



Bendigo Theatre Company Newsletter

BTC email: bendigotheatrecompany@gmail.com



Important Dates

- Costume Dept. Helpers & Sewers **every Tuesday 10 – 1pm**
- Wednesday Crew Volunteers **every Wed 9am-12 noon**
- Saturday Crew Volunteers **most Saturdays 9am – 12 noon**
- Robin Hood EOI Choreographer & Vocal Dir. Due **Thu 15th Aug**
- Robin Hood: The Panto Information Night **Mon 19th Aug 6:30pm**
- Robin Hood: The Panto Audition Bookings go Live **Mon 19th Aug**
- Blood on the Clocktower event at PLBBT **Tue 27th Aug**
- TEN X 10 Casting Night at PLBBT **Tue 3rd Sept 7pm**
- Robin Hood: The Pantomime Auditions **Last Week in August**
- Guys & Dolls Performances - **Thu 19th Sept – Sun 22nd Sept**
- Robin Hood: The Pantomime First Rehearsal **First week of Term 4**
- TEN X 10 Mandatory Rehearsals **Tue 8th Oct & Tue 29th Oct**
- TEN X 10 Production Week/Tech Rehearsal **17th – 19th Nov**
- TEN X 10 - Performances at PLBBT **21st Nov – 1st Dec**
- Christmas Showcase at PLBBT **Friday 13th December**
- Robin Hood: The Pantomime - Performances **9 – 19th Jan 2025**

BTC Web Page: <https://www.bendigotheatrecompany.org.au/>

PLBBT stands for Bendigo Theatre Companies own intimate Theatre Space 'Particia Lyon Black Box Theatre'



With Deepest Sympathies, we acknowledge the passing of three valuable members, contributors and patrons of BTC.

VALE

- Gael Emond
- Lois Angus
- Rodd Fyffe



GUYS AND DOLLS

A Musical Fable of Broadway



Our cast of 39 have been giving it their all with twice weekly rehearsals for 'Guys and Dolls'. We welcome back many of our experienced performers, welcome so many new faces to Bendigo and the company, and are supporting younger members of 'Tribe' and our Bendigo school's community to make the leap onto the 'big' stage.

'Guys and Dolls' is a timeless Broadway Classic, and the Creative and Production team have purposely decided to keep BTC's mainstage show in that era. The setting is the 1940's in Damon Runyon's New York City. With beautiful music and lyrics by [Frank Loesser](#), the book is by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows and is based on 'The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown' that was written in 1933. The story line borrows characters and plot elements from other Runyon stories, such as 'Pick the Winner.' The movie we all know and love was released in 1955, starring Frank Sinatra, Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons and Vivian Blaine. There are elements taken from both the movie and Broadway and Revival editions of the musical in our own performance, plus some new and innovative theatrical ideas and elements of contemporary theatre. The sets, costume and choreography, whilst based in the era of the 1940's, are exciting and reimagined.

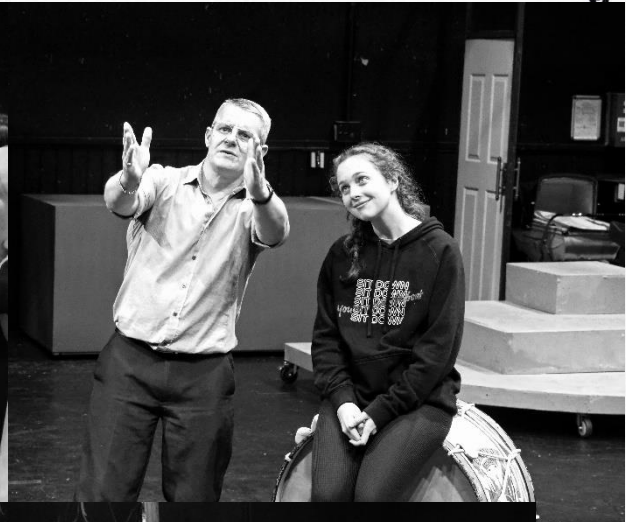
I am leading the direction, supported greatly by the creative talents of Thomas Moore. I appreciate Thomas' amazing ability as a dramaturg and accent coach. What I am most excited about is working alongside Vashti Lamaro on the invigorating choreography. It has been superb that I have been able to use my choreographic skills to assist the directional ideas of the show, and present a show where the movement and direction go hand in hand. Heading up our musical department is Meg Martin, an experienced instrumental teacher and orchestral leader. The songs are soaring with such enthusiastic numbers as 'Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat' and 'Luck Be a Lady', and beautiful ballads such as 'If I Were a Bell'.

