

# THE

2022-2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD

54-56 NEILL ST, TOOWOOMBA



# EMPIRE

# THE

2022-2023

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#### CORPORATE INFORMATION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023  
Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ACN 086 482 288  
ABN 83 086 482 288

#### REGISTERED OFFICE

54-56 Neil Street Toowoomba  
Queensland 4350  
PO Box 1227 Toowoomba  
Queensland 4350  
07 4698 9900  
empire@empiretheatre.com.au  
empiretheatre.com.au

#### BANKERS

Heritage Bank, Heritage Plaza  
Ruthven Street Toowoomba  
Queensland 4350

#### AUDITORS

Queensland Audit Office  
53 Albert Street Brisbane  
Queensland 4000

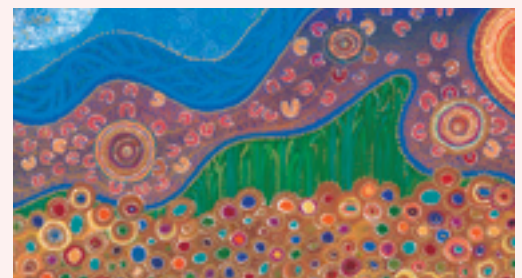
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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Empire acknowledges the Traditional Custodians, the Giabal, Jarowair and Western Wakka Wakka people, where we work and present stories.

We would like to pay respect to the Elders, past and present and to all First Nations people.

*Artwork by Kim Walmsley*



# EMPIRE

## OUR VISION

# WE WILL LEAD BY EXAMPLE

We nurture, enable and inspire dynamic cultural growth, championing experiences for, with and by community.

## OUR VALUES

# WE ARE INSPIRED AND MOTIVATED BY PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE AND INFLUENCE OUR OPERATIONS

### INNOVATION

We are vibrant, adventurous, entrepreneurial and bold.

### COLLABORATION

We cannot achieve our goals on our own.

### CREATIVITY

We are champions for the arts.

### EXCELLENCE

We embrace quality and best practice in all we do.

### TRANSFORMATION

We stimulate change for the better.

## OUR PURPOSE

# OUR FUNDAMENTAL BUSINESS IS THEATRE

As custodians and managers of the largest performing arts precinct in regional Australia, we ensure The Empire's significant suite of arts and entertainment venues are valued, maintained and activated. We work with our industry partners, our collaborators, our audience and patrons to:

### DEVELOP

Develop dynamic, inclusive and exceptional opportunities for performing arts and community activities.

### DELIVER

Deliver diverse, world-class performing arts experiences, anywhere.

### CONNECT

Connect people, ideas and stories to shape and inspire imagination and creativity.

# EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD BOARD & STAFF LISTS

As at 30 June 2023

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIR

Mr Andrew Wielandt

### DEPUTY CHAIR

Mrs Amanda Tolson

### COMPANY SECRETARY

Mr Bill Armagnacq

### DIRECTORS

Mrs Sheena Liley

Ms Janelle Fletcher

Mr John Pearson

Mrs Suzie Byrnes

Mr Mark O'Connell (resigned)

Mr Brad Rush (resigned)

## DIRECTORS OF THE EMPIRE THEATRES FOUNDATION

### CHAIR

Ms Janelle Fletcher

### DIRECTORS

Dr Kate Foy

Dr Sharyn Donaldson

Mr Richard Chiverrell

Mrs Suzie Holt

Mr Ian Sharpe

Mr Rob Schatz

Mr Ben Gouldson (resigned)

## STAFF

### GENERAL MANAGER

Giuliana Bonel

Kerry Saul (retired)

### ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Helen Oldham

### OPERATIONS & TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER

Timothy Panitz

### PROGRAM & ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Jeanette Wedmaier

### MARKETING MANAGER

Maddison Gangi

### MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Emilee Nichols (resigned)

### REGIONAL ARTS SERVICES MANAGER

Michelle Blair

### SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Simon Jensen

### MARKETING COORDINATOR

Chunxi Li

### PUBLICIST

Sarah Fleming

### ACCOUNTANT

Anthony Nunn

### FINANCE OFFICER

Alison Murrell

### MANAGEMENT SUPPORT OFFICER

Kate Brennan

### HEAD OF AUDIO

Steve Alexander

### HEAD OF LIGHTING

Ben Hunt

### HEAD OF STAGING

Robert Darvall

### SENIOR AUDIO TECHNICIAN

Aaron Hannant

### SENIOR LIGHTING TECHNICIAN

Andrew Taylor

### CLIENT LIAISON OFFICER

Kris Stewart

### PATRON SERVICES COORDINATOR

Davis Lamont

### YOUTH ARTS DIRECTOR

Nicky Haeusler

### PRODUCTION SUPPORT OFFICER

Michaela Francis

### FRONT OF HOUSE SUPERVISOR

Jamie Galley

### THEATRE TECHNICIANS

Lucas Kummerow

Emmilyne Major

### TECHNICAL TRAINEES

Brian Bridge

Anthony Curcuruto

### BOX OFFICE

Kerry Politch

Ora Whitley

### CASUAL STAFF

Sarah Bradbury

Donna Hocroft

Miranda Walker

Brett Gredig

Gillian Murray

Leigh-Anne Jeffries

Z Bartley

Shianne Braeckmans

Christine Cronk

Paige Cronk

Emma Erdis

Abby Hess

Henry Holdsworth

Jack Mullins

Jacki Spark

Melissa Tarbuck

William Thomas

Toby Thelander

Lina Vatketsaky

Micah Adamson

Brooke Gothmann

TJ Johnson

Athena Kelly

Lilly Kirkbride

Nathan Rountree

Elijah Unterburger

Jade Moon

Cherish Zimmerle

Matthew Skerman

Shannon Yendall

Loughlin Jeffries

Leighton Glanville

Christopher Darvall

Jack Hickey

Jordan Duggan

Fraser Telford

Cecile Kenealy

## REGIONAL ARTS SERVICES NETWORK

REGIONAL MANAGER, SOUTH  
QUEENSLAND

Michelle Blair

REGIONAL ARTS OFFICER, EAST

Karleen Gwinner

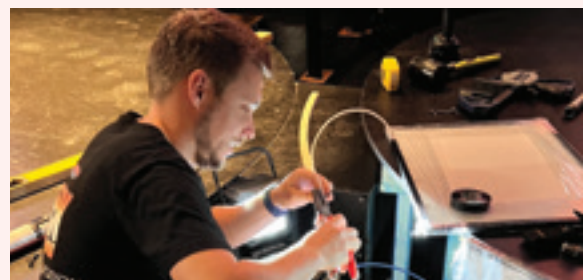
REGIONAL ARTS OFFICER, WEST

Hilary Coulter

REGIONAL ARTS OFFICER, WEST

Samantha Meurant

(maternity cover)



# SPONSORS & DONORS

We are excited to collaborate with our partners who share in our values and our vision to lead by example as we nurture, enable and inspire dynamic cultural growth, continually championing experiences for, with and by our community.

## BUSINESS PARTNERS



## FUNDING PARTNERS



## FOUNDATION SPONSORS



## SUPPORTERS & MEDIA PARTNERS



## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We would like to thank the following donors for their very generous support. We are also appreciative of our many other donors for helping nurture, enable and inspire the cultural capacity of our community.

