



TANNYMOREL QLD



Name: Tannymorel School of Arts

Address: Kurrajong Street Tannymorel Queensland 4370

The Town/District

Tannymorel is a former coal mining township in the Canning Downs region of South East Queensland. It is 10 km south-east of Warwick, the largest town in the area, and about 150 km south-west of central Brisbane. The township's cluster of buildings is sited on Farm Creek, the first name for the settlement and still used well into the 20th century. Because the nearby Macpherson Ranges were heavily forested with timber (principally Australian cedar) settlers came principally for timber felling and sawmilling. They found as well that the land around Tannymorel was very fertile - good farming land. The coal was found in the 1880s. At the turn of the 19th century Tannymorel had grown to a population of more than 600. Now (2018) the population is 161¹.

In his history of the settlement of the Darling Downs, Hall² (p. 3) reports that the Darling Downs region rests on a bed of carboniferous rock covered by the results of two distinct volcanic eruptions which inundated the land with volcanic mud and basalt. Over time, erosion of the



volcanic peaks by wind and rain produced a rich soil layer which is 200 feet deep in parts. The heavily forested landscape which existed in the carboniferous era evolved to be lightly wooded grasslands. The densely timbered regions survived only in the eastern part of Australia where there are areas of high rainfall³, including the Macpherson Ranges of south-east Queensland.

Allan Cunningham⁴ reached the area in 1827 travelling north from the Hunter Valley. He was searching for new grazing land to support the colony's burgeoning wool industry. In the Canning Downs he found a region with rich volcanic soil, good pasture and abundant forests: everything the aspiring settler would wish for. Such a rich pastoral region would require easy access to ports and major areas of settlement to distribute its produce. Cunningham saw what he thought could be a gap (now called Spicer's Gap) in the apparently impenetrable Great Dividing Range. This gap, he thought, would perhaps enable access to the penal colony of Moreton Bay. Cunningham returned to the Hunter region and, in 1828, travelled north again to Moreton Bay (now Brisbane) to search again for a gap in the range, this time by travelling inland along the Logan River towards the Macpherson Ranges. After some searching, in 1829 he located the gap now known as Cunningham's Gap. This leads to the Darling Downs region of South Eastern Queensland.

Cunningham saw only glimpses of the indigenous population² (p. 13) and recorded in his diary: *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.* The local indigenous tribes were the Kienjan, Cathabul, Jageia, and Garaomna⁵ people who spoke a common language, Wakka Wakka. The settlers lived in harmony with what was referred to at the time as the "Blucher" tribe.

The good farming land he was looking for, Cunningham found in abundance. What he missed, and which later farmers found at Farm Creek and other locations on the Darling Downs, was coal. The local aborigines knew about this strange black substance. It was very noticeable in one local swimming hole in particular and the indigenous people swam there because they believed that the water had healing properties² (p. 95).

The first settlers to stake a claim for this rich land were the Leslie Brothers who arrived in 1840. The pastoral estate which they established 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', but the name 'Warwick' was eventually chosen for the township. Land sales were held in 1850, and the first allotment was bought by Leslie.

Canning Downs² was a very large pastoral estate with a number of outstations. One of these was "Heifer" which was located on a rise overlooking the Swan Creek valley where stock yards and a house were established by Leslie on a knoll where Alan Cunningham had camped in 1827. Later this became the site for a settlement² (p. 27) called Upper Swan Creek, which evolved to become the township of Yangan sited at about the centre of the Canning Downs



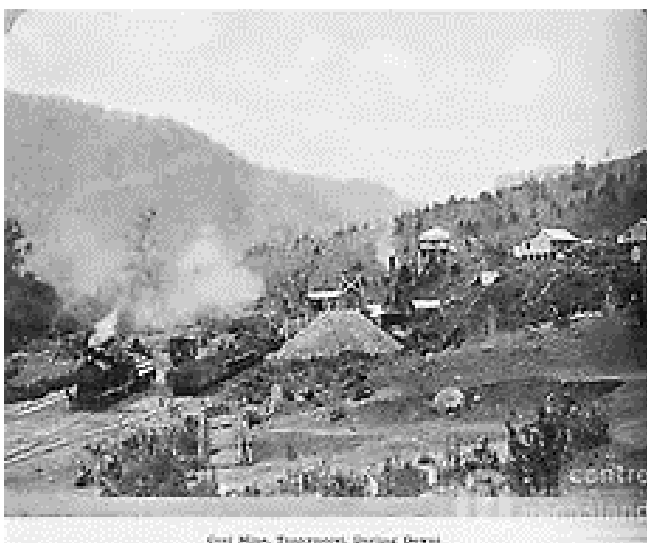
Estate. A circle of 20 km radius drawn on a map⁶ of the estate would just encompass the township of Killarney and the town of Warwick. It would include as well the hamlets of Swan Creek, Tannymorel, Mt Colliery and Freestone which were built later so do not appear on the map below⁶. Each of these townships was later to construct a School of Arts⁷.



