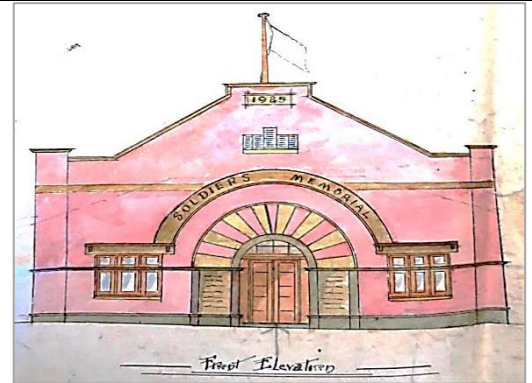


# Where we've come from

## HISTORY NAROOMA SCHOOL OF ARTS

1886	Village of Noorooma proclaimed
1895	First School of Arts Hall built by George Fuller using volunteer labour on land granted to community
1913	Second grant added
1918/1919	Community decided that Narooma's monument to its district's soldiers should be a new and 'noble and imposing structure' in the shape of a Town Hall 'worthy of the name of their brave soldiers', rather than a statue.
1919	Original SOA Hall temporarily converted to the emergency hospital for Spanish Influenza Epidemic.
1921	Third grant of land added for new Hall
1924	Plans for new multi-purpose Hall drawn up Bega architect Bob Thatcher. Committee decided plans too grand, 'too flash' and too expensive.
1925	Plans modified by Dick O'Donnell (builder two Tilba cheese factories). O'Donnell finished building by December 1925 despite some concerns it would be too small. Narooma's first brick building.
1928	Granite Honour Rolls donated by Dorman & Long from Moruya Quarry (Sydney Harbour Bridge). December – Projection equipment installed. Old Hall becomes a service station
1931?	Hall lengthened by 14ft in response to need for bigger hall, using bricks discarded when the hall was first built. Supper room incorporated underneath. SOA office built
1932	'Talkies' introduced
1937/38	Record tourist season highlighted need for bigger hall. Sydney architect drew up plans which were more elaborate than committee intended. Some members believed 'a first class job is less expensive in the long run than continuous alterations'. Plans deferred indefinitely due to petrol rationing and consequent drop in tourist numbers, and until the committee had more funds and 'international affairs more settled'.
1950	Caretaker's (Hall) cottage built. (Verandah added 1968)
1952	Architect C H Strachan-Smith drew plans for dedicated brick picture theatre ( <i>complete with dress circle/mezzanine</i> ) between two Halls. Never went ahead.
1955	Instead the Memorial Hall was extended increasing floor area by about 50%. Plans drawn up by Strachan-Smith, largely resulting in today's layout
1956	Cinemascope installed in Memorial Hall
1966	Original Hall sold to Narooma Motors' Harold and Daphne James with 25% School of Arts land (Lot 1)



O'Donnell's water colour of proposed 1925 building



Memorial Hall completed 1925 with 1895 Hall (right)



Anzac Day 1935



Architect C H Strachan-Smith's 1952 plans for dedicated brick picture theatre next to Memorial Hall – similar footprint to NACC

1971	SOA committee leased Memorial Hall to independent cinema operator Bardsley Theatres (tiered seating). Memorial Hall called Narooma Theatre
1983	SOA committee leased Hall's supper room to Council for library (until 2003 when library moved to Flat).
1986-2002	Lessees Dennis Davis and Stephen Walsh saw Hall's potential and gradually changed auditorium's 'tired 1970s décor' to create the illusion of 'picture palaces' of 1930s/1940s in art deco style, where venue design as important as show. Converted former downstairs supper room into men's toilets with internal access. Circa 1990 they adopted 'Kinema' name.
1995	Organisation incorporated as Narooma School of Arts & Soldiers War Memorial Hall Inc. Hall heritage-listed. Foyer remodelled, guided by Davis and Walsh who paid for new kiosk design. Council forced Memorial Hall (Kinema) closure after engineer's report identified 'structural faults' and therefore risk to public safety. Community rallied, took interest again, elected new committee, raised funds to fix problems. Issues addressed.
1997	Incorporated association becomes sole trustee
1997-1999	SOA rebuilt stage with permanent proscenium; new screen and waterfall curtain installed.
2003	Library moves to Flat. Council continues lease of old Library for use by MACS and other Arts groups.
2006	School of Arts committee began planning to expand facilities to meet community needs.
2007	Council transfers its lease from old Library in Hall to cottage for use by MACS and other groups. Cottage converted to Studios and Gallery.
2008	Former supper room and town library converted into second cinema with accessible toilet and foyer
2010	Council's consultants identify SOA site as Narooma's Arts Hub and recognise its potential.
2011	Narooma Motors surrenders lease of old SOA office – SOA converts it into SoART Gallery
2012	Design brief finalised; seven architects approached. ClarkeKeller began work with SOA on plans to enhance Memorial Hall (Kinema) plus build Arts Centre
2015	Arts Centre put aside while SOA completed Hall Project
2014-2018	Major work on Memorial Hall Project to fix major issues, make venue work better and facilitate live performances. Staged over several years, cost \$368,807 (82.2% funded by seven grants).
2018	SOA takes over Cottage to become SOA Studios. SOA resumes work on Narooma Arts & Community Centre (NACC) plans. MOU with Council
2020	NACC Development Consent
2023	Proposed opening of NACC
2025	December - Centenary of Memorial Hall



*Opening of Cinema 2 2008 – John and Janette Griffiths, SOA President Jock Munro and Cr Lindsay Brown*



*Hall Project completed early 2018 showing some of 'the team'*



*Narooma Arts & Community Centre (NACC) DA approved by Eurobodalla Shire Council*

