



Octagon Theatre

Whangarei Repertory Society Inc

NEWSLETTER

June 2024

Greetings everyone...

Our second newsletter for 2024 and yes, we have still been busy.

Firstly.... Thank you to the cast, crew, helpers and team who brought the thought-provoking play **Storm in a Bottke** to our stage.

The Society supports local writers and directors and this powerful drama is yet another example of the talent that is out there in the community.

Thank you, Cam Tor and your committed cast and crew who presented a uniquely authentic play to appreciative audiences.

Lots of work goes on in the background for every production and the Management Committee is very thankful to all volunteers seen and unseen who contributed to making this yet another success for The Octagon.

and the evidence of hard work was obvious. She reflected on her over 50 years of service and involvement in the Octagon Theatre and for that, we all say a **HUGE** thank you. Carol will continue contributing as a committee member and wardrobe supervisor.

Management Committee Members

2024-25

President: Wendy Berridge
Vice President: Jayden Lincoln
Secretary: Bill Fenton
Treasurer: Allison Healey

Committee Members:

Phoebe Blacklaws, Joyce Stone, Jean Millington, Cam Tor, Aaron Gray, Freda Taylor, Carol Freebairn, Kirsten Parker-van Eck, Cara Schagen

Membership Fees are Unchanged

\$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for families

Pay online:

Bank Account Name: Whangarei Repertory Society Incorporated

Acc No. 06-0493-0103082-00

Please include your name:

To contact the secretary:

secretaryoctagon22@gmail.com

Dining with Us???

The catering team is appreciative of those patrons who made sure that special dietary requirements were included in their information at the time of booking for the last production. This was a tremendous help. It meant patrons got the meals they requested as well as enabling us to limit food waste.

So... What's Been Happening???

The AGM occurred on May 15th and retiring President Carol Freebairn reflected on yet another successful year of presenting quality drama to the community. She thanked committee members who provided support and much time in making sure that the Society was in good health financially and spiritually with much enthusiasm evident as new folks came on board

Sneak Peak...

We are talking about... plotting and planning... discussing and investigating...

- ❖ **Allo Allo... Chapter Two**
- ❖ **The Disenchanted Princess...**
- ❖ **An Agatha Christie Mystery**
- ❖ **A yet to be decided play**

Watch this space

June 2024

Coming Up at the Octagon

Next

Little Women – The Musical

No, not the New York version but lots of great music and a talented cast.

Online booking date to be announced

Season: 9th – 24th August

Following That

The Fringe Festival Returns

Quality acts from near and far

Season: Sept 27th to 13th October

Check local media for details and bookings

And Finally... for 2024

Whangarei Stars

Music, laughter, variety, surprises... all the talent on display.

Online booking date to be announced

Season: 22nd Nov – 7th Dec

Booking Your Seat (s)?

All ticketing is done online now... however should you need assistance, please phone our treasurer Allison Healey who will sort things out for you.

Allison Healey 021 463 733

Did You Know???

Probably not... so here is some food for thought. During our production of **The Darling Buds of May** we kept a tally of the hours that cast and crew spent rehearsing, building, painting, designing, researching, acquiring and all the other aspects of theatre that go into bringing a production to our stage.

Rehearsals began in December 2023 for a production that opened in March 2024

It involved approximately 2369.5 volunteer hours from cast and crew.

...and that did not include the catering, wait staff, front of house and background support.

The President's Corner

Comings and Goings

At our AGM I was elected as the new president so this is my first President's Corner and there is much to say! I wouldn't feel comfortable taking on the role without the past and future help of our outgoing president, Carol Freebairn. No words can really capture all that Carol has done and will continue to do for our theatre. One amazing lady!

A loyal committee member for the past 48 years, Rick Billing, is retiring from the committee. Rick - maintenance man, past treasurer, barman, security man, organiser - an absolute gem behind the scenes. He will be sorely missed, especially when a light bulb blows!

For the last eight years we have enjoyed the delicious results of the cooking skills of Joyce and Alison. They too feel it's time to step down and have a much-deserved rest, but don't panic as we welcome Ngapera Pita who has worked alongside Joyce and Alison for some time.

I would also like to thank Pete and Sheila Romer for all they have done and continue to do for the Octagon. We may not have a gold watch for you but Life Membership seems very fitting and we are delighted that you have accepted this honour.

Lastly, welcome to the new committee. I am looking forward to working with you all so that we can keep this incredible space working as a team.

So, in the words of our secretary... onward, and I look forward to welcoming you all to The Octagon!

Wendy Berridge.