

**MINUTES OF THE FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
MUSICAL THEATRE NZ INCORPORATED, RYDGES HOTEL, QUEENSTOWN
ON SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2009, 8.30AM**

PRESENT:

Mr John Antony, President (in the Chair)

Life Members: Mr John MacGibbon, Mr Len Speir, Mr Jim Fenton, QSO,
Mr Kevin Murphy, Mr Ray Spence, Mrs Donna Philpott QSM

Vice President: Mr Ian Reid

Executive Members Mrs Delwyn Smith, Mr Lawrie Johnson, Mrs Lesley Reid,
Mr Ross Benbow and Mrs Helen Horsnell

180 delegates and observers

Ms Kate Ghent (Administrator) in attendance

WELCOME:

The President welcomed everyone to Queenstown and thanked Showbiz Queenstown for organising conference. The President said that 2008 was a tough year for many and looking forward, due to the recession, 2009 may not be much better – so the doom merchants say. But MTNZ societies are in a great position – we are here to entertain people and hopefully make things a little brighter. Be it with large productions, through to small dinner theatre, we have a great opportunity to lift the spirits of our local communities. And told those present to keep doing what you do best. The President then took the opportunity to thank everyone for their support and loyalty that he had received over his time as Zone Representative, Vice President and President - his 50 years involvement with musical theatre has given him a wonderful experience and a dimension on life that he could never replace. The President then thanked the corporate members with special thanks to John Herber and NZ Fireshield for their generous sponsorship and said it had been one of the highlights of his term. The President then concluded saying as he steps down, he wishes the good ship MTNZ, and all who sail in her, the very best for an entertaining and ever developing future of wonderful productions and great friendships formed.

OFFICIAL OPENING:

After housekeeping notes, The President introduced opening speaker Mr David John.

Mr John was born in Liverpool and trained as an artist at the Liverpool College of Art. Leaving England in 1969 he has lived in South Africa, Canada, Ireland, the Canary Islands, and Australia, painting and writing short stories before settling in Arrowtown, New Zealand a decade later. His reputation became firmly established in New Zealand, not only as an award winning artist and writer but also as a playwright and actor. He has written and directed three plays and a musical for community theatre and has gained stage experience with drama groups and theatre-sport.

Arrowtown has been a rich source of inspiration for Mr John's art, having provided material to illustrate three books about the gold mining town's history as well as inspiration for his paintings, poetry and the stage musical 'RUSH!' - he met Mr Kevin Lynch in Arrowtown and a song writing partnership was born. Following a long battle with cancer Mr Lynch passed away in 2008. Over 40,000 people have now seen this smash hit show in New Zealand theatres. During his address, Mr John talked about Rush! and how to market a show that nobody knows and the obstacles they faced launching Rush! into the mainstream theatre community.

Mr John then declared the 49th AGM and conference officially open.

ROLL CALL:

The President introduced Ms Kate Ghent, MTNZ Administrator and Mr Ian Reid, MTNZ Vice President. The Administrator then read out the names of the attendees who were not at the Friday night roll call.

APOLOGIES:

Ms Kate Ghent then read the apologies as follows:

MATS Musicals, Masterton; Theatre Whakatane; Mr Stuart Mitchell – Selecon; Mr Robert Young; Mr Tim Blennerhassett; Mr Ella Duddridge; Mrs Shona Spencer; Mr Martin Mitchell; Hastings Operatic; Mrs Dale Reid; Mrs Rosemarie Toal; Mr Mark Betty; Mr G and Mrs E Vallender

It was moved by The President and seconded by Mr Ray Spence (Te Awamutu) that the apologies be accepted - CARRIED

SPEAKING RIGHTS AND POWERS:

The President explained the speaking rights and voting powers of those present.

MINUTES:

It was agreed that the minutes of the 2008 48th Annual General Meeting be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record – moved by the President, seconded Mrs Valda Peacock (Waipawa)- CARRIED

There were no matters arising.

AUDITOR:

Moved Mrs Helen Horsnell (Executive) and seconded Mr Ross Benbow (Nelson) that Mr Len Speir be re-appointed as auditor – CARRIED. The President thanked Mr Speir for his ongoing support of MTNZ.

HONORARY SOLICITOR:

Moved Mrs Lesley Reid (Executive) and seconded Mrs Valda Peacock (Waipawa) that Mr Markham Lee be appointed as Honorary Solicitor – CARRIED. The President thanked Mr Lee for his advice on matters during the previous year.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

The recommendation by the Executive was the subscription rates remain current for the next financial year – THIS WAS AGREED.

