



MUSIC THEATRE GUILD
OF VICTORIA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Inc

held at CLOC Central, 32 Dane Road, Moorabbin, 3189

on Saturday 25th March 2017 at 2.30pm

Present: Alan Stone
Andrew McDougall
Ang Cuy
Beverley Meldrum
Brett Wingfield
Cameron Osborne
Carole Cuthbertson
Derek Ingles by proxy to Elly Foster
Dot Parker
Elly Foster
Fran Boyd
Frank Simcox
Graeme Cope
Mark Spencer
Mary Ellen Wallace-Smith
Peter Tapai
Sandra Davies
Tony Dahl by proxy to Elly foster

Welcome Beverley Meldrum welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance at the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Inc.

Apologies: Darrell Boyd, Tony Dahl, Brad Fisher, Peter Dale, Derek Ingles.

Confirmation of Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting

Moved: Elly Foster

Seconded: Carole Cuthbertson

Carried

Correspondence:

Nil

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer presented her report and read the Auditor's Independent Audit Report and Profit and Loss Statement for the year 01/02/16 to 31/01/17

Retained surplus as at 1 February 2016	\$22,406.17
Plus total income to 31 January 2017	\$55,757.26

Less total expenditure to 31/01/17 \$48,364.75

Retained surplus as at 31 January 2016 **\$29,798.68**

The Treasurer's Report was moved Fran Boyd, seconded Brett Wingfield Carried

Auditor Moved Fran Boyd, seconded Dot Parker that John Wallis is appointed Auditor for 2017. Carried

President's Report:

Last year we celebrated 30 years of the founding of the Guild and reflected on how it all began.

It was in 1986 that Bruce McBrien, David Richards and Doug Savage established a supporting body for non-professional theatre, the aim being to give recognition to the abundance of talent in the State by way of a program of Awards for Excellence. This encompassed all aspects of a production, affording opportunities to the myriad of people involved and showcasing talent that might otherwise go unnoticed, and so the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria was born.

The Guild has achieved much in the last 30 years despite no significant funding and will continue to do so as long as there are dedicated people prepared to contribute their time and expertise to keep the dream alive. In the beginning there were 25 companies; today membership stands at 97, a living testament to the three gentlemen who shared their passion and vision for musical theatre.

Every year brings new theatre companies, new shows, new faces and new talent, which was the ultimate dream back in the 80's. Each year also brings new challenges both artistic and technical for the creative journey from page to stage. Our founders would be both amazed and delighted to witness musical theatre as it stands today and feel immense pride in the knowledge that it all began with them.

With the passing of the years comes the loss of some of our founding members. 2016 saw the passing of Bettine McCaughan, a Judge for 13 years and Life Member of the Guild; and Rosemary McBride who was a Committee Member and sponsor of our Junior Bruce Awards over many years. Both ladies will be fondly remembered for their theatrical involvement and our thoughts are extended to their respective families.

The Awards Night would be a non-event without our Judges and the Guild acknowledges them from both the Open and Junior panels and thanks them for their dedication and time in judging 112 productions throughout Victoria in 2016. The road trips increase each year, as do the kilometres travelled, and their time and efforts are recognised and greatly appreciated; and we should not forget the partners of Judges and Committee whose unseen support is also acknowledged and appreciated.

We would also like to sincerely thank Open Panel Chairman Brad Fischer and Junior Panel Chairman David Crawshaw for their work in 2016. We welcomed new judges Shaun Kingma, Carla Gianinotti, Ann Hubbard and Dayna Tinline and offer our thanks to relief judges, Dot Parker, Peter Maver, Fran Boyd, Elyse Carmichael and Scott Hili.

Thanks go to the production team of Director Danny Ginsberg and Co-Host Mike Fletcher, Musical Director Amy Wert, Production Manager Brett Wingfield, our wonderful orchestra and everyone behind the scenes, all who volunteered their time to be a part of the Guild's 30th year celebration of excellence in musical theatre.

Special mention goes to PLOS who hosted the evening, with thanks for their support in the preparation and Front of House management and also to Monash University, Peninsula Campus for providing the venue for the Guild rehearsal.

Feedback from the 2016 Awards Night has been very positive. It was a break from tradition, compared with other years, with Danny Ginsberg and Mike Fletcher hosting the night. They brought humour and light relief to the stage that did not detract in any way from the more serious side of the evening. The performances, carefully chosen throughout the year by our judging panels, were a showcase of excellence from companies far and wide in Victoria and made a statement that talent is not discriminated by location. The orchestra was stunning under the direction of Amy Wert whose workload was enormous in the lead up to Awards Night. We thank Amy for the long hours of preparation, hard work and patience in coordinating a night of musical excellence.

