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## School Of Arts



School of Arts or Mechanics Institutes were first established in Australia in 1833. They aimed to provide further education for working men through public lectures, classes and access to a library. The schools flourished and became one of the leading providers of adult education in the colony. Provision of public education by the state and later provision of free public library facilities by local councils meant the end of the most of these institutions.

The first School of Arts in Leichhardt was built in 1904, mainly as a result of the efforts of J.S. Hawthorne, MLA for Leichhardt who secured a grant of £500 from the government. It began with 120 members and Mr Hawthorne was its first president.

A later building was opened in February 1914 by Hon A.C. Carmichael, Minister for Public Instruction and member for the area. It had a good library, recreation rooms and reading room, card room and 6 billiard tables.

During WW1 membership dwindled and in 1916 totalled 160. However, by 1921 an enthusiastic committee had pushed numbers to 525.

## Leichhardt Fire Station

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A fire brigade, known as the Leichhardt Volunteer Company, was originally formed in the area in 1887 but was disbanded when the current station was opened and permanent staff engaged.

The fire station is built in the Federation Arts and Crafts style to a design by E. L. Drew who was assistant government architect. The tender was let to J.C. O'Brien of Petersham in June 1905 and was built in 1905-06 under the direction of W.L. Vernon, Government Architect.

Leichhardt Fire Stations is one of a series of stations designed by Drew for horse drawn vehicles.



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## Leichhardt Public School



This group of buildings of sandstone and brick is a conspicuous landmark on their corner and Norton and Marion Streets. These buildings demonstrate an evolution of architectural styles produced by the NSW Government Architects Office in the Victorian Federation period.

Originally Leichhardt Public School operated out of a makeshift hall on this site from 1862. At this time it doubled as a Congregational church. Known as the Petersham School it began with 29 boys and 27 girls enrolled. By 1869 this number had risen to 110 pupils and a pupil teacher was appointed to assist.

During the 1880s more additions were made and in 1891 the infants department was built.

In 1897 the girls department building was constructed to a design by W.E. Kemp. Over the main entrance is a bell tower with a conical copper roof.

1875

Inventory of equipment: 48 scripture lessons. 96 framed slates 3 1/2 dozen pencil holders 5 bottles of ink 3 blackboards inkwells 18 Australian class books

1912

LPS ranked as one of the largest schools in the Country. there were 2,205 children enrolled

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## Bald Faced Stag Hotel



Situated on the corner of Parramatta and Balmain Roads the Bald Faced Stag has operated as a public house since the early 1830s. It has the distinction of having held a continuous licence longer than perhaps any other hotel in the Commonwealth.

The building began as a single-storey timber hostelry and was owned and operated by the Hearn family. Charles Hearn owned a large area of land nearby which was used by drovers as a stockyard and resting place for sheep.

The hotel has been rebuilt four times with changing architectural styles - Colonial, Late Victorian Italianate, Federation Free Classical and the latest c1920, a two-storey brick structure with ornamented parapet in the style known as Inter War Free Classical.



Leichhardt Council encourages the use of public transport. For timetable information call the transport infoline on 1300 500 or visit [www.1300500.com.au](http://www.1300500.com.au).

