



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION**

### **11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

#### **PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)**

- 8.5.1 Preserving traditions and group memories
- 8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests
- 8.14 Living in the country & rural settlements

#### **HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)**

- 107 Settlements
- 108 Government policy
- 405 Sport, recreation & entertainment
- 407 Cultural activities
- 408 Institutions

#### **11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\***

*King River Hall* is a well composed, simply designed building similar in design to other timber framed, Public Works Department buildings, particularly small schools, from the Federation period. The building exhibits some broad characteristics of the Federation Queen Anne Style. (Criterion 1.1)

*King River Hall* and its informal parkland cleared setting contribute to the aesthetic qualities of the rural landscape in the outlying Albany District of King River. (Criterion 1.3)

#### **11.2 HISTORIC VALUE**

*King River Hall* was constructed in 1900 for the residents of the King River fruit-growing district and was completely funded by a Grant-in-Aid under a State Government policy for the provision of community amenities. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

*King River Hall* has been the focal point of King River social life since its construction in 1900, in association with the adjoining site where tennis, netball and basketball courts were established. (Criterion 2.2)

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

*King River Hall* is associated with Public Works Department Chief Architect George Temple Poole, for his involvement in the original design of agricultural halls. (Criterion 2.3)

*King River Hall* was closely associated with the King River Settlers' Association who instigated the construction of the place and used it as their meeting venue for over 70 years, and continues to be associated with various King River sporting, special interest and social groups. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11.4 SOCIAL VALUE**

*King River Hall* is highly valued by the King River community for its association with the social and sporting life of the district since 1900, as evidenced by its ongoing use, care and maintenance and its inclusion in the Albany Municipal Inventory with a recommended highest protection. (Criterion 4.1)

*King River Hall* contributes to the local community's sense of place for its historical and social associations with the district. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1 RARITY**

*King River Hall* is an uncommon remaining example of an iron clad agricultural hall and a rare example of an agricultural hall still in use in its original function. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*King River Hall* is a representative example of Public Works Department designed community buildings, such as schools and meeting halls that fulfilled a range of uses in rural areas in the Federation and Interwar periods, and represents the provision of State Government support to regional communities through the construction of such buildings. (Criterion 6.1)

*King River Hall* is an excellent example of a modest agricultural hall from the Federation period, and includes a good representative example of a World War One honour roll commemorating the war dead from a small community. (Criterion 6.1)

*King River Hall* demonstrates an ongoing way of life at King River that, while relatively close to the population centre of Albany, still retains much of its rural community atmosphere. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

Generally the *King River Hall* appears to have benefited from regular maintenance and is in good condition. The exception to this is the south-east external wall where the paintwork is in poor condition. This wall may have been left unpainted as it is planned to remove it as part of a proposed extension.

The recently completed extension to the rear of the building is in very good condition.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*King River Hall* has a high level of integrity as it has been used for its original intended purpose as a Community Hall since its construction. The place is still

highly compatible with this use and there are no obvious reasons why it could not continue to be used for this purpose into the foreseeable future.

## **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*King River Hall* is of high to moderate authenticity. Some external cladding to the verandah of the hall has been replaced with metal sheeting. Although the building has recently been extended, these additions abut the original building allowing it to remain largely intact.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Irene Sauman, Historian and Gena Binet and Alan Kelsall, Kelsall Binet Architects, in June 2006, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

The tennis courts on the adjacent site do not form part of the curtilage.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*King River Hall* is a modest timber framed, corrugated iron clad and gable roofed hall building constructed in 1900 as a reduced length variation of the standard Public Works Department plan for agricultural halls.

Settlement of the King River area (about 10 kilometres from Albany) was sporadic until the later 1890s when a number of agricultural holdings were established by farmers seeking suitable land on which to establish market gardens, orchards, dairy and poultry farms in order to meet the fresh produce demands of the growing population of Albany.

