Rockhampton Little Theatre

Copyright Policy 2025

Recently a query about Rockhampton Little Theatre's policy on copyright was received.

Very simply we respect copyright laws and custom and practice.

The University of Notre Dame Australia's web entry on the Copyright Act 1968 states the following:

"The Copyright Act gives authors and other copyright owners of original 'works' the exclusive right to reproduce, publish, communicate, and adapt their material; and to licence, transfer, or sell it to other people.

Works protected by copyright include almost all written materials in any format including images, music and other sound recordings, as well as films and other visual media."

"Written material (including novels, poems and newspaper articles) is automatically protected by copyright as soon as it is written or otherwise recorded in some way (e.g. on computer disk or dictaphone)."

Any works produced by an author who died before the 1st January 1955 are in the Public Domain. For works created after that date copyright exists for 70 years after the death of the creator and permissions must be obtained from that creator or their heirs or assignees.

In Australia there is no requirement for a work to be registered for copyright to apply. Unless a specific act to place work in Creative Commons has been made then copyright exists from the moment of creation.

The Rockhampton Little Theatre respects copyright and has paid royalties before now to the creators of unpublished works. Occasionally we read works in a workshop environment, but always obtain permission for this beforehand. If a new work is brought to us to be workshopped we will work with the creator in that workshopping process.

In short: We treat all published and unpublished work as the property of the creator and will always respect that ownership. We acknowledge the right of creators of original works to receive recompense for the use of those works.