

Bringing Live Theatre to Local Rural Communities



a Sub-Committee of the Kyogle & District Arts Council

VHP Vagaries

Issue: 1

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VHP ANNOUNCES PATRON FOR 2013



Liz Deep-Jones

Village Hall Players warmly welcomes Liz Deep-Jones as its Patron for 2013.

Liz is a television journalist and presenter, an author, producer, broadcast and public speaker.

And if that wasn't enough for this passionate, fun, amazing woman, she is currently in the process of developing a Lucy Zeezou TV series and working on a screenplay based on the same concept!

Lucy Zeezou is the character in Liz's two teen fiction books (the third one is in progress – where does she find the time?). Lucy is a likeable and inspiring young girl who is determined to follow her dream of playing football despite her parents' disapproval.

Liz has fond memories of the theatre classes she attended as a young girl and says she was particularly fond of the theatre sports part of the programme.

When in Kyogle recently as the Australia Day Ambassador to Kyogle, she spoke with VHP President and Artistic Director,

Lynette Zito, and was keen to learn more about the Players.

"In her Australia Day address, Liz spoke of believing that you can achieve your dreams with persistence, passion and a sense of humour, and have fun doing it," said Lynette. "She was simply awe inspiring and I knew then that she would be the perfect Patron for VHP. All I had to do was convince her!"

When asked if she would take on the role, Liz needed no convincing. After speaking with Lynette for some time about VHP, during which time she was attentive and genuinely interested in the company, what it had achieved and it plans for 2013 and beyond, Liz readily agreed.

While Liz and her husband, Derek, live and work in Sydney, VHP hopes they will visit us often.



Australia Day Awards

Village Hall Players received two nominations for the Kyogle Council East of the Range Australia Day Awards.

The first was for the Village Hall Players in the category of Contribution to Community Programs and Activities. The nomination reads in part *"The VHP provides community theatre and aims to revitalise our community halls. It offers play readings, operates the children's theatre program, DIRT, and offers quality theatre productions. Members have an opportunity to learn theatre arts."*

The DIRT program was the recipient of the other nomination. This nomination was in the category of Enhancing Children's Participation in Community Life. The nomination reads, *"A program of the Village Hall Players especially developed for young people to provide opportunities and experience for them to learn about and participate in theatre and performance for building confidence, skills and knowledge, along with improving language, reading and comprehension, and self-confidence."*

At the Awards Ceremony, which was part of the overall Australia Day Ceremony held at the KMI Hall, Lynette Zito accepted the Certificate on behalf of VHP and Paul Worsnop accepted DIRT's Certificate.



Nominees with Liz Deep-Jones

Dr Kym Watling was named Kyogle's Citizen of the Year for her leadership in the creative industries.

Jeanette Foy-Wilson, a VHP member, was the emcee for the program in her alter ego, Gladys. (Gladys is centre front in the photo above in her Australian flag dress.) As usual, Gladys had the audience in stitches and kept the programme moving along in her inimitable style much to everyone's enjoyment. The ceremony ended with Jeanette singing her signature song *It's a Wonderful World*.



"TRUSCOTT" – A Unique Theatrical Experience

VHP kicked off its 2013 Season with the psychological drama *Truscott* by Eric Fitzjohn on Saturday 2nd February at the KMI Hall in Kyogle.

In this intense and darkly comic play, two men in adjoining cells conduct a psychological battle of words. Who will reign supreme? Described by one critic as "a mental gun-fight", this is a show not to be missed.

Truscott is for adults and teenagers 15 years and older. An unusual start to the show gives a sense of audience participation.

Produced and directed by Veronica Cooling, *Truscott* stars Rick Broomhead as Truscott and Robert Larnach as Joe.

Other performances will be a matinee at 2pm on Friday 8th February and 7pm performances on Saturday 9th, 16th and 23rd February. The matinee show includes lunch at the Earth Bistro at 12:30pm and tickets are \$25 each or \$15 without lunch. Tickets for the evening shows are \$15 and include an after show program where audience members can meet the actors and director over coffee and nibbles.

