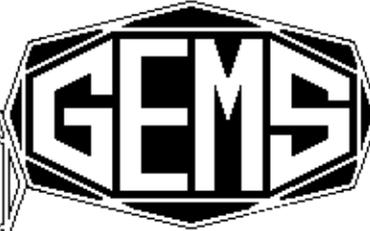


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email: tickets@peridot.com.au, or 9808 0770

2014 Peri Awards



Peridot Chairman Damian Jones and Committee Member Alison Knight congratulate Peridot's new Life Member, Helen McIntosh

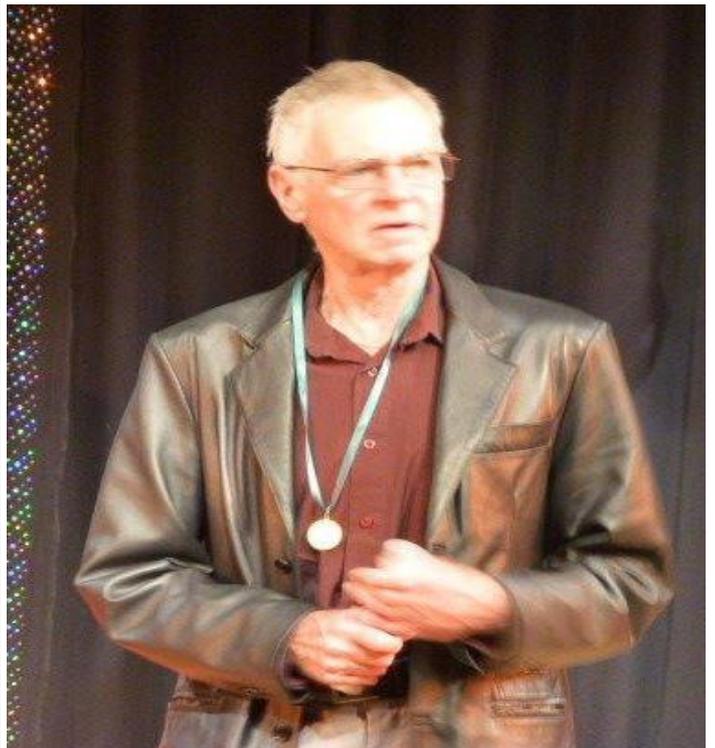
Night Memories



Committee Member Alison presents Peridot's new Life Member to the audience

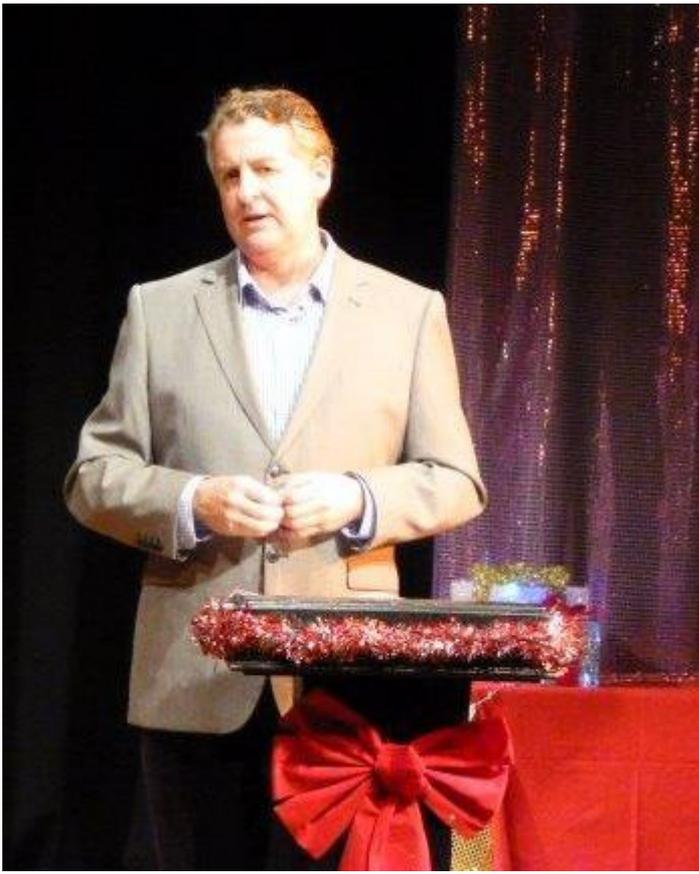


Damian congratulates Robyn Kelly, who is retiring after many wonderful years and contributions with Peridot.

