



Maitland Repertory Theatre Inc.
ABN 21 328 198 522

Membership Information and Application

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Website: www.maitlandreptheatre.org Email: info@maitlandreptheatre.org

Show Bookings – Maitland Visitor Information Centre 02 4931 2800

Maitland Repertory Theatre

We are an unfunded community theatre group, with the aim of staging plays and other forms of cultural activity, for the entertainment of audiences and the pleasure and satisfaction of members. As well as learning and using acting skills, many members develop and use their talents in behind-the-scenes and backstage work. Maitland Repertory Theatre is celebrating over 68 years of live theatre in Maitland in a building that is over 160 years old.

A Short History of Maitland Repertory Theatre

Our first meeting was held at the Grand Central Hotel, Bourke Street, in 1947 and we have presented plays every year since. Our first play, *Tons of Money*, was staged at the Town Hall. In 1950 we began using the Methodist Hall for performances, but held meetings and rehearsals in a variety of venues, including the loft of a large hay shed.

In 1960 we became the owners of a block of land in Devonshire Street, bought a disused three-room army hut from Greta Army Camp and had it moved onto the block. This was our first real home, but the plays were staged at St Paul's Hall.

In 1963 the Congregational Church came up for sale, and we borrowed the money (which has since been repaid) to buy it. By our own efforts it was converted into a theatre in 1964 and while we used the building for rehearsals, the first play in the Repertory Playhouse, *Doctor in the House*, was not staged until 1965. The Playhouse is now over 160 years old.

Fire regulation crack-downs in 1980, following Sydney's *Whisky A Go-Go* fire, closed us down, as it was judged not up to public hall standards. A new foyer with toilets and a shed for the costume collection were built and fire equipment installed, and the building opened again in 1982.

In 1974 Junior Repertory was formed for young people aged 8 to 16. In 2000 Reamus was formed to train 16 to 25 year olds. In 2016 Junior Repertory became Maitland Repertory Theatre Acting Classes so that regular classes could be offered to wider age ranges.

We rely on money earned from shows to pay all rates, maintenance, advertising, royalties, insurance and other associated costs. Every year the Theatre faces challenges, but thrives thanks to our active cultural community.

At the 2011 Annual Meeting members changed our name from Maitland Repertory Society to Maitland Repertory Theatre.

How Our Theatre is Organised

Maitland Repertory Theatre is an incorporated association. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is usually held in March each year. The Executive and Management Committee of 12 are elected at the AGM to manage the Theatre on behalf of its members. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Members who are elected to committee, subcommittee and other formal positions are expected to make a serious commitment to their role for one year and to attend meetings and carry out other duties as required. All members are invited to attend and contribute their ideas to meetings. The Theatre's constitution is available on the *Membership* page of the Theatre's website www.maitlandreptheatre.org.

Acting Groups

Maitland Repertory Theatre provides an environment for a number of age-specific groups to train in the dramatic arts and perform on stage. The Theatre presents four major play seasons each year, including an annual show at the end of the year. Auditions for plays are announced through the Maitland Repertory's *eNews* and via social media. The director of the play and an elected casting committee decide the cast.

Maitland Repertory Theatre Acting Classes – This group caters for 8 to 21 year old members. Classes are held on Saturdays and other scheduled times at the theatre and an annual show of 9 or 10 performances is presented. The group performed *Peter Pan* in July 2017.

Reamus Youth Theatre – This group caters for 16 to 25 year old young people. They meet on Monday evenings at the theatre and produce at least one play each year, usually a Shakespeare production.

Program of Shows

Three mainstream plays, a Maitland Repertory Theatre Acting Classes play, and an annual end of year show, usually a comedy or melodrama, are featured each year. Reamus presents a major production each year, such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream (2015)*, *Titus (2016)* and *Love's Labour's Lost (2017)*. Training workshops in acting or directing are held regularly.

How to get Involved

The Theatre aims to provide an opportunity to pursue and enjoy all aspects of community theatre. Our goal is to enjoy preparing and performing plays on stage. There are opportunities for involvement on-stage, back-stage and in other areas. You may like to be involved in workshops, enjoy fellowship, enhance personal development and community involvement and use creative skills.

