

# Backchat

News from Theatre New Zealand  
Fostering Community Theatre in Aotearoa

August 2013 Volume 36 Issue 4

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Actors in *Fish Pie* one of the three 30 minute plays written by a Playwrights Collective for the Second Waiheke Playwrights Festival (see p7). This play has been entered into the Waikato TheatreFest.

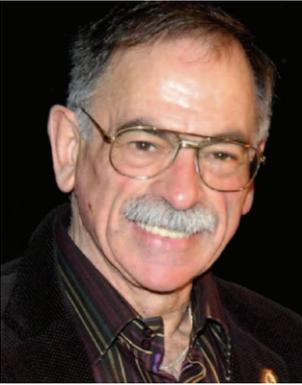


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## President



Entries for this year's TheatreFest have closed and there will be a Festival in just about every part of the country. Christchurch again is hosting the largest festival, very pleasing given the struggles that people there are still having.

Most Festivals will be dominated by youth entries. It's great to have their support but the lack of adult productions is concerning and ways to encourage more adult groups in the future needs to be looked at. We hope that all local Festivals get good audience support as being a responsive audience member is a major part of the philosophy behind Theatre Festivals.

We also hope that your support will continue for the Regional Festivals in Rotorua, Masterton, Blenheim and Dunedin. And then it will be time for the National Final of TheatreFest'13 in Wellington on 13/14 September. Read about this exciting weekend and the lead up to it on pages 3 - 5 . Will we see you in Wellington?

This is my last Presidential column as after four years as National President of The New Zealand Theatre Federation I will be standing down at the AGM. So in closing I would like to acknowledge all the support I have received from countless numbers of people during my time as President.

Even though at times it has been time consuming I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President as I have always had and will continue to have a passion for Theatre Federation. And one of the things that has made it so enjoyable is the wonderful theatre people I have met up and down the country. I never ceased to be amazed at the time and effort that theatre people put into working for their theatre clubs. However large or small a group is, all show a dedication and commitment that is unwavering.

So to you all: keep up the good work. Theatre in New Zealand is definitely alive and well.

*Ewen D Coleman*  
*National President*

## Notices

This month we welcome group members:

**HaBYT** from Hawke's Bay, **Havelock Theatre** from Marlborough, **Linwood College** Christchurch, **Rangiora Players** and **Tauhara College** of Taupo. These groups have all been members before and it's good to have them back. Read about the activities of new members **PANZ** (The Playwrights' Association NZ) and **Artworks** of Waiheke Island, page 7.

Notice is given that the 43rd **Annual General Meeting** of The New Zealand Theatre Federation Inc will be held at Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre 11 Hutchison Rd Newtown, Wellington on Saturday 14 September at 9.30am.

**Nominations** for Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) and National Executive (6 members) are called for. Forms for photocopying are enclosed or attached. and should be returned to Box 329 Palmerston North 4440 by Friday 23 August.

Remits are also invited to be sent to above address by Friday 23 August.

Other enclosures with this Backchat are the **David Brockett Award for Achievement** nomination form also to be returned by August 23rd and **National Conference Registration** form to be returned by Friday 6th September.

Once again there will be a **Poster Competition** - form enclosed. Send in posters from no more than two productions held over the last 12 months. The posters will be judged by Scenario Communications and will not be returned. Closing date 6 September.

### DIRECTORS' WORKSHOP IN WAIHI

At the end of May sixteen people from 6 groups attended a second Theatre New Zealand sponsored workshop on directing led by National President Ewen Coleman. Evaluations sent in were extremely positive. The content & presentation of the workshop met the needs of those present and they enjoyed the practical directing exercises. Participants were also pleased to receive a handbook covering the course work.



