



THELMA GOOD
29.03.1923 – 04.10.2021

We observe the death of our Friend and Patron and record the following tributes:

From Max Restieaux

It was with much sadness that I learned from the President that Thelma Good had just died. Thelma had a long, successful and happy life as a member of Wanganui Repertory, but unfortunately, she suffered a loss of sight for the last many years.

So, it is timely that we as theatre members acknowledge what a distinguished life Thelma had as a Life Member of Repertory.

I believe she joined Repertory when she was in her teenage years and immediately found her natural talent as an actor. She much admired the production work of Lexi Rankin, who during the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's produced many plays for stage performance at Repertory. I recall Thelma mentioning that she had learned a great deal from Lexi in the craft of theatre.

Thelma found her real strength lay in producing. She was an outstanding producer and produced and presented on stage at least one 3-Act play each year during the years between 1960 and 1990 (or thereabouts). Thelma just loved working in the Wanganui Repertory Theatre – it was her second home.

I had the privilege of performing in many of Thelma's productions. She was a meticulous producer. She usually spent about three months prior to commencement of rehearsals in preparing the play for the stage. From the first reading, Thelma was completely in charge.

She knew exactly how she wanted the play to be presented and went about it systematically. Rehearsals were scheduled over an 8–10-week period prior to performance. The actors were shaped and refined into the character they were to perform, with clear direction and gentle persuasion, to give effect to the meaning of the play.

.....Continued

Tena koutou
katoa – hello
everyone and
welcome to
“Rep News” for
Nov 2021



Moves by the cast on stage were carefully planned to ensure the meaning and effect of the script was presented to the audience with maximum impact. She carefully costumed all players and gave instructions to stage management as to how the set was to be created, and to the lighting and sound team. I learned a great deal about theatre performance, as did my fellow actors, during that period. Without a doubt, she was one of our greatest producers of performance on stage at Repertory.

Thelma also took a full part in all aspects of theatre life as a committee member and as a President. She was elected a Life Member of the theatre, and then subsequently, on the death of Rob Whelan, was nominated our Theatre Patron, a position she held until her death.

Thelma made an outstanding contribution to the life of our theatre, and we acknowledge her passing with much regret.

Rest in peace Thelma.



From Robert Taylor

Thelma was held in high esteem by her peers, she set a very high standard for all of us and contributed with her drama tutoring and direction towards Whanganui Repertory achieving an enviable reputation amongst amateur dramatics.

In directing she had an uncanny knack of bringing out the deeper character in a role. As an actor she led by example

To me she was our Judy Dench



From Alan Cruise-Johnson



**SONNET
FOR THELMA**

As an imperfect actor on the stage
Who, with his fear, is put beside his part,
Or as a poet quails before a page
Whose blankness binds expression of the
heart,

So, I did wonder, early, you may know,
Amazed at feelings never felt before,
How far, how high how deep my love could
grow
For theatre. Would time cool the blazing
core?

My fears were groundless, for, eight
decades on
Delirious uncertainties all fade.
My love for theatre is so strong – a
pantheon
Of pillar'd trust, and bonds securely made.

My life, my muse, my joy, my everything.
The world of theatre taught my heart to sing

Courtesy of Shakespeare Sonnet XXX111

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

From Beverley Pearce

In the two or so years before she went to
Auckland to be closer to family I had the
very great privilege to spend time with
Thelma.

Every three or so weeks I would go to her
home and over a cup of tea talk to her
about Repertory, update her with what was
going well and seek her advice if an issue
was troubling me. Thelma's knowledge,
wisdom and passion for Repertory
strengthened me.

Thelma was a gracious and kind woman. It
behoves us all to keep Repertory's light
shining in her memory.



Play Reading Group

Last Wednesday of the Month

Enquiries to Nadine Rayner on 343-3312

The Fantastic Mr Fox



We are very excited to be bringing Mr Fox
to our stage over the January Vintage Weekend,
assuming we are not interrupted by lockdowns or other
unexpected events.

The wonderful cast and crew are well into rehearsals now,
while set, costumes and music are all underway.

We look forward to seeing you (and all the grandchildren)
there. It's school holidays and we're planning several
matinees. We'll keep you posted.

Covid-19 (Traffic Light System) Protection Framework

Yes Repertory will be caught up in the proposed protection
framework.

The committee has discussed the matter with the
information to hand at this stage and all agree in principle
that we cannot afford to have the Theatre closed if we can
operate within the yet to be finalised government
mandated protections.

At this stage we continue to operate under the Alert Level
2 Delta restrictions.

WDC Heritage Strategy & Building Restoration

The Council has adopted a "best practice" Heritage
Strategy for the period 2021 - 2025 to protect and
promote its historic heritage. Goal 3 of the strategy's
Action Plan is to: *Manage and ensure sustainable
ongoing use of historic heritage* and directs the council to
have explicit plans for managing the assets it owns or
controls. The explicit plan is mandated to show lines of
responsibility, goals, repair and maintenance plans,
structural or aesthetic upgrades and research.

The Council owns the Repertory Building but there is no
specific timeline to develop an explicit plan for it. Instead,
the nebulous term "ongoing" is used for prioritising and
implementing the goal for the Building.

On behalf of Repertory, I presented an oral submission to
the sub-committee urging the council to develop the
explicit plan for the Building in 2022-2023 period. My
submission gave an overview of how the Council has
managed the Building over the past twenty or so years
which basically is to say at the very least, poorly.

However, there is a glimmer of light. Some finances have
been made available for maintenance work; we await the
Conservation Report (referred to in previous newsletters)
and the Building Restoration Committee is planning to
meet with Mayor McDouall to further press our case. We
will keep you updated.