

**■ Horsham**rts

Council Inc.

■

July / August 2017

# **Horsham Arts Council Committee** 2017

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Simon Dandy

#### **Vice President**

Luke Mitton

#### **Treasurer**

Colin Kreymborg

#### Secretary

Faye Johns

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Don Mitchell

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Jan Morris

**Debbie Boutcher** 

Jessica Wilson

Beau Ladlow

**Loucas Vettos** 

Stacey Brennan

Jack Janetzki

Ken Warrick

## **President's Report**

The year continues to roll on with so much activity within the HAC and the performing arts community.

It may be just me (but I don't think so) but performing arts in the Wimmera region continues to grow from strength to strength. HAC shows continue to become more and more popular. Our membership is growing. School productions seem to have gone to a whole new level and



people want to be in them. Of course, having the amazing new Horsham Town Hall (HTH) theatre allows us all to perform in an environment others can only dream of, especially in regional areas. What's more, Shane Podolski, Shana Miatke, Charee Smith and the entire HTH team will go above and beyond to make the theatre experience an enjoyable and successful one.

In the last month, I have had two men (that's right - men) call me out of the blue saying they would like to become members of the HAC, They have never been involved in the past and just want to be a part of it. That is uncanny. People are getting the bug and can see that it is now cool to be a part of a successful musical production. I love it.

Rehearsals for "Rent" are in full swing and are well progressed. The cast have learned all the songs and are running through the show. At this stage of the process, that is a great result. It is so cool going out to HAC House and seeing the set almost assembled for the cast to work on. It was also pleasing to see the commitment of the cast to the show. I went out to HAC House on a non-rehearsal night to find Stacey Brennan at the piano giving Cobba Harrison extra rehearsal time to help him with his performance. That is real teamwork and kudos to Cobba for seeking out extra assistance in his first HAC production.

It is also pleasing to see the cooperation between different groups. Props, costumes, sets and knowledge are being shared with the HAC and other groups such as Horsham College, St Brigid's College and the Warracknabeal Primary School. Some of our sets from "Annie" recently featured in Centerstage Geelong's production of "Oliver!" in July 2017. This is something we should foster and encourage. It can only benefit everyone. We are not in competition with each other. Everyone can share in everyone's success. It will bode well for us all in the long-term.

Thanks to Jack Janetzki for organising a 40 foot container for HAC which will arrive shortly and provide much needed storage space for sets, props and costumes. The committee will be organising a working bee soon to clean up HAC House, throw out what we do not need and store what we are keeping. We would encourage all members, family and friends to help out with this process. Stay tuned for more details as they are confirmed by the committee.

Keep up the good work everyone. Until next time.

# -Símon Dandy

Deepest condolences to Debbie, Erin & Sam & the wider Boutcher family on the passing of their father and grandfather, Sydney Bruce Fredericks, on Sunday 6 August 2017. The thoughts and prayers of your HAC family are with you all during this sad and difficult time.



## **Secretary's Scribbles**

Sitting by the warm and toasty fire, I am revelling in the warmth on a cold winter's night. I love curling up on the couch and reading, or vegging out watching movies (any good musicals/plays that I need to catch up on? I'm open to recommendations. I am not currently involved in rehearsals for 'Rent', although I will be helping out in any way needed later on in the piece, so my evenings are a little less structured at the moment. While I am loving the time at home, I must admit that sometimes it doesn't feel quite right, not being out at HAC House, rugged up and freezing as the next scene is rehearsed. I may have already snuck in for a quick peek at rehearsals.... The commitment and talent of the small part of the cast that I was privileged to see rehearsing, already gives me a sense of how amazing this production will be as it comes to the stage in a few short months.



While the cast and crew of 'Rent' are working towards this, there are many other members of HAC that are working tirelessly to continue the day to day running of an organisation such as HAC. From your wonderful newsletter team, to Colin our Treasurer who handles the books and makes sure that we can continue to produce quality shows from a financial perspective, Simon our President who oversights so much and gives immeasurable time to our organisation. From HAC House caretakers to our wonderful costume managers who are in the process of re-cataloguing our costumes, and our committee who meets regularly and works to keep the driving force of HAC pointed in the right direction towards exciting new opportunities in the future. The shows that we are involved in and that the audience see are the end result of so many people and their unseen work that even many HAC members may ever see. So thank you for all of your hard work. And I am sure I will see you on the rehearsal floor, or behind the stage legs sooner rather than later.

# -Faye Johns



Horsham's own Maddi Ostapiw, local vocal coach and vocal director of our current production, 'Rent' regularly has articles published on aussietheatre.com. Due to copyright legislation we are unable to publish Maddi's work here, however for those of you receiving the newsletter in electronic format, please follow the links below to 'read all about it.'

