



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Peter Pan Jr.**
- **Larissa Sticks** to her "staple" diet!
- **HAC secures HSCC Sponsorship**
- **Success for Alex Rathgeber**
- **HAC 50th Anniversary Book**
- **Lachie Cameron on Strictly ballroom**
- **2015 Membership Form**

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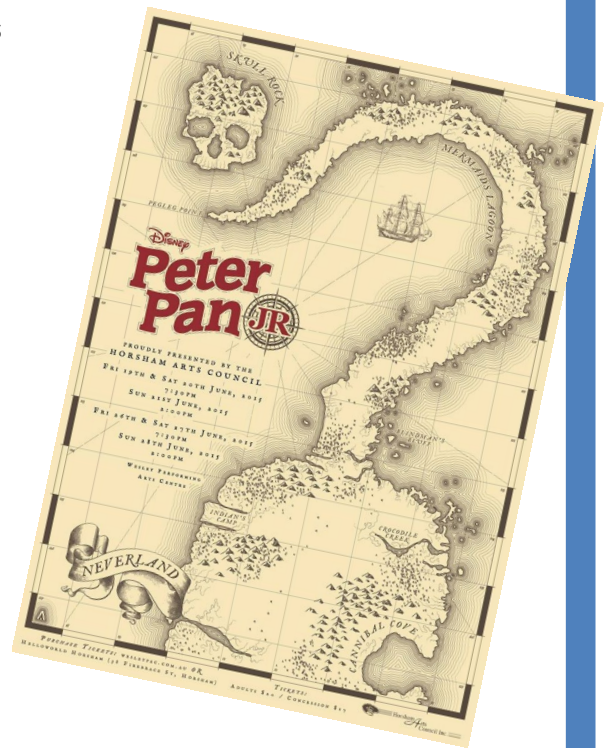
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Peter Pan Jr. a Flying Success!

The curtain came down (so to speak) on "Disney's Peter Pan Jr" on Sunday 28 June 2015, the first junior performance for HAC for many years. We had six completely sold out performances over two weekends which was a truly amazing effort. The feedback from the audience was incredible. Also, the fact that over 100 people commented on Facebook for the chance to win a family pass of four (the last four remaining tickets mind you) was testament to the demand the show had created. When the show was proposed, we all thought that it would be a well-patronised show due to the fact that it was performed with juniors. I think I can say with certainty that we never thought it would be like this.

The show itself was amazing. Every aspect of the production, on & off stage, seemed to come together so well to produce what was simply a wonderful show. On the first & final performances, practically the entire audience were on their feet applauding. There were also people standing in the other performances as well. What's more, the stage crew often received applause for their efforts during scene changes. That does not happen very much. What a great experience for the junior cast & crew to experience.



What was truly inspiring to witness was the growth in everyone involved over the journey. Everyone seemed to step up to their role, whether on or off stage. The fact that every aspect of the production was driven by juniors was fantastic for the future of HAC. Everyone seemed to mix so well, no matter how old they were or what school they came from. A "family" was certainly created. Furthermore, it was so pleasing to see the pride on the faces of parents, family & friends. They just seemed to be constantly glowing. CONTINUED OVER PAGE.

The Avenue Dance Studio's concert will take place on Sunday 9 August 2015 at 11am and 2.30pm at the Horsham Cinema Centre.

Cont'd Peter Pan Jr. a Flying Success!

Of course, we must all applaud Larissa Riddell for her hard work & vision which came through in every aspect of the production. Without her drive & passion, it would not have happened. She was well supported by an amazing bunch of people who made sure that her vision became a reality. I cannot list everyone here as it would take too long & I would miss someone out. It truly was a team effort from all involved from start to finish.



Wimmera theatre patrons are notorious for booking their tickets to HAC productions at the last minute. For instance, with "What's New Pussycat?" in 2014, we had 4,800 seats available. Three days before opening night, only 134 tickets in total were sold. That show turned out to be a tremendous success with great audience numbers. However, it highlights the point of people leaving things to the last minute. Hopefully, with so many people missing out on seeing this



great production for the simple reason of not purchasing tickets in time, it will prompt them to purchase tickets earlier for future HAC shows. This would certainly assist us all with our planning.

We definitely brought Neverland to the Wimmera. Well done to all involved on a wonderful success.

- *Simon Dandy* -



Larissa Sticks to her “Staple” Diet

Our esteemed “Peter Pan” director, Larissa Riddell, contributes to every aspect of the show. She paints, she directs, she voice-overs, she builds. She even bounces back from being hit on the head by a falling stapler (thanks Em!!!) off a ladder.

