



2025 ANNUAL REPORT





Annual Report 2025

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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

MRT started 2025 with a bang with two productions running in February. Firstly, *Flood Stories*, directed by Anne Robinson, was a short season of three performances sponsored by MCC for the Anniversary of the 1955 Maitland Floods. This production was extremely popular with audiences and had a sold out season. This was followed closely by David Williamson's *The Great Divide*, directed by Ian Robinson. This Australian comedy was also a great success.

Our next production was *The Hanging*, directed by Aimee Cavanagh. A psychological drama/thriller gave the actors opportunity to challenge themselves and was very well received by audiences.

In 2025 we were pleased to welcome two first-time directors. Our Junior Production, *Robin Hood*, directed by Tyler Dean-Brinkley had a very successful season and was enjoyed by audiences young and old. Also Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web*, directed by Jess Gray. Agatha Christie is always popular and this fun mystery did not disappoint.

Lastly, we finished the year with an Australian comedy *It's My Party*, directed by Anne Robinson. A cheerful and successful end to 2025.

During the year, Joblink were engaged to paint and restore the Supper Room and repaint the exterior of the back buildings. These works have refreshed and improved our public spaces considerably, and we thank Paul and his crew for their efforts.

Sadly, during the year we lost Life Member Frank Freeman, our longest continually active member. Frank was one of our very early Repertory members and performed in numerous productions, including our first production at our High Street theatre, *Doctor in the House*. Frank was also our make-up artist for many years. He will be greatly missed and remembered fondly by all who knew him.

MRT cannot succeed without the support and involvement of our members. I would like to encourage all members to actively support your theatre, and thank all those who contributed their time and efforts throughout 2025

Finally, I would like to thank the outgoing committee members for their efforts and support during 2025 and I look forward to working with the new committee in 2026.

Dimity Eveleens

President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Here's a short summary of just some of our 2025 activities:

Membership

- Our members continued to hold Saturday Working Bees for set building and building maintenance.
- Members volunteer regularly for ushering at plays.
- Life Members Training Scholarships continue to be offered to members with limited demand and perhaps it's time for a review of the scheme's guidelines.
- As a reward for members we have automated the 50% member ticket discount on our online booking system.
- A few Reamus members have been meeting on an ad hoc basis and the future of the Reamus group is uncertain at this stage.

2025 CONDA Nominations

We had an excellent number of nominations:

- *Flood Stories, 1955* – Best Theatrical Special Event
- *Tyler Dean-Brinkley* – Excellence in Audio and Multimedia Design - *Robin Hood and His Merry Men*
- *Robin Hood and His Merry Men* – Best Production 18 and under play
- *Molly South* - Excellence by a Performer 18 and under in a Supporting Role – *Agatha Christie's Spider's Web*
- *Gabby Johns* - Excellence by a Performer in a Lead Role (Play) – *The Hanging*
- *Jessica Gray* - Excellence by a Performer in a Supporting Role (Play) – *First Things First*

Grants and Fundraising

We continued our fundraising campaign to replace the 170 year old slate roof but were not successful in major grant funding. A small Maitland City Council Heritage grant was approved.

Building

We were fortunate that workers from the Work for the Dole scheme and JoblinkPlus supported us by painting the sheds and the supper room. Our heritage lamps on the front lawn were renovated by our members and Community Service workers, and now look brilliant.

Community

We continued our regular Open Days on the last Saturday morning of each play's closing weekend and, again, one of our Open Days was scheduled to coincide with the NSW Seniors Festival. MRT had a stand with our members at the Maitland Community Connections Day at Maitland Town Hall in November. Our longstanding participation in the Community Service Scheme continues to pay dividends with diligent workers helping out at the theatre most Saturday mornings.

Ticketing

- In March 2025 we were visited by Melanie DeCull, our ticketing agent from Perth, who attended one of our plays.
- We added the option for customers to pre-purchase programs when they buy their tickets online.
- Recently two Square terminals have been purchased to improve Front of House, catering and donation service.

