

# Just Chatting



Bringing the best of community theatre to the Coffs Coast and Region

## Annual General Meeting 2015

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Despite it being Valentine's Day when many of you may well have been languishing in bed with a red rose clamped firmly between your teeth, we had a nice gathering for the CHATS Annual General Meeting.

As ever, we met at the Mud Hut in Duke Street and as well as a few familiar faces, we were very pleased to welcome three new members, Jesse Avalon, Sandra Bennett and Yvonne Kachel. Good to have you on board!

As part of the general business of the AGM, we get reports on the past year from the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary and, of course, a new committee gets voted in.

A call for Nominations to the committee was made to everyone present and the only people to nomi-



*Quartet* - March 2014  
Anne Joyce and David Quinn

nate were those of us already in place. Therefore, your Committee for 2015 is much the same as last year... with one exception. Our much loved and admired Treasurer, Emilia Guthrie is stepping down for a while (hopefully not forever). She assures me, though, that we will still see her smiling face from time to time volunteering at the Box Office.

So, your committee is: Rex Madigan (President), Shirley Barnett (Vice-president), Lehanne Whitaker (Treasurer), Penny Dennis (Secretary), Arlene Cole, Marty Elliott, Paul Hutchison and Wendy Jeffery. Congratulations!

## President's Report

Another huge year has passed with CHATS having produced three wonderful plays starting in March with Shirley Barnett directing *Quartet*. What a wonderful play with four brilliant cast members. Well done to all involved.

Penny Dennis followed with her own play *Autumn Song* a beautiful play that was well acted and directed, again showcasing local talent in both acting and writing. We hope that Penny again can dip pen into ink and pen another play for all to

enjoy.

Then we had another first time director in Emilia Guthrie directing Neil Simon's farce *Rumours* an absolute scream from start to finish. The cast had to

Continued overleaf...

## President's report continued...

be on their toes to deliver lines at breakneck pace to keep the flow going. I had a ball as stage manager working with a great bunch of actors. Congratulations to Emilia on a fantastic job.

As always I cannot give enough thanks to all the volunteers who work Front-Of-House, backstage, and in the green-room to help the shows go on. Let's not forget the set builders that dress the stage to perfection, the sound

and lighting people and the props and wardrobe.

Last but not least, many thanks to my wonderful committee who all work so hard to make sure that everything we plan happens.

Let us look forward to a wonderful 2015 together.

Rex Madigan, Feb 2015



*Rumors* - October 2014  
L-R: Marty Elliott, Vanessa Crossley, Eliot Kinsella, Di Ferrall

## Secretary's Report

My first year as Secretary is now over and I have managed to get through it without too many embarrassing typos!

Apart from taking the Minutes at the monthly CHATS Committee Meetings, part of my role is to keep our members and friends informed of our activities and events, as well as those emailed to us from other community theatre groups. The feedback I get from members is that they appreciate receiving these notices from other groups.

The CHATS newsletter, *Just Chatting*, is produced as soon as possible after each commit-

tee meeting and is intended to let our members know of what is coming up – plays, auditions, social events, play-readings and so on. I hope you have enjoyed receiving your newsletter but I have to tell you that it will be produced bi-monthly from now on... apologies, but please be assured that email updates will be a regular feature for the future.

Our events this past year included two Play-readings and another successful joint Christmas Breakfast with the Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company. I hope you were able to come to these events and look forward to seeing you at others



*Autumn Song* - July 2014  
L-R: Letina Hutchison, Alex Hood, Lyn Crossley

coming up in the next 12 months.

Although not part of my Secretarial duties, I cannot let the year pass without saying a massive "thank you" to the CHATS committee for putting its faith in me and supporting my efforts as a debuting playwright and director. I can honestly say that the cast and crew of *Autumn Song* were amazing and I felt very lucky to be surrounded and supported by such

a lovely group of people. Many, many thanks!

And, finally, thanks to my fellow committee members for sharing some of the load by taking on the upkeep of the CHATS website and the Facebook page. Our committee has a great atmosphere of involvement and cooperation and I hope that more members will be encouraged to join its ranks.

Penny Dennis,  
Feb 2015

# Mum's The Word - Teenagers!

Yes, indeed! The mums are back - now facing the trials and tribulations of the teen years. The mums who made you laugh over their baby problems now have to deal with their teenagers and their lives are even more complicated.

