

Welcome to our new website!

We're thrilled to welcome you to the brand-new online home for

Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company!

Things are looking a little different around here, and we've also got some shiny new email addresses — so please make sure to update your contacts (see next page).

As with any new stage, we're still learning our cues and getting used to the new setup behind the scenes.

Thanks for bearing with us while we find our rhythm! Take a look around, make yourself at home, and don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

See you at the theatre!

CHMCC NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

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New Emails

President: president@chmcc.org.au

Vice President: vicepresident@chmcc.org.au

Treasurer: treasurer@chmcc.org.au

Secretary: secretary@chmcc.org.au

General: info@chmcc.org.au

2026 Committee



President: Dee Tune



Vice-President: Ainsley Corbett

Treasurer: Jann Golding

Secretary: Fiona Shaw

General Committee: Bec Twidale, Courtney Bannon, Jacinta Bentley, Loz Dalton, Owen Partridge, Thomas Madden



President Report

🎭 Curtain Up on 2026! 🎭

Welcome to 2026 – and what a standing ovation we're giving to the end of 2025! What a year it's been, and what an even bigger one lies ahead.

⭐ A Blonde Moment to Remember Our second show for 2025, Legally Blonde, absolutely sizzled when it hit the stage in November. Directed by Fiona Shaw, the show opened to a sell-out audience and brought Elle Woods' iconic story to life in fabulous fashion. Alongside many of our much-loved experienced performers, we proudly welcomed a host of new faces to the CHMCC stage, showcasing just how vibrant and ever-growing our theatre family continues to be. New skills, fresh energy, and shared passion – our company just keeps getting stronger.

🏆 WHaM! What a Night November also delivered our second round of WHaM Awards for the year. Huge congratulations to all individual show award recipients. The coveted Grand WHaM Award, voted on by committee and announced at our Christmas Party, went to Amber Sharp – our inaugural Grand WHaM recipient. Take a bow, Amber! 🎉

🎄 Christmas Party Chaos (the Good Kind) Once again, our social committee absolutely nailed it with the CHMCC Christmas Party. Trivia was fiercely competitive, karaoke proved (once again) that theatre folk cannot resist a mic, and the falling wooden Jenga blocks delivered jump scares worthy of a horror show. It was a night full of laughs, music, and the perfect chance to relax, reconnect, and let our hair down.

🎶 2026 Is Off and Running The year has kicked off with fantastic interest in Oliver! – congratulations to our cast! We can't wait to bring this much-loved musical to audiences, highlighting the magic that happens when youthful brilliance meets seasoned experience. It's a tradition we're proud of, nurturing the future of theatre in our region. 🎖 Food, glorious food for the soul! Who will buy this wonderful morning? Hopefully... you! Don't forget to grab your tickets for the May season.

💡 *Social Calendar Shenanigans Planning is well underway to keep our social calendar buzzing all year long. An Easter outing is on the cards (fingers crossed the weather behaves this time 🙏), so keep an eye on our social media for details as the date approaches.*

👠 *Looking Ahead to November Later this year, we'll be rolling back the clock with Dolly Parton's 9 to 5. If you remember the 1980s film, expect a riotous, toe-tapping trip down memory lane. More details will be coming your way as we head into the second half of the year.*

💔 *Vale Merv Allport On a more sombre note, the committee was saddened to learn of the passing of CHMCC and CHATS Life Member Merv Allport. A stalwart of the sheds for years and affectionately known as one of the "shed boys", Merv was a valued part of our set construction team and a familiar, steady presence during bump-in and bump-out until his retirement from community theatre about 3 years ago. His calm and gentle nature, paired with a sharp wit, made him a true gentleman and a treasured member of our community. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Lorraine and his family and loved ones.*

Here's to another year of stories, songs, laughter, hard work, and a whole lot of theatre magic.

President
Dee Tune



WHaM Awards Info

Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company (CHMCC) is proud to announce the introduction of three new awards to be presented at the conclusion of every production.

We are honoured to have received family blessing to honour the extraordinary contributions of Cate Walsh, James Hall, and Ben McLean - three cherished members of our theatre family whose lives and legacies continue to inspire us.

These new awards are designed not only to celebrate excellence within our productions but to uphold and honour the unique qualities these individuals brought to our stage and our community. They represent a meaningful tribute to those who left us far too soon, ensuring their spirits remain an integral part of our theatrical journey.

