



September / October

Horsham Arts Council Inc.

Don't Feed The Plants

I don't know about you, but I think that HAC is meeting its goal of "upping the ante" with each show. Every show is different. In most cases, it is impossible to compare one show to another. In fact, we should not be doing it anyway. However, with each show, we try to see how things can be done better and improve in various areas. We certainly did that with *Little Shop of Horrors*. How good were those plants?

So much effort by Beau, Milly and the crew to get four amazing plants together, and to do it in such a short amount of time was incredible. How cool was it to watch the plant come to life on-stage with Seymour, operating independently through remote control from side stage. Then, to see Oscar and Emily bring Audrey 2 Number Three, brought to life with so much charisma, comedy and class. It was a privilege to watch. To have Centerstage Geelong come to our show and ask to hire the robotic Audrey 2 Number One plant is a real feather in our caps. We should all feel very proud of the achievement.



Little Shop of Horrors was another fantastic HAC production. Debbie and her team produced a great show in a relatively short amount of time. The cast was fantastic on-stage. Every person in a leading role and the ensemble gave strong performances from start to finish. It was great to see Tom Middlebrook take to the stage for the first time. He seemed to relish the role in the ensemble as well as controlling the Audrey 2 Number Four plant. The off-stage crew also ran like clockwork. How good were those sets? Ken Warrick and his crew did a phenomenal job of putting it all together. Everything was made internally; we did not hire anything. The costumes, props, vocals, dancing, make-up, hair – everything came together so well. I am so proud of everyone involved.

It's true that the audience attendance was not where we wanted it to be. I would say they will come to about 35% of capacity which is well under expectations. There could be many reasons for this – sport, number of competing shows, disposable income, the show itself, or the size of the cast. Advertising and promotion was conducted through local papers, radio, posters, social media and word-of-mouth. What I do know is that the team did everything they possibly could to get "bums on seats". We are a not-for-profit organisation, and money is not our driving factor. However, it is important for our long-term survival. We cannot deny this, and financial management will continue to be important. Our primary objective is to create high-quality theatre for the audience to enjoy. If this is our ultimate goal, then we are truly a success. Well done to everyone.

Now, the torch is passed to Erin Boutcher and her team as preparations take place for our next exciting show *Rock of Ages*. This will be Erin's first time in the HAC director's seat. *The Little Mermaid Jr* earlier this year showed how talented Erin is and how strong a vision for musical theatre she has. The best thing is that she can translate that vision from her head to the stage, using the team around her. Looking at the production team, there is certainly some talent and experience to support her. I wish everyone involved all the very best. It is sure to be another awesome HAC production that will certainly "rock the casbah".

With our AGM coming up, it is time to sit back and reflect on another strong year, whilst looking forward to the future. I encourage anyone with a keen interest and passion for the HAC to consider nominating for the committee. We are a strong team, working hard to make HAC a better place each and every day.

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Like any team of volunteers, we make mistakes. We are certainly not perfect. But, we have shown we can learn from mistakes and grow. Committee members put themselves out there in leadership positions to be judged. And people do judge. However, when you work hard, learn from mistakes and keep the best interests of the HAC at the forefront, you are bound to succeed. I am so proud of the committee. We have achieved so much and continue to kick goals.

-Simon Dandy

Secretary's Scribbles

The preparations for a show can be incredibly intense, especially the closer to opening night you get. Things take longer to get sorted – songs don't pull together as easily, costumes don't fit quite the way you want them to, the colour scheme you had in mind for your set doesn't quite look the way you want it to when it is actually put together on set. Props are proving hard to source, music still needs to be tightened, for some reason the lines you knew last week have just fallen completely out of your head. The list can be seemingly endless.



For 'Little Shop of Horrors', the production team also added in the challenge of creating four puppets or pods of the starring plant of the show – Audrey II. This number of puppets, and the sheer size that the creators wanted to make Audrey II pod 4, had not been attempted by members of HAC production teams before. It was fascinating watching the pod designers workshop the creation of these puppets, from pod 1, an animatronic Audrey II, to a more traditional hand puppet for pod 2, the headpiece for pod 3, our 'adolescent' Audrey II, to her final incarnation, a puppet that when her jaws were open, could fit whole people inside, operated by two puppeteers and an assistant.

The pressure was incredible to get them all done in the short time period, the number of hours needed to get the puppets to where the designers wanted them was unbelievable. And yet they persevered. Other people put aside their own jobs to help where they could. Children, friends, cast members were all roped in to help where they could, take on some of the jobs that needed to be done elsewhere to free up those who had the skills to help out.

