

ROXY COMMUNITY THEATRE OFFICIAL RE-OPENING

The logo for Roxy Community Theatre. It features the word "ROXY" in large, bold, white capital letters. Above "ROXY" is the text "EST 1930" flanked by three vertical bars. Below "ROXY" is the text "COMMUNITY THEATRE" in smaller white capital letters. The entire logo is set against a black background.

1 MARCH 2025



ROXY HISTORY

The Roxy Community Theatre was first opened on 7 April 1930, the vision of developer and first proprietor, Mr George Conson. His "Palace of Dreams" was designed by noted architectural firm Kaberry and Chard in a modified Art Deco style with Art Nouveau and Spanish Mission elements, and this (now) State heritage listed building with its prominent neon lighting continues to stand proud in the centre of Leeton's central business district. The stage was added in 1933 with Miss Gladys Moncrieff OBE engaged to sing as part of the opening celebrations.

In 1977, the future of the Roxy was threatened with redevelopment of the site, prompting the community to undertake a massive fundraising drive to "Save The Roxy" which contributed \$27,000 towards the \$75,000 purchase price. The Theatre was vested in the Council and successfully run by a Roxy Management Committee for almost three decades during which the facilities were progressively updated before management reverted to Council in 2005. In addition to showing films and being a popular meeting place, the Roxy became the venue for eisteddfods, discos, speech nights and the musical society's annual production.

In 2016, under the watchful care of Council's Roxy Advisory Committee, a range of non-compliances were identified at the Roxy – from health and safety, to accessibility issues, and technical limitations. In planning how to address these, user groups were consulted and it soon became very apparent that the facility needed to become more versatile if it was to deliver fully on the community's aspiration "to be open for business in new and exciting ways". The first re-designs put to the community in 2017/18, on the existing footprint, were resoundingly rejected on the grounds that the heritage fabric of the auditorium should not be altered in any way. In response, Council instead acquired the shops next door which were better able to accommodate the new dressing rooms, two lifts, café/bar, function kitchen, new bathrooms and the Roxy2 theatrette (soon to be completed).

Stage 1 of the Roxy redevelopment was completed in December 2024 which also includes structural strengthening of the walls and stage, new roofing, a new flat floor auditorium, retractable seating, new seats in the dress circle, a fresh and luxurious coat of paint, increased technical capability, improved acoustics with hearing augmentation, and front door / dress circle access for all. Stage 2, including the Roxy 2 Theatrette, will commence in the coming months with Growing Regions funding secured, matched by Council.

While the building is a magnificent and multifunctional vessel, the Roxy's true richness is in what is produced and enjoyed on site, including how it strengthens community, boosts creativity and activates our local economy. There will be something for everyone, including high quality theatre, musical and cultural activity (local and touring); a range of cinema (including first releases); a variety of events (civic, community and conferences); world class vocational training in the performing arts; and a welcoming meeting place that brings people together, builds community and leaves us all inspired.

WELCOME BACK TO OUR PALACE OF DREAMS!



WELCOME



Mayor Cr George Weston



Deputy Mayor Cr Michael Kidd



General Manager Jackie Kruger

Message from the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager

On behalf of Leeton Shire Council, the Roxy Redevelopment Committee and the Roxy Redevelopment Project Control Group, we are delighted to welcome you to the grand re-opening of our beautiful Roxy Community Theatre.

Having served us so magnificently for over 90 years, it was time to breathe new life into "Our Grand Old Lady" so that she is fit to serve us for another 100 years as Leeton's "Palace of Dreams".

We are certain that the original developer and proprietor, George Conson, would be feeling very pleased with where his Roxy is at today and how the vision for "artistic excellence" continues to be honoured in Leeton. We have many people to thank for helping us get to this point, starting with our Shire community who, from the start, has been at the heart of this redevelopment journey. Over many workshops and meetings, user-groups and the public were generous in sharing their thoughts and ideas for shaping a refreshed vision for the Roxy. Together we settled on a design that is beautiful, modern, accessible and multi-functional, while strongly conserving the important heritage values of this iconic building.

Our community set the direction for the Roxy "to be open for business in new and exciting ways".

Delivery had a few ups and downs through the COVID period, with Council eventually taking on the role of Principal Contractor itself in 2023. Our brilliant Project Management Office was ably served by the indomitable Project Director Katherine Herrmann (in large part voluntary), Project Manager Gideon Vos, Construction Manager Peter Salisbury and Site Manager Shaun Deaton who, as a team, professionally navigated all the surprises that a heritage building can reveal and secured over 47 trade packages to bring the vision to life. Our thanks to them, the Roxy Redevelopment Committee, and also our insurer - Statewide Mutual - who walked every step of the way with us.

Tonight we also recognise and thank Williams Boag Architects, our Quantity Surveyors DCWC; a wide range of consulting engineers and building inspectors; Council teams (WHS, IT, Water, Roads, Planning); and, most importantly, the many trades who took plans on paper and turned them into reality. We especially acknowledge our incredible local Leeton trades - and those from Narrandera and Griffith - whose combined skills and expertise have delivered a truly regionally significant project of which we can all be proud.

Of course, the redevelopment dream was only made possible through the generous support of our funders. Our sincere thanks to the NSW Government (\$6.2M) and Australian Government (\$1M) for contributing over half of the costs for Stage 1 and getting behind the vision for the Roxy.

Ahead of tonight's opening, we had the amazing support of many community groups who assisted with the Commissioning Phase of Stage 1, through the "Community First Program". Their assistance with testing the facility has been invaluable, as has been the incredible input and support of the Roxy "Dream Team" of volunteers (88 at last count) led by the ever-inspirational Sue Gavel.

So, here we are, celebrating the completion of Stage 1 with a grand re-opening of our Roxy Community Theatre by enjoying a range of performances from Leeton's 'best of the best', many of whom honed their skills on the Roxy stage in their youth. Our very own Jake Speer has directed tonight's spectacular, with Council's Emma Di Muzio (supported by a small, wonderful team) having done a fine job as producer. Our thanks to all, including some special Roxy friends, noting many have travelled to Leeton to share their brilliance on this auspicious occasion.

Thank you for sharing this incredible grand-opening evening with us. To the artists we say "break a leg" and to the audience we say "enjoy and be inspired by the spirit of Leeton Roxy Community Theatre".



Leeton Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Wiradjuri Country and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal people and their cultures, and Elders, both past and emerging.



What is the value of a dream?

It's easy to relegate the notion of dreams to the world of fairytales, of childish behaviour and of nonsense. But the great paradox of human existence is that everything we now call real, everything we build and cherish, was once nothing more than a dream.