The cast have been so supportive of each other, and no matter what role, each member is being given more than a moment to shine on stage. Leads Zoe Czempinski (Sarah), Emma Kelly (Adelaide), Daniel Sexton (Sky) and Luke Oliver (Nathan), supported by Joel McDonald (Nicely Nicely), Robert Holian (Benny) and Jakoby Appleby (Rusty) are leading the way, sharing their experience and challenging themselves with the complex characters they have been presented with. The Hot Box dancers are kicking their heels up, the Crapshooters are learning the ins and outs of illegal gambling and the Mission Band are trying to convert us all and save us from sin! I am loving working with such a diverse cast. There have been so many highlights so far, and rehearsals are hard work, but full of laughter and joy.

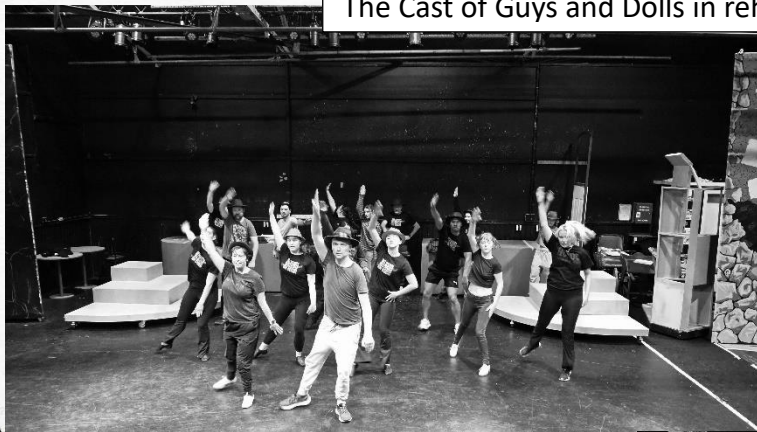
'Guys and Dolls' will have something for everyone, young and old. I suggest you book your tickets now to avoid disappointment. *Written by Director: Claire Sexton*
For bookings please click here:

<https://boxoffice.gotix.com.au/WEBPAGES/EntaWebShow/ShowCalendar.aspx>





The Cast of Guys and Dolls in rehearsal





CALL-OUT FOR CREATIVE TEAM

Bendigo Theatre Company is gearing up for an unforgettable summer pantomime, and we are on the lookout for talented individuals to join the production team. Our next Pantomime is 'Robin Hood' by our own Vern Wall.

Whether you have loads of experience or you're looking to try something for the first time, we want to hear from you!

We are currently looking for expressions of interests for the Director, Choreographer, and Vocal Coach positions. Application deadline for these roles is the 15 August.

We will then be recruiting for additions roles:

- Costume Designer (and assistants)
- Set Designer (and assistants)
- Lighting Designer (and assistants)
- Sound Designer (and assistants)
- Prop Master (and assistants)
- Stage Manager (and assistants, and backstage crew)

The pantomime is a great way to collaborate with a passionate, inclusive and supportive team. You will learn new skills and showcase your talents, while being part of a beloved local tradition.

How to apply:

Email your application to bendigotheatrecompany@gmail.com and include a brief introductory letter outlining your experience and why you're excited to join our team. Position descriptions can be found by clicking on the link below.

Important dates:

- Deadline for director, choreographer and vocal director applications is Thursday 15 August.
- Interviews for those three positions will be held on the weekend of 16-18 August.
- Information Evening: Monday 19 August 6:30pm at the Shed – in The Patricia Lyon Blackbox Theatre
- Auditions will be in the last week of August, at BTC.
- Rehearsals will start in the first week of term 4
- Performance dates 9-19 January

Don't miss this chance to bring magic and joy to our community. Let's make this summer's pantomime the best one yet! ✨

[#bendigotheatrecompany](#) [#summerpantomime](#) [#joinus](#)

The link below will take you to position descriptions on the BTC website.