Society Rate:

Over \$100,000	\$775
\$50,000 - \$100,000	\$700
\$30,000 - \$50,000	\$600
\$20,000 - \$30,000	\$500
\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$355
\$5,000 - \$10,000	\$235
Under \$5,000	\$130
In Recess	\$55

Corporate Member - \$275

Associate Member – \$60

Education Member

- Secondary/University/Polytechnic/Performing Arts School \$65
- Primary/Intermediate School \$55

The President said that although we were in a good position for this financial year, subscriptions were going to have to be reviewed on an annual basis. And it was very pleasing to be able to report a net surplus after depreciation of \$15,281 – our best result financially for a number of years. The 2008 result has of course been enhanced through the generous sponsorship support from John Herber Limited and NZ Fire Shield and the President thanked John Herber. The Executive continue to be mindful of the need to be prudent with the financial resources available and it is pleasing therefore to note that executive expenses have again been reduced.

REPORTS:

It was agreed that the Zone Reports for year ended 31 December 2008 be taken as read, The President moved, Mr Conal McKone (Wellington Musical Theatre) seconded -CARRIED. Reports are available on the MTNZ website

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

It was agreed that the Administrator’s report (including Capital Assistance Fund report) for the year ended 31 December 2008 be taken as read - Ms Kate Ghent moved, Mr Roy Eagleson (Tauranga) seconded – CARRIED.

CAPITAL ASSISTANCE FUND:

It was agreed that the Capital Assistance Fund financial statement for year ended 31 December 2008 be adopted – The President moved, Mr Shaun Gilmore (Showbiz Christchurch) seconded –CARRIED.

Mrs Edith MacGibbon of ML Consultants queried as to why the administration cost had been raised to \$9,000? There was discussion and Mr Kevin Murphy (MTNZ Business Advisor) responded saying our major cost continues to be Administrator fees which are allocated between MTNZ itself, CAF, Library and the AGM. This year saw a realignment of the allocation with a reduced charge in the MTNZ accounts offset by an increase in the CAF accounts.

MTNZ FINANCIAL REPORT and ANNUAL REPORT:

It was agreed that the Financial Report and Annual Report for year ended 31 December 2008 be adopted, The President moved, Mr Lawrie Johnson (Musikmakers/Executive) seconded -CARRIED.

- A net surplus after depreciation of \$15,281 – our best result financially for a number of years.
- Income at \$47,640 is up 3.9% with subscription income up slightly offsetting the reduced surplus from conference expenditure is down 17.56%
- Usage of the library continues to decline and we will need in the not to distant future to consider the ongoing viability of maintaining this service.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE:

The Administrator announced the following nominations for Executive:

- President Mr Ian Reid
- Zone 1 Mrs Delwyn Smith
- Zone 4 Mr Ross Benbow
- Zone 5 Mrs Helen Horsnell

The President then moved that current Patron, Mrs Donna Philpott QSM be re-elected for another year – Vice President Mr Ian Reid seconded – CARRIED

All nominations were accepted.

As there were three nominations for Vice President - Mrs Kaye Francis (Timaru), Mrs Ngaire Holmes (Musikmakers, Hamilton) and Mrs Lesley Reid (Zone Three Representative), a poll was demanded. Votes were privately cast (Mr Kevin Murphy and Mr John MacGibbon were appointed scrutineers) and Mrs Lesley Reid was elected as the new MTNZ Vice President – this was met with applause. Mrs Donna Philpott and Mr Ian Reid asked that the voting papers be destroyed.

The voting process was then carried out for Zone Two Representative, replacing Mr Lawrie Johnson. Nominations were received from Mrs Louise Willis; Mr Roy Eagleson and Mrs Ngaire Holmes. Mrs Willis and Mr Eagleson withdrew their nominations from the floor, Mrs Ngaire Holmes was elected as the new MTNZ Zone Two representative.

Mr Allan Nagy was announced the new Zone Three representative to replace Mrs Lesley Reid, as there were no other nominations received for Zone Three.

At conclusion of voting process, the President thanked Mr Johnson for his year's service to the Executive and wished him well for his new job and life in Wellington.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

The President then read the notice of motion as follows:

That Clauses F1, F2 and F3.1.1-F3.4 (inclusive) be deleted and replaced with the following:

F MANAGEMENT

F1 HONORARY OFFICER

F1.1 The Honorary Officer of MTNZ shall be the Patron who shall be elected in accordance with Clause F3 below, provided however, that, once elected, that person shall remain as Patron until that person:

- (a) dies; or
- (b) is declared a bankrupt; or
- (c) resigns as Patron; or
- (d) (in the opinion of the Executive) has become mental or physically incapacitated.

F1.2 In the case of there being no nomination or the office falling vacant (pursuant to F1.1 above), the office shall remain vacant until (elections are called for) the following Annual General Meeting.

