



Burning News from the Incinerator Theatre

DECEMBER 2011

Ipswich Little Theatre Society Inc Newsletter



NEXT ILT
COMMITTEE
MEETING
7pm
Tuesday
9 January 2012

Passing the Baton

Ipswich Little Theatre has a new President. At the Annual General Meeting held in the Jean Pratt Building on 11 December, Jim Orr stood down after two years in office. Jim did an outstanding job during his "reign" but has decided that it is time for him to move on. Fortunately, Jim now becomes Immediate Past President, remains our licensee and has joined Building Committee so we will retain his wisdom and expertise.

The AGM recorded its thanks to Jim for a "job well done". His replacement, Suzanne Matulich, was elected unopposed. Suzanne is a long serving member (see some biographical details below). We welcome her to the chair and wish her all the best in taking on the role. As our society is really a big business, we ask a lot of our President. As Suzanne has been Vice-President for the past two years, her "promotion" left a vacancy which was filled by Majella Gee.

The remainder of the Executive remains the same for next year as it was in 2011. A list of the principal office bearers is given on page 4.



Jim Orr handing over to incoming President Suzanne Matulich.

Meet the New President

Suzanne Matulich joined Ipswich Little Theatre in 1974, appearing in *Rookery Nook*. Prior to that she had appeared in *Murder in the Red Barn*, *The Admirable Crichton* and *Boeing Boeing* with Gold Coast Little Theatre and had worked with art lecturers painting backdrops etc at teachers training college.

She played Peter Pan for the Daytime Theatre Troupe in 1984 and appeared in the award winning Festival play *Edward* in 1989. She was director of our Junior Theatre for a couple of years. She enjoyed the experience of acting in films, commercials and documentaries and in 1988 she was wardrobe mistress for a few seasons with TN! Theatre company based in the Princess Theatre, Annerley.

She established Crossfyre Youth Theatre in Ipswich, independently of ILT, teaching theatre skills and putting on two performances a year with both juniors and teenagers as well as entering plays in the One Act Play Festival circuit.

After about 15 years, she combined this group with ILT to form Crossfyre Young Theatricals which she ran for a number of years, both training the students and presenting challenging plays.

She has directed a number of plays for senior theatre, the most recent including *President Wilson in Paris*, *Wolf Lullaby*, *Enter a Free Man* and *Scenes from a Separation* as well as Festival plays *Impromptu* and *A Game*.

The past six Ipswich Little Theatre Drama Festivals have been under Suzanne's directorship where she has displayed her dedication, hard work and attention to detail. She has edited this newsletter for the past ten years (this year deciding to share the load with Ian Pollar who has edited this edition).

In her private life, she worked at Ipswich City Council for 8 years as Public Program Officer and the RADF Liaison Officer. She is currently employed at Arts Queensland as the administrator of the RADF program across Queensland.

Having served two years as Vice-President, she is now very excited to take on the position of President. She has a great passion for theatre in general but in particular Ipswich Little Theatre and its heritage home.

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Christmas is here!

Following the AGM, many of our members remained for an end-of-year and Christmas celebration in the Theatre Courtyard. Another occasion on which we can all be grateful that we have such a wonderful home.

For any of you members who couldn't make it (and of course those who could) we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wish that 2012 will be great for you and for ILT.



The Incoming Administration Committee



Back row: Jan Paterson, Kay McAllan, Anne England, Doug Moses, Ian Pullar, Phil Holmes, Shane Mallory, Jim Orr, Suzanne Matulich, Chris Austin-Greenhill, Les Chappell

Centre row: Robyn Flashman, Deirdre Lowe, Jane Sheppard, Ann Collyer, Desley Cronon, Helen Pullar

Front row: Robyn Harm, Melinda Park, Majella Gee

A New Life Member

At the AGM, Life Membership was awarded to Alan Brown. The decision to award this honour was made by the Administrative Committee some months ago, but in time-honoured fashion, it was kept secret.

The principal sponsors for the award were Jan and Col Paterson. Part of Jan's tribute is included here.

I first met this person in 1976 when we both performed in *The Real Inspector Hound*. Alan, I know you don't like awards, and at this point in time, but I thought it was about time that you were recognized for your dedication and commitment to Ipswich Little Theatre as an actor, director, awards winner, set designer, set construction, set painting, property manager, theatre manager, gardener, member of the administrative committee, selection committee, all round odd job and fix it man – you name it – Alan has done it. In many cases above and beyond the call of duty. All done without a fuss. If a job needed doing, Alan would just get in and do it.

Alan has performed in excess of 45 productions for ILT including Daytime Theatre Troupe and Tourific Troupers. Has given a helping hand to Juniors, Young Theatricals and S-Troupe on many occasions.

As Librarian I recently came across a photo of Alan in long black leotards with his son Damian who was in our Junior group, as fire eaters at a Medieval Fayre in the Incinerator grounds in the 70's. Might I say Alan, you struck an impressive pose.

Alan has always been good with lines. Not always the right ones...but he would always manage to come out with something much to the delight and quite often, dismay of fellow actors. I was particularly pleased and proud of Alan when he came to the first rehearsal of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* with all of his lines down. Great lines – fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck – with lots of dribble thrown in and the occasional urination on the stage. What a memorable performance.

Alan, we haven't always seen eye to eye, but I am thankful for the times that you have helped me out with productions and kept my husband Col up at the theatre doing odd jobs while I went out shopping and I congratulate you on your achievements my dear friend and your devotion to this wonderful theatre.