Maddi Ostapiw Vocal Studio is also currently taking enrolments, including a discounted trial lesson to any past or present HAC member. Contact Maddi on 0437 244 468 for more information.

Alan Menken: https://aussietheatre.com.au/features/disney-legend-alan-menken-talks-creation-composition-collaboration

Stephen Oremus: <a href="https://aussietheatre.com.au/features/stephen-oremus-kinky-boots">https://aussietheatre.com.au/features/stephen-oremus-kinky-boots</a>

#### Wimmera Eisteddfod

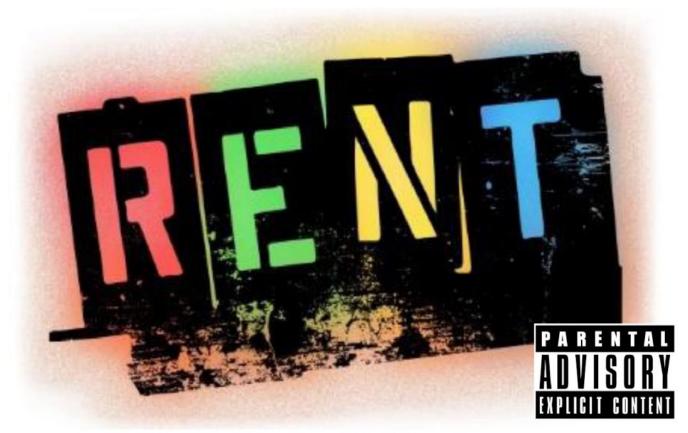
The 2017 Wimmera Eisteddfod will be held on Friday 15 September 2017 and Saturday 16 September 2017 at the Wesley Performing Arts Centre. The vocal section will be held on Saturday. Many HAC members, past & present, will be performing in the junior & open sections.

The HAC is proud to be an ongoing sponsor of the vocal section of the Eisteddfod awarding \$100 to the most promising vocal performer as selected by the adjudicator.

We understand it is a very busy weekend with football/netball finals and Horsham College's production of "Legally Blonde Jr". However, it would be great to see HAC members in the audience supporting the performers. Please visit the Facebook page or webpage of the Wimmera Eisteddfod for the schedule and timetable.



# -Simon Dandy



Horsham Town Hall Theater October 27<sup>th</sup> 8pm, 28<sup>th</sup> 8pm, 29<sup>th</sup> 2pm. November 2<sup>nd</sup> 8pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> 8pm, 4<sup>th</sup> 8pm.

**RENT** is a Pulitzer and Tony Award winning rock musical with music, lyrics and book by Jonathan Larson. Based loosely on Puccini's beloved opera *La Bohème*, **RENT** follows the ups and downs of a year in the life of a group of impoverished, artistic friends living in Manhattan's East Village.

Mark, an aspiring filmmaker, struggles to find his place in the world; his roommate Roger, a HIV-positive musician, wonders how he will leave his mark before he dies. Mimi and Angel look for true love as they face the harsh reality of life as HIV-positive young people, while the business-like Joanne seeks fidelity from her wild-child performance artist girlfriend Maureen.

The group's dreams, losses, and love stories weave through the musical's narration to paint a stunningly raw and emotional portrait of the gritty bohemian world of New York City in the late 1980s.

**Special Note:** This show contains adult themes and coarse language, parental guidance is recommended.

Directed by Debbie Boutcher, Assistant Director Loucas Vettos, Musical Director Mark Block and Vocal Director Maddi Ostapiw.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE via the Horsham Town Hall Theatre Website.



The Musical

Horsham Town Hall Theatre - September 2017

Thu 14@7.30pm Fri 15@7.30pm Sat 16@ 7.30pm Sun 17@1pm

Tickets now available \$15 concession \$20 adults

Online: www.horshamtownhall.com.au Phone: 53829555 Box Office: 71 Pynsent Street Horsham

I don't know about the rest of the *Legally Blonde Jr* committee, but I am counting the hours until I enjoy a tall cool Fluffy Bunny after our gala performance on Thursday, September 14th (I'm not actually going to consume a furry rabbit – it's the name of our *Legally Blonde* pink cocktail on sale during show season at the Horsham Town Hall!). Up to my eyeballs in our lead character Elle Woods signature colour, pink, I have also seen red at times while working with teenagers, foyer decorations, financial floats, tickets, window displays, sponsor packs, catering quotes, props, publicity and precocious puppies.