Presenting such a wonderful production doesn't happen overnight but over months of careful and precise planning and for this we acknowledge and thank our Production Manager, Brett Wingfield, whose loyalty and dedication to the Guild spans many years.

Congratulations to Edith HARRY Award recipient Paul Denham, acknowledging his outstanding contribution to musical theatre; to Brian Davis and Sharon Leppard, recipients of the Musician's Award; to Dot Parker, who was awarded Guild Life Membership and to everyone who received commendations, nominations and those recipients of a Bruce Award.

The Guild also acknowledges those companies, individuals, corporate bodies and foundations that sponsor our Bruce Awards each year in support of the Awards Night.

It was opportune that night to offer congratulations to Valda (Val) Pagram who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours last year, for service to musical theatre.

To my Guild Committee colleagues, sincere thanks for your time, support and work throughout the year. A small team, but a good team, who share their theatrical passion and uphold the vision of our founder Bruce McBrien.

Our choice of venues for the Awards Night is quite restricted as we require a theatre with a seating capacity of 800. However, we are excited to travel to Bendigo this year for the 31st Bruce Awards for Excellence to be held at the stunning new Ulumbarra Theatre in beautiful Bendigo with Director Vern Wall and Musical Director Cynthia Holsworth. And for those of you wishing to enjoy a weekend away in Bendigo, the Guild website will keep you updated with accommodation packages on offer.

To all companies and schools my best wishes to you all for success with your productions in 2017 and may your seats never be empty!

Beverley Meldrum
President – Music Theatre Guild of Victoria
AGM
25th March 2017

Election of Office Bearers

All positions were declared vacant and Elly Foster was asked to oversee the election of office bearers.

President	Beverley Meldrum – nominated Fran Boyd, seconded Elly Foster
Vice President	Brett Wingfield – nominated Colin Armstrong, seconded Nicole Lylak
Secretary	Elly Foster – nominated Fran Boyd, seconded Darrell Boyd
Treasurer	Fran Boyd – nominated Brett Wingfield, seconded Darrell Boyd

Committee

Derek Ingles – nominated Tony Dahl, seconded Elly Foster
Carole Cuthbertson – nominated Elly Foster, seconded Beverley Meldrum
Mary-Ellen Wallace-Smith – nominated Frank Simcox, seconded Alan Stone
Dot Parker – nominated Fran Boyd, seconded Darrell Boyd
Tony Dahl – nominated Derek Ingles, seconded Elly Foster
Ang Cuy – nominated Brett Wingfield, seconded Carole Cuthbertson
Mark Spencer - nominated Carole Cuthbertson, seconded Fran Boyd

An additional nomination for Secretary was received from Mary-Ellen Wallace-Smith just prior to the meeting. However, under the rules of the Constitution, nominations must be received one week prior to the meeting, therefore the nomination was not accepted.

Accordingly, as the number of nominations was not greater than the number of vacancies, all nominees were elected.

POST MEETING: In response to a query at the meeting, please that the MTGV constitution has been, and continues to be, available on the website – note link.. <http://www.musictheatreguildvic.org/constitution-2/>. It is also available on the home page to facilitate easy access.

General Business

Membership fees:

Further to the discussion at the last AGM, it was resolved to increase membership fees in 2018 to \$100 including judging of one show.

Additional Judging: \$60 per show

Moved: Brett Wingfield Seconded: Carole Cuthbertson Carried

Awards night 2016:

The Secretary read a letter received from Alan Stone outlining his concerns over the content and standard of the 2016 Awards night. Much discussion ensued with many positive reports being received. Overall it was agreed that the night should be entertaining, but the importance of striking a balance in relation to the engagement of younger people, greater direction from the Guild, allowing the director/s to have input etc, was also acknowledged.

Should the committee wish, a survey of member companies could be undertaken to obtain wider opinion.

Mary - Ellen Wallace-Smith - report:

It was resolved that the report required discussion at committee level – to be forwarded to secretary for inclusion at the next committee meeting.

Moved: Frank Simcox Seconded: Brett Wingfield Carried

Brett Wingfield thanked Beverley Meldrum for her continued commitment as President of the Guild

Beverley thanked Brett for his support as Vice President and his untiring commitment as Production Manager of the Awards nights.

Beverley also thanked CLOC for the use of their premises as the venue for the AGM.

Meeting closed at 3.55 pm

