

## 56TH Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 2 July 2024

Como School of Arts

7 Novara Crescent, Como

# MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7.50pm.

**In attendance:**

Murray Baker	Melissa Bush	Dave Cashman
Lauren Dennis	Sue Dennis	Tim Dennis
Mark Gardner	Rhonda Hewitt	Leonie Johnson
Emilie Lawson	Anne Petre-Black	Gabby Robinson
TJ Ross	Daniel Simpson	Meredith Simpson
Will Smith	Sophie Szeesodi	

*Refer attached Attendance Register attached*

**Minutes recorded by:** Meredith Simpson

### 1. Welcome

Tim welcomed everyone to the 56<sup>th</sup> general meeting of Miranda Musical Theatre Company (formerly Miranda Musical Society) and them for attending on a cold, rainy night.

Tim noted that the attendance tonight totalled 19 people and our quorum is 20 people. Therefore, Tim put forward the motion that:

*for the purpose of this Annual General Meeting only, the meeting accept the current attendance as a quorum*

By a unanimous show of hands, this motion was accepted.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Wendy Brown	Amelie Downie
Gavin Leahy	Elaine Last
Neil Last	Doug Nicholson
Val Nicholson	Cheryl O'Brien
Bob Peet	Colin Peet
Scott Roberts	Mavia Timmer

### 3. Minutes from 2023 Annual General Meeting

Tim read the minutes from the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

**MOTION: that the minutes from the 2023 meeting be accepted**

<b>Proposed</b>	Rhonda Hewett	<b>Seconded</b>	Anne Petre-Black
-----------------	---------------	-----------------	------------------

### 4. Business arising from the 2023 Minutes

No business arising.

5. Treasurer’s Report – 2023-24			
As tabled and distributed to the meeting via electronic means.			
MOTION: That the Treasurer’s report be accepted			
Proposed:	Melissa Bush	Seconded:	Sue Dennis
6. Publicity Officer’s Report			
As tabled.			
MOTION: Publicity Officer’s report be accepted			
Proposed	Rhonda Hewitt	Seconded	David Cashman
7. Business arising from Items 6 and 7 relevant to:			
7.1	The Addams Family – no business arising		
7.2	School of Rock – no business arising		
7.3	Catch Me If You Can –. no business arising		
8. Assets			
8.1	Costumes – Karen Mosely – as tabled.		
8.2	Shiprock – David Cashman – David noted that		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>enquiries for our sets and properties have reduced</li><li>School of Rock going out in October/November</li><li>The Addams Family also going out in October/November</li><li>Storage – changes have been made to increase storage and have better access to assets</li><li>Kirrawee Gang Show currently in progress which has allowed for better visibility of shelving, hence better storage.</li><li>The container at Helensburgh is sealed with no leakages from recent rains.</li></ul>		
A question from the floor was raised regarding lack of hires for scenery; it was noted that some requests for hires have pulled out and that the word of mouth/reputation of Colin Peet and Bob Peet has dwindled. Discussion led to more information about our scenery, prop and costume assets on our website. This is to be reviewed by the new Committee.			
The meeting thanked David Cashman, Peter Munn, Scott Roberts and Glenn Steltzer for their continued work at Shiprock.			
MOTION: That the Asset Co-Ordinators reports be accepted.			
Proposed	Leonie Johnson	Seconded	Melissa Bush
9. Members Representatives’ report			
As tabled by Lauren.			
MOTION: That the Members’ Representative be accepted.			
Proposed	Leonie Johnson	Seconded	Will Smith

**10. Secretary's Report (including correspondence)**

As tabled.

**MOTION:** That the Secretary's report be accepted.

<b>Proposed</b>	Anne Petre-Black	<b>Seconded</b>	Rhonda Hewitt
-----------------	------------------	-----------------	---------------

**11. President's report**

As tabled.

**MOTION:** That the President's report be accepted.

<b>Proposed</b>	Sue Dennis	<b>Seconded</b>	Leonie Johnson
-----------------	------------	-----------------	----------------

**12. Election of 2024-25 Committee**

Tim declared the committee positions vacant and the committee members stepped down and asked TJ Ross to oversee the election process. TJ declared all positions vacant.