F2 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Executive Officers of the MTNZ shall be:

F2.1 President

F2.2 An Immediate Past President who may hold office for not more than one year following the end of his/her Presidency

F2.3 A Vice-President

F2.4 Five other persons ("Zone Representatives") who shall be resident in each of the following zones and shall be a financial member of a Member:
Zone 1: Northland & Auckland;

Zone 2: Waikato, Bay of Plenty & Gisborne;
Zone 3: Taranaki, Manawatu/Wanganui/Hawkes Bay and Wellington;
Zone 4: Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast & Canterbury;
Zone 5: Otago and Southland.

F3 ELECTIONS

- F3.1.1 The Patron, President, Vice-President and Zone Representatives shall be elected by postal ballot (as set out below).
- F3.1.2 All successful nominees shall be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.
- F3.1.3 Any notices, nominations or voting papers may be sent by the member or by the Administrator by post, courier, fax or e-mail.
- F3.1.4 In order to be valid, any nomination or voting forms to be received by the Administrator must be signed by at least two from the Committee/Executive of the Member.
- F3.1.5 Any nominations or voting forms to be received by the Administrator shall be deemed to be received by the Administrator either when in the hands of or in the Inbox of the Administrator.
- F3.2.1 Nominations for election shall be lodged with the Administrator not less than 21 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting but, if no nomination is received, nomination(s) may be accepted at the Annual General Meeting.
- F3.2.2 Any person standing for election must be nominated by no less than two Members provided however that such nominations may be forwarded to the Administrator separately.
- F3.2.3 Nominations for Zone Representatives may only be accepted from Members within that particular zone.
- F3.3.1 Details of the nominations and a voting form shall be sent to Members (or, in the case of Zone Representatives, only to Members of that Zone), not less than 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- F3.3.2 Votes must be received by the Administrator no later than 5pm on the Thursday prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- F3.3.3 Zone Representatives shall be elected only by Members within that particular zone.
- F3.4 If, at the Annual General Meeting, the offices of President or Vice-President are not filled, or if any such vacancy shall occur after the Annual General Meeting, the Executive may fill such vacancy.

NOTE:

- There are no changes to the make-up of the Executive.
- The provisions relating to filling a Zone Representative vacancy during the year (F3.5.1-F3.5.4) and relating to disclosure by Executive members of any financial interest (F3.6.1-F3.6.4) remain unchanged.
- It is expected that all voting papers will be brought to the AGM by the Administrator for inspection, if required.
- For ease of administration, it is expected/hoped that all societies will provide the Administrator with an e-mail address.

Discussion Points:

- The Patron shall remain in office effectively for life. This is an honorary position and, as such, it seems incongruous that it should be voted upon on an annual basis.

- All officers shall now be elected by postal ballot prior to the AGM with all officers to be confirmed at the AGM. There was an anomaly in that some officers were elected by postal ballot prior to the AGM whilst others were elected at the AGM. It is anticipated that this will now speed up the AGM. There was further concern particularly relating to the election of Zone Reps and the ability of member societies to vote if they are not attending Conference. Whilst the society can give a proxy (usually to the current Zone Rep) that could place that Zone Rep in an ethically difficult or conflict situation.
- Proxy voting at the AGM will still remain for all voting other than the election of Executive

There was discussion about the change. Concerns were raised about the use of private email addresses being used for societies and the information not getting through. Hon Solicitor Markham Lee addressed this saying members will still be notified by post. Scans PDF'd to the Administrator were acceptable, as were faxes.

As the MTNZ Administrator held proxy votes for societies and was unable to count, Mrs Lesley Reid, Zone Three representative and Mr Ian Reid, Vice President, counted the votes. There were 53 members present (either via Delegate or proxy vote) and four members voted against the motion. As per G2.3 of the MTNZ Constitution, more than two thirds of the 53 members present at the AGM voted for the change – the notice of motion was CARRIED.

The AGM then broke for morning tea at 10am.

AGM recommenced at 10.30am.

MERIT AWARDS

Patron, Mrs Donna Philpott, presented the 2009 Merit Awards to the following and Mr Ian Reid, Vice President, introduced each recipient:

- Amanda Stone - Porirua Little Theatre (1989 – 2009) (20 years)
- Barbara Hanna – West Otago Theatrical Society- 1982 – 2009 (27 years)
- Christopher Green – Theatre Hawkes Bay – 1983 – 2009 (26 years) -
- Dougall McLachlan – Waimate Theatre Company – 1978 – 2009 (31 years)
- Glenys Porter – 1979 – 2009 (30 years) – Tauranga Musical Theatre
- Gwenda Beilby - Thames Musical Theatre - 1968 – 2009 (41 years)
- Greg Thompson – 1983 – 2009 (26 years) Showbiz Queenstown
- Margo Shaw – Fiordland Players - 1985 – 2009 (24 years)
- Ngaire Taylor - South Otago Theatrical Society - 1982 – 2009 (27 years)
- Ray Spence – 1975 – Present (34 years) Te Awamutu Light Operatic Society
- Ronald Michael Gannaway – 1979 – 2009 (30 years) On-Stage Te Kuiti

