



Mr. Ian Massey

President

PO Box 484, Maitland NSW 2320

Email: [mgasams@mgasams.org](mailto:mgasams@mgasams.org)

Web: [www.mgasams.org](http://www.mgasams.org)

Phone: [0456727861](tel:0456727861)

## **Maitland Gilbert and Sullivan and Musical Society Inc.**

ABN: 86 753 292 289

### **April 2013 – Newsletter**

*(Newsletter Editor – Amber Lewis)*

Welcome to a New Year! We hope this newsletter finds each of our members well and enjoying what this year has to offer. Some very exciting things have been happening, we've already had our first show of the year, and there are certainly many other exciting things to come. So please read on!

#### **All Ashore! H.M.S. Pinafore has a successful voyage**

The May/June 2013 season of "H.M.S. Pinafore" was a great success, and was enjoyed by young and old alike. It was the second Gilbert & Sullivan production staged by the Society within a short amount of time (Mikado being staged in early 2012) and the committee has made the decision to finish the 'Trilogy' during 2014!

A new venue was trialled at the end of the season: The James Theatre, Dungog. While the weather kept some away on the Saturday evening performance, the voyage to a more remote area was met with much enthusiasm and a large crowd on the Sunday!

The Society would like to extend a very big thank you to all that were involved in the creation and realisation of the show. We gained new members along with a few stalwarts, who just love a good G & S production, and their talent shone through!

#### **Showstoppers a showstopper!**

The motive behind this show was not only raising money for our 50<sup>th</sup> Year, but also to showcase the amazing talent we have in our society. And this show did just that!

Showstoppers was an unreserved financial success, and the Society would like to thank both Angie Hutchison and Stuart Ussher for all their tireless work!

A cast of around 40 took to the boards to give the audience a taste of a plethora of Broadway shows, both new and classic. Quite a few songs that were covered came from shows that can be deemed as a little extravagant for Maitland G & S at this time: Wicked, Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables just to name a few! But in each performance the members of our society showed just how talented they are.

Congratulations to all involved for a fantastic show!

#### **Sweeney Todd: A big success!**

##### **A word from the Director:**

I would like to extend a massive thank you to the cast and crew of our October season of "Sweeney Todd". You did a truly astounding job!

Nobody in their right mind would say that this was an easy undertaking. The music is some of musical theatre's most challenging, the characters require the depth and detail that only our cast could portray with the accuracy required. Guilherme Noronha carried the cut-throat barber with the correct balance of darkness and mystery mixed perfectly with a

touch of humour. Our two lovely Lovett's, Julie McLaren and Annie Devine, stepped up to the plate and exceeded expectations, again, with perfect mixture of humour, caring, seduction and cunning. My great thanks to the amazing Michael Andrews who created such a unique and true embodiment of Tobias. To the rest of the cast, I am so appreciative of the time and effort that you committed in order to build this show into what it was.

Sincere gratitude must be extended also to our Musical Director, Callan Creed. How he managed to align singers, orchestra and the video relay that tied it all together I will never really know. An amazing feat, and I congratulate you!

I am proud of this production for many reasons. It gained a huge number of public accolades in the form of word-of-mouth feedback, social media, reviews and CONDA nominations. What am I even more proud of, however, is the fact that we presented something that broke the status quo of what is expected from musical theatre. Our players entered the audience's space, we broke down barriers and questioned tradition. We taught many people that the theatre is not a place; rather, it is an ever evolving concept. It is a concept that will not evolve unless we are brave enough to take risks and experiment.

This is why I am proud of "Sweeney Todd". We were brave. We took risks. People liked it. Job well done!

Aaron Taylor  
Director.

### **Leapin' Lizards! Annie Lights Up the Stage**

In a bold move for the society, a third full-scale show was added to our 2014 run, including two new venues. Annie opened in January to an audience totalling over 400 at Wests New Lambton, and it continued to be a success for the rest of the season!

The show was also toured to Cessnock Supporters Club, The James Theatre at Dungog, as well as performing on our home turf at Maitland Town Hall.

The audience left with a song in their hearts, their heads and singing the shows praises. The lovely Jordan Warner shone as the shows lead and the entire cast and crew displayed their artistic prowess, with each venues set of challenges overcome with ease and professionalism. Well done to all the cast, crew and helpers! It was an amazing show, and a fantastic success.

