

MUDGEE NSW



Eastern façade of the former Mechanics Institute Mudgee. Now De Russie Suites

Name: Mudgee Mechanics' Institute

Address: Corner of Gladstone and Perry Streets, Mudgee NSW 2850.

The Town:

Mudgee lies 260 kilometres north-west of Sydney on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range at the edge of the area designated geologically as the Sydney Basin. The Mudgee district was home to the indigenous Wiradjuri people who called the locality Moothi, allegedly meaning 'nest in the hills', and this became corrupted to Mudgee.

The first Europeans to settle in the district (1822) were Blue Mountains explorer William Lawson and brothers George and Henry Cox, sons of the builder of the first road over the Blue Mountains, William Cox. Cox family descendants still own, live on and farm portions of their early crown grants (Burrundulla) taken up in the 1820s. Initially, cattle were brought to Mudgee and it also proved especially suitable for grazing sheep, for which the district would become particularly noted.

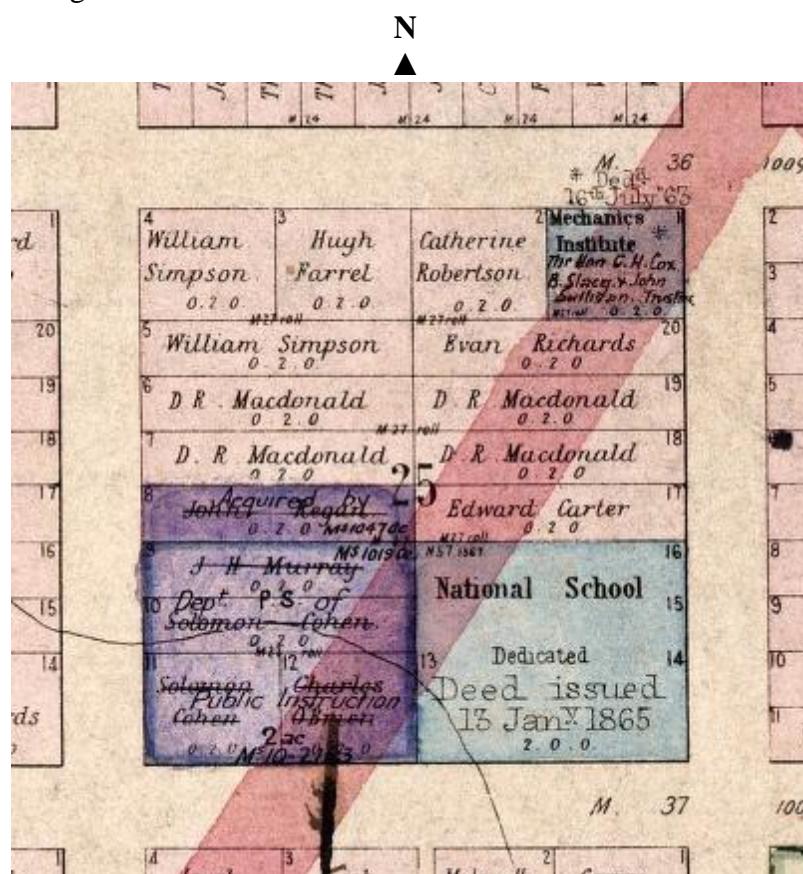
In early 1838 the town of Mudgee, designed on a grid plan, was proclaimed and the first allotments were sold.



The district relied solely on pastoralism and agriculture and the town grew little until 1851, when gold was discovered nearby. Consequently the town boomed throughout the 1850s, becoming the service centre for the expansive surrounding goldfields. The pastoral and mineral wealth of the district brought a great deal of prosperity to the town which had been declared a municipality in early 1860, while a few months later the rural municipality of Cudgegong, which encircled the town and which was named after the river which flows through the Mudgee Valley, was created.

By the early 1860s impressive public buildings – court house, gaol, post and telegraph office – and new Anglican and Catholic churches had been built, as well as numerous hotels, shops, factories and houses. The Mechanics Institute was granted Allotment 1 of Section 25 of the town of Mudgee to erect a building. Section 25 is bounded by Gladstone Street to the north, Perry Street to the east Denison Street to the south and Douro Street to the west. Since 1855 Section 25 has also featured another significant site – Mudgee Public School – which has expanded from its original site so that it now directly adjoins the Mechanics Institute.

