



HIGHLIGHTS

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Horsham Arts Council Committee 2105

President

Simon Dandy

Vice President

Jack Janetzki

Treasurer

Colin Kreymborg

Secretary

Faye Johns

Properties

Don Mitchell

Costumes

Samantha Prollius

General Committee

Jan Morris
Libby Brennan
Nick Wilson
Jessica Wilson
Debbie Boutcher
Belinda Elliott

Presidents Report 2015 – The Year That Was

It is hard to believe that 2015 is nearly at a close. Where has the time gone?

In the past 12 months, there has been so much happening within the HAC. Some of the highlights for the year are as follows;

- The world premiere of "Scenes from a Newsreel" hit the stage in March 2015. As an original production, it is something the HAC should be proud of.
- We had a sell-out season for our production of "Disney's Peter Pan Jr". This was our first junior production in many years.
- We received a \$2,500 grant from the Horsham Sports & Community Club to assist with the costs of furnishing the foyer at HAC House.
- The HAC continued its sponsorship of the Wimmera Eisteddfod by awarding a \$100 prize to the most promising vocal student which was won by Liam Robertson (a current HAC member).
- The committee is proud to have completed extensive renovation works at HAC House to finally officially receive our certificate of occupancy. Our building looks amazing. It has been a long time coming & there is still some work to be done but we have got there.
- The HAC paid its first \$5,000 instalment for our \$10,000 naming rights sponsorship of the green room at the new Horsham Town Hall. In November 2015, the committee had a tour of the venue. Fair to say that we are all a tad excited.
- The HAC was proud to be a supporter of "Fashions for Funerals" which was an original piece organised by Kate Pengelly. HAC member Amy Anselmi was also instrumental in the development of this project.
- We have a healthy membership base which we hope to maintain & improve for the future. We hope that all members renew their membership for the 2016 year.
- The Music Theatre Guild of Victoria continues to bestow honours on the HAC. For "Disney's Peter Pan Jr", the production received an award of excellence. In addition, Jamie Thomas & Lily Bray received commendations for the roles in the show. That makes six musicals in a row that the HAC has received a nomination or commendation. What a great effort.
- In September 2015, auditions were held for the HAC 50th Anniversary Spectacular" to take place in February 2016 at the new Horsham Town Hall theatre. Rehearsals are in full swing now with only two months until opening night. The cast & crew are doing a fantastic job.

As you can see, it had been a jam-packed year. We have made significant strides forward. However, we know there is a long road ahead. The committee know we are not perfect & we are not satisfied with the status quo. We are always striving to improve & make the HAC a better organisation tomorrow than it was today.

Congratulations to the committee & members for all their hard work. We all give our time voluntarily which creates such a magical environment to be in.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish you & your families a happy & safe Christmas & we look forward to seeing you all again in 2016.

-Simon Dandy



HAC 50th Anniversary Spectacular

Spread the Word – HAC's 50 Year Reunion

If you have been a part of one HAC production or 50, you are invited to attend the HAC 50th anniversary celebrations.

Where:

HAC House, 19 Hamilton Road, Horsham.

When:

Saturday 13 February 2016 from 6pm (following the final matinee performance)

Sunday 14 February 2016 from 10am to 6pm (BBQ provided)

Reminder:

Book your tickets early for our production of "Horsham Arts Council's 50th Anniversary Spectacular". Do not miss out!!!!

What you need to do:

- (1) Spread the word to family, friends & colleagues. We do not have the current addresses for every past HAC member so we need the grapevine to run hot!!!
- (2) Book your tickets early for our production.
- (3) If you are interest in attending the celebrations, please send an email to 50reunion@horshamartscouncil.com to register your interest & attendance.

We would like as many past HAC members to attend our celebrations to catch-up & relive past memories. You are all part of the HAC family so let's make this a MONSTER FAMILY REUNION!!!