The Cate Walsh Exceptional Contribution to the Production Award

This award recognises an individual whose behind-the-scenes contributions have been vital to the success of a production. Cate's unwavering dedication to every aspect of theatre reminds us that the magic audiences see on stage is built on countless hours of selfless work backstage. Whether through costuming, props, set building, or quiet support, this award celebrates those whose devotion echoes Cate's own generous spirit.

The James Hall Director's Choice Award

Presented at the discretion of the director, this award honours an individual—on or off stage—who has made an outstanding impact on the production. James's passion for theatre, his artistic integrity, and his drive for excellence helped shape many memorable shows. This award gives each director the opportunity to recognise a contribution that has truly elevated the work.

The Ben McLean Best Character Development Award

This award celebrates an actor who has shown remarkable growth, commitment, and depth in their portrayal of a character. Ben's desire to always be better, thoughtful approach to his roles, genuine love for storytelling and true larrikinism left a lasting mark on all who saw him perform. This award aims to honour that same dedication and authenticity in our performers.

Introducing the Grand WHaM Award

All recipients of the above awards throughout the year will be eligible for a special annual honour: the Grand WHaM Award, to be presented at the CHMCC Christmas Party. Named using the initials of Walsh, Hall, and McLean, this ultimate recognition will be awarded to the individual whose contribution most significantly reflects the passion, excellence, and spirit that Cate, James, and Ben brought to the Coffs Coast theatre community.

A Lasting Tribute

These awards are more than accolades - they are a celebration of lives that deeply impacted our community. They remind us of Cate's boundless generosity, James's visionary creativity, and Ben's heartfelt performances. Through these honours, we ensure that their legacy continues to inspire future generations of CHMCC performers, crew, and creatives.

A small selection panel, including the director and members of the production team, will oversee the process to ensure each award remains true to its purpose.

Through this initiative, CHMCC reaffirms its commitment to not only producing excellent theatre but also fostering a loving, supportive, and passionate community - just as Cate, James, and Ben did in their time with us.

Editors Comment: It is fitting that this new tradition starts with Monty Pythons: Spamalot under the direction of Ainsley Corbett, as we are sure Cate, James and Ben would have had their hand in this production one way or another!!

WHaM Awards

Legally Blonde:

*The Cate Walsh Exceptional Contribution
to the Production Award:*

Geoff Kassulke



*The James Hall Director's
Choice Award:*

Genna Guy



*The Ben McLean Best Character
Development Award:*

Amber Sharp



Grand WHaM

Amber Sharp



LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

Wrap-Up

As the final curtain closed on Legally Blonde: The Musical at the Jetty Memorial Theatre, I was left feeling incredibly proud. Proud of our cast, our creative team, our volunteers, and of the wonderful community that supported us throughout this season.

Bringing Legally Blonde to life on the Coffs Coast was an absolute joy.

Based on the much-loved film, with music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin, the show is full of energy, humour and heart.

At its core, it's a story about believing in yourself, challenging expectations and finding your voice. These themes resonated strongly with both our performers and our audiences.

From the very first rehearsal, it was clear that this cast was something special. The commitment, enthusiasm and teamwork on display were outstanding, and it carried right through to the stage. Night after night, the energy in the theatre was electric, with audiences responding enthusiastically to the vibrant performances, catchy musical numbers and joyful spirit of the show.

We were thrilled to see multiple performances sell out across the season, with standing ovations becoming a regular occurrence. The feedback we received in person, online and through social media was overwhelmingly positive, and it was wonderful to see so many people sharing their excitement and support for the production.

One particularly meaningful moment for me was our Auslan interpreted performance on Saturday 29 November. Making live theatre more accessible is incredibly important, and it was heartening to see our community embrace this performance so warmly. It was a proud step forward for CHMCC and one I hope we can continue to build on in future seasons.

Behind the scenes, an enormous amount of work went into making *Legally Blonde* the success it was. From choreography and music direction to sets, costumes, lighting, front of house and backstage crews, every part of the team contributed with professionalism, creativity and care. This production truly showcased what community theatre can achieve when people come together with a shared passion. I would like to sincerely thank our sponsors, volunteers and of course everyone who bought a ticket and supported the show. Your enthusiasm and encouragement mean more than you might realise, and they are what keep community theatre alive and thriving here on the Coffs Coast.

