

ANNUAL REPORT, 2021



MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE
Celebrating 75 years

Annual Report 2021

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We acknowledge the Wonnarua People as the
Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land
upon which Maitland Repertory Theatre stands.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last year has been a series of questions. Will our shows go ahead? If so, when? How many can we have in the audience? Will they have to wear masks? Will they have to sign in?

Despite the uncertainty, we carried on and had a good year with *The Mousetrap*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays On Man-in-the Moon Marigolds*, *Waiting for Lefty* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* all drawing great audiences. Our junior show had to be called off, but we arranged a replacement show in conjunction with Newcastle Theatre Company. Unfortunately COVID-19 restrictions meant that show was delayed but it finally went ahead in January 2022 and was well received. As I write, *Veronica's Room* is about to have its final three performances and again audience reaction has been positive.

Members have also taken part in Maitland's Heritage Fest and nearly \$700.00 was raised from a sale of books mostly from the estate of Life Members John and Dorothy Morris. Thank you to the Morris family for their donation.

As usual, set building and maintenance work is carried out every Saturday morning with Ian, Anne, Dimity, Danny and Alexandra being regular attendees. Thank you to them and other members who gave up their free time on a regular basis.

This will be my last report as President and I would like to thank all members (especially the committee) for their help since my first year in 2012.

Looking forward to the year to come,

Robert Comber
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We planned to produce five productions during 2021, including the Newcastle Theatre Company touring production of 84 Charing Cross Road which had to be postponed until early 2022. In the end just four plays were produced.

We're very proud that our directors, cast and crew received nominations and awards for their plays at the 2021 CONDA Awards:

- Excellence in Set Design - Alex Comber, Dim Eveleens, Maria Bardakos – *The Effect of Gamma Rays On Man-In-The Moon Marigolds*
- Best Ensemble - *Waiting for Lefty* – Reamus Youth Theatre
- Best Ensemble - *A Doll's House*
- Excellence by a Performer in a Supporting Role – Hannah King – *A Doll's House*
- Excellence by a Director - Nicholas Thoroughgood – *A Doll's House*
- Best Dramatic Production - *A Doll's House*

Thank you to the talented and dedicated teams of cast and crew who make all our productions possible and to the tireless work from the 'Saturday Morning Crew' who keep the theatre running.

Due to COVID concerns, our Life Member Training Scholarship Scheme has had limited demand and we hope this will improve in 2022.

Our Acting Classes continued during the year supported by the hard work of our tutors and administrator Alexandra Comber.

Joanne Lawler stepped back from the leadership of Reamus Youth Theatre during the year. Joanne's dedication to the role has been outstanding for the last six years.

