



Gosford Musical Society

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

President's Message



Well here we are at the middle of the year – the end of the financial year is upon us – the really busy time for our Treasurer Karen. I would like to thank Karen for all her hard work in keeping us financially successful each year.

I'm really looking forward to our next Youth production (Juniors with an increased age range) of *Bring It On*. The age was raised to ensure we had enough strong males to do lots of lifting needed. As we go to press, we look forward to Sitzprob and production week with our preview to be staged on 3 July. If you haven't got your tickets yet, please be sure to do so as it is selling fast.

Young Frankenstein follows and we are looking forward to the re-introduction of the Mel Brooks style of humour (remember **Blazing Saddles??**). If you loved *Spamalot* and *The Producers* you will be sure to love this production as well. With an outstanding cast the production promises to give you wonderful entertainment. Why not get a group together and enjoy the benefits of a group booking discount.

YIPA was held recently and the 2017 GMS Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to Declan Dowling at the presentation night on Friday 16 June. Congratulations to Declan and all the other GMS members who received scholarships in recognition of their talent and hard work. We are very proud.

A couple of months ago we applied for a few grants to assist with building new premises and renovations of the wet areas (bathrooms and kitchen). To date we have heard nothing but I have been chasing our Federal and State members of Parliament and they have been very keen to support us. We await the results of the budgets in the next couple of weeks. Here's hoping we are successful.

President's report continues on page 2

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16th September is rolling around very quickly and work is under way to ensure our 70th anniversary event will be very successful and will be an amazing evening for all in GMS. The team is putting together the arrangements for decorations, programs, finalising the music and dinner. Don't forget that GMS Costumes is offering 50% discounts on formal wear hire.

The Show Selection Committee strives to gain access to the best productions possible so all members will have the opportunity to take in at least one show each year. The first show of the year will be **HONK!** for the juniors to be directed by Rosie Ross and her team. To follow is **We Will Rock You** which will hopefully be a first for that show – as it is for GMS. Watch this space for more information about shows for the remainder of next year.

We have recently negotiated our new Agreement with Laycock Street Community Theatre and it will be signed and finalised prior to the end of the financial year. The Agreement, as before, will run for a three-year period. Thanks to Chris King and those in Council who have been instrumental in ensuring we have the very best possible access to the wonderful facility we helped to build.

Congratulations to Narelle Wotton, Rhonda Griffiths, Janelle Fisher and Kerrie Fuller, who together with the team of volunteers who attend GMS Costumes, have had another wonderful year. Show hire continues to increase and our reputation is building to an even greater height. Well done.

Thanks to Scott Goodacre for continuing to produce a great Newsletter. Very valuable in keeping our members connected.

Cheers 🎵
Ros English

Bring It On is ready to rock Laycock Street Community Theatre



They have been working so hard over the last few months, and now the GMS Juniors are finally ready to show us what they have been working so hard to achieve in *Bring It On*.

The show opens at Laycock Street Community Theatre on Tuesday 4th July 2017, with what promises to be a jaw-dropping experience. The cast has been learning a dazzling array of acrobatic tricks to enhance the show, and we are certain that they are going to blow audiences away.

Director Beck Johnston is thrilled with what the youngsters have achieved and says that our audiences should expect an “insane amounts of flipping, stunts and dancing, mind blowing vocals and lots and lots of laughs”.

The choreographers, Nicole Seggie and Taylor Van Veen have worked very closely with the team at Oxygen Allstars to prepare our youngsters to safely undertake all of these amazing stunts. Grab your tickets now for what is expected to be an extraordinary show.



Young Frankenstein is more than just a “roll in the hay”



***Young Frankenstein* is coming to Laycock Street Community Theatre in July in what will be a first for Gosford Musical Society. Never before has this show been produced by GMS, so it does present as a slight gamble for our society. However it cannot be mistaken that the cast and production team are having a whale of a time putting this show together.**

When we called into the shed earlier this month we saw some strong characterisations that were full bodied and ferocious. Many laughs were had and everyone seemed to be having a genuinely good time. Director Kerrie Rochford has clearly instilled her cast with a good mix of discipline and camaraderie.

Young Frankenstein is based on the 1974 movie of the same name, which starred the late and great Gene Wilder. It tells the tale of a New York brain surgeon,

Frederick Frankenstein (pronounced “Fronk-en-steen”) who inherits the Transylvanian estate of his grandfather, the infamous Dr. Victor Frankenstein. Frederick travels to Transylvania to resolve the issue of the property, but soon after his arrival he meets a hunchback named Igor (pronounced “Eye-gore”) who together with the help of a leggy lab assistant named Inga, manages to convince Frederick to stay in Transylvania and continue the work of his late grandfather. Hilarity ensues when Frederick then gives life to a monster that escapes and goes on a rampage through the town.

