

July / August

#### Boom Boom Performing Arts in the Room

∎Horsham \_\_\_\_\_rts

Firstly, apologies to all for not reporting in the June 2018 newsletter. It has been a rough few months, but I am working through to the other side.

I don't know about you but for me, there is a buzz in the air in the performing arts space. So much is happening. Some much has come and gone, and there's so much more coming up. Since February 2016 when the Horsham Town Hall Theatre first opened its doors, performing arts in the Wimmera has been on an escalator that seems to keep climbing. It's amazing; I love it. Here's a summary of the past few months:

- St Brigid's College wowed audiences with *The Little Mermaid*. HAC member Erin Boutcher sat in the director's seat and did an amazing job. The kids were fantastic, the sets blended in so well with the animation and the costumes were out of this world.
- Emily Friedrichsen directed Horsham College's recent production of *Happy Days the Musical*. It brought back fond memories of Richie, Fonzie and the gang from years gone by. Emily and her team did a great job, as did the students. Our *Grease* car also made a cameo appearance.
- The Avenue Dance concert was held under the direction of Louise Ryan, Amy Anselmi and Kim Adams. Two shows were held, and the dancing was red hot.
- Liam Robertson sang the national anthem at the recent World Motocross Championships held in Horsham. With over twenty countries competing and the anthem beamed out on TV throughout the world, it was a huge honour for Liam. Perhaps, it's the first of many international and national gigs in store for Liam in the future - who knows?
- Horsham was extremely lucky to have the Australian Opera perform Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. A group of local kids was successful in performing in the show. Lisa Thomas was the vocal teacher. Feedback from Opera management said the standard of the children's vocal preparation was second to none.
- Operation 19:14 hit the Horsham Soundshell: a free family community event organised by a hardworking committee including Yolande Grosser, Mark Busbridge and over 180 volunteers. Many performances were held over the day including from the Signing Choir, Voices of the Wimmera, Horsham Primary School choir, Horsham School of Music Students and many more.
- Rumour has it that several HAC members have been attending recent karaoke nights at The Bull and Mouth. I reckon that no-one else would get a chance on the microphone!
- The Horsham Calisthenics College held its 38th annual three-day competition from Friday 31 August 2018 with teams from across Victoria and South Australia. The competition featured a mixture of artistic flair, choreography, discipline, colour, physical strength, flexibility and skill. Several HAC members were involved. The Horsham team enjoyed great success which is exciting.
- The local band scene is full of HAC members including Brady King, Brian Harrison, Dave McMaster, Aaron Murray, Jono Martin and several others. Also, Wimmera whispers have it that new member Tim O'Donnell (aka Simeon from *Joseph*) has recently joined a band as a front man. Giddyup!

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Council Inc.

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So much talent in so many circles. You know what? The best thing is the camaraderie and teamwork between the different groups. For instance, there were so many HAC members assisting at the school productions. We should all be sharing knowledge, experience, expertise, props, sets, costumes, whatever we can to ensure that people achieve their goals.

HAC House is also a hive of activity as the *Little Shop of Horrors* team continues rehearsals. Debbie and her team are creating a fantastic production. Also, Ken's white commodore can be seen in the driveway throughout the week. He is working hard on what is sure to be an awesome set. Let alone the plant – Beau and his group of helpers are coming up with some amazing ideas for Audrey 2. "Feed Me!"

Keep up the good work everyone. Take every opportunity to perform and develop your skills, no matter what it is. Every experience counts!

-Simon Dandy

#### **Secretary scribbles**

Sitting in the sun watching my kids prepare for preliminary finals for hockey, I am watching their excitement, team spirit and support for each other as they warm up and prepare for the game to come. They are tight team - with the senior players in the side coaching and encouraging the youngest less experienced players in their side, sending the ball to them without concern about their lesser experience. They have a great bond. We as an Arts Council are also privileged throughout the year, to work as a team. There is the same excitement and bonding as you warm up for a show as you do a sporting game. Each show is a team effort, with each person fitting in to do their part to create a successful show. We have the opportunity to welcome and support new members to each show, both very young to more mature members, with a wide range of experiences and expertise. They bring new



skills that can broaden our abilities and we can encourage and expand their abilities, teach them new skills, and support their growth of confidence.

