



24 February 2019

Presidents Report

A warm welcome to you all to our 2019 AGM; thank you for taking the time to be here.

From last year's minutes, the following people were present for the 2018 AGM: Garry Thomas, Susan Cameron, Sam Primrose, Doug Clarke, Sonya Cameron, Sam Creed, Phil Dean, Libby Wilson, Andrea Quinlan, Andy Simmonds, Braydon Priest and Sandy Wilson.

No apologies were received.

Note: Our year is the calendar year, January to December.

2018 proved to be a very good year for Elmwood Players as we celebrated our 70th year. Above average audience numbers and a wide variety of productions made for a satisfying 12 months. Once again we staged 3 full length adult productions and a season of one act plays, plus the return of our January Kidz Theatre.

Our elected committee for 2018 was a largish team of 10: Susan Cameron, Sonya Cameron, Samantha Creed, Sam Primrose, Braydon Priest, Libby Wilson, Andrea Quinlan, Phil Dean, Andy Simmonds and I. Susan was re-elected Treasurer, Sonya re-elected Secretary and I was re-elected President. Sam Creed took up the membership portfolio and Sam Primrose our website and on-line bookings. Andy stepped up to look after our technical requirements. Early in the year, Hillary Muir became our patron. During the year, both Sam Creed and Libby Wilson stepped down from the committee, with Andrea taking up the membership portfolio. Libby returned to the committee prior to this AGM. I also want to acknowledge once again Glen Clark for his poster and programme designs and also Andy the additional technical equipment he provided for various productions.

Productions:

Our first presentation for 2018 was in January with the Libby Wilson/Shanice Adair directed Kidz Theatre Production *Goldisnowerellahood*. This was a well received and well attended production, although performance rights had an impact on the financial outcome. There is a need to be cautious with Kidz Theatre productions with regards to the costs in staging. While somewhat problematic to stage in January due to the Festive Season, I believe our Kidz Theatre productions are an important part of Elmwood Players' schedule, and encourage that they continue.

Our first adult production for last year was the comedy *Always A Bridesmaid*, directed by Sonya Cameron. This was an extremely well attended production by Elmwood standards, with an average of just under 50 per performance.

In June, our next production was the adult drama, *Leaves Of Glass*, which I was fortunate to direct. A hard edged drama, it provided a nice balance with the two comedies that were staged in 2018.

August arrived, and with it a season of one act plays under the banner of *Matariki*. We decided on a different approach in 2018, by staging this in a cabaret style format, with a mixture of plays, monologues, live singing and a Q&A session with actors and directors. This was very well received, and we will be building on that format this year. A special thanks to Braydon for his involvement. The four plays staged were: *The Fraud* directed by Libby Wilson, *The Wonderful Miss Ward* directed by Andrea Quinlan, *Deadly Closure* directed by

Genna Kate Ryan and I, and *Portraits* directed by Susan Cameron. We did not participate in the Theatre NZ one act play festival in 2018.

Our final adult production for the year was the adult comedy, *Breath Of Spring* in October and directed by Steve Millar. This too was a well received production, with a mix of new, returning and familiar faces to the Elmwood stage.

Licensed Venue:

We continued to have a liquor licence for our major, adult productions last year, and will do so again this year, subject to obtaining the necessary liquor licence.

Marketing/Sponsorship:

Our challenge for 2018 remained marketing and sponsorship. With Braydon joining the committee his experience within the media field was a considerable help, as was the introduction of on-line bookings via PatronBase. I am sure this will be further enhanced this coming year. Our main focus for advertising was social media. We did not advertise in The Press during the course of the year as the committee believes this to be a dead area to promote our productions.

In summary:

The last year has been another successful one for Elmwood Players and I'd like thank the current committee for their continued support, and obviously, my thanks go to all who supported Elmwood Players over the past 12 months, both on and off stage

We have a mighty line up of productions for 2019, and we look forward to it with high expectations and a great deal of excitement.

Cheers

Garry Thomas
President
Elmwood Players