

Hello everyone. I would like to welcome you to the Annual General Meeting of Shepparton Theatre Arts Group for the Year 2024. What a year we have had, and I am so proud of our remarkable and productive year. There has been so much happening behind the scenes and performance wise -where do I start?

### **The building**

I am sure you will notice that our bakehouse has had some facelifts. Outside we have organised for the exterior to be painted, weather permitting, which will improve the overall look. The attic has been sorted, some of the interior walls have been removed, the flooring is almost finished, it looks amazing and well done to all those who have put so much time and effort in completing this task. If you have the opportunity, go into the green room, you will see all the work Noella Kay and Carol Davidson have been doing sorting and collating all our props – thank you so much it looks amazing. Sharon Geraghty has done a wonderful job of sorting all our costumes ensuring everything is at your fingertips. In July Nat Dobbin came in and tagged and tested all our equipment, with the help of Ian Smith.

I would personally like to thank Troy McKindley for all this hard work and all the people who come on a Saturday to help build, clean, sort and generally keep the basehouse and it surrounds looking amazing. You all do a brilliant job and I am very grateful.

### **Grants/Sponsorships**

Gemma and John have been writing and applying for grants for us. We were lucky enough to have received a \$2000.00 grant from Sam Birrell Member for Nicholls this went towards our new aircons and Greater Shepparton Connected Community Grant – Bendigo bank went towards our new lighting Board. Very exciting and very pretty!! John Head has secured \$2500.00 worth of sponsorships – thank you both. This brings me to our beautiful new chairs. I know we were all sick of sitting on our lovely white fold out chairs well now have some beautiful padded black chairs and I for one can vouch for their comfort. As a member of STAG you are able to sponsor a chair. They are \$150.00 and can be sponsored in many ways for example of behalf of families/life membership etc. A plaque will be displayed once we have sold our chairs. If you are interested, please go to our website and enquire.

### **Equipment**

As I have mentioned we have a new lighting board. We now have a new sound system for the shed inclusive of some microphones. This will make rehearsing so much easier. Four new air conditioners, so useful on those cold nights or very hot days. The new hot water system in our kitchen. The amazing make-up room. If you do get a chance, please check this out. Mirrors, Mirrors and more mirrors it truly is beautiful

### **Shows**

Well, what haven't we done this year? 12 Angry Jurors for first time director Troy McKindley. Oh my goodness it had you on the edge of your seats. Our trivia night wow so much fun organised by Ian Smith and Nat Dobbin. I certainly did quite a lot of laughing that night (not that you would have heard me). It Takes Two Volume "The Greatest Duet Hits of all Time" wow it was brilliant – Karen Groves and Nicky Pummeroy organised an extravaganza for us and Dave was unstoppable, he certainly was in the zone and it showed. Kat Bristol and Andrew Nicholls have been short listed to perform at the guilds. Their performance sent a shiver down your spine. The Physicist with our first time STAG director Bella Walker. I hope you had the opportunity to see this it was truly thought provoking. What a year we have had and there is so much more to come. The Victor of Dibley happening in December under the guidance of Gemma Marchant. Make sure you keep this in your diaries, I for one can't wait, "no no no no Yes" and of course Little Shop of Horrors happening in September – GET YOUR TICKETS. Wow the talent and the sets are going to blow you away. If you don't know where – well go onto the Riverlinks website!!!! Some of us had the opportunity to sing with Chocolate Starfish for their Anniversary Concert. Adam Thompson was a member of STAG and wrote a beautiful ballad to his mother. We had the honour of performing this with him. For me personally it took me back to my school years with Adam and it was so much fun.

### **Volunteers**

Our amazing and beautiful Phil Croke was recognised for his service with our company at the Annual Shepparton Volunteer Awards. STAG wouldn't be who we are without all our volunteers – nothing is ever too big or too small.

### **Georgy Awards & Guild Award Commendations**

Our wonderful Nicky Pummeroy and Helen Janke hosted the 50<sup>th</sup> Awards Ceremony. It ran like clockwork and was so beautifully presented. STAG was lucky enough to win several awards, Marc McIntyre for Tevye for Fiddler on the Roof – Best performance and Singing in a musical, best support went to Megan Scott for Fiddler on the Roof. Our very own Bron Prater won the Ted Malloy Award, and a Judges award went to Bella Walker for Juror 4 in 12 Angry Jurors Guild Award – Commendations went to Riverlinks for sound for Fiddler on the Roof and a creative design award for Fiddler on the Roof went to Aaron David Palmer.

### **Christmas Party**

This was held at the Casa. Many people attended and we had a brilliant night.

### **Our History**

Nicky has been madly collating our historical data and is almost 80% completed. It has been sorted, scanned and collated and placed on our platform – Teams – it is amazing to see all our past. Thank you so much Nicky for all your hard work. What this company has accomplished over the years truly amazing. We are sadly missing a lot of the 1990's and 2000's so if anyone has anything hiding away please let us know. All the minutes and documents from 1975 to 1990 have been scanned by printworks. Show photos and historical photos are being collated.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

It is our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next and what a year we have in store. A book is set for release in March 2025, thank you to Bron for reading, chasing and capturing our past. Bron has written, spoken and sourced so much it is going to be a gem. It is sure to bring back a lot of memories for a lot of people – thank you Bron. Our gala dinner is planned and will be held at the GV Hotel. We are bringing back 10 in ten and our month of Sundays – but this is only the start there are so many exciting things happening so watch this space.

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 thanks for their unwavering support. I encourage you all to stay involved. Finally, to the amazing committee, I would personally like to say a huge thank you for all your support and guidance. This has not been a particularly easy year for me personally and I couldn't have done this without you all. I love you all dearly. 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.

Now to our future!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wendy Platt  
2023/24 President