As parent representative last year, I thought I had a pretty good idea of the workload involved in getting a show off the ground. I have found it is entirely different when intimately involved in each aspect of the production, even though I haven't been physically involved in all areas.

Emily has lived and breathed sets, learning new bracing techniques from Shane because we want to fly certain pieces, and painting and wallpapering late into every evening. Lisa has led two all-day vocal rehearsals and two three-hour evening recording sessions, while Brittany has helped with set design and decoration. Courtney has had sleepless nights laying out the program, and Tina may well scream if she is exposed to one more zip, seam or shred of pink fabric.

Amy and Joel have made guest appearances to choreograph some amazing routines, but this time around I have felt that the four-and-a-half-h our rehearsal for the students each week, including half an hour with Lisa, seem to be the tip of the iceberg: all the action takes place beneath the surface, so to speak, or behind the scenes, actually. This show simply would not happen without all the wonderful volunteers involved, including all of the experts above, plus William Hehir, Louise Amor and Lisa Hobbs at Horsham College, our fabulous sponsors, and the terrific parents who have volunteered to help backstage.

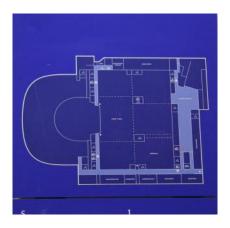
It has been an honour to work alongside such passionate and generous people, and the quality of the show will certainly be a clear reflection of that commitment, collaboration and care for our students.

## The Copenhagen Opera House Tour

While I was in Denmark, I was privileged to be able to take a tour of the Copenhagen Opera House. The opera house was donated to the people of Denmark and Copenhagen by The A.P.\_Møller and Chastine Mc-Kinney Møller Foundation in August 2000 (A.P. Møllerwas a co-founder of the company now known as Mærsk, the biggest shipping company in Denmark). Its state-of-the-art design and generous budget means that it is one of the most technologically-advanced in the world.



The theatre is beautiful, with gorgeous panels of maple on the outside of the auditorium in the foyer, and inside in the acoustic panels. The acoustic panels can be shifted to change the reverb damping effect, from 1.9 seconds (for operas) to 0.9 seconds (for musicals where there is also dialogue that needs to be clearer to be heard well.) There are also hundreds of limestone tiles throughout the building, which they have discovered you can "play" like a massive xylophone. We had some fun making music on them by tapping and smacking them. The theatre has an orchestra pit which can have the chairs removed from, and the floor lowered to create a true 'pit' for the orchestra if necessary. There are smaller auditoriums off to the sides that are used for youth theatre and more experimental theatre. The building has a number of floors below ground, used for storage and also for some very cool tech stuff, as well as the four floors above.



As well as the main stage, there are four other stages of the exact same dimensions of the main stage. There are four black floors that can rotate between all these stages through lowering the stages and moving them underneath and into position. They can literally change the whole floor in the main stage in less than an hour. This means they use one stage floor to build the stage on, while there can be 2 full sets that can be set up and swapped out – daily if they wish - to and from the main stage, allowing them to run multiple shows alternately if they wish. Once the set is built, it is sent over to the other side of the building, where a sound-proof stage is set up near the main stage, allowing the next show to run rehearse *in situ* with the sets as is, while another show is still running. Totally amazing.

The fly tower is huge, spare parts in storage so they don't have to wait for parts to fix any staging, wood parts, chairs etc.

There was also the very opulent gold leaf panelling on the roof of the main auditorium and the three 800kg Swarovski crystal chandeliers that were gorgeous and jaw-dropping in terms of the sheer cost and the very idea,

that after the amount of money spent on this amazing technological theatre, there was still cash left over to do some serious decorating.

While we didn't get the opportunity to see a show in there, it was incredible to be able to see and comprehend what a spectacularly generous budget and the support of patrons of the arts can achieve in terms of creating a fabulous work and performance space for members of the performing arts.



# -Faye Johns

## Warracknabeal PS Presents "Peter Pan"

Warracknabeal Primary School will present its version of the timeless classic "Peter Pan" at the Warracknabeal Town Hall.

Director and teacher, Miss Kate Blackmore, says there will be a matinee performance at 12 noon on Monday 18 September 2017 and an evening performance at 6.30pm on Tuesday 19 September 2017. Both performances are open to the public. Tickets are available at the door.

