



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of SA Inc.

G&S Newsletter

www.gandssa.com.au

No. 3 July 2013



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Warming up for Oliver!

The cast of *Oliver* helped fundraise for Kick Start for Kids and publicise the G&S Society's upcoming production by selling soup in Hindmarsh Square on 11 July 2013.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of South Australia

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The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of South Australia is proud to support Kick Start for Kids.

From the Vice-President...

Well, Paul is up to his ears with our upcoming production of *Oliver!* – hence an update from the Vice-President.

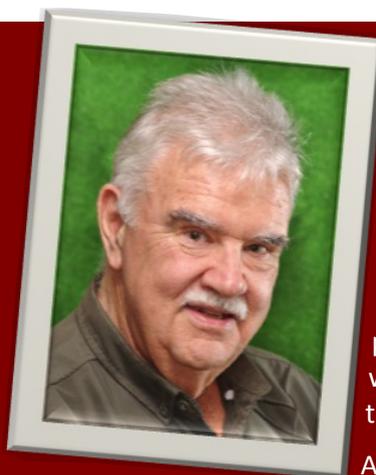
The 76th year started with our production of *The Secret Garden* with Carolyn Ferrie as guest artist. Carolyn's sheer professionalism and warmth, along with our other lead players Mark Oates and Andrew Crispe, were the icing on the cake of an already talented and lovely cast. We had excellent reviews and great feedback on the show, but unfortunately the financial result was not what we could have hoped. We deliberately shifted our seasons to avoid the May and October clashes with most other companies. However, with the Fringe now an annual event, January-February has its own problems with selling tickets.

Unfortunately, the *Garden* brought quite a few unforeseen production difficulties. My grateful thanks to Lucy Russell and Gigi D'Angelo who stepped in at short notice as Production Manager and Wardrobe Coordinator respectively and both did a great job in trying circumstances. Unfortunately Lucy felt she was unable to continue as Production Manager for *Oliver!* Lucy has made a great behind-the-scenes contribution for several years and we honour her contribution.

In April we had the first meeting of the new look Board. Jan Hooper accepted re-appointment as Treasurer on the understanding that she would step down as soon as a replacement could be found. We are delighted to welcome Aditi (Dee) Dhawan as our new Treasurer. Dee is an accountant, currently working as a finance manager, with a lifelong interest in the arts. She has had long talks with Paul and Jan and, after meeting the Board, accepted the appointment. Jan is still keen to be involved, and so has been appointed an *ex officio* Board member to ease the transition for Dee (we are also glad she is sticking around!)

It was an upbeat meeting, with our newly elected Board members, Sarah Nagy and Meg Doherty giving us new ideas to think about. Ian Andrew is taking over the webmaster role. Louise Gillan, who you will probably know from front-of-house, is ably assisting Paul with production management and has also been appointed to the Board *ex officio*. Welcome to all the new Board members!

As Paul said at the AGM, the Board is very conscious of our financial position. It doesn't get any easier folks. Given our overheads (which have been trimmed) each production has to bring a surplus of round \$13,000 before we can consider it to be profit.



It is clear to the Board that the days are gone when we can rely on ticket sales to ensure our future. Our focus has to be on finding additional sources of revenue. It's a work in progress and the Board would welcome your thoughts.

At the AGM Paul noted that after many years Susan Henderson was stepping down from the Board. I'd like to echo Paul's thanks to Susan for her contribution to the Society in many more ways than just being on the Board. Susan has said that she's still happy to continue to play "mum/housekeeper" at George Street. (Note to casts: Keep the place tidy – Susan may still get you!)

For some years we have had audiotapes made by Helen Hanrahan, Secretary from 1948 to 1969, in which she recorded her early memories of the Society. They were transcribed several years ago, but there were gaps. We were very pleased that James Dodds agreed to see if he could fill in the gaps. Adding some of his own memories James has created a great document that goes a lot further than we could have hoped. Thanks James for this valuable addition to our archive.