Despite their power, dreams are frequently left behind. But if one is to take the position of a dream being the first step in the divine process of creation, then a dream could be considered the most powerful phenomenon humankind can possess. We are each granted this gift and yet only a select few among us truly choose to listen to the dreams we have and dare to make them real.



Jake Speer
DIRECTOR

In 1906, *The Story of the Kelly Gang* became the first feature-length film ever released—a groundbreaking achievement that marked the beginning of an entirely new art form. Just five years later, in 1911, Nestor Studios became Hollywood's first film studio, setting the stage for what would become the global entertainment industry. And in 1912, just one year after Hollywood's foundation, Leeton was gazetted—a town built on its own dream, formed as the centrepiece of the ambitious Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

Less than two decades after, in the midst of the Great Depression, a young Greek immigrant named George Conson arrived in Leeton with a vision. At a time when the world was gripped by uncertainty, he dared to dream of something extraordinary. He looked at this young town—still in its infancy—and envisioned a grand theatre, a place of wonder, a *Palace of Dreams*.

For nearly a century, the ROXY has stood as a testament to the power of dreams. It has been more than a building—it has been a sanctuary, a place where reality gives way to possibility, where the boundaries of time and space dissolve, and where audiences can lose themselves to the magic of possibility. Whether through film, live performance, music, or dance, the ROXY has provided a stage for dreams to be shared, celebrated, and brought to life.

This concert is more than a re-opening—a statement of intent that the ROXY is not simply returning to what it once was, but stepping boldly into the future. Tonight's performance is a dream itself—one that invites us to acknowledge the past, glimpse the future, and revel in the present.

Tonight, we are stepping into a dream and making it real.

This theatre has always been more than bricks and mortar—it is a *factory for the imagination*, a place to test ideas, share stories, and explore what it means to be human. And like any great institution, it has required vision, dedication, and unwavering belief to bring it back to life. The restoration of the ROXY has been no small feat—it has been the work of countless individuals, from designers and engineers to builders, tradespeople, community leaders, and passionate locals who understood what was at stake. It is because of their skill, commitment, and determination that we are here tonight. They have paved the way for us to step into the future, to dream bigger, and to ensure that this place continues to inspire for generations to come.

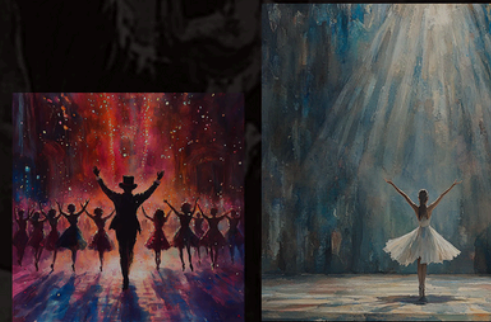
Whether or not he knew it, Mr Conson set a course with his dream that has changed the lives of thousands of people. How many sweethearts kissed, how many snacks devoured, how many songs sung, laughs laughed and friends made? How many tickets sold, celebrities applauded, bands adored, restaurants filled, and calories burned as kids dance the night away? How much talent discovered, memories made and new dreams born from within the walls of this Palace of Dreams.

Tonight, we acknowledge the dreams of the past and wait - with baited breath - for the dreams of the future to visit us. When they do, let us listen. Let us embrace them. And above all, let us be bold enough to make them real.

Jake Speer
Director, ROXY Opening Concert

Act One

Welcome
There's No Business Like Show Business
Pure Imagination
Foot Bridge
This Is Me
The Andrews Sisters Medley
Swan Lake Odette
Seasons Of Love
The Rainbow Connection
Cheek To Cheek
Let It Go
Beatles Medley
Stars on 45 Disco Medley
Country Medley
One Day More





Welcome

This performance welcomes everyone to Wiradjuri Country and showcases the voices and stories that have existed here for thousands of years.

feat. Elijah and William Ingram

There's No Business Like Show Business

Dynamic local lead vocalists, one of Leeton's talented dance troupes, and the ROXY house band all come together to embody the ROXY's rich theatrical legacy and bring it to life with this exhilarating, Broadway inspired performance!

feat. Jack Martin, Rosanna Bruno, Nicholas Beecher, Stephanie Townsend and the Australian Army Band Kapooka

There's No Business Like Show Business - Irving Berlin



Pure Imagination

Akin to a ghost of the past, the theatre manager beckons! Join him and step into a world of wonder to remember and celebrate the history, majesty, and power of George Conson's *Palace of Dreams*.

feat. Jake Speer



Foot Bridge

A song about friendship, memories, and the unbreakable bonds we form in life, Foot Bridge takes inspiration from the old footbridge over the canal in Willimbong. A symbol of connection, resilience, and childhood adventures, the bridge—made of steel and concrete—will never burn, just like the friendships and memories forged upon it.

This heartfelt performance is dedicated to those who made the ROXY's remarkable transformation possible. We honour the vision, dedication, and tireless commitment of the community, project partners, and all who believed in the dream of its rebirth. It is through these shared bonds, just like those formed on that bridge, that the ROXY stands strong once more.

feat. Warde Elliott

Foot Bridge - Warde Elliott

This is Me

Leeton's community is united and inclusive, and the ROXY provides everyone with a space for self-expression. This powerful, high-energy dance performance encourages everyone to celebrate being unapologetically themselves!

feat. Kurrajong and Gralee performers



The Andrews Sisters Medley

Take a trip back in time to the war years and experience the music that lifted spirits at the ROXY; as it did in dance halls across the world!

feat. Isabella Mercuri, Miranda Tait, Rosanna Bruno and the Australian Army Band Kapooka

Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree - The Andrews Sisters. Da Doo Ron Ron - The Crystals



Swan Lake Odette

Leeton has long been a home to exceptional dance talent, with generations of dancers training, performing, and sharing their artistry on the ROXY stage. From early recitals to grand productions, the town's rich dance history has shaped countless performers who have gone on to grace stages across the world.

