



The ALVA Buzz

AUSTRALIAN LADIES VARIETY ASSOCIATION INC.
Women in Entertainment

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MAY 2017



Letter from the Editor...

Hi Everyone,

What an honour and a thrill it is for me to be taking over as editor of The ALVA Buzz. Many thanks to Kerri Lacey for all her work in originally setting up this format of the newsletter and enabling me such an easy transition.

I am pleased to say that I will be joined on this new venture with the very lovely Becky Casey. Together we hope to bring you all the latest exciting news from our members and within our industry. For this we will need *YOUR* help.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this, my first issue. Please keep that news coming so we can truly keep the 'Buzz' buzzing. While many of our members are on Facebook, Instagram and Email, there are also many others that are not. We have been told how much our members love keeping up with the

news of other members, their families and friends, so our BUZZ will continue bigger and bolder.

As for my own news, at the beginning of the year, my husband and I sold our home in Kirrawee and moved south to Ulladulla, while we build our new home at Mollymook. We love the beautiful Shoalhaven area and are really loving living down here. This has meant my retirement as ALVA Secretary and my duties handed over to the newly elected Kerri Lacey. Seems we two have done a bit of a swap. Your committee has had quite a reshuffle of roles and jobs. However, thanks to the wonders of technology, I am still able to continue serving you as a committee member.

Many thanks to you all for your patience and support. Cheers,

Jacqui

Jacqui Alexander
BUZZ Editor & Committee Member
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IN THIS ISSUE:

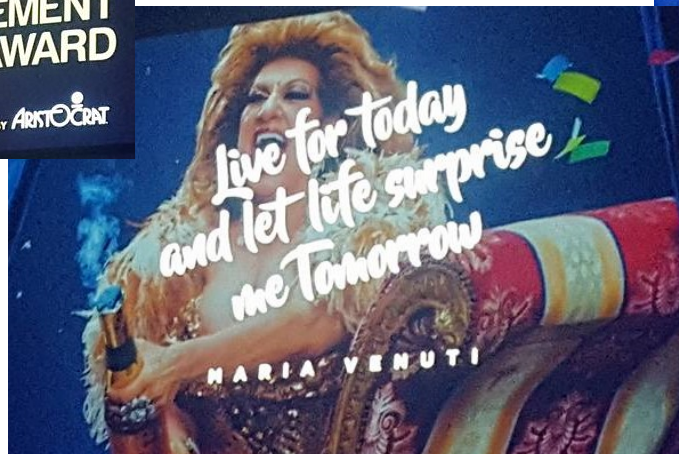
- ◆ Patron Maria Venuti AM Awarded!
- ◆ ALVA Girls on the March
- ◆ Awards
- ◆ Happy 100th Dame Vera
- ◆ Community Giving
- ◆ Catching Up
- ◆ Vale to Loved Ones
- ◆ Bowral Bus Trip
- ◆ Memories in Pictures
- ◆ What's On
- ◆ Contacts

A lifetime of achievements awarded.....



Patron Maria Venuti....

Every bit a winner!!!!



ALVA Girls on the March....



The Entertainers - ANZAC Day March , Sydney 2017

ANZAC DAY



Sylvia Raye...still on the march with love

...I kept Mark's cousin in his own home till he was 105. Unfortunately I had to move him into a nursing home. I paid him a visit after I marched on Anzac Day. Here we are together. He is now 105 and 5 months old. Not many live to this age. He still can hold a conversation and his memory is amazing.
Love Sylvia x



Sadly Ernie has since passed and was laid to rest on Wednesday 17 May. RIP

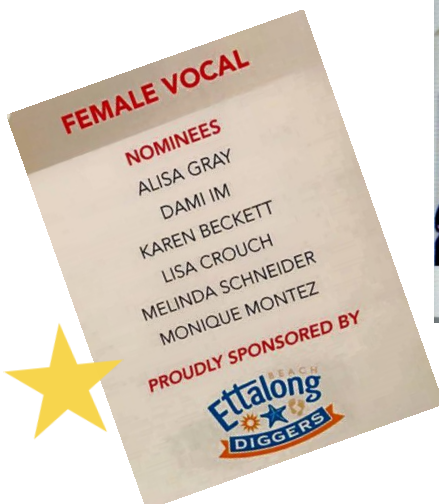
2017 ACE Nominations....

and the award goes to.....