Clive & Conchita Armitage  
 Ron & Shelly Barclay  
 Michael Kelly  
 Ian & Lynn Sharpe  
 Ross & Fay Miller  
 Helen Vaughan  
 Sharyn Donaldson  
 Kirsten Sippel  
 Richard Chiverrell  
 Susan Dowe

Sheena Liley  
 Brett Gredig  
 Sophia Lamont  
 Suzie Holt  
 Judith Alexander  
 Vicki Bravery  
 Paul & Kathie Hendon  
 Dianne Rozynski  
 Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society  
 Ross Lamont

# WHAT OUR FANS SAY



*It is awesome that Toowoomba has such an iconic venue which is able to attract international and Australian artists of the highest calibre. My wife and I have been to many shows over the years and I rate The Empire as the best venue by far. Better than stadium concerts, Boondall and QPAC. Parking is easy, acoustics are always fabulous, and the actual theatre is architecturally amazing.*

*I feel quite privileged to be able to attend quality entertainment in Toowoomba at The Empire. It is a beautiful, history rich venue that is comfortable and accessible. Staff go the extra mile.*

*We love having access to such a diverse offering of shows and especially love the musical programs. The Empire Theatre is a gorgeous venue and makes us proud to have it in our community. Well done!*

*We really enjoyed our night out and the show. It was very easy getting to our seat and also leaving. Every staff member was absolutely lovely and helpful, and you could tell that they enjoyed their job. It was awesome!*

*I was overwhelmed by this venue as a performing arts theatre. Coming from Melbourne, where there are excellent theatres of many descriptions, I was very very pleased to find a venue as impressive, beautiful, and extremely suitable for the performance that I attended. I hope there will be more opportunities to hear the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in future. It was a wonderful night of top entertainment, I am very pleased with it in every aspect of theatre going.*



EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is with pleasure I write this report for Empire Theatres Pty Ltd for 2023. Your Theatre has experienced a significant uptick in activity across the three venues, reflecting the return to “normal” from the last vestiges of the COVID-19 lockdowns. Performers and patrons have returned to our iconic venue en masse, utilising The Empire to its capacity once again.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd this year delivered a positive result as we continued to invest in the development, delivery and connection of arts across our region. We are proud of our financial resilience, enabling us to reinvest back in the venue and our most important asset – our staff.

In June 2023, General Manager Kerry Saul retired from The Empire after 26 years. We are grateful for his service and wish he and his wife Alison all the best. We are fortunate to have Giuliana Bonel join us as the new General Manager. She has extensive arts management experience in metropolitan and regional Queensland. The Board and I look forward to working with Giuliana to meet our objectives of nurturing, enabling and inspiring dynamic cultural growth, championing experiences for, with and by the community.

For their ongoing support, we thank our owners Toowoomba Regional Council – both councillors and officers, as well as Arts Queensland (via the Queensland Government).

We are grateful for support received from Empire Theatres Foundation Chair Janelle Fletcher and her Directors and the Friends of the Empire Theatre led by President Margaret Turnbull. The Heads of Department and staff continue to deliver professionalism and service for our stakeholders and I thank them for their high level of quality work.

Finally, I thank my Deputy Chair Amanda Tolson and fellow Board members for their unwavering support. They are passionate about not only the importance of the arts but also for the broader Toowoomba Region and I am fortunate to have their experience and counsel.

**ANDREW WIELANDT**

Chairman  
Empire Theatres Pty Ltd



EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD

## OUTGOING GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

I write this report in my final days as General Manager of this great organisation. The Empire continued to perform beyond expectations with a resurgence of patrons as well as conference and event business across the period. We have been able to consolidate and meet staffing needs in a difficult marketplace and have a great team in place.

From July to September our team presented two national conferences and two major stage dinners, the first utilising our upgraded stage space, seating 490 patrons on The Empire stage. Additionally, another 60+ events/shows/functions were held in the first quarter.

2022-2023 highlights include international artists Bill Bailey, Sarah Millican, Don McLean, Jimmy Carr, national artists Amy Shark, Guy Sebastian, Cosentino and our own production of *The Boy from Oz*. A new website and rebrand was achieved and we celebrated our 2.5 millionth ticket with incredible support from local businesses.

South Queensland RASN (Regional Arts Services Network) is continuing to work across the wider region, and I thank Michelle Blair and her team. The Empire Management Team; Helen Oldham, Tim Panitz, Jeanette Wedmaier and Maddison Gangi, are integral to the success of The Empire. Thank you to each of you and to our excellent staff.

I acknowledge the dedication of Chair Andrew Wielandt, the Board and our Friends of the Empire Theatre - thank you for your support this year.

I note the great support our young artists receive from the Empire Theatres Foundation through bursaries and the support of our programs. We appreciate the relationships built with our patrons, supporters, and clients and continue to be blessed with the enthusiasm they show in attending the theatre and supporting arts in our region. It has been my privilege to be a part of The Empire team since 1997 until 2023 and I look forward to returning as a patron.

### KERRY SAUL

General Manager (retired)  
Empire Theatres Pty Ltd



EMPIRE THEATRES PTY LTD

## INCOMING GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the incoming General Manager of The Empire. I am thrilled to join the largest performing arts precinct in regional Australia, inspired by the beauty and potential of Queensland's largest inland city.

The role which The Empire plays in the Toowoomba region is incredibly important, and I am excited to build on its reputation as the 'must see' destination for locals and visitors alike.

I have a strong passion for delivering enthralling and transformative artistic experiences to audiences from all walks of life, and I look forward to working alongside the community in doing so.

I pay my respects to outgoing General Manager Kerry Saul and thank him for the incredible impact and legacy he leaves behind, both in the community and within the performing arts industry. I look forward to working with The Empire management team, staff and Friends of the Empire Theatre as we continue to grow and engage our community.

I am in awe of the work achieved to date by Empire Theatres Foundation and thank Empire Theatres Foundation Chair Janelle Fletcher and Directors for their ongoing commitment to the growth and development of young creatives in our region.

I thank the Board Chair Andrew Wielandt, Deputy Chair Amanda Tolson and fellow Board Directors for their dedication to delivering on The Empire's vision to nurture dynamic cultural growth and champion diverse and meaningful experiences for, with and by community. I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we continue to deliver on The Empire's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

We cannot achieve our goals alone; therefore, I would like to acknowledge the incredible support provided by Toowoomba Regional Council, as well as our donors, partners and supporters, who continue to support our premier performance venue.

### GIULIANA BONEL

General Manager  
Empire Theatres Pty Ltd



**FRIENDS OF THE EMPIRE  
THEATRE INC.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to present my report for the Friends of the Empire Theatre for the year 2022/2023.

Most importantly I would like to thank our Management Committee for their fantastic support during the past year. I am just the figurehead for this great group of hardworking volunteers.

I would like to particularly mention Secretary Simon Pearl, Treasurer Gay Jorgensen and Vice-President Richard Chiverrell for their never-ending support. My thanks also to Bill Armagnacq for attending our meetings.

During the past year, I have been encouraged to watch everyone at The Empire including our Volunteers working together. My thanks to the amazing Kate Brennan who has looked after the Volunteers so well - we were fortunate to have you.

I would also like to thank Jamie Galley who has very competently taken over this role and we look forward to working with you. Of course thanks also to our Front-of-House staff, particularly Davis Lamont, and our Technical staff for their friendship and support extended to the Volunteers together with every staff member of The Empire.

Donations from the Friends of the Empire Theatre for 2022/2023 totalled \$52,100, providing sponsorship of *The Boy From Oz*, lease payment for the theatre utility, outdoor furniture and the eagerly anticipated foyer furniture. This brings our current total of donations to \$883,505.

This year we farewell Kerry Saul and I would like to thank him for his support of the Volunteers over the past 26 years. Welcome to Giuliana Bonel, our new General Manager; we are excited to work with you.

Lastly my thanks to the Toowoomba Regional Council and the Empire Theatres Pty Ltd Board of Directors for your ongoing support of the Volunteers.

### **MARGARET TURNBULL**

President  
Friends of the Empire Theatre Inc.



**EMPIRE THEATRES  
FOUNDATION**

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Empire Theatres Foundation seeks to assist the youth in our region to further develop their skills in the creative industries and performance arenas.

In the past year, the Foundation awarded a record number of bursaries to 35 successful recipients with an approximate spend of \$25,000.

It's enormously rewarding to know this money and the opportunities presented are directly benefiting young people in regions near and far including Southern and Western Downs, Lockyer Valley, Wide Bay Burnett, Northwest New South Wales and of course our region – Toowoomba Region.