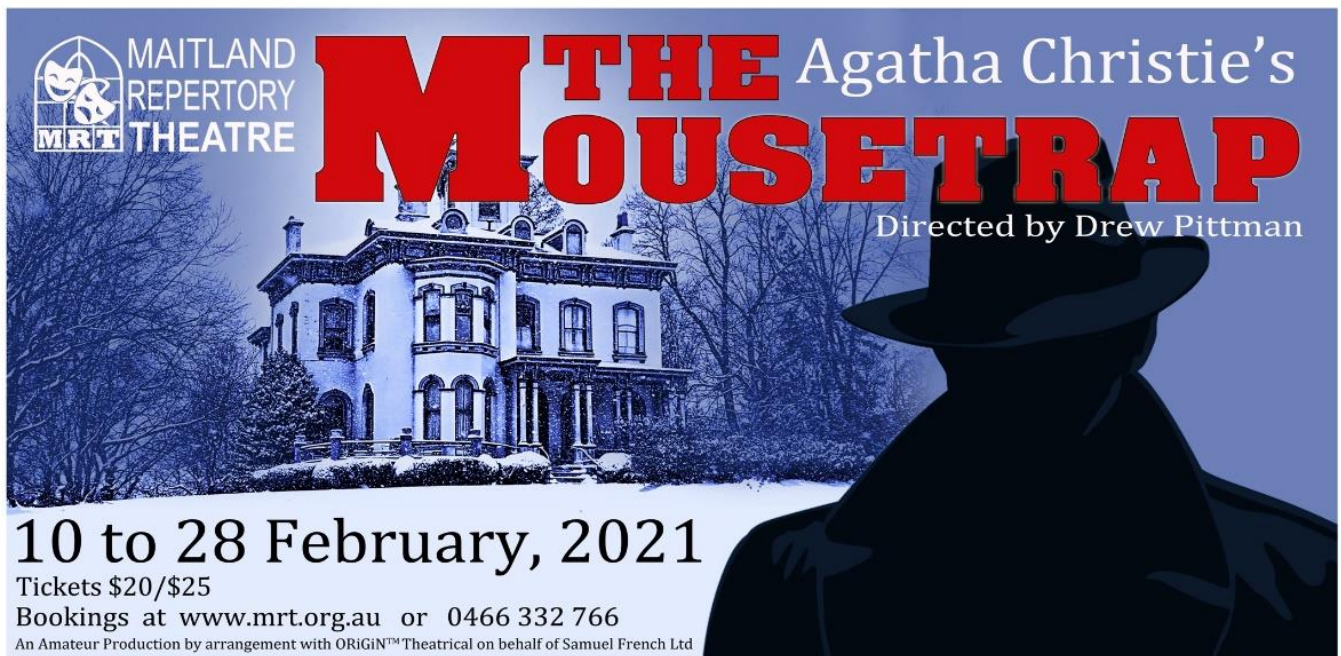
Monitoring and complying with the changing COVID-19 rules continued during 2021 and auditions by self-tape became temporarily normal.


In the wider community we

- participated in the inaugural Heritage Fest in June 2021
- hosted a Maitland Regional Art Gallery Visual Arts Study Day
- participated in a reading of historic letters at a National Trust Anniversary event at Tomago House, and
- will hold our first Open Day in recent years on Saturday 12 March.

As we now move into our 75th year, we thank our predecessors for their forethought, especially for the purchase of our theatre. Over the coming year we hope to focus on our membership and ensuring the longevity of our heritage building for the benefit of our members and the Maitland community.

Ian Robinson
Secretary



 MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's

Directed by Drew Pittman

10 to 28 February, 2021

Tickets \$20/\$25
Bookings at www.mrt.org.au or 0466 332 766

An Amateur Production by arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French Ltd

TREASURER'S REPORT

I have pleasure in presenting to this Annual General Meeting the financial report for the year from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

Briefly, the results for 2021 are as follows:

1. *Total Income* was \$96,687 (includes Jobkeeper subsidy of \$14,550)
2. *Total Other Income* was \$37,823
3. *Total Cost of Sales* was \$26,257, an increase of \$15,498
4. *Total Expenses* were \$86,113, a decrease of \$73,751
5. Balance of *General Funds* stood at \$99,712, a decrease of \$12,680
6. *Total Equity* stands at \$744,618, a decrease of \$258
7. *Nett Loss* for 2021 was \$258, an improvement of \$5,763 over 2020

* See Notes to the Accounts for clarification

Maitland Repertory Theatre produced and performed four productions during 2021. A detailed analysis of the results of each production is listed separately in the *MRT Main Performance Profit and Loss Statements 2021*. Below is a brief summary:

Production	Month	No of Shows	Attendance	Avg Per Performance	\$ Net Profit*	% Net Profit/Income
The Mousetrap	February	10	1,120	112	\$19,396	74.63
Waiting For Lefty	May	10	423	43	\$ 3,334	46.24
Marigolds	July	9	274	31	\$ 923	16.08
Earnest	Nov/Dec	9	799	89	\$14,518	73.31

* a) No indirect costs (e.g. power, rates) are allocated to shows for the purpose of this calculation.

b) Season ticket sales have been allocated to each show on a pro-rata basis.