The establishment of agricultural halls followed a British tradition of government assistance for the construction of public buildings such as mechanics' institutes, miners' and railway institutes and workers' halls, and which began in Western Australia in the mid-19th century. The Royal Agricultural Society supported the idea of halls in country areas, considering they could provide a focus for agricultural shows and competitions and a venue for lectures on farming matters, as well as a social meeting place.<sup>1</sup>

As the population of the King River district increased, residents formed the King River Settlers' Association which, on 5 August 1899, requested a grant for construction of an agricultural hall. The maximum grant of £250 was approved on 12 January 1900, under authority no. 1622. Approval indicated that the district had the requisite number of no less than 76 people within a seven-mile radius of a central point – usually a Post Office but in the case of King River it was likely the school as there was no Post Office in the district. The numbers were probably assisted by the fact that most families had six or more children. A five-acre site on Millbrook Road was gazetted Reserve 6896 on 13 July 1900 for the purpose of an Agricultural Hall, and local residents C.H. Neumann, R.H. Playne and Seton Gibb were appointed the three member Committee to oversee construction.<sup>2</sup>

The Committee asked for a copy of the Public Works Department (PWD) standard agricultural hall plan. The standard plan was for a building 40 ft by 20 ft (12m x 6m), but the residents only had the grant amount to cover the cost of construction and could not afford a building of that size. The PWD advised that the length could be reduced to 30 ft without affecting the design or the specifications and this was the size agreed on. Tenders for *King River Hall* were called on 19 April 1900 and a contract was awarded to W. Mawson who quoted a price of £243 10s 0d. Mawson employed carpenter C. Friebe on the project. Both were local residents.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Candy, P. C. & Laurent, J., (eds) *Pioneering Culture: Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts in Australia*, Auslib Press, Adelaide, 1994, pp. 1-8, 126-50. For more information on the provision of agricultural hall grants and regulations refer to 01369 Kellerberrin Agricultural Hall.

<sup>2</sup> PWD file, King River agricultural hall, SROWA WAS 82 CONS 689 Item 1926/0804.

<sup>3</sup> PWD file, King River agricultural hall, Item 1926/0804, op cit; King River Hall Centenary programme, 2 page typescript, HCWA file 15588.

*King River Hall* was completed on 3 October 1900 and officially opened on 28 November that year. A seven-member hall management committee was elected, with schoolmistress B. Kippenberger acting as returning officer for the poll, a duty normally performed by a postmaster. The elected Committee consisted of S. Shrubsole, C.H. Neumann, E.K. Miller, S. Gibb, C.M. Playne, H. Bailey and R.H. Playne. In the earliest years, the place was the venue of Settlers' Association meetings and dances. In 1908 the place was used for the display of agricultural show produce, including vegetables and fruit.<sup>4</sup>

Charges for use of *King River Hall* were introduced by the management committee on 17 June 1912. The cost for use by a local group was two shillings a day, with a one shilling per hour fee for lighting to a maximum of five shillings. Use by the general public was charged at seven shillings and sixpence. In 1913, an anteroom costing £24 was created by enclosing the eastern end of the verandah. Physical evidence of a row of coat hooks on the wall of the room indicates that it is likely to have been used as a cloakroom. *King River Hall* was used as a temporary school in 1913 (and again in 1937) while the King River School building underwent repairs for termite damage. The Education Department had the right to rent subsidised agricultural halls when required, at a rental of £5 a year.<sup>5</sup>

In 1914, five of the original seven management committee had left the district and management passed to the Settlers' Association, which was paying for upkeep and insurance. In March 1916, control of *King River Hall* was being disputed by the local branch of the Farmers' & Settlers' Association, which was a political body, and an unnamed sports committee. R.H. Playne and Seton Gibb, the only remaining of the original committee members, wrote to the PWD requesting that the place be vested in the King River Settlers' Association to settle the dispute, but the PWD instead urged the election of a new management committee as soon as possible. This was duly done, and the first meeting of the new committee was held on 9 April 1916.<sup>6</sup>

Under the new committee, *King River Hall* began making a profit with dances and sports functions. Improvements were made to the building and grounds, but in 1917 internal squabbling over the posting of a temporary roll of honour resulted in no general meeting and no election of a new committee in 1918. The condition of the place deteriorated to the extent that in late 1919, the local tearooms had to be used as the venue for a Red Cross fundraiser.<sup>7</sup> The matter must have been settled, as a committee was elected in 1920, and by 1921 new names began to appear in the list of committee members and old grievances were left behind.

