

AUGUST 26 2019

## School of Arts' vision 'nails it'

There was plenty of interest at the SoART Gallery when guests gathered to view the latest design for the proposed Narooma Arts and Community Centre on Friday.

Many viewing the Narooma School of Arts' images and plans were "thrilled" with the vision for Narooma.

"Everyone who has been involved in the project with our architects, ClarkeKeller, is excited to see the results on display, and they look stunning," Narooma School of Arts president Jenni Bourke said.

"It's for everyone, not only artists."

Members and three Narooma-based councillors were invited to preview the exhibition before it opened to the general public. Councillor Phil Constable congratulated everyone involved.

"Good on you for having the determination and commitment to pursue such a vision," Cr Constable said.

"The planning and tireless work that's gone into bringing it from the original concept to the design stage for the development application we see here today has been immense.

"To the School of Arts' committee and members, architects ClarkeKeller and the design team, well done. It is a great team effort.

"My father, a longstanding committee member of the School of Arts, would have been most proud."



*Narooma School of Arts President Jenni Bourke said the Arts & Community Centre is not just for artists, "it will be for everyone in our community and the ways it can be used will only be limited by our imagination". Photo by Cat Wilson*

Cr Constable was aware of the challenge to design a building that would not detract from the Kinema.

"I believe this design will not detract from the Kinema and in fact will enhance the streetscape," he said.

"I think you have nailed it."

Ms Bourke urged the community to drop into the SoART Gallery over the next few weeks to take a close look at the plans after details have been changed in response to community feedback.



*The Narooma Arts & Community Centre consultative group includes Anne McCusker, Jenni Bourke and Margaret Moran. Photo by Cat Wilson*



*Narooma School of Arts President Jenni Bourke, with Narooma Chamber of Commerce President Matt Deveson, left, and Narooma-based Eurobodalla Shire councillors Lindsay Brown, Phil Constable and Patrick McGinlay at the opening of the Narooma Arts and Community Centre exhibition. Photo by Cat Wilson*

She said work on ideas for the Centre began over 10 years ago but the School of Arts committee, all volunteers, put plans to one side in 2015 to concentrate on doing major work on the Kinema.

"We estimate over 100 people have been involved in developing the plans over the years, and the School of Arts has invested about \$130,000 in hard cash and in-kind to get to this stage."

The exhibition continues in the SoART Gallery (next to the Kinema) until Friday, September 13. Opening hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10-3pm; Saturdays 9-1pm.

The School of Arts intends to lodge the development application with Eurobodalla Shire Council by the first

week of September. Once the development application is approved, the School of Arts will seek funding.



*Narooma Chamber of Commerce president Matt Deveson, left, Narooma School of Arts secretary Laurelle Pacey, Cath and Graham Peachey at the opening of the Narooma Arts and Community Centre exhibition. Photo by Cat Wilson*