

President's Report



This month is a time of celebration at the theatre. On August the 22nd the Lieder Theatre turns 80!!!

To celebrate this momentous occasion we are having a party at the forthcoming AGM. The AGM is set to happen on Sunday 20th September at 4pm followed by entertainment and drinks! Lets all get into the spirit of it and be there. Don't forget, we also require committee members to keep the theatre open and alive. So make sure you come to the AGM prior to the party and volunteer to be part of the committee.

As always the theatre has been a hive of activity lately and this was going to be the quiet year, I am beginning to think none of us know the meaning of that word, what is "quiet"? Certainly not the Lieder. Ned Kelly was a huge box office success, thanks to Chrisjohn and all his merry men (and two women). It was an interesting and thought provoking show. Well done to all the cast and crew.

The Colour Play is on its way to Monaco and Spain. It has been performed in the theatre and at several other locations. As befits the title, the play is looking very colourful. It demonstrates clearly that if all people work together the world would be a better place to live in. It has humour, is incredibly energetic and would suit all ages and cultures. It is an excellent choice of cleverly devised work to take overseas. Very well done Chrisjohn and his cast!

The workshops for Quandary have been wonderful and the play is now in rehearsal. We are all looking forward to the performances and hope we get good support from the members. It is a foyer production and it opens on Wednesday 26th August. Please ring to book tickets or turn up at the door. It is an interesting play based on a true story. More from the director Cat Wilson later in the newsletter.

We do need members! Very few people have renewed their membership this year. Remember you are entitled to:

- Cheaper seats
- Voting rights at the AGM.
- Act in plays and be involved in all aspects of our wonderful theatre.

Please pay your membership to receive all these benefits.

Windfall is in rehearsal and as I write, still needs a man to complete the cast. Anyone interested please ring the theatre.

Don't forget the dates above - Quandary opens on 26th August, AGM and party on 20th September.

All that remains for me to do is to wish the cast and crew of The Colour Play "bon voyage". Have fun and don't get lost - we need you back as soon as possible.

Judith Boyd

Quandry (Continued)

Quandary is part of a season of new plays written by two locals Judith Boyd and David Cole. The plays have been in development for the last three years with dramaturg Francesca Smith. Cat Wilson has been working with Judith and the cast since May this year, developing a final draft of the script for this premiere production opening 26th August in the Lieder Foyer.

Starring Lieder favourites Michelle McAleer, Pauline J Mullen, Martin Saunders, Kathy Campbell, Anne Gaul, Matthew Doherty as well as newcomer to the Lieder Stage Lisa Mansill.

Cat began her career in theatre at the Lieder in the early 90's performing in shows such as *Murder at the Vicarage* and *Dinkum Assorted*. In 1997 she studied acting at The Actors Centre in Surry Hills and went on to be the General Manager there for three years. In 2003 she completed the Graduate Diploma of Dramatic Art – Directing at the VCA school of Drama. Since then she has worked as Assistant Director with Julian Meryck at Melbourne Theatre Company on their production of *Memory of Water* and as director and dramaturg on several independent theatre productions. Currently she is also working at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) in Melbourne and is reading scripts for Playwriting Australia.

As you will know **Judith** is currently president of the Lieder's Board of Management. She attended the writing course at NIDA in 1992, and subsequently had plays performed at NIDA and at the National Playwrights Conference in Canberra. Judith joined the Lieder Theatre in 2001 after moving to the area from Sydney and is an active member having directed and performed in several productions. She has also run workshops and has written for the Lieder Youth Theatre.

Classes

Drama and Acting classes with Michelle prove popular every Friday afternoon at the Lieder during school Term, as do **Acrobatics** with Gosh and **Stilt walking** with John.

Make sure you check which weeks Gosh will be away (a total of 4 during this term). Also the classes are being squeezed in around our foyer theatre and on our mainstage due to all the rehearsing and shows that are about to explode throughout the building.

Membership

Taking out membership shows your support of the Lieder and Adult members receive generous discounts on tickets to shows. You must be a current member to vote at our upcoming AGM

Monaco

As you read this newsletter 11 members of the Lieder are in Europe, representing Australia at the Monaco International Theatre Festival and the Girona International Theatre Festival, Spain. They have been working towards this trip since October 2008, coordinated by Erin Williams and Fiona Churchill. In Monaco the Lieder will perform alongside 23 other countries including Austria, Belgium, China, Congo, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Morocco, Peru, Spain, Slovakia, South Africa, Scotland, USA, and Venezuela; attend workshops, Friendship evenings, perform street theatre around the municipality and represent Australia at the XXIX World Congress of Community Theatres. In Spain the company will perform with 22 other groups, including a number from Spain, Croatia, Germany, Republic of Georgia, Russia, Holland, Italy, Latvia and Tunisia.

