

## **Boonah & District Cultural Foundation Inc.**

### **Annual General Meeting 2018-19**

#### **Presidents Report**

This year the Committee, made some changes to the management of the organisation. We created a Finance Committee with responsibility for the long-term financial sustainability of the Foundation and a Marketing Committee to create a cohesive Marketing Plan for the whole year.

#### **Writers Festival, May 2019**

The Writers Festival was our first event for the year and was great success. The feedback was very positive. It is growing in popularity and getting a good reputation.

The guest speaker at the dinner on Saturday evening was Shane Webke, former international rugby league player and TV presenter. Shane was very interesting and amusing. He had two or three books ghost written and his comments on that, could have had some good tips for writers considering that genre.

#### **Well-Seasoned Feast of Song, June 2019**

Our first concert for the Year was a Well-Seasoned Feast of Song by the Fassifern Voices, 35 in number under the musical direction of Dr. Bob Smith. It was well received and well attended.

#### **Lazarus Quartet, August 2019**

In August, The Foundation presented the Berlin Lazarus String Quartet. The pieces by Mozart and Beethoven were beautiful and Bartok was robust and very entertaining. The leader finished his introduction to the evening with a novel reminder to us all to turn mobile phones back on when we leave.

#### **Arts Festival, September 2019**

The Arts Festival is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Ritchies Supa IGA and a grant from the Scenic Rim Regional Council for which we are truly grateful.

This year we made some changes.

## **Boonah & District Cultural Foundation Inc.**

### **Annual General Meeting 2018-19**

#### **Presidents Report**

We introduced a new event, a Choir for the Night created and directed by Dr. Bob Smith. It was for anyone and everyone to enjoy the fun of learning a song together in three parts in one night. It was lots of fun.

We combined Calico on The Catwalk with the Awards Night to present the Writing, Art and Fashion awards together with some professional entertainment and a short comedy sketch by members of the committee and 12-year-old Megan Gordon. It was a good change.

The Art Exhibition, of over a hundred entries in the competition, was open throughout the week of the festival and was well attended. The raffle, in which a ticket was the fee for entering a vote in the People Choice, was very popular and raised a tidy sum for the Foundation's coffers.

The Red Rim Concert was a spectacular combination of the Redlands and Boonah community bands under the direction of brothers Peter and Simon Francis, respectively. The highlight was Beethoven's 1812 Overture where the audience was given paper bags to blow up and bang to simulate the cannons.

Despite the valiant attempt by the conductor to coordinate the paper cannons with the music, the audience was having none of it and general pandemonium ensued with great hilarity.

The Great Debate saw the Boonah State High School team take on the topic "That kids today have it easier than their parents did" while the adults debated whether 'it is better to be a sidekick than a hero'. The adults, of course, got up to their usual shenanigans of dark humour and questionable PowerPoints.

In an unplanned highlight of the evening, the intended Master of Ceremonies Andrew Hockley was unwell, so, it was decided to ask for a volunteer from the audience.

Angie Deeks put up her hand and general hilarity ensued stirred up by the debaters willfully ignoring the timekeeper and occasionally hurling good natured abuse at her.

## **Boonah & District Cultural Foundation Inc.**

### **Annual General Meeting 2018-19**

#### **Presidents Report**

The Youth Showcase with its 47 youngsters was its usual glittering song, dance, and light show with a special appearance of the Fassifern Gymnasts Club. It was a delightful evening much appreciated by a sizable audience.

A very successful festival.

#### **Bookfest, Nov 2019**

The Bookfest is our major annual fund raiser and there was a swarm of people outside the Cultural Centre waiting for the doors to open on Saturday morning. It was more successful than either of the past two years.

#### **Other Activities**

In other activities:

- The Foundation made a donation to the Library of a mobile stationery cupboard.
- Took over the care of the Boonah Archives from the Council, mainly because the archives were for the Boonah district and not the Scenic Rim region.
- Provided judges, and awards for speaking competitions at local schools.
- And in a change to the traditional Bookbug event, presented the books at Story telling at the library in March.

It was a very busy year.

#### **Thanks**

##### **Committee**

The committee has been absolutely awesome.

##### **Diana Hockley**

Diana is the driving force behind the Writers Festival travelling far and wide to promote the festival to writers' groups, and tenaciously pursuing quality speakers to run the sessions. It is mainly due to Diana's passion that makes it the great event that it is.

## **Boonah & District Cultural Foundation Inc.**

### **Annual General Meeting 2018-19**

#### **Presidents Report**

##### **Graeme Crouch.**

Graeme is the Go-to man on the Committee, although when you go to him, he has usually already done it. He does most of the heavy lifting, hanging the art, setting up the stage, general organising and has been involved in every event.

##### **Julie Vellacott**

Julie is the quiet achiever on the committee. She doesn't say much but when she does, we all listen. Julie just gets on with things without being asked. One of Julie's great contributions is that she does the research to make sure there some facts and logic behind our ideas and decisions.

##### **Lacey Sawtell**

Lacey is passionate about working with the community especially the kids. She starts making costumes and props for the Youth Showcase in her Christmas holidays. Lacey directs the Youth Showcase, the Fashion and Awards Nights, actively promotes the events, and is the driving force and public face of the Bookfest. Lacey is irreplaceable.

##### **Lesley Beaton**

Lesley is the secretary, the master and commander of the administration. She spends hours and hours on the tedious but necessary tasks that keep the wheels turning, in addition to helping at many of the events. Lesley rules the committee meetings with an iron fist, with which she has been known to bang on the table when she thinks the members are being naughty.

##### **Peter Truer**

Otherwise known as Paparazzi Pete. In addition to being the treasurer, Peter is the photographer for the Guardian, a volunteer Firefighter, treasurer of the local branch of the Rural Firefighters, president of Rotary, a member of the Fassifern Voices, bagpipe player, and one of the organisers of the Southern Queensland Celtic Festival. Peter is the manifestation of 'If you want something done ask a busy person'.

When I asked Peter to be the treasurer, he accepted without hesitation.

## **Boonah & District Cultural Foundation Inc.**

### **Annual General Meeting 2018-19**

#### **Presidents Report**

##### **Tony Barnes.**

Tony has boundless enthusiasm and an irreverent sense of humour. With his experience in events and productions, he was a natural for organising the Great Comedy Debate and he did a great job.

##### **Volunteers**

I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped with all the Foundation events, and in particular:

##### **Dr. Bob Smith**

The Musical Director of the Fassifern Voices. I don't think a day would go by when Bob would not be writing, sourcing, arranging music, conducting rehearsals, or organising concerts for the Voices.

##### **Frank Reid**

Every week, Frank collects the books donated for the Bookfest, from the Library and takes them to the Foundation shed. A very valuable service for which we are very grateful.

##### **Library staff**

Debra, Dawn and Ingrid and the team, for providing an invaluable service for receiving donated books and being a contact point between people and the Foundation

Gary Lindsay for working on the sound and lighting desk.

Chantal Mortimer for helping us create a marketing plan.

Roxane Scott and Lynne Lloyd for help with the Writers Festival.

And Kodi Sawtell for choreography and mentoring the young performers in the Youth Showcase and for her work on the front desk of the Bookfest.