

Pukekohe Light Opera Club Inc. Presidents Report - April 2009

Although the financial year has not been a monetary success our shows have been well received by the public and our continued high standard of theatre has been maintained. This is my third and final year as president and it has been a busy one not only with committee tasks but also directing.

We have had an interesting year and our theatre has seen a variety of performances. We started 2008 with a very successful *Music Hall* season headed by Anne Doddrell, thank you Anne and your team. Music Hall is a great tradition for PLOC and it is wonderful to see so many members involved. They have also performed for various groups throughout the year and were part of the Pukekohe Christmas Parade. *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, staged in March/April, was something a bit different for PLOC and a resounding success. My compliments to Kelly Manning on his excellent directing and big congratulations to Alex Ward, Kat Collier (NAPTA nomination for Best Actress in a Play), and Barnaby McArthur (won a NAPTA for Best Actor in A Play), the play could also win an award for having one of the longest titles. Our major show for the year was *The Producers* which I directed. We all had a lot of fun and a big thank you to all the Production Team and the cast for their hard efforts. There was no Youth Theatre production due to theatre commitments. The Lions Christmas Show for our older folks in Franklin was a huge success and something the club has done for many years and will continue to do. So far this year the club has staged *Bobby Socks & Winkle Pickers*, which was another successful show with many club members obviously enjoying themselves on stage. We are just going in to rehearsals for *A Little Night Music*, directed by Emma Bishop (welcome Emma, who is directing for the first time for us but is not a stranger to our stage). Later in the year Bob Lack is directing a play for us which is yet to be announced.

As well as our own shows we have hosted some interesting events and it is good to see the theatre in use. We saw another original show at the beginning of last year by the Idea Drama Group, *Enflamed* which was a huge success thanks to the tireless efforts of Joan Thomson and also *C'mon*, at the beginning of this year. Evans Musical Academy, now run by Sharon Hewlett, hold regular classes in our theatre and put on a showcase of their talent in June. Katie Evans, the founder, is retiring from committee this year and special thanks go to her for all her work on committee and with the newsletter (now edited by Kelly Manning). Other events include hosting the Sheilagh Winn Shakespeare in Schools Festival, Nicki's School of Dance *Les Danseurs* show, the premier of a documentary about local hero Allan Wilson, a ground breaking biochemist, a memorial night for Peter McRobbie, a performance by Greg Johnson in October and Golden Horse in December organised by Caley Wilson as well as Debbie White's annual concert in December.

Old Vic continues to provide the club with a healthy income. A big thank you to Anne Doddrell, Jill Lane, Coralie Maddern and all the other helpers. We really couldn't run Old Vic without you.

There are many unsung heroes in our club and Doug Kern must be at the top of the list. Thank you Doug for all your work hiring yourself and lights to schools and other groups. Your work is a great source of income for the club – thank you.

One of the most exciting happenings for the club last year was the upgrading of our lighting system. A very big thank you to Bob Gray who spent countless hours applying for grants and finally getting one from the ASB. He also organised the installation of the new lighting bars and the purchase of the wonderful RoboColors etc. Bob will present a report on this.

I am pleased to say that Counties Power continues to be our major sponsor and we are very grateful for their continued support.

It is also with great pleasure that I report Ernie Alexander has agreed to be our Patron for yet another year. Ernie is unwell at the moment so gives his apologies for not attending.

It was with sadness that the Oddfellows Lodge closed after 87 years. We bought the Oddfellows Hall from them in 1985 and have over the years converted it into this theatre. They were very generous with the purchase and in return we allowed them to maintain a cupboard and hold their meetings in the building.

The committee have worked hard this year not only on the shows but also on Theatre Maintenance as well as the day to day running of the club. It is not an easy task and they get very little thanks for all their efforts. I would now like to thank all the committee and seconded members for their hard work, support, friendship and dedication to the club. Thank you to Kevin, our treasurer, who spends a huge amount of his time and expertise on producing our accounts but also was Production Manager for The Producers and helps with set construction, publicity and Front of House. A big thank you also to Kellie Loader who is stepping down this year. Thank you Kellie.

Finally, I would like to say that the past three years as president have had their fair share of ups and downs. Sometimes it is difficult to see just how wonderful this club is when you are bogged down dealing with problems. However, this is a great club with great members and I hand over to the new president and committee knowing that the future is in good hands.

Mary Gray

President

May 2009