



# Link Letter

## The Northam Theatre Group

89 Duke St | NorthamTheatreGroup@gmail.com | northamtheatregroup.org.au



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Nicki Parker

Congratulations to the very hard working Theresa Lee, Rae Knight and their team of volunteers for their hard work creating the 2019 Northam Performing Arts Festival. It was an amazing, week long, production of talented young performers. The amount of work that goes into this event is massive. Thank you to all who participated, prepared students, volunteered and attended. A wrap up of the festival can be found in this LL.

### AUGUST 2019

From the President

The Blossom Fairies

Membership Corner

NPAF Results

What's On at the Link

A great night of live music occurred on July 13th with visiting, original musician Michael Dunstan, former resident of Northam. Michael impressed the audience with his skill on the guitar and performed some beautiful songs with heartfelt commentary. He was brilliantly supported by Ben and Mark from 'Rum Jungle' who played some popular covers.

Les Lee the hard working director and man of many talents is putting together the comedy of the year at the Link, 'Sex Please, We're 60'. The set looks fabulous and the cast are perfecting their lines for opening on August 16th. Don't miss this clever comedy.

Since our last AGM we have revamped the membership system and included corporate membership. Silver star and current financial members now have complimentary tickets waiting for them at Everlastings. These can be exchanged for a seat at your preferred session with the helpful ladies at Everlastings. The next round of complimentary tickets will be printed in September for your collection at Everlastings when a production is scheduled, or at the theatre, from the bar. If you have not yet paid your membership, please remember you can now register your membership through our website [www.northamtheatregroup.org.au](http://www.northamtheatregroup.org.au) and pay online, details on the website.

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### OUR COMMITTEE

President	Nicki Parker Mob: 0400 213 582	Membership	Rae Knight
Vice President	Jodi Ingram	Wardrobe	Liz Greep
Secretary	Sandra Floyd	Technical	Dan Byfield
Treasurer	Murray McGregor	Committee	Maren Lavery, Pat Knight, Sharon Pegrum, Brooke Vincent, Grant Arthur
Publicity	Cara Steele		

*'From the President' continued...*

This is my last update as the President of the Northam Theatre Group. IT has been 4 years since I took on the role and it is time for some fresh ideas and someone new to step in. I am proud of what has been achieved in the past 4 years, including the new sound and lighting system, a clear and detailed policy document on operations, a new membership structure and a happy and productive club. There are so many supportive and hard working committee members who keep this group going. Thank you to the current and previous committees for your incredible dedication, you have been supportive and highly productive!

The Northam Theatre Group has an identity in Northam that promotes the arts and creates an environment for people to relax and enjoy live performance. This group will go on long after many of us and its pursuits continue to be good and worthy.

Nicki

# THE BLOSSOM FAIRIES



'The Blossom Fairies' was a wonderful success, the audience enjoyed the beautiful costumes, songs, dance, and wonderful message about biodiversity and saving the bees. Thank you to Debbie Hughes for a wonderful production!



## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Farewell, Rene Byfield

We mark the sad passing of Rene Byfield, who was a dedicated member of the Northam Choral Society, together with her brother John Beavis and his wife Maureen, who also passed away recently. (The story of the choral society amalgamating with the Amateur Dramatic Society in order to purchase our building which was to become the 'Link' between the two organisations is an important part of the Northam Theatre Group's history, which President Nicki is putting together with assistance from members who have been with us along the whole journey). Rene was a dedicated wife to Ken, Mum to Anne, Pete and Marty, Nanny to 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Rene was known for her beautiful voice and the Byfield family members' prodigious musical talents are legendary, obviously passed on from Nanny. She was so very proud of her talented children and grandchildren and never missed an opportunity to watch them on stage or wherever they happened to be performing. Rene was also a clever needlewoman and right up until very recently she was always working on some craft item –it might be knitted jumpers for African babies, or beanies for premature WA babies, or perhaps an exquisite handmade quilt. During the past few years, if you visited you were certain to be asked to select a quilt to take home. Rene is sadly missed, but we can be sure she is somewhere singing with the angels.



### Nominations for Committee

Nominations for the next committee are being sent out in early August. Please consider getting involved and supporting NTG. The AGM will be held on August 28 at 8pm. All members are welcome.

### Call out for memorabilia:

Please pass on any old photos or memorabilia of previous shows, to a committee member. The theatre group are looking to use old photos in a redecoration project and also to keep a record of past performances. We would also love to receive any written histories documenting the progress of the NTG and personalities over the years. You can email us at [ntg@gmail.com](mailto:ntg@gmail.com).



### Condolences:

The Northam Theatre Group send their sincere condolences to the families of Rene Byfield and of Maureen Beavis. These wonderful ladies were part of the NTG for decades and performed and supported the group in many ways. They were also instrumental in helping the NTG move to their own premises at The Link Theatre. Their families continue to be involved and support the Theatre Group today.





*"The Dancers" (some of them!...trophy recipients in front row left)*

## **2019 Northam Performing Arts Festival: THE RESULTS**

Over the 6-day festival from Sunday 30th June to Friday 5th July, we saw over 320 performances across the categories of Dance, Classical Instruments, Contemporary Music & Bands, Drama, Vocals and Choirs. Many entrants were performing for the very first time and it was so great to see the willingness of so many to be brave enough to do what they love in front of a live audience. While we emphasise a non-competitive environment for these performers, all performances are adjudicated by experienced professionals in each section. The high calibre of feedback provided saw each of the performers acknowledged for their strengths and provided tips on how to further improve as they continue their journey.



