



MUSIC THEATRE GUILD  
OF VICTORIA

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Inc  
held at Williamstown Town Hall, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown  
on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 2.30pm**

### **Company**

**Representation:** Adamson Theatre Company by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Altona City Theatre by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Babirra Music Theatre Co by proxy to Owen Davies  
Ballarat Lyric Theatre Inc by proxy to Alison Trevenen  
Beaconhills Christian College by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Billy Lids Theatre Company by proxy to Ang Cuy  
Brentwood Secondary College by proxy to Brett Wingfield  
Caulfield Grammar School by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
CenterStage by proxy to David Greenwood  
CLOC Musical Theatre by proxy to Cameron Osborne  
Emmaus College by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Fab Nobs by proxy to Keith Stubley  
Footlight Productions by proxy to Beverley Meldrum  
Gladstone Park Secondary College by proxy to Bianca Jones  
Horsham Arts Council by proxy to Elly Foster  
Leibler Yavneh College by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Marymede Catholic College by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Mentone Girls Grammar by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
MLOC by proxy Leah Osburn  
Mount Scopus Memorial College by proxy to Carole Cuthbertson  
NOVA Theatre Company by proxy to Lynette Handy  
Off the Leash Theatre Company by proxy to Elly Foster  
OSMAD by proxy to Katherine McDonald  
Panorama Theatre Company by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Parade College by proxy to Bianca Jones  
PEP Productions by proxy to Justin Cleaver  
Players Theatre Company by proxy to Craig Dewar  
PLOS Musical Productions by proxy to Brett Wingfield  
Ringwood Secondary College by proxy to Elly Foster  
St Helena Secondary College by proxy to Fran Boyd  
St Michaels Grammar School by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
SLAMS Music Theatre Company by proxy to Elly Foster  
Theatre of the Damned by proxy to Derek Ingles  
Waterdale Theatre Inc by proxy to Bianca Jones  
Westbourne Grammar School by proxy to Shaun Kingma

Western Arts Theatre by proxy to David Cenzato  
Williamstown Theatre Company by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Wonthaggi Theatre Company by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson

**Individual &  
Life member**

**Representation** Grant Alley by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Felicity Allnutt by proxy to Mark Spencer  
Darrell Boyd by proxy to Fran Boyd  
Judith Bradtke by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Theresa Brancatisamo by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Kate Burns by proxy to Ang Cuy  
Norm Cassidy-Anderson by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Sharon Cassidy-Anderson by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Torstyn Cole by proxy to Mark Spencer  
Meriki Comito by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
David Crawshaw by proxy to Elly Foster  
Elizabeth Cuthbertson by proxy to Carole Cuthbertson  
Elise Dahl by proxy to Derek Ingles  
Tony Dahl by proxy to Derek Ingles  
Sandra Davies by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Craig Dixon by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Stuart Dodge by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Faye Eldridge by proxy to Beverley Meldrum  
Tamara Finch by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Nathan Firmin by proxy to Elly Foster  
Brad Fischer by proxy to Elly Foster  
Jason Fry by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Kate Funston by proxy to Mark Spencer  
Sarah-Kate Hanley by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Daniel Heskett by proxy to Mark Spencer  
Tyler Hess by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Jodi Hope by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Mark Houghton by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Faisal Iqbal by proxy to Mark Spencer  
Christine James by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Nicholas Kong by proxy to Elly Foster  
Tyson Legg by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Rosa McCarty by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Karl McNamara by proxy to Elly Foster  
Bianca Manello by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Lynne Muir by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Jack Neill by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Melinda Peebles by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Diane Reid by proxy to Mark Spencer  
Jon Sebastian by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Dale Seidel by proxy to Mark Spencer  
Andrea Scholes by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Frank Simcox by proxy to Mary Ellen Wallace-Smith  
Chris Stevenson by proxy to Shaun Kingma

Amanda Stevenson by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Alan Stone by proxy to Mary Ellen Wallace-Smith  
Dayna Tinline by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Wendy Tompkins by proxy to Derek Ingles  
Nick Toms by proxy to Mark Spencer  
Ashley Tynan by proxy to Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Tailem Tynan by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
John Wallis by proxy to Fran Boyd  
Naomi Webster by proxy to Mark Spencer  
Ashley Weidner by proxy to Katherine McDonald  
Rachael Whitelaw by proxy to Shaun Kingma  
Peter Wills by proxy Beverley Meldrum  
Margaret Wills by proxy to Beverley Meldrum  
Bev Woodford by proxy to Brett Wingfield  
Melanie Xavier by proxy to Shaun Kingma

