



AGM: Presidents Report February 2024

The Year in Review

2023 has been another big year.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Diamond Valley Singers committee. Their work and support have meant that we have been able to put on two stage shows this year, be part of the choir at Eltham Orchestra's "Best of Gilbert and Sullivan" concert as well as the inaugural DVS: "Ladies on Stage" concert at the Warrandyte Mechanics institute. My personal thanks go to Ian Lowe, Angela Hennel, Naomi Robertson, Charli Lewis, Keryn Patman, Amanda Middleditch, Hannah Wade, Hannah Sleeth, Bernadette Sheedy, Olivia King and Scott Patton.

Secondly, I would like to thank the DVS members. Your support is what makes our group function so well. So, whether you are a recent member or a long-term member, I want to say a sincere thank you for your involvement and enthusiastic engagement of Diamond Valley Singers.

Our first meeting in March this year saw the committee coming together and defining our priorities. Our first priority was to get Seussical JR. on stage in March.

This Youth Production, Seussical JR was co-Directed by Lexi Patman and Tommy Murphy. The Musical Director was Sam Thomas. It was a great success with an audience of over 1300 for the 8 performances. A cast and crew of over 80 brought this fun show to the stage, and the audience enjoyed meeting the cast at the end of the performances.

The Broadway Musical production was "Spamalot". It was a "step away" from the more traditional musical that DVS has performed in the past. A cast and crew of over 50 presented the 8-performance season to an audience of just under 1000. A great creative achievement and thanks go to our Director, Tamblyn Smith, Assistant Director Charli Lewis and our Musical director Olivia King. The Production Manager was Angela Hennel.

DVS then presented "Ladies on Stage" at the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute. Bernadette Sheedy was our director, Olivia King our Musical Director, Charli Lewis our Choreographer and Angela Hennel the Production Manager. Two shows were staged with a cast of 20. Thanks to Gerard and Linden Banner for their technical support and Gerard for playing. Also thanks to Naomi and April Robertson and Mary McDonald for their assistance on the day with front of house. A great success for our first variety show.

We have also had two successful Eltham Bunnings performances featuring the cast of current shows performed in 2023.

DVS was thrilled to have received Lyrebird nominations for Spamalot, the Ladies on Stage Concert, as well as Seussical JR. in 2023.

I would like to now give you an overview of what the committee has been working on this year. There has been some heavy lifting done by our committee members to stabilise the Diamond Valley Singers and to prepare for in the future:

1. Looking at future key resources needed: The Production Manager is a key

role in getting any show on stage. They work with the Director and Musical Director as well as co ordinating all the key stakeholders in a Youth or Broadway production. We still need people who would like to gain a full scope of theatrical experience and work with DVS in this essential role of Production Manager.

2. 2023 / 2024 Grant Applications: We have applied for Grants again this year from the Commonwealth Government. We have been successful in being granted \$2500. This will help us fund a new digital sound mixer for use with our productions.
3. We have had a major fundraising night come together under the leadership of Hannah Sleeth. The November Trivia Night was a great success with over \$1000 raised for nominated charities.
4. The DVS executive has also secured an ongoing Theatre rental relationship with WHS.

As we move into 2024, our Broadway Production for this year in July will be “Little Mermaid”, Directed by Charli Lewis. The Musical Director is Tim Wilson, Choreographer, Kimberley Read and Production Manager is Angela Hennel. This is a big show for Diamond Valley Singers, and we are fortunate to have this wonderful creative team to bring this 8 performance season on in July to the stage.

Finally, I would like to say some “personal thanks” to those who have made this year stand out:

- Mark Clark and Steve Wilkie, for their work on the set design and build for “Spamalot” and “Frozen JR”.
- Nick Moore and Rhonda Cadman along with Scott Patton for their work on the sets, props and design for “Frozen JR.”
- Angela Hennel for her continued administrative support to DVS and for undertaking role of Production Manager for two shows.
- Also, Keryn Patman who has come on board as Co Production Manager for Frozen JR.
- Our Directors: Tamblyn Smith, Charli Lewis, Lexi Patman and Tommy Murphy. Our Musical Directors: Olivia King and Nick Spriggs.
- Rhonda Cadman for managing our great working relationship with Eltham Bunnings
- We also need to thank Jennie and Kristen Barnett for their continued support with Front of House. The FOH team is some peoples first interaction with DVS, and we thank them for supporting so many shows with us.

I would also like to acknowledge the continuing support of Alan and Janette Flint. For DVS to be able to use the Panton Hill facility to make all our sets is such a gift. Without this support, DVS would not be able to continue our ability to give to charities which make our Community Theatre so unique.



Malcolm Wilton
President, Diamond Valley Singers