

New-look Lennox Head Cultural Centre unveiled

Minister for the Arts, The Honourable Don Harwin MLC, officially opened the Lennox Head Cultural Centre today, marking the completion of a \$2.58 million upgrade. This project is thanks to the \$1.83 million investment from the NSW Regional Cultural Fund and \$750,000 from Ballina Shire Council.

From the outside, the most noticeable change is the new-look turrets that are now covered in zinc. The zinc will be ideal for keeping away corrosion and will last up to 100 years. Their appearance will also change over time. As it ages, the zinc will develop a patina finish and throw blue and green tones.

Guests at today's opening were treated to a tour of the centre as well as a stunning visual showcase in Park Lane Theatre. A video featuring the natural beauty of our region, by local filmmaker Stephen Jones, was displayed on the theatre's new 6-metre retractable projector screen.

Following the Minister's address and plaque unveiling, local performer Katie Rutledge gave a moving rendition of the Puccini Aria 'O mio babbino Caro'. Her performance was the perfect way to showcase the theatre's upgrade, including improved insulation and wall linings which enhance the acoustics.

Other improvements to the centre include:

- Installation of air-conditioning to the theatre and central foyer, providing year-round comfort for patrons.
- A new roof and 80kw solar power system
- New internal linings to the theatre ceiling, walls and carpet tiles
- Installation of a laser projector and six-metre retractable screen at the rear of the stage.

It is hoped that the freshly renovated centre will be a cultural hub for the Northern Rivers, attracting more shows and larger crowds.

"Ballina Shire Council is a strong believer in creating cultural diversity and artistic strength in the Northern Rivers," said Mayor David Wright.

"Not only will this provide additional income to operate and maintain the facility, but it will bring income into businesses across the community."

Seating capacity in Park Lane Theatre has now increased from 480 to 580 people and up to 800 people can be accommodated for standing room performances and activities.

While public health orders currently reduce the number of patrons allowed, the Lennox Head Cultural Centre, including Park Lake Theatre, is open for bookings.

To learn more about the spaces and facilities on offer, including the ability to livestream events from the theatre, contact Council's friendly community facilities staff on 6687 6291.

The \$2.58 million Lennox Head Cultural Centre enhancements has been funded through the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund, and Ballina Shire Council.

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Pictured L-R: Cr Jeff Johnson, Mayor David Wright, Minister for Arts The Hon. Don Harwin MLC, Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Eoin Johnston.