Changes and Improvements

A number of improvements have been made to the theatre, including:

- Additional house lighting installed for audience safety
- A new alarm system installed
- An updated computer system for our office
- A window added to the tech box to improve climate control.

As always, thanks to our volunteers who help with administration, building maintenance, set building, ushering, front of house, costumes and of course, our thanks to directors, technical crew, stage managers and actors.

Ian Robinson
Secretary



MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE

Commemorating 70 years since the 1955 Maitland Flood

FLOOD STORIES 1955

*Including selections from The Flood Show (1988) by W F Oakes, adapted and directed by Anne Robinson
with a performance of The Maitland and Morpeth String Quartet by Nick Enright, narrated and directed by Nadia Plave*

21-22 February, 2025

Tickets \$27/\$32 Bookings - mrt.org.au or 49332766

with assistance from a Maitland City Council Community Grant

TREASURER'S REPORT

I have pleasure in submitting to this Annual General Meeting the financial report for the year from 1 January to 31 December 2025.

Briefly, the results for 2025 are as follows:

1. *Total Income* was \$112,582.
2. *Total Cost of Sales* was \$33,311.
3. *Total Expenses* were \$88,253.
4. Balance of *General Funds* stood at \$102,811.
5. *Total Equity* stands at \$2,653,022.
6. *Nett Profit* for 2025 was \$16,221.

* See *Notes to the Accounts* for clarification

Maitland Repertory Theatre produced and performed six productions during 2025. A detailed analysis of the results of each production is listed separately, (*MRT Main Performance Profit and Loss Statements 2025*). Below is a brief summary:

Production	Month	No of Shows	Attend- ance per show	Average Attendance Per Production	\$ Net Profit*	% Net Profit/ Income
Flood Stories & TM&MSQ	<i>February</i>	3	420	140	9,823	69.24
The Great Divide	<i>Feb-Mar</i>	9	664	74	15,278	74.60
The Hanging	<i>May</i>	9	488	54	10,925	71.93
Robin Hood	<i>Jul-Aug</i>	10	710	71	15,031	73.16
Spider's Web	<i>Sept-Oct</i>	9	994	105	23,055	79.67
It's My Party	<i>Nov-Dec</i>	9	572	64	12,278	70.19

* a) No indirect costs (e.g. power, rates, insurances, etc) are allocated to each show 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 \$3,007 and includes:

- Routine testing and inspection of all electrical equipment, emergency lighting, fire equipment and first aid maintenance
- Weekly contract cleaning of the theatre, as needed
- Contract lawn mowing, edges, weed control on an as-needs basis
- Six-monthly pest control, inspection and report

Public liability and building/contents insurance policies increased by \$2,375.

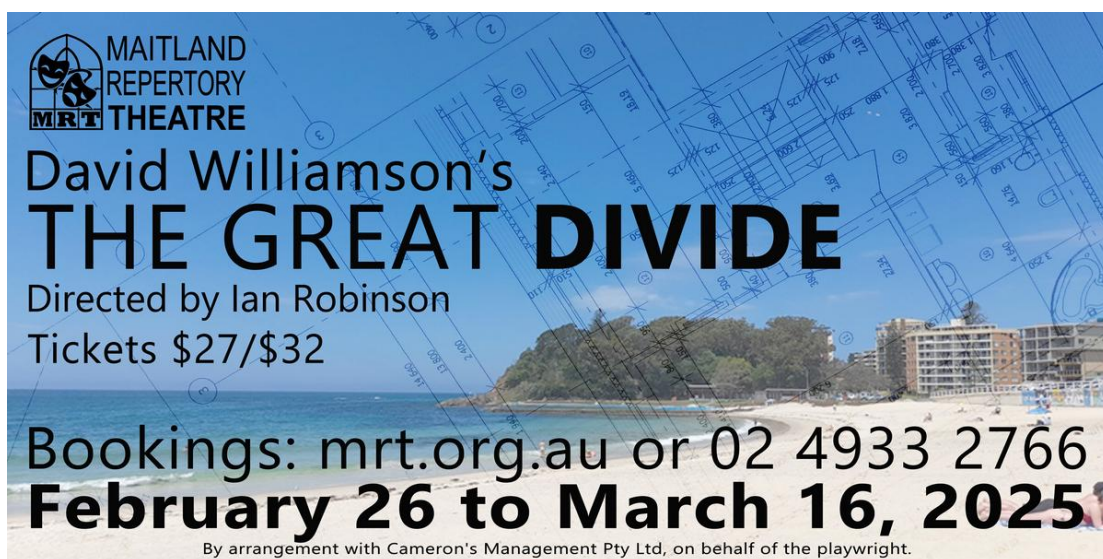
As at 31 December, funds were invested in a Term Deposit at The Mutual Bank: \$50,000 at 3.8% until 10 June, 2026.

