

OPERA SOCIETY

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Unit 7, 575 Lower Dandenong Road Dingley Village 3172

Newsletter

A Difficult Year

Dear members,

Firstly, I and your committee would like to thank you all most sincerely for the generous donations so many of you made to assist Opera Australia (OA). Your society has added to your donations which means that collectively we have provided \$20,000 to OA in their current financial plight. We have received grateful thanks from OA.

Secondly, it will come as no surprise to anyone that this has been an extremely difficult year for all involved in the arts.

Closer to home and due to the COVID pandemic all our plans and those of OA have come to nothing although the costs have continued. OA are still yet to advise the opening date of their new building on the old site in City Road Southbank along with their program of events for Melbourne in 2021.

This has meant that your committee has similarly been unable to plan our annual activities for 2021. However we will do so as soon as official advice regarding the future is more clear.

At present neither OA nor our society have a Melbourne office from which to work. This has been the case since May with no end in sight. The volunteers who run our society are doing their best by working from home whilst all our office equipment along with OA's Melbourne office equipment is inaccessible in their Footscray storage facility.

The constantly changing COVID restrictions imposed by our Victorian Government have caused us to seek and been granted by the government regulator several extensions to hold our 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM). To hold this meeting is a legal requirement. Following the recent relaxation of restrictions we have finally been able to arrange a venue and date for this meeting, see documents enclosed with this newsletter.

Consistent with our Rules and previous practise voting by proxy is available however it will be *imperative* that all *Proxy Votes* are *received by the due date*. We are hopeful of seeing as many of you as can attend the AGM.

In so far as your annual subscription is concerned please remember that your current annual subscription has been extended until this time next year at no additional cost to you. This is in recognition that, due to circumstances outlined above, our planned activities were not able to be made available to you during calendar 2020.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of your committee to wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and a much Happier New Year to come.

Thank you again for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you all very soon,

Valma Allaway OAM
President

Impromptu and at short
notice family and
committee celebrate
Valma's OAM investiture
December 8th 2020



Valma,
daughter Fiona,
son Stuart and
grand daughter
Imogen &
our committee

