

Onwards & upwards

Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre still on track for April 2010 opening

Staring up at the six-storey flytower of Dubbo's soon to be completed Regional Theatre and Convention Centre (DRTCC), it is not hard to envisage the beauty of Swan Lake or the drama of Phantom of the Opera gracing the stage of this breath-taking complex.

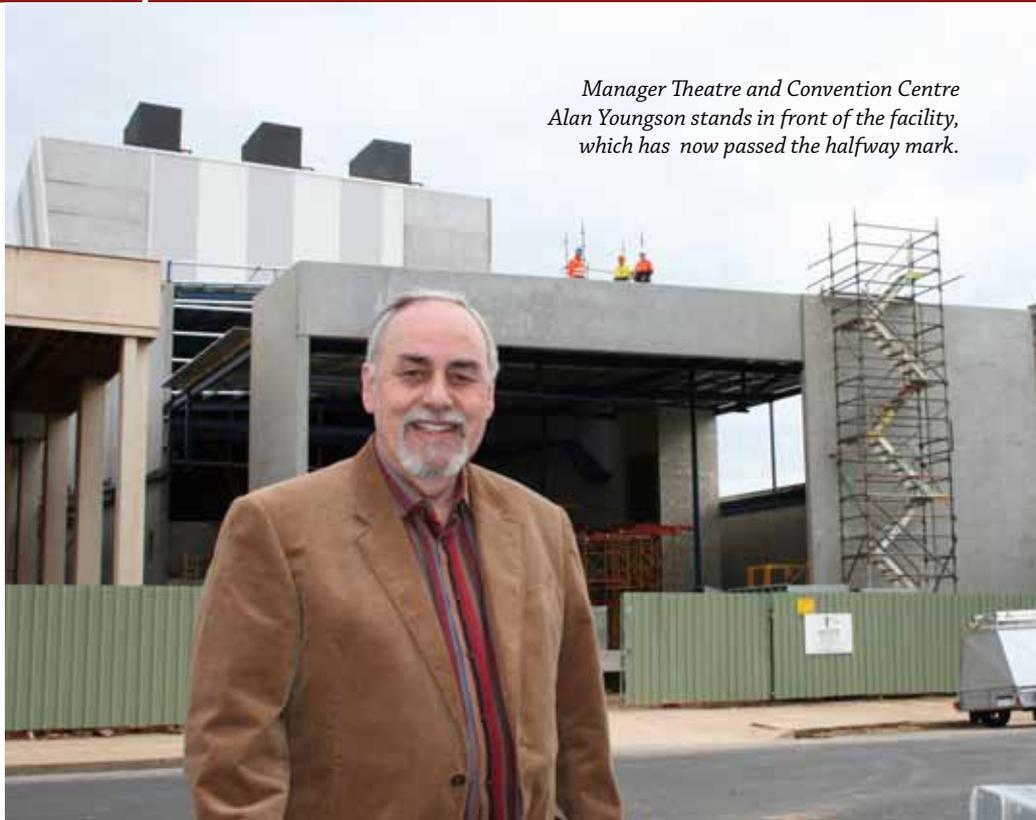
Dubbo City Council's \$18.5m project has passed the halfway construction mark and is visibly taking shape. The flytower stands out clearly on the City skyline and various aspects of the Centre can now be visualised. The stage, dressing rooms, flytower, tiered walkway and orchestra pit are among the features of Dubbo's newest performing arts venue.

A stroll through the construction site with building consultant Mick Wilson reveals the location of the all-important green room for performers, dressing rooms, staff and ticket offices.

He is a wealth of knowledge on the project and happily supplies information about the landscaping, car park, insulation and acoustics of the Theatre.

By late July 2009, the Centre's external structure was almost complete and Council's DRTCC Working Party was already excitedly selecting interior colour schemes.

