

“Old Vic”

27 March 2004

The “Old Vic” has been running smoothly over the past year. We currently have 16 people who help out on a regular rostered basis on Friday nights and we couldn't manage without their dedication and enthusiasm. The “Old Vic” on a Friday night is rarely predictable - we can be asked to outfit anything from a family reunion (“dress up like your favourite ancestor”) to a 60's bash (anything from Doris Day to Woodstock - an interesting decade!). This year we have already outfitted a lot of people going to the Art Deco weekend in Napier and, believe it or not, a 80's party! (That is 1980, not 1880 - think Gloss!) Anyone who wishes to join our team is very welcome ...the more the merrier. No costume or sewing skills are needed - all you need is a great sense of fun and humour, a little patience and the ability not to feel jealous at the fact that you're not invited to all these exciting sounding parties.

A lot of the alterations on last year's wish-list have been carried out. The large dressing room is working well and much easier to keep tidy. We will be rearranging the Music Hall costumes onto the new shelves in the men's costume area when they are returned to the “Old Vic”. We are going to sort, clean and store them so they can be in tiptop condition next time they are needed. Thanks to Jim for the carpentry work, Amanda Caldwell for the offer to paint the dressing room and Wendy Davison for making new curtains.

Over the last year we purchased some more laundry baskets to enable better storage for the hats and shoes. Those who have visited the “Old Vic” recently will have seen that the new storage has cut down on the chaos (and damage) in the hat department. We also had two strikes of luck in acquiring a large quantity of ex-suithire men's clothing. Jenny Knight arranged the donation of many pairs of black formal trousers, all in wonderful condition. And, even more exciting, Maria accidentally stumbled upon a supply of ex-rental jackets, so, for \$400, we were able to purchase a large number of cutaway tail-coats, tuxedos and formal shirts (at \$10 per jacket and \$3 per shirt it proves the saying “its not what you know but who you know”!!!). They are all in excellent condition and, best news of all, are in larger sizes so we can now easily outfit even the most generous of our club members. With these new outfits in place, we are in the process of retiring many of our old, moth-eaten, small items.

Maria and I are planning to step down as “Old Vic” coordinators by the AGM 2005 and would appreciate the help of the committee to find someone willing to take over the role at any stage over the next year. In the mean time we are looking forward to the review of the lighting/power in the “Old Vic”.

Berta Nicoll and Maria van der Gulik.