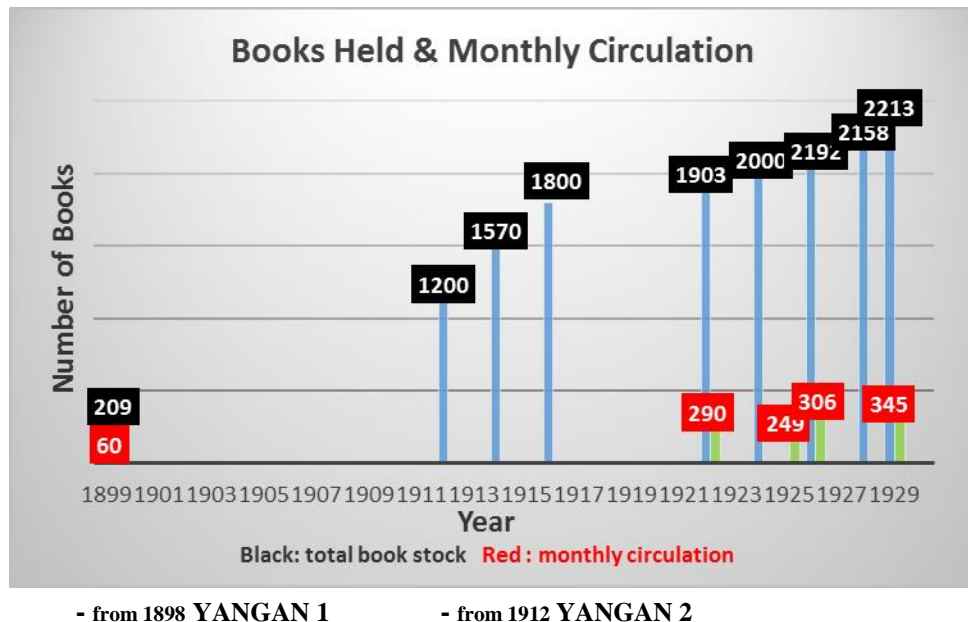
Funding for the maintenance of the School of Arts was largely supported from rentals of the building by the Tennis Club, the CWA, the Rifle Club, the Glengallan Shire Council, Mr J Kemp (a tax agent), and its use as a polling booth for elections. An occasional windfall occurred in 1937 when there was a transfer to the Committee of £13/0/7 from the residue of funds of the Yangan Brass Band, which disbanded in 1926; as well as the legacy of some of their instruments which were later sold, with these funds also to be used for the benefit of the School of Arts.

Maintenance of the library seemed always a major focus of the School of Arts Committee. Growth of the library stocks from 1898 when the original building was opened, continuing up to 1929 is shown graphically below. The numbers shown are the nett amount: older and damaged books which were withdrawn from circulation were not counted.



Also shown is a monthly tally for the circulation of books, usually noted for the month prior to the Annual General Meeting. Monthly circulation data is sparse: it was not reported at every committee meeting.

It was a substantial library compared to those of most institutions of comparable size in existence at that time. And circulation figures of up to 345 books per month are high considering that the population was 584 in 1911 falling to 394 in 2011.



The withdrawal of the Government subsidy in 1934 made it particularly difficult for the School of Arts to meet its financial obligations. In December 1936 the Committee³³ accepted an offer through the Queensland School of Arts Association to participate in their Central Lending Library for a nominal fee. Under this scheme 25 new books per quarter would be made available to subscribers. This enabled the members of the Yangan School of Arts to access books which would have been otherwise unaffordable on their budget.

In 1941, the Annual Report [for 1940], presented to ‘a very disappointing’ attendance of members, made reference to falling membership, though with the impact of World War Two and enlistments in the armed forces, this seems unsurprising. It also noted that the President, Mr DR Smith, offered to install electric light in the building³⁴. This is reported as *partly done and the benefit is already felt*. The provision of a door and steps on the eastern side proved an additional boon because it made the running of functions much easier.