Rehearsals are well under way and, according to director, Shirley Barnett, the mums are marvelous. As before, *Mum's The Word - Teenagers!* is a blend of many theatre skills and types - it is a truly unique theatre experience.

Shirley warns though that this is a play that is not suitable for children, because it contains sexual themes and strong language.

*Mum's The Word* is ensemble theatre at its best. It was created by six Canadian mothers who got together and shared their experiences of being new mums.

They stayed friends

throughout the years and, following the success of the original, they put together this new mix of stories, reflections and jokes about being parents to teenagers. You'll laugh a lot and cry a little as the mums tell their stories.

On stage at the Jetty Memorial Theatre from Wednesday 8th April through to Sunday 19th April, book early to avoid disappointment.

If you would like to **volunteer** for ushering at a couple of performances, do please contact us on [info@chats.org.au](mailto:info@chats.org.au)



## Performance Dates and Times

Jetty Memorial Theatre

**8pm:** Wed 8 April, Fri 10 April, Sat 11 April ,  
Wed 15 April (all tix \$20), Fri 17 April, Sat 18 April

**2pm:** Sun 12 April (all tix \$20), Sun 19 April

**Standard ticket prices: Adult \$25, Concession \$22 + JMT Booking Fee**

Tel JMT Box Office on **02-6652 8088** or book online at the JMT website:

[www.jettytheatre.com.au](http://www.jettytheatre.com.au)

## ACCTS Fun and Fundraising Day

What a great day we had on Sunday February 8th at the Jetty Theatre.

With a bright sunny morning to kick us off, there were crowds aplenty who came along to see the dancing and singing, the mime artists, buy some theatre bling, take a tour backstage and generally find out more about their very own Coffs Coast theatre.

In addition to all the above, there were Dress-ups and Face-painting for

the kids in the green room, with a Photo Booth by Tom Caldwell.

Up top, CHATS ran a tasty sausage sizzle on the deck as well as organizing the Raffle and Arlene's Bling Bin. The Coffs Writers Group ran a Book Stall, the Coffs Musical Comedy Company did a smashing cake stall.

The purpose of this event was two-fold: firstly to raise money towards improvements at the theatre, but secondly - and per-

haps more importantly - to encourage the community to come and find out about all the amazing things that happen at their local theatre.

With write-ups in *The Advocate* and a piece on *Channel 9 News*, the word got around and we could not have wished for a better turn-out.

An encore for 2016? We very much hope so!

### Thanks to:

- ◆ CHATS Productions Inc.
- ◆ The Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company
- ◆ Jetty Theatre Staff
- ◆ Coffs Writers' Group
- ◆ Arts Council Mid-North Coast
- ◆ and Individuals:
- ◆ Ann Poidevin, Louwanna Kaur, Tom Caldwell, Daragh Cansdell, Arlene Cole, Gillian Simpson.

## MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

Have you renewed your Membership of CHATS for 2015 yet? If not, please do so as soon as possible. All memberships are due now.

A Membership form is attached to this newsletter - or call me on 0407 396 038 (Penny) for more details of what to do and how to

CHATS website  
[www.chats.org.au](http://www.chats.org.au)  
for all the latest news

Don't forget the CHATS  
Facebook page -  
take a look!



***Is it a bird? Is it a plane? NO! It's the Bitchinators!***

Wendy Jeffery and Becky Cole make a dynamic duo as super-heroes, Captain Curfew ('Put that light out!') and Martyr Mum ('I'd feel better if you take my car.') But wait! There's more of 'em... Super Snooper, Wishy Washy Woman and The Loser. To see the whole ghastly... er, I mean amazing super-crew, you'll have to see the show. Mum's the Word Teenagers opens April 8th.

## DEATH OF A SALESMAN

Auditions have come and gone for this prize-winning play by Arthur Miller and director, Rex Madigan, was thrilled at the turn-out - both in numbers and talent.

"It helped that *The Advocate* ran an article about the search a couple of times, which grabbed the attention of many talented actors from our local community," Rex said.

The cast has now been finalised - details in the next

issue - and rehearsals will begin in April.

It goes without saying that if you are interested in helping Rex backstage or with pre-show functions such as publicity, putting up posters, set construction etc., then please get in touch with anyone on the CHATS committee.

All of our names and numbers are on the CHATS website.

