

Matamata Dramatic Society Inc.

## ON-STAGE NEWSLETTER

June 2021

### UPDATES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Robin Essex (Prins) was unanimously appointed as secretary. Thank you Robin, you are a real gem! Mind you this will mean you will have to sleep with the president of course!

Cleaning roster: To continue for "the basic" regular cleaning. Robin to distribute new roster when current one expires.

Stairs up to stage from auditorium: Identified as too steep and narrow. Murray Weal has agreed to take a look.

We still have some of the old theatre seats in the basement: Robin and Korstiaan advertised for free and got rid of 10. So if you or you know of anyone who would find a good use for some FREE seats let Korstiaan know.

**A Working Bee was held on May 22** to deal with finishing some bits and pieces in kitchen, a backstage tidy up, create opening on other side of stage and a few other tasks.

Other projects previously discussed to complete in future:

- Racks for timber in basement
- Clearing out of unwanted costumes
- Finish kitchen
- Put carpet on kitchen stairs
- Update photo-boards in auditorium
- Preserve production programmes on display boards in foyer
- General basement sort-out/hire a skip
- Stage curtains
- Upgrade bathrooms.

**A new toilet seat** has been purchased by Korstiaan for downstairs men's dressing room to replace recently broken SHARP one.

**Bar manager, Paul Marshall**, submitted a plan for basic bar improvement at no cost, as he has offered to do the work himself.

This will allow for the glass fronted fridge to be behind the bar and higher up displaying available drinks. Prior to the improvement the fridge is to be serviced.

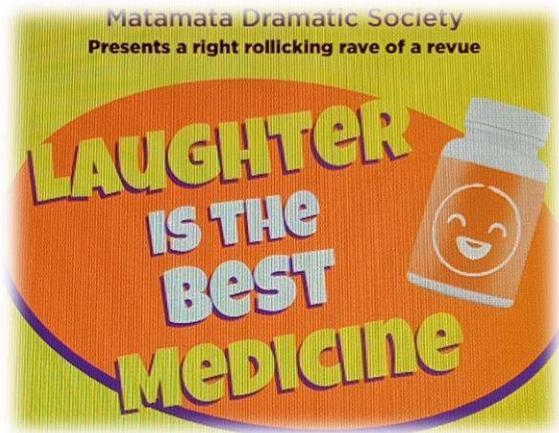


### Bar Personnel:

The committee also identified a need for another person to do the bar training to cover when Paul is unavailable.

**MANAGER  
WANTED**

If you would like to apply for this position or would like to know more about what's involved please contact Korstiaan for further details.



## This Right Roy, I Riotous, Rave of a Revue

Rehearsals are underway under the able management of the production team of Colin, Julie, Greg, Wanda and Suzie Wilcox. Compered by the dashing Greg Dunn, with a cast of 20 plus, this production will certainly raise a laugh or two, or three. It's great to see some new faces and the return of our rugby playing 'ballerinas' Cam McGrail and Ian Manton to the stage!

With mainly short skits and sketches along with two longer ones and special guest appearances of two surprise female singers, audiences will be enjoy some right, royal entertainment.



## 'CRAZED' THE IMPROV-ABLES LIVE ON STAGE!

With Julie Taylor & Chris Stead  
An evening of improvised madness & comedy.

**Thursday 10th June 7.30pm**  
at Matamata Little Theatre

**Tickets:\$10 available online or  
phone 021 0346 111**

(and yes, the bar will be open at 7.00pm)

No audience participation required, although we will be asking you for suggestions of scenarios or emotions we can throw into the mix for our brave bunch. Come along and witness pure impromptu performance at play.

## Reviewing the Situation

Congratulations to the awesome cast and crew of **'Last Resort'**, the latest production from Matamata Musical Society. It was hilarious, and the hight of perfection in every respect! I couldn't stop laughing and really enjoyed singing along with the many songs. No wonder they had full houses because so many of us senior members of society could identify which so much in the show. Despite some challenging health issues with one of the cast and having to shorten the season they rose to the challenge and were living examples of *'the show must go on!'*



## Robin Essex's Story From Lockdown

### From Gallipoli With Love



During lockdown last year, I decided upon a project to keep myself occupied - covering a large plastic torso with used postage stamps, a work of art to hang on the wall. The torso was acquired for \$3 from an Op Shop.

