

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

December 2018 **Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter**



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING
7pm
Tuesday
15 January**

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*With best wishes for the
Festive Season from ILT*



A New (recycled) President

At the AGM, held on 9 December, Jim Orr was elected President of ILT. Jim has been a stalwart of the theatre since he joined us in 1997, serving in many roles including that of President in 2010 and 2011. For the past four years he has served as Past President during David Austin's presidency. He and David have now swapped roles. We welcome Jim to the job and thank David very much for his work during what was not always an "easy gig".

The other members of the Executive: Ann Collyer (Vice-President), Helen Pullar (Secretary) and Chris Greenhill (Treasurer); were re-elected unopposed. The following 22 members comprise the new Administrative Committee: Kyle Breese, Desley Cronon, Anne England, Aaron Evans, Tony Erhardt, Robyn Flashman, Helen Greenhill, Robyn Harm, Sandie Henwood, Phil Holmes, Samantha Johnson, Di Johnston, Deirdre Lowe, Kay McAllan, Kate Mallory, Shane Mallory, Doug Moses, Courtney Murrin, Josh Nixon, Melinda Park, Ian Pullar and Jane Sheppard.

Robyn Flashman and Ian Pullar were re-elected to Building Committee to join Helen Pullar, Melinda Park, Jim Orr and Billy Lowe.

David Austin, Desley Cronon and Aaron Evans were elected to Selection Committee to join Ann Collyer, Tony Erhardt and Shane Mallory.

The meeting was a far cry from the first AGM held in the Incinerator on 30 January 1969 with only three reports to be delivered and a one page set of minutes. This year there were 28 reports and the minutes ran to 21 pages. However, the meeting was very enjoyable and one which makes the attendees proud to hear of so many achievements. And of course, the presentation of the Griffin Awards and the meal that follow the AGM are always well received.



Helen (Secretary), David (President), Chris (Treasurer) and Ian (Minutes Secretary) between the audience and the set of *A Piece of Cake*



Incoming and outgoing Presidents Jim Orr and David Austin



Jane Sheppard presenting the Tourific Troupers report

We Need Your Help!

Once again our Theatre Complex is in need of its annual clean and re-organisation. There are many, many tasks that need to be carried out to get the place into ship-shape order for our patrons. So PLEASE make yourself available to give us only a few hours of your time on

SUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY from 9 am.



From the President

Thank you to all members who were so supportive of my nominating to be President at the AGM. I look forward to working with you all to encourage and support each other in the coming year. We have a year packed with exciting plays and challenges for actors and production teams. If we can continue the standard provided to our audiences in 2018 we will certainly have a successful year.

Thank you to all who provided our audiences with laughter and tears and ensured that their experience at ILT was second to none in 2018.

Congratulations to Ian Pullar who was awarded the 'Griffin Award in Memory of Judy Grant' for his amazing sets, work behind the scenes, performances and front of house work with Tourific Troupers, working on the Building Committee and for his all round ability to get things done quietly (well sometimes quietly) and with little fuss. He personifies the ethos of all that Judy Grant was and still means to the theatre.

Ian reminded all at the meeting that it was 50 years ago at an AGM that the members of ILT decided to take on the challenge of turning a decrepit and dilapidated incinerator into a functioning theatre venue. Their foresight and continuing work had given us this magnificent venue that we all enjoy. Ian and Helen were there then and are still here ensuring that ILT continues to survive and grow.

Please have a Merry and Safe Christmas and come back refreshed for the exciting New Year ahead.

Jim

S-Troupe

We finished off the official year with a few Christmas items for parents and carers, covering the biblical to the commercial end of Christmas, followed by a break-up afternoon tea and presentation of Acting Achievement certificates and DVDs of the show for the students and some well deserved certificates for the helpers.

Everyone will be looking forward to more fun next year.

Di Johnston, Director

Unfortunately, Leesa Besgrove was unable to attend the break-up as she was in hospital where she was visited by Di.



Junior Theatre & Little Players

Junior Theatre presented **A 'CATS-TROPHY'** and Little Players performed **ADVENTURE IN**



FAR, FAR AWAY LAND on 7 & 8 December to

sell-out crowds in the Jean Pratt Building. Two entertaining shows, highlighting talents of the next generation, were written and directed by Deirdre Lowe.

The performances were followed by an end-of-year

break up with presentations of awards.

Quartet

The cast of our first production for 2019, to be directed by Ann Collyer is:

More news later ...

Cecily Robson	Tracey Spence
Reginald Paget	Ian Pullar
Wilfred Bond	Callum Campbell
Jean Horton	Gillian Simpson

Pleasing our sell-out audiences is **A Piece of Cake.**

Sunday 2 December was an intolerably hot day, but we had our usual faithful matinee attendees whom we strived to keep comfortable with free iced water and early access to a very cool Incinerator. One gentleman identified himself as having come from Pittsworth with a carload. We assumed he knew a cast member, but he revealed that his little group, who are normally patrons of Toowoomba Rep, had been encouraged to come to Ipswich on the recommendation of a Toowoomba attendee. He was blown away by the Theatre, the FOH team, and the performance and on the strength of his experience donated \$100.

