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All Bookings, Ticket Enquiries, Returns,
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Now Playing at a Peridot Theatre Near You



Don't miss our latest production, the lovely French comedy, *Heroes*, by Gérald Sibleyras, adapted by Tom Stoppard and directed by Geoff Hickey which opened on April 25 and will run until May 10.

Our three lovely "Heroes" cast members Kirk Alexander,



George Werther & John Keogh (Photos by Annette De Boer)



Peridot's 2014 AGM Meeting Report.

As we told you in our March "Gems" there have been some changes made to the law relating to Incorporated Associations which in part affect how we run our Theatre Company, relatively minor but necessary. Whereas in the past people have been invited to join the Management Board, we now have to follow new procedures of appointing and voting in new Committee Members, and there are guidelines which set out what is expected of everyone on committee. The changes also give members (i.e., subscribers) a greater say in the management of Peridot, and the opportunity to access information and influence decisions for the company is now easier than before. The changes also give those who are passionate about Peridot the opportunity to put themselves forward to assist in the running of the Company. The March newsletter indicated how interested people could get involved, principally by coming to the AGM, which was held on April 14 and it was pleasing that more than twenty came along.

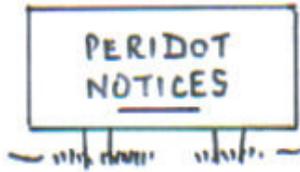
The specified positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary had to be elected and the meeting duly elected Damian Jones as both President and Treasurer, Alison Knight as Vice President and Gail Brackley as Secretary.

A maximum of ten persons could be elected to be a General Member and the meeting nominated Helen McIntosh, Robyn Kelly, David Lawson-Smith, Ian Carlsson, Lisa McNiven, Grace McNiven, Kate Deavin, and John Kelly, whilst long time Peridot members Wilf Seelig and Chris Bartle were provisionally nominated as they were unable to be at the meeting. The nominations were accepted and the above were all declared General Committee members.

The highlights of 2013 were reviewed by Damian, which showed that ticketing was more successful than for 2012, and that the Company almost broke even despite undertaking quite a bit of capital expenditure, such as new air conditioners, an upgrade in the sound system, and seat refurbishment. Productions were quite successful, particularly the June One Act play season, which brought in very healthy audiences, and the Monash One Act Play Festival, which was extremely successful and profitable.

All in all, your Company is tracking along well, and the outlook for 2014 and beyond is looking good.

A big thank you to everyone involved, especially our lovely loyal audiences.



“Heroes” Charity Preview Night

Our Preview Night for our current play on April 24 was for the benefit of the Kiwians, which is the Mt. Waverley Branch of UNICEF, and is part of a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time. Their motto is “Saving the Children of the World”; it originated in Detroit, Michigan in 1914 and went international with the organizing of a Kiwians club in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and since then has spread to all inhabited continents on the globe.

We hope they had an entertaining and fruitful evening and wish them well in their splendid work.

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Peridot’s 2014 VDL Awards Entry

We’d like to mention that *Heroes*, will be Peridot’s entry in this year’s VDL Awards. We are confident that this excellent production will do well.

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Stage Management Workshop

A reminder that we will be holding a Stage Management Workshop at the theatre on **Saturday June 21**, to be presented by Marion Egerton, one of the best and most experienced Stage Managers on the local non-professional theatre scene. A great opportunity should you feel you would like to get into this very important field, or if you are just interested in what goes on behind the scenes.

For more information, or to book a place, contact our Alison Knight on a8knight@bigpond.net.au.

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June One Act Plays

Also in June we will be presenting this year’s One Act Play season with three very good and interesting plays, *No Strings* by John Tilbrook, to be directed by Lisa McNiven, *In By the Half* by Jimmie Chin, under Alison Knight’s direction and *Peter Stone* by Alison Knight, to be directed by Bruce Cochrane.

The season will run from **June 12-14** at 8.00pm with matinees on Saturday **June 14** and Sunday **June 15** at 2.15pm. Bookings on 9898 9090 or at the door.

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Season Three News

Cameron South, the director of our August production House Guest by Francis Durbridge held his auditions on April 28. We’ll let you know Cameron’s line-up when he has finalized everything.

