

ZONE TWO



Well here we are off to roaring start with another busy year.

The Zone meeting was reasonably well attended although a lot of Societies were not represented which was a little disappointing. This may be a reflection on the time of the year. It was a great day – The workshop was superb and lots of fun was had by all. It would be good to get some feedback from those who attended. Send me an email and I will pop them in the next zone newsletter.

We have just all returned from the 50th Anniversary Conference, if you were there then please fill in your comment sheet and return to Kate.

I had a great time, as I am sure most of you did and the way the dance floor was rocking at 10pm on Saturday Night would indicate that most people had a blast.

The Forums and Seminars were superb, I do hope that you took the opportunity to attend some of these.

Sincere congratulations to Lois Wright from Thames and Diane Hill from Musikmakers who were both awarded Merit Awards for Service to Musical Theatre. Both were very well deserved.

Congratulations to the two Musikmakers members who won best dressed female and the most outstanding costume at the ball on Saturday night.

Congratulations also to Whakatane who won one of the competitions, unfortunately you did not go to the second part of the Annual Meeting, however I collected the award and will give this to you at the next zone meeting in September at Putaruru (possibly).

Lots of shows starting into Rehearsal, enjoy reading all the news of the zone and I will be in touch with you all again soon.



NGAIRE HOLMES
ZONE REPRESENTATIVE

Morrinsville Little Theatre Inc

We are well and truly into rehearsals for our mid year show 'Wizard of Oz' which we will be staging in the July School Holidays, so far we are ahead of schedule. We have a great mix of Adult and Children which is giving the younger ones the knowledge and understanding of what it is like to be in a production at our theatre, a great learning curve for them.

On Friday 26th March at 8 pm Alex Ellis will be performing her one women show

Biscuits & Coffee

Dark and murky as fresh brewed turkish, Light and frothy as a latte. Join biscuit on her epic and hilarious quest for the ultimate cup of java. Accountancy, mad relatives, sex, coffee and death, it's the tall tale to end all tales, the hunt for the holy grail of coffee. This show has had great reviews so get a group together and come join us.

We will be selling Coffee & Cake and the bar will also be open. Tickets selling at Morrinsville Info Ph: 07 889 5575

MORRINSVILLE



Opens in the July school holidays

Rotorua Musical Theatre

The Rotorua Musical Theatre held their AGM on Friday 26th February, we welcome two new committee members, and are fortunate enough to have some of the experienced members staying on our committee.

Our first production for 2010 is the Australasian premiere of 'Bad Girls: The Musical', which opens on April 16th, and runs until 1st May. Rehearsals for the cast, crew and band are well underway – and everyone is having an absolute blast! Make sure you come and see this new show! Tickets can be purchased from Ticketmaster.

Remember to check out our website www.rotoruamusicaltheatre.co.nz for more information on 'Bad Girls', and also future productions too.

We have ten members attending conference – which we are all looking forward to.

See you at conference. J.

TAUMARANUI



22nd - 29th May

Te Awamutu

The recent AGM has seen Kevin Corbin and Max Ward swap positions.. Kevin to President and Max to Vice. Blithe Spirit opens on April 10th and runs till April 17th. We appear to have enough to keep us busy this year and are considering show options for 2011.

Performing Arts Taumarunui (Inc)

The Performing Arts, Taumarunui, (Inc) held their AGM at the end of February. We elected a new Patroness Mrs Mollie Lane. Our previous Patroness Mrs Pat Gibbons decided after many years to retire from the position. President : Mrs Shirley Annand, Secretary: Mrs Glenda Burkett, Treasurer: Mrs Adrienne Till, Immed. Past President Mr Peter Till, plus 10 committee members. We also elected 3 new life members to PATI, Ian and Pam Holdgate and John Lane.

Richard Pittams received a merit award from the New Zealand Theatre Federation for his work in the theatre. Richard has been involved in our theatre for many years.

We are starting the year with the performance of " Nonsense "which will go on stage on 22 to 29 May. This will be directed by Richard Pittams, with Bill McMinn as the musical director. We had a great turn out for auditions, and a we are looking forward to this hilarious musical.

On 10th April a Welsh choir will perform in the St Paul's church.

Our choir is about to start rehearsing for Anzac day Services.

We have plans to produce a play (a thriller) called "Suddenly at Home " with Wallis Weir directing it.

In June the Taumarunui High School will use the Theatre to perform "Grease"

We are all looking forward to the alterations starting in our theatre. The foyer will be much bigger for our Patrons and we will have a new bar area. Which will make working in the kitchen a lot easier.

Shirley

Tauranga Musical Theatre

After holding auditions late last year, we are now into *Miss Saigon* with a vengeance. We had very successful auditions and for the first time attracted more men than women! We feel that we have a dream cast and they're all members. Our 'Kim' is travelling from Morrinsville and is the only cast member from 'abroad'. Bookings are beginning to pick up with some nights almost sold out. We thoroughly recommend the production to all.

Work is proceeding on our production of *Cabaret* and we'll be holding auditions in May. Matthew and Marlise are directing this one and after the major financial success of their *Fang Re-Vamped* we're expecting great things.

We'll finish the year with Daniel Pepperell's *Class of 99*.

A new committee was elected at a very well attended Annual General Meeting, and we have some new blood to continue the good works of the previous administration. So much effort and expense has gone into meeting OSH requirements. Whilst this is essential it is often not visible to our members who would rather we spent funds on making Westside more attractive. Daniel and his team have re-furbished the toilets and further remedial work will be undertaken this year.

We have a few people attending MTNZ conference and others just going to important seminars. We trust that we'll all gain from the experience.

Roy Eagleson

TAUPO



19th and 20th March
and 23rd - 27th March

TAURANGA



24th April - 8th May

Matamata Musical Theatre

Hi there, just to say we are having a tribute concert to Lesley Wills who has been in our society for nearly 50 years and still plays the piano for our shows ,including this one, it will be called "Cheers for the Years" and will be playing on April 16th, 17th, 18th and 20th. Bookings at Fraser's Arawa St Matamata. Would love you all to come if possible, this lady is a legend. Tickets \$20 adults \$12 Students. Bookings open now

Jeanette

Centre Stage Taupo

As we approach our annual general meeting Centre Stage Taupo can look back with pride on the year past.

Despite prophecies of doom and gloom around the globe entering 2009, Centre Stage successfully produced three major shows and with healthy takings at the bar and income from hall hire we have posted a comfortable profit without the help of any major funding.

Further to this, our theatre now boasts a entire new set of blacks for the stage bought from our own coffers. These match the new proscenium curtain purchased at the end of last year. To add to our positive note we have completed numerous maintenance projects on our theatre and grounds . Our committee and band of workers can be very proud of the steps we have taken.

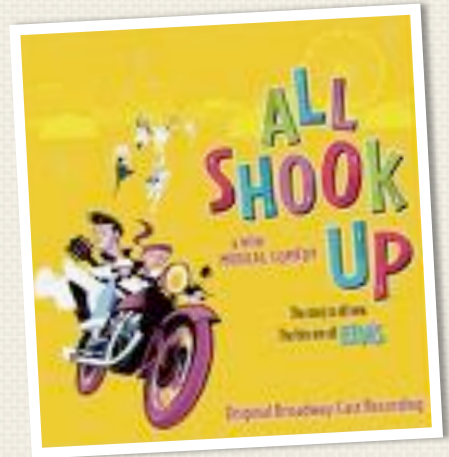
On the stage the three shows this year as previously reported were "No Dinner For Sinners" by Edward Taylor, "Fang" by Marlise Hughes and Matthew Roderick and our innovative show "Enter Stage Left" the concept created by locals Shawn and Kylie Hately. As reported in previous newsletters this "show-virgins only" production tapped the potential of 30 newcomers to the theatre both on stage, back stage and technical. As time has passed it is of interest that while the players come and go as in every theatre group, the notable 'stickers' from this program have in fact been the back stage & technical personnel.

Looking forward we are about to open for a season of "Milos Wake" by Michael and Margery Forde. Producer Nigel Vanner's love for creating plays in the round has seen our auditorium currently converted to a Aussie/Irish Pub. Patrons formerly wooed by the clever conversion of our entire theatre into a derelict castle for our previous production of Fang, will once again have their senses tapped as they experience the theatre from an entirely new angle. Milo's Wake will perform March 19th and 20th and then March 23rd until 27th.

While we are very excited about our first show for the year, our involvement at this time has precluded our participation in conference events. We wish all fellow societies well for the oncoming year

Don Shanks

WHAKATANE



Opens 6th May

HAMILTON



15th May - 5th June

Theatre Whakatane

We have recently had our AGM and returned all of the existing committee, as well as welcoming Morehu Solomon and Sarah Holmes as new committee members. Peter McKenzie was returned as President for the next two years, Teresa Doggett Treasurer, Gwenda Reugg Secretary.

A committee remit to the AGM to introduce a new class of membership for a Corporate Member was passed unopposed. The corporate membership grants corporate bodies the ability to purchase tickets to major productions at member discount rates. It is hoped that this initiative will broaden the publicity by providing access to the corporate members and client databases, and allow the good Kiwi hankering to get a bargain to entice people to buy tickets to shows. The corporate subscription, at \$100, allows 50 tickets to be purchased at a discount of 15%. This is open to any organisation and we encourage other societies to become a corporate member and support our shows.

Robert Young is in residence as director of All Shook Up, and rehearsals are well under way for the season which opens on 6th of May.

Scott Jarrett has been appointed as the director for a play, Dirty Dusting, to be staged in November 2010.

Membership is still strong with some keen new members being roped into the technical side. We now have a healthy pool of technical support people and we are providing ongoing training and mentoring for these people, including social activities.



ROTORUA

16th April - 1st May

Hamilton's Musikmakers

Musikmakers' AGM is just around the corner, and it looks like there will be a lot of changes on our committee.

This year has got off to a flying start. Rehearsals for Oliver! are well underway, everyone is saying how good it is to have a show that caters for all ages, both in terms of the cast and the audience. It has brought a lot of new faces to the theatre. Oliver! opens on the 15th May and runs for a three week season with matinees every weekend, a big ask for the company, but with it being our only show at Riverlea this year, we thought it was worth it.

The next show a lot of our members, and most of our committee are involved in is the consortium production of Miss Saigon. Laurie Johnson is traveling back from Wellington to direct this show, he has directed many successful shows for Musikmakers such as Chicago, Rent, Les Miserables and Big River.

Earlier this year Musikmakers hosted the Zone Two meeting, with a guest speaker and our Riverlea entertainment group occupying us for the day. (For those of you that were there, don't worry we have a 'type c' proof reading this)

We hope to see you all at conference