



Kucom Theatre Incorporated

Strategic Plan 2013 - 2025

History

Kucom Theatre Incorporated, in Mackay Queensland, has a very long history. In 1947 the Mackay Community Theatre was formed to present quality theatre productions for the Mackay Community. And they did so for many years until, in the mid '70s, a younger group of members wanted to change the traditional direction, which included classical plays and musicals at the exclusion of modern comedy. They formed a new group which would be dedicated to the production and presentation of professional quality theatre. This group was called Kudos Theatre and breathed new life into the local theatre scene. After a number of years Kudos and the original Mackay Community Theatre merged under the name Kudos Community Theatre, later changing to Kucom Theatre on incorporation.

Mission statement

To promote excellence in the production and presentation of theatre of all forms, as well as the exhibition of art forms, and all cultural activities. This includes training in all aspects of theatre arts in the Mackay Regional Area and elsewhere and to provide support for other community groups where possible.

There is a sense among those who make the arts happen in regional Australia that funding bodies are "city-centric". What is not always realised by arts bureaucrats (and politicians who ultimately have the final say in supporting the arts) is that it is the regional centres of Australia where many of the nation's creative people have begun active and often professional careers. This is no more so than in Mackay, a city of more than 100 000 people.

Mackay has a strong tradition of theatre arts. Kucom Theatre, with its roots dating back to the early part of last century, has always been a progressive and creative arts centre. That it is basically a self-funding organisation with its own theatre and a tradition of good local patronage, should demonstrate the importance of its position in the cultural life of this part of Australia. But this record of "local patronage" has not come without the local community's unshakeable trust and pride in the organisation called Kucom Theatre.

In regional Australia, the arts are alive because organisations like Kucom are strong. The future of all theatre arts in Australia will be strong too, as long as funding bodies and governments accept that the nation's arts culture can only be as strong as the arts culture of ALL Australians.

Jan and Lorraine Smith, 2021 - Kucom Life Members now living in Canberra

About us

Kucom Theatre is a not-for-profit organisation. Over our long history we have regularly encouraged community involvement in performance works of a high standard and provided creative opportunities for actors, directors, set designers, lighting and sound technicians. Training is available for young and old as well as those who have disabilities. Our Youth Drama Group caters for students 13 to 18 years of age and the Theatre Sports Program is aiming to provide new experiences for younger adults as well as older people who are keen. Kucom is also happy to encourage local people to write their own plays for us to perform. While we do not provide direct training for future employment as such many of our past members have found places in the performance industry as actors or fulltime backstage and lighting as well as sound technicians.



My first experience with Kucom was when I was 20. I was running a lot at the time and decided to stop in to Kucom on my way from training one evening. I attended a show, which I can't remember or the actors in it but I must have enjoyed the experience enough to turn up to an audition for a romantic comedy. I ended up doing a few shows for Kucom, including 'Cosi', which we performed in the old Cloud 9 Building.

I had gotten to a point in my studies where moving to Brisbane seemed like the natural progression, where I later went in to study a bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) at QUT.

It was amazing to be able to come back to Mackay and perform a show I've written myself, in front of so many familiar faces. That was as comforting as it was daunting, but I loved it all the same.

I look forward to the opportunity of bringing my next piece of work back to my former stomping ground, as I believe it will be equally well received.

My best to the future success of the company, which I will continue to support wherever I'm able.

Luke Townson, 2021 – Actor

Kucom has provided valuable support for the wider community by utilising established communication links with our wide support network through Facebook, Instagram, our Network News and local radio stations. For example, through these channels Kucom has been able to find volunteers for the Mackay Airport to run a full-scale airport emergency exercise and has linked with businesses to provide actors for the production of safety and corporate videos.

Usual program schedule for the year		
Activity	Frequency	Details
Productions	4 per year (minimum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Season of one act plays • Full plays • Fringe activity connected to the Mackay Festival of Arts
Youth Drama Class	Weekly class during school semesters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement, voice stage craft and improvisation • Play Writing • Public performances. • RADF grant for Community Pantomime project involving younger students and adults as well
Theatre Sports	Training sessions culminating in show nights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions are used to introduce games • Audience is invited to shows
Club Nights	At least twice a year, but as often as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily social nights open to the public • Members perform various short items including monologues, poetry, short plays, musical items
Training workshops in acting, directing, play writing, lighting and sound	A number of workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs developed as and when appropriate • Lighting workshop program already exists
Extra activities (potential hire opportunities that have happened or are being discussed)		
Tai Chi		
Guitar School Recital		
Ukulele Workshop		
Touring Shows		



Much of what Kucom does depends very much on the development of our own theatre space to perform in and make available to others. Community Theatre had acquired an old house and land back in 1966, which was used as a clubhouse. It was financed with 'chook raffles' in the local pub. In the late '70s, as the cost for venues became prohibitive, the Clubhouse was transformed under Kudos Community Theatre to a little theatre venue which could seat 65 people for a performance. In 2011 the Clubhouse and land were sold,

leaving Kucom Theatre looking for new accommodation. This strategic plan covers the move to our new theatre and the projects we have had to look at in order to get the theatre building up to a performing standard, as well as things we will need to do to develop the building further in an effort to expand its community use.