Another lovely thing which happened on that same day was the presentation of a Certificate of Excellence from the Thespian Lovers which was heartily endorsed by other patrons. This group patronises a number of community theatres and have now elevated ours to their favourite. The certificate reads

This certificate is awarded to

THE IPSWICH LITTLE THEATRE

In recognition of valuable contributions to

Customer Service & Devonshire Teas, Proven Casting, Set & Light Design and

Plethora of Plays Perfectly Performed and Produced.

Griffin Awards

The awards are presented annually by the President (on the nomination by members of Admin) to members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Society during the year.

Part of the President's address follows:

This year there is only one member that will receive this award. This year's recipient of the Griffin Award in honour of Judy Grant goes to Ian Pullar.

Ian's contribution and dedication to the theatre as a whole is unwavering. This year he has been Minutes Secretary and the Newsletter Editor, he has served on The Building and Publicity Committees, is the head of the PPM team and a part of the Archives Team, and he offered his time to the Festival again as BBQ cook extraordinaire.

However, what really made him stand out from the crowd was what he was able to create on this stage. The sets this year have been outstanding due to careful thought from this man. This stage has been transformed from an apartment, an office, a castle that had many rooms, a room in a mansion and a dilapidated old store that transformed into a beautiful café. I heard so many of our patrons say that the set was outstanding, and to be honest I have never really heard patrons rave about sets.

The set for *The Lion in Winter* continually moved with ease from scene to scene. My favourite comment was from a lady in the front row at one performance who exclaimed at interval, "Is there anything else this set can do?" And the set transformation in *A Piece of Cake* received applause every night and rightly so. At the touch of a bell, the lights came up and there before us a dingy old store magically became a lovely café.



Ian with Xavier, Sam and Anna Green (Judy's daughter) and Ross Grant (who generously donates the awards).

But it isn't only for those reasons that you are being honoured for this award, Ian. It is because, like Judy, you do what you do without want of fame or publicity or use what you do for entitlement. You do what you do for this theatre because it's the right thing to do. You see this theatre for what Ipswich Little Theatre truly is. It is first and foremost a community and you understand its importance in the Ipswich Community.



President David Austin, Ian and Ross Grant with the stein.

I am honoured to give you this award, and we are honoured to have you as a member.

David Austin President

Daytime Theatre Troupe

The group celebrated their 35th anniversary with a dinner at CSI Club at North Ipswich on Saturday 17 November.

This was a joyous occasions with lots of opportunities for reminiscing by current members with former participants who had returned for this special occasion.

Jane Sheppard – fresh from her triumph with *A Piece of Cake* – will be directing the first production of 2019 and is currently exercising her creative juices in writing the script.



2019 Season in Brief

Season 1: 28 February — 16 March

Quartet

by Ronald Harwood

Director: Ann Collyer; Assistant Directors:
Desley Cronon and Rebecca Noble

[Rated M: Some Coarse Language, Sexual References and Adult Themes.]

Season 2: 2 — 18 May

Challenges — A One Act Play Season

by Tara Routley (Adams), Robert Scott & Hugh O'Brien

Directors: Jim Orr and Sam Hoepner

[Rated M: Sexual references and Adult Themes]

Season 3: 11 July — 27 July

The Cemetery Club

by Ivan Menchel

Director: Chris Greenhill; Assistant Director:
Steven Carmichael

[Rated PG: Mild Sexual References]

Season 4: 19 September — 5 October

A Bunch of Amateurs

by Ivan Hislop and Nick Newman

Director: Shane Mallory; Assistant Director:
Aaron Evans

[Rated M: Coarse Language, Sexual References and Adult Themes.]

Season 5: 14 — 30 November

Boeing Boeing

by Marc Camoletti

(Translated by Beverley Cross and Francis Evans)

Directors: Helen Pullar and Robyn Flashman

[Rated PG : Mild Adult Themes]

DIARY DATES

Saturday 19 January 2 pm	Sign on for Young Theatricals
Sunday 20 January	Sign on for S-Troupe
30 January	Daytime Theatre Troupe recommences
Saturday 2 February 10 am	Sign on for Junior Theatre
Thursday 7 February	Sign on for Little Players

The Road to the JPB is Paved ... with Good Intentions

At long last, wheelchair access to the Jean Pratt Building will no longer constitute a health hazard. And no longer will those little stones be dragged into the soles of visitors. The whole drive has now been asphalted.

Our next project is to reroof the pergola to provide insulated protection from rain and sun for patrons waiting to enter one of the many performances held in that venue.



Left: preparing
the ground

Right: the finished
product

Photos Di Johnston



2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Vice President	Ann Collyer	3288 7053/ 0400 997 365
Past President	David Austin	3812 9431 (ah) / 0422 620 851
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437
Treasurer	Chris Greenhill	0427 977 007

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Front of House Management Coordinator	David Austin	3812 9431 (ah) / 0422 620 851
Subscription Secretary	Di Johnston	0447 191 954
Group Liaison/ Publicity Co-Coordination	Robyn Flashman/ Robyn Harm	3812 3450/ 3812 3516
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Junior Theatre/Little Players	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Kyle Breese Samantha Johnson	3201 6758/ 0423 278 833 0415 453 952
S-Troupe	Di Johnston	0447 191 954
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Kay McAllan	5464 3965/0439 305 658
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 .J 5464 5363
Theatre number	NB: Only during rehearsals or meetings	3812 2389

Sincere thanks to the Division 8 Community Office for the monthly printing of **Burning News**,

For more details about Ipswich Little Theatre: www.ilt.org.au