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Council Committee
2017**

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President's Report

The Wheel Keeps Turning

John F. Kennedy famously said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."



Now, we are not running a country, nor are we anywhere near as important on the world's stage. You may ask "what the hell does this have to do with the HAC?", a valid question one would think. Well, I have been deep in thought lately about everything. On the world's stage, we are an ant. A little organisation in regional Victoria. This is a fact. However, what we achieve from the people in our organisation is something that we should all be so proud of. In my mind, we are striving to extract the best out of everyone involved. And remember, we all do this as a hobby. We have our regular lives on top of this. Gee, imagine what could be done if we could devote 100% of our time and energy to it.

Getting back to the quote. During the production of "Annie", I sat back and watched everyone giving so much of themselves pure and simply to make the production as could as it can be. It was clear that the team was ahead of the individual. No one sat back on their haunches and asked "what can the HAC do for me?". They just did their very best in whatever position that they held for the show. Make-up, hair, sound, lighting, microphones, sets, backstage, props, dog-minder, orchestra, costumes, vocals, direction, performing, front of house, program selling, tea makers. Every single person gave their all for the HAC for the benefit of HAC, not themselves. What a cool environment to be in!!!

The results we achieved for "Annie" was amazing. Nine sell out shows – we could not have dreamed of a better result. The feedback from the audience was incredible and continues to this day, a month after the final curtain was drawn. It truly was a great experience for all involved which will last a lifetime.

Now, the torch is passed to Jess, Deb and the team for our upcoming production of "Rent". The production team has assembled a talented cast with several new faces mixing it up with HAC stalwarts. Everything is in place for another sensational production. With rehearsals having already kicked off, the hard work begins for the team and the wheel keeps turning. With every show, we strive the learn from the past to make each production as good as it can be. With the team in place, "Rent" is sure to continue the proud conditions of the HAC.

-Simon Dandy

Secretary's Scribbles

An incredibly successful season of *Annie* has now passed us by. Huge congratulations to all cast, crew and orchestra members involved in presenting such wonderful shows to our enthusiastic audiences.

Shows like *Annie* allow our young people to take steps out onto stage side by side with some truly talented and well seasoned performers, and boy, not only did our young performers soak it all in, they ran full pelt with it and challenged the rest of us to keep up. Their fearlessness and flexibility, willingness to try anything and give their full effort to their directors and choreographers were an inspiration to the more experienced cast. We all taught each other in one way or another.



Now HAC moves on to its next challenge, the end of year season of *Rent*. This will be such an exciting and challenging time for HAC and the fantastically talented cast. Art of any sort is not only put out there to entertain, but also to challenge, to move, to inspire a reaction (both negative and positive) and to start conversations. This has always been part of the multiple purposes of art. *Rent* is a show that will do all these things, with awe-inspiring and moving music, to emotional and potentially challenging themes, and most of all the overarching theme of love.

It is with this thought – and love - I leave you until next time....

-Faye Johns



ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE PRESENTS



**HORSHAM TOWN HALL
27, 28, 29 JULY 2017**

Annie ...One person's reflection.

Annie the musical. It raises some eternal questions. Who is Adele? Why does Fred dance with her instead of Ginger? Why has 'Mutt got Jeff'? And is it the same mutt that Ron caught back in that alleyway? Being in *Annie* also raised some other questions: how on earth could a small creative team wrangle that many people, including some wildling children and a couple of animals, into something resembling a proper musical theatre performance?



None of these questions were in my mind during auditions. Previously, my long love affair with *Annie* was uncomplicated. I have loved *Annie* since I saw her and the orphans jumping on the beds in a Melbourne show when I was seven. I was instantly transported. *Annie* was the first professional musical I took my girls to see, and they too have grown up listening to the Broadway recording. I suppose the whole family auditioned for *Annie* because we all wanted the chance to have a little bit of her magic.

In the end, *Annie's* magic touched us, but in ways I didn't perhaps anticipate. I fell in love with Grace Farrell, so much so that I identified more with her than with myself. When I went to the supermarket in tracksuit and hoodie, I felt like I was in disguise. Grace allowed me to try on the mantle of someone better than myself, someone kinder, more patient, and more gentle. I miss her dearly.

