

Shepparton Theatre Arts Group Incorporated Annual General Meeting 2023

Held on 1st day of November 2023 at 6:30pm.

Welcome: *President Wendy Platt opened the meeting: I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, the Yorta Yorta and Bangerang, I pay my respects to their Elders past and present and to their emerging Leaders. General welcoming comments. Introduce Gemma to explain some "housekeeping" to attendees.*

1. **Present**

Nicky Pummeroy, Bron Prater, Wendy Platt, Laura Varapodio, Clare Rich, Kathy Skidmore, Gemma Marchant, Sharon Geraghty, John Foster, Sean O'Brien, Dale Roberts, Phil Croke, John Head, Fiona Keenan, John Lewis, Troy McKindley

Apologies

Matt Dowling, Kelly Elder, Tonina Romeo

Motion: that apologies be noted and accepted.

Moved Troy McKindley Seconded Bron Prater Carried Y

2. **Previous Minutes:** *(distributed)*

Previous minutes of the AGM conducted 17th of August 2022 have been distributed.

Motion: that the minutes be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Moved Troy McKindley Seconded Laura Varapodio Carried Y

3. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

Nothing arising from the previous minutes from 2022

4. **President's Report:**

Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you to the Annual General Meeting of Shepparton Theatre Arts Group for the Year 2023. It is with great pleasure that I stand before you for my second term as President. What a year we have had, and I am so proud of our remarkable and productive year.

As we came out of the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a collective sense of uncertainty. We wondered if the enthusiasm for live theatrical shows would still burn bright. The resounding answer we received was a heartfelt "YES." It is truly heartening to witness the renewed enthusiasm from our local theatrical community.

Our journey for the year began with the spectacular production of "Steel Magnolias" in October. The response to auditions was overwhelming, and a decision to double-cast the performance was made. This presented some challenges; however, our dedicated production team and cast worked tirelessly and made this a resounding success. "Steel Magnolias" marked a significant milestone as the first play since the pandemic's onset, and we are thrilled to report that its success has paved the way for an exciting addition of more plays to the STAG repertoire.

The Georgy Awards recognized our 2022 production of "The Drowsy Chaperone" with ten nominations, and we proudly celebrated several wins.

Our successes extended to the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria, where we received nominations and commendations, further cementing our presence in the theatre community. Congratulations to all the well-deserved winners.

In December, we celebrated the year's end with a brilliant gathering at Mario's Pizza in Mooroopna, where we awarded Troy McKindley a Life Membership. Nicky Pummeroy and the rest of the STAG Committee surprised me with a Life Membership as well – very sneaky I had no idea although I did wonder why Paul was so passionate about coming to the Christmas party!!!!!!! We were both deeply surprised and graciously welcomed into the esteemed ranks of Life Members of STAG.

The new year started on a lively note with a Trivia Show hosted by Ian Smith and Natalie Dobbyn, featuring entertainment from some of the "It Takes Two" presenters. This proved to be a great night out for In March, our innovative production of "It Takes Two" was relocated from the Eastbank centre to the WestSide Performing Arts Centre due to flood damage. This endeavour was met with swift adjustments and an outpouring of support from our dedicated team. Special recognition goes out to Karen Groves and Nicky Pummeroy for their exceptional efforts in making this show a resounding success and for ushering a significant number of new members into the STAG family.

In July, in partnership with Riverlinks, we delivered "Christmas in July" at the Eastbank Centre, a venture led by Kat Bristol, Wade Gregory, and Nicky Pummeroy. The season consisted of a cabaret evening on Friday night followed by an Afternoon Delight on Sunday. Both performances were extremely well attended with great feedback from Riverlinks. Let me tell you my father-in-law loved it and has been telling everyone in Tintwistle, England about it. Maybe we need to take it overseas!

Stepping out from his usual role backstage, Troy directed his first full show, "12 Angry Jurors" in the Blackbox. This production, with its outstanding 13-member cast and two intermissions, was another triumph for STAG, further enriching the inclusion of plays in our repertoire. Our major musical for the year, "Fiddler on the Roof," was a two-week extravaganza at the Westside Performing Arts Centre, and it too met with great success. We received heartfelt congratulations from the community, especially the Jewish community, for our respectful representation of their faith. Casey and her team dedicated immense effort to bring this show to life, and from all reports, it has been a major success. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting the financial results of the show.

