

A man with a shocked expression, wearing white briefs and green sneakers, is running across a light-colored floor. The background is a solid orange color. The text "A YEAR IN REVIEW" is overlaid in white on the orange background.

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

2013 / 2014

ISSUED FEBRUARY 2014

  
**NARPACA**  
NORTHERN AUSTRALIA'S LIVE  
ENTERTAINMENT CIRCUIT



Front and back cover: Bell Shakespeare, *The Comedy of Errors*  
Inside cover: Emily Eyefinger, *Monkey Baa*

*“NARPACA’s economic potential will be a critical success factor in meeting member expectations.”*

## PRESIDENT’S REPORT



The arts landscape is a dynamic one and nowhere is this more evident than in the area of funding. While 2013 saw the state government introduce a new arts strategy and \$23.2 million in funding over three years, NARPACA saw its organisational funding come to an end. Whilst this represents a financial challenge it equally presents an opportunity to reimagine the way NARPACA sustains itself. In the short term our staff resource base will decrease to ensure that the organisation’s financial resources continue to be responsibly managed. In the long term realising NARPACA’s economic potential will be a critical success factor in meeting member expectations and contributing to the development of touring success throughout Northern Australia and nationally.

With this in mind our objective of obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient and Charitable Organisation Status is nearing completion with an announcement expected by the Register of Cultural Organisations. If successful this status will open up an array of philanthropic opportunities and enable new partnerships with trusts

and foundations. I would like to thank McCullough Robertson Lawyers for their support with this important initiative and also Holly Blattman with whom we shared the prestigious honour of winning the Woodside Better Business Award at the 2013 Creative Partnerships Australia Awards, Queensland. This recognition is in response to the development of the new venue hire contract template which allows members to have access to professional documents based upon industry best practice.

Our commitment to advancing the industry was also embodied through the delivery of our three annual professional development conferences. Each continues to be a highlight in the annual calendar for delegates and sponsors alike. More importantly they provide an opportunity for professional networking and the exchanging of ideas. This in-person connectivity is supported by the robust virtual dialogue that takes place across the NARPACA airways on a daily basis ensuring that the regional and remote status of our membership does not equate to professional isolation. It is this spirit of camaraderie that continues to be the defining trait of NARPACA driving us forward as we set a new course to navigate our way through the challenges and opportunities throughout the coming year.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my fellow management committee members and those who serve on the

various NARPACA committees. All give freely of their time in order to ensure that the quality of artistic experience is not determined by bricks and mortar but by people committed to enriching the life of their respective communities. I would also like to thank the hard working efforts of our Executive Officer Suzan Williams and Executive Assistant Helen McGuire. Both have worked tirelessly beyond all reasonable expectations and I will forever be indebted to them.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the passing of NARPACA Life Member Billy Raymond. It is a well-known fact that this larger than life figure touched the lives of many an audience member throughout his distinguished career however the impact he had on his colleagues was much more profound. Billy’s professional experiences and entertainment stories were a continual highlight of any NARPACA gathering and now he, like his stories, will remain the stuff of NARPACA folklore.

**Destry Puia**  
NARPACA President

## NARPACA EXECUTIVE STAFF



L-R: Helen McGuire and Suzan Williams

Throughout 2013 NARPACA continued to employ two part-time positions, Executive Officer and Executive Assistant, in order to support the Association’s objectives, activities and member services.

The Executive Officer position was made possible through three-year Organisational Funding from Arts Queensland however this came to an end on 30 June 2013. As a result a restructure will be implemented in April 2014 to ensure that NARPACA remains financially sustainable. The change will see

the Executive Officer role being reduced from three to two days per week and the Executive Assistant role being discontinued. While this forced change is far from ideal it will provide NARPACA with an opportunity to investigate alternate income streams to meet member expectations.



NARPACA gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Arts Queensland in 2013.



