



Light Op News

Edition 1, 2022 (Jan/Feb)

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



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Have you paid your membership? Check with Jill or Peter.

From the President... YES! Here we go again!

It is sad that we have to postpone another production due to COVID. The first was in 2020 when 'Urinetown the Musical' was delayed from May until September.

ALOTCo has come through the last two years STRONGLY so we can certainly do it for another year.

Mamma Mia, led by Director Anne Davidson, was full steam ahead with a few differences - singing rehearsals with masks in the auditorium or without masks when on the platform. Now we will be going at a slower pace as we have plenty of time to be fully prepared for "The Show of 2022"

This production is extremely fortunate to have Dr James Turner (Musical Director) to keep an eye on the cast and paramedic Dean Fasolo (co-theatre manager) designing a specialised COVIDSafe plan for backstage.

Ongoing, all who enter the theatre will have to show their COVID ID to a committee member to be recorded. We will continue QR codes or sign in book, essential masks and good hygiene. Please act safe to stay safe!

Meanwhile ALOTCo teams will be focussing on upgrading the theatres sound, lighting, and continuing the essential safety construction. We are honouring existing ALOTCo hire bookings but there will be no further outside bookings for 2022.

Planning for the Diamond Anniversary (60 years of ALOTCo) is being led by Findlay MacNish and is in preliminary stages. This will also depend on COVID numbers.

I would like to personally thank all members who have been at the theatre sewing, building, making props, sorting sound and lighting, and safety planning/construction. Also, I wish to give a special mention to the committee who often have multiple responsibilities and continue to work in stealth mode. This preparation will be a solid foundation to support the cast to be their best for **Mamma Mia** performances in November. Without these diligent and passionate volunteers, the theatre would not be as ROBUST as it is.

Janet McArtney

ALOTCo El Presidente'



DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR: AGM Wednesday 13th April 6.30pm

Production Update...



March 7th 2022

It is with great regret, due to Covid restrictions and the ongoing uncertainty of covid cases that will impact the cast and crew for **Mamma Mia**, the show will be postponed until November and December 2022. Opening weekend will now be 18th November and closing night 10th December. With cast, crew and band commitments, these are the dates that have enabled us to keep the same cast.

Mamma Mia rehearsals will cease on Thursday 10th March and re-commence in September. I had typed up the information (below) for the newsletter due out a couple of weeks ago but feel I still wanted to let everyone know how things had been progressing. We are hoping to get together once a month to go over the singing that the cast have learnt in July and August and if social distance and numbers permitted, I will do some blocking with small groups of cast for relevant scenes in June/July and August before full steam ahead with twice weekly rehearsals as of September.

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Mamma Mia - five weeks into rehearsals and from the first rehearsal on the 1st of February the cast and crew have been wearing masks and managing very well indeed. We have had a couple of outdoor rehearsals on the verandah, which enabled the cast to unmask. They are sounding fabulous even with the masks on.

Choreography going well, Maxine and I have in fact been starting rehearsals at 6.30pm every rehearsal night with choreography, as we have heaps of choreography in this show. All cast have been there as and when required and they are all working extremely hard.

On Saturday 11th February, the set destruction and planning for what materials required was “hammered” out, pardon the pun, so the set building is underway. Sandy O’Doherty has helped me design a wonderful set and Sandy, Paul, Airell, Greg and Ron are about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through construction. Starting to take shape, then Sandy can work her magic on the painting and design.

In the costume department, it is full steam ahead. The ladies have managed to “pin” down all cast members to take their measurements. For the male ensemble and Sky, we endeavor to find six wetsuits, so the hunt and call out is on for some wetsuits. The ladies have also sourced and obtained the material required for the nine Abba outfits for this show and already have many costumes fitted and set aside for cast members, so all going very well within the costuming department.

In the props department, Vanessa assisted by Paula Pollett have already sourced quite a few of the props required for this show. I think the hardest item we are still trying to chase down is a set of bagpipes, I will have to make a call out to my Scottish friends here, but apart from that the ladies have everything very well in hand.

Lighting and sound I have nothing to report as I have not started with lighting and sound just yet. There have been new lights, installed and Sandy Wilson, Todd, and Ben have been down installing the new lights in between rehearsals. In Mamma Mia, lighting plays a huge part, so I think with the purchase of these new lights, it is going to look even more spectacular and for all future shows. Along with the new acoustic panels that have been purchased to improve our sound within the theatre, again this is going to be fabulous asset for all future productions at ALOTCo. Thanks to the committee for making these purchases.

Anne Davidson

Director

Vale Peter Glyndwr Leighton... 03.11.1927 – 28.01.2022

On Friday 11th of February we gathered to celebrate the adventurous life of one of our beloved Life Members, Peter Leighton, beloved husband of Linda.

Peter had been a member of ALOTCo for many decades. He had a great love of music and musical theatre and he was always ready to entertain with his squeeze box. He met Linda at ALOTCo and with a lot of encouragement from Kelly, they fell in love.

We all have wonderful memories of Peter. I remember him perched precariously at the top of a huge ladder, painting show information on a board above the big sliding doors. He also was an excellent committee man, having served as Treasurer for many years and then being in charge of creating and dismantling scenery. Woe betide anyone who didn't do the job carefully enough and recycle all the hardware! 'Make do and mend' was his motto!

