

August 2021

## Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



Ipswich Little Theatre  
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

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**NEXT ILT  
COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**7pm**

**Tuesday**

**14 September 2021**

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**Vaccinate asap!  
That's the path  
to Normality!**

### DELTA KNOCKOUT BLOW

Everything was in place—we thought. Then came a three day lockdown in answer to an outbreak of COVID-19 (and particularly the highly infectious Delta strain) which meant the set-up working bee couldn't be held as scheduled. We held our breath that restrictions would be lifted enough for us to proceed, but alas, the Executive were faced with the unenviable decision of risking continuation, postponing or cancelling the Festival for the second year in a row. Inevitably, faced with the impossibility of finding alternative dates, the Executive had to make the sad decision to cancel.



Ipswich Little Theatre was not alone with almost all other Festivals having to be cancelled. This was extremely disappointing for all the groups organising or participating in the events and particularly so for Nanango who were staging their very

first Festival. We have to hope that next year will bring a "new normal" which is a lot closer to the "old normal".



**Ladies Day**

Our next production was well into rehearsals when the lockdown was called. This meant no on-stage rehearsals could be held, but Directors Jane Sheppard and Di Johnston minimised the disruption by holding a lines rehearsal via Zoom.

Once the restrictions were eased, the set could be built and rehearsals could recommence.



Dave Dunkerley, Ian Pullar and Callum Campbell installing part of the set.

Callum Campbell (in one of his many roles) and Shala Wilson (as Linda) in rehearsal.



This delightful comedy is scheduled to open on 23 September. Bookings are available at

**www.ilt.org.au or VIC 3281 0555**

**Don't miss it!**

Once again, we need help with Front of House for *Ladies Day*. Please volunteer. This can easily be done by using this link

<http://www.admin.ilt.org.au/foh-roster/>



## From the President

Thank you to Aaron for his work to put the Trivia afternoon together. It was a smaller crowd but we had a great time.

There have been a number of hard decisions made by Executive and Festival and Covid teams. I thank them for their commitment to ILT and all the research undertaken, but most of all to work towards the safest and best resolution of any issues raised.

4Cyte have been granted an extension of time to continue working from the theatre but due to complaints, they will now be operating from the rear roller door for the foreseeable future. Their city site is operational but due the current Covid issues, cannot cope with the large numbers of residents needing to be tested.

Remember to sign in every time you come onto the premises which is easy using the QR app.

Jim



## A Novel Approach to Auditions

The most recent lockdown made the scheduled auditions for *The 39 Steps* on 9 August impossible, so director Shane Mallory took a novel approach to recruitment. He asked each prospective actor to submit a one minute video of a comic performance. These were considered by the production team and our Selection Committee before face-to-face auditions could be held on 16 August.

The 'real' auditions were extremely well attended (7 males!) and the selection process was difficult. The cast selected was:

Richard Hannay

Kyle Breese

Footnote: Kyle Breese played one of the clowns in the 2011 production.

Clown

Sam Hoepner

Clown

Josh Nixon

Annabelle, Margaret, Pamela Caitlin Moffat

Rehearsals will commence immediately with the season to open on 18 November and run until 4 December (restriction permitting!) We wish the cast well for this exciting season.

**Bookings will open on 11 October.**



## Vale Beryl Johnston 1929–2021

Sadly, we have to report the passing of Life Member Beryl Johnston who died on her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday after a major fall .

Beryl decided in 1955 that she would like to join ILT. Aware of Andy McKenna's involvement, she waited on the footpath to meet him. She certainly threw herself into her new activity, performing in 33 major productions and a dozen one act plays over the next 21 years. She was an excellent actress, winning a number of awards in Festivals. An occasional director, she won the best director award at our Festival in 1969 for *The Faithful*

*Widow of Ephesus* which was also the play performed at the official opening of the Incinerator Theatre.

Beryl, along with Jean Pratt, helped ILT survive the "dark years" of the 1960s when audiences largely preferred to stay home and watch television. In 1966 she reluctantly agreed to take on the Presidency of the society. Beryl was a dedicated performer and I was privileged to direct her in a number of productions. She retired from the stage far too early (in 1981) and her presence was missed.

With the current COVID restrictions in place, the August Administrative Committee meeting was held via Zoom.

