



Light Op News

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Albany Port Theatre, Princess Royal Drive Albany

P: PO BOX 124, Albany WA 6331

T:08 9842 5515

E: info@alotco.com.au

M:0459 589 133

alotco.com.au

ALOTCO would like to acknowledge the on-going support of the Southern Ports Albany



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Message from the Editor

Greetings to all our wonderful members and friends during these very strange times. This newsletter has been a little delayed due to the importance of hosting our AGM via Zoom. It was the fastest and most amusing AGM ever! Thanks to Paul Favas for the entertainment!

On Monday 4th May the new committee met AT THE THEATRE! It was very strange – and quite delightful – to reconnect with familiar faces – even at a distance.

Jill Larsen

Message from the President

Welcome everyone! It was wonderful to be able to have a meeting in the same room instead of a virtual meeting. A special welcome to new committee members Kelly, Emma and Todd who come with an immense amount of various experience which will help the theatre continue into a bright future.

What can I say, the last general meeting the committee had was in February, life was the 'normal' hectic and we had a fabulous production 'Urinetown the Musical' in full swing of rehearsal, set building, prop making and costumes. Publicity had already started via Facebook Bios and tickets were about to go on sale.

This all changed with COVID – 19 and very quickly the restrictions escalated to where ALOTCo could not have an audience. Really, it is just a delay and this great production will be performed when restrictions are lifted and its viable financially to perform.

However, this does give us a 'breather' to be able to complete some much-needed upgrades requested by Southern Ports and/or City of Albany, so where there is a negative we must find the positive and continue to make the theatre safer and raring and ready for the next entertaining production.

Janet McArtney

YourChange

We have cancelled our association with YourChange as it has not produced the fundraising results we anticipated.

We raised just under \$14.



Vale Maureen Hunt

In March we bade a sad farewell to one of our beloved members, Maureen Hunt.

Maureen had been a staunch supporter of ALOTCo for over two decades and she will be sorely missed. Maureen played piano and keyboard for many productions over the past twenty years. She also ran the Sing Australia group in Albany with Maureen Kennedy and then started her own business Local Vocals, also with the support of Maureen Kennedy.

Maureen's family has delivered her music books to the theatre. Please feel free to look through the boxes in the foyer to allow her musical legacy to continue. Please take whatever you can use.

We send our deepest sympathy to Bruce, Julia, Laura, James, Oliver and their extended family.



Donation Thank Yous...



Postponing 'Urinetown the Musical' was at first a very difficult decision that became easier as the shut-downs accelerated. Our hearts broke for everyone involved. We look forward to resurrecting it in the future.

The postponement was also difficult for ALOTCo's financial situation. We'd like to thank Paperbarks for their wonderful work in refunding the ticket sales. We appreciate their thoughtfulness and thoroughness with this task.

Some wonderful members, friends and patrons donated their ticket money back to the theatre to assist us over this time when our source of revenue has disappeared. We'd like to thank the following people...

Alison Steere Sylvia Hodgkinson Bridget Ping Jen Graham-Taylor	Airell Hodgkinson Jenny Tetlow Amanda Burking Marj Wilson & Annie Saunders	Bridget and Ross Stephens Naomi Forrester and mum Pam Margaret Sefton Donna Markovic
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We'd like to introduce you to our newest Committee members...



Kelly Seaton



Todd McGregor



Emma Davis

Kelly Seaton...I am born and bred in Albany and still absolutely love living here. After finishing school I studied at TAFE in a Business Administration course which led to working as a Legal Secretary for 7 years before leaving to start a family. Now I have my own little sewing business "Chicky Licky Couture" making children's hats and babies boots and shoes which I love creating!

I have been part of the ALOTCO family my entire life because my mum (Linda Leighton) joined the company as a 14 year old so we kids ended up tagging along and eventually joining her up on stage. My first show was as a fairy in 'The Legend of Dog Rock' in 1992. Since then I have been in as many shows as they would let me, mostly in the dancing team which is where I am most comfortable.

I figured after being a member for nearly 30 years it was time I joined the committee to see a different side of how the theatre is run and am looking forward to the being a part of the future productions the company produces.

Todd McGregor... I was born in Narembeen WA and went to school in Kulin/Kondinin/Albany. I performed in a couple of shows in high school, before a 30 year layoff. Footy, basketball and golf took my time before my debut at ALOTCo at age 44 in *Blood Brothers* to perform with my son Lachlan.

I was heavily involved in football as player/coach/committee member until age 26 before sports ending injuries. I became involved in Albany Community Hospice as a fund raiser, then 5yrs as Board of Management member and Vice Chairman (through the period we built the new Hospice). I remain as organiser of largest annual fundraiser for Hospice – the Glen Jakovich Footy Stars weekend - which raised about \$30k in one golf/dinner weekend for the last 9yrs.

I started several businesses including Chem-Dry Great Southern and Wiggles n Giggles (now Tumblejam) – before establishing Mortgage Broking business in 2002.

I have travelled extensively around Australia (including 2mths caravanning with 3 young kids), New Zealand, Bali, Italy, England, Wales and Scotland.

My highlights at ALOTCO - definitely *Blood Brothers* – it was my first show, but also a very powerful and emotional show which was a privilege to be a part of. I've been in almost every show since, and they are all highlights in their own way.

My main hobby at the moment I would consider is singing. My other hobbies include travel, gardening and footy – but only watching!

My dream - I am living my dream already – I have everything I need, and if I find something new I need, I work out a way to go and get it.