The Theatre has a policy of active membership and members are asked to assist in many ways. Are you an actor, painter, carpenter or musician? Are you interested in working backstage, doing make up or costumes? You could use your talents, meet other creative people and have fun.

As an active member of Maitland Repertory Theatre, you will:

- abide by the Code of Conduct which is published on the Theatre's website
- receive regular updates on Theatre activities via the *eNews* and social media
- have the opportunity to earn free entry to shows (except dinner shows)
- have the opportunity to join a crew and work behind the scenes on productions.
- have the opportunity to be in the cast of a play
- have the opportunity to direct a play
- have the opportunity to contribute to the administration and management of the Theatre. Members are encouraged to attend committee meetings and vote at the AGM
- be expected to work Front of House and Catering (for example cashiering, ushering, catering and washing up duties) once during each main production
- be expected to notify the Theatre of any change in contact (email, post, phone) details
- be expected to adhere to our Sexual Harassment Policy – everyone has the right to feel safe at the theatre. The Theatre does not condone Sexual Harassment. If you believe you are a victim of sexual harassment:
 1. object to the behaviour;
 2. record the event;
 3. report the behaviour to the Committee
- be expected to look after your safety and the safety of all users of the Theatre by being alert to and correcting or notifying the Committee of safety threats and by keeping up to date with Theatre Emergency Procedures posted at the Theatre and on the website.
- be expected to wear clothing and safe footwear (*in most cases this means enclosed footwear*) appropriate to your activity.

Membership responsibilities are few but active membership is fundamental to the running of our voluntary community theatre group.

As a cast/crew member you should know:

- Auditions are held for every major production
- You are expected to follow all reasonable directions from the Director of the production, including hair, costume and makeup directions
- Cast and crew are expected to join the Theatre
- Cast and crew need to be committed to attend rehearsals – rehearsals for mainstream plays vary between 20–24 in number in the 8–10 weeks leading up to the show
- Cast and crew must attend productions – most mainstream plays require 9 performances
- During productions, cast and crew are required at least one hour before the start time
- Everyone in our Theatre works for its benefit voluntarily
- You are here to enjoy yourself and help others to do so

Season Tickets

Apart from joining, another way of supporting the Theatre is to buy a Season Ticket. Season tickets are an economical way of attending four out of five of our main shows in a calendar year. Season Tickets are available from the Maitland Visitor Information Centre on 4931 2800.

Check the Theatre's website at www.maitlandreptheatre.org for further information.

Please retain this section for reference

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM – Maitland Repertory Theatre Inc.

(Please print)

Ms / Mr / Mrs Other _____ Given Names _____ Surname _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Email Address: _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Mobile _____

Preferred written communication method - **Email** - **Post** (please circle)

Permission is given to publish my contact details in the Theatre's Newsletter – **Yes / No** (please circle)

Permission is given to use my photograph for promotional purposes – **Yes / No** (please circle)

Tick areas of theatrical production and operation you are interested in or have skills in:

<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting / Sound	<input type="checkbox"/> Stage Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Acting	<input type="checkbox"/> Directing	<input type="checkbox"/> Usher
<input type="checkbox"/> Set Design/Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity / PR	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing	<input type="checkbox"/> Set Painting	<input type="checkbox"/> Front of House
<input type="checkbox"/> Props Co-ordination	<input type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Costume design	<input type="checkbox"/> Costume construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Catering

Theatre experience / qualifications (if any):

Do you have any special skills? – for example mime, fencing, singing, dance, play a musical instrument.
Do you have access to any specialised knowledge, contacts, or materials? – for example carpentry, plumbing, electrical, photocopying, paints, fabrics.

Membership Type (please tick) - Membership fees are payable for a calendar year (January to December)

Adult	Over 18	\$10 per year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	2 Adults and children under 18	\$25 per year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Concession	Pensioners and full-time students	\$5 per year	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby apply to become a member of the Maitland Repertory Theatre Inc., an incorporated association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the constitution of the association for the time being in force and the Theatre's Code of Conduct.

The Constitution and Code of Conduct are available to view on the Theatre's website www.maitlandreptheatre.org – go to the Membership Page and look for the **Constitution** and **Code of Conduct** links.

Signature:Date:

Office Use: Member Register: _____ eNews List: _____ Receipt: _____ Membership Card: _____