

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

2009 started with another very successful NAPTA Awards Evening, thanks must go to all those involved in the organization of this event. This year our MC was Helen Medlyn who was extremely entertaining, and thanks must go to Aaron Tindall, his amazing production team, and talented entertainers for the evening.

Harlequin Musical Theatre celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary starting the year with a dinner in May attended by their first president who turned 100 years in April. For their anniversary year they combined with Amici Productions to produce 'Cats' at the Civic Theatre. They had an extremely successful season.

Auckland Music Theatre celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. AMT had an afternoon tea in August, at which they had memorabilia on display; it was a really nostalgic afternoon for those who attended. They celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> year with a production of 'Assassins' and later a concert version of 'Show Boat'.

Manukau Performing Arts opened their newly renovated Spotlight Theatre in November, a fabulous new facility for them and I congratulate them for the foresight to pursue their dream and their determination to raise the funds through grants; it has been an amazing achievement. They opened their new theatre with a very successful production of 'Seussical the Musical'. The 2009 NAPTA nominations were held at MPA's Spotlight Theatre on 13 December, thank you to MPA Management for their wonderful hospitality, entertainment and refreshments.

I would personally like to thank all those societies who have invited me to their opening nights of their productions, I do appreciate it very much and try to attend as many shows as I can in Zone One, sometimes I can't always get to your opening nights when they coincide with other societies openings however I do try to attend later in your season.

Many societies have been finding it hard to get "bums" on seats; I think this is very much a sign of the times with the depressed market, let's hope this picks up soon, and that 2010 will be a more successful year at the box office. The talent in Zone One is truly amazing; I rarely go to a show in my zone that is not up to a professional standard, congratulations Zone One.

All the very best wishes for a very successful 2010, we have many exciting new productions on our calendar so far and I look forward to attending as many as possible.

I would like to welcome you all to the MTNZ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Auckland this year and hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

I would like to thank Kate for her tireless work she does for MTNZ throughout the year, and thanks also to Ian, Lesley, John, and my fellow Zone reps for their constant support and friendship throughout the year.

**Delwyn Smith  
Zone One Representative**