



November / December 2019

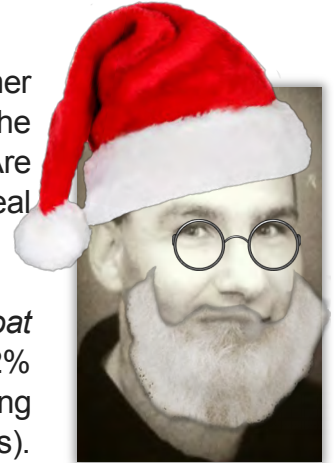
Horsham Arts Council Inc.

The Curtain Comes Down On Another Year

The 2018 year has been another busy one for the HAC. Some of the key highlights are as follows;

Australia Day 2018 – On Australia Day 2018, young, talented performer Tamikah Petering represented HAC at the official HRCC event at the Horsham Soundshell. She performed the national anthem and 'We Are Australian'. She gave a great performance and gave the crowd a real treat.

Joseph – Our production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* was held in May 2018. The ten shows attracted an audience of 82% capacity which is a great result. There were sixty-six in the cast (including two groups of sixteen children who performed in alternate shows). Overall, approximately 147 people were involved, on- and off-stage. The show was well received by the audience and the community.



Orchestra Pit – We used the orchestra pit again at the Horsham Town Hall Theatre for our production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. With thirteen musicians fitting snugly into the space, it was a real treat for the performers and audience alike.

Alex Rathgeber – Former HAC member, Alex Rathgeber, played the role of Tinman in the Australian professional production of *The Wizard of Oz* in May 2018. Many HAC members went down to see the show. Alex was kind enough to meet with many of them.

Former HAC Members – Former HAC members continue to thrive in amateur theatre. For example, Samantha Prolius performed in BLOC's production of *Spamalot* in April 2018. Rebecca Wik performed the lead role in CenterStage's production of *42nd Street* in April 2018. Brady King played the role of Brittany Spears in CenterStage Geelong's production of *We Will Rock You*.

Wimmera Eisteddfod – Unfortunately, the Wimmera Eisteddfod was postponed in 2018 with the temporary closure of Wesley PAC. This was a real shame. I am pleased to report that a new committee has been established and the Wimmera Eisteddfod will return in 2019. The HAC will continue its sponsorship by awarding a \$100 prize to the most promising vocal student.

Urinetown – HAC originally planned to perform *Urinetown* in October 2018. Auditions were held but not enough men auditioned. A tough decision was made to abandon the show. This was an inspiring lesson in teamwork and working together as, very quickly, the disappointment was put aside, and plans were put in place for a replacement show. It was a credit to everyone involved.

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Continued...

Little Shop of Horrors – Our production of *Little Shop of Horrors* was held in October 2018. Debbie and the team did a fantastic job with the show. The sets were amazing. The plants were something else. Everything about the show was fantastic. There were eighteen on-stage cast and approximately seventy people involved in total. Audience numbers were disappointing with approximately 32% capacity. This was not a reflection of the standard of the show which was incredible.

Music Theatre Guild of Victoria (MTGV) – The HAC received three nominations and one commendation this year for its two shows from the MTGV. This continues HAC's outstanding record of receiving recognition from the MTGV for every musical production since *Cats* in 2008. At the MTGV Bruce Awards on 8 December 2018 in Narre Warren, HAC won an award for *Little Shop of Horrors* with Beau Ladlow and Milly Henley receiving the Peter Blizzard-Allen Design Award for the four 'Audrey 2' plants. This is a huge honour and something we should all be very proud of.

Building & growing relationships – The HAC continues to build strong, working relationships with other performing arts groups including Horsham College, St Brigid's College, Horsham Primary School, Warracknabeal Primary School, BLOC, BLTS, Footlight Productions and CenterStage Geelong. This is proved by the fact that CenterStage Geelong gave us four flights of stairs and LED lights valued at over \$5,000 for free.

New Theatre Group – A new theatre group commenced in November 2018 and will operate in the performing arts sphere in the Wimmera. Whatever our thoughts about it, it is here and is our reality. It will impact on the HAC and the committee will have to plan for and around it.

Rock of Ages – Our next production is *Rock of Ages* which will hit the stage in May 2019 with first-time HAC director Erin Boutcher at the helm. The show is cast and is sure to be a rocking smash hit with big hair and awesome 80s' rock anthems.