The war saw organizations formed to provide support to the troops overseas fighting the enemy: the Australian Comforts Fund (ACF) and the Red Cross held meetings and fund raising functions in the School of Arts and it was also the venue for the many working bees to produce and pack goods and parcels sent to support the troops and those in need. A parcel³⁵ dispatched to all soldiers from the district provided a knitted vest, flannel shirt, a pair of socks, two handkerchiefs, soap, cigarettes and sweets. As the war continued, wounded and sick soldiers convalescing in a neighbouring hospital made monthly visits for afternoon tea and competitions organized by the Australian Comforts Fund³⁶.



At the Annual General Meeting³⁷ in 1946 it was noted that support by the public was lacking but nevertheless, *although the war had hampered the institution and owing to radio and pictures having their effect..... they were still able to carry on.* The way society functioned changed with the widespread advent of radio, commercial cinema, and other readily available entertainment. To a significant extent, entertainment displaced education as a function of these institutions.

During World War II and in the post war period many institutions such as the Schools of Arts were in decline or had already changed their function. The advent of State-funded libraries meant that some remained libraries, losing their other community functions; some became community halls; others failed completely and their buildings were acquired by banks, lodges, cinemas, and the like. Or the buildings were left to rot with scant consideration of how well they had served their communities. Or how well they had contributed to the education of generations.

In 1947, a general meeting was held to consider the future of the institution. The reinstatement of the Government subsidy in 1949 enabled the School of Arts to continue as an institution which had a substantial book collection (in 1939 books held - 2576; circulation - 1908). The AGM in 1952³⁸ (see report ►►) noted that the School of Arts was again in a sound financial position. And Mr Mahoney retired as Treasurer after more than 30 years' service in that position. A difficult job well done.....

The AGM of 11 August 1954³⁹ reported that the membership had increased and this was due to the efforts of the committee in buying new books and maintaining the physical state of existing books. The Treasurer reported that the finances were in good shape due to the allocation to the School of Arts of some Government funding.

Yangan School of Arts Annual Meeting

YANGAN: In his report to the annual meeting of the Yangan School of Arts the president said that good progress had been made during the year. The institution was now on a sounder footing than for many years, both in finance and in materials on hand for repairs to the building, which were urgently needed.

Although the attendance of committeemen at meetings throughout the year had been satisfactory it could have been better. Members were urged to improve attendances at meetings.

The annual social, the first for some time, proved highly successful and the president hoped it would once again become a regular annual event.

School of Arts amenities proved popular with members, various committees, sporting bodies and the youth of the district.

The treasurer (Mr. Mahoney) reported a credit balance of £44/6/10.

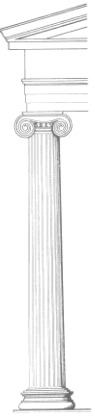
The election of officers resulted: President, Mr. Chas. Carey; vice-president, Mr. Les Johnston; treasurer, Mr. A. Mauch; secretary, Mr. J. J. Litzow; auditor, Mr. Col. Carey.

The retiring treasurer (Mr. Mahoney) was appointed a life member in recognition of long and loyal service to the School of Arts. Paying tribute to Mr. Mahoney, members spoke highly of his work.

Mr. Mahoney was treasurer for more than 30 years.

Subscriptions and fees were fixed at the same as last year.

▲ Report from *Warwick Daily News* 19 July 1952 p.4



Further reporting on the management of the institution and its varying activities is not readily available; but the inevitable conclusion is that its business has continued to be managed to the satisfaction of the subscribers and that it has continuing support from the local community. Yangan School of Arts has survived to this day while many others have fallen by the wayside.

Currently (2016)

The Yangan School of Arts was entered into the Queensland Heritage Register on 21 October 1992. It still exists as a functioning entity. The book collection⁴⁰ survives but since 2012 is held by the Warwick Library. The collection has been culled however, so it is no longer complete. Now, the Warwick Mobile Library regularly serves Yangan, parking in nearby Yangan Park.

The Yangan School of Arts is a valued local institution. It is overseen by its Secretary⁴¹ with its facilities used by more than a dozen local groups including the local play group, Ladies Guild, Queensland Country Women's Association, Queensland Dairymen's Organization, National Party, Returned and Services League, Graingrowers, Bush Fire Brigade, and Sports Association. It is also a focus for the local community in general, who use it for celebrations of all kinds: birthdays, anniversaries, and the like; and for card parties and other games.....whatever local people want and whenever the friendly surroundings of the building make it the appropriate place to gather.

