



The Backdrop

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BTC wishes all its members and families a very joyous Christmas and New Year. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your involvement with our company. We appreciate the time, effort, creativity and hard work that you have given to BTC over the past 12 months. Without you we wouldn't have a company. We look forward to your involvement again in 2016.

A VERY, VERY BUSY END TO 2015

The last few weeks have been a bit crazy for BTCers! Thank you to everyone who was involved in the following commitments for our company:

A Night of Entertainment – What a really good night it was. Well done to all performers! We had a great audience providing lots of energy in the room. It was lovely to have a lot of new people come to see the show and thanks to those BTC members who came. Thanks also to Con and Jan at Raffetys.

Variety Concert at Swanpool – A fun afternoon. Though it was pretty hot! A considerably bigger audience than last year enjoyed our performance and they and us enjoyed the wonderful afternoon tea.

Legacy Widows – An enjoyable afternoon performing for the Legacy Ladies, A cool drink and a chat on the deck at the Bowls Club afterwards always hits the spot. Thanks to Legacy for their generosity.

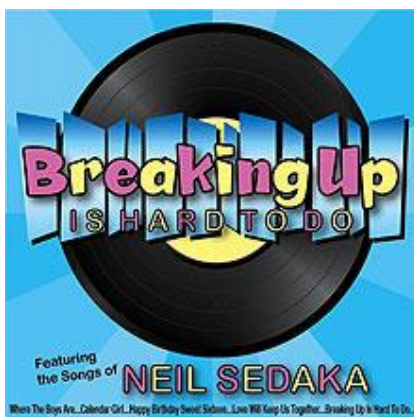
Lodge – Due to renovations, we were at the All Blacks. A very hot night with an amazing sunset saw us perform to the Lodge members and their families. It was THE BEST supper EVER!!! Plus we got doggy bags to take home! Thank you to the Marangan Lodge for their generosity.

Carols by Candlelight – After a stressful week due to the weather about the venue, the show finally went ahead at the Town Hall. It was so hot up until about 8pm and then the cool change and a rain shower made things bearable. Congratulations to Benalla Lions, Benalla Rose City Band, Benalla P-12 College Stage Band, Jamie Boatwood and of course the BTC choir. Below is a pic of us in our Brady Bunch pose out the side door of the Town Hall! It's always a bit of a thrill performing at the Town Hall, so many great memories for BTC over the years.



AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION

Emily and Kelvin Watt are generously opening their home for an Australia Day party on **Tuesday 26 January** from 12 noon. The address is **14 Edward Street**. BYO drinks, and a salad or dessert to share. Please RSVP by 21 January, to **Emily** on **0400 639 536** if you are going to attend, so they know how much meat to buy. Come along, enjoy each other's company and get excited about the coming year for our company.



BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

As we receive the proof for our section in the BPACC Theatre Season book for 2016, the excitement starts to build for what will be a fantastic show for our company.

Information Night: Wednesday 16 March at 7.00pm at the Hut

Auditions: Sunday 20 March and Monday 21 March. Please contact **Emily** on **0400 639 536** to book a time. The Sunday will be from 2pm -6pm and then 7.30pm onwards. Then on Monday from 6.45pm onwards.

Rehearsals: will be on Sunday and Wednesday nights and will begin on Wednesday 30 March.

Start spreading the word to those you think would be interested in being on stage and having a lot of fun!

The show will run over 2 weekends for 7 performances. Dates are: 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30 July 2016.

The production team is beginning to take shape. If you are happy to help out, to work as part of a great team, then contact **Emily** and you will be added on. A big thank you to those people who have already offered their time and talents. During the somewhat quieter time of January, please seriously think about if and how you'd like to be involved. You don't have to take on a job by yourself, you can or we can team you up with someone so you can share the load. I would like to take the opportunity to thank **David Garrett** and **Laurie Webber** for their amazing work with sponsorship over the last good number of years. Both men now feel the time is right to give up this job, so we're really looking for people to help out in this area. Sponsorship is VITAL for us to be able to put on a show each year.

Molly has begun the process of idea gathering – looking at fashions and stylings of the early 1960s for costuming, hair styling and set design, as well as getting the rehearsal schedule in place and listening to the fantastic music.