### **The Pirates are Coming...**

Completing the societies run of the Gilbert & Sullivan "Trilogy", The Pirates of Penzance will be swashbuckling onto the Maitland stage in commemoration of the societies' 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Directed by Jeanette Massey and Geoff McLaren, the show boasts a mix of both past and new talent, with some of your favourites gracing the stage again! Ian Massey is Musical Directing, with choreography covered by Stuart & Angie Ussher.

Pirates will be performing at three different venues:

#### **St. John's Hall Maitland**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 8pm  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 8pm  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 8pm  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2pm

#### **Hawks Nest Community Centre**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 1:30pm

#### **The James Theatre, Dungog**

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 7:30pm  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 1:30pm

So come along, sing along and have a fantastic time with the Pirates of Penzance! Tickets available through our website [www.mgasams.org](http://www.mgasams.org) or by phoning 0456727861.

## **50 Years Young!**

This year marks the societies 50<sup>th</sup>, and it's promising to be a big one! We've already added a third major production to our usual season, and there are some more surprises in store, with orchestral concerts, dinners and the like soon to be announced. So, stay tuned and we will be bringing you all the details soon!

## **Times have changed...**

The society is once again turning to its members to ask their opinion on a new name! As the society becomes more mobile with its shows and is touring to many new venues, we feel it would be a good idea for the society to update its name.

Those that were members at the end of last year should have received a letter containing information on the change of name and a piece of paper to be sent back with your suggestion. If you don't send back your suggestion, you miss out on having your say in the new name.

The next step will be to narrow down the names to a few that can be voted on. Send your suggestion in before Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April to have your say!

## **Thank You for the Music**

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 the family & friends of Anne Armstrong gathered to celebrate her life. Anne lost her battle with melanoma on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March at approx. 8:55pm. Her family visited with her before her passing, including her son, Steven, and grandsons, Jonno & Aiden, the day before.

Anne, as many would know, was the company's repetiteur for 22 years. Although no one is entirely sure which musical(s) Anne loved best, most would hazard a guess that it was the works of Gilbert & Sullivan.

Many showed their love for Anne on the company's social media pages. One such tribute read "A beautiful & talented woman who has fought a hard fight passed away...Anne, it was an honour and privilege to have had the opportunity to know you & work with you for so many years. You remain the reason so many people have succeeded in their lives and your legacy will live on..." – Aaron Taylor.

Truer words have never been spoken. Maitland G & S would like to express their deepest sympathy to Anne's family, including her husband, Fred, & son, Steven. Anne touched many lives through her work in the society, and will therefore always remain with us. Thank you, Anne.

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."

— Plato

## **Announcements**

- Congratulations to Stuart & Angie Ussher on their recent wedding! We wish you and the two boys all the best in this new chapter of your lives!
- We are happy to announce that Ruth Warner is a Grandmother for the 9<sup>th</sup> time! Two healthy baby boys were born on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 2013. Jonathan Paul (6.10) & Luke James (8.4.) Mother and babies are doing well. Congratulations!
- Beauty & the Beast auditions will be coming up on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June! Keep an eye on our website, Facebook and the local papers for booking contact & info. Alternatively, attend our current production of Pirates and all the info will be included in the programme!

### **Dear Diary...**

April 6	Maitland Markets	Maitland Showground
April 20	Masters BBQ	Masters Rutherford
May 4	Maitland Markets	Maitland Showground
May 14- June 1	PIRATES OF PENZANCE	Maitland - Hawks Nest – Dungog
May 31	Bunnings BBQ	Bunnings Rutherford
June 1	Maitland Markets	Maitland Showground
June 18 & 22	Beauty & The Beast Auditions	Maitland Gaol
October	BEAUTY & THE BEAST	Maitland - Dungog Other venues TBA

### **Donations and Bequests**

MGASAMS has been around for over 50 years, serving the community in and around Maitland and the lower Hunter Valley in its best endeavours to encourage music, singing, dance, drama, sound, lighting, stagecraft, marketing, organizational and stage management skills in its non-profit operations. Have you considered including MGASAMS in your will by way of a monetary or other bequest or making a donation to the Society to assist these noble goals well into the future? Please feel free to discuss this with any committee member. We would welcome your inquiry.