

## *Little Women Opening Night Fundraiser*

*Little Women*, Wyong Drama Group's first play of the year, is soon to transport audiences back to 1860s Massachusetts as the March family negotiate life's complexities against the background of the Civil War. Director Ron Baker is regularly amazed at how many women of all ages have read Louisa May Alcott's classic novel and loved it. Although the four young March sisters are the 'Little Women' of the title, the cast consists of eleven interesting characters with a large age range including four males. Peter Clapham's skilful dramatisation ensures this play has universal appeal. Males and females of all ages and backgrounds will relate to the characters and the situations as many aspects of family life have an enduring familiarity.

Creating an authentic mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century setting has been challenging, especially for Costumier Wendy Potter and Director's Assistant Ros Ellis who have been working hard to ensure a convincing transformation.

Theatre is a powerful agent for education on so many levels but preparation for *Little Women* has given both cast and crew greater insight into historical aspects of the American Civil War and the fashions, language and social customs of the period. In a time of limited means of communication, the horrors and privations experienced by Mr March, as a volunteer chaplain for the Union Army, would be unimaginable at least by his daughters. However his prolonged absence impacts significantly on the family and their neighbours.

The cast includes WDG stalwarts Cathy De Vries (Marmee), Marc Calwell (Mr Laurence), Pam Campbell (Aunt March), Julie Bailey (Hannah) and Howard Oxley (Mr March) alongside fresh, young talents Sarah-Ann Ballard (Jo), Erin Beecher (Meg), Renee Stein (Beth), Kalani Hirst (Amy), Scott Russell (Laurie) and Robert Cottam (Mr Brooke).

Opening night, Thursday April 7 will be a fundraiser for those affected by the natural disasters which have caused so much disruption in Australia over recent months. Patrons are being asked to support this night by encouraging friends and family to attend. WDG would like to see a full house on opening night.

Performances – April 7/8/9 – 14/15/16 at 8pm

Matinees April – 9/16 – 2.00pm

Prices – Thursday, Saturday matinees 2pm - \$17; Friday, Saturday 8pm - \$20

Tables or raked seating, group discounts, Tea & Coffee incl.

BYO drinks/nibbles

Phone Bookings – **43534353** -- from 9am March 17

Credit Card facilities for phone bookings

Wyong Memorial Hall