

NAROOMA SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

SCHOOL OF ARTS - repairs and exterior design

The NSW Community Development Fund War Memorials Grant was the major source of funds for this part of the project.



OLD EXTERIOR DESIGN



NEW EXTERIOR DESIGN



The community's original intention back in 1925 was to feature the rising sun insignia of the Australian Imperial Force on its Memorial Hall

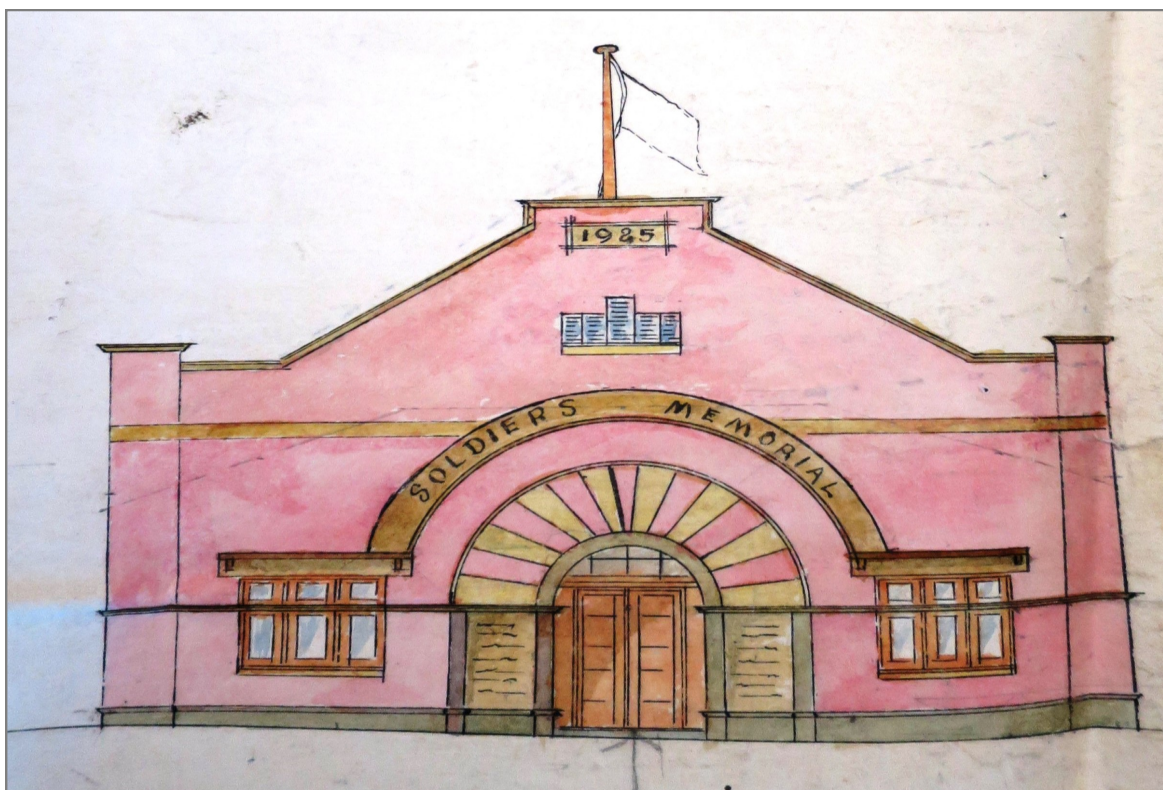
Bega architect Bob Thatcher's design for Narooma Soldiers' Memorial School of Arts in 1925 (see below) was rejected by the SOA management committee as being too flash, too big and too expensive.

Image courtesy Bega Museum



The SOA management committee asked Sydney builder Dick O'Donnell, then building the cheese factories at Central Tilba and Tilba Tilba, to come up with a more simple design (see below) which they accepted.

Both designs included a representation of the rising sun, the AIF symbol. He completed the hall in December 1925. Image courtesy State Records of NSW.





However the hall was not painted for many years, as can be seen with the 1935 Anzac Day photo (above), and the 1950s photo (left).



The exterior was not painted until the 1960S/1970s, but no one today can recall the colour. In 1990 it was painted in the colours below. The original colour design with the rising sun was never implemented until 2017. The original design had been lost to the management committee and the community until late last year.



The School of Arts Management Committee appointed a panel of six local artists, five of whom are members of the School of Arts, to come up with an exterior colour design to represent its heritage significance as a War Memorial (referencing Dick O'Donnell's original design), to resonate with the art deco interior design, and to reflect its vibrancy as a venue for cinema and the performing arts. Their design was approved by Eurobodalla Shire Council's heritage consultant.



Top left: Three of the artist design panel (graphic artist and signwriter Mick Pepper, left, Jenni Bourke and Ingeborg Baker from the School of Arts management committee) at work.

Top right: Working on the exciting new exterior colour design on Narooma School of Arts Hall (Kinema) are Mick Pepper of Waratah Signs, left, and South Coast Decorators Hahn Gunthorpe, Tony and Scott Barker.

Below: The panel of artists are thrilled with the community's response to the new design of this much loved and iconic Narooma building. Shown are Ingeborg Baker, Mick Pepper, Jenni Bourke, Janet Jones and Margaret Moran. Absent was Joy Macfarlane.







