



NewsFlash! Gosford Musical Society Newsletter

A friendly and family oriented society of performers and theatre lovers just like you

MARCH 2015

President's message



Well here we are into the third month of 2015 and we are off to a wonderful start. Congratulations to everyone involved with *Narnia*, our last junior production held in January – and of course it was a sell-out. Well done everyone.

The Pirates of Penzance opened on 6 March and what a lot of fun everyone is having. An excellent cast which has been well chosen by **Darryl Davis** and his team. Everyone is pretty excited about it.

Make sure you don't miss out getting your tickets. Here's **Nancy Booth** - how's this for "Paradox", Queen Victoria reading on her iPad!



Inside this issue

- 1 President's message
- 2 Show time
- 3 Society news
- 4 A blast from the past
- 4 Did you know?
- 5 The quiz
- 5 Getting to know you
- 6 General notices

Your Committee is working hard as always. We are revising the Handbook, updating the Constitution to meet legislative requirements and have commenced work on the Show Selection Committee, choosing our program for 2016.

Some excellent research is being done by the team to make sure we come up with a list of shows which will provide an opportunity for as many members as possible to be able to go into a show. Thanks to everyone for their interest. I'm sure you will be happy when we make the final selection.

As most of you would probably know, we have had a replacement on the Committee. **April Daley-Holmes** is the new floor member. Many thanks to **Neil Kelleher** for his input last year and after the elections in November. April will be looking after membership.

Don't forget your membership is due immediately for the year from January to December. The time has passed for membership to be submitted, so please heed this friendly reminder and catch up with April for your membership valid till December 2015.

Cheers 🎵

Ros English

Show time

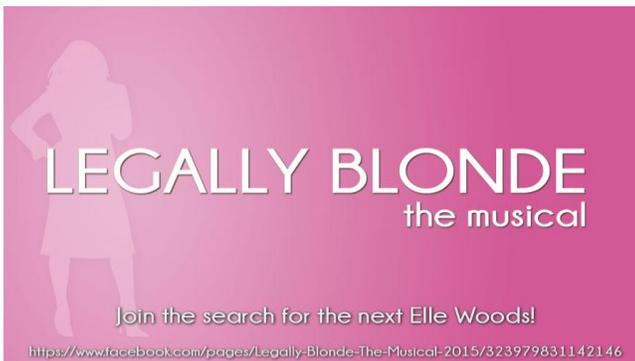


The Pirates of Penzance – Lock up your daughters because The Pirates of Penzance have arrived at the Laycock Street Community Theatre. A rousing opening night was enjoyed by a full house who showed their appreciation with a standing ovation. A show not to be missed from 6 March to 21 March 2015. Get your tickets now to avoid disappointment!

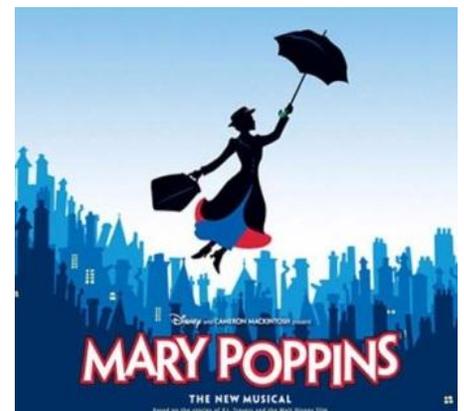
Footloose – the smash hit musical based on the 1984 film that defined the generation is making its way to GMS in 2015. Auditions were held in early February with the cast list recently uploaded to the GMS website. Congratulations to all the leads, ensemble members and dancers chosen and thank you to all those who auditioned. It's going to be a great show.



Legally Blonde – a successful information night was held on 13 February 2015 in the Don Craig Room. Auditions were held at the end of February with a fabulous cast selected – the cast and production team lists are available on the GMS website. The creative team would like to thank everyone who auditioned for the show. There was an amazing amount of talent, which made it difficult to make the final decision.



Congratulations to **Chris King** who will be directing **Mary Poppins** being staged in October and November 2015. Chris and Assistant Director **Robyn Edmonds-King** recently sought expressions of interest from persons interested in being part of their Production Team and for key backstage roles. The Production Team will be announced soon. Watch this space and the GMS website for a call out for cast auditions.



