

# **Rooty Hill School of Arts**

**Ward 4 Property 13**



**Ward 4 Property 13 – Rooty Hill School of Arts**

PROPERTY NAME	Rooty Hill School of Arts
ADDRESS	Rooty Hill Road South, Rooty Hill Lot 1 DP 922399
DESCRIPTION	A single storey brick building with classical detailing on the frontage including pilasters, parapet, cornice and gable over the front entrance. Circa 1902-03.
HISTORICAL CONTEXT	Former School of Arts and site of the first Blacktown Council meeting, Rooty Hill School of Arts was built by the residents for community activities and was completed in 1903. The foundation stone was laid by Miss Angus of Minchinbury. The building was used for the first meeting of Blacktown Council in 1906.
LISTINGS	Blacktown City Council LEP
STRENGTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site of first Council Meeting (1906)</li> <li>• Attached to more recent additions (circa 1987)</li> <li>• Excellent location close to station and shops</li> <li>• Well used as a hall</li> <li>• Managed directly by Council rather than Management Committee</li> <li>• Reasonably sized space</li> <li>• Some vacant land/parkland surrounds</li> <li>• Fair condition although interior needs refurbishment</li> <li>• Lapidary club in permanent residence</li> </ul>
WEAKNESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little on-site parking</li> <li>• Current perceptions of use are limited and confused</li> <li>• Current use similar to Neighbourhood Centres</li> <li>• Memorial board has gone missing from the building</li> <li>• Some areas need maintenance upgrade eg kitchen flooring</li> </ul>

OPPORTUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible centennial celebration of birth of Blacktown Council on site</li> <li>• Joint activities with parkland, markets, etc</li> <li>• Drama uses/community theatre/music concerts</li> <li>• Community colleges/U3A</li> <li>• Potential to house a performing arts organisation</li> <li>• Indoor/outdoor sport</li> </ul>
THREATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for vandalism</li> <li>• Potential for neglect</li> <li>• Installation of new materials on building and grounds without consideration of appropriateness or long term usage eg playground equipment, synthetic turf, signage and shade cover (currently proposed but unfunded in Works Improvement Program)</li> </ul>
CONCLUSION	The hall is currently well used as such. Has the potential to be used for more prominent uses while maintaining local activities.
RECOMMENDATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess the impact of works to grounds through a heritage impact statement. Any improvements should be considered with regard to a mini-Conservation Management Plan</li> <li>2. Commemorate the Centenary of Blacktown Council (2006) by providing signage/interpretation/public art work</li> <li>3. Investigate the possibility of hosting a formal meeting of Council within the School of Arts building to commemorate and coincide with the Centenary of the first meeting of Blacktown Council</li> <li>4. Develop a plan for optimal use of the site, including consideration of housing a variety of arts groups</li> <li>5. Make improvements such as repair of kitchen flooring to increase appeal of site to potential users</li> <li>6. Locate and return memorial board to the site</li> </ol>
REFERENCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHI1140117</li> <li>• BCC Property file 164032</li> <li>• Local Studies Files – Rooty Hill School of Arts</li> </ul>

<b>Minimum Budgetary Requirements</b>							
<b>Property</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Proposed Purpose</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Reason for priority</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Estimated Cost (\$)</b>
Rooty Hill School of Arts	4	Community Space	Assess impact of works to grounds through heritage impact statement	3	as work is required	2006-2007	3 000
Rooty Hill School of Arts	4	Community Space	Repair - eg kitchen flooring	3	safety and ensure ongoing use	2006-2007	20 000
Rooty Hill School of Arts	4	Community Space	Install light fittings etc in keeping with the building	3	restoration	2006-2008	20 000

<b>Non Budgetary and Optional Budgetary Items</b>							
<b>Property</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Proposed Purpose</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Reason for priority</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Estimated Cost (\$)</b>
Rooty Hill School of Arts	4	Community Space	Return War memorial board	2	before lost track of	2005-2006	0
Rooty Hill School of Arts	4	Community Space	Develop a plan for optimal use of building including consideration of housing community arts groups	4	gain better use but not essential at this time	2005-2006	0

<b>Recommended Use – Retain use as community facility</b>	
<b>Minimum required budget</b>	<b>\$43 000</b>
<b>Recommended minimum non budgetary and optional budgetary items</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total funding required</b>	<b>\$43 000</b>