

Narooma News

Solar panels boost Narooma Kinema's future

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SOLAR PANELS: Yesterday Narooma Rotary Club donated \$5,000 towards the School of Arts' installation of solar panels on the Kinema roof. Shown are Tim Burke and Mina Watts of the School of Arts committee, left, Michael O'Connor and President Bob Antill of Narooma Rotary, and the School of Arts' Anne McCusker, Ingeborg Baker and Laurelle Pacey. Behind are Hall lessee Janette Griffiths and Cameron Rowley of Narooma Electrics.

Narooma School of Arts has installed a 10kW solar panel system on the roof of the community-owned School of Arts Hall that houses the Narooma Kinema, thanks to a philanthropic grant and a donation from Narooma Rotary Club. Rotary and School of Arts representatives celebrated the project's completion on Tuesday with a cake that also marks the 111th anniversary of Rotary International.

Spokesperson for the School of Arts management committee Laurelle Pacey said the system should generate about 25% of the hall's power consumption. "This will improve the commercial viability of the hall's operations, particularly as a cinema, which should help ensure our community and tourists can continue to enjoy this wonderful venue into the future," she said.

The 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. The work was done by Narooma Electrics.

"Our club sees this as an investment in our whole community and in Narooma's future," said Narooma Rotary president Bob Antill. "The Kinema is an important part of Narooma's culture and is greatly valued by people of all ages. Rotary is increasingly becoming involved in projects to future-proof communities."

The solar panels are part of the School of Arts committee's multi-stage plans to upgrade the hall this year to celebrate the hall's 90th anniversary.

"It includes renovating the downstairs toilets, creating more wing space to facilitate live performances, upgrading dressing rooms, a wrap-around awning at the front and side, fire safety upgrade, and exterior painting," Ms Pacey said. "We estimate we will probably have to raise \$180,000 – \$200,000; completing the project depends on what grants we can attract, donations, and what fundraising we can achieve. Each stage will be done as funds become available and be done with minimal disruption to the Kinema's operations."

All donations are tax deductible.

Eurobodalla Shire Council recently approved the Development Application for this project and issued a Construction Certificate. The School of Arts committee will soon approach local builders for quotes for the various stages of the project.

Ms Pacey said the voluntary committee decided last year to complete the hall upgrade before moving forward with plans for the Arts Centre in consultation with the wider community.

The School of Arts Hall, MACS Cottage and the SoART Gallery are owned by the Narooma community, held in trust for the community by the School of Arts, managed by a voluntary committee. The hall is leased to John and Janette Griffiths to operate it as twin cinemas and a venue for the performing arts.