



## Mancom members' reports

### President:

To our valued members, firstly I would like to thank you all for your continued support of Gold Coast Little Theatre throughout the past 12 months. We have had a strong year and I could not be prouder of the work that has gone into keeping our theatre thriving!

We walked into this past year full of optimism that we were beginning to live with Covid and all these rules and regulations would be over by now, and although we are seeing life return to some sort of normality we continue to be faced with changes and challenges to our way of life. With all that was going on in the world last year, we did see very minor impacts to our productions, but each director, cast and crew showed resilience and commitment to their respective shows. Now we continue to work through life with Covid and as always my commitment to GCLT is to continue to follow all regulations and keep everyone that works in and visits our theatre well and safe.

It is certainly evident that a lot of work has gone into GCLT this past year. Our change rooms and Molly's have had a face lift, we opened Lawrie's (a space for the cast and crew to relax and enjoy themselves before and during the shows), safety handrails have been put in on the ramp and the steps, plus countless more jobs around the place. However, our big success this year has of course been the replacement of our curtains. After years of talking, we turned words into action and now we can sit back and enjoy the freshness of these curtains on our stage. I would like to extend my deepest thank you to Ralph and Julanne for their work towards the grant, and to Lawrie, Lyle and Bob who spend hours of their time at the theatre doing these odd jobs to keep GCLT operating.

The financial position that we have ended the year in is certainly one to be proud of. This was made possible by the success of our 5 productions last year. We continue to produce quality theatre for the local community and are now stretching our brand across more people than ever before, by offering a range of different options for audiences and performers alike. This year is a credit to Amy-Louise and her production committee and their commitment to bringing different theatre styles to our stage.

Finally, I just want to say a big thank you to the management committee. It has been a big year and everyone has worked tirelessly to make sure that GCLT is every bit as successful as it possibly could be.

**Stuart Morgan**

### Honorary secretary:

At the annual general meeting of members held on 28 March 2021, members elected to the management committee (Mancom) Stuart Morgan as president; Julanne Shearer, vice president; Ralph Lenton, honorary secretary; Isabelle Sutton, assistant secretary; Todd Jesson, honorary treasurer; Wendy Barnes, assistant treasurer; Lawrie Esmond, technical director; Amy-Louise Anderson, chair of productions; Kate Learmonth, publicity officer; Jeffery Walker, bookings officer; Shirley Whitehouse, wardrobe manager; Bob Watson, FOH manager; Lyn Smith, librarian; and Henk Steenhuis, social convener.

Members remitted the vacancy of building director to Mancom to fill.

Todd resigned the position of honorary treasurer on 20 October. Using the authority conferred by clause 14 of the Constitution, Mancom appointed Lyle Stevenson as building manager on 21 April and Chris Catherwood as honorary treasurer on 20 October.

Mancom met monthly as required by clause 16(a) of the Constitution and held an extra meeting in January, primarily to discuss long-term planning. Because of the effects of Covid, two meetings were held electronically via Zoom. On average, 11 members attended each meeting.

The 2021 AGM authorised the transfer of \$13,000 to our cash reserve account so that we could show we could meet the difference between a federal government grant and the cost of our new curtains. As things turned out, we did not need to show this evidence so the transfer was not carried out. We did run a fund-raising campaign through the website and this produced a very useful contribution to the curtain cost.

While the curtain grant was in process, we applied for another government grant to help us update our production lighting. This application was unsuccessful.

Discussion at Mancom's first meeting led to the decision to formulate a long-term plan for improvements and replacements around the theatre. This has proved to be a mammoth undertaking and is still going on. Several improvements have been completed, as Stuart, Lawrie, Jeffery, Bob and Lyle mention in their reports. Other plans are being prioritised and costed. The intention is to work our way through the wish list as resources permit.

To give you an idea of Mancom's current thoughts, the long-term plan includes new seats and carpeting in the auditorium, upgrade the kitchen, upgrade the bar/foyer area, upgrade the box office, upgrade the air conditioning and switch over to LED theatre lights. As I say, it is a long-term plan and a work in progress.

