

MEMORIES OF EUNGELLA'S MEMORIAL HALL



IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Eungella Memorial Hall 2007
2. The hand painted stage backdrop inside the Hall
3. The Eungella Hall ca. 1952
4. Daily Mercury article - July, 1978
5. Lillian Parker holding baby Russell outside hall ca. 1952
6. Dairy Queen Ball winner Carman Johnston
7. One of many school plays, circa 1975-76

The Hall was originally an old army hospital situated at Mackay Harbour and subsequently donated to the R.S.L. It was dismantled and Jock Howie, Tom Lewis, Bill and Humphrey Ward loaded it onto a truck and took it to its present address in North Street, Eungella. It was reconstructed by builder Wally Malinsky, his son in law, and a number of community members.

It became known as the Memorial Hall; a reminder to all of those who didn't return from the war and for the returned soldiers, a place to make peace-time memories with old friends and new friends within the community.

The hall was used for many purposes, one of the first being The Masonic Lodge. Jock Howie was the Grand Master and Monica Linklater provided afternoon tea.

"The ladies had to have a Marquee outside as they were not allowed in the hall – it was secret men's business."

Originally in 1952 the lodge used candles for their lights, then a lighting plant became available for the hall, it was a battery operated Whitson - fondly remembered by Charlie Linklater as "a pain in the butt cause no one looked after the battery."

If the hall could talk it would recount many memories - the Race and Dairy-Queen balls, dances, church services, fetes and shows. Movie nights with some self appointed censor pranksters, cutting and rejoining the film on a kissing scene, were followed with howls of protest from the audience. Good times were had by all and hopefully many more are to come.

Step Back in Time

gathering Eungella's past

Images were contributed to the "Step Back in Time - Gathering Eungella's past" project by past and present residents.
Visit www.history.eungella.com.au for more information.