

# MALLANGANEE MEMORIAL HALL

A small hall was built on the present site in 1912; it was enlarged in 1919 and named Mallanganee Memorial Hall. In 1926 an honour roll was placed in the hall for those who enlisted in 1914 - 1915; World War I. Miss Annie Pettindrigh was presented with an illuminated address for her effort in organising it. A second honour roll was placed in the hall, after 1939-1945, World War II.

The building was enlarged in 1939, on the northern side, a kitchen, supper room' and a card room, on the southern side, extra dance floor and a meeting room for R.S.L. Members, where memorabilia and photos are on display. A non-stop ball was held for the opening, two orchestras engaged and the officiating guest was Lt Col M.F. Bruxner.

At first, lighting was by hanging kerosene lamps, until a lighting plant was installed. In 1926, the hall committee purchased black and white silent movie equipment and was operated by voluntary helpers. A Pianola was background music. That was the only entertainment until 1931. From 1935-1946, touring talkies visited every two weeks, they were Keevers, Boltons & Penns.

In 1946, Reg Toohey, a local resident, installed a movie plant in the hall and operated until 1958, then, the hall committee bought his equipment, financed by loans from local residents and again had voluntary help. By 1965 most homes had television, the patronage dropped and the equipment was sold.

The switching on of electricity in 1948 was an important occasion. A formal dinner dance was held. Official guests were Hon. J.J. Cahill, Mr Perry, Lt Col, M.F. Bruxner, J.T. Reid M.L.A. representatives from Kyogle, Clarence River, Tomki, Lismore, Casino and Tintenbar Shire Councils, also reporters from Kyogle Examiner and Richmond River Express newspapers.

From 1955-1995, teachers from Casino Technical College, now TAFE, taught dressmaking, millinery and soft furnishing classes. More improvements in 1985, kitchen renovations, compulsory automatic exit lights and inside toilets. Another special occasion was the unveiling of a 7m x 3m appliquéd bullock team backdrop in 1986.

It is a tribute to the pioneers whose livelihood revolved around the timber industry, made by Katina Larsson and local ladies.

Consistent income has been from Mallanganee Sports and Rodeo Club, now Mallanganee Compdraft and being used by T.A.F.E. Euchre tournaments were popular about 1940, when at least fifty people would play, those days, one car to a family, parents played cards while young people danced. The hall has been used for bazaars, wedding receptions, debutante balls, voting, roller skating, arts and crafts exhibition, school Christmas tree, concerts, meetings, Sunday school, church groups, Manchester Unity and Buffalo lodge and visits from Baby Health Centre Sisters. Recently T.A.F.E. College conducted short courses 'for computer and office skills for people on the land.

Ref: Written by Sheila Larsson, Casino. April 1997.