

# JUST CHATTING



CHATS PRODUCTIONS INC.

January - February 2018

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## Calendar Girls



"The flowers of Yorkshire are like the women of Yorkshire. Every stage of their growth has its own beauty. But the last phase is always the most glorious, but then very quickly they go to seed." So says John, Annie's husband, a gentle man forgiving of human foibles, and a nurturer of all growing and living things.

After John dies of Leukaemia, Annie, Chris, and their friends in the Knapely Women's Institute, honour him by raising funds for a new sofa for the hospital where John received treatment. They decide to produce a calendar; not your usual Wildlife or Bridges of the County calendar, no nothing but a semi-nude calendar will do.

The play is at times hysterically funny and at others sad and reflective, but it always very moving. Calendar Girls is a heart-felt, beautiful dramatic work not to be missed.

Calendar Girls will run from Friday 30th March until Sunday 8th April. Tickets available from [www.jettytheatre.com/calendar-girls/](http://www.jettytheatre.com/calendar-girls/)

## CHATS Banner Competition

**2018 is here, and we want to start the new year with a fresh new look!!**

You could win one of our new shirts (and two free tickets to each of our 2018 shows) for yourself in our CHATS banner competition!

All you have to do is submit a new design for the banner for our website and Facebook page. The design must include the CHATS logo and the words "Community Theatre for Everybody", and be scaleable for use on the FB page and website. The winner will also be acknowledged on both the FB page and website.

Please send entries to [info@chats.org.au](mailto:info@chats.org.au) - closing date January 20th 2018.

The winner will be selected by the committee and announced at our AGM in February. The committee's decision will be final.

### 2018 AGM

The CHATS Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday February 10th, 11am at the Jetty Theatre pergola area.

To have items added to the agenda, please contact the secretary at [info@chats.org.au](mailto:info@chats.org.au).

All committee positions will be open, so please consider nominating yourself or someone else to play a role in running CHATS Productions!

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## JUST CHATTING

### New CHATS Life Member



We are pleased to announce the newest Life Member of CHATS Productions, Rex Madigan.

Since joining CHATS, Rex has actively participated in the local theatre community, as President and committee member for CHATS, and involvement with ACCTS. He has directed a number of plays for CHATS including Summer of the Seventeenth Doll, Brilliant Lies, Death of a Salesman, and co-direction of Noises Off. Rex has been Stage Manager and Production Manager, as well as being involved in the design and building of sets. He has also filled various roles on stage, performing in Trojan Women, Perfecting My Nature Strip, 2 Doors Down, and Twelfth Night. We are grateful for his many and varied contributions to CHATS, and honoured to have him as one of our esteemed Life Members.



### Position Vacant: Assistant Director

#### **Wanted:**

One assistant director for CHATS' October production of Terry Pratchett's 'Lords and Ladies'.

This is a fulltime, entry level position and a wonderful opportunity to learn the details of how to stage a play from an experienced and accomplished director.

Duties include taking notes, sketching blocking plots, bouncing ideas off the director and occasionally making him a cup of tea. Any and all training will be provided during the course of production.

The successful applicant will be over 18, have a keen attention to detail and good record keeping skills. Having own transportation isn't mandatory, however the AD will be required to attend (almost) every rehearsal. No directing experience is necessary, however it is understood that the applicant will desire to direct something in the future. Passion for theatre and participation in at least one previous show is essential.

Applications close February 17th, 2018. All applicants please make contact through the CHATS email: [info@chats.org.au](mailto:info@chats.org.au)

# January - February 2018

## President's Report

Greetings All,

I trust the 'Silly Season' has left you all intact and of good cheer. I know many of our Members and Friends have enjoyed the company of family and friends at Xmas and New Year and some have also enjoyed some well-earned time off from work, as I have.

It has been an awesome year for CHATS, with many achievements worth noting. Our four productions for the past year all produced some outstanding results.

*Wyrd Sisters* kicked us off with a well-attended show (over 900) that introduced many new patrons, especially in the under -21 age group, to a CHATS Production for the first time and gave them some idea of what we do. We had a new Assistant Director to assist Beckley Vincent in former CHATTERS member, Bethany Tomlinson.

*Legally Blonde Jr*, our next show, was even more successful, raising the bar so high it will be the new 'yardstick' for us to measure against for some time. This show had total audience numbers in the 1600's and boasted 39 under 19 year olds on stage. Many of these young people were given an opportunity to experience being in a show for the first time and they grabbed it with both hands. Helping to develop young talent for Coffs Harbour Community Theatre was a goal that we certainly achieved. The show also introduced a new Director (Steph Bateman) to Co-Direct with Dave Tune and a new Musical Director (Ree Higoe) and a new Stage Manager (Wendy Hardes), all of whom did an outstanding job.

