

October 2019

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

Editor:

Ian Pullar

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**NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

7pm

Tuesday

20 January 2020

(Not the 2nd Tuesday)

From the President	2
Daytime Theatre Troupe	2
2020 Season Launch	2
Cast of <i>Blithe Spirit</i>	2
S-Troupe	3
Junior Theatre	3
Young Theatricals	3
2020 Seasons	4
Diary Dates	4
Signs of Progress	4
Contacts	4
Gala	5&6

Group bookings are now available for our 2020 seasons.

Contact Robyn Flashman
0477 771 016

Annual General Meeting for 2019

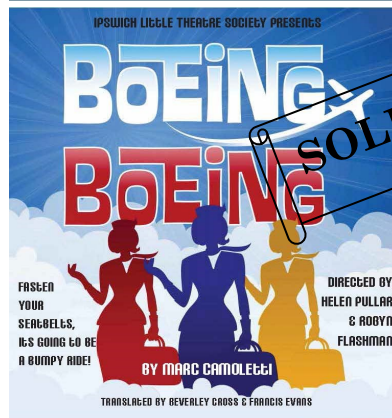
Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Incinerator
at 3 pm on Sunday 15 December

All are invited to attend and to hear reports on the numerous and very interesting activities of the Society over the past year and to elect the Office Bearers for 2020. The President will also present this year's Griffin Awards and Griffin Incentive Awards at 5:30 pm. The awards presentation will be followed by a Christmas Party to which all attendees are invited. However, if you intend to come to that please let Ann Collyer (3288 7053) know so that you can be catered for.

Nominations have been called for the following positions:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and members of the Administrative Committee (up to 25). Nominations are also called for the two vacancies on Building Committee for three year terms (Helen Pullar and Melinda Park to stand down); and three vacancies on Selection Committee for two years (Ann Collyer, Shane Mallory and Tony Erhardt to stand down), but all may renominate.

A nomination form can be obtained by contacting the Secretary Helen Pullar (hpullar@bigpond.net.au). Anyone nominating for one or more of the positions is required to complete the form and ensure it is in the hands of the Secretary at least 48 hours before the meeting. This can be done either by handing it to Helen in person or by mailing it to PO Box 154 Ipswich. Please do not put it in the Secretary's pigeon hole in the Jean Pratt Building because that does not provide security and will not be checked. We look forward to seeing lots of you at the meeting.



Breaking all previous box office records, *Boeing Boeing* was sold out before the season had even started. It is now playing to very enthusiastic audiences.



Cast and crew share breakfast at the Coffee Club: Shane Mallory, Sam Hoepner, Kahli Williams, Ian Pullar, Julie-Anne Wright, Gillian Simpson, Anna Bentley, Alizah Pomery

What a way to celebrate 50 years of activity in the Incinerator Theatre with full houses and a fantastic gala celebration (see photos on pages 5 and 6) for the 252nd major production in this venue.

To volunteer for Front of House duties, click on this link, open Hyperlink or type <http://www.admin.ilt.org.au/foh-roster/> and sign up for the times you are available. You'll help us and enjoy yourself.



From the President

Congratulations to Helen, Ian and all who made the *Boeing Boeing* Gala Night such a great success. It was fantastic to see so many Life Members and long term supporters of the theatre reminiscing and enjoying each others' company. I'm sure that none of the stories told were embellished in any way!!!!. It was an amazing effort by all involved and I'm sure that all who attended, left the theatre with smiles on their faces, after having enjoyed a great night of friendship and then having watched a performance of outstanding quality by the cast and crew of *Boeing Boeing*.

Amazing how the theatre has changed physically but the heart of the theatre, its members, has not changed. Well, maybe some of us are a tad greyer around the edges. But the love of theatre and long standing friendships made never leave us, even if we don't see each other as often as we would like.

I would also like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their efforts on your behalf this year. We have worked together and faced each issue that may have come to light, knowing that we have the support of a committed (or should I say 'should be committed') group of talented and hardworking members.