Tickets are available from Gateway Office Supplies, cnr Summerland Way and Stratheden Street, Kyogle. Tickets for the matinee lunch need to be booked no later than 5pm on 31st January.



AUDITION CALL

Auditions for the *Light & Dark* production (performance dates in July) will be held on at 7pm on 18 February 2012 at the KMI Hall, Stratheden Street, Kyogle.

The production is made up of three short one-act plays, two comedies (*He Said and She Said* and *Call Girls*) and a drama (*Two in a Room*). All roles open.

Characters required:

3 Males (1 in each play); small role only in *Call Girls*
3 Females for *He Said and She Said* – all over 30 years of age

1 Female for *Two in a Room* – age 20 - 30

3 Females for *Call Girls* – age 20 – 50

Auditionees will need to read scenes from the script.

Email VHP for character information, if interested.

Playwrights' Competition & Festival

Village Hall Players, Inc is pleased to announce its new program, a Playwrights' Competition the aim of which is to assist the theatre industry in the region.

The competition calls for previously unpublished and unproduced one or two act stage plays. One act plays must run for a minimum of 40 minutes and two act plays must not run for longer than two hours. Plays can be on any theme or subject, with up to six characters for one act plays.

All scripts must be typewritten, not bound and in English. Multiple entries by the same writer are permitted. There are three sections available to entrants: Open, Indigenous and Under 18.

Applicants will be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia and must reside in either the Kyogle, Lismore or Richmond Valley Local Government Areas or be currently enrolled in Southern Cross University. Applications must include a synopsis of the proposed play of no more than 100 words and including a character list.

Judging will be by a panel of theatre industry and education professionals.

The winning play in each section will be performed at VHP's inaugural Scriptwriters Festival to be held in the Northern Rivers in November 2013. The first place play in each section will also win \$100, and three commended writers, one from each section, will win \$50 each. All other entrants will receive written feedback on their scripts.

Entries must be mailed to the address below to be received no later than Friday 28 June 2013. Late entries will not be accepted.

Village Hall Players
Scriptwriters Competition
PO Box 622
KYOGLÉ NSW 2474

An information package and eligibility criteria will be available on the Village Hall Players website, www.villagehallplayers.com or by email at villagehallplayers@gmail.com on 15 February 2013.



2013 VHP Calendar

Time & Date	Venue	Production
7 pm Saturday 2 February	KMI Hall Kyogle	<i>Truscott</i> by Eric Fitzjohn
2 pm Saturday 8 February	KMI Hall Kyogle	<i>Truscott</i> by Eric Fitzjohn
7 pm Saturday 9 February	KMI Hall Kyogle	<i>Truscott</i> by Eric Fitzjohn
7 pm Saturday 16 February	KMI Hall Kyogle	<i>Truscott</i> by Eric Fitzjohn
7 pm Saturday 23 February	KMI Hall Kyogle	<i>Truscott</i> by Eric Fitzjohn
7 pm Saturday 6 April	Rous Mill Hall	<i>Laugh Your Dreams Away*</i>
7 pm Saturday 13 April	Woodenbong Hall	<i>Laugh Your Dreams Away*</i>
7 pm Saturday 20 April	TBA	<i>Laugh Your Dreams Away*</i>
7 pm Saturday 27 April	Old Bonalbo Hall	<i>Laugh Your Dreams Away*</i>
June/July	KMI Hall Kyogle	<i>Light & Dark#</i>
June/July	KMI Hall Kyogle	<i>Light & Dark#</i>
June/July	KMI Hall Kyogle	<i>Light & Dark#</i>
June/July	KMI Hall Kyogle	<i>Light & Dark#</i>
7 pm Saturday 7 September	TBA	<i>It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To *</i>
7 pm Saturday 14 September	TBA	<i>It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To *</i>
7 pm Saturday 21 September	TBA	<i>It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To *</i>
7 pm Saturday 28 September	TBA	<i>It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To *</i>

* *Laugh Your Dreams Away* – Two One Act Plays.

Farmer Will Swap Combine Harvester for Wife by Hugh O'Brien
Can You Hear the Music? by David Campton

Light & Dark – Three One Act Plays.