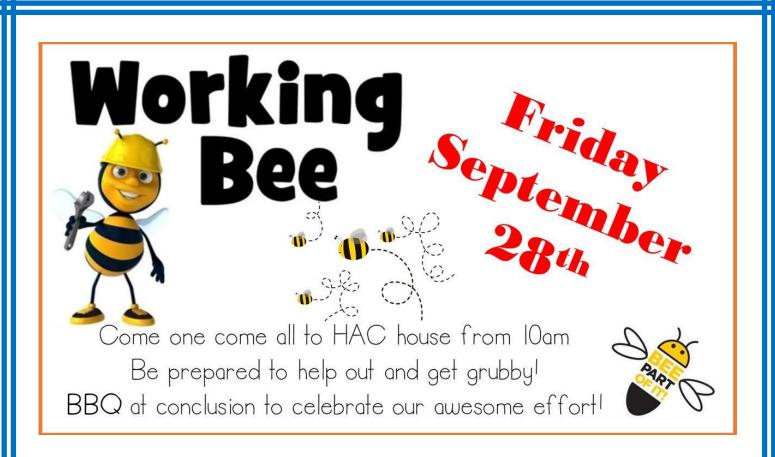
As Council member and Little Shop of Horrors director Deb Boutcher said in a recent Mail Times article, "It's the people who make it what it is and make it special. People dedicate a lot of volunteer hours to something that they love. Not everyone is into sport, so this is a creative outlet for kids who are interested in something different. It gives people a bond similar to that of a footy or netball club, so it's really like a family."

Like a family we don't always agree, but we play hard, work hard and love what we do. With little Shop of Horrors well underway, the excitement and buzz of a new challenge and new project is filling the air. We are looking forward to seeing what our team can do up there on stage in October.

And I have decided that being a support spectator for sport is very hard on my vocal chords. GO HAC!!!

-Jaye Johns





#### **Baby Congratulations**

In the past two months, there has been some exciting news for HAC members.

- Jemima Olston (nee Rudolph), Matthew & big sister Romy welcomed to the world Halle Ruby who was born on 25 August 2018 weighing a healthy 7 pound 4.
- Tom & Juvena Miatke announced the arrival of their first child Loretta Riley who was born on 1 September 2018 weighing 8 pounds 7.

Everyone in the HAC family extend their love and best wishes to the Olston and Miatke families.

-Simon Dandy



Loretta Riley

#### **Getting Involved with the HAC Committee**

The annual general meeting (AGM) of the HAC will be held on Wednesday 12 December 2018 at HAC House from 7pm.

With the AGM three months away, it is timely to plant the seed with any HAC members who may be considering nominating for a committee position for 2019. All positions are declared vacant at the AGM and an election is held where any financial HAC member can vote (in person or by a valid proxy). There are 12 positions on the committee including the following;

- President.
- Vice President.
- Secretary.
- Treasurer.
- General committee (8).

We would encourage anyone out there who has an interest in the HAC and contributing at committee level to nominate for a position on the executive or as a committee member. All you need is passion, drive, ideas and a willingness to work within a team that strives to make the HAC a better place tomorrow than what it is today. You must also be a current paid member of the HAC to nominate for the committee.

Nomination forms for committee positions will be available from 1 November 2018 from our secretary, Faye Johns (<u>info@horshamartscouncil.com</u> or 0429 361 082). Your form must have a nominee and be seconded by current HAC committee members. To be valid, your signed form must be submitted by midnight on Wednesday 28 November 2018.

As a committee, we are acutely aware that we are not perfect. We have made mistakes in the past and no doubt will make many more in the future. However, we have also achieved some great things and have always acted with integrity and in the best interests of the HAC. Sometimes, being a committee member is not glamorous, but it is very rewarding. You would be a part of the leadership team guiding a very successful and growing organisation.

Please do not hesitate to contact an existing HAC committee member if you have any questions at all about the committee, what is involved and the nomination process.

#### Reflections of time spent with Opera Australia Madame Butterfly

Being part of the opera Madame Butterfly was a once in a life time opportunity. It was fantastic to be back on stage doing what I love best - performing.

Some things that I particularly enjoyed were; learning the opera songs and blocking, getting dressed up in the costumes, meeting the talented cast and crew, and of course performing!

