

Hope of future for Windsor Institute

Jarrad Delaney

Saturday saw people walk the floorboards of the Windsor Institute for the first public gathering inside the historic building in several years, and now the community is hopeful to see it can stay standing proud for future generations.

As part of the 150th celebrations for Dublin, Port Parham and Windsor, the institute was open for morning tea which saw people gather for a cuppa, a slice of cake and a chinwag about the building, as well as a chance to view historical items and photos.

The history of the institute dates back to 1884, when land was donated in Windsor by George Baker on which the building would eventually be built.

For more than 130 years the institute was open for public events and housed the community library, however in 2020 the library closed and as such the building closed to public use.

Andrea Brow from Dublin History Group said it was the first time in about five years there had been people inside the institute, however there was hope Adelaide Plains Council, who managed the facility, could address what could be done to ensure its future.

"I've spoken to our mayor and our councillors constantly, and said you need to one of two things, 1. put money into it, maintain it and open it again for community use, for 2. sell it," she said.

"We don't want it to get to a point where it can't be saved."

Walking inside the institute, it does feel like you have walked back in time as the classic style of the building has been kept in place. This includes a mural which remains on the back wall inside the institute, painted by the late Eric Williams for the building's centenary in 1984.

Mrs Brow said the group had been made aware of potential structural issues which need addressing, and it would continue to lobby for the building.

Gwen Secomb was a former librarian in Windsor and lived in the town for about 60 years. She hoped the Windsor Institute could continue to bring the community together.

"It's there and it should be used to keep the community together," she said.

"I think council should encourage for people to be part of the community and work together to come up with new ideas.

"I encourage it to be a community centre to bring the community together and make it a real part of the community."

Adelaide Plains Council Mayor Mark Wasley as among those who came inside the Windsor Institute on Saturday and said the council recognised it as an asset that needed to be maintained.

He said it was amazing to see how great a building it still was.

"Since the library closed a few years ago,



Gwen Secomb and Andrea Brow outside the Windsor Institute, which was open for the public for the first time in several years on Saturday morning. (Jarrad Delaney: 539360)



The late Eric Williams in front of the mural he had created inside the Windsor Institute. (Dublin History Group)

there had been no public use of the building. We hope that will change with the influx of people in the district," he said.

Mr Wasley said while council was aware the Windsor Institute needed ongoing maintenance, no decision on action to take had been made at the current time.

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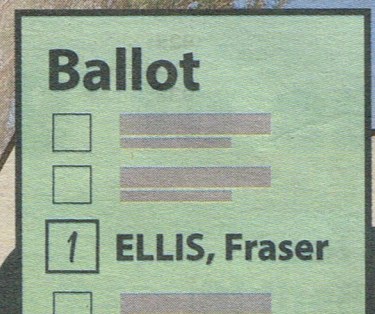
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Kadina Early Voting Centre
Kadina Town Hall
51 Taylor Street, Kadina

Maitland Early Voting Centre
Maitland Town Hall
7-11 Robert Street, Maitland

Both early polling locations are open from **8am to 6pm on Saturday, March 14**, and then **Monday, March 16 through to Friday, March 20**, followed by election day on **March 21**.

Anyone who wishes to vote early can do so, no reason or explanation required



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Authorised by Fraser Ellis MP 37 Graves St Kadina SA 5554

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