

~ LITTLE NARRABURRA HALL ~

1922 to 1986

THE HALL

BUILDING FUND OPENS WITH £100 Temora Independent, July 1, 1922.

A meeting was held to discuss the proposal to establish a public hall at Little Narraburra.

Discussion took place regarding the site, with two sites offered. The meeting accepted an offer by Mr A A Frater at the 17 mile peg on Narraburra/Morangarell Road.

A building fund was opened with £98 immediately promised and the Ladies Committee agreed to hold it's flower show in Spring for hall building funds.

DECISION TO ERECT A PUBLIC HALL Temora Independent, March 21, 1923 and Sydney Morning Herald, 31st March, 1923

A meeting was held to consider the erection of the public hall at Burlington at an estimated cost of £600.

It was unanimously decided that the hall size be 90ft by 30ft. Opinion differed regarding material to be used, with a decision between iron and fibro cement to be agreed on after tenders were called.

With £400 in sight, it was not considered a problem to raise the balance, and have the hall debt free.

OPENING OF LITTLE NARRABURRA HALL Sydney Morning Herald 31 January, 1924

Opening of the Little Narraburra Hall was performed by Mr Hugh Main, MLA, in the presence of a large gathering.

ORIGINAL SUPPER ROOM BUILT (Ralph Heinrich Memorial), 1931

PUBLIC MEETING Temora Independent, March, 1942

Public meeting held March 1942, to receive report and balance sheet on the Hall, by Mr Col Frater who had enlisted in the AIF. A review of the financial position of the hall, which cost £1000, revealed that it had been paid for from the proceeds of Bachelors' Ball, sports donations etc. The Bachelors' Balls raised £370.

SUPPER ROOM RE-BUILT (Ralph Heinrich Memorial), 1930s

LITTLE NARRABURRA HALL - NO LONGER VIABLE Temora Independent, March 3, 1986

The Trustees called for the removal and disposal of the Little Narraburra Public Hall. The hall, once the heart of the Narraburra community's social life, was no longer a viable proposition to retain. The Trustees could not afford the upkeep, the insurance or the cost of providing the facilities to meet the registration requirements.

MEMORIES

RALPH HEINRICH (TEMORA 2004)

The Bachelors' Balls were one of the glamour balls on the social scene with the bachelors waiting on the tables with dress suits and bowties with the women wearing the best of ball gowns and many elite people attending. Unfortunately, there were no more balls after 1939, and there were not enough bachelors during or after World War II.

During the 1930s a White Ball was held on New Year's Eve where everyone was expected to wear white.

The original supper room was added about 1931 and it was rebuilt about 1950.

I recall two policemen always attended a dance in full uniform and kept an eye on things, especially smoking in the hall and drinking in and around the hall, as it was a serious offence to bring or consume alcohol. Of course the boys used to plant bottles behind trees and sometimes someone pinched it. Not many girls would dance with a boy who smelt of alcohol.

LINDSAY FRATER (TEMORA, 2010)

The hall was also used for the Blind Dances run by Julie and Roy Shoard, with monies raised going to the North Rocks School for the Blind. Outside funding by the society, monies received from the proceeds of the balls, were the largest received. (One such event was a dance with music by the 4th Parallel Orchestra held in 1957.)

Sunday School classes were held there and at times we had to race down and clean it up after having a dance the night before.

The Temora Lions Club also used the hall for their seafood and gambling nights which were extremely popular.



DANCES

MAD HATTER'S BALL

Temora Independent - 1st September, 1929

One of the most enjoyable and otherwise wonderful fundraisers ever held in the Little Narraburra Hall – the Mad Hatter's Ball – eventuated on Friday evening last. The title in itself aroused the curiosity of the multitude, and consequently the accommodation of the hall was taxed to its utmost capacity; patrons included visitors from Temora, Barmedman, Young and Stockinbingal and other places.

The novel hats worn by the dancers, symbolical of the occasion together with the way in which the whole of the arrangements were carried out, won for the promoters the highest expressions of commendation.

But the enjoyment of the ball would not have been so pronounced if it were not for the fact that the Premier Orchestra was engaged for the occasion and the combination of melody was such as to intensify the pleasure of the dancers.

The quality of the supper was in keeping with the reputation established by the ladies of Little Narraburra, leaving nothing to be desired.

LITTLE NARRABURRA BALL WAS BRIGHT Temora Independent - 10 July, 1925

Always one of the happiest ball of the district social season, the annual Little Narraburra Ball held on Friday July 8, (1925) was again a thoroughly enjoyable night.

Visitors from Temora, Quandialla, Tubbul, Barmedman and Milvale were in the crowd which danced to the spirited music of the Cootamundra Jazz Band.

Little Narraburra Hall, with the memories of the famed Bachelor's Balls, which was a highlight of district entertainment, is always a popular meeting spot.

This year the committee, at considerable cost, had the hall lined. A feature of the night was the decorative theme with multi-coloured streamers fanned out above the dancers from each end of the hall. On the stage a "veritable bower of young gum tips" had been erected to provide a background for the orchestra.

The secretaries were Bill Ferguson and Ken Heinrich.