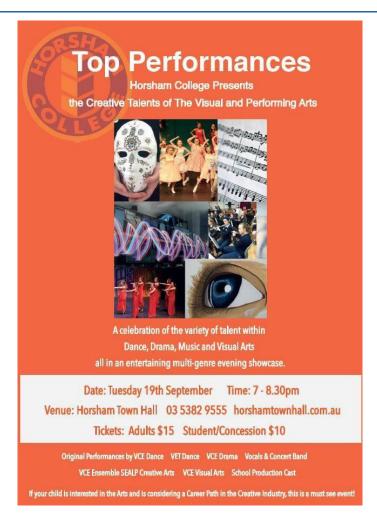
There is a cast of 52 students with 30 speaking roles. Kate said that they obtained a generic script of the show from the internet and have included popular songs into the production to give the cast a chance to dance and sing.

Kate and her production team have used costumes, set and props from the HAC given we performed the Disney version of the show in 2015. They are very appreciative of the support we have given them. The cast are thrilled to have access to them. In the past, they have had to make their own costumes, sets and props from a very limited budget available to them. Kate said it would take their performance to the next level.



Everyone at the HAC extends their best wishes to the cast and crew for two successful performances. We hope the students have a great time and enjoy the experience which is what it is all about at the end of the day. I would encourage any HAC member to attend the production if they have the time and capacity to do so.

# -Simon Dandy



On Tuesday 19th September we are celebrating and showcasing the Visual and Performing Arts from Horsham College on the stage at Horsham Town Hall at 7pm.

Tickets available at <a href="https://www.horshamtownhall.com.au">www.horshamtownhall.com.au</a> Adults \$15

Students/Concession \$10

For the first time VCE students who have been working all year towards their Unit 4 (exam) performances, will perform their program to the general public in VCE Dance, Drama and Music.

Grace Robertson, Lucinda Binney, Kessia Peterson, Michael Sherry, Julia Gasparini, Shanae Thomas and Neve Lawson will all perform Solo in their chosen field.

SEALP Arts Music and Drama, VET Dance, School Band and Production Cast will also join in this showcase.

Throughout the program we are also delighted to be able to display the best examples of student work from Media, Studio Art and Art.

This extravaganza will be a first for Horsham College. Come and see students creativity and talent at its best!

## Wakakirri Story 2017

Wakakirri is an Australian national story-dance festival for primary and secondary schools that has been running since 1992. Wakakirri is a word from the Aboriginal Wangaaypuwan people meaning 'to dance'. The name was chosen at the inception of the event in 1992 to give it a uniquely Australian context and feeling.

Last year, the Holy Trinity Lutheran School competed in the Secondary Competition with great success, and this

year they competed in the Primary School section.

The seven-minute dance story told by the student performers is called 'The Little Things'. It is about a family (Marni Saunders as Mum) who travel to the city for a day trip. They have a lovely day out at the movies, go shopping and buy some snacks. A little girl (in Rebekah Wundke) sees a disturbing sight of homeless people on the street. This scene and a powerful dream motivates her and the family to bake some snacks and give them out as gifts. Sometimes it can be the little things that can make a big difference.



The performance is based on a true story that was heard on an ABC talk radio show one day.

HAC family members involved in the production were Rebekah Wundke, Marni Saunders, Emily Knoop, Gen Kreymborg and Mark Busbridge.

The students performed in Geelong at the heats in August and won a heap of awards including Excellent Group Acting, Excellent Staging, Excellent Ensemble, Well-Rehearsed Performance, Best Teamwork, Signature Item and Most Creative Re-use of Materials for Sets and Props. On top of this, HTLS is now in the finals and performs at the Award Nights in Melbourne at Hamer Hall in September. They will compete for the national title for the Best Original Story Award.

#### Below is feedback from the judges:

'A really lovely idea for a story with clever staging and creative images used very effectively. The car and cinema visuals made for a delightful opening. You had some lovely characters and good facial expressions that helped tell the story. Well-built sequences to thread the story and good attention to detail. Terrific teamwork on-stage and you integrated crew into the performance in an entertaining way too.'

# -Mark Busbridge





## **Brock Lynch Hits The Stage Again!!!!!**

HAC member & all-round good guy is back on the stage . He is in the ensemble for Barbirra Music Theatre's production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" to be held at the Whitehorse Centre Theatre in Nunawading from 6-14 October 2017.

In the words of Brock – "It has been 18 years since I dusted off my musical theatre socks and tried to tread the boards. Admittedly, they've had to reinforce those boards, I've found muscle pain I never knew existed, realised I can't sing and dance at the same time (just yet), seen talented people far younger than me pick stuff up twice as fast and discovered that there is time that exists past 9:30pm at night... but that's exactly why you should book tickets and come see this fab show! Would love to see you all there."

Brock would love to see HAC members at the show. If you go, he would like you to contact him on 0418 516 676 so he can catch up with you after the show.

