

Secretary's report
February 2012

Once again we can reflect on an interesting, diverse and challenging year behind us. As ever, the high standard of our shows last year was due to the hard work and skills of so many talented people, and we thank everyone who contributed to these wonderful productions.

As we come into 2012, we have in front of us another stimulating year artistically.

- Play 1 is *Moonlight and Magnolias*, directed by Alan Burrows in his WLT debut;
- Play 2 is *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, Chris Baldock's welcome return to WLT;
- Play 3 is *God of Carnage*, directed by Bruce Akers, hot on the heels of last year's History Boys;
- Play 4 is *Doubt, a Parable*, directed by our President Ellis Ebell;
- Play 5 is *The Dixie Swim Club*, directed by Lois Collinder, returning after the success of *Habeas Corpus* in 2010.

The outgoing Play Selection Committee has indeed gone out on an amazing high! They have set the bar high for the incoming Play Selection Committee!

There have been 12 Committee meetings since the last Annual General Meeting. Attendances were as follows:

	Attendances	Apologies	Absences
Barbara Hughes	10	2	
Bernadette Wheatley	9	3	
Bob Harsley	7	5	
Brian Christopher	10	2	
David Dare	1	8	3
Ellis Ebell	11	1	
Linda Smart	11	1	
Peter Newling	8	4	
Roger Forsey	8	2	2
Shirley Sydenham	11	1	

The success of our electronic Cues and News has been a very notable feature of 2011, under Frank Page's diligence and search for perfection. The newsletter broke new ground on many fronts, not least of which was its absolute adherence to being issued on the 15th of every month. The database of recipients has now increased to almost 400. Starting this year, those who wish to receive Cues and News by post will be required to pay \$10 for the annual 12 issues.

The year also saw a revamp and simplification of our website, wlt.org.au. It has fewer headings and more information that is easier to find. I am proud to say, also, that the website has remained up to date throughout the year. Our membership form, subscriber form and the nomination form for tonight's AGM have all been made accessible online via the website, and use of the website will increase further in 2012 with the introduction of online booking. We use links from Cues and News to relevant forms or information, such as audition notices, on the website. The website also carries the past issues of the electronic Cues and News. In this way, the website and newsletter interact and complement each other to maximise our communications to members and the wider world. In fact, the poster and subsequent production photos of *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* on the website attracted the attention of the playwright, Ed

Grazcyk and a lively correspondence ensued. He loved Janine Evans' poster and requested a copy, which is now framed in his living room, the only poster of any of his shows to be located there, and he says it is the best of any production of this show around the world.

You will hear about the 'Tardis' that drives our in-theatre technology but we are becoming tech savvy in many areas. A new laptop computer and photocopier were purchased during the year, to increase and streamline our operations, and a wi fi router has been installed so that the laptop now can access the internet and send documents to the office for printing from anywhere on the premises. Barb Hughes has a laptop and printer installed upstairs so that photographs and descriptions of costumes and props will be electronically catalogued and loans tracked. Our volumes of audition forms and pictures will gradually be scanned and will be stored electronically. WLT is seriously in the 21st Century, people!

Committee members now all hold a Responsible Serving of Alcohol Certificate. We unsuccessfully approached the VDL last year asking them to make an appeal to the Liquor Licencing Board on behalf of member companies to ask for an easing of the same rigorous regulations that apply to us as well as to large drinking venues. We were disappointed in the lack of satisfactory response in this matter. We aim to increase our pool of people legally permitted to serve alcohol and the FOH rosters will be structured accordingly. Without this, we will have to seriously review the sale of alcohol at our shows.

A number of the Committee and people who regularly do FOH or attend set construction and working bees underwent onsite First Aid training in February last year.

This year was busy on the social scene. Thanks to the wide distribution of Cues and News, the invitation to each social event is extended to many people, all of whom are welcome to join in and expand their experience of WLT off the boards. We had a theatre night to see Barbara Hughes in CLOC's *Fiddler on the Roof*; we had a delicious and boisterous dinner at Los Latinos restaurant in Maidstone; we had a rollicking Christmas in July Tupperware party which earned us some wonderful Tupperware products to raffle during Play 5; and we had a most enjoyable return of Ray's Mystery Film Night. We intend to continue our social adventures in 2012.

It has been a very full and busy year, and the number of tasks that have been undertaken and either completed or are still underway is huge, and our thanks go to all those who have contributed to the offstage activities that keep us running. The energy and hard work of your committee is considerable, and I urge members to consider joining the committee at some stage to have a very real say in the running of your theatre company. A vibrant and energetic committee and an active membership is our key to the continuing longevity and success of this extraordinary theatre company.

Shirley Sydenham
Secretary