



PRESIDENT'S REPORT
1 JANUARY 2022 – 31 DECEMBER 2022
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Wednesday 8 March 2023
48th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

2022's AGM brought us a whole group of new committee members as we said goodbye to some of our long-term members. Tia Pyne and Don McGregor had to step down due to their move up north, Jenny Quin (lifetime member and former president) decided to have a very well earned break and Ethan Gibson decided to pass on his role to focus more on work. It was with great sadness that we farewelled these amazing committee members.

With their leaving, we got to introduce some amazing new people into our committee! We welcomed new committee members Aroha Davidson (Choreographer), Adele Child (Singer/Performer) who took charge of our wardrobe/prop portfolio, Eleanor Deacon (Singer/Performer) and Jenny Stein (Set/Prop Designer) who became our new property manager. All of them bringing fresh ideas and new expertise to the positions.

We also had Carl Brieseman return to our committee after a few years away who is fast becoming our lighting expert. Julie Fitzgerald became our new secretary, joining Aislinn Sederel (Treasurer/Membership), Rachel Te Tau (Vice-President/Publicity) and myself (President/Tech) on the executive committee. Sue Kinzett and Chris Cox made up the remainder of our committee. As long-term members they were invaluable contributors, passing on years of experience in their advice when making decisions. This brought our committee back to a total of 11 members.

Unfortunately, Chris Cox was unable to finish off his term due to the need to spend more time with his beautiful, growing family. We would like to wish him the best and thank him for all of his contributions over these past few years.

Training

We also took the opportunity this year to send some of our committee; Julie and Adele on a first aid training course which saw us have the majority of the committee being first aid qualified.

Police vetting of our crews and committee also began this past year with the introduction of children's productions. We felt that it was important to ensure we prioritised the safety of our younger casts.

2. PROPERTY:

2022 finally saw us invest in some much-needed building repairs. The roof was painted and repaired almost fully funded by grants. Thanks to Hutt Mana Charitable Trust (2021) and Pelorus Trust for giving us such a generous donation.

Our new property manager Jenny grabbed us some quotes to install a new security system. I am pleased to say we have just gotten a grant to pay for the purchase and installation of an alarm system at Upper Hutt Musical Theatre. Thanks to Creative Communities – Upper Hutt City Council for funding us for this security measure. We believe it will keep our growing theatre much more secure.

Adele also managed to source us some new staging platforms allowing us to further expand on staging ideas for shows.

It wasn't just committee members however that were generous with their contributions. The Church family contributed a brand-new fridge to the theatre from Fisher n Paykel. The timing for this couldn't have been better as the old one died a week later. Thanks Chris Church for donating such an amazing gift to us.



3. PRODUCTIONS:

We kicked off the year of 2022 by bringing back junior productions to UHMT with Aislinn Sederel taking up directing for the first time with an amazing crew behind her. With Aroha Davidson as choreographer and Emma Salzano as musical director, they produced a phenomenal show together. There was nothing more rewarding than watching a cast full of young actors absolutely nail performances night after night and it also brought a lot of laughs. Upper Hutt Musical Theatre will definitely keep looking at regular junior only productions in the future with us putting on our second one at the beginning of this year.

UHMT had some hurdles with our first show relating to covid and vaccine passes. Ultimately, we decided for our first production to go with what the parents felt comfortable with. This meant we had a vaccine pass requirement for our production of Moana Jr, even though the government removed the requirement before our season opened. We were able to disband this after the show season. COVID still posed many challenges, but UHMT managed to put on productions without a hitch miraculously.

We decided to pass on a full show for the first time in the second half of the year so we could get the roof sorted. These setbacks didn't stop Julie and Adele from throwing together a two night only Halloween themed villain revue fittingly dubbed Evil Like Me. This saw us bring back 'the trio' as we have named ourselves, Steve (Shack) Morrison, Hayden Taylor, and myself accompanied an array of singers on any villainous song of their choice. It was great to see how quickly we could throw together a few nights of fun for our audiences and the chance for some of our members to just jump up and perform without the need to even audition.

4. GRANTS:

Thanks to the following funding organisations for the ongoing financial support in the funding of our show 'Moana JR':

- Creative Communities – received in late 2021
- Pelorus Trust – received in late 2021

In addition to the above funding received to go towards our shows we received funding from the following organisations to go towards building upkeep.

- Creative Communities – purchase and installation of an alarm and security system
- Pelorus Trust – repair and re-paint roof

5. MEMBERSHIP:

For this past year we have had 41 members including 6 life members.

Whilst conversations continue on how to retain and engage new members; Rachel Te Tau launched our new *"Friends of Upper Hutt Musical Theatre"* page.

The idea of this being to draw in expertise from our members outside of the committee. We will be looking to utilize this page more in 2023; with posting up anything the theatre could use further help with which will in turn aim to bring more people into the fold.

6. GENERAL:

Rachel Te Tau has made the hard decision to step down from Vice-President at this AGM. Luckily for



us Rachel would like to continue as a committee member where she feels she can provide more time to focus on the Publicity Portfolio; an area she loves and is great at!

Her expertise especially in Publicity has been invaluable (shows sell out purely due to our Social Media presence), so I personally made sure there was a nomination in for her tonight. Thank-you Rachel for being the Vice-President these past two years and ensuring I had the support needed.

Awards

2022 saw several awards being presented to the Theatre and our Members.

Life Member: Jenny Quin was nominated and awarded an MTNZ Merit Award for her outstanding achievement and contribution to musical theatre in our community and to the UHMT society.

In addition to the MTNZ Merit Award, “The Addams Family” directed by Jenny Quin received second place in the Platinum Programme Award category.

Unfortunately, due to COVID and the cancellation of the MTNZ Conference for 2021, these awards were unable to be presented in person at the 2022 MTNZ Conference.

Congratulations to Jenny and her team for the success of the “The Addams Family”.

Moana JR. was entered into the Wellington District Theatre Federation – Full Length Play Festival. This Festival sees 20plus musicals and/or plays from the Wellington wider area entered. In December 2022; Julie and family represented UHMT by attending the Antoinette Awards.

Moana JR. was awarded a Magic Moment for the “Tamatoa Scene” and was also nominated in the following categories:

- Best Costumed Production
- Best Musical
- Adjudicator Special Award for Promising Youth
 - o nominations to Bodie Mortiboy and Fa’aesea Leaupepe and Lakyra Mareko

Our focus for 2023 will see us re-look at the constitution and update this document to ensure it meets the upcoming changes that are outlined in the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

We will continue to put on high-quality and affordable shows and are looking forward to seeing our first show of the year “Seussical JR.” directed by our very own Julie Fitzgerald in April 2023.

Finally, I would like to thank the 2022 committee for all their hard work and dedication to UHMT. I believe we continue to strive to make better and more accessible musical theatre productions to the Upper Hutt and wider communities.

Bec Watson
President