2013 Managers' Conference delegates

**BRISBANE 12 – 13 MARCH 2013**

# MANAGERS' CONFERENCE

The 2013 NARPACA Managers' Conference held at Gardens Theatre QUT in Brisbane, offered 28 NARPACA delegates from across Queensland, a diverse program of professional development and networking opportunities. Over 1.5 days delegates embraced a full program of presentations and panel discussions and enthusiastically contributed to discussions and information sharing with their NARPACA colleagues.

The event launched with guest speakers from Queensland's four major companies (Queensland Theatre Company, Queensland Ballet, Opera Queensland and Queensland Symphony Orchestra) outlining their respective visions for touring and regional engagement over the next couple of years. This was followed by a presentation by respected Australian arts manager, Ann Tonks, who held the position of General Manager of Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) for 18 years. Through her topic "Learning from Building" Ann gave members an insight into the trials and tribulations, challenges and successes of planning, building and opening MTC's new home, Southbank Theatre. Her journey and process was relevant and timely for members involved with building a new venue or refurbishing existing infrastructure.

A range of stimulating topics was presented by a diverse mix of industry representatives and speakers with specialised expertise including:

- > **Engaging Leadership - Making the most of your leadership opportunity** by Ken Wright
- > **Know your Rights! Q&A with APRA** by Jennifer Gome & Shane Staunton from the Australasian Performing Right Association
- > **Postcards from America: USA Study Tour** by Destry Puia

As in previous years, touring and funding program updates by the Australia Council, Arts Queensland and arTour were valued by the delegates whose core business relies on engagement with and currency of knowledge in these areas. Committee Members gave insight into the strategic projects of the Association including the outcomes of the annual Technical Conference and Ticketing Conference. And reports from NARPACA's representatives on the APACA Committee and PATA Council were once again, integral to proceedings.

The 2013 conference marked the fourth successive year of support by Platinum sponsor Tickets.com as host of the Welcome Function, held on the Rooftop

Terrace at Queensland Performing Arts Centre. In addition to providing superb views of Brisbane, the function was made extra special with the newly-appointed Minister for the Arts, Ian Walker MP, joining NARPACA delegates. NARPACA also welcomed a new supporter in 2013 – SSS Events, a Queensland-owned events company based on the Gold Coast. NARPACA thanks both sponsors and host-venues, Gardens Theatre QUT and QPAC, for their partnership and for making the event a great success.



L-R: Mark Fawcett and Deb Murphy



L-R: Destry Puia, Minister Ian Walker MP and David Borg



L-R: Michael Matthews, Ross Cunningham and Ann Tonks



# 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

In July 1983 a group of likeminded individuals working in the exciting new area of regional theatre management got together to formalise their combined commitment of delivering quality cultural experiences to regional communities through the establishment of NARPACA. On 13th March 2013 many of those same individuals were joined by current NARPACA members, friends, family and colleagues to celebrate 30 years of

achievement, people and places of NARPACA at a Gala Dinner at Customs House Brisbane.

It was a splendid night of fine food and company, cleverly compared by Brisbane actor and playwright, Michael Forde. Highlights included the presentation of a Life Membership Award to Graeme Crouch, guest speeches by past and present NARPACA members and by representatives of long-time supporters of the Association, event partners

Jands, Philips and Tickets.com. Guests were wowed by the sublime talents of Jamie Clarke on solo guitar, songstress Kacey Patrick and the jazzy Women in Voice band. A surprise visit by Austrian maestro, Klaus Amstel, who is the alter-ego of the irrepressible comedian, Damian Callian, was a fitting finale for a special evening of celebration.

**JANDS** **PHILIPS** **TICKETS.COM**  
audio • lighting • staging



2014 Technical Managers' Conference delegates

**GLADSTONE 2 – 5 FEBRUARY 2014**

# TECHNICAL MANAGERS' CONFERENCE

The 2014 NARPACA Technical Managers' Conference was held at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre (GECC). Technical Managers from across the state were impressed with the metamorphosis the grand old lady has undergone. GECC is now truly a state of the art venue, a must see if you are in the region. Troy Everett, Jason Buchholz and the team at GECC have done a phenomenal job, showing amazing attention to detail in leading the rebirth of their centre. Congratulations "Team GECC" from all our delegates for the years of commitment and hard work that has delivered an amazing facility to serve their community well into the future.