<https://bit.ly/3LS0sxH>



B# Sharp Chorus

B Sharp are taking a pause whilst Guys and Dolls is gearing up for its Ulumbarra performance mid-September.

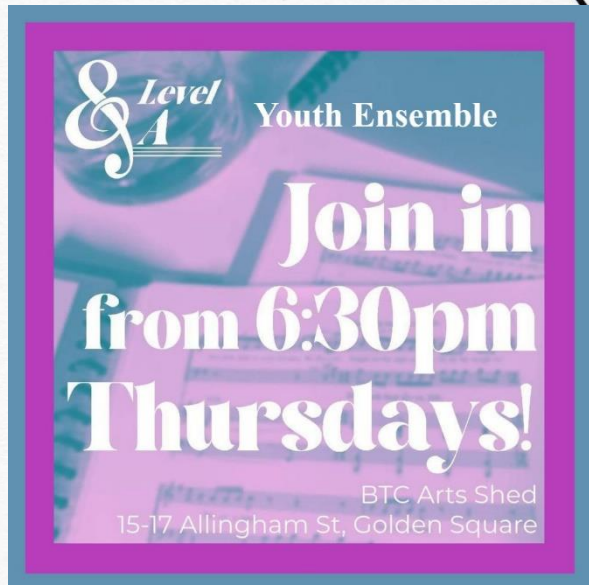
Please stay tuned for more information on its return very soon, where they will be practicing and honing their skills to take part in performing at the BTC Christmas Showcase!

Blood on the Clocktower

The Bendigo Theatre Company has this year dipped its toes into narrative social games with the Pandemonium Institute's worldwide hit "Blood on the Clocktower". Following three test runs at the beginning of the year, the first ticketed event took place on June 25th, with others scheduled for **August 27, October 29, and December 3.**

Blood on the Clocktower casts participants in the roles of villagers in the small, rural town of Ravenswood Bluff; among them is cast one villager who is secretly a powerful Demon, selecting players during the night to kill off. Most players are Townsfolk, given their own abilities to uncover information, protect themselves or their allies, and must work together to uncover the demon and get rid of them before time runs out. Confusing matters are Outsiders with abilities that confuse or obscure information for their Townsfolk allies, and Minions who help the Demon stay hidden. Each game takes place over multiple rounds; night phases on the Patricia Lyon Black Box Theatre stage where powers are activated and the Demon kills, and day phases where players are given free reign to exit the stage and engage in private conversations where they try to determine who is telling the truth, who is lying, and whose information is even reliable at all.

Operated by Storyteller Thomas Moore, tickets for each event are only \$10 for two hours, 7:00-9:00pm, of spooky fun and intricate mystery.



Level A Youth Ensemble

Thanks to all participants of the Level A musical theatre ensemble who have been in strong attendance this year. Please note that we have now called a break on our Thursday evening sessions until after Guys and Dolls has closed. Stay informed on when we resume by following our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1859128004564383>) for updates.

TENX10 is a presentation of ten plays, each up to ten minutes in length. The plays written by local amateur playwrights and can be directed and performed by novice or experienced people.

This year's theme is CELEBRATION or CELEBRATE.

Once plays have been selected, an expression of interest will be advertised for directors.

A Director's Workshop will take place shortly after. The date will be confirmed.

A casting night will be held at the Patricia Lyon Black Box Theatre on Tuesday 3 September at 7pm, where plays are discussed and all attendees are encouraged to read for a part it is important this is not to be considered an audition, but rather a fun experience. All attendees are asked to complete the online form nominating plays/characters they are interested in. Casting will be done that night and directors will advise all cast members and confirm with the Production Manager within two days.

Directors are responsible for managing rehearsal times and for ensuring the cast is given adequate time to rehearse as a full cast. A minimum of two mandatory rehearsals will be held: Tuesday October 8 and Tuesday October 29.

Production week will start Sunday 17 Nov with rehearsals scheduled for Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 Nov, and will include full lighting, audio and visual requirements together with a fully completed tech script and a dress rehearsal.

Plays will be performed on November 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30 at 7:30pm and 24 Nov and 1 Dec at 24 at 2pm.

