



The Hawera Memorial Theatre Trust is pleased to bring back it's newsletter, **In the Wings**. The newsletter went into recession a few years ago but Trustees felt that there was so much good news to talk about in relation to the theatre that we should bring it back. So, welcome to the first new edition of **In the Wings**.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM for 2023 was held on the 9th of October. Chairman, Mike Powell reflected on a good year for the theatre with a good number of local and touring acts using the theatre and its facilities. Here are a few snippets from his report.

The on-going project of getting air conditioning in the auditorium has met some challenges but is now making progress with the project now being specified in the Council's long term plan. This means that we can now continue with our applications for funding from the various agencies. We will keep you up to date throughout this process.



Following the resignation of Trust founder and long-term Trustee, Russ Standing, Chairman welcomed Paula Frearson to the table. Paula brings many skills and a love of performance to the Trust and we all look forward to working with her over the next few years.

Mike also commented on our work on our digital presence as we continue to tweak to improve interaction with potential theatre users and the general public. The Trust's website is being worked on to make it more user friendly but we also worked alongside STDC to include a greater presence on the Council's official website. Thanks to the STDC for their input and collaboration. We also have a presence on Facebook for those who wish to "follow" us.

Have a look and be informed about what is going on in your theatre. www.haweratheatretrust.weebly.com www.southtaranaki.com/menu/Our facilities/Hawera Memorial Theatre Facebook - Hawera Memorial Theatre Trust

Finally, Mike thanked Ivan Willis for his fantastic work as Theatre Manager over the last decade. This is a volunteer position and involves a real commitment of time and energy to keep up with the happenings at the theatre. Ivan's role has been taken over by Aaron Midgley who has been a volunteer in our technical division for several years now. We thank him for taking on the role and look forward to working alongside him and the Council.

### THEATRE USAGE

The Hawera Performing Arts Association held it's 100th competition this year. This brought in many performers from around the country to perform in and use the facilities this community theatre has to offer. Congratulations to the Performing Arts Association on this milestone.

"The theatre is a great venue to hire and is being well looked after by your committee... we hope we can continue to use the theatre as it is a magnificent venue for South Taranaki to have".

Michelle Glover, Secretary Hawera Performing Arts Association

## Some of the events that have used the theatre up to October 2023.

Variety Show - HMTT Love Shack The Highwaymen Sue Nicholson - Medium Hawera Brass Ben Hurley Comedy Show

**Hawera Repertory** staged its musical "Aladdin" in July which was thoroughly enjoyed by audiences of all ages.

Repertory also held their Junior Drama Festival which is a great opportunity for would-be actors to get up on stage and enjoy the "live performance" experience.

Hawera Primary School performed in September as did the Hawera Performing Arts Association (as mentioned above.

**The Dance Project** with Hayley Old were in the theatre on the 15 October.

Hireage of the theatre is through the STDC..



## Friends & Volunteers

We are a charitable Trust and as such, we rely heavily on our Friends and Volunteers to help us achieve our goals.

## **Friends**

It's easy to become a Friend of the Trust.

**Friends** give an annual donation to the Trust. This can be any amount over \$20.00. We are always very appreciative of these donations as they help us purchase new lights, mics, and other equipment and also contribute to larger fund-raising efforts. If you would like to become a FRIEND, check out **www.haweratheatretrust.weebly.com** and click on the *Friends & Volunteers* form. Fill in the form and we'll get back to you.

If you are already a *Friend* and wish to just renew your donation, please make your donation on-line. Remember to put your name and "FRIEND" as references in order for us to receipt you. **A/c # 15-3950-0651767-00** 

Current donation period is from October 23 - October 24

## **Volunteers**

We are always looking for volunteers to assist with the various "theatrical tasks". Tasks such as ushering for events being held in the theatre; helping out in the Green Room for various productions; technical expertise such as sound and lighting operators; assistance with fundraising; publicity and promotion such as letter-box drops on various occasions; working bees in the theatre and anything else that comes up over the year. If you would like to be a volunteer with us please visit **www.haweratheatretrust.weebly.com** and **complete the** *Friends* & *Volunteers* form. This will ask you to identify the areas you might be interested in. Send us the form and we will get back to you.

