



Lyric gathers cast of talent

THE lead roles for Leongatha Lyric Theatre's upcoming production of *Blood Brothers* are to be filled by seasoned Lyric performers.

Director Peter McAlpine has cast Russell Hemming and Graeme O'Connor to play twin brothers Mickey and Eddie, who were separated at birth.

Leanne Horn has been cast as the poverty stricken mother, Mrs Johnstone and Christine Skicko as the wealthy adoptive

mother, Mrs Lyons.

Madeleine Cantwell is to play Linda, the playmate and eventual love interest of both the brothers. David Durrant has been cast as the all important narrator.

They will be supported by a chorus of 11 actor/singers.

Written by world renowned playwright Willy Russell, *Blood Brothers* is one of the most popular and longest running British musicals of all time.

Winner of the Olivier Award for Best New Musical, *Blood Brothers* is a heart-warming and heart-wrenching account of a mother's undying love and the unshakeable bonds of brotherhood.

Lyric will present *Blood Brothers* at Leongatha's Mesley Hall over three weeks during September.

Ready to roll: the leading actors of Leongatha Lyric Theatre's *Blood Brothers*, from left, Leanne Horn, Russell Hemming, Madeleine Cantwell, Graeme O'Connor, Christine Skicko.

Region stars in book yet again

AUTHOR Claude Joseph has released the third book in his series partly set around Inverloch, Cape Paterson and Wonthaggi.

The Robotoid Spy follows on from *Cape Paterson* and *The Milk Run*, and refers to local icons and issues, the Bass Strait fibre optic cable number two between Inverloch and Stanley in Tasmania, the Wonthaggi desalination plant, coal seam gas mining and Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club.

"I chose South Gippsland as the setting because it has dinosaur fossils, a submarine cable to Tasmania and a desalination plant all of which play a part in the story," Mr Joseph, of Killcare Heights, New South Wales, said.

"All these come about because of South Gippsland's continental corner position - on the edge of a mid-cretaceous rift-valley flood plain which aided fossilisation, on the edge of Bass Strait which provides direct access to Tasmania and on the edge of a deep ocean environment which provides clean water."

The book tells how an alien spaceship uses a tractor beam to draw a military surveillance plane into its hold, enabling it to learn the world's secrets.

Some 4000 marine cybernetic organisms are then released into the world's oceans.

Jessica Trellis notices the letters BS2 scrawled on a concrete slab on Inverloch Beach which marks the exit point of the fibre optic cable to Tasmania.

She told it is the identifier for the Bass Strait number two cable to Tasmania. With the recent spate of internet dropouts, and alien marine cyborgs forming in lines in the world's oceans, she realises alien marine cyborgs are draining the power from world's undersea fibre optic repeaters to power their artificial parts.

This results in internet service fluctuating.

The tale is set in the future and so the Wonthaggi desalination plant has an invisibility shield around it to improve the view from the surrounding area.

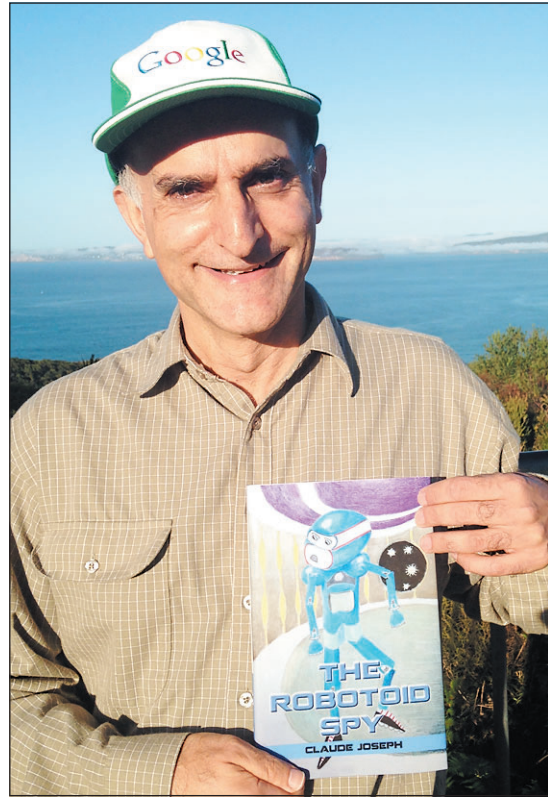
This poses a significant hazard to the alien marine cyborgs known as Sea Garantians. A garantian attracted to the electrical energy that powers the plant collides head first with the seawater intake head, only to be overcome by the salty water being discharged from the facility's diffusers.

