

Annual General Meeting 18 September 2019

CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT

We are pleased to report that 2019 was another good year for the Victoria Theatre with solid activity in use by the community, enhancing the facility infrastructure, undertaking restoration and planning the next phase of restoration.

Our report addresses the past calendar year whereas the treasurer report addresses the audited accounts to October 2018. The Victoria Theatre Trust remains in a sound financial position.

Our main focus over the past year has been the project planning for restoration of the Victoria Theatre foyer. This follows a community survey identifying strongly that foyer congestion is something that needs to be 'fixed'. A concept doubling the foyer space without compromising our cinema and performing venues has been developed. It improves the operations and fits in with the heritage character. Authority approvals will be progressed whilst fundraising advances. \$730,000 is needed.

We have also spent a lot of time planning how to raise the funds needed for the restoration project.

We aim to apply to two large funders, Lotteries Commission and Foundation North. They have previously supported the trust with grants for digital projectors and seats.

Both have annual large grant applications for projects over \$95,000 and we will make applications next year to each for around \$300,000.

They require the trust to have around a third of the project cost itself so we are embarking on a major fund raising campaign - launching tonight – to raise around \$200,000 from the local community and beyond.

Back in 2010 we raised \$86,000 in from the Devonport community in only a few months to re-open the theatre, so we are pretty confident we can do this again.

So tonight we'll show you a short video promo about the trust that will play before all films at the Vic.

We'll also be running regular columns in the Flagstaff and re-launch the Friends of the Vic to raise awareness of the project and the campaign.

We have already launched a givealittle page so we're effectively up and running and ready to attract and receive donations.

Maintenance and Enhancements: The venue continues to need significant expenditure to maintain technical capability for movies and events and to enhance the customer experience. This is achieved from the Trust operating cash flow with grants sought for significant upgrades. The last 12 months has seen some \$110,000 of such expenditure including the last 2 rows of new red seats for the Victoria cinema, air-conditioning to the Albert cinema and it's projection room, two electronic projector upgrades, conversions to LED lighting, surround sound speaker replacements to two cinemas and plumbing

upgrades. Recently the Victoria stage restoration was completed. We are hugely grateful for a \$20,000 grant from the North Shore Heritage Trust for restoration of the main stage. We particularly thank Paddy Stafford Bush and George Farrant for their support. The restored stage is a huge success and now contributes significantly to the heritage atmosphere of the downstairs auditorium. We also had grants from Pub Charities and NZ Community Trust to complete our re-seating programme to the Victoria cinema.

Our Audience:

We have continued to have a great number and variety of live performances at the Vic over the last year.

There were 60,000 patrons with 8,000 of these for performing arts and private hire events.

These included numerous well-attended concerts, a comedy night, a musical by 4 Takapuna Grammar students, and a play and solo performances in the Vic Lounge. Another success was the Roger Hall play reading series to celebrate Sir Roger's contribution to NZ theatre with over 300 people attending. We believe we've found the perfect forum to have live theatre at the Vic following last year's first play reading series and we were grateful to the Devonport/Takapuna Local board for its funding support.

The Vic continues to be a huge part of the Devonport community, hosting numerous film fund-raisers for local schools, charities and businesses, as well as small film festivals. It really has become an integral part of the community.

The Vic Lounge and fourth cinema dual activity space has come into its own this year. Having the fourth screen has helped the movie programming and people have reacted positively to the low-key, home lounge feeling of the room.

It's also very useful for events – we've had several solo and small musical events and even a two-person play set in a bar. Plus it is a very popular birthday party venue.

Financial:

Our audited accounts for the last year ending October 2018 are displayed on the Charities Commission website. Key figures are revenue of \$113,000 and costs of \$95,000 with total Trust assets now \$427,000. Cash in the bank was \$87,000.

The Trust Board:

We bid a very fond farewell to David Downs earlier this year. He had been on the board for seven years and has contributed so much with his energy, expertise, his good ideas and plain common sense. He became our treasurer and secretary and carried on with these duties even when in Boston going through cancer therapy.

We farewell him from the board tonight but we know he'll always be a great friend of the Vic.

Long-time Devonport resident and retired accountant David Harrop has joined as our new treasurer.

Rebekah Nolan has resigned after 18 months on the board because of work commitments and we thank for her work on the promo video.

Libby Boyd, Mark Pearce and Hamish Grotrian continue on the board. Margot McRae, Mark Sigglekow have been re-elected as co chairs.

The trust continues to have a positive relationship with our theatre director Philipp Jaser of the Vic Ltd. He embraces the trust's community objectives and works hard to make the Vic a successful cinema and performing venue.

Summary:

We have had another successful year and we are excited about the future.

The Vic is now a well-established part of the Devonport community and is well-known throughout Auckland as a boutique cinema and arts venue.

We look forward to raising the funds to really take the theatre to the next level of comfort and to continue to restore the heritage of this fine old theatre.

Margot McRae and Mark Sigglekow

Co Chairs Victoria Theatre Trust
18/9/19