



May / June 2018

Horsham Arts Council Inc.

The Secretary's Scribbles

The final curtain has closed on the vibrant, energetic and colourful show that was *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. It was a cast, crew and orchestra spectacular that delighted and entertained our Wimmera audiences far and wide. It was an amazing experience to be able to sit back and watch the hard work that we had all put in pay off in a tight and entertaining show one night, and the next night don stage blacks and help behind the scenes to keep the show running smoothly.



I was not the only one who multi-tasked throughout the show. Members of the backstage crew had brief on-stage roles when asked, cast helped to move and put together sets. When a cast member was unwell, the director took on his role until he was able to return, and then turned around and also helped backstage when there was a need. Production team members manned the sign-in desk, parents volunteered their time during shows as chaperones. Whenever there was a need, a member of the HAC family stepped up to make sure that the need was met.

Things never go completely to plan despite our best efforts, new challenges pop up, unforeseen circumstances will occur. What was very clear to me as I worked in different areas through the show, was how very lucky we are to have a membership that is prepared to step up and step in. And how wonderfully supportive the parents of our young performers are, making the time to help the theatre experience be a spectacular one for their children.

From a cast, crew and orchestra of over 130 with *Joseph*, our next step was to put on *Urinetown*, but unfortunately due to a man drought this was not possible. In this difficult time I'd like to credit our very resourceful production team and members for their resilience, for as soon as it became apparent that *Urinetown* would not be going ahead they were ready with another option for the HAC committee to consider. After much deliberation and careful consideration, the HAC committee approved the team's new proposal of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

So now we move on to *Little Shop of Horrors* which will have a cast of around nineteen, and have a vastly different feel to it. This also is a very exciting time for HAC. Being able to put on shows with such diverse music, content and style, a variety of cast sizes, allows our performers to stretch and improve their abilities. Production teams can experiment and we can offer a variety of shows to the Wimmera.

Exciting times ahead. *-Faye Johns*

Debbie Boutcher Milestone



What were you doing back in 1968? Well, a little birdy reliably informs me that 1968 was the first year Debbie Boutcher joined the HAC. This means that Debbie has had 50 years of association with our organisation. She has contributed so much, both on and off the stage.

No wonder she has the honour of being a HAC life member. Congratulations Debbie on this amazing milestone. May there be many more wonderful years to come.



-Simon Dandy



October 2018
HORSHAM TOWN HALL

Horsham Arts Council introduces the Cast of Little Shop of Horrors:

Seymour - Chris Versteegen
Audrey - Belinda Elliott
Orin(Dentist) – Beau Ladlow
Mushnik - Tim O'Donnell
Audrey 2 (The Plant) - Emily McDiarmid
Crystal - Stacey Brennan
Ronnette - Erin Boutcher
Chiffon - Jessica Durrant

Ensemble:
Luke Mitton
Liam Robertson
Faye Johns
Brittany Bates
Bella Patterson
Sophie Koschmann
Loucas Vettos
Alayna Toporzisek
Paige Schmidt
Tom Middlebrook
Oscar O'Brien

Community Contribution

What do the Horsham Arts Council productions mean to me as a member of the community? When I was asked to write a short piece on that topic there was so much that sprang to mind. I will try to be brief. I first started watching HAC productions over 30 years ago when I moved to the Wimmera. The quality of the shows, variety of production types, high standard of acting ability and the high calibre of performing arts had me hooked. I have rarely missed a show: be it musicals, drama, comedy, satire, family or adult, they have all been highly entertaining, engaging and unfailingly of the highest standard. The highlight of my calendar is booking in for the next show as soon as dates are released. But it is more than being entertained.

Over the years it has been a privilege to watch the development of so many individuals as they have honed their craft. Mechanics, salespeople, shop assistants, teachers, mums and dads, students, farmers, people from every walk of life in my community transform on the stage into someone else so convincingly. Some I have seen from young children to adulthood, through developing manhood voice changes to mature roles (think Beau Ladlow from *The Artful Dodger* in *Oliver Twist* to *Joseph* in his technicolour coat). Watching girls develop from cute little cherubs to dark dramatic characters requiring enormous personal and professional development to project such depth of feeling it leaves me wondering how those so young find it within themselves to be so convincing; Erin Boutcher springs to mind (Charlotte in *Oliver*, to Mimi in *Rent*).



Understanding the amount of work that goes into each production by the team behind the scenes, musicians, stage hands, make-up, set builders, scene painters - the list goes on for what it takes for me to sit and be transported to another place for a few short hours.

