



HAMILTON  
OPERATIC  
SOCIETY

[www.hamiltonoperatic.co.nz](http://www.hamiltonoperatic.co.nz)

September  
2006

# HOStage Ship Ahoy!

Join Sue Nami and her crew aboard the "Mururoa Princess" as we set sail for the craziest Christmas Party yet!

"The Rollicking Adventures of Sue Narmi" is this year's Christmas Adult Theatre restaurant show, once again written and directed by Nick Wilkinson, with musical direction by Campbell Douglas. The cast includes:

Ticket prices for Wednesdays, Thursdays and the Sunday show are cheaper this year at \$54.50 pp, and the Friday and Saturday shows are unchanged at \$59.50pp. This includes a fabulous 3-course meal featuring breads & dips, main course, dessert, tea & coffee. Full bar facilities are available, plus head up to the top-deck to boogie the night away with the cast and band following the show.

Prizes are being awarded for the best dressed passengers so grab that Hawaiian shirt out of the wardrobe, pack the camera and join us for a cruise you'll never



forget.

Once again groups of 10 or more receive a FREE bottle of wine (1 bottle per 10 people). The season runs from 23 November to 16 December. **Book now at Ticket Direct 07 958 5858, at any Hamilton City Library or online at [www.ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz)**

## Chairman's Message

The year has flown by and I can't believe we're onto the Christmas Show already.

Right now we should be in the middle of a season of "Jekyll and Hyde" and, as you will no doubt be aware, the Board made the heart-breaking and very difficult decision to postpone the show. This was mainly due to low ticket sales for the production that meant that continuing to stage the show would have cost the society a lot of money. The production team, cast and our sponsor Fuji Xerox have been incredibly supportive of this decision, especially given the time and effort put into date. I hope that we may be able to reschedule the show for next year.

In the meantime please support the society by bringing all your friends and family to the Christmas Show - I hope to see you there!



# Theatre Upgrades Continue

Refurbishment of The Community Theatre in Clarence St continued earlier this year, and it looks fantastic.

The auditorium has been completely repainted in various shades of grey to complement the new chairs purchased late last year. The effect has been to make the space more intimate and draws the audience's focus to the stage.

The foyer has been painted white and features new carpet and stylish light fittings. The mirrors at the top of the stairs have been covered over with a bold graphic mural which celebrates the theatre's history through photos of

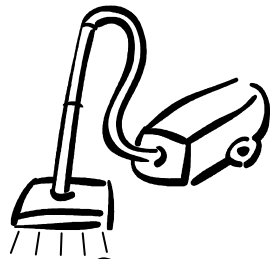
performances from the past.

The Box Office has been moved to where the kiosk operated from, and the exterior doors now have glass panels giving a greater sense of openness and space.

The council's next step is to replace the red carpet in the auditorium, and is considering another name change - this time to "The Clarence Street Theatre" with the aim to make the venue more appealing to touring groups and for corporate functions.

The city's other two main theatres are also benefiting from additional upgrades. The Council's recently adopted 10-year "Long-term Plan" will see the installation of air

conditioning in the Founders Theatre auditorium which will make a huge difference to audiences during the hot summer months. The Meteor Theatre will have \$5.3m spent on upgrades over the next 10 years. Stage 1 involves structural work and fit out of the first floor in order to accommodate an innovation centre for arts development (known as an Arts Hub). Stages 2 and 3 will subsequently resolve some further engineering issues, establish dressing rooms, improve the performance and staging areas and improve the ground floor foyers to provide a cafe and improved function facilities.



## Time for a Spring Clean

We're holding a working bee on Saturday XX September from 10am to clean-up the workshop, offices and set-store. If you're interested in helping, please contact Kathie at Costume Hire. Also, if you have personal property that you might want to salvage before it gets "donated" to a better home, please make arrangements to pick it up prior to, or on this day.

## Ticketing Changes

Following the successful implementation of ticketing at the Central and City libraries, TicketDirect counter sales have now been extended to all city libraries. So now you don't have to go far to book your tickets.



## Titbits

The AGM will be held next month - full details will be mailed out soon. If you've ever thought of being on the Board of Management, now's the time to start thinking about getting yourself nominated.

If you're interested in helping out with front of house for the Christmas Show, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Kathie at Costume Hire Ph: 839 3082 or email: info@hamiltonoperatic.co.nz.

Recent major cloth and costume hires have seen the entire set of "The Sound of Music" costumes hired to Gisborne Operatic Society, and 16 cloths used for The Great Race Ball.

Do you have access to a mannequin or dressmakers dummy? We'd like to borrow them for short-term displays promoting the Costume Hire department. Please contact Kathie if you can help.

We're looking at a taking a group to see the musical version of "Prescilla Queen of the Dessert" in Sydney

early next year. Keep an eye out for more information in the next newsletter.

## Jekyll & Hyde Ticket Refunds

If you purchased tickets to Jekyll & Hyde, you should have received a letter from TicketDirect explaining how to get refunds. If not, please call us on 839 3082. Tickets are being refunded through TicketDirect, at their point of purchase.