



NewsFlash! Gosford Musical Society Newsletter

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

SEPTEMBER 2016

President's message



Well here we are into the second half of the year with the financial year reporting being prepared by our Treasurer, **Karen Johnston**. She works incredibly hard for all our members and we are extremely grateful for all her hard work and business expertise. Thank you Karen.

Congratulations to **Jade Draper** and her team for ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer***. What a fabulous production. Such a happy show for the cast and crew involved. Well done one and all.

The Music Man has also completed its run in the theatre. Wow what a lot of energy and fun everyone had. Congratulations to **Chris 'Chip' Gracia** and his team. A marathon costume production list for **Narelle Wotton** from *GMS Costumes* but what an amazing job she has done! Everyone looked pretty special on stage. Well done to the whole team.

Some good news. **Rachel Kay**, who was the children's dance captain in ***The Music Man***, toured Israel, Jordan and Poland as part of World Youth Day held in Poland. Also **Lachlan Steel** was selected as part of the Premier's ANZAC tour of the Western Front. We are lucky to have such talented and community oriented members amongst our juniors. Congratulations.

Congratulations also to **Jessie McGrath** who was the recipient of the GMS scholarship awarded at Youth in Performing Arts (**YIPA**) this year. Well done Jessie. We look forward to the development of your career and know you will enjoy the proceeds of the scholarship to the fullest.

It's also congratulations to **Maddy Alexander** (from ***Tom Sawyer***) who was awarded the Central Coast Council Encouragement Award. Maddy was seen as the lead Papagena in the ***The Magic Flute***, the recent successful opera produced by the Central Coast Conservatorium.

Congratulations also to **Madeline Bell** who was rewarded for her hard work and dedication to the cast and all members of ***Tom Sawyer***. Madeline was awarded the GMS Young Achievers Award at the conclusion of *Tom Sawyer*. A scholarship which is awarded to a member of a junior production (not necessarily to those on stage but backstage and production juniors are also eligible for selection) who has been an outstanding member of the production, who has worked over and above what is expected and has supported fellow members during the rehearsal period and the run of the show. Well done Maddie.

Inside this issue

- 1 President's message
- 2 GMS Minstrels 30 years
- 3 Show time
- 4 An interview with....
- 5 Society news
- 5 The quiz – GMS trivia
- 6 A blast from the past
- 7 Getting to know you
- 8 Christmas dinner
- 8 General notices

Don't forget the weekend being conducted by The Association of Community Theatre. It is the **Stage Craft 2016 conference weekend being held on the Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd October 2016 at NIDA** (National Institute of Dramatic Art) in Sydney. You can access details on the website www.communitytheatre.com.au.



As in previous years, GMS is prepared to sponsor some of our members to attend the conference and details can be found on Facebook and the GMS website. If you are interested and would like to attend, fill out the required **Expression of Interest** form on our website and send it to us as soon as possible so we can assess the numbers to attend the conference.

All **auditions** for the year were completed at the end of the current round for **Wicked**. Don't forget to stay in touch via the website and Facebook for show dates and cast announcements.



I volunteered in **GMS Costumes** to help out when things were really busy and the ladies were trying to finish costumes for **The Music Man**. At the end of a very long and busy day, we were rewarded. I opened up the dumbwaiter and guess what I found? A lovely box of chocolates to share with everyone. Not a bad place to work is it!

Don't forget to get in touch if you are a previous GMS member who would like to hear from others or just to give us the gossip on where you are and what you are doing. Contact us at gosfordmusicalsociety@gmail.com I look forward to it, thanks.

Cheers 🎵 Ros

GMS Minstrels – 30 Years and still going strong

'Minstrels' as early as 1350 was a generic term for wandering entertainers, an itinerant band of players who performed songs, drama and farce. There is evidence of the importance of minstrels from the earliest times in Europe down to the 16th century when Queen Elizabeth declared minstrels to be rogues and vagabonds. The *GMS Minstrels* are unique on the Central Coast and form a genuine part of the minstrel tradition.

About 30 venues book them each year so most months see the *GMS Minstrels* doing three gigs in different localities. The members are long standing, loyal, committed and hard working. Each show is run without an announcer so every member has to be alert to the running order enabling smooth coordination of entrances and exits. Each performer is responsible for their costumes, props and transport and no pre-recorded music or mime is used.

There is an immediacy in their shows which delight audiences. Few props are used and no scenery. Condensed versions of famous musicals are created, conjuring up the narrative, the moods and dreams of the character by costume, choreography and live music. Themed segments such as Seaside and Music Hall are also part of the repertoire. One complete show lasting approximately one hour and 10 minutes would consist of four or five popular musical segments such as South Pacific, Brigadoon, Guys and Dolls and Oklahoma, interspersed with solos, duos and comedy numbers giving variety and costume changing time.



