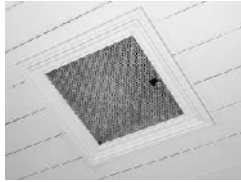


The School on Stewart Street

Visit us and enjoy our lovely old 19th century kauri and rimu building. The Raglan Old School building has a Category 1 heritage classification in the Waikato District Plan. It is the oldest building in Raglan without significant recent modifications. The Old School has been a focus for the community as a learning and activities centre since it was built in 1883. The aim of the Raglan Community Arts Council (RCAC) is to keep this building alive by creating a thriving centre for the arts in Raglan so the building is maintained, conserved, used and enjoyed.

With the 1877 Education Act, the then church school became a public school renting a room from the Raglan Highway Board. The school committee engaged builder Jim Pearce to build a one room school with a porch in Stewart St, which he completed in 1883 using local kauri.



The photo above shows an original 1883 ventilation grill.



1898 Raglan School photo with headmaster James La Trobe on the right. Elsie Fitz William nee Rendell is second from the left in the third row from the

back. Elsie recalls her time at school, "When I began school in 1898, it was a one-room, one-teacher school. No doubt Mr La Trobe was a kind old man, but with his long grey whiskers he seemed to my five-year old eyes, a figure to fear".

With the roll continuing to grow, in 1903 the porch was enlarged and closed in, to form a 4 metre by 5 metre room. Then in 1906 as the roll had moved up to 64, a new classroom was built in kauri to the left of the old porch. With the roll reaching 100, a fourth classroom was built using rimu timber onto the right side of the building in 1929.



Pupils recall bare kauri walls and floor, as shown in this 1980s photo.



The 1910 photo above shows a timber lath roof on the original RHS room built in 1883 and a corrugated iron roof on LHS 1906 addition.



The photo on the left of the 1906 LHS room shows the cathedral ceiling which provides a strong ambience.



Heritage features include the locally crafted kauri corbels (left) and twelve-light double-hung sash windows with hood moldings (right), which provided the inspiration for our logo.



The Old School

Teaching ended at Stewart St in 1962. The next year the building and land were vested in the Waikato District Council's predecessor, the Raglan County Council. The next few years saw the Old School used for shearing competitions, beauty competitions and in 1975 the building was used as an office and smoko room for the Raglan County Council depot. Elsie Fitz William recalls, ".....half-way up a steep hill; added onto several times over the years, it long gave way to the new school, and it is now a sad old building in the grounds of the Raglan County Council yard."

In 1978 the Raglan Museum looked at using the building for a museum. Miss N Thompson reported to the museum committee, "... renovation would be a big job as the building is very run down."

The Raglan County Council then looked at demolishing the building. But a campaign led by Glen Young, first chairperson of the RCAC, and Eva Rickard, a local kuia (Wise Old Woman) saw lawyer Ronald Young (now a high court judge) achieve legal protection for the Old School under the Historic Places Act. In 1984



The photo above shows Eva Rickard cutting the ribbon on 22 Jan. 1989 to open the Whaingaroa Arts & Work Centre in the Old School.

upgrading for use as an Arts Centre was discussed with the Raglan County Council and workers began tidying up the building. Management of the building was given to the Whaingaroa Arts & Works Centre in 1988, a combined group of the Raglan Community Arts Council and Eva Rickard's Whaingaroa Work Co-operative. At this time Glen Young described the building as 'derelict'. Volunteers from these two groups started work on refurbishing and restoring the building. In the following years, under the care of RCAC Chairperson, Marizio Sarzini, arts activities blossomed, such as the Raglan Summer School of Art started by Susan Flight. The 1989 photo below shows the cast of Godspell celebrating in the Theatre Workshop.



After the Whaingaroa Work Cooperative moved to their own building at the Kokiri Centre in 1994, management of the Old School passed to the Raglan Community

Arts Council. Work has continued on enhancements including a new building behind the Old School for a community pottery in 2001. The Old School was relaunched as the Old School Arts Centre in 2005, after the first step in a new round of renovations had begun. In April 2008, the Raglan Old School was registered as a Historic Place-category II by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

Community Gallery

The community gallery regularly hosts exhibitions of local arts. Check 'what's on' lists, or see the CONTACT US section to find out what's on now and what's coming up. If you'd like to host an exhibition, talk to our coordinators.



Theatre Workshop

The Theatre Workshop is an ideal venue for small events. Hold your classes, practice sessions, meetings, workshops or small conferences here. The room is equipped with a whiteboard and a video projector. A home theatre system can be provided to show DVD movies.

Capacities

Theatre	30
Boardroom	12
U shape	12

Catering for working lunches available. Off street parking provided.

Creative Workshops

The Old School Arts Centre has an ongoing programme of Creative Workshops. These include raranga, harakeke, mosaics, felting, painting, drawing, pottery, drama, dance and music. Check 'what's on' lists, or see the CONTACT US section to find out what's on now and what's coming up.

The Clay Shed

A very active part of the Old School Arts Centre is The Clay Shed, our community pottery. Come along to a workshop or join the pottery group and use the facilities.

Donations

The Arts Council welcomes donations to its youth arts fund. Grants from the fund assist local children and youth arts projects.

CONTACT US

The Old School Arts Centre is run by the Raglan Community Arts Council.

Telephone (07) 825 0023

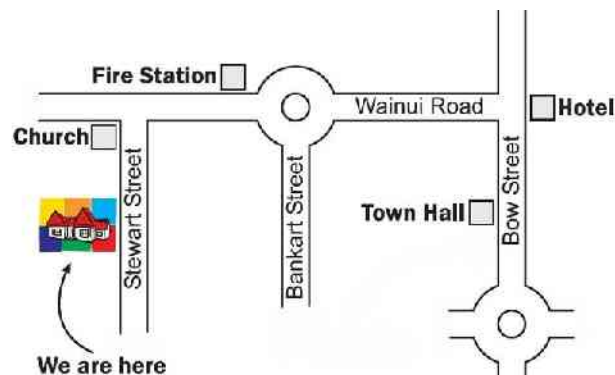
Email info@raglanartscentre.co.nz

Postal PO Box 91, Raglan 3265

Web <http://www.raglanartscentre.co.nz>

All enquiries and suggestions welcomed.

The Old School Arts Centre is at 5 Stewart St, Raglan, about a 5 minute walk from the shopping area in Raglan.



OUR SUPPORTERS



Prepared by Raglan Community Arts Council.

Published 01/05/2008, V0.4

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Photos courtesy of Raglan & District Museum, Gibbison Family, Heather Ellis, Rodger Gallagher and Alexander Turnbull Library, NZ.



Old School Arts Centre



Whaingaroa Creative Market
On the 2nd Sunday of each month

Stewart Street
Raglan
Whaingaroa