

President's report 2019

On behalf of the Committee I present you with the annual report for 2019, my last one for the foreseeable future, as I am taking my well-earned long service leave and will not be accepting a nomination at the 2020 AGM. Stay with me, I will try not to be too indulgent!

What a year 2019 was for Arcadians. Hectic, productive and oh so entertaining. We began the year with our Next Generation project who put together the musical *Bonnie and Clyde*, it was a tremendous effort by everyone involved in the production, and that was reflected in ticket sales and audience appreciation. Congratulations to you all.

I love you, You're Perfect, Now Change, Kerrie Hartin and her team delivered this emotional rollercoaster of a show with brilliance and dedication, thank you for bringing that to the Arcadians stage. Keep an eye out for *Ladies in Black*, I know Kerrie and her team will again put together something spectacular.

This is the Moment, Malcolm White never does anything by halves (thank goodness for Arcadians), and that proved to be the case with this stellar, lavish concert. Malcolm and his usual suspects put together a fantastic sold out production. Malcolm's willingness to step up for Arcadians throughout my tenure as President has always appreciated.

Back to IPAC with the fabulous *Mamma Mia!* Juran Jones and his creative team worked tirelessly and somewhat stressfully in sealing Arcadians reputation for producing outstanding musicals in a professional venue. The audiences loved it and everyone involved from the creative, to the production team, the orchestra, costumes, lighting, set design, marketing team and especially the cast, who worked really hard, thank you to every single person that contributed to the show – without a massive team effort we can't pull that sort of production off. I can't name everyone (this report would end up being 400 pages) but everyone mattered and on behalf of committee – I thank you all. Special call out (which I know is dangerous) to Paul Greer and the Monday Maintenance Men, the amount of work you all put into *Mamma Mia* and all of our productions, demonstrates the values of this organisation, you step up and help wherever and whenever it is needed – we all thank you for that.

A Celebration at the Lamp was exactly what we needed after the thrill of *Mamma Mia!*. Malcolm White and his team doubled up and delivered again. The production was breath taking and an absolute master class for anyone who watched it. Thank you again. Catch Malcolm and his team's next production *Sweeny Todd* in September.

Last but never least were ACT's two productions for the year. Their May production of *Disney's Peter Pan* and the September production of *Disney's High School Musical 2 Jr* were equally fantastic. The ACT team lead by Janne-Maree McNeice continues to inspire and deliver quality theatre, educating and fostering the future of Arcadians. Thank you all for your tireless and selfless commitment to the children and to Arcadians. The committee is grateful for all that you do. Special call out to the parents who step up and help – it's a big job being an ACT parent and I know that first hand, but the experience all our ACT children have, will stay with them forever. And that my friends genuinely reflect the values of Arcadians as a community and a family.

Volunteers:

The Arcadians are so lucky to have such a wonderful, generous and dedicated group of volunteers looking after our organisation across all areas. David Greer ensuring that our theatre has the technical capacity of any professional venue. Paul Greer and Roger Green leading the Monday

Maintenance Men who fix, make, recreate and care for our theatre. Nyla Collis and her team looking after the costume room so our performers always look top notch while also providing extra income for the organisation. Marie Mitchell-Stanley, Malcolm White and Patricia Green for maintaining the props area, deciding what stays and goes has created many lively discussions. Maureen Paterson for not being able to say no and who keeps coming back to tend to our wig collection. Pauline Young, Geoff Markham, Renato Compagnin for being our Front of House Managers. Joy and Steve Sanders for the ongoing archive project. Diana Brown, Chris Micallef, Cilla Aslanadis and Nyla Collis for keeping the Schools Award program going. Diana Brown, Maurene Dredge and Pam McCauley for looking after the canteen during our shows. David Greer and Simon Kutassy for the engineering assessment and theatre refurbishment project, a breath taking amount of work has gone into this project and our theatre will shine because of it. To everyone who has helped Arcadians whether it's part of the custodian program, Front of house, or being part of a production thank you for giving of your time and talent to help keep Arcos moving along as we enter our 56th Year.

Australia Day Award:

In January I had the honour of representing Arcadians as President at the Australia Day in the Gong Awards with Geoff Markham, Vice President and Life Member, Steve and Joy Sanders both life members as well. We were all humbled and excited for Arcadians to win the Wollongong Cultural Award for outstanding contribution and community involvement in the City of Wollongong. As I said on the evening when accepting the award The Arcadians family tree has many branches, from the cradle to the grave, I really don't think you can be more inclusive than we are. This award belongs to every single person who has been a part of the Arcadians family over the last 56 years.

ACT REPORT 2019

For ACT 2019 started with a wonderful production of PETER PAN JR. It was a fun show with lots of parts for all the different aged children we have in ACT. PETER PAN JR was a chance to showcase the talent that our 14 years old have and also some of our younger cast members. We were also lucky enough to have an opportunity to use some new techniques that we hadn't used before in an ACT show. The main cast members went to Sydney to film a Green Screen film for the flying scene. Nearly every audience clapped at this moment when they saw it.

ACT's second show was HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2 JR. Again, the graduating children lead the way in the fabulous production. The audience thoroughly enjoyed ACT's return to HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL and seeing how the senior children in ACT worked so brilliantly as an ensemble. The singing and dancing was an absolute highlight in this show and it was sad to see our 16 year old's have to leave ACT at the end of the production.

In 2020, ACT will start the year with JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHICOLOR DREAMCOAT in May and finish the year with XANADU JR in September.

