

## MEDIA RELEASE

### PLAYHOUSE THEATRE UPGRADE APPEAL LAUNCHED

2025 is going to be a big year for The Playhouse Theatre, Bundaberg's home of amateur theatre, with an ambitious project to replace the theatre seating and associated renovations to the auditorium.

President of Bundaberg Players Incorporated, Nigel Dick, said the project will make a huge difference to patrons.

"The Playhouse Theatre has been a vital cultural hub in the Bundaberg community for nearly 75 Years - from live performances to educational workshops, the theatre provides an invaluable space for artistic expression and community gatherings," Nigel said.

"However, after years of wear and tear, the seating in our theatre is in dire need of replacement. To continue providing a comfortable and enjoyable experience for our patrons, we are launching a fundraising campaign to replace and re-align all the seating in the theatre.

We have come up with a catchy name - **BUTTS (*Bundaberg Upgrades Tired Theatre Seats*)** – and are hoping patrons and supporters get behind the project (excuse the pun!).

The major renovation project has a number of elements:

- re-align and re-structure the lighting box and audio control area (already completed)
- replace the entire ceiling of the auditorium and re-paint
- replace damaged wall sheeting on the front wall of the stage area
- install new carpet in the auditorium (as well as the lower foyer area)
- install new auditorium lighting on stairways and ceiling
- install 230 brand new, more comfortable, state-of-the-art seats

The not-for-profit organisation has joined forces with the Australian Cultural Fund, so that all donations are tax deductible.

"We are very grateful to ACF for accepting our fundraiser into their program, ensuring tax deductible status for all donations," Nigel said.

"By donating to our auditorium upgrade project, donors will be directly contributing to the future of the Arts in our community. Their support will allow us to continue offering top-quality performances in a comfortable and welcoming environment for years to come. More importantly, donors are helping to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability or background, has the opportunity to enjoy the Arts in Bundaberg".

There are a number of sponsorship levels for organisations, individuals and families wanting to support the fundraiser. Those interested can email the theatre at [secretary@bpi.org.au](mailto:secretary@bpi.org.au) to obtain a prospectus.

"Our goal is to raise the necessary funds by 31 May 2025 so we can ensure the refurbishment of the *Helen & Skipper Cattermull Auditorium* occurs in sufficient time for new seating to be installed in August 2025," Nigel said.

“How exciting it will be to have this project completed in time for our 75 Anniversary celebrations in 2026,” Nigel added.

### **How to make a Tax-Deductible Donation**

- Visit the Australian Cultural Fund – noting your donation is for ‘Bundaberg Players Incorporated’: <https://artists.australianculturalfund.org.au/s/project/a2EMn00000FVkcD>
- For sponsorship inquiries, email us at: [secretary@bpi.org.au](mailto:secretary@bpi.org.au)
- Phone the theatre on (07) 4153 1904