

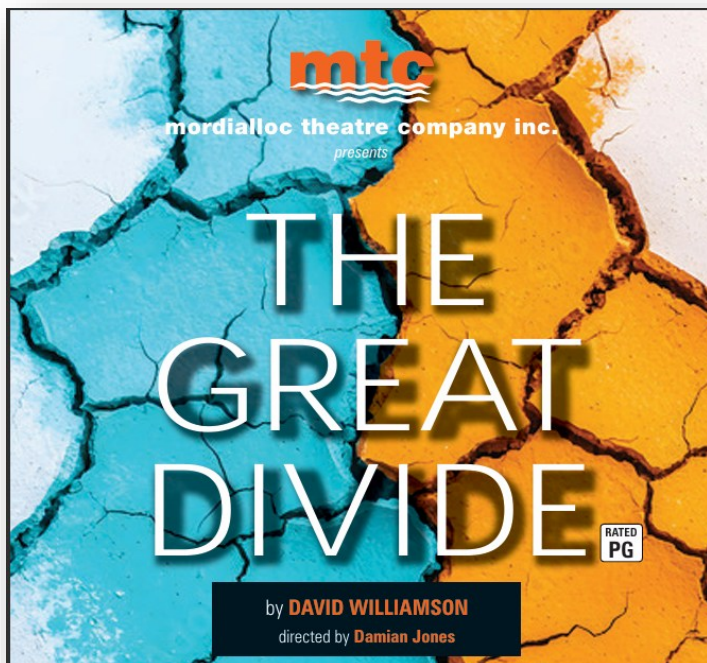
The Q Sheet

February 2026



Newsletter of
Mordialloc Theatre Company Inc
mordialloctheatre@gmail.com
PO Box 80, Mentone, 3194
Bookings 9566 4440

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION



Golden sands, turquoise waters and a lush green golf course — Penny Poulter leads an almost idyllic life in one of Australia's best kept secrets, Wallis Heads.

But when this hidden coastal gem is discovered by the ruthless and immensely wealthy Alex Whittle, ambitious plans to put the town firmly on the tourist map spark a bitter rivalry.

Can this human bulldozer with money to burn ever be stopped?

'THE GREAT DIVIDE is a brilliantly written, fabulously portrayed and an exceptional piece of Australian theatre.... fantastically entertaining, emotional and truly hilarious!' – Theatre Thoughts

Shirley Burke Theatre, Parkers Road, Parkdale

Evenings: February 26, 27, 28 March 1*, 4, 5, 6 & 7****

mtc mordialloc theatre company

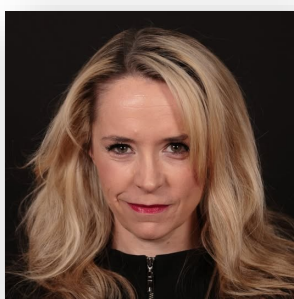
Q&A

The Great Divide

with the director, **Damian Jones**

Wednesday 4 March
after the performance

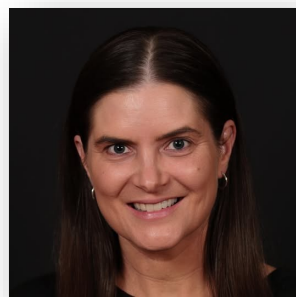
Bookings now open: <https://mordialloctheatre.com.au/>
or call 9556 4440.