The Foundation will continue to support the work of the main company by financially assisting programs and engagement, producing the 2023 Junior and Senior IMPACT Ensembles.

Of course, none of this can be achieved and we would cease to exist without the unwavering support of our sponsors and donors including Clifford Gouldson Lawyers, Downlands College, Greenridge Group, DP Wealth Advisory, Horizon, Shine Private, Bernoth Properties and Wearing Memories.

I sincerely thank the support of Foundation Directors and am grateful for your ongoing support and dedication to the Foundation. In addition, I would like to thank Empire Theatres Pty Ltd Board Chair, Andrew Wielandt and Board Directors.

The Foundation extends a warm thank you and a very best wishes to former General Manager, Kerry Saul and his wife Alison and welcomes incoming General Manager Giuliana Bonel and importantly sincere thanks to Foundation Officer Kate Brennan.

### **JANELLE FLETCHER**

Chair  
Empire Theatres Foundation



CULTURE COUNTS

# HERE'S THE SCOOP

The evaluation framework applied by Culture Counts uses a standardised set of outcome metrics called 'dimensions' to measure the quality and impact of cultural events. Attendees and participants who accessed events at The Empire were surveyed about their experience. Surveys included a set of dimensions that were selected in alignment with The Empire's strategic goals.

Dimensions are responded to using a 100-point sliding scale. Respondents are asked to indicate how much they agree with a statement by sliding the marker between zero (Strongly Disagree) and 100 (Strongly Agree). The resulting data is used to measure the unique cultural, social, civic and quality outcomes of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd from 2022- 2023.

## TOTAL RESPONSES: 3019



96%

RATED THEIR OVERALL EXPERIENCE GOOD OR EXCELLENT



\$94

AVERAGE SPEND PER PERSON IN THE LOCAL AREA



99%

OF PATRONS SAID THEY WOULD ATTEND AGAIN BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE



83%

LOCAL AUDIENCE



12%

NEW AUDIENCE MEMBERS



61

AVERAGE AGE OF PARTICIPANT



**COMMUNITY PRIDE**  
It made me feel proud of my community



**INCLUSION**  
It made me feel welcome and included



**MOTIVATION**  
I feel motivated to do more creative things in the future



**CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION**  
It provides an important addition to the cultural life of the area



**CONTENT**  
It was an interesting idea/programme



**BELONGING**  
It helped me feel part of the community



**VIBRANCY**  
I enjoy the vibrancy and activity here



**LOCAL IMPACT**  
It's important that it's happening here



**CONCEPT**  
It reflected a broad and inclusive range of voices



**HERITAGE**  
It made me feel connected to a shared history/culture



**PRESENTATION**  
It was well produced and presented



**RIGOUR**  
It was well thought through and put together



**ACCESS**  
It gave me the opportunity to access cultural activities

## A NEW CHAPTER

# A STANDING OVATION

In 2023 we farewelled our long standing General Manager, Kerry Saul, and welcomed new General Manager, Giuliana Bonel.



*Photo by Ben Hunt*

The 2022/2023 financial year saw a change in leadership of The Empire with the retirement of long serving General Manager Kerry Saul and the appointment of passionate arts leader Giuliana Bonel to the role commencing in June

2023. After announcing his impending retirement in January 2023, an extensive nationwide recruitment process was undertaken to replace Mr Saul, who finished his time at The Empire after 26 years, with more than a decade spent

at the helm. Mr Saul originally started his employment as Technical Manager at The Empire in 1997, just two weeks prior to the grand opening before being appointed to General Manager in 2012.

He retired proud of the legacy he left behind, after being instrumental in developing The Empire from a single building to a thriving precinct with four separate performance spaces—the largest regional performing arts complex in the country.

Incoming General Manager Giuliana Bonel joined The Empire direct from her position as Marketing, Commercial and Experience Director at Brisbane Powerhouse where she oversaw the organisation's brand, marketing and audience engagement strategies, corporate sponsorship, and stakeholder engagement, placemaking and visitor experience.

Hailing from North Queensland, regional arts engagement is a personal passion that Ms Bonel honed in previous marketing and audience development roles at Queensland Music Festival, Brisbane Festival, and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music.

**"THE ROLE IN WHICH THE EMPIRE PLAYS IN THE TOOWOOMBA REGION IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT, AND I AM EXCITED TO BUILD ON ITS REPUTATION AS THE 'MUST SEE' DESTINATION FOR LOCALS AND VISITORS ALIKE."**

**Giuliana Bonel**

Ms Bonel commenced her role excited to continue to build The Empire's reputation as a 'must see' destination for locals and visitors alike moving into the 2023/24 financial year.



Photo by Kevin Farmer

## BRAND NEW LOOK

# A NEW AGE OF THE EMPIRE

The 2022/23 financial year saw The Empire's website undergo a significant digital refurbishment.

The new website and brand was launched in May after months of careful consideration, planning and work behind the scenes

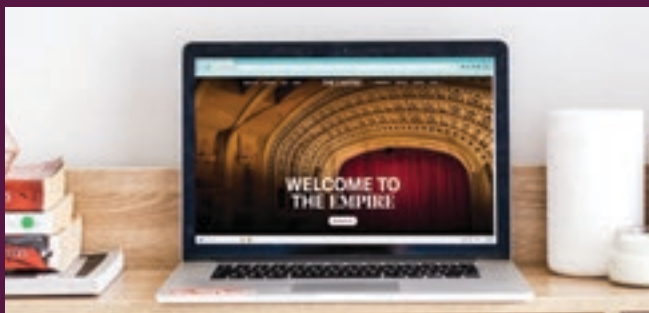
The new online experience is user friendly, colourful, functional and easy to navigate with a modern and sleek look, upgraded speed and intuitive mobile capabilities.

The legacy of the past 25 years remains at the forefront of who The Empire is; a bold and vibrant cultural hub that champions experiences for, with and by the community.

The authentic refreshed brand reflects this, honouring the history of the iconic art deco heritage listed precinct, contrasted with a contemporary modern aesthetic and expanded colour palette pulled from colours found within the precinct for some extra sparkle to the jewel in the crown of the Darling Downs.

The branding and website upgrade brings the online presence of The Empire in line with its true identity and core values, bringing together the old and new; honouring its history while celebrating its future.

Visit [empiretheatre.com.au](https://empiretheatre.com.au) to see The Empire's upgraded website.



For the past 25 years, The Empire logo has served the theatre well, resembling the impressive neon sign proudly displayed at the top of The Empire Theatre building, it has paid homage to The Empire's history.

This year, The Empire undertook a refresh of the logo and brand, a modern take of the classic art deco architecture.

Once again, the logo takes inspiration from the heritage building signage, this time pulling from the front awning and adopting the colloquial term 'The Empire' to include the full precinct of versatile multi-functional spaces while adapting to the digital age with a more multi-functional logo and colour scheme.



MILESTONE REACHED

# 2.5 MILLION TICKETS IN 25 YEARS

When Bree Miller booked her seats to see *Rolling Thunder Vietnam* on April 18, she was completely unaware she'd just become the purchaser of The Empire's 2.5 millionth ticket.

The theatre was on high alert from the start of 2023, as the huge milestone was expected to be reached early in the season, and finally, the winning ticket was sold to Bree in April.

Reaching this momentous achievement in the 25th year of operation since the grand reopening of the theatre in 1997, The Empire celebrated



General Manager Kerry Saul presents the prize package to 2.5 Millionth ticket holder, Bree Miller and her father Brian

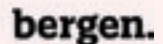
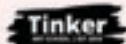
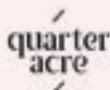
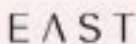
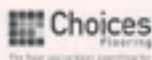
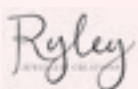
with a large prize package donated by a host of generous local businesses, priced at more than \$15,000.