Sometimes you wonder why you spend so many hours of your time dedicated to a show, especially when it might mean stepping outside your skillset to help get a job done. It's hard work, sometimes stressful, and you wonder if you are ever going to make the deadline. And yet somehow you do, and you are not the only one who has done exactly the same thing. You work alongside and with your cast and crew mates to get the job done, to make it better. You laugh, you sing, you dance, you get a lot dirty and you have a heap of fun. And when you see the finished product up on stage, your ownership of the show is so real and deep.

We put our blood, sweat and tears, along with copious amounts of joy into each show at HAC and it is a privilege to see. Thank you to everyone who puts in, in whatever way they are capable of. You are all spectacular.

-Faye Johns

ROCK AGES



Horsham Arts
Council Inc.

MAY 2019

INFORMATION SESSION

SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER @ 4PM
HAC HOUSE, 19 HAMILTON ROAD HORSHAM

FOR FURTHER INFO CALL DIRECTOR ERIN BOUTCHER ON 0423 117 465

Community Contribution

As we're approaching the warmer weather and the silly season, it's also a time to reflect on the year that's fast approaching its end and celebrate what's been on offer from our Horsham Arts Council. And it's when one begins to think after last year's efforts – really? Can they do it again? Dang! We're treated to *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, and again with *Little Shop of Horrors*.




The cast of *Joseph* was large and drew on almost all of those who have HAC memberships. This provided opportunities for 'newbies' to get involved, two of whom are my friends and work colleagues. While these work colleagues call Horsham their home, they are new to the town and new to this country, and with a lot of time on their hands they wanted to do something. 'Arlene, can you connect me with a group or a club or something – perhaps volunteer in the Arts? Well, who else would I take my good friends/work colleagues to? Of course I would introduce them to the Matriarch of the Arts - Jan Morris.

I'm not a close friend of Jan's but somehow I found her on Facebook and sent her a message. She responded and we agreed to make a time to connect my work colleagues about the cast of *Joseph*. My colleagues were given the task of assisting backstage. An excellent decision, I thought. However, when I checked in next I was told they were given the unenviable task of assisting the star of the show Beau Ladlow to make all those quick costume changes between acts/scenes. I kept my thoughts/concerns to myself. However, to their credit, my colleagues have not shared the secret of 'what does the star of the show wear under his loin cloth?' and while I remain unsure of whether they've been sworn to secrecy about the **enormity** of their task or perhaps they've been so irreversibly damaged by the exposure, they no longer have the ability to speak about it, and I remain ignorant of their experiences. The show itself was absolutely flawless, amazing, oozing talent, charisma, vibrancy and gusto. It was edgy and everyone was hungry for perfection. I'm sorry, I'm no critic, I certainly don't have all the fancy lingo to describe such a production other than, **wow**.

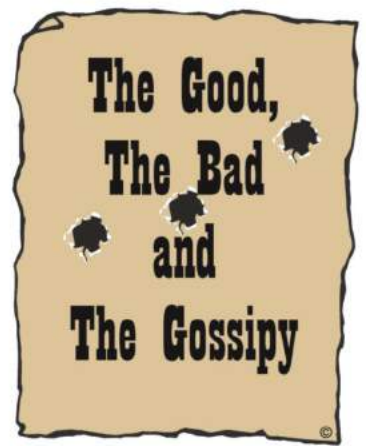
The next show on the entertainment calendar was *Little Shop of Horrors*. From the full colour, professionally-designed program through to the props department, *Little Shop of Horrors* was world-class entertainment. The singing, the choreography, the timing, the plants, the **band**! Even the wine at half time was amazing. What an abundance of talent!

I now have come to wonder - are we (Horsham-ites) the only ones who are treated to such seamless, superior quality, high-end (ie: West end) styled stage shows, that continue to be of a **wow** ++++++ quality? Or is it that every small city/town has this enormous talent? Are the talent, the qualities and abilities common place, should I not be so overawed/blown-away by the continued extraordinary talent of HAC? Or should I be 'yes that's right, we come from Horsham, we're so used to **amazing**. Amazing is Horsham. I can't wait for *Rock of Ages*. Bring it on!

-Arlene McDonald



"absolutely flawless, amazing, oozing talent, charisma, vibrancy and gusto"



Young actors, singers and dancers took to the stage in late October for the 2018 Horsham West and Haven Primary School original musical *The Good, The Bad & The Gossipy*.

