



NewsFlash! Gosford Musical Society Newsletter

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

May 2016

President's message



Welcome to another Newsletter – with apologies for the delay in getting it to you. Congrats to all concerned with **The Addams Family** – a great show even though audiences numbers were down a little. This is not a reflection on the show but just the demographic of the Central Coast. When the Committee chose this show we acknowledged that it was not everyone's cup of tea and that a certain part of the Coast residents would not be keen to see it. Well done to everyone concerned because those who saw it loved it and some returned more than once.

Jade Draper and her team are working hard on **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** for the juniors in the July school holidays, so don't forget to come and support our younger GMS members. There's an opportunity for parents and friends to become involved by coming in to work on painting etc. Give **Brenda Donnelly** (the Production Manager) a call or contact her through our website gosfordmusicalsociety@gmail.com.

Chip Gracia and his team are working hard on **The Music Man** – with a mammoth cast of 94 or thereabouts. The cast is having a great time and are also working hard at the furious pace Chip is setting. Anyone interested in assisting with sewing?

The **Show Selection Committee** is working hard to filter through the 60-odd shows presented for consideration for 2017. The first meeting culled the number down to about 40-ish and the next meeting in May will sift through and come up with a short list to present to the Committee. Many thanks to **Darryl Davis** for all his hard work on this Committee. Thanks also to those who chose to put their hand up to be part of the Committee and do the hard work for researching those shows suitable. I look forward to the list to be given to the Committee for final ratification.

The Association of Community Theatre is again holding the **Stage Craft 2016 weekend conference at NIDA** on the long weekend in October 2016. It is later this year to give people a greater chance to travel to and from the conference from other States and country areas. Keep your eyes peeled for an **Expression of Interest** form on our website.



Inside this issue

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

GMS Choir once again held a very successful concert at The Everglades Country Club on 17 April. A great program was presented including medleys from *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, and various single items from other musicals. Congratulations and a million thanks to **Thayer Donaldson**, Choir Director for the enormous amount of work put into not only the concert but the Choir all year round. The Choir will also be taking part in the large Rotary Concert this year to be held at the beginning of June.

Our **GMS Minstrels** are still looking for new members. There is some wonderful information about them on our website and contact can be made to **Colleen Bracher** through gosfordmusicalsociety@gmail.com.

Committee members' photos were recently added to the website. The Committee held their usual **Planning Weekend** on 5 and 6 February. You can find the Minutes on the website together with a list of tasks we hope to achieve throughout the current year.



You will all be familiar with **Lesli Normet**, Manager of **GMS Costumes**. Lesli retired on Friday 19 April 2016 after many years (about 12) in that role. Lesli has been a force to be reckoned with during her tenure at the shop – she has worked tirelessly to grow and develop the business. Her expertise has been of huge benefit to us at **GMS** – her costumes created for many shows such as **Boy from Oz**, **Spamalot**, **the Producers**, and more recently **Mary Poppins** and **The Phantom of the Opera** – are now in **GMS Costumes** stock and are constantly being hired out.

Lesli has worked on the **GMS Committee** during her time with us and looked after the affairs of **The Shed**, **Wardrobe** and **Properties**. Lesli has also been responsible for social activities such as the **Christmas dinner** and other functions. The **Rotary Club of Gosford** acknowledged Lesli as a **Quiet Achiever** and presented her with a well-deserved award. **GMS** will miss Lesli and her valuable work in the shop and her contribution to our wardrobe and productions.

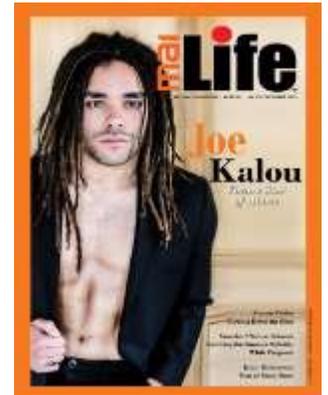
Best of luck in your retirement Lesli – don't forget us!