The prize included a \$2,500 voucher to The Empire, a stunning one-of-a-kind custom pendant inspired by The Empire by Ryley Jewellery Creations valued at \$6,550. Also included was a Choices Flooring voucher for \$4,000, accommodation and restaurant packages, beauty vouchers and more.

Toowoomba resident, Bree was expecting to buy her tickets, take her father, who is a Vietnam Veteran along with her and simply enjoy the show, so was very surprised and excited to be told she had purchased the 2.5 millionth ticket. General Manager, Kerry Saul said he was thrilled to see The Empire reach this momentous milestone, be able to give back and thank our patrons for their past and continued support.

"The theatre has grown so much in the past 25 plus years, becoming a thriving four-venue precinct and developing the arts in our regions, so when we are able to see a figure like 2.5 million, it really confirms how valuable an asset The Empire is to the community," he said.

## SUPPORTING BUSINESSES



# EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

## LIFELIGHT GALA BALL

16 July 2022

Close to 500 people from the Southwest Queensland community came together on The Empire mainstage to raise funds for the Toowoomba based RACQ LifeFlight Rescue service. This stunning black tie gala event featured a premium three course meal by Encores Restaurant and a special performance by Brisbane based ARIA Award winning singer, Katie Noonan.



## HERITAGE HEROES PLATINUM AWARDS NIGHT

25 November 2022

Heritage Bank's annual awards night for their Staff Reward and Recognition Program, *Heritage Heroes*.

The event celebrated the significant achievements throughout the year for individuals and teams, along with major service milestones.

The event featured entertainment by Gold Coast based Killer Creature Entertainment.

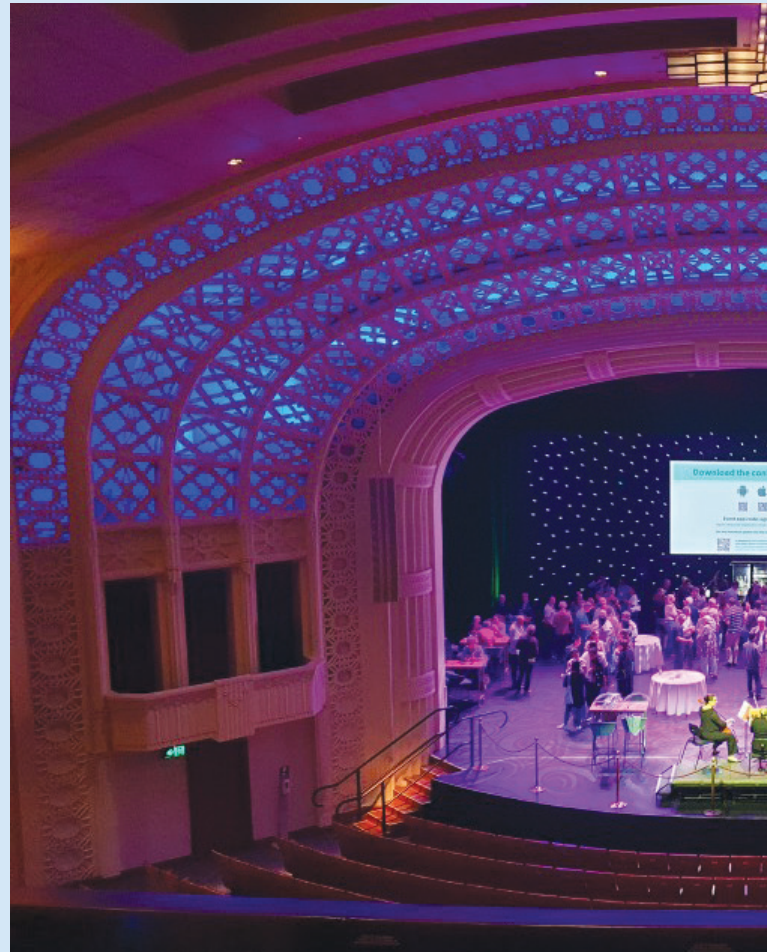


## 20TH AUSTRALIAN AGRONOMY CONFERENCE

18-22 September 2022

Originally intended to take place in October 2021, the Australian Agronomy Conference was postponed twice due to COVID-19 restrictions before successfully being run as a "hybrid" style event, incorporating both on site sessions and virtual presentations. The conference saw 260 delegates attending in person and many choosing to attend virtually from around the country.

The "hybrid" event, while challenging, was a great success for The Empire technical team who



provided and operated all audio-visual equipment for the conference, including live-streaming and recording concurrent sessions in five separate venues across The Empire precinct and managing over 230 presentations.

### **PROTEA PLACE GALA BALL**

**7 October 2022**

More than 200 guests attended this special event in the Armitage Centre, to raise funds for the Toowoomba based Protea Place Women's Support Centre.

The event included special guest speakers, 2022 Australians of the Year and founders of Small



Photo by Syd Owen



Photo by Syd Owen

Steps 4 Hannah, Sue and Lloyd Clarke, who shared their heartbreaking story and commitment to educate Australians on the dangers of coercive control and domestic violence and to create safe environments for those who need them most.

The event raised a record breaking \$71,128 for Protea Place via an auction of donated prizes.

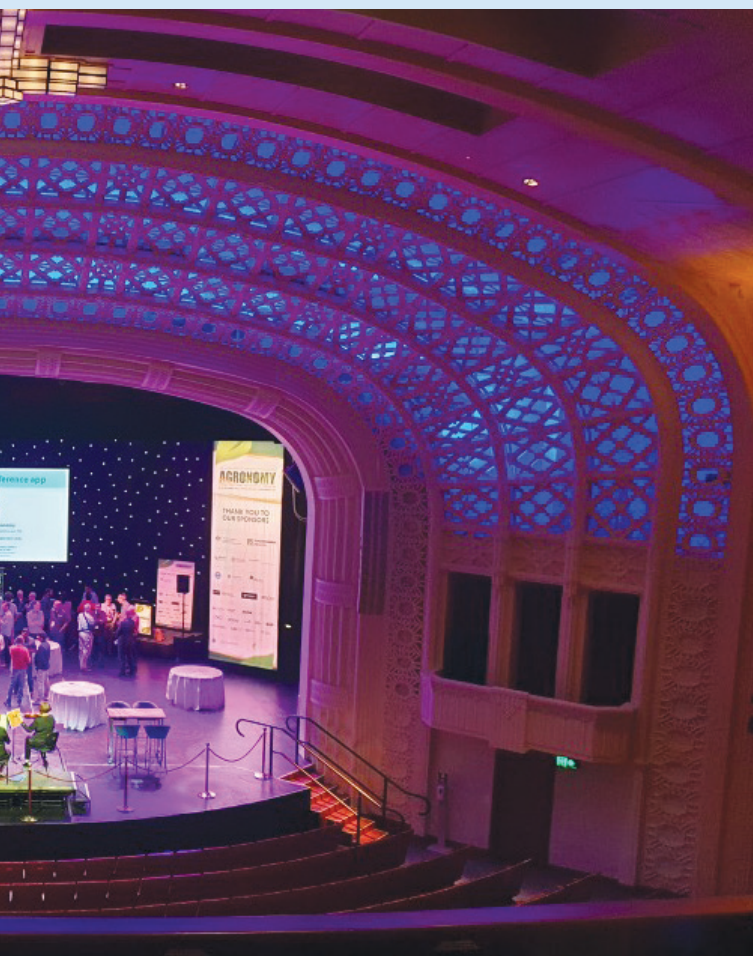
### **ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL TOOWOOMBA - CENTENARY BALL**

**29 October 2022**

Over 420 guests attended this special event on The Empire mainstage to celebrate 100 years of St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba.

The event brought together staff, doctors, local businesses, and supporters of the hospital in a spectacular evening with catering by Encores Restaurant and entertainment from Opera Queensland, Aerial Angels circus performers and and the Andrew Kucks Band.

