

**Musical Theatre New Zealand
Zone Five Report for year ended 31 December 2009**

Welcome to the Zone Five report for 2009. What a busy year our societies have had. Very mixed reports about financial success but all very positive about artistic success. The shows that I was lucky enough to see were all thoroughly enjoyable and a big thank you to those societies who invited me to attend and offered their friendly hospitality.

We had our first meeting in May which was hosted by Fine Thyme Company in Cromwell. These meetings are a great time to share ideas and support each other. We had a forum on 'Production Management' with some great ideas and experiences shared. Much appreciation to the people who freely shared their knowledge to the others.

The second meeting was held in Mosgiel hosted by Taieri Musical Society in October. We had a lighting seminar for beginners in the morning which was appreciated by those attending. Run by John Collier, they had the opportunity to have a play with the lighting rig for the 'Buddy Holly Story'. At the conclusion of the meeting a small seminar on 'Applying for Funding' run by Irene Mosley was well received. This is a subject close to us all as 'FUNDING' has become an important word in musical theatre. My grateful thanks to John and Irene for sharing their knowledge and expertise.

The Combined Zone Four and Five South Island meeting was held in Ashburton in October, and as usual was another great opportunity to share information and ideas. Interesting discussions were held on 'How To Save For Conference' and 'Opportunities For Free Advertising'. It was great to have our sponsor and corporate members attending. Annual conference in March was also in Zone Five and thanks to Hilary Finnie and the Showbiz Queenstown team for all their work on this.

As a zone I have encouraged communication between societies and supporting each other where possible. The large area we cover makes this hard for some but it is good to see societies sharing resources with each other.

My thanks to all who have given me support and friendship throughout the year and I look forward to 2010.

**Helen Horsnell
Zone Five Representative**