It has been an absolute privilege to direct this production and to work alongside such a talented and dedicated group of people. *Legally Blonde: The Musical* was a season filled with laughter, colour and heart, and one that I will remember very fondly.

*Director
Fiona Shaw*







LIONEL BART'S

Oliver!

Progress Report

Oliver! – Rehearsals Begin This Weekend:

We are thrilled to officially kick off Oliver! with our first full cast get-together this weekend.

This initial meet-and-greet marks the beginning of what promises to be a very special journey – bringing together children, families, adult performers, creatives, and crew to start building our company culture, shared vision, and ensemble spirit.

With over 90 performers auditioning, the response to this production has been extraordinary.

The talent and fed shown by all those in attendance was beyond our wildest expectations. The result is that we have a stellar, large cast, thoughtfully spread across our two teams, the Rogues and the Rascals.

This allows us to share opportunities, manage rehearsal loads, and showcase the remarkable depth of talent within our community.

!!Calling all mature gentlemen!

We are still keen to welcome a few mature male performers into the cast. If you've ever thought, "I've always wanted to give theatre a go," good news: No experience required, but you can sing and act a little and have a willingness to have fun and be part of a team we want you.

If this sounds like you (or someone you know), we would absolutely love to hear from you.

Contact the team via oliver2026chmccproductionteam@gmail.com

Director
Jacinta Bentley



The Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company Production of

LIONEL BART'S

OLIVER!



Nancy

Tahlia Stagg



Bill Sikes

Jamie Baker



Artful Dodger

Will Bursle



Fagin

Ainsley Corbett



Bet

Jess Pearce



Noah Claypole

Baxter Corcoran

The Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company Production of

LIONEL BART'S

OLIVER!



Mr Bumble

James Callahan



Widow Corney

Linda Miller



Charlotte

Grace Sutherland



The Sowerberrys

Rhys Werts

Jann Golding

Featured
Roles and
Ensemble,
Coming
Soon

Social Events Roundup

2025 Social calendar wrap up:

Our relaunched CHMCC Ball, Halloween celebrations, and Christmas events were a great success and a true reflection of the vibrant, welcoming community we've built together.

From glamour and sparkle on the dance floor, to spooky fun, themed costumes, laughter, and relaxed end-of-year catch-ups, these events were about far more than just a party, they were about connection. They gave cast members, crew, families, supporters, and friends a chance to come together outside the rehearsal room, strengthen friendships, and celebrate everything that makes community theatre special.

We were also incredibly fortunate to host a workshop with Queenie van de Zandt, whose incredible wealth of knowledge, experience, and generosity made for an inspiring and empowering learning opportunity. Her willingness to share so openly, encourage performers at every stage of their journey, and remind us of the joy and humanity at the heart of theatre was deeply appreciated by all who attended.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, decorated, styled, organised, cooked, cleaned up, and brought the fun. These events and learning opportunities simply don't happen without a passionate community behind them, and they continue to play a vital role in keeping CHMCC social, inclusive, inspired, and connected.

Looking Ahead – Social Events Planning for 2026

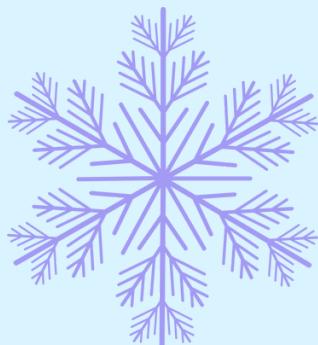
Planning has already begun for an exciting 2026 CHMCC social calendar, with plenty of opportunities to gather, celebrate, and enjoy time together away from the stage.

Events currently being explored include:

- Easter celebrations
- World Theatre Day
- A Winter Solstice event
- Our annual Gala Ball
- Halloween festivities
- Christmas celebrations

Each of these events is designed to bring together performers, families, volunteers, and supporters in fun, relaxed, and inclusive ways, whether you're a seasoned stage-door regular or brand new to CHMCC.

More details will be shared as plans are confirmed, so watch this space and start saving some dates!



Sponsorship Prospectus

CHMCC are reaching out to share an exciting opportunity for any business to partner with the Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company (CHMCC), one of the longest-running arts associations in the Coffs Coast Region.

As a Not-for-Profit charitable organisation run entirely by dedicated volunteers, CHMCC is committed to enriching our community through the arts. All funds raised are reinvested into the company, ensuring that we continue to provide engaging and entertaining productions for our audiences. As of 2024, we are proud to announce that we have become a registered charity, allowing us to further our mission and increase our impact.

