

NewsFlash! Gosford Musical Society Newsletter

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

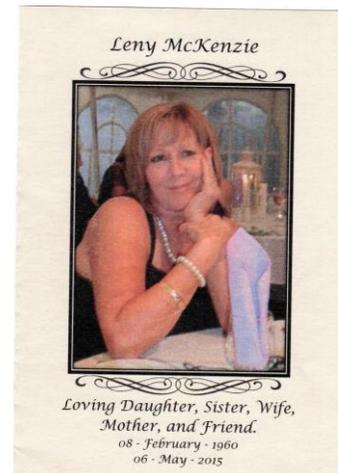
JUNE 2015

President's message



Hello and welcome to another exciting Newsletter. Many thanks to Committee member Steve Higham who brings the newsletter to fruition each quarter.

As we go to print, we mourn the loss of the wonderful Leny McKenzie who left us after a long struggle with Motor Neurone Disease. Leny was involved with GMS for many years, when her children took part in our junior productions. Leny was the Masterchef of the GMS kitchen, looking after catering and providing nourishment for our juniors and organising delicious suppers for many Gala nights. Leny also helped out with costumes from time to time. Leny was awarded Life Membership in 2011.



Her farewell at Palmdale provided some very light moments and if I'm permitted I'd like to share with you a quote or two from some very close friends:

Leny's interpretation of "the function of ice is it ensures you can drink the wine straight from the shelf".

Leny also advised that "in order to do catering the skill set required was: counselling, security duty, crowd control, and interpretation of policies and guidelines" among other things.

A quiet giggle echoed around the room!! It was a lovely send off with many GMS members attending to pay their respects.

An excellent afternoon following the service was held at *The Springs* at Mangrove Mountain. It was heart-warming to see so many "old" juniors come together to share the afternoon with Leny's family and friends. Leny was a very vibrant member of GMS and she will be greatly missed and very lovingly remembered.

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Our Brave Helen!

It's "Congratulations" to Helen O'Shea for her successful fundraising event recently. Helen is a long term member of GMS who has performed in many of our productions – Oliver, 70 Girls 70 and many others. Helen has been singing with the GMS choir since its inception a few years ago.

Sadly, Helen's grandson has been diagnosed with leukaemia and Helen organised her singing groups (GMS Choir and The Frantastics) to sing at the fundraiser. The picture with caption "Our Brave Helen" says it all. What about all those lovely red curls. Where will they go? Well done Helen – a good time was had by all.

The Show Selection Committee had a tough job this year with so many excellent options. Thanks to all those who gave us their time and effort to take part in the selection process. It's excellent to have so many of our members prepared to do the research and come up with so many ideas.

The shows for next year are already on the website but I will pop them in here for easy reading:

- First Junior show is **The Little Mermaid**
- First Senior show – **The Addams Family**
- Second Junior show to be announced
- Second Senior show – **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels**
- Third Senior show – **Chicago** – awaiting confirmation of the rights. Hopefully we will be successful this year.

Well done to all those Pirates and the team in Penzance. What a fun show and what a great success. We are now looking forward to *Footloose* and *Legally Blonde* in the middle of the year. They are both shaping up to be exciting productions – both of which we have never done before.

As mentioned previously, the Committee has been working on updating the GMS Constitution. This has been completed now so watch this space for news about a General Meeting which will be held to present the new Constitution to the members for ratification. The Handbook is well under way in its revision also.

Don't forget we all have to have **Working With Children Checks** and if you need any help or have any questions about how to go about this, just contact gofordmusicalsociety@gmail.com. You might like to let April Daley-Holmes have your membership too if you haven't done that yet. You'll need to be financial to attend the General Meeting for the Constitution.

Cheers 🎵 Ros

Show time



Footloose – the production team report that all is on track for this exciting and vibrant musical with the cast and crew ready to open this month on Tuesday 30 June 2015. *Footloose* will be on stage for a total of eight shows running until Saturday 4 July 2015. For those who can't get enough of the 80s, note that the show on **Thursday 2 July at 7.30pm is a special 80's dress up 'Prom' night** – some of us won't even have to go to the op shop to buy our clothes!

So 'kick of your Sunday shoes' and get your tickets to the show that defined the 80s and 'lose your blues, everybody cut footloose'!