Regulations applying to agricultural halls became lost in time as committee members changed. In 1926, when assistance was sought for repair of the chimney, the PWD reminded the hall committee that the upkeep of the place was its responsibility. *King River Hall* was quiet during the Depression years, but economic conditions began to improve for the district in the mid 1930s, reflected in an increase in social activities. In 1935, a request regarding the status of the place with regard to the setting of charges, elicited the response that *King River*

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<sup>4</sup> PWD file, King River agricultural hall, Item 1926/0804, op cit; King River Hall Centenary programme, op cit. No newspaper or other report on the opening has been located.

<sup>5</sup> PWD file, King River agricultural hall, Item 1926/0804, op cit; PWD file, Agricultural halls- general, SROWA WAS 82 CONS 689 Item 1884/1926.

<sup>6</sup> PWD file, King River agricultural hall, Item 1926/0804, op cit.

<sup>7</sup> Correspondence from Major Young, 8 September 1919, PWD file, King River agricultural hall, Item 1926/0804, op cit.

*Hall* was one of the last halls built totally by grant and therefore had no debt, and that charges for use were completely up to the committee.<sup>8</sup> A Debating Club was formed in that year and dances were held. The King River Settlers' Association are recorded as once again holding their meetings at *King River Hall*.

The Junior Farmers' Association met in *King River Hall* in the 1950s, until they got their own building, which was donated by builder Phil Jewell and relocated to the Reserve from Vancouver Street, Albany. This building was later moved to the adjoining site and become the headquarters for the netball courts. Another group to make regular use of *King River Hall* was the Youth Club, which was formed in 1957 by Ern and Jean Baker to teach young people to dance. Regular dances were held every Friday night into the 1960s. *King River Hall* was also used as the Scout Hall during this period. On 25 September 1959, Agricultural Hall Reserve 6869 was vested in the Albany Road Board.<sup>9</sup>

From the 1950s to 1980s, local sporting clubs used *King River Hall* as their headquarters and social venue, with tennis, netball and basketball courts established at various times on the adjoining (west) site. Various sporting trophies exhibited in the place are testimony to this. The King River Recreational Club was formed in the late 1960s to provide training for basketball players and the netball courts were established in the early 1970s for a local team's competition.<sup>10</sup>

On 12 March 1971, the Recreational Club leased the Agricultural Hall Reserve from the management committee, giving them management rights to *King River Hall*. The Settlers' / Progress Association ceased to function in 1973, after 74 years of involvement with the place beginning with its construction. The Recreational Club had a brick toilet block constructed, which was financed on a dollar for dollar basis from the Department of Sport and Recreation and built with volunteer labour. Circa 1978, the King River Play Group was formed, and the anteroom created in 1913 was used as a store for playgroup items and an enclosed play area was established. *King River Hall* was upgraded with mains power to replace the 32-volt system and night netball and tennis competitions were held under lights in the 1980s.<sup>11</sup>

Around 1990, the Recreational Club organised regular 'old time' dancing in *King River Hall*, while the tradition of a Christmas Tree family night, complete with Santa Claus, continued to be held in December each year. *King River Hall* was the venue for a local State Bicentennial event on 26 November 1988, with residents dressed in period costumes enjoying displays of photographs and farming and household items from the nineteenth century. In 1996, a shed to house equipment for the King River Volunteer Fire Brigade was built on the Agricultural Hall Reserve, adjacent to the east side road. On 26 November 2000, *King River Hall* Centenary was celebrated with the unveiling of a plaque, musical entertainment, afternoon tea and a raffle.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Correspondence, 1926 & 1 June 1935, PWD file, King River agricultural hall, Item 1926/0804, op cit.

<sup>9</sup> DLI Reserve Enquiry, Reserve 6869.

<sup>10</sup> King River Hall Centenary programme, op cit.

<sup>11</sup> Gibb, Kath & Moir, Amelia, *Reflections of life over the years at King River*, Albany, Warjam Publications, 1999, p.

<sup>12</sup> Gibb, Kath & Moir, Amelia, op cit, p. 126-127; King River Hall Centenary programme, op cit; aerial photograph, 2005.

