



KAT CHAT

Khandallah Arts Theatre Newsletter

March 2017

President – Mary Collie-Holmes 970 0440

Membership Secretary – katmembership@gmail.com

- AGM
- Club Night April 7th
- Auditions April 9th and 11th
- The Wind in the Willows July 20th – 29th

AGM

This was held last Friday (March 17th) and was attended by the president, Mary Collie Holmes, and 18 members. During the meeting Mary presented her report outlining the club's activities during the year, all of which have been detailed in previous newsletters. She then listed some things that she thought that we can and should reflect upon:

- Club nights were well attended by the core group of active members, but that core group is quite small.
- The excellent results achieved by our combined creativity, reflected by the successes of our productions in Theatre New Zealand's Theatrefest and Wellington District's Full-length Plays competition.
- The opportunities provided by inter-club activities and competitions for fun and creative development.
- The time that the committee members put into making sure that all our productions and activities happen and happen well, and that all club members who want to be involved in them can be.
- The on-going consideration that the committee gives to ways in which we can develop and improve the club and the way it operates.

Chris Collie-Holmes presented the Financial Report and a copy of this can be requested by any of our fully paid up members.

The election of officers and committee followed – Mary was re-elected as President, Artistic Directors – Jillian Carpenter and Adelle Broadmore, Treasurer Chris Collie-Holmes. Committee members re-elected Alice Feng, Jessica Doube, Lynn Coory, Margaret Robertson, Marj Lawson and Ross Foubister. New committee members elected – Michelle Soper, Charlotte Stevens, Stephen Fearnley, Jo Gresham and Peta Brodie.

A list of the committee members' portfolios will be incorporated in the next newsletter.

The evening concluded with a reading of excerpts from new New Zealand plays selected by Jillian Carpenter:-

The Property Developer ***Vivienne Plumb***

Three siblings devise a plan to recoup their family losses when their parents stupidly invested all their savings in a shonky property scheme.

Luncheon ***Aroha Awarau***

1958 Hollywood. 5 Actresses, One Oscar. The 5 nominees for best supporting actress meet for lunch.

Women with Swords *Geoff Allen*

1642 French Italian Border. 30 years war, only women are left. 6 Desperate women fight to find the buried treasure of the Count. Only one will see the dawn.

My Dad's Boy ***Finnius Teppett***

A young man writing a play about his father discovers his own girlfriend is pregnant.

The Gearbox ***Joe Musaphia***

A sculptor is commissioned to make a sculpture of the Dictatorial President in the style of Michelangelo's 'David'. They have been ordered by the subversive to sabotage it. A lot rides on the size of his member.

Shepherd ***Gary Henderson***

In the remote mists of Fiordland, the Shepherd family run their flock. He has a contract to fulfil but this golden flock is not any old flock. How can they save this group of special people?

These readings were enthusiastically received by the group, who have asked that they be listed here for their reference and maybe also to inspire future directors. Two other plays that Jillian recommended, but time precluded our reading of them:-

The Train Set ***Joe Musaphia***

1939, a Jewish couple escape Germany and come to NZ

White City ***Philip Braithwaite***

Small country school 1990s. A principal and DP disagree about how to deal with a 15 year old Maori boy who is a constant offender.

Club Night – Friday April 7th at 7.30 pm.

This will comprise of a full length play reading directed by Lynn Coory and supper will be served. Members will be advised of the details of the play as soon as the information is available.

The Wind in the Willows by Alan Bennett adapted from the book by Kenneth Grahame and directed by Shannon Tubman.

This is our July production and auditions are to be held on Sunday April 9th and Tuesday April 11th. See the accompanying audition notice. Shannon is selecting excerpts for audition



purposes and there will be information about these on our Facebook page shortly. **She is auditioning people in small groups so you need to contact Marj Lawson (Production Manager) to make a time.**

marjorie.lawson@clear.net.nz

The production will run from the 20th through to the 29th of July and as usual we are looking for crew members. This is an ideal opportunity to learn about sound, lighting, wardrobe, props and publicity, just to mention a few of the backstage rolls. Why not get

involved? To do so just contact Marj Lawson (Production Manager)

marjorie.lawson@clear.net.nz . She will be delighted to hear from you.

Our Last Respects.

It is with great sadness that we record the recent death of Barry Meyers, who, as treasurer, has done a first-class job of keeping our finances under control for the past 24 years.

He had joined KAT in 1991, after his daughter Charmaine had become involved, and the first production he appeared on the programme of was *Blythe Spirit*. Over the next couple of years he became steadily more involved, beginning with set construction (in which he quickly became admired for his inventiveness in finding ways to make things work), front-of-house management and transporting our teenage members around the district (we had a very active teenage group back then).



Then in 1993 he, with the then treasurer David Allen, did the work on a review of the KAT constitution, and he started helping backstage. His interest in “quirky” things meant he became one of our go-to people for sound design and operation, building up an enormous library of sound effects and incidental music – our directors always knew that Barry would come through with exactly the right effect for them, and would deliver them on-cue every night (even though, as his fellow techies will attest, he was often doing the accounts of one of his many clients in between cues!). He also became

one of our very best stage managers – calm and unflappable, and quick to pick up on everything that needed to be done or fixed or improved. Everybody involved in a production which had Barry as SM knew the performances were in very safe hands.

In 1997 Stagecraft “discovered” this SM gem too. Our two clubs had combined for a season of short plays, which we then entered in the Theatre Federation festival. Stagecraft didn’t have a stage manager for their play and we had Barry – so they asked if he could “run” their performances too. Both clubs went to the finals that year, both with Barry as SM. Before long, he was so in demand as a stage manager that you had to book him a year in advance.

From the inception in 2000 of our annual Play-in-the Park productions Barry was an integral member of the team, usually credited in the programme as being responsible for the sound, but also much valued for his contribution to planning the logistics.

One thing that Barry professed to have no interest in was acting, being prepared only to take on small walk-on roles, with little or no dialogue. Nevertheless, he always performed those small parts with great aplomb.

In 2013, we successfully nominated him for a Northern Suburbs Voluntary Service Award, in 2014 he was given a Wellington District Theatre Federation Meritorious Service Award, and in 2016 we made him a life member of KAT.

Barry will be sorely missed by all of us at KAT, by our friends at Stagecraft and by many other theatre enthusiasts around Wellington. We’ll miss his skills, his calm, considered approach to every challenge and his wonderful knack of slowing everything down with his dry wit. And we’ll miss his enthusiasm for playing Monty Python’s *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* at our end-of-season parties; and the packet of donuts covered in highly coloured icing that he always brought as his food contribution - which he admitted recently that even he never ate!

Subscriptions 2017

If you are not one of the 25 people who have already paid their subs for 2017, here’s another reminder of how to do it – and how much it is.

Pay by internet banking

- 1 make your payment on-line to the KAT bank account **12 3223 0021419 00**, with **your name** and **sub2017** in the details section
- 2 email katmembership@gmail.com or text 022 427 8082 (membership secretary Alice) to say you’ve paid
- 3 include in your email/text any **updates to your contact details or the names of the people you are paying for** (if a double or family) and, if you hope to do anything specific with KAT this year, tell her about that too.

Pay by cheque

1. Print and complete the attached form
2. Post cheque and form to Khandallah Arts Theatre, Box 22031, Wellington 6035

The subscription rates

Child/student: \$20

Single: \$30

Double/family: \$40