During the year, Moncrief MP Angie Bell again advised us of the Central Gold Coast Volunteer Awards she hosts and we successfully nominated Shane Caddaye for an award. Angie also attended this year's Dolphin's awards for the inaugural opening of the new curtains. It was her invitation that allowed us to apply for the federal government grant.

The car parking situation has stabilised. The company operating the car park does not enforce payments after 6pm or on Sundays which means our audience members are able to park free.

Being on Mancom this year has been challenging and rewarding. I have had great support from all Mancom and Procom members and I record my gratitude for their assistance. I am indebted to Julianne Shearer whose help and advice in her capacity of honorary solicitor has been invaluable.

I feel we are in a good position to make the coming year a great one.

**Ralph Lenton**

### **Honorary treasurer:**

What a year... and who said Covid lockdowns aren't profitable? It would seem people were itching to get out again once the lockdowns ended, and what better way to celebrate newfound freedoms than take in one of the cracking GCLT productions!

There have been several challenges from a financial perspective throughout the 2021 year. Not the least of which was having to farewell Todd Jesson from the role of treasurer in October due to increased work commitments. I pass my thanks on to Todd for all his hard work over nearly the past two years.

The late changeover of this role, combined with the impacts of the recent floods, a new bookkeeper and a healthy dose of Covid through the management committee has unfortunately resulted in the annual audit as not yet being completed. We will make the audited financial reports available to any member who wishes a copy once this has been completed.

It is rare for an audit to have a significant impact on the financial statements, and we do not anticipate any corrections, except... there is one obvious area under our auditor's mandate, which is to deal with the depreciation of our non-current assets.

To provide members with what I believe to be an overestimate of depreciation, I have used the same amount of depreciation as reported in the 2020 audited financial statements. Having no significant capital acquisitions throughout the year, it is likely the 2021 depreciation will be less than in the profit and loss statement on the website. I have highlighted this for transparency.

The results from the 2021 year show the success of the GCLT community. We have seen a \$93,654 increase to the profit. This is a difficult comparison as 2020 saw only one show before the Covid lockdowns.

It is common to see in community organisations the profit reported as a loss due to the expense of depreciation. After allowing for \$35,674 for depreciation, the GCLT net profit was \$37,217.

Should any of our members wish to discuss any aspect of the financial position of the theatre, I am happy to make myself available. The 2021 Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and Individual Production Analysis are available from the members' page on the website.

**Chris Catherwood**

**Technical director:**

*2021/2022 Program*

**Play Season:**

*No Sex Please We're British/Metamorphosis/One O'Clock from the House/The Cake:-* All of these productions were very low key events from a technical point of view, and there were no major failures or damage to audio/lighting inventory.

**Musicals:**

*Bye Bye Birdie/American Idiot:-* These productions featured a very high technical degree of audio and lighting operation. *American Idiot* saw the return of "live" music production, and the challenges of having a band on stage. There were the usual microphone failures, as there will always be in fast paced modern musicals, but nothing of major concern. New headsets and a transmitter were purchased to replace the damaged units as required.

**General:**

Upgrades to the audio and lighting systems have been approved by the management committee and to date the FOH speaker systems have been replaced, speaker wiring renewed, two new amplifiers and a new speaker processor fitted.

Our radio microphone systems have been serviced with faulty cabling and boom microphones replaced. Upgrades to lighting will continue as new or replacement lighting becomes available as there are still major supply issues for technical equipment caused by the effects of the Covid pandemic.

Test-and-tag of all theatre equipment has been completed to April 2022. A new hazer has been added to equipment inventory.

Thank you all for your support during the past 12 months.

**Lawrie Esmond**

**Chair of productions:**

It has been a hugely successful year on stage at GCLT. We produced a varied and interesting program that engaged audiences from many walks of life. We continue to rejoice in the ever evolving shape of our company.

We staged a traditional musical with *Bye Bye Birdie*, an English farce with *No Sex Please We're British*, a Greek theatre piece with *Metamorphosis*, a rock musical with Green Day's *American Idiot* and closed the 2021 season with a black comedy, *One O'Clock From the House*.