A prime mover in establishing a Mechanics Institute in Mudgee was local squire, George Henry Cox of Burundulla, a son of Mudgee pioneer George Cox. He played a prominent role in every aspect of Mudgee's community life and also served on the NSW Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.



Section 25 of the town of Mudgee, showing the site allocated for the Mechanics Institute



A rail link branching off the main western line at Wallerawang, just outside of Lithgow, was completed in 1884. Mudgee's grand railway station is indicative of the wealth and importance of the town and district at the time it was built. Prior to the advent of the railway the town had been relatively self-sufficient, with transport links to Sydney through the ports of Morpeth, Maitland and Newcastle in the Hunter Valley. The rail link provided a more direct route to Sydney and ultimately this impacted on local industry which all but evaporated by the early 1900s. The rail link was closed in the late 1980s.

Mudgee, population circa 10,000 (2011 census), remains the principal service town for a large area. It is the headquarters of the local government body, the Mid-Western Regional Council, an area of 9,000 square kilometres formed after shire amalgamations in 2004. The regional population of circa 23,000 also includes the smaller towns of Gulgong, Rylstone and Kandos. The district has a mixed economy. While pastoralism (primarily superfine wool) and agriculture remain important, tourism and the wine industry have become significant. The coal industry has become increasingly prominent since the 1970s, with large open cut and underground mines at Ulan, Moolarben and Wilpinjung, all to the north of Mudgee but far enough away not to impact directly upon the town environmentally.

Establishment:

On Tuesday evening 12th May 1857, a meeting was held in St John's School room in Mudgee to consider the establishment of a Mechanics Institute. The meeting agreed that there was a need for such an institution in Mudgee and those present would endeavour to pursue it. The next meeting was held on 21st May, at the residence of George Arthur, where the committee and trustees, comprising many of the district's leading citizens, were elected.

The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser of Thursday, 11th June, 1857, p. 4 published the following report:

“THE MUDGEES MECHANICS INSTITUTE.”

This new institution promises well. *The Mudgee Newspaper* of the 3rd instant reports that the committee has met, and had agreed to propose a definite scheme of operations to the general meeting to be held on the 5th. The scheme will comprise a library, both circulating and for reference, a news-room or reading-room, a chess and draught table, the delivery of essays and lectures, a monthly discussion class, writing, arithmetic, and music classes, and two annual meetings, one for the election of officers and the other a social meeting. The subscription to be £1 10s per annum; all members to reside within ten miles of Mudgee; admission of non-members to lectures and essays, one shilling.”

It was agreed also that an approach should be made to the Government to obtain a grant of land on which to erect a building. Ultimately, Allotment 1 of Section 25 of the Town of Mudgee, on the corner of Gladstone and Perry Streets, was allocated as a site for building the Mechanics Institute. On 5th August 1857, temporary premises were secured in a cottage known as Thomas Spicer's Cottage, in Short Street, next to where Tattersalls Hotel (now the Lawson Park Hotel) stands. The institution was removed the following year to a site on Market Square now Lovejoy Street, to the immediate west of the Mudgee Gentleman's Club.



The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser mentioned on Saturday, 14th April 1860, p. 3, that

“...the annual subscription had been lowered from 30s to 20s, and subscriptions of the lady members lowered to 10s, with the object of inducing a larger number of the working men to become members. The number of members had increased in consequence...”

The Sydney Morning Herald on Thursday 18th April 1861, p. 7, announced that the government had allocated £1,000 towards the construction of a Mechanics Institute at Mudgee. *The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser* on Thursday 9th May 1861, p. 3, mentioned that although the membership had decreased since the previous year, there was £800 in the building fund, with promises of further local funds, so the committee continued to pursue the construction of a purpose-built building. The original plans, which had been drawn up by Henry Tebbutt of Mudgee, needed to be simplified and President George Henry Cox had requested notable Sydney architect Thomas Rowe of Sydney to do so.

