

December 2016

A short message to wish you all the best for the festive season, review the year and let you know what we are planning for next year.

Committee news

Linda Barcan who has been on the committee for most of 2016 is leaving the Committee, WAAPA and Perth as she is taking up a position at the Con in Victoria. Congratulations Linda and many thanks. It has been great working with you and we will miss you.

Mark Hughes has been Treasurer for some months now and is well settled into that role.

Dani Sicari has been on a leave of absence to study in Manchester and, like Lochlan Brown in NYC, has contributed by email. Dani is briefly back in town and will be performing on New Year's Eve with Mark Coughlan's Vienna Pops Orchestra at the Perth Concert Hall, celebrating the countdown to 2017 with an enchanting evening of charm, talent and celebrations!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Committee members who have continued to make it possible for us to hold such enjoyable fund-raising events.

New Secretary. The Committee is without a Secretary at present so we are seeking someone with good organisational and relationship skills to undertake this role. During the last year or two several members have taken on some of the Secretarial duties (minutes secretary and membership matters) to lighten the load of what is often an onerous position of Secretary. We can continue to do this if preferred. If you are possibly interested in this position please contact me and I will give you more information. It's an enjoyable Committee with a range of members (audience, academic and performers) who bring a wide range of skills to the group.

News of recent Young or Mentored Artists

Ileana Rinaldi is currently in Sydney covering the role of Santuzza for Opera Australia's new production of Cavalleria Rusticana. Performances begin mid-January and closing night is the 4th of February. She will then be flying out mid-April for the Melbourne/Autumn season. Once back in Perth, she will also be performing Praskowia in July for the WA Opera Company's production of The Merry Widow.

2016 in Review

We started 2016 with a **WAAPA Graduate Showcase** at His Majesty's - A wonderful introduction to the best graduates from WAAPA Classical music.

Going Mad Opera Style was organised by and starred Committee member Jenna Robertson as well as former Young Artist Jennifer Barrington. This was a highly, successful semi staged event which members loved. It was held at the Church of the Resurrection in Swanbourne.

In June, Lost and Found gave us a preview of **Don Procopio** also at the Church of the Resurrection in Swanbourne. Many members saw and greatly enjoyed this production at the Italian Club in Balcatta though the preview for Opera Lovers was unfortunately not well attended.

In July, our **Coming and Goings** concert featured former Young Artist, Caitlin Cassidy (just back from NYC), 2015 Mentored Artist, Sam Roberts-Smith (who is always coming and going) and Brianna Louwen (who was about to leave for the UK)

In August, at His Majesty's, OperaBox provided us with a unique insight into this ambitious production of Richard Strauss' **Ariadne auf Naxos**. Celebrating 100 years since the opera was premiered in Vienna, OperaBox presented the WA premiere. We heard a special preview of some of Richard Strauss' luscious music performed by the cast including Fiona Jopson and Henry Choo.

In September we had an afternoon of excerpts from WAAPA's production of Benjamin Britten's little known comic gem, **Albert Herring** at the WAAPA music Auditorium. With Classical Voice and Opera students, directed by Thomas de Mallet Burgess with David Wickham as music director - it was an afternoon of laughter and a brilliant introduction to this genius piece of operatic repertoire.

In early November **Emma Matthews**, in town for The Pearlfishers, joined us in conversation at Christ Church Claremont. She generously shared with us stories of her life as a very successful artist.

And we finished the year with a very festive **Christmas dinner** at the Karrakatta Club with Thomas Johnson, Head of Music at WAO accompanying the 2016 Mentored Artist Paull Anthony Keightley (and spontaneously Committee member Linda Barcan.)

Thanks to our sponsors for their support in 2016

Many thanks to our regular sponsors, members Irene Kempa (and Kempa Contracting) and Charlie Maiolo (Cheveux by Anthony) for providing raffle prizes at each of our fund raising events.

And for special raffle prizes at special events West Australia Opera (opera tickets), WA Symphony Orchestra (WASO tickets), Simon Trevisan (wine) and Tracy of AquaBaci (for a professional hairdryer.)

Vale Ann Whyntie

As I indicated in an earlier email, we were saddened to hear of the death of life member and long term Opera Lovers Secretary Ann Whyntie. On behalf of members, we placed a notice in the West Australian and I attended the funeral (as did a number of Opera Lover members). Attached is a copy of the obituary published in the West Australian.

And next year...

We are planning

- A WAAPA Showcase. This was so popular and enjoyable last year that we are hoping to have a similar event with the 2016 Post graduates
- We will hold our AGM in March and will be proposing Constitutional change (as required by legislation)
- As soon as the 2017 Young Artists are announced we will start planning a 'Meet the Young Artists' event and perhaps other events with the young artists
- We will talk with Freeze Frame Opera, a new opera company in Perth
- We hope to have a very special guest speaker
- And have had some offers of events from others – for further discussion
- Our Christmas event at the Karrakatta Club was so successful we hope to go to the Club again

If you have ideas or preferences for future events, please let us know. We try to organise events that will appeal to members and that will be successful fund raisers so that we can meet our mandate of promoting and supporting opera in WA. So do let us know your preferences and suggestions.

My best wishes to all members and your families for a very happy Christmas and New Year.