Best wishes Brock for a successful production. Chookas mate!!!!

# -Simon Dandy





Featuring an audience favourite film (ooh, what will it be?!), food and drink supplied by the Rural and Regional Equality Roadshow and a performance by the cast of Horsham Arts Council's RENT, we invite residents of the Wimmera/Mallee to celebrate a fantastic year of rainbow love and inclusion with the Wimmera Pride Project and Ro Allen, Victoria's first Gender and Sexuality Commissioner.

This event has FREE entry, and vegan/vegetarian/gluten free food options available. Our mystery film is rated M for sexual references and some coarse language, all ages welcome! Please get in touch with the Pride Project through our Facebook page if you have any questions about the evening or film content, we can't wait to celebrate with you!

#### Alex Finds His Rainbow in Oz!!!

Former HAC member Alex Rathgeber has landed a dream role as the Tinman in the upcoming Australian professional production of "The Wizard Of Oz" which opens in Brisbane in November 2017. He will share the stage with theatre icons Anthony Warlow, Lucy Durack and Jemma Rix.

"I don't know how old I was when I first watched it (the movie), but it's a show that everyone loves." Alex says. "Whenever I mention the show to people they are immediately excited because it's such an iconic musical. It's going to be great to be part of a show that everyone has a share in – it feels special."

Rehearsals kick off in October 2017 and will go to Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide before coming to Melbourne's Regent Theatre in May 2018.

Alex is encouraging as many people from the HAC and the Wimmera to come along and see the show. "I'm really excited to be doing something that is so familiar to people. I know that will be a major incentive for people to get down to Melbourne and see it."



Everyone in the HAC is so proud of what Alex has achieved and continues to achieve. He is an inspiration to us all. Best wishes to Alex for the production and we cannot wait to join you in the merry old land of Oz!!!!

# -Símon Dandy

## 1126 Facebook Likes!!!!



The sky's the limit!

Thank you to the extended HAC community for supporting us to reach our previous milestone of 1000+ Facebook likes. At the time of this publication, we are at 1126 likes. That's a big deal, considering we only hit 700 likes on the 1st of May, 2017.





## Jan & Jan Costume Hire

Jan Janetzki & Jan Morris have been granted the exciting responsibility of looking after the HAC costumes.

They are going to go through the costume room & do a little culling, but nothing will be thrown out until members have the chance to take what they want.



They will open up to the public for hiring on each Thursday between 5pm & 7pm.

Jan & Jan will advertise soon & might have to have some help at times (holidays) but watch this space.

If there's anything you'd like to know, please call 0419726378







Or Reason

**Wesley Performing Arts Centre** 

September 20 21 & 22 7:30pm

\$10 Adult, \$8 child U/16 Tickets available from Horsham Town Hall, online & at the door



Happy 60th birthday for HAC life member Sandy Wills. Everyone at the HAC hopes you had a great day celebrating with your family &

Happy birthday to HAC Life Member Lynne. A passionate dancer and choreographer and all around lovely person.



**Horsham Arts Council Inc.** 

**PO Box 370** 

Horsham, VIC 3402

**Hamilton Rd / Henty Hwy** 

Horsham Vic, 3400

E-mail: info@horshamartscouncil.com

Web: www.horshamartscouncil.com

#### WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER OF HAC.....



To become a member of the HAC please contact our secretary Faye via email to receive a membership form, you can also visit our website to download a form, or simply complete the form attached to the monthly newsletter.

#### **HAC Life Members**

Ritchie Hobbs\* (1972) Shirley Mewett (1993) Ken Bradshaw (2002) Debbie Boutcher (2010) Ron Shepherd\* (1976) Avis Denholm (1999) Dawn Deale (2005) Gary (Jack) Janetzki (2010) Colin Mills (1987) Jan Morris (2001) Laurie Deale\* (2005) Lynne McKenzie (2010) Barbara Mills (1987) Richard Morris\* (2001) Don Mitchell (2012) Stuart Johns (2007) Ona Whiteside\* (1993) Gerry Nicholls (2001) Sandy Wills (2007) Jenny Rafter (2012)

#### And the newest additions to the HAC Life Member honour roll

Ronnie Thomas (2016) Libby Brennan (2016)

HAC Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

All members welcome.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday the 13th of September.

#### **Newsletter Team**

Please forward any information for future newsletters to the team via ladlow@internode.on.net or message Cherie Ladlow on 0458 747 236

Until next time...

Peace out! From your friendly neighbourhood newsletter team

Cherie Ladlow, Beau Ladlow and Lynley Macdonald



# MEMBERSHIP FORM 2017

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

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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