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Funding our Arts Centre

How will we get the money? was our workshop in May. Facilitator Steve Payne said everyone had 'a real sense of determination and commitment'.

We anticipate needing up to \$3m to build Narooma Arts Centre plus do minor improvements to the Hall (Kinema) to facilitate live performances.

'We looked at what skills we needed, the diverse funding streams required, a timeline, and how to move forward,' Steve said. 'We're looking for more people with skills and contacts to help us.'

Our fundraising subcommittee first met 2 June.

Terry Cassells recently attended a great seminar on Philanthropy in Sydney.

Hendy assists us

We greatly appreciate the \$10,000 Community Heritage grant from the Australian Government's Department of the Environment towards recent work on the hall's restoration.

This was an election commitment by Member for Eden Monaro Peter Hendy.

It has freed up funds allowing us to pay back MACS' loan plus do other much needed work.



Funding workshop participants included Margaret Byrne, front left, Mina Watt, Tim Burke, Steve Payne, Paul Dixon; Graham Andrews, back left, Joy Macfarlane, Ingeborg Baker, Gene Turvey, Terry Cassells, Anne McCusker and Rody Byrne. Participants who are current SOA committee members are underlined.

Welcome to new members

We have welcomed several new members over the past six months.

They want to assist us in our important task of managing and enhancing \$1.8m of property assets owned by our community for the Arts.

These include the SOA Hall that houses the

Kinema, MACS' Cottage and the SoART Gallery.

New members are Cath Peachey, Greg Smith, Steve Payne, Christine Galbraith, Graham Andrews, Graham Peachey, and Neil Davies.

Membership forms are available from MACS' Cottage or downloaded from our website.



Rear of proposed Narooma Arts Centre

Our architect visits

Our architect Richmond Henty of ClarkeKeller met with the group guiding the new Narooma Arts Centre project in late May. Richmond is working towards lodging our development application with council within two months.

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Checked our webpage yet ? www.naroomaschoolofarts.com.au

It explains what the School of Arts is, our plans for Narooma Arts Centre, and how MACS' Cottage and the SoART Galley form our 'arts precinct' with the Kinema. Your friends may be interested in knowing how they could help so please spread the word. Membership and donation forms are also on the web page.

Jock decides 'It's time...'

Our School of Arts President for 19 years, Jock Munro, resigned as president in May. He said it was time to step down and to encourage someone else to lead the organisation through this next vital and exciting stage.

VP Gene Turvey is acting chair and the committee is considering Jock's replacement on the committee.

Long serving members recently paid tribute to Jock's leadership over lunch. They recounted how Jock joined a new committee in late 1995 when the community first took action to fix the School of Arts Hall (the Kinema). This followed Eurobodalla Shire Council's forced closure of the hall because of structural concerns.



Among guests at a 'thank you' lunch for retiring School of Arts President Jock Munro were Liz Ferguson, left, who originally nominated Jock for President, and committee members Mina Watt and Laurelle Pacey.

Under Jock's leadership, the committee carried out major work to strengthen the building's structure, enhance the stage, and later create the second cinema and disabled toilet. It also enabled a home for MACS in the cottage and created the SoART Gallery.

Jock was also responsible for clearing out 'the clutter'

of old theatre chairs in the women's dressing room and at the back of the stage to free these areas up again for live performances, and organised the clearing out of builders' rubble from under the Hall.

He is excited by plans to enhance the site with the new arts centre and facilitating live performances in the Hall.

Architect's visit continued from front page

That visit discussed certain design details of Narooma Arts Centre as well as some slight modifications to the southern end of the Hall to facilitate live performances, including gutting the downstairs toilet areas and dressing rooms and renovating them. Check website for details of the Arts Centre.

What to use to clad the new Arts Centre has been an ongoing issue which we think we have finally resolved. It has to be tough to be able to stand up to the coastal environment, require minimal to no maintenance, be long lasting, and also enhance what will be a signature building in Narooma.

After some discussion, Richmond suggested zinc paneling, with recycled timber panels in the front and rear sections. We have since examined images of buildings that have used zinc paneling. The committee thinks it will soften the exterior and appeal to the wider community.

It comes in several colours and takes on a lovely patina as it ages; 'organic' as some put it. While more expensive initially, it is lightweight and so should save on construction costs.

Government keeps us guessing

The NSW Government's proposal to repeal the *Trustees of School of Arts Enabling Act 1902*, the very act under which we operate, has caused us some anxiety. That, plus other moves, seemed like the Government wanted to take back our land after 119 years.

These were part of a review of Crown Lands legislation which included a recommendation to repeal some 'minor' legislation.

With assistance from two of our members (retired solicitors) and our solicitor, we sent in a submission supporting the Act's retention.

Laurelle Pacey also attended a seminar in Sydney which we hope gave us greater clarity. We think our original fears were unfounded. We now await the report on submissions.

**Be a financial member of the
School of Arts and help us achieve our
goal of making our site
a wonderfully vibrant and
creative arts precinct for everyone.**