



Ipswich Little Theatre  
SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1946

### Editor:

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**NEXT ILT  
COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
7pm  
Tuesday  
18 January 2022**

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**Best wishes to all our  
members and friends  
for the Festive Season  
and the New Year**

## A New Life Member

At the festivities following the AGM, Tony Erhardt was presented with Honorary Life Membership of ILT by President Jim Orr following this citation:

A young Anthony Erhardt joined Junior Theatre in 1981. Over the next two years he appeared in five Junior productions before moving on to Young Theatricals in 1983 where he continued to perform.

In 1987 he moved on to the “big stage” with Senior theatre. Since then, he has appeared in six full length plays, a further five one acters that have formed part of a season, six Theatre Restaurants and three ten minute plays. He has also worked backstage on numerous occasions including roles as Stage Manager or Lighting Operator.

He served as Director of Young Theatricals where he directed plays including several which he wrote. He has also written several plays for adults. He is currently organising a major event in 2023 to mark 50 years of Young Theatricals.

Somewhere along the line he changed his name to Tony.

A major contribution has been in relation to our annual Festival where he has worked extensively backstage. He was Assistant Stage Manager to Craig Taylor and when Craig became the Festival Director, Tony stepped into the role of Stage Manager which he has carried out in an exemplary fashion.

Tony has been a member of Admin for many years, has served on Selection Committee and has been a member of the Production, Properties and Maintenance team. He is a regular attendee at working bees including those for set building. Tony's contribution to Ipswich Little Theatre has been of great significance and it is very appropriate that he be awarded Life Membership.



## Annual General Meeting for 2021

This year's AGM was particularly well attended (with 40 members present), no doubt partly because of the 75th Birthday Party that followed. It is a sign of the complexity of our operations that there were 29 reports delivered by the many sub-committees and officers over a period of nearly 2½ hours.

The Executive Members from 2021 were re-elected unopposed: President Jim Orr, Vice President Ann Collyer, Secretary Helen Pullar and Treasurer Chris Greenhill. David Austin remains Past President and Ian Pullar continues as Minutes Secretary.

Other members of the Administrative Committee are: Desley Cronon, Aaron Evans, Tony Erhardt, Robyn Flashman, Helen Greenhill, Robyn Harm, Sandie Henwood, Kate Hoepner, Samantha Johnson, Di Johnston, Deirdre Lowe, Shane Mallory, Beth Martin, Kay McAllan, Douglas Moses, Melinda Park, Jane Sheppard, Tracey Spence, Craig Taylor and Julie-Anne Wright.

See photographs on page 3



## From the President

CONGRATULATIONS to Aaron Evan who was awarded the Griffin Award in Memory of Judy Grant at the AGM. His commitment to every aspect of the theatre, was amazing. He worked tirelessly helping others, when needs were identified, or just got in and did what needed to be done. The Trivia nights were fun and an example of his eagerness to help raise funds for the theatre.

Also congratulations to Gwen Parker for her Judy Grant Incentive award for her outstanding work with Young Theatricals.

We have a new Life Member – Tony Erhardt, Congratulations mate, totally deserved. Your willingness to be a part of the theatre and to help anyone is a great example to all members. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for the theatre and individual members.

Finally congratulations to the cast and production staff of 'The 39 Steps'. What a breathtaking show again proving what can be done by ILT on its tiny stage and using every bit of imagination that they all possess in abundance.

At the AGM we confronted the requirement that theatres become fully vaccinated or exempt persons only venue. This will impact every aspect of our future. Please be understanding of the difficulties that members required to enforce these restrictions may face and support them fully. Do not allow anyone of us to feel attacked or unappreciated. We need to be a group that shows support to everyone, in these difficult times.

So many members of your committee have shown their commitment to keeping ILT alive and viable, I am humbled to have been a part of their work.

Helen, Chris, Shane, Melinda and Ann were all outstanding and spent hours working to find a way through the maze of constantly changing restrictions and attending to financial problems that arose. I again asked that a vote of thanks on behalf of all members be given to these members. They could not have done this without a belief in ILT and its future.

Thank you for entrusting me with the position of President for another year.

Jim

## Little Players

The Little Players presented *The Wizard's Apprentices* or *Oops. We've Done It Again* on 9 December in the Jean Pratt Building. It was an absolutely delightful performance by these very young players. Congratulations to all the children and to Deirdre Lowe and her team.



The Little Players in action. Aren't they cute?



The Juniors celebrated the end of the year with breakfast on 27 November when they were also issued with their certificates.