Society news



Australia Day Community Awards

At the Australia Day Community Awards held in Gosford in January, three of our members, **Ros English, Karen Johnson** and **Darryl Davis** were nominated for awards. Ros and Darryl were nominated for Arts, Entertainment and Culture, with Karen nominated for volunteering. This was a great representation from GMS and a great honour for the three nominees who each received a certificate from Gosford City Council.

With approximately eight nominees for the Arts, Entertainment and Culture category, it was a very proud moment for GMS with **President Ros English being announced as the winner of the award for 2015**. Congratulations Ros – well-deserved recognition for your years of service to GMS and theatre in Gosford.

Arts, Culture and Entertainment Winner - Roslyn English!

Roslyn English has devoted over 27 years to the Gosford Musical Society, and was presented with the Arts, Culture and Entertainment category at the recent Australia Day Community Awards.

Roslyn has been awarded life membership for her efforts and is currently in her 10th year as President of the Gosford Musical Society (GMS).

GMS presents five musicals per year. Roslyn has been responsible for the success of many of these musicals including training and playing in the orchestra.

Roslyn has also ensured the future financial security of the Gosford Musical Society by expanding its membership, increasing audience attendance and successfully negotiating a new lease for the Laycock Street Community Theatre, as well as the society's workshop and rehearsal buildings.

Roslyn continues to give the Gosford Musical Society's 480 members nurturing and support, and makes sure their many successes are celebrated.



Phil Moss, Head Coach of the Central Coast Mariners, presents Roslyn English with her award

She is also a representative on the Association of Community Theatre supported by the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).

Congratulations, Roslyn!

Courtesy of the Central Coast Express Advocate

The grass is greener

A big thank you to GMS members **Gail and Chris Cox** and **Jaak Normet** for their efforts in laying the new lawn in front of GMS Costumes. Have a look next time you are in the area – it looks great!

Nathan Dale Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to **Ben Poole** who received the **GMS Promising Young Achievers Grant** for his exceptional efforts during the junior production of Narnia in January. Ben not only had a starring role as Peter but also designed the program and managed all the social media.

It doesn't stop there. Ben is currently the Assistant Stage Manager for **The Pirates of Penzance** and the Production Assistant for **Legally Blonde**. Ben's efforts have made a huge contribution to the Society and we look forward to see what comes next for this talented individual.

GMS Committee planning day

The Committee held its two-day annual planning weekend on 10 and 11 January 2015. The Committee discussed the operations of GMS Costumes, show selection, membership, governance, work health and safety, roles and responsibilities, use of social media, ticketing, social events, and society assets among other things. It was a very successful weekend and positioned GMS well for the coming year.



Your Committee hard at work (photo: Ros English)

Psst – got something to say or tell us?

If you have any news, stories or ideas for the GMS newsletter, please send us an email: gmsnewsflash@gmail.com

A blast from the past

The Valencia Theatre

From *The Visual History of GMS* by resident historian Darryl Davis

The first building that could reasonably be called a theatre in Gosford was the Valencia at 205 Mann Street. It got its name from the owner, Sidney Black, who was an orchardist specialising in Valencia oranges. The theatre seated 1000 people, cost 15,000 pounds and opened in October 1927. The town celebrated the opening with a screening of the Syd Chaplin feature *Oh What a Nurse*.

Ten years after it opened the Valencia had competition in the form of the art deco Regal Theatre further up the street. By then the Valencia was in need of upgrading, which it never received, so it laboured on, an old house and tired in appearance compared with the luxurious Regal.

The first Gosford Musical and Dramatic Society production in the Valencia was *The Pirates of Penzance* in April 1948 and the last was our production of *The Book of the Month* in April 1960, one month before the old theatre closed its doors.



First GMS production of the *Pirates of Penzance* April 1948

Did you know?

Hints, tips and things you should know to be in a GMS show

Membership

By now you should have paid your membership for 2015 which was due on 1 January. The only way you can be in a GMS show or in the production team is to be a member of GMS. Please contact the GMS membership coordinator, April Daley-Holmes at gosfordmusicalsociety@gmail.com if you haven't paid your fees. You should also provide your Working with Children Check number to April Daley-Holmes who will record this against your membership details.