Proud to be President of ILT.

Jim

Daytime Theatre Troupe



Ruby's Bush Christmas, written and directed by Kay McAllan, has completed yet another wonderful season performing to enthusiastic young and young-at-heart audiences.

Congratulations to all involved for wonderful performances, costumes, sets and entertainment.

The ladies are already gearing up for another year with the first production for 2020 in the capable and experienced hands of Jane Sheppard (also known as Ratticuss!)

More news in future editions.



Errol (Geraldene Fitzpatrick) and Sheryl (Margaret Martin), the Feral Foxes with S-Troupers

2020 Season Launch

Our exciting 2020 season was launched in the Incinerator on Friday 1 November. To a packed audience of potential booking groups and aspiring actors, the directors of next year's major productions announced their plays. Already as a result of the launch, we have many of the available group nights booked already.

The year's programme can be found on page 4 and promises to be as exciting as usual.

Cast of *Blithe Spirit*

Auditions were held for our first play for 2020, *Blithe Spirit*, to be directed by Kate Mallory, assisted by Chris Greenhill, on 13 November. The following cast was selected:

- Edith - Georgia Page
- Charles - Josh Nixon
- Ruth - Tracey Spence
- Elvira - Liz Ball
- Dr Bradman - David Austin
- Mrs Bradman - Linda Shapcott
- Madame Arcati - Nataliya Thacker



The season runs from 27 March to 14 February 2020.

BOOKINGS OPEN ON 2 DECEMBER

Don't miss this ever-green comedy.

S-Troupe

Sadly another S-Trouper has left the ranks and gone on to greener pastures – Kane Wojcicki and his family have moved to Tasmania to be closer to sister Holly (herself an ex S-Troupe helper). We will miss Kane and his wonderful performances.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Daytimers production of *Ruby's Bush Christmas* and I know that the Daytimers also enjoy having S-Troupe as their responsive audience! (see photo on page 2)

We attended the new Villa Maria and Cascade Gardens (15 years since we have been there) on Sunday 10 November and performed a small Aussie Christmas style concert. These concerts always have reciprocal



David Spain-Mostina with his grandmother who lives at Villa Maria

benefits for the students and the audience and were well received.

Our breakup for the year will be held on Sunday 17 November for parents to enjoy our Christmas concert and some afternoon tea, then it is only the Glebe Road Camerons Park Christmas Carols on 14 December to finish off the year.

Di Johnston



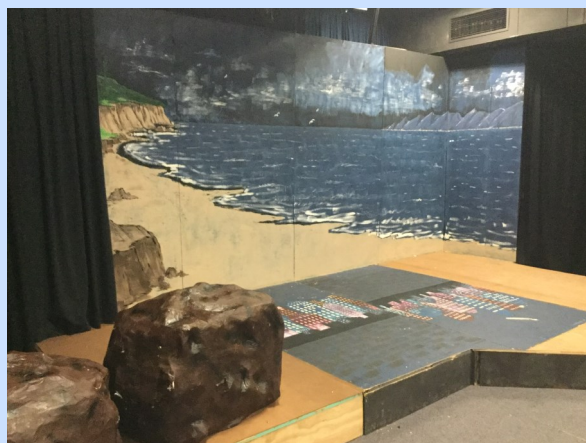
Performance at Villa Maria

Junior Theatre

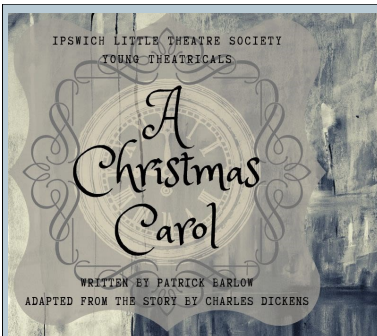
Junior Theatre is in full swing preparing for their next presentation – *Surf's Up*. Once again the show is written and directed by Deirdre Lowe. She and her husband Billy have created another wonderful set with a brilliant backdrop painted by Reilly Doherty's Grandad. Aren't we lucky to have such resources to count on?

