

President's report to the Annual General Meeting 2025

We have now had a full year to evaluate our move to reporting on a calendar year basis and I believe it has been a great success, as it gives us a firm yardstick to measure against how our productions for a particular year have been received and how we have performed financially.

From a numbers point of view our attendances topped over 11,500 patrons for the year and we saw a gradual build in our audiences as the year progressed, Clue in particular was a standout.

Artistically the year was also a great success, at the VDL Awards we gained four nominations for Still Alice, with Angela Glennie winning the Award for Best Actress in a Drama.

At the recent Lyrebird Awards our Company gained some 34 nominations spread across 4 of our 5 productions and we won 14, making us the most successful company on the night. Well, done by us all.

In house we have had a positive year with further rationalization of the costume store, thanks to Maria, a clean out of the old lighting store, thank you K-J, Nicholas and Craig Percy and the constant upkeep of our props store, well done K-J. The safe roof space access is now completely finished with the installation of lighting. The construction team has added new personnel, with Luc taking responsibility in Les's absence due to illness and they have produced outstanding work. Front of house under Lesley's watchful eye continues to provide great service to our patrons and Viv keeps the ticket box ticking over and it would be remiss not to mention the excellent work done by our admin staff headed by Fiona, with support from Lucy, Julie and our volunteer Gina.

The progress on our planned addition to the back of the theatre has been slow, but recently the Council has agreed with our position that a heritage report is not necessary and it is now likely we will get the go ahead.

Our open house that coincided with the Lilydale show, brought new people into our theatre, this couldn't have happened without the dedication of our office staff, headed by Lucy and Fiona together with Maria, Jerry and Ian Carter.

I particularly want to highlight the excellent work by Alex Carter who looks after our social media presence. The work she has done, together with Regan Wood, contributed significantly to our increase in audience numbers.

As usual our Christmas Party was a great success, a big thank you to all who contributed. We were graced by the presence of our local Federal Member Aaron Violi who was on hand to present Life Memberships to Emily Carter and Les Wallis for their outstanding contributions to our Company.

I think we can all be proud of the past year and I thank you all for your support of the Company. The year has started positively with our first production Moon Over Buffalo and our subscriber numbers of 896 are marginally higher than last year. There have been changes happening with Lesley's announcement that she wants to step back a little, but I have been delighted with the response of people willing to step up to help. This bodes well for the coming year, so bring it on.

Alan Burrows

President