



FAMDA has become a hive of activity
with two productions currently in rehearsal.

A CRISS-CROSS CHRISTMAS 6 ~ 15 December
THE VICAR OF DIBLEY 1 ~ 15 March 2019



Nautilus Theatre Project and FAMDA are joining forces to bring to Foster an early Christmas present for the whole family with a delightful new play called *A Criss-Cross Christmas*.

The venture is the brain-child of local writer / director, Chris Dickins, who has written and directed over 100 shows across Australia, including staging *Foreigners From Home* and *Waratah the Musical* with FAMDA and launching his company, Nautilus Theatre Project, in Fish Creek with *Soliloquy*. His one act play, *The Art of Fencing*, recently won the Best New Play trophy at the Dandenong Ranges One Act Play Festival.

A Criss-Cross Christmas is set in suburban Melbourne in 1956 as Christmas approaches and everything is topsy-turvy.

Everyone is getting ready for the usual Australian heat wave. On the outskirts of new suburbs two families are preparing food, wrapping presents, making promises to Santa and tidying their front gardens while Grandma and Nanna cook up a storm with their new pressure cooker. Into the mix come new neighbours, recently arrived from Britain and still dreaming of a white Christmas.

Before long strange things begin to occur and gradually a northern hemisphere Christmas comes to Australia with sightings of strange creatures, carollers suddenly appearing at people's doorsteps and snowflakes falling as eventually the whole neighbourhood is turned upside down by traditional Yuletide reveries.

In the spirit of everything being mixed up, the cast features actors of all ages playing a wide variety of characters. Girls play boys, adults play children, men play Grandmas and most of the cast plays a variety of goblins, fairies, nutcracker soldiers and assorted woodland folk as well as their central characters.

The talented cast for *A Criss-Cross Christmas* includes award winning actress, director and designer Christine Skicko, Fish Creek's Doug Stark making his stage debut in his 70th year, much loved local identity Marg Haycroft, Luke Dearlove, who has worked previously with both FAMDA and Nautilus Theatre Project, and Zarni Holt from Foster in her first time on stage.

Young performers from the La Trobe Valley include Tayla Gane who last year earned the GAT Most Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical trophy for her performance as Jo in *Little Women*, Crystal Libreri and Shari Smith.

A Criss-Cross-Christmas holds appeal for all ages with memorable one-liners and action reminiscent of pantomime, slapstick comedy and knockabout Australian country touring performances of the past.

Book now to come and enjoy an early Christmas treat as Nautilus Theatre Project and FAMDA stage *A Criss-Cross Christmas* at the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre between 6 and 15 December.

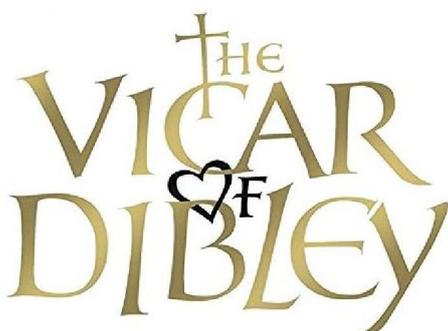
Nautilus Theatre Project
and FAMDA present

A Criss-Cross Christmas
by Chris Dickins

A Christmas Comedy for the Whole Family
Foster War Memorial Arts Centre

December 6, 7, 13, 14, 15 at 7:30pm
Matinees: Sunday December 9 at 2:00pm & 5:00pm

Book early online via famda.org.au or
visit Main Street Revelations, 31 Main St., Foster



The beloved British sitcom, *The Vicar of Dibley*, comes to Foster between 1 & 15 March 2019 in the lead up to the Prom Coast Festival.

Rehearsals are already in full swing directed by Noel Stringer with his remarkable cast:

David Horton - Michael Hogan	Geraldine (Vicar) - Christine Skicko
Hugo Horton - Adrian Darakai	Alice Tinker - Amanda Mohamed
Letitia Cropley - Jean Moore	Jim Trott - Barry Paterson
Frank Pickle - Chris Papas	Owen Newitt - Arie Bos
Woman at Church - Cindy Hasthorpe	

Mark your diary now to see this hilarious comedy on the Foster stage.