

LET'S CHAT

Welcome to your September CHATS newsletter



President's Chat

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Your CHATS Committee 2026

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Hello CHATS Community,

I would like to start my report by giving a huge congratulations to the Director, Emily Branster, and the talented cast and crew of our production, *The Tempest*. I thoroughly enjoyed watching this Shakespearean play brought to life. The feedback from this show was extremely positive and shows that these classic plays still bring joy to audiences.

The next production is the hilarious farce *It Runs in the Family*. This brilliantly funny play is coming together through an amazing cast led by Director, Anne McClenahan. I had the privilege of attending a rehearsal. I left with sore ribs and cheeks from laughing so hard. I just know that once it is up on that stage with costumes, lights etc that it will bring the house down. It runs from October 16th to October 25th and tickets are already on sale and selling well. So, make sure you grab yours before it's too late.

Unfortunately our VP, Marcus, had to step down and I would like to thank him for all he brought to the committee. Marcus will continue in the role of shed liaison. As a committee we have decided to bring in an interim VP. It is my pleasure to announce that Mel Winkler will be interim VP until the next AGM.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, our beautiful fellow thespian and friend, Jacinta Bentley, is still dealing with her health battle. A concert has been arranged to raise money for Jacinta and her family. A Tribute in Pink and Purple will be held at the Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium on Saturday 19th September at 6:30pm. Tickets are available online at <https://events.humanitix.com/a-tribute-in-pink-and-purple> so, if you are able please come and support this truly special cause.

Until next timeCourtney Bannon

Upcoming Shows

It Runs In The Family

Performance dates: October 16 - 25



CHATS
PRODUCTIONS INC.

Presents the hilarious farce...

**It Runs In
The Family**
by Ray Cooney

16th—25th October

Directed by Anne McClenahan

Jetty Memorial Theatre
337 Harbour Drive,
Coffs Harbour
Book tickets
www.jettytheatre.com/it-runs-in-the-family/
Call 02 6648 4930



By arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French
A Concord Theatricals Company

Tickets are just \$25 - \$32 for this runaway hospital comedy!



**Scan the QR code
to book your tickets
now !**

Synopsis

If you are a leading surgeon in London's most prestigious hospital, delivering the "Lecture of the Year" to two hundred of the world's leading neurologists, the last thing you want is a mistress from 18 years ago arriving unexpectedly.

Just as Dr Mortimore is preparing for his big moment, Jane Tate, a former nurse and long-forgotten romantic fling, turns up and drops a bombshell: that their brief affair produced a child, now 18, who is currently in the hospital looking for his/her father. Dr Mortimore, desperate to protect his reputation, tries to hide the truth. But in true Cooney fashion, every outrageous lie spawns three more, and the situation spirals into a whirlwind of mistaken identities, slamming doors, and frantic improvisation. Typical madcap complications ensue, involving faithful friend, Dr. Bonney, a stoic police sergeant, Dr. Mortimore's wife, a severe hospital matron, Dr Connolly who is more interested in pantomimes than doctoring, Dr. Bonney's mother and a disrupting patient who makes the most of being dragged into the whole maelstrom.



Interview with the Director - Anne McClenahan

Q: Is this the first time you have directed?

Anne: No, I directed a couple of comedy revue shows in Sydney, one of which was called *The Script Hits The Fan*, which is a fairly accurate description. This is the first “scripted” play I have ever directed, and it’s a very different animal.

Q: Are you familiar with Ray Cooney’s work?

Anne: Yes, both Ken and I were in *Run For Your Wife* years ago and then he reprised the role of John, the bigamist taxi-driver in *Caught In The Net* a couple of years after that. Cooney’s plays are a framework ripe with opportunity for comedy. The challenge for me is to make something funny from every single one of those.

Q: What are you enjoying most about directing?

Anne: The cast have a lot of experience between them and so I feel comfortable workshopping ideas with them. We’ll try something and see if it works; if not, we re-work it. We settle on what makes the most of us laugh. I am very proud that we are getting laughs out of things which I’m sure Cooney didn’t intend when he wrote the play.

Q: Do you think it will appeal to everyone?

Anne: There are a LOT of funny moments in the play and if you don’t laugh, you’ve got a heart of stone! It is set in the 1960s and so I will be interested to see how it goes over with the under 30s. There was no political correctness back then – people just said what they thought and damn the consequences! The play should be viewed through that paradigm, in much the same way as we make allowances for the behaviours of people in Shakespeare’s time. You definitely have to suspend your disbelief and just surrender to the ridiculousness of the moment.

Q: You are also in the cast. How are you coping with wearing 2 hats?

Anne: A second head would be helpful! As an actress, the role I’m playing is terrific. She sparks all of the mayhem but then seems to get caught up in it as well. It’s absolute lunacy but a lot of fun. As a director, I am so lucky that my husband is the production manager and he has been fantastic in doing so much of the behind-the-scenes work that I haven’t been able to do.

Upcoming Events

Coffs Harbour Musical Comedy
Company



November 2026 at The Jetty Memorial
Theatre



Live Theatre & CHATS



More CHATS events
coming soon!

Keep in touch via our new website

<https://www.chats.org.au/>