*King River Hall* was entered on the Albany Municipal Heritage Inventory in 2001, with a category B rating, requiring a high level of protection.<sup>13</sup>

In 2003, extensions were proposed to double the size of *King River Hall*, and included a new verandah, new timber floor, disabled access and new toilet facilities. Cost of the work was estimated at approximately \$156,000.<sup>14</sup> In 2005, part of this work was carried out. An existing kitchen extension, which may have been added in the 1970s, was removed and a new Kitchen Extension, housing Store Room, Kitchen and Lobby, was built on the same site. A brick Toilet Extension, housing male, female and disabled toilets, was added beside the Kitchen Extension. The Toilet Extension was part of the planned upgrading of *King River Hall*, while the new Kitchen Extension was extra to the originally planned work. The planned widening of the existing Hall space has not been undertaken to date (June 2006). This alteration would change the scale and style of *King River Hall*.<sup>15</sup>

*King River Hall* generates sufficient revenue to maintain itself. Regular events that continue to be held include dancing twice a month on Saturday nights, folk music once a month and playgroup twice a week with some 35 pre-school age children.<sup>16</sup>

In 2006, *King River Hall* continues to serve the local community in its original function.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*King River Hall* (1900) is a single roomed timber framed hall with an enclosed verandah and a recent extension (2005) to the rear.

*King River Hall* is sited on Millbrook Road beside the King River in the District of King River on the outskirts of Albany. The hall is located at the east end of Millbrook Road near the intersection with Chester Pass Road. Chester Pass Road is an important regional road that connects the main street in central Albany to the South West Highway. *King River Hall* is approximately 8km from the centre of Albany but the character of the area is rural with some recreational and holiday making facilities grouped around the King River Bridge on Chester Pass Road.

The area around the King River Bridge is a popular recreational area and holiday destination. This area contains two caravan parks, holiday chalets, the Gilcreek Scout Camp, the King River Pony Club and a mini-golf course. There are a number of private residences on large, well-vegetated blocks on the southeast side of *King River Hall*, beside the river.

On the northwest side of *King River Hall* is an area that contains two sets of tennis courts, a hit-up board, a corrugated iron shelter, pine log play equipment and a small corrugated iron building that was originally used by the Rural Youth. The tennis courts have not been used for many years and all these structures are in poor condition except for the newer courts with chain link and galvanised pole fences that are used for racing go-carts.

*King River Hall* is sited on a large, rectangular block of land, which stretches from Millbrook Road back towards the King River. There is a margin of bushland

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<sup>13</sup> Heritage Today, *City of Albany Municipal Inventory*, 2001.

<sup>14</sup> Information provided by the King River Recreational Club (Inc), HCWA file P015588.

<sup>15</sup> Information provided by the King River Recreational Club (Inc), HCWA file P015588.

<sup>16</sup> King River Hall Centenary programme, op cit; Gibb, Kath & Moir, Amelia, op cit, p. 123.

between the rear of the site and the riverbank. The depth of the site is approximately half of the width. The long axis of the site runs from northeast to southwest, at right angles to Millbrook Road. The south-east side boundary of the site is defined by Kingswood Road but the north is open to the adjacent property. The site is generally undeveloped with most buildings clustered beside the road.

The Hall is located approximately 7.5 metres from Millbrook Road. Extensions have recently been added to the southeast side of the building. Attached to the eastern corner of the building is a children's play area used by the local playgroup. This area is fenced with swimming pool fencing and contains areas of grass, paving, a sandpit and an open shelter with a corrugated galvanised steel clad gable roof. A small pre-painted corrugated galvanised steel metal sheet shed stands beside the northeast side of this enclosure.

In the north corner of the site there is a large bitumen car park that extends from the side boundary to *King River Hall*. A pair of very large Tasmanian Blue Gums (*Eucalyptus globulus*) marks the driveway to the car park. A further similar sized Tasmanian Blue Gum stands beside the road adjacent to the eastern corner of the play area. This tree is part of a linear planting that extends backwards at right angles to the road. There are six trees in this planting but there are some gaps indicating that others have not survived.