◀ Squatting map⁶ of the Darling Downs 1864 showing the proposed line of pre-emptive purchases, townships, reserves and roads⁶. Warwick, the largest town, and Killarney, at the southern boundary of the estate, are highlighted. The red circle indicates the region around Tannymorel.

In 1859 the State of Queensland was created and the Canning Downs region came under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Government. With this came the decision to break up the larger pastoral holdings within the State. Hall² (p. 80) reports *that the Queensland Lands Departmentprovided a large area of agricultural land in 1863, comprising part of the holdings of Canning Downs, Glengallan, Swan Creek and Campbell's Gully* for subdivision and sale. In 1868 a further decision was made⁸ to provide freehold blocks of up to 10,000 acres to encourage closer settlement.

The land was cleared for farming from the early 1850s onwards. The timber harvested was mostly cedar. A water- powered sawmill² (p. 85) was established in 1855 not far from Killarney station by Thomas Hall's father to provide timber for the construction of the settlers' houses, barns, and other outbuildings. The settlers came from many places: other parts of New South Wales, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Scandinavia. The map of the Canning Downs estate (shown above), which predates the Crown Land Alienation Act of 1868⁸, shows only two towns, Warwick and Killarney.



The first settlement around Farm Creek grew up in proximity to the dense cedar forests of the Macpherson Ranges. The Darling Downs squatters, Patrick Leslie and Ernest Dalrymple, gave this hamlet the name "Tannymorel", although it was still referred to as Farm Creek well into the 20th century. A school was opened in 1877. Coal was found there in the 1880s and mined in small quantities⁹.

◀ The coal mine at Tannymorel and its railway spur line. The heavily wooded Macpherson Ranges can be seen in the background.

Photo: Warwick and District Historical Society.



The principal commercial activity was timber getting. The timber was felled on the slopes and the trimmed logs were slid down to bullock wagons at the foot of the slope. From there the wagons were taken to the saw mill at Farm Creek and converted into lumber for distribution to the surrounding townships.

THE FARM CREEK COAL MINE.—It is doubtless a matter of common local knowledge that there is a coal-pit at Farm Creek, but the extent of the operations at the mine may not be generally known. The pit is owned by Messrs. Roach and Lanigan, who have been in possession since March last. Five men are employed; three work in the pit, one is engaged on top, while the fifth is kept carting to the Tannymorel railway station. There is a fair demand for the coal. The Railway Department uses it for the coaling of the Killarney train and special trade at Wallangarra; it is in use at the Farmers' Mill, the Warwick waterworks, and the Warwick gasworks. The monthly output is 1,000 tons. The seam varies from 18 inches to 2ft. 2in. The report of the Inspector of Collieries states that the pit is well worked, and that the fullest provision is made for the safety of the miners.

Coal mining started in a low-key way in 1897, with only five men involved in the operation¹⁰. The commercial viability of the mine was made possible by the establishment of the Warwick-Killarney railway in 1885¹¹.

In 1907 the Tannymorel Coal Mining Company¹² was formed to work at Mt Colliery about 6 km east of Tannymorel, and the Glengallan Shire built a tram line between the mine and the town. It was taken over by Queensland Rail in 1909¹¹.

◀ Origin of coal mining at Tannymorel.
Warwick Argus (WA) 16 November 1897 p.2

Coal was supplied to several dairy factories, sawmills in Killarney, the Warwick hospital, and gas works. Wheat and other crops were grown in the district, and both grain and coal were transported to Warwick by the railway, which had been opened in 1885¹¹.



► Tannymorel railway station ca 1910.

Photo: Warwick and District Historical Society.

