

## Minutes of MTNZ Combined South Island Meeting held in Oamaru Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> 2010

Helen Horsnell Zone 5 MTNZ Rep welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Present:** Glen Ruske- Bounce NZ; Kerry Horsnell- Fine Thyme Cromwell; Pat Gunn ,Terry Kent- Oamaru Operatic; Vicki Crawford , Barbara Hanna -West Otago Theatrical Society; Hilary Finnie, Greg Thompson, Alex Derby - Showbiz Queenstown; Aaron Williams- Sth Canterbury Drama League; Val Farr, Dianne Favel ,Yvonne Harrison - VTA Ashburton; Jeanette Paul - Methven Theatre Co; Edna Horsnell, Sharon Stace , Marion Kortright -Waimate Theatre Co; Stephen Ward ,Tania Graham- Taieri Musical Society; Terry Molloy Redd Sales – White Audio; Andrew Ritchie, Heather- Anne Ritchie- Blenheim Musical Theatre; Graeme & Diane Philip -John Herber Ltd; Ian Reid MTNZ President- Napier; Lesley Reid MTNZ Vice President- Napier; Kate Ghent MTNZ Administrator Wellington; Alex Derby -Invercargill Musical Theatre; Ross Benbow- Nelson MTNZ Zone 4; Helen Horsnell - Dunedin Operatic MTNZ Zone 5

**Apologies:** Kaye Francis, Sth Canterbury Drama League; Dougall McLachlan, Waimate; Kathy Gray, Fiordland Players; Irene Mosely, Stephanie Bowden ,Rod Pearson, Balclutha; Bruce McDowell Taieri; Margaret & Derek Cullimore, Faye Johnston, Ashburton; Takaka Theatre Co; Country Players Wakefield; Greymouth; Hokitika; Amuri Players; Showbiz Christchurch; McKenzie Players; ML Consultants; Gore Operatic. Dunedin Operatic

### **Around the Table:**

OAMARU: Currenly doing Les Miserables, next year plan a theatre restaurant and a children's production.

BOUNCE NZ: (Glen Ruske) Doing sound for Miss Saigon have a radio mic promotion on.( \$60 a week )

CROMWELL: Have done Curtains, great show, very funny. Looking at something small, beginning - end of year. PD workers proving very useful for theatre maintenance etc.

WEST OTAGO: Did Wizard of OZ with a Gore director, made a small profit. Using Blue Mountain College NCEA student to update their Website.

GORE: Have just done Les Mis biggest show ever done very successful excellent attendances.

QUEENSTOWN: Did Oliver this year very successful made a big profit. Occupancy over 100%!

STH CANTERBURY: Opened Joseph Sept 17<sup>th</sup> . Timing matinee shows to allow rest home patrons to be home for evening meal has worked very well.

ASHBURTON: Did Salute to Broadway in May in conjunction with 50th Jubilee celebrations. Made considerable profit on show, performed at NZ Licensing Trust conference. Currently in rehearsal for I Love you You're Perfect Now Change, continue to receive good support from local businesses, Ashburton Trust and the District Council. Require premises to build and store sets. Next year plan Joseph in May and Little Shop of Horrors in November. History of Society available for \$45.00.

METHVEN: Have a newly re-furbished hall were looking at West Side, instead chose Jungle Fever from Maverick, very funny had full houses.

WAIMATE: This year doing Christmas Was Never Like This - used a first time director. Society has been doing a lot of local entertaining. Next year plan to do Seussical as a children's production.

TAIERI: Oliver very successful in July made a small profit. Still deciding on a show for early next year.

REDD SALES / WHITE AUDIO: (Terry Molloy) is working in well with societies, forming joint ventures to develop expertise among amateur groups.

BLENHEIM: Sound of Music and EuroBeat have both been successful this year, Doing Ladies for Hire in November, next year My Fair Lady. Discounting seat prices on the first two nights has proven successful.

JOHN HERBER: (Graeme Philip) Rugby World Cup organization has made funding available for entertainment (now closed.) Main emphasis for entertainment will be on pubs, bars, clubs, wineries and restaurants.

INVERCARGILL: Three shows this year, Cabaret in April in a small theatre venue was successful and broke even. Oliver in July not so successful, serious clash with rugby and attendances were down. Professional companies providing competition as they often begin NZ tours in Invercargill. Theatre costs are huge. Plan to bring July show back to June to avoid clash with brass Band competition. Had problems forming an orchestra for Oliver and had to use click tracks which were different from the orchestral score. Presently in rehearsal for a theatre restaurant - And the Winner is..

NELSON: Theatre Royal has re-opened after five years. Experiencing some competition with Nelson Youth shows and outside semi-professional productions. Have done a joint production of Pirates directed by a student from Toi Whaakari, using click-track orchestration. Wardrobe designed by Jill Alexander, quite fabulous and rather risqué, featured an interesting set designed by Toi Whaakari students.

DUNEDIN: Written report: NZ premier of Dusty earlier in year. A massive undertaking. Show best suited to a smaller theatre. The show attracted a new audience of theatre goers especially women. It worked well.. Has a lot of scenery and costume changes, have costumes and props for hire.. Miss Saigon currently in production. They are always faced with the difficulty of filling the large Regent Theatre. A discounted Tuesday Student Night works well. Their final show for the year will be a theatre restaurant – Show Stoppers.