This year's intensive professional development session was presented by Keith Abraham. One of Australia's leading professional speakers, Keith led a session on "Passionate Leaders". Delegates gained a deeper understanding of the thought patterns and habits that lead to personal and professional success. Keith's key message was that "A good plan started today is better than a perfect plan started tomorrow. Your goal is not to get it right first, but to get it going and then get it right."

This year 30 delegates attended the conference and enjoyed presentations on a diverse range of industry topics including Energy Efficiency, Debunking Compliance myths, LED Lighting and DANTE Digital Audio. For the first time members had the opportunity to raise concerns with the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services regarding fire system isolation. John Harrison, Manager, Places of Public Assembly & Unwanted Alarms Unit, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, answered many of our members' questions. Delegates found this to be one of the most effective aspects of the conference, hopefully cementing a solid relationship with the QFES leading to a better understanding of the legislative impacts upon our performance venues.

Another first in 2014 was a presentation from beyondblue National Workplace Program entitled, Manager Awareness:

impact and action, mental health in the workplace. This three hour workshop is designed to educate managers on the impact of common mental health conditions on individuals, the workplace environment and the organisation as a whole. It gave members some of the tools required to identify issues, develop management strategies and address mental health within their organisation. Delegates found the core focus on Prevention, Early Intervention and Awareness, thought provoking, with real strategies to assist them in managing their diverse workforce.

Thanks to our Event Partners, Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre and SSS Events, and our Gold Sponsors who were again critical to the success of the conference. Long-time supporters Jands and SSE Specialised Stage Engineering were joined this year by Show Technology Australia and Design Quintessence. Silver Sponsors were Theatre Safe Australia, ULA Group and Yamaha Commercial Audio. It is wonderful to see the support our industry partners give us not only during the conference but throughout the year. Our tradeshow attendance numbers surpassed our expectations with 15 exhibitors taking the opportunity to demonstrate the latest technology to the key theatre practitioners from regional Queensland.

Throughout the year the NARPACA Technical Committee maintained its relationship with the INAPAC and VAPAC Technical Managers' networks. We also maintained contact with Live Performance Australia's (LPA) Greener Live Performance project and its review of the Entertainment Safety Guidelines. This is a vital link that ensures our representation on the national stage. Our ability to advocate to other industry bodies is important for the future development and relevancy of our organisation.

In 2015 the conference will return to south east Queensland with a visit to the Ipswich Civic Centre. Thank you to the NARPACA Management Committee for their ongoing support of our activities. As always my personal thanks must go to my peers on

the Technical Committee for their diligence, candour and good humour, but most of all - their time.

**Tim Panitz**  
Chair - NARPACA Technical Committee

## Event Partners



GLADSTONE ENTERTAINMENT CONVENTION CENTRE



## Gold Sponsors



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## Silver Sponsors



THEATRE SAFE AUSTRALIA



## Exhibitors

- Barbizon Australia
- Behind the Scenes
- Design Quintessence
- Harris Movement Engineering
- Jands Pty Ltd
- Lexair Entertainment
- LSC Lighting Systems Australia
- Philips
- Show Technology Australia
- SSE Specialised Stage Engineering
- SSS Events
- Technical Audio Group
- Theatre Safe Australia
- ULA Group
- Yamaha Commercial Audio



**BRISBANE 17 – 19 FEBRUARY 2014**

# 10<sup>TH</sup> TICKETING PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE

The Ticketing Professionals Conference and Trade Show was presented by NARPACA for the tenth time this year and continued to build on the success of the previous decade attracting strong attendance from more than 140 ticketing and marketing professionals from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia.

There was record attendance from New Zealand which demonstrates the unique position the event holds in the region. In total ten delegates ventured across the Tasman from New Zealand, three of which were supported by bursaries from Creative New Zealand. In addition, VAPAC continued its tradition of supporting the conference by funding three bursaries to assist Victorian ticketing professionals' attendance. Another supporter of bursaries this year was our Platinum Sponsor Enta Ticketing Solutions, who funded the registrations of delegates from four regional venues around Australia.