I genuinely believe that the calibre of the actors and production staff here in the Wimmera is unsurpassed. I thank all involved so very much for the joy they bring.

My only regret is that I have not been able to join them on-stage. I live and wait with baited breath every production looking for the actors required just waiting for my chance. As soon as the call sheet reads "not required to dance, dodgy co-ordination welcomed, ability to sing with far more enthusiasm than talent required" then I'll be there with bells on!

With gratitude,

-Vynka-Lee Neighbour

The Flip Of A Coin



About 18 months ago I was living in NSW. My partner and I made the joint decision for me to move in with him in the small town of Balmoral where he works as a teacher. The town is so small, with a population of under 350, that it was re-classified as a village.

I made some friends in Balmoral, but I don't play any team sports i.e. netball/football, so it became hard to build a social group of friends. One day at work I was going through a hard time feeling so very isolated with no friends to talk to, starting to think I might have made the wrong decision in moving to Victoria, when a work colleague asked me what I was passionate about?

Singing, I responded. My singing is something I have worked on for what seems like my whole life.

"Why don't you try out for HAC?" she said.

We looked online and the introduction meeting for their next production of *Joseph* was that weekend. What did I have to lose?

So, I went and booked in for an audition at 9.30pm. Not 9:30A.M. like I thought, when I turned up to an empty HAC shed on the morning of the day. I rang around and found out I had got my times messed up, and we rebooked for the next evening. The next day I finished work and sat at the crossroad thinking, "maybe the Universe was telling me it was not for me - by getting my times wrong. Should I go?"

So I flipped a coin with heads being 'I go.' It landed on heads.

So off I went to my audition, and I am so happy that I did!

After my audition, I got a call back for the Narrator, and then another. Surrounded by such amazing talent, I was just happy to be involved and never did I think that I would have got the role of the narrator.

I could talk about how much time, dedication and hard work was put in by everyone that was involved in the show, and if you saw the show you would have seen this through the production!

I could talk about the amazing directing team.

I could talk about all the details from each step of direction given, each harmony that was sung or each jewel perfectly placed.

But I want to talk about the HAC family as a whole. I was so nervous to be the new comer and land such a big role, but everyone was so supportive and welcoming. It felt like I had been a part of the team for such a long time. They lifted me up and encouraged me when I was low and laughed with me when I was on a high. They gave me encouragement and direction when I needed it most.

The HAC group is more than just a talented theatre group. It's a collection of amazing and uplifting people. I encourage anyone who needs to find a community of people to try out for any HAC production. It's not all just singing and dancing, there is so much more to a production. Backstage, set design, costumes, lighting, hair and make-up and so much more.

I have made so many amazing friendships through HAC and they continue and blossom after *Joseph*. I am so thankful to HAC for getting me out of my comfort zone in Balmoral and showing me just what Horsham has to offer in terms of a collective group. I am happy for this to be continued as I am also involved in the next production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. I want to say a big thank you to everyone involved in *Joseph* and HAC! You are all amazing and gave me the courage to express my talent and be myself. *Joseph* will be something I will remember for a life time and I was so happy to be involved with such a great team.

-Jessica Durrant

Spamalot –BLOC



It was a cold bleak Saturday afternoon in April (and that was before we even got to Ballarat!) when I took my girls to see the opening matinee of BLOC's latest musical production, *Spamalot*. I was lucky to be going at all because my better half thought that with the gale force winds and terrible weather predicted for that day I would be better off not being on the road, for the safety of myself and the general community. You see, I have a reputation in our family of being what you call a 'bad driver'; child number two likes to refer to me as 'Nature-strip Woman'. The bad driver thing probably started when I wrote off my first car, an incident which Ken 'Warrick' can testify to. It hasn't helped that I have

managed to do the following damage to the black 'Hobbie Mobile': take out 1 if not 2 mirrors, run over a tap so that it was wedged underneath the front of the car, reverse into a gate smashing the right tail light, run over my friend's mailbox pulling it out of the ground and leaving a dent in the back of our car. I will say though, that the rear view mirror had fallen off the windscreen at the time so that may not have helped the situation ... maybe? And finally in my latest (and by far greatest) stuff up ... this was after the *Spamalot* trip, so not really counted ... I turned too soon when coming through our gate and caught the entire side of the car on the fence. Once I un-wedged it I discovered that a jutting out bit had also slashed the tyre. So I had scraped paint, a big dent and a slashed tyre that no amount of black scuff stuff could remedy (I did try). Anyway ... I digress from the purpose of this article, which of course, is to review *Spamalot*.