The Building:

On Friday 11th January 1861 the *Sydney Morning Herald*, p. 8, featured an advertisement calling for "tenders for the erection of the Mechanics Institute School of Arts. Thomas Rowe, architect, 200 George Street, Sydney. Closing 21 instant." James Atkinson of Mudgee was announced as the successful tender in Mudgee's *Western Post* on 16th April 1861. On 8th October, 1861, the foundation stone of the present building was laid by Mr. G. H. Cox, President of the institution. The building was erected at a cost of £2,500.

	Mechanics Institute	Cost	£ s d
1861			
Sept 10	to Agree to build Institute of Frankfurt	£ 2 10 -	
	{ 2590 00		
April 12	needling steel posts extra bolts	12 10 -	
Aug 9	Building Chest	20 - -	
"	Making Pulpit	19 - -	
"	Shewing Read Room	14 10 -	
-	45 Puzzles @ 6c	3 7 6	
	Pulley Ready Room	5 - -	
	Rail & platform	6 10 -	
		247 7 8 6	
	Dearest off best	14 - -	
		£ 2463 8 6	
	Cost	2186 9 -	
		£ 298 6 6	
1861			
Sept 17	Summerdays —	14 0 0	
	Lew Soc	15 0 0	
	Feator Line	15 0 0	
Sept 7	Summerdays —	12 0 0	
	Lew Soc	6 10 0	
	Jones New	6 10 0	
14	Lew Soc	2 0 0	
	Jones Soc	1 0 0	
28	Jones London Square	12 0 0	
	Lew Soc	10 0 0	
	Captain Monk	11 0 0	
	Lew Soc	10 10 0	
	Socer Line	10 10 0	
Oct 5	Viller	40 0 0	
	Lew Soc	6 0 0	
	Jones Monk Conten	6 0 0	
12	Lew Soc Young	14 0 0	
	Lew Soc Young	24 0 0	
	Jack London Quarry	24 0 0	
	26 10000 bricks (Wells)	41 12 0	
Nov 11	37500 3" (Paxford)	97 10 0	
	22600 3" (Rams)	58 10 0	
	14000 3" (Lew)	5 0 0	

Extract from the ledger of James Atkinson, builder of the Mudgee Mechanics Institute,
showing his entries for its construction.

The ledger is held in the archives of the Mudgee Historical Society Inc.



The following is an account of the laying of the foundation stone, evidently a significant event for the town, as taken from Mudgee's *Western Post*:

"The foundation stone of the Mechanics Institute, which building is situated at the corner of Perry and Gladstone Streets, was laid on Tuesday, 8th October 1861, in the presence of a large majority of the people of the town and district. The weather was fine, although it had been threatening in the early morning. At about 12.30pm members of the Lodge Wellington, Free and Accepted Masons, left Hughson's Hotel (later the Post Office Hotel) arrayed in full Masonic regalia, and proceeded to the Lodge of the Loyal Order of Oddfellows, West End, who were waiting dressed in the insignia of the Order. Both Societies went over to the Lodge of the Union Benefit Society in Court Street, where the members assembled in large numbers wearing rosettes, and carrying handsome flags. The whole company then marched across the Market Square (now Robertson Park) to the building then used as the Mechanics Institute and situated in what is now known as Lovejoy Street. Here they were joined by the president, Mr. G. H. Cox, the clergy and those of the officers and committee who had not taken their places amongst the members of the above societies. They then proceeded in the following order: President, Vice President, His Worship the Mayor (A. McCauley, Esq.) one other Vice President, the Clergy, members of the Committee of Masons, Oddfellows, Union Benefit Society, members of the Institute and general public.

The procession moved along part of Market Street, up to Church Street and turning into Gladstone Street arrived at the new building at about one o'clock. Mr. James Atkinson, the contractor for the erection of the building had considerably caused a platform to be erected on which ladies and other parties forming the procession took their allotted places.

The Rev. Mr. Gunther offered up a prayer after which Mr. G. H. Cox read a scroll of parchment on which was written the date and year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the names of the officers and committee of the Institute, the Architect, Builder, etc.

Mr. G. Taylor then read one containing names of the Masonic body, and the Masonic Ode after which the scrolls, together with a bible, a number of coins of the realm, copies of the Mudgee *Western Post* and *Liberal* newspapers were deposited under the stone which Mr. G H. Cox (President) then laid.

