

Narooma's Memorial Hall Arts Project



Narooma School of Arts & Soldiers' War Memorial Hall Inc.
92 Campbell Street, Narooma NSW

Narooma's Arts Precinct in 2013



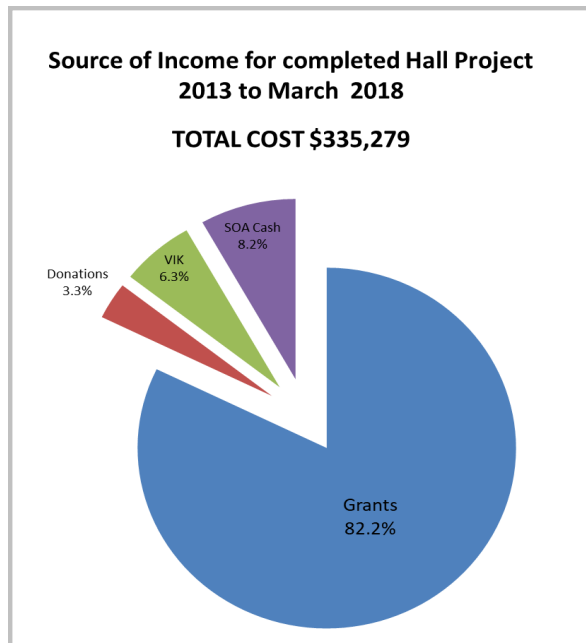
- Over 40,000 people p.a. visiting Narooma Arts' precinct.
- Land and three buildings owned by the Narooma community for the Arts in its broadest sense, education and entertainment
- Held in trust for the community and managed for them by Narooma School of Arts & Soldiers' War Memorial Hall Inc.
- It's an incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- Registered as a cultural organisation with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status



School of Arts' Hall Project

The community-owned Narooma School of Arts Hall (known locally as the Memorial Hall and the Kinema) was built in 1925. It operates as a cinema (two theatres) and a venue for live performances. Although well maintained over the years, little refurbishment or upgrades had been done other than the main auditorium and the old supper room.

This project addressed a number of issues identified by our stakeholders.*



It was managed by the School of Arts committee in close association with H & A Builders and architects ClarkeKeller.

The project was staged as grants became available and to minimise disruption to the commercial operations of the Kinema which is leased to independent operators. We spent \$335,279 (ex-GST) on the Hall Project over five years, 82.2% of which was funded by seven grants (see adjacent pie chart and table on following page).

The School of Arts committee continues to receive great feedback from the wider community about what has been achieved.

* **Stakeholders:** *Our wider community – School of Arts' members, patrons across all demographics (including children, youth, the elderly, Aboriginal people and the disabled), musicians and actors, and the wider community across south eastern NSW and the ACT, as well as the venue operator, tourists, Eurobodalla Shire Council and South East Arts.*

Issues addressed

1. **Leaking roof** – re-sheeted and insulated roof
2. Need to install **early smoke and fire detection systems** to meet current Australian Standards
3. Need to **upgrade downstairs toilets** to the standards today's audiences expect and deserve. The existing toilets dated from the

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Foyer congestion was an issue

The SOA Hall Project

Seven sub-projects completed March 2018

- ✓ Re-sheet and insulate roof plus sub-floor conservation work (completed 2013; \$44,490) — NSW Community Building Partnership and Federal Government grants, Quota donation plus SOA funds)
- ✓ Install solar panels (completed; \$21,225) — \$10,000 grant Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, \$4,499 from Rotary, Australian Government rebate \$6,726.
- ✓ Upgrade early fire detection systems (completed; \$19,106) — NSW Government Heritage Near Me program
- ✓ Renovate downstairs bathrooms and hallway (completed; \$81,428) — NSW Government Heritage Near Me program
- ✓ Construct awning north-east corner (completed; \$44,285) — NSW Gov't War Memorials Grant contribution , NSW Government Heritage Near Me program
- ✓ Repair hall exterior and repaint in art deco colours, re-gild plaques — NSW Gov't War Memorials Grant — \$39,399
- ✓ Create wing space both sides of stage, dressing rooms \$74,621 — Arts NSW Regional Capital Funding, Australian Government Stronger Communities Program

TOTAL COST \$335,279 (ex GST)



1950s and their condition discouraged people from using them. This increased pressure on the disabled bathroom upstairs, reduced access to that toilet for those who needed it, and contributed to congestion in the foyer. The bathrooms downstairs were gutted, re-plumbed and renovated. This has improved access and inclusivity for patrons and increased the Hall's appeal particularly to younger, disabled and elderly patrons.

4. **Congestion in the foyer.** This area was eased with bathroom renovations downstairs and the construction of a wrap-around awning. This improved the venue's 'functionality' and increased patron comfort and appeal particularly among the young, the disabled and the elderly.
5. The **lack of wing space on the stage** limited its use for live theatre and musical performances, as did the **lack of dressing rooms**. The western corner of the Hall was infilled to create wingspace on that stage, and space taken from an adjoining room to create wing space on the other, and two dressing rooms created.
6. **The Hall's exterior** needed moderate to significant remediation (including stormwater) plus repainting to en-

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sure conservation of the Hall's exterior.
Work done will maintain and conserve the Memorial Hall and reflects community pride and value in this iconic venue.

Overall Impact

This Project has ensured the Memorial Hall in Narooma Arts Precinct will continue as a safe, accessible and sustainable regional arts and cultural venue well into the future, and ensured the building's conservation and the community's ongoing appreciation of its heritage.

It has:

- ◆ enabled the hosting of more diverse cultural activities
- ◆ made it a more attractive destination to locals and tourists.

It is already bringing greater cross generational entertainment, social inclusion, a sense of pride of place, and boosting the town's economic development.







Narooma School of Arts & Soldiers' War Memorial Hall Inc.

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Narooma School of Arts is supported by



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