Box Office income was \$89,405 and season ticket sales were \$16,351. which was a total decrease of \$3,139 on the 2024 financial year.

It is a pleasure to be able to report another successful year for MRT which has been made possible by the hard work and effort by all.

Thanking you all

Terry Allen
Treasurer



**MAITLAND
REPERTORY
MRT THEATRE**

David Williamson's
THE GREAT DIVIDE

Directed by Ian Robinson
Tickets \$27/\$32

Bookings: mrt.org.au or 02 4933 2766
February 26 to March 16, 2025

By arrangement with Cameron's Management Pty Ltd, on behalf of the playwright.

Performance rights exclusively licensed by Yellow Creative Management



**MAITLAND
REPERTORY
MRT THEATRE**

**The
Hanging**

by Angela Betzien
Directed by Aimee Cavanagh

7 - 25 May 2025

Tickets: \$27/\$32 | Bookings: mrt.org.au or 02 4933 2766

Income Statement (unaudited¹⁰)
for the year ending 31 December 2025

Income	<i>Notes</i>	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Ticket Sales		89,405	90,165
Season Tickets		16,351	12,452
Catering at Shows		6,825	6,509
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>112,582</i>	<i>109,127</i>
Cost of Sales			
Catering (Production)		4,708	5,144
Production Advertising		10,775	9,770
Royalties, copyright and scripts		5,914	18,539
Production costs (other)		1,358	2,853
Commission on tickets	<i>3</i>	7,290	13,943
Set		2,378	5,418
Lighting / Sound		372	2,199
Costumes		512	1,105
Makeup and Hair		5	25
<i>Total Cost of Sales</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>33,311</i>	<i>58,997</i>
Gross Profit		79,271	50,130

Income Statement (continued)
for the year ending 31 December 2025

	<i>Notes</i>	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Gross Profit		79,271	50,130
Other Income			
Membership			
Acting Classes		20,460	25,857
Training		-	-
Membership - Subscriptions		711	664
		21,171	26,521
Other			
Donations		1,295	275
Revaluation of Land and Buildings		-	-
Interest Income		2,737	2,828
		4,032	3,103
<i>Total Other Income</i>	5	25,203	29,624
Expenses			
Membership			
Life Member Scholarships and Training		-	639
		-	639
Employment Expenses			
Wages and Salaries		23,009	27,482
Other employer expenses		2,721	3,503
		25,729	30,986
Occupancy Expenses			
Maintenance Improvement		963	392
Insurances		19,355	16,980
Maintenance Expenses		14,530	18,108
Electricity and Gas		3,706	4,037
Rates		-	-
Water		1,574	1,810
Telephone and Internet		1,279	1,156
Equipment less than \$1,000		1,669	591
General Amenities		454	1,144
		43,529	44,218
Administrative			
Postage		2,148	2,805
Printing and Stationery		2,254	2,302
Audit and Administration		2,188	2,052
Donations		544	493
Bank and EFTPOS Fees		282	283
Software Service Costs		1,782	2,461
Depreciation		9,797	8,239
		18,994	18,636
<i>Total Expenses</i>	6	88,253	94,478
Grants		-	2,500
Net Profit (Loss)		16,221	(14,724)
		16,221	(12,224)