The front boundary of the site is defined by a pine pole post and rail fence. This fence runs from the gum tree beside the car park entrance to the linear planting beside the play area. In front of the fence there is a recent linear planting of flowering native Australian shrubs which includes Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sp.*), *Grevillia sp.* and *Melaleuca sp.*

The Toilet Block stands about 15 metres directly behind the Hall. The Toilet Block is a face brick structure with a low mono-pitch pre-painted corrugated galvanised steel metal deck roof. A number of Bushy Yates (*Eucalyptus lehmannii*) and Bald Island Marlocks (*Eucalyptus conferruminata*) and a large Showy Honey Myrtle (*Melaleuca nesophila*) are planted around the Toilet Block.

On the south side of the car park a dirt track leads in front of the Toilet Block and diagonally across the site to the King River Fire Station, which stands near Kingswood Road. The fire station is a large pre-painted corrugated galvanised steel metal deck clad building with a low-pitched gable roof. There is a door and several aluminium sliding windows facing Millbrook Road and a vehicle door facing Kingswood Road. The building is surrounded by blue metal and a gravel driveway leads to Kingswood Road. The remainder of the site is undeveloped. Generally, the site is fairly open with some mature trees suggesting that it has been cleared. There has been some later regeneration of indigenous vegetation.

*King River Hall* is a single-storey timber framed building with a steeply pitched gable roof and an enclosed lean-to verandah. The building has much in common, both in planning and aesthetics, with other simple and utilitarian government buildings designed by the Public Works Department for remote and country areas during the Federation period. It is a well composed but simple building which exhibits some broad characteristics of the Federation Queen Anne Style. In particular the domestic scale, dominant roof with barge boarded gables, and verandahs continuous with the main roof are typical of the style. The detailing of the doors and windows is typical of the standard elements employed in the more modest examples of public buildings of the time such as schools and



post offices, as is the truncated ceiling that follows the underside of the roof structure.

*King River Hall* has a simple form which expresses the functions of the plan. The Hall itself is the major element. It has a rectangular plan and the ridge of the high-pitched gable roof runs parallel to the long axis of the room and the adjacent road. An almost fully enclosed lean-to verandah with a broken back roof runs for the full length of the front façade of the building. There is a single two-pane double hung sash window located in the centre of the northwest end wall of the Hall and three matching evenly spaced windows in the rear wall. A recently constructed lean-to extension is attached to the southeast end wall of the building and a recently constructed brick extension is attached to the southwest wall of this lean-to.

The roof of *King River Hall* is clad with corrugated galvanized steel roof sheeting with a rolled ridge cap. The barge-boarded half gables project from the building and have a timber cap and bargeboard with a scotia moulding to the top edge. The northwest gable end is lined with horizontal fibrous cement 'weatherboards' and the southeast gable is lined with vertical tongue and groove timber boards. The eaves to the southwest elevation project approximately 250mm from the building and the soffit is lined with battens. The eaves have a moulded fascia board with a colonial profile gutter with a scotia moulding under. On the northwest side of the Hall there is a single, centrally located face brick chimney with a corbelled cap.

The timber-framed walls are lined externally with painted galvanised iron with timber corner stops. The windows are two-pane double hung sashes with moulded architraves. The stumps supporting the building are visible below the wall cladding. They are 250mm diameter bush poles with galvanised iron ant caps. The ground is approximately 400mm below the underside of the floor structure.

The verandah to the building also has a corrugated galvanized steel roof although the eaves do not overhang and they have a sheerline gutter. The end walls to the verandah have timber end caps and bargeboards with a scotia trim, and the wall is clad with painted corrugated iron as elsewhere. The front wall of the verandah is treated differently.

The verandah has plain square section posts and a plain timber verandah beam. The western half has been partially enclosed with a balustrade clad with painted metal decking. A set of three timber steps with a timber handrail leads up to the verandah. The steps are located opposite the double doors that lead into the Hall. There is a set of picket gates at the top of the steps to control access to the verandah. The back wall of the verandah is lined with painted corrugated iron and the verandah soffit is unlined. The floor is laid with narrow 85mm boards. The double doors leading into the Hall consist of a pair of two-panel doors. The inner edges of the frame and lock rail have stop-chamfered edges and the panels are of diagonal tongue and groove boards.

