

WELLINGTON IMPROVISATION TROUPE 21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Date: 4 July 2023

Time: 6pm - 6:45pm

Venue: The Garage, Te Auaha, 65 Dixon St, Wellington

Quorum: 15 members

Chair: Shaila Mehta-Wilson, Coordinator

Secretariat: Paddy Plunket, Secretary

1. Welcome and acknowledgements

Attending:

Anrik Drenth, Lorraine Ward, Andreas Kubisch, Colin MacMillan, Blair MacMillan, Aristarkh Tikhonov, Ali Little, Shaila Mehta-Wilson, Kate Docherty, Brenton Hodgson, Gitta Majumder, Mike Webster, Hayley Cherryblossom, Isabelle Collins, Kitty Parker, Paddy Plunket, Dionne Needham, Janet Humphris, Nathan Campbell, Lyndon Hood,

2. Apologies

Hedy Manders, Ann Elborn, Phil Anderson

3. Minutes of the previous AGM (held July 2022)

The meeting agreed that the minutes were correct record of the last AGM.

4. Coordinator's Report (Shaila Mehta-Wilson)

Firstly thank you for coming along to our AGM. I said this last year at the

AGM in July and I think it's so important that I am going to say it again.

Without you all we could not have WIT, which would mean no shows, no

Wgtn High Improv classes, and most impactful no Tuesday night sessions.

In my report I'm going to cover what we've done since July last year, the

shows, as well as the classes and provide some suggestions for the year

coming.

We haven't had too many shows, though this last year has seen us mark

Halloween with a Spooky town Improv Jam Night, and a Christmas show –

Xmas Improv Extravaganza. We have a show coming up in a few weeks

and another in August.

We performed a show in Auckland at the festival, the Attack of the Killer

B-Movie. Everyone involved and the audience had a lot of fun in that

show! The improv festival in Auckland was great fun, with lots of learning

and catching up with old friends occurring and some amazing shows to

watch. It was great to see so many WIT people there, I think it was the

highlight of the year for me!

The classes at Wgtn High have been running well over the last year. WE had four Grad Shows which were really entertaining. I had the privilege of leading the Term 1, level 1 class at the beginning of the year – it was a lot of fun. Thanks to Anrik, Ali, Austin, Brenton and Paddy for leading or supporting the classes – we couldn't do this without your help, giving up your Thursday nights and putting so much prep and care into the classes. These classes are a great way to kick start the improv journey and I know that some of the attendees of Level one moved onto Level two and quite a few joined other Improv groups. I've noticed that we have had people from the classes join us on a Tuesday, which is excellent.

It has been great to see that after a bit of a slump in numbers on a Tuesday we now have up to 15ish people attending! I love the Tuesday evening sessions, as it's a safe place to have some fun and get really silly! For \$5 I can get entertained, learn and de-stress – amazing value for money!!

Thank you to the regular attendees on a Tuesday, you know who you are, you bring joy, as well as friendship and it's so much fun improvising with you all. A big thank you to (in alphabetic order) Anrik, Ali, Brenton and Thibault for being our regular Tuesday trainers.

Another big thank you goes to my fellow committee members, Anrik, Ali, Aristarkh and Paddy (Paddy and I did think about changing our names so that they start with A, - so we could be called, The A Team ;-) yeah it's a dad joke.....).

Anrik and Ali have been, organising Tuesday night sessions, the night classes at Wgtn High and the shows that we have put on, which has involved quite a bit of administration and organisation. Paddy has been our secretary, and Aristarkh has been looking after our finances. Both Paddy and Aristarkh are keen to continue being part of the committee – which is great as it's a hassle getting bank and admin stuff sorted.

For next year I am keen to stay part of the committee, as the co-ordinator – if you'll have me and to help out more with Tuesday nights as well as the Wgtn level one classes

There are things that we can focus on in this coming year, membership

numbers, regular shows and our Birthday!!

Our Membership numbers haven't changed significantly over the year, I think that we had 3 more people join us. Maybe this next year the committee could work out if there is a need to do a membership drive to increase our numbers. What would be really great is if some or all of the people graduating from the classes could formally join WIT and join us on Tuesdays as well as help out with shows.

The current committee are keen to have more shows, maybe every 6-8 weeks. Paddy has talked to the Pow Wow room who might help us out by providing the venue. It would be great if the new committee can have a look at this and hopefully it's a 'goer' for the coming year.

This year marks our 20 th birthday a very significant birthday, which should be celebrated. The committee have been considering having a Christmas birthday combo event..... The new committee will hopefully organise an event to celebrate.