Balance Sheet (unaudited¹¹)
as at 31 December 2025

	<i>Notes</i>	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Equity			
Retained Earnings		2,636,801	2,648,925
Profit (Loss)		16,221	(12,224)
Total Equity		2,653,023	2,636,701
Represented By:			
Assets			
<i>Current Asset</i>			
Cash		250	250
Cash at Bank		101,695	76,211
Building Fund	8	865	125
<i>Total Current Assets</i>		102,811	76,586
<i>Non Current Assets</i>			
Land and Building	9	2,500,000	
less Prov for Depn		-	2,500,000
Plant, Equipment, Furniture		87,155	
less Prov for Depn		36,080	51,075
<i>Total Non Current Assets</i>		2,551,075	2,560,872
Total Assets		2,653,886	2,637,458
Liabilities			
<i>Current Liabilities</i>		863	756
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>		863	756
<i>Non Current Liabilities</i>		-	-
<i>Total Non Current Liabilities</i>		-	-
Total Liabilities		863	756
Net Assets		2,653,022	2,636,702

Building Fund (unaudited¹¹)**Activity for the Year Ending 31 December 2025**

		\$
Balance as at 1 January 2025		125
<i>Income</i>		
Donations	740	
<i>Add - Sub Total</i>		740
<i>Expenditure</i>	-	
<i>Minus - Sub Total</i>		-
Balance at 31 December 2025		865
Balance in Bank Account at 31 December 2025		865

Notes to the Accounts 2025

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. Turnover is being monitored so that the theatre will be prepared when we pass the threshold.
2. Total Income increased by \$3,455 mainly due to the increased number of season ticket sales in 2025 compared to 2024.
 3. Commission of \$7,290 (2024 \$13,943) represents commissions to TicketSearch and Stripe payment fees plus \$3,867 in payments to our Perth based ticketing agent/telephone service TazTix. The commission is lower than in 2024 due to the prepayment of 3 years commission to TicketSearch of \$4,764 being made in 2024 to save 25% of commission costs over the following 3 years.
 4. Cost of Sales decreased by \$25,686. The main components of this change were timing differences in the prepayment of TicketSearch commission mentioned in note 3 and necessary prepayment of royalties for 2025 plays in 2024 to those copyright holders who invoice early.
 5. Total Other Income decreased by \$4,421 due to a fall in Acting Class enrolments in 2025.

6. *Depreciation of Plant and Equipment and Furniture and Fittings* has been charged for the current year – plant, furniture and fittings, and computer equipment - \$9,797 (2024 \$8,238).
Depreciation rates:
All *Plant and Equipment and Furniture and Fittings* are depreciated at the rate of 10% as this rate reflects the estimated future lives of these assets. *Computer Equipment* is depreciated at the rate of 20% as this rate reflects the estimated future lives of these assets.
7. Total Expenses decreased by \$6,225. The main components of this change were decreased expenditure on acting class wages and maintenance expenses.
8. Refer to the separate Building Fund Activity Statement for details of the Building Fund.
9. A valuation was carried out on the Association's property at 244 High Street, Maitland by Hunter Valuers in 2022 and the value of \$2,500,000 is reflected in Non Current Assets. As at 28 February 2026 the theatre's buildings are insured for \$3,025,000 and contents for \$181,500.
10. Our auditor, Keith Compton, of Comptons Accounting Pty Ltd has recently retired so we are looking for a new auditor to audit the 2025 financial records. Expected completion by June 2026.