The plumb, square and level having been applied by Alderman Hughson, Master of the Lodge, he pronounced it to be well formed, true and trusty, and the gold and silver vessels containing the corn, wine and oil were then brought forward and their contents poured on the stone by the W.M. [Worshipful Master] who, while doing so, delivered a Masonic prayer: *May the all bounteous Author of nature bless the inhabitants of this place, with all the necessaries, conveniences and comforts of life, assist in the erection and completion of this building, protect the workmen against every accident and long preserve this structure from decay, and grant to us a bountiful supply of the corn of nourishment, the wine of refreshment and the oil of joy.*



The President then delivered a long and vigorous address. Collections made resulted in £24.10.0 of which £10.8.0 was subscribed by Masons who deposited £2.2.0 upon the stone for the workmen, who very liberally handed it over to the hospital. Several members of the Philharmonic Society then sang the National Anthem."

The new building was opened on Tuesday, 29th September, on which occasion a ‘soiree’ attended by upwards of 300 persons, was held for the purpose of assisting in the liquidation of the debt, and concluded with an evening of dancing. The sum of £148 was raised on this night while a grand bazaar was held on the following Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The public were admitted free on the Saturday, and the amount raised totalled over £441, with expenses of £21.

The *Western Post* continued:

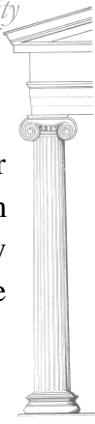
“Mudgee may well be proud of its new Mechanics Institute and the committee excused for the elation they feel at the opening of their new hall. The event marked the conclusion of a great work in which very many have enthusiastically assisted, and which has for its aim, the moral and intellectual advancement of the people. Further than this, there is every probability of the building shortly being free of debt. The accommodation which the new building affords, and the scope it gives to any amount of effort in the way of giving educational advantage, will, we trust, stimulate the members to increased exertion, so that the new building shall not be an empty shell, but a worthy indication of the order, beauty, harmony and usefulness of the internal workings. The business of the evening at the opening ceremony commenced with tea which the following ladies provided with elegance and sumptuous profusion: Mrs. G H Cox Mrs. Warburton, Mrs Robison, Miss Perry, Mesdames McCauley, G. McCauley, E. Daly, Slantury, Atkinson, Dickson, Thurston, Reuben, and Misses Healey, Julian and Gunther. The President of the Institute, Mr. G.H. Cox, delivered an interesting address”.



George Henry Cox
a foundation Trustee of the Mechanics Institute



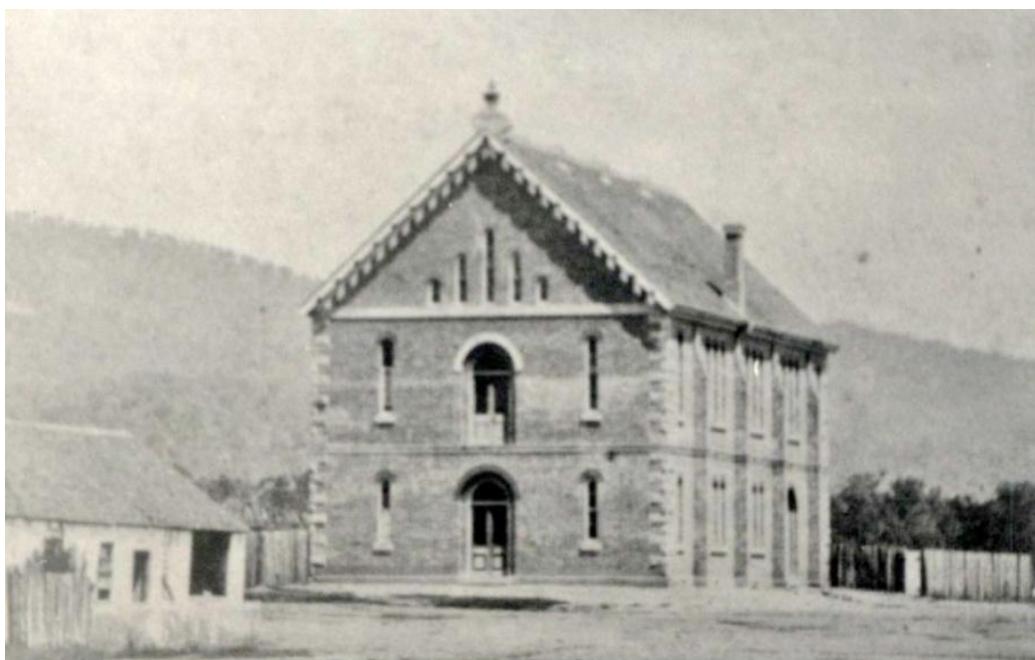
Thomas Rowe
architect of the Mudgee Mechanics Institute