TJ then read the first nomination for President:

- **President** - Tim Dennis nominated by Meredith Simpson and seconded by Sue Dennis. Tim accepted the nomination. No further nominations received. TJ declared Tim Dennis President for the 2023-24 year. Tim thanked TJ and Tim continued to chair the meeting.
- **Vice President** – Karen Moseley nominated by Anne Petre-Black and seconded by Rhonda Hewitt. Karen accepted the nomination. No other nominations. Karen Moseley declared Vice President.
- **Secretary** – Meredith Simpson nominated by Anne Petre-Black and seconded by Rhonda Hewitt. Meredith accepted the nomination. No other nominations. Meredith Simpson declared Secretary.
- **Treasurer** – Mark Gardner nominated by Gabby Robinson and seconded by Meredith Simpson. Mark accepted the nomination. No other nominations. Mark Gardner declared Treasurer.
- **Publicity Officer** – Amelie Downie nominated by Gabby Robinson and seconded by Lauren Dennis. In Amelie's absence, Tim advised the meeting that Amelie had accepted the nomination. No other nominations. Amelie Downie declared Publicity Officer.
- **General Members:**  
 Murray Baker – nominated by Mark Gardner and seconded by Rhonda Hewitt.  
 Lauren Dennis – nominated by Sue Dennis and seconded by Anne-Petre Black.  
 Daniel Simpson - nominated by Meredith Simpson and seconded by Rhonda Hewitt  
 Melissa Bush – nominated by Leonie Johnson and seconded by Sue Dennis.  
 All four nominations were accepted, and Murray, Lauren, Daniel and Melissa were declared General Members.

***Appointed positions:***

**Publicity Sub-Committee** – Emilie Lawson, Sue Dennis, Leonie Johnson agreed to continue on the Publicity Sub-Committee. Ben Turner will be approached to continue on this committee.

**Como School of Arts Management Committee** – Karen Moseley agreed to continue as the MMTC representative. No objections.

**Public Officer** – Meredith Simpson agreed to continue in this role.

**13. Production Team Honorariums (confirmation of amounts paid to production teams)**

Tim noted that it is a requirement of the constitution that an amount be ratified by the members at the AGM for the total combined honorarium amount.

**MOTION:** that an amount of \$5,400 be the total upper limit for combined honorariums for any production.

<b>Proposed</b>	Tim Dennis	<b>Seconded</b>	Unanimous by a show of hands
-----------------	------------	-----------------	------------------------------

**14. General Business**

- Murray Baker started General Business by thanking Tim Dennis for his tireless efforts in going above and beyond for the continuing success and continuance of MMTCi. Murray wanted it recorded the extensive work Tim has done behind the scenes in keeping the company afloat including but not limited to working closely with the budget for Catch Me If You Can, talking a Probus Clubs, initiating the process of MMTCi becoming a charity, initiating the process of becoming a valued member of the Sutherland Chamber of Commerce and much more. Murray also acknowledged the collective gratitude noting the personal sacrifices this has in taking Tim away from his family and friends. Murray's comments were followed by a round of applause from the meeting.
- Leonie Johnson noted the comment Karen made in her report to do with the VET student we had working with us during Catch Me If You Can and is there the opportunity for more students. Tim noted that it is possible for schools and students to approach us directly and that, at times, student placement bodies also approach us and have done so in the past. The downside is that we do not always get the calibre of students we would like but we do continue to welcome them when they contact us.
- Discussion then took place regarding going forward:
  - For example, that our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is approaching. How can we leverage off these things. Tim advised the meeting that he includes these aspects of MMTC when talking to council and/or businesspeople as well as points such as the number of people we have had go through Council venues, bar sales from that etc.
  - Having members be more involved with the operations of the Company. The meeting was informed of a member-only MMTCi Facebook page to include such things as Bunnings BBQs, working bees, catering requirements. It was noted that this Facebook Page has not been utilised fully since its creation. This is to be taken up further with the new committee.
  - Raising our profile with Council; how do we engage with them and get them aware of us. We need to get Council on board. It was suggested by Anne Petre-Black that, perhaps, we have a second patron from Council. This is to be taken up further with the new committee.
  - Sponsorship. Seek avenues and/or or be courageous enough to ask for sponsorship wherever you may be; to ask if local businesses sponsor local not-for-profits.
  - Remember that even though members may not be active in the current production, there
  - Emilie Lawson noted that *Catch Me If You Can* was the first-time philanthropic messages/requests were placed in the production program. Emilie offered to work with Amelie to further this message.
- Tim recognised the three new members in attendance (TJ Ross, Will Smith and Sophie Szeesodi) and thanked them for their first attendance at the AGM. Sophie asked, following on from the

previous topic, how members can be involved when they are not in the current production and are, say, students with limited means. Tim advised to watch, in the first instance, the Facebook page mentioned earlier, and that the new committee will take this request onboard.

- The question of virtual attendance at Annual General Meetings was raised. Tim that the current Constitution does not allow for virtual attendance but then noted that the new Constitution being finalised and to be put to the membership will allow for virtual attendance and participation.
- Lastly, Tim thanked his wife Sue for her endless support in his role of President and also thank MMTci for the kind thoughts offered to him and his family on the passing of his father, Ivan.