We invite your business to consider becoming a sponsor or advertiser with CHMCC. Your support will not only aid in the sustainability of our community theatre but also provide your business with valuable exposure. All donations and sponsorships are tax-deductible, and we will happily provide a tax receipt for your records.

We have developed a comprehensive prospectus that outlines the various sponsorship and advertising options available, as well as the benefits we can offer in return, including:

- Brand visibility through our promotional materials and event programs.
- Recognition on our website and social media platforms.
- Opportunities for direct engagement with our audiences during performances.

In addition, we are also looking for a sponsor for our production T-shirts. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your business leading up to and during our productions, while demonstrating your commitment to supporting the arts in our community.

We would love to discuss how we can work together and appreciate any support you can offer. This is an opportunity to promote your business while contributing to a vital community cultural institution.

Please feel free to contact us to learn more about our sponsorship options.

CHMCC Community Spotlight

Date Night: Love, Lust & Betrayal

Roses are red. Violets are optional. Theatre people? Very much required.

This Valentine's Day, The Velvet Curtain Co. invites you to Date Night: Love, Lust & Betrayal. An intimate cabaret-style evening of iconic songs, storytelling and a little bit of delicious drama, hitting the stage at the Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium.

Featuring some seriously familiar (and fabulous) CHMCC faces:

- ★ Thomas Fry (ATOMIC, We Will Rock You)
- ★ Jamie Baker (Spamalot, and soon to be seen in Oliver!)
- ★ Vanessa Hunter (ATOMIC, We Will Rock You)
- ★ Rebecca Riches (ATOMIC – Director, Legally Blonde)

Expect big voices, heartfelt moments, knowing glances and songs that chart love at its best, worst and most complicated. Perfect for couples, friends, family, singles, and anyone who's ever dramatically over-analysed a text message.

JUL 17 Saturday 14 February

📍 Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium

🍷 Complimentary wine on arrival
(because obviously)

We love seeing our CHMCC creatives out in the world doing what they do best! Come along, support them, and enjoy a cracking night of live performance.

🎟️ One night only, don't ghost this event. ❤️

Find us on Facebook & Instagram:

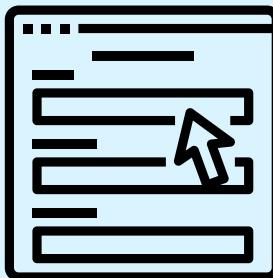
@velvetcurtain.co



Membership

[Membership form link](#)

Don't forget to become a 2025 financial member! Your membership helps support our productions, performers, and community events throughout the year. Stay connected, get involved, and enjoy exclusive member perks – renew or sign up today!



Interested in directing a show for CHMCC in 2026?

We'd love to hear from you! For more information or to express your interest, please get in touch with us at info@chmcc.org.au

The Magic OF THEATRE



Upcoming shows

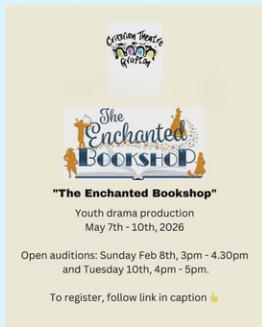


CHATS Production Inc & Live Theatre Inc

Jane Eyre

Dates: 27 – 5 Mar/Apr 2026

Coffs Harbour Jetty Memorial Theatre



Criterion Theatre

The Enchanted Bookshop

Dates: 7 - 10 May 2026

Criterion Theatre, Grafton



Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy Company

Oliver

Dates: 8 – 31 May 2026

Coffs Harbour Jetty Memorial Theatre



Port Macquarie's The Players Theatre Neighbourhood Watch

Dates: 27 - 15 Feb/Mar 2026

The Players Theatre, Port Macquarie



Expressions of Interest



Industry Professional

Development &

Opportunities

EOI form link

CHMCC is seeking feedback from our community and members to help shape future professional learning and development opportunities.

We're not just talking about onstage skills! We want to hear from those interested in all aspects of theatre—whether it's stagecraft, backstage roles, the bio box, costuming, sheds, front of house, or anything in between.

Let us know what areas you're keen to learn more about or develop skills in by filling out our short Expression of Interest form.

Your input will help us design workshops and opportunities that reflect the interests and needs of our incredible community.