KATE LAWSON
STARS AS THE BULLDOZING
ALEX WHITTLE



ALISON CAMPBELL RATE
IS DOWNTRODDEN GRACE



KATHERINE CROUCH
IS PENNY



MILLA PEARL SIEVERS
IS RACHEL



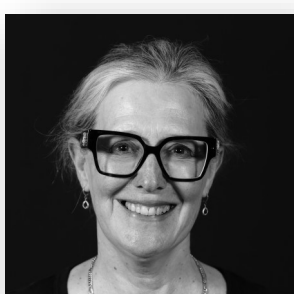
GREG BARISON
IS SHADY ALAN



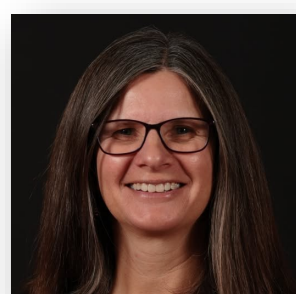
MICK MIKSAD
IS BRIAN AND JOEL



DAMIAN JONES
Director



CLAIRE HUTTON
Assistant Director



LEIGH THOMPSON
Stage Manager



The President's Report

As delivered at the Annual General Meeting, 16 January 2026

Welcome members and thank you for continuing to support our company.

2025 saw our company continue to retain strong audience attendance, marked by some highly successful productions, with average attendance of just over 1,000 patrons per play. This was due to many factors but, most notably a selection of both challenging and entertaining plays, as well as some superb performances.

Board members

Last year we welcomed our new Board members, Nicholas Bufalo and Rachel Negus, and we thank them for volunteering to offer their services. Nicholas came with unbridled enthusiasm and a wealth of experience in film and television, both as an actor and as a director. As a Board member, he has taken on the task of seeking sponsorship, building sets (as well as designing one) and made valuable contributions to Board discussions. Rachel has acted in our productions in the past, most recently in Minnie and Liraz. Rachel brings considerable experience in administration, a very welcome addition to the Board. She has acted as rehearsal prompt and taken on the role of coordinating the distribution of brochures.

To start the year off, our company proudly celebrated the 80th anniversary of its formation in 1945. The foyer of the Shirley Burke Theatre (the unofficial "home" of Mordialloc theatre company) was decked out with posters, pamphlets, programs and photographs going back many decades, and reminding some of our elder patrons of plays they had attended long ago.

Patrons and members mingled over drinks and canapes, occasionally dipping into the theatre to see the set for Holmes and Watson under construction.

Speeches were kept to a minimum, but those present were delighted to hear some of the senior members of the company recollect anecdotes of past productions. Eric Heyes, Geoff Arnold, Martin Gibbs and Judy Corderoy held court as they described some of their often-hilarious experiences from the 1950s and 60s.

The directors of our 2025 season (Amy Calvert, Peter Newling, Deborah Fabbro and Michelle Swann) were on hand to provide a teasing glimpse into last year's offerings.

Congratulations to our treasurer, Lyn Laister, who organised this wonderful celebration.

A big thank you to all the members and patrons who came along to help us all celebrate.

Season 2025

The 2025 Season began with the superb production of Holmes and Watson. First time director, Amy Calvert, led an excellent cast in a mesmerising thriller that had the audience continually guessing as the plot unfolded. The show had both outstanding individual performances and high quality production values, earning a string of nominations at the annual Victorian Drama League Awards.

These included acting nominations for Shane Morris, David Wearne and Fadi Zeitoune. In addition, Amy Calvert and Martin Gibbs earned a nomination for best set design, while Damien Calvert received a Silver award for best Lighting Design. Audience feedback praised all aspects of the production, including the stunning revelation at the end.

Congratulations to all involved.

The challenging drama of *The Children*, set in a small English coastal cottage just outside the exclusion zone of a dangerously crumbling nuclear power plant drew much praise from audiences and critics for excellent individual performances, skilfully directed by Peter Newling.

The play moved audaciously between being an hilarious comedy of manners, and portrait of a marriage (plus one), to a depiction of a cluster of catastrophes.

Season 3 brought Lord Arthur Savile's Crime to our stage, directed by Deborah Fabbro, who gave the performers much scope to display their skills in this hilarious period comedy, each performing exceptionally well on a set that formed a visually stunning centrepiece.

Again, high praise was received from audiences and critics alike.

Following Brighton Beach Memoirs and Biloxi Blues, Neil Simon's Broadway Bound was the poignant and often hilarious conclusion of Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical Eugene trilogy.