Once our white-knuckled driving trip was over and we were safely parked outside the theatre, I was very pleased to discover a whole crew of fellow HAC thespians had made the trip down. I must confess before I go any further that I had no clue about *Spamalot* or Monty Python for that matter. Believe it. I'm not sure why (probably because they're a bit dodgy or maybe it was on when the footy was?) but Monty Python was not part of my world. I suspected that *Spamalot* may be a bit quirky because it's British. We used to be fans of 'The Goodies' and I regularly watched 'The Two Ronnies' at Gran's on a Friday night, so I thought there'd be hope that I'd get its quiriness. I have discovered (thank you Google!) that the plot basically follows that of Monty Python's Holy Grail, so if you've seen it, you'd be familiar with the jokes and scenes in *Spamalot*.

The cast and crew did a fantastic job of bringing this show to life; each member was totally committed to their character. In any show, but particularly one that's full of nonsense and songs that have themes like 'This is the Song You Sing When You need To Put in a Song Because It's Billed as a Musical, Even Though You Can't Think of Any Actual Lyrics' you need to be totally committed in order to pull it off, which I think the cast did admirably. All the leads were wonderful. I can't pick a favourite because each person did exactly what they needed to for their character and I think it's a sign of a great cast when no one outshines the others.

My reason for going along was to see one of HAC's stalwarts in action: Samantha Prollius as the Narrator. Excellent as always in the role of a school teacher ... it seems to come so naturally to her. The sets, lighting and costuming were all fantastic, the vocal leads were strong, particularly The Lady of the Lake and King Arthur, the music was flawless (I'm assuming it was an orchestra, although they didn't come out at the end, which was a pity) and the over-all feel of the show was comedic and fun.

The cast had fun, which meant that the audience had fun too. I was unaware of any opening show hiccups; there may have been, but I was just soaking it in, not looking for defects. Over-all, it was a great, polished performance from BLOC.

So what was all that waffle about my accidents at the start of this review for? Well, that's kind of what *Spamalot* is like – a whole lot of waffle and nonsense around a basic plot that's just for a bit of fun!

-Venetia Elbourne-Hobbs

Art Is... A Footprint

This years Art is... was great. We danced, we decorated, we sang, we took photos, rescued eagles, we ate, watched and we listened.

We had 704 participants create flowers for Festoon which adorned the Horsham Town Hall, Six artists created wearable art ball gowns which dancers displayed over the festival.

The Inaugural Annual Dance affair came together (with the help of HAC's Beau Ladlow – thanks Beau!!) and saw 162 local dancers join Everybody Now and Art is... to create a participatory dance event. It was very well received.

Art Play Sunday was a roaring success we had 166 attend and there nearly wasn't enough fruit kebabs! The kids got to try on Sari's, play in a ball pit, listen to music, hula hoop and when it all got too much the WRLC had a lovely quite reading corner.

We also enjoyed time at the river and were inducted into the sacred animal club with the help of Rae and Wendy at the CMA. We knitted in public for international knit in public day, listened to some of HACs finest sing in Showcase (we want more of you back next year!!) And that's not to mention all the great stuff that was on at the Art Gallery – we had a beautiful intimate night with Alice Skye and Benny Walker – I've never seen a drummer play on an plastic tub before – but it worked and was great! The Soft core exhibition some found confronting and others had to try very hard not to touch. The Street Gallery walking tour got 48 people joining us to look at the art around town. Add into this the Rotary Art fair, Art matters, soap box theatre, artrageous, author talks and a Nexus Freeza event and it was no wonder Elaine and I had to go and have a little nap in Harvey Norman whilst we were waiting for the amazing race photos to be printed... oh yes that was a fun adventure around town.

We are looking for Committee members if anyone wants to join please feel free to call me on 0468387121

Thanks all for your interest.

-Sarah Natali - Art Is... General Manager



ART IS... A FOOTPRINT



Opera Australia presents Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*

Opera Australia, under the direction of John Bell, is conducting a regional tour in 2018 and 2019 of *Madame Butterfly*. It is one of the most performed operas throughout the world and is set in post-WW2 Nagasaki. This production is performed in English and with each performance, provision has been made for a local choir of twenty children to be included.