Maintenance and maintenance improvement expenses decreased by \$21,316 and include:

- Routine testing of electrical equipment, emergency lights, fire equipment and first aid maintenance
- Weekly contract cleaning of the theatre
- Contract lawn mowing on an as-needs basis
- Installation of polycarbonate covers to the stained glass windows at the front of the theatre.

Capital Works – Plant and Equipment – Air Conditioning

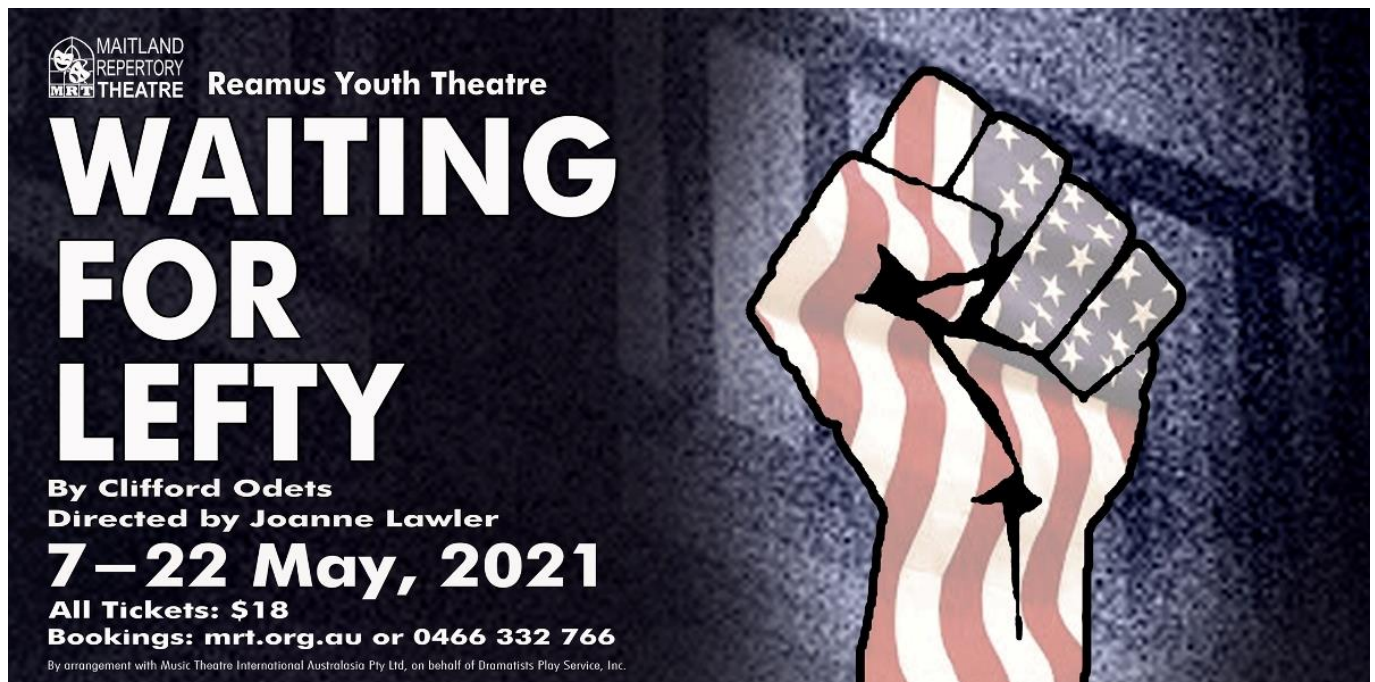
- Installation of three units in the auditorium \$10,730

Funds Invested:

Term deposit at The Mutual: \$50,000 at 0.4% until 10 November, 2022
2021 has been another difficult and challenging year for Maitland Repertory Theatre. With the restraints of COVID-19, we have had reduced income from play attendances as well as the absence of the junior production for the year. However, we have somehow managed to come close to breaking even which, under the circumstances is an excellent result.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the theatre in 2021 by giving their valuable time and help throughout the year. I would especially like to thank our hard-working Secretary, who does so much for MRT and for me, in my role as Treasurer.

