

# RICHMOND SCHOOL OF ARTS RESOURCES

## HAWKESBURY LIBRARY SERVICE - LOCAL STUDIES FACT SHEET

### Brief History

In 1858 a public meeting was held to discuss the formation and a School of Arts was planned for Richmond. The Richmond Literary Institute was established in 1861 and in 1866 the foundation stone was laid by Miss Bowman with plans to erect a hall on the corner of West Market and March Streets.

The School of Arts was officially opened by the Premier, Sir Henry Parkes on 27 August 1866. The event was chaired by George Bowman JP. The School of Arts, also known as the Richmond Literary Institute, has hosted an array of events over the years including lectures, classes, plays, concerts, dances and flower shows. Other uses included a Skating Rink which opened in the large hall in the 1880s. Movies were also regularly screened during the 1920s. The local Masonic Lodge used the rooms until they acquired their own premises next door.



School of Arts, Richmond circa 1960s  
By Harold Burch, Hawkesbury Library Service

A subscription library, where members paid a fee to borrow items, was also established and a billiard room was added in 1900.

Richmond Borough Council meetings were held in the School of Arts from 1872 until 1913 when the Council obtained land on the opposite corner and premises constructed.

Richmond Players have used the space for their performances since they were established in 1952.

The original building has been extended several times over the years, including a rear supper room and porch as well as comprehensive renovations in the latter half of the 20th century. Richmond School of Arts is still well used as a meeting place by the community as well as providing a place for events including concerts, markets, parties and exhibitions.

### Resources

#### Books

A selection of titles focussing on the subject are held in Local Studies however some are also available to borrow in Non-Fiction. Check the catalogue for more details.

Schools of arts of Richmond, Windsor and surrounding districts: a guide to accompany the coach tour organised as part of the celebrations held on the occasion of the 170th birthday by Roger Morris  
RL374.99442 MOR

The Richmond Players story in five acts: The history of the Richmond Players Inc. amateur theatrical group in Richmond, NSW from 1952 to 2020 / Richmond Players Inc.  
RL792.0994 RIC

## Minute Books

Hawkesbury Library has microfilmed the original Minute Books of Richmond School of Arts, including the following:

- Richmond Literary Institute Minute books [microform] Oct 1861 - Dec 1934 RLFILM A70
- Richmond Literary Institute Minute books [microform] Jan 1935 - May 1986 RLFILM A71A
- Richmond Literary Institute Minute books [microform] Jun 1986 - Feb 2001 RLFILM A71B
- Richmond Literary Institute Minute books [microform] May 2001 - Jun 2010 RLFILM A71C

## Newspapers

Newspapers of the day hold much information about the School of Arts and how it operated. Search historic Australian Newspapers, 1803 to 1961 database on the National Library of Australia Trove website at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> Newspapers after 1961 are held on microfilm.

## Pamphlets

Pamphlet files are held on Richmond Players and also Richmond School of Arts. Also check the catalogue for pamphlets held on people involved in the organisations and the Players.

## Photographs

See Hawkesbury Images via the catalogue <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/Gallery.aspx>

## Oral History

A number of oral history interviews have been conducted with people associated with the Richmond School of Arts and can be accessed through the Library, including Margaret Thorne, Ron Rozzoli and Dorothy Phipps. Check the catalogue <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/Gallery.aspx>

## Websites

- Richmond School of Arts <https://www.richmondschoolofarts.com.au/>
- Australian Dictionary of Biography (for people associated) <https://adb.anu.edu.au/>

For additional information and confirm titles and holdings, check the Library's online catalogue at <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/>

*Prepared by the Local History Librarian & updated 10/2/2021*

### Contact Information

#### ADDRESS

Hawkesbury Library Service  
Hawkesbury Central Library  
Deerubbin Centre (Ground floor)  
300 George Street  
WINDSOR NSW 2756

#### HOURS

Monday to Friday 9am - 7pm  
Saturday 9am - 1pm  
Sunday 2pm - 5pm  
Closed Public Holidays

#### LOCAL HISTORY CONTACTS

(02) 4560 4466 or 4560 4460  
[history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)  
<http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library>  
<http://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary>

Access the catalogue <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/>