# TheatreFest13

## Local Festivals

### Northland

**Held 11th May. Adjudicator Lindsay Nash**

Otamatea Repertory

*Joined at the Hip* by Joe Graham. Dir. Maura Flower & Jen Calthrop

*Witchcraft* written and directed by Cal Lovell

*The Princess Story* written and directed by David Sims

### Waikato

**August 2 - 3 at Riverlea Theatre Hamilton. Adjudicator Lindsay Nash**

Artworks Theatre

*Fish Pie* by Waiheke Playwrights Collective. Dir. Haley Hailstone

Hamilton Playbox

*The Carousel* by Brian Turner. Dir. Lorna Ashton

On-Stage Te Kuiti

*Two Bottles of Relish* by Edward Darby. Dir. Rob Blaimes

### Hawke's Bay

**August 2- 3 at Little Theatre Napier. Adjudicator Phil Peleton**

HaBYT

*Seven Deadly Sins* devised by the company. Dir. Andrea Brigden

Napier Boys' High School

*Leaving Tommy* by Mark Seaman. Dir. Sean Collier

Napier Repertory Players

*Cecily* by Gillian Plowman. Dir. Anne Corney

Theatre Hawke's Bay

*One for the Road* written and directed by Charles Harter

Tauhara College, Taupo

*Dream Jobs* by Graham Jones. Dir. Susan Goldsmith

### Manawatu

**Held 5 July. Adjudicator Nanette Wright**

Feilding High School

*Oedipus the King*-extracts-by Sophocles Dir. Karla Crofts

### Wellington

**August 10 at Cochran Hall, Khandallah. Adjudicator Nerissa Moore**

Newlands College

*Chook Chook* by Fiona Farrell. Dir. Jo Matheson

Newlands College

*Angel's Children* by Alastair Sharp. Dir. Jo Matheson

### Top of the South

**August 3 at Boathouse Blenheim. Adjudicator Ewen Coleman**

Havelock Theatre

*Curses, Foiled Again!* by Evelyn Hood. Dir. Jennie Johnson

Marlborough Girls' College

*Mask* written and directed by Shalom Del'Monte-Aberhart

Marlborough Girls' College

*Cut* by Abby Jameson/Sydney Lehman. Dir. Heather Jameson

### Canterbury

**August 2 - 3 at Aranui High School. Adjudicator Steven Arnold**

Aranui High School

*Play on Words* by Tom Crawshaw. Dir. Laurence Wiseman/Michael Roboltom

Elmwood Players

*Hark* by Gabe McDonnell. Dir. Alexandra le Cocq

*One Season's King* by George MacEwan Green. Dir. Doug Clarke

*The New Quixote* by Michael Frayn. Dir. Sarah Coursey

Keeping Good Company

*The English Department* by David Winfield. Dir. Ravil Atlas

Lincoln High School

*Smashed* by Mitch Tawhi Thomas. Dir. Jordan Mines/Sam Lane

Linwood High School

*Amnesia* by Angie Farrow. Dir. Ryan Mead/Kim Moore

Riccarton Players

*The Joke* by Glen Clark. Dir. Fiona Bennets

### Otago

**August 10 at Logan Park High School. Adjudicator Hilary Norris**

Park Players

*The Queen Must Die* by David Farr. Dir. Sarah Spicer

Columba College

*The Tui Bird* by Angie Farrow. Dir. Erina Caradus

Dunedin Repertory

Dir. Denise Walsh

### Southland

**Held July 20. Adjudicator Bryan Aitken**

Southland Boys' High School

*The Quiz* by Roger Hall. Dir. Gussie Johnson

Invercargill Repertory Society

*This is a Play* by Daniel MacIvor. Dir. Hayden Barr

## Regional Festivals

**North Island with Adjudicator Sheridan Hickey**

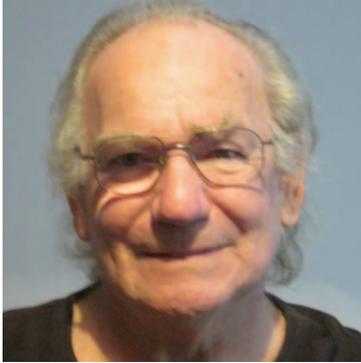
**Rotorua, Shambles Theatre 16/17 August and Masterton Mats Theatre 23/24 August**

**South Island with Adjudicator Dale Hendry**

**Dunedin Repertory 16/17 August and Blenheim Boathouse Theatre 23/24 August**

# TheatreFest13

## Regional Adjudicators



### *Dale Hendry*

Founding member of ANZDA and a past President. Former teacher of Speech, Drama and Communication. Has adjudicated in schools, Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festivals, NZTF full length and one act festivals regionally and nationally. As a Drama and Theatre tutor has worked with students and teachers from kindergarten to tertiary level. Has tutored workshops on directing and acting with students and adults for various organisations. Before retirement was a Drama and Theatre Adviser, working on contract to introduce the drama curriculum into schools. Writer of several plays for schools.