The theme TOOLKIT 2020: Knowledge & skills to see you into the next decade focused attention on the event and drew top international speakers. The stimulating program featured workshops, case studies, presentations and a panel discussion with national and international experts including:

- > **Tim Baker, The Pricing Institute (UK)**  
- Implementing Dynamic Pricing for Box Office Managers
- > **Hannah Rudman, AmbITion (UK)**  
- KEYNOTE: Event Horizon and WORKSHOP: Joined Up Digital
- > **Debbie Richards, Baker Richards (UK)** -  
Nudge your customers to do the right thing
- > **Vicki Allpress Hill, The Audience Connection (NZ)** - OPTIMISER: Online benchmarking for the arts

Local presenters included David Fishel of Positive Solutions sharing his experience researching the box office tender process in Great Expectations: Choosing the right box office system and Amy Maiden of aka Australia who challenged delegates to Stop Talking & Start Listening when it comes to the use of Social Media in the arts and entertainment. The conference wound up with a panel discussion which explored the dilemma "Last Minute Sales ... a worrying trend?"

The first day of the conference was once again dedicated to training and skills development in the use of ticketing systems, with vendors taking advantage of having so many box office professionals in the same location.

Seven leading system vendors provided delegates with the opportunity to share, discuss and demonstrate recent advances in ticketing systems and customer data management. The inclusion of training continues to be a major incentive for delegate registrations while the income generated through this sponsorship activity makes the conference financially viable.

Thanks to our Platinum Sponsor again in 2014, Enta Ticketing Solutions and thank you also to our Gold Sponsors Tessitura Network, Tickets.com, TicketServ Asia Pacific and SeatAdvisor. This year our Silver Sponsor was House of Tickets and our Media Partner was Australasian Leisure Management.

John Godwin, Managing Director of Platinum Sponsor Enta Ticketing Solutions explained the value they receive from the Conference:

*"Enta Australasia has been a supporter of the Ticketing Professionals Conference since its inception and is proud to be the Platinum sponsor for both 2013 and 2014. It is a great*

*opportunity for our industry to get together and discuss the latest innovations, a chance to network with our peers and to share our experiences. It is vital in sustaining a vibrant industry."*

The conference has a strong presence on Twitter (@TixProf and #TixProf) with 535 followers and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/TicketingProfessionals>) with 2,240 followers.

The growth, scale and stature of the Conference has seen it become the main annual event on the ticketing calendar in Australasia. This is due to the programming, marketing and event coordination of the Organising Committee Chairman and Conference Producer, Tim Roberts of ARTS Australia and his fellow industry committee colleagues who give freely of their time.

## Platinum Sponsor



## Gold Sponsors



## Silver Sponsor



## Media Partner



[www.ticketingprofessionals.com.au](http://www.ticketingprofessionals.com.au)



Mark Fawcett with Kiss, Mackay Entertainment Convention Centre

## 2013/2014 ACHIEVEMENTS

Suzan Williams and Paul Spiro receiving the Woodside Better Business Award.



### AWARDS

In September 2013, NARPACA won the Woodside Better Business Award at the 2013 Creative Partnerships Australia Awards in Queensland, in recognition of its partnership with Holly Blattman, to develop NARPACA's Venue Hire Agreement template.

The Woodside Better Business Award was one of eight state awards presented at a ceremony at the State Library of Queensland. As a state winner, NARPACA was in the running for the National Award in that category, announced at the Creative Partnerships Australia National Awards dinner held in the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra. As an award recipient, NARPACA was also recognised in Creative Partnerships Australia's major publication, the annual Gold Book released in November.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2013/14, NARPACA developed and delivered three major conferences to provide strategic professional development and networking opportunities for members working in all areas of venue operations and to strengthen the sector. NARPACA's Management Committee and Executive Staff worked closely with members of NARPACA's "Technical" and "Ticketing" sub-committees to ensure relevant and useful conference programmes and accessibility for both metropolitan and regional members. For event programmes and outcomes, please refer to the three conference reports within this document.

