

S U B M I S S I O N

To: Nunawading City Council

From: Nunawading Arts Council, its
Affiliated Member Groups and
the Citizens of Nunawading

For: Provision of a Theatre Arts
Centre for the City of Nunawading,
incorporating within its design
multi-use facilities which cater
for community arts in all
its aspects.

16th March, 1983.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Nunawading Arts Council was formed in the early 1960's to promote the Arts in Nunawading by assisting individual groups, promoting inter-action between groups, and co-ordinating their activities. That the membership has grown to what it is today is a fitting tribute to its success. The Nunawading Arts Council has been described as unique by many wishing to emulate its achievements. For example, City of Doncaster/Templestowe, City of Waverley, City of Ringwood, to name a few who have made enquiries of us with the view to starting similar organisations within their cities.

We would draw attention to the four and a half years' delay which has already occurred since August, 1978 (Appendix 1) when the City Council gave its approval in principle to such a development.

During this protracted interval, the need for a Theatre Arts Facility has become far more pressing with more than 6,000 active performers now affiliated to the Arts Council's 28 Groups, together with a largely increased City population, still suffering under the handicap of grossly inadequate facilities for its cultural activities. The groups themselves have not been idle. In keeping with their determination to assist in achieving this long overdue objective for the benefit of the Citizens of Nunawading in general and Cultural Groups in particular, our members have raised a sum approaching \$30,000 by various fund-raising efforts, to be applied to this project.

There are also, of course, the many thousands of people who attend the regular performances given by each Group over the course of the year.

Twenty member groups fall within the performing arts category and there are still a number of others in the City who are not yet affiliated with the Arts Council. Public support for it is therefore quite evident.

2. THE CONCEPT

The Nunawading Council, when it acquired the land on which the present Civic Centre, Council Chambers and Library are sited, had a master plan for the site which included a "Town Hall".

Shortly after, the Councillors of the day realized that a "Town Hall" as accepted in those days was unacceptable because it no longer suited the needs of the community. Many redeveloping municipalities have opted to replace this old-fashioned concept with a complex comprising some of the following facilities:

Theatre	Function Rooms
Library	Meeting Rooms
Council Offices	Council Chambers
Museum	Motion Picture Theatre
Art Gallery	

Many combinations of these are outlined in the directory produced by the Australian Council for the Arts, entitled "Housing the Arts", of which the Council has a copy.

The three examples attached to this submission (Appendix 2) - Gympie, Orange and Mildura - are typical of this new approach where they do not have "Town Halls" in the old-fashioned mould as we know them, but the more modern concept of a Theatre/Arts Complex. Gympie had an old town hall but it was inadequate and the new complex is now operating.

Perusal of the Australian Council for the Arts book emphasises that Town Halls are out and the concept which the Arts Council advocates becomes the centre of community activity and entertainment and is now universally favoured to meet community needs as a community amenity.

The Arts Council has prepared this submission with the view that an urgent need exists for a Theatre Arts Centre, comprising a Theatre and Sound Shell, Rehearsal and Function Rooms and Theatre Workshop within this City and that such a facility would best be located within the grounds of our existing Civic Centre, rather than on some other site which would require the provision of many of the services already available at the Civic Centre.

The Civic Centre would then be the hub of the City with the Theatre Arts Centre providing a central venue for culture and entertainment. Local Performing Arts Groups fall into the categories of Theatrical, Musical and Terpsichorean comprising all the major Performing Arts of Dramatic and Repertory Theatre, Ballet, Orchestral, Choral, Highland Pipe and Brass Bands and National Dancing Groups, all of which have a strong cultural-educational element. Most of these groups have been active for many years, founding and developing the City's cultural life. Many have attained a high standard of excellence and some have gained Interstate and Australian Championship Awards and recognition. The City of Nunawading Highland Pipe Band and Brass Band, the Lowanna Youth Choir, Maroondah Singers and Jennifer Stielow and Utassy Ballets are among member groups who have been so honoured.

