

# Combaning Hall & Recreation



The Combaning Hall was situated on the Recreation Ground just off what used to be the old Stock Route, now known as the Combaning Road. There was a cricket pitch in the center of the ground and tennis courts in the south west corner where pepper trees are still growing. County of Combaning Portion No 107.

The new hall was officially opened in November 1905.

As reported in a Temora paper 11/11/1905

The opening was celebrated with a picnic, concert and social. The day was made a holiday and the residents of the surrounding districts turned out in force. The ladies provided a most elaborate spread for the picnic during the day and again at night.

The usual sports incidental to a picnic were indulged in and at night the committee assembled on the platform for the opening ceremony. The chair was taken by Mr R Mc Crone, who opened proceedings by giving an outline of the work done in connection with the erection of the building which he said would be used by the people of Combaning for political, social and religious purposes. He then called upon the Rev Anson-Smith to open the hall.

The Rev Anson-Smith said he thanked them for the honor they had conferred on him of asking him to declare the hall open. Some time ago he called a meeting at South Combaning to see about building a church and he found the feeling was in favor of a hall. He said no more and he thought it better that they did not build a church as the hall would be more suitable. He was pleased to see so many present, especially the young people. When they could show so many fine-looking young ladies as he saw that night before him, Combaning must flourish and advance (laughter and applause). He would declare the hall open in the name of the people of Combaning (Applause).

Messrs. Sinclair and Nottle briefly addressed the audience.

The company then sang a verse of the national anthem, and the opening ceremony was over. Those present then stayed on for the concert, performed by many locals and surrounding district entertainers. As soon as the concert was over, the floor was cleared and dancing commenced to music supplied by Messrs Tutill (piano) and McDonell and Fitzgibbon (violins). A lengthy program was gone through, after which all departed well satisfied with the opening of the Combaning Hall.

The building is made of wood and iron, with a raised platform at one end. The dimensions are 40ft by 20ft and is situated just below the site of the old Combaning wool shed.

The hall was used on many occasions for church services of different denominations over the next few years, also for meetings of the Fire Brigade, Farmers and Settlers Association and many other organizations. Dances and other functions to raise money for sporting clubs etc. were also held there. Every year the Combaning Sth School had a Christmas party in the hall where every child had to be on stage to perform in some way or another. The school also held their annual picnic on the Recreation ground.

For many years the Recreation ground was used for cricket, tennis and a short period Australian Rules Football.