The script is available for people to read. Please talk to Emily about that as well. It's a very funny show set in 1960 in the Catskills at a resort, where best friends, Lois and Marge come to find love. Included is a suave singing star and an old time comedian, who both perform at Esther's Paradise. The casting is 3 male and 3 female with a chorus as big or as small as chosen.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS:

MARGE GELMAN (mid to late 20's; mezzo soprano, comfortable to an E and possibly beyond, preferably a legit sound): Abandoned at the altar, Marge is an aspiring dentist from Brooklyn who finds herself in the Catskills on what would have been her honeymoon weekend. (Think Jennifer Grey in *DIRTY DANCING*) Duped into falling for the suave band leader, she ultimately finds self-esteem, learns the value of honesty and friendship and finds love where she least expected it.

LOIS WARNER (mid to late 20's; alto with some mezzo soprano ability, comfortable to a C and possibly beyond, preferably a pop sound): An aspiring nightclub singer, Lois lives her life as if in a Betty Grable movie. She brings her best friend Marge up from Brooklyn to the Catskills for Labor Day Weekend. In trying to help her friend Marge recover from heartbreak, she inadvertently puts her in the line of fire with Del, the hotel's suave but manipulative bandleader. With a Marilyn Monroe simplicity, Lois is a sweet young girl with more heart than brainpower.

DEL DELMONACO (late 20's to 30's; tenor, comfortable to an A—the higher the better): An Elvis wannabe, Del is not the brightest bulb on the tree. (Think Conrad Birdie or Joey from *FRIENDS*). Del will do anything to get ahead, including misleading Marge into thinking he loves her and stealing his cousin Gabe's songs for his own use.

GABE (mid to late 20's; tenor, Bb-C range): The clumsy, brainy and terribly shy Guy Friday at the hotel, Gabe is on a fast track to joining his father's orthodontia practice. Lacking the self-confidence to perform his own music, Gabe he is secretly the song writing genius behind the music Del claims as his own. When Gabe meets Marge, he is compelled to take action to win her heart and, ultimately, to reveal himself as the true musician, performing his own songs in front of the whole resort.

ESTHER (50's to 60's; alto, comfortable to a C, or at least a Bb, but should really be rich in her low to mid register): The owner of the mid-size hotel named after her (Esther's Paradise), Esther is a survivor. Since the death of her husband, she has single-handedly kept the hotel afloat using crafty solutions, boundless energy and creativity to keep guests happy. She is fiercely independent, refusing help or support from anyone, and she's always there with a quip or smart remark.

HARVEY (50's to 60's; baritone, should have range to an F# or a G): The resident "tumbler" (comedian/social director) at Esther's Paradise, Harvey is old-school Catskills. He is all about the punch line (and the set-up). A confirmed bachelor, Harvey spends most of his life cracking wise and avoiding any show if genuine emotion or vulnerability. When he witnesses the extreme lengths to which Marge will go to make love work for her again, he is inspired to take a leap of faith with Esther, the one person who truly appreciates the man behind the jokes.

CHORUS lots of singing and dancing to do and fun to have!

THE BAND (Piano, Bass, Guitar and Drums): The band is visible onstage as the "House Band" at Ester's Paradise Resort, and also sings backup (poorly at times) as needed.

Production Manager

Production Secretary **Emily Watt**

Production Treasurer

Director **Molly Craig**

Assistant to the Director

Musical Director **Elaine Heywood**

Stage Manager **Wendy Hyland**

Set Design

Set Construction

Backstage **Melissa Wilson**

Publicity Team

Props

Costumes

Sound Designer / Operator **Travas Hope (Sounds Alive)**

Lighting Designer and Operation **Jacqui Berry**

Follow Spot Operators

Front of House Coordinator/s

Programme **Emily Watt**

Show Photography **Kelvin Watt**

Sponsorship

Prompt



The company wishes a very happy birthday and coming year to the following of its members:

Jamie Boatwood

Annie Clark

Dianne Feldtmann

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 16 March: Information Night for Breaking Up Is Hard To Do at 7.00pm at the Hut

Sunday 20 March: Auditions for Breaking Up Is Hard To Do from 2pm -6pm and then 7.30pm onwards.

Monday 21 March: Auditions for Breaking Up Is Hard To Do from 6.45pm onwards.

Wednesday 30 March: Rehearsals begin for Breaking Up Is Hard To Do