

December 2023 NEWSLETTER

A Message from the President – Hilary Blamires

It's nearly Christmas

It's nearly Christmas 2023 and we're nearing the end of a rather eventful year with so much happening. We are already preparing for the first show in March next year, with the play that had to be cancelled at the beginning of this year. The play is based on a true story of three brides who all drowned in the bath. It has had great reviews, but I won't spoil the story and will leave the storytelling to Madi Howard, Director and her cast.

There has been quite a lot of activity going on within the walls of the Little Theatre. This year we have been concentrating on streamlining the wardrobe space which was jam packed with clothing, accessories, and props. It is not only cast that are auditioned, but also the clothing that they will be wearing on stage. The clothes that don't make it are usually left behind and hung upstairs. After the show, costumes from the show are also added to the space upstairs. Three shows a year and thirty years later.... So, we have reduced the wardrobe by 50% with the proposal of having post-show sales to keep the space at a manageable level. We have also created a "break-out space/quiet space" upstairs.

The committee gained four co-opted committee members this year. Jacqui Gilbertson was the first to join us, proving to be a well organised individual, supporting ShortNSweet/happy hours and working bees in her spare time outside work. Ronnie (Veronica) Mills is our sound technician, and Lupin Phillips joined our wardrobe team and is proving to be a dab-hand at whisking up cakes and buns. Several months later, Lupin moved to Hamilton to seek employment there. He shall be seriously missed, and we hope he comes back to live in CHB when the time is right. Finally, a welcome to Sara Huckle, currently absorbing knowledge on the Treasury role, as Rob Blamires is standing down next year.

Finally, a merry Christmas to you all and here's to a Happy and Successful New Year.

Notes in Brief

- We had our last ShortNSweet evening of 2023 this Friday with six of us, clearing up rubbish to take to the tip and bagging the remains of our wardrobe sale clothing to donate to the local charity shops. A celebration FishNChip supper completed the evening. Next year's repair and maintenance evening will be announced on our ShortNSweet Messenger group.
- Weekly Wednesdays has also come to an end for this year. The Victorian clothing sessions for the 130th Anniversary was a great success with 11 volunteers on the team! This was followed by preparations for the Wardrobe Sale on the day of the local Waipukurau Christmas Carnival. The Theatre made \$191 which will be invested back into the wardrobe. Thank you for your support with making this a success.
- We are now planning a "Retro and Vintage" Wardrobe Sale, for some of our clothing not suited to a life on stage. This will be on Saturday 9 February, before the 15th to 18th February 12noon till 2pm Napier Art Deco Festival run by Hilary Blamires (Contact 021 906 032).

Hilary Blamires
President Waipukurau Little Theatre

Next up – The Story of the “Brides in the Bath”.



Waipukurau Little Theatre and Director Madeleine Howard are thrilled to announce the cast for our latest production, based on the early 20th Century real life serial murder case dubbed ‘The Brides in the Bath’

The inimitable Lisa Jane Easter plays Bessie Mundy, we warmly welcome back Kylie Vanston in her role as Margaret Lofty and we’re delighted to introduce Anna Phillips to Waipukurau Little Theatre in the role of Alice Burnham.

Bessie, Alice and Margaret have two things in common: they are all married to George

Joseph Smith, and they are all dead. Surfacing from the bathtubs they were drowned in, the three breathless brides gather evidence against their womanising, murderous husband by reliving the shocking events leading up to their deaths. Reflecting on the misconceptions of love, married life, and the not-so-happily ever after, this stunning play is both a breathtaking fantasia and a social critique, full of rich images, a myriad of characters, and lyrical language.

On stage from 14th to 17th of March and the 19th to 23rd of March, this unique and striking production is like nothing you’ve ever seen before and is not to be missed.

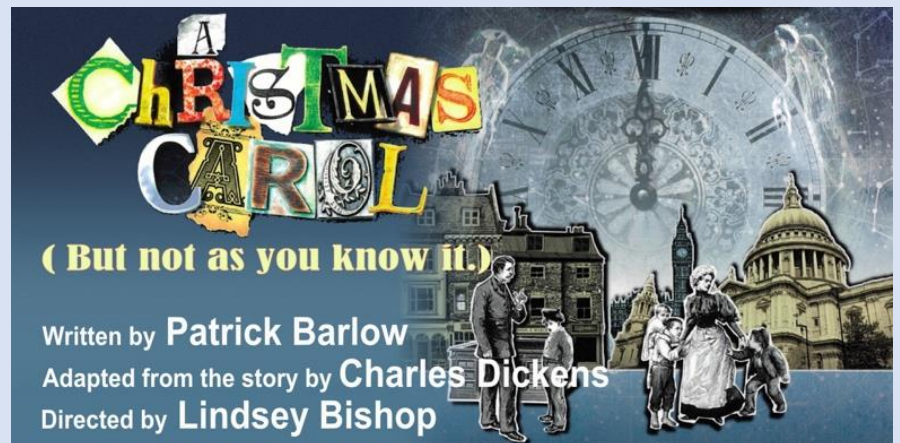
Later Next Year...

Keeping Up Appearances



July/August 2024

A Christmas Carol (But not as you know it)



December 2024

Charity Donation – Suicide Prevention

The collection we held during the season of The Heartbreak Choir raised a total of \$209. As there is no local branch of the Suicide Prevention Trust, we have passed on your generous donations to Victim Support | Manaaki Tāngata, who are there to help people directly affected by crime, suicide and traumatic events.

On behalf of that organisation and the people it helps, we thank all of our patrons who contributed.

Rob Blamires
Treasurer

Working bees - What do we do?

Little theatre has three working groups for set building, prop and costume adjustments, theatre repair and maintenance, cleaning, and health and safety tasks, an hour or so of work is also a good opportunity to meet up with like-minded people and catch up on theatre news.

When?

- **Weekly Wednesdays and wardrobe sales** are usually every week between 11.30am and 2pm including a stop for lunch.
- **ShortNSweet** is every third Friday from 6.00pm till 7.00pm. We have a fishNchips supper after for \$7.50 each.
- **Working bees** are raised when they are needed.

Everyone is welcome but please Text Hilary on 021 906 032 to ensure that the activity has not been cancelled or rescheduled to accommodate other theatre events .