

## Community profile: Brooklyn Community Theatre



Brooklyn Community Theatre

Performances by Brooklyn Community Theatre (BCT) are shrouded with secrecy.

Their first ever play, a murder mystery, was advertised with a flyer announcing 'On November 27 there will be a murder at Brooklyn Park'. 350 voyeurs came along that night to witness the performance.

"Secrecy is part of the game," said producer Ray Bontoft, who founded the theatre with Peter Hughes in 1998. "We don't announce our shows until very close to the night."

The non-profit group's first production was assembled using a 'beg and borrow' approach for stage construction, costumes and supporting services. Over the years the group has become more self sufficient. The group's productions, which are always performed outdoors in the summer, have attracted crowds in excess of 500.

"Our aim has always been to provide a good family picnic with a bit of live theatre thrown in," Ray said.

While BCT has a well-established staple of volunteer actors and theatrical assistants, the group takes on and develops new talent each year. Rehearsals start about eight weeks out from the date of performance.

Council has worked closely with BCT to assist the group with funding for the purchase of a new stage and the use of its parks. Last year the group's annual production moved to Brooklyn Rest Park to accommodate growing crowds.

And as for this year's show? Ray is holding his cards close to his chest. "It's always a comedy or farce," he reveals. "We make sure our productions cater for everyone from little kids through to grannies."

BCT's Annual Production in the Park will be held at Brooklyn Rest Park on Saturday 15 November, performance from 7.30pm. For more information call Ray on 0415 491 783.

## Spring into Arts showcase month

Council will showcase the shire's artistic and cultural diversity throughout November with Spring into Arts. The month will be packed with exhibitions, events and performances by various community groups. To find out what's on call 9847 6050 or visit [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson)

## What's on at the library...

### Storytime for families

Cost: Gold coin donation.

**Tuesday 30 Sept, 2.00pm-3.00pm**

Location: Berowra Library. For details call 9456 3913.

**Thursday 2 October, 2.00pm-3.00pm**

Location: Galston Community Centre. For details call 9653 1338.

**Tuesday 7 October, 6:30pm-7:30pm**

Location: Pennant Hills Library. For details call 9481 9630.

**Thursday 9 October, 6:30pm-7:30pm**

Location: Hornsby Library. For details call 9847 6614.

### Planetarium visit

Ages 5-12. Children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$10 per child. Bookings essential.

**Friday 3 October, 10.30am-11.30am**

Location: Berowra Library. Bookings essential, call 9456 3913.

**Friday 3 October, 2.00pm-3.00pm**

Location: Pennant Hills Library. Bookings essential, call 9481 9630.

### Questacon Science Squad

Ages 5-12. Children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$10 per child. Bookings essential.

**Wednesday 8 October, 2.30pm-3.30pm**

Location: Hornsby Library. Bookings essential, call 9847 6614.

**Friday 10 October, 10.30am-11.30am**

Location: Epping Library. Bookings essential, call 9868 1711.

### Author talks at Hornsby Library

Gold coin donation. Booking essential, call 9847 6614.

**Friday 12 September, 10.30am-11.30am**

Katalin Csardas discusses *My Hungarian Kitchen Rhapsody*.

**Friday 26 September, 10.30am-11.30am**

Amanda Hampson discusses *Two for the Road*.

**Friday 10 October, 10.30am-11.30am**

Lois Pembroke discusses *Children of the Anzacs*.

**Monday 20 October, 10.30am-11.30am**

Maureen Flanagan discusses *Along the Way*.

**Friday 7 November, 10.30am-11.30am**

Halina Robinson discusses *Treading water in the Promised*.

### Catalogue training sessions at Hornsby Library

Bookings essential, call 9847 6614.

**Tuesday 16 Sept, 3:30pm - 4:30pm**

**Thursday 16 Oct, 10:30am - 11:30am**

**Wednesday 12 Nov, 3:30pm - 4:30pm**

**Friday 12 Dec, 10:30am - 11:30am**