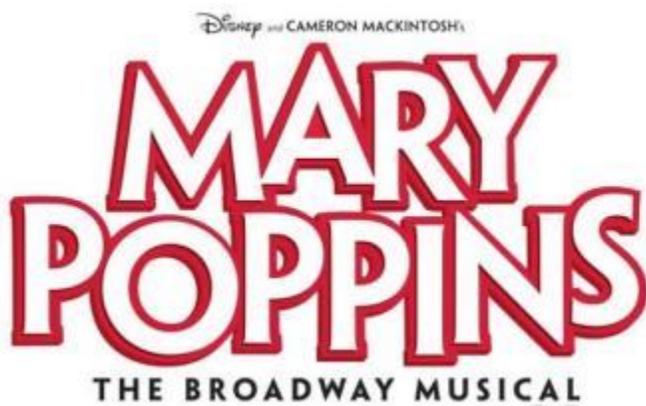
Legally Blonde – rehearsals are well under way for the second GMS seniors show for 2015. Based on the hit 2001 film of the same name, *Legally Blonde* features an infectious pop score that will have you dancing in the aisles.

Equal parts hilarious and heart-warming, this musical is so much fun it should be illegal! Due to open next month on Friday 24 July running until 8 August, it's never too early to get in and buy your tickets!



Mary Poppins – get ready for this *supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* show to hit the stage in October and November 2015! The information night was held on 26 May in the Laycock Street Community Theatre.

A successful children's workshop and auditions were held on Sunday 31 May. Auditions for **Principals** will take place on Saturday 13 June and Sunday 14 June (audition bookings required with limited auditions on Sunday). Auditions for the **Ensemble** will occur on Saturday 11 July. Further information is available on the GMS website or can be obtained from the Production Manager, Greg Quoy, on mobile: 041 24 48 555 or email: gmsmarypoppins@gmail.com. Good luck to all those auditioning to be in this great show and best wishes to the production team in selecting a stellar cast!



Society news



Interested in directing a GMS show?

Director nights for the next Juniors show **The Little Mermaid** and the next Seniors show **The Addams Family** are coming up.

Download the information package from the GMS website - 'Qualities of a Director' and 'Director's Outline'. If you cannot access these documents on the web, please send an email to: gosfordmusicalsociety@gmail.com and we'll send you a copy. Applications close on 19 June 2015.

The Director's interview night will be held on the 23 June 2015. Interview times will be allocated on receipt of an application.

Feedback

You Committee always welcome your feedback as we aim to continually improve the way your society runs and operates.

We ask that when providing written feedback, you state your name and contact details so we can respond to you as quickly as possible. We aim to meet the needs of our members the best we can, however if we cannot respond it makes it difficult to ensure the best outcomes are reached.

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



Name the shows that feature the following songs:

1. *Poor Wand'ring One*
2. *All I Ask of You*
3. *Easy Street*
4. *Big Blonde and Beautiful*
5. *The Lonely Goatherd*
6. *Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee*
7. *Façade*
8. *Tradition*
9. *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*
10. *I Get a Kick Out of You*

Now to really test you:

11. *Someone to Watch Over Me*
12. *A Place Called Home*
13. *I Can Do That*
14. *The Speed Test*
15. *Everything New is Old Again*

(Answers on the last page – no cheating!)

A blast from the past

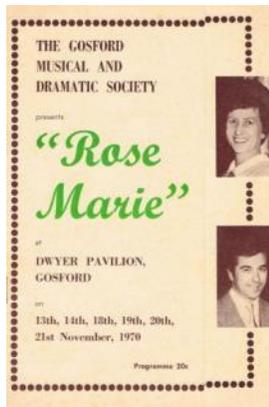
Rose Marie, November 1970

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

Six performances of the musical *Rose Marie* were staged at the Dwyer Pavilion at the Gosford Showground in November 1970. The production team was Director - Neil Johnson; Musical Director - Hugh Baird; and Choreographer - Betty MacDonald.

Principal cast members included Marie Swan (Lady Jane), Bob Scott (Sergeant Malone), Kevin Booth (Emile), Michael Hunter (Hawley), Bob Fowler (Black Eagle), Terry Hunter (Herman), John Williams (Jim), Nancye Booth (Rose Marie), Juliette Nichols (Wanda) and Lorraine Douglas (Ethel).

GMS program cover



Nancye & Kevin Booth



The home of GMS in 1970, the Dwyer Pavilion

Did you know?

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

New GMS Social Media Policy

GMS now has a social media policy. The policy was recently endorsed by the Committee and is available for download from the GMS website under the 'Committee' link. If you cannot access the website, a copy can be requested from gosfordmusicalsociety@gmail.com.

