



BURNING NEWS SPECIAL EDITION CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN THE INCINERATOR THEATRE

1969

2009

Our President Reports on Activities

We had a dream – and over two weeks that dream was realised as we celebrated our achievements over the past 40 years.

The driving force behind these celebrations was Helen Pullar. Any of you who have worked with Helen know and appreciate the great deal of energy, both physical and emotional, that she puts into anything she does. Match this with her love for our theatre company – its people and its home and add in, the other half of the 'Pullar equation' and the sky is the limit. We were all up there flying with them on Saturday evening as we celebrated with the largest cast party that we have ever thrown!

Our celebrations commenced at the Ipswich Art Gallery on 30 July with the opening of our display of photographs, programs and newspaper clippings which celebrate 40 years of performance at the Incinerator Theatre. The display occupies part of the old Town Hall stage, which was our performance venue for the 23 years before our move to the Incinerator. During August our Smart Arts, Crossfire, S-Troupe, Daytime and Tourific Troupe sub-groups have returned for performances on the Old Town Hall stage and have entertained visitors to the gallery.

On Saturday evening, 15 August, guests gathered, in their finest attire for our 'hoity toity' evening where an Interpretative Panel, detailing

through text and sketches, the history of our home and our society, was unveiled by the mayor, Councillor Paul Pisasale. Invited guests on that evening included local councillors and local state and federal members of parliament, two foundation members of ILT, Nan Scott and Yvonne Hawkins, life members, administrative committee members, past presidents, architects and builders who have worked on projects in our theatre precinct, members of community cultural groups and members, past and present, who have given significant service to the society. Andrew Spark, Mieke den Otter, Margaret Cook, and Ivan McDonald, the team of professionals responsible for the creation of the panel, were also present.

As President of Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc, I was honoured to present our people and our home to significant community representatives. Equally I graciously accepted, on behalf of the society, the bouquets we received on the evening. As a follow up to the evening, Mr. Shayne Neumann MP Federal member for the seat of Blair, spoke in the House of Representatives, of our contribution to the community and to preserving the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator.

On Saturday, 22 August we opened the gates of our theatre precinct to the Ipswich and wider community and invited them to celebrate with us.

All of our sub-groups were involved in a variety of performances in both the Jean Pratt building and the Incinerator Theatre and historic tours of the complex were also conducted. We were also delighted to have performers from the Cambrian Youth Choir, Orpheus Chorale and Ipswich Musical Theatre Company as our guests. We also had face painters and craft presenters who volunteered their time.

Our final celebrations were held that evening. Over 120 past members, current members, loyal audience members and supporters and their partners joined us for a trip down memory lane. Many others sent their apologies and said they were very disappointed that they could not join us. Tributes were paid to our members; Helen launched her book, *Burning Brightly*, which is a sequel to *Rising from the Ashes*, our theatre video premiered; the magnificent birthday cake was unveiled and much drinking, eating and reminiscing was done throughout the evening.

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Below: the new, permanent illuminated sign in the Courtyard

IPSWICH LITTLE THEATRE
PROUD OF OUR HISTORY
EXCITED BY OUR FUTURE!



Our President Thanks all the Workers ...

Where do I, as President, start as I attempt to thank all of you who contributed in any way to any of our celebrations? I have been through the list of acknowledgements that I made during my final address on Saturday night. Over 150 individual theatre members contributed in some way to our anniversary celebrations and many of these members contributed in more than one area. These are some areas that our theatre volunteers committed to over the two weeks:

- Setting up for all events
- Catering for events
- Serving food and drinks
- Setting up and delivering lighting and sound
- Videoing editing and photography
- Organizing and selling memorabilia and books
- Publicity for events
- Organising and setting up displays and performances
- Performing at the gallery and the theatre
- Working on open day activities and displays
- Greeting guests and visitors and providing information and directions

THANK-YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

I would also like to make some individual thank-yous and hope that I do not leave out anyone who has given "beyond the call".

Melinda Park, who kept all of us fired up, designed our invitations, and was responsible for the overall planning, marketing, publicity and volunteer rosters for our open day, and was the driving force behind the presentation and launch of our video

Robyn Flashman who organized catering and staffing in the kitchen area, guest lists and acceptances, mail-outs and publicity, memorabilia and sales

Jim Orr who, as Vice President, was always there to provide emergency support and back up while fulfilling his demanding role of bar licensee

Di Johnston who worked on the gallery display with me and organised the entertainment roster for open day and for the gallery

Phil Holmes who worked tirelessly with his helpers to ensure that our lighting and sound were of a professional standard

Craig Taylor who was MC for all events and developed our invaluable data base of all the plays we have performed over our 63 years. This will enable us to access what plays were presented and when as well as cast and crew lists for these plays

Gavin Turner for the hours spent in creating the 'cake masterpiece'

Suzanne Matulich for taking charge of decorating the theatre precinct and producing the display of 40 years of plays

And finally '**Team Pullar**' who were always there planning, implementing, inspiring and working to make our dream come true

I would also like to thank those members, led by Di Johnston, who nominated me for Honorary Life Membership of the Society, and the Administrative Committee who supported my nomination. While I have always felt that it is a great honour to serve the society in the role of President, 2009 has been a special year for me as I have stood beside members, past and present to celebrate 40 years in the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator Theatre. Never before and never again am I likely to receive a standing ovation!