Set in the Old West, the story centres around a group of mysterious strangers who arrived at Snakebite Springs. Tongues begin to wag as the townsfolk become caught up in a world blurred between fact and fiction.

Performed in the Horsham Town Hall Heritage Hall, the students enjoyed some mega-audiences far surpassing the 257 maximum previously experienced at Wesley PAC. It was certainly a good test in controlling nervous energy!

The students performed wonderfully and really made the most of the opportunity to refine their performance skills, make new friends and become excellent role models for their school.

Larissa Riddell

Writer & Director

"I love my character because she is intelligent and cunning. The baddies have a well thought out plan, but it's not quite well-thought-out enough to win in the end. The play is unique because, although it's a western, it's also a comedy with some funny lines.

I loved working with the Haven campus kids because they brought a lot of talent to the table."

Penny Lopez

WAKAKIRRI

The Colour Within

Wakakirri – to dance a story (from the Wangaaypuwan people of Australia) is the name aptly given to the largest nationwide Performing Arts Event which asks students to create dances that reflect the thoughts, ideas, and aspirations of its participants. It is an event that Holy Trinity Lutheran College (HTLC) has been involved with over the last three years under the exceptional guidance of Tanya Mock.

The event involves a lot of hard work and many practices to try and create the Story of the Year, with an emphasis on participation and creativity, over and above expensive productions, encouraging a minimalist approach. This means that it is achievable for any and all schools. There are Secondary and Primary divisions which are played out over several rounds at professional theatres. This gives the children involved an opportunity to perform in a way and a place that they may not have otherwise had the chance to experience. Starting in Term 2, students work to create a Story Dance of 3-7 minutes in length, using any combination of dance, acting, music, sets, props, and costumes. There are various categories to choose from, ranging from Environmental or Health issues, to History, Cultural, and Social issues. There is also always an extra challenge to include the signature item of the year; this year it was a fly.

There were several of our younger HAC members involved in this year's HTLC Wakakirri entry The Colour Within. Tanya and the students - Josiah Mock, Levi Mock, Faith Eilola, and Leah Eilola - explored the story of the stolen generation. The students were divided into two groups, one in white and one in black, each group dancing and moving to reflect their respective characters. The white/Caucasian characters had a stiffer, more formal style of movement and costumes, with their makeup being in cool silver and blue tones; while the students in black were much more fluid and relaxed in their movement and costumes, and make up in warmer copper tones. Though each of the children designed and created their own costume, a show stopper (glow in the dark designs revealed in the last few moments of the performance) was incorporated into each which helped to reveal The Colour Within: the similarities that can be found in each of us, no matter how different we may seem on the outside.

After twelve weeks of hard work, the team from HTLC performed in Bendigo for their initial Performance Night for Division 2 (Experienced Schools). This involved travelling to the venue for the day to practise onsite during the afternoon and then to perform in the evening for family, friends, and other participants, as well as for a panel of professionals from the Performing Arts industry. The students are watched during their rehearsal time and the final order of performances for the night is determined by the technology and set requirements of the schools, as well as the story they are telling. It is organised in such a way as to allow the children to do everything, from setting up backstage, to running the sets and props as needed throughout the performance. This allows for a fully immersive experience for all involved. At the end of the night, the On the Night Show Awards are announced, while the Category and Story Awards are released several days after the last performance night for that division. HTLC put on an amazing show and was awarded The Best Use of the Signature Item, and The Spirit of Wakakirri Award. And as a result of their hard work, it was announced that they won The Best Indigenous Australian Story and were invited to perform at the State Finals at the Palais Theatre in St Kilda. It was to this night that I was graciously invited to attend.

There were nine schools that performed at the State Finals along with HTLC. Their stories varied from a look at the five stages of grief, to the ongoing effects of the Vietnam War, to homelessness and our ability to have an effect on others with the smallest gesture, to motivational stories on overcoming disadvantage to succeed. Each story was well put together with various elements of music, dance, props, and projections. There were exceptional dance performances, amazing moments of singing, and an amazing amount of team work from up to 120 students per school.

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HTLC and their piece *The Colour Within* was the second to last to perform. Their story was once again an amazing piece. The emotion evoked still moves me today even a month or more later. They again won Best use of the Signature Item on the night, but unfortunately, they were not successful in winning their division and so weren't put forward as nominees for Best Story of the Year at a national level. However, their efforts were not unrecognised. On Thursday 18th of October it was announced that while they weren't eligible for Story of the Year, they were chosen as the Best Cultural Story at a Secondary School level for 2018. This is a well-deserved accolade for HTLC, Tanya Mock, and all the students involved!