#### **Report from MTNZ Office and Executive:**

CONFERENCE 2010 WRAP UP: Problem with opening night dinner forty extra turned up. While there were complaints about Rydges, the venue was central and affordable. Conference was not as well supported by Zone One societies, great support from the Sth Island. People changing minds about seminars and forums at the last minute creates huge problems.

CONFERENCE 2011 NELSON: Will be called a Volunteer Training Weekend to enable societies to apply for funding. Registration fee \$270.00 pp. The Mercure conference venue can take 200 maximum .

WEEKEND FORMAT: Suggestion that the corporate speakers be on the Friday night when they can introduce their trade shows.

Programme outline: Patron's Awards Friday night, AGM Saturday morning, Forums 1.15 – 2.00pm, seminars 2.30 – 4.30, very exciting lineup of presenters . Kate needs to know definite choices.

Evening - John Herber Wearable Arts Soirée. Sunday there will be an organized a tour of the refurbished Theatre Royal, \$5.00 per head. Will need to know numbers.

Variety of accommodation options in Nelson. It will also be important for people to clearly indicate whether travel to/from airport is required.

PPNZ & APRA: A reminder for venue owners to be vigilant in observing these requirements.

MTNZ WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT: Some issues with current website, being totally updated / revamped due to be launched at Conference next year. Facebook is working well.

CAF: Good supply of funding available for capital items.

AON PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE: Discussed.

SPOTLIGHT: Currently sent to 1600 email addresses. Societies sending newsletters please try to keep mb down for rural customers on dial-up.

PATRON'S AWARD: This award is not being well supported. Societies are urged to consider young people for this award. We need to encourage our young people and promote them. This is a pretty prestigious award. Suggestion from the floor that all nominees be named "And the winner is....." Another suggestion was that all nominees attend conference. Queenstown awards a \$500.00 scholarship at the end of each show to a young person to enable them to further their training.

MERIT AWARDS: Suggestion from the floor that all nominees attend conference.

DIRECTORS WORKSHOP UPDATE: The funding application to Creative NZ was unsuccessful. Will re-apply and look at it for Queen's Birthday next year in Christchurch.. The application will be re-worded to meet strategic requirements. Kate stressed the importance of returning surveys as figures are required to support these applications. Both Kate and Helen have spent a huge amount of time and effort on this application in order to support people wishing to be trained as directors.

#### **Corporate Member Reports:**

BOUNCE NZ Glen Ruske – has radio mic promotion on this month for non-profit organizations, is prepared to be flexible with quotes.

WHITE AUDIO (Terry Molloy) Keen to train local technicians and to remain involved in productions.. Also available to work with venues / schools to make best choices in the purchase of equipment.

JOHN HERBER: Company going well. NZ Fire Shield are the only authorized and trained suppliers for Protector Shield. Beware of unauthorized and unscrupulous of this product. Do not deal with Firebusters. If societies are building or altering a building that is a "place of assembly" (to accommodate more than 50 people) it is up to the venue holder to comply with the building code. Discussed responsibilities of venue owners.

On a personal note thank you to all of those societies who rang and asked Graeme and Dianne how they were after the earthquake.

ETNZ: The Auckland conference next year will be the largest ever trade show of theatre technology. ETNZ have a sponsorship award for a young person to study aspects of theatre. Details on ETNZ website, just apply. The website also has an excellent forum available to assist with problems.

HAL LEONARD

Stuart Hendricks unable to attend. There was considerable discussion on difficulties societies have experienced in dealing with this large multi-national company. We are very small fish in a large pond. Must endeavour to get Stuart to understand our needs. Concerns included doubling up of rights within same area / close proximity. No exclusive rights to shows. Slow replies to emails. Condition of scores, scripts. Paying for royalties up front when show is not cast.

It was moved **“That the reps from Zones 4 & 5 go back to their societies and email any concerns re Hal Leonard to Kate within the next month. V Crawford / A Ritchie. Carried.**

Kate will collate these concerns and make a submission to Hal Leonard Australia on our behalf. She urged societies to plan productions early, keep info on the show calendar up-to-date and to be open about plans.

#### **General Business:**

DIRECTORS email from David Williams, director looking for work in NZ. Several new directors on the scene.

INSURANCE AGAINST SHOW CANCELLATION - any insurance available is extremely expensive.

NATIONAL DATA BASE of actors / crew in local areas is available.

NEW MTNZ WEBSITE to be launched at conference next year. Site will be [www.mtnz.co.nz](http://www.mtnz.co.nz). There will also be a new logo required for the MTNZ re-branding. Something which gives a clear message about our focus. (Move over ballroom dancers!)

BUDGETING SPREADSHEET Queenstown have a very good budgeting spreadsheet for use with shows.

TICKETING AGENCIES – very positive feedback on i-ticket. Discussion on various other agencies.

CONFERENCE 2012 is in WANGANUI

2013 SHOWBIZ CHRISTCHURCH celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> year and wish to hold conference there - need to book their venues now.

MTNZ SURVEY Importance of replying to MTNZ surveys was stressed. It is important to see how much we collectively spend with various companies including ticketing agencies. Ticket Direct is NZ owned, while several others are overseas companies and do nothing for the NZ economy.

Information collated from surveys is vital in order to have statistics available when applying for sponsorship. It is just amazing how much money we spend as an organization. Societies also need to be aware of who they spend money with and ask for sponsorship.

The 2011 Combined South Island Meeting is to be held in Waimate in mid-August.

Helen closed the meeting by thanking those in attendance and Oamaru Operatic for their hospitality.