The professional members of the Australian Opera team were very encouraging and I found it inspiring the way they performed. It sent tingles down my spine when they sung over the top of a whole choir or filled the entire town hall with their singing.

Thank you to the people who made everything possible and to the rest of the children's chorus who shared the experience with me!



-Rebekah Wundke

#### Community Contribution - Goodbye grey sky, hello blue

We have seen some incredible August sunshine, however I am talking about something much brighter than beautiful weather. I spent some of my August nights attending school musicals. I have fond memories of being in the ensemble of the only three musicals that were performed during my high school days. Of course I was in love with musicals long before this time. The energy, the talent, bringing a script to life, the lifelong friends, the memories, the passion, the fun and of course pushing yourself outside of your comfort zone. All of these feelings have stayed with me and a smile appears on my face as I reminisce. Those were the days.

I have seen many high school musicals to date, some of which I even produced, but after seeing Horsham College's 2016 production of 'Hairspray', I started describing their musicals as 'next level'. This year did not disappoint and I can honestly say that the two local high school musicals I saw were 'next level'.



The first musical I saw was The Little Mermaid with my husband. This is an absolute favourite from my childhood, so I was excited to hear that St Brigid's College was bringing this gem to life on stage and I knew I couldn't miss it – everyone loves a little bit of 'Under the Sea'. I was blown away on so many levels. Of course there were the talented cast members I had seen from their 2017 production of 'Grease' such as Sophie Trudel (Ariel), Lauren Bond (Ursula), Gerard Natividad (Eric) and Noah Mibus (Triton), just to name a few, but what stole my heart was Darcy Hogan's portrayal of my favourite character Sebastian the Crab. His high school production debut in Year 12 and what I believe is the definition of high school productions. It is never too late to get involved! Flounder (Harriet Overman), Scuttle (Maddison O'Neil-Crozier), Flotsam (Saxon Hobbs) and Jetsam (Liberty Hobbs) were incredible in the roles they played. The costumes and sets were amazing! And I will never forget Indiana Weaver's portrayal of Chef Louis – the confidence and hilarity was outstanding. My husband at one stage turned to me and said I wish I had of gone in the productions when I was at St Brigid's as a student – even as adults we can see how much fun they are and then we both said that we hope our son wants to be part of it all in years to come.



I love how students from all year levels, from all backgrounds, from different interests are brought together to achieve a goal. There are students who never miss an opportunity to be on stage, there are students who never would have thought they would be on stage and this is what I love. I love that anybody can be a part of a production and shine. I love the skills that it builds and I love how it brings people together. It doesn't matter if you are in Year 7 or 12, if this is your first time on stage or if you have performed so many times you have lost count. It doesn't matter if you are on stage or behind the stage, front of house or in the lighting box, you all belong to the same group, you are all part of this incredible experience and the production wouldn't be what it is without each and every student and staff member involved.

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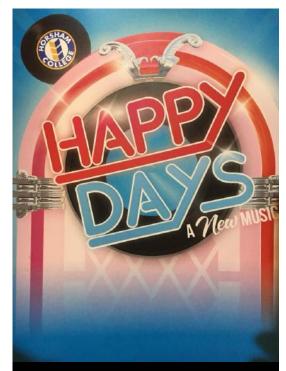
The second musical I saw with a group of friends was Horsham College's 'Happy Days' which was lively, colourful and I couldn't wipe the smile from my face (well the title is Happy Days). From the opening scene where I first met Richie Cunningham (Liam Robertson), I knew I was in for a wonderful trip to the 50s. I was in awe of the choreography and it took me back to those days of my high school musicals (I was the dancer, never the singer). Emma Naylor, Ella Ballinger and Abbie Bell were just some of the outstanding dancers. The Dialtones (Liam Robertson, Thomas Naylor, Connor Klemm and Brodie Chequer) were brilliant and that fight scene involving Wily Ioelu, Ryder Cerny and Lucia Lopez O'Donnell – wow! Sitting in the second row I could see the facial expressions – brilliant! I couldn't stop laughing when Lori Beth (Katianna Grosser) accepted the marriage proposal! Oscar O'Brien as Fonzie certainly looked at home on stage and Lily and Ruby Risson showed sophistication in their roles.