The President then awarded the MTNZ Patron a merit award, as nominated by Wellington Musical Theatre

- Donna Philpott QSM - 1961 – Present (48 years)

THE NOLA SPEIR PATRON'S ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

This year it was awarded to Daniel Martin, Oamaru Operatic and Musical Society. The award was presented to the Oamaru Operatic delegate by Patron Donna Philpott QSM.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Origin Theatrical Poster Competition

The President then introduced Mrs Kim Ransley from Origin Theatrical who presented the awards to the following for the poster competition:

Runner Up: Drama League South Canterbury – The Buddy Holly Story

Winner: Showbiz Christchurch - Chicago

John Herber Showbill Competition

The President then introduced Mrs Diane Phillip from John Herber (the competition was judged by Mr Adam Blackwell of Firststar Communications, Wellington) who presented the prize to: Invercargill Musical Theatre for CATS.

Programme Competition

Judges : Lindsay Woods and Margaret O'Hanlon

Mr Ross Benbow read out the judges' comments which are available on the MTNZ website.

ACT Multi A Award –

Presenter: Mr David Spicer, representing ACT

Second Tauranga Musical Theatre - The Wizard of Oz

First Equal Wellington Musical Theatre – Sound of Music and CATS

New Plymouth Operatic Multi B Award –

Presenter – Mr Kevin Landrigan, President, New Plymouth Operatic

Third Manukau Performing Arts - The Buddy Holly Story

Second North Shore Music Theatre - The Producers

First Taieri Musical Society - Honk!

MTNZ Constance Stewart Memorial Multi C Award

Presenter: Mr John MacGibbon, Life Member

Third Waimate Theatre Company - Cinderella A Girl of Today

Second Porirua Little Theatre - Bat Boy

First Whangarei Theatre Company - I'll Be Back Before Midnight

MTNZ – Frank Terry Memorial Single Sheet Award

Presenter: Mr Len Speir Life Member

Second Levin Performing Arts - STIFF

First Auckland Music Theatre - Putting It Together

MTNZ – Kevin Lynch Memorial Black and White Award

Presenter: Mr Jim Fenton QSO (Life Member MTNZ residing in Zone Five)

Second Manukau Performing Arts - Secondary Cause of Death

First Levin Performing Arts - Blue Eyes

MTNZ Website Competition

Presenter: Mr Kevin Murphy (Life Member)

Winner: Invercargill Musical Theatre

NOMINATIONS TO HOST CONFERENCE 2011

- Presentation by Nelson Musical Theatre
- Presentation by Wanganui AMDRAM

Public voting took place and Nelson Musical Theatre won by a majority vote and will host the 2011 Conference.

REPORTS FROM ASSOCIATE/CORPORATE MEMBERS/SPECIAL GUESTS

The President then asked if any of our associate or corporate members would like to address the AGM:

- ❖ Mr Stuart Hendricks – Hal Leonard Australia
- ❖ Mr Graeme Philip – John Herber and NZ Fire Shield
- ❖ Mr John MacGibbon – ML Consultants
- ❖ Mrs Kim Ransley – Origin Theatrical
- ❖ Mr Richard Marrett – NASDA
- ❖ Mr Rob Peters, ETNZ
- ❖ Mr David Spicer, Stage Whispers
- ❖ Mr Reece Preston – iTICKET
- ❖ Ms Katrina Chandra, Playmarket
- ❖ Mrs Stephanie Stenhouse, Dominie Drama

The MTNZ Administrator then made a presentation to Mrs Hilary Finnie the Showbiz Queenstown conference convener and thanked her and the Showbiz Queenstown team for hosting conference.

The MTNZ Administrator then made a presentation to Mr David Atkinson of Musikmakers Hamilton thanking him for doing the MTNZ AGM powerpoint presentation.

A presentation was then made to retiring President – Mr John Antony, by Patron Mrs Donna Philpott QSM – this was met with a standing ovation.

The President then handed over the Chains of Office to incoming President Mr Ian Reid. Mr John Antony then thanked everyone for their support and wished MTNZ well for the future.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The President talked about our special AGM and 50th Anniversary Conference in Auckland in March 2010 and Zone One then extended an invitation to the 50th Anniversary Annual General Meeting and Conference 19 - 21 March 2010 at the Rydges Hotel, in Auckland

The 49th Annual General Meeting closed at 11.55am.

Confirmed as a true and accurate record:

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Date: