

The BACKDROP

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RAFFETYs 2009 – Congratulations to All

Well done everybody on a fantastic night at Raffetys last Friday where we pretty much sold the place out and gave a great show and evening to 120 loyal and/or new audience members. A lot of work had gone into the staging and rehearsing – and fair to say a few of us were probably feeling the strain – but like the troupers we are; it all came together on the night for great value entertainment for the audience and we hope a level of great satisfaction for the performers and musicians etc.

Thanks to all who contributed (and apologies if I forget anyone) – especially Elaine, Steve & Molly, the Barrow Boys (Richard & Jonothan); Geoff; Adrian; Debbie and Jim – but of course all the great performers and choir members; Con & Jan & staff plus all attending family/friends; and especially BTC people who travelled to support us (Jamie, Jenny and others :)

I think we lived up to; if not slightly exceeded our normal benchmark; but we can always strive to be better and ensure that next year they'll be booking (and paying?? :) early in order to ensure a seat – because a handful had to be turned away this time.

There should soon be some photos of the night on our web page soon - thanks to Kelvin & Emily for finding the time to take some. (Emily already has some on Facebook)

ZONTA & Georgy Awards

The following is a list of the results from the Zonta night at Wangaratta in October – enjoyed by all despite the limited success and the very average food :)

Best Junior Talent - winner Sophie Enders, Wangaratta

Encouragement Award: (nominated **Samantha Matkovich**) winner Lexi Aivaliotis, Wang

Supporting Actor - Male: **winner Paul Altmann** – woo-hoo!! - well done Pauly !!!

Support Actor - Female: nominated **Molly Craig** - winner Julie Denny, Yarrawonga

Best Actor - Male: nominated **Stephen Winkler** - winner Stuart Perry, Yarrawonga

Best Actor - Female: nominated **Chloe Leith** - winner Colette Douthie, Yarrawonga

Best Production: nominated **Leader of the Pack** - winner A Twisted Mikado, Yarrawonga

With only three companies up for judging, it was a bit disappointing compared to previous years; but the presented items and crits were pretty well done and congratulations to all the winners – especially our own Paul Altmann.

A special highlight for me was Shane Douthie's speech of reflection and outrageous self-deprecation. Well done Shane!! Certainly more enjoyable than the overdone mains and the small slice of cake for dessert (Gateway could take some lessons from Raffetys :) But 'tis the camaraderie we go for and any little statuettes nursed on the drive home is a bonus :)

The Georgies at Echuca last weekend methinks might have been a bit too much of a Saturday night trip for many of us (esp after Raffetys :) – and it is usually with even less hope we face the might of STAG and others; but we did get several nominations this year for Leader including Chloe Leith, Stephen Winkler, Debbie Patterson, Paul Altmann & Samantha Matkovich – and funnily enough our only award was none of those – being the judges choice for excellence/encouragement in **Skye Morrison**. Well done 'Skyzee' – great effort 'old girl' :)

Carols By Candlelight

Please note that Carols rehearsals will commence this **Sunday 8th November at 7.30pm at the Hut**. **Note that 'normal' Lodge/Legacy practice still on Wednesdays as usual**

Would be good to see our regulars (including Raffetys performers) plus any new/good voices participate in this re-vamped and hopefully successful evening. The new 'committee' have a programme for the evening drafted up already which should hopefully see an entertaining and longer evening head into after sundown territory for greater effect. Some new carols will be added to the list and the guest items promise to be very good. Santa should be his usual jovial self and who knows what treats await us in the annual address by one of the local clergy.

Might also need some help to set up the staging that afternoon at 3pm :) This set-up will be part of the new professional approach by the organising committee. Watch this space.

White Christmas

We have forked out a considerable sum to acquire the rights to White Christmas for 2010 (plus dibs on Oklahoma for 2011 already) and have already had some wonderful volunteers to join the Production crew. Great to see. Though more will be needed – **contact Emily if you can help**.

Auditions for White Christmas will be in February on 7th and 8th at the Hut. Mark these dates in your diary so that you can prepare to put your best foot & mouth forward :)

Other Stuff

BENALLA FESTIVAL PARADE

Some hopeful/naive turkey on the committee who volunteered his services (and our time/ingenuity) a while ago to put a float in the Parade – has decided to 'pull the pin' due to both lack of personal time and numbers of available volunteers to do something half decent. Unless some white knight with time and inspiration can step into the breach at the last minute (and let me know ASAP) I shall happily accept the slings and arrows of 'unfulfilled promises' and whatever. At least it seems we can get a couple of people to help out with the Wizard of Oz screening at BPACC :) Call it post-Raffetys fatigue and/or a higher calling (junior tennis parent on duty Sat morning and a trip to Melbourne that afternoon) but my time and motivation are now limited. Sincere apologies to all – but hopefully the parade (and TB Picnic next day :) will still be good and importantly – those members heading away for the weekend have a good time.

CHRISTMAS Get-Together

The annual drink/nibble/swim/sing/swat by the lake foreshore is on again this year on **Saturday December 5th** down by the Civic Centre **from about 5pm onwards.**

BYO chair, nibbles, drink, bathers, shade, voice and/or instrument to while away a few pleasant hours with your fellow thespians.

GET WELL WISHES

Our great friend and first/famous 'Scarecrow' (in Wizard of Oz) Peter Ellis has not been well recently and is currently in hospital in Melbourne. Everyone from BTC – let alone the whole community that he serves and inspires so well – wish Peter all the best and a speedy recovery.

GUYS & DOLLS

The drama class of local TDA Performing Arts staged a very good (junior) production of Guys and Dolls at the Town Hall recently; BTC/JT helping out with some boxes, curtains etc etc Steve, Margie, Jenny & I were a few of the members who got along to see & enjoy it.

Certainly some blossoming young talent there – with Brad Hanrahan & Brookelyn Tuckett just a couple of the young guns in the show who have been on stage with BTC – Brad taking the lead role of Sky Masterson – and hopefully a few more can make the transition over coming years.

SINGING LESSONS / DRAMA / DANCE Classes

The Director & Singing Teacher for the Guys & Dolls show – **Anna Bulic** – has done a great job with the kids (including a couple of my own who sang really well – all parental bias aside :) She is available to give **singing lessons** to anyone interested (none of use ever too old to learn :) and if what she has achieved with my kids is any recommendation Anna would be excellent.

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday mornings can be arranged at the TDA studio in Carrier St (just behind and above Hollywoods) and Anna can be contacted on **0408 572 872**

And if you have kids who want to learn drama; learn to dance (tap, hip-hop, classical, jazz) or get singing lessons – there's no better place than **TDA** – **contact Vicki on 0418 626 987.**

Important Dates

Sun Nov 8th

Sat Dec 5th

Sun Dec 6th

Tues Dec 8th

Sun Dec 20th

Start Carols Singing Rehearsals

Christmas Party by the Lake 5pm

Legacy Widows at the Bowls Club

Marangan/Faithful Lodge Night

Carols by Candlelight

HUMOUR

A reporter interviewed a 104-year-old woman on her birthday.

'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked; probably expecting some in-depth philosophical gem.

She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'