All members of the society who use social media, whether for GMS or private purposes, must read and become familiar with the policy. Key points to note are:

- ❖ GMS encourages the use of social media as a communication tool to create and share show-related content and information with its members
- ❖ The policy outlines the appropriate standards for the use of social media relating to GMS activities and governance arrangements associated with GMS show pages on Facebook and other social media platforms
- ❖ After reading the policy, members will be fully aware of what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour when using social media relating to GMS so that members do not expose GMS or themselves to reputational risk
- ❖ The policy will help to ensure that social media content and activity attributed to GMS and its members is consistent with the Code of Conduct outlined in the GMS Handbook.

The new social media policy includes information on the objectives of the policy (what does it hope to achieve), the scope of the policy (what does it cover and who does it apply to), how it applies to cast & crew social media pages, principles of conduct expected of members, compliance and non-compliance with the policy and how this will be managed, and who has accountabilities under the policy.

Please read the policy and become familiar with its content.



Getting to know you – Roslyn English GMS President and Life Member

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've been with GMS for almost 30 years now starting in 1986 when I was invited to play in the orchestra. Then Kevin Booth rang and left a message for me to ring him back. I said to my husband "I don't want to buy a car" and didn't want to ring him back. Kevin in his usual tenacious way rang again and when I finally got to speak with him, he said he was looking for a Musical Director for "Half a Sixpence" which opened in five weeks! My goodness what a busy gig that was but it was a great show. That was back in the days of GMS performing at Gosford High School. I've been here ever since and I'm not planning on going anywhere in the future. I am also a member of the GMS Choir since its inception a couple of years ago.

Committee role and portfolios

I started on the Committee as a Floor Member looking after publicity and marketing for a year. I then became Secretary before being elected as the President for nine years. I was Vice President before becoming President again. Portfolios are Pastoral Care, GMS Costumes, Choir/Minstrels, Library, Creative Workshops, Special Projects, Assets, Musical instruments, LSCT Advisory Committee, Association of Community Theatre, Liaison with Laycock Street Community Theatre, Community Engagement, **anything else and troubleshooting!**

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

I have been involved in nearly 60 shows overall! Onstage I had a featured role in 70 Girls 70 as Lorraine on the piano. I have been in the Ensemble for Singin' in the Rain my first show (thank you to Kathy Bridekirk who looked after me!), The Producers (also a pigeon!) what fun, and Anything Goes. I was a Pit Singer in Spamalot and The Pirates of Penzance. I also appeared in the GMS 60th Anniversary show. I have been the Musical Direction of 13 shows (12 senior and one junior) - Half a Sixpence, Me and My Girl, Brigadoon, My Fair Lady, Mame, Cabaret, SHOUT!, Oliver, The Pajama Game, CATS, Jekyll & Hyde, Crazy for You and Seussical the Musical (GMS Juniors). I have played in the orchestra/done rehearsal work in 19 shows, as well as being Assistant Production Manager, spotlighting, program selling, dressing, catering and working backstage.

Favourite musical and why?

How hard is that question! My favour score is **West Side Story** – Bernstein at his best. Favourite Senior I have done is **70 Girls 70** – my first featured role as Lorraine. Took me right out of my comfort zone. How hilarious this show was and probably the most fun of any show I have done. Lots of hours practising at the piano but loved the whole experience. Favourite Junior show – Musical Director for **Seussical** – a brilliant show, great cast and loved working with Jess Hind and Tyson Almond. The children are so good – I was very proud to be part of it.

Musical you would love to see GMS do and why?

Anyone who knows me will expect my answer to be **Hair**. I love the music and I think it is quite poignant with the world today – think of Afghanistan, East Timor, Iraq, Iran, Vietnam – which of course leads me to **Miss Saigon**.

Three things people may not know about you

I was born in the country in central western New South Wales, in Warren; I played State level squash; and I'm studying how to make cheese!

Best thing about being part of GMS

The family ethos. An environment where people can learn, grow and share their interests with like-minded others. A wonderful opportunity to expand your skills and gain confidence to take on new things. A place to make new friends and to share the opportunity to entertain the community.

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 gofordmusicalsociety@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

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. *The Pirates of Penzance*
2. *The Phantom of the Opera*
3. *Annie*
4. *Hairspray*
5. *The Sound of Music*
6. *Grease*
7. *Jekyll & Hyde*
8. *Fiddler on the Roof*
9. *Spamalot*
10. *Anything Goes*

Now to really test you:

11. *Crazy for You*
12. *A Christmas Carol*
13. *A Chorus Line*
14. *Thoroughly Modern Millie*
15. *The Boy from Oz*