On a more somber note, we are all deeply saddened by the death of Claire Heap, whose health had been deteriorating for some time. Claire was a longstanding, fiercely loyal stalwart of the Society. My own memories of Claire are of a great lady and friend who would roll up her sleeves and do what needed to be done. We older members have many fond memories of nights at the Heaps, and I can tell you Claire made the best trifle! Our thoughts are with our old friend George and the family. Vale Claire.

Now it's full steam ahead for what promises to be a great production of *Oliver!* Rod Schultz will star as Fagin. Jack Raftopoulos and Harry Fiedler (our two Colins in *The Secret Garden*) are sharing the title role, and we are delighted that Bev Shean is back as the not-so-nice Widow Corney. Director David Lampard is throwing his usual energy and focus into the show. At a time when we badly need a financial success we know this is going to be a great show which you can recommend to all your friends (and their friends!) See you at the Arts in July.

Ric

Oliver!

By the time that you are reading this, the G&S Society's latest production—*Oliver!* will be in the Arts Theatre undertaking final rehearsals in preparation for Opening Night on 19 July 2013.

This has been a huge undertaking for the large cast and crew, as they work to bring to life Charles Dickens' classic story of the young orphan boy, Oliver Twist, (Jack Raftopoulos/Harry Fiedler) as he struggles to find his place in the world in Victorian London. Along the way, he encounters the wily Fagin (Rod Schultz) and his band of child pick-pockets, including the Artful Dodger (Isaiah Fabbro/Connor Olsson-Jones). It also tells the tragic story of Nancy (the beautiful Emma Bargery), who loves the wrong man in the evil Bill Sikes (a very scary Paul Talbot). There is even a very clever dog Sunshine, who plays Sikes' dog, Bullseye. (Just as well we have a vet in the cast!)

The adult and children's ensembles play a multitude of characters, from street vendors, or tavern dwellers to the Governors and inhabitants of the workhouse—and even a travelling Victorian freak show. See if you can identify the characters—answers will be in the next newsletter (after the show) - if we give away secrets, the director will not be pleased!

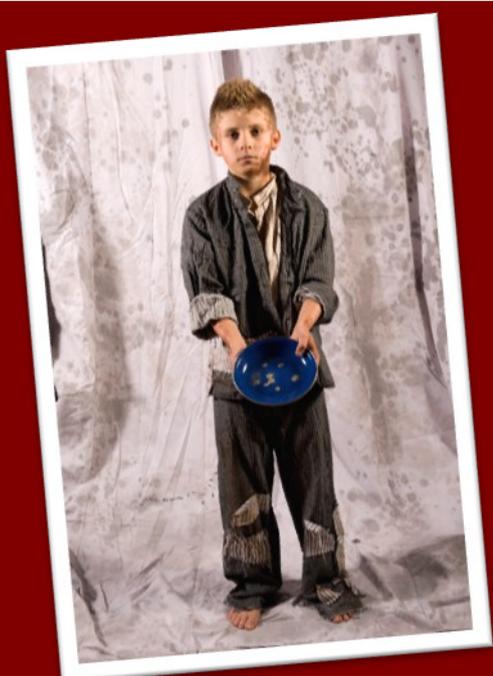
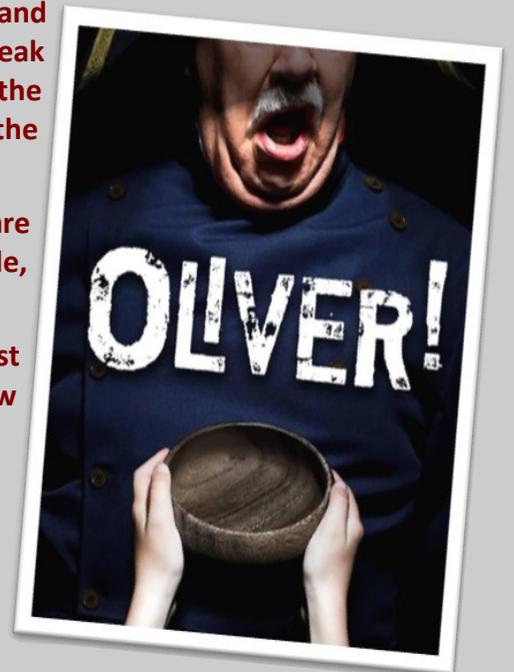
Under Peter Johns' skillful musical direction, the performers are sounding magnificent and the production is one of spectacle, humour and pathos.

