

Organiser: Tessa King

Beneficiary: Kucom Theatre Inc

Kucom Theatre Community – Take Your Seats!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Friends of Kucom, and all those who would like to assist in developing a vibrant community theatre, are invited to participate in our next stage of building development which is an exciting addition to the theatre. Kucom Theatre is currently raising funds to provide retractable seating for the comfort of our theatre audience and to facilitate multipurpose use of the auditorium space. This is a major project which will make our theatre more comfortable for patrons and performers, and enable us to provide a venue for other community groups to utilise. To get involved with the project you can make a donation here through our [GoFundMe](#) page. Donors of \$150 or more have the option of having your name or that of a family member engraved on a seat as a record of your contribution (details are provided below). Individuals or businesses also have the option of having their name or the company's name added to an Honour Board which will be permanently mounted in the theatre (details below)

History of the theatre



Kucom Theatre is a not-for-profit organisation that has been operating in Mackay, (Queensland, Australia) since 1947. We started out with a different name back then and depended on members to provide their homes and backyards for rehearsals and set building. In 1966, the committee had the foresight to purchase land and a building to centralise the activities of the club. They managed to pay for it with community involvement and by providing quality live entertainment. By the mid '80s the Clubhouse

was converted to a small theatre in an effort to deal with the competition and costs of local performing venues. Kucom was able to survive thanks to extended seasons in the Clubhouse.

Eventually the Clubhouse became too difficult to maintain and we needed to move. Fortunately the land was quite valuable and provided us with enough money to start looking for new premises. Thanks to the Mackay Regional Council we were able to obtain a lease on land in the 'Cultural Hub' located in North Mackay. Thanks to a Council grant we were able to construct a purpose-built premises to replace our old Clubhouse.

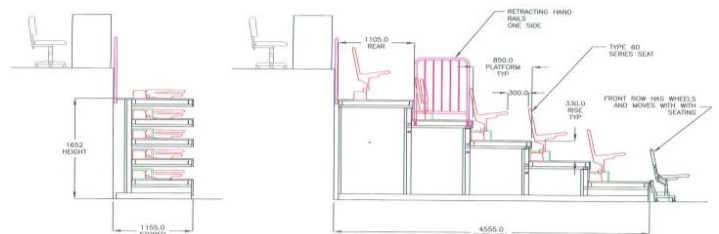
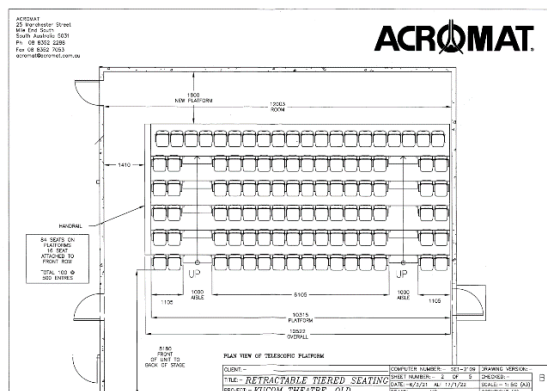


Unfortunately, while the money was able to provide a building that could be used, there was little to no outfitting of the inside completed. The Gambling Community Benefits Fund provided us with a small grant which allowed us to begin setting up a lighting system. Currently, a second grant will allow us to complete a technology platform at the rear of the auditorium in preparation for adding the seats.

There are several projects that we are looking at to finally complete the theatre, and those we have in mind are listed in the current [Strategic Plan](#). However, we cannot depend solely on grants to help us complete these projects. Organisations offering grants look favourably on groups who carry out their own fundraising for projects that need to be done. Our aim will be to continue seeking suitable grants, but at the same time we need a fundraising program of our own.



The seating project that we are looking at now provides a great opportunity to give a focus for fundraising. It is a major project and means that we can exchange our current plastic garden chairs for comfortable, retractable, tiered seats.



The need for tiered seating in a theatre is obvious; even in a small theatre vision gets blocked from the third row, and retractable seating would mean that, when the seats are out of the way, the auditorium space will be available for other things like drama classes, set building and community activities generally.

Ways you can donate:

- You can become part of this project by using the '**Donate Now**' button and donate any amount. All contributions are gratefully appreciated.
- **Adopt a Seat.** Those who contribute \$150 to this campaign are entitled to have their name (or that of a family member or friend) attached to one of the 100 new seats. All donations of \$200 or more will enable you to choose which seat will hold your name (subject to availability at the time and on a 'first come' basis).
- **Major donors.** Individuals and Businesses who are major donors to Kucom Theatre will be recognised by means of an Honour Board as a 1-, 2-, 3-, 4- or 5-star contributor and granted other ongoing privileges.
- **Simon's Vortex.** When you visit the theatre, you will find 'Simon's Vortex' in the foyer. Loose change down the Vortex has provided plenty of fun for contributors as the coin rolls down the side chute and spins until it drops. Every little helps, and any contributions are always gratefully received.
- **Containers for Change.** Why not donate your refunds from can and bottle recycling to Kucom Theatre? Simply write Kucom's number (C10180165) on your bag of bottles/cans when you drop them off at a facility.