What a wonderful year they finished up having after all the trials of dealing with the Covid regulations. Congratulations to Deirdre and the team for battling through.



The photos are of some of the breakfast baskets at the breakup of the Juniors.



# The Festivities of 12 December

## First up—The AGM ...



Secretary Helen, Minutes Secretary Ian, President Jim and Treasurer Chris. No, we are not in prison—just the set of *The 39 Steps*



Some of the 40 attendees taking rapt interest in proceedings. What was wrong with Row B?

... then the Memorials ... In accordance with our tradition, we laid pavers and plaques to commemorate valuable, much-loved members who have 'left the stage' ...



L: Jane Sheppard delivering her tribute to Patti Pratt ...

R: Patti's children Robert and Melissa laying her memorial paver



L: Ian Pullar with his memories of Beryl Johnston

R: Clive Beale laying Beryl's paver (Clive was Treasurer during Beryl's presidency).



The pavers in place

## ... then the Griffin Awards for 2021

Each year, the President presents Griffin Awards in memory of Judy Grant to members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Society during the year. The awards are sponsored by Ross Grant, Judy's husband.

There were many nominations this year, but this year's recipient Aaron Evans, personified all that Judy was to the theatre. He was involved in so many different sections of the Theatre, attending working bees, helping out in the bar, sourcing plays and other needs for directors, digitising the library of plays, helping with raffles, raising money through Trivia nights, which were so much fun, (even though he was probably feeling at his lowest at the time), helping run YTs, directing, adjudicating for KSP, attending Committee meetings, helping the Committee members whenever he could and again offering assistance to anyone he found working or asking for help. If he saw something that needed doing, he did it. Always with a smile. Congratulations Aaron: so well deserved.



Ross Grant and Aaron with his award which was a cutting board made by President Jim.



## ... a YT's Incentive Award ...

Gwen Parker has been a long serving member of YT's. This award was recommended by Kyle and his team to recognise the outstanding growth that she has shown especially this year. She was always willing to participate and help anyone who needed it. It was felt that all members of YT's should recognise her work and how she went about it all. Congratulations Gwen.



Gwen being presented by Jim while her nominator Kyle looks on.

## ...Other Awards ...

The major additional activity of 2021 was the management of the ever-changing Covid requirements. We were extremely fortunate in having a dedicated team who were able to respond to every variation in the rules. In recognition of the response by the team, Secretary Helen made small presentations to Jim Orr, Melinda Park, Ann Collyer and Shane Mallory.

## ...a performance of BBW's Christmas ...



This pantomime was specially adapted by author Jane Sheppard from her earlier Daytimers' production for presentation at Ipswich City Council's Springfield Library (see page 5). Here was a wonderful opportunity to use this occasion for a dress rehearsal and to entertain our own partygoers. While the players – Jim Orr, Jane Sheppard, Margaret Martin, Di Johnston, Sue Van Der Meer, Robyn Harm, Ian Pullar and Mrs Music Chic Currie – were costuming, Helen Pullar gave the audience a short talk on the early days of ILT – rather different from the present – but what started our great success.

## ...a 75th Birthday Party....

Around 80 members and friends came along for the party in the form of the traditional Festival barbecue so sadly missed this year because of the Covid-enforced abandonment of the Festival. While the cooks were not traditional, they were very effective. The usual delicious salads were prepared by Helen, Ann, Sandie and Andrea Bulloch.

And of course, there was a birthday cake!



Margaret Wellings cutting the Birthday cake.



Barbecue pals Kev Harm and Aaron Evans.

Robyn Harm, who took many, many photographs, (as did Kate Hoepner) will be compiling a memory book to add to our records of memorable events. Our beloved home comes into its own as the perfect venue for such a celebration.



## ....and some winners and windfalls

In recognition of the significant milestone, the Blair Electoral Office donated a magnificent hamper as a raffle prize. And the lucky winner was Di Johnston, shown here with partner Jim Orr who seems to think she will share it with him!

For many years ILT has had no luck attracting grants, most likely because of our financial viability. At the end of a very difficult period in which we often wondered if we would survive, several unexpected bonuses have come our way.

Federal Government Grants have allowed us to proceed with the LED lighting in the Incinerator which will greatly reduce our power bills and add to the comfort of our audiences and a further grant through the Blair Office will see the pathways to both our buildings better lit in 2022. We thank Shayne Neumann and Madonna Oliver for their assistance in applying for these grants (and our Treasurer Chris for facilitating the process).