“Saucy Pat” - *The Life of Patrick Brontë*



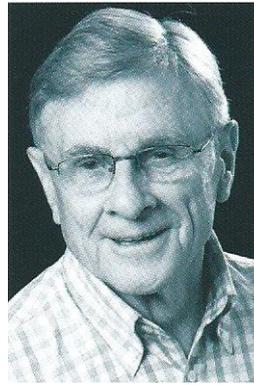
Paddy Brunty was the son of an Irish potato farmer who taught himself to read, won a scholarship to Cambridge and changed his name to Patrick Brontë. He was an Anglican priest for over fifty years but was also centre stage in a literary scandal and a murderous revolution whilst his children became international superstars. His

wife called him ‘Saucy Pat’. Why? This fine play about a gripping and inspiring life will tell all.

Acclaimed local playwright and actor, and longtime Peridot supporter Cenarth (Ken) Fox has written and performed a fascinating play about this amazing character which has already been highly praised and he will be performing it again on **Sunday June 8** in the hall of St. Stephens Church, 383 High Street Road, Mt. Waverley.

Tickets can be booked by ringing Beatrice Head on 9561 1584.

More Coward from Horrie!



Many of you will fondly remember our fine production of Noël Coward’s *Easy Virtue* last November, which that huge Coward fan Horrie Leek directed for us. Well, you may be interested to know that Horrie is at it again – he is directing Coward’s *The Vortex* for Malvern Theatre which will run from June 20 to July 5.

There’s a strong Peridot feel about this production: Alayne Wright, Blake Stringer, Chris Hodson and Ron Paddon were all in *Easy Virtue*, and they have all

signed on to be in *The Vortex*, and Peridot Committee Member Ian Carlsson is also on board.

You’ll like this play if you, like Horrie, can’t get enough of Noël!

Supporting those who support us...



We are delighted that another Company has joined our group of Supporters – Kooka’s Country Cookies, who have been generously supplying us with their lovely biscuits for some time.

Kooka’s started up on a small scale in 1993 in Donald (halfway between Melbourne and Mildura on the Sunraysia Highway) by five local families to give their small town some employment and, using a family recipe from one of the owner’s Grandmothers, which is still used today (though in slightly larger quantities!), they manufacture up to 60,000 biscuits a day, using only local products. They are 100% Australian owned and made, and you can find them in all major supermarkets and also in many independents.

Kooka’s are very pleased and proud to support Peridot for which we are very grateful; they wish us many more years of successful entertainment, and if anyone ever happens to be passing through Donald, they’d love you to call into their factory and say hallo.

Kooka’s Country Cookies are at 3622 Sunraysia Highway, Donald 3480, and if you would like to contact them you can email to admin@kookas.com.au or ring 54 971 763

Our three Heroes again – and what about that set?!



A reminder about some more good friends ...



Last month we briefly mentioned our good friends and Peridot Sponsors *Kita-Ku* and thought we might expand a bit as some new members might not be too aware of them.

Kita-Ku is an exciting new women's clothing company specializing in Plus Size Style and Resort Wear Clothing from Size 10 to 24. Designed for the mature woman of today who is looking for style, comfort and something a little unique, styles have real woman in mind by way of deconstructed styles that can be worn over or under, dressed up or worn more casually.

Beautiful hand painted prints that are uniquely original can take you from day to night for a range of occasions. *Kita-Ku* creates original designs that are trans-seasonal, fun and individual inspired by nature with hand printed designs.



Kita-Ku can be found at 12 Clarice Road, Box Hill (just off Middleborough Road and close to the Bunnings Centre). Shop Hours are Thursday and Friday 10am till 4pm and this Saturday May 3rd only with the open hours being 11am to 2pm.

The Store Manager is our own Artistic Director, actor, director and all round good egg, Robyn Kelly, who is there at all times that the shop is open and if Peridot theatre-goers bring in their Peridot ticket they will

receive a further 10% discount off stock that is not on a sale special price. However as our discontinued garments are virtually being sold at wholesale prices they will still reap the benefit of shopping at our *Kita Ku* store.



You can also shop on line as *Kita-Ku* now have a mail order sight at www.kitakuonline.com.au, however as these garments are already heavily discounted you will not be able to obtain a further discount with your ticket.

Just as an appetizer, have a look at a couple of new tops, *Kita-Ku*'s Pink Magnolia and Plume Peacock which are both very finely priced at \$39.

So, have a look at *Kita-Ku*'s website to see some

of their splendid products; or if you would like to discuss the range or have any queries, feel free to ring Robyn during store hours by ringing 9899 9666.