### MEMBER SERVICES

**NARPACA VENUE HIRE CONTRACT** - NARPACA recently completed a 12-month review of its best-practise Venue Hire Agreement template, incorporating feedback from member-venues. Additionally, a new Order Form and Terms & Conditions of Use document has been developed to enable NARPACA to sell the template to interested performing arts centres across Australia. These projects were generously supported by Holly Blattman, Barrister-at-law, through Creative Partnerships Australia's adviceBank.

**BENCHMARKING** - In 2013, NARPACA developed three important surveys to give members the capacity to benchmark their facilities, finances and level of activity against other member-venues. The surveys were distributed in May and to date data has been collected from approximately 50% of member-venues. This benchmarking exercise will continue throughout the first half of 2014 with the final report being distributed for free to survey participants and provided for a fee to non-participants.

**PHILANTHROPY** - NARPACA's pursuit for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and Charitable Organisation Status continues after significant groundwork and pro-bono legal assistance from McCullough Robertson Lawyers over the last 18 months. DGR is an eligibility requirement for the majority of Trusts and Foundations supporting arts and cultural programs/organisations, a "must-have" for organisations seeking philanthropic funds. At the time of writing, NARPACA's application to the Register of Cultural Organisations for DGR status was being assessed by the Ministry for the Arts.

**ADVOCACY** - Throughout the year NARPACA has continued to work closely with the state government in the development of a new state arts strategy "Arts for all Queenslanders" while exploring alternate organisational funding options. In regards to the former, NARPACA provided direct input into the formation of the strategy through member consultation and via specific stakeholder committee engagement. On October 2013 the State Government announced funding of \$23.2 million over three years. From this \$21 million was shared by 34 organisations through the organisation fund while \$2.3 million was awarded to 64 organisations and individuals through the Projects and Programs Fund. Unfortunately as a result of this change in arts funding direction NARPACA's own organisational funding came to an end in June 2013 and despite submitting competitive applications to the afore mentioned programs, NARPACA was unable to secure alternate funding. Whilst this

clearly represents a significant challenge to the organisation, new alternate income streams are being explored to ensure that members needs can continue to be met in the long term.

### TOURING

Throughout 2013/14 NARPACA continued to support the facilitation and delivery of performing arts through consultation, representation on key committees and regular strategic engagement with national and state industry stakeholders. Activities included:

- > **Morning Melodies** consultation with members, producers and tour development support;
- > **Having a "go to" person** to provide a strategic point of contact for the Association for a range of stakeholders including producers wishing to tour directly through the network;
- > **arTour** - alignment of the NARPACA Managers' Conference with Queensland Touring Showcase in March 2013;
- > **APACA** - providing sector feedback about proposed new directions and through Committee membership;
- > **PATA** - contributing to the development of the National Touring Action Plan and through Committee membership;
- > **Australia Council** - facilitating member updates and feedback about changes to Playing Australia;
- > **Chairs of the State Performing Arts Centres Associations** - hosting the bi-annual meeting in September 2013;
- > **VAPAC and national touring colleagues** - participating in the Sharing the Risk Forum at the Victorian Touring Expo in April 2013; and
- > **The Blue Heeler Network** - providing advice and joining the working party to coordinate the September 2013 Long Paddock in Brisbane.



2013 Managers' Conference delegates

## WHO'S WHO 2013/2014

### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

**Destry Puia** – President  
GM The Arts Centre Gold Coast

**Gary Mears** – Vice President  
GM Ipswich Civic Theatre

**Mark Fawcett** – Secretary  
Manager Mackay Convention Precinct & Events

**Michelle McEwan** – Treasurer  
Coordinator Performing Arts Townsville City Council

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Les Alberts** – Committee Member (until September 2013)  
Theatre Director, Burdekin Cultural Complex

