



# NEWSLETTER

## October 2010

**A member of Musical Theatre New Zealand**

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Hi Coasters

There's quite a lot going on in Coasters' world at the moment so this newsletter is a little later in the month than planned. Never mind, there were two in September so on balance I don't feel so bad about the lateness.

The first big item this month is to say:



# Rocks!

*Why? Because they have given us a grant to cover the cost of the professional preparation work that needs to be done on the building prior to the big repaint in December.*

To say that the Board is delighted and relieved is to totally understate the true situation. This project has been ongoing now for two and a half years since we entered for and won a competition for which the prize is 100 litres of paint. You may have followed the ups and downs that have been reported both in this newsletter and in the local press from time to time.

Here we have a job that just has to be done and the realisation that our building is coated with lead-based paint that would need expert professional attention just added a huge cost that we were going to be hard-pressed to cover. We had to make the decision to proceed with a few funding options available to us but they would have left us with a heavy debt burden in the short term. To receive confirmation from Pub Charity that our application for a grant to cover those costs had been successful was the best possible news short of a major lotto win.

## REFLECTIONS SELECTIONS

• Thirty Years of Coasters

With opening night getting close those of us associated with this show marking our third decade are working hard on the final touches. In fact there are three lots of rehearsals going on. There is a tremendously enthusiastic group of children representing all the scores of children who have taken part in shows like Sound of Music, Joseph, King and I, Annie and others. They are being coached by Lucy Cameron and Alicia Kindell and will be magic.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the rainbow, The Coasterettes, under the watchful eye of Margaret Simpson and the musical direction of Carolyne Lonsdale, are re-creating the atmosphere of the music hall shows that were at the heart of Coasters' beginnings.

And while all that is going on the larger cast is reliving some of the great songs and items from some thirty of the 110 or so shows we have brought to stage over the years. Noel Signal has encouraged us to reach great heights with chorus numbers, Mary-Anne Kindell has brought us to life choreographically speaking and Lesley Warren and her team are working wonders to produce or reproduce some of the most delightful and colourful costumes that have been seen on our stage.

If you are still thinking about getting tickets for the show I urge you to stop thinking and do it. The last report I had was that only about 100 tickets remain to be sold out of the 540 available for the season. With still almost three weeks to go before opening the chances are they will not stay around very long.

Tickets are available at Coastlands Customer Service Desk 902 9885.

## 2011 and beyond

We haven't published the Coasters Calendar this time around but with the last show for 2010 well under way we want to assure you that we have a full programme of shows lined up for next year. Jo Sharp, Renwick Wright and Graham Stevens will be showing us the way through 2011 and, what is more, we have one or two possible shows waiting in the wings for 2012.

Round about now would be a good time for any budding directors out there who might just have an idea for a show but don't know what to do about it to give me or any board member a call and start the process going. You could have your name up there in lights some time soon.

*And finally....* Coasters past and present in the news.

The recent local body elections saw 2 Coasters names elected to office in the Wellington area. Tony Loyd, Immediate Past Coasters president has become a member of Kapiti Coast District Council while Nick Leggatt, who appeared in our 2003 Tribute to Abba has become Mayor of Porirua. Congratulations to both. Maybe there is the makings of a show based upon the lives of local government activities.

Syd Dowling, who appeared in several Coasters shows during a few years ago until he and June moved to Auckland, has been selected to be one of just 5 Kiwis to join the company of Young At Heart as it tours New Zealand.

Keep in touch

Derek