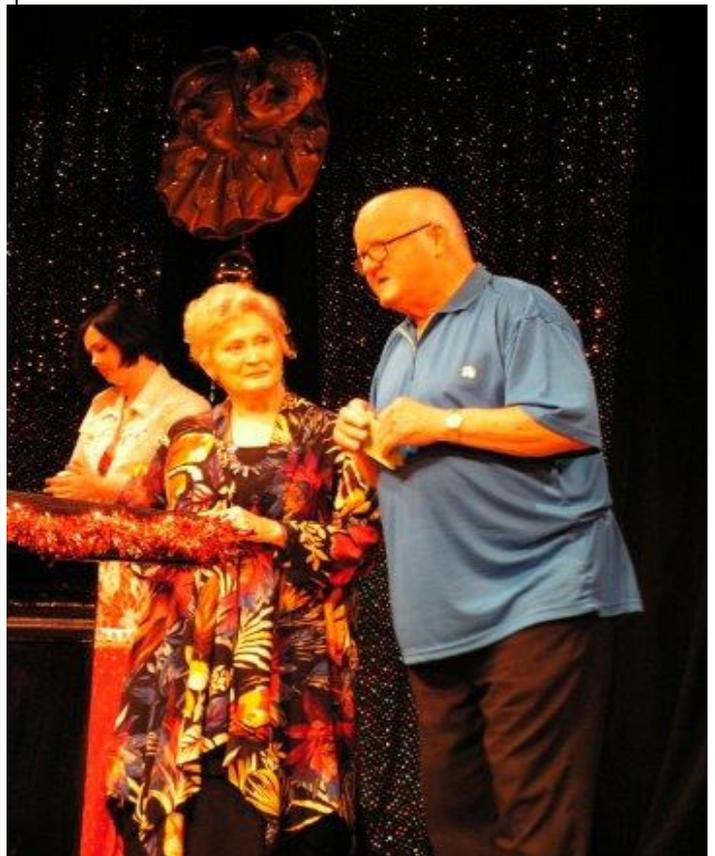


Geoff Hickey, winner of the Best Director Award, whose play "Heroes" also won Best Play

More 2014 Peri Awards Photos



Our Peridot President welcomes all to our Peri Awards Night



Adjudicator John Bishop gives Patricia McCracken her Award for Best Actor in a One Act Play.



...aided by his little helper, Ian Carlsson.



Peridot Committee Member Kate Deavin in full flight, with another Member Grace McNiven (in charge of the Awards and Certificates) looking on.

Mixed Results for Peridot in the Lyrebirds

Nominations for the 2014 Lyrebirds Awards were announced on December 8 in which Peridot got some very satisfying news and some very disappointing.

For those who are not sure what the Lyrebirds are, they are annual awards for theatre companies, musical societies and schools, primarily in the Eastern Suburbs and the Dandenongs areas and encompass youth and adult performers and productions. Unlike the Victorian Drama League Awards (the VDLs), which are for theatre companies only and for which each company can only enter one production, all the companies' and group's productions are judged, which means that all our Productions and One Act Plays in 2014 were considered by a trio of Judges who were obliged to see everything we staged in 2014.

We made our biggest mark with our very funny comedy *Key for Two*, which garnered a very commendable nine nominations: Best Actor and Actress in a Comedy (Michael Knowles and Sarah Somers), Best Supporting Actor and Actress in a comedy (Chris Shaw and Tina Bono), Highly Commended Performance in a Comedy (Sue Rosenwax), Best Sound and Best Director in a Comedy (Bob Bramble for both of these), Best Costume in a Comedy (Helen McIntosh) and Best Production – Comedy. Everyone involved in this very entertaining production can feel very proud of this great stack of Nominations.

Sadly, we did not do anything like as well in our three other full-scale productions: *The Hallelujah Girls* did not receive any nominations, *House Guest* just one (Marcus Ingleby for Highly Commended Performance in a Drama) and *Heroes*, also only one (Best Lighting in a Comedy for Deryk Hartwick) although Gail Brackley will collect a Judge's Award so perfectly combining the role of Stage Manager and Set Changer while dressed as a Nun.

In the One Act Play section of the Lyrebirds, *In By the Half* has received a nomination for Best Play and Patricia McCracken has received one for Highly Commended Performance in a One Act Play, so congratulations to all involved in this production, especially Alison Knight, who directed.