The eastern half of the verandah has been enclosed to form a small room. The outer wall is lined with painted metal decking but the inner wall adjacent to the open section of the verandah is of composite construction. The upper triangular section under the roof is clad with corrugated iron; the lower section is clad with horizontal tongue and groove timber boards. There is a ledged tongue and groove board door leading into this room from the verandah.

The recently completed lean-to Kitchen Extension to the east end wall of the Hall has a lean-to roof clad in corrugated galvanized steel sheeting. The eaves have a timber fascia board and sheerline gutter. The eaves do not project from the building. The framed walls are clad externally with corrugated galvanized steel sheeting and they sit on cream face brick foundations. This room has a powder coated aluminium slider window and a flush panel door. A set of three brick steps with a painted steel handrail lead up to a flush panel door.

The Toilet Extension attached to the south wall of the Kitchen Extension has a skillion roof set at the same pitch as the adjacent extension but with a slightly lower pitching height. The outer wall to the Toilet Extension is also set slightly in from the wall to the Kitchen Extension. The roof to the Toilet Extension is treated in the same manner as that to the Kitchen Extension but the walls are of cream face brickwork. Both extensions have powder coated aluminium slider windows.

The layout of *King River Hall* is simple but has been made more complicated by recent additions. A flight of steps leads up to the verandah. Opposite the steps is a set of double doors that lead into the Hall. A door on the left (east) leads into the enclosed Verandah Room which accommodates equipment for the children's play group. A door in this room leads out to the enclosed play area. The verandah, enclosed Verandah Room and Hall are all accommodated in the original building. The remaining rooms all form a part of the recent extension.

In the far end (east) wall of the Hall there is a large server hatch opening into the Kitchen. A door to the Store Room and another to a small Lobby area flank this hatch. The Lobby provides access to the Kitchen and Toilet Extension as well as to an external door. The Toilet Extension contains a passage that leads to the Female Toilet, the disabled Toilet and the Male Toilet.

The Hall is a large rectangular space with a truncated ceiling that follows the underside of the roof truss structure. Two metal tie rods span between the long walls of the Hall. The walls and ceiling are lined with 180mm wide clear finished Oregon tongue and groove boards with a bead moulding. The timber door and window joinery is painted. The windows and original door openings have moulded timber architraves unlike the new openings, which have a plain bullnose profile. The door to the enclosed Verandah Room is original and matches the entrance doors with its four panels with diagonal timber boarding. The door to the Store Room is flush panelled and has a new architrave and the door to the Lobby has been removed but the original architrave is intact.

The timber floor to the Hall is lined with 85mm wide Wandoo tongue and groove floorboards and there is a 150mm high Jarrah skirting board.

There is a fireplace with a painted and plastered chimneybreast in the centre of the north wall with an arched opening for the firebox and a simple Jarrah mantelpiece. The firebox and metal grate are intact but the fireplace is no longer in use. There is a concrete hearth in front of the fireplace.

A World War One Honour Roll is fixed to the face of the chimneybreast above the mantelpiece. The Honour Roll is an embossed copper panel surmounted by a bronze star. The panel bears an image of a digger surrounded by the English and Australian flags with the words 'ANZAC Honour Roll 1914-1919'. Below this is a brass panel reading 'In honour of the heroes of King River who enlisted their services in the fight for freedom'. Below this are 30 names, each on an individual brass panel.

On some of the walls there are sporting trophies mounted on timber shields.

The enclosed Verandah Room is unlined. The corrugated iron roof sheeting and the timber and metal wall cladding is unpainted and the roof and wall timbers are only oiled. The red face brick back to the chimney projects into this room. The floor is laid with 150mm wide tongue and groove boards. There is no change in floor level between the Hall and this room. The verandah handrail with chamfered top is still extant and now forms part of the external wall structure. On the south wall of the room there is a row of metal coat hooks mounted on a timber board suggesting that this may have served as a cloakroom.

The finishes in the recently completed Kitchen, the Lobby and the Store Room are almost identical. The ceilings are lined on the rake with plasterboard and have cove cornices. The walls are also lined with plasterboard. The Store Room floor is clad with vinyl sheeting but the floors to the Kitchen and the Lobby are lined with ceramic tiles and have tile skirtings. The Kitchen has built-in cupboards with a tiled splashback above.