The music and lyrics for *Young Frankenstein* were written by Mel Brooks, who is well-known for his other hit musical *The Producers*, and the comedy of *Young Frankenstein* is clearly of a similar ilk to *The Producers*. *Young Frankenstein* opened on Broadway in 2007, running for 484 performances and garnering three Tony award nominations. It also won an Outer Critics Circle Award in 2008 for Best Musical. It has a great musical score which includes the songs “Roll in the Hay”, and “Puttin’ on the Ritz”. Whilst it might not be the most well-known musical out there, *Young Frankenstein* has been performed regularly in many amateur theatre companies around the world and is always a crowd pleaser.

The GMS production will feature a stellar local cast including Chris Gracia as Frederick Frankenstein, Dylan Crawford as the Monster, Declan Dowling as Igor, and Evelyn Luck as Inga. The leads are also rounded out by some very well-known GMS performers including Sally Loughnan, Rose Cooper, Geoff Buckland, Darryl Davis and Chris King. Do not miss out on your chance to see this hilarious show.

The show opens at Laycock Street Community Theatre on Friday 28th July 2017, and closes on Saturday 12th August 2017. Tickets are still available and can be purchased [online](#) or through the box office on phone (02) 4323 3233.



Chicago casting set to Razzle Dazzle



It was with great delight that Director Toni Williams recently announced her cast list for *Chicago*.

As per usual, the standard of talent displayed at auditions was exceptionally high, and the cast list below exemplifies this. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Rehearsals for *Chicago* are already well underway, and early signs indicate this is going to be a blockbuster show. Tickets have not yet gone on sale, but will be available soon. Be sure to book early, as this one will sell out.

CHICAGO PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR Toni Williams
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Christopher Hochkins
CHOREOGRAPHER Karen Snook
PRODUCTION MANAGER Brenda Donnelly
STAGE MANAGER Anthea Kearney
COSTUME DESIGNER Jamie McKenzie
SET DESIGNER Simon Castle
LIGHTING DESIGNER Damian Rice
PROPS Tala Kaalim
SHOW STYLIST Megan Johnston
VOCAL COACH Dani McIver
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Declan Dowling
CHOREOGRAPHER'S ASSISTANT Jane Hart
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Benita Kearney
ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER Louise Swan
ASSISTANT PROPS Danielle Cross

CHICAGO CAST

ROXIE HART Taylor Van Veen

VELMA KELLY Brodie Anderson

BILLY FLYNN Rob Hale

AMOS HART Nat Barry Backhouse

MATRON 'MAMA' MORTON Ruth Tiffen

MASTER OF CEREMONIES Gerard Dunning

MARY SUNSHINE Catherine Brühl

FRED CASELY Scott Herdman

THE MERRY MURDERESSES

Jessica King, Monique Donath, Hayley Barnett, Danielle Hochkins, Katelyn Peachey

ENSEMBLE

Peta Bennett, Simon Bourne, Alexander Cross, Brooke Cummins, Morgan Fardy, Alessandra Garcia, Ashlea George, Simone George, Scott Goodacre, Kimberley Hassel, Kristy Kirkman, Hayley Liddell, Jessica Mann, Jayson Miller, Lauren Miller, Denise Simpson, Rudy Van Der Meer, Neville Williams Boney, Danielle Winsor, Amanda Woodbine, Phoebe Woodhead



GMS and the Gosford High School Hall



This month we thought we would whet your appetite for our 70th anniversary celebrations by taking a look back in time to when GMS used to perform its shows in the Gosford High School Hall. GMS Historian, Darryl Davis takes us on a trip down memory lane.

The Gosford High School Hall was the venue for GMS productions from 1976 beginning with *Hello Dolly* and ending with *Gypsy* directed by Fran Kendall in May of 1988. A total of 39 senior musicals were staged here including *Little Mary Sunshine*, *They're Playing our Song*, *Annie* and *Cabaret*. The GMS Juniors and Minstrels, both created by Fran Kendall, also began during this era.

The hall could accommodate some 500 patrons but since the floor was not raked, seats close to the front were greatly valued. Opening nights were usually on a Wednesday or Thursday, but with the production of *Oliver* in 1983 Friday openings became the norm. Ticket prices during this period ranged from \$3.50 to \$8 and these sales were coordinated by Life Member Nancy Booth.

A side stage as well as a main stage extension were constructed for most productions to make room for large cast shows.

Although there were two very small dressing rooms in the hall, most of the cast were in a very large "storage room" under the stage where the actors had to be fairly quiet during performances as loud noises could be heard by the audience. During longish periods when not on stage the actors would often play cards as they waited for their cues. During the '83 *Fiddler on the Roof*, the Russians and Jews played "500", but on separate tables! They obviously took their roles very seriously!