In 1930 Tannymorel was a thriving township. It had a school¹², two double storey hotels, a School of Arts¹³, Anglican¹⁴ and Catholic¹⁵ churches, a bakery, a butchery, a tailor, engineering works, a sawmill, and a blacksmith¹⁶.

The Great Depression of the 1930s brought financial uncertainty, a decline in prices for crops, and a catastrophic fire in 1940¹⁷ which destroyed three shops. All this conspired to cause the demise of the township. The railway line closed in 1964, in part because of the move to the use of diesel engines by Queensland Rail thus reducing the market for coal and leading also to the closure of Mt Colliery in 1967. Both hotels had closed by the early 1960s.



In the 1970s the last of Tannymorel's stores closed, leaving the sole remaining church (Anglican¹⁴) and the School of Arts, which was sold in 1993. Both the former church and the School of Arts building are used now as private residences.

► Anglican Church of St Aidan (1915-2012)



Establishing the School of Arts

Almost hidden in a short report under the heading *Tannymorel Notes*, found in the *Warwick Examiner and Times (WET)* of 1 May 1907, is the following snippet of news¹⁸.

notes of other papers for the year when sorted. Mr. Skehan stated that in 1902 a movement was made to start a **School of Arts**, but the year proved so disastrous through the drought that the matter was dropped, but as times are more prosperous and the population of the district has increased since then he considered the present time very opportune for making an effort to get one. The matter was received very favourably. Several members spoke very ably on the subject; all agreed that it was most important that **Tannymorel** should have a **School of Arts**. It was decided to call a public meeting for next Wednesday evening to discuss the matter.

This shows that as early as 1902, some residents were considering the establishment of a School of Arts at Tannymorel. At that time communities throughout Australia were setting up these institutions. But this further meeting was not held until 1907, showing the effect of the Great Drought (often referred as the Federation Drought) which had severely damaged the financial fabric of the community.

◄ Proposal to set up a School of Arts was discussed¹⁸. (*WET* 1 May 1907 p.3)

The residents of Tannymorel were following the trend. There was a thirst for knowledge by people who had little formal education: public education was comparatively new. The Tannymorel School was opened in 1876, and most of the educational institutions in the country areas date from the 1870s.

The first School of Arts in the Canning Downs region was established in Warwick in 1865⁷ and following the building of the Warwick-Killarney railway line, country residents were able to travel to the regional centre where they could see for themselves the benefits of having a School of Arts in their community. After Warwick, Killarney (just 9 km from Tannymorel) was the next to build a School of Arts (1887), followed by Yangan (1897), Freestone (1901), and Swan Creek (1907)⁷.



The monthly meeting of the School of Arts committee was held on Tuesday last. Mr. E. Skehan presided, and there was a very large attendance. After the balance-sheet was read by our worthy treasurer (Mr. Ottosen), who showed the funds to be in a very healthy state, it was resolved to procure plans and estimates and have same submitted at next meeting to be held on December 20, when it will be decided to proceed at once with building and make this long talked-of School of Arts an accomplished fact.

At a meeting in December 1907 it was reported that finances were in a good state and it was decided to proceed at once¹⁹ and early the following year, March 1908, tenders were called for the erection of the building²⁰

◀ Decision to proceed with the construction of Tannymorel School of Arts¹⁹. (WET 18 Dec 1907 p.6)

The building was formally opened on Wednesday 16 September 1908. Surprisingly no detailed report seems to have been filed with the newspapers. Nor, it seems, have any descriptions of the building itself. An advertisement signalling the event appeared late in August²¹ but the only report, submitted as news from Killarney²¹ (!) states that a 'general holiday' was observed for the event, which included an opening ceremony and a banquet, followed at night by a concert and dance. But the committee would have had good reason to feel proud of their achievements, as stated in their earlier half yearly report in June.²² It shows that the opening of the School of Arts was then planned for 29 September, and the celebration would *take the form of a picnic sports in the day and a concert and dance at night*.

TANNYMOREL SCHOOL OF ARTS.

The Tannymorel School of Arts committee held its half-yearly meeting on the 27th inst. Mr. Caulfield, vice-president, occupied the chair. Accounts amounting to £11 10s were passed for payment. The librarian reported that there had been 208 books issued during the month, and that there were 380 books in the library; also that the carpenter had completed the two benches in the reading room. The secretary reported that there were 35 subscribers on the roll. Mr. Caulfield spoke of the improvement in the working of the institution since Mr. D. Ferguson had been appointed librarian. It was decided to get 100 books of rules printed, the matter to be left in Mr. Ottosen's hands to be attended to; also that "Life" and "Strand Magazine" be subscribed to for twelve months. It was agreed to hold the anniversary of the opening of the institution on 29th September, to take the form of picnic sports in the day, and a concert and dance at night.