Terry Allen
Treasurer



Income Statement (unaudited¹⁰)
for the year ending 31 December 2021

Income	<i>Notes</i>	2021 \$	2020 \$
Ticket Sales		49,955	18,987
Season Tickets		6,136	10,315
Catering at Shows		2,773	1,292
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>58,864</i>	<i>30,594</i>
Cost of Sales			
Catering (Production)		2,353	1,326
Production Advertising		10,692	3,173
Royalties, copyright and scripts		5,681	1,827
Production costs (other)		-	-
Commission on tickets	<i>3</i>	<i>3,752</i>	<i>2,012</i>
Set		2,236	915
Lighting / Sound		906	641
Costumes		638	544
Makeup and Hair		-	322
<i>Total Cost of Sales</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>26,257</i>	<i>10,759</i>
Gross Profit		32,607	19,834

Income Statement (continued)
for the year ending 31 December 2021

		2021	2020
	<i>Notes</i>	\$	\$
Gross Profit		32,607	19,834
Other Income			
Membership			
Jobkeeper Subsidy		14,550	75,000
Acting Classes		19,432	27,933
Membership - Subscriptions		710	544
		34,692	103,477
Other			
Donations		2,736	1,384
Interest Income		396	898
		3,132	2,282
<i>Total Other Income</i>	5	37,823	105,759
Expenses			
Membership			
Life Member Scholarships and Training		1,080	600
		1,080	600
Employment Expenses			
Wages and Salaries		35,030	92,451
Other employer expenses		751	2,252
		35,781	94,703
Occupancy Expenses			
Maintenance Improvement		5,216	10,898
Insurances		8,574	7,277
Maintenance Expenses		8,909	24,542
Electricity and Gas		2,059	2,445
Rates		8,223	8,537
Water		1,240	1,355
Telephone and Internet		1,461	1,466
Equipment less than \$1,000		1,866	1,437
General Amenities		1,711	34
		39,258	57,990
Administrative			
Postage		3,908	2,196
Printing and Stationery		1,743	1,769
Audit and Administration		269	279
Donations		1,416	-
Bank and EFTPOS Fees		315	453
Software Service Costs		2,343	1,874
		9,994	6,571
<i>Total Expenses</i>	6	86,113	159,864
		(15,683)	(34,271)
Grants	7	15,425	28,250
Net Profit (Loss)		(258)	(6,021)

Balance Sheet (unaudited¹⁰)
as at 31 December 2021

		2021	2020
	Notes	\$	\$
Equity			
Retained Earnings		744,875	750,896
Profit (Loss)		(258)	(6,021)
Total Equity		744,617	744,875
<i>Represented By:</i>			
Assets			
<i>Current Asset</i>			
Cash		250	350
Cash at Bank		96,067	104,588
Building Fund	9	3,395	7,454
<i>Total Current Assets</i>		99,712	112,392
<i>Non Current Assets</i>			
Land and Building	10	374,015	374,015
Plant, Equipment, Furniture		271,464	260,734
<i>Total Non Current Assets</i>		645,479	634,749
Total Assets		745,191	747,141
Liabilities			
<i>Current Liabilities</i>		573	2,266
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>		573	2,266
<i>Non Current Liabilities</i>		-	-
<i>Total Non Current Liabilities</i>		-	-
Total Liabilities		573	2,266
Net Assets		744,618	744,875

Building Fund (unaudited¹⁰)**Activity for the Year Ending 31 December 2021**

Balance as at 1 January 2021		7,454
<i>Income</i>		
Donations	1,000	
<i>Add - Sub Total</i>		<i>1,000</i>
<i>Expenditure</i>	5,059	
<i>Minus - Sub Total</i>		<i>5,059</i>
Balance at 31 December 2021		3,395
Balance in Bank Account at 31 December 2021		3,395

Notes to the Accounts 2021

1. This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on a cash basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

- a. Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of six months or less.
 - b. Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.
 - c. Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised inclusive of the amount of GST, as the Theatre is not registered for GST.
2. Total Income increased by \$28,270 due to the increased number of full scale productions and ticket sales in 2021 compared to 2020.
3. Commission of \$3,752 (2020 \$2,012) represents 3.75% + \$0.99 per Eventbrite transaction, 2.50% of JoinIT/Stripe subscriptions and payment fees.
4. Cost of Sales increased by \$15,498. The main component of this change was an increase in all production costs due to less COVID-19 production disruption in 2021 compared to 2020.