Surf's Up will be presented on 6 and 7 December in the Jean Pratt Building. Do come and see it and encourage the next generation of actors.

The final performance will be followed by a break-up party and presentation of awards in the Courtyard.



Young Theatricals



YTs will be presenting Patrick Barlow's spoof of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in the Incinerator on 13 and 14 December. Tickets are available online or from the VIC.

It's Dickens, but not as you know it.....

Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by three ghosts on the eve of Christmas. They lead him on a heart-wrenching journey to relive a Christmas long since lost, experience Christmas through the eyes of those less cynical, and sneak a peek at a Christmas yet to come.

Featuring all of the characters you know and love (or hate), Patrick Barlow's adaptation of this classic Christmas story will have you laughing, crying, and even singing in your seats as you experience this heart-warming tale of Christmas spirit in a whole new way.

Performed by the talented actors from Young Theatricals, *A Christmas Carol* will appeal to all ages and provides a great opportunity to introduce children to this timeless tale. Directors are experienced and seasoned performers Kyle Breese and Samantha Johnson.

This is a very ambitious project for the YTs with three performances and we would all love to see reasonable audiences for them.

2020 Season in Brief

Season 1: 27 February — 14 March

Blithe Spirit

by Noel Coward

Director: Kate Mallory; Assistant Director:
Chris Greenhill

[Rated PG Mild Adult Themes.]

Season 2: 30 April — 16 May

Waiting for God

by Michael Aitkens

Directors: Doug Moses and Sheryl Roche
[Rated M: Sexual references and Adult Themes]

Season 3: 11 July — 27 July

Turn a Blind Eye — A One Act Play Season

Inconceivable by Hugh O'Brien and
Shock by Mark Lucas

Directors: Jim Orr and Relle Scott

[Rated M: Adult themes and frequent coarse language]

Season 4: 13 September — 3 October

Ladies Day

by Amanda Whittington

Directors: Jane Sheppard and Di Johnston

[Rated PG: Mild Adult Themes.]

Season 5: 14 — 30 November

My Fair Empire — A Theatre Restaurant

by David Austin

Director: David Austin

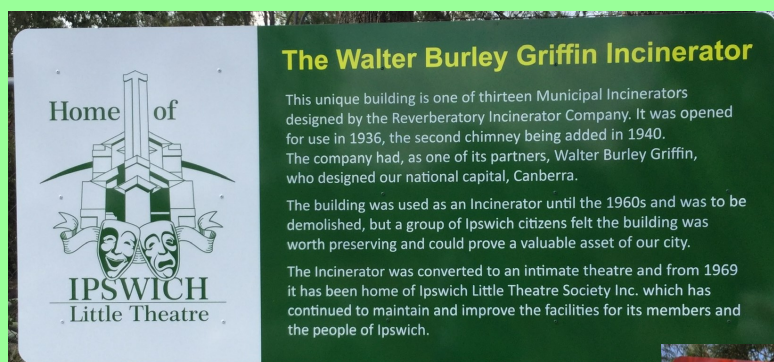
[Rated M: Mild Adult Themes]

DIARY DATES

6 December at 7 pm 7 December at 10 am	Junior Theatre <i>Surf's Up</i>
13 December at 7:30 pm 14 December at 2 pm & 7:30 pm	Young Theatricals <i>A Christmas Carol</i>
Sunday 15 December at 3 pm	Annual General Meeting

Signs of Progress

Almost 50 years ago, the Council installed a sign inside our front fence describing the heritage importance of the Incinerator. Over the intervening years, time and birds have caused the sign to deteriorate. At our request, the Council has now replaced the signage with a sparkling new version – just in time for the Gala Celebration.



The Council also provided a new sign to replace the ones that adorned our gate. Thanks to ICC.

Building Committee now plans to install new signage about our plays.