I am so excited by the local talent that we are surrounded by and as an educator I was so proud of the students (those I know and don't know) because it is their hard work, alongside the staff that allows me to describe these productions as 'next level'. It is also the smiles that appear on faces when you see one of the students involved in the production and start speaking about it. To everybody involved in these productions, I would like to say a huge congratulations because as a community member, I got to witness two extraordinary performances full of outstanding students, both cast and crew.

To each and every student involved, thank-you for bringing these musicals to life and being part of something much much bigger than a simple school production. I don't have space to name everyone involved, but I would if I could because you were all amazing!

To Emily and Erin (and your supports), you are both incredible in bringing your visions to life. I honestly at times had to remind myself that I was at a high school production because as I have said before, they were 'next level'.

High School Musicals are certainly Happy Days!





#### -Louise Dower Amor



Do you hear the Dandy sing



Congratulations are in order for our very own HAC president's father Howard Dandy, for landing the role of Bishop in Footlight Productions' 2019 musical 'Les Miserable'.

No doubt there will be plenty of HAC representation in the audience when you tread the boards next year.



Watch your silverware Howard :-)

#### **Opera Australia Reflections - Madame Butterfly**

I used to think opera was just a bunch of people standing there singing ridiculously high notes and wearing cravats, but when I was selected to be a part of Opera Australia's Children's Chorus for their 2018 performance of Madame Butterfly, my eyes were opened to a whole new world.

After lots of rehearsals and blocking we all arrived at the town hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August in dressing gowns and slippers, we were then taken up stairs to collect our kimonos, then sent to meet the cast and rehearse with them. I was very surprised as I wasn't used to working in such a professional environment before. I had heaps of fun working with everyone and after the show I got the chance to speak with some of the performers and hear more about what it means to be an opera singer and having that career.

I no longer have the same interpretation of opera. Sure, its people singing extremely high notes, but its more than that. Opera is an art.



#### -Yasinta Grosser

#### **Eisteddfod Success for Horsham Primary School**

The Horsham Primary School Singing Choir competed at the prestigious Royal South Street Eisteddfod in Ballarat on Monday 27 August 2018. They took out first prize (and \$150 prize money) in the "Primary School Show/ Performance" category. The students sang "A Million Dreams" and "This IS Me" from "The Greatest Showman". They had a good warm-up the day before, singing the same songs at Operation 19:14 at the Horsham Soundshell.

Congratulations to HAC's own Venetia Elbourne-Hobbs who guided the students as choir master. Some of the students have been involved and/or auditioned for HAC shows in the past. There is loads of talent there which will blossom and grow into performers of the future.

Well done to all involved on a fantastic achievement. Keep up the good work.

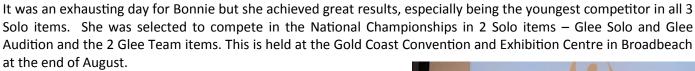
#### -Simon Dandy



#### **Bonnie Mellor - State finals**

Bonnie Mellor (aka "Annie" from HAC's production in 2017) competed in the State Finals at the Dance Star & Glee Championships held at Yarra Valley Grammar in Ringwood on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018. She was selected in 5 items – 2 Glee team items (uptempo & downtempo), a Glee solo "When Will My Life Begin" from Tangled and a Glee and Jazz Dance audition.

An audition is where the competitors are taken to a room to learn a song or dance routine for 25 minutes. All competitors wear black only and have a number pinned to them, then they come out on stage to perform in front of a judging panel. The Glee song was "Brand New You" from 13 Musical that went for 1 minute and she had to sing it once only. The Jazz dance routine song was "Sunshine State of Mind" from Muriel's wedding, the routine went for 30 seconds with the last 4 counts to be made up by the dancer. She had to perform it over and over again (9 times in total).



Her results for the 5 items:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Jazz Dance Audition
- 1<sup>st</sup> Glee Audition (through to the Nationals)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Glee Solo (through to the Nationals)
- 1<sup>st</sup> for both Glee team items (through to the Nationals)

-Cheri Mellor

#### Bonnie's Success - Nationals

On Sunday 26 August 2018, Bonnie Mellor competed at the Glee National Championships in Queensland where she achieved the following results:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Junior Secondary Glee Audition.
- 5<sup>th</sup> in the Junior Secondary Glee Solo.