There are two children's casts—the Dawkins cast and the Twist cast—who perform on alternate nights, so why not see the show twice and see both versions?!

You will not want to miss this excellent production, so book now!



Rod Schultz with
Connor Olsson-Jones



Jack Raftopoulos

The Dawkins cast perform the evenings of 19, 20, 23, 25 July and matinee 27 July.

The Twist cast perform the evenings of 21, 24, 26, 27 July and matinee on 20 July.

To book your tickets, call Paula on
8447 7239

Email paula@gandssa.com.au

Or visit www.gandssa.com.au

Adults \$38, Con. \$33, Child \$25

Behind The Scenes at the Society

Tell Us What You Think!

The 2013 G&S Survey

Please visit the website and undertake our survey to help us ensure that the Society keeps you informed and hears what you have to say.

Amongst other questions, you will be asked to let us know whether your details are up to date and what shows you want to see the Society stage.

So please take the time to fill it in and give us some feedback. One lucky respondent will win a Westfield voucher worth \$200 as a thank you for your time.

[Take the Survey](#)

Looking After The Shed

As you know, the Shed at George Street has been the Society's home for thirty years. Over that time, we have built up a large amount of costumes, props, sets and archives. The space is well used and as a result can become very full of materials.

So periodically we hold working bees to declutter and tidy up. This year was no exception. Shortly after *The Secret Garden* was finished, Ric Trevaskis, Renie Walker and David Lampard, with the help of various Society members, tackled the costume areas—with the result that a great deal of space was found and costumes re-organized. Ric has big plans to keep working on the costume room—so watch this space!

The Society is also the proud owner of a new industrial strength vacuum cleaner, which is greatly appreciated when cleaning the Green Room carpet.

However, there is still a lot to be done, particularly once *Oliver!* moves out of the theatre. If you are willing to be part of a working bee in the second half of the year, please let us know.

The Archives are in desperate need of sorting, a project, our archivist Liz Olsson, has long been wishing to tackle. She plans to hold a day in October to try and bring them up to date. If you would like to help, please let her know.

Looking for Archive Material

In sorting through past newsletters, we have found some gaps. We have a lack of editions from the 1990s, specifically 1993—1999.

We are also looking for publicity photos or production photos from 1968 to 1983.

If you have any copies and would like to donate them to the Society, please let Liz know by emailing her at liz@gandssa.com.au

Donations Needed

There are still many things needed at the Shed that are beyond the Society's reach at the present time.

Would you be willing to donate any of the following?

- Plastic tubs with lids for costumes. (They can be purchased at discount stores for about \$20 each.)
- Suit coat hangers - wood only please (Ikea sell packs for \$8 a pack of 8)
- Fridge
- Costume racks

If you can help, please contact secretary@gandssa.com.au

From the Editor

What a busy six months it has been! Two major productions for the Society have kept us all on our toes, and unfortunately delayed the publication of this newsletter.

I have been helping our Props Co-ordinator, Nadine, prepare the props for *Oliver!* - there are so many to do this show justice.

Its been a real privilege to work behind the scenes on the two 2013 shows—we have some amazingly talented, hardworking and wonderful people in the Society. We should be proud of what is being achieved.

Titles and Orders — We're Highly Delighted

Congratulations must go to Richard House, who was awarded a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division in the Australia Day Honours List. The Medal was awarded to Richard for service to conservation and the environment, and the community.

A Founding Member of Coastcare in 1998, Richard has been its Chairman since 2003. Coastcare tackles problems like dune erosion, loss of native plants and animals, storm water pollution, weeds and control of human access to sensitive areas. Richard has also been a member of South Coast Dune Care for over 15 years and won the Coast Protection Board Award in 2005.

In addition, Richard is a volunteer grower for Trees for Life, which has grown over 10,000 trees since 1991.