Finally I end by saying that I have enjoyed being the chair and being part of a great committee.

Thank you

5. Co-creative Directors' Report (Anrik Drenth, Ali Littel)

For me this AGM marks the second year in the Co-creative director role. The last two years have felt in some ways as one continuation. We have all been impacted in one way or another by the last two years. WIT certainly has been one of the pillars that got me through those times, as a safe place to blow off some steam, see great friends, and have some fun.

We've had a number of Tuesday night trainers this year. Thank you if you stepped up and did a Tuesday night training. I want to especially thank Ali and Thibault who did the bulk of the Tuesday night trainings, it really took some of that pressure off.

I'd also like to acknowledge our guest tutors this year: Simon Manns, Monty, Kerryn Palmer, Nora McLeese, and Nicola Pauling.

I would like to impart a thought bubble when it comes to the guest tutors, room hire, and koha. WIT is in a great financial position, but its budget is slowly decreasing. The room costs \$50 per Tuesday, and Guest Tutors are paid around \$100. The weekly koha take varies between \$40 to \$60 per week.

Now there have been some very generous donations to top up our funds. And as Barry once said a long time ago, when there was concern about the slow decline of the financial position, he said “we just need 1 or 2 great shows to be back in the black”. And its true !!!

So there is no concern around budget. It’s just a pondering for the next time we have a fantastic guest tutor.

There have been some great times over the last 2 years. But in the last 2 months we seem to have found a new gear. There is a new energy in the group. We’ve had great turnouts. And there are new budding improvisors who joined the ranks YAAAYYY.

Now I won’t be standing as co-creative director this year. I need a break and more than that it’s time for some of that new energy, I was talking about, to take the helm.

Finally, can I just say, “There have been such AMAZINGLY memorable scenes from all of you”, “There have been such AMAZINGLY memorable scenes from all of you”.

Seriously more of that !!!

To the new committee don’t take on all the things, don’t feel like you have to do all the things, spread the load, and don’t be afraid to ask for help.

6. Annual Report – Treasurer (Aristarkh Tikhonov)

Statement of Resources and Commitments				
	2022/2023	2021/2022		
Bank accounts and cash:				
Term deposit	\$14,283.79	\$13,953.31		
Main account	\$6,821.58	\$5,959.84		
Total	\$21,105.37	\$19,913.15		
Statement of receipts and payments				
Income				
	2022/2023	2021/2022	Change	% Change
Fees and Receipts - Members	\$2,950.70	\$1,456.10	\$1,494.60	102.64%
Tuesday Training	\$2,105.70	1366.1		
Membership fees	\$60	\$90.00		
Musical Workshop	\$785	\$0		
Interest	\$459.25	\$246.38	\$212.87	86.40%
Interest	\$459.25	\$246.38		
Show income	\$100.00	\$147.40	-\$47.40	-32.16%
Director's cut	\$100	\$0.00		
Micetro				
Improv Jam	\$0	\$147.40		
Community Education Training	\$3,459.12	\$3,459.20	-\$0.08	0.00%
CEC training	\$3,459.12	\$3,459.20		
Other	\$1,383.68	\$0.00	\$1,383.68	
Donation	\$1,383.68			
Total income	\$8,352.75	\$5,309.08	\$3,043.67	57.33%
Expenses				

	2022/2023	2021/2022	Change	% Change
Shows	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Wellington Fringe				
Micetro				
Halloween Poed show				
Panto				
Training Fees	\$7,356.70	\$5,989.15	\$1,367.55	22.83%
CEC training	\$3,459.20	\$3,459.20		
Tuesday training	\$2,752.50	\$2,529.95		
Tuesday guest tutors	300			
Musical workshop	845			
Administrative expenses	\$466.00	\$789.43	-\$323.43	-40.97%
Tax on interest	\$128.60	\$72.27		
Other	\$337.40	\$717.16		
Total expenses	\$7,822.70	\$6,778.58	\$1,044.12	15.40%
Income - expenses	\$530.05	-\$1,469.50		

7. Committee Elections

The following members were elected unopposed.

Co-ordinator - Shaila Mehta-Wilson

Secretary – Ali Little,

Creative Director(s) – Kitty Parker and Paddy Plunket.

8. General Business

Hayley suggested we promote a regular donation option, and the meeting agreed this would go in the newsletter.

Aristakh will investigate work involved in providing donation receipts for charitable tax purposes. This will be on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

Ali reminded all to put their hands up for leading training and to pitch for shows, including a show for the Fringe festival.