

Minutes of 55th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THEATRE NEW ZEALAND
Held at 10am Sunday 21st September 2025
At Riverlea Theatre, Riverlea, Hamilton

APOLOGIES: Pam Logan, David Chambers, Bryan Aitken, Adriann Smith, Nanette Wright, , Jillian Carpenter, Margaret Robertson, Jonathan Hendry, Murray Lynch, Chris Lockley, Grace Voice, Janneke Gilligan

IN ATTENDANCE: Ruth Sarratt, Ewen Coleman, Marilyn Ollet, Adrienne Hurley, Tama Smith, Paul Percy, Mark Perry, Anna Russon-Collins, Lorna Ashton. Andrew Mardon, Brent Caldwell, Jonathan Smith, Anne Corney, Linda Voice, Debra Percy, Peter Hurley, Erica Ward.

WELCOME Declared Open 10.03am

MINUTES OF 54thth AGM 14th September 2024 to be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved true and correct: Adrienne Hurley

Seconded: Tama Smith

Passed Unopposed

MATTERS ARISING:

Ewen asked re the accounts from last year, Marilyn will arrange with a comparison to be circulated to membership as were not sited at last years AGM.

ANNUAL REPORT: President Paul Percy

Ewen advised that the President Report - should be a report in alignment with accounts on the years activities - Marilyn will provide activities report as it is on Charities Commission.

Difficulties with Treasurer taking over, change of signatories, new Secretary being some of the challenges faced in the last year. There are challenges facing us in terms of the hours of work being all volunteer hours and how we are best to get support to make this easier, as well as personal matters for the exec that have reduced volunteer hours.

Summer School report requested to be circulated Toni will send this out with the AGM minutes.

Asked re the spiritual home approach to Riverlea being mentioned in the presidents report. It is in the 10 year plan.

Asked if National Library could hold archive material - no

Want people to be able to come and see our history along with MTNZ and ETNZ.

Ewen asked about in the short term could it go to PlayMarket. Discussion was started last year. Paul invited Ewen to be part of the journey with this.

Anne asked where they may be looking for a building. Could it be rural rather than in a city.
We will look at all options

Will need funding to make it happen with the other organisations on board.

Moved to accepted as true and correct: Anne Corney

Seconded: Johnathan Smith

Passed

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Marilyn Ollett

Discussed the difficulties learning xero, coding was not consistent, corrected this for transparency.

Has also taken on Membership Secretary as this comes through xero.

2022 - 2023

72 groups

22 individual members

2023-2024

73 groups

27 individual members

2024-2025

73 groups

21 individual members

Theatrefest 2024 - 68 entries paid

Summer Theatre Intensive January 2025

Despite a grant from Timaru Council to cover the event hire, did run at a loss due to two very late withdrawals, in good faith the executive gave full refunds as we didn't have a cancellation policy but we do now.

Significant investment into rebranding

Accounts prepared by Community Accounting Christchurch - which was a full audit, above and beyond our requirements to start us off on a clean slate.

Ewen requested the auditors certificate be sent out to the membership when it comes through. Marilyn will do this

Evident that we do need to look to funding to assist with projects such as theatrefest, summer school etc in a regional context.

Moved as true and accurate record - with auditors certificate to be sent out: Marilyn Ollett

Seconded: Ruth Sarratt

Passed Unopposed

ELECTIONS:

OFFICERS:

President

Nominations:

Paul Percy

Passed unopposed

Secretary:

Nominations

Toni Sullivan

Passed unopposed

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Youth Representative:

Nominations:

Tama Smith

Passed unopposed

Region 5

Ratification - Samantha Baxter co-opted during 2025

Ratified

Region 3

Nomination:

Adrienne Hurley

Passed Unopposed

Region 7

Ratification - Brent Caldwell co-opted during 2025

Ratified

PATRONS: Rawiri Paratene, Jennifer Ward-Lealand

Unopposed

GENERAL BUSINESS

- World Theatre Festival 2027
 - Paul spoke to the report that was circulated.
 - There is provision for pulling out if funding is not in place.
 - 12 international teams to be selected plus one NZ and one Australian

Lorna - asking in 2024 minutes it says two teams from NZ to participate, Paul said we are looking at one team from NZ and one from Australia - PP says this will be tapping into the AUS market.

Using Sounding Theatre, Hanna Playhouse and Bats theatre.

Ruth S - why leaping right into hosting when we haven't sent people very often. What is the mandate from community grass roots? Feels hasn't asked the community. Things in back chat but no proposal to vote on. Acknowledged

Lorna are we getting government funding? We are trying.

Tama suggests that we show the plan for different circumstances for going ahead or pulling out.

Lorna suggested subcommittee - Paul said yes now that we know we have the rights. So that plan needs to be generated and get people involved from membership and community.

Anne Corney wants minuted that she is happy to help.

Ewen has concerns regarding energy put into this and it taking over from our general activities ie theatrefest and summer school.

If we don't have a fully funded festival by the time selections need to be made, we won't be going ahead.

Document tabled by Ewen in regards to the concerns raised today. This will go to the executive to answer.

- Building Blocks
 - Ruth Sarratt - more populated by youth or school groups. Feels the document will make this worse.

- Tama asking for feedback from the floor in regards to how to encourage and make it more balanced.
- Ruth - learning, from adjudicators and removing awards, does it encourage or discourage.
- Marilyn - groups that participate or used to that, the teams she has spoken to, adults want the competitive aspect back, should be friendly competition. Yes they want to learn and improve through adjudication but also competition.
- It was discussed that straight forward documentation around what is encouraged in Theatrefest, refine the document.
- Need to use Regional Reps more wisely to encourage participation
- Story telling needs to be done around the benefits.

- Strategic Plan

Ruth requested clarification around spiritual home is that set as Riverlea - it was clarified they were the only group to come back to us willing to have discussion

Adrienne Hurley - wanted it minuted from the executive, the appreciation of all the work Paul has done.

Ruth raised why the formation of TANZ when ANZDA exists. - Clarified in discussions with TNZ they were not in favour of the rubric and decided to not sign the contract six weeks out from Theatrefest.

Discussion from Ewen - ANZDA did not want to hand over the mark sheet, never been asked, he feels these are personal.

Discussed that schools do this all the time that an assessment of a student's work is not a personal assessment.

Ewen discussed wanting to be able to discuss their marks rather than handing over the mark sheet.

Tama understands the discussion around reducing a performance to a numerical assessment but understands the reason and importance.

Lorna said had this discussion with cast and crew of playbox and is in support of the numerical assessment as competitors know that it is fair.

Ruth wants minuted - is impressed with the document, disappointed that ANZDA and TNZ were unable to come to agreement.

Meeting closed - 11.51am