

History of Mudgeeraba Memorial Hall

(Mudgeeraba and Springbrook School of Art Memorial Hall)

Dances were the hub of social life in Mudgeeraba. During WWI, the 8pm Saturday night train was full of people coming to the dance at the old hall, many coming from Southport. "Soldiers of the Queen" was sung for the boys about to go to war.

After WWI, it was decided to build a more serviceable hall as a tribute to the local soldiers. In earnest, local residents began raising funds for the building from public subscriptions, proceeds from local dances, race meetings, fairs, etc. Funds raised by mid 1922 totalled £538 (approx \$39,800 in today's value). Designed by Peter Herman, a



local resident, the Mudgeeraba and Springbrook School of Arts Memorial Hall was built in 1922 on a quarter acre land donated by Isaac Andrews, next to the old butcher shop. The hall also had a small lending library conducted from a small room on the front veranda. The Hall was officially opened on 10 March 1923 and was acclaimed as the largest hall on the South Coast Line, outside of Brisbane.

In pre-dawn hours of 23 April 1993, this historic 71-year-old building was severely damaged by fire – believed to be deliberately lit. The Albert Shire former Chairman, Bill Laver, was determined to see the Hall rebuilt in its original style. The community immediately rallied and within a week more than \$10,000 was already donated. With the efforts of community, local service clubs and business, a foundation stone was unveiled on its 1st year anniversary and the new hall was officially opened on 23 April 1995 – 2 years to the day of the fire.



Today the Hall is used daily for various activities, such as ballet, dances, weddings, church group services and ANZAC Day celebration after the ceremony to name a few. Now over 90 years on, the Hall is currently managed by Trustee Members and looked after by Lions Club of Mudgeeraba.

Source of information: "Dairies and Daydreams: the Mudgeeraba story 1989" by Robyn Burrows
Newspaper clips held at Gold Coast City Council Local Studies Library

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