



## ADFAS Newcastle - Notes from the Chair - 13 Nov 2021

### *Notes from the Chair ...*

Dear ADFAS Newcastle Members,

It was wonderful to see so many members at our last lecture of the year with Ron Ramsey in the magnificent Christ Church Cathedral. We trust you enjoyed it as much as we did. A trip back to Venice got many people talking about future travel, and the history of the buildings and the people who lived there only whetted our appetite for future plans. We were pleased that 110 members were able to attend in person and a further 80 watched on-line. This is a good indication that our members are still enjoying both the ADFAS lectures and each other's company.

### *Committee...*

We would like to thank our hard working Committee for all their support through this difficult COVID year; we couldn't have done it without them. A special 'thank you' goes to our departing Committee Members, Jennifer Prigg and Richard Jennings and a welcome to our new Committee Members Jane Burke, Jenny Jennings and Nick Killin.

### *AGM ...*

A special 'thank you' to Lindy Henderson for competently acting as our returning officer and her report with the results of the AGM is attached.

### *2022 Programme...*

We are very excited about next year's programme which contains all Australian lectures on a wide range of topics and we hope you also find it interesting. A copy of the programme is attached for you to print out and is available on our website at: [www.adfasnewcastle.org.au](http://www.adfasnewcastle.org.au). We are not having the programme printed this year to keep our expenses down, but we will have a membership card printed for you to put in your wallet. This will be available at the first lecture next year.

### *Membership ...*

To all members who have already renewed their membership 'thank you'. We would like to remind you that you need to get your renewal form in by 3 December to go in the draw for the bottle of champagne. The fee this year is a special rate of \$75 per member. A copy of the membership form is attached.

### *Young Arts....*

The members have been wonderful in supporting Young Arts and we encourage you to

continue to do so either through a direct donation or by buying tickets in the raffle at the lecture. Below is an extract from one of the Young Arts recipients that outlines how they have used their grant.

*"Young People's Theatre* has always sought to provide theatre opportunities to school aged children from a wide variety of backgrounds. This has been achieved by keeping our fees as low as possible - generally half the cost of other similar organisations in the region. Despite this, there are families who struggle to find money in their budget to enrol their children. We have supported the following people:

- a talented child whose parents have split up and who exhibits signs of anguish as he tries to navigate his new environment. His father is very well meaning but does not really understand his child's need to be involved in the theatre arts.
- a child from a single parent family with no support from the father and whose mum cannot afford the fees. The child, who shows signs of distress, benefits from being with like-minded children and immersing herself in drama activities.
- a child whose mother passed away from cancer, leaving the family in grief and turmoil. The very talented child is now able to continue with her theatre activities and, at least, have part time relief from the family sorrows.
- a child from a multicultural background whose mother is striving to provide her daughter with an emotional outlet on a small family budget.
- a child with mental health issues who is finding it difficult to complete her schooling; drama activities provide her an opportunity to be involved with other young people in a non-threatening environment

Each of these children has a passion for theatre and performance. Coming to Young People's Theatre not only helps them hone their acting and production skills, it provides them with a safe haven where they can escape the adult issues they face in their day to day life - disadvantage, grief and health issues. Acting, while enabling children to work through their emotions and gain empowerment by experiencing positive outcomes, also teaches them the employability skills of team work, following instructions, problem solving and appropriate communication.

On behalf of YPT I would again like to express our appreciation for the grant you awarded us, for without community support it would be a challenge for YPT to continue to provide performance opportunities for disadvantaged young people."

Finally, we would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas season with your family and friends and we look forward to seeing you again in 2022.



*Sandro Botticelli - The Nativity (c1473-5)*

Cathy Tate OAM  
Judy Wotton