Thomas Rowe, the architect, was a prominent member of his profession, who would later design St Paul's Presbyterian Church in Mudgee, completed in 1878. His better-known architectural briefs were *Tresco*, his own residence at Elizabeth Bay in Sydney; the Sydney Hospital; the Great Synagogue in Elizabeth Street, Sydney; and Newington College at Stanmore in Sydney.

Mr. G. H. Cox was instrumental in obtaining a further grant of £1,000. The *Liberal* organ wrote thus: "We ought not to withhold the fact from persons resident in our town since the establishment of the Mechanics Institute that it originated with an accomplished Mudgee lady, whose maternal virtues have ever been in keeping with the sacred responsibilities of domestic honor". More's the pity, the name was not given.

Building funds must have been short, as the obviously-intended eastern verandah – note the French doors on the first floor of the front facade – was evidently not constructed for some twenty years.



Mechanics Institute Mudgee circa 1879

The Town and Country Journal in 1870 gives a worthy description of the now well-established Mechanics' Institute:

".... the glory of Mudgee is in its Mechanics Institute. This building is a sign of the wealth and public spirit that prevails in the town and its vicinity, for it is on an extensive scale, and cost a large sum of money altogether. Here is a library of 2400 vols., on the great heads of literature, science, history, biography, classics, poetry and fiction. Many being valuable and well got up works, among which I noticed the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and *Imperial Dictionary*. The members number 185, and the Institute is thirteen years old. The principal rooms are a reading room 45 x 20, a smoking room 21 x 18, and a large hall overhead; the length and breadth of the building 72 x 36. In this are a grand piano (£120), and a harmonium (£90) with ten stops."



By the early 1880s the two-storeyed verandah had been installed, with cast iron pillars by the Sydney foundry of J. R. Bubb set on sandstone bases. The upstairs verandah at various stages could be enclosed by canvas blinds and by removable wooden shutters.

Over the years the exterior was modified extensively, albeit sometimes unsympathetically.



Mechanics Institute Mudgee early 1880s

The Windsor and Richmond Gazette reported on Saturday 13th February 1904 that the ...

“Mudgee Mechanics Institute (a much better name, by the bye, than 'School of Arts') has been benefited largely by the introduction of billiards — they have now two tables, and have built a room especially for them.”

This room was on the ground floor of an ell extension added in 1902 to the south-western corner; an expansive kitchen/dining room was located upstairs.

At a date unknown, the upstairs verandah was enclosed for use as a supper room with an incompatible shingle exterior and aluminium windows. In the 1950s, when the premises were used as the town library, a cumbersome and ill-designed door was installed on the northern facade in place of an original door with a curved headed arch.

Description:

The Mechanics Institute conforms to the form favoured for educational buildings in mid-nineteenth century New South Wales, and is very much like a church in appearance, but much more austere. The original two-storeyed building, in Mudgee brick, is a rectangle on a north-south axis, with a steeply-pitched gable roof which was originally shingled, all on a sandstone base course. The building was originally symmetrical prior to additions and modifications. The 3-bay eastern entrance facade in Perry Street is in Flemish bond, while



the two sides and rear are in English bond. Fenestration throughout the original building was matching on both levels and consisted of single or sets of three narrow elongated round-headed two-pane sash windows, while on the northern facade single blind windows are placed on the ground and first floors of the eastern-most bay.

Windows on the upper level of the southern facade were compromised by the insertion of round-headed doors at some time after 1899, when the annual report of that year mentioned the need to construct fire escape doors and stairs in order for the upper hall to be licensed for public entertainment. The eastern gable end was dominated by a set of five tapered windows following the slope of the gable. There was originally minimal fenestration on the western facade, and a small bulls-eye vent in the gable end. All internal joinery was cedar.