WhatsOn*WhatsOn*WhatsOn

There is such a huge wealth of theatrical goodies on offer during May in the Eastern Suburbs for you to consider (when you have seen *Heroes* of course) that there must be something tasty to draw you out! For instance:

Heidelberg Theatre is presenting the lovely American comedy *The Dixie Swim Club* by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten (you might remember our terrific staging, an Australian première, a couple of years ago) from May 1-17. You can book on htc.org.au or 9457 4117 to enjoy it all over again.

Sherbrooke Theatre Company (which actually plays in Doncaster) is presenting the lovely comedy *Sylvia* by A.R. Gurney from May 2-17. A Peridot favourite Donna Pope is playing *Sylvia*, who happens to be a dog, and our wonderful Robyn Kelly is also in the cast, so you must go along! Book on 1300 650 209

Frankston Theatre Group is offering *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett from May 2-10. You can book at 1300 665 377 or at the Monash Booking Office 9905 1111 for this lovely story.

By a coincidence, the **Basin Theatre Group** is also offering *The Diary of Anne Frank* from May 16 to June 7; this production is being directed by a good friend of Peridot, Christine Grant. Book on 1300 784 668 (from 7-9pm only) or on www.thebasintheatre.org.au.

Gemco Players Community Theatre (which actually plays at 19 Kilvington Drive, Emerald) is presenting the stage version of Dylan Thomas's wonderful "Play for Voices", *Under Milk Wood*, from May 16-25. Bookings at 5968 2844.

Brighton Theatre Company is offering *Red* by John Logan, under Vicki Smith's always fine directing, from May 22 -June 7. Book on www.brightontheatreco.com or 1300 752 126.

Lilydale Theatre Company is presenting the powerful drama *Twelve Angry Men* by Sherman L. Sergei from May 28-June 14. A brilliant play that led to a brilliant film (who can forget Henry Fonda?), book here on 9735 1777.

1812 Theatre, up there in Upper Ferntree Gully, is offering a quirky new comedy *Beyond Therapy* by Christopher Durang from May 29-June 21. Bookings on 9758 3964.

And if that's not enough, **Beaumaris Theatre** is presenting *Blood Brothers – the Play* by Willy Russell from May 30 to June 14. You can book at www.beaumaristheatre.com.au.

There's got to be something there for everyone!

Something a bit different at Eltham Little Theatre

Ten Minute Quickies by various authors, *The Quickies* is a short play competition that presents 11 ten minute plays, selected by a panel of judges from more than 100 entries from across the country. There are money prizes for best play and people's choice and awards are also presented for best director, best male and female lead actors, and best supporting male and female actors. This runs from May 8-10 only; book on 0411 713 095 or at elthamlittletheatre.org.au. Should be fun! (Melways 22H1 will find ELT).

An Apology...

Your doddering old Editor made a couple of dumb mistakes in last month's *Gems* in the article about our June One Act Plays, which at least two eagle-eyed readers spotted. I listed the play *No Strings* as being written by Jimmie Chin, and *In By the Half* by John Tilbrook; the playwrights names should be the other way round.

I also mentioned one Alison Wright as the director of *In By the Half* and as the writer of the third play, *Peter Stone*. Alison, who is one of our Peridot Committee Members as well as being both a playwright and a director, pointed out that she is in fact Alison Knight, and has been for quite some time.

My apologies to Jimmie, John and Alison. If perchance you are anywhere near Rowville in the next few weeks you may be able to spot me – I'll be shuffling along the pavements, stooped and wearing sackcloth's and ashes and carrying a banner with "Pathetic Editor at large" spread across. Donations towards a brain-scan would be appreciated.

...the last word



The late, great English comedian **Les Dawson** was one of your beloved "Gems" Editor's favourites, with his laid back very laconic North English style, usually sitting at a piano on stage, which he rarely played, and then only badly (although he was actually a very good pianist), and mournfully sharing his life with his audience.

His favourite targets were...

The Mother-in-law...