## Daytime Theatre Troupe

The Covid restrictions have also had a major impact on the Daytimers' production of

### **CAPTAIN FINN'S TREASURE HUNTING PIRATE ADVENTURE**

written and directed by Kay McAllan

The current rules have resulted in a reduction of the number of patrons at each performance and some rescheduling of performances. A number of State schools have had to cancel their bookings. But undeterred, the ladies have soldiered on (or should that be pirated on?)



## Junior Theatre (via Zoom)

The lockdown put a temporary clamp on face to face meetings of the Juniors, but as they had done for much of last year, they took to the air waves again and conducted their sessions via zoom.

Director Deirdre Lowe was determined that the educative process should continue and the children have certainly responded well.

However, they are certainly looking forward to live action again, once the Daytimers season is over and the restrictions are (we hope) lifted for their production of *Things That Go Bump in the Night*..

## Young Theatricals

The cancellation of the Festival meant that the youngsters were unable to perform their plays from the *Personal Demons* season.

The uncertainty over future COVID regulations continues to make it difficult to hold lessons and rehearsals. The directors are therefore considering alternative arrangements to keep the students interested and productive. They may be zooming to a solution.

Watch this space.

## Pandemic? We've Got it COVID

As noted elsewhere (a number of times) the current COVID pandemic has forced the Government to implement regulations to keep the populace safe. This requires a constant need for our management to remain abreast of the regulations in an ever-changing environment. ILT is fortunate that it has among its membership a number of people who are up to date because of their daytime jobs. This means that they and the Executive are able to update our COVID Management Plans as the regulations are tightened or relaxed.

During the recent lockdown and subsequent partial relaxation, the team drew up an extensive plan which was circulated to all our groups to ensure our compliance and the safety of our members and the public who attend our performances.

Many thanks to the members who have shouldered this responsibility – Jim Orr, Melinda Park, Shane Malloy, Ann Collyer, Helen Pullar, Chris Greenhill and David Austin.

## A Piece of Good News

Ever since we moved to the Incinerator, our water rates have been calculated based on the number of toilet pedestals even though their use would be considerably less than the average household. Urban Utilities have now dropped this charge and will now levy only use, resulting in significant savings to us.

## DIARY DATES

17 August to 2 September	Daytime Theatre Troupe
23 September	Opening Night <i>Ladies Day</i>
11 October	Bookings open for <i>The 39 Steps</i>
29 and 30 October	Junior Theatre <i>Things That Go Bump in the Night</i>
18 November	Opening Night for <i>The 39 Steps</i>
Sunday 12 December at 3pm	AGM

Note: all dates are subject to possible Government regulation changes.

### 2021 Season in Brief A Year of Comedy

Season 1: 4 March — 14 March

#### **Back on the Boards**

A miscellany of short comedies by a miscellany of Playwrights and Directors.

[Rated PG Mild Adult Themes.]

Season 2: 29 April — 15 May

#### **The Savannah Sipping Society**

by Jamie Wooten, Jessie Jones, and Nicholas Hope

Director: Chris Greenhill, Assistant Director Robyn Flashman

[Rated M: Sexual references and Adult Themes]

#### **Annual Drama Festival 13, 14, 15 August**

Season 3: 23 September — 9 October

#### **Ladies' Day**

by Amanda Whittington

Directors: Jane Sheppard and Di Johnston

[Rated PG: Mild Adult Themes.]

Season 4: 18 November — 4 December

#### **The 39 Steps**

by Patrick Barlow

Director: Shane Mallory. Assistant Director: Jo Robins

[Rated M: Mild Adult Themes]

## A View of Canberra

Marion Mahony Griffin was a very feisty lady. There is no doubt that her drawings were a major factor in her husband Walter being awarded the prize for the development of Canberra. And her input to his practice was significant if largely unrecognised. Following Walter's death in India she returned to Australia and was noted as a leading Theosophist.

According to a recent article from the Buley Griffin Society, she visited Canberra some time in the 1930s when there had been considerable development. She expressed the view that there were only two buildings in Canberra that would have had Walter's approval.



### 2021 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 / 0413 636 249
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	Courtney Murrin	0457 734 433
Subscription Secretary	Di Johnston	0447 191 954
Group Liaison/ Publicity Co-Coordinators	Robyn Flashman/ Robyn Harm	3812 3450/ 0413 742 116
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754 / 0435 309 352
Junior Theatre/Little Players	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Kyle Breese Samantha Johnson Aaron Evans	0423 278 833 0415 453 952 0431 041 068
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

For more details about Ipswich Little Theatre: [www.ilt.org.au](http://www.ilt.org.au)