

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sawtell Cinema One Step Closer to Revival

Coffs Harbour City Council (CHCC) today approved the development application (DA) for renovation of Sawtell's historic cinema. The approval triggers the sale of the building to Sawtell Cinema Pty Limited, a group of 19 local patrons with plans to revitalize and reopen the much-loved cinema.

The renovation plans submitted with the DA were created by g2 architects, in conjunction with a heritage expert, and promise to retain the 1940's façade and ambience, while incorporating modern comfort and technology.

Plans call for the cinema to be divided into two theatres, each with digital projection equipment. Where generations of cinema patrons have had to trudge through the rain for a pit stop, toilets may soon be incorporated inside the theatre. Local behinds will be delighted that new seating features in the plan. And the menu looks set to extend well beyond Choc Tops, with café facilities planned.

"It's very exciting, but we have a long way to go yet," cautions Jill Nash, Chair of Sawtell Cinema Pty Limited. The actual sale of the building will not be settled for at least 21 days, after which a construction tender will be held to source a builder and finalise a budget for the project.

"We are investigating types of carpet, available seating, digital projection technology and the list just keeps growing. It's a very steep learning curve and we want to make sure we get it right," she says.

To "get it right" is going to require the full support of the community. "We can't do this without support," she says empathically.

To keep up with what's happening, people are invited to follow on Facebook (www.facebook.com/savesawtellcinema) or to join the mailing list by visiting the Sawtell Cinema website which is currently under development (www.sawtellcinema.com.au).

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