

Musical Theatre New Zealand Annual Report for year ended 31 December 2009

I welcome this opportunity to reflect on my observations of the year 2009 from a Musical Theatre perspective. President John in his final report to last years AGM in Queenstown stated that our member societies were in a great position to make the most of what was predicted to be a year of recession for we are here to entertain people and make things a little brighter. From reports we have received through your Zone Representatives it certainly has been a mixed bag as far as the financial success of productions is concerned. Whilst times have been tough for most New Zealanders indications are that many who normally travelled either internally or internationally to see professional musicals stayed close to home last year and many of our local musical theatre groups benefited from their support.

Our 2009 AGM and Conference in Queenstown saw excellent numbers attending despite the travel and accommodation costs associated with such a remote destination. Our thanks must go to host society Showbiz Queenstown and especially to Hilary Finnie and her support team who worked extremely hard behind the scenes.

We are most grateful for the ongoing support we receive from our corporate members at conference time not only by supplying equipment but also the manpower to transport, install and operate at no cost to MTNZ. We also receive sponsorship towards meals, drinks, awards and the provision of Presenters/Speakers for the many forums and seminars that are now an integral part of our annual meeting. Planning is well in hand for 2011 in Nelson and we look forward during the meeting to hearing on progress from representatives of Nelson Musical Theatre our hosts at next year's AGM/Conference.

My congratulations to the following who at were recipients of Merit Awards for their outstanding service to musical theatre and were presented at last years AGM

Barbara Hanna	West Otago Theatrical Society
Christopher Green	Theatre Hawkes Bay
Dougal McLachlan	Waimate Theatre Company
Glenys Porter	Tauranga Musical Theatre
Donna Philpot	Wellington Musical Theatre
Ray Spence	Te Awamutu Light Operatic
Gwenda Beilby	Thames Musical Theatre
Amanda Stone	Porirua Little Theatre
Greg Thompson	Showbiz Queenstown
Ronald Gannaway	Te Kuiti Musical Theatre
Ngaire Taylor	South Otago Theatrical Society

The recipient of the Nola Speir Patron's Encouragement Award for 2009 was Daniel Martin of Oamaru Operatic Society.

Financial Report

It is pleasing to again be able to report a surplus for the year ended 31 December 2009 of \$12,937, although less than last years reported surplus of \$15,281 the current year position represents an excellent result during a period of difficult financial times.

The generous sponsorship from John Herber and NZ Fireshield has been key to the positive surpluses achieved in the last two years, it is important that the membership as a whole recognise the value of this sponsorship and support John Herber and NZ Fireshield, as well as the other corporate members so as to ensure our organisation can continue to prosper.

Whilst total income is up 4.90% income from our primary source of revenue – subscriptions, is down 5.50%. The on-going viability of MTNZ is reliant on membership subscription revenue so the Executive have continued to focus on opportunities to broaden the membership in order to share the burden rather than transferring ever increasing costs to the existing members. Interest revenue at \$2,981 is up significantly on last year, despite a lower interest rate environment and this reflects the benefit from achieving surplus results in recent years and having money in the bank to generate interest revenue. Expenditure is up overall by 14.50% with the key components here being an increase in the Administrator Honorarium and additional costs associated with relationship building meetings with Creative New Zealand (CNZ) and Entertainment Industry NZ (EINZ).

During the year Kate and I attended a number of meetings with Creative New Zealand in Wellington and discussed with them opportunities for our two organisations to work together for the benefit of Community Theatre throughout New Zealand. My thanks to John McDavitt and Helaina Keeley of CNZ who met with us and listened to what we had to say about who Musical Theatre New Zealand are and what we do. Kate's presentation to CNZ was first class and I thank her for the time and effort she continually gives to ensuring our profile is out there and the fact that we are being recognised by more and more organisations can only be beneficial to us.

I would like to thank our hardworking executive who continue to amaze me with their enthusiasm towards musical theatre and in particular our organisation. Each one willingly gives of their time and expertise to assist so many of our member societies and often travel great distances to keep in touch with and attend productions staged by members in their respective zones. My thanks to those societies who provide the zone reps and other members of the executive with complimentary tickets to their productions and provide meals when they visit. This assistance eases the burden on 'out of pocket' expenses as the majority of these trips are made at the executive members own cost.

To the Zone Representatives - Delwyn, Ngaire, Allan, Ross, Helen and Vice President Lesley, I extend my heartfelt thanks. I am extremely proud of your efforts individually and collectively on behalf of MTNZ.

To Past President John Antony , my thanks for keeping in contact and for the welcome friendship and advice I have received during my first year as President.

To Past President's/Life Members Kevin Murphy, John MacGibbon and Patron / Life Member Donna Philpott all of whom have been readily available when called upon for advice or assistance and special thanks to my extremely supportive wife Dale.

My thanks also to Life Member and Auditor Len Speir and to Honorary Solicitor Markham Lee both of whom give so willingly of their time and expertise to MTNZ in their respective positions.

Last but by no means least, to the person who steadies the ship and keeps us all in order, our Administrator Kate Ghent. I cannot thank Kate enough for her dedication to ensuring that all facets of our operation run so smoothly and that communication is very much to the fore throughout the organisation. MTNZ are extremely fortunate to have someone in Kate's position so passionate and knowledgeable about musical theatre. Kate works far and beyond the call of duty and I sincerely thank Kate's husband Steve who is not only very supportive of Kate but also of MTNZ. I express our gratitude to Steve and son Nick for allowing us to monopolise so much of their valued family time normally spent with Kate.

Special thanks to John Herber & NZ Fire Shield our major sponsors whose generous support enables MTNZ to operate under a lot less financial pressure. We look forward to our continued association and trust that it will prove beneficial for both parties.

I wish you all every success with your endeavours in 2010 and hope to meet with as many of you as possible attending conference. Let's celebrate with pride the first fifty years of musical theatre and look forward to the challenges that the next fifty years may bring



Ian Reid
President