*Caitlin van der Velde, and with Adjudicator Steve Shaw*

Congratulations again to the following award recipients:

Award for Best Junior Dancer: **Casey Alvaro**

Award for Best Senior Dancer: **Taleah Stuhr**

Joy Smith Award for Best National Dancer: **Shia Eeles**

Georgia Haddrill Award for Excellence in Dance: **Amy Blechynden**

*~ Special thanks to our Dance Adjudicator, Ciara O'Reilly, and award sponsors Joy Smith and Colin & Belinda Robinson*

Marie Sermon Award for Excellence in Piano: **Sonny Phung**

Award for Best Classical Guitarist: **Nathan Ward**

*~ Special thanks to our Classical Music Adjudicator, Penny Black, and award sponsors Gerard Sermon & Philip Lloyd*



Reagan Abbey with Adjudicator Steve Shaw and Sponsor Patrick Knight

Patrick Knight Award for Best Percussionist:  
**Reagan Abbey**  
 Peter Byfield Award for Excellence in Contemporary Music: **Caitlin van der Velde**  
 Peter Byfield Award for Best Songwriter: **Caitlin van der Velde**  
 ~ Special thanks to our Contemporary Music Adjudicator, Steve Shaw, and award sponsors Pat & Rae Knight and Peter Byfield

Wendy Byfield Award for Excellence in Drama:  
**Northam Primary School Room 5 (Year 1/2)**  
 \*\*sorry, no pics available for this day\*\*

~ Special thanks to our Drama Adjudicator, Ros Boyer, and award sponsors Marty & Wendy Byfield

Hilda Nuich Award for Excellence in Voice: **Caitlin Morris**  
 Primary Choir Shield: **Quairading Singing Buddies, led by Kylie Squiers**  
 Secondary Choir Shield: **St Joseph's School Northam (Senior Choir), led by Lloyd Reidy**  
 ~ Special thanks to our Voice Adjudicator, Jo Oosterhoff, and award sponsors Betty Jane Malinowski and Shire of Northam

Once again, a huge thanks to our award sponsors and major sponsor Shire of Northam, and to all the volunteers who had a hand (great and small) in bringing this year's festival to the stages and home again! I look forward to bringing it all together again in week 10 of Term 2 in 2020 - save the dates now!



Left: Junior Choir Shield – Quairading Singing Buddies Centre: Senior Choir Shield – St Josephs School Right: Sonny Phung, with Adjudicator Penny Black

# WHAT'S ON AT THE LINK

## OPEN MIC NIGHT

Join us Friday September 6th at the Link Theatre for live music and dancing! Performers of all ages welcome, or just sit back and watch the show.



## SEX PLEASE, WE'RE SIXTY

This rollicking, feel good comedy, about ageing love is bound to be a fun night out for all ages! Directed by Les Lee, this hilarious play will be on stage on August 16th and 17th at 8pm and August 18th at 2pm, and the following week 22nd, 23rd and 24th at 8pm. Tickets are \$25 and will be on sale at Everlastings on Fitzgerald as well as online at TryBooking ([tinyurl.com/yxeetzwe](http://tinyurl.com/yxeetzwe)). This is an Amateur Production By Arrangement with ORIGIN Theatrical, on behalf of Northam Theatre Group, and we are looking forward to seeing all our faithful fans there!

## CHILDREN'S PRODUCTION - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Any members or friends interested in being in a production for children, please come along to an audition/read through on September the 2nd, Monday evening at 6.30pm. The show will incorporate 2 narrated children's stories 'The Lamb who came to dinner' and 'Pig's Fairytale Adventure'. Teenagers are welcome to attend should they wish to be involved. The show will stage on October 19 and 20 at the Link Theatre. Performers will need to be available for regular rehearsals and occasional weekend rehearsals. If you cannot attend on September 2nd, please call Nicki Parker to register your interest on 0400 213 582.

## PAPA NORTHAM - THEATRE CLASSES

Did you know PAPA Northam has Adults Acting classes at the Link every Wednesday evening during school terms? A great way to build or refresh your acting skills for the next big production with the Theatre Group! Join us for these fun social classes with industry professional Ian Toyne from 8.30-9.30pm for just \$20 per class. Go to [www.perthapa.com/northam](http://www.perthapa.com/northam) to enrol or call Imogen on 0477040940



## AGM 2019

It is nearly that time again for our Annual General Meeting. The committee meeting is at 7pm followed by the AGM at 8pm on Wednesday, the 28th of August.



# Northam Theatre Group

## Presents

An Amateur Production By Arrangement with ORIGIN Theatrical, on behalf of Northam Theatre Group

# SEX PLEASE, WE'RE SIXTY

*A rollicking comedy about aging love*



AUG 16, 17, 18  
& 22, 23, 24

Books & Lyrics by **Michael Parker & Susan Parker**

Northam Customer Service  
Centre



Avon  
Community  
Development  
Foundation (Inc)



WHEATBELT  
FACE PAINTING COMPANY



Department of  
Racing, Gaming and Liquor



on Fitzgerald

lotterywest  
supported

**Thank you to our wonderful sponsors**

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Facebook.com/LinkTheatreNortham  
www.NorthamTheatreGroup.org.au

**Tickets \$25**

Everlastings On Fitzgerald  
Try.Booking.com