Acknowledgements

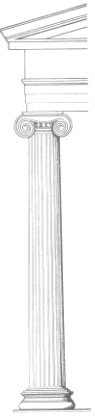
Janice Flood, Warwick and District Historical Society
 Samantha Shelbourn, Principal Librarian, Warwick Library, Southern Downs Regional Library Service
 Staff of the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
 Heritage Officer, Southern Downs Regional Council
 Doug and Liz – *R on the Downs' Rural Retreat*, Yangan, Queensland

References

National Library of Australia (Trove) *Warwick Examiner and Times*
Warwick Daily News
Queenslander
 The John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
 Queensland's Southern Downs and Granite Belt *Heritage and Historic Building Trails*
 Warwick Visitor Information Centre (2014)
 Queensland Heritage Register
 Queensland Places Yangan. <http://www.queenslandplaces.com.au/yangan>
 Queensland Place Names. <http://www.queenslandplacenames.com>
 Queensland State Archives
 Wikipedia.

Notes

1. Thomas Hall (1920) *The early history of Warwick District and pioneers of the Darling Downs*. Robertson and Provan Ltd. Toowoomba
2. V.G. Burke (1983) *Aboriginal History on the Darling Downs* pg. 3-4. Queensland Government



3. Queensland State Archives, Land Tenure Records (1868). *Register of runs in the Pastoral District of Darling Downs the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868*. ID=23391
4. Alan Gamgee (1999) *The 125th Anniversary of the schools of at Yangan and Swanfels*.
The Yangan State School Committee. Creed & Lang. Warwick. ISSN 0-646-37536-9
5. John Kerr (1990) *Triumph of Narrow Gauge: A History of Queensland Railways*, Boolarong Press, Brisbane
6. Trove (2016) "Warwick to-Killarney.". *The Queenslander* (Brisbane, Qld: 1866 - 1939)
Brisbane, Qld National Library of Australia. 3 November 1900. p. 917
7. ADFAS School of Arts Project: Yangan (1). http://www.adfas.org.au/other_schools.html
8. Trove (2016). Reported in the *Warwick Examiner and Times* 21 May 1898
9. State Library of Queensland. *Minute Books* for the Yangan School of Arts. 16th October 1900
- 10.....Ibid 7 December 1909
11.Ibid 14 December 1909
12.Ibid 29 October 1910
13.Ibid 31 May 1910
14.Ibid 14 June 1910
15. Trove.....*Warwick Argus* 20 October 1912
16. Archival photo: *The Queenslander* 19 January 1933
17. State Library of Queensland. *Minute Books* for the Yangan School of Arts. December 1912
18.Ibid July 1914.
19.Ibid September 1915.
20. Trove.....*Warwick Examiner and Times* August 1914
21. State Library of Queensland. *Minute Books* for the Yangan School of Arts. August 1914
22. Ibid January 1916
23. *The Queenslander* p.23 23 March 1919
24. State Library of Queensland. *Minute Books* for the Yangan School of Arts. November 1921
- 25.....Ibid 14 April 1922
26. Trove.....*Warwick Daily News* 14 November 1922
- 27..... Ibid 12 March 1923
28. Ibid 14 May 1926
- 29.....Ibid 23 September 1925
- 30.....Ibid 14 May 1926
- 31..... Ibid 14 May 1927
- 32..... Ibid 31 January 1928
- 33..... Ibid 21 February 1929
- 34..... Ibid December 1936
- 35Ibid 16 Jul 1941
- 36.....Ibid 3 Sep 1941
37. Ibid December 1946
- 38..... Ibid 19 July 1952
- 39.....Ibid 11 August 1954
- 40.....Telephone conversation, Samantha Shelbourn, Warwick Library October 2016
41. Heritage Queensland/Yangan. (2016). <https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/detail/?id=600527#>

Photographs: Dudley Creagh

Archival Photograph (p.2): Warwick Pictures from the Past (Facebook)

Contributor: Dudley Creagh Member ADFAS Molonglo Plains

ADFAS Molonglo Plains

October 2016