Just Jammin' - 'Best Duo' Award. Accepted by partner and much loved ALVA Vice President Lisa Crouch while Kerri was away in the USA with the Kirrawee Jazz Ensemble, Congratulations girls!!! A much deserved win.

Congratulation to the ALVA nominees.....



Happy 100th Dame Vera

The first singer in history to release a new album at age 100

London (AFP) - Renowned World War II singer Vera Lynn will celebrate her next birthday by becoming the first singer in history to release a new album at age 100, her record label said on Thursday. "Vera Lynn 100" will feature Lynn's original vocals set to re-orchestrated versions of some of her most famous songs including "The White Cliffs of Dover" and "Auf Wiederseh'n Sweetheart." The album is being released on March 17, three days before the singer's milestone birthday. "It's truly humbling that people still enjoy these songs from so many years ago, reliving the emotions of that time," Lynn said in a statement released by Decca Records. "It's so wonderful for me to hear 'my songs' again so beautifully presented in a completely new way," she said. Known as the "forces' sweetheart", Lynn famously boosted troops' morale during World War II, travelling thousands of miles to Egypt, India and Myanmar to entertain soldiers with her songs. Lynn, who started performing at the age of seven, has won many accolades during her illustrious career. She became the first British artist to top the US charts in 1952 as well as the oldest living artist to feature in the UK top 20 chart at the age of 97. Honoured many times by Queen Elizabeth II, Lynn was made a dame in 1975.



Asked on Thursday if she thought her new album could surpass the previous one and reach number one in UK charts, Lynn told BBC radio: "I doubt that." "It might seem quite tame to these young people, the music. But for us it was very exciting and very meaningful and it meant a lot to people." The singer, who has described reaching her 100th birthday as "an incredible adventure of song, dance and friendship". It will be celebrated in a charity concert, held at the London Palladium on March 18. Lynn will not join in the singing, telling the BBC: "It's best I can remember me as I was."... *from BBC*

A Special Note from Toni Stevens...

I have some very, very special 100th Anniversary Celebration CD's of Dame Vera Lynn. They are \$30 each and the inserts will go with me to UK in June for the Great Dame herself to sign them personally. The proceeds will be donated to her Cerebral Palsy Charity. If any of the girls would like a copy of the CD I can bring it with me to the Banquet Monday May 22, then I will simply take the insert and pop it in a special envelope with their name. **Please email info@auntymollys.com.au Or call 4970 5105 to place an order.**

Many thanks, Toni S. x

Toni will also be taking with her to England an ALVA Donation to the Cerebral Palsy Charity in honour of Dame Vera's 100th Birthday

Giving to the Community.....

ALVA is very pleased and honoured to be able to donate much needed funds to other charities.



*ALVA girls Shirley & Susie at
Breast Cancer Lunch*



*ALVA girls Susie & Pat at
Garvan Institute Leaders Lunch
in May*

Catching up.....

2016 Mo Awards - Helen Zerefos OAM



Susie was so please to present the 'Female Vocal' MO Award to ALVA founding member, and much loved, Helen Zerefos OAM.

This award has been sponsored by ALVA for may years and we were all so excited to see it awarded to Helen for all her years of wonderful entertaining!

Congratulations Helen!!!

2017 Australia Day Honours - Niki Dene AM

When you read the Australia Day Honours List, you will see that Nicolette Norris (aka Niki Dene) is now a Member in the general division of the Order of Australia "for significant service to the community, particularly to the rights, protection and welfare of children." She is now Niki Norris, AM. I could not be more delighted that her commitment and dedication to the cause has been so recognised. That all this work is now recognised with an AM for her makes me the proudest man on the planet.

