

It's all go at Future Te Aroha By Lyn Renwick

Future Te Aroha has another busy year ahead. As well as running regular classes for acting, dance and crafts there are plenty of shows being planned, so there is sure to be something for everyone to enjoy.

After the successful show case at the end of the first term, which saw every class participating (ranging from five year olds to senior members), term two is gearing up to be the busiest ever.



Juniors get rocking

The junior form of Stage Challenge® called J Rock™ is under way – the junior ACTA class will be performing their own version of Cinderella on stage at Baycourt in Tauranga on June 3.

This is a wonderful opportunity for primary and intermediate children to experience being on the big stage accompanied with

all the lights, sets, and costumes, performing to a large audience.

The students also get feedback from experienced theatre practitioners, helping them to improve their performances. This is an invaluable experience that also enables their show back in Te Aroha to reach high standards of performance.

Kidnapped production

In the midst of all this wild activity, the junior and intermediate ACTA classes will be rehearsing for a play at the end of term two.

Called 'Kidnapped' it is a fun story for all ages with pirates, fairies, munchkins and a multitude of other exciting characters. Every performer will fully participate in the show, including the dance classes. The art and craft classes will also make the props.

Rehearsals are already underway, with the show running on June 20- 22, and 27-29. Phone Future Te Aroha on 07 884 9489 for more information.

Other upcoming events

Following the outstanding success of Chicago last year, auditions will be held for this year's big musical in August. Students are looking forward to this event, with all senior class students participating, along with guest appearances from more experienced theatre practitioners.

In the midst of all these events the centre will be working towards a Christmas version of the movie 'The Sword, the Wand and the Stone' as a stage presentation. (The movie 'The Sword, the Wand and the Stone' is now available at the centre on DVD).

There will also be two more films in development – Kaikahu Road (which is still to be funded) and the prequel 'The Sword', which is in script development, to be produced later next year.

Stage Challenge®

Te Aroha College and the senior ACTA class will also experience the thrill of performing live on stage when they participate in the Mission-on 2008 Stage Challenge® in Rotorua in June.

They will compete with other high schools in the annual competition, which this year revolves around the theme 'friendship'. It is always a creative challenge and the whole performance is run and organised by the students who never fail to meet very high standards.



Classes

Children's craft classes run on Wednesdays from 4pm.

'Love to Dance' classes (children aged 7-12) run on Thursdays from 4pm.

Ballet for juniors (children aged 5-7 and 8-12) run on Fridays from 4pm.

Junior and Intermediate ACTA classes (children aged 5-7 and 8-12) run on Mondays from 4pm.

Senior ACTA classes (for teens) run on Mondays from 5.30pm.

Senior Performance classes (people aged 15+) run on Mondays from 6.45pm.

Adult craft classes are also available during the day – enquire at Future Te Aroha for days and times these are available.

None of these activities would be possible without the community support that the centre receives, and the support of the parents whose children are involved in the activities. If you are able to help in any way, either during productions, in set making, lighting, or supervision, Future Te Aroha would love to hear from you – give them a call on 07 884 9489 or drop in and visit.



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Matamata Little Theatre presents "The Amorous Ambassador"

By Yvonne Marshall

There is nothing better to lift your spirits than a good old fashioned farce, and Matamata Dramatic Society is renowned for its ability to guarantee an audience a great night out. The Society's latest production is "The Amorous Ambassador", an extremely funny tale written by Michael Parker and directed by Hilton Woodroffe.

The story revolves around Harry Douglas, the new ambassador to Great Britain. He tells his family that he is off to Scotland to play golf. His wife, Lois, and daughter, Debbie, announce plans of their own. Their newly hired butler, Perkins, watches stoically as each leaves only to see them secretly return for a romantic rendezvous in an empty house! To add to the situation, the Embassy is sealed off in the wake of a bomb threat resulting in a sequence of hilarious events.

This is a play that you won't want to miss! It opens on Saturday 3rd May and runs until May 10th at the Little Theatre in Matamata. See upcoming events for details.