### *Sheridan Hickey*

A freelance practitioner for many years, Sheridan is a voice coach, consultant, advisor, teacher, and educator in drama, theatre arts and effective spoken communication and mentor to many. She has been involved with New Zealand Theatre Federation in one way or another in the Manawatu District since it was formed.

Sheridan is an accredited examiner for Speech New Zealand as well as ANZDA. Her adjudication experience extends the length of New Zealand at district, regional and national level. She has adjudicated the national finals of the PACANZ Young Performer of the Year and New Zealand Theatre Federation Festival of Community Theatre; Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand University of Otago Sheilah Winn Festival Shakespeare in Schools; and International Guild of Town Criers and Palmerston North's Globe Theatre Awards.

## National Conference and TheatreFest13

*September 13 & 14, 2013*

**Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre, 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington**

The highlight of our National Conference will be the National Finals of TheatreFest13, the culmination of local and regional festivals. TheatreFest13 will be held at 7.30pm on Friday September 13th and Saturday September 14th at the above address with Claire Marsh as Adjudicator. The National Conference on Saturday starts with the AGM at 9.30am, followed by key note speaker Jonathon Hendry, Senior Acting Tutor Toi Whakaari on *Theatre in Aotearoa*. After pre-ordered lunch conference attendees will have five exciting workshops run by professional tutors to choose from. Details on the next page.

***Accommodation:* There are many cafes/restaurants along Riddiford Street for evening meals.**

#### Within walking distance of the venue:

Adelaide Motel 209 Adelaide Rd 04 389 8138. A few parks available  
Ascot Motor Lodge 46 Riddiford St 0800 380004 . Parking and one trailer park  
Southgate Motor Inn 70 Riddiford St 04 939 9292. Parking for cars and trailer

#### Further away

Capital View Motor Inn 12 Thompson St 04 385 0515 Parking  
Victoria Court Motor Lodge 201 Victoria St 0800 282850 Parking for cars and trailer



# TheatreFest13

## Programme for National Conference 13 and 14 September

### Friday, 13 September

- Noon Registration desk opens in Plaza. Poster competition entries on display
- 1.30pm National Executive Meeting.
- 6pm Bar facilities open in Plaza and are available throughout the evening.
- 7.30pm Opening of TheatreFest13 National Final by the Mayor of Wellington, Celia Wade-Brown.

### Saturday, 14 September

- 9.30am Theatre New Zealand Annual General Meeting.
- 10 - 12 Nola Millar Library open for browsing by conference attendees.
- 11.30 Key note speaker Jonathon Hendry Senior Tutor Toi Whakaari on Theatre in Aotearoa.
- 12.30pm Pre-ordered lunch available.
- 1.30pm Workshops till 3pm A1, B1, C1, D - choose one
- 3pm Afternoon Tea Break
- 3.30pm Workshops till 5pm A2, B2, C2, E - choose one. NB no charge for E
- 6pm Bar facilities open and are available throughout the evening.
- 7.30pm Final TheatreFest13 selections from North and South Island Regionals  
Supper in the Plaza  
Presentation of awards by outgoing President Ewen Coleman and others.

## Workshop Choices from 1.30pm - 5pm Saturday 14 September

- A1, A2** *Sing Your Socks Off* singing for non singers with Jane Keller, singer, entertainer, tutor at New Zealand School of Music.
- B1, B2** *Finding the Integrity of the Piece* with Perry Piercy, Acting Tutor, Toi Whakaari
- C1 C2** *Physicalise your Emotions* expressing yourself physically with Allan Henry, Toi Whakaari graduate, Fight Instructor, Choreographer
- D** *Scribbling for Non Scribes* with Dave Armstrong, playwright, Script Writing Tutor Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University. The 2013 Olga E Harding assessor
- E (free)** *Storing those precious moments* Theatre Archives with Rosemary Collier

Fill in the registration form online [www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz/festivals](http://www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz/festivals) or as attached/enclosed and send to Wellington District Box 22 249 Wellington 6441 by **Friday 6 September**

This month we bring you a collection of plays based on the lives of real New Zealanders. If any of these plays interest you we can email you the script, FREE, unless otherwise noted. If you have any particular requirements we can also make other suggestions - please contact [clientpromotion@playmarket.org.nz](mailto:clientpromotion@playmarket.org.nz) with your queries.

