



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
**1 JANUARY 2019 – 31 DECEMBER 2019**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Wednesday 11 March 2020**  
**44<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

This year has been a year of consolidation for Upper Hutt Musical Theatre. We began the financial year having run at a loss the previous year. For the new committee, the first task was to explore why and how this had occurred despite having two successful shows in 2018. Our newly appointed Treasurer; Ash was tasked to review the operating costs for the theatre. This had to be a focus for us if the theatre was going to remain financially healthy and continue our vision of providing excellence in musical theatre for our members and audiences from the wider community to enjoy.

In June, the committee met to hear the findings of the review and to plan for the year ahead. The cost of insuring our building being nearly 50 percent of the total running costs and despite our two shows being profitable, the need for robust fundraising and the exploration of alternative sources of income became a priority for us.

A number of fundraising events, such as the Pub Sing afternoon held at Art of Pizza and our raffle, proved very successful for us. Thank you Ash and Rachel for leading the charge in these events, and to Katy Pakinga and the team from Pub Sing for sharing their talents with us. It was a lot of fun providing an opportunity for members to meet socially as well as fundraise.

The committee also decided to have a licence to sell alcohol at the theatre for specific events, which again proved profitable. This, along with the introduction of snack foods, also enhanced the overall theatre experience for our audiences. Thank you Ash for facilitating this and making it happen.

Our two 2019 productions "55 Musicals: Abridged" and "I Love You Your Perfect Now Change" both were highly successful. They brought opportunities for both audiences and membership to experience and enjoy the diversity musical theatre has to offer. Thank you to Directors Bec Watson and Jenn Mahony and Bridget Connor for bringing their amazing creativity and leadership to our Theatre. I also want to thank both production teams and cast for two fantastic seasons of theatre.

We are very fortunate to have the benefit of owning our own theatre, however this also comes with the responsibility of maintaining this asset. Repairs were made to our drainage on the kitchen side of the theatre and the kitchen zip that was found to be

faulty and was replaced by making an insurance claim. The committee have also maintained the safety expectations of a public building by adding anti slip tape to the steps leading up to the lighting box and providing warning signage upstairs. We held a working bee for the garage to get a major overhaul and declutter. Sets were placed together and stored and even a space for building and/or repairing was found. Thank you to the committee members and members for your help with this. Thank you Ash, Tia, Ross and Chris for coordinating this vital maintenance for us.

The year rounded off with an "Evening with Jim" as the committee said farewell to Jim Noice following his retirement. The evening was a great opportunity to say thank you to both Jim and Rose for their contribution to Upper Hutt Musical Theatre and was very much enjoyed and appreciated by those who attended and performed.

Moving into 2020, we certainly started off with a bang! Clinton, Genevieve Zerf and Natasha McAllister along with a team from our dedicated committee brought a new opportunity to our membership and community as audition workshops were held on three busy weekends in January and February. The feedback was that these workshops were both informative and inspirational so thank you to all those involved. We are fortunate to have this opportunity open to us.

Our first production for 2020 "Once Upon A Time" arranged by Bec Watson and Clinton Zerf has begun with auditions being held in the last weekend of February.

Congratulations to all those cast as well as those who are new members; welcome. It is great to have you with us.

There have been other events and commitments made by people. This report is only a highlight and comments on only a fraction of the work that goes on behind the scenes. Hopefully it recognises and acknowledges all the work that everyone has contributed to make this year of consolidation one of success. To those I may have missed, you are still appreciated and truly valued. Everyone's hard work is needed and no contribution is too small.

I was very fortunate to have had an enthusiastic committee with a lot of energy for my term as president of Upper Hutt Musical Theatre this year. Their commitment has been amazing. They have brought their innovative ideas and creativity to look for ways to maintain the continued growth and development of the Theatre for the benefit of all stakeholders involved. A heart felt thank you from me to each of them and their families for their contribution. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.

Yours in Musical Theatre,

Sue Kinzett