**Individual  
& Life Member**

**Attendance** Patsi Boddison  
Fran Boyd  
Mitchell Brusamarello  
Damien Calvert  
Patricia Chetcuti  
Ang Cuy  
Marcus Cassidy-Anderson  
Graeme Cope  
Carole Cuthbertson  
Craig Dewar  
Phillip Dowling  
Glenn Fischer  
Elly Foster  
Simon Foster  
Tim Gay  
Keith Greenwood  
Lynette Handy  
Beverley Horwood  
Lisa Hunter  
Derek Ingles  
Shaun Kingma  
Jeff Maxwell  
Beverley Meldrum  
Sallyanne Mitchell  
Trevor Osburn  
Dot Parker  
Nick Rouse  
Mark Spencer  
Peter Tapai  
Mary Ellen Wallace-Smith  
Meg Warren  
Brett Wingfield  
Robyn Zugaj

**Welcome** Beverley Meldrum welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance at the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Inc. Beverley also thanked Williamstown Theatre Company for the use of their premises as the venue for the AGM, and their generous hospitality.

**Apologies:** All companies and individuals listed above who have nominated a proxy, Beaumaris Theatre Company, BLOC Music Theatre and Windmill Theatre Company.

**Confirmation of Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting:**

Moved: Elly Foster      Seconded: Mark Spencer      Carried

**Business Arising from Minutes:**

Nil

**Correspondence:**

Nil

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer presented the Profit and Loss Statement for the year 01/02/18 to 31/01/19

Retained surplus as at 31 January 2018	\$41,687.66
Plus total income to 31 January 2019	\$68,423.84
Less total expenditure to 31 January 2019	<u>\$57,420.24</u>

**Retained surplus as at 31 January 2019**      **\$52,691.26**

The Treasurer's Report was moved Carole Cuthbertson, seconded Derek Ingles      Carried

**President's Report:**

Our 'one night of the year' again proved to be an outstanding success in 2018 as the Guild brought the season to a close. So many productions, so much talent and an abundance of excellent performances to top off the year.

2018 has been a most challenging year for the Guild and also sometimes disappointing that some of these challenges have taken energy away from what should be the main business of the Guild.

We have seen a shift in production design with digital images and projections being introduced in preference to the more traditional stage settings, which has had an impact on show perception. As technology moves forward, so too does the theatre world, thus providing more flexibility for production design. Each and every company in Victoria should be extremely proud of their respective productions, whether they be on the larger scale or smaller. What matters most is the involvement of all personnel pursuing their passion for musical theatre. Non-professional theatre is well and truly alive in this State and we are so fortunate to have the opportunity to experience this first hand.

A combined total of 117 productions from both panels were adjudicated during the year and we sincerely thank the judges for their dedication, commitment and time travelling thousands of kilometres throughout Victoria. Much discussion has ensued concerning decisions made but unless one travels in their shoes it is unreasonable to criticise and make comparisons.

We thank all our judges and relief judges for volunteering their time, energy and expertise throughout the year. We say farewell to Carla Gianinotti from the Open Panel and Carole Cuthbertson from the Junior Panel with many thanks for their time and involvement, and welcome Nicole Lylak moving up from Junior to Open and new Open Judge Trevor Osburn. We also welcome new Junior judges Liz Zito and Nick Rees. I will also be retiring from the Open Panel once a replacement has been found.

Sadly, our two Chairmen stepped down at the conclusion of the 2018 judging year. In addition to their judging commitments they both took on the role of Chairman for their respective panels, providing leadership, support and administration. Each has displayed a high level of professionalism and integrity and the Guild sincerely thanks Brad Fischer and David Crawshaw for their dedication and commitment to the role. Fittingly, these two gentlemen were awarded Life Membership of the Guild on Awards Night last year in recognition of their service and excellent work.

We are delighted to welcome Mitchell Brusamarello as the new Chairperson/Administrator of both the Junior and Open Judging Panels. This is purely an independent administrative position and we wish him well in his new role. As with all judging positions, this will also be reviewed at the end of the judging season.

To Windmill Theatre Company who generously hosted the Awards Night, we thank them for their support in the preparation and Front of House management. The stunning Bunjil Place certainly provided the perfect venue for the night.

Our thanks go to the Production Team of Director Stuart Dodge, Musical Director Malcom Huddle, Production Manager Brett Wingfield, our Host Ang Cuy, the wonderful orchestra and everyone behind the scenes. Feedback has been excellent and positive in every respect and the performances were a showcase of excellence from both companies and schools.

Congratulations to Edith Harry Award recipient Jeff Maxwell for outstanding contribution to musical theatre and to Ned Dixon recipient of the Musicians' Award. Congratulations also to Camberwell Grammar with Canterbury Girls Secondary, recipients of Junior Production of the Year for Jesus Christ Superstar and MLOC Productions, the recipient of Open Production of the Year for Spring Awakening. Congratulations go to all nominees and recipients in 2018.