5. Total Other Income decreased by \$67,935. The main component was less income from the Australian Government Jobkeeper Subsidy.
6. Total Expenses decreased by \$73,751. The main components of this change was decreased expenditure on Wages and Salaries due to the cessation of the COVID-19 Jobkeeper subsidy and a decrease in Maintenance Expenses and Maintenance Improvements.
7. The theatre received grant and rebate funding of:
 - a. \$12,000 - Community Building Partnership Grant
 - b. \$1,500 - NSW Government Fee Rebate
 - c. \$1,925 - Maitland City Council Heritage Grant
8. Refer to the separate Building Fund Activity Statement for details of the Building Fund.
9. Land and Buildings are reported at cost. As at 28 February 2022 the buildings are insured for \$1,896,000 and contents for \$330,000.
10. Keith Compton of Comptons Accounting Pty Ltd will audit the financial records. Expected completion May, 2022.

Statement by the Management Committee

The Management Committee of Maitland Repertory Theatre Inc. is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales 2009 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

MRT ACTING CLASSES UPDATE

2021 proved to be another year of challenges for our classes. The uncertainty surrounding the pandemic left a number of students hesitant to return, and our numbers are still lower than usual - but are gradually picking up!

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold a production due to the lockdown, but that didn't stop us from providing more high-quality lessons online for our students. We also held an online showcase, which was a highlight for our students and families. Despite the situation, we did our best to keep them learning. Thank you to our wonderful tutors who kept spirits high and lessons fun.

The end of the year saw us say goodbye to Leilani Rose in the position of Head Tutor. We appreciate all her work over the last seven years to establish our classes and build them into what they are now. We are hopeful that 2022 will shape up to be one of our best years yet, and we are so excited to get our students back on the stage to perform and have fun!

Alex Comber

Classes Administrator



**MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE**

The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds

By Paul Zindel Directed by Maria Bardakos

10 to 25 July, 2021 Updated
Season Dates

Tickets \$20 and \$25

Bookings mrt.org.au or 0466 332 766

By Arrangement with ORiGiN Theatrical On Behalf of Samuel French A Concord Theatricals Company

PG Adult Concepts

REAMUS YOUTH THEATRE UPDATE

In 2021, Reamus took on *Waiting for Lefty*, directed by Joanne Lawler - an unapologetically real exploration of the struggles of The Great Depression told by the members of a taxi union. The play, by Clifford Odets, gave an opportunity for an exploration of the lives of real people during The Great Depression, in collections of stories from that era. Overall, the rawness of the characters in the script gave the opportunity for powerful performances that we were thrilled to bring to the stage.

We are especially proud that *Waiting For Lefty* was nominated for a CONDA Award for Best Ensemble.

Reamus Youth Theatre have been rehearsing our upcoming play, *Così*. With Lesley Coombes as director, assisted by Alex Simpson and Isabelle Moy, we've worked to explore genuine portrayals of mental illness, and have also explored how we confront our own mental health. Set in the era of the Vietnam war, Louis Nowra's *Così* highlights the stigma surrounding a group of patients in an insane asylum, through the perspective of a director caught in the complexity of his own personal and political life.

Blocking is now finished and we're looking forward to more intensive rehearsals, including further one-on-one character work, to paint a better picture of the development of these characters, and to give a stronger message about stigma, change, and growth in the context of mental health.

Lesley Coombes and Alex Simpson

Reamus Leaders

PLAY SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Play Selection and Discussion Group did not meet as often in 2021, due partly to Covid-19, but we did manage to read a number of plays and make a choice for 2022 which we're sure you'll find is an interesting mix.

It was great to see Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* finally hit the stage after two false Covid starts, and then Paul Zindel's *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* was also able to go into production. Reamus' *Waiting For Lefty* and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* were both enjoyed by our audiences as well.

PS&D group members are already searching for interesting plays for 2023 and will meet again shortly.

The Social Play Reading group meets regularly and reads some well-known and not-so-well-known plays. We have found that comedies are preferred and enjoyed. Not all these plays make their way to the selection panel, but readers enjoy having their own discussion about plays they have just read and enjoyed (or otherwise). Contact Ian on info@mrt.org.au (with Social Play Reading in the subject line) if you wish to attend.

You may have a play script at home, or see one for sale somewhere. If, after you've read it, you think it would be a good one to stage, then send us an email (info@mrt.org.au with Play Script Suggestion in the subject line) and tell us all about it.

We'd like to thank Col Kirkman for being involved with the PS&D group over the past couple of years.

Dimity Eveleens, Brendon Harris, Matt Collins, Danny Shaunessy and Anne Robinson



WARDROBE AND COSTUME SHED REPORT

Some donations have come to the Theatre as a result of people cleaning out wardrobes during lockdown. Many large bags have been sorted and in the Costume Shed there are many more waiting to be seen to.

Costumes were supplied for *The Mousetrap* (although most costumes were organised in 2020 by Kadisha Patterson when the show was first meant to go into production); *Waiting for Lefty* (thanks again to Kadisha for all her work); *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* (costumes sourced by Anne); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (a play set in 1980 instead of 1890 and costumes sourced by Anne); and a small number of costumes for *84 Charing Cross Road* (which was finally produced in January, 2022 after Covid-19 had delayed production).

There was no MRTAC production in 2021, due to the Covid-19 disruptions to the acting classes.

We are having regular working bees at our Theatre on Saturday mornings and, after organising refreshments for morning tea for the Saturday Morning Crew, I try to do some work in the costume shed before it's time to leave. We'd love to see you for morning tea, at about 10am, and would appreciate your help, if you can stay and give a hand with whatever is happening afterwards, either in the costume shed, on stage or somewhere else. It is lovely to see some members regularly come in and have a cuppa and a chat with us.

Email info@mrt.org.au or contact us on 0466 332 766 (and leave a message) to offer help at other times.