Back in April this year I was approached by management from Horsham Town Hall to see if I would be interested in leading our regional children's choir to perform alongside the cast of Opera Australia. I did accept, as this is an exciting chance to work in a different field and genre of singing. So just as *Joseph* opened in Horsham, I travelled to Melbourne to attend a workshop with other vocal directors under the tutelage of Josh van Konkelenberg, who is Opera Australia's Children's Chorus Master for this production. At the workshop we learnt what was expected of us and our choir in terms of sound, rehearsals and the performance. This was an enjoyable and valuable learning time.

Following this workshop and the completion of *Joseph*, we quickly held auditions at the Horsham Town Hall. Maddi Ostapiw and Venetia Elbourne-Hobbs joined me for the audition process, and after hearing just over fifty children aged 8-14 years, we arrived at our final twenty choir members. This was quite challenging as there were many children with potential. Congratulations to all who took the opportunity to audition. My thanks also to Maddi and Venetia for their help and input.

From here on, the choir will rehearse weekly on a Monday for two hours. We have six rehearsals in which to learn our two songs, before Josh joins us the week before performance to polish and perfect our young voices. Horsham will host this wonderful performance on Thursday 2nd August, 2018 at HTH at 8pm. Tickets have been selling incredibly fast, so don't delay in purchasing them for a very unique and memorable event. My thanks to Charee and fellow HTH staff for all their organisational support in this journey; they have been wonderful to work with.

Finally, the twenty very fortunate children who will be performing alongside Opera Australia are: Annika Livingstone, Cher-Leah Williams, Claudia Lopez O'Donnell, Ebony Hart, Ella Dowling, Hugo Hopper, Jade Edwards, Jo-Mari Pretorius, Kathleen Johns, Liberty Hobbs, Lucia Lopez O'Donnell, Marnie Saunders, Paige Millar, Penelope Lopez O'Donnell, Rebecca Wundke, Rhianna Williams, Sienna Walscott, Ulani Hobbs, Yasinta Grosser and Zoa Mock.

-Lisa Thomas



Massive thanks to the Horsham Sports & Community Club for their amazing donation of \$2,000 to the HAC to improve our lighting at HAC House. Thanks Loucas Vettos for receiving the award on our behalf.

Very indebted to this community-minded organisation.



Santas-N-Elves



CALLING ALL SANTAS

Santas-n-Elves is the premier supplier of Christmas Entertainment.
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5 WEEKENDS

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Saturday 24th November - 11am-2pm
Sunday 25th November - 11am-2pm
Saturday 1st December - 11am-2pm
Sunday 2nd December - 11am-2pm
Saturday 8th December - 11am-2pm
Sunday 9th December - 11am-2pm
Saturday 15th December - 11am-2pm
Sunday 16th December - 11am-2pm

VICTORIA

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SWAN HILL, MOE,
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Beau Ladlow

Sophie Koschmann

Luke Mitton

Jack Janetzki



Horsham Arts Council Inc.

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Horsham, VIC 3402

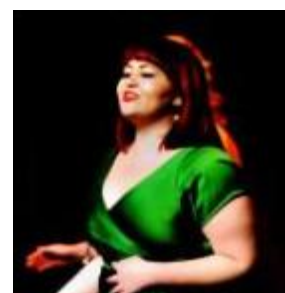
Hamilton Rd / Henty Hwy

Horsham Vic, 3400

E-mail: info@horshamartscouncil.com

Web: www.horshamartscouncil.com

Maddi Ostapiw Vocal Studio is currently taking enrolments, including a discounted trial lesson to any past or present HAC member.



Contact Maddi on 0437 244 468 for more info.

HAC Life Members

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Ritchie Hobbs* (1972) | Shirley Mewett (1993) | Ken Bradshaw (2002) | Sandy Wills (2007) | Don Mitchell (2012) |
| Ron Shepherd* (1976) | Avis Denholm (1999) | Dawn Deale (2005) | Debbie Boutcher (2010) | Jenny Rafter (2012) |
| Colin Mills (1987) | Jan Morris (2001) | Laurie Deale* (2005) | Gary (Jack) Janetzki (2010) | Ronnie Thomas (2016) |
| Barbara Mills (1987) | Richard Morris* (2001) | Stuart Johns (2007) | Lynne McKenzie (2010) | Libby Brennan (2016) |
| Ona Whiteside* (1993) | Gerry Nicholls (2001) | | | |

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

All members are welcome to attend.

Next meeting is 7:30pm, 11th of July, 2018

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 neighborhood newsletter team,

Cherie Ladlow, Lynley Macdonald Beau Ladlow

MEMBERSHIP FORM

2018

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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BSB: 013-665 Account No: 3341 03608
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