

≡ *Burning News* from the Incinerator Theatre

June 2019

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

Ian Pullar

07 3281 4437 or e-mail:
info@ilt.org.au

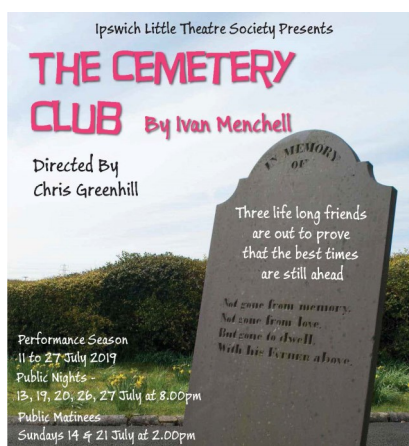
NEXT ILT COM- MITTEE MEETING

7pm
Tuesday
9 July 2019

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ILT hosted a function to celebrate the life of Life Member Lorna Longston on 15 June. Almost 100 people crowded into the courtyard – a tribute to a much loved former member.

(See note on page 5)



Three Jewish widows who have been lifelong friends meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves.

Ida is not used to being alone after a long marriage, but doesn't think she's ready to get involved with a man – that is, until Sam enters the scene. Lucille and Doris see the budding romance between Ida and Sam as a threat to their monthly ritual and begin interfering with devastating results.

A bittersweet comedy about love, marriage, death and the challenges of moving on.

Don't forget to book for yourself and your friends!

Public performances 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 July 8 pm. Matinees Sundays 21 & 28 July 2 pm

Bookings at www.ilt.org.au or Visitor Information Centre 3281 0555



The Merry Widows, Lucille (Virginia Gray), Doris (Autumn Barn), and Ida (Leanne Bamford) enjoy a cup of tea and a chat, before heading off to the cemetery ...



... while Sam (Matt Thomas) has been an object of interest to Mildred (Deb Wilson).



Jim Orr (Director), Di Johnston, Julie-Anne Wright, Kate Mallory and Sam Hoepner (Assistant Director) with their trophies at Port Macquarie.

Bubbles

Following their season on the Incinerator stage, the cast and crew of *Bubbles* have commenced the Festival circuit, venturing firstly to Port Macquarie (a 6½ hour drive in rain!). There they met with success – Julie-Anne Wright won Runner Up Best Female performance and *Bubbles* won Runner Up Best Play. Congratulations!

They now move on to a number of other Festivals including our own.

Around the Traps

When the cast of *Bubbles* were in Port Macquarie, they spied among the posters for the local theatre one that caught their eye. (We will cast our production of *Boeing Boeing* on 5 August.)

Stanthorpe Little Theatre are currently in rehearsal for *Quartet*, to be presented on 20, 21, 27 and 28 July.

There appears to be something of a commonality between groups!



Front of House

Once again, your company needs help during the season of *The Cemetery Club* to man Front of House. David Austin is looking for volunteers to fill the many positions required and he asks only a few hours of your time. With thirteen performances, we need between 30 and 40 people to carry out this essential function. But it's not very onerous if the task is distributed over a lot of people.

So please make yourself available. It's very easy to volunteer on line with the new system in place.

So as well as attending a performance as part of the audience, why not attend another night or two on the other side of the bar? You may even enjoy it, especially if you invite a friend to join you.

Daytime Theatre Troupe

Daytimers have finished a successful season of "Hurry up Nate" written and directed by Jane Sheppard. The audiences loved the characters and enjoyed their experience of live theatre.

With that behind them, the ladies have now started work on their next production *Ruby's Bush Christmas* to be directed by Kay McAllan for presentation in October and November.

Little Ruby has arrived to spend a special Christmas with her Nana Mac in the beautiful Gumnut Valley. Her Dad is in the army and her mum is a nurse and they both have to work this

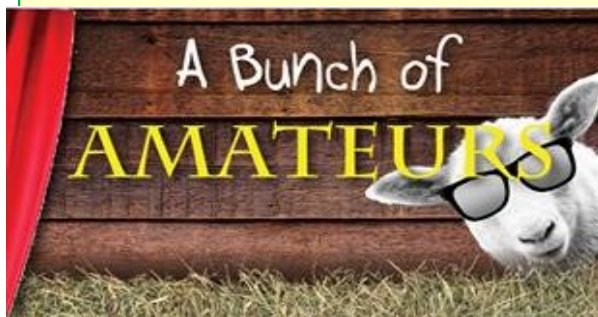
Christmas. This is her first Christmas away from them and Ruby is worried Santa won't find her if she is not at home. Sweet, purple haired, whimsical Nana helps ease Ruby's worries and promises that Santa will find her no matter where she is. That is Santa's job, especially these days!

