

MEREWETHER NSW



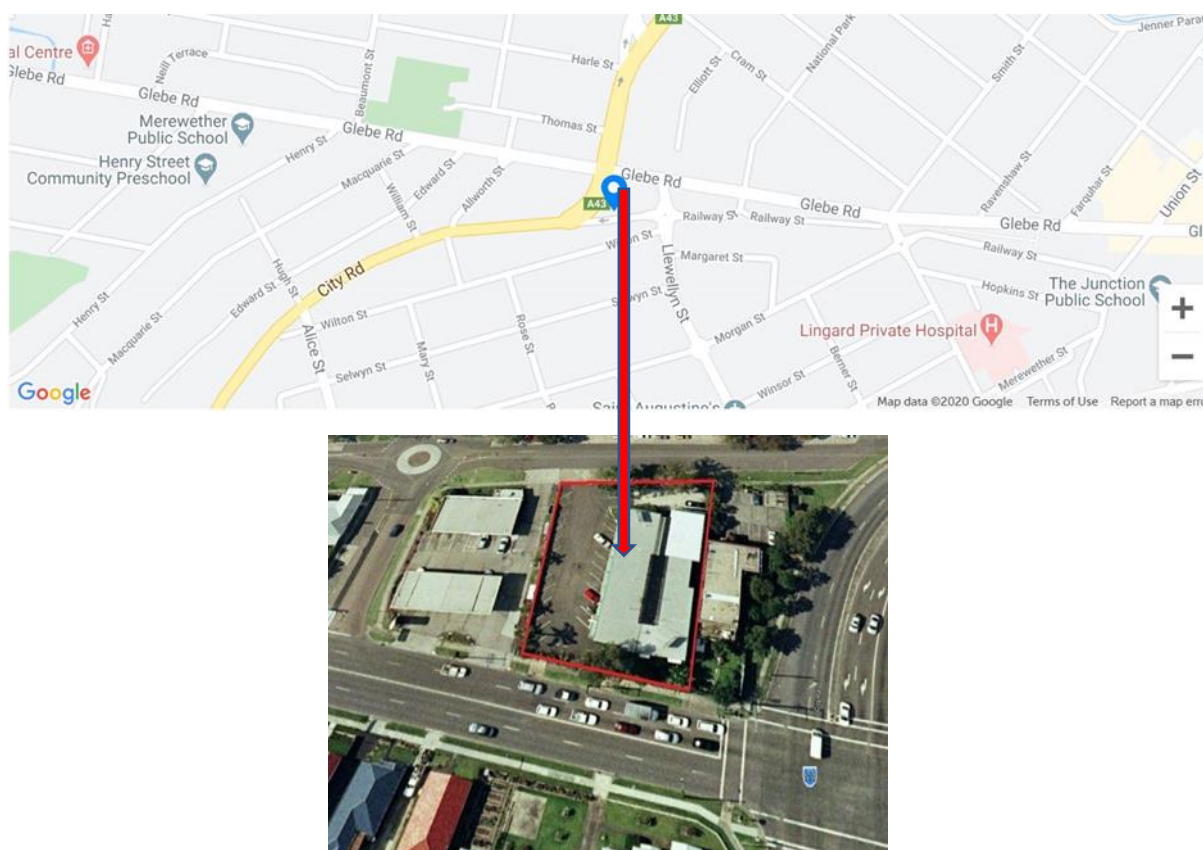
Merewether School of Arts (demolished about 1960). Undated photo, probably the Railway St façade, c.1960
(courtesy Newcastle Region Public Library)

Name: **Glebe and Burwood Mechanics Institute (1882 - 1885)**

Merewether School of Arts (1885 - c.1955)

Location: **Railway Street, Merewether NSW (demolished 1960s)**





The Place

Situated some 165 kilometres north of Sydney at the mouth of the Hunter River, Newcastle owes its prominence as the second city of New South Wales to its role as a coal mining district and port, and in the twentieth century, to steel production. Education, research, health care and services are the mainstays of the 21st century economy, with coal exports still a major contributor to Newcastle's prosperity and identity.

