

Presidents' Report to the 2005 AGM

Once again I am pleased to be able to report another successful year for the Pukekohe Light Opera Club both artistically and financially. Audience numbers for some of our productions were not as buoyant as we have had in previous years which may well reflect the increased competition with many other calls on people's time and finances. None the less our thanks go to the Production teams, the cast and crew of these productions for their hard work and dedication.

We have also had another very successful Youth Theatre workshop with a splendid presentation of *A Midsummer Nights Dream* that would have been a credit to many much more experienced companies. It is extremely rewarding to see so many young people gaining an insight into both theatre and Shakespeare that will hopefully serve them well in later life. We'll be talking about the Youth Theatre again a little later in the AGM.

The committee have agreed to give one of our younger members, Aaron Cortesi, some financial assistance to go to France to study at Theatre Du Soleil. Aaron is in his final year at Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School. In return Aaron has offered to run a seminar for the Youth Theatre next year after he graduates.

The *Music Hall* team continue to make a very substantial contribution to the club and have been very well received wherever they go. This year the format of this activity is being changed somewhat with Wendy Richie and Jill Lane producing a new variety show, if that's the right description, *Putting on the Ritz*.

Both last year's adult productions were very demanding, particularly but not exclusively for the production teams. PLOC's productions are much more complex affairs to bring to the public than many understand and with only volunteers available to do all the necessary behind the scenes work this can place great stress on individuals. I would like to urge you all help increase our membership so that the load can be spread.

To try to help ensure that nothing is forgotten the committee have created a Production Manual. This has become somewhat bigger than *Ben Hur* but is a first attempt at setting out all the facets of a production that are perhaps not obvious to the public or indeed many involved with theatre. We will put this up on the web site in the hope that it may assist or encourage others to become involved with our production teams.

During the past year a major effort was made to finalise the Fire Safety scheme for the theatre. The scheme required approval by the fire service who, while very obliging, required that the downstairs dressing rooms be lined with a fire resistant ceiling. Particular thanks must go to the team who arranged this and while not naming them all Jim Denly and Shady Lane deserve a special mention for the amount of work they put into this.

This report would be incomplete if I made no mention of the challenges facing one of our life members. As most of you will know Bill Chessum has now gone home after his stroke last year and is slowly recovering some movement in the right side of his

body. We are all delighted that he has made such good progress and we hope to welcome him back to PLOC in the not too distant future.

Once again the Club was able to assist the IHC to produce another show *So this is Christmas* in December. Many members worked to assist the IHC make this show a success and a most enjoyable time for all those who participated.

This year we will be putting on *Ghost Writer* with *The Boyfriend* and *Putting on the Ritz* later in the year. Rehearsals for *Ghost Writer* are well advanced however we still have vacancies in the production team for *The Boyfriend*. Please talk to Shady Lane if you can spare any time, however little, for this.

On behalf of the committee I thank Jill Lane and Jim Briggs for their work on the newsletter over the past year. Producing a publication of this type takes many hours and without the dedication of these volunteers, our club would be the poorer. I am please to say that Gail Riddell has agreed to take up the role of newsletter editor and has prepared the last two.