St Vincent's received excellent donations from individuals and businesses in attendance in their silent auction with all funds raised to go towards purchasing equipment for their new Intensive Care Unit.



## **MORE 2022/2023 EVENTS**

**TSBE 400M AGRIFOOD INNOVATION FORUM** | 13 July 2022 | Armitage Centre  
Attendance: 200

**NATIONAL FODDER CONFERENCE 2022**  
25-27 July 2022 | Armitage Centre & Empire Theatre | Attendance: 180

**ORDER OF ST JOHN DINNER** | 8 October 2022  
Empire Theatre | Attendance: 255

**AUSTRALIAN PULSE CONFERENCE**  
21 March 2023 | Armitage Centre & The Church  
Attendance: 160

## FOUNDATION

# BRIAN BOAK WINNER RETURNS

Brian Boak Bursary winner returned to The Empire with award winning dark and provocative drama for one night only.

Acclaimed actor, theatre creator and 2009 Brian Boak Bursary winner, Emily Goddard returned to The Empire in August 2022 with her award-winning one-woman drama, *This is Eden* for a one-off Queensland performance.

*This is Eden* is a dark and funny provocative bonnet drama inspired by a family trip to Tasmania to research a convict ancestor.

“I decided to make a work that could shed light on the female convict experience and provoke us into examining the dangers of how we view our past,” Emily said.

“Returning to perform the work was special, especially performing it for the Foundation who had supported my bursary, allowing me to do my second year at Ecole Philippe Gaulier, three



months of which was spent training in Bouffon - the style that informed the creation of *This is Eden*.”

Following the performance, Emily held a Q&A session, fielding many questions from the high school drama students in the audience. Emily spent part of 2023 in Tasmania, working on adapting *This is Eden* for television.





## RECORD YEAR FOR YOUTH BURSARIES

The Empire's Youth Bursary program saw a record number of recipients and funds awarded in 2022, with 35 students receiving a total of \$26,000 in bursaries. This is the highest number of recipients and funds allocated since the beginning of the program in 2010.

2022 bursary winners hailed from areas including Toowoomba and Highfields as well as the

Lockyer Valley, Dalby and Chinchilla. 2022's recipients attended short courses at National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Queensland Ballet (QB), Sydney Dance Company, Empire Youth Arts and more in a range of disciplines including dance, acting, instrumental music, singing and musical theatre.

Since 2010, more than 480 Bursaries have been awarded.



## SOLD OUT CABARET BY FORMER BURSARY WINNER

A former Toowoomba creative brought his cabaret home this year, when *Confessions from the Bell Jar* performed in the Lounge Bar in February to a sold out audience.

Once a 2012 Youth Bursary winner, now a talented theatre creator, Jack Lynch wrote and performed this original cabaret inspired by the life and works of Sylvia Plath, taking *Confessions* to the Melbourne Fringe (2019), Adelaide Fringe (2020) and The Butterfly Club (2022) before

performing at The Empire. Through original songs and confessional comedy, Jack explored his relationship to Sylvia Plath's notorious novel *The Bell Jar* and her other personal writings, revealing their enduring relevance to his own struggles with mental and emotional health, and challenging the audience.



## TOOWOOMBA FILMMAKER DEBUTS SHORT FILM AT FLICKERFEST

A Toowoomba filmmaker returned home in April when her film was screened as part of the nationally touring film festival, *Flickerfest*.

Writer and producer of the short film *Six Months*, Charlotte Chimes, is a former Toowoomba resident and recipient of two Empire Youth Bursaries to Queensland Theatre Residency Week in 2008 and 2009.

Charlotte worked hard to establish her career as an actress (*Catching Milat*, *Schappelle*, *Neighbours*) and has now put her talents to use both in front of and behind the camera to great success.

Handpicked for the festival from around 3200 entries, *Six Months* was just one of nine Australian short films selected to tour and has made its way around the country since its debut at *Flickerfest* in Bondi Beach in January 2023.

## A ROARSOME YEAR FOR THRIVE



The fifth annual *Thrive on Arts* festival turned back time to the prehistoric era, celebrating all things megafauna and dinosaurs.

The four-day festival featured a mixture of free and ticketed events for ages 1 - 12 throughout The Empire precinct from September 29 - October 2.

The festival was attended by 1,696 people; a 54% increase as compared to the 2021 event, with 34% of ticket purchases located outside the 4350 postcode.



Headlined by ARIA award winning actress and longtime *Play School* presenter Justine Clarke with her show *Everybody Roar!*, *Thrive on Arts* performances included the fun and education-based puppetry performance *Dinosaur Time Machine*, two performances of *The Wind in the Willows* by RAVA Productions and the First Five Forever Concert featuring the Toowoomba Concert Orchestra in a reading of *Dippy's Big Day Out* by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley.

Families were able to get active, with circus workshops by Circa and puppetry workshops by Dead Puppet Society. Free events featured a range of options from a screening of *Ice Age 3: Dawn of the Dinosaur*, storytime under the Magnolia, Dino Stomp Dance Parties, a fun fossil dig, dino costume making craft and a roving life size diprotodon megafauna puppet wandering the lawn throughout the day courtesy of Dead Puppet Society.

*Thrive on Arts* was supported by C&K Kindergarten and Childcare, Toowoomba Regional Council, Australian Government through Festivals Australia and Regional Arts Australia through Flying Arts Alliance featuring collaborations with First Five Forever (TR Library and State Library) and Queensland Museum (Cobb & Co).



## INDELIBILITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP

This financial year, The Empire partnered with Brisbane based organisation Indelibility Arts, to provide emerging artist training and creative experiences to members of the public who identify as having a disability.

Filling a gap in offerings in this area for patrons with a disability in Toowoomba, The Empire provide support via venue hire of The Church in kind for the classes, which are managed and facilitated by Indelibility Arts. The program, which offers 90-minute classes weekly for a nine-week

term, four times a year, started in July 2022 and has continued since, with moderate enrolments of around six patrons.

Classes focus on skill building, communication and storytelling in a safe and moderated environment tailored to those with complex needs.

Class participants are currently working on a script and will present a performance outcome by the end of 2023.

## SURGE DANCE DAY

A collaboration between The Empire and Curious Arts Festival, Surge Dance Day delivers curriculum-based workshops to senior dance students from across the region.

In its third year, the workshops saw students come together to learn from industry professionals, Jacob Watton, Jen Murray and Katie Harman. Held on Tuesday 28 February

2023, the event welcomed 44 students from five schools including Harristown State High School, Chinchilla State High School, Wilsonton State High School, St Ursula's College and Highfields State Secondary College.

Surge Dance Day was funded by Evie Networks via St Baker Energy Innovation Fund.

## 2022 SENIOR IMPACT

The 2022 Senior IMPACT Ensemble presented their original production, *Going, Going, Gone!* to audiences from October 21-22 after five months of hard work creating, developing and rehearsing.

Led by Youth Arts Director Nicky Haeusler, Collaborative Playwright Maddie Nixon with creative assistance from UniSQ Creative Arts student Jade Moon and assistant writer Jack Mullins, the written content for *Going, Going, Gone!* was created by the ensemble and then curated into a full-length play.

Each of the 11 members of ensemble played a speaking role and was a vital part of the creative process, in the first IMPACT show in a number of



years that was not an adaptation of a classical text, but rather a response to creative stimuli that called for deeper explorations by the participants. *Going, Going, Gone!* was the 14th Senior IMPACT production since the beginning of the program. The ensemble of 11 young creatives worked over five months to create, develop and rehearse their performance of *Going, Going, Gone!* under the guidance of experienced industry practitioners before performing two 80-minute performances in The Armitage Centre.

The Empire Youth Arts IMPACT program is an audition-based advanced performance program for young artists aged 14-18 years, established as a platform for youth voice to be heard in our region and to cultivate new opportunities for the development of young artists.