Traditional occupation of the area now known as Merewether by the Awabakal gave way to European settlement after 1835 when Dr James Mitchell purchased about 900 acres south of Newcastle, to be known as the Burwood Estate (later the Merewether Estate). A further addition to the Estate was the purchase of A. W. Scott's land grant to the east. Adjacent to the Burwood Estate was the Glebelands, where the Church of England was the landlord. Dr Mitchell's eldest daughter married Edward Christopher Merewether, who had arrived in Newcastle as the General Superintendent of the A.A. Co (Australian Agricultural Company). As well as the A.A. Co's extensive rural holdings (see Stroud School of Arts entry), it introduced large scale coal mining in and around Newcastle and dominated mining in the area for much of the nineteenth century.

Newcastle in the 19th and early 20th centuries was more a collection of small townships than an urban whole. Merewether was one of the townships that grew up in association with the coal mines scattered throughout what is now the city and suburbs. Gradually, beginning in the 1870s, these districts were formalised, as local councils were formed. In 1938, ten suburban councils amalgamated with Newcastle City Council to form The City of Greater Newcastle.

While Merewether's early development was slowed by the uncertainties of employment in mining and industry, the concentration of ownership by the Merewether family, and the well-substantiated fear of mine subsidence, in the 1930s something of a building boom saw the erection of weatherboard and brick cottages. Only then did housing of 'the simplest

construction and most unsuitable character' give way to more spacious homes for average families. These houses in their turn are being replaced by some of Newcastle's most ambitious residential developments. In the 21st century, Merewether is a fashionable beach-side suburb of Newcastle.



The Glebe or A Pit in Victoria Gully, below City Road, Feb 24 1899
(Ralph Snowball collection, University of Newcastle)

Although only 4km from Newcastle, poor or non-existent roads made the Burwood estate relatively isolated until well into the twentieth century, when a tram and later a bus network was developed. Tenants of both the Estate and the Church were described as 'generally of the poorer class'.ⁱ

The first large influx of migrants to the Newcastle area occurred in the late 1860s. In the decade between 1877 and 1890 nearly 4,200 assisted migrants arrived in Newcastle, with the largest waves being around 1877 and 1883-6. Most were English and Welsh-born and many were miners. Many were also adherents to Primitive Methodist and Welsh Baptist faith groups. Welsh Baptists built their first church in Newcastle in 1865 and were still conducting services in Welsh as late as 1935.

With two powerful landlords (the Merewether Estate and the Church of England) and a number of frequently dissatisfied tenants, controversy surrounded the formation of a local council, but in 1885 Merewether Council was incorporated. It encompassed the original Merewether Estate, and the Glebelands. Compared to other municipalities, progress was slow. Gas streetlights did not appear until 1911 and electric street lighting wasn't introduced until November 1928. Water and sewerage services were similarly slow to arrive, but by the 1930's Merewether had an area of 1,114 acres and a population of 8,653. It had become a residential suburb of Newcastle.

Early industries were few: the area was almost exclusively devoted to coal mining with several potteries and brick-making works also in the area. The Newcastle Coal Mining Company was established 1877 and its A and B Pits mined coal beneath the Merewether Estate, employing over 800 men. A rail line connected the mines with the port of Newcastle. Mining did not cease

entirely until the 1950s. Hamilton A Pit, the Sea Pit and Burwood Colliery (until 1891) were close by.



Merewether at work and play: Miners and cage, Glebe B Pit, 1899, at Merewether Beach, 1906
(Ralph Snowball collection, University of Newcastle)

Establishment

A public meeting of residents of Glebe and Burwood was held in the Protestant Hall on 2 March, 1881, with the aim of taking the necessary steps to erect a Mechanics Institute, *in order to afford the residents of Glebe and Burwood the same opportunity for acquiring knowledge that is to be found in all the other townships in this district*. Addressing the meeting, S. Jones noted that *a movement to get an institute at the Glebe had been commenced some years ago, but for some reason or other fell through, but the sum of money then collected was yet in the bank, and would be available if the present movement succeeded*.ⁱⁱ A committee was duly formed and the secretary was instructed to write to the various Members of Parliament seeking their assistance in obtaining a grant to do so. Efforts to persuade Mr E. C. Merewether, to make land available for the erection of a Mechanics Institute failed: he *refused to give them any privileges that were not enjoyed by any of his tenants*.ⁱⁱⁱ

