



Mercury Theatre
Wynnum Inc.

**GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES
April 6th 2025 RSL Hall 2pm**

PRESENT: Mark Pitts-Hill, Rosemary and Michael Thwaites, Annie Hayes, Nikki Meyer, Trevor Bond, Darsha Hockings, Gabi Horsburgh, Margot Stuart, Glenda Ashleigh, Gail Harvey, Sophie Parker, Kaila Ababao, Helen Goleby.

APOLOGIES: Kris Kooper, Glenda Maxwell, Geraldine Stuart, Alec McEwan, Marion Jones, James Ertel, Seth Cheadle

PROXY FORMS: Geraldine Stuart, Glenda Maxwell, Alec McEwan, Marion Jones, James Ertel and Seth Cheadle

NEW MEMBERS: Kaila Ababao, Margot Stuart, Courtney Jamieson, Geraldine Stuart, Alec McEwan

NOMINATIONS: (For Marketing Manager, Production Manager)
Nikki Meyer, Kaila Ababao, Trevor Bond.

1. Acceptance of AGM minutes of the 23 February 2025 : carried
2. Correspondence: gift for raffle received
3. Some confusion existed over Mercury Youth Theatre and Mercury Theatre Wynnum Inc. and ABNs in use: Mark sought clarity from the Office of Fair Trading QLD. As a result, a new ABN was registered and the Bank account name corrected. The Constitution was also found to be in the old Mercury name and so was legally void. Mercury faced penalties for not having a Constitution of up to \$3000. To avoid fines Mark rewrote the Constitution or Rules of Association incorporating the latest legislative amendments. This was supplied to all members. Under a Special Resolution, It was moved to adopt and lodge the new Rules of Association with the Office of Fair Trading. Seconded by Trevor Bond. Carried unanimously.
4. There had been previous attempts over the years for Mercury to gain the status of a Charity but had failed for various reasons. The most recent being a previous conflict of interest caused by the former president and treasurer being husband and wife. This was resolved when roles changed at the AGM of 2025. Mark re-initiated the application and was successful in obtaining Mercury as a recognised charity. Tax exemption status was also obtained from the ATO. A charity status allows Mercury to receive gifts which can be tax deductible for the donor. These are to be placed into a gift recipient account at the BOQ - that will be specially created for that purpose. See the Treasurer. Signatory of new gift fund with BOQ. Mark Pitts-Hill (President) Michael Thwaites (Treasurer) Annie Hayes (Secretary).

5. For some time Mercury had been using Google documents and email for its operations. This seemed to work well mostly except that one login was shared amongst a number of people and one gmail account caused confusion as to who was acting on what. Too many fingers in the pie was one of the issues surrounding role clarity. Mark suggested that if Charity status could be obtained, Mercury could move to Google workspace (business grade product for small to large orgs) free of charge. 'This action was agreed upon.
6. In an attempt to improve role clarity and avoid conflict such as the failure to request licensing in a timely manner, Mark wrote Role descriptions for each of the significant roles listed below. This can be found on google drive or available on request. Elections were held for the newly created permanent positions of Marketing Manager, and Production Manager. By the majority of votes the following were elected.
 - Nikki Meyer appointed (marketing manager)
 - Kaila Ababao appointed (production manager)
 - Motion to accept new roles into the constitution and for those elected to join the management committee, seconded Darsha Hocking and carried. Constitution includes positions to be filled each AGM as follows:
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - Marketing Manager
 - Production Manager
7. A new Strategic plan for mercury was sent to all members for discussion. The main focus was on building audiences and bringing in a creative program that meets the needs of the existing but also younger audience along with younger volunteers and increased membership. Glenda raised several points regarding the future of Mercury but had not read the new strategic plan. Mark moved to accept the new strategic plan, seconded by Annie Hayes, carried.
8. General BusinessGail Harvey raised issue of insurance against loss of production due to unforeseen circumstances (cyclone alfred, covid etc) This wasn't practical given the premiums and the extent of coverage available for 'Acts of god'
9. ACTION: Rosemary to meet with Kaila regarding future productions.
10. Management Committee to meet 8/4/25

Meeting closed 3:10pm