

The BACKDROP

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Editor: Jim Tullberg
AH 5762 4383 W 57 611 830

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jim.tullberg@roads.vic.gov.au

BTC Web Site & Email: <http://benallatheatrecompany.org/>
Benallatheatreco@yahoo.com.au



VALE KATH O'HARA

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of BTC's longest serving and beloved member in the wonderful **Kath O'Hara**. After a downturn in her health over the last year or so, Kath passed away peacefully last week – leaving behind a legacy of well educated children now in adulthood; long term community commitment and involvement through various organisations; and of course from a BTC perspective - of outstanding contribution on and off the stage to us and the Drama Club beforehand.

I have been involved with BTC for 25 years now; many of you for longer; but it was always the case that Kath was just there – an essential and dependable 'part of the scenery' as it were; whether as Secretary or committee member; lighting guru or simply outstanding performer and story-teller. She had already quietly 'raged against the dying of the light' many years ago when we lost our will and capability to do regular plays as well as musicals; but despite losing her favourite vehicle for on stage performance (of which there were so many memorable ones) she continued to delight with cameos in musicals or her wonderful poems and stories for shows like Raffetys and Legacy Widows. She was always a favourite with the audiences; her innate sense of timing and beautiful delivery guaranteeing that she would have many of them in stitches; and I don't think I'll be able to hear or read a Pam Ayres poem again without thinking of her.

Her community contribution was enormous through the Benalla Lawn Tennis Club, Australia Day Committee, lighting for Gown of the Year, association with Rotary and other organisations and the Teddy Bear's Picnic for the kids this year will not seem the same..

Her funeral is **2pm this Wednesday October 3 at St Joseph's church**. She did not have a very big extended family – so it would be nice if as many as possible of her local 'family' in theatre and community could attend to pay their final respects to this selfless and wonderful woman.

WORKING BEE

Please note that the date has been changed to **Saturday October 20th at 10am** so that a few of the usual toilers can be present (with some semblance of energy – Molly arriving very late on 12th and being picked up by Em & Kel). Still – be great to see as many as possible for just a few hours of diligent de-cluttering.:)

Important Dates

Friday October 5th
Thursday October 18th
Saturday October 20th
Sometime in November
Friday November 30
To Be Advised

Let Emily know by now if you're going to Zonta *****
Zonta Awards Night - Gateway at Wang
WORKING BEE at Hut 10am
Georgy Awards
RAFFETYS Night of Entertainment
Other End of Year Gigs