3. NEED

The groups have been forced to pursue their activities in numerous and widespread halls, pavilions, school rooms, sheds, etc. which are acoustically and operationally substandard and it is to their credit that such high quality performances are continually turned out.

The Theatre, Music and Ballet Groups have all suffered from the lack of adequate performing venues and have had to rely largely on the beneficence of local churches, the City Council and private individuals for assistance with quarters and equipment. With the exception of the Lindsay Young Theatre at Nunawading High School, which has marked deficiencies in terms of total theatre requirements for rehearsals, storage and performances and which is outside the control of the Council, there is no other suitable venue in the City of Nunawading with facilities for a group to exercise and display its talents. Lack of an orchestra pit, storage facilities and cramped space in the wings present serious production difficulties to many user groups.

In addition, and perhaps the most difficult obstacle confronting theatre groups wishing to use the Lindsay Young Theatre, is the fact that throughout the year it is totally booked out every weekend. Opportunities for member groups to perform at Nunawading High School are therefore severely limited, serving to emphasize in most concrete terms the need for a full theatre facility as proposed by this Submission. The need is clearly demonstrated and should at least rate with those physical cultures which enjoy many Council sponsored and maintained facilities and which cost many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Vermont High School Theatre is also deficient in a number of areas which make it most unsuitable for use by traditional Theatre Groups.

It is constructed of concrete blockwork with exposed internal faces and a concrete floor covered with loose masonite sheeting. The building is acoustically poor and would have to be substantially modified to bring about the acoustic control so important to theatre and musical productions. The improvements already made can only be described as "stop-gap" measures and do not overcome the problem of acoustic deficiencies.

The consensus of opinion of experienced people within the performing arts groups who have first hand knowledge of the available halls and venues within the City reinforces the views stated in this Submission that none of them are satisfactory in terms of acoustics, comfort, lighting, or the other technical qualities necessary for even reasonable quality productions.

4. TOWARDS A POLICY ON THE ARTS

The Council has for many years spent vast sums annually on buildings and maintaining sporting facilities for local groups and clubs within this City. Support for the arts and local arts groups is relatively new, having only developed on a formal basis over the past ten years.

These groups have submitted themselves voluntarily to an exhaustive examination of their finances, their attendances, their constitutions and almost every area of their operation in order to gain some financial support for their activities, i.e. Council grant of \$11,475 distributed over 28 groups in 1982.

It would surely be the logical outcome after years of co-operation between local arts groups and Council for some facility to be provided to house and support the arts in Nunawading.

When the Arts Centre is built, it should not be seen in isolation, but as part of the Council's total community arts contribution, with revenue from professional/commercial operations subsidising the activities of local arts groups using the premises and providing programmes for the wider community.

Funding of the small deficit provides the necessary balance between assisting local arts groups at a realistic cost to the Council and providing a facility/programme which is also available to the whole community without too great a financial burden upon ratepayers. It is an essential ingredient for the success of the project.

5. LOCAL USE OF THE THEATRE ARTS CENTRE

Premises are required to house the arts in one integrated centre. The tables following show all the groups who could be expected to use a building for performing and visual arts. It would also provide for social and fund-raising activities, rehearsals, workshops, exhibitions, art shows, seminars, lectures, weddings, public meetings and school activities, to name a few possible uses.

Many community and commercial organisations would want to use the Centre for similar purposes and there is an untapped market in this field in Nunawading.

It is true that local groups could perform at the Ringwood Theatre, however, its current level of hire charge puts it outside their means and it defeats our objective to make the Nunawading Centre "home" for the Nunawading Performing Arts Groups. It is also lacking in storage and is without the flexibility of a "fly" scenery facility to allow multi-use by other groups. A workshop area is non-existent and it is obvious that the Ringwood Theatre has not been constructed for amateur theatre or local community group usage.

The Theatre Arts facility proposed by the Arts Council enjoys wide acceptance by many groups for many of the reasons listed above, plus the additional benefits of manufacture of scenery and storage of props. For the Performing Arts Groups to be able to set up stage and lighting for their performances and be able to offer hospitality to their audiences after performances is a marked advance on any other facility available in Nunawading or Ringwood.