DRTCC Manager Alan Youngson is also



Manager Theatre and Convention Centre Alan Youngson stands in front of the facility, which has now passed the halfway mark.

keeping busy, developing programs for 2010/2011, ensuring systems are in place, selecting staff as well as planning for the opening of the new state-of-the-art venue including the first month's celebrations.

He said the Darling Street development was on track to be officially opened in April 2010 provided construction was completed next February. Once operational, the tiered theatre and convention facility will be linked to the existing Dubbo Civic Centre, making for a first-class, all-purpose venue that will intertwine 1960s chic with modern architecture.

It will also provide a separate rehearsal and performance space in the case of theatrical shows, while convention participants will have the option of conference display and presentation space, along with an auditorium for dinner functions.

With the first touring show schedule to be

“By this time next year, we will be enjoying this wondrous new facility.” – Mayor Greg Matthews

released in late November, Mr Youngson said that apart from theatrical performances the new multi-purpose Centre would still feature everything from trade shows to weddings, awards nights, expos and balls.

He also indicated that local companies and groups would be given first preference for dates and touring shows would work around existing bookings.

Mayor Greg Matthews is thrilled with the project's progress: “It is rapidly moving ahead. By this time next year, we will be enjoying this wondrous new facility.”

Key position filled

The appointment of an Operations Coordinator at the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre marks the turning of a page in the facility's development.

Linda del Bao is relishing her new challenge after eight years at Dubbo Regional Gallery and then Western Plains Cultural Centre as the Centre Coordinator.

Ms del Bao now has a major role at the multi-function facility and will be responsible for the day-to-day operations at the new 500-seat tiered theatre and 700-seat Civic Centre auditorium.

She is already working on establishing an electronic web-based ticketing system, venue booking facility and other financial and administrative procedures.

Ms del Bao has well-rounded skills and experience in operating a cultural entertainment facility after previously holding event management roles in Sydney, Canberra and Wollongong.



Bookings now open for 2010 to 2012

The new DRTCC will have space to rent for any event!

The facility will feature:

- New 500-seat tiered theatre due to open by April 2010 adjoining the existing 700-seat flat floor Civic Centre (with orchestra pit and flytower in each venue)
- State-of-the-art lighting, sound and audio visual technology with professional technical staff
- Multi-purpose venues, facilities and foyers to suit a range of events from trade shows to seminars, meetings, awards nights, fashion parades and weddings
- Catering and fully licensed bars (fully equipped kitchen / table service)
- Computerised and online ticketing service.

Local hirers: please ensure you have confirmed your future bookings by 1 September 2009. To ensure you don't miss out on your preferred dates, please call Linda or Alan on 6801 4000 for a quotation or inspection.

BE THE FIRST TO JOIN THE MAILING LIST

To receive the latest information on upcoming events and shows and enjoy the richness and diversity of the performing arts which our new tiered Theatre will offer, become a subscriber when the first season of shows is launched mid to late November 2009.

Call Linda on 6801 4000 for a subscription form.

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINES

Please note: all timelines are subject to weather conditions and may change.

July 27

- Concrete block delivery: four hours
- Restricted access: Carrington Ave

July 30

- Delivery and erection of roof materials: two hours

August 1

- Cooling units lifted to auditorium roof at the rear of Carrington Court: four hours

August 10

- Ramp installation
- Parts of footpath inaccessible: Carrington Ave

August 24 -25

- Steel framework erection: Carrington Ave

August 31

- 20 loads of concrete delivery: six hours from 7am
- Concrete pour for tiered seating
- Darling St traffic disruptions
- Temporary footpath closure/ restricted road access

Early September

- Delivery of supplies
- Construction of building entrance
- Traffic disruptions in Darling St and Carrington Ave

Supply deliveries will be required until project completion. Road and footpath closures will be done with the least amount of inconvenience and for the safety and wellbeing of personnel and the public.

For further construction updates please visit www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au



Building consultant Mick Wilson explains the inner workings of construction as working party members stare up in awe at the inside of the six-storey flytower.