Photo: The cast of The Amorous Ambassador

Morrinsville Little Theatre presents "Nunsense II – the Second Coming"



The Nunsense nuns are back for another round. Nunsense II – The Second Coming takes place six weeks after the sisters have staged their first benefit. The sisters are back presenting a "thank-you" show for all the people who supported them in the past. But now they're a bit slicker, having been "bitten by the theatre bug."

Things get to off to a rousing start as the sisters sing Nunsense, the Magic Word, but before long chaos erupts. Two Franciscans come to claim Sister Mary Amnesia (who has won the Publishers

Clearing House Sweepstakes) as one of their own. At the same time the nuns hear that a talent scout is in the audience to see them strut their stuff.

From the riotous bingo game run by Sister Amnesia to the hilarious duet, What Would Elvis Do?, to the rousing finale, There's Only One Way to End Your Prayers and That's to Say Amen!, this show will have you rolling in the aisles!

Nunsense II – the Second Coming opens Saturday 3 May, and runs until May 9 at the Little Theatre in Morrinsville. Shows start at 7.30pm, \$20 per head, tickets available from Hutchinson's on Thames St.

New artist on the scene

Chelsea Cannell is Te Aroha's latest up and coming artist – painting and creating bright, modern artworks that adorn walls all around the district and greater Waikato.

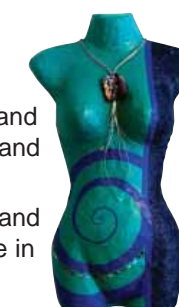
Chelsea does a variety of artworks, including painting and 3D torsos and likes to include dimension in her work, which is available through Ironique in Te Aroha, Concepts in Matamata, and the Kiwi Art Market in Waihi.

She has been interested in art since her school days, but after completing her florist qualification and working in Taupo as a florist for several years, she decided art was her true calling and moved back to Te Aroha to focus on her artwork.

Kiwiana and the pacific are definite trends throughout Chelsea's work, using lots of traditional pacific patterns, and elements like paua to add colour and dimension to her creations.

To find out more about this creative young artist, or to view her work, head to Ironique, Concepts or the Kiwi Art Market.

Photo top: One of Chelsea's torso sculptures
Photo bottom: Tranquil Moment



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upcoming events . . .

May 3-9 – Nunsense 2 – the Second Coming

Morrinsville Little Theatre, 7.30pm. Tickets \$20 per person, including a convent supper. Bookings at Hutchies on Thames Street.

May 3 – Morrinsville Country Market

Canada Street, Morrinsville. 8.30am to 12.30pm.

May 3-10 – The Amorous Ambassador

Matamata Little Theatre, 8pm. Sunday matinee 2pm. Tickets available at Frasers Take Note Matamata.

June 7 – Morrinsville Country Market

Canada Street, Morrinsville. 8.30am to 12.30pm

July 5 – Morrinsville Country Market

Canada Street, Morrinsville. 8.30am to 12.30pm

June 14 – Rob Innes in Concert

St David's Church Te Aroha presents gospel/country star Rob Innes in concert at the parish hall, 7pm. Tickets \$20 each, available from the parish. CDs will be available for purchase on the night.

June 26-27 – Combined Schools Music Recitals

To be held at Morrinsville College from 7pm.

Arterial.co.nz – online local art

Arterial is a new non profit, community run art website that displays a selection of local (Waikato) visual art online. It is a site that was launched earlier this year with the support of Arts Waikato.

Arterial was founded to assist with coordinating and collaborating with New Zealand artists and art/tourism organisations to enhance awareness of and participation in the visual arts.

The website allows you to search artworks by artist name, type, style, themes, or artist location, ensuring that no matter what you're searching for, if it's on the site you'll find it! The site also provides in-depth details of the artists and their works, including their contact details if you see anything you like.

It also provides a calendar of what is happening in the art community, featuring everything from children's art programmes to art workshops and exhibitions.

"Art is a real attraction for many, locals and tourists alike, and if Arterial can provide an easily accessible portal to local artists, exhibition spots, and workshops then communities stand to benefit from increased opportunities for both themselves and their visitors to experience and participate," says Arterial Director Vanessa White.

