

## THE VICTORIAN DRAMA LEAGUE INC.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

*meeting held via Zoom on Saturday March 4, 2023, commencing at 10am*

#### MINUTES

##### PRESENT

*INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:* Susan Rundle, Deborah Fabbro, Zina Carman, Bruce Hardie, Keith Hutton, Tony Clayton, Jennifer Paragreen, LB Bradley, Robyn Kelly, Rod Nash, Monica Greenwood, Jenny Lutz, Alison Campbell Rate.

*COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES:* Simon Cooper (Malvern Theatre Co.), Chloe Palmer (Mordialloc Theatre Co.), Christine Nilsson (Essendon Theatre Co.), Deborah Fabbro (Brighton), Joanne Watt (Hartwell),

##### APOLOGIES

Ken Barnes, Dru Bartlett, Francesca Waters, Andrew Ferguson (Malvern Theatre Co.), Geoff Kidd, Pep Upton (Geelong Rep Theatre Co.), Diana Burleigh, Suzie Martens, Bruce Cochrane, Andrew McAliece

##### PROXIES –

<b>received from -</b>	<b>in favour of -</b>
Diana Burleigh, Andrew McAliece	Alison Campbell Rate
Andrew Ferguson	Simon Cooper

**MINUTES** of the previous AGM having been circulated prior to the meeting were moved as a true and correct record by Susan Rundle, seconded Bruce Hardie, Carried.

*Discussion arising from Minutes – nil.*

##### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Susan presented her report for 2022 and moved that it be received, seconded Tony Clayton. Carried.

*Discussion arising from the report – nil.*

*Zina thanked Susan for her informative report.*

##### TREASURER'S REPORT including STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS

*Deborah spoke to the financial reports which were circulated prior to the meeting, noting the following:*

- *a slightly better year compared to the last couple of years, with library hiring up a little*
- *the Awards ran at a deficit so costings will be adjusted this year to bring that back into balance*
- *The VDL is always looking for new sources of income, example Chris Baldock's directing course from which The VDL is receiving a portion of the fee*
- *the need to attract new members*
- *overall The VDL is in a reasonable financial position.*

*Jo Watt – question re spring TYU camp figures not in Profit and Loss statement. Deborah – those payments went through Allambee as part of a special funding arrangement so there was no income for The VDL.*

*Moved Deborah Fabbro, Seconded Susan Rundle. Carried.*

## **ELECTIONS**

1. *The President vacated the chair*
2. *Nominations were announced by the Secretary for the following positions –*
  - *President – Susan Rundle (Proposed Susan Rundle, seconded Alison Campbell Rate)*
  - *Vice President – Andrew McAliece (proposed Barry James, seconded Susan Rundle)*
  - *Secretary – Alison Campbell Rate (Proposed Alison Campbell Rate, seconded Janis Schneider)*
  - *Treasurer – Deborah Fabbro (Proposed Natasha Boyd, seconded Lesley Batten)*
  - *Ordinary Members x 4*
    - *Keith Hutton (proposed Andrew Ferguson, seconded Alison Campbell Rate)*
    - *LB Bradley (Proposed Susan Rundle, seconded Alison Campbell Rate)*
    - *Tony Clayton (Proposed Geoff Kidd, seconded Anna Ruth Laird)*
    - *Bruce Hardie (Proposed Bruce Hardie, seconded Gilbert Gauci)*
3. *As no ballot was required, the formation of the incoming committee was announced as above.*

Susan invited new Committee members to introduce themselves:

- Andrew McAliece – apology for this meeting
- LB Bradley – currently a Drama category Adjudicator, director for various companies, previously President of Hartwell Players.
- Tony welcomed LB to the committee and thanked her for also being part of Adjudication team.