Also included in the information from this June meeting²² are details of the library which had 380 books, with 208 issued during the preceding month. There were 35 subscribers on the roll. Rule books for the library were to be printed and twelve-month subscriptions to "Life" and "Strand Magazine" were to be paid.

◀ Newspaper report of the half-yearly meeting of the committee of the Tannymorel School of Arts²². (WET 6 June 1908 p.4)

At this same time the township was experiencing growth, with the Tannymorel Coal Mining Company expanding its operations and building houses for its workers. As well, the Queensland Government took over the Tramway linking Tannymorel to its mine at nearby Mount Colliery.

The annual report²³ by the School of Arts committee in January 1909 showed that the Carnival associated with the opening had raised £167, leaving a debt on the building of just £15. There was good reason optimistic about the future of the community and its School of Arts.



The Building

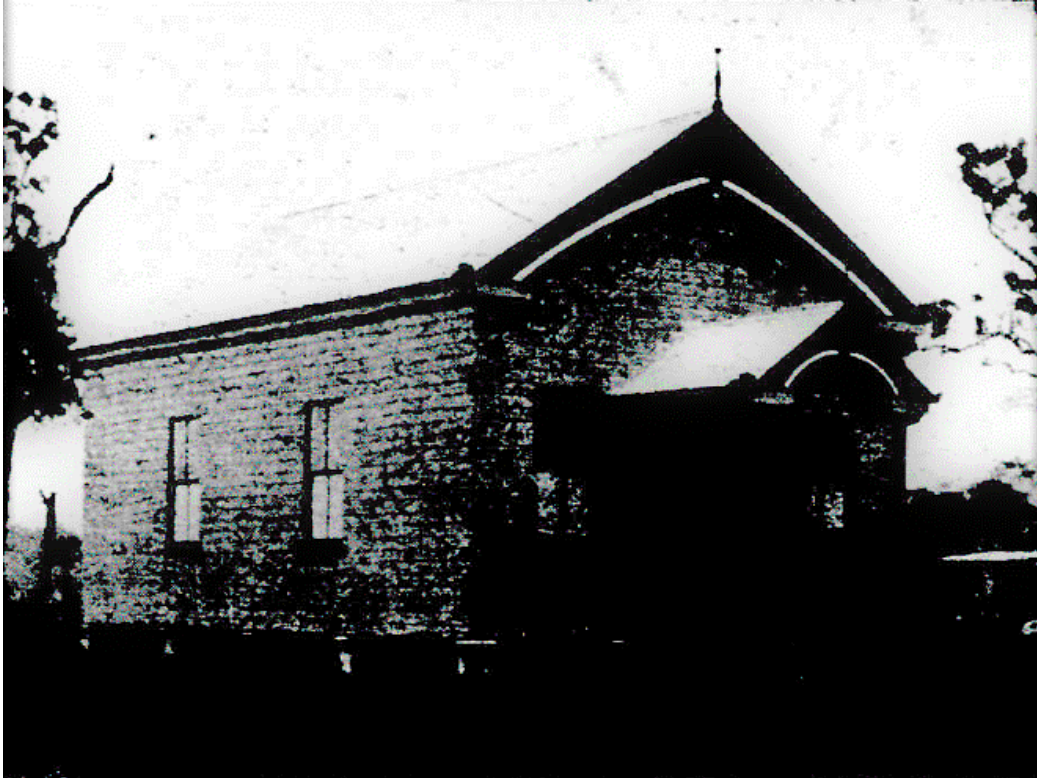


Photo: *The Week* 6 August 1909 p.25

The original School of Arts building was situated in Oak Street on a flat block²⁴. It was a simple structure with a pitched roof and weatherboard sides, front, and back. A porch at the front of the structure covered a single entrance door. At the front two narrow windows flanked the entry porch and each side wall had two windows. Its floor plan was rectangular with the dimensions approximately 25' x 45'. Its only adornments were the curved barge-boarding on the front façade and the façade of the porch, and a finial at the peak of the gable. Inside, the building was unlined and probably unpainted. Anecdotal evidence indicates that it was divided in two internally to provide a library/reading room and a meeting room. This division is common for Schools of Arts in the region.