Directed by Michelle Swann, the cast delivered some wonderful and at times highly energetic performances, that gave the audience a thoroughly entertaining theatre experience. Congratulations.

We finished the year with the heart-warming Birthday Candles. Helen Ellis brought together a perfect cast and skilfully directed them to bring this Australian premiere production to life.

Audiences laughed and cried as they followed one woman's life journey through heart-break and joy. I've never seen so many audience members smiling tearfully as they left the theatre. Congratulations to all involved.

Ticketing

We are pleased to be able to hold ticket prices the same for next year, except for the subscriber special which will increase by just \$2. When patrons purchase 3 or more tickets, in one transaction, to 3 or more different plays, they will pay just \$27 per ticket, a saving of \$5 per ticket.

Other ticket prices for 2026 are:

Full price:	\$32
Concession:	\$30
Groups 10+:	\$30 per person
Under 16yrs:	\$28
Subscriber special (3+ plays):	\$27 each

Production Costs

As many of you are aware, most professional theatre companies and many community theatre groups have done away with hardcopy programs for each show. We have invited our patrons to complete a survey for us, and one of the questions posed was to help us better understand how they might feel about our company going down this path in future. If we do, it will involve the emailing of the program to ticket holders before each performance. This is something the new Board will give serious consideration to this year.

Marketing and Sponsorship

We were delighted last year to receive small grants from the City of Kingston and from Bendigo Bank thanks to the hard work of Nick Bufalo. Nick also managed to secure some funding support from Bunnings in the form of credit for set-building supplies.

We hope that these partnerships continue into the new year.

Guide Hall Rehearsal Venue

The Cheltenham Girl Guides Group has merged with another nearby group. This has meant that they have abandoned their lease of the guide hall where we hold our rehearsals.

What this will mean for our future rehearsals is still a little unclear. Recently, Bayside Council, which owns the land on which the hall stands, have told us that they will consider the possibility of a joint leasing arrangement between us and the martial arts group that also uses it. What form this arrangement might take is yet to be explained. This hall has proved a valuable asset for our company.

Victorian Drama League

Our company is a member of a Victorian Drama League Working Party that has undertaken to develop strategies for lobbying local and state governments to support community theatre.

They have conducted surveys of member companies and patrons across the state establish a data base. We look forward to seeing the results of this work and hope that it will assist in garnering more support from these government bodies.

Our company also contributed to Kingston Arts' development of emergency procedures for Shirley Burke Theatre, as well as meeting with Board members of Malvern and Brighton theatre companies to try and synchronise our activities.

The Year Ahead

Once again, the Play Advisory Committee has put together a selection of plays for 2026 that will both entertain and challenge audiences, beginning with the newest work of David Williamson, *The Great Divide*, first performed in Sydney just 2 years ago.

The play is already in rehearsal and boasts an outstanding cast. I recommend it highly. We would also like to thank one of our past Presidents, Juliet Hayday who coordinated the work of the PAC over the past few years, bringing new in ideas and inviting many talented directors along to work with our company.

Finally,

Our end-of-year BBQ, was again attended by nearly 50 people and was our way of thanking our volunteers for the priceless work they do for our company. Thank you, Sheila Balis, for managing the preparations for this event and thank you to all who assisted her.

No community theatre company can operate without the commitment and dedication of the numerous volunteers who gladly donate their time. We are fortunate here to have a long list of individuals who regularly put their hands up to ensure that Mordialloc Theatre Company's enviable reputation for delivering a quality theatre experience is maintained.

Without singling out any individuals, and on behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed in the past year - backstage, FOH, bio-box, technicians, sound and lighting designers and operators, set designers, costumers, props persons, actors, crew, directors, set builders and administrators.

Nevertheless, this year, I'd especially like to thank two individuals who are retiring from their roles within the company. Kelvin Rocks has managed the provision of supplies for FOH, ensuring that each show has a reliable supply of wines, sherries, tea, coffee and biscuits at each performance.