Jan and Col Paterson



Col and Jan Paterson with Life Member Alan Brown in the middle.

Who Can Explain It?

Neither Director Shane Mallory nor Front of House Manager Majella Gee were aware of the entire audience leaving a performance of *The 39 Steps* a third of the way through. How then do they explain why the Ipswich Evening View Club reported in *The Community Chronicle* that they had attended a performance at the Incinerator of *The Thirteen Steps*?

Golden Griffin Awards

In recent years, ILT has chosen to recognise some particularly notable contributions to the Society's activities over the year. Members of Admin are encouraged to nominate their fellow players, whilst the President chooses those to be honoured. This year there were three recipients: Daniel Wheeler for his outstanding development as an actor; Phil Holmes for his dedication and skill in providing superb lighting and sound for all our productions; and Anne Collyer for her unstinting efforts in managing our kitchen and food supplies. Congratulations to all these worthy members!



Phil Holmes, Ann Collyer and Daniel Wheeler with Jim Orr and their Griffin Awards

Stepping Out

Our first production for 2012 is the heart-warming comedy *Stepping Out* with Jan Paterson in the Director's chair and Desley Cronon assisting her. Auditions were held for the play on 14 November. Selection Committee were faced with an embarrassment of riches with twice as many auditionees as parts. So a very strong cast was selected (with commiserations to those who missed out on parts).

Already rehearsals are in hand. There will be a short break over Christmas and then right back into it. No doubt the production will be up to the high standard we have come to expect from this very experienced production team.

Life member Dianne Adams now lives in Dalby near her daughter Tara and two grandchildren.

She recently directed *Lipstick Dreams* for Dalby Players which was "a real success, with good audiences each night."



Majella handing over the roster info to Chris.

FOH

Majella Gee is now the Bar Manager and Chris Austin-Greenhill has taken over her previous job as Front of House Manager. This can be quite an onerous task which requires him to provide staff for every performance in the Incinerator.

You can make his job so much easier by volunteering. If every member were to do a night at each season, there would be enough to go around without overloading those regular volunteers. Surely it's not too much to ask of members who claim to love the Theatre!

Vale Rita Beasley-Brown

Members were greatly saddened by the passing of Rita Beasley-Brown – Alan's wife – recently. Rita had struggled for some time with cancer, enduring considerable pain.

Although Rita was not an active member of our company, she was a very loyal patron and supporter of all Alan's activities.

Following her funeral service, a wake was held in the Incinerator courtyard and many of our members came to share happy memories with Alan and her family and to offer their condolences.



The spectacular backdrop from the sell-out season of David Austin's theatre restaurant *The Force and I*



Ipswich Little Theatre

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The Ipswich Little Theatre complex, including the historic Incinerator Theatre designed by Walter Burley Griffin, is located in Burley Griffin Drive, off Griffiths Road, Ipswich.

To ring the theatre when there is

a class or rehearsal

Phone 3812 2389.

NOTE: this phone is not staffed at other times.

Memberships now due

With the new year upon us, members are reminded that it is time to renew their memberships. Doug Moses, who is now our Subscription Secretary (as well as convener of Selection Committee), would love to hear from you and receive your cash or cheque for \$25 for 2012 membership. Alternatively, if you contact the Treasurer, she will give you a deposit reference for a direct deposit. You can also join online www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au. Membership entitles you to vote, to take part in productions and to purchase discounted tickets to our major productions.

Group Night Bookings

Our Group Liaison Secretary Robyn Flashman still has a number of nights available for various play seasons. We put aside eight nights for each main house play for this purpose and very rarely do we have any unsold by the beginning of the year.

We offer an attractive reduced ticket price if you book all 80 seats or even if you book half the theatre (40 seats).

If you are interested in taking the opportunity to make money with little effort by your organisation, contact Robyn on **3812 3450**.

Booking the Jean Pratt Building

Anyone wanting to book the Jean Pratt Building for rehearsals, meetings or performances need to contact Desley Cronon who is anxious to add more coloured dates to her spectacular booking calendar.

Auditions

Auditions for our second major production of 2012, *Duet for Two Hands* (director Les Chappell) will be held on 13 February.

Audition dates for later productions will be advised in the Newsletter and on the website. Information about the required casts will also be given to assist members with their planning for the year. There are lots of wonderful opportunities coming up for budding thespians.

2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Suzanne Matulich	3281 4748 (ah) 0412 79 22 64
Vice President	Majella Gee	3812 7821 0415 258 162
Past President	Jim Orr	0447 20 00 06
Secretary	Helen Pullar	3281 4437
Treasurer	Jan Paterson	3810 5884 0417 787 130

CONTACT DETAILS FOR OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Front of House Management Coordinator	Chris Austin-Greenhill	3812 9531
Group Liaison Secretary	Robyn Flashman	3812 3450
Jean Pratt Building Bookings	Desley Cronon	3288 8754
Junior Theatre	Deirdre Lowe	0409 202 380
Young Theatricals	Jan Paterson	3810 5884 0417 787 130
STroupe	Melinda Park	3201 8861 0419 650 441
Daytime Theatre Troupe	Anne England	3281 7654 0413 676 049
Tourific Troupers	Helen Pullar or Jane Sheppard	H 3281 4437 J 54645363
Theatre number	NB: only during rehearsals or meetings	3812 2389

Sincere thanks to Cr Charlie Pisasale for the monthly printing of *Burning News*,

For more details about Ipswich Little Theatre www.ipswichlittletheatre.com.au