Stylistically it had much in common with other buildings and the churches in the Canning Downs district. St Aidan's Anglican Church built in 1915 (p.5) is an example of country church architecture of the time. The simple embellishments of the School of Arts building are common elements of what would later be called Federation Style.

◀ The building now looks rather different.

The small entry porch has been removed and a verandah, added at the front of the structure in 1951, leads to the single entrance door. The verandah is supported by posts of square cross-section. The windows are shaded by awnings.



This new look resembles that of other Schools of Arts in the Canning Downs region: those at Killarney⁷ (built, 1889: photograph, 1909) and Yangan⁷ (built, 1907: photograph 2016).



School of Arts, Killarney

Photo: *The Week*- 9 August 1909 p.24



School of Arts, Yangan⁷

Reference to the change in appearance and function of the building came at the opening of the War Memorial on 15 November 1951 when the chairman of the War Memorial Committee said the because of lack of building materials (a legacy Australia-wide of such a scarcity

numbers. Mr. Geo. Russell, chairman of the Tannymorel War Memorial Committee, addressed the gathering. Mr. Russell said that owing to lack of material and supplies the task of reconditioning the School of Arts had been held up considerably, but at last it was nearing completion. The building had been lined and painted and a front verandah erected. A new water tank would be erected soon.

following World War 2) the reconditioning of the building...*had been held up considerably but at last it was nearing completion. The building had been lined and painted and a front verandah erected.*²⁵

◀ Reference to the erection of a verandah and the relining and painting of the building²⁵. (*WET* 15 November 1951 p.3)

How the building was used

The prime function was that of a School of Arts: a provider of opportunities for all to learn, with a library service to support this goal, lectures on important topics, a place to meet people and discuss issues, and a focus for community activities. From the beginning, the School of Arts function was of real significance. It was supported primarily by subscriptions, Queensland Government subsidies, the proceeds of dances and fetes. The money raised had to support maintenance, purchase of plant and equipment, and the purchase of books.

► Report²⁶ of the monthly meeting of the School of Arts (*WET* 22 April 1911 p.5)

TANNYMOREL SCHOOL OF ARTS.
The usual monthly meeting of the Tannymorel School of Arts was held on Monday last. There was a fair attendance, the president (Mr. M. Doherty) occupying the chair. The committee of this progressive institution has lately been considering the advisability of lighting the building with acetylene gas, and on Monday evening they decided the matter, and will instal the "Ferguson Patent" generator. This will be a boon to the frequenters of the public reading room, and should also materially increase the number of subscribers. The committee evidently know how to get money, and what to do with it when they get it. Last quarter the Government subsidy of £14/6/ was received, and an order for 70 books placed with a well-known printing firm. *



This report of the School of Arts records the recommendation for the purchase of a carbide (acetylene) lighting system which had replaced the kerosene lamps formerly used for illumination. It also mentions the receipt of the Government subsidy, and the order placed for 70 books.²⁶

The recruitment of subscribers was pursued with some vigour because with the payment of membership dues and the Government subsidy added, a predictable annual source of funds could be achieved.

Income from other sources was welcomed as the size of the library could then be increased. These external sources of funds were many and various. There were frequent users such as sporting clubs - the Tannymorel cricket team, St Aidan's tennis club, the Tannymorel Sports' Club. As well, there were annual and semi-annual events like the Show Society, the anniversary of the School of Arts (sports day, dinner, euchre, dance); school committees, school functions, and Church groups; and occasional events (lectures, political events, patriotic functions, union meetings, send offs, and the like).

The School of Arts was the hub of all important community events.

In 1910 *the number of subscribers was 50*²⁷ up from 32 in 1909. In 1911 the librarian stated *the he had issued 115 volumes in the quarter inst.*²⁸ Nevertheless the number of subscribers

SCHOOL OF ARTS.

