



# FOLLOW SPOTS

## JULY 2020

### COMMITTEE REPORT

Your committee met on Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> for the first time face to face since March. As reported in the previous newsletter in April, all productions are deferred until 2021. The situation re COVID-19 will be monitored and our plans reassessed later in the year. Our new committee Member, Lorraine Andrews, is now the Minutes Secretary and as advised in the last newsletter, Linda Madill is the Secretary/Treasurer.

The next face to face committee meeting is scheduled for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October when hopefully further restrictions relating to the pandemic will be lifted. In the interim, if you have any queries, please refer to the website [www.launcestonplayers.com](http://www.launcestonplayers.com) or phone 0419 371 143.

### S.O.S!!

Does anyone have, or know of, an available space that could house some large pieces of sets outside and smaller pieces (wood etc.) inside? Jeff Hockley has kindly provided a garage to the Players for a storage area for 19 years (thank you Jeff!) but this will no longer be available after September. So....if anyone can assist with this our President Grahame will be overjoyed to hear from you on 0413 629 500.



### MARKET STALL



Dennis Mann is organising another market stall to raise funds for the Players' history book which is currently being compiled by Dr. Thomas Gunn. The stall will be held on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> in the garden area in front of the Holy Trinity Church hall, 34 Cameron Street (opposite Hotel Grand Chancellor).

If anyone has any pre loved items they would like to donate, please let us know on 0419 537 692 or 0419 371 143 and we will arrange for them to be picked up.

### PRINCESS THEATRE TOURS

If you are looking for something extra to do at this time, Theatre North is pleased to offer regular back-stage tours of the iconic Princess Theatre. Led by experienced theatre staff, the tour is your pass to spaces and places normally not open to the public. To book for the tours scheduled Tuesday and Friday through until August 28<sup>th</sup>, phone 6331 0057.

## VALE

It is with sadness we record the passing of **Valerie Pennefather** who delighted audiences as Anna in the second Players' production of "The King and I" in 1984.

Valerie will be remembered as a warm and gracious lady with a glorious singing voice. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her family and friends.

Valerie was an English-born singer who arrived in Tasmania 60 years ago. The A.B.C. and the University Music Committee were privileged to include her in their concerts on many occasions. In her early career, Valerie won many awards including "a most promising singer of the future" award. After arriving in Tasmania she continued her studies and won more competitions, including many Aria awards.

Valerie appeared frequently as a soloist in works from choral, Gilbert and Sullivan and "musical" repertoire.

She often appeared in concert recitals and broadcasts and was often referred to in the 60's as "probably Tasmania's most noted soprano".

Valerie's first appearance in a Launceston Players' musical was as Nettie Fowler, the carousel owner-operator in the production of "Carousel" in 1967. Then in the 1973 production of "Oliver" she played Mrs Carney, followed in 1975 as the Mother Abbess in "The Sound of Music".

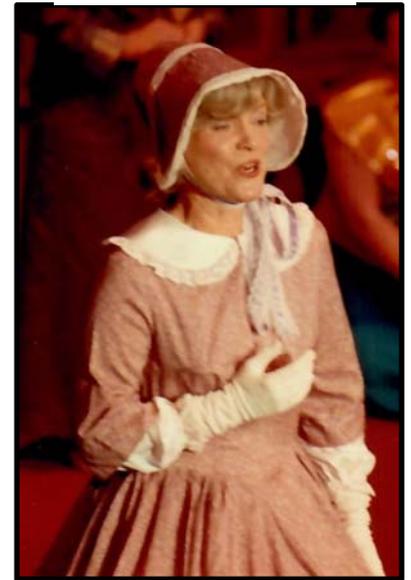
Valerie was quoted as saying, "This role (Anna) is a great challenge for me, not only as a singer but also as an actress. Although I have done concert work and opera before, "The King and I" is very important because it is testing my ability as an actress". She certainly passed the test with flying colours!

In the The Examiner review of the opening night performance of "The King and I", John Lohrey wrote "the particular charm of *The King and I* was that it endeavored to meet self-consciousness head-on, and for the most part it succeeded. The weight of the confection falls, of course, on Anna and the king, and the intangibility of their attraction to each other.

Valerie Pennefather's warmth and poise are two-thirds of what the musical heroine needs, and that she acts and sing marvelously is the real bonus of the evening".



*Valerie at a Players' function in 2015*



*Valerie as Anna and John Phelps as the King.*

**FINALLY....** Do stay well everyone – hopefully it won't be too much longer before the Theatre community will be able to resume activities, and we can all get back to some semblance of normality

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