An Act I onstage fire during the opening night of *South Pacific* was memorable as was the night a pregnant spot lighter fainted on top of the scaffold lighting tower at the back of the hall. The show was "paused" as a fire brigade team helped her down.

The first GMS Information Night was held in 1987 for the upcoming production of *Make Mine Mink*. The show was not well known so Director Ian Hawkins informed members of the plot, songs and audition pieces. Remember there was no internet!

During this period, every Company member was asked to sell at least 10 tickets in order to raise funds to "build our very own theatre". That dream was realised in 1988 with the completion of the Laycock Street Bicentennial Community Theatre.

Darryl Davis, GMS Vice President and Society Historian



BRING IT ON

July 2017



The GMS Juniors are gearing up to deliver their second show of the year, which is the acrobatic fuelled, cheerleading extravaganza that is Bring It On.

Bring It On features a cast of very talented local performers including Georgina Hedges as Campbell, Katarina Pascuttini as Danielle, Addison Morley as Randall, Teaghan Thompson as Bridget, Harriet Woodrow as Kylar, Chelsea Pearson as Skylar, Savannah Duck as Eva, Lulu Quirk as Nautica and Sebastian Thornton-Walker as La Cienega.

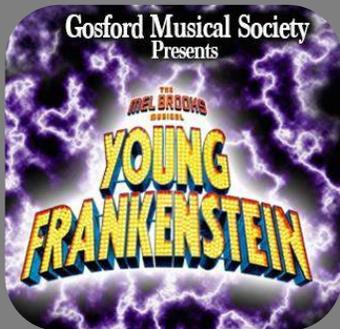
Tickets are available now by telephoning the box office on (02) 4323 3233 or can be purchased [online](#)

TUESDAY 4 JULY // 2pm
WEDNESDAY 5 JULY // 2pm
THURSDAY 6 JULY // 10:30am, 7:30pm
FRIDAY 7 JULY // 2pm, 7:30pm
SATURDAY 8 JULY // 10:30am, 7:30pm

DIRECTOR Beck Johnston
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Mitchell Richards
CHOREOGRAPHERS Nicole Seggie
Taylor Van Veen

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

July
+ August 2017



The second senior show for the year will be Mel Brooks' hilarious musical comedy *Young Frankenstein*. The principal cast features Chris Gracia as Dr. Frederick Frankenstein, Evelyn Luck as Inga, Dylan Crawford as the Monster, and Declan Dowling as Igor. Look out for stellar performances also by Rose Cooper, Sally Loughnan, Chris King and Darryl Davis.

Tickets are available now by telephoning the box office on (02) 4323 3233 or can be purchased [online](#)

FRIDAY 28 JULY // 8pm
SATURDAY 29 JULY // 2pm
SUNDAY 30 JULY // 2pm
FRIDAY 4 AUGUST // 8pm
SATURDAY 5 AUGUST // 2pm, 8pm
SUNDAY 6 AUGUST // 2pm
FRIDAY 11 AUGUST // 8pm
SATURDAY 12 AUGUST // 2pm, 8pm

DIRECTOR Kerrie Rochford
MUSICAL DIRECTOR David Kimpton
CHOREOGRAPHER Lacey Lyons

CHICAGO

Set in the 1920's, Chicago follows the story of Roxie Hart, a wannabe star performer, who is made to stand trial for the murder of her lover, Fred Casely. Whilst in prison awaiting her trial, Roxie meets her hero, the infamous nightclub performer Velma Kelly who is similarly set to stand trial for the double murder of her husband, Charlie and her sister, Veronica. Roxie and Velma share the same greedy lawyer, Billy Flynn and the tensions between them boil over as they fight for their respective shares of the spotlight.

Chicago is a sexy, timeless musical. A definite crowd pleaser. Tickets not yet on sale, but when they do go on sale, be sure to get in quick. This show is bound to be a sell out.

October + November 2017

DIRECTOR Toni Williams
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Christopher Hochkins
CHOREOGRAPHER Karen Snook

