

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **SAWTELL CINEMA OPEN HOUSE AND AUCTION**

Sawtell Cinema today announced an auction on Saturday 16 May at 10am in anticipation of cinema renovations. On the blocks will be a vintage popcorn machine, banks of cinema seats, stage curtains, movie posters and more.

Also under the hammer will be two cinema seats that have been transformed into heritage artworks by local artist John Van Der Kolk. "We gave John access to one bank of seats so he could show us what might be possible," says Jill Nash, Sawtell Cinema Chair. "The outcome is nothing short of spectacular."

The cinema doors will be thrown open to the community the day before the auction, Friday 15 May from 11am to 2pm. It's a chance to inspect items before auction and to sit in the old cinema one last time.

Even if you just want a quick sticky beak, you are encouraged to drop in. Representatives from Sawtell Cinema will be on site throughout the Open House to answer questions.

After over 70 years in operation, the Sawtell Cinema closed its doors in December 2012. A group of local cinema lovers stepped up to save the heritage First Avenue cinema, with an offer to purchase the building contingent on approval of their plans to revitalize.

The Coffs Harbour City Council (CHCC) approved renovations plans in March. Designs were created by g2 architects, in conjunction with a heritage expert, and promise to retain the 1940's façade and ambiance, while incorporating modern comfort and technology.

"We will be keeping some of the heritage pieces to add to the ambiance of the theatre," says Nash. "However some things do have to go. We are excited that people in the community will have a chance to own a piece of our cinema's history."

For more information on plans for Sawtell Cinema visit their website [www.sawtellcinema.com.au](http://www.sawtellcinema.com.au). Join the mailing list to be informed of the latest developments as they happen.

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A Sawtell Cinema seat being transformed in John Van Der Kolk's workshop



Two Sawtell Cinema seats transformed by John Van Der Kolk on display in the Cinema foyer