

## The History of The Valentine Community Hall

The Valentine Progress Association (VPA) was formed in **1947** by a group of residents.

**June 1950** - a Community Hall was first mentioned and members of the Assn. began seeking assistance from the Shire Council and the Joint Coal Board for financial assistance.

February 12<sup>th</sup> **1953** the Certificate of Title for the land for the Hall was transferred to the original VPA trustees John Laird and Edward Powitt

**1954** - several VPA members negotiated the transfer of the WAAF Hall at the Rathmines Air Base to be dismantled and rebuilt as the Community Hall.

**May 1955** - approval for its use as a Public Hall was granted by the Chief Secretary of NSW.

**1958** - the Valentine Public School commenced in the Community Hall.

As the community grew steadily the Hall was used more by a wide variety of groups.

**1959** - the Joint Coal Board provided another grant for improvements to the Hall.

**1960** - The Newcastle Blood Bank commenced regular visits to Valentine at the Hall.

**1975** - the Lions Club of Valentine refurbished the Hall, with the building of the new toilet block, kitchen upgrade, electrical upgrade, and later installed the new access ramp.

Regular use was made of the Hall by local church groups, dancing groups, senior citizens dinners, Lions, the Valentine Playgroup, and Valentine Primary School functions.

**1994**- the Valentine Community Service Organisation commenced, by VPA members

**2000**- The VCSO is incorporated

**2002 Nov.-** deeds transferred ownership from the last Trustees, William & Marjorie Stanton & Mr Lyn Godfrey from the VPA to the VCSO Inc.

This was completed unfortunately without the continuation of Trustees being identified in the registration process, to the detriment of the community's interest.

**2006** – Hall deteriorates & tenants given notice of closure.

**2008** -Public meeting makes unanimous decision to pursue the re-opening of the Hall.

**2010** – Valentine Residents' Assn Incorporated is formed with 160 members.

**2010-2011** – Joint committees of the VCSO & VRA hold several meetings. The second last meeting in November 2011 closed with what appeared to be a unanimous agreement to work together with the plan put forward by the VRA, subject to the Trustees agreement.

**2011** – (Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>) At the last joint meeting the VCSO reps. reported their committee had decided not to proceed with the VRA proposal, deeming the plan “not suitable for the site”, and announced suspension of all contact with the VRA and the Community.

**April 2012** - Pat Noonan from the VCSO contacted local builders, Trevor Mowbray & Ron Wood, requesting assistance to get the Hall up to a minimum standard to reopen it.

**March 2013** - State Govt. Grant of \$18,000 was offered on commencement of the job.

**April 2014** - a plan was submitted as part of the Development Application to LMCC.

As at **August 2014** there are still outstanding requirements for approval.

The builder has done a lot of homework and costed the works at around \$200,000+

The only contact the community has had was at a recent meeting between Pat Noonan & Mr Lyn Godfrey (trustees), the builder and also Mal Llewlyn, representing the U3A & Val. Sustainable Neighbourhood Group, and Bruce Harris, VRA President. Consensus was unanimous that our Community Hall should be reopened ASAP. The discussion at the meeting mainly concerned facilities within the Hall- storage, food preparation and booking arrangements, but there has been no apparent planning on these.

As soon as the DA is approved our Association will let the Community know.