Like a trooper, she soldiered on, despite being nearly knocked out. The HAC “trainers” gave her the 20 minute “concussion test” which she passed – just. Rumour has it she still boasts the egg on her head today. We can all laugh now. Luckily, the WorkCover man did not visit during bump in!!!!!! - *Simon Dandy*

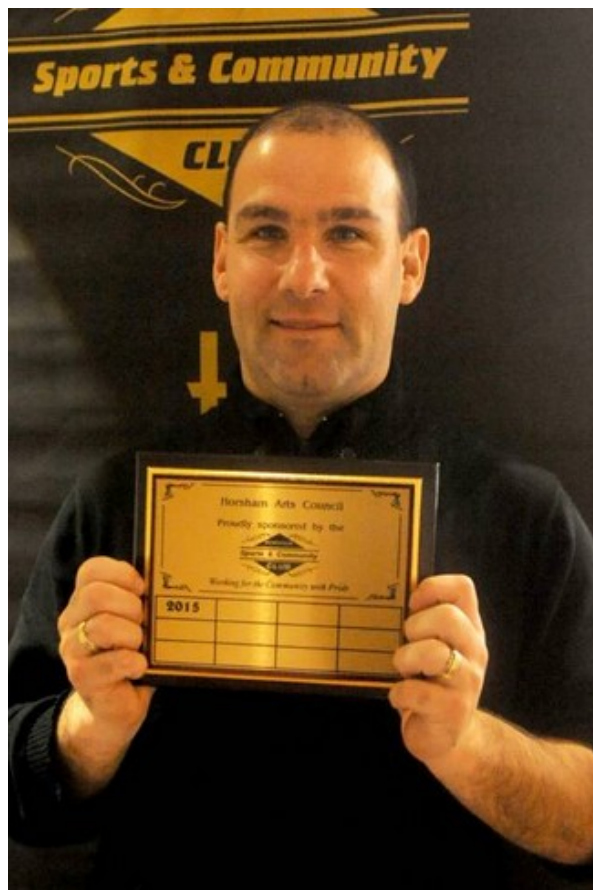


HAC Secures HSCC Sponsorship

The HAC was successful in its application for a community sponsorship from the Horsham Sports & Community Club (HSCC). On Sunday 28 June 2015 at 4.15pm, I went along to the presentations at the HSCC where we were presented with a plaque and a cheque for \$2,500. The sponsorship will be used to purchase a TV and other furniture and equipment for the foyer at HAC House.

We are so grateful to Glenn Carroll and the team at HSCC for their support of our organisation. I would encourage all HAC members to support the HSCC in any way they see fit. Whether for tea or lunch or by becoming a HSCC member. If you do become a member, please nominate the HAC as your organisation of choice as we also receive a portion of the membership fee.

- *Simon Dandy* -



Success for HAC's Own - *Alex Rathgeber*



In May 2015, the professional production of "Anything Goes the Musical" commenced at the Princes Theatre in Melbourne. HAC's own Alex Rathgeber plays a major role in the production as "Billy Harcourt".

The show has been receiving rave reviews from audiences. So much so, that it has been nominated for nine prestigious Helpmann Awards. What's more exciting is that Alex has been nominated for "Best Actor in a Supporting



Role in a Musical". In the words of Brian Taylor – "WOWEE!!!!!"

Alex has since won this prestigious Award and everyone from the HAC family is so proud of Alex.

If you were not fortunate enough to see the production before it finished its Melbourne season in late July 2015 it has now headed for Brisbane & Sydney.

To cap everything off, Alex also re-



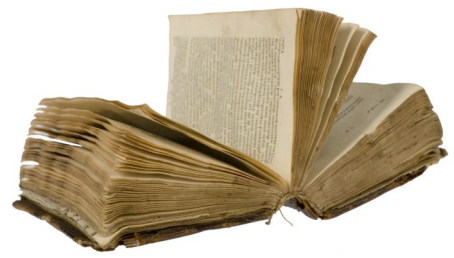
leased his debut album "Easy to Love" which reached #1 on the I-Tunes classical charts. Life sure is looking up for this talented performer.

Well done Alex. you are always a winner in our eyes.

- Simon Dandy - Jess Wilson -



HAC 50th Anniversary Coffee Table Book



As most of you will be aware, 2015 is the 50th anniversary of the HAC. To celebrate this fantastic milestone, the committee is in the initial stages of preparing a coffee table book to document that past 50 years.

We are aiming high with this project & hope it will be something that HAC members, both past & present, will enjoy & be proud of. It will provide a comprehensive history of the development of the HAC, past performances, performers, etc.