Corinne Gibbs is retiring from her role as manager of the FOH roster. She has enlisted volunteers to staff FOH and ensured that the rosters have been maintained with meticulous care. Both these positions are now vacant, and we invite volunteers to come forward. The roles can be individual or they can be shared.

From time to time, I am asked to nominate and present a President's award, acknowledging the contribution of one of our members. This year, I'd like, unashamedly, to present it to someone who happens to be a personal friend that I persuaded to come along to a set build a while back. With his broad range of handyperson skills and tools to match, his problem-solving abilities, his up-beat personality and the wisecracking one-liners that have us all groaning occasionally, he has proved to be a most valuable asset to this company. Thank you, Hugh Bramwells.

My thanks also to the other Board members who have continued to work tirelessly to maintain our company's reputation for presenting quality theatre to the community. A special mention here for Martin Gibbs who has stood down from the Board of Management after decades of unparalleled commitment and dedication.

As well as being a Board member, Martin has directed 40 plays, designed and managed the set-build of dozens more, acted in numerous plays, managed marketing and publications, managed our storage facility... and that is just the tip of the iceberg. Martin's experience and knowhow in all these matters has been truly priceless.

When it comes to dedication and time committed to our company, very few other Board members, past or present, come close. For that, our company will be eternally grateful.

It is this commitment and dedication of volunteers that allows us to deliver a quality theatre experience for the community to enjoy. And it is one of the reasons why we were able, this year, to celebrate 80 years of operations since our humble beginnings in 1945.

Thank you.

Michael Kakogiannis
16 January 2026

Office Bearers

Michael Kakogiannis:	President, Social Media Administrator
Sheila Balis:	Secretary
Lyn Laister:	Treasurer & Finance Manager
Rachel Negus:	Administration & Promotions
Geoff Arnold:	Production Manager
Nicholas Bufalo:	Sponsorship & Grants, Q-Sheet Editor
Margot Colquitt:	Membership & Communications Manager (ex-officio)
Barbara Crawford:	Website Manager (ex-officio)
Martin Gibbs:	Publications and Storage facility manager (ex-officio)
Play Advisory Committee	Geoff Arnold, Keith Hutton, Barbara Crawford

Vacant Positions-

Front-Of-House Manager
Front-of-House Supplies Purchaser

Both of these roles can be shared.

If you have some time to volunteer for these vacant roles, please contact us at-
<https://mordialloctheatre.com.au>

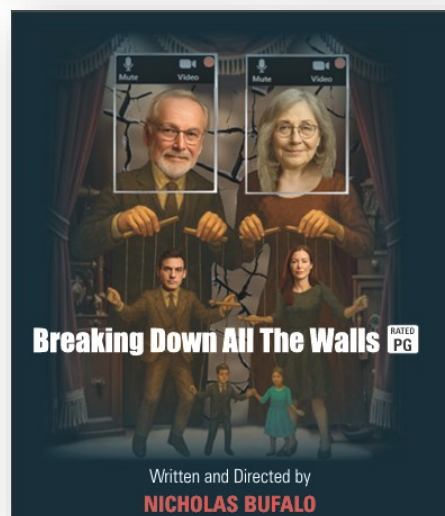
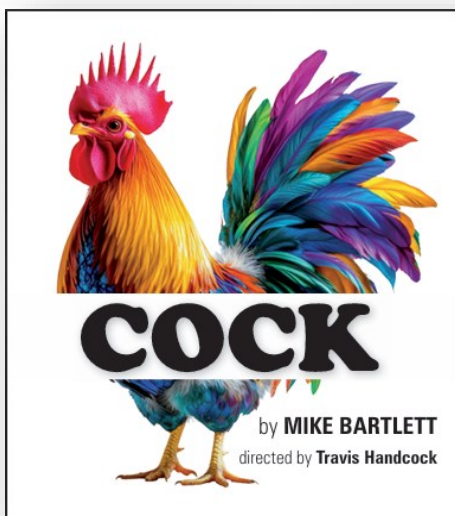
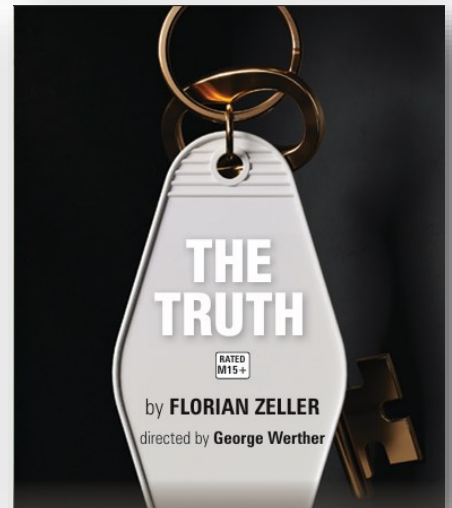
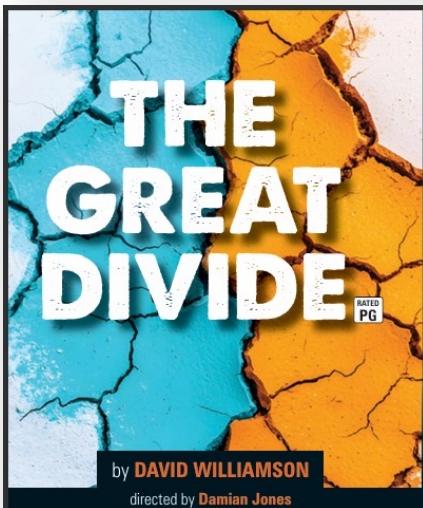
We Heard From You!