- Simon Dandy -



HAC 50th Anniversary Coffee Table Book



As most of you will be aware, 2015 is the 50th anniversary of the HAC. To celebrate this fantastic milestone, the committee is in the initial stages of preparing a coffee table book to document that past 50 years.

We are aiming high with this project & hope it will be something that HAC members, both past & present, will enjoy & be proud of. It will provide a comprehensive history of the development of the HAC, past performances, performers, etc.

To accomplish this, we are reaching out to the wider HAC family. If you have any photos, old programs, documents, flyers, anything of value relating to the HAC that you think we could use, then it would be great if you could share it with us. Also, we would graciously accept any letters or emails documenting your stories, experiences & history with the HAC. The more information we get to draw from, the better it will be.

In relation to photos, it would be great if you could attempt to identify the people in the photos where you can. This will help us out significantly.

We will provide more details (ie. cost, publication date, etc) in due course.

This project is a huge undertaking. However, 50 years is a major milestone. In cricket terms, "we raise our bat". This is a way of celebrating our past as we look forward to the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact Simon Dandy (0404 092 407), Debbie Boucher (0429 407 931) or Jan Morris (0419 726 378) if you require further information or have anything to share with us.

Horsham Arts Council Inc.

PO Box 370
Horsham, VIC 3402



19 Hamilton Rd/Henty Hwy
Horsham VIC, 3400

Phone President:

E-mail: info@horshamartscouncil.com

Web: www.horshamartscouncil.com

The Horsham Arts Council is active in producing an exceptionally high standard of musical theatre on an annual basis as well as small scale comedy or drama productions. Consisting entirely of volunteers, the Horsham Arts Council has a proud tradition of theatre for over 40 years. To become a member of the HAC please contact our secretary Jess via email to receive a membership form, alternatively you can visit our website and download a form.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

2016

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

Name:		
Home Address:		
Postal Address:		
Phone:		
Mobile:		
Email:		
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:
BSB: 013-665 Account No: 3341 03608
Please put your SURNAME as the reference

HAC Shares in MTG Awards Success – AGAIN!!!

In November 2015, the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria announced their nominations & commendations for the 2015 season of shows. The HAC has continued its amazing run by receiving the following recognition for its production of Disney's Peter Pan Jr.

- Jamie Thomas – Commendation for “Junior Male in a Lead Role” for his role of Captain Hook”.
- Lily Bray – Commendation for “Junior Female in a Supporting Role” for her role of “Clubfoot Cookson”.
- Award of Excellence – The production has received this award described as “Foyer Display, Welcome and Community involvement”. This is presented by the judges in recognition of excellence that does not fall in to one of the existing award categories.

The Music Theatre Guild of Victoria held its awards night on Saturday 12 December 2015 at Costa Hall in Geelong. Amy Anselmi, Larissa Riddell and Yolande Grosser were in attendance to accept the award of excellence on behalf of the HAC.

This is an amazing achievement that everyone involved in the HAC can share & en-

joy. As previously stated, we do not go into a production with the goal of winning an award. It is simply icing on the cake when such recognition is received. It just shows that the HAC continues to provide the Wimmera region with quality musical theatre.

Congratulations to Larissa Riddell and the entire team or what was truly a wonderful production.

- *Simon Dandy* -



Cast on stage, Peter Pan Jr. 2015

Congratulations to *Erin Boutcher*

Erin Boutcher was recently accepted to do her Masters of Education with a major in drama. This means that she will be qualified to teach drama at secondary schools. How good is this!!! Another HAC export doing great things in the performing arts. Congratulations Erin & best wishes for your studies. - *Simon Dandy* -



Fashion For Funerals - Natimuk Frinj Festival.

The Horsham Arts Council recently partnered with Kat Pengelly of Artful Fashions to put on a spectacular theatrical fashion parade as part of the Natimuk Frinj Festival. The theme of the fashion parade was death and grieving, including other cultures' approaches to death (such as the Mexican Day of the Dead celebrations) and some outlandish funeral-themed fashions.

