

Presidents Report February 2017

As we look at another year in review I would firstly like to thank the committee. We started a year with our first meeting solely to review pricing. A meeting with much debate and differing opinions but we now have a sustainable theatre, meeting our commercial obligations whilst maintaining affordable community entertainment. The year as a whole has seen many lengthy and positive debates within our committee meeting which I believe has culminated in fair and equitable outcomes for all our Stake holders.

While our season is selected primarily by the previous committee the years' productions of Legally Blond Jnr, Funny Money, Return to the Forbidden Planet, The Patrick Pearce Motel and The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas offered members and patrons alike a variety of opportunities in varying genres, to satisfy everyone's theatre requirements. Thank you to the directors and their teams for maintaining the standard of production that Ballina Players is now known for.

While the committee and the directors with their production teams, cast and crew put in countless hours bring our productions to stage, the ongoing support of members working behind the scenes in front of house roles particularly, become the face of Ballina Players theatre, and it is this courteous and consistent front of house service that enhances our patrons theatre experience. The introduction of a Duty Manager who is a committee representative (or their delegated representative) has assisted in managing the ever increasing demands of patron requirements.

While we are financially sustainable with our own income stream, any capital works, major improvements and expenditure on new or upgraded equipment need to be essentially financed through grants. While we have been unsuccessful in securing any of this funding during 2016 Peter Harding has and will continue to make submissions for grant funding where our requirements meet the criteria.

While Ballina Players maintains a strong membership, we have find that we are continually lacking front of house staff, with the load of the short fall being placed on a few members. The committee are reviewing front of house operations to assist in distributing duties, training those in attendance each night, and a requirement that Front of house staff do 2 shifts per performance. We encourage you to support your fellow members if you are not on stage and nominate for front of house duties.

A special thank you to: Mike Sheehan and Geoff Marsh with their continual work in administration of our theatre; Lyn Gale and Robin Quinlivan who wherever there is a short fall without fail assist in any or all of these duties along with maintaining of our wardrobe; Peter, Jaime and Sue, for the support enthusiasm and new ideas as committee member in 2016; Malcolm as our self-appointed Caretaker and Paul Belsham with his team who have maintain our back stage throughout the year.

This year with such a great season planned, Shrek, Blith Spirit, Joseph and His Technicoloured Dream Coat, The Marvellous Wonderettes and Mary Poppins, the committee believe Ballina Players

to be placed well for audience attendance, Member Casting opportunities, and financial security, but the continual review of these key requirements are necessary for our strength into the future.

As your President for the past 6 years I believe I have successfully steered the committee as a group, providing best outcomes for our theatre both financially and socially. As we move into 2017 I will continue with the same values and ethics you know of me. The committee is 7 voices of the membership, the membership can discuss confidentially any concerns or dreams with whichever committee you feel comfortable with. The committee are transparent and have the interests of the membership at heart, because without positive membership there is no theatre. I encourage you all to be active in all facets of our theatre, support you fellow actors and production teams in other roles, and share the load amongst ourselves as we continue to make Ballina Players Theatre "Regional theatre at its best"

Warwick Binney
President