*Frazzled*, in part written and also directed by Shirley Barnett, was a world premiere Australian play with a very inclusive cast. New works often present many challenges and this show was one of those. The untried music and script was edited and re-edited until the final cut revealed a very vibrant and fun show that surprised many. This show did so much for so many of the cast and their families that it is difficult to quantify. I will not forget the smiles and laughter of many of the patrons, as well as the families and friends of Cast, as they exited the auditorium after the shows.

*Love Letters*, introduced a new Director for CHATS (Allison Lowden) and raised just under \$1000 for the Walsh Family Trust. This show introduced two new actors for CHATS, John Greene and first timer (as an adult actor) Justine Bonney, who I believe, has 'got the bug' and will no doubt be back for more in the future. This show also introduced a new Stage Manager in young Alana Pearce who was delight to work with and showed some excellent potential for future shows.

Overall, we had over 1250 more patrons fill seats to our 2017 shows over the previous year. We also expanded the circle of CHATS Directors, Assistant Directors, Stage Managers, Production Managers, Front of House Managers and Box Office Managers, as well as many new Ushers.

CHATS also hosted a Directors Workshop to encourage new directors for the Coffs Harbour Community Theatre scene. An excellent instructor was discovered in Tony Wickert, who has vast experience in all things relating to directing and acting, both for the stage and television. The successful relationship developed between Tony and CHATS will no doubt lead to further possible directing/acting classes that will help raise the standard of our productions.

CHATS made a donation of an exercise bike to the Mental Health Unit at Coffs Base Hospital. Mental Health is an area that this Committee sees as a very worthy cause and one that may become a regular part of our October productions in the future, as it coincides with the annual Mental Health Month campaign. We also donated to Belinda Lemair's Coffs Harbour Youth Drama Group for their tour of Sydney. Committee felt that this was a worthy investment in enriching the experience of some of our young talented actors.

CHATS welcomed two new Life Members this year, Sharon Tomlinson and Rex Madigan, both thoroughly deserving of this award.

Our Facebook page has had an upgrade and we now have an Instagram account. Measures are in place to upgrade and maintain our website with more regularly updated information. Keep a look out for a more vibrant and user- friendly CHATS website in 2018.

CHATS T-Shirts are now available at a cost price arrangement for our Members and Friends. More CHATS Member benefits are planned to be introduced, look out for these initiatives in the New Year.

I would like to personally acknowledge the outstanding work this year's Committee Members have undertaken this year. This is an awesome team of people who believe, as I do, that CHATS is a very worthwhile organisation. Despite being slightly undermanned, especially in one or two key areas, this Committee has proven what can be done with some teamwork and a common goal.

There is always room for new Committee Members to join CHATS in the 'engine room.' Our A.G.M. is coming up on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Jetty Theatre. With one or two of this year's Committee needing a break in 2018, due to work and family commitments, there is an opportunity for 'new blood' to join the team and become a part of this very exciting growth and rejuvenation period that we are going through. Many hands make light work and as long as there are couple more willing helpers, there is no reason CHATS cannot continue to grow and develop to become even stronger. Please contact anyone on current Committee to discuss whether you could help out next year.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge, on behalf of all of us on Committee, the contribution made by our many Friends and Helpers, too numerous to mention.... I would never be able to remember all of you... but you know who you are. You are awesome and inspiring too and, as I have said before, CHATS would not be able to achieve the results we do without you. Thank you all so much!

Onwards and Upwards.... Go CHATS!

Regards,

Marty Elliott, President, CHATS Productions Inc.

### FOR MORE...

VISIT THE CHATS WEBSITE

[www.info.org.au](http://www.info.org.au)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

CHATS Productions Inc

FIND US ON INSTAGRAM

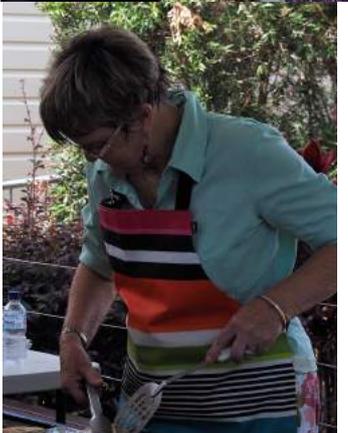
[chatsproductionsinc](https://www.instagram.com/chatsproductionsinc)

## JUST CHATTING

### Theatre Family Christmas Party

The 2017 Theatre Family Christmas party was held on Sunday 17th December at the Jetty Memorial Theatre. We had many people attend from both CHATS and CHMCC, and it was lovely to confirm the positive relationships between the two companies.

Thank you to Judi in her CHMCC role for her excellent BBQ skills, and to Lehanne Whittaker for once again taking and sharing photos of the event.



## UPCOMING SHOWS

The Coast Comedy Players  
February 9 to 25, 2018

Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company  
May 4 to 27, 2018