Congratulations to Bonnie and her family on all the hard work and commitment on making the journey to Queensland to compete on such a big stage.

Well done BONstar!!!







#### The Wizard of Oz

In July this year I had the opportunity to travel along with some Horsham College students to see The Wizard of Oz in Melbourne.

We left with a bus full at 7:30 in the morning and it was still freezing cold. We were all mostly quiet on they way there, that was until Loucas decided to break out some music and get us all singing along with him! We arrived in Melbourne at about lunch time, we all got a quick bite to eat and then it was off to the show.



The show was at the Regent theatre and we were seated in the first couple of rows up on the balcony. We all had a great view of the stage and in my opinion the best seats in the house! When the show started I was really impressed with the amazing sets that they had. It was fascinating how they made the farm house look like it was going back in the distance when it was actually all just in a straight line. They also had a huge screen that came down on the stage like a curtain that could make some areas of the stage look visible and some areas that that you couldn't see and it just looked like a screen.

Alex came out soon enough as the tin man and did an absolutely amazing job. He even got to do a little tap solo which he later told us that he had to have 2 mics going down his legs to capture the sound of the tapping. The show was absolutely brilliant and had so many surprises in it that none of us saw coming.

When it came time for the bows all of us cheered like crazy as we did our standing ovations and we had very sore hands afterwards from clapping so much. We were lucky enough to be able to stay behind after the show finished to meet all of the



main characters. It was an amazing thing to get to listen to the stars of the show & hear their stories of how they got into this industry. I loved hearing how Alex got into theatre because he grew up in Horsham like us. Alex said to "take every opportunity that comes along and even If you don't get into a show to keep trying and don't ever give up".

Overall this was an awesome experience and I am so glad & grateful that I had the opportunity to go.

#### -Marni Saunders

#### Annual Horsham School of Music Concert 2018

HAC member Lisa Thomas and her husband Ronnie (HAC life member) will conduct their annual vocal concert on Saturday 8 September 2018.

Lisa's vocal students raise in age from primary school through to mature adults. Her annual concerts are always entertaining, full of talent and boasts a wide range of genres. Many of Lisa's students are current HAC members. Hopefully, some of the other students will someday hit the stage under the HAC banner in some capacity.

I would encourage all of you to come along and support Lisa, Ronnie and the students. You will have a ball and will no doubt sing along with some of the classic and modern tunes. Look forward to seeing you all there.

-Simon Dandy

(See flyer... overleaf)

## HORSHAM SCHOOL OF MUSIC SINGING SHOWCASE \$5 ENTRY

Martin

## SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 7.30PM

ALESSH

#### HARVEST CHURCH 17 FLORENCE STREET, HORSHAM 3400

An entertaining night of song featuring local students from the Wimmera district. A variety of artists will be showcased including those above. Entry is \$5 adult or child at the door, with profits from the night going towards Aussie Helpers.

Come support singers from ages 9+ to the more mature. You will enjoy a fun, family friendly night. All welcome (2) Any queries please contact Lisa.

FUNDRAISING DONATION GOING TO AUSSIE HELPERS, SUPPORTING FARMERS IN NEED

#### **Freddie Mercury Lives On**

In July 2018, our good friends at Centerstage Geelong produced "We Will Rock You" in the Geelong Performing Arts Centre. A show written by Ben Elton and the music from Queen.

HAC member, Brady King, played a leading role of "Brittany Spears" and did a magnificent job. Dressed in a Scottish kilt, he rocked the stage. Not for a long time, as he was killed off before interval. However, when he was there, he certainly left his mark. It was so cool seeing a HAC export doing so well in such a quality show.



A large number of HAC members made the journey down the highway to support Brady and Centerstage Geelong over the three weekends. Unfortunately, the sound played up a little the first two weekends. I went to the last matinee performance where the sound issues had all been ironed out. To me, the sound was hard to fault. However, Jess Wilson saw a performance where Brady's microphone did not work at all - a tough gig singing massive rock tunes over a rocking band.