-Natasha Eilola



MUSIC THEATRE GUILD OF VICTORIA

The 32nd annual Bruce Awards for the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria (MTGV) will be held on Saturday 8 December 2018 at Bunjil Place, Narre Warren.

This annual event celebrating amateur musical theatre in Victoria is always an amazing night. Not only are the awards presented, the performances throughout the night are simply amazing. HAC has performed at this event for "Godspell" in 2012 and "Rent" in 2017.

Whether HAC receives nominations or commendations for "Joseph" or "Little Shop of Horrors" this year is irrelevant. It is a great night for all lovers of musical theatre. For your information, the MTGV usually release nominations/commendations mid-November.

If several HAC members were keen to attend, it would be good to make a group booking. This would also assist with travel costs as people can share vehicles and/or accommodation. Tickets tend to sell fast, so it cannot be left until the last minute.

-Simon Dandy

HAC at the 2018 Annual Nhill Christmas Concert

Helen Ross contacted me regarding the Nhill Community Christmas Concert to be held on Sunday 16 December 2018. They were keen to have new performers to provide a fresh look at the event. Jessica Wilson, Belinda Elliott, Jamie Thomas and myself have put our hands up and given our time to perform at the event. Lisa Thomas will also be providing some keyboard accompanying. Our performance set will be for approximately twenty minutes and will include Christmas songs as well as songs from musicals. If you are free that evening and would fancy a road trip, come along and support this community event. It is sure to be a good night.

-Simon Dandy



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 (info@horshamartscouncil.com 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.

Horsham School of Music - Vocal Concert

On 8 September 2018, Horsham School of Music presented their vocal concert for 2018. A mammoth undertaking by teacher Lisa Thomas, the night saw the majority of Lisa's students performing a set list comprising of musical theatre and Disney favourites, with students working together to perform well-staged group work.

It's always a pleasure to attend, this concert was a stand out due to the team effort involved in singing parts and medleys, with both adult and child vocalists performing beautifully.

Congratulations to Lisa and co., and to all students and musicians who participated in the concert. Lisa should be proud of the effort she puts into support local talent, and for the high calibre of performance her vocal showcase sets - I can't wait to see what her students do next!

-Maddi Ostapiw



The Richard Morris Concert is on Saturday, November 17 at 8:00pm and will showcase some of the cream of the crop from our district. The Scholarship is available for young people to apply; the application form is on the Town Hall website or call at the box office. You can also get a copy of the application from me - call 0419726378 and I will make sure you get one.

We have been supporting talent in our district for fifteen years. This concert will be as good as previous shows. Brock Lynch is MC again, and the team of Simon Dandy, Pauline Schmidt, Libby Brennan, Luke Mitton and myself work hard to organise it. On with the show!

-Jan Morris



Ararat Eisteddfod Success

Well done at the September Ararat Eisteddfod, sensational second for Emma & Josie, followed with a third for orphan Annie, Demi.

Awesome work!

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THE DANCERS Zone



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Excellent result for Emma and Olinda, both receiving an Honourable Mention for their lyrical routines!

Aaaand before the day was out, Emma had picked up another Honourable Mention for tap!

Well done to all involved. We're lucky to have such talent in the Wimmera



The HAC had a project to upgrade the heating and cooling at HAC House as part of the "Pick My Project" funding scheme. As you are aware from previous newsletters, members and the community had to vote for the project. You could vote only once for each eligible project to a maximum of three projects.

Unfortunately, the HAC was not successful in obtain funding as we only received 64 votes. Given our membership base and the people associated with the HAC, this is quite a low number. Considering that projects were successful with 150 votes, it would not have taken much to get over the line.

This is an opportunity missed for us to fund much needed works at HAC House. For anyone who has rehearsed there, it can get very cold in winter and extremely hot in summer. Obviously, this means we must look at other sources to fund the works if we want it to happen.

We would welcome assistance from any member who has any skills or could help with researching and preparing funding submissions. Please do not hesitate to contact the committee.

-Simon Dandy

 Horsham Arts Council Inc.

working
bee



Executive Committee

President

Simon Dandy

Secretary

Faye Johns

Vice President

Jessica Wilson

Treasurer

Colin Kreymborg

General Committee

Debbie Boutcher

Ken Warrick

Loucas Vettos

Stacey Brennan

Beau Ladlow

Sophie Koschmann

Luke Mitton

Jack Janetzki



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Horsham Vic, 3400

E-mail: info@horshamartscouncil.com

Web: www.horshamartscouncil.com



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, 14th November 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

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