Quiz time

- Which Shakespearean play inspired *West Side Story*?
 - The Merchant of Venice
 - Much Ado About Nothing
 - King Lear
 - Romeo and Juliet
- In which musical would you find the character Janet Weiss?
 - The Rocky Horror Show
 - Little Shop of Horrors
 - Sweeney Todd
 - Hamilton
- Which musical tells the story of a lounge singer placed in protective custody in a San Francisco convent?
 - Sister Act
 - Nunsense
 - Godspell
 - The Sound of Music
- In which musical would you hear the lyrics "Kiss today goodbye and point me towards tomorrow"?
 - A Chorus Line
 - Annie
 - Les Miserables
 - Fame
- Sam Carmichael, Harry Bright and Bill Austin are characters in which stage musical?
 - Sunset Boulevard
 - The Drowsy Chaperone
 - Guys and Dolls
 - Mamma Mia!
- Minnie Driver played which character in the movie version of *The Phantom of the Opera* in 2004?
 - Christine Daae
 - Carlotta
 - Meg Giry
 - Madame Giry
- Bette Midler recently won a Tony Award for her performance in a revival of which Broadway musical?
 - Gypsy
 - Mame
 - Funny Girl
 - Hello, Dolly
- Which singer-songwriter wrote the music and lyrics for the musical, *Waitress*?
 - Sara Bareilles
 - Taylor Swift
 - Colbie Caillat
 - Cyndi Lauper
- Which musical is based on a film from 2000, with the same name, and set in County Durham, England?
 - Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
 - Billy Elliott
 - Kinky Boots
 - Bend It Like Beckham
- Which musical features the songs "Land of Lola" and "Not My Father's Son"?
 - Strictly Ballroom
 - Kinky Boots
 - Curtains
 - Newsies



Gareth Davis as Tony, and Jess Vickers as Maria from *West Side Story* (2008)

Answers on Page 8



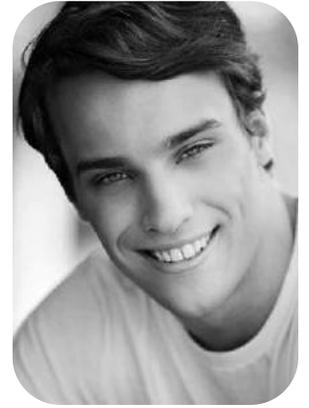
SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Gosford Musical Society has big plans to celebrate our 70th anniversary with a fabulous night of entertainment at the Central Coast Leagues Club.

The event will be a black tie, formal, sit-down dinner. Ticket prices have not yet been confirmed but will be made available soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information

Recent GMS Member Achievements

It was with great delight that we recently received word that our very own Zachary Webster has been cast in the upcoming professional production of *Mamma Mia!* which will tour Australia in 2017/18. Zachary has been an active member of both GMS and Wyong Musical Theatre Company (WMTC) in recent years, having choreographed WMTC's most recent production of *Sweet Charity* and having taken to the stage for GMS in late 2016 in our tremendously successful production of *Wicked*.



Mamma Mia! will open in Canberra in November 2017, and will then make its way to Brisbane in December before coming to Sydney in February 2018. After Sydney, the show will travel to Perth, Melbourne and Adelaide. Tickets for the Canberra stop of the tour have already gone on sale, but tickets for the Sydney dates are not yet on sale. Congratulations Zach on this great achievement!!



The annual Youth in Performing Arts event was recently held at Laycock Street Theatre, and Declan Dowling was the recipient of the GMS scholarship for 2017. Declan will receive a cash prize of \$1,000 to go towards the development of his performing career. Our audiences will remember Declan as Ursula, the sea witch in the GMS Juniors' production of *The Little Mermaid* in 2016, and as Captain Hook from the GMS Juniors' production of *Peter Pan* earlier this year. Declan is also set to star as the hunchback, Igor in the upcoming GMS production of *Young Frankenstein*. A performance you won't want to miss. Congratulations Declan.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, young Eli Gracia is taking on the role of Michael in the professional pantomime *The Adventures of Peter Pan and Tinkerbell* (starring Todd McKenney). It will be staged at the State Theatre in Sydney from 7th-16th July 2017. Eli's grandmother, Sharon Dale is keen to gather a group of enthusiastic theatre lovers to travel to Sydney by bus to see the show. If you are interested in going along, please contact Sharon Dale directly by e-mail: spd2251@hotmail.com



If you have any recent achievements or news that you would like to share with our members, please e-mail them to Scott Goodacre: scott.goodacre.gms@gmail.com

Answers to the Quiz:

1.D 2.A 3.A 4.A 5.D 6.B 7.D 8.A 9.B 10.B

GMS Costumes

Did you know that GMS members are entitled to receive a 10% discount on all costume hires from GMS Costumes?

If you have a fancy dress party coming up, or if you are looking for a formal dress or suit to hire then why not pop in to the costume shop and see Narelle.

The costume shop is open Monday through Saturday. Telephone Narelle at GMS Costumes on (02) 4324 1305.



GMS Tours

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 followed by a historical outline of the society and a guided tour of wardrobe, props, the sewing room, the shed and a backstage tour of the theatre. The tour runs from 10am to 12pm with a Devonshire tea to follow the tour. The cost of the tour is \$10 per person.

To enquire about taking a tour, please call Narelle at GMS Costumes on (02) 4324 1305

