

Try-Out Information Pack For Cast and Crew

SENIORS PERFORM 2025

Codgers Cottage by Suzsi Mandeville

Codgers Cottage is a one-act comedy play written by Australian author Suzsi Mandeville. Set in a nursing home teetering on the edge of closure, the story centres around a group of quirky elderly residents who are just managing to get by. Their routine is upended when a well-meaning new nurse accidentally mixes up their medications, leading to a series of chaotic and hilarious events. The play offers a humorous yet poignant look at aging, community, and resilience.

Mandeville, known for her engaging storytelling, brings her signature wit to this production. Her other works include the time-travel adventure novel *Escape from the Valley of the Kings*.

Dirty Deeds at the Diggings (from the book of plays Just for Fun -Adapted by Mary McMahon).

Dirty Deeds at the Diggings is a lively, comedic one-act melodrama set during the Australian gold rush. The play centres on a hardworking father striving to strike gold, his endearing yet naive daughter, a scheming villain intent on stealing their claim, and a gallant hero who arrives to thwart the villain's plans, rescue the damsel, and restore justice. This fast-paced skit delivers a hearty dose of humour and classic melodramatic flair in just ten minutes.

The production embraces the traditional elements of 19th-century melodrama, encouraging audience participation through enthusiastic boos for the villain and cheers for the hero. It also features period-appropriate songs, inviting the audience to sing along and immerse themselves in the historical setting.

**Join us for a relaxed script reading session 'Try-Out' at
Uniting Church Small Hall – Queen Street Cleveland
Tues 5 Aug 2025 10:00 a.m. – 2pm**

Please bring your lunch and water bottle. Tea and coffee provided.

Seniors Perform 2025 Rehearsal and Show Schedule

| Venue | What's happening | From | Notes |
|--|---|--|-----------|
| Uniting Church Small Hall – Queen Street Cleveland | Try-Outs Script Reading | Tues 5 Aug 2025 10:00 a.m. – 2pm | |
| Small Hall | Rehearsal | Tues 12 Aug 2025 10:00 a.m.- 2pm | |
| Small Hall | Rehearsal | Tues 19 Aug 2025 10:00 a.m. – 2pm | |
| Small Hall | Rehearsal | Tues 26 Aug 2025 10:00 a.m.-2pm | |
| Small Hall | Rehearsal | Tues 2 Sept 2025 10:00 a.m.- 2pm | |
| Small Hall | Rehearsal & Photo shoot | Tues 9 Sept 2025 10:00 a.m.- 2pm | |
| Small Hall | Rehearsal | Tues 16 Sep 2025 10:00 a.m.-2pm | |
| Small Hall | Rehearsal | Tues 23 Sep 2025 10:00 a.m.- 2pm | |
| Small Hall | Rehearsal | Tues 30 Sep 2025 10:00 a.m.- 2pm | |
| Small Hall | Rehearsal | Tues 7 Oct 2025 10:00 a.m. – 2pm | |
| Small Hall | Rehearsal | Tues 14 Oct 2025 10:00 a.m.- 2pm | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Donald Simpson Centre (DSC) | Tech set up, combine with dress rehearsal | Friday 17 th October 6pm-10pm | Confirmed |
| DSC | Dress Rehearsal | Friday 17 th October 6pm-10pm | Confirmed |
| DSC | Show Opening | Sun 19 Oct 2025 10am Matinee | Confirmed |
| DSC | 2 nd Show | Sun 19 Oct 2025 2pm Matinee | Confirmed |
| DSC | 3 rd Show | Sat 25 Oct 2025 2pm Matinee | Confirmed |
| DSC | 4 th Show | Sun 26 Oct 2025 10am Matinee | Confirmed |
| DSC | 5 th Show Finale | Sun 26 Oct 2025 2pm Matinee | Confirmed |

***Dates may be changed when rehearsal, production or venue requirements need to be met.**

> HOW TO REGISTER <

Bring your completed Try-Out Form included in this Pack with you on Tuesday 5th August at 10.00am or you may complete one on the day.

Please contact the Director: Jeanette Rutberg on 0411454495

President: Chris Wisniowiecka on 0403131481

If you need more information

MATES Theatre Genesis Inc. – Seniors Perform 2025

MATES is a community-based, amateur theatre company governed and managed entirely by volunteers. We are proud to present *Seniors Perform* once again as part of **Queensland Seniors Month in October 2025**.

Following its successful launch in 2021, *Seniors Perform* returns with **two One Act comedy plays**, offering seniors a wonderful opportunity to connect, perform, and celebrate the performing arts.

Casting for acting roles will be determined by the Director and announced at the **first rehearsal on 12th August 2025**.

MATES warmly welcomes both **new and experienced seniors** to join the production in a variety of roles, including:

- Acting
- Stage Manager & Assistant Stage Manager
- Costumes & Set Design
- Props
- Lighting & Sound
- Front of House (door, raffles, ushers, canteen)

We look forward to another joyful, community-driven production with *Seniors Perform 2025*!

Director:

Jeanette Rutberg – Although this is Jeanette's first time directing for MATESTG, she's no stranger to the stage—having performed in previous MATESTG productions as well as musical theatre. A talented and versatile performer, Jeanette writes, directs, and brings musical shows to life in nursing homes and community venues across the Redlands. Her guiding motto? *"It's all about having fun."*

Asst. Director:

Suzanne Kelly – Suzanne has been involved in amateur theatre in the Redlands for 10 years, firstly with the U3A Redlands Theatre Group and later with MATESTG as an actor, a member of their Production Committee and as Director. Suzanne was nominated at the Gold Coast Palmie Awards for best supporting actress in the MATESTG produced satirical *Australia Day* play by Jonathan Biggins, followed by a brief foray into film, in *The Australian Patient*, produced by Paul Mahoney. Suzanne directed *Seniors Perform Radio Frenzy* for MATES in 2022, *Mango Madness* in 2023 and two Mary McMahon plays, *A Present for the Queen* and *A Wife for all Seasons* in 2024.

Try-out form – Seniors Perform 2025

Personal Information

- **Name:** _____
- **Address:** _____
- **Mobile:** _____
- **Email:** _____

Role Preferences

You may try out for both cast and crew roles. Please indicate your interest:

- **Cast (Actor):** ☐ Yes ☐ No
- **Crew:** ☐ Yes ☐ No

If applying for crew, please tick any areas of interest:

- ☐ Costumes
- ☐ Set Design
- ☐ Props Manager
- ☐ Sound & Lighting
- ☐ Stage Manager
- ☐ Assistant Stage Manager
- ☐ Assistant Director
- ☐ Backstage Crew
- ☐ Rehearsal Photographer ☐ Front of House ☐ Raffles

Calendar Conflicts

Please list any dates you are unavailable during the rehearsal and performance period, including any other productions you're involved in:

Important Information

Cast, crew members and other volunteers pay a membership fee of \$20 to participate in MATES productions. All participants are covered by our Voluntary Workers Personal Accident Insurance. Successful applicants are expected to comply with our Production Policy and Code of Conduct. More detail about the roles and responsibilities of cast and crew are contained in the downloadable policies highlighted at the bottom of the following website page: <https://matestg.org.au/members/>