Experience overseas and in Australia of new comfortable facilities for Performing Arts Groups has shown a significant increase in numbers attending performances and improvement in standard and number of performances when a good class of facility is available. The Vermont Horticultural Society can attest to this view since moving in to the Council's new Horticultural Centre.

MEMBER GROUPS OF THE NUNAWADING ARTS COUNCIL 1983

Users of the proposed Theatre/Arts Centre

Group Name Formed Approx Theatre Workshop Soundshell Room Rehearsal Function Rooms

Art & Craft Community Assoc.

1966

X

X

X

X

X

*Bellburn Singers

1959

X

X

X

X

X

*Blackburn High School Music Parents Association

1958

X

X

X

X

X

*Blackburn/Mitcham Film Society

1965

X

X

X

X

X

*Blackburn Pipe Band

X

X

X

X

X

*Eastern Theatre Group

X

X

X

X

X

*East Victorian Highland Dance Association

X

X

X

X

X

*Forest Hill Traders' Assoc.

X

X

X

X

X

*Jennifer Stielow Ballet

X

X

X

X

X

*La Campanella Handbell ringers

X

X

X

X

X

*Lowanna Youth Choir

X

X

X

X

X

*Maroonah Singers

1968

X

X

X

X

X

*Maroonah Symphony Orchestra

1964

X

X

X

X

X

*Mitcham Arts Association

1963

X

X

X

X

X

*Mitcham Repertory Group

1953

X

X

X

X

X

*Mitcham Scottish Society

1967

X

X

X

X

X

*Nova Theatre

1967

X

X

X

X

X

*Nunawading High School

1967

X

X

X

X

X

*Nunawading Lapidary Club

1967

X

X

X

X

X

*Nunawading City Band

1967

X

X

X

X

X

*Churinga Theatre

1950

X

X

X

X

X

*Theatre Works

1950

X

X

X

X

X

*Utassy Ballet School

1932

X

X

X

X

X

*Vermont Horticultural Society

1968

X

X

X

X

X

*Y.M.C.A. Melstersingers

1968

X

X

X

X

X

*Southern Cross Boys' Choir

1968

X

X

X

X

X

*These Groups are classified as Performing arts group and could use the Theatre/Arts Complex as 'Home'.
The other groups not classified as performing arts groups could also use the complex as indicated above.

Just taking a few out of this chart for comment -

MITCHAM REPERTORY GROUP OR NOVA THEATRE GROUP

Would use the Theatre for performances, the rehearsal rooms and the workshop to support those performances and would use the function rooms for social or fund-raising events.

UTASSY BALLET

Would use the Theatre for one or two concerts per year and the function rooms for teaching ballet and for social and fund-raising functions.

MITCHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Would use the function rooms for regular monthly dancing
- social events, etc.

MAROONDAH SINGERS

Would use the Sound Shell, rehearsal rooms and function rooms.

Other groups not affiliated with the Arts Council in Nunawading who could use the Centre are as listed:

Blackburn Garden Club
Society for Growing Australian Plants
Vermont Floral Art Group
Nunawading Community Gardens Co-Operative
Maroondah Orchid Society
Bird Observers' Club
Eastern District Budgerigar & Cage Birds Society
Bayswater/Nunawading Pigeon Homing Club
Nunawading Invitation Homing Club
Yarra Valley Bridge Club
Nunawading Historical Society
Nunawading Natural History Society

International Toastmistress Club
Nunawading War Games Association
Nunawading Chess Club
Eastern & Mountain District Radio Club
Eastern Suburbs Photographic Society
Blackburn Square Greek Dancers
Laburnum Gallery

The Theatre/Arts Centre is seen as the culmination of various factors, needs and suggestions.