STAG has yet again achieved success in the Bendigo Bank Community Grants program, securing \$4,500 towards a new Lighting Board. Our current 29-year-old system has served us faithfully in various venues and will be missed, but the new equipment will enable us to continue bringing more shows to life in the Blackbox Theatre.

Troy has been instrumental in overseeing various upgrades, including new lighting around the shed and a new air conditioning system for the Greenroom. He has also been diligently working on rewiring the Electrical Grid in the Blackbox. In addition, the Makeup room in the Blackbox Theatre has seen improvements, as evidenced in "Steel Magnolias" and "12 Angry Jurors."

Behind the scenes, we have been continuously updating our Policies and Procedures to align with current standards. We have also modified some of our forms to incorporate Working with Children Check requirements and updated our Code of Conduct. These changes are accessible on our website.

We bid farewell to our Life Members who sadly passed, Nancy Kinmond, and Paul Freeman, both of whom left an indelible mark on our organization.

We now have photos up of those loved ones that have passed and all Presidents in the toilet area.

Before concluding my report, I'd like to share some exciting news regarding the 2023 Georgy Awards. It brings me immense pleasure to announce that STAG has received a total of 25 nominations. These nominations encompass our outstanding productions, including "Fiddler on the Roof", "Steel Magnolias", "It Takes Two," and "Twelve Angry Jurors." Please join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations to all the deserving nominees. Bubbla Darlings!!! As another year draws to a close, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have been a part of the STAG family, whether on stage or behind the scenes. Our dedicated audiences deserve our gratitude for their unwavering support. We have exciting plans for the upcoming year, and I encourage you all to get involved. Finally, to the amazing committee, I would personally like to say a huge thank you for all your support and guidance. We certainly are a team. Shows are not just on stage there is a lot of hard work that goes behind the scenes that no one sees and people aren't recognised for – but we do it because we love it.

Thank you.
Wendy Platt

John Head acknowledged Wendy's hard work for the last 2 years, especially coming out of COVID.

Motion: that the President's Report be accepted.

Moved: Bron Prater Seconded: Gemma Marchant Carried Y

5. **Treasurer's Report:** *Read by Gemma Marchant on behalf of Tonina Romeo who was unable to attend due to sickness.*

The report covers the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Invite Treasurer to give a summary of the report and our financial position.

TREASURERS REPORT

Summary of report for the financial year from 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

- **Shows, Musicals, Plays and Concerts**

Name	Income	Net Profit
Steel Magnolias Oct/ Nov 22	\$5441.35	\$2017.52
It Takes Two March 2023	\$27,016.71	\$12,485
12 Angry Jurors June 2023	\$16,243.05	\$14,152.42
Total Proffit from Shows	\$48701.11	\$28654.94

- **Memberships:**

Membership (2023)	\$3027.72
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- **Income and Expense**

Period	Income	Expenditure	Net Profit/(Loss)
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July 2022 to June 2023	\$61081.34	\$45,529.90	\$15,551.44
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- In Feb 2023 STAG held a trivia night as a social night and small fund raiser for the company. After organizational costs the 2023 Trivia earned STAG \$1034.64
- Sale of Drowsy Set bought \$5000 into STAG and additional Hire of costumes and sets over the year has led to a further \$400
- The GMCU, as of 30 June 2023, had total funds of approx. \$94,524.58, of which \$42,451.26 sits in a fixed term deposit.
- Balance, as of 30 June 2023, in the Bendigo Bank Development Fund Account is \$1835.32
- Major capital purchases this year include.
 - Renovation works and fit out of additional spaces in the green room. Inclusive of a cast and crew toilet, dedicated make up room and further improvements to props storage.
 - Purchase or donation of additional costumes
 - Update to the square EFTPOS machine that can be used at STAG for in-house needs and shows and externally to assist with program sales etc.
- This year saw the first full year of no lockdown or impacts to shows within the company (via COVID or Flooding etc). All shows were able to progress as planned and the company has seen audiences returning to Live theatre with a high number of the performances sold out. All shows this year turned a profit and this has been reflected in the small profit that the company was able to turn over this year as opposed to the last 2 years due to circumstances out of our hands. We hope to see this continue as we move into our new season and as STAG continue to produce the quality theatre that it is well known for.