We had an impressive response to our patron survey which will help us shape the future of our theatre. A number of our patrons shared their thoughts on a range of important topics — from the kind of plays we produce to the experiences we provide.

As promised, five randomly selected respondents will receive a free ticket to a 2026 play of their choice.

Those five people are—

- John McGregor
- Marilyn Murray
- Brett Hughes
- Julie Denyer
- Lyle Hagan



Just a friendly reminder that this year, our matinee performances will now start at the earlier time of 2pm.

Volunteers

"Front of House Staff Needed"

Our first show for the year, The Great Divide, is fast approaching and we are asking for volunteers to contribute to the Front of House staff for each show. No previous experience is necessary as we are happy to show you the ropes.

All FOH volunteers will be entitled to a complimentary ticket to a 2026 show of their choice.

If you already hold an RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol) Certificate, please let us know. It's always preferable to have at least one person rostered on who has this qualification. FOH staff are to be at the theatre one hour before the show starts. We are looking for 3 people for each session.

Thanks to all those who have volunteered for FOH. We still need a few people on Saturday 28th February, Friday 6 March and Saturday 7th March.

Saturday	28 February	8pm
Friday	6 March	8pm
Saturday	7 March	2pm and 8pm

If you can assist, please let us know which day/days suit best. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,
Lyn Laister
FOH Roster Coordinator

As always, we're keen to hear from more volunteers who are prepared to help with set-building for our next production. If you're available to help us with our set for The Great Divide on the weekend of Saturday February 14th, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us at <https://mordialloctheatre.com.au>

All volunteers will be provided with lunch, tea/coffee, and a complimentary ticket to the Members' Night performance where their names will also appear in the theatre programme.

Digital or Hardcopy Programmes in 2026

Speaking of theatre programmes, as was mentioned in the President's Report, the new Board will be looking at moving from traditional paper theatre programmes to paperless, downloadable ones. We believe that they offer a range of practical, financial and environmental benefits. They lessen our environmental footprint by cutting down on paper use and waste, aligning with more sustainable practices that many in the community increasingly value.

Paperless programmes can be updated at short notice, ensuring information is accurate and current. Finally, downloadable programmes are more accessible and shareable, enabling audiences to engage with the production before and after the performance and extending the life and reach of the work beyond the theatre itself. We've had downloadable programs available in the theatre foyer for most of our plays last year and it's been wonderful to see so many people utilise them by scanning the QR code with their phones.