Theatre etiquette

The following is a summary of the key protocols that must be followed when involved with a GMS show. Please see the GMS Handbook available on the website for full details regarding theatre etiquette. This information is provided to make your experience (and the experience of others) a fun and pleasant one and to keep you and our audience coming back for more:

- Do not invite any family or friends backstage
- Once you are in costume, you are not permitted in the foyer or outside the theatre or shed
- When side stage, do not talk, applaud, call out or distract the performers on stage
- When side stage, if you can see the audience, they can see you!
- Other than lollies and bottled water, no food, drink or alcohol is permitted in the dressing room
- The dressing room is an area for focusing and listening for cues when you need to be on stage. Keep noise to a minimum
- Avoid bringing valuables with you – theft from the dressing room has occurred while people are performing on stage
- Turn mobiles off or switch it to silent
- Respect all cast members, orchestra, stage crew, catering staff, theatre techs and production team members – remember, this is a team effort



In which musicals would you find the following?

1. Reno Sweeney
2. Nicely Nicely Johnson
3. Danny Zuko
4. Juan Peron
5. Merlin
6. LeFou
7. Macavity
8. Peter Allen
9. Luther Billis
10. KoKo and Yum Yum

Three to really test you

1. Vernon, Sonia and Alter-ego Voices
2. Adelaide Adams and Danny Gilmartin
3. Lady Thiang and Tuptim

(Answers on the next page – no cheating!)



Getting to know you – Kevin Booth

GMS Life Member and Patron

Each newsletter we will be profiling A GMS Committee member or Society member so you get to know them just that little bit better

Number of years with GMS

I started with GMS in 1947 erecting scenery and working backstage.

Committee role and portfolios

I am a Life Committee Member and the GMS Patron. I receive and return scripts and scores for each show and purchase, engrave and deliver presentation glasses. I also follow up costumes not returned and send flowers etc. to Society members where needed.

A summary of the key shows you have been part of (onstage or offstage)

I have been a part of all shows from 1947. I am a member of the GMS Committee, holding various appointments. I have played many roles in many musicals.

Favourite musical and why?

They have all been fabulous. Probably "Let's Celebrate" opening our Theatre was special. Every musical that my wife Nancye has been involved in, on stage, conducting, playing in the orchestra, or backstage have been my favourites.

Three things people may not know about you

I am a Trustee of the A.I. & E.H. Chapman Estates with a \$30 million portfolio, a Rotarian and a Councillor of the Anglican Church Gosford.

Best thing about being part of GMS

Working and planning together for our productions. Watching the young people starting in the Juniors and growing into fine adult actors. Seeing GMS grow to be a leading amateur theatre group.

Kevin has been with us right from the start and he and his wife Nancye are the closest people we have to GMS Royalty! Nancye and Kevin are still performing and appear on stage in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Nancye plays Queen Victoria with Kevin as her loyal Footman. Don't miss seeing them in this latest GMS production. Have you bought your tickets yet?

Want to join the GMS Minstrels?

The GMS Minstrels are looking for new members. If you enjoy singing, moving and the company of like-minded members then the Minstrels are for you! If you are interested please email gosfordmusicalsociety@gmail.com

GMS tours

Did you know that GMS holds regular tours of the Shed, GMS Costumes and Laycock Street Community Theatre for interested members of the community?

The tour includes a welcome at GMS Costumes, a guided tour of wardrobe, props, the sewing room, the shed and a backstage tour of the theatre. The tour starts at 10am and concludes at about 12 noon when Devonshire tea is served! The cost of the tour is \$10 per person.

To enquire about taking a tour, please call Lesli or Narelle at GMS Costumes on 4324 1305

Volunteer needed

GMS is looking for a volunteer to assist with the gardening both at Studio 18 and in front of GMS Costumes. If you wish to donate your time please contact gosfordmusicalsociety@gmail.com

Trousers too long?

Are you in need of a dressmaker for mending or alterations? Just call into the GMS Costumes shop and we'll try and assist you. Very reasonable prices! For further information, call Lesli or Narelle on 4324 1305



The Quiz answers

1. *Anything Goes*
2. *Guys and Dolls*
3. *Grease*
4. *Evita*
5. *Camelot*
6. *Beauty and the Beast*
7. *Cats*
8. *The Boy from Oz*
9. *South Pacific*
10. *The Mikado*

Three to really test you

1. *They're Playing Our Song*
2. *Calamity Jane*
3. *The King and I*