- *I took my mother-in-law to Madame Tussaud's Chamber of Horrors, and one of the attendants said, "Keep her moving, sir, we're stock-taking."
- * I can always tell when the mother-in-law's coming to stay: the mice throw themselves on the traps.
- *The wife's mother said "When you're dead, I'll dance on your grave." I said, "Good. I'm being buried at sea."
- * The wife's mother went to Australia for a holiday and went for a swim off the beach and got bitten by a shark. An ambulance was called, the emergency ward put on full alert, and the doctors operated for several hours, but to no avail. The shark still died.
- * Every Christmas the wife's mother comes to our place – there she is on the doorstep on Christmas Eve, and she stays right round to New Year's Day. I suppose one year I'll have to let her in.
- *I'm not saying the wife's mother's ugly, but last Christmas she stood under the mistletoe waiting for someone to kiss her and she was still there at Easter. In fact she went to see that film "The Elephant Man" and the audience thought she was making a personal appearance.
- *The wife's mother tells people I'm effeminate. I don't mind because, compared to her, I am.
- *I upset the wife's mother the other Guy Fawkes Night. I fell off the fire.
- *I never forget a face, but in my mother-in-law's case I'm willing to make an exception.
- *I have never made a fool of my mother-in-law; I just leave her to display her natural talents herself.
- *My mother-in-law and I were happy for 20 years, then we met each other.
- *Last night the local Peeping Tom knocked on my mother-in-law's door, and asked her to shut her blinds.
- *My mother-in-law has so many wrinkles, when she smiles she looks like a Venetian blind.
- *My mother-in-law fell down a wishing well. I was amazed; I never knew *they* worked.
- *The mother-in-law came round last week. It was absolutely pouring down. So I opened the door and I saw her there and I said "Mother, don't just stand there in the rain. Go home."

*"Marriage Anon" is a club for bachelors. If anyone is tempted to marry, they send my mother-in-law round in her curlers and dressing gown.

*My mother-in-law is a big woman. She got run over last week. The driver said he had enough room to get round her but he didn't know if he had enough petrol.

The Wife...

*I haven't spoken to my wife for over a month. We haven't had a row – it's just that I'm afraid to interrupt her.

*I said to the chemist, "Can I have some sleeping pills for the wife?" He said, "Why?" I said, "She keeps waking up".

*She told me it was her 30th birthday. So I put thirty candles on her cake arranged in the shape of a question mark.

* I said to my wife, 'Treasure' - I always call her Treasure, she reminds me of something that's just been dug up...

*Ours is a football marriage, we keep waiting for the other one to kick off.

*My wife is a sex object - every time I ask for sex, she objects.

*I was laying in bed the other morning playing a lament on my euphonium when the wife, who was prising her teeth out of an apple, looked back at me and said softly, 'Joey'. She calls me Joey because she always wanted a budgie. She said, 'I'm homesick.' I said, 'But precious one, this is your home.' She said, 'I know, and I'm sick of it'

*I said to the wife, "I wish you wouldn't smoke in bed". She said, "But a lot of women do". I said, "Not bacon, they don't".

*My wife sent her photo to the Lonely Hearts Club. They sent it back, saying they weren't that lonely.

And against himself...

*I went to the doctor last week and said "What's good for wind?" He gave me a kite. You see, the trouble is he's very old fashioned. When he gives you an injection you have to bite on a bullet. I was on the way out and he pointed to a bottle on the shelf. He said, "Do a sample in there." I said, "What, from here?"

*My girlfriend began to lick my cheek. I said "Do you love me?" She said, "No. I need the salt."

* I was engaged to a contortionist but she broke it off. She was so cross-eyed when she cried the tears ran down her back.

*I wasn't an attractive child. In fact, I was so ugly that when my parents took me out they put shutters on my pram.

*I don't have to do this for a living; I just do it for the luxuries, like bread and shoes. I used to sell furniture for a living. The trouble was, it was my own.

*I went to a small guest house. The manager said, 'You want a room with running water?' I said, 'What do you think I am? A trout?'

*I wouldn't say our house was damp but the kids went to bed with a periscope.

*I've got a friend who's a lion tamer. He used to be a school teacher until he lost his nerve.

*I'm not saying my mother didn't like me, but she kept looking for loopholes in my birth certificate.

*I toyed with the idea of playing Ravel's "*Pavane pour une infante defunte*" but I couldn't remember if it's a tune or a Latin prescription for piles. Mind you. I've always been musical. Mother used to sit me on her knee and I'd whisper "Mummy, sing me a lullaby" and she'd say "Certainly, my angel, my wee bundle of happiness, just hold my beer while I fetch me banjo".

*Last night I looked upwards towards the heavens and marveled at the millions of stars, glistening like pieces of quicksilver thrown carelessly on to black velvet. In awe I watched the waxen moon ride across the zenith of the heavens like an amber chariot wherein the tethered bulks of Jupiter and Mars hang, forever festooned in their orbital majesty, and, as I looked at this wondrous site, I thought, "I'd better put a roof on this lavatory!"