We were particularly surprised at the lack of appreciation given to *Heroes*. This excellent play was our entry into the VDL Awards, (probably a much tougher and significant event) for which we received three Nominations, for Best Actor (Kirk Alexander), Best Director (Geoff Hickey) and Best Comedy and it is puzzling why the Lyrebirds did not think along the same lines. Equally surprising is that George Tranter's magnificent set did not at least get a Nomination, especially given that, at each performance, when the curtains opened at the start of the play, the audiences broke into spontaneous and generous applause. It was surely one of the finest sets we have presented for many years but obviously the Judges were not impressed!

The Lyrebirds Awards Ceremony will be held at the Karralyka Theatre, Mines Road, Ringwood on Saturday, February 14th, 2015. It's a big night: Pre Ceremony drinks from 5pm, Awards Ceremony from 6pm, a three course dinner with unlimited drinks from 8.15 with a DJ and dancing until midnight. If you are interested in coming along, contact Peridot Committee Member and our representative at the Lyrebirds, **Kate Deavin** at katedeavin@gmail.com or on 0408 822 092.

Introducing our new Ticket Secretary Partnership

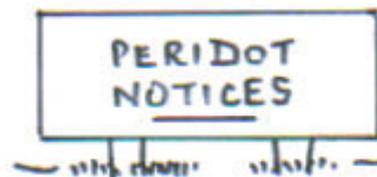
We are delighted to introduce you all to our new Ticket Managers, Margot and Colin Sephton, who have taken over from John Kelly. This has led to a change in our ticketing contact details, so please note that our Ticket PO Box is now **PO Box 2442, Mt Waverley 3149**, the new ticket phone number is **9808 0770** and the new ticketing email address is **tickets@peridot.com.au**.

*

John Kelly has filled this very important and time-consuming role for us for the past six years and now is keen to focus himself on other things. We sincerely thank him for all his hard work and send him our very best wishes.

*

A little suggestion from our Ticket Department: they suggest that, if you have had your subs tickets emailed to you, then it would be a good idea to flag or save the email in a tickets folder (or something like that) so you can find it again and re-print if perchance you have printed your tickets and mislaid them. Could save a last minute panic!



Another little **Lyrebird** item: a Judge's Award has gone to Michaela Jones, the talented young daughter of Peridot's President Damian, in recognition of her realistic choreography in Sherbrooke Theatre's *Stepping Out* last November. Congratulations, Michaela, you added a great deal to a very funny and entertaining production (which your *Gems* Editor enjoyed enormously).

*

A couple of apologies:

In our last *Gems*, when letting you know all the Nominees and Award winners at the Peri's, we did not describe Geoff Hickey's Best Director Award correctly. It should have read, *Gaye Gay Award for Excellence in Direction*, in recognition of Gaye's wonderful history of directing 23 full scale plays for us (plus many plays at other companies).

Also, we had a photo of the cast of *Key for Two* which also included Ian Carlsson, and who we mentioned was the Production Coordinator. Ian was in fact the play's Stage Manager; Kate Deavin was the PC. Needless to say (but we will) both did their roles splendidly! A glutton for punishment, the ever enthusiastic Ian is also Stage Managing our first production for 2015, *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* in February.

*

Our Annual One Act Play Season of four plays is not starting until April 30 but the director (and writer) of two of them, *The Cylinder* and *The Portrait*, Horrie Leek, has already held his Auditions and has cast Russell Perry, Katie Macfie and Marc Jongbloed for *The Cylinder* and Brendan Allan, Monica Greenwood, Nicky Neville-Jones, Margaret Venning and Lollian Lu for *The Portrait*, with Margaret also on board as rehearsal prompt.

We'll let you know about the Auditions for the other two plays, *Warriors* and *Phantom Call* as soon as we can.

*

Something for everyone in January

Looking for some entertainment during the January holidays for the children (which parents might enjoy too!)



Our friends at Hartwell Players are staging *The Snow Queen* from January 16-24 at the Performing Arts Centre, Ashwood College, Vannan Drive, Ashwood, directed by David Lawson-Smith, an adventure based upon the classic fairy tale by Hans Christian Anderson. Tickets are \$18 Adults, \$12 Concession and there is an family ticket for \$40. Bookings can be made on 9513 9581 or on www.hartwellplayers.org.au



Another excellent show for children is being staged by Encore Theatre in the Clayton Community Centre, cnr Cooke Street and Centre Road, Clayton; they are presenting *Robin Hood – the Panto*, directed by Christine Simmonds, at 11.00am and 2.00pm Thursday.

Saturday January 15-17 and 22-24.