Anne Robinson

Wardrobe Supervisor

PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES REPORT

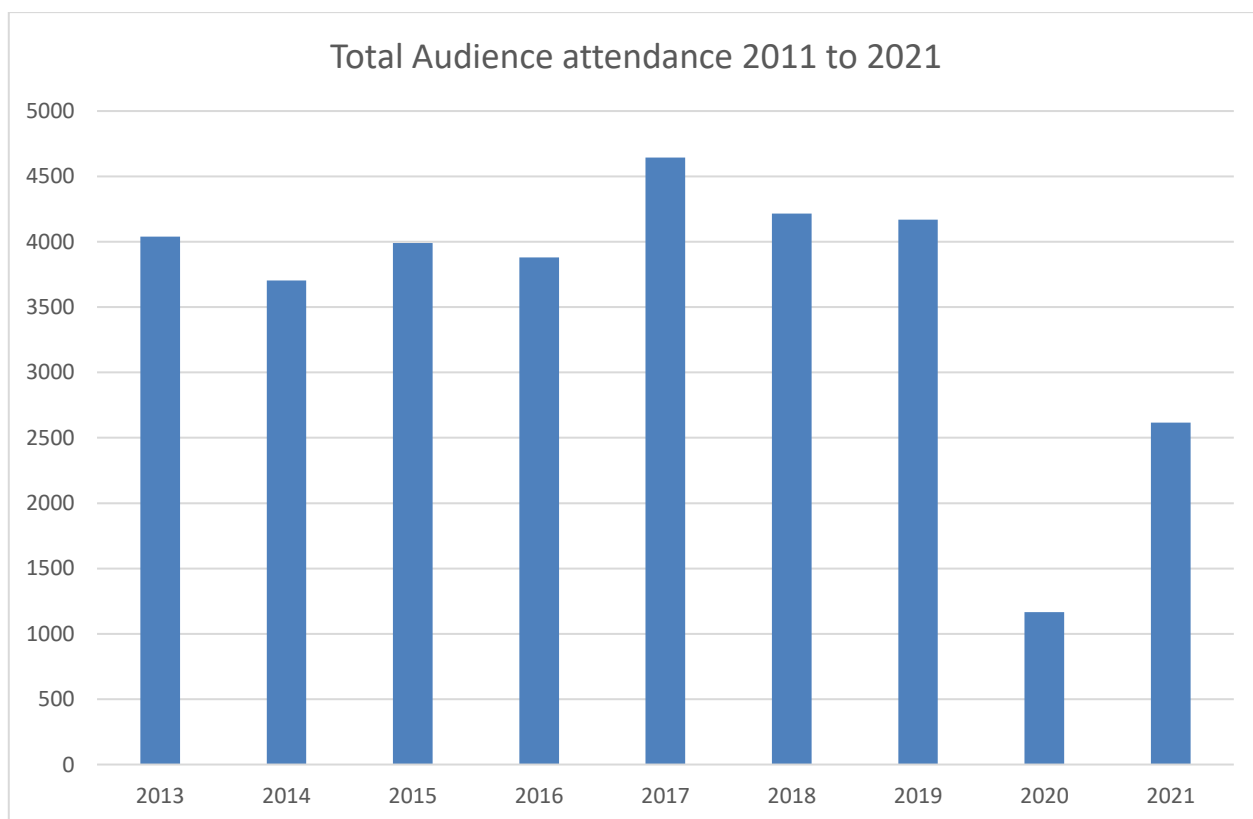
This is what we routinely do to promote our theatre productions:

- Media releases to many local media outlets
- Liaison with The Herald and The Maitland Mercury
- Posters and flyers are handed out to central points including the Visitor Centre and libraries
- Mailouts to over 900 supporters on our mailing list
- Corflute signs at the theatre and our supporters' locations
- Regular mailchimp emails to about 1,200 recipients, with more frequent weekly emails during productions
- Regular updates to our website
- Facebook posts – we have over 2,700 'likes' now
- Instagram posts – we have about 530 followers now
- Promoted Facebook events
- Liaison with MyMaitland and CONDA websites to promote plays
- When possible, opening night wine and refreshments, and charity fundraiser nights on the opening weekends of plays
- Cast and crew spread the word about each show.
- Our website transitioned to the simplified www.mrt.org.au in 2021

A special thank you to our supporter, Tony Vidray of AV Chartered Accountants, who organises the printing of high quality programs for us. Thank you to our volunteers who distribute our posters and flyers locally; thank you to Alex Comber for social media promotion; and to Anne Robinson and other volunteers for contributions in graphic design, photography and proof-reading.

AUDIENCE REPORT 2021**2021 Play Attendance**

The Mousetrap	1,120
Waiting For Lefty	423
The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds	274
The Importance of Being Earnest	799
TOTAL	2,616



COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT**Committee Meetings held from April 2021 to March 2022**

12 monthly meetings were held.

Committee Member	Meetings Attended
Robert Comber	12
Anne Robinson	12
Matt Scoles	12
Dimity Eveleens	11
Ian Robinson	11
Dan Shaunessy	10
Terry Allen	9
Colin Delaney	9
Joanne Lawler	9
Matt Collins (Alternative Committee Member)	6
Col Kirkman	2
Drew Pittman	2
Joseph Manning	1
Alex Simpson (Alternative Committee Member)	-
Kathy Keen (Alternative Committee Member)	-