Last year Bill, Linda, Peter and I helped clean up the car park when after a huge storm knocked over the skip bin and spread rubbish everywhere. It took us about an hour to clean up the mess and then Peter went to his ute, got out a long crowbar and with sheer determination managed to get that steel bin upright and facing away from the wind. Bill and I were gobsmacked by his strength and determination.

The eulogies from Peter's daughters in the UK, his brother Russell's children and from Kelly, made us laugh and shed a tear and brought back many memories. Peter's life was an incredible adventure.

Rest in peace, Peter. We will miss you. Our deepest sympathy to Linda and the family.

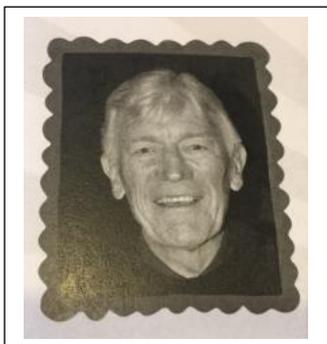


Vale Ian Bean...

It with sadness that ALOTCo announces the loss of Ian Bean.

Ian was new to ALOTCo (although he had sung elsewhere for years) and played General Ghengus Khan Schmitz in *Seussical* last year.

In true ALOTCo spirit, some of the cast of *Seussical*, led by Lawrence and Ruby Mitchell, visited Ian at the Albany Hospice to sing songs from the production. Ian's friends said that it was greatly appreciated that in his final days he was still able to enjoy his passion for music.



Where are they now?

Evan Ayres and the Swing Kings

Evan and the Swing Kings will be touring full time this year (three months on the road, one month gigging in Perth). They will be touring all of WA including Laverton, Mellenbye, and El Questro to name a few. Also touring NT later this year. The Swing Kings is now a four-piece band (guitar and vocals, trumpet, double bass, and drums).

Evan says that he was absolutely loving WAAPA and was learning heaps but the performance market is there and the timing is right so he felt it was time to make the next step.

Unfortunately, (or fortunately depending on how you look at it) it's no good having all these musical skills and knowledge, if you're not letting people enjoy it.

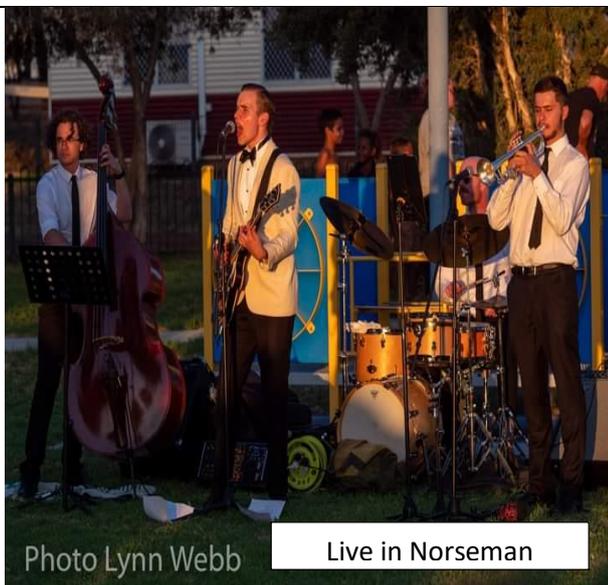


Photo Lynn Webb

Live in Norseman



Running repairs on the caravan

Congratulations Bonnie Staude ...

Winner of the inaugural ALOTCo

Performing Arts Scholarship 2022



On behalf of Albany Light Opera & Theatre Co Inc we are pleased to announce that Bonnie Staude is the recipient of our inaugural ALOTCo Performing Arts Scholarship for 2022.

We were very impressed with Bonnie's submission and proud of all of her achievements.

Bonnie joined our company in 2012 when she was 12 years old and has performed in many of our productions.

Bonnie is currently studying a Bachelor of Music – Classical Performance - at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Bonnie has been a wonderful ambassador for our company and we have all appreciated all the time, effort and work she has given this company.

We wish Bonnie every success for the future.

Your 2021/22 Committee

President	Janet McArtney	0401 203 557	Kelly Seaton	Todd McGregor	
Vice President	Linda Leighton	0418 850 994	0488 958 358	0427 892 001	
Treasurer	Peter Cook	0419 929 758	Vanessa Paterson	Richard Habal	Findlay MacNish
Secretary	Mick Vertigan	0409 036 498	0172 663 505	0448 795 008	0408 936 258
Membership/Email	Jill Larsen	0408 844 727			
Theatre Managers	Todd McGregor	Dean Fasolo	Todd 0427 892 001	Dean 0407 450 451	
Auditor: N/A	Facebook: Janet McArtney and Kelly Seaton				
Front of House: Linda Leighton, Lisa Harrison	Grants:				
History: Karen Freeman	Library: Sandra Wilson				
Lighting: Sandra Wilson, Ben Davis	Make-up: Alison Sharpe				
Newsletter: Jill Larsen	Nostalgia Portraits: Kelly Seaton				
Props: Vanessa Paterson, Sandy O'Doherty	Scenery: Findlay MacNish				
Publicity: Janet McArtney	Social Events:				
Sound: Charles Danger, Ben Davis	Wardrobe/Costume: Linda Leighton, Jodie James				
Website: Jill Larsen					

Contributions

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