I would also like to acknowledge those companies, individuals, corporate bodies and foundations that sponsor our Bruce Awards each year in support of the Awards Night.

To my committee colleagues, your support and cohesive work throughout the year has been outstanding. It has been a challenging and at times difficult year and I make special mention of Secretary Elly Foster and Vice President Brett Wingfield who have contributed above and beyond all expectations.

Several points were raised at the previous AGM and I am able to give you some feedback today:

#### **Guild Survey:**

We conducted a survey of member companies to determine our core 'business' and whether the Guild can improve in any areas, thereby giving a voice to the theatre community. The results of this survey will be covered today following this report.

#### **Awards Night Rehearsals:**

This was reviewed with emphasis on alternative methods to accommodate those unable to attend, especially when held in regional areas. This resulted in the cancellation of the planned day and

arrangements were made for those involved to provide music files and videos to the production team. This proved to be very successful and well received. Something to build on for 2019.

#### **Awards Night:**

On the subject of behaviour at Awards Night, a note was sent with tickets purchased providing a code of conduct for attendees.

#### **Musicians' rate of pay:**

The request for a forum for collaboration with all companies for discussion/resolution was discussed at committee level and agreement reached that this would be tabled for a future date in 2019.

#### **Guild Website:**

The Guild website has been totally redeveloped and is now live with a much more user-friendly menu tab with several added features. We sincerely thank Marcus Cassidy-Anderson and Mark Spencer for their work in creating and developing this new website and the transition from old to new. We would encourage all member companies and schools to use the website for promotional purposes and informed news.

#### **Judging Criteria:**

Award guidelines have been published on the website to clarify the judging process, thereby providing transparency on how productions are judged and the criteria used.

To all companies and schools I wish you success with your productions in 2019 and hope you can attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> Bruce Awards for Excellence to be held at Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat with Director Maxine Montgomery and Musical Director Gareth Grainger.

Lastly, I feel very privileged to have held the role of President since 2010 but after eight years it is time to step down. I believe eight years is far too long and ideally the position should have a term of two to three years. I have enjoyed the role immensely. It has given me the opportunity to meet so many people involved in the amateur theatre world and I would like to thank the Guild for giving me the opportunity. I hope the incoming President will uphold the vision of our founder Bruce McBrien and I wish them well for the year ahead.

**Beverley Meldrum**

**President**

**Music Theatre Guild of Victoria**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The President's Report was moved Beverley Meldrum, seconded Cameron Osborne      Carried

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#### **2018 Survey Report**

Ang Cuy and Mark Spencer presented the results of the member survey carried out in 2018. The salient points were identified and will form the basis for an implementation plan as well as focus areas for further consultation and communication with members.

The presentation will be uploaded onto the website.

#### **Election of Office Bearers**

All positions were declared vacant and Jeff Maxwell took over as Returning Officer, supported by Mitchell Brusamarello and Simon Foster.

President                    There were two nominations received for President:  
**Shaun Kingma** – nominated Cameron Osborne, seconded Patsi Boddison  
**Ang Cuy** – nominated Beverley Meldrum, seconded Fran Boyd  
**A ballot was conducted and Ang Cuy was elected President**

Vice President            There were two nominations received for Vice - President:  
**Brett Wingfield** – nominated Fran Boyd, seconded Elly Foster  
**Anne Dewar** - nominated Lynette Handy, seconded Mary-Ellen Wallace-Smith  
**A ballot was conducted and Brett Wingfield was elected Vice - President**

Secretary                    There were two nominations received for Secretary:  
**Mark Spencer** – nominated Carole Cuthbertson, seconded Elly Foster  
**Nicholas Rouse** – nominated Bianca Jones, seconded Shaun Kingma  
**A ballot was conducted and Mark Spencer was elected Secretary**

Treasurer                    There were three nominations received for Treasurer:  
**Carole Cuthbertson** – nominated Fran Boyd, seconded Beverley Meldrum  
**Phillip Dowling** - nominated Caroline Allen, seconded Mary-Ellen Wallace-Smith  
**Jon Sebastian** – nominated Craig Dixon, seconded Cameron Osborne  
**A ballot was conducted and Carole Cuthbertson was elected Treasurer**

Committee                    There were thirteen nominations received for eight committee positions

