**The Mount Players Inc.**

A0001718S

**Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Held on Monday 13th of February 2023 at the Mountview Theatre**

**Chair:** Karen Hunt

**Minutes:** Julia Santamaria

1. **The Mount Players 2023 AGM was opened at 7:30 pm.**

Karen Hunt opened the meeting as the 2022 President.

The Mount Players proudly acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People as the traditional custodians of the land on which the Mountview Theatre is built. We celebrate the rich cultures through our language of theatre and their Dreamtime, the world’s oldest form of storytelling. We pay our respects to elders past, present, and emerging.

Ensured a quorum (10% or greater of current Members) was in attendance or had nominated a proxy. Called for proxies and written nominations to be tabled.

A total of twelve nominations were received from David Runnalls, Bernadette Tonna, Karlana Santamaria, Leo Vandervalk, John Taranto, Frank Harvey, Craig Lenaine-Smith, Allie Clare, Melissa Forge, Justine Press, Julie Baldwin, and Jenny Heriot. All nominees are current Financial Members of The Mount Players Inc.

A proxy nomination was received for Thomas Seddon.

1. **Present**

Those present at the meeting recorded as per the Attendance sheet attached as Appendix A. Life Members present were acknowledged.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Frank Harvey, Chenoah Eljan, Kath Addicoat, Kevin Addicoat, Anne Runnalls, Marg Cameron, and Allan Cameron, Andrew Hamilton, Robin Parrish, and David Dearicott.

1. **Minutes of the Previous AGM held Monday 7th of February 2022**

Moved to accept the presented minutes as a true and accurate representation of the 2022 AGM.

Moved by Karlana Santamaria.

Seconded by Karen Hunt.

Carried.

1. **President’s Annual Report for 2022**

After a challenging time for the theatre in 2020 and 2021, we managed to come back with a successful year in 2022, with four productions staged and.

Our first show was Travis Handcock’s *Love Song*, which was our VDL entry for 2022. It received four nominations at the awards ceremony in December, which was a wonderful testament to the quality of the production. *The Odd Couple,* our second production,was directed by Frank Harvey and was another fantastic comedy on our stage. It was unfortunately cut a week short due to the ever-present Covid, but was a great success nonetheless. *Reservoir Dogs* was our third production for 2022 and directed by Craig Lenaine-Smith, which was a show that pushed the boundaries of what we put on stage at the Mount Players. It was almost a sell-out production that opened our doors to a wide audience around Melbourne, and *Madagascar*, directed by Vickie Smith, was the fourth and final production for 2022 and again was a wonderful debut for new director to our company. We hope to see more of her work on our stage in the future.

The Mount Players Youth Theatre put on a holiday program in 2022, due to being unable to return to our regular format. The holiday program was run by Samuel Howard, who was new the Mount Players but brought a wonderful program and his expertise and energy to the theatre.

Celebrated our 50th anniversary with a gala dinner at the Gisborne Golf Club, which was a wonderful reunion of the Mount Players family from all around the state and beyond. We also launched our 50th anniversary history book, researched and written by a dedicated history group and edited by Karlana Santamaria. Many current and past members have already purchased a copy, ensuring that the legacy of the Mount Players will persist for many years to come.

This year we said goodbye to Pauline Garner and Joan McGrory who both sadly passed away, but whose man years of dedicated service to the Mount Players will be remembered.

We thank our sponsors, Gisborne Office Barn, Bradleys Curtains & Blinds, Hanging Rock Winery, Jellis Craig Woodend, and Bendigo Bank in Gisborne. We received grants from Bendigo Bank and the Macedon Ranges Shire Council for $3000 and $1500 respectively, which were put towards new lighting and sound equipment and the publishing of the history book.

Charity nights have continued to be an integral part of our mission here at the Mount Players. We support various local charities using the proceeds from our charity night ticket sales for each production. We have also welcomed Sunbury-Cobaw Community Health to our theatre for their annual Queers on the Catwalk night for the second year in a row. In January 2023, we hosted Tim Francis and his young theatre company, *Big Picture Theatre Co,* to put on the debut weekend of performances for their new musical. We continue to share our space with various groups in the community and strengthen our relationships with other organisations in the Macedon Ranges performing arts scene and beyond.