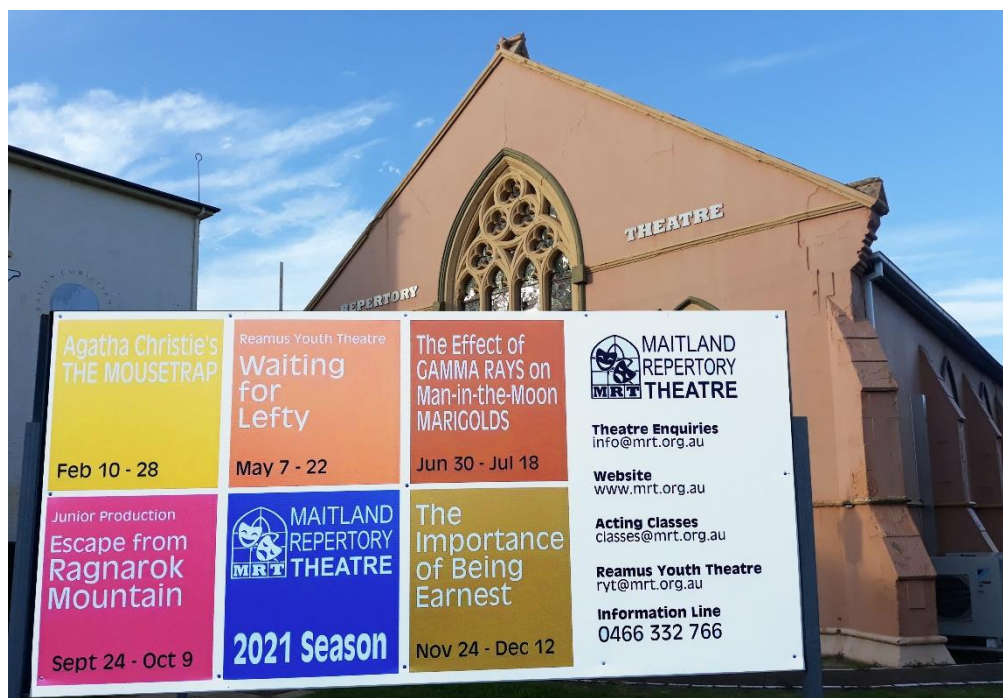
About Maitland Repertory Theatre

Maitland Repertory Theatre is an Incorporated Association and was founded in 1947. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is usually held in March. The Management Committee of twelve and three Alternative Committee Members are elected at the AGM to manage the theatre on behalf of its members. Members who are elected to Management Committee, subcommittees and other formal positions are expected to make a serious commitment to their role for one year, to attend meetings and carry out other duties as required.

Our Building

The theatre values our building – an integral part of Maitland's heritage - and we are fortunate that our members of the 1960s had the foresight to purchase this beautiful resource.

We are also fortunate to have formed a relationship with Mark Fenwick, heritage architect of Newcastle, and the management committee is working towards a long term plan for the maintenance and renewal of our 1850s building.



Our Mission

To stage inclusive high quality theatrical productions for the artistic aspirations of our members and for the entertainment of the Maitland community.

Patrons

Jenny Aitchison MP	Clr Loretta Baker
Mr Keith Cockburn	Mrs Margaret Sivyer OAM
Ms Meryl Swanson MP	

Life Members

John Morris (dec'd)	Dorothy Morris (dec'd)	Frank Oakes
Doug Pyle (dec'd)	Nell Pyle	Elaine Webb (dec'd)
Dulcie Mullard (dec'd)	Hal Cheetham	Frank Freeman
Helen Comber	Robert Comber	Dimity Eveleens
Anne Robinson	Ian Robinson	

Presidents

1947 – 1948	James Allison	1968	Tim Youldon
1949 – 1952	Geoff Barden	1969	Fran Dawson
1953 – 1954	Ray Cocking	1970 -1971	George Emery
1955 – 1956	George Emery	1972 – 1975	John Morris
1957 – 1958	Ruby Evans	1976 – 1982	Doug Pyle
1959	John Pickstock	1983 – 1989	Frank Oakes
1960	Ray Cocking	1990 – 1992	Doug Pyle
1961	Dulcie Mullard	1993 – 1994	Neil Campbell
1962 – 1965	George Emery	1995 – 2008	Frank Oakes
1966	Frank Cook	2009 – 2011	Dan Shaunessy
1967	George Emery	2012 – now	Robert Comber