Janne-Maree McNeice ACT Director

Technical Manager – David Greer

During the 2019/2020 we have conducted some minor repairs and permanently commissioned some pre-loved equipment including a lighting dimmer and some speakers and a computer to help support productions at the theatre. More recently we have been lucky enough to secure some more pre-loved equipment from the IPAC which we look to commission over the coming months. Unfortunately we have been unsuccessful in securing grant funding to support the strategic upgrade to our technical equipment at the Miners Lamp at this time but we will keep trying!

A structural engineering assessment and design activity was completed in preparation for upcoming theatre refurbishments. A formal project proposal was prepared and presented to committee describing the objectives, business case, requirements, design, scheduling and costings of the proposed refurbishments. Refurbishment works have been approved to commence from October 2020 and will involve installing a new suspension system to support scenery, soft goods, lighting and audio equipment. A new proscenium, relocatable legs, house curtain, borders, cyclorama, stage skirts and new curtain rails will be installed to improve the aesthetics and flexibility of the theatre.

Over the next few months we will be commissioning a new Box Office paging and evac system, new TV monitors for the cast and stage crew and a video security surveillance system. Throughout the year we will continue with progressive replacement of some of our old lighting equipment with new energy efficient LED products.

Monday Maintenance Men

2019 has been a very busy year for the Monday Maintenance Team. We have averaged 7 members attending regularly with up to 11 at times. Many improvements and on-going maintenance tasks have been completed including:

Installation of replacement grate covers to drains next to the set shed

Installing fold-down seats for cast behind the dressing rooms.

Replacement of the vanity basin and painting of walls in costume room toilet.

Installing an additional storage shed adjacent to the container.

Purchase of black fabric side panels for the retractable seating.

Installation of a sun shade outside the entry to the set shed.

Major clean out of damaged or non-required set items.

Utilization of a Bunnings Power Pass Card to gain discounts on maintenance/set purchases.

Collection of over \$200 in 10cent deposit scheme.

Weekly disposal of rubbish.

Organization of annual painting contract, pest inspections and fire safety checks.

Installing an additional mezzanine rack for storage of set items.

Assistance with in-house productions and Mamma Mia bump-in/out.

Co-ordination of set hire to the value of over \$13000

On-going refurbishment of set items and day to day maintenance requirements.

The team have enjoyed joining together to support the organization and each other's company.

Paul Greer

From the Costume room – Nyla Collis

The costume room has continued to support our theatre through dressing Arcadian shows and concerts. Revenue has been raised by hiring to individuals, schools, other theatre groups and film companies. We have supported the community by supplying costumes for charity performance groups.

We have received many (too many to count) donations and the volunteers have been busy sorting and maintaining our collection. I regularly have six volunteers to help each Monday.

ARCADIANS MINSTREL PERFORMERS – 2019

The 28 Minstrels continue to provide excellent entertainment to Seniors Groups across the Illawarra, performing almost weekly. Doreen directs and accompanies them and Diana Brown manages the

booking of these special older Arcadians. The Minstrels in their 28th year are largely long time Arcadians.

ARCADIANS LAMPLIGHTERS MALE CHOIR -2019

The Lamplighters in their 20th year celebrated in style assisted by the Board. They consist of 62 men from all walks of life who love to sing including a solid core of long time Arcos members. They provide high class Male Choir concerts to a range of music loving audiences and are currently in rehearsal for another big Massed Male Choirs concert in Sydney with 13 other members of the Male Choirs Association of Australia. Doreen continues to direct with the valued help of long time Accompanist Jean Burn and Assistant MD Jim Wells. The Lamplighters have proudly raised money for Brain Cancer Research with a special Wollongong Song CD.

SIGNIFICANT HONOUR -2019

Several senior Lamplighters prepared and presented a successful application to honour Doreen Bryars with an Order of Australia Medal for her Service to the Performing Arts, particularly as a Music Director.

Life Member Doreen has mainly earned this through her many years as accompanist and MD with all the performing arms of Arcadians; ACT, Arcadians Club show, Hitz of the Blitz and 14 major Shows before founding and continuing to Direct the Minstrels and Lamplighters.

That's it from me

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work for the organisation and in particular for their support of me this year. I wish the incoming committee of 2020 all the best. And just quietly, thanks to everyone that I have served on committee with during my time – it has been a blast!

20 years of belonging to Arcadians, 18 of those on committee, 11 of those as President, multiple producing roles including ACT (my favourite) and now in my 4th year as a life member. It has been a privilege and an honour to represent Arcadians through the good times and bad times. As my tenure as President concludes I walk away knowing that we have ensured financial security, consolidated our creative reputation, including 4 IPAC shows, promoted inclusivity and implemented policies and procedures to protect the organisation.. Our shared values are what hold us together and that has certainly been my incentive to play for so long. Seeing children bloom, watching creative visions come to life and meeting so many wonderful people who have become friends. I have appreciated the moral support offered to me by so many of you, I won't name names, you know who you are. My message to all of you is to pay it forward and be a part of the next 56 years of Arcos, it is a precious cultural organisation that should be guarded and nurtured with diversity and integrity. My family, Peter and Tori, deserves special mention as Arcadians has intruded in our lives for so long now that their patience and support has at times been life saving for me. For now, I'm going to enjoy being a life member, a volunteer and the lighting guy's wife. Be kind to each other, that's it from me.

Liza Allen
President