Currently we are concentrating on raising funds to install retractable tiered seating. Tiered seating is important in a theatre to give every audience member the opportunity for uninhibited viewing of productions. Retractable seating provides greater flexibility in auditorium space. The Youth Drama Class uses the auditorium space, as does the Theatre Sports training session, and in the future we hope to make it more available to other community groups.

Kucom has not previously had a formal strategic plan, which is why some historical information relating to the theatre development has been included here along with the future plans.



Infrastructure	
Development of the theatre	Completion date
<p>2011 – 2013: Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Searched for a building to lease or purchase which would be suitable for our needs. • Mackay Regional Council (MRC) advertised land leases which were available around the region. • Applied for a lease in Snow Wright Court, an area that the Council encouraged other community organisations to build on and centre their activities there. • We were granted the lease on the land in Snow Wright Court near the end of 2013. 	<p>2013 the lease was signed with the MRC</p>
<p>2013: Storage container</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needed to move our equipment out of storage rental. • Purchased a suitable second hand container. • Got permission to place the container on the land that we had leased. • Tied the container down as required by the MRC. • Equipment was moved into container. 	<p>2013: container was acquired and tied down as requested by MRC</p>
<p>2013 – 2017: New building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A design for the new theatre was drawn up and approved by the members. • MRC approved the plans. • Steve Taylor was contracted to build the building. • Building was completed at the end of 2016. • Keys for the building were handed over ready for us to plan our 2017 season in the theatre. 	<p>2017: keys to the building were handed over. Building was usable but very little of the outfitting needed to put on performances was completed.</p>

<p>2017: Stage modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage modules were needed to create a performance floor where flats could be attached. • Modules were designed and built to create a stage floor. 	<p>2017: the first lot of stage modules was completed.</p>
<p>2017: Lighting system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lighting system was designed for the new theatre with five lighting bars, two lighting racks and a control desk. • The lighting racks and control desk were brought from the old Clubhouse theatre and needed to be mounted in the new theatre • 2017 a grant of \$16,000 allowed two lighting bars to be installed and control equipment to be wired in and mounted on the wall 	<p>2018: lighting system partially completed to a standard that allowed productions to occur.</p>
<p>2021: Technology platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A technology platform at the back of the theatre was designed to allow the lighting and sound technicians to work above the audience. This creates much needed storage underneath. • In 2021 a grant of \$34,600 was provided to complete this project and to update some of our control equipment 	<p>It is planned for the technology platform to be completed by the middle of 2022.</p>

FUTURE PROJECTS	
<p>Dressing rooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outfit and air condition the dressing rooms 	
<p>Solar panels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panels to offset electricity costs 	Apply for grants
<p>2021 – 2023: Retractable tiered seating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred seating is made in Australia by the Acromat Company in Adelaide. • Introduce a campaign asking the local community to donate to the project. Other fundraising activities to be organised by the Fundraising Subcommittee. • Apply for grants to make up the difference. The front row providing disability access might make us eligible for disability grants 	Major fundraising number one priority
<p>2022 – 2024: Completion of lighting system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update stage lights to LED version • A lighting bar is planned for in the construction of the technology platforms • The current bar over the lighting platform can be moved forward into the front of house position • Two more bars will be needed, one over the middle of the stage and one further back so cyclorama effects can be created • Wiring will be needed from the bars to the distribution box on the lighting platform (terminal leads are already connected in the distribution box which has the capacity for 70 leads) 	
<p>2024: Deck added to front of building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deck added to the front of the building would help to expand the foyer space and provide an alternative venue for community-based activities. 	
<p>2026: Covered concreted area at back of building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set and prop building activities are best done outside in a covered area. 	



What an excellent production. Mackay theatre goesers this is a wonderful show. It was written by an indigenous man from WA. I wanna see more. Congratulations cast n crew!

Veronica Ah-Wong, local indigenous elder - audience, "Honey Spot" 2019

My Granddaughter saw the play (Honey Spot) tonight and her comment was "Wouldn't it be wonderful if the play was seen in schools in the Mackay area, to focus and embrace friendship, to overcome prejudices and bullying in schools". Thank you one and all for a wonderful play.

Beverly Sleeman - audience, "Honey Spot" 2019



"WOW! Fantastic show! So different, so clever, so confronting. Well done, Kucom!"

Brooke McReynolds – audience, "When the Rain Stops Falling" 2021