

VHP Vagaries

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Bringing Live Theatre to Local Rural Communities



a Sub-Committee of the Kyogle & District Arts Council

IT TAKES A VILLAGE ...

In October 2010, when the Village Hall Players performed its first production before a private audience, the small group who started this company could not have even imagined that less than three years later VHP would have accomplished so much.

Since that original production, VHP has performed for audiences at Bonalbo Hall, Bundgeam Hall, Kyogle Memorial Institute Hall, Dyraaba Hall, Horseshoe Creek Hall, Mallanganee Hall, Old Bonalbo Hall, Rock Valley Hall, Rous Mill Hall and Woodenbong Hall.

Our youth theatre program, DIRT, is celebrating its second birthday in July. (See article on page 2.)

We have freely contributed our skills to assist other community groups over the years, including performances at the annual Seniors' Concert twice, singing Christmas Carols for the Farmers' Markets, performing street theatre at the Kyogle Bazaar, and assisting the Kyogle Community Cinema Committee with its dinner and murder mystery evening on the 15th. (See article on page 5.)

In 2013, we are working on ensuring that local playwrights have an outlet for new theatre works through our inaugural Playwrights' Competition and Festival.

And none of that would have been possible without the many, many people who help us. There are, of course, the VHP members, actors, volunteers, our wonderful audiences and the generous people donate items for our street stalls and those who buy raffle tickets.

But lesser known are our sponsors. Last month, we received the support of two anonymous sponsors. One has donated six months' rent on a storage shed so that we have somewhere to keep our sets, props, costumes, etc. And the second has donated funds to go towards the cost of our Light & Dark production. Other sponsors' support comes in the form of the donation or loan costumes, set pieces and/or props, and technical assistance.

As recently as 15th June, two generous Kyogle residents made donations to our company – one a set piece and the other a costume piece.

So we know full well that it takes a caring, generous community (village) to support a new organisation and help it meet its mission.

Thank you from all the Players to everyone who has contributed in any way at all to our success. We hope you enjoy the results of your generosity.



DIRT IS TURNING 2

DIRT will celebrate its 2nd Birthday in July and everyone is invited to help us celebrate at an **Open House** on Monday 24th June, from 5pm to 6pm.

Along with seeing how much fun DIRT classes are, you will also see a representative programme, including a short play performed by the students.

So please come along and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a slice of birthday cake!



Unbreakable
2011

The French Café
2012



The Dentist 2012



Basel Masks sketch
2012

Playwrights' Competition News

Patron: John Summons

VHP is very proud to announce that Janeen Silcock, Principal of Kyogle High School and a drama teacher, has agreed to be one of the judges of the Playwrights' Competition.

We'll have more news of the Competition in our next issue and watch out for breaking news on the Playwrights' Festival in future issues.



VHP Theatre Workshop

Don't forget our first Theatre Workshop on Saturday **6th July** at 10am at the KMI Hall, Stratheden Street, Kyogle.

If you are interested in theatre, either working behind the scenes or as an actor, you'll discover what goes on, who does what and find out where best to use your talents.

Our draft programme for the workshop is outlined in Issue 4. If you didn't get a copy, then just go to our website (see below for url).

On the day, groups will be facilitated by industry professionals and/or experienced theatre people and will give participants a good understanding of the practicalities behind each role.

A light lunch will be provided

The cost of the workshop is \$20 per person (which will help defray the cost of the hall rental) and bookings are essential. Bookings, which can be made by email (*address below*) or by phoning Lynette on 0429 922 169, should be received by July 2nd catering purposes. Please use the same contact details if you would like additional information.

Children over 12 are very welcome.



2013 VHP Calendar

Time & Date	Venue	Production
7 pm Saturday 10 August	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark
7 pm Saturday 17 August	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark
2 pm Sunday 18 August	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark
7 pm Saturday 24 August	KMI Hall Kyogle	Light & Dark
2 pm Saturday 19 October	Rous Mill Hall	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To
7 pm Saturday 26 October	Bundgeam Hall	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To
7 pm Saturday 2 November	Eden Creek Hall	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To
7 pm Saturday 9 November	Woodenbong Hall	It's My Party and I'll Die if I Want To

Light & Dark combines three, short one act plays, with a thought provoking drama sandwiched between two comedies. Co-produced by Lynette Zito and Gordon Hook, the theme of the production is the power of language, and each play illustrates a different aspect of this central theme.

He Said and She Said is a comedy with a sting by American playwright, Alice Gerstenberg. Set in the first months of WWII, Mrs Packard, a dinner guest at the home of wealthy socialites and a terrible gossip, causes havoc before dinner is even served! This play is directed by Lynette Zito and Gordon Hook and is Gordon's directorial debut!

Two in a Room, a drama by our own John Summons, deals with a bizarre encounter between two people – he's trying to buy love and she is simply selling sex. Directed by Lynette Zito.

Call Girls is written by British playwright David Muncaster and directed by Lynette Zito. This play is a very funny comedy set in an IT call centre where four women work. Laura, the new girl on the team, has raised the ire of her three co-workers with her low cut tops, short skirts and her unwillingness to be one of the team. The others speculate on the relationship between Laura and Gary, the boss.