This is quite rigorous theatre at a grassroots level and the ephemeral nature of the *GMS Minstrels* shows as they come and goes leaves nothing behind but the odd fallen sequin and some colourful memories. However Gershwin, Cole Porter, Rogers & Hammerstein and many other composers of the 20th century produced songs with great staying power and they are like old friends to our audiences. The *GMS Minstrels* would like to invite you all to share in celebrating our vitality and longevity as a performing group.

Show time



Wicked – this October Wicked flies onto the Laycock Street Community Theatre stage under the direction of **Nathan Dale**. Wicked tells the tale of what was really going on behind the Emerald City green curtain, before Dorothy dropped in...The Land of Oz may not be all it seems... Come with us and discover not only the World of Oz, but the story of the 'Wicked' Witch herself. A cautionary tale, Wicked explores modern and timeless themes of ignorance, equality and power, in a world so different from our own, yet somehow hauntingly familiar.

Tickets are on sale now - do not let yourself miss out on this gravity defying adventure!

Peter Pan – Our next Junior production is Peter Pan, co-directed by **Casey Thompson** and **Lauren Miller**. Rehearsals are well underway for this timeless, classic tale of a boy who never wanted to grow up. Peter Pan is due to be on stage at the Laycock Street Community Theatre in January 2017.

A full of cast list is available on the GMS website.



2017 GMS Shows

Show change for 2017 Program

The GMS Committee made the decision to replace **All Shook Up** as our first show for the New Year. This decision was made after a close analysis of the script and lengthy discussions that followed. Members can no doubt appreciate that each show we consider for our program is researched through reviews, show outlines, reading synopsis, etc. In most cases many of the show selection members have a good working knowledge of the scripts, especially well known musicals. **All Shook Up** was initially selected due to the fantastic and well known music score. The Committee recently secured the rights for **EVITA** as our first show of 2017. A call for expressions of interest to direct this show is on the GMS website and Facebook page. Director interviews will be held on 13 September.

Show Directors selected for 2017

Congratulations to the following people selected to direct a GMS show in 2017:

The Producers - Darryl Davis will direct THE PRODUCERS (a show he directed the last time GMS produced this Mel Brooks masterpiece)

Chicago - Toni Williams will direct CHICAGO (Toni played the role of Velma Kelly in our 2002 production)

The GMS Committee would like to thank everyone who applied and attended a director's interview

An interview with.....Lachlan Steel



You may recognize GMS member Lachlan Steel from *The Music Man*, the most recent GMS show to be on stage at the Laycock Street Community Theatre. What you may not know is that Lachlan recently was an ambassador for Australia, New South Wales and the Central Coast, being one of 24 successful recipients across NSW of the Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarship. Lachlan, 17, is in Year 11 at Brisbane Water Secondary College, Woy Woy Campus.

The 2016 Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarship included an educational tour of France and Belgium. The scholarship winners represented NSW at the official centenary commemorations of the battles of Fromelles and Poziers, which holds significance due to the high loss of Australian lives during these battles. A tour highlight included meeting His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (retired) and the Australian Ambassador to France His Excellency Mr. Stephen Brady AO CVO at the Australian Embassy in France.

Lachlan became involved with the scholarship last year and was part of the team that brought the Menin Gate Buglers from Ieper in Belgium to Australia. Lachlan formed a connection with the buglers and when the scholarship came around, this was the perfect opportunity to go back and see the other side, and see what life is like over in Belgium. I asked Lachlan about his trip and his experience.

"We travelled to France and Belgium. We started in Paris and made our way up to Ieper in Belgium just across the French border and then slowly back down to France. The purpose of the trip was to gain an understanding of what it was like in World War 1 and experience the significance of the Australian loss of its soldiers during the war" said Lachlan.

"Now that I'm back, scholarship recipients have to put together a major work. Some people are writing essays but I've put together a video". Lachlan recently presented his work on 1 September 2016 at the Ettalong Diggers. "The highlight of the trip in regard to the long term would be the perspective gained and that how in 500 metres, 5,000 men can die in a couple of hours and to understand what life was like then and how people did things for their mates". Lachlan said that the trip and experience furthered his personal development and that it was good to gain some independence travelling away from home.

Lachlan's key message was that "anyone who is contemplating going overseas and going there to the battle fields of France and Belgium, even if you're not sure, then spend at least a day travelling around the battlefields because it's amazing to see how much loss there is there and more importantly now how much life there is".



The 2016 Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarship recipients participating in 'Life on the Front' educational experience at Passchendaele, Belgium.