The garantian washes up on Cape Paterson beach, unable to cope with the higher salinity of the world's oceans which has been built up after four billion years of runoff from the land. In contrast, their own planet, being younger, has less salt content.

A coal seam gas mining rupture at Cape Paterson causes methane gas to be released through underground fissures. This leads to an evacuation of the surrounding streets, a shutdown of the reinstated Wonthaggi Coal Mine and the creation of dangerous methane bubbles in Cape Paterson beach putting a surfboat in jeopardy.

The bubbles are similar to those found in the Bermuda Triangle which has been blamed for ships and planes disappearing.

The book can be obtained from Amazon.com or Xlibris.com.



Local references: Claude Joseph with his latest book, *The Robotoid Spy*, which makes many references to South Gippsland issues and places.

Dine in style

WARATAH Hills Vineyard has joined forces with Paul and Jenny O'Sullivan of Gippsland Food Adventures to host a real paddock to plate food event on Sunday, June 22.

The event will be part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival's Put Victoria on your Table initiative.

The day will begin at Malabar Farm near Walkerville where guests will discover how high quality Gippsland lamb and beef is produced.

The farm visit will conclude with an exploration of protected native bush - a unique setting to enjoy some of Gippsland's finest wine and cheeses.

Guests will then be transported along quiet country roads with coastal views to Waratah Hills for a delicious two course Sunday roast of the famous Malabar lamb matched with award winning pinot noir.

Cost for the day is \$120 including morning tea and two course lunch with wine. The day starts at Malabar Farm at 9.45am, but a shuttle service will operate from Waratah Hills departing at 9.15am.

Numbers on this amazing day are limited to 15. For details and bookings contact Paul O'Sullivan from Gippsland Food Adventures on 0429933240 or paul@gippslandfoodadventures.com.au

Tarwin Lower Red Cross

A GOOD roll up of 19 members was enjoyed by the Tarwin Lower Red Cross branch, including two visitors, Sue Flere and Debbie Burkett, who joined the branch.

Trudy McColl welcomed everyone to the June meeting followed by the pledge.

In reports it was noted the members attended and laid a wreath at both Fish Creek and Tarwin Lower for AN-ZAC Day.

The op shop fashion parade was a great success thanks to members and guests, Alyson Skinner and the Venus Bay Community Centre, all helping on the day.

The models looked stunning in their fashion clothes. All money raised went to The Philippines International Project for construction of community water and sanitation facilities in province of Samar and Leyte.

Debbie Negus was thanked for being treasurer and for helping in the activities of the branch over many years. She was wished the best of luck in her new life back in the city. She will be missed.

Muriel Riley entertained with stories about the adventures her sister has got up to.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, July 1 at Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre. It is the branch's AGM followed by planting of a tree to celebrate 100 years of Red Cross in Australia in Fishers Park.

All welcome to attend followed by afternoon lunch. The meeting runs from 1pm to 1.30pm.



School representatives: Wonthaggi Secondary College Dudley campus principal Ross Bramley selected Jacob Horton and Sarah Vradenburg to participate in the RYPEN challenge.

Young leaders step up

By Tayla Kershaw

JACOB Horton and Sarah Vradenburg are the young leaders of the future.

The Wonthaggi Secondary College students recently participated in the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) to improve their leadership skills.

"We learnt to become more confident in public speaking and getting to know people," Jacob said.

They participated in group activities, team building exercises, puzzle solving, rock climbing and conducted a play about cyber bullying.

Two students were selected from each school in South Gippsland, depending on sponsorship. Jacob and Sarah were nominated by Wonthaggi Secondary College Dudley campus principal Ross Bramley and sponsored by the Inverloch Rotary Club.

The Inverloch Rotary Club formed a partnership with the school a few years ago and have worked to see students excel in this program.

"Naturally we chose two students from Inverloch to represent both the school and the rotary club," Mr Bramley said.

"Sarah and Jacob were chosen because they meet the criteria of our school values at a high level."

Sarah said it was an excellent experience and her

confidence has grown.

Jacob said, "I'm much better at helping others and public speaking than before."

The students will be presenting a speech to the Inverloch Rotary Club to express their gratitude and share their experience in the coming weeks.

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