

# The BACKDROP

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## White Christmas

It only seems like a short time since we finished the straight singing practices – and now we are facing the slightly daunting but still exciting proposition of running Act 1. Poor old Ralph Sheldrake better brush up on his one man band bit or quite rightly he'll be guilty of 'not having practised at home' : ) I will probably blame (and possibly quite rightly : ) that my ageing brain was too full of actions/steps from the 'Blue Skies' and 'Let Yourself Go / Happy Holiday' numbers to even remember to salute General Waverly – let alone jingle my bells on cue heh heh. But there it is; bit by well practised bit we are at the half-way stage – and thanks to Molly's preparation/vision and the (usually) cheerful efforts of the cast we're not looking too bad.

We had a very successful sewing/working bee on May 1 (labour day indeed : ) – thanks heaps to all those who came along with sewing machines and scissors/pins etc to help turn all that material into costumes – and of course a mention to Steve & Jim (ably assisted by Aria, Sophie and Cameron : ) who cleaned gutters and tidied up the storage hut; and Del for the lunchtime 'dogs'.

A good day all round but perchance a similar one might be needed before the end of July??

## BTC 25 Years Celebration

Continuing with our series of pictures from 'shows gone by' to celebrate/remember 25 years of BTC; the following are from 4 productions in 1989-90 – being **The Wizard of Oz (Version 1); Bonaventure, Dinkum Assorted** and **The Music Man**. A fine couple of BTC years they were.



*The **Wizard of Oz** in 1989 was one of the many wonderful shows conceived and directed by Alan Stone (in the Town Hall). There were many memorable characters, scenes and moments including the dance of the Jitterbugs; the wonderful witches; the shrinking of the wicked witch; the ascent of the Wizard (John Ellis) in his balloon – and many more. The four main characters are pictured left with Del/Lion; Jim/Tinman; Peter Ellis/Scarecrow and a visiting US exchange student Helen Antonovich as Dorothy looking suitably apprehensive before the arrival of the aforementioned Jitterbugs (I think : )*



***Bonaventure** was an interesting little drama directed by a 'one off' appointment in Danni Edwards from Melbourne; who took Andrew Spelling under her wing as a sort of 'cause celebre' and got a suitably spooky performance from him to match the plot and very authentic eerie sets. Andrew is pictured menacing Marie-Therese Ritchie and in what might have been her last on-stage effort(?) – the Boger Street belle Yvonne Evans.*

*There are plenty of times when BTC has lacked men to suitably cast in shows; and I think it was one of those periods when the 'all girl' play **Dinkum Assorted** was staged. The girls from the biscuit factory are shown kicking up their heels for a 'work show' number with a few familiar faces. L to R being Rhonda Ward, Wendy Hyland, Eileen Skelton, Marion Jordan, Maree Stockdale, Debbie Pasztor and Kath O'Hara.*



***The Music Man** was a really fun show directed by Brian Clough from Melbourne and starring Geoff Rayner as Harold Hill in the first of several great performances he put in for BTC in the 90's. Pictured are Laurie Watters, a young Kieran Le Plastrier and Miranda Hocking who were the three generations of the Paroo family in the show. I think this was Miranda's last show and it was a shame to lose such a talented and ready-made leading lady.*

## Other Stuff

The usual band of 'criminal' (as in criminally clever : ) minds banded together for yet another Trivia Night win at the **Kokoda Trip Fundraiser** at Benalla College. A big roll-up made for a great night of money raising (nearly \$3.5k) and a two horse race in the trivia stakes with perhaps the influx of a couple of VicRoads recruits making the difference for the 'Molly Jolly Winkle Debs' (plus two) or Bindi Irwin All-stars as they called themselves on the night.

The **BTC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** preps are ongoing with a dedicated committee furiously trying to find the addresses of all old members and anyone involved with shows since '85. If you know of the address/whereabouts of any 'old stagers' who have shifted to obscure locales then please let someone on the committee know

**Cabaret** at Wangaratta was enjoyed by a troupe of travellers up at the new Wang PAC. Some great individual performances with a bit of everything for all goers – including a bit of raunch : ) Act 1 went till almost 9-45 – so was a late trip home for some; but congrats to the Players on a great effort

## Important Dates

Next time I'll think of some : )

## HUMOUR

A father sends his kid to bed. Five minutes later, the boy screams, "Dad! Can you get me a glass of water?"  
The dad says, "No. You had your chance."

A minute later the boy screams, "Dad! Can you get me a glass of water?"

The dad says, "No. You had your chance. Next time you ask, I'll come up there and spank you."

"Dad! When you come up to spank me, can you bring me a glass or water?"