He Said and She Said by Alice Gerstenberg
Two in a Room by John Summons
Call Girls by David Muncaster

**It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To* by Elizabeth Coleman.

For more information, please email us.



VHP Inc

Village Hall Players is now an incorporated Association in NSW and, as such, we now have a committee which oversees all legal, financial and administrative matters.

Production matters remain the responsibility of the production team.

Our Inaugural Committee is made up of:

President	Lynette Zito
Vice-President	Gordon Hook
Secretary	Veronica Cooling
Treasurer	Paul Worsnop
Committee Members	Lee-Anne Beeby
	Tiana Cecere
	Margaret Saw

VHP's AGM is held in July each year and all of the above positions are declared vacant and all VHP paid-up members are entitled to nominate and vote for each position.

VHP is an amateur touring theatre company. It is currently a sub-committee of the Kyogle & District

Who we are

Arts Council and is a community run not for profit association.

VHP provides its productions free to other community organisations for such things as the Kyogle Seniors' Week Concert, the Kyogle Combined Churches Community Christmas Pageant, the Kyogle Bazaar and the Tidy Towns Farmers' Markets.

VHP Vision & Goals

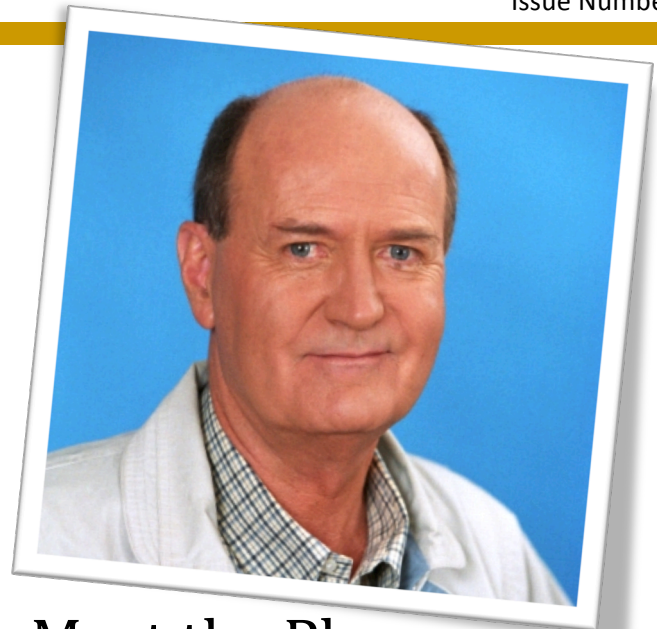
Vision - to take live theatre into rural villages, using village halls and encouraging young and indigenous people to participate in theatre.

Goals - to produce live theatre productions in local halls;

to promote and encourage participation in amateur theatre in the local community;

to foster and encourage the talents of members; and

to promote or encourage interest in live theatre.



Meet the Players

(Each newsletter you'll meet one of the diverse group of amazing people who make up the Village Hall Players. We hope you enjoy meeting us! Ed.)

Our *Professional Actor in Residence*, Paul Worsnop (pictured above) is the first of our members' profiles.

Paul thought that learning to fly an aeroplane at 50 would be his crowning achievement. Then he reluctantly agreed to be part of the chorus in a Broadway musical revue whilst working in Vanuatu. He was hooked. "I wish I had discovered the joy of acting 25 years ago; this tops it all," Paul explains. On his return to Australia, he took on formal acting training which opened up modest opportunities in film, television and stage performances. Paul is convinced that playing his part with the Village Hall Players is keeping him young, active and mentally stimulated. "Great fun! I can highly recommend it."

Paul's "modest" achievements have included roles in seven short films, a television pilot series, three television commercials, three corporate training videos and an impressive body of theatre work, including two Shakespeare productions with the Queensland Shakespeare Festival.

Since joining VHP, Paul has appeared in a number of productions and, along with drama teacher Joelle Foy, taught the DIRT programme in 2010 and 2011.

He also spends a lot of time working as part of the back stage crew for all our productions and is very willing to share his training and experience with all Players.



Hope you enjoyed our first issue. More next time. Ed.