



CLASS ACT

Your newsletter from The Stirling Players

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SP Management Committee as of AGM on 25 January 2017

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Management Committee

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Vice-President: Debbie Tester

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Message from the President

Hi everybody!

A very happy New Year to you all - yes this is my first chance to say that in this Summer 2017 newsletter!

First up, as you know, we held our Annual General Meeting on January 25th and our newly elected committee is listed in this edition. We have said farewell to some valued committee members who needed to step down because of heavy work commitments this year. Glenys Forsyth has been on the committee for a number of years and has managed Front of House for numerous productions with stacks of enthusiasm and energy, not to mention her ribald humour which has brought many a laugh at our committee meetings and social events. Amy Greig, having returned to Stirling after a number of years interstate, has been with us for just twelve months but, during that short time, has contributed wholeheartedly to meetings and helping out with productions. Also, Kate Van Der Horst whose fantastic talent has been behind the design of many posters and flyers over the past few years. Kate needs to free up a little time for her numerous acting projects but has kindly offered to continue to support us with poster production. Our heartfelt thanks to all of them who will maintain their close connection with the Stirling Payers, particularly Amy who is production managing for *The Clean House* alongside Debbie Tester later this year.

As far as new committee members, we are thrilled to welcome Danny Gibbins to our group. Danny has been lighting productions for us for many years, not to mention helping to keep our community safe through his selfless work in CFS. Maurice is especially pleased to have some male company on the committee!

As for our 2017 productions, the first one, *Forget Me Not*, opens very soon on **February 17th** so I hope you have your tickets! You



AUDITIONS

Auditions for *The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl are scheduled for 21 and 23 February 2017 at the theatre.

This is a quirky modern comedy with really interesting parts.

Please contact Kevin Burrett on kevinbvelotragic@gmail.com or phone (08) 8388 1852 for more information and to book an audition time.

can expect to see absolutely stunning performances from our cast who have been working hard at rehearsals with Director Megan Dansie since November last year (see below for some background information on the story).

Here's a cheeky photo from our Christmas Party generously hosted by Mo & Nick Johnson. The weather was kind to us and we all had a great time with plenty of food, a drop or two of wine, and a very zealous Santa Claus!



Enjoy, and I look forward to seeing you soon at our lovely theatre in the Hills.

Cheers, Heather

Background information on *Forget Me Not*

Beginning in 1912, the UK began exporting orphan children to former colonies including Australia, Canada and Zimbabwe. The rationale for this action was that the UK had too many children in institutions and other countries needed to boost their populations. Furthermore, the UK would save on the costs of supporting these children and the receiving countries would have free labourers.

That in itself is shocking enough, but the reality was that, up to the late 1960s, more than 150,000 children were forcibly relocated from Britain to various corners of its empire under the auspice that they were going to a better place where the sun always shone and there were oranges in abundance (Hence the film title *Oranges and Sunshine*). Many of the children were not, in fact, orphans, but were removed from their families under the pretext that they would have better lives elsewhere.

A significant number of children received harsh treatment, were abused, used for free labour and told they had no family in Britain. Families, on the other hand, were told their children had been adopted by other British nationals who were taking good care of them.

Social worker Margaret Humphreys, based in Nottingham, England, played a pivotal role in exposing this outrage and spent the best part of three decades commuting between Australia and Nottingham in efforts to unravel the awful series of events that led to families being torn apart.

In February 2010, Gordon Brown, Britain's Prime Minister expressed regret for the "misguided" Child Migrant Programme.

Stories continue to be uncovered about these times and those affected by the events. *Forget Me Not* is one of those stories.