Tonight, we celebrate this legacy with a breathtaking classical ballet solo, performed to a variation of Odette from Swan Lake. A tribute to the passion, dedication, and discipline of Leeton's dancers past and present, this performance honours the ROXY's enduring role as a place where movement and music come together in timeless beauty.

feat. Lily Dal Broi with DDA Dancers

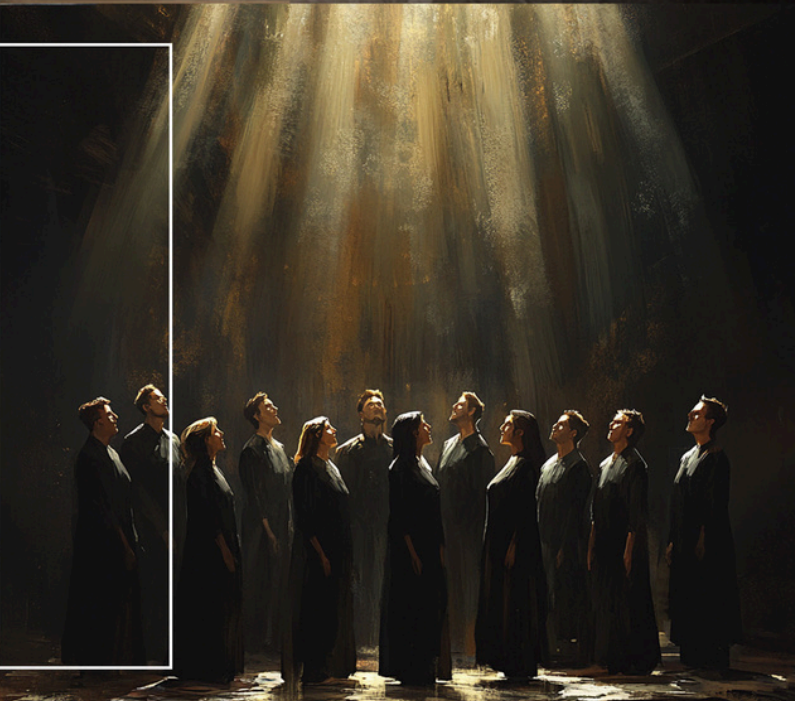
Seasons of Love

How do you measure the impact of life? This powerful piece acknowledges the invaluable mentors and teachers who have guided and inspired countless artists, creators, and innovators in our community.

feat. Makayla Heath and Josephine Furore Groove Factorie,
and the ROXY Combined High School Choir

Conductor – Chris Toland

Seasons of Love – J. Larson



The Rainbow Connection

This joyous performance of young voices captures the innocence of childhood and reminds us of the mystery and magic of creativity as well as the beauty of human connection – important qualities to retain even beyond our youth.

feat. Groove Factorie and the ROXY Combined Primary School Choir

Conductor – Miranda Tait

The Rainbow Connection – K. Ascher & P. Williams

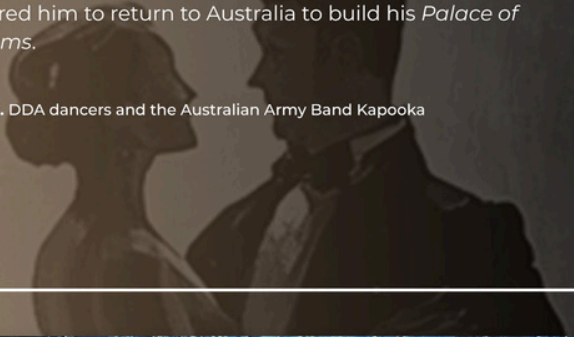




Cheek to Cheek

In a tribute to the ROXY's Art Deco Era origins, this performance recounts the captivating tale of George Conson (the theatre's original owner) meeting the glamorous Ginger Rogers in Hollywood: an event that inspired him to return to Australia to build his *Palace of Dreams*.

feat. DDA dancers and the Australian Army Band Kapooka



Let It Go

Bringing a touch of Disney magic to the ROXY, this soaring anthem of empowerment and self-discovery will fill the theatre with the wonder and excitement that only Disney can bring. A celebration of timeless storytelling and unforgettable music, this performance will transport audiences into a world of pure enchantment—an unforgettable highlight of the evening.

feat. Stephanie Townsend



Beatles Medley

Bathe in an electric energy and sing a-long with a tribute to the Fab Four that captures the spirit and energy of some of rock and roll's 'generation-defining' classics.

feat. Jessie Aviu, John Martin, Jack Martin, Wylie Lucas, Luke Jordan and Groove Factorie

Can't Buy Me Love, Help, Get Back, She Loves You, I Wanna Hold Your Hand - The Beatles



Stars on 45 Disco Medley

Reviving the pulse of the youth discos that defined the ROXY's vibrant scene for decades, Stars on 45 is a high-energy medley of iconic dance tracks from the 70s and 80s.

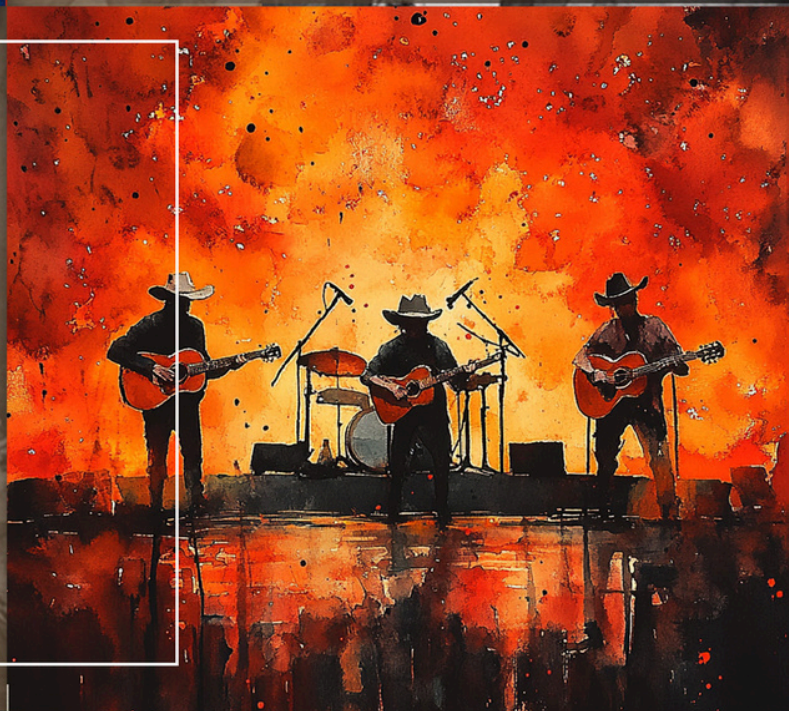
feat. Bella Body & Soul dancers

Country Medley

Enjoy the timeless classics and contemporary hits of Country music where toe-tapping melodies are poised to capture the resilience, love, and humour that define country music and country life itself.

feat. Riverina Men's Choir, Luke Jordan, Brooke Pearce, Lorena Quinlivan, Marissa Lucas and Groove Factorie