We understand that not everyone may have a smart phone or know how to access the QR code so both hard copy and e-copy programmes will be available for "The Great Divide" until we start that transition.

If, however, you do want to learn more about how to use the QR code, there's a handy guide on the next page.

WHAT IS A QR CODE?

A QR (Quick Response) code is a black-and-white grid pattern barcode, just like the one below.

Lots of different types of information can be linked to it and that information can be accessed by using the camera on smartphones.

For most of 2025, the Mordialloc Theatre Company has been using a QR code in the foyer of the Shirley Burke Theatre so that patrons can download theatre programmes straight onto their phones.

For those who have never used a QR code before, it's easier to access than you might think.

You simply open the camera on your smartphone and aim it at the barcode; it doesn't matter if the barcode is printed on a piece of paper or if it appears on your computer screen. If your camera can see it, then it can also read it.

Once you have your phone pointed at the QR code, a small text box will appear on your screen and you simply touch it to activate it. Different phones have different worded messages pop up, but all you have to do is touch the message or icon as it appears on your phone's screen.

We've included the QR barcode below so if anyone wants to try using it for the first time, from the comfort of their own home, they can do so.

The QR code below is from one of our plays last year. If you want to know which play, go ahead and scan it with your phone.

DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE PROGRAMME HERE



Meet Some of Our Community



Mavis Dubbin was thrilled to be named a Life Member of MTC at the Annual General Meeting.

She was an amazing ticket secretary for more than 10 years. Mavis was always very friendly to our patrons and she never missed a chance to promote Mordialloc Theatre Company.

In fact, she is still distributing yearly brochures at her Lifestyle Village in Chelsea Heights.

Thank you so much Mavis, you are a star!

mtc mordialloc theatre company

Victorian Drama League Awards



VDL Awards 2025 Congratulations to the cast and crew of Holmes and Watson

Nominations:

Best supporting Actor-Drama:

Shane Morris

Best actor in a minor role-Drama:

David Wearne

Best Actor-Drama:

Fadi Zeitouni

Best Set Design:

Amy Calvert and Martin Gibbs

Best Lighting Design:

Damien Calvert

Silver Award - Best Lighting Design:

Damien Calvert



WHAT'S ON

Theatre Works

Robot Song

12 –21 February 2026

www.theatreworks.org.au

Malvern Theatre Co. Inc.

The Tin Woman

13– 28 February 2026

www.malverntheatre.com.au

Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Co. Inc.

The Game's Afoot

12–28 February 2026

www.lilydalesathenaeum.com.au

Heidelberg Theatre Company

Love, Loss, and What I Wore

13 – 28 February 2026

www.heidelbergtc.org.au

Eltham Little Theatre Inc.

Bondi Legal

20 February –7 March 2026

www.elthamlittletheatre.org.au

The Basin Theatre Group Inc.

Heatstroke

19 February –1 March 2026

www.basinthatre.au

The 1812 Theatre Ltd.

Clue On Stage

14 February –14 March 2026

www.1812theatre.com.au

Beaumaris Theatre Inc

Chalkface

6– 21 March 2026

www.beaumaristheatre.com.au

Brighton Theatre Company

Baby

13– 28 February 2026

www.brightontheatre.com.au

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME



Have you ever wondered about working with a theatre company?

The Mordialloc Theatre Company is celebrating it's 80th year. That's 80 years of mounting plays for the community. Over that time we've had so many volunteers help with -

- *Building sets: skilled or unskilled.
- *Working Front-of-House: greeting patrons, preparing and offering refreshments.
- *Wardrobe: sourcing, adjusting or transporting.
- *Creating, modifying or transporting props- large or small.
- *Stage managing or assisting crew.
- *Sound and Lighting operation.
- *Marketing skills.
- *Distributing flyers.

If you think you might be able to assist as a volunteer in any of these roles, or if you have other skills that you could contribute, or if you would just like more information, contact us at mordialloctheatre@gmail.com