Please contact Stania for more information on 0409019049 and submit your play to: bendigotheatrecompany@gmail.com

TENX10
OUR TENTH SEASON

BTC BENDIGO THEATRE COMPANY

Calling for Directors and Cast
Performance Dates: 21st November - 1st December

BTC IS A CHILD SAFE ORGANISATION

Bendigo Theatre Company is committed to being a child safe organisation and with the release of new Government guidelines for community groups, the BTC committee are in the process of upgrading our current practises and policies so that all children who attend BTC events feel and are safe. A summary of the child safe standards is attached to this newsletter and all members and parents are urged to read this. The upgraded and new policies will be available to be accessed on the BTC website. Queries comments or questions should be emailed to the committee.

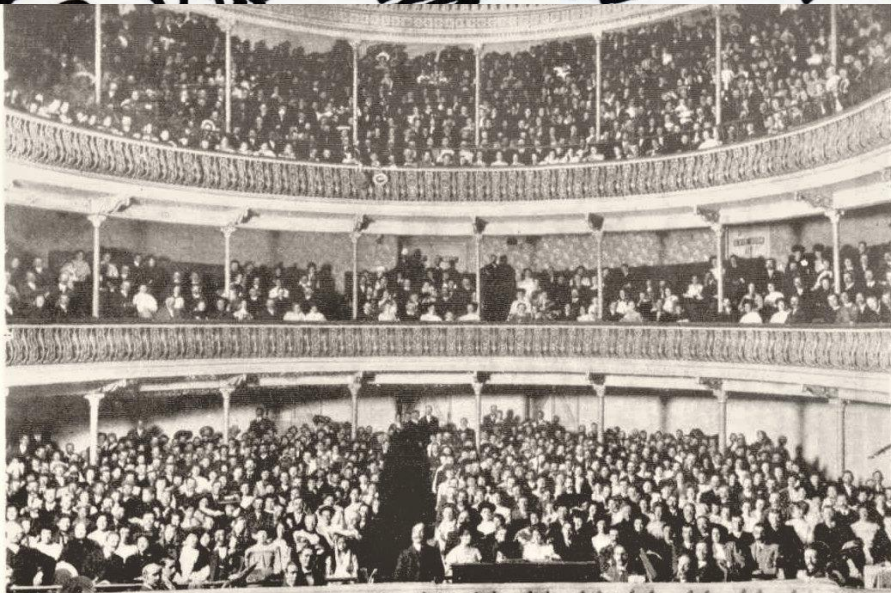
Victoria's Child Safe Standards

Plain language summary

- 1** Your organisation welcomes Aboriginal children. You support them to express their culture and to enjoy their rights. You don't allow racism.
- 2** Child safety is important to everyone at all levels in your organisation. You document how you find, avoid, and stop risks of child abuse or harm.
- 3** Your organisation supports children to know their rights to be safe from abuse, informed, and involved. You help them to talk openly and take part in decisions that affect them.
- 4** Your organisation tells families and the community about what you do, and how you keep children safe from harm and abuse. You help families to have a say and to take part in decisions that affect their child.
- 5** Your organisation understands that every child is different and has different needs. You make sure that they can get the information and help that they need.
- 6** Staff know what they must do to keep children safe from abuse and harm. They record, report, and share information about child safety when they should. Staff who work with children have had the background checks they need.
- 7** Children and their families know how to make a complaint and what happens when a complaint is made. Your staff know how to respond properly to complaints.
- 8** Your organisation trains and supports staff to keep children safe from abuse and harm. Your staff know the signs of child abuse and harm and what to do if there are issues of abuse and harm.
- 9** Your organisation makes sure children are safe when they use your services, settings, and activities. This includes when children are online.
- 10** Your organisation checks and improves the ways you keep children safe from abuse and harm.
- 11** Your organisation has written policies about how you keep children safe from abuse and harm. They are easy to understand, and all staff follow them.

For more information, contact the Commission for Children and Young People
www.ccp.vic.gov.au





NEW PRINCESS' THEATRE, BENDIGO.

c. 1905

An extract from Keva Lloyd's address to the Bendigo Historical Society - "Thespians and Divas"

So, you think it hard to learn lines?

In 1879, it became a topic of conversation around Bendigo, ... gossip that there was some doubt whether there would be an Easter Fair that year.