Seven Bridges Road – S. Young; *I am a Man of Constant Sorrow* – Bob Dylan; *Love Story* – Taylor Swift; *Ghostriders in the Sky* – Johnny Cash; *Country Roads* – B. Danoff, T. Nivert, & J. Denver



One Day More

Bringing the first act to a thrilling close, *One Day More* from *Les Misérables* unites the full ensemble of vocalists for an unforgettable performance of one of musical theatre's most iconic songs. A rousing anthem of hope, determination, and destiny, this powerful number fills the ROXY with soaring harmonies and electrifying emotion.

feat. Jake Speer, Nick Beecher, Ami Broso, Rosanna Bruno, Jack Martin, John Martin, Lachlan McIntyre, Stephanie Townsend

One Day More – C. Schönberg & H. Kretzmer



Act Two

"Always Leave Them Wanting More" – P.T Barnum

The Roxy Lights

Rock 'n' Roll Mix

New York, New York

Jessica's Theme: Tribute to Cinema

Pasifika Community

Stars

As If We Never Said Goodbye

Lanterns

Blowin' In The Wind

Ain't No Mountain High Enough

SHOUT!

I Am Australian (Encore)





The Roxy Lights

Lean in as the theatre manager recites *The ROXY Lights*, a poem penned by beloved Leeton poet Jim Grahame. This evocative piece captures the magic and nostalgia of the theatre's glow, illuminating the joy, romance, and wonder it has brought to generations of locals. A quiet, yet powerful opening to the second act, this moment honours the stories and memories that have shaped the theatre's legacy, setting the stage for the celebrations still to come.

| feat. Jake Speer

| The ROXY Lights - Jim

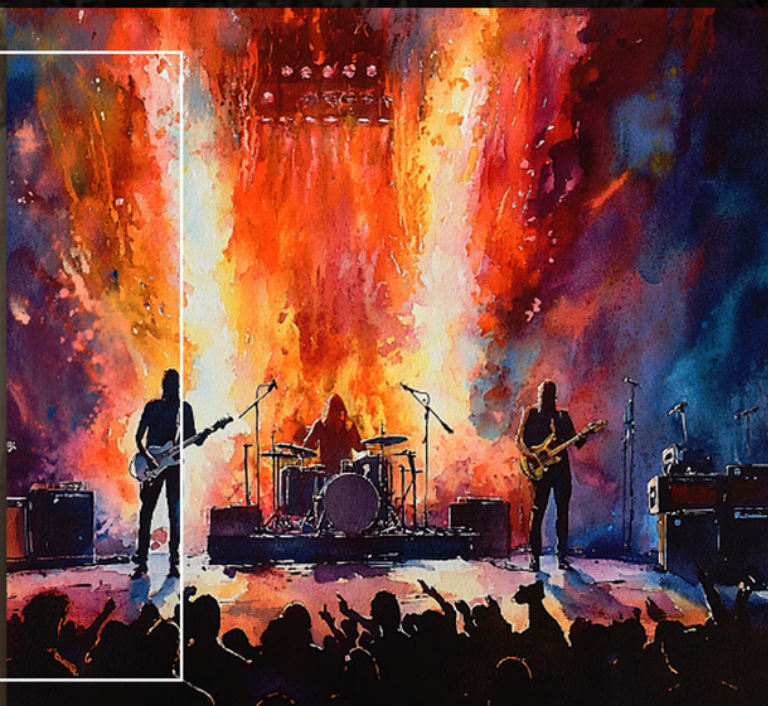


Rock 'n' Roll Mix

This exhilarating set, with full rock band, transforms the ROXY into a rock stadium, celebrating timeless hits and showcasing the theatre's electrifying versatility.

feat. Ami Broso, Luke Jordan, Marissa Lucas,
Makayla Heath, Jane Hill, Rosanna Bruno, Pauline
Wright, Miranda Tait, and Groove Factorie

Long Way to the Top - B. Scott, A. Young & M. Young
You're the Voice - C. Thompson, A. Qunta & M. Ryder
The Best - M. Chapman & H. Knight





New York, New York

This performance brings nothing but sophistication to the ROXY's stage. Capturing the glamour and style of Broadway's golden age, whilst paying homage to the Art Deco legacy that the ROXY shares with New York, this unforgettable moment presents a timeless charm of music, and the dreams that shape iconic cities and theatres alike.

feat. Lachlan McIntyre and the Australian Army Band Kapooka

New York, New York - J. Kander & F. Ebb arr. Bickworth

Jessica's Theme: Tribute to Cinema

Take a journey through iconic moments of cinematic history which remind us of the stories that have inspired generations, and celebrate the ROXY's long-standing legacy as a community cinema.

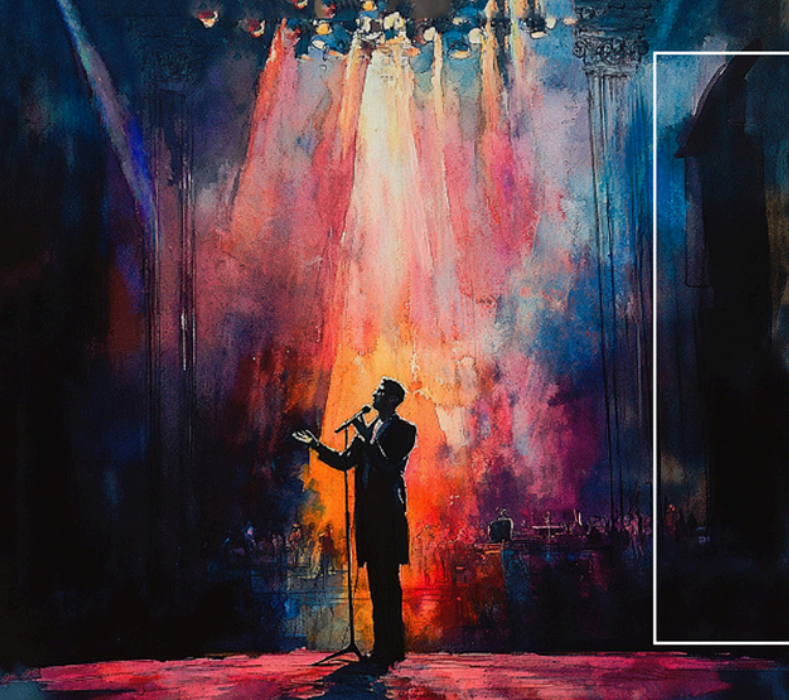
feat. Maria Tynan (piano) and the Australian Army Band Kapooka

Jessica's Theme - B. Rowland



Pasifika Community

Leeton has forever been a gathering place of diverse cultures. These vibrant, soulful songs, and traditional dances tell stories of ancestry and resilience from Leeton's Pasifika community.