So far, Jan Shoemark is the only Matamata-Piako artist featured on the site, although as such a reasonably priced medium for promoting artwork, there is bound to be many more local artists displaying their work through Arterial by the end of the year.

To find out more about joining Arterial or to check out some of the great range of work by Waikato artists, visit www.arterial.co.nz.

Another budding young artist

Willow McGrail is another budding young artist that is already winning competitions with her creative works.

Earlier this year, nine-year-old Willow won a New Zealand wide art contest on the children's show What Now, where children had to draw their pet as a superhero and post it in. Willow's drawing of her cat Feather as 'The Amazing Feather Fluffball' was selected as a major winner, scoring Willow a DVD of the movie Underdog.

Willow also made headlines winning the local Easter craft competition with an easter egg creation designed with a plastic egg, plasticine, beads, paint and feathers. It was the second year in a row she won the competition, earning a whole basket of delicious treats.

From an artistic family, Willow enjoys art, especially drawing – in fact she enjoys drawing so much she has a big cardboard box that's overflowing with different drawings and artworks! Mum Marie and Dad Ian are also both into art, with their Walton home displaying some amazing artwork, by both them and Willow.

Willow's art shows amazing maturity for a nine-year-old, with an understanding of views and dimensions that is well above her age. Her mum says that Willow just loves art and they like to encourage her to try her own ideas and do things her own way, which has resulted in some really clever artworks and a creative, vibrant young girl.

With all these winnings and creative inspirations around her, Willow will be one to watch.

Photos: Willow with one of her favourite paintings and her box full of artwork



Matamata-Piako Model Aero Club flying high

Members of the Matamata-Piako Model Aero Club are flying high, after four of their members attended nationals in Carterton, and returned with a couple of medals – Peter Kowalski won second place in his aerobatics class, and Ewing Thompson won third in his aerobatics class.

Model plane flyers can compete in a number of events, which include Sportsman Pattern (a series of unlinked manoeuvres), IMAC (using scale aircraft to complete a series of linked manoeuvres), Aerobatics, free flying and more, all of which require great skill and accuracy.

There is a great variety of planes that can be used, both for fun and competition; most of which come as a kit of balsa wood with a fiberglass fuselage and require a little bit of assembly. However, many hobbyists also build scale planes and exact replicas from scratch.

Flying is a relatively cheap hobby to get into, with trainer kits starting from around \$90 – from there its up to the individual on how much they want to spend on building and developing their planes!

There are two opportunities coming up this month to see some model planes and support the Matamata-Piako Aero Club, with a Large Aeroplanes competition being held on May 3 and 4 at the Waharoa Airfield (off Jagger Rd), and a Warbirds competition also being held at Waharoa on May 24 and 25.

The Matamata-Piako Model Aero club flies at the Waharoa airfield on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10am. Anyone is welcome to come along and watch. To get involved or find out more, please phone Ewing Thompson on 07 889 6977.

Morrinsville Flower Festival

Morrinsville was blooming beautiful in April when the Flower Festival displayed brilliant colour and creativity during its tri-annual flower festival. The festival featured over 20 fantastic displays all made from plant materials.



Saturday Night at the Theatre recreates the old Morrinsville Regent Theatre, including icon owner Jack Munro



Morrinsville icon Chopo featured as part of the Morrinsville Streetscape



Murray Oaks at Sunset by Laurie and Julie Wells incorporates several natural elements actually from Murray Oaks



Iwi - The King Movement depicts an important part in our history



'Children at Play' by Margaret and Ron Tyrrell shows two children playing games and wearing clothing based on a photo from 1910, all made from natural materials



The Lockerbie Dairy Co-op display pays tribute to the dairy factory that ultimately became Fonterra and still plays an important part in our economy



A special centennial display of 'Brides through the Century' displaying dresses, hair styles and bouquets from each period



Ewe and lamb featured as part of the amazing 'Cream of the Country Saleday' display, which included people, sheep, cows, pigs and more all made of natural materials