In their wisdom (and despite some criticism from a small section of the community), the Sandhurst City Dramatic Club booked the Royal Princess Theatre in View Street for the whole of the Easter week, six nights straight! Remember that the Royal Princess at the time would hold 2000 patrons!

The Easter Fair did occur in that year, but the City Dramatic Club were undaunted and pressed on with their season of six nights. They didn't perform the one production for six nights however! In fact, they performed FIVE full-length plays and ONE one-act farce to bumper crowds. Many of the cast members appeared in most if not all plays. Bear in mind that the members of the Company were amateurs and likely held down day jobs as well!

Mr. Coleman, the secretary of the Company played a leading role in all six plays and in the final play for the season, took a dual role so SEVEN different characters in one week and a performance EVERY night!

Author – Keva Lloyd

WEDNESDAY CREW



The Wednesday Crew are in the Shed this Wednesday from 9am - 12 noon.
Coffee and/or lunch afterwards if you would like to partake

Vale Rod Fyffe

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Rod Fyffe who, alongside his sterling service to Bendigo as a councillor for almost four decades, was a stalwart supporter of our company. A longstanding patron, he performed in every role, from gracing the stage in costume, to helping behind the scenes and helping to make Company the thriving community organisation that it is today.



Right: Rod in a Costume for our promotion of our production of Wicked in 2019.

BTC ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENT

Bendigo Theatre Company's Committee recognises that a select group of our previous performers have gone on to have professional careers in the Arts industry and in recognition of this, the committee is proud to announce that these Alumni will be recognised through a nomination process. The nomination forms are available on the website

<https://www.bendigotheatrecompany.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Alumni-Nomination-Form.pdf>

or contact BTC on bendigotheatrecompany@gmail.com for more information. If you know of people who you believe meet these criteria you are encouraged to complete the form and send to the committee. If the committee approves the nomination they will be formally recognised as an Alumna/Alumnus of the Company.

Our new Presidents vision: ***“Bendigo theatre Company is a forward-thinking company. Work towards goals and timelines. And be more about what we can do next, rather than what we have done”***

Dear Members,

I am both honoured and delighted to become President of Bendigo Theatre Company (BTC) for the coming term. Having been a continuous member of BTC since 2012 with active involvement, not only on stage, but also in Direction, Writing, Production Management and Set Construction. I have also proudly served 6 terms as an active general committee member and Vice President, assisting with the ongoing development of BTC as a reputable community organisation.

I look forward to the opportunity of working with the Committee over the coming term in continuing this great work into 2024/'25 through hands-on involvement in ensuring our continued success.

Firstly, I would like to thank our outgoing President, Vern Wall for all his hard work and dedication to the role over the last 2 years. I would also like to thank our outgoing Secretary, Jenni Clohesy who has been invaluable to BTC over a number of years and through her countless hours of hard work and diligence.

Next, we come to our new committee, and I am delighted to introduce you to our incoming Committee of Management for the 2024/ '25 term of office. They are as follows:

Executive Committee (in photo order)

President – Conor Cunningham

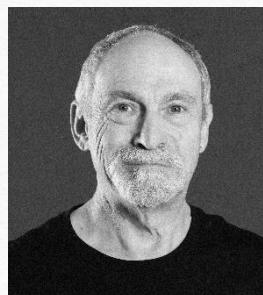
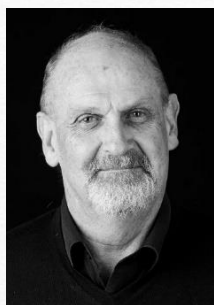
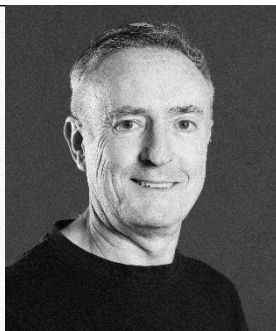
Vice President – Keva Lloyd

Secretary – Barbara Billings

Treasurer – Maureen Fleiner

General Committee (in photo order): Vern Wall, Thomas Moore, Colin Brown, Stania Tresize, Kristen Beever, Emma Kelly, Barry Silverstein, Samantha Lempio-Franklin, Michael Oerlemans and Grant Finlay.