Do you know this face?

It's one of our previous juniors – Yes it's **Joe Kalou** gracing the front cover of Fiji's No.1 Magazine – (it says that under the word "Life"). The magazine is called **maiLife** – and touts Joe as a **"Future Star of Music"**.

The picture is on the front cover of the December 2015 issue. Well done Joe – what a celeb!!

Cheers 🎵 **Ros**



Show time

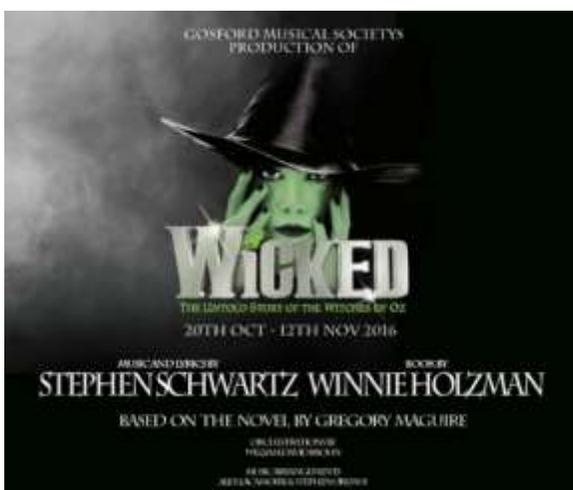


The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Come and hear the foot stomping, toe tapping songs from the Broadway adaptation of Mark Twain's classic novel. Director **Jade Draper** and her production team report that all is going well and is on track to deliver this superb family-friendly show.

Tickets are on sale now through the Laycock Street Community Theatre box office with the show running during the first week of the July school holidays (5 to 9 July).

The Music Man – Director **Chris 'Chip' Gracia** and his production team have the train to River City going full steam ahead to deliver this classic musical. Act 1 already looking the goods with the show on 'track' for its three week run from 29 July – 13 August 2016.

Tickets are on sale now through the Laycock Street Community Theatre box office.



Wicked – A successful auditions process was recently completed with the production team, led by Director **Nathan Dale**, choosing an outstanding cast to deliver the final GMS show of 2016. Check the GMS website for the cast list.

The show will be on stage in October and November 2016.

Society news



Breast cancer donation

Remember the *pink night* from **Legally Blonde** where donations were received for Breast Cancer on the Central Coast? GMS is proud to announce that a total of \$752 was donated to the Ettalong Beach Arts & Crafts Centre after the production last year.

The Craft group and Central Coast Health (Gosford Hospital Cancer Care Unit) were particularly thrilled to have such a large donation and advise that it will be sufficient funding to enable them to make a year's supply of boob bags for women with breast cancer.

Thanks to all those involved in the arrangements and to those who graciously gave to such a worthy cause.

First Junior Show of 2017

The GMS Committee is pleased to announce the selection of **Peter Pan** as our first junior production of 2017.

GMS Christmas Dinner – early notice

Mark the date on your calendar now so you don't miss out – **December 10** is the date for the 2016 Christmas dinner in the Mirror Room. Check the GMS website for further details.

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 at: gmsnewsflash@gmail.com

Take the Quiz!