Society news



GMS 70th Anniversary Celebrations

Can you believe GMS will be 70 next year! An organising committee has been established and is working hard on organising a gala night to be held in September 2017 (an event not to be missed if it's anything like our 60th celebrations). Stay tuned for updates throughout the year.

GMS Babies Born in the Last Few Months

The GMS Family continues to grow with the birth of the following theatre stars in the making:

Hayley Powell - Daughter **Lyla** on 20 June

Gina Fuller - Daughter **Addison** on 1 July

Erin Cook - Son **Landon** on 21 July

Megan George - Daughter **India** on 4 August

Ashley Wicks - Son **Marcus** on 9 August

The GMS Removalists

Many thanks to Frank, David, Greg, Ros and Gary for helping to move so many items to the cottage and storage containers prior to the matinee of *The Music Man*. Their efforts have helped to make the shed a safer place for us all.



Laycock St Community Theatre Mo Award!

Congratulations to Theatre Manager Chris King, Team Leader of Operations Dean Harrington and the entire LSCT staff and volunteers for their recent Mo Award.

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

1. In which musical is the character 'Tim' featured?

- a) Forbidden Planet b) Hairspray c) Spamalot d) Thoroughly Modern Millie

2. Reno Sweeney can be found in:

- a) Sweeney Todd b) Anything Goes c) The Pajama Game d) 42nd Street

3. Carmen Ghia is a cast member of:

- a) The Producers b) Cats c) Victor / Victoria d) Mame

4. Fred Caisley is shot in the opening scene of:

- a) The Pajama Game b) West Side Story c) Jekyll & Hyde d) Chicago

5. Who played the main female role in our production of They're Playing Our Song?

- a) Toni Williams b) Karen Rowe c) Robert Zwart d) Ashlea George

6. In which show would you find Reuben and Jacob?

- a) Cats b) Thoroughly Modern Millie c) Annie Get Your Gun d) Joseph's Dreamcoat

7. Which show has the earliest setting?

- a) Oklahoma b) Sweeney Todd c) Oliver d) The Scarlet Pimpernel

8. Old Man River was a featured song in:

- a) Anything Goes b) Showboat c) Crazy for You d) The Pajama Game

9. The correct name of our 1987 production of Make Mine Mink is actually:

- a) Little Me b) Do I Hear a Waltz c) 70 Girls 70 d) I Do, I Do

10. Which of the following was never a member of Gosford Musical Society?

- a) Jemma Rix b) Sonia Kruger c) Julia Morris d) Harold Hill

A blast from the past

The Year was 2009.....CATS

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

GMS Cats was a high energy show that was a true musical – all the dialogue was underscored! A huge job for **Chenoa de Vries** who was the Director and Choreographer and Musical Director **Roslyn English**. This classic musical masterpiece by Andrew Lloyd Webber played at the Laycock Street Community Theatre for a sell-out four week run in October and November 2009.

A terrific team that included: 33 onstage actors / singers / dancers; 20 pit singers; 22 orchestra members and an army of costumiers, crew, builders, etc.

Most of the “cats” applied their own make-up, which usually took between 30 to 50 minutes..... and each cat was unique.





Getting to know you – April Daley-Holmes

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

Eight years. I became involved through my daughter, Tayla, who dragged me in from sitting and waiting in the car, saying "you will really love it mum". Thanks Tayla, you were right.

Committee role and portfolios

Portfolios are: membership, wardrobe, and sewing.

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

Dresser for: The Producers, Anything Goes, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Spamalot, The Boy From Oz. Dressing coordinator for: Jekyll and Hyde, Crazy for You, A Christmas Carol, The Sound of Music, Hairspray, Annie, The Phantom of the Opera, The Pirates of Penzance, Legally Blonde, and Mary Poppins. Co-Production Manager for: The Music Man

What is your favourite musical and why?

Jekyll and Hyde. I just loved the production, the music, the cast. It was amazing working with Simon Castle.

Musical you would love to see GMS do and why?

Singin' in the Rain. The GMS production was really great. I enjoyed the level of energy, the story, singing, dancing and of course the rain.

Three things people may not know about you

I love singing in the car on the way to work, musicals of course. I like to support my community and I encourage people to come and see what GMS is all about.

Best thing about being part of GMS

Friendships, averting costume disasters during shows, and crumbed cutlets at The Grange between shows.

REMINDER!

Don't forget to put in an expression of Interest for the Stage Craft 2016 conference held at NIDA on the long weekend in October. See page 2 of The President's Report in this newsletter for further details.

GMS Christmas Dinner 2016 – Early Notice

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



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

Want to join the GMS Minstrels?

Inspired by the story in this newsletter on 30 fabulous years of the *GMS Minstrels*? Well they 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

The Quiz answers

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

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