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

We started the year by welcoming four new tutors to the team and ended it by saying farewell to two. We were delighted to welcome Issy, Levi, Keely and Chloe to the team. Under the guidance of Pip, Rory, Gabby and Tessa, they built their confidence as tutors and assisted in running fun and exciting lessons for our classes which included such things as scene devising, forum theatre and character development. We said farewell to Pip in the middle of the year, and Rory at the end. We thank them for their contributions to classes and wish them all the best for the future.

We also welcomed a new director for our junior production of *Robin Hood*. Tyler Dean-Brinkley brought this classic tale to life with a talented and hard-working cast, and we were thrilled to see how much joy it brought to our audiences. Thank you to everyone who made 2025 a great year, and we can't wait to see what the next year brings.

Alex Comber

Classes Administrator



PLAY SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

During 2025 the Play Selection Group read numerous plays and met regularly. They discussed plays suitable to add to a Long List, then whittled that selection down to a Short List, according to the normal process.

A final selection of plays to be produced at Maitland Repertory Theatre in 2026 was made, then presented to the management committee, and subsequently approved.

In an unprecedented decision, the Management Committee rejected one of the chosen plays, citing a minor procedural reason. This was not the normal play selection procedure which is usually followed by the Management Committee.

A last minute selection was made.

During the past few months the current members of the Play Selection Group have been reading plays and have now created a Long List of plays for the 2027 season.

Dimity Eveleens, Danny Shaunessy, Matt Scoles, Robert Comber, Melinda Francis, Sonya Solomou, Anne Robinson



PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

This is how we regularly promote our theatre productions:

- Posters and flyers are handed out to central points including the Visitor Centre and libraries
- Poster distribution in the local region by “Here’s Johnny”
- Mailouts of postcards for each play to about 220 Season Ticket holders and supporters on our mailing list
- Corflute signs on display at the theatre and various locations
- Display of corflute signs around town on the theatre’s trailer
- Regular *mailchimp* emails to about 2,000 recipients, with more frequent weekly emails during productions
- Regular updates to our website
- Facebook posts – we have over 3,870 followers now
- Instagram posts – we have about 740 followers now
- Sponsored Facebook events for each play and for Acting Classes
- Uploading to the MyMaitland, CONDA, 2NURFM, 2HD websites to promote plays
- Opening night wine and refreshments, and charity fundraiser nights on the opening weekends of plays
- Cast and crew spread the word about each show.

Thank you to Tony Vidray of AV Chartered Accountants, who organises the printing of high-quality programs for us. Thank you to Dr Genevieve Graham for reviewing our plays. Thank you to our volunteers, especially to Alex Comber for social media promotion; and to Anne Robinson, Kaysia Dowie and other volunteers for contributions in graphic design, photography and proof-reading.

MAITLAND
REPERTORY
THEATRE

"A deliciously funny and sweetly dark play"

IT'S MY PARTY
(And I'll Die If I Want To)