Subsequently, the directors of the Protestant Hall were approached with a view to buying the hall, along with the leasehold on the land, and the offer of £400 was accepted. The trustees took possession on 4 February 1882, under the title of Glebe and Burwood Mechanics Institute. A year later, the Newcastle Morning Herald reported that the Institute had been in ‘full working order’ for six months, with the library comprising *most of the leading colonial journals, and the more prominent of English publications*.^{iv} Residents were urged to join *for by doing so they could profitably spend an idle hour reviewing the contents of their library*.^v

The Building

The only physical reminder of the Merewether School of Arts is the war memorial which stands in Rowland Park, close to the site of the original building. Erected in 1917 and unveiled by Mrs E. A. M. Merewether, it records the names of 22 members of the School of Arts who served in World War I. Records indicate it was ‘originally out the front of the Merewether School of Arts, a site now occupied by the Aloha Motel’. The memorial was renovated in 2007.



Merewether School of Arts War Memorial, Rowland Park
(Robert McLardy: Register of War Memorials in NSW)

In contrast to some other Schools of Arts and Mechanics Institutes in the district, Merewether's was never an imposing structure. Rather, like most of the buildings in Merewether, it was a single storey weatherboard building, originally with a shingle roof. The School of Arts hall was constructed in 1878 by Newcastle builder H. Caddy, on leasehold land, and opened with great Masonic ceremony in 1879 as The Protestant Hall. It was subsequently purchased to establish the Burwood and Glebe Mechanics Institute, later renamed the Merewether School of Arts. An initial grant of £100 from the NSW Government was to be *put to good use in thoroughly renovating the large hall, also the reading room ... would materially enhance the value of the property, and no doubt contribute to increase the patronage.*^{vi}

From 1885, when Merewether was incorporated, until 1894 when Council Chambers were built, the Merewether Municipal Council met there, and an extra room, later used as the reading room, was added to serve for council meetings. It was in response to the incorporation of Merewether that the Mechanics Institute was renamed the Merewether School of Arts.

Improvements and additions over the years were the work of an attentive and progressive committee and membership. A kitchen was installed in 1892, and in 1896 a new iron roof replaced the leaking shingles. The inclusion of skylights at that time was a response to poor lighting; 'owing to the side buildings closing up the windows' and indicates that by then, both the games room and the reading room had been added to the sides of the original hall. This work was carried out in the face of less than buoyant finances and an unsuccessful delegation to the Minister for Public Instruction asking for a pound for pound endowment on subscriptions.

Income from renting the hall was crucial to the functioning of the School of Arts, so keeping it in good order benefited members and the public alike. 1899 the committee had voted to raise the level of the stage, but agreed that providing 'backs to the seats' would be 'a wasteful expenditure'. Later, modifications to the hall and the stage ensured its license as a public hall was maintained. Gas light was added in 1900, a tallow wood floor laid in the main hall in 1902, while the linoleum flooring in the reading room was replaced in 1907, when money was also available to paint the building inside and out. A porch was added in 1908 and in 1910 a WC and urinal were installed. Electricity replaced gas lighting in 1917 at a cost of £28. It was not

unusual for the School of Arts to obtain an overdraft to cover such improvements. The Trustees appear to have guaranteed these overdrafts, which were cleared over a matter of months.

The potential of billiards for the School of Arts was tested with the purchase of a three-quarter table, installed in the games room in 1904. The decision to build a new room at the back of the main room, at an estimated cost of £100 was made easy by its instant popularity and financial success. An extension, measuring 30' x 20' (approximately 9m x 6m) was opened in May, 1905. A new table was purchased and the old one sold to Tighes Hill School of Arts.



Merewether School of Arts. Glebe Rd façade, showing the billiard room addition. Undated, c.1960?.
(courtesy Newcastle Region Library)

There appear to have been no more building works until the 1920s, although regular repairs, interior and exterior painting and minor works were carried out, often thanks to the volunteer labour of members. However, with the hall in need of more thoroughgoing improvements, discussion began as to the need to extend the hall and provide a new roof to integrate the recreation (billiard) room with the main hall, thus accommodating larger gatherings. With some trepidation, £350 was borrowed from the Commonwealth Bank, and an addition measuring 30' x 10' (approximately 9m x 3m) was completed in October 1922. As late as 1932 members were discussing the possibility of constructing a new building, but with economic Depression and falling membership, this came to nothing.

