



Ipswich Little Theatre  
— SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946 —

### Editor:

**Ian Pullar**

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

### NEXT ILT COMMITTEE MEETING

7pm

Tuesday

9 January 2024

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*No matter how far you push the envelope, it's still stationery.*

## The Big End of Year Bash

On 10 December around 55 of our members and volunteers gathered to celebrate the year that was. And there was plenty to celebrate after a successful, Covid free year.

Food was provided by Committee members who had been asked to “bring a plate.” and a good time was had by all. The highlight of the afternoon was the awarding of Honorary Life Membership to Shane Mallory. See page 2.

Here are some fairly indifferent photos (my apologies—Ed).



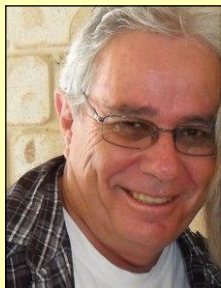
Ian presenting Life Membership to Shane,



Members enjoying each other's company and good food.



Kate practising with Freya, new baby daughter of Courtney and Cody.



## From the President

Thank you to Aaron for organising the end of year party; Ann and Connie (so soon after the Theatre Restaurant) for their work in the kitchen along with so many others together with Melinda and Di at the bar. What a team effort! So many delicious servings of food to share and friendship between all who came. What a pity Jane's caramel tart didn't set and I just had to take it home.....

Congratulation to Shane for his well deserved Life Membership award. It was great to have his family there. Shane has dragged us, sometimes, kicking and screaming, into the electronic age, as well as giving great performances as an actor and showing us all how to take a play and challenge not only the actors but also the audiences.

I am proud to be a part of ILT and hope you all had a great year and that 2024 is filled with fun and love for you and your families.

*Jim*

## New Life Member Shane Mallory

From time to time, Ipswich Little Theatre rewards a member for outstanding service to the Society. This is not an easy award to earn, requiring years of dedicated service. During its 77 years of existence, ILT has only awarded 41 such Life Memberships. This year, Life Membership was awarded to Shane Mallory.

Shane first trod the Incinerator boards in 2005 in *Bedding Roses*. Since then he has gone on to appear in a further 11 full length plays and seven one act plays. He has also directed 5 full length plays (including the hilarious *The 39 Steps* twice) and a one act play, *Fully Committed*, in which, as the solo performer, he played 37 different roles.

He joined the Administrative Committee in 2011 and took on the additional roles of ICT Manager and Box Office Manager, using his state of the art expertise. He has served on Selection Committee for many years, and is the current convener. He is also currently Vice President. An outstanding record of service, fully meriting the award.

Footnote: As far as possible, we like to take recipients by surprise, It was therefore fortunate for the Committee that Shane apologised for missing an Admin meeting so the necessary process of election could be followed in secret. And there was no doubting Shane's surprise at the end of year party!



Shane responding to his award,

## Junior Theatre

If you didn't see the Juniors' presentation of *Marlin's Great Ocean Adventure*, in the Incinerator, you missed a colourful and confident performance by these budding young players.

The Junior Theatrical Directors would like to thank the parents, guardians, the amazing Junior actors, and ILT members for supporting us as we found our way as Directors. Without this support we would not be able to accomplish what we did. Although we were nervous taking on this responsibility, ILT has an abundance of human resources such as Drama teachers, experienced actors and technical directors that we tapped into regularly and this was instrumental in achieving what we did.

We would like to thank Kim Frohloff who really became the unofficial fourth member of the Directing Team. Kim went online to acquire the colourful costumes for the production, gave feedback that helped make each class get better, worked with the actors backstage and always asked "Is there anything I can do?". This is the reason why we love Community Theatre. Everyone works together to create wonderful artistic experiences.

Congratulations to Aria, Annabelle, Jamie, Mia and Jude who graduate to the Young Theatricals next year. There they will meet up with their other friends from the Juniors who graduated last year and will no doubt grow their skills even more to become great performers.

We have been so grateful for this experience and are looking forward to 2024. Please be safe, have a Merry Christmas and a great start to the new year.

*Tracey, Chris and David*

## Ageing Disgracefully!

Bookings are now open

[ilt.org.au](http://ilt.org.au) or VIC 3281 0555

If you book seats in the Incinerator (up to 50 available), you will see three plays *Slow Dating* by Adam Szudrich, directed By Jane Sheppard, *Dotty's Inheritance* by Debra Chalmers directed by Jim Orr and *Ashes to Ashes* by Jill Curran directed by Di Johnston. After interval, you will transfer to the Jean Pratt Auditorium and sit in a seat with the same number and will view a further three plays, *Heading for Home* by Ian Pullar directed by Helen Pullar, *Say Something Happened* by Alan Bennett directed by Robyn Flashman and *Away from Home* by Ian Pullar directed by Helen Pullar.