**RUTHERFORD** by *Stuart Hoar* (3w 5m)

From Nelson farm boy to father of the nuclear age – who was Rutherford? What becomes of a man who tries to tunnel into the very material of God? An exciting, highly theatrical exploration of the life and work of the revolutionary Nobel prize winning physicist Ernest Rutherford.

**SIR ED, YOU'RE A LEGEND** by *Susan Battye*, music by *Trevor Thwaites* (15+w 15+m)

A rollicking musical for young casts. A drama about the life of one of New Zealand's most famous sons, Sir Edmund Hillary. Follows Sir Ed from his childhood in Tuakau to the conquest of Everest and beyond. A three-hander version is also available.

**SLOUCHING TOWARDS BETHLEHEM** by *Dean Parker* (10+w 7+m)

"Life is ugly, brutish and short. Like me." *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* is the story of Robert Muldoon, New Zealand's populist National Prime Minister during the tumultuous years 1975-84, when the generation that suffered a depression and a world war desperately tried to hold on to a New Zealand of conservative, regulated values. Winner of the Playmarket/Capital E Chapman Tripp Award for Outstanding New Zealand Play 2011.

**THE BOXER** by *Matthew Saville* (1w 3m)

One hundred years ago, in a world of cowboys and Indians, vaudeville and incredible hardship, a Kiwi boxer took on the world and won. Bob Fitzsimmons, a 62-kilo blacksmith from Timaru, followed his dreams to become the lightest man ever to win the World Heavyweight title. *The Boxer* tells the story of his life in a one hour vaudeville extravaganza which is filled with romance, comedy, and pugilistic prowess.

**TELLING STORIES** by *Craig Thaine* (3w 1m)

1919 - Katherine Mansfield reviews Virginia Woolf's *Night and Day* negatively. 1920 - The two women meet to catch up and make up. In amongst the gossip, stories unfold and friendship is explored. An imaginary recreation of a real event.

**AUNT DAISY** by *Peter Hawes* with music by *the Six Volts* (7w 3m)

A celebration of the life and times of the great Aunt Daisy, a woman who became a legend in her own lifetime.

**TOO HIGH THE SUN** by *Steven Bain, Herve France and Tim Spite* (1w 2m)

Based on the life of pioneering aviator Richard Pearse, who lived with his brother Warne, in the South Island farming district of Waitohi, South Canterbury. His poorly documented first flights took place somewhere between 1902 and 1904, making him possibly the first person in the world to fly.

**THE SMALLEST UNIVERSE IN THE WORLD** by *Stuart Hoar* (2w 3m)

A moving and fascinating story about the clash between love and ambition. Groundbreaking cosmologist Beatrice Tinsley was an exceptional woman whose work profoundly influenced our understanding of the origins of the universe. Her theories were dismissed in the conservative male-dominated world of astronomy in the 1960s. Recent findings have proven her correct.

**MR KING HONGI** by *Catherine Styles* (9w 13m)

An informative and extremely entertaining musical telling the story of Hongi Hika's trip to England, and visit with King George 1V. *Mr King Hongi* enjoyed enormous success in the 1970s and is still very powerful today.

**DOUBLE PORTRAIT: FINDING FRANCES HODGKINS** by *Jan Bolwell* (1-5w 1-5m)

Largely ignored in her own country, Frances Hodgkins gained a firm place in the artistic world of the first part of the twentieth century, both in Paris and London. Her life was filled with eccentricity, hardship, fun and love. *Double Portrait* explores the relationships she had with friends, agents and family. The play is shot through with humour and pathos, speculation and information.