Ruby soon learns the secret of the bush and meets Nana Mac's talking animal friends on her adventure.

The cast is as follows:

Nana Mac - Ann Maree Ling, Ruby - Annette Kitching, Bingo Dog - Allison Johnson, Lyla Forest Fairy - Sarah Harling, Ratticus Aussie Bush Rat - Jenny Pearce, Connie Cockatoo - Robyn Harm, Karla Koala - Jane Brown, Crikey Kangaroo - Sue Van Der Meer, Terry Tree Frog - Cynthia Graham, Santa - to be advised, Errol the feral fox - Geraldene Fitzpatrick, Sheryl the feral fox - Margaret Martin.

Chorus of moving gum trees and emus- Lesley Cuthbert, Marie Mortimer, Anne England, Bette Rose, Di Johnston, Jay Mair, Carol Welham.



Well-attended auditions were held on Wednesday 12 June for *A Bunch of Amateurs* by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman.

The following cast was selected:

Jefferson - Lindsay Spencer-Matthews
Nigel - Josh Nixon
Dennis - Christopher Smith
Dorothy - Beth Martin
Mary - Vicki Murray
Lauren - Kristy Patterson
Jessica - Georgina Page

This play, directed by Shane Mallory, assisted by Aaron Evans, will be staged between 19 September and 5 October. More news later.



"The July Grinch"

An S-Troupe production

Written and directed by Di Johnston

Saturday 20 July 2 & 4 pm shows
Sunday 21 July 2 & 4 pm shows

Saturday 27 July 2 & 4 pm shows
Sunday 28 July 2 pm show ONLY

Christmas in July?? The Grinch thinks if he steals Christmas from December and takes it back to July - it will ruin it for everyone - BUT WILL IT??

S-Troupe

Kane Wojcicki is not only a valued member of S-Troupe but the NDIS like him too. You may have seen his face in unusual places such as the back of a bus. You can also come and see him in "The July Grinch".



Bookings will open on Monday 24 June at the VIC: \$10 adults, \$7 pensioners, students and people with disabilities.

Young Theatricals

The students presented their showcase of two plays in the Incinerator on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 May – *The Friends of Valerie Lane*, and *The Patient* – to appreciative audiences.

They will now move on to preparation of their second semester offering in December.

The YTs:

Back row: Kelly Griffin, Jack Barrett, Joseph Savage, Chase Cooke, Alisha Djemal-Mawer, Georgia Wright, Briana Holland, Emily Sweet.

Front row: Mia Chisholm, Olivia Reid.

Absent: Mackenzie Cotterell, Gwen Parker. Briannah Byrnes.



Junior Theatre and Little Players



Little Players presented *Where's Jack*, written and directed by Deirdre Lowe on Friday 15 June. And what a lot of fun it was (see photos). This group now goes into recess until February next year.

The Juniors will be presenting *The Great Grain Robbery*, also by Deirdre, on Friday 21 at 6 pm and Saturday 22 June at 10 am.



Next semester, while Deirdre takes some time off, Ann Collyer will be acting director of the group with Melinda Park stepping in to help her. And the ever-reliable Jacqui de Villiers will still be on hand. The group will recommence on 20 July.

Tourific Troupers

The first tour of the year had a bumper crowd of more than 40. We never quite know what to expect. The gluten free lady thought her strawberry, apple and rhubarb dessert was boring and one gentleman wanted chicken or fish (which he didn't get), but all in all the group departed with great enthusiasm, the initial dissenters being perhaps the most enthusiastic.

Plays for 2020

Remember, closing date for offers to direct in 2020 close on 30 June. Selection Committee are looking forward to receiving lots of offers.

Festival 2019

No doubt all our members will have marked their calendars and reserved the weekend of 9, 10, 11 August for this year's Festival. Entries are slowly coming in, but we are still quite a way off closing date.

Just a reminder that if any members want one of the splendid new polo shirts that many will be wearing this year, they need to tell Sandie their size and what adornments they want and pay Chris by the end of June. Shirts are \$40 with the logo, \$45 with the name on the right hand side, \$46.50 if you need a pocket.