The IMPACT program was supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

## CAMERATA WORKSHOPS

The Empire's Ensemble in Residence, Brisbane-based Camerata provided the opportunity for young string musicians to learn from the best and develop new skills with their Year Six Workshop on October 18, 2022.

Close to 20 students from across the region participated in the two-hour workshop, with

schools including Fairholme College, Rangeville State School, The Glennie School, Drayton State School and Toowoomba Anglican School.

The workshops allow primary school music students transitioning to high school to learn new skills as they consider furthering their studies into secondary schooling.

# SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ARTS NETWORK

The Regional Arts Services Network is a network of regional arts service providers who work together to deliver on the ground arts services to communities across the state.

At the end of the 2022/23 financial year, The Empire was 18 months through a three year contract for the Southern Queensland Catchment of the Network, which encompasses 16 regional Council areas.

*RASN is a Queensland Government initiative proudly delivered by The Empire.*

## DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES/WORKSHOPS

### CREATING OUT LOUD - PEER NETWORKING

14 October, 23-24 November, 1-2 December 2022

RASN ON THE ROAD | 17-19 August 2022

SMALL MUSEUMS CONFERENCE | 7-9 October 2022

PUBLIC PROGRAM WORKSHOP | 17 November 2022

UNDERSTANDING COUNTRY | 28-30 November 2022

GETTING THE BUDGET RIGHT WEBINAR SERIES | 9 February 2023

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES SUMMIT | 21 April 2023

ST GEORGE AND MARANOVA CAREERS EXPO | 10-11 May 2023

CREATE CAREERS FORUM | 23 May 2023

### RASN ON THE ROAD

17-19 August 2022

This tour included seven locations and multiple engagements across the western region, allowing Arts Officers to visit in person and develop personal connections with artists and arts workers.

### 2023 CREATIVE INDUSTRIES CAREER FORUM

Tuesday 23 May 2023

Showcasing the diversity of career pathways available in the Creative Industries in the Toowoomba region and abroad, the 2023 Creative Industries Career Forum was held in the Armitage Centre on May 23 and was attended by 11 local schools.

### TOOWOOMBA REGION CREATIVE INDUSTRIES SUMMIT

Friday 21 April 2023

Bringing together creative practitioners, entrepreneurs and industry organisations, this one-day summit explored the creative industries in the Toowoomba Region focusing on the intersection between art, culture, technology and entrepreneurship and how they connect to improve the livability of our region. The summit was attended by 96 attendees.

## RASN 2022/2023 HIGHLIGHTS

36

NETWORK MEETINGS FACILITATED

210

ARTISTS WHO RECEIVED SUPPORT/ADVICE INCLUDING GRANTS/FUNDING/INFORMATION/FEEDBACK

202

PARTICIPANTS IN RASN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

12

CAPACITY BUILDING/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES LED



# SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

## THE BOY FROM OZ

AN EMPIRE THEATRES PRODUCTION PRESENTED BY MORT & CO



17 – 26 MAR 2023 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 6

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 6,711

**MUSICAL**

Each year, The Empire produces a mainstage musical production, in an event that has become a significant contributor to the development of the arts in our region.

This year's incredible production, *The Boy from Oz* starred local teacher and talented performer Justin Tamblin in the iconic role of Peter Allen, backed up by a stellar local cast, ensemble, band and backstage crew. *The Boy from Oz* was onstage for six performances, including two matinees, from March 17-26.

The Empire is committed to staging challenging professional level performances, utilising the wealth of talent in our community and bringing in audiences from the Toowoomba community and beyond.

Since commencing these annual productions, The Empire has established a reputation as an industry leader, emphasising providing this prestigious option for local performers and backstage crew looking to further their exposure to a professional performance environment.

*The Boy from Oz* was proudly sponsored by Mort & Co, who came on board as a major sponsor for the first time. Mort & Co CEO Stephen O'Brien said of the partnership upon announcement that supporting one of Toowoomba's greatest assets was an honour they looked forward to building on for years to come.

"Mort & Co is an advocate for Regional Queensland. We are big supporters of sports associations, regional schools, charities, small town fundraisers, and now we are thrilled to be supporting The Arts in our hometown," Mr O'Brien said.

*The Boy from Oz* was the 22nd full scale stage musical undertaken by The Empire since 1999.

## THE SAPPHIRES



31 AUG 2022 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 1

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 725

**MUSICAL**

## COSENTINO: DECENNium



2 MAR 2023 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 1

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 1,057

**MAGIC**

## QLD BALLET: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM



31 MAR – 1 APR 2023 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 2

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 1,401

**BALLET**

### BILL BAILEY: EN ROUTE TO NORMAL



22 SEP 2022 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 1  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 1,482

COMEDY

### STEVE-O: THE BUCKET LIST TOUR



27 FEB 2023 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 1  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 1,261

COMEDY

### SARAH MILLICAN: BOBBY DAZZLER



03 MAR 2023 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 1  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 1,551

COMEDY

### JIMMY CARR: TERRIBLY FUNNY



28 APR 2023 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 2  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 3,110

COMEDY

### AMY SHARK



14 AUG 2022 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 1  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 1,406

MUSIC

### GUY SEBASTIAN: T.R.U.T.H. ON THE EAST SIDE TOUR



7 NOV 2022 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 1  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 1,455

MUSIC

### QLD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: SUPERFAMOUS



10 NOV 2022 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 1  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 886

**MUSIC**

### DON MCLEAN: THE ANNIVERSARY TOUR



3 APR 2023 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 1  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 909

**MUSIC**

### THIS IS EDEN



6 AUG 2022 | ARMITAGE CENTRE

PERFORMANCES: 1  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 167

**DRAMA**

### JANE EYRE



19 OCT 2022 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 1  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 801

**DRAMA**

### PRIMA FACIE

A GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION



3 MAY 2023 | ARMITAGE CENTRE

PERFORMANCES: 1  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 242

**DRAMA**

### OPERATION OUCH!



19 JAN 2023 | EMPIRE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES: 2  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 1,854

**KIDS FAMILY**

**Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and Controlled Entities**  
**ABN 83 086 482 288**

**Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2023**



Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and Controlled Entities  
ABN 83 086 482 288

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These financial statements are financial statements for Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and its Controlled Entities. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd is a company limited by shares, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business is:

The Empire Theatres  
54-56 Neil Street,  
Toowoomba QLD 4350.

A description of the nature of the company's operations and its principal activities is included in the Directors' Report on pages 1 to 2, both of which are not part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Directors on 6 December 2023. The Directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

### Directors' Report

The Directors present their report on the consolidated entity (referred to hereafter as the consolidated group or the group) consisting of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd (the company) and the entity it controlled at the end of, or during, the period ended 30 June 2023.

#### Directors

The names of the Directors in office at any time during, or since the end of the financial year are:

Mr A Wielandt (Chairman)  
Mrs S Liley (Deputy Chair)  
Mr T Armagnacq  
Mrs J Davis  
Mr D Pearson  
Mrs A Tolson  
Mrs S Byrnes  
Mr B Rush (Ceased 23 January 2023)  
Mr M O'Connell (Ceased 30 March 2023)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

#### Principal Activities

The principal activity of the consolidated group has been to develop, foster, maintain and provide facilities for all kinds of artistic expression in the Performing Arts, pursuant to the Operating Agreement with Toowoomba Regional Council. The Empire Theatres Pty Ltd is the largest performing arts precinct in regional Australia and has several performance and function spaces. Revenue comes from theatre productions, hire of function spaces and sale of goods such as merchandise, food and drinks. The company receives grants, donations and sponsorship which allows the continuation of operations.

#### Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

Kerry Saul, General Manager, retired on 7 July 2023 after 25 years of service. Giuliana Bonel was appointed as incoming General Manager and commenced on 1 June 2023.