The usual monthly meeting of Tannymorel School of Arts was held on Monday last. Mr. Reed (president) occupied the chair. After formal business had been disposed of a discussion took place re devising a scheme to make the School of Arts more popular and increase the membership. Eventually the matter was left in the hands of the president and secretary to report at next meeting. The following new books were added during the month:—"Wild Honey," by Cynthia Stocley; "Happy Hawkins," by Robt. Alex. Mason; "The Rise of Rosecar Pain," by J. C. Lincoln; "Overland Red," Anonymous; "The Wedding Day," by C. N. and A. M. Williamson; "Behind the Picture," by A. M. Booth; "Rose of Menhelen," by Maurice Gerard; "The Cost of Wings," by R. Deehan; "The Great Refusal," by Max Gray; "Huckleberry," by Twain; "Not Proven," by A. and C. Agnew. The committee only charge 2s. 6d. a quarter for the use of the library, and books can be changed any night of the week. Also, the reading room is free to the general public.

was declining and a committee was formed to make the School of Arts more popular.²⁹ Associated with that came the need to raise more funds through fetes and balls.

Not all the funds raised went to the School of Arts. It was reported, for example, that the *dance committee reported a net return of £12 from the late ball...proceeds went to the Foodstuffs Supply Fund,and events like socials etc may be a means of fostering the institution.*³⁰

But the call to make the institution more popular came again in 1915.³¹

◀ Meeting summary showing concern for the decline in membership and a list of books purchased³¹. (WET 13 March 1915 p.2)

The books which were added to the library in this period were more "easy reading" than cultural and educational literature.

As a result of these efforts, things must have improved because it was reported at a meeting in 1916 that *things are going to boom this year*³².



In 1918 as World War 1 ended, the countryside was returning to normal, and husbands and sons were returning home. The School of Arts was *again on the up*, and the *School of Arts added 40 books, besides six volumes presented...by Mr T. Geraghty* (a former teacher at the Tannymorel School) ³³.

Life was back to normal, and *the question of painting the hall was gone into*.³⁴ Significantly, *the book committee exchanged 39 books with Killarney*.³⁵ The librarian had done an excellent job and the assistance of eager volunteers was much appreciated.

...savings Bank. After this report was received the chairman, in a few well-chosen words, thanked the secretary and librarian for the splendid way in which they had carried out their duties during the past year. The School of Arts was painted during the last twelve months by a willing band of workers who volunteered to do the work and save expense. The book committee exchanged 39 books with the Killarney School of Arts. The following officers

◀ Book exchange with Killarney. A tribute to the librarian and his volunteers³². (WDN 4 May 1923 p.2)

An important lecture held in 1927 provided information on *mammitis*, a serious disease in dairy cattle. This lecture was held to raise awareness amongst the dairy farmers in the district. Needless to say, it was well attended and many of those present decided to have their herds inoculated against this disease. ³⁶

A special meeting of subscribers and citizens to the local School of Arts was held on Tuesday. The meeting was called for the purpose of explaining the financial position of the institution. There were eleven persons present, and Mr. H. Caunter (president) presided. The speakers deplored the apathy of citizens towards the institution. Some present were in favour of closing up, but after a lively debate it was decided to ask the committee to keep going until the end of the year, and in the meantime to canvas the town for subscribers and supporters and to call another meeting in December to report progress and decide on what action might be taken. The School of Arts had been kept going for nearly 30 years and had a fine collection of books. The present year had been a bad one and the committee had found it extremely difficult to carry on. It was hoped that the people would realise the position and rally round the committee to enable it to place the institution on a sound financial footing.

As often happens when everything is going well, disaster struck. In this case it was the Great Depression, the competition between rail and road transport, and a reduction in the use of coal from the mine at nearby Mount Colliery. As a consequence, the population of the town declined.

The School of Arts suffered financial problems and a special meeting was called to address this situation³⁸.

◀ Newspaper report of a special meeting of the School of Arts to discuss its financial problems³⁸. (WDN 4 November 1933 p.2.)

In 1935, even closing³⁹ the Library was considered but it was reported later that *24 of the ordered books were available to subscribers*.⁴⁰ The Committee also decided to accept the offer³⁷ of 100 books from the Brisbane School of Arts and these were renovated and catalogued. It was further decided to recruit younger members⁴¹ and a ping pong table, quoits and playing cards were purchased to induce young people to join the School of Arts.



It seems that the institution continued to function but perhaps in a manner less newsworthy: reporting of its activities in the newspapers declined throughout the duration of World War 2. That it had operated well enough, despite the effects of the war years, is indicated by the fact that financially the School of Arts was in credit in 1946⁴².

In 1945 a public meeting was held to determine what form a fitting memorial⁴³ to those who served and died in the service of their country might take.

