



# BABIRRA NEWS

Editor: Keren Evans

New Year Greetings to you all  
from the BMT Committee of Management

## A Message from the President

Dear Fellow Babirrans,

In 2006 we experienced a year packed with action which has been anything but normal. During the Christmas holidays last year we relocated from our Storage facility at Fleigner Hall and moved part of our stock into a 40' Container and the remainder to a temporary store in Glen Waverley where we built and painted the set for "Carmen, the Musical". It was not an easy time as space was restricted,

An Australian premiere for the first season of our "Golden Anniversary" proved to be a good choice and provided great entertainment value. We attracted a very talented cast who responded to creative direction and staging.

Following "Carmen—the Musical", a small team moved us back into a greatly enhanced storage facility at Fleigner Hall. A new Mezzanine has provided a decent Costume and Props facility and many other practical features of the new facility include the availability of cages to store other items.

Our October Season maintained the strong creative theme with "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying". This was another strong team achieving Guild and Lyrebird nominations, mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter. We wish all nominees success in February. The show was great fun and it was sad more folks did not come to see this very bright and funny presentation.

The celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in November with a nostalgic Concert proved to be a rewarding experience for everyone in the audience and on stage. The feedback has been very positive and we are determined to make a get-together an annual event.

In December, a small band of choristers provided carols at a number of venues, representing Babirra and in response to invitations.

Our first Season for next year has been cast – "Annie Get Your Gun", a show full of Irving Berlin's popular melodies. With this show, we have moved our Booking Office arrangements to our friends at The Whitehorse Centre who will give us the benefit of a greatly extended mailing list, saving expenditure and hopefully attracting larger audiences.

Sadly, we lost some dear Life Members during the year. Bob Adams and Geoff Fletcher will be missed but their legacy continues.

To everyone who was been involved with Babirra in this special year, I send my personal thanks and congratulations – it takes many people working exceptionally hard to achieve all we do, yet we can certainly use additional assistance in most facets of our operation. Come and join us!

Chris joins me in wishing Babirrans everywhere, a Happy New Year!

Alan Wright



BMT have pleasure in announcing the following cast and production team for

## **Annie Get Your Gun**

**Director: Craig Malony**  
**Musical Director: Basil Hawkins**  
**Choreographer: TBA**

Stage Manager: Michael Brassler  
Set Design: Ron Harvey  
Lighting Design: Jason Bovaird  
Sound Design: Greg Ginger  
Technical Coordinator: Daniel Chapman  
Costume Design: Maddy Connellan  
Properties: Spotty Spottiswood  
Program Coordinator: George Rustean  
F.O.H: Olwyn and Geoff Beare  
Tickets Cast: Geoff Beare  
Tickets: Whitehorse Arts Centre

### **Cast**

**Annie** - Megan Coe  
**Frank** - Eric Wawra  
**Charlie** - Barry Baker  
**Dolly** - Lesley Wardrop  
**Buffalo Bill** - Bill Connellan  
**Chief Sitting Bull** - John Filonzi  
**Winnie** - Kate Warner  
**Tommy Keeler** - Tyler Hess  
**Pawnee Bill** - Michael Parsons  
**Foster Wilson** - Geoff Collier  
**Jessie**: Brigitte Garofalo & Emily McDonnell  
**Nellie**: Tayla Currie & Annaleise Vulin  
**Minnie**: Miranda Garofalo & Georgia Velleley  
**Little Jake**: Tate Wallis & TBA

### **Ensemble**

|                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cara Richards (Dance Captain) |                   |
| Maddy Connellan               |                   |
| Jess Exton                    | Neil Spitzer      |
| Anastasia Giannakis           | Oliver Bell       |
| Julia Godinho                 | Cameron Ermel     |
| Georgie Greenwood             | John Gardiner     |
| Emily Hall                    | Paul Hansen       |
| Leesa Horn                    | Dallas Homewood   |
| Pia Maganov                   | Tony Hosemans     |
| Sophie McKinlay               | Robert van Keulen |
| Laura McMahon                 | Ron Harvey        |
| Elise McMahon                 | Peter Bayliss     |
| Catherine Morelli             | George Rustean    |
| Lyn Simmonds                  | Peter Spottiswood |
| Sally Warren                  | Ryan Wallis       |
|                               | Joel Zimmerman    |

# Award Nominations

## **Carmen**

Guild Awards - Judges Awards — **Bronwyn Egan** - For the atmospheric pre-show live music

Lyrebird Awards - **Jason Bovaird** - BEST LIGHTING IN MUSICAL OR VARIETY OVER 30000

## **How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying**

Lyrebird Awards - **Greg Ginger** - SOUND MUSICAL OR VARIETY OVER 30000

Lyrebird Awards - **Jason Bovaird** - BEST LIGHTING IN MUSICAL OR VARIETY OVER 30000

Guild Awards and Lyrebird Awards - **James Cook** - BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR IN A MUSICAL

Guild Awards and Lyrebird Awards - **Jonathan Guthrie-Jones** - BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL



## **Lyrebird Awards Invitation**

# "Fire and Ice"

Saturday 17th Feb 2007  
Doors open 5.30 pm

Tickets \$55.00 (adult)

Karralyka Centre,  
Mines Rd, Ringwood

Bookings - Telephone (03) 9751 2886

If you wish to join a Babirra Table

Ring **Daniel Chapman** on **9727 2223** or

email at [dchapman@bat-it.com.au](mailto:dchapman@bat-it.com.au)

## AGM Notification

In accordance with Rule 23 (ii) of the constitution of the Babirra Music Theatre Inc. Notice is hereby given of the 2006 Annual General Meeting to be held at **Highfield Rd. Uniting Church**, Cnr of Highfield and Prospect Hill Rds, Canterbury on the **29th March at 7.30pm**. Any member who wishes to place an item on the agenda must submit it in writing to the Secretary, at least 28 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations for the Committee of Management must also reach the Secretary 28 days prior to the said meeting, Nominations may be submitted for all positions. Nomination forms are enclosed and should be posted C/- Lois Moran, Secretary PO Box 983 Glen Waverley, 3150.

## Babirra Music Theatre's 50th Anniversary Celebration Concert

The concert was held on November 19th at the Hawthorn Town Hall. Members and friends of Babirra from the past fifty years were welcomed by a wonderful display of memorabilia. Posters, programs, photos, and T-shirts were on display to help revive memories. (Thank you to Bill, Maddy, Margaret and Keren for your efforts. Also thank you to numerous people who lent or donated material for the display)

The Concert was a wonderful mix of old and newer music that has been presented by Babirrans in past productions and events. Aply lead by Basil Hawkins, the 16 piece orchestra played beautifully as they accompanied the full Babirra Concert Chorus and Soloists. Thank you to all the performers who gave freely of their time and talents.

The afternoon finished with a scrumptious afternoon tea provided by Wayne Motton and Chris Wright which was enjoyed by all.

Finally a huge thank you to Bill Connellan for all the behind the scenes organization which goes on to ensure such a successful afternoons celebration and entertainment. Happy 50th Anniversary Babirra!

## How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

Well done to a fantastic cast and crew for a wonderfully fun production. Thank you all for a marvellous theatrical journey. Your efforts provided many people with a fantastic night at the theatre. Well Done!





Babirra Music Theatre  
Present Gilbert & Sullivan's

# Trial by Jury



# HMS Pinafore

October 12 – 20, 2007  
The Whitehorse Centre, Nunawading  
Bookings : 9262 6555

www.babirra.org.au

## Committee Member Has Retired Paul Bennett

Paul has been a faithful member of the Company for nearly twenty years. He submitted his resignation late last year due to ill health. Over this time Paul has filled many roles both on stage and as a Committee member.

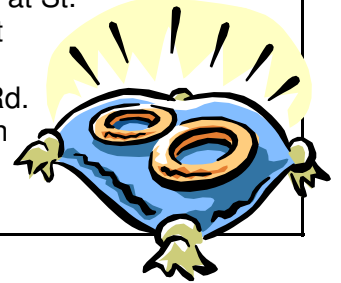
Paul joined Babirra in 1987 for Pirates of Penzance and has always shown a great heart and loyalty to the Company. In 2000 when hearing loss prevented him from appearing on stage he continued with his roles on Committee, as Public Officer and Legal Assistant and dedicated many hours of his time to producing the programs for our productions.

Paul's knowledge of the Company and his passion for Babirra will be missed. In honour of his consistent work and involvement Paul has been nominated for a Life Member Award which will be ratified at the AGM in March.

Thank you Paul for all you have done over so many years. Your involvement has been most appreciated.

## Babirra Personals

Our Congratulations to **Deborah Tuono** (ex committee and numerous productions) and her partner Ross Billson who were married on the 25th November. A number of Babirrans were present to enjoy the beautiful occasion at St. Paul's Anglican Church, just down the road from our rehearsal venue in Highfield Rd. The couple honeymooned in Fiji and luckily arrived home just before the coup.



Life member **Geoff Fletcher** passed away in November. Many people at the recent Anniversary Concert remembered Geoff and his time at Babirra fondly. We think of his family and close friends at this time.

Keith "**Spotty**" Spottiswood has been awarded a 'Community Service Award' in the recent Australia Day Awards. Spotty was nominated by Alan Wright for his involvement with and unflinching support for Babirra Music Theatre, his Church, a weekly bread run to families in need and for the joy he spread for thirty years as Santa Claus in various shopping centers each Christmas. Congratulations Spotty.



## Current Committee Members

### Office Bearers

**President:** Alan Wright  
**Vice President:** Wayne Motton  
**Secretary:** Lois Moran  
**Ass. Secretary:** Owen Davies  
**Treasurer:** Neil Spitzer

### General Committee Members

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Daniel Chapman | Ron Harvey       |
| Bill Connellan | George Rustean   |
| Paul Hansen    | Christine Wright |