The Lieder Company has created a very special non-verbal new play, a dance-drama for children, called **The Colour Play** for these festivals, and will perform it four times while they are away.

Over the last six months the Company has received very generous donations and sponsorship to assist the four young people in the play to travel overseas and take part in this wonderful experience. Over \$4000 was raised.

A big thank you to **The Colour Play** sponsors and donors: Fay Parkes, Pru Goward, GMC, Goulburn Workers Club, The Men's Shed, John Knops, David Rayner, Senator Ursula Stephens, Robert and Celia Galland, Brian Richardson, Moira Sheridan, Cheryl Fife, Mrs Hookey, Goulburn Rotary Club, Goulburn Friendship Club, The Edwards Family, Idris Stanton and Joshua Phillips, Carole Divall, Paula Vanslambrouck, Rose Liardet, Greg Seckold, Deborah Foster, St Saviour's Bell Ringers, and the Lieder Youth Theatre Company.

Funding towards this production and some overseas accommodation of \$3000 has been received through the CASP and Quicks programs of Regional Arts NSW, and valuable in kind support has been received from North Goulburn Public School, Online Info Web Design and Hypercet Printing.

Many thanks to the Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, the Lieder Board of Management and all the volunteers at the Lieder who have worked on and supported this enormous and adventurous project and especially to Erin Williams and Fiona Churchill who have coordinated the travel and accommodation arrangements for the trip.

A Big HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY

On Saturday 22nd August our Historic Lieder Theatre, previously know as the Liedertafel Hall, turns 80.

Many changes have been made over the years, but it is still ours. There have been 300 shows in the building by the Lieder Theatre Company between August 1929 and August 2009. If you are a current member of the Lieder then you are a part owner of this very wonderful building – a good reason to renew your membership!

Auditions for Jungle Book

Adapted from

Rudyard Kipling's classic story

by Stuart Paterson

Saturday 19th September 2pm

Directed by Chrisjohn Hancock

Adult and children roles available

Enquiries 48215066

44th Goulburn Eisteddfod

The Speech and Drama Section of the 44th Goulburn Eisteddfod will be held at the Lieder Theatre during the day on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th September. The Lieder is a proud supporter of the Eisteddfod and wishes all the competitors a memorable and successful experience.

Catapult Circus Festival Bathurst 23 – 27th September

Five members of the Lieder Youth Theatre Company and three Lieder tutors will attend this event and perform a short presentation as part of the Gala Show on Thursday 24th alongside groups from all over NSW.

The five-day Festival designed for young circus enthusiasts and their trainers will include workshops and performances by Circus Oz and opportunities to meet and get to know peers from around the state with a similar passion for physical theatre and circus arts.

A Loo or Too

Our old toilets have just received a facelift thanks to James Hickey and his team of painters. Check out the new flashy colours and tell us what you think.

Salutations

From one ancient Lieder monument to another

On the 22nd of August 1929, the committee of the Goulburn Liedertafel Society proudly declared their new theatre open with “A Grand Ball” followed, the next day by “An invitation Dance” and completing their celebrations on the Saturday with an “Old Boy’s Reunion Dinner”

The choice was appropriate, for the building was good for little else than eating and dancing – except perhaps Boxing Matches and Table Tennis Tournaments.

For years, the Liedertafel members, who specialized in performing popular musical comedies, had been saving up for a new home for their productions which, to date had, of necessity, been presented at the Broadway Cinema, involving complications in booking and set-building.

So, when the time came, the money saved, the architect consulted and the builder engaged, the dream theatre went up and proved to be a nightmare for every unfortunate who directed a play there in the next forty years, while all musicals had to be presented – at the Broadway Cinema.

The glowing report in “The Goulburn Penny Post described the building as “ just what Goulburn wants ...it provides for every form of entertainment...including rehearsals and the storage of scenery”

Unfortunately, what Goulburn had got was as far from being a theatre as an architect could plan – the exterior resembled a scout hall, a tiny entrance “lobby” ensuring that patrons would get wet when cueing for their tickets, no foyer, an auditorium with a flat floor running the full width of the building, thus ensuring that a good third of an audience would not be able to see the stage that was too high, not nearly deep enough and provided the very minimum wing space. No storage room, no lighting box, two tiny dressing rooms, one doubling as a kitchen, and no backstage lavatories! Little did the audience know what hardships the poor actors would go through for the next seventy-odd years!

It was forty years before any concessions were made. Then, in 1969, two walls were built, dividing the auditorium in three to form a good sized foyer, an auditorium of appropriate size where all members of an audience could actually see the stage (if they weren’t sitting behind a tall person with a big hat) and a storage space, scene-dock.

Then in the early 70s, “under new management”, a lighting box was built, the auditorium floor raised seating purchased from the Odeon Cinema and reupholstered so the audience could have an even better and more comfortable view,

new heaters installed, and a lot of vigorous painting and wallpapering done.