Via Facebook, I asked friends and family if they'd mind sending me any postage stamps they might

have; and before long I had more than enough. One such friend (Barbara), from theatre days when we lived in Auckland, mailed me several envelopes stuffed with some very interesting stamps.

What a surprise, as I sat sorting through my treasures in front of the TV of an evening, when a familiar image jumped out at me from one of Barbara's stamps. It was hard to believe that my maternal grandfather had come to visit me this way! We knew him as "Gaddy" - the slightly scary grandad who sat crooked after a stroke, wore a pom-pom beret, seldom spoke and smoked a pipe.

Gordon Thomas Wright lied about being underage to join the army in 1914, and went to fight at Gallipoli. His best friend died beside him on the beach, and a wounded Gordon was sent back to NZ.

One day, whilst walking home from treatment at Auckland Hospital, Gordon was approached by a journalist from The NZ Herald's Weekly News. They ended up on the verandah of a house at what we now know as The Parnell Rose Gardens. Apparently, the older couple resided there, and the little girl was their granddaughter. The woman pouring tea is said to be the journalist and my grandfather is on the couch with his arm in a sling.

I grew up with this framed photograph hanging on the wall in our Auckland family home, and it continues to be passed on from generation to generation.

As an adult, I had come to realise why Gaddy was quite gruff. I'm sure he suffered the horrors of Gallipoli for most of his life.

So, last year, there I sat in my Matamata home holding my grandfather's image on a stamp. Naturally, this led to me discovering that the photograph had been included in a series of stamps printed in 2019, commemorating 100 years since the Gallipoli tragedy. I purchased copies online of the new stamp to keep with the used one Barbara had sent me.

When I later shared the "stamp story" on Facebook, a neighbour/friend from 1985 contacted me to say that the old-bearded man in the photograph was her great, great, grandfather. The same photograph is hanging on her sister's wall, framed. What a small world we live in!



### Farewell to one of New Zealand's Great Comedians

**David Alexander McPhail** ONZM QSM  
(11 April 1945 – 14 May 2021)



The Herald recently reported that - 'Tears, hugs and raucous laughter marked today's emotional farewell of pioneering Kiwi comedian and actor David McPhail who passed away suddenly last week.

McPhail – one half of the famed McPhail and Gadsby satirical comedy show which dominated New Zealand television in the 80s – died of a heart attack in the early hours of Friday morning, aged 76’.

David McPhail was a New Zealand comedic actor and writer whose television career spanned four decades. McPhail first won fame on sketch comedy show *A Week of It*, partly thanks to his impressions of New Zealand prime minister Robert Muldoon. He went on to appear in multiple series of sketch show *McPhail and Gadsby*, and hit comedy *Letter to Blanchy*. All three shows featured his long-time friend Jon Gadsby.

### COMING UP in Te Aroha



**WAITING for GODOT**  
by Samuel Beckett  
Directed by Les Munro  
with Travis MacLennan • Ciaran Warner  
Rod Tanner • Sandra Clark  
and introducing Josh Kent as The Boy  
On stage June 18 - 26 2021



Tickets at [www.tads.org.nz](http://www.tads.org.nz) or Piako Stationery Te Aroha

Unfortunately, this partly clashes with our coming production, which is a real pity, but some will be able to see this theatrical classic which also features our own Sandra Clark.

**I did a theatrical performance about puns.**  
**Really it was just a play on words.**

### FRIDAY FLICKS TONIGHT!



The inspiring true love story of Robin (Andrew Garfield) and Diana Cavendish (Claire Foy), an adventurous couple who refuse to give up in the face of a devastating disease. Their heart-warming celebration of human possibility marks the directorial debut of Andy Serkis.



**It's Time To Renew Your Subs or Join Up**

**Full Membership** - Single \$25.00 - Double \$40  
Student - \$10.00

All involved with a production – on stage or back-stage - are required to join either as a full member or just for the production \$10.00

**NAME/s**.....

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**Contact details: Phone**.....

**Mobile**.....**Email:**.....

**Address:**.....

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**Internet banking only to: MATAMATA DRAMATIC SOCIETY**  
**Account: 01 0362 0008333 00.**  
**Please include your name and SUBS as reference.**  
**Also – Please advise us of any change in your contact details**

*Theatrically yours,*

Wanda