Stars

One of the most powerful ballads from *Les Misérables*, *Stars* is a commanding and emotional solo that captures the unwavering resolve of Inspector Javert. This stirring number showcases soaring melodies and conviction, filling the ROXY with the grandeur and intensity of one of musical theatre's most iconic scores.

feat. Nicholas Beecher

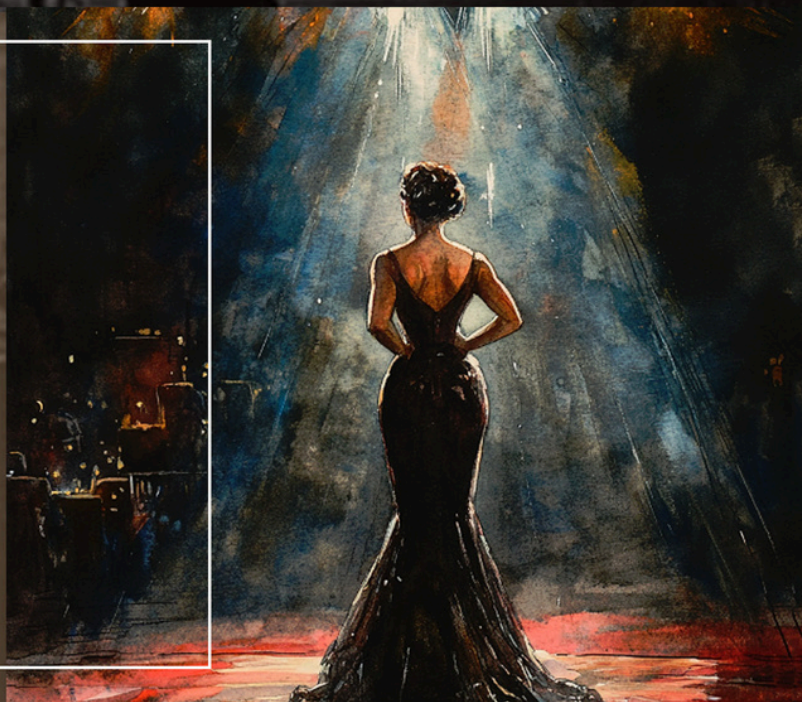
Stars - C. Schönberg & H. Kretzmer



As If We Never Said Goodbye

This stirring ballad from *Sunset Boulevard* is more than just a song—it is a reflection of the ROXY's own journey. Evoking the golden age of cinema and its deep connection to Hollywood, this performance captures the magic of returning to a place that has always felt like home. As the lyrics soar, so too does the spirit of the ROXY—ready to take its place once again as a cultural landmark, a beacon for storytelling, and a stage for generations to come.

feat. Bernie Ryan





Lanterns

Reminisce in the memories of the unforgettable Birds of Tokyo concert at the ROXY and pay tribute to Australian music and the ROXY's legacy as a home for iconic performances in the past and into the future.

feat. Jesse Aviu and Groove Factorie

Lanterns - Birds of Tokyo

Blowin' In The Wind

Some of our finest vocalists channel Bob Dylan's signature folk sound with rich, uplifting harmonies that fill the ROXY with a sense of quiet reverence. This iconic song calls us to reflect on life's eternal questions, echoing themes of compassion, understanding, and the search for truth. In a world that often feels hurried, this moment invites the audience to pause, reflect, and embrace the power of kindness and humanity.

feat. Jesse Aviu, Wylie Lucas, Nicholas Beecher, Jack Martin, Marissa Lucas, Lorena Quinlivan, Luke Jordan, Heidi Arel, Angel Echevarria, Stephanie Townsend, Ami Broso, Genevieve Bruno and Groove Factorie

Blowin' in the Wind - Bob Dylan

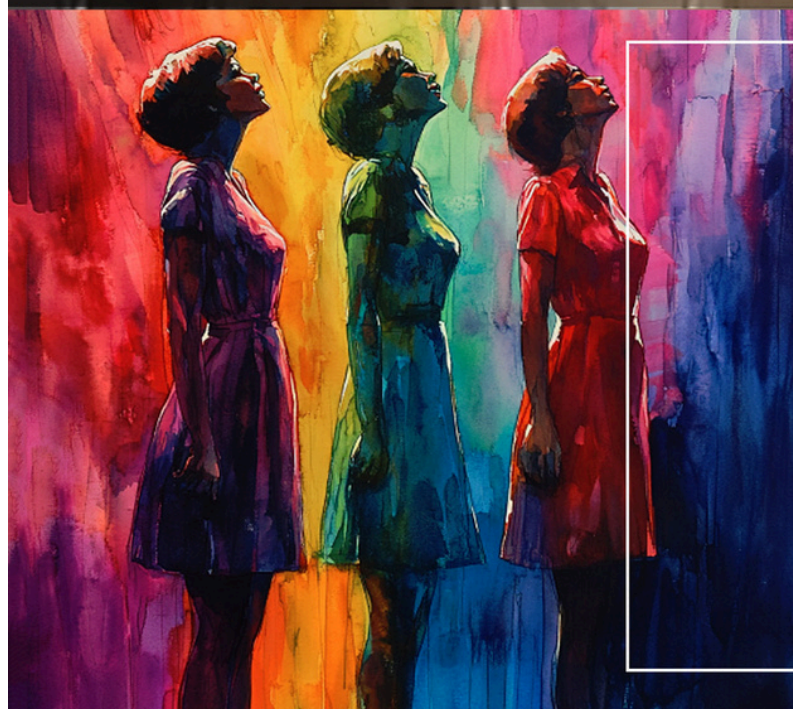


Ain't No Mountain High Enough

Powerhouse female vocalists electrify the stage with soaring notes and vibrant harmonies. Their commanding presence and dynamic voices create an exhilarating atmosphere, setting the stage for a truly grand finale and celebrating the ROXY's future as a lively hub for unforgettable performances.

feat. Rosanna Bruno, Jane Hill, Ami Broso, Marissa Lucas, and Groove Factorie

Ain't No Mountain High Enough - N. Ashford & V. Simpson





SHOUT!