## **15. Closure**

With no further business, Tim declared the meeting closed at 9.41pm.

---

Tim Dennis, President

## **MMTCo - Publicity Officers Report AGM 2/07/2024**

### **General Update:**

Over the past 12-months, the publicity requirements for Miranda Musical Theatre Co. have been extensive but incredibly fulfilling.

Coming off the back of a successful rebranding/renaming from MMS to MMTCo and our first production of Rent at the newly renovated Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, we have been straight back into a full schedule of 2-3 shows per year between this venue and Sutherland Arts Theatre.

Behind the scenes, we have been working to streamline our systems and processes so that updating information across our website and other social media platforms is simplified and easy for committee members or relevant productions to pick up.

### **On our own channels we have:**

- Grown Facebook to 4,494 followers - up by 7% from 2023
  - Grown reach to up to 438k - equal to 2024
  - Grown impression to 2.8million - up by 8% from 2023
- Sadly we lost access to our initial Instagram account due to new changes to Meta integrations and not having access to the original “master admin” behind the IG account. As a result, we have started our new Instagram account (@mirandamusicaltheatrecompany) and have nearly grown this platform to 1,000 followers in a few months. We are excited to see how this platform will continue to grow.
- Our mailing list has grown to 3,444 contacts - up by 17% on 2023. This continues to be our predominate channel for immediate communications to our members. If you are not receiving our newsletters / updates, we encourage you to sign up to our newsletter and check your junk-inbox as sometimes they could get caught in here.

As I provided an update on our July 2023 production of The Addams Family at our last AGM, I will pick up on show reporting from School of Rock onwards.

### **SCHOOL OF ROCK**

In September 2023, MMTCo produced School of Rock the musical at The Pavilion. A hugely entertaining show, this production was extremely popular with families and fans of the original movie.

Despite a smaller marketing budget for this show, we were still able to roll out an effective marketing campaign which included:

- Organic and paid social media posts
- OOH Media Banners at key bus stops around the Shire

- PR features in key media publications including Stage Whispers, The Sutherland Shire Leader and 2SSR.
- Flyer/Poster distribution amongst the Shire
- School flyering and bookings
- Performance opportunity at CronullaFest alongside other key arts groups/schools.

As a result of this marketing effort, we were able to secure strong attendance from audiences across our standard six shows and positive feedback from the local community about the quality of the performance.

### **CATCH ME IF YOU CAN**

Moving straight into April 2024, MMTC produced our first musical of the year: Catch Me If You Can at The Pavilion.

With a bigger cast and requirements, a brand-new musical that has not really been performed much, we had our work cut out for us. Thankfully due to the hard work and efforts of everyone from the committee, production team and cast, we were able to successfully introduce this show to a new audience and stellar reviews.

#### **Our marketing campaign included:**

- Paid / organic social media
- PR features in key media publications including Stage Whispers, The Sutherland Shire Leader and 2SSR.
- Flyer/Poster distribution amongst the Shire
- Probus group meetings/performances

As a result of the extensive efforts of all those involved, this show was a great success for the company with rave reviews from those attending the performances.

### **THE FULL MONTY**

As we round out the calendar year, we are just into rehearsals for The Full Monty. I look forward to seeing the creative marketing ideas and implementation to come for this production, but sadly I will not be seeing this to fruition.

On that note, it is with deep sadness that I will be stepping down from MMTC committee this evening. I am truly grateful to MMTC for so many things and I would like to take a moment to thank a few people in this room (if that's okay!).

From casting me in my first ever community theatre production in Wicked, through to the opportunity to play the lead role of Carole King in Beautiful for its amateur premiere...only then to fight for our cast for 3 years whilst we awaited the opportunity to actually perform it after COVID, and ultimately for allowing me to hone my marketing skills within a theatre context by inviting me to be publicity officer four years ago...

The friends I have made, the community I have built over the past 10 years, and literally the job I now hold would be non-existent without MMTC providing a space and opportunity for me to flourish. If anyone needs to make a case as to the importance and need for community theatre, I volunteer as tribute. Not just for performers, but for all creatives, behind

the scenes and tech, costuming, photography, graphic design, marketing...community theatre is the launch platform for so many “unsung” areas of the arts and I hope that in the future this is still very much celebrated by those in our community.

So I want to extend my thanks to the current and past committee members I have volunteered with, as well as particularly Tim Dennis, Meredith Simpson, Gabby Robinson, Karen Moseley and some of the incredible MMTC members I’ve met along the way who have made this environment so welcoming and joyful. As I step down and pass the baton onto the next publicity officer, I am excited for the ways they will take the company into the next stage and also glean the many benefits I have over the years of volunteering.