It isn't certain just when the School of Arts ceased operation, but it must have been between 1954 and 1959. The land had been zoned as residential by June of that year, when local printer Reg. C. Pogonovski Pty Ltd applied unsuccessfully to Newcastle City Council to build a new factory on land 'occupied by the Merewether School of Arts, between Railway St and Glebe Road Merewether'. The company said it intended to demolish the 'dilapidated building'. Council rates records held in the Newcastle Region Library show, for 1960, the owner of 69 Railway Street as The Trustees of the Merewether School of Arts, occupying a lot 122 feet by 165 feet, with an unimproved value of £2400 and improvements, described as 'Hall, Rooms, Shop'. The 1964 Newcastle council rate book has the Trustees crossed out as owners, and a handwritten amendment shows the owner as Motel Aloha Proprietary Limited. Entries for three adjoining lots at 71 Railway Street, 231 and 234 Glebe Road, all described as 'cottages' are

also amended to the Aloha Motel company. By that time the School of Arts building was described as a shed. A motel was subsequently built on the site and operated as The Aloha Motel for many years from the early 1960s. The current owners (from 2014) have refurbished and renamed the motel as The Merewether Motel.



Merewether Motel, 2015 (courtesy D.Swain)

Gaining Freehold Title

As it was part of the Merewether Estate, the School of Arts paid rent for the lease of the land. From at least 1902, while the Estate refused to abandon its claim for ground rent, E. A. M. Merewether undertook to donate the equivalent sum to the School, thus becoming both landlord and benefactor. It was not until 1914 that the land was purchased from the Merewether Estate, although as early as 1905 the Committee resolved to *take the matter in hand to procure a deed for the property*^{vii}. The Estate, in the person of Mrs E.A.M. Merewether, seems to have been more than willing for the sale to go ahead, although there were many delays and the details remain hazy. July 1911 £100 was donated by the Merewether Estate ‘per Mrs E. A. M. Merewether’. At the Committee meeting in October 1913 the President reported that he had *waited on the Minister for Education and successfully obtained a subsidy of £50 on £100 donation from the Merewether Estate*.^{viii} This was received early in 1914, noted in the Committee minutes as ‘Government Subsidy on Donation Trustees of the Merewether Estate’, and in February a payment was made to the Trustees of the Merewether Estate of £50 (described in the Minutes as ‘Balance of Cash Purchase of Land’). The success of the transaction must have depended on receipt of the government money. The Committee Minutes note in October 1914 that the ‘Deeds from Mrs Merewether’ were being registered. The President announced in January 1915 that the School of Arts stood on freehold land. At that time the Trustees were John Forshaw, Jonathan Dixon and David Davies.

Uses

95	
Expenditure	
June.	
J. Cumy Cleaner 03	27 6 ¹
Davies & Cammington	
Binding Magazines 80	15 ¹ / ₂
Purser New Books 94	1 1 ¹ / ₂
Geo. Cleaves Repair	
to Buildings 92	19 6 ¹ / ₂
Fairley Mr. New Books 94	6 ¹ / ₂
Stationary Printer 92	4 14 ¹ / ₂
Stenzinger, Printing ¹⁰⁰	3 ¹ / ₂
Geo. Barnes Carting ¹⁰⁰	1 ¹ / ₂
Geo. Lewis Coal 113	6 ¹ / ₂
Secretary's Salary Half	
year ending June 1916 61	8 ¹ / ₂
Harken fees from 25	
April to 24 June 1916 100	27 ¹ / ₂
Mrs. Edmunda's 1 st Wage	
Billings Loring 100	15 ¹ / ₂
M. Simmonds Bellman 100	4 ¹ / ₂
Newcastle Gas Coy 113	14 4 ¹ / ₂
Mrs. McHuskie 1000 Impls 92	7 6 ¹ / ₂
" 300 Hetter Boxes 92	7 6 ¹ / ₂
Billings Loring 100	1 ¹ / ₂
Postage, Stamps 108	4 ¹ / ₂
Cheque Book 15	4 2 ¹ / ₂
Bank Charge 45	5 ¹ / ₂
By Balance.	20 11 10 ¹ / ₂
	62 17 2 ¹ / ₂
	7839 01

From its inception the School of Arts was a focal point both for members and the general community. The library, the hall and the billiard room played a central role for many years, and there were card games, dances and concerts. Apart from its use by the Merewether Council, the hall was popular as a venue for political and church meetings, club presentations, fund-raising events and family celebrations. The hall was a regular polling place for local government and general elections. Renting the hall for private and community events was, together with members' subscriptions and billiards, its major source of income.