This high-energy, rock'n'roll anthem, made famous by Australian legend Johnny O'Keefe, brings all vocalists and musicians back to the stage in a thrilling, unified performance to capture the infectious spirit of the ROXY's celebration!

feat. Jake Speer

Shout - J. O'Keefe



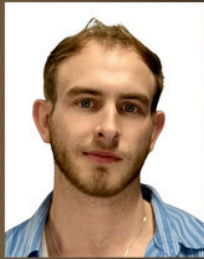
I Am Australian (Encore)

This powerful rendition brings all performers and audience together in an harmonious celebration of Australian history and culture. With rich harmonies and voices from all generations, the song reflects the spirit of unity and pride in our shared heritage. It's a fitting tribute to the ROXY Community Theatre's role in nurturing the stories, voices, and dreams of our people, creating a moment of joy and collective belonging to end this unforgettable evening.

I Am Australian – B. Woodley arr. G. Rogers, Peterson & Buff



Soloists (in order of appearance)



Jack Martin

Born and bred in Leeton, Jack is a WAAPA graduate, with degrees in both Musical Theatre and Performance Making. He discovered his passion for theatre on the stage of The Roxy in 2012's Oliver! Jack has since written and directed several award-winning musicals, and co-founded RARE BIRD ensemble in Perth in 2022. Their site-specific and highly-acclaimed 'cocktail cabaret', LOVE & FORGETTING – Tales from a Young Mixer, continues to tour the country, with Jack performing to sold-out performances at the 2024 Australian Art Deco Festival.



Rosanna Bruno

A well-known Leeton local, Rosanna has always loved music and drama. She's been involved in many school, college and community musicals, choirs, bands and performing arts groups and, most recently, has been involved in the Creative Connection Riverina's "Lies and Spies in Masterful Disguise" and other local productions. Rosanna enjoys playing percussion with the Leeton Town Band and singing jazz with Mostly Blues. Born and bred in Griffith, she has lived for many years in Leeton with her husband and 3 kids. When not on the stage or with her family, Rosanna is an optometrist.



Nicholas Beecher

Originally from Leeton, Nicholas is now a Melbourne-based baritone who, after almost a decade of classroom and instrumental teaching, returned to study a Master of Music (Opera Performance) at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (MCM), building on his earlier Bachelor of Music from the Australian National University. Recently, Nicholas has sung a number of roles at the MCM including Demetrius in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (2022), Papageno in 'Die Zauberflöte' (2023), Bob in 'The Old Maid and the Thief' (2024), and Vater in 'Hänsel und Gretel' (2024). For Victorian Opera he has performed as Barabashkin in 'Melbourne, Cheremushki' (2023), Scientist 2 in 'The Grumpiest Boy in the World' (2023) and Mr Waa in 'Parrwang Meets the Sky' (2024). Nicholas has also performed for I-Opera as Drozdov in 'The Gilt-Edged Kid' (2023), and for BK Opera as Leporello in 'Don Giovanni' (2024).



Stephanie Townsend

Born in Melbourne, Steph moved to Leeton at the age of 6. Her music career has since taken her all across Australia but she still calls Leeton home. At the age of 15 Steph released an original EP and starred in her first musical - Summer Rain - in Wagga Wagga, followed by the 2010 Roxy production of Grease. After graduating with a Bachelor of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium in Brisbane in 2013, Steph has been working as a professional musician and travels the country. Some of her credits include starring in Opera Australia's Rigoletto and Artslink Queensland's Sarah's Heavy Heart. She currently resides in Leeton, where she has built a successful business as a vocal coach, music tutor, wedding singer and acoustic musician.



Warde Elliott

Born in Leeton and currently living in Melbourne, Warde's career spans decades. He has performed extensively across Australia and internationally, releasing four studio albums. Warde's powerful, unique vocal delivery and storytelling are central to his performances and his songwriting prowess has earned recognition in prestigious competitions such as the USA International Songwriting Competition, the Australian Songwriters Competition, and

Unsigned Only (USA). With his fifth album imminent, Warde continues to blend personal stories and fictional narratives, drawing inspiration from his upbringing.



Isabella Mercuri

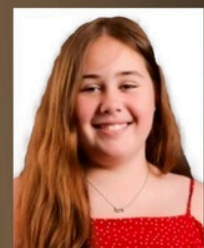
Born and raised in Leeton, Isabella has a deep passion for music and has, for over 7 years, been part of a popular local acoustic band called Double Shot. Her performance skills were honed at St Francis College where she undertook classical/musical theatre training/singing lessons with John Sloan and Mark Ciavarella. As well as gracing the Roxy stage in the past, Isabella has also performed in 'It Takes Two' at the Griffith Regional Theatre. Isabella is very excited to be part of the gala concert to celebrate the re-opening of the Roxy Community Theatre, considering herself 'lucky' to be part of the production. When not performing for the enjoyment of others, Isabella works as a childcare educator.



Miranda Tait

Local piano, vocal and brass teacher, Miranda, started performing at the age of 5, firstly on piano, then adding in voice and trumpet. Miranda is passionate about nurturing the talents of young local musicians/vocalists so they can fulfill their potential and spread their wings. Miranda's students continue to have success in competitions and external examinations. Miranda is also a key member of the Leeton Town Band and gives many volunteer hours to

this important civic service. It is wonderful to have her skills once again on show at tonight's gala event!



Makayla Heath

A talented Leeton local, Makayla started her dancing and music lessons from the age of 6 and has competed in Eisteddfods as a group performer and soloist since she was 8. She recently completed her Grade 7 Musical Theatre exams and is working towards Grade 8. Always an active performer in the Leeton community, Makayla has performed at Light up Leeton since 2019 and continues to participate in her primary and high school performing arts activities. For the last 2 years Makayla has performed at the Nancy Blumer / O.S Butler memorial Quest taking out first place in 2024.



Josephine Furore

A Year 11 student at St Francis De Sales Regional College in Leeton, Josephine has always considered singing to be her passion. For the past 6 years, she has been taking lessons from Mechlene Nehme. Josephine's confidence has grown significantly throughout the years, which has seen her perform at numerous school events, the Nancy Blumer and O.S. Butler Memorial Quest, and numerous community events, such as Light Up Leeton and various Eisteddfods across the Riverina. Winning the Young Musician of the Year award last year was one of Josephine's biggest achievements. Although she has had the opportunity to sing with many gifted individuals, and enjoyed it, Josephine says that performing with her father, Ago, is the greatest honor she has ever had.