Annie provided an outlet and a respite. Many of us felt the stress of the day slip off our shoulders when we arrived at rehearsals. I could be fighting with the girls all the way out in the car and my frustration would dissolve in the opening bars of 'A New Deal'. The girls were excited about being with their old friends and making new friends amongst the orphans, but I never expected them to become close to such a wide range of people of different ages and backgrounds. Marauding gangs of scruffy orphans could be spotted mixing with teenagers, and getting sassied by the dance team. (And bravo, Loucas, for being the only person I have ever seen to effectively put Penny in her place.) In a regional area where the community normally splits along generational and sporting club lines, our children were able to love and be loved (or at least tolerated – read that as you will Gasparini) by people of all ages who could be silly, funny, witty, clever, kind, generous, tired or quiet, and know that they were in a safe place, without the judgements and expectations of the outside world about how they look, dress, talk or act.



Annie has been a gift that is still giving. It has touched many people in our community, strangers who recount with surprise their emotional reaction and their tears. For someone who auditioned for mostly selfish reasons, this has been an unexpected pleasure. Thank you Emily and your team for the care and hard work you put in to making this show such a joy for the cast and crew as well as the community. For those of us for whom this was their first experience with HAC, you have offered us a truly transformative opportunity.

- *Caroline O'Donnell*

Whipped into Shape...quickly

Casting decisions have obviously been paramount for every musical production ever undertaken, and those made back in February for Horsham College's Legally Blonde Jr. are being put to the ultimate test; an extremely tight 14 week rehearsal schedule.

Passing this test with flying colours, the majority of cast were working off book from the first day of rehearsal. Picking-up my two daughters after a week three session, I was amazed to find that the complete dance routine for 'Positive' had been taught, learnt, retained and rehearsed between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. And they nailed it!

Co-choreographer Amy Anselmi is thrilled with the retention skills of the ensemble whilst director Emily Friedrichsen-Hay highlighted the process involved in the dance auditions, which had enabled the panel to cast applicants skilled at absorbing dance sequences quickly, to the relevant roles.

With plenty of vocal chords needing to be warmed up in the winter months, and only 30 minutes each Monday lunch time to direct the vocal performances, Lisa Thomas is also working with her usual precision. Lisa will oversee a full day of vocal training later this month when students will attend normal classes except for their scheduled singing times.

All other rehearsals are held in two hours sessions after school on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, with scene work and choreography run simultaneously when possible. The new drama and dance studios in the college gym are certainly fully booked.

As the building program at Horsham College continues to unfold, portables are being moved and reassigned with hard hats and cranes in abundance. This means that Brittany King has found it difficult to gain access to our sets down in the back shed. Horsham Arts Council's Jack Janetski has kindly offered some space for painting that might work.

Obstacles for wardrobe mistress Tina Fitzgerald include a group of characters who require their standard costume – for example a cheer leader – to be copied completely in white; to appear in an imaginary Greek Chorus when tragedy strikes our lead. Luckily, Ballarat's Lyric Theatre has undertaken the production recently and Tina is investigating a loan or purchase.

Courtney Scherger has design of the poster and program underway, with almost all headshots taken and a biography writing workshop held during the full day rehearsal on June 29th. The production committee are determined that the public will not have to read about even one student who, "...is no stranger to the stage..." even if they aren't!

As a first time producer, I am learning about rights, contracts, ticketing and purchase orders while also arranging and minuting our production meetings. I have found it interesting to see all the numbers involved and exciting to read each ticket sales report... please buy one...September 14-17.

My admiration for all of the incredible volunteers involved in this enormous undertaking, is through the roof. Our children have the opportunity to be involved in a very professional production in the Horsham Town Hall Theatre because of the countless hours of volunteer work by this team of caring and committed individuals. Thanks team.

-Yolande Grosser - Producer - Legally Blonde Jr.



#DANNYANDSANDY



Maddi Ostapiw Vocal Studio is currently taking enrolments, and offering a discounted trial lesson to any past or present HAC member. Also offering vocal coaching sessions, if an audition or performance piece needs work.

