

HARLEQUIN MUSICAL THEATRE INC  
ANNUAL REPORT – 2014

It is with pleasure that I present the Annual Report for 2014.

**Committee**

At the last Annual General Meeting on 1 July 2012 the following office holders were elected:

President:	Rebecca Ceballos
Vice President:	Colin Franks
Secretary:	Sue Rossiter
Treasurer:	Dale Smith
Members:	Colin Franks, Ruth Sharp, Lynnette Leggett, Pat Hales, Kimberley Cousins, Craig Bleakley

After the last Annual General Meeting Hamish Stevens and Richard Griffiths joined the committee.

During the year President Rebecca Ceballos resigned due to her securing a position in Wales. Vice President Colin Franks became President as a result of this resignation.

Just prior to this Annual General Meeting Ruth Sharp tendered her resignation and Pat Hales will be stepping down from the committee at the end of this meeting.

Thanks must go to the Committee for the many hours spent at the theatre to assist in running this wonderful asset. There are many unseen hours that until one steps into the Committee shoes it is taken for granted that 'things happen'.

**Patron**

Mr Tom Kroon, a well known local identity took up the role of Patron to the theatre and he has agreed to carry on

**Membership**

Membership has remained steady and there are a large number of supporters on the database that receive the newsletter.

As noted in the last Annual Report the membership waxes and wanes with the shows with performers join as cast members.

The newsletter has been sent out electronically giving savings on postage. The few of those members who do not have an email address have their newsletter posted to them.

**Production for 2014**

Show for 2015 included a youth production of **Beauty and the Beast**, Jr. This involved a cast of nearly fifty 8 to 12 years and introduced the younger and vibrant generation into community theatre, all of whom are looking forward to further productions. The survey conducted by Children's Musical Theatre Studio, who were jointly responsible for staging the show, showed that parents are looking for live theatre for their 8 to 12 year old children.

It was unfortunate that due to lack of male cast members **A Chorus Line** had to be postponed. This was a great disappointment as the female cast members were outstanding.

**Guys and Dolls** was the final show for the year and under the direction of John Fausett was a success both on stage and financially. Oliver Gilmour was the Musical Director and Susanne Dell, choreographer.

### **Songs on Sunday**

This has been a struggle to run - as the performers were more readily available being a weekend but the work involved getting the audiences in the door has been difficult. It is still hoped that this will be given attention for the 2015 year as there is a need for the theatre to be involved as a community to cater for the older audience members.

### **Youth Club**

As reported at the last AGM the concept for a youth club will be moving forward for 2016 and plans are underway. This is going through the final stages of planning before being launched.

### **Repairs and Maintenance/Funding Grants**

Ongoing work has been carried out at the theatre on an as needs basis as funds allow.

### **Finances**

Our thanks must go to Dale Smith for her work in the financial area of the theatre. As a result of this and noted at the last Annual General Meeting Dale has brought the theatre up to date with both financial and legislative work.

### **Marketing/Ticket Sales**

As with past years we have used iticket and again this has proved to be an efficient service which has also helped with our marketing of shows. The Howick and Pakuranga Times is also another source of marketing and the Times has been very supportive with their articles about the theatre.

### **Howick Children and Youth Theatre**

The Howick Children and Youth Theatre has been hiring the Harlequin which has helped our finances and fostered a relationship with HCYT. There has been a sharing of costuming for various shows and has been a good working relationship.

There have also been one-off hires throughout the year which helps with the running costs of the theatre.

Although the funds from the hires have been beneficial to the theatre it has been offset by having to hire premises elsewhere in order to rehearse Harlequin productions.

### **Wardrobe**

The Harlequin wardrobe is stored offsite in the Wellington Street storage unit. Although costly to hire there is no room for the costumes at the Harlequin.

### **Looking Forward - 2015 and beyond**

The Committee has had a strategic planning day and mapped out a pathway moving forward.

Following on from the success of **Beauty and the Beast** the Harlequin joined forces with Children's Musical Theatre Studio and had a sellout season of **Aladdin Jr.**

This was followed by **I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change**. Although artistically a successful show it did not fare well at the box office.

The current show **The Wedding Singer** is in production and at the end of the year **Oliver** will be staged.

The 2016 brings **Jesus Christ Superstar** for the first show with others to be announced in the near future.

### **Conclusion**

I wish to thank the committee for their support during this year as President and I am standing for President this coming year and look forward to the support of the Committee during my tenure.

We are the caretakers of the Harlequin and have been entrusted to look after the theatre for those coming through.

My thanks to both the past and current committees.

Colin Franks  
President