**LOVELOCK'S DREAM RUN** by *David Geary* (7m)

Howard is a rebel, a liar and a fantasist. An unwelcome third former, he shares his secret admiration for his hero Jack Lovelock with his only friend Nick. Together they set out on a quest for the truth about Lovelock and themselves. **Published by Victoria University Press.** (This title is available from our Bookshop for \$20.00 RRP)

**HORSEPLAY** by *Ken Duncum* (2w 2m)

A hypothetical meeting between two New Zealand literary icons, James K. Baxter and Ronald Hugh Morrison, are forced to spend the night together with a dead horse. **Published in Plays 1: Small Town And Sea by Victoria University Press.** (This title is available from our Bookshop for \$30.00 RRP)

**FLIPSIDE: THE MEN OF THE ROSE-NOËLLE** by *Ken Duncum* (4m)

Four men confront the elements, each other and themselves, during 119 days adrift at sea in the overturned *Rose-Noëlle*. **Published in Plays 1: Small Town And Sea by Victoria University Press.** (This title is available from our Bookshop for \$30.00 RRP)

# What's On in August and September

(Consult society websites on [www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz/links](http://www.theatrenewzealand.co.nz/links) for more details)

• Avondale College	<i>Godspell</i> by Schwartz and Tebelak	September 18 - 22
• Otamatea Repertory	<i>Seussical</i> by Stephen Flaherty & Lynn Ahrens	to Aug 18
• Phoenix Theatre, Albany	<i>Ghost Writer</i> by David Tristram	September 5 - 14
• Avondale College	<i>Miss Saigon</i> by Schonberg & Boublil	September 17 - 21
• Titirangi Theatre	<i>Measure for Measure</i> by William Shakespeare	September 4 - 21
• Ellerslie Theatrical Society	<i>One Act Play Festival</i> six plays	August 22 - 31
• Howick Little Theatre	<i>Looking</i> , a comedy by Norm Foster	September 7 - 28
• Artworks Theatre, Waiheke	<i>Buggy Wonderland</i> by Kathy Ogletree	August 9 - 18
• DeTour Theatre, Tauranga	<i>Dinner</i> by Moira Buffini	August 29 - Sept 7
• 16th Avenue Theatre Tauranga	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> by William Shakespeare	September 11 - 28
• Theatre Whakatane	<i>Calendar Girls</i> by Tim Firth	July 31 - Aug 17
• Napier Repertory Players	<i>Wyrd Sisters</i> by Terry Pratchett	September 18 - 28
• Theatre Hawkes Bay	<i>Four Flat Whites</i> in Italy by Roger Hall	August 16 - 24
• Wanganui Repertory Theatre	Audition <i>Last of the Summer Wine</i> by Roy Clarke	August 4@ 2pm
• Feilding Little Theatre	Audition <i>Dick Whittington and His Cat</i> by Ben Crocker	August 18
• Harlequin Theatre Masterton	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> by Oscar Wilde	August 27 - 31
• Heretaunga Players	<i>Forget-Me-Knot</i> by David Tristram	August 16 - 31
• Hutt Repertory Theatre	<i>Bloody Murder</i> by Ed Sala	September 20-27
• Levin Little Theatre	<i>The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)</i>	August 8-17
• Kapiti Playhouse	by Jess Borgeson, Adam Long and Daniel Singer	Sept 30 - Oct 5
• Tawa Community Theatre	<i>Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs</i> by Tom Kelly & Bill Fancoeur	August 8 -17
• Khandallah Arts Theatre	<i>A Fete Worse than Death</i> by Richard James	July 31 - Aug 10
• Wellington Repertory	<i>The Shakespeare Revue</i> compiled by Christopher Luscombe & Malcolm McKee	Aug 29 - Sept 6
• Stagecraft Theatre	<i>Lights, Camera - Murder</i> by Margaret Stevens	July 25 - August 3
• Elmwood Players	<i>Five Women Wearing the Same Dress</i> by Alan Ball	August 7 -17
• Riccarton Players	<i>Abigail's Party</i> by Mike Leigh	September 5 - 14
• SCDL Timaru	<i>Proof</i> by David Auburn	August 8 -17
• South Otago Theatrical Soc.	<i>Shorts</i> a season of one acts	August 10
• Fiordland Players	Audition <i>Well Hung</i> by Robert Lord	August 14 - 23
• Invercargill Repertory Society	<i>Me and My Friend</i> by Gillian Plowman	August 23 - 31
	<i>The Daylight Atheist</i> by Tom Scott	September 13 - 21
	<i>The Sound of Music</i> by Rodgers and Hammerstein	August 1 - 3
	<i>The Real Inspector Hound</i> by Tom Stoppard	August 1 - 3
	<i>Nonsense</i> by Dan Goggin	August 14 - 17
	<i>The Tutor</i> by Dave Armstrong	

Do you send your newsletters by email? Include Backchat Editor [info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz](mailto:info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz)

## It's all happening on Waiheke Island

Theatre is very much alive and well on Waiheke Island. New members **Artworks Theatre** [www.artworkstheatre.org.nz](http://www.artworkstheatre.org.nz) have a theatre in Oneroa and *Buggy* listed above showcases the work of about 80 locals aged 3 - 40+ years who attend weekly classes in drama, dance and song.

