



School of Arts Community Theatre

Peter Thompson
General Manager
Wagga Wagga City Council
PO Box 20,
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

29th August 2022

Dear Peter,

I am writing on behalf of the Wagga School of Arts Inc. as the President of this organisation.

In 2023, the Wagga Civic Theatre is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its official opening in 1963. Wagga School of Arts is planning to enhance the celebrations by putting on a performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's "*Pirates of Penzance*" in the Civic Theatre.

Given that Wagga School of Arts was a major contributor to the funds for the construction of the Civic Theatre, I am writing to request that Wagga Wagga City Council authorise a waiver of the cost of putting the show on in the Civic Theatre to Wagga School of Arts, like it has done for other productions.

After a meeting with the management at the Civic Theatre, we have been provided with a provisional budget for the cost of production as follows:

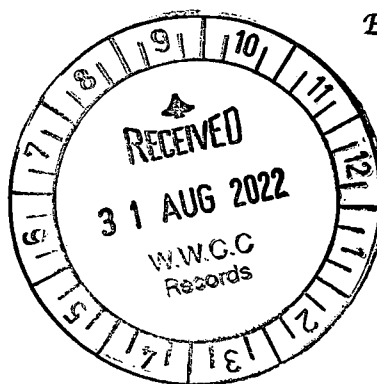
- a) Theatre hire - \$7,650
- b) Staffing - \$13,984
- c) Contingency/other - \$2666 (our estimate – as some components such as staff hours may change)

Total \$24,000

The theatre hire component isn't a "real cost", as the Civic would not be functioning during the proposed period - as it has to allocate this to Wagga School of Arts, as part of the long term lease agreement.

Given the significance of Wagga School of Arts contribution to the construction of the Theatre and for its long term contribution to the local arts scene, my request is for all, or some, of the staffing cost to be waived, along with the hire component.

Wagga Wagga School of Arts has a history embedded in the Wagga Civic Theatre and if Wagga Wagga City Council could support the group financially to deliver this production, which will feature local young musicians from the Riverina Youth Orchestra, talent from many local choirs, and companies in conjunction with The Riverina Conservatorium of Music, this would see the Wagga Wagga City Council shine in the public spotlight as a true benefactor of local community history and arts.



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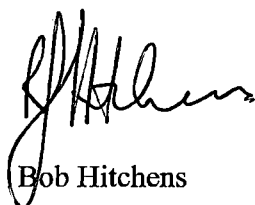
Wagga School of Arts Inc.

ABN 52 303 235 465

It has been some 22 years since the Wagga School of Arts has performed in the Civic Theatre and the 60th anniversary is a very appropriate time to return. However, as a non-profit, self-funded community group, assistance is necessary to enable a production, such as "*Pirates of Penzance*" by Gilbert and Sullivan to be staged.

I respectfully request that you consider our application, and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Hitchens

President

Wagga School of Arts Inc.

Background Information:

As you may be aware, Wagga School of Arts Inc. is a self-funded, not for profit organisation that has been operating in Wagga since 1859 and is run entirely by volunteers.

In 1959 Wagga School of Arts handed all its assets to Wagga City Council for the construction of the Civic Theatre – a contribution equivalent to approximately 60% of the construction cost.

In 1963 Wagga Wagga School of Arts performed the first live performance in the Civic Theatre for the official opening ceremony. The play, "*Tea House of the August Moon*", directed by professional director Anne Godfrey-Smith was a great success and highly acclaimed.

The Civic Theatre became the home of the Wagga Wagga School of Arts for all major performances, averaging three per year and one annual Drama Festival.

Between 1963 and 2000 they performed 72 productions, including drama, Shakespeare, musicals and under their umbrella, also, Wagga School of Arts Music club under the umbrella of Wagga school of Arts Inc., brought to Wagga Civic Theatre several professional recitals featuring highly acclaimed musicians and singers. Added to the 72 productions were 30 plus Drama Festivals.

Peter Barton who was President of the Wagga Wagga School of Arts for many years during this period, was also the lighting operator, designer and set designer and builder for most shows coming into the civic theatre and trained many of the well-known technical theatre people in Wagga, including John Jones.



1859 to 2019

The show goes on...