- A. The need to co-ordinate performance of the various Performing Arts Groups.
- B. The need to consolidate and rationalise props, scenery, costumes, equipment, etc. for common use by these groups.
- C. The need to provide a better, more comfortable performing venue, not only comfortable for the audience, but also the performers, thereby attracting greater numbers of both participants.
- D. The need and use of a Sound Shell, i.e. for outdoor concerts, Australia Day Celebrations, Carols by Candlelight, Festivals and Meetings, which have had to use improvised facilities up to date.
- E. The need for better rehearsal facilities for the Performing Arts Groups.
- F. The need for central workshop facilities.
- G. The replacement of the Mitcham Memorial Hall, built in 1927, cold, draughty and uncomfortable, sited on a prime piece of real estate which is zoned local business.

H. The need to provide more facilities for meetings, fund-raising and social activities; examine bookings for the very popular Willis Room which cannot meet demand.

Arts Group members also require use of function rooms for Ballet, Scottish Dancing, Craft-Be-In-It events, Exhibitions, etc.

And that is how it all came together - one Centre for common use - for the Arts - located in the centre of the City - at the Civic Centre.

6. SURVEY OF EXISTING VENUES

The following tables summarize existing local venues plus major regional ones, together with brief comments on them.

EASTERN REGION

Venue	Type	Size	Comment
Ringwood Cultural Centre	Theatre/ Functions	436	Too costly, out of area
Kew High School Theatre	School Theatre	420	Some technical faults although some very good features.
Nunawading High School	School Theatre	240	Heavily booked, with some technical problems and in the longer term, too small
Koonung High School	School	180	Not large enough
Box Hill Town Hall	Civic Functions	680	Too large for most and unsuitable (technical problems)
Camberwell Civic Theatre	Theatre	446	Too far, too expensive for most
Box Hill Community Centre	Stage and Hall	350	Not local. Booked out by local groups.
Mitcham High School Hall		800	Not suitable technically
Vermont High School	Theatre	200	Not suitable technically or for size
Forest Hill Hall	Hall	150)	Completely unsuitable
East Burwood Hall	Hall	150)	Completely unsuitable
Mitcham Memorial Hall	Hall	150)	Completely unsuitable

*See note below

*All of the small local halls presently used by local performing groups are endured with great difficulty. They are old, some being built in the nineteen-twenties. The flat floored halls may have been suitable for dances, talks and social functions years ago but are inadequate for theatrical performances, film showing and concerts.

Their stages are not wide enough, there is no wing space, sightlines to the stages are poor, there are no proper dressing rooms or space to hang costumes, acoustics are bad, lighting is insufficient, ventilation and heating inadequate, sets cannot be left up because of other uses in these halls during the day.

Some good performing venues outside this City are too large, too expensive and too far away; for instance the Camberwell Civic Centre. Nor do they cater comprehensively for groups by including rehearsal rooms, storage space and workshop areas.

Kew High School Theatre is a good facility although with some technical faults, but is out of the area. Local performing groups financially dependent upon their particular productions usually draw their audiences from the local area.

It is no easy task to determine an ideal auditorium size because of the divergence from small (50-100) through to large (500+) groups. However, most of the major Performing Arts Groups can attract 200-300 to individual performances and with better, more comfortable facilities, it is expected these numbers will increase to the 350-400 range on a regular basis.

The Arts Council is now agreed that an auditorium size for a minimum number of 400 people is most appropriate, given the facility to reduce seating to about 250 capacity by means of curtaining. The inclusion of a flytower, orchestra pit and permanent tiered seating are highly desirable in the interests of flexibility of use and these features are highly desirable aspects in the design of the Centre.

7. A COMMUNITY/SCHOOL THEATRE?

It has been suggested that a theatre could be built on school land, jointly funded by Council and the Education Department. This method would appear to have the advantage of cutting the initial capital cost to both parties. However, there are many reasons why it is not a satisfactory alternative for community groups wishing to use a venue for performances and rehearsals as well as storage of their equipment and social activities. There are several community theatres on school grounds in the metropolitan area.

