



Mackay's Community Theatre since 1947

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

MEET THE FAMILY

Director Kristyn Everett has assembled an impressive cast for David Williamson's *Family Values*, Kucom Theatre's final production for the year, which opens on Thursday 24th October for a two-week season.

The play centres around Roger (played by Greg Webb), a retired judge, who is turning 70. All he wants for his birthday is some quality time with his wife Sue (Bronwyn Grannall) and their three children Lisa, Emily and Michael (Sarah Neivandt, Molly Bettridge, and Michael Brennan)—no gifts, no fuss. But the younger family members have other ideas, and the carefully planned low-key birthday party turns into something altogether different when unexpected guests Noeline and Saba (Megan Geoghegan and Nicole Pasquale) threaten to disrupt the peaceful family gathering.

Early Bird bookings opened on Wednesday 14th August, for one week only, and in that single week alone we sold 106 tickets—this represents fifteen per cent of all available seats, so we're off to a flying start.

Season dates: 24, 25, 26, 31 October and 1 & 2 November at 7.30pm, with a matinee at 2pm on Sunday 27 October.

Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/family-values>.

NEXT HAPPY HOUR—FRIDAY 30 AUGUST

There are only three more Happy Hours left for the remainder of the year: 30 August, 27 September, and 29 November (the last Friday in October will be a performance night).

You don't have to be a Kucom member to come along—everyone is welcome—but only financial members are eligible to go in the Members Draw.

Not a member yet? You can submit your application [online](#), or [download](#) a hard copy from the Kucom website to fill in by hand.

Family Values



by David Williamson



On the last Friday of every month, the Kucom bar is open from 6 to 7.30pm for members and their guests to come along and unwind at the end of the working week. No performing, just socialising in a relaxed atmosphere.
Financial members will be eligible to go in the Members Draw.

Remaining Happy Hours for 2024:
30 August
27 September
29 November

**NEXT HAPPY HOUR:
FRIDAY 28 JUNE**

There will be no Happy Hour on the last Friday of July or October.
These are performance nights, and the foyer will be occupied by patrons from 6.30pm

DO YOU HAVE FIRST AID QUALIFICATIONS?

Now that we have a defibrillator (thanks to the Federal Member for Dawson, Andrew Willcox MP, and the 2023 – 2024 Volunteer Grants program), we're looking to enhance our capabilities in the event of a medical emergency. While operating the defibrillator does not require specialised training, we are calling on members who have First Aid qualifications to join the Front of House team for each production and be on site to render assistance if required. Our Workplace Health and Safety Officer, James Hunter, would love to hear from you.

HELP WANTED

Our Building Manager is about to embark on the annual Test and Tag for all things electrical at Kucom. There are upward of 140 items to be inspected, including stage lights, extension leads and the data projector. It's a huge job for one person, but with two or three assistants it could probably be completed in half a day.

The proposed date is Saturday 7th September, but this could vary slightly depending on people's availability. If you can help in any way, please [let us know](#).

TRAINING IN STAGE LIGHTING

We are offering training to any members who would like to learn how the stage lighting works. Not everyone wants to be an actor, and we know that some of you have expressed an interest in the technical side of things, so here's your chance. James Hunter will be coordinating the training, so please let him know if you're interested.

SPECIAL OFFER (KUCOM MEMBERS ONLY)

Following their highly successful *Intro to Stage Management* workshop, the Victorian Drama League (VDL) is planning another great online workshop for Saturday August 31, 10.30 - 12 noon: **Intro to Costuming a Production** - for beginner and experienced practitioners, with panellists Juliet Hayday, Tony Tartaro, and Christine Tompkins.

This workshop is free to VDL members (which means YOU, if you're a financial member of Kucom).

Offering an opportunity for participants to find out what the role and responsibilities entail, pitfalls and problem solving, and to learn from the award winning panel members, the workshop covers topics such as:

- Liaising with your director
- Design of costumes - consideration of era, story, style
- Sourcing ready-made costumes or appropriate fabrics
- Borrowing, hiring, making, buying
- Sourcing and modifying patterns to create your designs
- Finding and managing sewing team
- Managing actor expectations
- Problem solving - tips and tricks for creating a certain look
- Essential items for sewing kit at the theatre

If you are a financial member of Kucom and would like to participate, please [let us know](#) by close of business on Friday 23 August and we will arrange for you to receive your zoom link.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KUCOM IN 2025?

We will be presenting full-length plays in March, July and September next year, followed by a season of one-act plays in November.

The Kucom Committee is still hammering out details, but here's what we know so far:

- Auditions for the March production (details TBA) will be held before Christmas—we'll be posting updates on the Kucom Facebook page
- Maureen Coleman is directing *Bob's Your Auntie* in July—this will be our Festival of Arts Fringe event
- We're still receiving submissions from potential directors for the full-length September production
- New directors are encouraged to consider submitting expressions of interest for the one-act play season in November. This is a perfect opportunity for novice directors to try their hand, under the mentorship of some of our more experienced members.

If you're interested in submitting a play for next year, or would like further information, please send an [email](#) to the Committee.

CALL FOR ASSISTANCE WITH HISTORIC ENQUIRY

We have received this request for assistance from MKY City Heart Collective:

MKY City Heart Collective is a placemaking group for the Mackay region, and you may have heard of our involvement in launching the Bee Mindful mural in 7th laneway, to give you some idea for why we are reaching out to you. We are assisting in a second mural installation for the Coleman Building at 47 Wood Street and provided information about the building owner Laurie (Loris) Coleman. Mackay Historical Society advised us that Mr Coleman was active in theatre and the teaching of voice coaching. Leading us to wonder if he was involved with Kucom Theatre, & if you may have any records of this to help establish some further background story, for our collection of activations in the CBD.

There is no record of a Laurie Coleman in the Kucom archives, but there's always the possibility that he may have briefly engaged with Mackay Community Theatre some time between its establishment in July 1947 and his departure for Brisbane in 1950. Perhaps some of our older readers may remember him? If you can help, please get in touch with us by [email](#) or give us a call on 0439 684 548.

CONTACT US

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Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Mackay's longest-running community theatre.

Bronwyn Grannall
Public Relations Officer