All shows were celebrated at our recent Dolphin Awards. A huge congratulations to all of our 2021 directors, casts and crews, and thank you to our innovative, creative and hardworking production committee members.

**Amy-Louise Anderson**

**Publicity officer:**

- Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok are currently being managed by Jessica Eaton and Ash Van Lits. Follows and interaction are going up every month

- Shane Caddaye has been taking amazing production photos which have been the selling point for theatre tickets (via social media and the newsletter)
- Newsletter has been managed by Isabelle Sutton, monthly
- Currently seeking a videographer to create promotional content for musicals
- Southport Printing and Banner Buzz are our print material suppliers, who have been great with quick turn arounds and delivery
- Stuart continues to provide amazing graphics for our publicity and program

### **Kate Learmonth**

#### **Booking officer:**

Hello everyone from your amazing box office team of Jeffery, Barry, Del, Sharron and Di.

We have been extremely busy and successful in the box office during the past 12 months.

Our shows played to full and nearly full houses.

We have purchased a new printer to make our lives a little easier.

New carpet has been acquired.

Ticketsearch, our online ticketing platform, has worked very well.

Nellie has retired. We thank for her contribution over many years and we wish her well in her retirement.

Thank you to everyone who has booked and supported us in the past 12 months and we hope to see you again.

### **Jeffery Walker**

#### **Wardrobe manager:**

2021 went very smoothly. Starting with a big show *Bye Bye Birdie* and finishing with *One O'clock From The House*. Several donations of items that can be used in wardrobe. All in all a successful year.

### **Shirley Whitehouse**

#### **FOH manager:**

Despite all of the challenges of 2021 the front of house team were able to cover all of the government requirements as well as produce very pleasing results and service in the bar.

The bar achieved record sales for the season of *American Idiot* of \$20,449.00 with an average spend per head of \$9.37.

The average spend per head overall for 2021 was \$5.65.

Upgrading of the temporary entry walkway was completed in late 2021. Several generous donations from members of new green room furniture have now been received and are in use.

Aveo Retirement Group kindly donated new meeting chairs as well as a hotbox bain marie that will be used for opening and closing night suppers.

A special "thank you" to everyone in the front of house team for their volunteering efforts and dedication to GCLT. This great team of individuals ensures that our patrons receive the very best of service and are always made to feel welcome.

We all look forward to great things for GCLT in 2022/23.

### **Bob Watson**

#### **Librarian:**

The job of librarian has changed somewhat over the years. It now mainly involves the acquisition of performing rights. There is still the requirement to purchase scripts when needed and to maintain copies of plays we have performed over the years. Since GCLT turned 70 in 2020, we do have a collection of plays covering a few decades.

In the past few years, the theatre has entered the digital age where material can be accessed online quite easily. We very rarely do correspondence using 'snail mail'. We do use Australia Post for return of sets of musical materials which we have hired.

The librarian works in conjunction with the chair of productions and the committee to seek out exactly who owns the performance rights. A few years ago, many of the rights were held overseas and gaining them required correspondence with London or New York or early morning phone calls. Then came faxes and emails.

Rights for plays and musicals are now mostly held by local companies such as Origin Theatrical or Hal Leonard. Applications are done online and payments are made using theatre debit cards. Bank transfers are used for foreign payments. Many musicals now have digital music such as was used in *Bye Bye Birdie* and will be for *Jekyll and Hyde*, which is being performed in our program later in 2022. Initially this music came on CDs but now is delivered online and is then distributed to cast members' phones. Things have really changed! The digital music costs extra but is of very high quality.

The 2021/22 programs were very interesting to put together and, luckily, we were successful in acquiring a variety of plays/musicals to appeal to a wide audience range. This was reflected in audience numbers and critical acclaim for our program. In spite of Covid, our theatre was financially and critically successful.

Hopefully, the 2022 season will be as successful as was our Covid interrupted 2021.

**Lynette Smith**

### **Social convener:**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions no functions took place in 2021.

The Dolphins Awards night was held earlier this month (05 March 2022) and a limited food service was provided utilising the new hotbox bain marie.

2022 is shaping up to be a great year with hopefully less restrictive Covid-19 rules.

**Henk Steenhuis**