When living in Adelaide in 1980, Richard joined the Burnside Historical Society and served as Secretary and Treasurer from 1982-1989 and President from 1989-1994. He resumed the position of Treasurer in 1995 and continues in that role. In recognition of his service, Richard was made a Life Member in 1989 and won the Community Award from the City of Burnside in 2003.

Richard's first production with the G & S Society was *Ruddigore* in 1971 and he was a stalwart in the chorus for 30 years. He was also set construction manager for many years, generously donating the set storage area in the Shed to the Society. Richard continues to appear in the Society's smaller productions such as those staged at the Maritime Museum.



Richard receives his Award from the Governor, Rear Admiral Scarce AC

Richard has the distinction of being the only person to play Calynx for the Society in both of its productions of *Utopia Limited*. But it's as Sir Richard D'Oyly Carte that Richard will always be associated—a role that he has played with elegance and style in numerous productions. Sir Richard has welcomed Her Majesty Queen Victoria to the theatre more than once!

Serving as a member of the Board of Management from 1987 to 1988, Richard was made an Honorary Life Member of the Society in 1991.



Richard House OAM with wife Peggy and his children, Fiona and Lance

Richard received his Medal from His Excellency the Governor, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC at a ceremony at Government House earlier in the year.

A Very G&S Wedding

The wedding of Liana and Patrick Witcombe on 20 April 2013 was very much a "Society Affair." Liana's bridesmaids included Society members Sarah Nagy, Desiree Frahn and Vanessa Shirley.

Music before the service was a collection of excerpts from the Gilbert & Sullivan library played by Daniel Brunner in his own inimitable way.

Daniel also arranged a wonderful rendition of *Amazing Grace* performed by Mark Oates, Andrew Crispe and Peter Hopkins. They also performed another Brunner arrangement—*His Eye Is On The Sparrow*.

A large contingent of Society members, old and young, joined the newlyweds for afternoon tea before the couple left for their Reception, with Society Vice-President Ric Trevaskis, in charge as Master of Ceremonies.

The cake centerpiece was made by Maid of Honour, Vanessa Shirley, and depicted Patrick's onstage proposal during the matinee of *The Gondoliers* in 2012.

We wish Pat and Liana all the very best for their new life together!

The Law is An Ass*

In 2005, in my day job as a lawyer, I was asked to test a new computer system for the South Australian Supreme and District Courts. To do that I had to file a "dummy" court action onto what I was told by them was a test website.

I needed to draft various documents and so I chose to re-litigate the famous "Carpet Quarrel" issued by Gilbert against Sullivan and D'Oyly Carte. I had quite a bit of fun setting out the allegations in the documents!

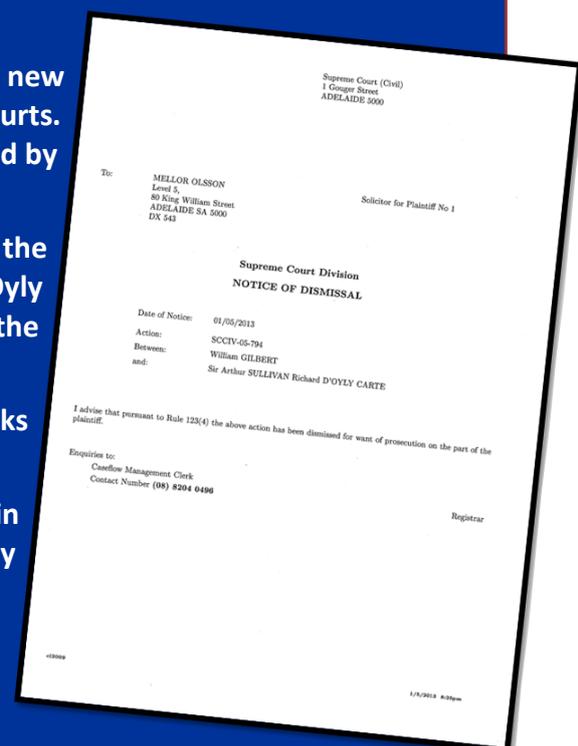
The testing complete, I forgot all about it. Until a couple of weeks ago, when I received a Notice from the Court dismissing the claim!