It has been a huge year with many accomplishments. However, we are the first to note that we are far from perfect and can always do things better. The new committee will continue to strive to make the HAC a better place tomorrow than what it was today. I would like to sincerely thank the committee for all their hard work during the year. We have had heaps of issues to deal with and it has been a very busy and somewhat challenging time. But we all have the best interests of the HAC at heart and are passionate to see it prosper in the future.

I wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas. I look forward to seeing you in 2019 for another huge year.

-Simon Dandy



Secretary's Scribbles

This year has been a very busy one for HAC and the committee. We have again put on two very different shows, and thank you to our directors Simon Dandy and Debbie Boutcher for putting the production teams together to produce *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.



We continue to have a large number of people of all ages auditioning for shows, and choosing shows that fulfil the creative passions of the production teams, while catering to our membership is always going to be a balancing act. The challenge of working to create high quality shows and pushing to extend our abilities is always met very positively.

The costs of putting on a show, continue to rise, and the issue of keeping costs down, while achieving the show that we want to achieve will only continue to be an ongoing challenge. From costuming and placing over sixty people on-stage in *Joseph* and having a total cast crew and musicians numbering well over 100, to creating a show in a very compressed time frame with *Little Shop* as a result of having to change show choices, and the team also managing to create four functioning puppets in the same time frame, the challenges have been met because of the dedication and countless hours of so many people.

I am very proud to be a part of a team that is so committed to the wellbeing and success of an organisation that we all believe in. It has been an honour to work through the many decisions that have to be made and reach decisions that allow us to move forward. It is always amazing to me, that not only does the committee take on the responsibility of overall oversight of HAC, but all are boots on ground and involved in the day-to-day responsibilities of doing our craft. And the reality is this job is only getting bigger. There is more paperwork, more business planning, and more responsibilities that are creeping into the functionality of the committee.

It is quite a commitment, and HAC is blessed to have so many people with a wide range of skills, passionate and ready to step into committee positions for the next twelve months. Thank you to the outgoing committee for your hard work, and thank you to those who are continuing to stand, and who are willing to step up and fill vacated positions. To our committee and to our wider membership who also volunteer over and above, thank you for a wonderful year.

-Faye Johns

Community Contribution

Congratulations to HAC for the wonderful productions in 2018.

Thank you all for providing such excellent entertainment for the whole of the Wimmera, Mallee, Western District and beyond to enjoy. It was such a dedicated team effort from the people on- and off-stage; the costumes and props were outstanding.

I am looking forward to the shows in 2019, and I would encourage everyone, if you have been thinking about attending a HAC show, to book early and view all the amazing local talent.

- Joan McDonald

HAC Committee Changes

The annual general meeting (AGM) was held at HAC House on Wednesday 12 December 2018. Executive and committee reports were presented and tabled, summarising the 2018 year. All committee positions were declared vacant and elections were held.

Huge thanks go out to John Nevill, Sandy Wills, Jan Morris and Libby Brennan for chairing and scrutineering for the HAC committee elections at the AGM.

I would like to congratulate Erin Boutcher, Maddi Ostapiw, Belinda Elliott and Nick Wilson on attaining committee positions for the 2019 year. Thank you for putting your hand up and becoming an integral part of the HAC leadership team.

To Sophie Koschmann, Lynley Macdonald and Natasha Kuchel, thank you for nominating for the committee. It shows how much the HAC organisation means to you. It takes courage to throw your hat in the ring for a committee position. Whilst you have not been successful this year, you can still offer so much to the organisation in many ways.



Massive plaudits and appreciation to Beau Ladlow, Stacey Brennan, Sophie Koschmann and Luke Mitton, all of whom were committee members in 2018. Thank you for everything you have done for the HAC. It is appreciated by us all.

The 2019 year is sure to be another huge one for the HAC, with many challenges and exciting times ahead. We encourage any HAC member to come along to any HAC committee meeting, held on the second Tuesday of every month (excluding January 2019). There is heaps of work to do, and you can all be integral to sharing the load with the committee.

-Simon Dandy

The Richard Morris Memorial concert 2018 - from the perspective of his kids.

As you will know Richard was taken from us tragically some years ago now. Each year we celebrate his life and his passion for the performing arts at the RM concert.

