

CANBERRA REPERTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of 68th Annual General Meeting, Theatre 3, Thursday 10 August 2020

The meeting opened at 7:30pm – Chaired by Michael Sparks (President) present with Malcolm Houston (Company Secretary).

In Attendance: Jeanette Brown, Russell Brown, Anne freestone, David Bennett, David Goodbody, Elizabeth Goodbody, Sandra Cuthbert, Ian Hart, Liz de Totth, Ros Engledow, Joel Edmondson, John Gieroszynski, Wolfgang Hecker, Antonia Kitzel, Tina Lynam, Neil McLeod, Rowan McMurray, Neil McRitchie, Stephen Fischer, Virginia Cook, Oliver Raymond, Helen Raymond, Mal Tompkins, Anna Senior, Rosanne Walker, Alexandra Pelvin.

Attending: Helen Drum (Business Manager), David Ward, Chris Ward.

Observers: Robert Jeffrey

The President declared the meeting open and welcomed all attendees.

Apologies received:

Georgia Croker, Jenny Houston, Jeannie Young, Henning Schou, Judi Schou, Joan White, Anne Turner, Simon Tolhurst, Paul Jackson, Alice Ferguson, Liz Bradley, Chris Ellyard, Fay Ellyard, Suzanne Hecker, Andrew Kay.

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 April 2019

A Motion was moved to receive the minutes from the previous meeting. CARRIED.

It was moved, seconded and accepted to pass the minutes. CARRIED.

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

3. Receipt and adoption of the Report of Council for 2019

It was NOTED from the chair that information requested last year listing all production volunteers had been included in the report, and that amendments had been made during the year to address those concerns.

A MOTION was moved to receive the Report of Council for 2019. CARRIED.

It was moved and seconded to pass the Report as presented. CARRIED.

4. Business arising from the Report of Council

A QUESTION from the floor referencing the 2018 Treasurers report. It was reported that the cash reserves remained high during 2018, would the same be said for 2019? In response, the Treasurer explained that our cash amounts did not drop significantly or change to any great extent coming into 2019.

5. Receipt and adoption of the Income and expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 December 2019 and the Report of the Auditors for 2019.

A Motion was moved to receive the Income and expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 December 2017 and the Report of the Auditors for 2019. CARRIED

It was moved and seconded to pass the Report. CARRIED.

6. Business arising from the Accounts

Discussion held on the transitioning within the community to the name change of the building from Theatre 3 to Canberra REP Theatre.

7. Appointment of the Council of the Society for the ensuing term/s

(a) One Vice President – two year term

(b) Three Council Members – two year term

It was NOTED that there was no election this year, as there were less nominees for positions vacant.

Appointed to the incoming Council are:

Antonia Kitzel (Vice President – 2 years)

Stephen Fischer (Treasurer - 2 years)

Sandra Cuthbert (Member – 2 years)

M. Elizabeth Goodbody (Member – 2 years)

Liz St Clair Long (Member – 2 years)

The new Council members were introduced to the meeting.

It was NOTED that they would be joining the current Council members not up for re-election:

Michael Sparks – President

Virginia Cook – Vice President

Alexandra Pelvin - Member

Liz de Totth – Member

Wolfgang Hecker – Member

Vote of Thanks offered to J Edmondson for his time on Council.

A MOTION was moved to thank all those who served on the Council last year and are coming on board now. CARRIED

It was moved and seconded to thank the Council members. CARRIED.

8. Special Resolutions:

a. That Neil McRitchie be admitted as a Life Member of Canberra Repertory Society.

The resolution was brought to Council by Life members R Brown and M Tompkins for consideration at the AGM.

Following discussion at Council and referral to a committee of life members the nomination was endorsed and presented as a Special Resolution at this meeting.

‘Neil joined Canberra Repertory Society in 1983, was on Council from 1988 – 89, was Vice President from 1990 – 93, and apart from his work on Council he continued to give great support to REP as a stage manager, sound designer and operator, lighting and set builder. Involved in 143 shows in some capacity and he was a regular and valued member of the Old Time Music Hall Company from 1983 – 2008. He’s been a member of the technical committee for many years and recently stepped down as the chair of the awards committee after many years of service’.

General discussion was held expressing support of the motion NOTING his generous support in mentoring emerging stage managers, his skills with the ‘dancing red curtains of Music Hall’, and determination to select and paint an appropriate colour for the theatre ceiling – basic non-reflective black.

A MOTION was moved to vote on conferring Life Membership to Neil McRitchie.

CARRIED

It was moved and seconded to change the venue name. CARRIED.

9. **General Business**

It was mentioned that the new upgrades to the 'men's dressing room were terrific', keeping in mind that the activity would be reported in the 2020 years report.

It was NOTED that it was a different reporting time this year due to the delay for holding the AGM because of COVID-19 restrictions.

A comment from the floor that the membership greatly appreciated the communication from the President particularly in the beginning of this year of 2020 and that it be endorsed to continue as it provided a positive connection for members who did not know as many people within the Society.

A QUESTION from the floor asking how well is 2019 buffering the Society in 2020?

Considering we had one very good show are the production incomes from 2019 helping to buffer us now. The Treasurer responded, NOTING that it is a longer process rather than one year on year. As an example, the amount of the profit in 2019 was just over the loss of the previous year, but overall the Company has been running in a sustainable fashion. Essentially making a small profit or braking even most years – so considered over three years we have been in the black for most of that time. The fact that we have significant cash reserves and that we have no debt is what is buffering us. During this time now we have expenses, we have a building and we don't have production income to assist us but we do have the government subsidies which allow us to project activities moving forward- so the fact that we are run quite well is what is buffering us.

A QUESTION from the floor asking if REP was getting JobKeeper? In response, it was NOTED that all staff qualified for the program, with the three casuals being employed one week more that the cut off for inclusion. A query as to whether staff receive the full amount of JobKeeper or their normal wages. The Chair responded, that the rules meant all staff receive the full amount irrespective of their normally received wage – for full time staff this became a supplement to the wages, with the amounts and process reviewed regularly by the Federal Government.

No further business, President welcomed the new council and thanked the members.

Meeting closed at 20:07pm