From Johnny Pace



Kicking it up with Todd McKenny

Recently, two of our fit and fabulous ALVA Committee girls, Miss Kaye and Treasurer Gayle, were kicking up a leg with Todd McKenny @ North Sydney Leagues. Todd was performing his 'Todd McKenny sings Peter Allan - 20th Anniversary Show'. The girls had a rare photo opportunity at the end with Todd - **You go Girls!!**



"She Is exceptional"..... Kate Nipperess shows courage!

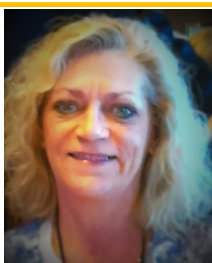
An amazing & heartwarming story about the exceptional Kate, daughter of Anne Dargie & Reg.....

KATE Nipperess was lying in intensive care with a bruised spinal cord, a broken neck, fractured ribs, a smashed shoulder and a collapsed lung when her partner asked a doctor whether she would ever walk again. "I don't know the doctor's name, but I will never forget his face," said Ms Nipperess, a talented jockey who had been thrown off a horse during track work. "He said 'probably not', just like it was nothing." That doctor had statistics on his side; 90 per cent of people with her spinal cord injury never regain the use of their legs. But he didn't know the depth of resilience and determination within her battered body. Just eight months later, the 30-year-old has astonished her doctors by walking again. She uses crutches but soon she will walk unaided. So remarkable is her recovery that she may one day ride horses again. Her improvement has been the fastest physiotherapist Catriona Clark has ever seen: "She is an anomaly. She is exceptional. We will never meet another person like her."



Remembering.....

Thinking of the family of **Kylie Jeacle** after the 1 year anniversary of her passing. Much love sent from the ALVA girls



Effervescent entertainer **Chelsea Brown**, best known for **Laugh-In** and variety performances across Australia, has passed, aged 74. The multi-talented Chelsea was also a regular entertainer on the club and cruise circuit in Australia, on advertisements, and variety shows. Her final credit was in 2015 on **Peter Allen: Not The Boy Next Door**.





*"We'll meet again, don't know where don't know when,
but I know we'll meet again some sunny day....."*

Vale *Mardi Latani*

Mardi Latani's funeral was held at St Joseph's College and was attended by about 400 people at a Requiem Mass, mostly St. Joseph's people. She was heavily involved with the school and her husband Owen is President of the Old Boys Association. Irene St John, Kathy Watson and I represented her Show Biz family. Mardi had a very interesting life and was able to combine it with her club engagements, she had started performing professionally as an Hawaiian dancer at the age of 8. A beautiful lady and a strong supporter of ALVA, Mardi will be missed. *Love Di*



MARDI & TONI

Vale *Fran Hargreaves*

Fran was born in South Africa 6/1/54. She had studied in London and began acting on the stage in the UK. After marrying Australian actor and singer David Gilchrist, they settled in Australia in 1973. Their daughter Amelia was born in 1989. In January 1974, aged 20, Hargreaves scored the role in Number 96. She later appeared in The Young Doctors as Emma Dixon in 1979 and 'Who Killed Baby Azaria?'. Fran passed away on 3/3/17.



Vale *Helen Lorain OAM*

Helen's rich contralto voice and dynamic personality have endeared her to audiences all over the world. Her professional singing career continued successfully for 40 years. She then became a businesswoman, enabling her to educate her two sons. Helen Lorain Rasko is an Alumni of Oxford University and continued singing for Charities. Helen's lifelong commitment helping raise funds for charity is well known. Helen Passed peacefully on the 11th March 2017