It turns out that the computer system actually issued proceedings in the Supreme Court! So I now have the distinction of being the only lawyer alive to have acted for Gilbert v Sullivan!

What a truly Gilbertian situation! It gave me a chuckle!

Liz

* With apologies to Mr Bumble!



Vale Brian Sudlow

Is Life A Boon? If so, it must befall, That Death, whene'er he call, must call too soon.

Members of the Society were shocked to hear of the sudden death of long term member, Brian Sudlow on 12 February 2013. Aged 51, Brian had been walking to work up Leigh Street in the city when he suffered a heart attack.

Brian joined the Society in the 1991 production of *The Mikado* and remained a regular performer with the Society at the time of his death. In fact, he had played one of the Pirates of Penzance in the Society's production at the SA Maritime Museum just three weeks before.

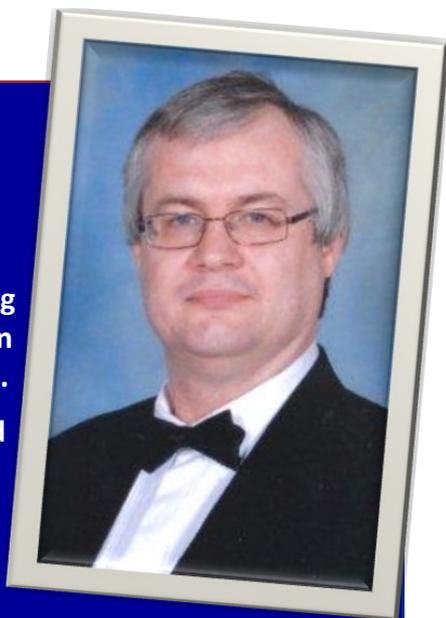
Involvement in the entertainment industry began at an early age for Brian—he featured as a blonde lad with puppy in various newspaper advertisements when very young.

Nephew to Bob and Helen Angove, Brian was taught singing by their close friend Barbara Turner, and appeared with Bob in the Christmas concerts organised by the Turners at Brooklyn Park Church of Christ. However, his love of music was not limited to that. He was a talented flautist and ballroom dancer. He also square danced, talents that stood him in good stead in 1997's *Die Fledermaus* and 2005's *Oklahoma!* Indeed, he was much valued as a dance partner because he was light on his feet and swung you in a twirl strongly enough to lift you off your feet!

In recent years Brian did not perform as regularly with the Society, having relatively late in his life discovered a passion for travel, particularly if it involved the QE2 cruise ship! But that did not dim his love of musical theatre and Gilbert and Sullivan.

Brian was a member of a close knit family and the Society extends its condolences to his parents, Thelma and Ron, his three sisters and his extended family.

A large number of Society members past and present attended his funeral, a testament to how much he was liked and how much he will be missed.



Our Condolences

To the Crooks family on the death of Nora on 12 May 2013, aged 92. Three generations of the Crooks family have been members and performers in the Society.

Raised in England, Nora and her Scots husband Don emigrated to Adelaide after World War II. Two of their sons, Alan and Graham, were principals for the Society, as were their wives, Avia (now Separovich) and Frances. As a result Don became a regular chorus member during the 1970s. Avia and Alan's daughter, Shelley has also performed regularly with the Society.

During the 1980s, as part of the fundraising to purchase the Shed, Don and Nora became Paid Life Members of the Society. Vale.



The End of An Era

Members of the Society were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Honorary Life Member and stalwart of the Society of over 45 years, Claire Heap on 1 June 2013. During that time, Claire and her husband, George, participated in all aspects of Society life.

There is much to say in tribute to Claire and to do her contribution and life justice the next edition of the Society newsletter will include a special feature about Claire and George.



Board of Management 2013

- President: Paul Talbot
- Vice President: Ric Trevaskis
- Secretary: Kate Warren
- Treasurer: Aditi Dhawan
- Board Members: Ian Andrew
- Megan Doherty
- Manik Meah
- Sarah Nagy
- Michelle Wickett
- David Williams
- Ex Officio: Louise Gillan
- Jan Hooper
- Paula Pamment