As his children, we are honoured to be supported by such an amazing crew to make this event the standalone show that it now has become. It is taken on a life of its own and to witness the talent coming through and those who have been awarded scholarships, and are still continuing in their profession, is truly amazing.

None of Richard's children were blessed with much stage talent!! But like dad we all have the passion for seeing young people pursue their dreams. It is that which drives us to continue to support the amazing committee and team that present the show each year. We are excited to see what next year will bring.

Thank you to the HAC for all their support.

ROCK OF AGES

After an exhaustive two weeks of auditions, where over seventy people came through the doors, Erin Boutcher and her audition panel settled on a fantastic cast for our upcoming production of *Rock of Ages*. The cast features a great blend of HAC stalwarts as well as many newcomers, including Dylan Shalless and Rachel Da Graca Costa in the lead roles for the first time. The audition panel was blown away by the talent on display. It was very difficult to say no to nearly 50% of people who auditioned. However, feedback from people who were unsuccessful said whilst they were disappointed, it was a great experience to be involved in, which is a real win for HAC.

A meet and greet for the cast and crew was held at HAC House on Sunday 16 December 2018. It was great to see everyone together for the first time, handing out scripts and getting to know each other as the journey begins for another epic HAC production. The first rehearsal was held the following night where the cast read through the script. Rehearsals will kick off in full swing on Monday 28 January 2019 after the Christmas and New Year break.

-Simon Dandy & Faye Johns



Introducing our brilliant cast!!

Drew: Dylan Shalless
 Sherrie: Rachel Da Graca Costa
 Lonny: Chris Versteegen
 Dennis Dupree: Benji Dixon
 Stacey Jaxx: Brady King
 Justice Charlier: Jess Wilson
 Regina: Eleni Vettos
 Franz Klinneman: Liam Robertson
 Hertz Klinneman: Simon Dandy
 Waitress #1: Esther Fry
 Ja'Keith: Loucas Vettos
 Joey Primo: Josh Lloyd
 Mayor: Belinda Elliott

Ensemble
 Anna Roberts
 Belinda Elliott
 Darcy Hogan
 Emily McDiarmid
 Graeme King
 Josh Lloyd
 Lauren Bond
 Loucas Vettos

Maddy McGennissen
 Melissa Cook
 Oscar O'Brien
 Scott Robinson
 Siobhan Delaney
 Stacey Brennan
 Zoe Hanson

The Bourbon Room Girls
 Sophie Trudel
 Brittany Bates
 Paige Schmidt
 Sophie Koschmann

The Venus Girls
 Jess Durrant
 Ella Ballinger
 Bella Patterson
 Tahli Burford

Arsenal (The Band)
 Sean Wales
 Shannon Waterworth
 Tony Block
 Nic Campesato
 Josh Young
 Michael Peterson

Production Team
 Director: Erin Boutcher
 Assistant Director/Vocal Director: Stacey Brennan
 Musical Director: Chris Versteegen & Sean Wales
 Executive Producer: Simon Dandy & Faye Johns

"I Wanna Rock!"

Much Ado About Nothing

Horsham College tackled Shakespeare on Friday 14 December 2018 with their performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Emily Friedrichsen and Kathryn McLeod. Originally, it was to be held at the Horsham Church of Christ for three performances. However, at the eleventh hour, decisions were made to move it to Ian O. Maroske Hall at Horsham College for one performance only. Whilst this was disappointing for everyone involved, they pressed on and gave a stellar performance. Many young HAC members were involved, including Jayden Robertson, Katianna Grosser, Oscar O'Brien, Lily O'Brien, Ruby Risson, Jacob Creasey, Ryder Cerny, Aaron Timms and Michael Timms.



Here are the thoughts of some audience members:

Yolande Grosser

With my first Shakespeare under my belt, I am still smiling. Due to the direction of teachers Emily Friedrichsen and Kathryn McLeod, the fabulous Horsham College cast and crew for this production pulled off an entertaining show. This original romance comedy – *Much Ado About Nothing* - was performed to an audience in excess of 150 people who witnessed some first-time actors on the Maroske Hall stage. Up against the bare timber floor, projection was key, and students on the whole, triumphed against squeaky chairs and foot falls. With a script full of twists and turns and a very happy ending, it was a pleasure to watch the ensemble-made sets support the story while simple, yet elegant, costumes emphasised the content. This was a wonderful opportunity for young people to discover a passion for the classics and for the community to indulge in a little love and laughter. Well done to all involved!