Many HAC members were involved as models, dancers and singers, and the local producing and choreography was done by HAC choreographer and performer Amy Anselmi. The choir was led by Mark Deckert; singers including Pam Deckert and Faye Johns sang an incredible a cappella rendition of 'By the Waters of Babylon'. Fashion models included Sophie Trudel, Lucinda Binney, Joel Kimberley, Alayna Toporzisek and Brittany Bates (last seen in HAC's Peter Pan). Michael Sherry and Grace Robertson (both on the make-up team for Peter Pan) got to show their dancing and choreographic talents in the show. Hair and make-up for the show was amazing and complex; luckily we were in skilled hands with Elise Rodhe, Belinda Elliott and Loucas Vettos on board in make-up. Loucas also vamped it up as the 'Denim Dandy' in

the show. Godspell set designer Damien Muller designed the set and built from scratch a giant skull-shaped disco ball. The show was extremely well sup-

ported; two full houses and many rave reviews from audience members. Kat has been invited to stage the show again in Ballarat in 2017, and will undertake another Melbourne season in late 2016. She's dreaming big – a trip to New York's fashion festival is on the cards!

Thanks to Simon Dandy and the HAC committee for the use of the space and resources, to Don Mitchell for painting and organizing the stage steps, and to Samantha Prollius and Faye Johns for various costume-related jobs and general problem solving. Kat was super impressed with the Horsham Arts Council's dedication and willingness to be a part of such a daring and innovative production as 'Fashion for Funerals'.

- Amy Anselmi -



Alex Rathgeber Goes from Strength to Strength

Alex Rathgeber has continued his amazing run in professional theatre. He was recently announced in the role of "Carl Bruner" for the Australian tour of the upcoming production of "Ghost the Musical".

Alex has firmly established himself internationally as a genuine leading man, performing in Australia, Asia and on London's West End. Most recently, he starred opposite Caroline O'Connor as "Billy Crocker" in the Australian tour of "Anything Goes" for which he won a Helpmann Award for best male actor in a supporting role.

"Ghost the Musical" is based on the Oscar winning film starring Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore. With book and lyrics by Bruce Joel Rubin (The Time Travellers Wife, Deep Impact) and Music and lyrics by Dave Stewart (Eurythmics) and Glen Ballard (Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill), it is an incredibly imaginative stage show

full of heart; showcasing the power of love with breathtaking illusions and special effects.

Congratulations Alex on your amazing career which continues to grow from strength to strength. You deserve everything that comes your way. The HAC family is extremely proud of you & will no doubt be in the audience to cheer you on.

- Simon Dandy -



Horsham Carol's by Candlelight

Horsham's Carols By Candlelight was held on Sunday 6 December 2015 at the Soundshell at Sawyer Park.

The event was a massive success with the community turning out in the thousands. It was great to see so many families there with children singing along to the music.

The Horsham Arts Council was represented in all aspects of the event including performers, choir, security, sound, lighting, face-painting, catering, set design & car parking attendants. It was great to see so many Horsham Arts Council members volunteering their time to ensure that this community event continues to be a successful.

From a performance point of view, there were many incredible moments including Stacey Brennan singing "How Great Thou Art", Carly Jenkins singing "Away in a Manger", Emmy Bull singing "Mary's Boy Child" & the sublime trio of Steph Martin, Venetia Elbourne-Hobbs & Lisa Thomas performing "Breath of Heaven" & "Silent Night". Another magical performance was the choir & the band singing "Carol of the Bells". Vocally, it

was amazing. But it was the instrumental of the band that stole the show, including a guitar face-off between Jono Martin & Aaron Murray. It simply was an amazing display of talent.

Please refer to the Horsham's Carols By Candlelight Facebook page for photos, videos & even a WIN News story that aired on TV which is a great promotion for our region.

A huge congratulations must go out to Lisa & Ronnie Thomas & Venetia for all the work they put in to the event. The aim is to "ignite the Christmas spirit within the community". I would think that it was well and truly achieved.

- *Simon Dandy* -