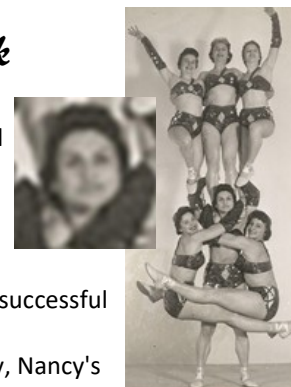
Vale *Ken Llewellyn*

'Mr Music' & Husband of ALVA
Member Claine Llewellyn



Vale *Nancy DePaul Clark*

I am most sorry to inform you that my beloved sister, was taken by God around 4.30pm, Friday 31st. March, from a combination of heart and renal failure. We have lost a true show business legend, as she and her act, The Flying dePauls, were, without doubt, the most successful variety act Australia has ever produced. Throughout Australia and Internationally, Nancy's Flying dePauls won acclaim as the Number One Variety Act in the World. This accolade was awarded for many consecutive years. I was always so very proud of her and her act. She was a magnificent supporter of ALVA, and always loved our social activities and her many ALVA friends. May she rest in peace. *Much love to you all, Jacqui dePaul.*



Vale *Lloyd Edward Nairn*

Born in Australia on 24 February 1933
Passed away on 20 April 2017 - Aged 84 years
Late of LIVERPOOL

In honour of one of the greats of the Australian Entertainment industry we mark the passing of Lloyd Nairn juggler extraordinaire, father of Llynda Nairn one of the few professional, consistently working female jugglers.



Vale *Jo McRobert*

2016 on 19 June we marked the passing of stalwart ALVA Member Jo McRobert. Jo and her husband musician Ron McRobert were always great supporters in everything ALVA. We will remember her with love and happiness always



Vale *Val Jellay*

GYAV marks the passing of Val Jellay, a true star of Australian Variety Entertainment. Val passed away earlier today at age 89. Thank you for the wonderful contribution you made to the Entertainment Industry Val. May you rest in peace, now reunited with your beloved husband, Maurie. Vale dear lady.



With Gratitude, Honour, Respect. & Love. While it is with sadness we report on these lives lost to us, we are also able to celebrate that we have been blessed to share, even if in a small way, in the talents and love of these wonderful people.

"Keep smiling through just like you always do

'till the blue skies chase those the dark clouds far away...."

Memories



Great day - Sylvia Raye with
Dame Vera



The beautiful Mardi Latani



Jo McRobert, Konni Rooklyn & Donna Tokoly

Christmas Party



So many more fabulous photos...
to see them go to www.alva.org.au

AGM

What a wonderful day....

Sooooo much love in the room for the future of ALVA



What's on.....

Tulips & Tea - Bowral Bus Trip

Bringing back some of the 'good ol' days'

Monday 25 September

Bookings & Details: Kathy Watson

Ph: 02 4862 2345 or 0448 197 179, or email kathywatson35@gmail.com



Central Coast Get together - Special Deal

Note from Pres..... We don't usually advertise in The Buzz, but as there are so many members on the Coast we thought it would be great for you to all know about Monique's show so you can arrange a night out amongst your own ALVA groups. Let us know who can go so Monique can say hello. Enjoy!

Hi it's Monique Montez here! Well this is my Buzz!

As there are so many fabulous ALVA Members that live on the Central Coast we thought it would be great to have an ALVA night out at the 'Theatarh'! I'd LOVE to invite my ALVA ladies and friends, to my show "Liza Meets Bassey" on the Central Coast! I've always loved these fabulous women I'm presenting and I'd love to sing out loud for all the ALVA Living Legends! I have learnt so much for the many talented ALVA women and I would like to dedicate this show to you all. So I hope to see you there! Love Monique x

Laycock Theatre 7.30pm on Saturday 3 June. Tickets on sale NOW!

Special ALVA Discount Tickets - please call Monique Ph: 0433 136 960 to book



Keeping up.....

Keep up with the latest ALVA & Entertainment Industry news if you have **Facebook**, make sure you 'Like' our ALVA page and/or ALVA group. Also, we now have **Instagram** so link in there too! Throughout the year, Susie sends out many **Emails** to ALVA members & friends. If you are not hearing from us please let us know. There may be an issue with your email address and if we don't know we can't fix it!.....we would hate for anyone to be left behind on the go!! :-)

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The Australian Ladies Variety Association Incorporated is a benevolent association who assist members of the variety Entertainment Industry and wider community.
HOW YOU CAN HELP..... Become a member, attend an event, organize or support a fundraising event.

For information please visit: www.alva.org.au