To relieve the severity of the structure, rusticated quoins were placed on all four original corners, while simple flat buttresses broke the southern and northern facades into five bays. Further enhancements were: ornate corbelled chimneys on the southern and northern sides servicing fireplaces on the ground floor only; string courses denoting the upper and lower floors; an elaborately carved finial on the roof; a fretted valance on the bargeboard of the eastern gable; and three triangular vents in the roof on the southern and northern sides.

The two-storeyed ell extension attached to the south-western corner, was constructed in 1902 at a cost of £476/11/1, according to the balance sheet of that year in the archives of the Mudgee Historical Society Inc. Markedly different in style, this wing is in brick in Flemish garden wall bond, has a lower hip roofline and features two-paned sash windows capped with flat-gauged arches.

During the ownership of Michael El-Choueri, who had plans to convert the building into an art gallery, a false ceiling/mezzanine floor was installed upstairs without approval. Fortunately, this had not greatly compromised the buildings and it was removed during the recent renovations.



◀ Range in 1904 kitchen,
now removed.

Photo 2005



Uses:

The Mechanics Institute was used for a variety of purposes over the years: debating classes, lectures, readings, musical and literary entertainments. It also provided a venue for much of the district's entertainment: dances, balls, circuses, and theatrical performances.

Throughout the 1800s and early 1900s the membership gradually ebbed and flowed, while the library collection was expanded. While the Mechanics Institute had a resident librarian/custodian who lived in an adjoining cottage to the west, the *Orange Leader* on Friday 26th September 1919, p.1 cheekily reported that

“The Mudgee Mechanics Institute wants a secretary at a salary of £12/12/ per annum. Here's a chance for some one who wishes to get rich quick.”

By the 1920s the Mechanics Institute was in the position to offer a number of scholarships to local schools. However, *The Bathurst Times* reported on Saturday 22nd August 1925 that the finances of the Mudgee Mechanics Institute were in a bad way and it would need to appeal to the public to support it. The annual report for 1929, just prior to the Great Depression, revealed a debit balance of £95/19/11 (*Sydney Morning Herald*, Thursday, 1st August 1929, p. 12).

When the position of librarian became vacant in 1932, 450 applications were received, many from people who were over qualified for the job but unemployed because of the Great Depression. (*The Braidwood Review and District Advocate*, Tuesday 26th July 1932, p. 2).

The organization managed to struggle on until the mid 1950s when control of the building passed from the Committee of the Mechanics Institute to the Mudgee Municipal Council, which then assumed responsibility for providing library services in the building for the town and district.



The Mechanics Institute in the 1950s, when used as the Mudgee Municipal Library



In 1967 the building, along with many others in the town and district, was classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW), receiving a "C" classification.

The library was transferred to the former Mudgee Town Hall in 1979, making the Mechanics Institute building surplus to Council's needs. Various uses were proposed for the building but a Council deficit and no forthcoming government funds ultimately led Council to put the building up for auction in June 1984. Concerned about the prospect of demolition, the Heritage Council of NSW placed a Heritage Order on the building. This meant that approval for demolition or major alterations would have to be sought from the Heritage Council of NSW.

The auction on 9th June 1984 also included the adjacent former librarian's cottage in Gladstone Street but bidding failed to reach the reserve. In late November 1986 the Mechanics Institute was again put up for auction, but the sole bid of \$50,000 fell well below the reserve price. Ultimately, the building was sold in 1986 to Michael El-Choueri who placed the property on the market in 2006. Michael El-Choueri died in 2007; at the time of his death the building was in a neglected but sound condition.

It should be noted that on two occasions the Mechanics Institute has been used as premises by Mudgee Public School. In the mid 1870s, while a new school was being built, the boys' section of the school utilized the Mechanics Institute, while the girls' section was housed in the former Wesleyan Church on the south-western corner of Church and Mortimer Streets (converted to a range of shops in the 1930s). In the 1970s the Mechanics Institute was again used by Mudgee Public School which suffered from overcrowding. This problem was not resolved until the construction of Cudgegong Public School in the early 1980s.