On 15 January 2023, Empire Theatres Foundation formalised the process to update their Trustee, and appointed Empire Theatres Foundation Ltd as Trustee company. As a result of this change, Empire Theatres Foundation is now a controlled entity of Toowoomba Regional Council and no longer a controlled entity of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd.

#### Review of Operations

The consolidated profit of the group for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 was \$82,165 (2022: \$59,124). The consolidated group is exempt from income tax.

The consolidated group received a funding subsidy from the Toowoomba Regional Council of \$852,215 (2022: \$726,870) during the financial year.

#### Events Subsequent to the End of the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year that have significantly affected or may affect the operations of the company, or state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

#### Likely Developments and Expected Results of Operations

The future operations of the consolidated group are expected to relate to the principal activity outlined above.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

### Directors' Report

#### Environmental Regulation

The consolidated group's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

#### Dividends

No ordinary dividends were paid, recommended or declared during the financial year (2022: \$nil).

#### Indemnification of Officers

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the consolidated group. However Directors and Officers are insured under the Toowoomba Regional Council's insurance policy.

#### Proceedings on Behalf of Consolidated Group

No proceedings have been brought or intervened in on behalf of the company with leave of the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

#### Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 3.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:

Date: 6 December 2023  
Toowoomba



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Andrew Wielandt  
Chairman



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Thomas Armagnacq  
Director

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

To the Directors of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd

This auditor's independence declaration has been provided pursuant to s.307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

### Independence declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Michael Claydon  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

7 December 2023

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

**Statements of Comprehensive Income**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023	2022	2023	2022
		\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Recurrent Revenue</b>					
Revenue	2	4,120,018	2,993,884	4,131,897	2,993,884
Grants, Donations and Sponsorships	3	1,401,979	1,177,276	1,378,029	1,120,470
<b>Total Recurrent Revenue</b>		<b>5,521,997</b>	<b>4,171,160</b>	<b>5,509,926</b>	<b>4,114,354</b>
Other Income	4	83,244	31,217	78,002	27,215
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>5,605,241</b>	<b>4,202,377</b>	<b>5,587,928</b>	<b>4,141,569</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Recurrent Expenses</b>					
Employee Benefits	5	2,984,836	2,089,239	2,984,836	2,076,978
Materials and Services	6	2,422,229	1,934,778	2,390,059	1,889,880
Finance Costs		16,924	27,090	16,924	27,090
Legal and Professional Fees	7	99,087	92,146	96,587	88,146
<b>Total Recurrent Expenses</b>		<b>5,523,076</b>	<b>4,143,253</b>	<b>5,488,406</b>	<b>4,082,094</b>
<b>Net Result</b>		<b>82,165</b>	<b>59,124</b>	<b>99,522</b>	<b>59,475</b>
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>82,165</b>	<b>59,124</b>	<b>99,522</b>	<b>59,475</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

**Statements of Financial Position**  
As at 30 June 2023

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023	2022	2023	2022
		\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	8	1,613,914	3,631,415	1,613,914	2,773,717
Trade and Other Receivables	9	248,588	143,502	248,588	131,037
Financial Assets	10	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-
Prepayments		24,031	-	24,031	-
Inventories		24,325	15,988	24,325	15,988
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>2,910,858</b>	<b>3,790,905</b>	<b>2,910,858</b>	<b>2,920,742</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>2,910,858</b>	<b>3,790,905</b>	<b>2,910,858</b>	<b>2,920,742</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Trade and Other Payables	11	479,233	380,083	479,233	374,092
Other Liabilities	12	895,666	1,230,259	895,666	1,214,380
Provisions	13	565,904	466,739	565,904	466,739
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,940,803</b>	<b>2,077,081</b>	<b>1,940,803</b>	<b>2,055,211</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>					
Provisions	14	45,378	40,376	45,378	40,376
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>45,378</b>	<b>40,376</b>	<b>45,378</b>	<b>40,376</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>1,986,181</b>	<b>2,117,457</b>	<b>1,986,181</b>	<b>2,095,587</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>924,677</b>	<b>1,673,448</b>	<b>924,677</b>	<b>825,155</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>					
Contributed Equity		1	1	1	1
Accumulated Surplus		924,676	1,673,447	924,676	825,154
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>924,677</b>	<b>1,673,448</b>	<b>924,677</b>	<b>825,155</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

**Statements of Changes in Equity**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Contributed Equity \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total \$
<b>CONSOLIDATED</b>			
<b>BALANCE AT 1 July 2021</b>	1	1,614,323	1,614,324
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>			
Net Result		59,124	59,124
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>		59,124	59,124
<b>BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2022</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,673,447</b>	<b>1,673,448</b>
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>			
Net Result		82,165	82,165
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>		82,165	82,165
Effect of Funds Transferred to Empire Theatres Foundation		(830,936)	(830,936)
<b>BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2023</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>924,676</b>	<b>924,677</b>
<b>PARENT</b>			
<b>BALANCE AT 1 July 2021</b>	1	765,878	765,879
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>			
Net Result		59,475	59,475
Transfer Received		1	1
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	-	59,476	59,476
<b>BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2022</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>825,154</b>	<b>825,155</b>
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>			
Net Result	-	99,522	99,522
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	-	99,522	99,522
<b>BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2023</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>924,676</b>	<b>924,677</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

**Statements of Cash Flows**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Receipts from Customers	3,709,009	2,898,561	3,709,009	2,896,349
Funding Received - Operating Grant	852,215	726,870	852,215	726,870
Receipts from Grants, Donations and Sponsorships	563,141	451,087	525,814	393,600
Interest Received	69,867	12,210	64,625	8,208
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(5,380,798)	(4,080,957)	(5,311,466)	(4,014,292)
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities	(186,566)	7,771	(159,803)	10,735
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Maturity/(Purchase) of Investments	(1,000,000)	1,250,000	(1,000,000)	500,000
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Investing Activities	(1,000,000)	1,250,000	(1,000,000)	500,000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Transfers to Associate Entity	(830,936)	1	-	-
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Financing Activities	(830,936)	1	-	-
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(2,017,502)	1,257,772	(1,159,803)	510,735
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Financial Year	3,631,415	2,373,643	2,773,717	2,262,982
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Financial Year	8 1,613,914	3,631,415	1,613,914	2,773,717

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements



Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

**Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The financial statements cover the consolidated financial statements and notes of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and its controlled entity ('Group'), and the separate financial statements and notes of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd as an individual parent entity ('Parent Entity').

**Basis of Preparation**

These general purpose financial statements are prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements of Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures. The financial statements comply with the recognition and measurement requirements of all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations applicable to not-for-profit entities, the *Corporations Act 2001* and the presentation requirements in those standards as modified by AASB 1060.

The financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis, with the exception of the statement of cash flows which is prepared on a cash basis. The historical cost convention is used as the measurement.

**Presentation matters**

Amounts included in the financial statements are in Australian dollars. Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar. Comparative information reflects the audited 2021/22 financial statements.

Assets are classified as 'current' where their carrying amount is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting date. Liabilities are classified as 'current' when they are due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting date, or the company does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement to beyond 12 months after the reporting date. All other assets and liabilities are classified as non-current.

**Going Concern**

The company is dependent upon continued funding from Toowoomba Regional Council to ensure that the entity can continue to operate as a going concern. Toowoomba Regional Council has agreed to provide ongoing financial support to ensure the company can meet its debts as they fall due.

**Principles of Consolidation**

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the assets, liabilities and results of entities controlled by Empire Theatres Pty Ltd at the end of the reporting period. A controlled entity is any entity over which Empire Theatres Pty Ltd has the power to govern the financial and operating policies so as to obtain benefits from the entity's activities. The group consists of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and Empire Theatres Foundation. Control of Empire Theatres Foundation is subject to compliance with the Empire Theatres Foundation Trust Deed.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, all inter-group transactions between Empire Theatres Pty Ltd and Empire Theatres Foundation have been eliminated on consolidation. Empire Theatres Foundation consolidations are for the period 1 July 2022 to 15 January 2023, and are not in the Statement of Financial Position and related notes. As a result of a change in trustee, Empire Theatres Foundation was no longer a controlled entity of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd after this date.