At the same time, the iron gates were removed from the entrances to the theatre, the old glass-paneled doors covered, one window removed and converted into a showcase and a neon advertising strip, courtesy of the Lilac Hall, erected. The result made the Liedertafel Hall look and feel a little more like a theatre.

And so, henceforth, it became The Lieder Theatre.

Another “new management” in the early 2000’s was responsible for preventing the venerable old building from collapsing by underpinning part of the walls, made great improvements to the décor and fittings of the dressing-rooms and built a fine upper storey to the scene-dock to house the wardrobe. And, luxury of all luxuries, a back-stage loo, ensuring that, in future, actors will only have lines and stage-fright to worry about!

With all its remaining limitations, the dear, dusty old Lieder Theatre has earned, and continues to earn, a special place in the hearts of those of us who have worked there and, I hope, of many of those who have watched and applauded our efforts.

To misquote Touchstone in Shakespeare’s As You Like It “ ‘Tis a poor thing, but our own.”

“Our Own!” How important that is. Our ownership of this building has been the envy of many visiting theatrical society and company members who have to join a queue to hire performance and rehearsal venues and apply for permission to knock in a nail or extend a run. Taking these, and more into consideration, we have good reason to wish the Lieder Theatre MANY HAPPY RETURNS on this, her 80th BIRTHDAY YEAR! May she stand up bravely and defiantly for another eighty!

*John Spicer
August 2009*

Windfall

Written by local journalist David Cole, Windfall is the second locally written play receiving 2009 Regional Arts Funding to be staged at the Lieder. The production is currently in rehearsal with guest director Annabel Scholes who is a theatre tutor at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst.

Windfall takes a comic look at alternative energy and the numerous wind farms being built in the district. This show will open on 9th October for two weeks and is one not to be missed.

116th Annual General Meeting of the Goulburn Liedertafel Inc.

Sunday 20th September 4pm Lieder Theatre
followed by drinks to celebrate the building's 80th birthday
All welcome

Nominations for Committee Members are now being invited. The Lieder Theatre Company is managed by a board of 7 members which elects its own executive. If you wish to make a nomination or be nominated please contact the theatre for a nomination form.

Changes to constitution

Notice is given so that the following clauses relating to a **Public Fund** becomes Rule 22 of our constitution.

Rule 22. Public Fund

(1) The Association will establish and maintain a public fund.

(2) Donations will be deposited into the public fund listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations. These monies will be kept separate from other funds of the Association and will only be used to further the principal purpose of the Association. Investment of monies in this fund will be made in accordance with guidelines for public funds as specified by the Australian Taxation Office.

(3) The fund will be administered by a management committee or a subcommittee of the management committee, the majority of whom, because of their tenure of some public office or their professional standing, have an underlying community responsibility, as distinct from obligations solely in regard to the cultural objectives of the Goulburn Liedertafel Inc.

(4) No monies/assets in this fund will be distributed to members or office bearers of the Association, except as reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the fund or proper remuneration for administrative services.

(5) The Department responsible for the administration of the Register of Cultural Organisations will be notified of any proposed amendments or alterations to provisions for the public fund, to assess the effect of any amendments on the public fund's continuing Deductible Gift Recipient status.

(6) Receipts for gifts to the public fund must state:

the name of the public fund and that the receipt is for a gift made to the public fund;

the Australian Business Number of the company;

the fact that the receipt is for a gift; and

any other matter required to be included on the receipt pursuant to the requirements of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(7) If upon the winding-up or dissolution of the public fund listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations, there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property or funds, the property or funds shall not be paid to or distributed among its members, but shall be given or transferred to some other fund, authority or institution having objects similar to the objects of this public fund, and whose rules shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income among its or their members, such fund, authority or institution to be eligible for tax deductibility of donations under Subdivision 30-B, section 30-100, of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* and listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations maintained under the Act. 18

If the truth can't be known,
who do you trust,
whose side will you take?
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QUANDARY

a new play written by Judith Boyd
and directed by Cat Wilson

In the Foyer at the Lieder Theatre

Opening Wednesday 26th August 2009 at 8:00pm

To be followed by evening performances every Saturday, Wednesday and Friday night

Until Saturday 5th September at 8pm

with two matinees on Sunday 30th August at 2pm and Sunday 6th September at 2pm

Advance bookings from Michael Connolly Chemist – 312 Auburn Street Goulburn

book online at www.liedertheatre.com or book by phone to the Lieder at 52 Goldsmith Street on 4821-5066

A full adult ticket costs \$18.00, a current member of the Lieder and a group of 10 or more adults will cost \$13.00,
while all children and concession card holders will pay \$10.00 (pensioner, student, senior and unemployed)



Lieder Theatre Company
PO Box 786
Goulburn NSW 2580

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and

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