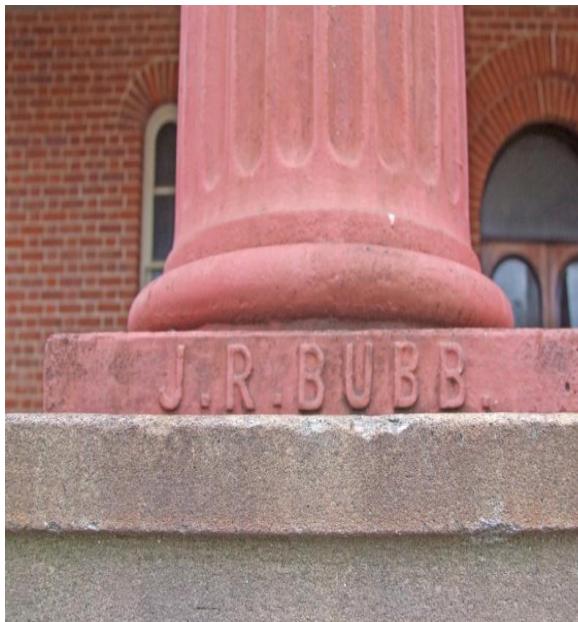
The Mechanics Institute 2005



Southern facade 2009

The verandah supports at front of the building were iron pillars cast by the J R Bubb Foundry, Sydney, and set on sandstone bases.

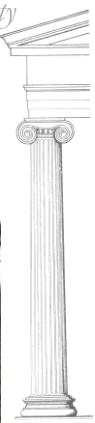
This photograph shows the verandah enclosed and clad in shingles. The building's standard two-paned sash windows are also clearly shown.



Detail of verandah pillars



Standard two-paned sash window



Some architectural detail:



Door from upstairs hall to verandah



Timber half column to downstairs verandah



Internal stair

Photos 2009



Fretwork on stair



Social History:

One of the claims to fame of the Mudgee Mechanics Institute is that the nation's most noted writer and a resident of the district, Henry Lawson, spent countless hours reading in the Institute's library during his youth.

The Mechanics Institute was used as a meeting venue for a variety of causes, and often attracted celebrity guests, as reported by Sydney's *Evening News* on Wednesday 19th October 1895, p. 4:

“Lady Windeyer addressed a crowded meeting in the Mudgee Mechanics Institute on Monday night on womanhood suffrage, under the auspices of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.”

Mary, Lady Windeyer, was a leading activist in women's causes; her husband was Sir William Charles Windeyer, a prominent judge and politician.

Mudgee's *Western Post* mentioned on Thursday 2nd February 1899 that the Institute's annual report stated that a Youth Club had been running during the year, but ... “owing to disorder and want of proper control had to be disbanded.”

The Sydney Morning Herald reported on Wednesday 9th March 1904, p. 8, that

“Lieutenant George A. Blumer, M.A., headmaster of the Mudgee Superior Public School, who has been transferred to St. Peters, was entertained on Monday night by members of the Mudgee Mechanics Institute, of which he was president, and by the military, district school teachers, and townsmen, prior to his departure.”

Mr Blumer went on to become an Inspector of Schools.

The Sydney *Evening News* on Thursday 19th July 1910, p. 3, reported that recently-deceased Mudgee grazier James Dalrymple Cox, a highly erudite and wealthy man, had left his extensive library to the Mudgee Mechanics Institute. This would have included some rare and valuable editions and one does wonder what has happened to them.

A nebulous report in *The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate* on Friday, 14th April 1922, p. 6, suggests that a sprung dance floor, which is still in situ upstairs, was about to be installed:

“Extensive alterations to the hall at Mudgee Mechanics Institute will be put in hand almost immediately, and when completed will add considerably to the comfort of dance lovers.”

Dances were a very popular form of entertainment at the Mudgee Mechanics Institute in the early 1900s, but evidently they didn't always attract a well-behaved crowd, as was reported in the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post*, Monday 19th April, 1937, p. 4:

“Complaints that members of the police force were not properly policing dances in the Mudgee Mechanics Institute were made at a meeting of the committee. Mr. Hilton Barton said that a half-drunken element had caused trouble at recent Saturday night dances, and that complaints had been made by doorkeepers. Very bad language had been used and some men had wanted to fight. The Inspector of Police is to be written to by the committee.”