A management committee met regularly, social events were organised, and the building kept in repair or improved. In addition to the supply of new books and periodicals for the library, regular payments were made to the secretary, caretaker, billiard marker and cleaner, and there were bills for gas and coal, and general running costs. Often repairs were carried out by members, who only sometimes charged for their services. The careful allocation of funds, and their

meticulous recording is evident in the surviving accounts.

Membership fluctuated, often reflecting the state of the local economy and the mobility of the mining workforce, as in 1907 when a number of miners left for the South Maitland coalfield and in the 1930s during the Depression. In 1934 and 1936 only 110 members had paid their subscriptions. Numbers improved a little during both world wars, but peaked in the 1920s at over 260. In 1944 there were close to 200 members, but membership fell off after that. In their annual reports, Presidents frequently lamented the low membership in relation to the local population, and from time to time concerted efforts were made to attract more members. Women were included as full members from the first, and although there is no record of a woman serving on the Committee, Presidents' half-yearly reports often expressed appreciation for the work of the women members in raising funds for the School. In later years, improved roads and transport, along with the competition from larger libraries, especially the Newcastle School of Arts and later free municipal libraries, as well as other attractions like radio, were blamed for the loss of members.

For the first decades of the twentieth century, scholarships were awarded to top students from the Junction Public School, Merewether Public School and St Joseph's School. Over the years, members' funds provided comforts for servicemen, money for flood relief, and benefit events for local residents who had fallen on hard times.

The Union of Institutes included representatives from several Mechanics' Institutes in the Newcastle district and met periodically at the Wickham School of Arts, under the presidency of Mr F. W. Ash. In the early 1900s, the President of Merewether School of Arts, David Fisher and member Charles Winsor represented Merewether at these meetings. The Union was responsible for organising competitions among the various schools of arts in the district, which focused on billiards and various card games, especially cribbage, with ping pong or dominoes sometimes thrown into the mix. Discussions about the provision of a free library and protests to the state government about reductions in the library subsidy resulted in delegates travelling to Sydney to meet with local MP Alfred Edden.

No. Book	Name of Book	Author
2875.13	Odyssea.	John Macmillan
2957.	Ashenden.	W.S. Maugham
2950	Ariadne.	Sidney McCauley
1313.D.	Haroc.	C. Phillip Spence
2412.F	Fenced Water	Geo. Ogden
2951.	The Painted face	Walter Onions
2324.C	Government House	Alfred Perrin
1374.G	Yankee	Gilbert Parker
2952	Joe Jenkins Detective	Paul Rosenhayn
2946.A	The Invisible Pyramid	Charles H. Snow
2946	Roaring Guns	Charles H. Snow
2945	The Law of the Threshold	J. A. Steel
2953	The Golden Temptation	Victor G. Moore
1857.A	Liberty	Florence Warden
2193.H	Black Harvest	John A.R. Wylie
	The Nineteenth Century	A.R. Wallace
2132.V.	Liberty	F.E. Mills Young

The purchase and binding of periodicals along with the provision of new titles, was regarded as a core activity of the School of Arts. Apart from subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals, books of fiction and non-fiction were regularly added to the library. A loose leaf, written in pencil and found inserted into the minutes book gives an indication of additions to the library in one year, 1933 (photo). Acts of Parliament and other publications were solicited from local MPs. Committee minutes reveal the considerable effort that was made to obtain books of special relevance, such as Edgeworth David's 1907 publication *The Geology of the Hunter River Coal Measures*. Books, newspapers and periodicals were a major expense and clearly an important service offered to members. Records are sporadic, but over many decades, it seems upwards of 3000 volumes, with fiction predominating, were lent during each 6-month period. Intermittently over the years, the theft of magazines and rowdy behaviour among some younger members caused the committee concern.