Judy Grant

"Thank you!"

More pictures from the celebrations



At right: Judy Steele, Relle Scott and Beryl Johnston



Politicians Support Ipswich Little Theatre

It was heartwarming to see all three levels of government represented at the Cocktail Party held on Saturday 15 August. A major focus of the evening was the unveiling of the illuminated panel in the theatre courtyard showing the history of the Walter Burley Griffin designed Incinerator building.

Our members are very proud of our theatre complex and it is always great to be able to show it off to others who may not be aware of the amazing work that has been completed in the 40 years since it has been in the care of the Ipswich Little Theatre Society.



Shayne Neumann MP Federal member for the seat of Blair, Wayne Wendt MP Member for Ipswich West, Rachel Nolan MP Minister for Transport, Cr Paul Pisasale Mayor of Ipswich, Helen Pullar, ILT secretary, Cr Andrew Antonioli and Judy Grant, ILT President at the unveiling of the new illuminated panel showing the history of the Incinerator building, 15 August 2009.

Roll up! Buy your souvenirs here!

A number of items have been created as special souvenirs of the 40th Anniversary celebrations and there is still stock remaining for those members who didn't have cash with them at the events where the merchandise was on show.

The following are still available for purchase:

- **Commemorative Mugs \$8.00**
- **Commemorative Stubby Holders \$6.00**
- **Commemorative Slim Line Drink Holders \$6.00**
- **The DVD which was played on 22 August \$5.00**

A light-hearted series of snippets from interviews conducted by Melinda Park with Dianne

Adams, Pauline Brayford, Charles Costello, Desley Cronon, Robyn Flashman, Arthur & Mae Frame, Sandra Harle, Phil Holmes, Di Johnston, Suzanne Matulich, Jim Orr, Col & Jan Paterson, Ian & Helen Pullar, Patti Pratt, Jane Sheppard, Gavin Taylor, Craig Taylor, Lorraine Wilson and edited by Brendan Deickmann.

- **CD of Plays and Players \$2.00**

A very comprehensive (and very nearly complete) list of ALL the plays, casts and backstage crews of the 300 main house plays, sub-groups performances etc which ILT has produced since 1946.

- **Rising from the Ashes \$15.00** A re-print of the popular history of ILT: 1946 – 1996

- **Burning Brightly \$20.00** A comprehensive update of the Theatre history: 1996 – 2009. Its chapters include additional information about our Incinerator; a detailed account of all the full length and many of the one act plays since 1996 and those who performed in them; Life Members and others who have given dedicated service; those who work backstage, front of house and as volunteers and finally a tribute to those no longer with us.

All of this merchandise may be purchased at the Theatre bar or by arrangement with Robyn Flashman (38123450).

Footnote: for those of you who have already purchased a copy of *Burning Brightly*, please contact Robyn. Unfortunately there is a problem with the binding on some copies and we are recalling all issues and will replace them with a stronger bound version

Thank you



Ipswich Little Theatre at the Ipswich Art Gallery

Ipswich Little Theatre Society
Celebrates 40 years at the Incinerator Theatre



Robyn, Judy and Helen at the Cocktail Party



Part of the display at the Ipswich Art Gallery



The long and the short of it all!



Ipswich Little Theatre's 1973 production of *Clearway*. Playwright: Vivienne Webb, Director: Ian Pullar

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Celebrates 40 years at the Incinerator Theatre

30 July - 13 September 2009

In 1969 the Ipswich Little Theatre Society found a new home at the Incinerator Theatre. Designed by Walter Burley Griffin, this unique, intimate theatre was the Ipswich Municipal Incinerator from 1936 until the early 1960s. Its conversion into a theatre was the result of community foresight and commitment.

The Ipswich Art Gallery proudly presents this celebration of the last 40 years of performance at the Incinerator Theatre through this display of photographs and memorabilia.

FREE PERFORMANCES by the Ipswich Little Theatre will be held at the Gallery on selected weekend days in August. Don't miss the fun!



Ipswich Art Gallery

Ipswich Art Gallery | Queensland Times Gallery
d'Arcy Doyle Place Nicholas Street Ipswich Central
T 07 3810 7222 | W www.ipswichartgallery.qld.gov.au
FREE ENTRY | OPEN 7 DAYS 10AM-5PM



Gav's Cake a Triumph