In the week leading up to our 75th celebrations we received word that Life Member Beryl Johnston had bequeathed us \$5000 in her will. We received a further donation of \$5000 from 4-Cyte in recognition of their use of our facilities for COVID testing over a long period of time — a practice which has now ceased.

A throw-away remark in jest from Junior Director Deidre Lowe about throwing money at her, resulted in a \$500 donation from the Classic Car Club which will enable us to purchase an iPad for the group's discrete use.

Wow! What a turn-around! In addition, the generosity of patrons who have not only provided full houses for record seasons, but bought raffle tickets and given small donations, ILT has certainly ended its 75th year in a much better position than it started. Thank you doesn't seem adequate.



## BBW at Springfield

The cast performed twice at Springfield Library on 15 December to a mixed audience – many less than one year old! It was an interesting experience and the library staff are keen on further interaction, perhaps during Book Week. I'm sure they have no appreciation of what is required to produce a show of this type.

### THE LIFE MEMBERS at the party

Back row: Craig Taylor (2000), Ian Pullar (1982), Tony Erhardt (2021), Phil Holmes (2015), Jim Orr (2020), Clive Lowe (1991),

Middle row: Jane Sheppard (1997), Helen Pullar (1985), Di Johnston (2006)

Front row: Robyn Flashman (1985), Pam Floris (2005), Desley Cronon (2006), Sandra Harle (1991).



## A Happy Return

A couple attending a performance of *The 39 Steps* told Aaron Evans that they had seen Shane Mallory's production of this play ten years ago and enjoyed it so much that they decided to attend this version too. The difference is that ten years ago they lived in Ipswich and they now live in Cairns! We expect they thoroughly enjoyed their weekend.

## Vac Status

The Government has mandated that all attendees and participants in Theatres must be fully vaccinated. The matter was briefly discussed at the AGM. The rule will apply to all members and patrons, including the groups who book fundraising nights.

## 2022 Season in Brief

Season 1: 3 March -19 March

### **The Games People Play**

Two short comedies:

**"Golf, Marriage and Other Murderous Matters"** by Debra Chalmers

Director: Aaron Evans, Assistant Director: David Austin

Rated: M Adult themes and some coarse language.

**"Murder Play"** by Brian J Burton

Director: Ann Collyer, Assistant Directors: Desley Cronon and Gillian Simpson

Rated: M Adult themes and some coarse language.

Season 2: 12 May — 28 May

**Once in a Blue Moon** by John Dole

Directors: Tony Erhardt & Dave Dunkerly

Rated: PG Some adult themes

### **Annual Drama Festival**

12, 13, 14 August

Season 3: 22 September — 8 October

**Deliver us from Mama** by Jesse Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

Director: Chris Austin-Greenhill:

Assistant Directors: Robyn Flashman and Martie Blanchett

[Rated PG: Mild Adult Themes.]

Season 4: 17 November — 3 December

**Breaker Morant** by Kenneth G Ross

Director: David Austin: Assistant Director: Aaron Evans

Rated: PG Adult themes

## DIARY DATES

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Monday 17 January 2022 | Bookings open for <i>The Games People Play</i> |
| Saturday 29 January    | Junior Theatre resumes                         |
| 7 February at 7:30 pm  | Auditions for <i>Once in a Blue Moon</i>       |

## Auditions 7 February



Gregory is an amateur Astronomer. Night after night he stares at the constellation Lyra until he arouses the interest of its resident goddess, who comes down to offer him her supernatural powers.

But there is nothing remote about Lyra to the embarrassment of Gregory who has problems enough already, what with his girl-

friend Veronica and his flat-mate, the lecherous Lionel.

To complicate matters further there is Hash Harriet, a burglarious lady, Ganymede Prout, a dim electrician, not to mention Gregory's mum and a person from downstairs.

Directors Tony Erhardt and Dave Dunkerly require a cast of 6 females and 4 males.

## 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 | Deirdre Lowe                                    | 0409 202 380                                 |
| Subscription Secretary                | Julie-Anne Wright                               | 0419 758 724                                 |
| Group Liaison                         | Robyn Flashman                                  | 0477 771 016/                                |
| Publicity                             | Robyn Harm                                      | 0413 742 116                                 |
| Building Bookings                     | Desley Cronon                                   | 3288 8754 / 0435 309 352                     |
| Junior Theatre/Little Players         | Deirdre Lowe                                    | 0409 202 380                                 |
| Young Theatricals                     | Kate Hoepner<br>Stephanie Groves<br>Aaron Evans | 0479 048 979<br>0439 202 955<br>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)