Thank you.

Tonina Romeo – Treasurer

John Foster asked why there was so much in the bank account and not in a term deposit. Nicky replied that we need that amount as there is always substantial amounts that are required to be paid, for example the rights to Fiddler on the Roof \$17,000.

Kathy Skidmore acknowledged Troy McKindley and Phil Croke for their hard work in building the Drowsy set that made the group \$5000.

Motion: that the financial report of Shepparton Theatre Arts Group Inc for 2022/23 be accepted.

Moved: Gemma Marchant Seconded: John Foster Carried: Y

6. Election of Office Bearers/Committee

All positions on the committee were declared vacant.

Election of executive: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

a) President

Wendy vacated the chair. Gemma took chair for election of President

Gemma announced nomination for President received from Wendy Platt

There were no other nominations and Gemma declared that **Wendy Platt was elected as President for 2023/24.**

Gemma vacated the chair, Wendy took up the chair

Wendy announced nomination for Vice President received from Gemma Marchant.

There were no other nominations and Wendy declared that **Gemma Marchant was elected** as Vice President for 2023/24.

Wendy announced nomination for Treasurer received from Tonina Romeo

There were no other nominations and Wendy declared that **Tonina Romeo was elected as Treasurer for 2023/24.**

Wendy announced nomination for Secretary received from Nicky Pummeroy

There were no other nominations and Wendy declared that **Nicky Pummeroy was elected as Secretary for 2023/24.**

Wendy announced that all positions for ordinary committee declared vacant. Nominations for committee ordinary members were received from:

John Head, Troy McKindley, Bron Prater, Ian Smith, Laura Varapodio, Kathy Skidmore Sean O'Brien, Clare Rich

Wendy declared that nominees are elected as ordinary members of the committee for 2023/24.

7. **Membership fee subscriptions: amount and date payable.**

Membership fees for 2023/24 are:

Adult:	\$55
Concession:	\$30
Family:	\$80
Social:	\$30

Motion: We change our structure of membership to 12 monthly period from date of payment

Moved: Gemma Marchant Seconded: Ian Smith Carried:

Motion: That Memberships remain the same as 2022

Carol Davidson and Fiona Kennan Carried: Y

General Business:

7. **Sub-committees for 2023/24 and nominations for sub-committees**

Comment: these are not formal committees required by the rules but rather sub-committees which operate to make recommendations to the STAG committee

Call for sub-committees for 2023/24 their new titles.

Motion: that the sub-committees for 2023/24 and members of the sub-committees be as follows: (These are from 2022)

- **Bakehouse Building/Development:** Troy McKindley, Phil Croke, John Head
- **Reading:** Bron Prater, Fiona Kennan, Dale Roberts, Mel Matthews, Casey Fogarty, Laura Varapodio, Troy McKindley
- **Artistic:** Nicky Pummeroy, Gemma Marchant, Troy McKindley, Sean O'Brien, Laura Varapodio
- **Fundraising/Sponsorship:** John Head, Matt Dowling, John Foster, Gemma Marchant
- **Social:** Gemma Marchant, Wendy Platt, Carol Davidson
- **Technical:** Ian Smith, Troy McKindley

Moved: Sean O'Brien Seconded: Fiona Kennan Carried: Y

9. **Affiliations**

Motion: that Shepparton Theatre Arts Group Incorporated retain its affiliations with, Music Theatre Guild of Victoria, Georgy Awards, Victoria Drama League

Moved: Ian Smith Seconded: Troy McKindley Carried: Y

8. **Other Items of General Business:**

>Bron acknowledged Carol and Noella for their work in sorting and collating props. Also, to Troy and Phil for their hard work in building sets and maintaining the Bakehouse

>Dale raised the issue of Bump out and cleaning up after a show. Recently, there has been issues with show equipment being left for weeks if not months after a show. Request that committee create a bump out protocol going forward.

Declare Meeting Closed – 7:13Pm