Often these buildings are designed to provide both sporting and cultural facilities, thereby limiting their use and creating annoying noise problems. The school, naturally, has priority of use during the daytime and often at night as well. It is not possible for groups to store equipment in these buildings and space is usually inadequate.

There are other, more serious disadvantages. Unless the school has prior experience in making its building and grounds available for community use, dissension can easily arise over the roles, rights and responsibilities inherent in community use.

Technical and lighting requirements for community groups are far more sophisticated, being used by skilled people, compared to the generally robust simple-to-use equipment needed for school theatre.

Generally speaking, the design of school community theatres fails to take into account the importance of -

Large, well-lit foyers
Good ventilation
Good sound and lighting
Adequate wing space and stage depth
Fly tower
Stage curtain
Orchestra pit
Props bay
Supper-making facilities
Backstage facilities
Storage facilities

None of these are as necessary to a good school performance as they are to a community theatre group.

8. LOCAL OR REGIONAL?

There is a demonstrated and strong local need for a Theatre Arts Centre, however, such a facility could also encourage many people from surrounding areas to remain in the eastern suburbs rather than make long journeys to the City or outlying regional areas. Most of our groups will make use of the building during the evening and at weekends. This poses the twin problems of deriving sufficient income from activities so that the Centre either pays its way or at worst is only a small charge against Council funds and of increasing daytime use. This can best be done by appointing a full time manager whose job it is to bring in shows and exhibitions and promote other uses which generate income.

The Community Arts Officer can also help in this respect by promoting use of the Centre within the community and initiating activities as part of that job each year.

Schools throughout this region would also be encouraged to attend touring shows put on by the Victorian Arts Council and exhibitions by State and Federal bodies during the daytime.

The Centre must be both local and regional in its focus, allowing local groups and the local community to use the facilities as well as attracting people from a wider area in the outer eastern suburbs for shows and exhibitions.

9. OTHER ARTS ACTIVITY CENTRES

The Ministry for the Arts had recently embarked on a capital works programme of building multi purpose arts facilities in country areas with funding on a 2.1 basis. Centres have been completed at Ararat, Echuca, Warragul, Sale and Geelong. Unfortunately, no operating costs are obtainable from these because they have not been operating long enough.

These centres all face similar problems - the need to provide for local groups without too much capital expense and to generate income. Flexible building spaces have been designed which satisfy most group needs, are not too expensive and allow versatility.

The feasibility study for the Sale Community Centre project's annual running costs were as follows:

Projected Annual Running Costs

Staff Costs (Manager and Secretary)	\$24,000
Materials	5,000
Overheads	<u>4,000</u>
Cleaning (1 full-time and 1 part-time cleaner)	\$33,000
Maintenance (lighting, heating, air conditioning)	\$22,000
Cinema Operation	\$16,000
	<u>\$45,000</u>
	\$116,000

Estimated Annual Revenue

Memorial Hall/Supper Room	\$14,577
Drama Theatre	\$5,650
Music and Dance area	\$5,540
Rehearsal	\$1,000
Meeting Room	\$1,300
Coffee Shop lease	\$6,000
Cinema	\$62,400
Saturday Night dance	\$15,600
Box Office ticket sales	<u>\$5,000</u>
	<u>\$117,067</u>

Extreme difficulty was experienced in obtaining details of income/expenditure for venues within the metropolitan area and the State of Victoria, either because the facility was too new or, more frequently, figures were simply withheld.

This information was more freely available from further afield and we attach information on the Orange, Gympie and Mildura Centres for Council perusal (Appendix 2).

There is the difficulty of comparison when one centre incorporates a Museum, another the Administration Block or Council Chambers, etc.

The examples shown had deficits ranging from \$51,000 at Orange to \$7,000 part year) at Gympie.

The latest information from Gympie for a full year's operation was a deficit of \$19,890.

It is generally accepted by these Cities that the facilities would run at between \$20,000 to \$40,000 annual deficit.

The projects shown here in all cases were funded by their respective Councils.

Incorporated in our centre design are function rooms, rehearsal areas, sound shell and workshop facilities to increase the centre's viability as a multi-use income producing community facility.

10. ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST

In 1978, an estimate was prepared by our architect and added to by the City Engineer, for around \$900,000 - including landscaping, car parking and fittings. Since then, five years of inflation have passed. At this date, the architect's estimate is \$1,476,000 based on the following details:

Estimate at February, 1983.

1. Preparation (by Council) - survey, soil tests \$1,500

2. Basic Building Contract (based upon proposal to use tilt slab method)

Includes plumbing, electrical, drains, heating, and air-conditioning, floor coverings other than carpet, emergency lighting.

(a) structural component, including plumbing \$775,000

(b) electrical, including power for stage lighting, but no special fittings \$75,000

(c) air conditioning to theatre and foyer, heating and evaporative cooling to multi-purpose, rehearsal and dressing, exhaust to toilets, heating to workshops and shell \$160,000

3. Fitting Out (Separate contracts)

(a) Carpets to theatre, foyer, rehearsal, projection, orchestra, dressing \$30,000

(b) Theatre seating = 395 @ 100 \$39,500

(c) Cut offcurtain and proscenium curtain \$10,000

(d) Two sound systems \$15,000

(e) Basic theatre lighting, sound shell spotlights, and starter set for stage \$175,000

(f) Loose furniture, kitchen equipment \$20,000

4. Car Parking (by Council)

Extend existing car park for 59 cars \$50,000

5. Landscaping (by Council)

(a) re-grade and grass sound shell area \$10,000
(b) other landscaping and trees \$3,000

6. Consulting fees

(a) Architect - based upon part 2 above -
(includes advice on parts 3-5)

6% = \$60,600 say \$60,000

(b) Structural - based upon \$350,000 \$25,000

(c) Mechanical and Electrical \$20,000

(d) Acoustic - nominal fee \$2,000

(e) Quantity Surveyor (if used) \$15,000

\$122,000 \$122,000

Total Estimate \$1,476,000

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7. Cost Rises

Cost rises can be expected to inflate this estimate at approximately 1% per month.

Increases over the 5 year period have been 66.4% in the building trades index. It is for this reason that the Arts Council is anxious to proceed with the proposal, firm up design requirements, tighten up operating costs and be ready to proceed immediately, as further increases will continue over the construction period.

11.

ESTIMATED RUNNING COSTS

Our submission to the Council in December, 1979, included an estimate of running costs for the centre and we now re-submit this estimate duly adjusted to take account of inflationary cost increases since that time.

As previously mentioned, the appointment of a Centre Manager would be necessary as the position would require a full time commitment to promoting the centre for commercial and private use.

Because of this factor, income from "Other than Member Groups" has been restated. Fortunately, a high percentage of our total usage emanates from our own member groups, which gives a stable base usage and will not involve a great deal of the manager's time.

Estimate of the Running Costs of the Theatre/Arts Centre

Manager	
Salary	\$25,000
Overheads	<u>\$5,000</u>
	\$30,000
Cleaner/Caretaker (full time)	
7 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.	
Salary	\$14,100
Overheads	\$4,200
	\$18,300
Cleaner/Caretaker (part time)	
6.45 p.m. to 12.00 p.m.	
Salary	\$5,250
Overheads	\$2,250
	\$7,500
Maintenance	\$12,000
Power and Light	\$10,000
Heating	\$8,000
Cleaning Materials	\$5,000
Insurances	\$1,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>\$2,000</u>
Running Cost Estimate	\$93,800
TOTAL	=====

Estimate of Income

Assessment of group usage of the Centre shown below is based on the actual answers to a questionnaire sent to all members and has been indexed since our previous submission.