Jesse Aviu

A talented singer-songwriter born in Gosford and raised in Kingscliff, and following a period on the Central Coast and Sydney, Jesse and his partner Rachel have chosen to settle in Griffith, Rachel's hometown. Jesse teaches music at Marian Catholic College whilst maintaining a healthy 'gigging' and songwriting lifestyle. As a performer he has graced the stage on many occasions for the Schools Spectacular, Groove and Graze, Griffith Musicians Club Ball, and won the "Best Original Song" award at the 2022 Grassroots Open Mic Competition. After playing the lead role in the 2023 Griffith Community Musical, The Wedding Singer, Jesse is looking forward to performing down the road in Leeton at the official reopening of the Roxy Community Theatre.

Soloists (in order of appearance)



John Martin

Over the past 10yrs John has produced and performed a series of solo/duo Cabaret & Morning Melody stage shows at Griffith Regional Theatre and The Roxy Theatre, Leeton. John says his most memorable show was Me & My Shadow, a father & son cabaret he performed with Jack Martin at the Roxy (2018).



Luke Jordan

The son of Lorena Quinlivan, Luke was raised in Leeton and currently lives in Canberra. He very much wanted to be part of the gala concert in honour of his Nan who shared many stories of the Roxy with him when he was growing up. Luke is an accomplished musician and performer who brings his own style of music. You can find Luke on TikTok at lukejordan197.



Lorena Quinlivan

Born in Myrtleford Victoria, Lorena grew up in Leeton. She currently lives in Canberra and was the lead vocalist in the all-women's punk band Matriarch. You can find them on iTunes and Spotify with their EP, Medusa. Lorena is also part of the singing Hodge Family and has released her own country gospel single, Voices of the Angels. When Lorena is not on stage, she is a Lawyer. Lorena has a long history - and many fond memories - of performing in the Roxy Theatre and says she would not have missed this gala opening night for the world!



Ami Broso

Born in Narrandera, Ami grew up and completed her schooling years in Leeton. Performing from a young age, Ami undertook dance lessons at Dance Centre MIA, and singing lessons with various teachers up until she moved to Sydney in 2010 to complete her Cert IV in Performing Arts. Since then, Ami has been performing regularly in Sydney as a vocalist in duo, trio and band ensembles, and performing as a DJ for both private and public events.



Maria Tynan

A Leeton local, Maria is currently completing her last year of a Bachelor of Music at Elder Conservatorium. As a child, Maria studied with Ruth Tait, creating a wonderful musical foundation. With Ruth, she achieved many accolades in local competitions and Eisteddfods and a High Distinction average in AMEB exams. In 2019, Maria commenced her studies under Hamish Tait at the Riverina Conservatorium of Music. She continued to grow as a performer, receiving prestigious scholarships and prizes. In 2024, Maria moved to Adelaide to study with Lucinda Collins. Maria has since flourished under Lucinda's guidance and mentorship, receiving scholarships and participating in masterclasses with internationally recognised artists, such as Angela Hewitt and Ewa Poblocka. Maria looks forward to sharing her passion for music with her community, on the same stage - the Roxy - where her first performance took place nearly 16 years ago.



Jane Hill

Born in Sydney, Jane has been resident in Leeton since 1989. Her keen interest and involvement with music and drama started from her school days. Jane joined the M&D Society when she first came to Leeton, and has been a vocalist in several settings, including church, with Mostly Blues, and with the Leeton Town Band.



Wylie Lucas

From Ardlethan, Wylie competed regularly at the Leeton Eisteddfod as a student of Barellan Central School - winning Championships in Speech and Drama and Music. He began his musical journey under the tutelage of Mrs Ruth Tait for piano and his mother Marissa for Vocals. In Year 5 Wylie starred as 'Oliver' in Mark Ciavarella's production held at the Roxy Theatre and again the following year in the Wagga Civic Theatre's production where he earned a Canberra CAT nomination for the role.

Wylie was successful in gaining a place at the Wollongong High School of Performing Arts where he continued his journey in theatre, including numerous productions at the Arcadians Children's, Merrigong and Phoenix Theatres in Wollongong. In his senior years at school, Wylie was a Featured Artist in the Southern Stars Arena Spectacular held at the Wollongong Stadium. In 2023 he graduated from the JMC Academy in Sydney with a Diploma of Music Performance. Wylie looks forward to once again treading the boards at the Roxy Community Theatre.



Brooke Pearce

Born and raised in Leeton, Brooke is proud to have been part of the Leeton community for her whole life. She is studying singing at senior school and describes music as her absolute passion. Brooke has performed as singer or dancer in many local community events such as Light up Leeton, Carols in the Park and the Leeton Eisteddfods, as well as the 'Schools Spectacular' and 'In Concert' in Sydney. Brooke is looking forward to being part of this special gala concert to celebrate the re-opening of the Roxy Theatre.



Marissa Lucas

Well-known in Leeton as a former Teacher at Leeton High, St Francis College, and Ardlethan and Barellan Central School, Marissa now divides her time between her farm in Ardlethan and her home in the Illawarra. She regularly performs with her husband Glenn as 'Marissa & The Guitar Man' and with Glenn and son Jasper as 'The Lucas Trio'. Marissa has a long history with the Roxy Community Theatre, competing in the Leeton Eisteddfods with her singing family, on her own, as a choir conductor for Barellan Central School. She has passed on the same Eisteddfod journey to her sons Wylie and Jasper. Marissa also performed in Mark Ciavarella's productions of Buralga, Oliver and Grease, all held at the Roxy. She was delighted to be invited to be a part of the gala concert and will perform in memory of Mark and her Mum, Millie.



Lachlan McIntyre

A classically trained singer - born in Leeton and living locally - Lachlan toured Victoria recently with Lyster Opera's production of Rossini's L'Italiana in Algeri. He trained with Opera Scholars Australia for several years - appearing alongside David Hobson, Marina Prior, James Morrison, Silvie Paladino and Anthony Warlow. Lachlan has performed concerts and stage productions in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Albury-Wodonga and is thrilled to return to the Roxy for this gala concert.



Bernie Ryan

Born in Leeton District Hospital, Bernie Ryan (nee Dawe) attended St Patricks in Yanco, St Josephs' Leeton, and both St Francis College and Leeton High where she was involved in several musical productions, including Mark Ciavarella's beloved Buralga. Bernie relocated to Canberra in 2006 with her husband Tony and their four children but remains proud to still call Leeton home. On retiring after a 25-year career as a critical care and trauma social worker, Bernie has since co-produced and managed musical theatre in Canberra and interstate, and has promoted theatre across Australia in an Arts Public Relations role. In her spare time she completed a post Grad in Communication and also works part time as a journalist for The Canberra Daily. Bernie began singing at weddings, funerals and other local events from the age of 15 with Irene Arnold, Carmel Green and Marie Mitchell, to whom she owes much gratitude, and has performed in a variety of bands over the decades as well as local events in both Leeton and Canberra. Bernie credits her love of music to her mother Cathy, her Dad Stan and her Nanna Grace. Bernie is beyond delighted to return to the Roxy to say thank you to the community who raised her, and where so much of her young life was spent, from blue light discos, going to 'the pictures' and competing at Eisteddfods. She hopes that unlike her piano memory duet with her dear friend Nicky Errey many decades ago, she does not forget her piece tonight!!



