

WOODVILLE SCHOOL OF ARTS

Living history since 1877

www.woodvillehall.org



4 June, 2013

HELP WRITE OUR NEXT CHAPTER

The School of Arts and its hall on Paterson Rd, has stood at the centre of Woodville and district community life since about 1870 - first as the Woodville Mutual Improvement Society, and then from 1876 as the Woodville School of Arts.

It is a beacon of great local pride because the land and the buildings (there have been two halls over 137 years) were donated by members of the community, and throughout all those years have remained in independent community ownership and management.

Our School of Arts was part of a movement that began in Scotland in the 19th century and swept across Australia, particularly in country areas, to provide adult education at a community level. Lectures, debates, meetings and a carefully managed library were keenly attended. Decades later the hall became the venue for all the local social events – big dances and parties, and even wakes. It has always been our official flood refuge (we still have the flood rescue boat, the “Iona”) - and most importantly - has always served as the school hall for the Iona Public School.

Long after most schools of arts, mechanics institutes and similar organisations have failed and their buildings handed over to local government ownership, or sold up, Woodville continues to prize its hall, with bands of volunteers working hard to keep it in good order for its important community role. But this is always a year to year proposition. The hall has no main paying tenant or benefactor. Event hire provides most of its slim income.

State Government grants for our hall in recent years provided a new roof, new wiring, insulation, and a new commercial kitchen. But fund-raising by the WSoA committee and the Iona Public School P & C must pay all the recurring bills. The biggest of these now is our annual insurance bill of about \$5,000: we need to raise \$100 a week for insurance alone. Without volunteers there would be no Woodville School of Arts, and there would be no school hall.

Thanks to our successful ‘Woodville 200: Living History’ bicentenary celebrations last October we raised the money to have our old tallow wood floor renovated and polished. It has added greatly to the beauty of our historic hall and its interior now literally shines.

The hall and the community are clamouring for additional events and the committee is keen to increase their variety and frequency. But we need extra hands for these ambitions. Currently, our efforts are limited by the small number on our committee and we sorely need newcomers to join in this very rewarding community involvement. The more volunteers we have to help run the School of Arts and its hall, the easier the shared load. We need new members of the association as well as additional members to join the committee. If you can contribute some of your time and skills please contact the WSoA to find out how to become involved.

Woodville School of Arts Inc is a formally incorporated, not-for-profit community organisation. No fees are paid to committee members, and each year we report to the Department of Fair Trading.

On **27 June at 5.30pm** we will be holding our delayed **2012 Annual General Meeting** at the hall, which will include the annual election of office bearers. **Please come along and contribute to the Woodville community spirit and to the next chapter of our rich history and heritage.** You will be very warmly welcomed. The agenda for the AGM, our new draft constitution and related details can be viewed on our website, or contact WSoA for this information.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth Smark – President WSoA

& Vivienne Read – Secretary WSoA

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

**I apply for membership of the
Woodville School of Arts**

(July 1 to June 30, 2014):

- An individual: \$20**
- A household: \$30**

(Please tick appropriate boxes)

Name.....

Address.....

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Postcode.....

Email.....

Phone.....

**The Treasurer,
Woodville School of Arts,
C/- Woodville General Store,
Clarence Town Rd, Woodville, NSW 2321**

Direct debit*:

**Woodville School of Arts Inc
BSB 032529 Account 981589**

** If paying this way, please email us name and contact details so we can identify and record your payment.*

CONTACT US:

Email: woodvillesoa@gmail.com

Website: <http://woodvillehall.org>

Phone: 4930 3440; 4930 5698;
or 0408 660 638