The Corridor to the Toilet Extension has a raked plasterboard ceiling, face brickwork walls and a ceramic tile floor and skirting. The Bathrooms, however, have sand finished render brickwork walls.

Generally the *King River Hall* appears to have benefited from regular maintenance and is in good condition. The exception to this is the southern external wall where the paintwork is in poor condition. This wall may have been left unpainted as it is planned to remove it as part of a proposed extension.

The recently completed extension to the rear of the building is in very good condition.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The first two agricultural halls in Western Australia were built in 1893, at Brunswick and Dardanup. They were not constructed under a Grant but were built under direct contract to the PWD. For halls built between 1894 and 1914, when the scheme was discontinued following the outbreak of war, a Grant-In-Aid was provided.

The HCWA database lists 1066 places as halls of various types, the majority of which (578) are listed as 'Other Community Hall/Centre'. Sixty-seven are listed as Agricultural Halls, of which seven are on the State Register. Thirty-one are identified as having been constructed between 1894 and 1914, while the Grant-In-Aid scheme was operating, including all seven Registered Agricultural Halls. It is likely that most of these were constructed under that scheme. There are likely many others not identified as agricultural halls.<sup>17</sup>

Those agricultural halls on the State Register besides *King River Hall* are:

- 00164 *Bally Bally Hall*, Beverley (1904): simple, single storey stone hall.
- 01369 *Agricultural Hall (fmr) Kellerberrin* (1898): single storey stone building with brick quoining.
- 01691 *Glen Forrest Hall* (1897): single storey octagonal Flemish-bond brick hall.
- 03242 *Tenterden Agricultural Hall* (1909, destroyed in bushfires 2003): a weatherboard and iron structure.

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<sup>17</sup> HCWA database.

- 03317 *Mechanics Institute, Katanning* (1896), originally Katanning Agricultural Hall. It is a single-storey brick building, which now forms an element of the town hall complex.
- Cuballing Agricultural Hall (fmr) (1898) which is part of 00618 *Cuballing Civic Precinct*. This is a single story Federation Free Classical style brick building with corrugated Iron roof.

Of the 67 Agricultural Halls listed in the database, only one other is a corrugated-iron clad building, P8978 Northampton Exhibition Hall (1950). Three are extant weatherboard-clad buildings, including one from the 1894-1914 Grant-In-Aid period (P2692 Hamel Hall (1900)).

Two buildings of similar scale, style and period to *King River Hall* are on the register. 00713 *Brookhampton Hall* (1899) is a weatherboard-clad building originally built as a school by local residents and used as a hall, with extensions, since 1903. It is adjacent to a sports oval. 03091 *Drakesbrook School (fmr)* (1898) is a weatherboard clad single-classroom building now used a community meeting place. It was largely reconstructed with new materials during conservation work in the mid 1990s and has only a low degree of authenticity and a moderate degree of integrity.<sup>18</sup>

Most agricultural halls, whether built in brick, stone, weatherboard or iron, have been outgrown for various reasons and have been either demolished and replaced with something more substantial, are unused, or have been put to other uses, including tourist centre, infant health centre or folk museum.

*King River Hall* is an excellent example of a modest iron clad agricultural hall from the Federation period. It is rare as such a corrugated iron clad example, and as an Agricultural Hall still in use for its original function.

Most communities established some sort memorial to locals who had served and died in World War One. On the whole memorials have survived, although many have been relocated. Honour boards are the most widespread type of memorial, found even in very small communities.<sup>19</sup> The Statewide survey of War Memorials lists 76 honour rolls, located at halls, schools, churches, civic buildings, and as free-standing monuments. It is likely that there are also honour rolls incorporated into other memorials and that smaller ones or those erected by private groups have not all been included in the survey.

The World War One honour board is a good representative example of a World War One honour roll commemorating the war dead from a small community.

#### 13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

#### 13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

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<sup>18</sup> HCWA database and assessment documentation.

<sup>19</sup> Richards, Oline. 'War Memorials in Western Australia', 1996, pp. 5&10.