Ronnie & Lisa Thomas

Congratulations to the cast on a wonderful job. Your diligence in learning and presenting Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* is to be commended. A fantastic night of entertainment.

Graeme & Karen King

To see young performers deliver complicated dialogue with ease and precision was a highlight. Well done to all involved in the Horsham College production.

Loucas Vettos

Great use of space on-stage with amazing sets. The entire cast did an amazing job with special shout outs to Oscar O'Brien, Katianna Grosser and Connor Klemm for their performances. A pleasant night out.

Ken Warrick

Last Friday night, I had the pleasure of attending the Horsham College performance. It was my first time I had seen Shakespeare and what a fantastic show. All involved did an amazing job bringing their character to life while remembering huge slabs of difficult dialogue. Congratulations and well done on a great show.

Emily Friedrichsen

Kat and I are so incredibly proud of the cast and crew. We were told it shouldn't be done and that it was too hard for our students. Well, for all those who came to see our show, thank you for coming to support as I'm sure you will agree that our students did a brilliant job. Congratulations to our cast; so funny and beautifully delivered.

-Simon Dandy

Our Stair Stocks Have Increased

The HAC has formed a strong relationship with CenterStage Geelong; David Greenwood, Brett Wallis and the team have been huge supporters of the HAC. We have shared sets and props between each other since our production of *The Wedding Singer* in 2016.

David and Brett have kindly donated four flights of stairs that were used in their 2018 production of *42nd Street* to HAC. The photo shows how many people were tapping on them, indicating how well they are constructed. What's more, David and Brett threw in the LED lights and fittings as well. All up, the value would exceed \$5,000. If that was not enough, they loaned their trailer to us for the transportation – free of charge!



A massive shout out to Natasha Kuchel and Faye Johns who helped me transport two flights of stairs from the MTGV awards night from Narre Warren to Horsham. It was a long day and night, arriving at HAC House at 5.45am Sunday morning. David and Brett will transport the other two flights of stairs from Geelong to Horsham when they come to see our production of *Rock of Ages* in May 2019.

We are so thankful for the ongoing support of CenterStage Geelong. We have a great relationship that will continue to grow in the future.

-Simon Dandy

HAC to Perform at the HRCC Australia Day 2019 Celebrations

The HAC is proud yet again to be asked to perform at the official HRCC Australia Day celebrations to be held at the Horsham Soundshell.

Representing HAC will be long-time member Brittany Bates. She will be performing both verses of the national anthem. Brittany has a beautiful voice and will do us all proud.

If you are around on Australia Day, please get down to the Soundshell and support Brittany.



-Simon Dandy

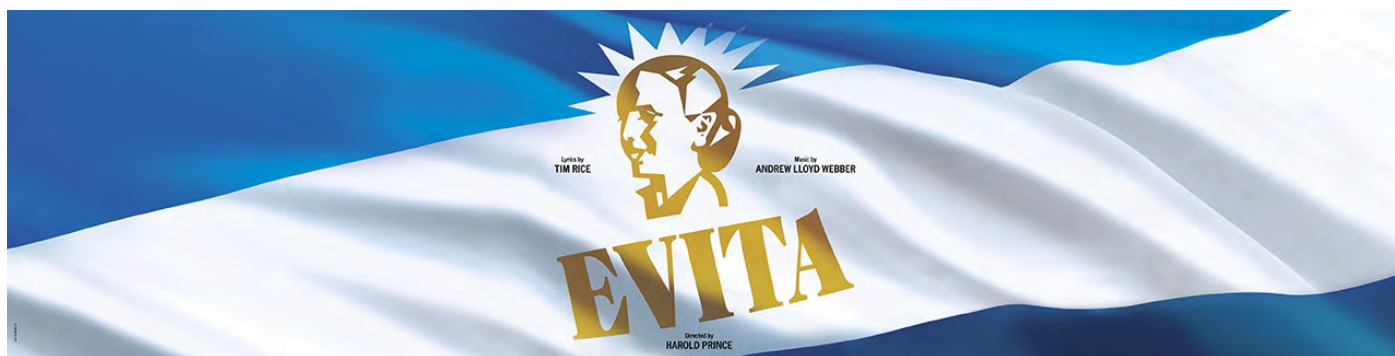
Thank You Newsletter Team

On behalf of the committee and all HAC members, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the newsletter team: Cherie Ladlow, Lynley Macdonald and Beau Ladlow. You all do an amazing job in collating and preparing six bi-monthly publications throughout the year. They make for fantastic reading and feedback from members is extremely positive. They are kept up-to-date with all things HAC, whether they are involved in a current show or not.