Another new member **PANZ** runs an annual

Playwrights Festival on Waiheke to develop local interest and skills in playwriting, directing and acting. Their second one in May involved over 30 people with three professionals acting as advisors. Ten writers workshopped material to produce three 30 minute plays. Directors and actors were found culminating in five well attended performances around the island. *Fish Pie* one of the plays has been entered in the Waikato TheatreFest. A great community event that Colin Beardon is happy to help anyone wanting to organise something similar [cbeardon@ihug.co.nz](mailto:cbeardon@ihug.co.nz) or 09-372-5801

## Winners from PANZ 's last two annual competitions for your consideration

### 2011 Full length plays

**1st:** *The Blue Horse* by Andi Podesta (5M, 4F)

The story of a family in an isolated region of colonial New Zealand dealing with the struggle of a young woman – to find where she fits in, in a time when equality, politics and cultural values are tested. Historical fact has been woven in to give a colourful insight of the early settlers' life

Running time: approx 90 mins

Contact:(09) 4344995 [amkingnz@yahoo.com.au](mailto:amkingnz@yahoo.com.au)

**2nd:** *Smoke and Mirrors* Carol Markwell (8M,4 F)

A dramatic exploration of a real story set in early 20th century–of the Manawatu outlaw Joseph Pawelka,

Running time: Approx 70 mins

Contact:(06) 3635125 [c.markwell@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:c.markwell@slingshot.co.nz)

**3rd:** *Quite a Woman* Campbell Smith (Min 2F, 1M)

A biographical account of Ida Carey, a NZ painter famed for her paintings of Maori women with a moko. Running time: 110mins

Contact: [info@playmarket.org.nz](mailto:info@playmarket.org.nz)

### 2012 One Act Plays

**1st:** *Picasso Stayed Here* Richard Harris (4M, 2F)

A light hearted play set in England's peak district about visitors to a B&B who stumble upon a hitherto unknown Picasso work of art.

Running time: 30 mins

Contact: (09) 4361938 [eden@igrin.co.nz](mailto:eden@igrin.co.nz)

**2nd:** *Lady Godiva Woman's Up* Rex McGregor (3F, 2M)

Lady Godiva's ride has made her famous and popular. But it has had the unintended consequence of publicly humiliating her husband. When the Earl makes a pathetic attempt at revenge, Godiva must decide how far she is prepared to go to save the marriage.

Running time: approx. 30 minutes

Contact: [rex.mcgregor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rex.mcgregor@xtra.co.nz)

**3rd:** *A Word In Edgways* Narine Groome (3F, 2M)

A black comedy set in a nursing home, Stanley lies incommunicado, recovering from a severe stroke. Helen is constantly at his side, seemingly very devoted to her spouse. Running time: 30 minutes Contact: (09) 4375555 [narine.groome@windowlive.com](mailto:narine.groome@windowlive.com)

## Snippets

**Theatre Hawke's Bay's** wardrobe holds many treasures including 90 art deco women's garments, 80 old fashioned swim suits, 135 women's medieval costumes, 53 police jackets and 650 fancy dress costumes eg animals, priests, cavemen and jockeys.



Milestones. Congratulations to **Hamilton Playbox** 80 years old this year and **Feidling Little Theatre** will celebrate 75 years on August 24.



Winner of Theatre New Zealand's Most Innovative Interpretation (Student Directed) at the SGCNZ University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival was Woodford House with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Members, Feidling High School and Marlborough Girls' College also featured among the prize winners, congratulations.



Editor: Margaret Robertson

Designer: Jade Gillies

Deadline for August Backchat

**September 14th 2013**

Send Theatre New Zealand communications to

[info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz](mailto:info@theatrenewzealand.co.nz)

or PO Box 329 Palmerston North 4440