It's My Party and I'll Die If I Want To is by Australian author Elizabeth Coleman. This two-act comedy, produced by Lynette Zito and directed by Paul Worsnop, tells the tale of Ron, a quintessentially Aussie family man who, due to an intractable illness, has been told by his doctor that he has only a short time left to live. He decides to hold a party so he can break the news to his wife and family and enjoy a few last quality moments with them. This is a comedy of anxiety, absurdity and occasional terror.



Village Hall Players Committee

Village Hall Players Committee Meetings are for committee members only, while General Meetings (including the AGM) are an opportunity for anyone interested to come along. We've had to move our AGM to September to allow time for the financials to be completed. Dates for meetings from October onwards will be advised after the AGM.

2 July – Committee Meeting

10 September – **Annual General Meeting**



Above: Lee-Anne McDermid, the Warden, & Meg Ainsworth, an inmate, act the part while working front of house for VHP's production of *Truscott* in February 2013.

Can You Help?

1. Assistant to the Director/Producers

Light & Dark director Lynette Zito and producers Lynette Zito and Gordon Hook need a little help. VHP is looking for a volunteer to act as an assistant for this production. The role would suit someone with basic admin skills or a willingness to learn, and entail attending rehearsals, taking notes and helping manage the million and one details that go into a production. While there's no pay, the benefits are innumerable – being part of a fun group, supporting your community while having fun and practical experience to add to your resume. Oh, and did we mention it's lots of fun. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact Lynette on 0429 922 169 or by email at the VHP email address below.

2. DIRT Instructor

VHP is also looking for someone who is passionate about theatre, who loves kids and who wants to have fun to take over or assist with the DIRT programme. A qualified teacher or someone with a good theatre background is desirable, but if you have the passion and a willingness to learn, then we'd love to hear from you.

Currently this is a volunteer position, but VHP continues to look for funding so that we can create an employment opportunity for the right person.

If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Lynette on 0429 922 169 or by email at the VHP email address below.

3. Musical Director

In its 2014 season, VHP is looking to start producing musicals but need a Musical Director to assist us in this endeavour.

Our Musical Director would be responsible for auditioning and rehearsing the musical and vocal ensemble and making sure the singers and musicians are prepared for their performances and for making any changes in the score that he deems

fit. He/she would also conduct the musical ensemble at each performance.

The Musical Director will be paid a small stipend for each production.

VHP is looking for someone who would like to work with a fun, collaborative group of passionate theatre people. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Lynette on 0429 922 169 or by email at the VHP email address below.



Above: Lynette Zito as Lady Winsome in Two Wits to Woo – 2012 Season.

Below: Robert Larnach as the Chauffeur and Rick Broomhead as the Gardener in Two Wits to Woo.



Murder Mystery Game

On Saturday, 15th June, the Kyogle Community Cinema Committee held a fundraising dinner and murder mystery game. VHP was asked to assist with the murder mystery and five of our members helped out on the night. Lynette Zito took on the role of presenter and the fabulous Meg Ainsworth, Bree Johnston, Odette Nettleton and Paul Worsnop worked hard as team spokespersons keeping the game moving and ensuring everyone was having fun.

It was a great night with lots of laughter, fun antics and even some budding actors displaying their talents in the audition – one of the games played to earn clues to help solve the murder!

The Kyogle Bowling Club was decorated in purple and gold, with film posters, gold stars on the floor and three fabulous set pieces. A Hollywood street scene, painted by VHP's artist in residence, Ian "Eden" Lister, a larger than life size Oscar statue and a (very heavy) Hollywood Street sign – the latter two both donated by very talented Kyogle residents.

Below are a couple of photos to show you what you missed. More next month!



Above: Hollywood scene



Left: Eden in front of his Hollywood work of art.

Well done, Eden, and many thanks for sharing your amazing talent!



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.)

Meg Ainsworth has been interested in theatre and films since she can remember. Being a somewhat isolated 'bush kid', Meg and her family would travel to Sydney every year for a treat of live theatre and latest release movies.

She and her brother thought they could do as well as some of those actors, (if not even better)! So they wrote their own plays and performed them for sixpence a seat in the family lounge room. Whenever possible, Meg's musically trained Mother would procure the sheet music from any play or movie that took their fancy. The two siblings would then sing and muddle their way through a mish-mash production of their own, to guaranteed hearty applause, of course!!

When home schooling became too much for all to bear, both children were sent off to 'Real School'! Here, the attraction for Meg was not so much the general curriculum, but the concerts and plays she was cast in and the training for entering the local eisteddfods. Joy!

Meg has been involved in amateur theatre for many years and now feels privileged to be a part of the Village Hall Players, a company Meg describes as, "A warm and friendly group of folk whose experienced members share their knowledge and expertise generously with us 'newbies'!"

Meg played Delmae Maydel in *Farmer Will Swap Combine Harvester for Wife* and will be performing in two of the three one act plays in the *Light & Dark* production.

Meg's cheerfulness and willingness to accept challenges makes her a sought after cast member by directors.