

# VICTORIAN DRAMA LEAGUE INC.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

### MINUTES

meeting held via ZOOM, March 5, 2022, commencing at 10.00am

### PRESENT

As *INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS*: Bruce Cochrane (President), Zina Carman (Vice President), Deborah Fabbro (Treasurer), Alison Campbell Rate (Secretary), Joanne Watt (committee member), Susan Rundle, John Campbell, Geoff Kidd, Andrew Ferguson, Bruce Hardie, Brian Edmond, Tony Clayton (committee member), Keith Hutton (committee member), Rod Nash, David Collins, Robyn Kelly, Tamara Dahmen.

As *COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES*:

Andrew Ferguson (for Malvern Theatre Company), Deborah Fabbro (Brighton Theatre Company), Brian Edmond (for STAG Theatre Company), Zina Carman (for Torquay Theatre Troupe).

### WELCOME

Bruce Cochrane welcomed all to the meeting and commented on the commitment and energy given by so many volunteers to community theatre, especially under the difficult circumstances of the previous 12 months.

### APOLOGIES

Cheryl Threadgold, Ken Barnes, Suzie Martens, Diana Burleigh.

**PROXIES** – the following proxies were received in accordance with the Rules of the Association:

<b>received from -</b>	<b>in favour of -</b>
Gabby Llewellyn Janis Schneider	Alison Campbell Rate
Ken Barnes	Bruce Cochrane
Adrian Rice (Warrantdyte Theatre Co) Laurie Jezzard	Tony Clayton

**MINUTES** of the previous AGM (2021) having been distributed prior to the meeting were taken as read.

**Moved – Alison Campbell Rate, Seconded Bruce Cochrane - Carried.**

*Discussion arising from Minutes – nil*

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Bruce presented his report (attached below).

**Moved - Bruce Cochrane, Seconded Zina Carman - Carried.**

*Discussion arising from the report – nil*

*Alison Campbell Rate thanked outgoing President Bruce Cochrane for his 7 years of valuable service to the VDL, including his many hours of work behind the scenes recruiting people to take on various crucial roles such as reviewers, adjudicators and committee members.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Having been distributed prior to the meeting, the report was taken as being read.

**Moved – Deborah Fabbro, Seconded Bruce Cochrane - Carried.**

*Discussion arising from the report – nil*

*Bruce Cochrane thanked Deborah for her long-term support of the VDL as Treasurer, for her responsible management of the VDL's financial affairs and her commitment to the organisation.*

## **ELECTIONS**

The Secretary read out the nominations for committee as follows:

### **EXECUTIVE:**

- PRESIDENT – Susan Rundle (proposed Alison Campbell Rate, seconded Janis Schneider)
- VICE PRESIDENT – Zina Carman (proposed Gay Bell, seconded Monica Spencer)
- SECRETARY – Alison Campbell Rate (proposed Susan Rundle, seconded Monica Greenwood)
- TREASURER - Deborah Fabbro (proposed John Bishop, seconded Zina Carman)

### **ORDINARY MEMBERS:**

- Tony Clayton (proposed Susan Rundle, seconded Alison Campbell Rate)
- Bruce Hardie (proposed Bruce Hardie, seconded Deborah Fabbro)
- Paul Wanis (proposed Paul Wanis, seconded Bruce Cochrane)
- Keith Hutton (proposed Keith Hutton, seconded Alison Campbell Rate)
- Tamara Dahmen (proposed Tony Clayton, seconded Paul Wanis)

Joanne Watt queried why her nomination for Ordinary Member was not included. The Secretary confirmed that no completed paperwork was received from Joanne.

## **BALLOT**

**Executive:** One nomination was received for each position of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, meaning no ballot was required and the Executive was elected unopposed.

**Ordinary Members:** Five nominations were received for 4 potential places. The nominees were each invited to speak as to what they would bring to the VDL committee, following which a ballot was conducted.

Attendees were reminded that voting rights are as follows:

- You must be a financial member
- Individual Members have 1 vote
- Official Company Representatives have 1 vote
- An attendee who is present as both an Individual Member and a Company Representative has 2 votes.
- Proxy holders have 1 additional vote per proxy

*The result of the ballot was announced as follows:*

- Tony Clayton
- Bruce Hardie
- Keith Hutton
- Tamara Dahmen

Incoming President Susan Rundle was invited to address the meeting.

## **RECEIVE STATEMENT SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 30(3) OF THE ACT.**

This was tendered in accordance with legal requirements.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Following the close of the official business of the AGM, there was an opportunity for general discussion –

- The Secretary to advise incoming new committee members of current activities
- Jo Watt advised she is still willing to coordinate TYU off committee
- David Collins asked about improving search access to past reviews in archived issues of *Theatrecraft*. Geoff Kidd has considered this as a project. It needs an IT solution and depends on cost and volunteers to go through past issues. David offered to help
- David Collins suggested companies be asked to look into nominating long serving volunteers for Australia Day honours. Idea could be flagged in Follow Spot. The Secretary will follow up.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 10.50 am**



**Alison Campbell Rate**  
**Hon. Secretary**  
**THE VICTORIAN DRAMA LEAGUE INC.**

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*BRUCE COCHRANE*  
 PRESIDENT  
 March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

While the restrictive measures of the pandemic are at last receding, the effects of these and the loss of audience and even some theatre companies means that recovery will take some time yet.

The VDL itself is likely to be operating with a reduced membership in the short term. Fortunately we took some preventative steps prior to the lockdowns to reduce our overheads. This has afforded us a protection which has cushioned the impact that has been felt by the whole community.

Additionally, the generous gift in 2017 from the Edwards Family as a bequest for VDL Life Member Eric Edwards enables the VDL to continue specific projects.

In what was a time of interruption theatrically for our members, 2021 was a busy time for the Committee in which we planned to hold events for the theatre community. We also maintained contact with our members to advise them of latest advice and issues.

Since being elected President in 2015, I have overseen significant changes to our structure and operation. While the end of our print newsletter *Theatrecraft* and the reduction of our office space was a shock to some, it has proved to be timely and using Zoom online system enabled us to meet more often to deal with problem issues.

And so, as this will be my farewell to the VDL Committee, I look forward to the resurgence of Community theatre and the fine work of our many dedicated people.