Obtaining government support for the library was an ongoing preoccupation of the School of Arts committee. For example, in June 1915, the treasurer reported an annual expenditure of approximately £32 on books and papers, more than double the government subsidy of £14/10, which was already considerably less than the £38/10 provided in 1906. In December 1916, the Committee allocated £2/4/- for new books. £7/7/- had already been spent on papers and magazines and £2/3/6 on books. By 1922 the expenditure on books and papers more or less equalled the government subsidy, and this pattern seems to have persisted until the records cease in 1939. The regular sale of outdated periodicals recouped some of the library's expenses. A list included in the accounts book for 1904 lists popular titles like *The Bulletin*, *Peoples Journal*, *Town and Country*, and the *Sydney Mail*. News from 'home' like the *Cardiff Times*, along with mining and scientific journals were valued by members. Works of fiction far outweighed the rest in purchases and number of volumes lent, with a clear bias to popular titles and to westerns and thrillers particularly. Nevertheless, the library included literary short stories and poetry, along with biographies, histories and other non-fiction. During World War 2, large numbers of books were donated to army camps in the Hunter region. The expense of replacing them caused some consternation, and it would be interesting to know the size of the library, which at one time boasted over 6000 volumes, when it was finally dissolved.

The School of Arts had its own cricket and football teams active in district competition from about 1900, and a dance club operated for some time. Along with billiards and cards tournaments for members, often involving other schools of arts, reports and advertisements reveal a lively calendar of music and light entertainment. Occasionally concerts in aid of needy members demonstrated the cooperative nature of the School of Arts. Music performances were a regular feature of the School of Arts calendar and included popular entertainments as well as 'tournaments' to prepare performers for the eisteddfods that played such an important role throughout the wider community of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley coalfields.

In many ways the 1920s marked the high point of the School of Arts. Membership soared in 1921 to 260 and in 1922 to nearly 300. The new billiards hall was partly responsible, as was a minor housing boom which increased the nearby population. The calendar was filled with fairs and bazaars, classical music and band concerts, plays and entertainments, as well as a steady stream of wedding receptions, card nights, billiards and snooker competitions, religious gatherings, ambulance classes, cooking demonstrations, and meetings of P&C associations, church auxiliaries and sporting clubs.

Sadly, though, by 1929 the School of Arts needed extra funds. A combination of money-raising efforts, regular events and some assistance from the Merewether Council kept the School of Arts afloat. Members contributed labour and materials to maintain the fabric of the building. In 1931 at the height of the Depression, the NSW government ceased its subsidy, the income from billiards fell off, and many members were in arrears. Meetings of the unemployed and dances in aid of The Merewether Relief Fund replaced those of more prosperous times. Merewether was hit hard by the Depression.

1935, though, stands out as a year of celebrations, with the King's Jubilee marked by tree planting and festivities which concluded in the School of Arts. To underline the importance of the School of Arts and the building in the now growing suburb of Merewether, fifty years of municipal government was celebrated in November that year, with a formal dinner for 120 notables. The ALP arranged another evening of entertainment, complete with cakes and speeches, to honour 150 'pioneer residents' of the suburb.

MEREWETHER CITIZENS CELEBRATE MUNICIPAL JUBILEE



Gathering at the banquet at Merewether School of Arts last night, held to commemorate the jubilee of the incorporation of Merewether Municipality. Those shown at the head table are (left to right)—Mrs. D. O. Watkins, Mr. J. M. Main (engineer of the Unemployment Relief Council), Mrs. Kerr, the Town Clerk (Mr. E. Kerr), the Mayor of Merewether (Ald. W. Henderson), Mrs. Henderson, and the Mayor of Newcastle (Ald. R. H. Christie).

(Newcastle Morning Herald, 6 November 1935))

The hall was again in demand during WW II when it was used by the Australian Comforts Fund, the Merewether Central Ladies Church Aid, The Merewether Welfare and Welcome Home Committee, the Junior Red Cross and other groups, all in aid of war-related causes. On several occasions the School of Arts was the venue for the entertainment of visiting servicemen or to farewell local men posted overseas. The RSL, Australian Red Cross, and Merewether Progress Association all met or held functions in the School of Arts. The fledgling Liberal Party, as well as the ALP, used the hall for political meetings.