Encore's blurb for this show is "*England - in the gallant days when history hung on the flight of an arrow or the slash of a sword. When one man alone dared challenge the might of his country's oppressors. One leader and his stalwart band - Robin Hood, outlaw of Sherwood Forest. Robbing the rich to feed the poor, humbling the proud to serve the meek. Robin Hood, daring in love as he was in battle, giving his heart to the enchanting Maid Marian and his sword to the cause of King Richard the Lionheart. Great times were these when life was filled with battle and romance!*" Sounds like fun!

Tickets are \$10 and you can book on 1300 739 099

Something to think about...

More than two thirds of our monthly newsletters go out by email, which has advantages in that they arrive earlier and quicker, some photos and items come coloured and it saves us in printing and postal costs, so perhaps, if you have a computer and can receive emails, you might consider getting your monthly *Gems* fix that way. Drop a line to your beloved Editor at tawnyowl1@bigpond.com (please don't forget the "1" after tawnyowl!) and he'll fix it up.

If you still prefer to receive your *Gems* by mail, we are of course very happy to continue sending them that way.

...the last word

Everyone can be a bit vague or forgetful at times, even actors, writers and such...

In October 1944 Welsh poet Dylan Thomas failed to appear at his friend Vernon Watkins's London wedding, where Thomas was scheduled to serve as Best Man. After the ceremony, Watkins received an envelope from Thomas. It contained two letters. The first one apologized for having forgotten the name of the church; the second apologized for having forgotten to mail the first letter.

*

In the film version of *The Colour Purple*, the character played by Oprah Winfrey was knocked senseless with a pistol. As she lay on the ground, a puff of wind lifted her dress. The modest Ms. Winfrey, forgetting both that she was on camera and supposed to be unconscious, quickly pushed the dress down with her hand, and her movement wasn't picked up in the editing!

*

For a scene she was shooting for the 1959 comedy *Some Like It Hot*, Marilyn Monroe was supposed to enter a room, walk to a dresser, rummage through the drawers, find a bottle of bourbon, and ask for a drink. The famously forgetful film star blew the line 52 times in a row (although this was far from her personal best of 82 takes one time).

"On the fifty-third take," recalled director Billy Wilder, "I told her we had put the line on pieces of paper and they were in every drawer she would open." "However," added Wilder, "she went to the wrong piece of furniture."

*

They call it the greatest honour an actor can receive but even an Oscar cannot withstand the power of a senior moment. During the 1979 Academy Awards ceremony Meryl Streep left her statue for Best Supporting Actress (for *Kramer v Kramer*) on the back of a toilet in the ladies' room. (Fortunately it was later recovered.)

*

Even the greatest can be vague sometimes. Sir Isaac Newton's maid once found the great man in the kitchen standing in front of a pot of boiling water. Baffled, he gazed first at the pot, which contained his watch, and next at his hand, which held an egg

*

When the absentminded Scottish writer John Campbell was in a bookshop one day, he became so engrossed in a book that it wasn't until he bought it, took it home, and read it halfway through that he realized he himself had written it.

*

The venerable and much loved actor A.E. Mathew's memory deserted him at the most inopportune times. He once appeared in a play involving a telephone call that was critical to the plot. It was a call that Mathews was supposed to answer but when the phone rang on cue and he picked up the receiver, his mind went blank. Desperate, he turned to the other actor and said, "It's for you."

*

Years after writing and recording the classic "Maggie May" in 1971, Rod Stewart revealed that the song had been inspired by his first ever true love – whose real name, alas, he could no longer remember.

*

One evening at a concert the Polish-born pianist Josef Casimir Hofmann sat down at his piano with a look of some confusion. The members of the orchestra waited, becoming increasingly alarmed. Finally, Hofmann leaned towards a woman in the first row of the audience and whispered, "May I please see your program, madam? I forget what comes first."

*

In Cecil B. DeMille's epic film *The Crusades*, actor Henry Wilcoxon, who was playing King Richard the Lionheart, forgot what century he was in. When he tossed back his cloak, the audience got a good look at his splendid gold wristwatch.

*

Bobo (born Paul Hewson) of the rock band U2 often loses things, from keys and socks to money and underwear. But those are the minor senior moments. In 1981, before recording the album *October*, he couldn't find the lyrics to the songs anywhere and was forced to write new ones in the studio. The original lyrics were returned to him 24 years later after they mysteriously turned up in a woman's attic.

*

And finally...Doris Day was walking down a Beverly Hills street one day when a man stopped her. Assuming he was a fan, Day said hello and started to move on. "Don't you remember me?" the man called after her. "No," the actress replied, "Should I?" "Well, you didn't have *that* many husbands", replied her second husband, saxophonist George Weidler