by Elizabeth Coleman
Directed by Anne Robinson

19 Nov to 7 Dec, 2025

Bookings - mrt.org.au or 4933 2766
Tickets \$27/\$32

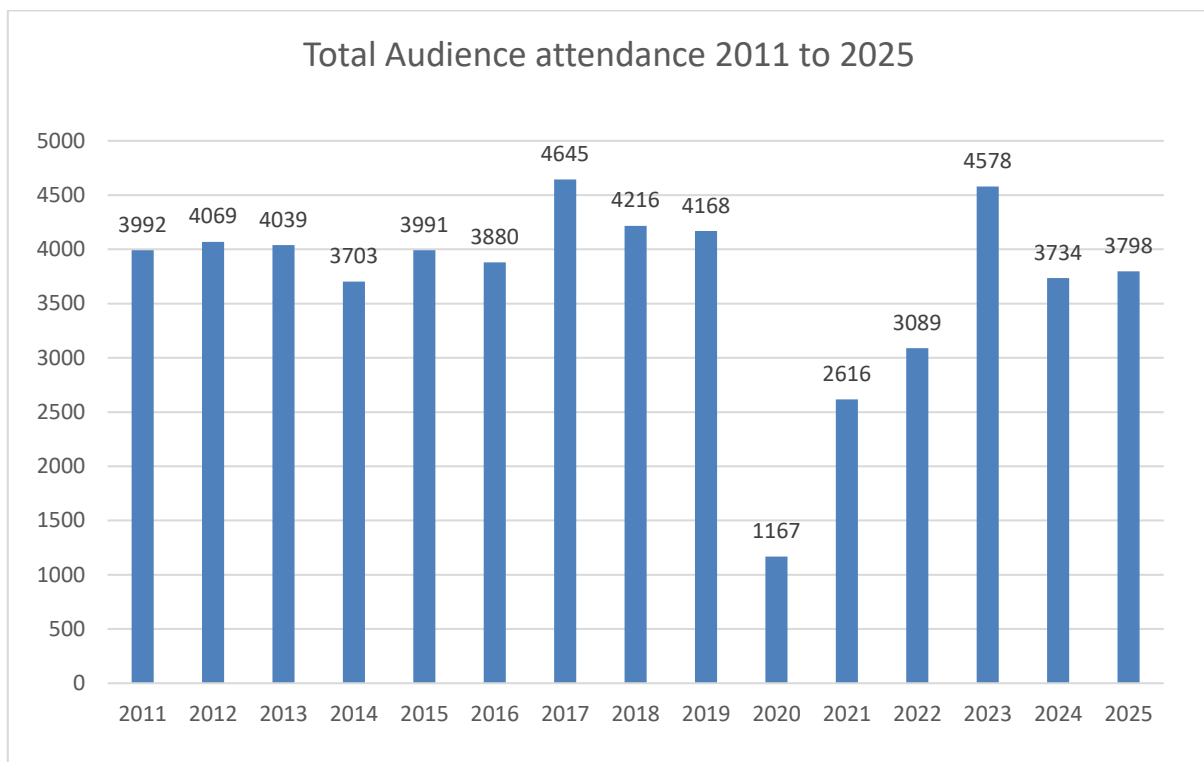
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By arrangement with Cameron's Management Pty Ltd, on behalf of the playwright

AUDIENCE REPORT 2025

2025 Play Attendance

<i>Flood Stories, 1955</i>	420
<i>The Great Divide</i>	664
<i>The Hanging</i>	488
<i>Robin Hood and His Merry Men</i>	710
<i>Agatha Christie's Spider's Web</i>	944
<i>It's My Party (And I'll Die If I Want To)</i>	572
TOTAL	3,798



COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

Committee Meetings held from April 2025 to March 2026

12 monthly meetings were held.

Committee Member	Meetings Attended
Robert Comber	12
Matt Scoles	12
Anne Robinson	11
Dimity Eveleens	11
Ian Robinson	11
Sonya Solomou	10
Terry Allen	9
Dan Shaunessy	8
Kaysia Dowie	8
Drew Pittman	7
Linda Wallace (ACM*)	6
David Smith (ACM*)	6
Melinda Francis (ACM* appointed October 2025)	6
Aimee Cavanagh	5
Matt Robinson	4

*ACM – 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.

Maitland Repertory Theatre is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient on the Register of Cultural Organisation and since October 2022 has been registered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

Our Building

The theatre values our locally listed heritage building – an integral part of Maitland’s history - and we are fortunate that our members in 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

Mr Keith Cockburn

Mayor Phillip Penfold

Ms Meryl Swanson MP

Life Members

Terry Allen
Robert Comber
John Morris (dec'd)
Frank Oakes
Anne Robinson

Hal Cheetham
Dimity Eveleens
Dorothy Morris (dec'd)
Doug Pyle (dec'd)
Ian Robinson
Elaine Webb (dec'd)

Helen Comber
Frank Freeman (dec'd)
Dulcie Mullard (dec'd)
Nell Pyle (dec'd)
Danny Shaunessy

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 – 2021	Robert Comber
		2022 – now	Dimity Eveleens

