

# COUNTRY WOMENS' ASSOCIATION HALL



**Founder**  
**Mrs. Gunning**

A Public Meeting was called on Friday 31st July 1958, at the home of Mrs D Gunning, with a view of opening a branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) in the area.

One month after the first meeting, on the 19th August the CWA's inaugural meeting took place, and Mrs Gunning was elected President. She continued to hold this position until 1971.



**Mannering Park CWA Junior Queen**  
**Lorna Graham**

Wanting to have their own rooms, the members raised money through street stalls, social afternoons and cookery contests. The young daughters of the members also helped to raise funds by conducting drink stalls and were involved in the one and only Junior Queen Competition that was held in Mannering Park.

In March 1960, Mr and Mrs Spencer generously donated a block of land in Warwick Avenue for the building of the CWA rooms.

Compiled By  
**Mannering Park Progress**

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# COUNTRY WOMENS' ASSOCIATION HALL

## CWA LIFE MEMBERS



**Dawn Baker**



**Essie Fullick on the far right**



**Lorraine Eades**



**Dot O'Reilly**

Mannering Park CWA has 4 life members, Essie Fullick, Dorothy O'Reilly, Dawn Baker and Lorraine Eades, all now deceased.



The rooms were also used by the Doyalson – Wyee RSL for Anzac Day services as well as many other community based activities such as Sunday School, Art Exhibitions, Melbourne Cup lunches and as a Polling Booth. It is still currently used for community activities today.

The local Electricity Company Delta has supported the branch from the beginning and continues to donate each year to assist with maintenance.



**CWA Awards**

Many members have successfully won awards at both Group and State levels.

In June a special meeting decided to purchase an army hut from the Department of Interior, this hut was located at the Greta Mining Camp in Singleton. The Mannering Park CWA obtained a loan from CWA Head Office in conjunction with the Church of England's Committee. The Church paid for one third of the building cost.

A group of local CWA members and other residents drove to Singleton, disassembled the hut and brought it back to Mannering Park where it was reassembled. All labour was donated as was the paint; however, the colours were not quite as requested with blue and yellow turning out to be green and mauve.

The first meeting in the new rooms was in December 1960 and included Mrs Lorna Tomkins nee Graham. Lorna was crowned the Junior Queen when she was 3 years of age. Lorna is still a member.



**Charity Queen Ailsa Graham (left)**  
**Runner Up Mrs. Nell Wignall (right)**

In 1961 the Department of Education requested a lease on the rooms for the first Infants School of Mannering Park. 22 pupils were enrolled. This arrangement lasted 3 years until the local school was built.

In 1962 a section was partitioned off for Dr Armstrong to use as a Surgery twice a week. Later in 1969 the rooms were used as a Baby Health Clinic, the Sister saw mothers and babies for their fortnightly weigh in and gave advice.



**CWA Craft Display**



**CWA Country of Study**  
**Portugal**

Fundraising was done by having fun activities and outings, however, nowadays is mainly conducted by holding stalls and raffles.

Mannering Park CWA make donations towards scholarships, supporting other charities, local schools and hospitals. Members of the CWA are active in the community supporting those who are in need giving of both their time and their expertise. Members also help out once a year at the CWA Tea Rooms at the Royal Easter Show, Sydney.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Information taken from 'A short history of the Branches belonging to the CWA of NSW Northumberland Group' published October 2022 and by local members.