**OTHER BUSINESS** – nil.

## **CLOSE OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS followed by an opportunity for general discussion –**

- Susan spoke about upcoming Companies Connect zoom on April 15.
  - Robyn Kelly invited committee to consider including One Act plays in the Awards.
- Discussion:*
- good way of mentoring newcomers, providing entry paths for tech and performance training.
  - The VDL could run own festival or adjudicators could attend the individual festivals.
  - Are sufficient companies involved in presenting One Act Plays? If the VDL ran its own OAP more companies may come on board plus it would signal that OAPS are a valid medium.
  - Does The VDL have sufficient Adjudication capacity? Lyrebirds: Comedy judge also judges OAPs.
- Monica Greenwood – question re regulations. Are the office bearers of voluntary orgs required to have a Director ID? Deborah – not for Incorporated Associations unless they are a Registered Australian Body. Bruce recommended running another Governance workshop to provide any updates.
  - Susan spoke about new website development coming up and flagged Steve Saul’s agreement to take on website management.
  - Rod Nash thanked Zina for her wonderful work coordinating Reviews.
  - Susan thanked Jo Watt for the legacy she has left building Theatrecraft Youth Unlimited over many years. The transition away from The VDL to the new management of this program (Theatre Youth Unleashed) will be acknowledged in the 2023 report.

## **MEETING CLOSE – 10.32**

Alison Campbell Rate, Secretary



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT to the Annual General Meeting**

### **4 MARCH 2023**

2022 saw The Victorian Drama League celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The research into our origins and history which I spoke to at our 2022 VDL Awards evening, was an important reminder to us all of our beginnings, brought about through a collaboration between professional and community theatre to fill an important and recognised need here in Victoria.

2022 may have started a little tentatively, but we definitely finished on a high with thankfully a lessening impact of COVID. It was great to get back to larger audiences, foyer chats, and being able to celebrate in person at The VDL Awards night was particularly special after a two-year interruption.

It's also good to recognise that not all things that came with COVID were bad. COVID has shown how good *online* can be to connect more widely with our members across Melbourne and Regional Victoria. Let's face it - online committee meetings are a bonus.

In 2022 The VDL ran a number of online workshops that were very well received, including:

- Companies Connect
- Governance Workshop
- Diversity Casting and managing 'rights and casting requirements' Workshop.
- Directing 101 Workshop

While there are still a number of IT and other projects on the go in the background to build engagement and individual membership, it was encouraging to see that overall 2022 saw membership numbers return, as did library use and script hire, with overall finances stabilising. Our Treasurer, Deborah Fabbro will speak to this in her Financial Reports. I and the rest of The VDL committee are very thankful for her expert oversight.

While this AGM is to review 2022, it is exciting to see that 2023 has launched in a very positive way. We have introduced a new adjudication model, increasing adjudicators from 3 to 6, into two teams assigned to adjudicate either Comedy or Drama. There is an updated Adjudication Framework to ensure consistency, eliminate multiple 'joint winners' and assist those stepping in as new or reserve adjudicators.

We have also updated the VDL guidelines for our Reviewers.

We say a huge thank you to our retiring adjudicators and our returning and new adjudicators, and to our retiring, returning and new reviewers.

The VDL is a volunteer run organisation. We thank everyone for their time, commitment, energy and talent as we keep this organisation moving ahead and thriving positively for our members and our communities.

At the AGM last March, we recognised the contributions of our outgoing president, Mr Bruce Cochrane and thanked him for his 7 years of service.

We also welcomed our new Patron, Mr John Wood, and thanked our outgoing Patron, Hannie Rayson for her invaluable support.

As we get down to the official business of today's AGM, I would like to extend my thanks to Zina Carman, Vice President, who has served on committee since 2018, and Tamara Dahmen, General Committee member. Both are stepping down from The VDL committee this year, but not relinquishing their commitment to The VDL. Tam will continue as an Adjudicator, while Zina is continuing as our Reviews Coordinator. Thank you both.

Finally, thank you to the wonderful VDL committee for their support and invaluable contribution during my first year as President.

**Susan Rundle**

**The VDL, Minutes of the AGM March 4, 2023**