The lighting rig was simply amazing. Even Ronnie thought it was impressive. I spoke to the lighting designer after the show. He said they had 290 individual lights, including 65 moving heads. Putting it into context, we had 12 moving heads for "Joseph" which is the most we have ever used. Two weeks out from the show, they set up and tested the lighting rig at a hired venue in Melbourne. They certainly went all out. A new lighting rig system was developed for the show and created a "laser prison" which gave an awesome effect. When the actor touched the "laser bars", the ripple effect looked like he had been zapped. In addition, they hired \$2m worth of LED screens which were used very effectively throughout the show.

I have and always will love Queen. They are one of the best bands of all time and responsible for some of the greatest music ever written. So, I loved the show from start to finish. It was humorous, the dancing was sharp, the band rocked and the vocal performances were fantastic. For me, the highlight was "Bohemian Rhapsody" as the encore. It was just spine tingling. So much so, the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria has asked Centerstage Geelong to perform it at the annual awards night this year. Very well deserved.

Huge congratulations to Brady, the cast and crew, David Greenwood, Brett Wallis and the entire Centerstage team on a fantastic production. I am so glad that several HAC members were able to get down to Geelong to witness such a wonderful piece of amateur musical theatre.

#### -Simon Dandy



#### **Calling All HAC Members**

In June HAC committee decided we would apply to be a part of the Pick My Project grant application pool. After going through the application process, we have been lucky enough to be approved and are now in the voting stage.

Our application is for a grant to put the insulation in our roof, followed by installing heating and cooling so that our rehearsal area is much more user friendly for rehearsals and we have more opportunity for people outside of rehearsals to use it.

Hop on to the Pick My project page, the link is in the forwarded email below, and select your region, find the HAC User Space upgrade grant and vote for us. Your votes are needed!

-Faye Johns



#### Vote for your favourite project ideas!

Voting opened last Monday 13 August 2018 and there's been lots of interest from Victorian communities with many people voting already. Make sure you vote to help make your local community even better. To vote, you'll need to:

Visit the Pick My Project website and register for an account – if you already have an account, simply log in

- Select the local community you wish to vote in by entering either your suburb or address, or dropping a pin on the map – your local community can be the community you live in, or one that you have a strong connection to, but you can only vote in one local community
- Once you've selected your local community, you'll be shown a minimum of 30 projects in that community if you're in a metro area, you'll be shown all project ideas within 5km of your location; if you're in a regional area, you'll be shown all project ideas within 50km of your location
- Browse the project ideas in your local community and create a shortlist of your favourites you can add anywhere between three and six project ideas to your shortlist
- Finalise your voting selection by picking your three favourite project ideas from your shortlist you'll need to vote for three project ideas and they'll equally receive one vote each
- Verify your mobile number to submit your vote to ensure that only real Victorians are submitting project votes, you'll need to provide your mobile number and submit the four digit code you receive to finalise your votes
- Share who you've voted for on social media whether it's Facebook or Twitter, let your friends and family know who you voted for and encourage them to vote too

For more information, view the <u>FAQ's</u> and <u>Voting Help</u> pages of the website. Or watch the 'How to Vote' video on the <u>Resources and Videos</u>page.

Make sure you get your votes in by 5pm, Monday 17 September 2018



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#### **Executive Committee**

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Vice President Jessica Wilson **Secretary** Faye Johns

**Treasurer** Colin Kreymborg

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Debbie Boutcher Ken Warrick Stacey Brennan Beau Ladlow Sophie Koschmann Luke Mitton Jack Janetzki



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Horsham, VIC 3402

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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)
Ron Shepherd* (1976)
Colin Mills (1987)
Barbara Mills (1987)
Ona Whiteside* (1993)

Shirley Mewett (1993) Avis Denholm (1999) Jan Morris (2001) Richard Morris\* (2001) Gerry Nicholls (2001) Ken Bradshaw (2002) Dawn Deale (2005) Laurie Deale\* (2005) Stuart Johns (2007)

Sandy Wills (2007)	Don
Debbie Boutcher (2010)	Jenn
Gary (Jack) Janetzki (2010)	Ronn
Lynne McKenzie (2010)	Libby

Don Mitchell (2012)
Jenny Rafter (2012)
Ronnie Thomas (2016)
Libby Brennan (2016)

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

All members are welcome to attend.

Next meeting is 7:30pm, on the 12th of September 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 and Lynley Macdonald** 



### MEMBERSHIP FORM 2018

Membership year of Horsham Arts Council Inc. extends from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> 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