GMS Trivia 2006 – 2016 Multiple choice

- Who played Monsieur Andre in our 2014 *Phantom of the Opera*?**
a) Russell Hull b) Tim Page c) Christopher Hamilton d) Stephen Higham
- Who played the leading female role in *Jekyll & Hyde* and *Singin' in the Rain*?**
a) Monique Donath b) Jade Draper c) Melinda Middleton d) Toni Williams
- Name the Director of *Legally Blonde*.**
a) Ken Hind b) Jillian Logan c) Chris King d) Gareth Davis
- The *Lady of the Lake* in *Spamalot* (2011) was:**
a) Helen O'Shea b) Vivienne Calwell c) Louise Swan d) Sally Loughnan
- The Choreographer of *Hairspray*, *Oliver* and *Mary Poppins* was:**
a) Emmakate de Henau b) Lauren Miller c) Chris Gracia d) Anne Hart
- Costume Designer for *Mary Poppin*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and *The Producers* was:**
a) Ashley Moon b) Edith Head c) Lesli Normet d) Bev Barendse
- Neil Kelleher has played which of the following:**
a) Gaston b) The Beast c) Wild Bill Hickok d) Ebenezer Scrooge
- Which show had the largest GMS cast?**
a) Mary Poppins b) Oliver c) Grease d) The Phantom of the Opera
- Which musical has the 'earliest' setting?**
a) The Phantom of the Opera b) Oliver c) Fiddler on the Roof d) Annie Get Your Gun
- Who played featured roles in *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *The Addams Family*?**
a) Amanda Woodbine b) Chris Martin c) Kerrie Rochford d) Karen Snook

A blast from the past

The Year was 1996.....

From The Visual History of GMS by resident historian Darryl Davis

There were four GMS shows presented in the year 1996. These were *The Music Man*, *Man of LaMancha*, *42nd Street* and *Sweeney Todd*.

The Music Man

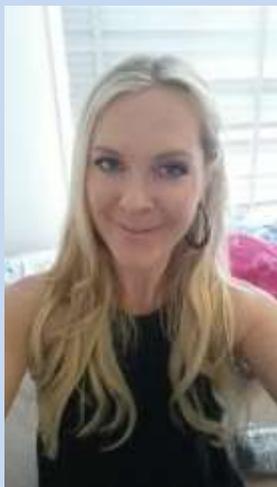
The Music Man, under the direction of Director/Choreographer **Anne Hart** and MD **Bryan Higgins** enjoyed a four week season at Laycock Street Community Theatre in February 1996. The GMS cast of 70 included Christopher Hamilton (*Harold Hill*), Jane-Anne Scott (*Marian*), Margaret McGowan (*Mrs Paroo*) and Pollyanna Murphy (*Eulalie Schinn*).



Sweeney Todd

The cast of 30 included Leigh Collins (*Sweeney*), Vicki Jones (*Mrs Lovett*), Ben Stephens (*Anthony*), Anita Fallow (*Joanna*), Daryl Kirkness (*Judge*) and Russell Hull (*Beadle*). Director Darryl Davis, MD Mark Williams and Choreographer Carolyn McNamara led the creative team in this fabulous musical featuring 'the demon barber of Fleet Street'.





Getting to know you – Lauren Miller GMS Floor Member

Each newsletter we will profile a GMS Committee member or Society member so you get to know them just that little bit better (also see the GMS website for Committee information).

Number of years with GMS

I have been a member for 20 years now. My first show was *42nd Street* in 1996. I moved to the Central Coast not long before and stumbled across auditions advertised in the local paper. I love to tap dance and *42nd Street* was the perfect show to start off with.

Committee role and portfolios

Portfolios are: ticketing coordinator, social media and catering.

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

I choreographed *Mary Poppins* only last year. Prior to that, a few of my favourites I have been involved in are *Hairspray*, *A Chorus Line*, *Spamalot* and *Shout*.

What is your favourite musical and why?

My all-time favourite musical is *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. I remember watching it at a very young age and learnt all the songs inside and out and back to front. I also play saxophone and I like watching Meatloaf play it in the movie.

Musical you would love to see GMS do and why?

I'd love to see GMS do *Spamalot* again. I don't remember laughter so hard before during this show.

Three things people may not know about you

I love pole dancing for fitness. I work in payroll during the day. I have three sisters, not two.

Best thing about being part of GMS

I have made so many friends and get to express my crazy and fun side without judgement.

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 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 Narelle on 4324 1305



The Quiz answers

1. b
2. a
3. d
4. d
5. b
6. c
7. a
8. b
9. b
10. c