**Fran Boyd** – nominated Carole Cuthbertson, seconded Derek Ingles  
**Damien Calvert** – nominated David Barrell, seconded Katherine McDonald  
**Tony Dahl** – nominated Derek Ingles, seconded Elly Foster  
**Anne Dewar** – nominated Lynette Handy, seconded Mary-Ellen Wallace-Smith  
**Phillip Dowling** - nominated Lynette Handy, seconded Mary-Ellen Wallace-Smith  
**Elly Foster** – nominated Mark Spencer, seconded Carole Cuthbertson  
**Derek Ingles** – nominated Carole Cuthbertson, seconded Fran Boyd  
**Karl McNamara** – nominated Elly Foster, seconded Brett Wingfield  
**Beverley Meldrum** – nominated Mark Spencer, seconded Derek Ingles  
**Leah Osburn** – nominated Andrew Gyoper, seconded Garry Bertrand  
**Dot Parker** – nominated Mark Spencer, seconded Elly Foster  
**Nicholas Rouse** – nominated Bianca Jones, seconded Shaun Kingma \*\*\*  
*The nominee withdrew his nomination at the conclusion of the office bearers elections*  
**Jon Sebastian** – nominated Craig Dixon, seconded Cameron Osborne  
**Mary-Ellen Wallace-Smith** – nominated Lynette Handy, seconded Frank Simcox

**A ballot was conducted and the following people were elected to the Committee for 2019:**

Fran Boyd	Damien Calvert
Anne Dewar	Elly Foster
Derek Ingles	Karl McNamara
Leah Osburn	Dot Parker

Thank you to all nominees – the interest in joining committee and supporting the Guild is most encouraging.

**General Business**

**Constitution:** Phillip Dowling asked why MTGV has incorrect information in the constitution  
**POST MEETING:** There appears to be a typo in the constitution on the website:  
REG. NO A00193095, when the constitution on Consumer Affairs is REG. NO A0019309S.  
Website copy to be corrected.

He also asserted that the Consumer Affairs website had not been updated – taken on notice and to be investigated.

**POST MEETING:** Due to MTGV being registered as a not for profit charity it is unnecessary to submit an Annual Statement to Consumer Affairs. Our charity reporting is up to date on the ACNC website.

**Shaun Kingma** thanked everyone for responding to the call for action and the resultant level of interest, which was indicative of the need for change within MTGV. He noted that he and **Ang Cuy** had had conversations in the lead up to the AGM and felt that they had a shared approach to wanting to build a positive theatre community. He offered his best wishes and support to the incumbent committee.

He also suggested that Actors Equity had displayed a good example in providing support for the theatre community in the area of mental health, and that this was something he would like the Guild to investigate also.

**Cameron Osborne** advised that on behalf of CLOC Musical Theatre, a Presidents meeting was convened with seventeen companies of varying size represented. The meeting provided a vehicle to share ideas, for larger companies to support and encourage smaller companies by sharing resources and tried and true methods, and to enable open, connected and honest discussion, where nothing was off limits.

It was thought to be a very positive initiative, and something that the Guild should coordinate, perhaps on a quarterly basis.

**Cameron Osborne** on behalf of CLOC asked how the awards night performances are chosen. It was explained that the judges put forward suggestions throughout the year based on a majority decision.

The challenge is to provide a varied programme of solos, ballads, ensemble, junior / open performances.

Although it was acknowledged that performance need to be decided on promptly before music is sent back, an alternative maybe to advise companies that they are on a short list and final choices would be made closer to the awards night – committee to discuss further.

**Amendments to the Constitution – see details attached.**

1. **Section 16** - After discussion, the following change was agreed to, however **The President** will be amended to **The President or equivalent**

## **16. VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

(1) Upon any question arising at a general meeting of the Association, each company, individual and life member has one vote only. However company votes are weighted proportionate to individual votes in the ratio of 5:1.

(2) The **President** of any member companies present will vote on behalf of that company. However if a Member Company's president is not in attendance, the member company must give written notification prior to the meeting as to whom has been nominated to vote on behalf of the company.

(3) Life members and individual members of the Guild may vote on behalf of themselves and a company if nominated as the company's representative.

(4) All votes must be given personally or by proxy.

(5) In the case of an equality of voting on a question, the chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.

(6) A member is not entitled to vote at a general meeting unless all moneys due and payable by the member to the Association have been paid, other than the amount of the annual subscription payable in respect of the current financial year.

2. **Section 19 - Proxy voting** was discussed at length. Members felt that the proposed amendment could provide a barrier to representation, and could disadvantage regional companies.

As a result, this will be revisited by the committee and a special general meeting will take place to further discuss the change.

**Ang Cuy** thanked the outgoing office bearers and committee for their commitment and achievements over the past twelve months, and suggested that with increasing membership and the high level of interest in nominating for committee, 2019 will be seen as a turning point for MTGV.

**Meeting closed at 5.35 pm**