The first mention on the Happiness Club making use of the building was in 1932. The Happiness Club had been launched on Sydney radio station 2GB in 1929 as an afternoon programme for women hosted by Eunice Stelzer, and it grew into a network of local groups that raised money for a variety of charitable causes. The Happiness Club dominated newspaper records of the Merewether School of Arts in the post-World War II period. In December 1951 and for several years afterwards, an annual 'Christmas party for the entertainment of aged residents' took the form of a 'lunch and games afternoon'. There were also regular card afternoons, also for the elderly. Meetings of the Progress Association were added to political rallies and local protests, while weddings, 21st birthdays, anniversaries, fund-raising events (for example for flood relief), socials for sporting clubs or other groups (such as the Gas Employees Welfare Club, Merewether Surf Club and Merewether Tennis Club) made regular use of the hall.

Throughout its life, the School of Arts building was a key element in the social life of Merewether and a focus for community activities. In addition to serving as Merewether Council Chambers for the first decade of its existence, and providing library and other services to its members, the building was regularly hired for a wide variety of purposes. As a venue for municipal celebrations, concerts, weddings, family events, balls and dances, musical evenings, dancing classes, Masonic Lodge meetings, Co-op Society meetings, first aid classes, religious services and church socials, Sunday School presentations, fund-raising concerts, and bazaars in support of a large number of community groups over the years, and latterly as a meeting place for elderly residents, Merewether School of Arts was a hub for local residents, and in its later years, for events embracing the wider Newcastle community. Its large hall, recreation room and meeting rooms were in use several days of every week for decades.

Last Days

Government subsidies to schools of arts were reduced during the 1930s and alternative sources of entertainment such as licensed clubs and cinemas, along with more up-to-date municipal libraries, eventually made schools of arts such as the one at Merewether less and less relevant.

The Library Act 1939 probably sounded the death knell for schools of arts around NSW, as it brought a final end to the subsidies they had received from the state government. When a move to grant automatic ownership of schools of arts libraries to Newcastle Council, which had established a public library under the Library Act (1939) in 1948, was defeated in 1952, one argument was that Newcastle Council would get ‘... *Merewether, and other schools of arts placed in its lap and would not know what to do with them.*’^{ix}

The Newcastle Morning Herald’s last mention of the Merewether School of Arts was in December 1954 in relation to a Christmas Party for 100 aged residents, provided by the Happiness Club. Earlier that year the papers note the Junior Red Cross, folk dancing classes and a ‘coming of age’ party in the hall.

There is no known record of the date when the doors closed for the last time.

Social History

The name Merewether looms large over the early history of the entire district. The contribution of E.C. Merewether and later his son E.A.M.(Edward) and daughter-in-law Mrs (Georgina) Merewether to the School of Arts is particularly noteworthy.

The streets and parks of Merewether recall a number of members of the School of Arts, and not a few whose contribution was notable in its time. E.E. Rowlands (Rowland Park) was a committee member, secretary and librarian for more than 30 years; Jonathon Dixon JP (Dixon Park) rose to be manager of one of the mines and had a long career in local government; the names of Trustees and committee members have left their mark on the district through the streets named for them: for example Winsor, Kempster, Lloyd, Caldwell, Lingard and Curry.

Notes

ⁱ Alexander Lindsay, petitioning the NSW government for incorporation, quoted in Dixon (1935), p.24

ⁱⁱ Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW: 1876 - 1954) , Friday 4 March 1881, page 3

ⁱⁱⁱ Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate, 6 August 1881

^{iv} Minutes, half yearly meeting, 17 July 1905

^v Minutes, half yearly meeting, October 1914Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate, 4 October 1882

^{vi} Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate, 29 September 1886

^{vii} Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate, 4 October 1882

^{viii} Merewether School of Arts Minute book, October 1913

^{ix} Ald. McDougall, quoted in Newcastle Morning Herald 3 September 1952

Acknowledgements

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David and Katherine Swain

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- Lindy Henderson (manuscripts)

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09

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