

OUR SPONSORS

Kucom Theatre gratefully acknowledges the assistance and support of:



**Mackay and
Whitsunday**

life



Special thanks to:

- Our Patron, Mayor Greg Williamson
- The Wheeler & Lewis families for radio voices
- The "Cheer Squad"—Year 5 & 6 students, Bucasia State School



1 Snow Wright Court, Andergrove

By arrangement with Cameron's
Management proudly presents

The Appleton Ladies

POTATO RACE

Written By Melanie Tait

Directed by Luana Royle

'A Mackay Festival of Arts Fringe Event'



Thurs. 18, Fri. 19, Sat. 20,

Thurs. 25, Fri. 26, Sat. 27

July 2024 at 7:30pm

Sun. 21 July Matinee 2:00pm

[https://events.humanitix.com/
the-appleton-ladies-potato-race](https://events.humanitix.com/the-appleton-ladies-potato-race)





THE DIRECTOR

Having joined Kucom in 2002, **Luana Royle** made her debut as Assistant Director and Stage Manager in the pantomime *Aladdin* (2014). In 2017 she directed *The Travellers Table* and performed in *The Husband Murderers Support Group* (*Random Acts*, a season of one-

act plays at Paxtons on the River). She has since directed *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (2021), and *Dinkum Assorted* (2022).

WHY THIS PLAY?

“While researching for a play to direct I came across this one and loved it. I look for scripts that can showcase the many talented and upcoming female actors (preferably an Australian play) and *The Appleton Ladies Potato Race* does both.”



Photo supplied by playwright

THE PLAYWRIGHT

Australian playwright and author **Melanie Tait** was born and raised in Robertson, New South Wales, home of ‘the Big Potato’. She founded the Itchy Feet Company in London, and from 2002 to 2004 was artistic director of the Old Red Lion Theatre at The Angel, Islington.

Back in Australia, she worked as a journalist with various radio stations for 12 years, returning to playwriting in 2019 with *The Appleton Ladies Potato Race*, inspired by a real event in her home town. Her other plays include *The Vegemite Tales* and *A Broadcast Coup*.

WHAT’S NEXT AT KUCOM?

Family Values
a comedy by David Williamson
directed by Kristyn Everett

AUDITIONS:
Sunday 4 August at 2pm

SEASON DATES:
24, 25, 26, 27, 31 October
1, 2 November

BOOKINGS:

<https://events.humanitix.com/family-values>

Kucom Happy Hour and Members Draw

Friday 30 August
Friday 27 September
Friday 29 November

Kucom Theatre respectfully dedicates this production to the memory of



Ian Hobday
1944—2024

Kucom Member from 1972, created Life Member 2017



Stan Hillard
1947—2024

Former Kucom Member and founder of the Kucom Film Unit

KUCOM COMMITTEE 2024

**Patron
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Committee**

Mayor Greg Williamson
Maureen Coleman
Jayne Royal
Carolyn Roche
Tessa King
James Hunter
Hayley Long
Asta Ryan



BECOME A KUCOM MEMBER

New members are always welcome.
Just scan this QR code to apply online.

Watch the Kucom Facebook page for **audition notices** and more details as they come to hand

For updates on these and other forthcoming Kucom events, please visit the Kucom website, or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter:

Phone 0439 684 548
Email admin@kucom.org.au
Website www.kucom.org.au
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/kucomtheatre/>
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/kucom.theatre/?hl=en>
Twitter <https://twitter.com/kucomtheatre>

THE CAST

In order of appearance:

**Penny Anderson
Bev Armstrong
Barb Ling
Nikki Armstrong
Rania Hamid**

Carolyn Roche
Jeany Elliott
Katrina Hansen
Amanda Lewis
Pia Larsen

There will be a 20-minute interval, during which the bar will be open for refreshments

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

**Director
Stage Manager
Backstage Crew**

Luana Royle
Luana Royle
Nerida Hansen
Warren Samuel

**Lighting
Sound
Costume/Props
Set Design
Videos/Photography
Publicity**

Anne Clutterbuck
Monica Stewart-McLean
Director & Cast
Luana Royle
Hayley Long
Bronwyn Grannall
Hayley Long

**Poster
Program
Front of House Manager**

Hayley Long
Taffy's Typing Service
Maureen Coleman



CAROLYN ROCHE joined Kucom when she arrived in Mackay in 2006. She has been on stage in at least one production every year since and helps in the shadows with the other productions. She has even tried her hand at stage manager a few times. Like Penny (her character in this production), Carolyn doesn't have any children, she was

never good at sport, never won a scone baking competition, and she and her ex-partner bought their (previous) property almost entirely because of the incredible orchard.



JEANY ELLIOTT has been performing regularly with Mackay Musical Comedy Players and Mackay Choral Society since 2015. At Kucom she was on sound desk for *The Vicar of Dibley* (2018) and *The Mousetrap* (2019); appeared on stage in *When the Bough Breaks* and *Cinderella's Halloween Adventure* (2020); was backstage crew for *The*

Vicar of Dibley (2022) and costumiere for *Things I Know to be True* (2023). Like Bev, she volunteers on various committees and has been carer for a frail family member, but she is not as judgmental and set in her ways as Bev, nor does she swear as frequently.



KATRINA HANSEN has been involved in community groups for about seven years - backstage, making props and performing. She has performed with Mackay Choral Society Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* and *Pirates of Penzance*. Over the years her confidence has grown and this year she challenged herself to take on lead

roles, playing Yente, the matchmaker, in the MCS production of *Fiddler on the Roof* earlier this year. She also played Big Beatrice in Kucom's production of *Dinkum Assorted* (2022).

AMANDA LEWIS, although no stranger to community theatre, is making her 'on stage' debut as Nikki Armstrong. Since joining Kucom theatre in December 2023 Amanda has proven invaluable, working backstage as props manager in *Odd Couples* and more recently as Stage Manager in *The Murder Game*. Her work and life experience have put her in great stead to identify with her character. Like Nikki she's a firecracker, and loves her family, job and town. She's a mother to boys, has coached a local junior footy team, knows how to pour a beer and still cuts hair part-time.



Following her debut performance in 2013 with *Hairspray* (Mackay Musical Comedy Players), **PIA LARSEN** has played a variety of roles from the crazy chef 'Bonkers' in *The Larrikin* to the villainous 'Death Vader' in *The Umpire Strikes Back* and Myrna Thorn in *Ruthless—The Musical*. She has twice played the role of Geraldine Granger in *The Vicar of Dibley* at Kucom (2018 and 2022), and earlier this year played the role of Mary in the David Tristram comedy *What's For Pudding?* (*Odd Couples*, Kucom Theatre).