► Report of a public meeting on the creation of a war memorial at Tannymorel⁴³ (WDN 28 September 1945 p.4)

A significant resolution was that the memorial *should not take the form of a monument*. The principal suggestion was that it *should take the form of a recreational and communal centre for the district*⁴³. There was nothing new in this: the School of Arts had been supporting this function for more than forty years. But it was a less educational and more physical recreation that was proposed as it was suggested that a block of land be acquired and be used as a tennis court.

voured proposal was that the memorial should take the form of a recreational and communal centre to cater for all members of the district. Other suggestions were that the School of Arts be altered to house recreational and club rooms; that a block of land at the rear of the School of Arts may be for sale and would make excellent tennis courts; that returned men be established in business; that club rooms be erected on the present sports ground. It was decided unanimously that it be placed on the minutes for guidance of any future members who may desire to alter the present proposal that the memorial must not take the form of a monument. A sub-

ent at the meeting held in the Memorial School of Arts. Mr G. Russell presided and welcomed members of the Younger Set and spoke highly of the work they had already done and had undertaken to carry out.

The treasurer reported that the Honour Board, which is to cost £48/13/9, is almost completed.

The chairman, secretary and Mr W. Fletcher were then appointed to endeavour to procure necessary materials for alterations to front of building and lining and general repair work, also paint for the outside of the building and fencing material, together with a tank (500 gallons) if possible.

The School of Arts function as a local lending library was becoming less important to the community and a War Memorial Committee had been started to take over from the School of Arts, moving to a new function for the building.

◀ Report of meeting of the (now) Memorial School of Arts and the foreshadowing of alterations and repairs to the structure⁴⁴. (WDN 6 October 1948 p.5)

As well, the Younger Set had taken over the affairs of the School of Arts, at least insofar as its library function was concerned. They had reclaimed a large number of outstanding books and were

advertising for the return of others. And they were repairing them where possible. They were given *complete control of the library section of the School of Arts*. As well, the hall at the School of Arts in Mt Colliery was to be taken over by the QCWA (Queensland Country Women's Association) and the books from their library were transferred to Tannymorel.



The Honour Board and the Avenue of Honour

In 1951 the following advertisement appeared in the *Warwick Daily News*:

NOTICE

The UNVEILING of the TANNYMOREL AND DISTRICT WAR MEMORIAL HONOUR BOARD will be held in the War Memorial School of Arts, Tannymorel, on SUNDAY, 11th NOVEMBER (Armistice Day), at 2.30 p.m. Unveiling Ceremony by Mr. O. O. Madsen, M.L.A. BASKET PICNIC, Hot Water Available. PIPE BAND IN ATTENDANCE.
G. RUSSELL, Chairman.

▲ *Warwick Daily News* 15 November 1951 p.2

This event took place on Armistice Day (11 November) 1951.⁴⁵ At this meeting the Chairman pointed out that *the photograph on the wall was an enlargement of a photograph of the first committee of the School of Arts when it was erected in 1912.*

The War Memorial Committee now controlled the School of Arts and its future.

► Tannymorel Honour Board
1939-1945 War and Korean War



Photo: Monument Australia

How the building was used for the next forty years is described by the principal decision taken in 1945, namely: *it should take the form of a recreational and communal centre for the district.*⁴³

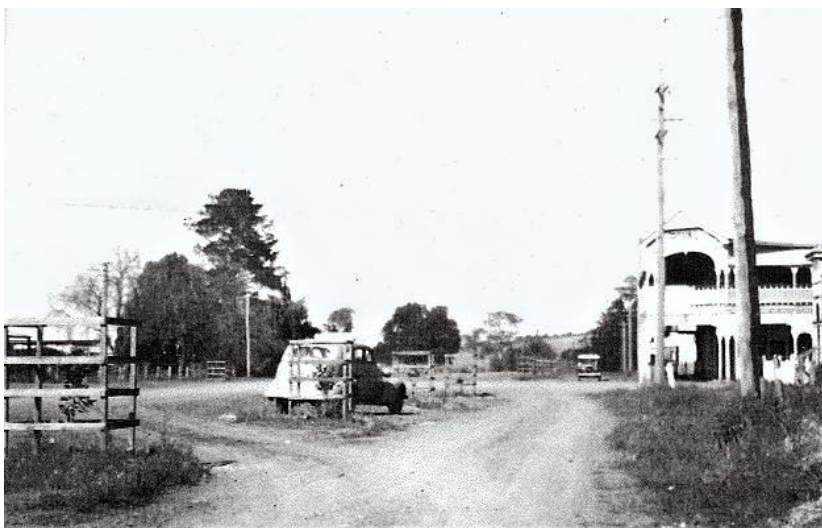


Photo: Warwick and District Historical Society

▲ The Avenue of Honour as first planted in 1949. Each tree was protected by a timber enclosure.
The building to the right is the Royal Hotel.

