

## Solar panels start Hall's 90th

Narooma School of Arts has installed a 10kW solar panel system on the roof of the School of Arts Hall (Kinema), thanks to a philanthropic grant and a donation from Narooma Rotary Club.

The system should generate enough power for 25% of the Hall's power consumption. This will improve the commercial viability of the Hall's operations, particularly as a cinema.

School of Arts spokesman Laurelle Pacey said this should help ensure our community and tourists can continue to enjoy this wonderful venue into the future.

The solar panel project has been funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation in partnership with the Rural and Regional Renewal Fund (RRRF), a \$2,500 donation from Narooma Rotary, and a \$2,500 anonymous donation through Narooma Rotary.

Narooma Rotary president Bob Antill said 'the Club sees this as an investment in our whole community and in Narooma's future'.

'The Kinema is an important part of



*Narooma Electric's crew finalises the installation of a 10KW solar energy system at the Hall on Monday 22 February.*

Narooma's culture and is greatly valued by people of all ages,' he said. 'Rotary is increasingly becoming involved in projects to future-proof communities.'

The solar panels are part of the School of Arts multi-stage plans to upgrade the Hall this year to celebrate the Hall's 90th anniversary (see over page). It includes renovating the downstairs toilets, creating wing space to facilitate live performances, upgrading dressing rooms, a wrap-around awning at the front and side, fire safety upgrade, and exterior painting.

### Become a member

Narooma is in the extraordinary position of our community owning land and buildings valued at about \$2m dedicated for the arts — the School of Arts Hall (Kinema), MACS' Cottage and the SoART Gallery.

They're held in trust for the community by Narooma School of Arts & Soldiers' War Memorial Hall Inc organisation, managed by a voluntary committee. Be a member to ensure the organisation remains vibrant and can continue to own, manage and enhance our wonderful community assets.

The Hall is leased to John and Janette Griffiths to operate as twin cinemas and a venue for the performing arts.

The AGM of Narooma School of Arts & Soldiers' War Memorial Hall Inc is at 5.30 pm MONDAY 7 March in MACS' Cottage. All School of Arts members and friends are invited. Catch up with our progress towards enhancing Narooma's arts facilities and see how you can help. We hope to see you there.

Membership form available online or from MACS' Cottage  
[www.naroomaschoolofarts.com.au](http://www.naroomaschoolofarts.com.au)



Artist's impression showing the Campbell Streetscape with upgraded Hall on left and the proposed Narooma Arts Centre on the right. Image courtesy ClarkeKeller.

# First the Hall, then the Arts Centre

The School of Arts committee decided early last year to split off the Hall Project from the more ambitious Arts Centre project.

The Hall was turning 90 and needed some improvements to bring it up to the standards today's audiences expect, to improve its functionality and to increase its versatility as a venue for the performing arts, while not detracting from its charm.

## The Hall Project

### Seven sub-projects

- ✓ 1. Re-sheet and insulate roof plus sub-floor conservation work (completed 2013; \$44,490 — NSW and Federal Government grants, Quota donation plus SOA funds)
- ✓ 2. Install solar panels (\$10,000 grant from Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation plus \$5,000 donation through Rotary. Feb 2016)
- 3. Upgrade downstairs toilets
- 4. Create wing space both sides of stage, refurbish dressing rooms
- 5. Construct wrap-around awning north-east corner
- 6. Upgrade fire detection systems
- 7. Repaint hall exterior

**REMAINING COST:** Est. \$200,000

The committee has worked closely with our architect ClarkeKeller, the Griffiths (who lease the Hall from the School of Arts) and Council to finally get the Development Application approved and a Construction Certificate issued.

The School of Arts committee will soon approach local builders for quotes for the next stages of the project. Completing the project depends on what grants we can attract, donations, and what fundraising we can achieve. All donations are tax deductible.

Each stage will be done as funds become available and with minimal disruption to the Kinema's operations. All donations are tax deductible. We are also looking to raise funds locally.

Meanwhile we have continued to work with our architect on plans for the Arts Centre and are about 80% to the DA stage. We will get back to that and the community once the hall is sorted.



Our community started fundraising for the Hall in 1919. A successful fundraiser was the Queen of Narooma competition 1925. Photo Narooma Historical Society.