

# The BACKDROP

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## White Christmas

The singing rehearsals are over (for the moment at least : ) and we've started blocking for the early parts of Act 1 – including a fun but arduous evening on the chorus dance for Let Yourself Go / Happy Holiday. Be interesting to see how much of it we remember when the full ensemble get back together with all those grapevines; turns, box steps; line-swapping and arm movements. Never a dull moment with Molly calling the choreography shots; but there's no doubt we'll get it right in the end (the dance and singing that is : ) despite the odd brain-fade.

Steve and Paul have already been put through their paces for the opening scene that also has David as General Waverly giving an address to the audience/troops and 'one-man-band' Corporal Sheldrake vainly trying to master about 8 or 9 different instruments. Practice may never make perfect in this case. I'm sure after a few more big number blocking nights the chorus will think they've got plenty to remember; but have sympathy for all our leads (esp the two boys) who have heaps of singing/dialogue plus most of the chorus moves as well to remember and fine tune.



*L. General Waverly inspects three of his fine command of men (i.e Paul, Steve, Jim & David at blocking rehearsal No 1) Hmmm looks like a few kilos to lose from some?*

The new wall mirrors (despite giving a few 'image clashes' at the joins when furthest away) are proving of great benefit in getting more synchronization of movement and lines etc though they can be a distraction to the closet narcissists – not that there are many of those though : ) A few people – one in particular being Di who won the Easter raffle – may be suffering from post Easter break stress and over consumption of chocolate; but we shall soldier on into the now daylight-saving-less darker nights and put our best or both left feet forward.

The production team have met a couple of times already; with most key roles filled and functioning BUT we could do with a few more volunteer sewing persons to help with costumes (see Debbie or Molly); we have yet to appoint a Stage Manager (though Molly may take this on as a last resort) and with Cynthia unfortunately being unavailable after May we are once again **on the lookout for a pianist** – rehearsal and performance if possible.

**Plus Emily would like anyone to contact her who might be interested in helping out with Fund-raising** – a very important task given how much we've spent on the clubrooms and microphones of late; not to mention a significant budget just agreed for White Christmas.

## 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 3 productions in 1988 – being **200 Not Out**, **A Quiet Wedding** and **Sir Jasper's Revenge**; the first-mentioned being the only musical I've missed since I joined in '87.



*The full cast of '200 Not Out' (top) had a few familiar (and younger?) faces and the 'boys' chorus (bottom) was one of the show's highlights with the outfits and routine : ) (and to save any head scratching by the colour blind or anagrammatically challenged over the letters on the t-shirts – they eventually combine to spell out 'Benalla Marching Girls' : ) Nice legs, lumps and wigs lads !!*



*'A Quiet Wedding' was a unique show for BTC in that it was the only play we staged at the old BARC Theatre (hence the unusual cast photo outdoors in familiar looking environs) – which is long gone under the expansion of Cooina; and was for a time our 'home' after our original hut was lost to the area required for the building of the TAFE College. The old hut would have actually been untouched by any existing TAFE building, but I suppose aesthetically the green open space where it once was looks a bit better than the ramshackle old ex Field Hospital; but there were plenty of fond memories and ghosts that went with it under the bulldozers.*



*Sir Jasper's Revenge was an enjoyable extra in the latter half of 1988; highlighted perhaps by the joint villains (adorned in 'ghostly grey' on the left hand side of the cast photo) in John Ellis and Shirley MacFarland; Symo's courageous hero Ben Dover & heroine Valerie Spelling with the 'abused' baby. When I drive over Kyneton way I think of the terrible puns in a part of this show involving places like Woodend and Tylden; and that's Anna's arm not Debbie's leg in the photo : )*

## **Other Stuff**

The cutest bambino in the North East – little **Sophie Winkler** turned 1 on the 9<sup>th</sup> April.

A crew of BTC ‘trekkies’ are off to see **Wangaratta’s** show ‘**Cabaret**’ on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the new performing arts centre in Ford St.

Daughter of Del in **Laura Dube** is engaged to be married (next January to fiancé Peter in Benalla) and is currently working hard in the fitness industry in Melbourne’s eastern suburbs.

## **Important Dates**

**Apr 24<sup>th</sup>      Trip to Wangaratta for ‘Cabaret’**

## **HUMOUR**

The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us.

Duct tape is like the force. It has a light side, a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

She's the kind of girl who climbed the ladder of success wrong by wrong. ~Mae West