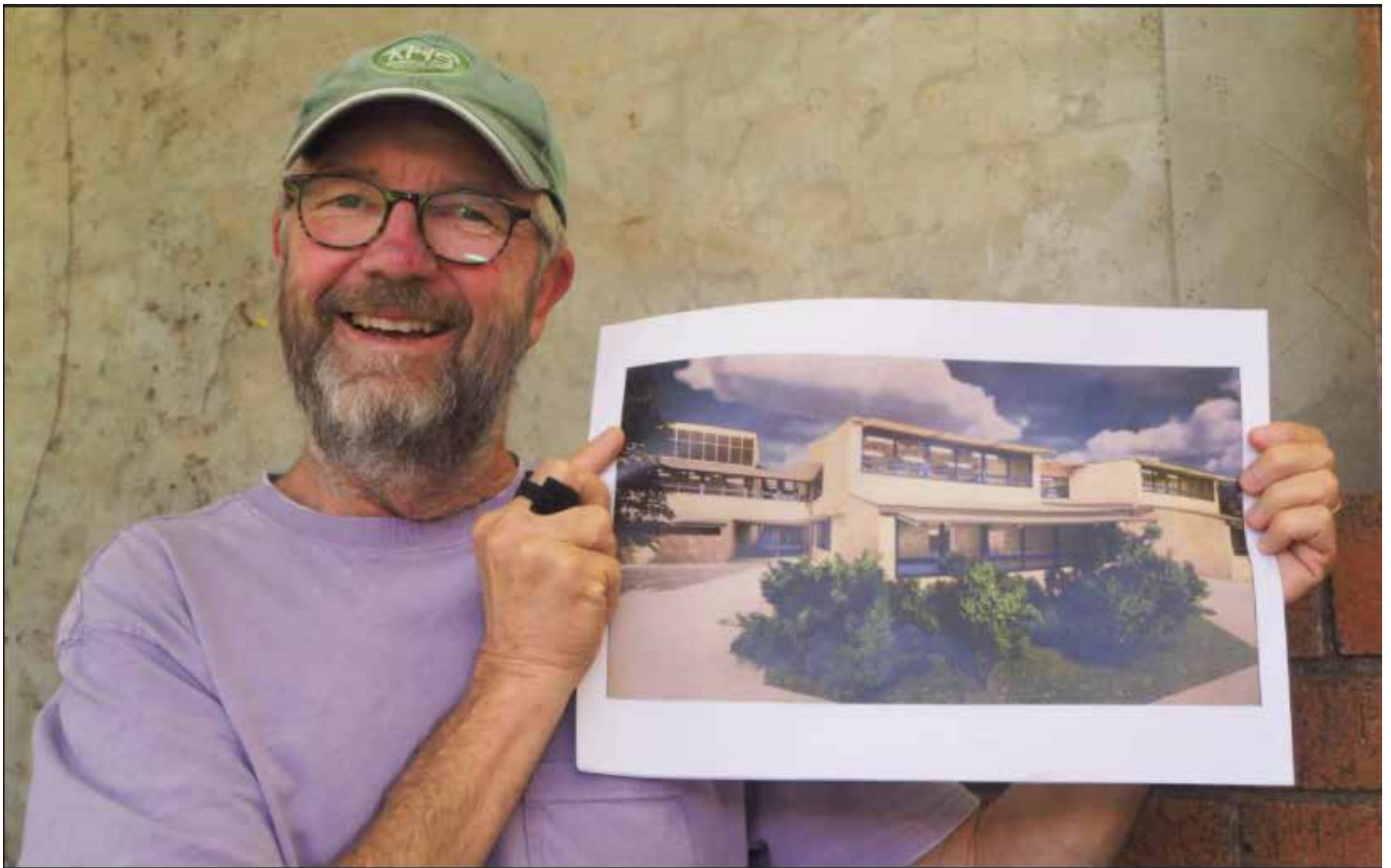


DETAILED: Former Kelso High teacher Hans Stroeve with a photograph showcasing the virtual recreation of the original school. Photo: SAM BOL





It started with an \$11,000 donation from ex-student and radiographer Dr John Rouse and now, six months later, a 3D reconstruction of the original Kelso High School is set to be unveiled.

Designed by Perth-based company 3D Walkabout, the project has seen the original Kelso High, which was destroyed by fire in 2005, 'rebuilt' online in fine detail for interactive walkthroughs, using the original building plans and surviving photographs as blueprints.

The project will be unveiled at the Bathurst RSL Club on Sunday, January 31, and former Kelso High teacher Hans Stroeve said past and present students and staff are in for a treat.

"The detail within the finished product is phenomenal, it really has brought back some cherished memories...even some forgotten ones," Mr Stroeve said.

"We bought nearly 70 plans to assist the developers, and it's truly remarkable how detailed the finished product considering they only had drawings and photos to go off."

Although the project originally cost \$11,000, extra donations from ex-students through the Kelso High School friends Facebook page ensured more detailed features could be added.

"The project ended up costing around \$20,000, which only highlights the number of ex-students willing to see the project fully realised," Mr Stroeve said.

"It goes to show how well regarded Kelso High is by those who went there, and I hope the showings are a great opportunity for ex-students and staff to reconnect and share some memories."

"The launch event isn't limited to ex-students and staff, anyone is welcome to attend, but bear in mind attendance is limited for both sessions."

The sessions will take place at 11.30am and 2pm, with each session limited to 120 guests as per the Bathurst RSL Club's COVID-safe plan.

Following the launch event, the project will be available online at 3dwalkabout.com.au/kelso.

To book a spot, visit <https://www.bathurstsl.com.au/upcoming-event-s>. Entry is free.