Emma Davis... I went to school in Perth but have studied in Sydney, France, and Singapore. At the moment I am finishing my Masters at the University of South Australia.

I have worked all over the place in a variety of different jobs. I've worked at Target, been a singing telegram, sung on boats, danced in children's shows for ABC Kids, and managed a theatre (just to name a few).

I have travelled a lot! I've been to Japan, Singapore, France, Italy, USA, Canada, and UK. My dream is to visit every Disneyland in the world.

Most recently performed as Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* and in *Albany's Got Talent* for ALOTCO. In Perth I have performed in a number of shows but my highlight was definitely *Little Women* with the Roleystone Theatre.

I enjoy sewing, singing, and swimming.

I moved to Albany in September 2018 and joined ALOTCO in January 2019.

My highlights at ALOTCO have been during *Beauty and the Beast*. I really enjoyed working with everyone during rehearsals and helping to paint the set.

My dream is to write another show and take it on tour. I wrote a show a few years ago that went on a tour of Regional WA but was unable to go with it because I was pregnant at the time. I'd really like to see more of WA.

The Roasted Oscars...

The Committee would like to congratulate our very own Sandra Wilson for the wonderfully organised and entertaining Roasted Oscars held in February.

This idea of an annual recognition of the shows from the previous year was developed by Sandra in 2003. Sandra keeps a record of the highlights and low lights of each production and works them into her script each year. Now who hid the book from last year?

Fundraising...

The screening of the unique production 'A Fortunate Life' at Orana Cinema was a wonderful fundraiser that we managed to host before the lock down began. Long-time members would have known Benj D'Addario as a member of ALOTCo in his younger days.

Thank you to Anne Davidson for co-ordinating this fundraiser. We raised \$1400.

We need people to fill these roles...

At the AGM we had not received any nominations for the following positions...



Website Manager – Jill has been editing the website alotco.com.au for the past few years. Would any of our members like to take over this responsibility? The Committee and Directors will supply the information that needs to be added to our site. Training available. Please email info@alotco.com.au

Scenery Manager – Robin has undertaken this task for many years and is enjoying a well-earned rest from this responsibility. Taking on this task does not mean you have to create scenery by yourself. The responsibility entails working with the Directors to help plan and create the scenery with assistance from a wonderful team of people. You will be the co-ordinator of this team.

Albany Gateway editing – Thank you Donna Markovic for volunteering for this position. 

Dropbox Manager – there are many photos that need to be scanned and entered into ALOTCo's Dropbox files. Members and friends can email you photos that you can add to the appropriate production file. Janet McArtney and Karen Freeman are working on adding some of our archival material that Karen has preserved over many years. One or two more volunteers would help make this task easier.

Microphone Management – Ross has undertaken this task for many years. He has some volunteers he will train in the future but we need a member to take managerial responsibility for this task.

Safety Audit Progress...

During the shut-down good progress has been made on several projects that were necessary under the City of Albany's Audit.

The three main sets of double doors – in the foyer, the auditorium and near the toilets - have been totally replaced, painted and fitted with the necessary push exit bars. This was needed to allow for a safer emergency evacuation procedure. Thank you to Jamie Stewart and his employees at JDS Builders for their excellent work.

We also plan to have another set of double exit doors in the make-up area but this will depend on when the Southern Ports Albany can fit the steps and ramp into their budget.

The extension to the balustrading on the platform has been completed. Thank you to the Albany Men's Shed for its construction and to the many helpers who helped attach this to the platform. A huge thank you to Robin and new member John Stone who removed the rust from the old balustrading – a very tedious and time-consuming task. Robin was then able to paint the balustrading.

Our new Theatre Managers, Todd and Dean, are discussing the entrance ramp with Jamie Stewart. The ramp needs to be made wider and have new balustrading and tactile indicators at the top and bottom of the ramp.

Testing and Tagging – our thanks to Ben Davis for co-ordinating the testing and tagging of our wiring and electrical equipment. This was an onerous task and the helpers were trying to fit it in between rehearsals.

Clearing the platform – Todd and Dean have started sorting and clearing some of the detritus that has collected on the platform over the past few years.

Your 2020/21 Committee

President	Janet McArtney	0401 203 557	Vanessa Paterson	Donna Markovic	Richard Habal
Vice President	Linda Leighton	0418 850 994	0412 259 149	0439 950 697	0448 795 008
Treasurer	Peter Cook	0419 929 758	Kelly Seaton	Todd McGregor	Emma Davis
Secretary	Jill Larsen	0408 844 727	0488 958 358	0427 892 001	0439 890 925
Theatre Managers	Todd McGregor	Dean Fasolo	Todd 0427 892 001	Dean 0407 450 451	
Auditor: Jan Biglin			Facebook: Janet McArtney and Kelly Seaton		
Front of House: Anne Davidson, Linda Leighton			Grants: Emma Davis		
History: Karen Freeman			Library: Sandra Wilson		
Lighting: Sandra Wilson			Make-up: Alison Sharpe		
Newsletter: Jill Larsen			Nostalgia Portraits: Kelly Seaton		
Props: Vanessa Paterson			Scenery:		
Publicity: Janet McArtney			Social Events: Vanessa Paterson		
Sound: Charles Danger, Ben Davis			Wardrobe/Costume: Linda Leighton		
Website:			Albany Gateway: Donna Markovic		
Dropbox:			Mics:		

Contributions

If you have any ideas or contributions for the newsletter, please email them through to Jill at info@alotco.com.au and we will do our best to include them in the next edition!