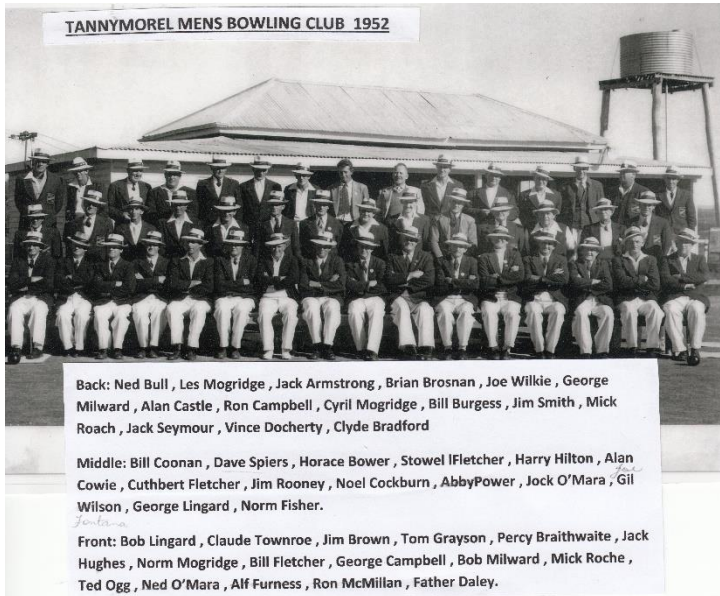
The Avenue of Honour

Still standing is the Avenue of Honour.⁴⁶ This avenue of trees along Kurrajong Street and Boxes Road was planted after World War 2 in 1949. Fixed to each of the tree trunks were a cross and a name plaque for each of the servicemen of the district from both World Wars.



The avenue of trees, was “rediscovered” by newcomers to Tannymorel who noticed a plaque partially grown over by bark. Their research revealed their significance and origin.⁴⁷

▼ Tannymorel Bowling Club 1952 Photo: Warwick and District Historical Society.



The bowls club, important now in the life of the community, had links with the School of Arts. Before it had any greens to play on, it met regularly there to plan for the day when it could open as a playing venue. It was reported at its meeting in the School of Arts on 25 February 1951: *excellent progress had occurred in laying the greens.....the Southern Cross Club loaned a wheel barrow.....runner grass came from the Warwick East Club....and the tank was installed on 40 foot poles...*⁴⁸

The photograph above shows the male members of the Tannymorel Bowling Club, probably on the occasion of the opening of the greens in 1952. A Women's Bowling Club was associated with the Men's club.⁴⁹

The role of the School of Arts as a community meeting place gradually changed, and eventually the trustees sold the building. The community focus is now the Bowls Club and it has an active and enthusiastic membership. (<https://www.facebook.com/BowlsatTanny>)⁵⁰

▼ From Tannymorel Bowls Club web site. (2018)



Currently (2018):

Tannymorel now comprises a primary school, the bowling club, and a cluster of houses. The War Memorial School of Arts was sold at auction in 1993. It no longer functions as a public building.



Acknowledgments

I am indebted to many people in the Canning Downs area for their assistance in the study of the Schools of Arts in the region. The histories of many of these Schools of Arts are histories of the QCWA as well. For Tannymorel I am especially indebted to **Jeanette Braithwaite** who not only provided vital information for the study but was also instrumental in introducing me to **Lorna Grayson** and **Daph Pullen** in Killarney, long serving office holders of the QCWA. With all of them, their knowledge of the district and the QCWA is extensive.

Members of the Warwick and District Historical Society were most supportive of this work. I am indebted to **Nola Mikkelsen** who provided me with much valuable information and access to photographs. Others have given valuable assistance: **Ann Coy**, **Bernie and Kevin Stephens**, and **Mary Mannings**.

To all I offer my sincere thanks.

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