



# The Village Players

## Members Newsletter . Summer 2012

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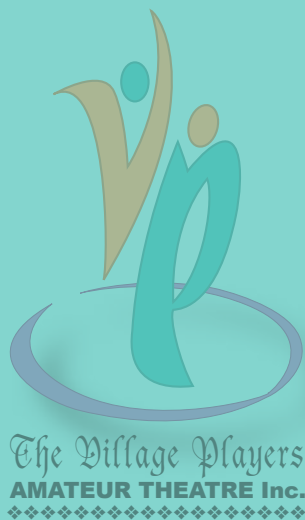
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### From the President

Our Management Committee has been hard at work in the background for the past year - planning, preparing, improving and progressing. Although it seems like such a long time ago, I am pleased to report that our production of 'Allo 'Allo last October was very successful. Cast and crew accomplished outstanding performances, mastering French, German, Italian and English accents, and throwing their wonderful personalities into the mix! Audiences loved the well-known characters and the French cafe atmosphere, and kept on filling our seats, making all the hard work worthwhile.

A sub committee of the Management Committee have applied for two grants this year. Believe me, this takes a lot of time and effort, wording applications in the best possible way to try to get some funding!

Some other members have also been hard at work, preparing a pantomime for production just before Christmas, and writing a play for our next major production in April and May of next year.

But you will read more about those things later in this newsletter. So, I will leave you with my personal very best wishes for a safe, happy and memorable Festive Season.

*Leslie Carroll*  
Director



## Member Profile

### PAT WALDRON

Pat Waldron, affectionately known as 'Little Pat' by some, is a founding member of The Village Players. We twisted her arm to agree to be the 'Member Profile' for this edition of our newsletter.



Pat and her husband Kerry operated their cleaning business in Melbourne before moving to Evans Head in 1996. Why Evans Head? Because her identical twin sister, Margaret, lived here. After a few years Margaret had to go to Queensland but Pat and Kerry stayed on in Evans Head where they still operate their cleaning business. 'Margaret will come back one day' Pat says. Their identical twin bond seems very strong.

In 2003 Pat was playing bowls with Maureen Follers when Maureen asked Pat if she would be interested in joining a committee whose aim was to form an amateur theatre group in Evans Head. Pat was very interested and hence began her involvement with The Village Players.

Pat's energy is enormous. She is well past retirement age but still works and puts a huge amount of time and energy into The Village Players. She is our universal 'Mum' for each production, whether she has an on or off-stage role. She is always there with the tea and coffee at rehearsals, often bakes for us and will lend her hand to anything required. Pat has worked backstage as Stage Manager, Props Manager and as 'prompt' on several productions and then she took the plunge and strutted her stuff on stage firstly as Emma in *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, then as Mrs Meadows in *Steaming* and finally as Mimi in *'Allo 'Allo*. Pat says that her role of Mimi pushed her acting boundaries even further as she had to get up close and personal with Rene, the café owner.

Pat admits to being 'rather shy' and had certainly never spoken in front of a crowd before she got

involved with The Village Players. But taking such an active role in the organisation has increased her confidence enormously. Now, if she finds she has to do something that is scary she reminds herself that you can do anything if you really want to – even remember lines! She is now totally hooked on the theatre.

Pat will be our Stage Manager for our pantomime *The Enchanted Forest* and you may very well see her back up on the stage in *The Last Tempest*. But whatever role she takes in forthcoming productions, we can be rest assured that Pat's wisdom and energy will do nothing but benefit The Village Players.

## Our Pantomime

### "The Enchanted Forest"

Helena Rousova is taking us on a new adventure. We will be staging a pantomime just before Christmas.



Helena grew up in the Czech Republic where pantomime is performed regularly and she, together with Martin Castaneda, has written a fun script for us. Helena and Martin will also be the main actors in the production.

*The Enchanted Forest* will be staged at the Woodburn -Evans Head RSL Club on Saturday 15th December at 11am and Sunday 16th December at 2pm. These times are repeated the next weekend, Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd December.

The performance will be approximately 45 minutes, will be suitable for children from about 3 to 10 years and will cost \$5 a head.

See you there!



## Members Christmas Party



Come along to our Christmas party for members – a free night of food and frivolity.

It's on 23rd December (the evening of the last pantomime performance) in the RSL Club's Remembrance Room (the former Finnegan's Bar) at 6.30pm for a 7pm dinner.

RSVP to Pauline Haney on 6682 4124 or email her on [labracks@bigpond.com](mailto:labracks@bigpond.com) by December 10th.

See you there!

## The Last Tempest

### OUR APRIL 2013 PRODUCTION

Imagine it is 2020, in a little coastal village on the east coast. Outside it is 49 degrees and heading north. A raging nor'wester howls across the heath after 5 years of drought. There is but one place of refuge – the pub that sits alone on the headland where all the locals have gathered. Together, in the face of doom, they re-enact the tale of how the world came to the edge of the abyss.

The Innkeeper, Penny Prospero, her daughter, Miranda, and the primal fisherman, Lars Sole, enact the mythical journey from Paradise to purgatory. The estate agent, Esther Tate, the politician, Polly Spinner, the simple Connie Sumer, the local firie, and the mute half man/beast, Caliban embellish the saga. And then, their last hope – a wild Texan buckaroo with big guns and big bucks who offers to buy the pub and turn it into the last artificial man-made escape from the impending Armageddon. This group of wild and whacky characters represent all those who have contributed to the approaching end of the world.

And then the fire! Sweeping towards the town and inevitably that pub! Will the end be the raging inferno? Or will it be the last minute tempest that sucks them all into the sea? And if so, what then

is their/our fate? That may be up to the legendary goddess, Gaia, the spirit of life on earth.

Despite the suspense and tragedy, this is a story told with outrageous humour and over the top melodrama! It is a unique and original "mythical" production written by our own successful playwright, Paul Johnson, and despite the fact that the audience will recognise many of the references, it is about our world, not simply our town. The Village Players are hoping the universality of the themes and its originality will make it go "viral".

Paul's play draws on a vast body of allusions and focuses on our most disturbing contemporary dilemma, the fate of our world in a climate changing future. The Village Players believe "The Last Tempest" is a very challenging and meaningful production, and they need a group of dedicated and committed people to see its potential fulfilled. That could be you!

## Your New Management Committee

Well, perhaps not so new – the same names keep repeating year after year. Your committee would love to have new members so anyone who could be interested, please contact one of the members below or email us on [thevillageplayers1@gmail.com](mailto:thevillageplayers1@gmail.com).

Our constitution allows for an unlimited number of members to sit on the Management Committee. We are desperately seeking a Secretary and will need a new Treasurer in May 2013 when the present Treasurer leaves for a long trip overseas.

**President (and Public Officer) - Leslie Carroll**

6687 9889 or 0427832524

**Vice-President - Su Dorland**

6682 5523 or 0408418793

**Treasurer - Helena Rousova** 0416781702

**Secretary** - Vacant (Leslie Carroll is currently acting in this position)

**Membership Secretary - Pat Waldron**

6682 4430

**Ordinary Members**

Pat Waldron, Pauline Haney, Lorraine Pedder, Vanessa Crisp, and Mona Warrenner.

## Storage space , At Last

With a great sigh of relief your Management Committee is able to report that our props and costumes that were strewn through Wardell, Woodburn, Broadwater, several houses in Evans Head and even the Evans River K -12 School, have now been gathered under one roof in our new storage space kindly provided by the RSL. Gathered, but not sorted. That's the next job.

Thank you sooo much, RSL.



## Ritchies IGA Community Benefit Scheme

The Village Players is part of the Ritchies IGA Community Benefit Scheme. So if you haven't done so already, get yourself a benefits card from the shop, link it to The Village Players and present it each time you shop at Ritchies IGA. It doesn't matter how small your purchases are, every \$\$ spent by you in the shop will mean money in the bank for The Village Players.

Thank you Ritchies IGA.

## Check out our Website!

With a lot of hard work from Helena Rousova together with her father, Dusan Rous, working remotely for us from the Czech Republic, The Village Players now has its own website at: <http://thevillageplayers.com.au> Check us out and any feedback is welcome. We are always looking for ways to improve the site.

## Chasing Funding

The bad news is that we were not successful in winning a grant to run a workshop on Directing and Producing in Amateur Theatre but Paul Johnson ran it for us in June anyway, free of charge and therefore at minimal cost to participants (we had to pay a small fee for venue hire). Thank you Paul! Unfortunately attendance was low so perhaps it was serendipitous that we didn't get that grant.

The good news is that we have applied for another grant and should know the outcome by Christmas. This time we are chasing money for some sound and lighting equipment of our own by applying for a 'Small Grants for Small Communities' grant.

Fingers crossed this time.

## Beef Meets Reef Parade.

These Village Players members had a ball in May when they marched in the street parade.



(L to R) John, Hendrika, Su, Lorraine P, Pat, Shirley, Lorraine A, Paul.



See you all soon