Ensembles

Australian Army Band Kapooka
Bella Body & Soul
DDA
Groove Factorie
Kurrajong
Mostly Blues
Riverina Men's Choir
Yanco Agricultural High School Drum Line
Fijian Community Vocal Group



-Mostly Blues

Production Team

Emma Di Muzio (Producer)
Jake Speer (Director)
Bonnie Owen (Stage Manager)
Sarah McIntyre (Assistant Stage Manager)
Cynthia Arel (Production Designer & Ticketing)
Jasmine Rizk (Lighting Designer)
John Matkovic (Principal Lighting Operator)
Tim Coulter (Duty Lighting Operator)
John Silvestro (Sound Operator)
Brad Ross, Johnathan Hopcraft, Jonathan Sherlock (Sound Crew)
Ruth Tait, Miranda Tait, Major Nicholas Buff, Dave Wall (Music Direction Team)
Brent Lawrence (Roxy Liquor Licensee)
Matt Gatt (Front of House Duty Coordinator)
Shanté Smith (Roxy Customer Service Trainee)
Sue Gavel (Community Partnership Manager)

Chorus

Angel Echevarria
Chris Toland
Claudia Hopper
Genevieve Bruno
Grace Burne
Heidi Arel
Keisha Iaconis
Pauline Wright
Rebecca van den Heuvel



-Riverina Men's Choir

THANK YOU

ROXY REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (RRC)

Cr Michael Kidd (since 2018)	Mr Glenn Saddler (2018 – 2021)
Cr Sandra Nardi (since 2018)	Mr Jake Speer (since 2020)
Cr Tracy Morris (since 2018)	Ms Sarah McIntyre (since 2023)
Cr Steve Tynan (since 2024)	Maryann Iannelli (since 2023)
Cr Sarah Tiffin (since 2024)	Mr Greg Brown (since 2024)
Ms Katherine Herrmann (since 2018)	Council staff support from
Ms Judy Nolan (2018 – 2024)	Sam Webber (2018 - 2020)
Ms Ruth Tait (since 2018)	Brent Lawrence (2018 - 2022)
Ms Erin Draper (since 2018)	Cynthia Arel (2023-2024)
Mr William Barwick (since 2018)	Emma Di Muzio (since 2024)



The RRC is tasked with facilitating good communication between Council and the community; providing strategic, technical and compliance advice to the Project Control Group; framing operational opportunities that will optimise the delivery of arts and culture; and supporting the development of future governance options.



Names L-R: Katherine Herrmann, Greg Brown, Bill Barwick, Ruth Tait, Tim Coulter, Judy Nolan, Peter Salisbury, Sarah McIntyre

ROXY PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE



Katherine Herrmann
Project Director



Gideon Vos
Project Manager



Peter Salisbury
Construction Manager



Shaun Deaton
Site Manager

The PMO acknowledges support from Tim Coulter (Events & Cultural Services Assistant) and other **Council staff support from:** IT, WHS QA & Risk, Planning and Building, Water, Roads and Finance.

COMMUNITY FIRST 'COMMISSIONING PHASE' CONTRIBUTORS

Kurrajong - Grease – 3 Dec 2024
 Aspire2B – End of Year Concert – 7 Dec 2024
 Di-Salvatore Dance Academy – End of Year Concert - 20 Dec 2024
 Bella Body & Soul – End of Year Concert – 21 Dec 2024
 Creative Connection Riverina – Lies and Spies in Masterful Disguise – 19 Jan 2025
 Herrmann & Sons – Misbehavin' Youth Circus – 1 Feb 2025
 Leeton Multicultural Support Group - Island Magic – 8 Feb 2025
 Riverina Stage Play – One Night on a Wagon Train – 15 Feb 2025

DREAM TEAM VOLUNTEERS



Sue Gavel
Community Partnership Manager

Emma Di Muzio	Tracey Morris
June Dilozenzo	Glenn Morris
Erin Draper	Taylor Moore
Peter Draper	Brian Munro
Vicki Elwin	Leonie Napier
Marcia Evans	Sandra Nardi
Karen Garwood	Colleen Pannowitz
Manuela Gatt	Sue Pearce
John Gavel	Mahendi Raval
Sue Gavel	Desley Reberger
Kate Gordon	Dorothy Roddy
Ken Hammond	Nicolle Sachs
Katherine Herrmann	Jason Sachs
Maryann Iannelli	Mary Stanton
Deb Ierano	Robert Stempel
Michael Kidd	Jackie Stempel
Whitney Killham	Ruth Tait
Lyndall Kirkup	Christina Thompson
Jennifer Lashbrook	Brian Troy
Greg Lashbrook	Annette Wade
Anne Lepper	Len Wade
Laurie Lewin	Garry Walker
John Martin	Craig Watson
Megan Martin	Deral Weir
Bernie Maxwell	George Weston
Andrew McIntyre	Cheryl Whymark
Sarah McIntyre	Sandra Williams
Peter Middleton	Scott Williams
Ally Milne	Pete Woodlands



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Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
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Trades and Contractors – Roxy Redevelopment Stage 1



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Gala Concert Education Partners



Gala Concert Hospitality Sponsors



Roxy Community Partners



Hearing Loop

Our hearing loop amplifies sound to seats throughout the theatre. If you would like to use this service, please arrive early and drop by the Box Office to collect a receiver/ headset

Wheelchair Seats & Level Access

The Roxy Community Theatre is fully accessible with wheelchair-friendly seating, including street level access to the venue, and lift access to the dress circle and other facilities. If you have seating requirements, please let us know when buying your ticket.

Ts & Cs

Tickets cannot be refunded after purchase except as outlined in the live Performance Australia (LPA) Code of Practice.



The Australian Army Band Kapooka consists of 30 soldier-musicians with the mission to enhance the image of the Australian Army through community and military engagement. Their engagements and activities include providing musical support and entertainment to Army activities, exercises and deployments in Australia and overseas. They provide a diverse array of musical support, ranging from march out parades for Army's newest soldiers, to contemporary music in schools and in the community.



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LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LEETON SHIRE'S COMMUNITY GROUPS



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL



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