Contact Maddi on 0437 244 468 for more information.



1000+ 

I am excited to say that as of today, we have 1114 likes of our Facebook page. Considering that we reached 700 likes on 1 May 2017, we have increased by 59.1% in under three months. It just shows that being a great organisation & offering top class theatrical shows really pays off.

Like it or not, social media is here to stay. It will be a prominent communication tool in the future, if it is not already now. The HAC uses its Facebook page "HAC – Horsham Arts Council" as one form of communication with members & the public. It is not the only communication tool but an effective one.

So we have reached the magical goal of 1000 likes! Thank you HAC members for helping us reach this goal. Obviously, the more "likes" we get, the more reach we have & the more potential HAC members could eventuate. That could lead to performers, administrators, sewers, set builders, singers, dancers, musicians, actors, etc which will benefit us all &, most importantly, the HAC.

-Simon Dandy



Our Annie Sponsors

Our sponsors go above and beyond supporting the Horsham Arts Council productions. Their involvement makes the whole “song and dance” possible.

Below is a list of those who supported us to produce the recent musical production of Annie.

We are constantly humbled by the generosity of our greater community, it is telling of an inclusive culture that we are a part of in the Wimmera. Please support those who support us.

Thank you



RENT

Announcing our wonderful cast!

PRINCIPLE CAST

Mark: Chris Versteegen
Roger: Brady King
Collins: Brian Harrison
Angel: Joel Kimberly
Benny: Tom Pickering
Maureen: Esther Fry
Joanne: Stacey Brennan
Mimi: Erin Butcher

ENSEMBLE

Anna Robarts
Belinda Elliott
Paige Schmidt
Georgie Hobbs
Celia Fairley
Melissa Cook
Jessica Wilson
Cobba Harrison
Grant Johnson
Paul Dickerson
Loucas Vettos

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR: Debbie Butcher **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** Loucas Vettos
VOCAL DIRECTOR: Maddi Ostapiw **MUSICAL DIRECTOR:** Mark Block
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Jessica Wilson



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Horsham Vic, 3400

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Web: www.horshamartscouncil.com

WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER OF HAC.....

To become a member of the HAC please contact our secretary Faye via email to receive a membership form, you can also visit our website to download a form, or simply complete the form attached to the monthly newsletter.



HAC Life Members

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ritchie Hobbs* (1972) | Shirley Mewett (1993) | Ken Bradshaw (2002) | Debbie Boutcher (2010) |
| Ron Shepherd* (1976) | Avis Denholm (1999) | Dawn Deale (2005) | Gary (Jack) Janetzki (2010) |
| Colin Mills (1987) | Jan Morris (2001) | Laurie Deale* (2005) | Lynne McKenzie (2010) |
| Barbara Mills (1987) | Richard Morris* (2001) | Stuart Johns (2007) | Don Mitchell (2012) |
| Ona Whiteside* (1993) | Gerry Nicholls (2001) | Sandy Wills (2007) | Jenny Rafter (2012) |

And the newest additions to the HAC Life Member honour roll

Ronnie Thomas (2016) Libby Brennan (2016)

HAC Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

All members welcome.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday the 9th of August.

Newsletter Team

Please forward any information for future newsletters to the team via ladlow@internode.on.net

or message **Cherie Ladlow** on **0458 747 236**

Until next time...

Peace out! From your friendly neighbourhood newsletter team

Cherie Ladlow, Beau Ladlow and Lynley Macdonald

MEMBERSHIP FORM

2017

Membership year of Horsham Arts Council Inc. extends from 1st January to 31st December.

Join now and support performing arts in the Wimmera and keep in touch with what is happening throughout the year through our newsletter.

Membership fees:
\$50 for a single
\$100 for a family

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| Name: | | |
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| I am happy to receive my newsletter by email | Yes | No |

Please complete and return with your payment to:
HAC Membership
PO Box 370
Horsham, VIC 3402

If you would like to pay your membership via Direct Deposit, details are:
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Please put your SURNAME as the reference