Theatre - Friday and Saturday nights	59 x \$120	=	\$7,800
Theatre - Weeknights	22 x \$95	=	\$2,090
Theatre - Rehearsals	40 x \$50	=	\$2,000
Theatre - Daytime usage	58 x \$40	=	\$2,320
Performance Rooms	232 x \$30	=	\$6,960
Rehearsals	222 x \$15	=	\$3,330
Workshop	3 x \$1250		<u>\$3,750</u>
			\$28,250

Usage by other than member groups estimated

to be

\$33,000

Total Estimated Income

\$61,250

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Although we would not expect to reach this figure in the first year of operation, the total picture therefore shows (for a full year)

Running Cost	\$93,800
Income	<u>\$61,250</u>

Estimated Annual Deficit \$32,550

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This figure is generally in line with the range of deficits experienced in other centres - see section on Gympie, Orange and Mildura Centres.

However, it must be remembered that the City is currently funding a deficit of \$19,800 on the Mitcham Memorial Hall, therefore, the additional deficit we predict is only \$12,750 above that figure, i.e.

Estimated Annual Deficit	\$32,550
Current funding deficit on Mitcham Memorial Hall	<u>\$19,800</u>
Remaining Deficit	<u>\$12,750</u>

A survey conducted in 1978 confirmed that all users of the Mitcham Hall at that time would and could be transferred to the proposed new Centre.

The estimated expenses are on the high side, as these were estimated on a "stand alone" situation and we firmly believe that economies could be achieved by incorporating operating staff within the Council administration framework.

1981/82

13. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- A. That the Council reiterate its agreement of 16/8/1978 to build a Theatre/Arts Complex at the Civic Centre comprising areas for rehearsal, performance and display as detailed in the accompanying concept drawing, its operations forming part of the Council's total community arts programme.
- B. That the Council appoint a Committee, including Arts Council representatives, to act as a Management Committee for this complex.
- ** C.** That the Council appoint Mr. David Gawler as architect to formulate the specifications from the brief prepared by the Arts Council and draw up plans to stage one - i.e. working drawings and specifications.
- D. That copies of this submission be forwarded to the Minister for the Arts of both Federal and State Governments and further application be made to them for funds to cover either capital costs and running costs of the proposed centre.

Mr. David Gawler, B.Arch., F.R.A.I.A., was the architect for the Heated Swimming Pool complex in Nunawading, which was completed to the timetable set and within the estimated cost.

Mr. Gawler has over 30 years experience, including design of Central Work Depot and Offices for D.V.A., Two storey development, Killoura Primary School Head Offices, Holeproof, Box Hill Geriatric Hospital, B.S.L., Box Hill Main kitchen and dining hall, Commonwealth Hostels, Maribyrnong and is noted for his practical, low maintenance designs.

In conjunction with the Arts Council, he has done a great deal of research into Theatre design for this facility and the Arts Council is confident that it can incorporate the good features and eliminate the undesirable features of many other centres to produce a first class Theatre Arts Centre for Nunawading.

APPENDIX I

Recommendations adopted at Council meeting held 16th August, 1978.

Moved by Cr. Brown, seconded by Cr. Barelli,

"That the report of the Mitcham Memorial Hall Redevelopment Sub-Committee to the General Purposes Committee Meeting of the 9th August be noted and the recommendations of that Committee:

1. The Mitcham Memorial Hall site should either be sold or leased for commercial development and the funds gained applied to the provision of replacement theatre facilities at the Civic Centre.
2. That redevelopment of the Mitcham Memorial Hall as a theatre venue is not desirable because of deficient car parking space, the inadequate size of the site for the purpose and its proximity to the nearby residential area.
3. That a combined Theatre/Commercial development is not feasible on the basis of cost involved and further that the theatre facility in this concept would not cater for the demand required of it.
4. That any redevelopment proposed or planned for the area off Britannia Street should proceed on the basis of Commercial Use as the most appropriate use for that area.
5. That in view of the interest expressed by the Mitcham Technical School to the provision of a theatre at the Civic Centre, a submission be prepared and forwarded to the Education Department for part funding of the project.
6. That following discussions with representatives of the Mountview Church and the Salvation Army at Mitcham, premises can be made available to accommodate groups presently using the Memorial Hall. The Mountview Church particularly has one large room and three smaller rooms available for use.
be accepted as an indication of intention for future action in respect of that property."