To accomplish this, we are reaching out to the wider HAC family. If you have any photos, old programs, documents, flyers, anything of value relating to the HAC that you think we could use, then it would be great if you could share it with us. Also, we would graciously accept any letters or emails documenting your stories, experiences & history with the HAC. The more information we get to draw from, the better it will be.

In relation to photos, it would be great if you could attempt to identify the people in the photos where you can. This will help us out significantly.

We are aiming to have this project completed by August 2015 at the latest. We will provide more details (ie. cost, publication date, etc) in due course.

This project is a huge undertaking. However, 50 years is a major milestone. In cricket terms, "we raise our bat". This is a way of celebrating our past as we look forward to the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact Simon Dandy (0404 092 407), Debbie Boutcher (0429 407 931) or Jan Morris (0419 726 378) if you require further information or have anything to share with us.

Horsham Arts Council Inc.

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The Horsham Arts Council is active in producing an exceptionally high standard of musical theatre on an annual basis as well as small scale comedy or drama productions. Consisting entirely of volunteers, the Horsham Arts Council has a proud tradition of theatre for over 40 years. To become a member of the HAC please contact our secretary Jess via email to receive a membership form, alternatively you can visit our website and download a form.

HAC In The Spotlight - Lachie Cameron

I completed a Bachelor of Criminology, majoring in Anthropology at Deakin University in Geelong, although decided during my final year that I would rather work in theatre- specifically technical production. I volunteered for community theatre companies in Geelong for a year, and was then selected for a 15-month traineeship at Arts Centre Melbourne.

The traineeship was a valuable 'foot in the door', and gave me the opportunity to learn and work alongside major companies like Opera Australia, the Australian Ballet, Melbourne Theatre Company and Bell Shakespeare.

I'm a staging technician, also known as a mechanist (mech for short). Our department handles pretty much everything on stage that isn't lighting or sound. This includes any set, flown scenery or masking, and even the flooring. This also means that we are responsible for unloading/packing trucks during bump ins and outs- the bulk of employment for many in staging!

Currently I'm working as the swing mechanist on *Strictly Ballroom*. My job requires me to learn the 'plot' (what each person does during the course of a performance) of the other mechs on the show so that I can cover for them when they are sick or need time off. This means I'm essentially always on standby. For this particular show, the mechs handle all of the set moves and scene changes, as well as various preparations side-stage for the next scene- there's always something to do! I've learnt three plots, and this means I have variety in my work, unlike the full time mechs who do the one plot for the entire run. I've done about 60 performances since I joined the show mid-March, although the other mechs are well on their way to 200.

One of the funniest moments of doing *Strictly Ballroom* (in hindsight) was during my very first show running a solo plot. I was supposed to open a curtain for two actors to make their entrances one after the other. The first one went off without a hitch, but I panicked the second time, and didn't open the curtain! The poor actor was waving her hand trying to tell me to open it, but I just stood there with a confused look on my face! It felt like I stood there for an eternity, but it was really only a couple of seconds- so much for the actor's grand entrance!

I've been in the industry for 2 and a half years and am now freelance, working for multiple venues and companies. Later this year, I'm thrilled to be heading to China with the Australian Ballet and their productions of *Swan Lake* and *Cinderella*.

However, there's not a great deal of job security because by nature the work is seasonal and there aren't a lot of permanent positions. Much of my work has come by being in the right place at the right time, making contacts, and having colleagues who have recommended me. Formal training exists (mostly at TAFE level), but it is not a prerequisite. Many of the people I work with either had no relevant qualifications to begin with, or had transferrable skills like carpentry, welding, or scenic art.

The work can be very physical, and risk of injury is quite common and sometimes career-ending. I have a few possible back-up plans, but I can't imagine doing anything else for the time being and am excited to see what other career opportunities are ahead for me.

HAC involvement:

Orchestra (Keyboard)- The Secret Garden (2004),
The Mikado (2005)
Cats (2008)

- Lachie Cameron -



MEMBERSHIP FORM

2015

Membership year of Horsham Arts Council Inc. extends from 1st January to 31st December.

Join now and support performing arts in the Wimmera and keep in touch with what is happening throughout the year through our newsletter.

Membership fees:
\$50 for a single
\$100 for a family

Name:		
Home Address:		
Postal Address:		
Phone:		
Mobile:		
Email:		
I am happy to receive my newsletter by email	Yes	No

Please complete and return with your payment to:
HAC Membership
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If you would like to pay your membership via Direct Deposit, details are:
BSB: 013-665 Account No: 3341 03608
Please put your SURNAME as the reference