

## I'm happy to help "Save our Heritage"

Name: ..... Email: .....

Any contribution, small or large, will help preserve the investment of our early forbears, and make this historic chapel/old Sunday School a landmark at the entrance to Kiama's historic precinct.

Your contribution can be made a number of ways:

- Cash or cheque (in the name of UCA - KIAMA Heritage Restoration Fund) placed in the specially marked envelope at Church,
- Cheque (as above) for \$..... mailed to the PO Box below,
- Direct Deposit via EFT or at a Westpac Branch, to the following account, noting (if you wish) your name as Reference:  
BSB: 032689, Account: 220359, Acct Name: UCA - KIAMA Heritage Restoration Fund
- Or setup a regular monthly direct payment for say six months to the account listed above.
- Whilst a four-figure donation would obviously help achieve our target sooner, any amount will be great.

### Contact Us

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# Heritage Restoration Fund *"Illawarra's First Permanent Wesleyan Chapel"*



**Kiama Uniting Church**  
**"Giving new life to our  
1851 Lecture Hall"**

# Why do we need to Fundraise?

The State Government recognised the significance of the 1851 Lecture Hall to the Kiama community granting the maximum Strategic Projects Grant\* sum of a net \$90,800 (after \$9,200 for an historical App), but unfortunately, the total cost of the project is approaching \$210,000 (and rising), which is outside the available funding the Church can provide at present.

With the clearly defined purpose of bringing “Kiama’s oldest operational building” up to a fully refurbished & useable space serving the community, it was felt that we had to approach Church members & the Kiama community with a fundraising campaign aimed at raising \$150,000.

Timing is critical as the Church has already spent \$75,000 on the restoration, covering such items as a Heritage Conservation Management Plan, asbestos removal, new roofing, guttering and downpipes, with another \$99,000 work just commenced to remove salt from the walls prior to painting, replace internal plaster and inject a chemical damp course to stop rising damp.

That’s why this fundraising campaign has set a target date of 31<sup>st</sup> December to reach and/or have pledges for our target, or risk diminishing our limited reserves.

**So please help us “Save our Heritage”**



\*This project was assisted by the NSW Government through the Heritage Near Me program.



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Please complete details overleaf and tear off with your donation

Thanks

# This is what it's costing ...

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- *Structural Engineers Report*            \$1,600
  - *Conservation Management Plan*    \$20,500
  - *Asbestos Removal & new Ceiling*    \$10,870
  - *New Roof, Gutter & Downpipes*      \$34,060
  - *Lead paint removal*                    \$6,000
  - *Render/plaster removal & de-salination of exterior/internal walls/gables*    \$86,780
  - *Westox 50 Chemical damp course*    \$12,520
  - *1<sup>st</sup> Year Painting Ext/Int Walls\**      \$5,220
  - *Skirting/Kitchenette/Electrical*      \$7,400
  - *Historical Plaques & Signage*        \$3,300
  - *Air-conditioning & incidentals*       \$22,000
  - ***Total Estimated Cost:***                **\$210,250**
- 

\* Part of an 8-year maintenance contract

... and counting

## Overview of Restoration

### Asbestos Removal



The ceiling in the 1889 extension of the Lecture Hall contained sealed asbestos and has been removed. It will be replaced with heritage style timber boards. Its removal highlighted the crumbling state of the end gable wall that will be sealed in the restoration.

### Interior Lead Paint Removal



Before the brick & stone walls can be de-salinated, lead-based paint covering the 1889 extension had to be removed professionally using a Peel Away product troweled on and covered for 5 days with brown paper.

### Roof, insulation, guttering and downpipe replaced



The existing iron roof was rusted and has been replaced with the highest (coastal) rated Colorbond along with new rain heads, downpipes, guttering and insulation. This will stop storm water overflowing into the Lecture Hall (a previous cause of damage).

### Salt Removal and Chemical Damp Course



A Westox Cocoon Poultrice will be applied inside & out to remove all salt before the walls can be painted. This involves some removal & replacement of plaster. To prevent rising damp, a chemical damp course will be injected. This is the costliest stage of work.

# Further Restoration Steps

## Painting – Inside & Out – Ongoing Treatment



Last painted in 2001 for its Sesquicentenary Celebration, the paintwork has deteriorated badly. A long-term paint and maintenance contractor is being engaged to repaint and to maintain paintwork over the next eight (8) years. WE need to keep it looking good.

## Restoration of Memorials



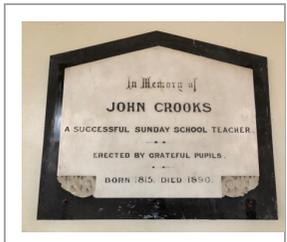
All historical plaques and memorials were removed prior to restoration and some needed significant repair. This work is being done professionally for re-installation once the hall restoration is complete. They record important features of our history.

## Replacement of Skirting Boards & Kitchenette



Existing skirting boards were rotten and need replacing with specially moulded pine boards matching the original heritage style. They will have rear rebating to hide electrical and AV cabling running along the walls. A new kitchenette will be installed in the hall.

## Interpretative Historical Signage



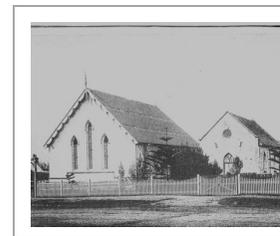
Once fully restored, the Lecture Hall will become an important community facility not only for the Church, but available to the Kiama community as an important building in Kiama's Historical CBD Precinct. Signage will describe Kiama's oldest building.

# Lecture Hall - Brief History

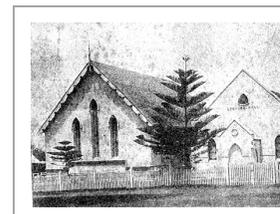
In 1848, Kiama's population was housed in just eighteen permanent dwellings; there were two stores and a jetty. A timber Church of England had opened in 1843 at the corner of Manning and Bong Bong Streets, while the Presbyterians met in a barn, and later in a store. When the Methodists built their church in stone in 1850, in later years it was considered "the first permanent Wesleyan Chapel built in Illawarra, and the first permanent church of any kind built in Southern Illawarra."<sup>1</sup>

The foundation stone for the Kiama church (now the Lecture Hall) was laid by Rev. George Hurst in 1850 and it opened for services in 1851 with a congregation of 50 persons. Within a decade of completion, the stone chapel held insufficient space for the congregation, and so before 400 people in attendance, a foundation stone for a new, larger chapel for the Kiama Wesleyans was laid on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1862.

The original stone chapel became the Sunday School (or Lecture Hall) and gave classes twice a Sunday until the 1930's. In 1888 there were 275 Sunday School students across the circuit and it had to be enlarged in 1889, to its current size. The "newer" Wesleyan chapel in the front was destroyed in a storm in 1969 and was demolished. <sup>1</sup>Cousins 199: 303



1862 photo of the opening of the "new" Methodist Church on the left, showing the original (smaller) 1851 Lecture Hall on the right (before it was extended toward Manning Street in 1889). It became a very active Sunday School and had to be extended.



1900 photo taken after the Lecture Hall (on right) was extended in 1889 showing the current portico and new gable wall with windows facing Manning Street. Note the growth of the Norfolk Island pines. The chapel in front was later destroyed in a storm in 1969 and demolished.