**Troy Everett** – Technical Manager Liaison  
GM Gladstone Entertainment Centre

**John Webb** – Committee Member  
Manager Logan Entertainment Centre

### EXECUTIVE STAFF

**Suzan Williams** – Executive Officer

**Helen McGuire** – Executive Assistant

### INDUSTRY PARTNERS

**Mark Fawcett** – APACA Representative

**Peter Owens** – PATA Presenter Representative

### TICKETING PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Tim Roberts** (Committee Chairman)  
Principal Consultant, ARTS Australia, NSW

**Destry Puia** (NARPACA President)  
The Arts Centre Gold Coast (QLD)

**Michelle McEwan** (NARPACA Treasurer)  
Townsville Civic Theatre (QLD)

**Vicki Allpress Hill**  
The Audience Connection (NZ)

**Nic Clark**  
NCM & Ranters Theatre Inc (WA)

**Sarah Irwin**  
Darebin Arts Centre (VIC)

**Tina Rettke**  
Geelong Performing Arts Centre (VIC)

**Anthony Shearsmith**  
Independent (QLD)

**Suzan Williams**  
NARPACA (QLD/NT)

**Helen McGuire**  
NARPACA (QLD/NT)

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (ELECTED FEB 2014)

**Tim Panitz** – Chair  
Empire Theatre

**David Finn** – Deputy Chair & 2014 Conference Venue Coordinator  
Ipswich Civic Centre

**Chris Eichler** – WHS Coordinator  
Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre

**John Wallace** – WHS Sub-Committee Member  
Logan Entertainment Centre

**Andrew Earle** – Training Coordinator  
QUT Gardens Theatre

**Jason Freeman** – Training Sub-committee member  
The Arts Centre Gold Coast

**Darren McBride** – Training Sub-Committee Member  
Logan Entertainment Centre



2014 Technical Managers' Conference delegates

# MANY HANDS

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

<b>Tue 12 March 2013</b>	In-person Executive Planning meeting, Brisbane
<b>Wed 12 &amp; 13 March 2013</b>	AGM & Managers Conference (full membership), Brisbane
<b>Thu 28 March 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Thu 18 April 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Thu 17 June 2013</b>	In-person Executive Planning meeting, Brisbane
<b>Thu 25 July 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Thu 29 August 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Thu 3 October 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Thu 31 October 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Thu 17 December 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Thu 21 January 2014</b>	Teleconference
<b>Thu 16 February 2014</b>	In-person Executive planning meeting, Brisbane
<b>Mon 17 February 2014</b>	AGM & Managers Conference (full membership), Brisbane

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

<b>Tue 23 April 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Tue 11 June 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Tue 16 July 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Tue 13 August 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Tue 20 August 2013</b>	Teleconference (extra meeting)
<b>Tue 27 August 2013</b>	In-person mid-year meeting at Integrate Expo, Sydney
<b>Tue 15 October 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Tue 19 November 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Tue 3 December 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Mon 3 – Wed 5 Feb 2014</b>	Technical Conference & Tradeshow (full membership), Gladstone

## TICKETING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

<b>Tue 17 Dec 2013</b>	Teleconference
<b>Mon 17 – Wed 19 Feb 2014</b>	Ticketing Professionals Conference, Brisbane

# MEMBERSHIP (AS AT FEBRUARY 2014)

## ORDINARY MEMBERS

1. Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
2. arTour, Brisbane
3. Artsworx, Toowoomba
4. Brisbane Powerhouse, Brisbane
5. Brolga Theatre, Maryborough
6. Burdekin Theatre, Ayr
7. Cairns Civic Theatre, Cairns
8. Capella Cultural Centre, Capella
9. Empire Theatre, Toowoomba
10. Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre, Gladstone
11. Ipswich Civic Theatre, Ipswich
12. Johnstone Shire Hall, Innisfail
13. Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Brisbane
14. La Boite at the Roundhouse Theatre, Kelvin Grove
15. Lake Kawana Community Centre, Sunshine Coast
16. Logan Entertainment Centre, Logan
17. Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre, Mackay
18. Mount Isa Civic Centre, Mount Isa
19. Nambour Civic Centre, Sunshine Coast
20. Proserpine Entertainment Centre, Whitsundays, Proserpine
21. Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Brisbane
22. QUT Gardens Theatre, Brisbane
23. Redcliffe Cultural Centre, Redcliffe
24. Redland Performing Arts Centre, Cleveland
25. Rockhampton Venues and Events, Rockhampton
26. School of Arts Theatre, Townsville
27. The Arts Centre Gold Coast, Bundall
28. The Centre Beaudesert, Beaudesert
29. The Events Centre Caloundra, Sunshine Coast
30. The World Theatre, Charters Towers
31. Townsville Civic Theatre, Townsville
32. Venue 1 - Blackwater Civic Centre, Blackwater