If you already are a volunteer, thank-you! We really appreciate your contributions. If you know of others who might be interested, please pass this info on to them.



The Trust held a workshop for prospective technical volunteers in July. We had a good response from this and several of those at the workshop have tried their hand at an event. We are pleased with this response and will be looking to providing a further workshop early in the new year. Thanks to Aaron Midgley, Tui Whareaitu, Ivan Willis and Judy Brown for organising and running this.

# Congratulations!

...to the Theatre Trust Singers for their excellence performance in the Hawera Performing Arts 100 Year Performing Arts Competitions held at the theatre in September. They achieved 2nd place and received some excellent comments from the judge.

"Lovely alto section" - "spirited rendition" - a very strong, vigorous sound" - "captured the audience throughout" - "plenty of goosebumps because of your intensity."

The choir has been busy this year singing at a variety of functions. The most recent was at the funeral service of Neil Taylor - well-known Hawera citizen who was a member of the choir. Their rendition of "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" was a fitting tribute to Neil. The Theatre Trust Singers gifted a red rose named Pavarotti (Neil's favourite singer) to Neil's wife, Vivien. The Trust extends its condolences to Vivien and her family.



Musical Director Emily Riordan and the Theatre Trust Singers performing at the Hawera Performing Arts Competitions.

The Theatre Trust Singers' next public performance will be at The Carols in the Park on the 15 December (weather permitting). As well as this, the choir is preparing for the 2024 fund-raising concert to be held in March. Details of this will be in the next newsletter so look out for this.

Musical Director, Emily Riordan, will be leaving us in November. Emily came to us when previous director, the late Peter Copeland became too unwell to continue in the role. Emily has done a great job with the singers and she will be missed. Trustees thank her very much for this work that has given pleasure and enjoyment to those in the choir and to many audiences throughout the region at events they have performed at. Following Emily's departure, The Theatre Trust Singers will welcome new musical director - Evon Willmott-Bradshaw. Evon is the Principal at Mokoia Primary School and an accomplished musician. We look forward to welcoming her to the Trust's Choir.

## Coming Events @ Hawerd Memorial Theatre

Bookings for the theatre are solid for the remainder of the year and into 2024. Events advertised here were correct at the time this newsletter was published. The Hawera Memorial Theatre Trust takes no responsibility for subsequent changes to these bookings.

Please check local information and event sites to confirm events..



TURUTURU SCHOOL'S PRODUCTION

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

November sees performances from The Michelle Glover Dance Academy, Arts on Tour - Whirimako Black, Speech & Drama Recitals; Turkey the Bird Goes Brass and Emily Riordan Recital





As mentioned earlier, March '24 brings the Hawera Memorial Theatre Trust's Production and there are other tentative bookings in the pipeline throughout 2024.









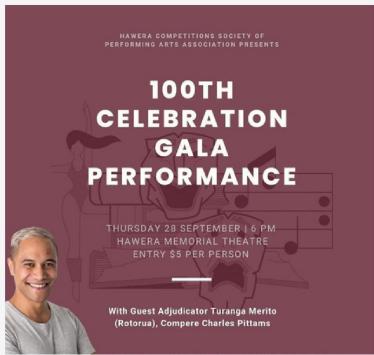




## It all happens at the Hawerd Memorial Theatre



HAWERA BRASS - April 2023



HAWERA PERFORMING ARTS ASSOCIATION - September 2023



HAWERA PRIMARY SCHOOL - September 2023



NZ HIGHWAYMEN - May 2023



HAWERA MEMORIAL THEATRE TRUST forming arts alive in 8th Taranaki



















HAWERA REPERTORY SOCIETY - July 2023



HAYLEY OLD - DANCE PROJECT - October 2023