We are already well underway with our 2023 season, with rehearsals for the radio play *The 39 Steps*, directed by John Rowlands, beginning late last year. The Sunbury and Macedon Ranges Specialist School (Bullengarook Campus) will then be using our space in March this year to stage a school production, which will be filmed for a documentary made by Fremantle, a TV production company based in Sydney. The second Mount Players production for 2023 will be *Buried Child* directed by Robert Wallace, which is to be our VDL entry for 2022. A cast announcement is coming soon. In July, our beloved One Act Play festival will be returning after three years of not running due to Covid-related challenges. *Voyage*, a visiting musical by Melbourne professional theatre company The Good Girl Song Project, will be gracing our stage with two performances in late July. In August, Travis Handcock will bring us *The* *Complete Works of William Shakespeare* *(Abridged)* to the Mountview stage as our third production. The end of year musical collaboration with Boilerhouse Theatre Company was planned to be *Oliver*, but unfortunately the rights were not granted due to another local production around the same time. We are in the process of selecting and seeking rights for alternatives.

Forty years ago on Thursday, our original theatre was burned down in the Ash Wednesday fires. We are thankful for everything we have achieved since and remember what was lost and rebuilt at that time and since.

1. **Treasurer’s Annual Report & Statement for 2021**

Bernadette Tonna presented the 2022 Annual Report as the 2022 Treasurer. The Mount Players’ 2022 financial year began January 1st 2022 and ended December 31st 2022. Our total income was $108,743, and our total expenditure was $107,943; this resulted in a net profit of $800. Depreciation was valued at $19,317. Retained earnings stand at $133,101. The term deposit remained healthy at $21,615 at the closing of our 2022 financial year.

We donated $XX to The Macedon CFA. Thank you to the generous patrons of our theatre for their donations.

We have 65 financial members in 2023 so far.

The financials were moved as accepted by Shelley.

Seconded by John Taranto.

Carried.

1. **Resolution for the number of Committee Members to hold office**

It was resolved that the number of Committee Members to hold office would not be restricted prior to declaration of the nominations.

1. **Declared that all Committee positions were vacant.**
2. **Declared that nominations were received for incoming Committee.**

Nominations received from David Runnalls, Bernadette Tonna, Karlana Santamaria, Leo Vandervalk, John Taranto, Frank Harvey, Craig Lenaine-Smith, Allie Clare, Melissa Forge, Justine Press, Julie Baldwin, and Jenny Heriot.

Nomination forms were read out and all nominees were elected unopposed.

Acceptance of this election moved by Karen Hunt.

Seconded by Mike De Jong.

Carried.

1. **General Business**

Karlana Santamaria presented a bouquet of flowers to Karen Hunt in appreciation for her work on the committee as the marketing representative, Vice-President, and most recently for her tenure as President. The Mount Players acknowledges her enormous contributions and wishes her the best in whatever comes next for her as she steps down from the committee.

Roger Farley raised the question of what would happen for the Mount Players Youth Theatre (MPYT) in 2023, which has been on indefinite hiatus since the end of 2021 due to a lack of available leadership. Julia Santamaria, who previously was very involved with the MPYT and retained that portfolio on the general committee, advised that the Mount Players is still looking to implement new youth programs in 2023 and beyond, though this is subject to finding volunteers who are willing and able to commit to organising and running the MPYT as it is a very involved role that has previously been shared by a large team. It has been suggested that we continue to search for volunteers who can run weekly workshops, but also consider more holiday intensive programs similar to the one run in 2022.

The issue of continuity of committee knowledge and duties was raised by Allie Clare, especially for that of outgoing Executive members. It was agreed by those leaving that they would do everything in their power to support the transition, and that they would remain available to contact into the future should their knowledge, contacts, or expertise be required. Digitising elements of the committee’s work will further assist the transition of roles and responsibilities now and in the future.

1. **The Mount Players 2023 AGM was closed at 8:24 pm.**