Annual church balls, the annual Bligh Picnic Race Club ball, and various fundraising balls and dances were always held at the Mechanics Institute. From the late 1930s until the early 1950s the late Edna Strike worked for a local caterer who always provided the supper for events at the Mechanics Institute. She remembered that they were often lavish affairs, prepared off-site for large crowds, but re-heated or finished off in the kitchen upstairs.

(Edna Strike to John Broadley, 2001)

The late Miriam Loneragan, wife of prominent Mudgee businessman E. H. (Tim) Loneragan, remembered fondly the elaborate decorations, the beautiful dresses, the elegant suited men, the wonderful food and the fun times at the many balls she attended at the Mechanics Institute, particularly for the Catholic church.

(Miriam Loneragan to John Broadley, circa 1995)

The ground floor consisted of the library, a reading room, the billiard room and two letting rooms. The late Lillian Wooley, nee Morgan, remembered that she used to have private piano lessons with Miss Osbourne who had a studio in the Mechanics Institute.

(*They Made Their Own Way*, Swords & Bassingthwaighe, p.71).

Currently:

Michael El-Choueri's heirs sold the property in 2008 to Mark and Lisa Madigan from Orange, NSW, whose intention was to adapt the property for use as a boutique hotel. As the property was listed on the original Mudgee Shire Heritage Study carried out in the early 1980s and was also listed on the LEP of the Mid-Western Regional Council as a heritage item, all modifications were planned in consultation with Council's planning department.

The Madigan's plans comprised retaining and restoring the exterior, restoring the eastern verandah to the circa 1880 configuration, modifying the interior to cater for 13 ultra-modern suites and installing a lift. Much of the original joinery, including the internal stair, windows, doors and floors were retained, while the soaring roof trusses were left exposed above the boxed rooms of the upper floor. A few irreversible exterior blemishes were left in situ as examples of the building's evolution. A planned ultra-modern two-storeyed building, detached but adjoining the south-western corner, was not built.

The property, now called De Russie Suites, Mudgee, was officially opened in March 2012. Its transformation has been a successful sympathetic example of adaptive re-use.

<http://www.derussiehotels.com.au/mudgee.htm>



Building under refurbishment 2011



Restoration completed 2012



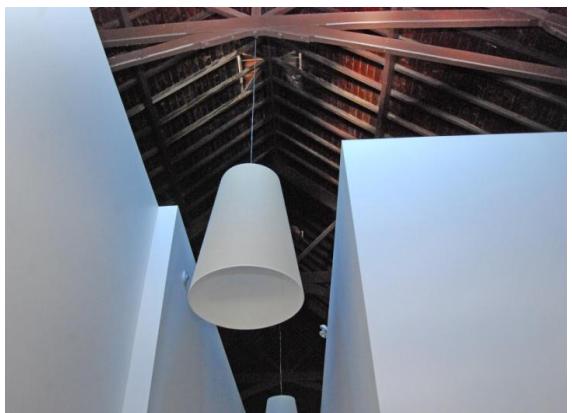
Refurbished interiors 2012:



◀ Reception area



Stairway with memorabilia ►



◀ Exposed roof battens and trusses



Upper verandah ►

**Acknowledgments:**

- Mudgee Historical Society Inc
- The late Michael El-Choueri
- The late Edna Strike
- The late Miriam Loneragan
- Mark and Lisa Madigan

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- The Sydney Morning Herald*
- The Town and Country Journal*
- The Windsor and Richmond Gazette*
- The Bathurst Times*
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- Leader* (Orange)
- The Braidwood Review and District Advocate*
- Evening News* (Sydney)
- The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate*
- Goulburn Evening Penny Post*
- Mudgee Guardian*

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- <http://www.derussiehotels.com.au/mudgee.htm>
- http://www.lpi.nsw.gov.au/mapping_and_imagery/parish_maps : Mudgee Town map, Section 25

Archival photos:

- Mudgee Historical Society Inc.
- Australian Men of Mark (for Thomas Rowe)

Photos: John Broadley©

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