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

33. Diggers Entertainment Centre, Hughenden
34. Flinders Performance Centre, Buderim
35. Moncrieff Entertainment Centre, Bundaberg

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

36. Creative Regions, Bundaberg
37. Endless Entertainment International, Cairns

## LIFE MEMBERS

Jane Atkins  
 Kelvin Cordell  
 Graeme Crouch  
 John Flanagan  
 John Lamb  
 Stan Newman (Deceased)  
 Billy Raymond (Deceased)  
 John Young

## RECIPROCAL MEMBERS

Australian Performing Arts Centres Association (APACA)



Cartoon from the Advocate, 6th September 1991

## VALE – BILLY RAYMOND Born: January 6, 1938; Died: May 15, 2013.



After a long and hard fought battle with cancer, NARPACA Life member, Billy Raymond, passed away on Wednesday 15 May 2013 on the Gold Coast surrounded by loved ones.

Born Raymond Jamieson Hubner in Paisley Scotland, the son of Mary and Lawrence Hubner, Billy began his career at the age of 12 and worked extensively in TV, radio and theatre as a performer, promoter, producer and venue manager (to name but a few roles) in the UK and Australia.

As a child, he was declared Scotland's Wonder Boy Soprano when he appeared on the BBC's Children's Hour in 1952. In 1960, Larry Parnes hired Billy to be compere of the ill-fated touring Rock'n'Roll show starring Gene Vincent and Eddie Cochran, during which Cochran was killed in a car crash. The following year Billy became the

youngest-ever compere of Granada TV's Spot, The Tune musical quiz, which starred Marion Ryan.

Billy released two records in 1958, *Makin' Love* and *One in Particular* and another in 1959, *Charlie is Their Darling*, which led to several appearances on the BBC show Six-Five Special.

In 1963, he joined the Vera Lynn Show which toured Australia and New Zealand and he liked Australia so much he stayed on, establishing himself as Australia's Favourite Scot, presenting stage, TV, radio shows and tours.

He returned to Scotland in 1967 and 1968 to compere STV's *A Search for Beauty* and Grampian TV's quizzes *Try for Ten*, for which he won Grampian TV Personality of the Year award, and *People and Places*.

In 1971 he again returned to Glasgow to compere *The Generation Gap* for BBC TV, a quiz show which he had successfully presented in Australia. In the 1970s, he also released five albums in Australia including *A Toast to the Tartan*.

In 1987, he became artistic director and manager of the Burdekin Theatre, Ayr, Queensland, a post he held for 15 years before returning to live near Brisbane where,

in 2007, he became front of house manager and jazz co-ordinator at the Gold Coast Arts Centre, Surfers Paradise, a post he held for three years.

Despite ill health, he undertook a farewell tour of the east coast of Australia in February 2013 with fellow entertainer John MacDonald and tour manager and long-time NARPACA colleague and friend, Graeme Crouch. Billy's last performance was as a guest artist with Patti Allen at the Redcliffe Cultural Centre on 28 March 2013. Sheila Bradley, another guest artist on the same bill, said "he sang fantastically, his gags were greatly appreciated by his audience and he was in fine form".

Billy received many awards over the years and one of them was a NARPACA Life Membership awarded in 2003 in recognition of the significant contribution he had made to the performing arts in Australia. A celebration of Billy's life was held at The Arts Centre Gold Coast on Thursday 23 May and was attended by Billy's many friends and loved ones.

One of Billy's memorable TV performances can be seen on youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbkHAUppEkw>