Congratulations to Barb for stepping up to the challenge of being Secretary, and to Keva for his second term as Vice President. Congratulations especially to our new committee members Kristen, Emma, Michael & Barry. I look forward to working with this amazing team of people at the helm of our organisation in continuing the excellent work of our previous committees.



Faithfully yours,
Conor Cunningham
President, Bendigo Theatre Company Inc.



Vern working on Sets for Guys and Dolls 2024



Working on 'Wicked' cogs with the Wednesday Crew



Vern at The Capital for Carousel in 2000

Vern Wall: 100 Productions and Counting!

I was asked to write a short article about my involvement in Bendigo Theatre Company and to try to make it sound interesting. Well, I will give it a go. Firstly, my involvement in theatre and in particular with BTC is a two-way street. I feel I have got back more than I have put in and I hope that is the same for other members. My involvement goes back a touch over thirty years and in counting up the productions I have been involved in (I miscalculated at first but on rechecking) I came up with the total of ninety-nine productions. It must be recognised though that some of this involvement was very small such as building a set piece or making a particular prop but others shows were huge and may have involved directing, set construction and production management at the same time. I guess this means that my next show, 'Guys and Dolls' will be my one hundredth. It certainly will be my Swan Song as far as acting goes.

What has changed over this time?

Well, it has become so much more professional. All the technical aspects are amazing and add a complexity we could only dream about. With this though, comes more red tape and management of productions - which is necessary. Did we do a risk assessment for some of the set pieces that went wrong, such as a croquet ball falling into the orchestra pit and landing on someone's head? Probably should have!

What has been some of the highlights of this time.

Seeing some of the young actors who started out as just kids progressing to professional careers and catching up with them many years later, or watching the sheer joy on the faces of a cast when they accept the applause. There is no feeling like it.

What has been your favourite show to act in?

This would have to be 'Man of La Mancha' It is a very powerful show with wonderful music and we had a very strong cast. The feeling on stage at the end of the opening night was one I will never forget. I still get tingles up my spine as I remember the music reaching a crescendo and hearing sobs coming from some audience members who had been moved to tears.

What is the future for BTC?

I feel that the future is very bright for the theatre company. We have some of the best facilities in regional Victoria as regards to our wonderful Arts Shed, which is the envy of many community companies. If we can continue its development with an improved black box theatre, toilets, changerooms and storage areas it will be even better and more utilized and functional than it has ever been before. Secondly, to have the Ulumbarra Theatre as our primary performance venue is truly wonderful. I am looking forward to what comes next for the company and hope all BTC members are equally enthused to continue the journey together.



Vern Wall Directing the cast of Legally Blonde in 2017



On set of our 200th show 'Beyond Reasonable Doubt' in 2022



**BENDIGO
THEATRE
COMPANY**



bendigotheatrecompany@gmail.com
0401 678 102
bendigotheatrecompany.org.au

Dear Valued Patron,

Bendigo Theatre Company is about to embark on a significant project to improve the facilities offered in this building and bring it up to meet the demands of the 21st century.

The motivations for this initiative are:

- the lack of child-safe changing rooms with appropriate accessibility for disabled patrons
- our required compliance with government regulations concerning our toilet facilities.
- the comfort of patrons upon entering the building.

An artist's impression of how the building could look is currently on display on our green room notice board. Our architect is developing this impression into architectural drawings to be forwarded for approval, however the re-developments will require substantial funding.

Our theatre is one of its kind in Bendigo, it offers a space for small audiences and is a vital resource for the functioning of the BTC.

As a valued patron, we are sure you see the benefits of this project. If you feel strongly about supporting BTC's fulfilment of this project, then there are ways you are able to help:

- Option 1
Sponsor a seat- \$120 per seat with a plaque of honouring the donor to be placed on a seat. Please fill out the tear-off form below.
- Option 2
If you represent a company or philanthropic trust, or wish to make a larger donation, please speak with a front-of-house attendant or a BTC Committee person for more details.

Donations can be made direct to BTC - BSB 633-000 - A/C No. 133760868

I pledge to sponsor a seat in the Patricia Lyon Black Box Theatre @ \$120 per seat.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Signed: _____

Name on Plaque: _____

15 - 17 Allingham St,
Golden Square, VIC 3555

ABN: 75 957 966 766
Registration No: A0009998P