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 Ian 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

21, 22 June	Junior Theatre <i>The Great Grain Robbery</i>
Thursday 11 July	Opening night <i>The Cemetery Club</i>
20, 21, 27, 28 July	S-Troupe <i>The July Grinch</i>
Monday 28 July	Bookings open for <i>A Bunch of Amateurs</i>
Monday 5 August	Auditions for <i>Boeing Boeing</i>
9, 10, 11 August	<i>Festival 2019</i>
Thursday 19 September	Opening Night for <i>A Bunch of Amateurs</i>
Monday 7 October	Bookings open for <i>Boeing Boeing</i>
22, 23, 25, 29, 30 October 1, 2 November	Daytime Theatre Troupe <i>Ruby's Bush Christmas</i>
Sunday 2 December	AGM

Would You like to Help?

Sandie Henwood will be travelling to Vietnam in September visiting Nui Dat, The Long Tan Cross and the orphanage in Nui Dat which 6RAR (her late husband's regiment) built in the late 1960s and still maintains today. Her aim is to take a box of stationery with her for the children, and she invites members to make donations. The things she is looking for are pencils, coloured pencils, crayons, chalk, rubbers, stickers, sharpeners, tennis balls and Ping Pong balls. (NO Balloons (they scare the kids with the bursting) No Sweets (Poor dental services) No Markers). Financial contributions for her to purchase items would also be welcomed.

2019 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-Coordinators	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 Ipswich City Council Community Office for the monthly printing of *Burning News*,
For more details about Ipswich Little Theatre: www.ilt.org.au**

Farewell Lorna Longston



On 15 June, ILT hosted a gathering of friends of Lorna Longston to celebrate her life. The respect and admiration she had earned during her life was exemplified by the fact that around 100 people gathered in the courtyard, while many others apologised for their inability to attend.

Inevitably, there were speeches of tribute with speakers called up on in turn by Master of Ceremonies Robyn Flashman.



Lorna's sister Delphine Rouessart gave us an outline of Lorna's rich life from her birth in Pietermaritzburg in South Africa, to arriving in Australia as a single mother with her infant daughter, to becoming a teacher and an actress with ILT and professionally – a vibrant life with many friends, achievements, joys and parties.

Ros Gerchow spoke on behalf of the WAGS (Wednesday Afternoon Girls Sessions), Lorna's special group of friends.



Helen Pullar outlined Lorna's considerable involvement with ILT, on stage, on several committees, as Festival Director and the hostess of many a spag bol gathering at South Station Road.

Lorna's friend Pat Barat read a poem she had composed, covering Lorna's life and career. It finished with Lorna in the hereafter –

St Peter stood up from his seat
She took his chair to rest her feet.
"Sweetheart, while you're up," she said
"Just get me some ice and a scotch instead ..."

The audience was highly amused as this would be so typical of Lorna.

Lorna's brother Lawrence (known as Chum) and Sue Wykes added tributes, after which Ian Pullar informed the gathering of ILT's custom of laying an inscribed paver in remembrance of members who, having made a significant contribution to the society, had left the stage. He invited Lorna's husband Alan and her daughter Charlene Mitchell to lay a paver in memory of Lorna after he had led a rousing chorus of "Glory, glory Hallelujah" (a Lorna trademark).

The weather was glorious – a perfect Ipswich winter's day (unlike the following day with its storm and heavy rain). One could almost imagine – in the spirit of Pat Barat's poem – Lorna ensconced on St Peter's chair saying, "Well God, they're having a party down there in my honour. How about giving them perfect weather?!"



Robyn & Helen with two of the many attendees – Life Members Yvonne Gardiner and Beryl Johnston



Charlene & Alan installing the paver next to the birdbath of remembrance



Robyn Flashman



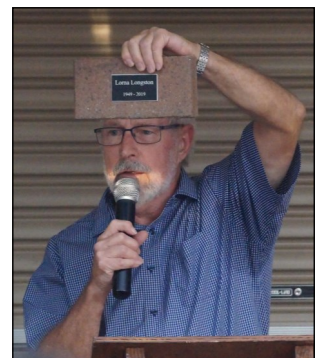
Delphine Rouessart



Helen Pullar



Pat Barat



Ian Pullar & paver