Thank you so much for your time, effort and professionalism.
It is appreciated by us all. 😊

-Simon Dandy





During the last weekend of October, Ronnie and I flew to Sydney for a 3-day getaway. This was something I had planned a while ago to celebrate Ronnie's 50th birthday, and as part of the trip, I booked tickets to see *Evita* at the Sydney Opera House.

We are long-time fans of Tina Arena and thought the opportunity of seeing her at an iconic venue, the Dame Joan Sutherland theatre, too good to pass up. Along with many other excited patrons from around Australia and overseas, we attended the Saturday matinee which was guaranteed to feature Tina and not the alternate. However, it was not to be. At the start of the show the announcer confirmed that the role of Evita would be played by Jemma Rix. I had been warned by the program seller, so my disappointment wasn't as heartfelt or vocal as those hearing the news prior to the curtain rising. I truly felt for the audience but also for Jemma and did my own little "Go Jemma" cheer.

I can honestly say that by the end of the show, we were not disappointed in not seeing Tina as Eva. In fact, we were maybe even a little lucky to see the talented and beautiful Jemma sing, act and dance her heart out. She truly delivered a stellar performance, although others may not have shared our sentiments if the applause at the end was any indication.

The show is a revival of Hal Prince's original West End production from 1978. It stars Tina Arena and Jemma Rix as Eva Peron; Paulo Szot as Peron; Kurt Kansley as Che (an audience favourite) and making her professional debut Alexis Van Maanen as the Mistress. Alexis was mesmerising to watch and listen to, and this was all the more incredible as she graduated Caulfield Grammar School at the end of 2017 - less than twelve months ago.



With lyrics and music by Tim Rice and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, *Evita* tells the story of Eva Peron, born Maria Eva Duarte from childhood to her death from cancer in 1952 aged 33. It quickly follows her rise from rags as an illegitimate child, to riches as wife of the Argentinian President Juan Peron. The costuming, orchestra and ensemble singing were magical and quite impressive. The show is coming to Melbourne shortly with Tina as lead and if you get the opportunity to attend, I'm sure you will enjoy it. However, for those who haven't seen *Evita* before, it is not a show that leaves you feeling on a high or singing and whistling as you head for home. Its story and mood is more dramatic and at times sombre, which is reflected on the stage.

- Lisa Thomas

WAG Christmas Festival and Carols by Candlelight

On Sunday 16th December Warracknabeal held its WAG Christmas Festival and Carols by Candlelight. The intense amount of rain that fell on Thursday and then again on Saturday night, meant that planning and layout for Carols had to be altered twice to accommodate the changing ground conditions. The event was finally moved to the grounds of 'Our Redeemer' Lutheran Church, using the spaces inside and outside the facility.

HAC had several members performing throughout the evening - Tim O'Donnell, Emily Freidrichsen, Venetia Elbourne-Hobbs, Liberty and Ulani Hobbs, Abbey Morrow, Natasha, Caleb and Faith Eilola, Faye and Heath Johns. HSOM students, Tanya & Zoa Mock, Cher-Leah and Rihanna Williams, the HPS choir (including several HAC members) and Signing Choir also performed at the carols. They all performed to an exceptional standard and there were many compliments on their items. It is great to see HAC members performing throughout the region and volunteering their time and talents to so many community events.

The evening was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

-Faye Johns



Executive Committee

President

Simon Dandy

Secretary

Faye Johns

Vice President

Ken Warrick

Treasurer

Colin Kreymborg

General Committee

Debbie Boutcher

Loucas Vettos

Jack Janetzki

Erin Boutcher

Jessica Wilson

Belinda Elliott

Maddi Ostapiw

Nick Wilson



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Love your work Stace-face

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, with the exception of January.

All members are welcome to attend.

Next meeting is at 7:30pm, 13th February 2019

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

2019

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:		
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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