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 / 0422 620 851
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437/0400 801 443
Treasurer	Chris Greenhill	0427 977 007

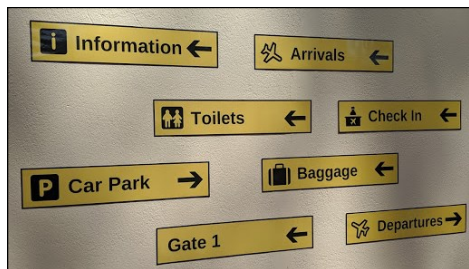
CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

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 / 0435 309 352
Junior Theatre/Little Players	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Kyle Breese Samantha Johnson	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



This year, Ipswich Little Theatre is celebrating 50 years of operation of the Incinerator Theatre with a reprise season of our first major production in the historic building – *Boeing Boeing*.

In particular, on 16 November, we hosted a Gala celebration for invited guests comprising Life Members, Past Presidents, current Committee members and former members from the early years of operation. And a great time was had by all those who attended.



On arrival, guests received information on where to go ...

then they could admire the decorations installed by Robyn Harm, Melinda Park and Kate Mallory ...



.. and then enjoy a multitude of food.



Above: Dianne Adams, Margaret Wellings and Sandra Harle

Below: Julie-Anne Wright and Desley Cronon

Right: The "timetables" showing the 252 plays staged



Left: Melinda Park and Natalie Mallory

Right: Kevin Harm and Phil Holmes



Above; Nadine England, Ron Sheppard, Jane Sheppard, Greg Ray, Deniece Ray, Yvonne and John Gardiner



Above: Lesley Cuthbert, Neil Cuthbert, Robyn Harm, Margaret Martin and Kay McAllan

Left: Jan Paterson and Chic Currie



Right: Kim Taylor, Debbie Lowe, Craig Taylor and Chris Greenhill



Left: Tara Routley



Above: June Jorgensen, Doug Moses, Zelma Hallewell, Clive Beale, Kevin Hallewell, Clive and Debbie Lowe. (Behind) Steve Hobbs



Shirlee and Geoff Burns



Eleanor Beale



Margaret Cook and Ivan McDonald (authors of the Heritage Conservation Plan) and Diana McDonald



Kate Mallory, Keith Collyer, Sandie Henwood and Ann Collyer

The courtyard was then rearranged with seating for the formal part of the evening ...

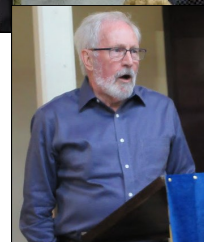


... President Jim Orr welcomed everybody, making particular reference to Mark and Wendy Edmonds who had kindly donated the Reverberatory Incinerator castings now located in the auditorium ...



... the story of the conversion of the derelict incinerator to an intimate theatre was told by Ian Pullar ...

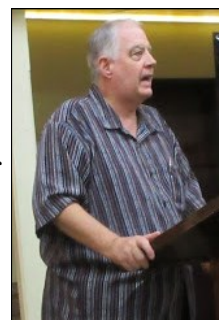
... while the continuing 50 year development of the Incinerator complex was described by Helen Pullar ...



... accompanied by a series of photographs of the development displayed on the screen (operated by Phil Holmes).

When the original decision to move to the Incinerator was made in 1969, concern had been expressed about space constraints on sets ...

... but Craig Taylor described many of the remarkable sets that have been constructed and decorated over the years, constrained only by imagination...



... Robyn Flashman introduced Jennifer Howard MP, Member for Ipswich, to conclude the formal part of the evening with a congratulatory message ...



... and the attendees transformed themselves into an audience and moved into the theatre for the performance of *Boeing Boeing*.

During interval, the three air hostesses from the 1969 production cut the celebratory cake.



June Jorgensen (Jacqueline), Dianne Adams (Janet) and Mavis Vincent (Judith) in 1969



June Jorgensen, Mae Frame and Dianne Adams in 2019



Anna Bentley (Gabiella), Kahli Williams (Gloria) and Alizah Pomery (Gretchen), hostesses in 2019



Photos by Robyn and Kevin Harm