If you book seats in the Jean Pratt Auditorium you will see the same plays but with the sessions in the opposite order.

Readers of these pages will remember that, having decided that ILT would produce a season along the lines of *Back on the Boards* presented in 2021 after the total close-down caused by Covid, we set out to find another batch of plays that would entertain our audiences and challenge our actors. After an extensive search we decided on a repertoire of plays with a light-hearted focus on ageing which is something we all have to do in time.

All the casts are rehearsing, but with the Festive season coming on they will take a break before ramping up in the New Year.



In *Say Something Happened*, Bob Polowj (Dad), Gillian Simpson (Mam) and Audrey Raine (June)

## This Leads to That ....

In July our Tourific Troupers hosted a tour by a Probus Club from Toowoomba. Towards the end of the tour, the organizer announced, "When I booked the tour, I thought it would be good. It wasn't. It was fantastic!" In conversation, the same man told us that he lives in a retirement village where a group of them have been doing some acting, and asked if they could use the scripts of the plays we had presented them. We obliged. Their latest presentation to the residents had been a play called *Dotty's Inheritance*. At the time we were on the lookout for suitable scripts for our first season of 2024 so serendipitously we had been provided with a suitable choice for our programme. Once we had finalised our season, we contacted him and told him about the event, which we thought might interest him. The result is that the residents of his retirement home are bringing a bus load to a matinee and have booked 24 seats.

Furthermore, at a previous tour, by a Kenmore Probus Club, a visitor had offered us a number of scripts which he had produced for his club. We put the two groups in contact with each other and the Toowoomba players now have a number of suitable scripts available for their theatrical endeavours.

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Incinerator at 3 pm on Sunday 21 January. All members are invited to attend to hear reports on the activities of 2023 and to elect an Administrative Committee for 2024. Attendance at the End of Year Bash was not a substitute!

## JPB

Recent heavy rains breached the roof of the Jean Pratt Building, causing some damage to the roof insulation, the carpet tiles and some of the internal fittings. Building Committee has reclamation in hand with an urgent need to have the building ready for the first season, This will mean that there will be a number of tradies on site effecting repairs, so for members, the building is out of bounds so until further notice, please keep away for now.



Best wishes for  
Christmas and  
2024



## 2024 Season in Brief

**Season 1: 28 February — 17 March**

### **Ageing Disgracefully**

Producer Helen Pullar

Six short plays staged in the Incinerator Theatre and the Jean Pratt Auditorium

*Rated: PG Some adult themes.*

**Season 2: 15 May — 1 June**

### **Stepping Out** by Richard Harris

Director: Tracey Spence

Assistant Director: Kim Frohloff

*Rated: PG.*

### **Annual Drama Festival**

Director:: Di Johnston

**9, 10, 11 August**

**Season 3: 18 September — 5 October**

**Clue: On Stage** adapted from the Paramount Pictures film written by Jonathan Lynn and the board game from Hansbro, Inc written by Sandy Rustin, based upon the works by Jonathan Lynn, Hunter Foster, Eric Price

Director: Tony Erhardt:

Assistant Director: Phil Holmes.

*Rated PG: Adult Themes.*

**Season 4: 20 November — 7 December**

### **Bondi Legal** by Tony Laumberg

Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill

Assistant Director: Liz Ball

*Rated: PG*

## DIARY DATES

Sunday 21 January 2024	Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 24 January	<i>Young Theatricals resume</i>
Saturday 3 February	<i>Junior Theatre resumes</i>
Wednesday 7 February	<i>Daytime Theatre Troupe resumes</i>
28 February	Opening Night <i>Ageing Disgracefully</i>

## Back to Normal?

Since the Festival finished in early August, the Incinerator auditorium has been configured in an unusual arrangement – firstly, in the round, for *12 Angry Jurors* and then for the Theatre Restaurant *My Fair Empire*. With the completion of that season, the auditorium has been reconfigured to its usual arrangement, thanks to Chris Greenhill and his band of helpers.



But the box office plan will be different again. For *Ageing Disgracefully* there will only be fifty seats available in the Incinerator. There will be another fifty in the Jean Pratt auditorium with the audiences changing venue after interval to watch the other half of the programme (which the actors will perform for a second time).

By our second season, the arrangements will truly be back to normal.

### 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Jim Orr	0402 377 258
Vice President	Shane Mallory	0403 175 702
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

Subscription Secretary	Julie-Anne Wright	0419 758 724
Group Liaison	Robyn Flashman	0477 771 016/
Marketing	Robyn Harm	0413 742 116
Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754 / 0435 309 352
Junior Theatre	David Austin	0422 620 851
Young Theatricals	Kate Hoepner Aaron Evans	0479 048 979 0431 041 068
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Jane Sheppard	5464 5363 / 0419020675
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 .J 5464 5363
Theatre number	NB: Only during rehearsals or meetings	3812 2389