Minutes of 2025 annual general meeting

Minutes of the annual general meeting of members of Gold Coast Little Theatre held on Sunday 30 March 2025 at the theatre.

Present: Life members Maria Buckler, Shane Caddaye (production committee) and Del Halpin and members John Arthars, Wendy Barnes (assistant treasurer), Josh Bicanic, Andrew Borg, Tony Campbell, Chris Catherwood, Pam Collins, Fran Ellis, Lawrie Esmond (technical director), Tamara Hamilton, Kate Learmonth, Ralph Lenton (honorary secretary), Sue Lenton, Bev Lloyd, Michelle Macwhirter, Laney McLean, Andrew McMath, Becky Morgan (production committee), Di Morgan, Stuart Morgan (president — in the chair), Ricky Moss (assistant secretary), Lee Patterson, Kate Peters, Ann-Britt Riget, Lyle Stevenson (building director), Ihsan Uzelpasaci (wardrobe manager), Jordan Walsh, Jeffery Walker (bookings officer), Hunter Wall (production committee), Claire Ward, Michelle Watkins (chair of productions), Bob Watson (front of house manager), Shirley Whitehouse and Amy Young.

Opening: Stuart called the meeting to order at 5:38pm and welcomed members.

1. **Apologies:** Michelle Watkins moved, Ricky seconded: That apologies for absence from Patron and Life member Bruce Shearer; Life members Julanne Shearer (vice president) and Lynette Smith (librarian); and members Sharron Bain (honorary treasurer) Marilyn Culell, Carey Parsons, Zar Walker, Helen Wallis-Dunn and Jessica White (publicity officer) be accepted. **CARRIED**
2. **Minutes:** Ralph moved, Lawrie seconded: That the minutes of the annual general meeting of members of Gold Coast Little Theatre held on 26 March 2023, as presented to this meeting, be approved as a true record. **CARRIED**
3. **Business arising from the minutes:** None.
4. **Receive management committee reports:** Stuart advised that the management committee reports were on the website for people to download and copies were available in the foyer so the reports would be taken as read. He called for any questions on the reports. There being none, Stuart moved, Bob seconded: That the reports be accepted. **CARRIED**
5. **Audit report:** Stuart advised that we did not have an audit report but some financial statements were on the website for people to download and copies were available when people came in so they would be taken as read. The audit report would be posted on our website as soon as it was available.
6. **Alliance Report:** Stuart outlined our support of the Alliance and the Alliance's support to us. The Alliance's annual awards presentation breakfast would be in May.
7. **Election of management committee and production committee:** Stuart advised that a list of nominees was on the website for members to download and copies were available at the entrance to the theatre so the list would be taken as read. One position on the management committee was contested. Andrew Borg and Lawrie Esmond had both been nominated for the position of technical director.

   He called on Lawrie to speak. Lawrie said he would stand for the vacancy of building director and withdrew his nomination for technical director.

   Stuart then asked the meeting to approve the unopposed nominees *en bloc*. The meeting indicated assent.

   Stuart declared elected: president Bob Watson; vice-president Julanne Shearer; honorary secretary Helen Wallis-Dunn; assistant secretary Ralph Lenton; honorary treasurer Di Morgan; assistant treasurer Wendy Barnes; technical director Andrew Borg; chair of

productions Michelle Watkins; publicity officer Jessica White; bookings officer Jeffery Walker; FOH manager Sharron Bain; wardrobe manager Ihsan Uzelpasaci; and librarian Lynette Smith.

He called for nominations from the floor for the vacancy of building director. Laney moved, Sue seconded: That Lawrie Esmond be elected building director.

There being no other nomination, Stuart declared Lawrie elected.

He called for nominations from the floor for the vacancy of social convener. There being no nomination, he declared the vacancy remitted to the management committee.

Stuart advised that Jessica White had withdrawn her nomination for a position on the production committee so the remaining six nominees were now unopposed. A list of them was on the website for members to download and copies were available at the entrance to the theatre so the list would be taken as read. He asked the meeting to approve the unopposed nominees *en bloc*. The meeting indicated assent.

He declared Shane Caddaye, Di Francis, Kate Learmonth, Becky Morgan, Ricky Moss and Hunter Wall elected to the production committee.

8. **Appoint an auditor**: Ralph moved, Bob seconded: That Scott Allan of A Counting House be appointed auditor. **CARRIED**

9. **Appoint an honorary solicitor**: Ralph tabled an e-mail from Julanne Shearer accepting nomination and moved: That Julanne Shearer be appointed honorary solicitor. Ricky seconded. **CARRIED**

10. **General business on notice of motion**:

10.1. **Amendment to Constitution**: Stuart advised that a motion to amend the Constitution was on the agenda and would be taken as read. He recalled that at the last AGM we had resolved to seek the approval from the Queensland Minister of Justice for the change. The minister had since approved so now we had to vote to bring it into effect.

On behalf of the management committee, Stuart moved: That pursuant to s.29(2) of the Collections Act 1966, the following resolution to amend the Constitution of Gold Coast Little Theatre be submitted to the Department of Justice and Attorney General for approval:

It is resolved, pursuant to clause 25 of the Constitution of Gold Coast Little Theatre that the Constitution be amended as follows:

1. Clause 12(a) be amended
(a) by deleting the words "Chairman of Productions" and inserting the words "Artistic Director";
(b) by deleting the words "Bookings Officer" and inserting the words "Box Office Manager"; and
(c) by deleting the word "Librarian" and inserting the words "Rights Acquisition Officer".

2. Clause 12(b) be amended by deleting the words "Chairman of Productions" and inserting the words "Artistic Director".

3. Clause 7(d) be amended by deleting the word "ninety" and inserting the word "thirty".

4. Clause 11(a) be amended by inserting the words "postal or" in the second line after the word "and" and before the word "residential".

Ralph seconded the motion and tabled an e-mail from the Office of Fair Trading of the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General approving the change.

There being no further discussion, Stuart put the motion to a show of hands vote. **CARRIED**

Stuart moved, Ralph seconded:

That two members of the management committee be authorised to certify a copy of the updated Constitution as a true and correct copy; and

That two members of the management committee be authorised to certify a copy of the minutes of this meeting where the change of the Constitution has been approved as a true and correct copy; and

That the honorary solicitor be instructed to forward these certified copies to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

CARRIED

10.2. **Life membership**: On behalf of the management committee, Stuart moved:
That Robert Ernest Watson be awarded Life membership of Gold Coast Little Theatre.

Stuart called on Jeffery to second. In seconding, Jeffery outlined Bob's long service to the entertainment industry and later to Gold Coast Little Theatre, first as bookings officer and now as FOH manager. He praised Bob's wealth of knowledge, his friendliness to patrons and staff and his dedication to the theatre.

Stuart put the motion. **CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION**

He then called Bob to the stage and presented him with his Life membership certificate.

In response, Bob said it had been a pleasure to be at GCLT. He felt at home at the theatre and he looked forward to the future.

11. **Any other business**: Michelle Watkins made a presentation to Stuart to mark his term as president.

Closure: In closing, Stuart said that although he was stepping aside from the presidency, he would, as past president, remain an active member of the management committee. There being no further business, he closed the meeting at 6:04pm.