**Income Tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

**Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Statements of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statements of Cash Flows on a gross basis.

**Contingent Liabilities**

There are no past events that have given rise to potential obligation, therefore no contingent liabilities have been recognised.

**Key Accounting Estimates and Judgement**

The preparation of the financial statements requires the determination and use of certain critical accounting estimates, assumptions and management judgements about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities. Such estimates, judgements and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in future periods as relevant.

Estimates and assumptions that have a potential significant effect are outlined in the following notes:

Employee benefits - Note 5, 13, 14

**New and Revised Accounting Standards**

The group adopts all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current reporting period. None of the standards had a material impact on the company's reported financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

No accounting pronouncements were adopted in the 2022/23 financial year. No voluntary changes in accounting policies occurred during the 2022/23 financial year.

**Authorisation of Financial Statements for Issue**

The financial statements are authorised for issue by the Directors at the date of signing the Directors' Declaration.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
 For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 2: Revenue	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sale of Goods	453,399	312,105	453,399	312,105
Rendering of Services	2,803,880	1,876,736	2,803,880	1,876,736
Productions	862,739	805,043	874,618	805,043
	<b>4,120,018</b>	<b>2,993,884</b>	<b>4,131,897</b>	<b>2,993,884</b>

Products and Services	Nature and timing of revenue recognition
Sale of Goods	Revenue from the sale of goods, such as merchandise and drinks, is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received at the point of sale.
Rendering of Services	Revenue recognition based on contracts to provide services is recognised in stages of completion, often as a percentage of services performed to the total of services to be provided as stipulated in the contract.
Productions	Revenue from productions is recognised when the production takes place. If productions are postponed, revenue is not recognised but the cash is held as liability until the event takes place.

**Note 3: Grants, Donations and Sponsorship**

Funding - Toowoomba Regional Council	852,215	726,870	852,215	726,870
Grants and Subsidies	419,545	325,292	419,545	325,292
Sponsorships	27,045	45,178	-	-
Donations	103,174	79,936	106,269	68,308
	<b>1,401,979</b>	<b>1,177,276</b>	<b>1,378,029</b>	<b>1,120,470</b>

Products and Services	Nature and timing of revenue recognition
Grants and subsidies	Grants and subsidies that are unrestricted are recognised as revenue when the company obtains control over them, which is usually upon receipt of funds. Where grants are received that are restricted in nature, revenue is recognised as the various performance obligations under the funding agreement are fulfilled.
Sponsorship	The Group receives sponsorship in relation to various events. Sponsorship is given in return for increasing the presence of the sponsoring entities in the community. In return, the sponsors receive ticketing for the event and recognition. Revenue is recognised on an accrual basis in line with the sponsorship contract.
Donations	Revenue from donations received is recognised on receipt.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Note 4: Other Income</b>				
Interest Received	69,867	12,210	64,625	8,208
Other Income	13,377	19,007	13,377	19,007
	<u>83,244</u>	<u>31,217</u>	<u>78,002</u>	<u>27,215</u>

Products and Services	Nature and timing of revenue recognition
Other Income	Other income comprises revenue from marketing, projects and small immaterial income streams. This revenue is recognised when the company has received income from sources other than its core operations.
Interest Received	Interest received from bank and term deposits is accrued over the term of the investment.

**Note 5: Employee Benefits**

Salaries	2,686,584	1,958,465	2,686,584	1,946,204
Annual Leave, Sick Leave and Long Service Leave	104,168	60,099	104,168	60,099
Employee Benefits - Other	194,084	70,675	194,084	70,675
	<u>2,984,836</u>	<u>2,089,239</u>	<u>2,984,836</u>	<u>2,076,978</u>

Number of employees 27 21 27 21  
The number of employees as at 30 June 2023, including both full-time employees and part-time employees, is measured on a full-time equivalent basis.

**Note 6: Materials and Services**

Repairs and Maintenance	310,333	254,591	310,333	254,591
Marketing	204,933	76,023	204,933	68,518
Office and Administration	305,245	342,826	273,076	305,433
Equipment	152,946	86,652	152,946	86,652
Vehicle Expenses	28,899	28,899	28,899	28,899
Donation Expenditure	10,059	3,320	10,059	3,320
Equipment Hire	954,043	757,887	954,043	757,887
Catering	204,253	172,071	204,253	172,071
Stock Purchases	161,439	108,909	161,439	108,909
Royalties and Licences	90,079	103,600	90,078	103,600
	<u>2,422,229</u>	<u>1,934,778</u>	<u>2,390,059</u>	<u>1,889,880</u>

**Note 7: Legal and Professional Fees**

Audit Fees	26,500	30,000	24,000	26,000
Legal and Professional - Other	72,587	62,146	72,587	62,146
	<u>99,087</u>	<u>92,146</u>	<u>96,587</u>	<u>88,146</u>

Total audit fees payable to the Queensland Audit Office relating to the 2022/23 consolidated financial statements are quoted to be \$26,500 (2022: \$30,000) and for the Company, they are quoted to be \$24,000 (2022: \$22,000). There are no non-audit services included in this amount.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Note 8: Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>				
Cash on Hand	6,901	6,901	6,901	6,901
Cash at Bank	1,607,013	3,624,514	1,607,013	2,766,816
	<u>1,613,914</u>	<u>3,631,415</u>	<u>1,613,914</u>	<u>2,773,717</u>

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

**Note 9: Receivables**

Trade and Other Receivables	<u>248,588</u>	<u>143,502</u>	<u>248,588</u>	<u>131,037</u>
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Receivables include amounts due from customers for goods sold and services performed in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

**Note 10: Financial Assets**

Held to Maturity Investment	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>-</u>
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*Held-to-maturity investments were invested at an interest rate of 3.60% (2022: 0.50%)*

Financial assets contain held-to-maturity investments that have fixed maturities greater than three months, and it is the group's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in the Statements of Comprehensive Income through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

**Note 11: Trade and Other Payables**

Trade Payables	186,841	152,576	186,841	152,576
Other Payables and Accrued Expenses	242,893	187,507	242,893	181,516
Bonuses Payable	49,499	40,000	49,499	40,000
	<u>479,233</u>	<u>380,083</u>	<u>479,233</u>	<u>374,092</u>

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the group during the reporting period that remains unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amount normally being paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**Note 12: Other Liabilities**

Security Deposits - Hires	139,825	129,200	139,825	129,200
Box Office Ticket Prepayments	574,528	889,993	574,528	889,993
Unearned Income	181,313	211,066	181,313	195,187
	<u>895,666</u>	<u>1,230,259</u>	<u>895,666</u>	<u>1,214,380</u>

Security deposits are recognised at the completion of the performance or function. The amount is refundable if the performance or function does not go ahead.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Note 13: Provisions</b>				
Annual Leave - Current	170,827	116,019	170,827	116,019
Long Service Leave - Current	395,077	350,720	395,077	350,720
	<b>565,904</b>	<b>466,739</b>	<b>565,904</b>	<b>466,739</b>
<b>Note 14: Provisions</b>				
Long Service Leave - Non-current	45,378	40,376	45,378	40,376
	<b>45,378</b>	<b>40,376</b>	<b>45,378</b>	<b>40,376</b>

A provision is made for the group's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Those cashflows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows.

**Note 15: Related Party Transactions**

Transactions with parent entity

The company is wholly owned by the Toowoomba Regional Council. During the year Toowoomba Regional Council contributed \$852,215 (2022: \$726,870) to the company as an operating grant.

During the year the company paid \$29,108 (2022: \$30,940) to Toowoomba Regional Council for building rent, motor vehicle rent and insurance.

During the year the company received \$102,222 (2022: \$131,123) from Toowoomba Regional Council for services provided.

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable to those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

Transactions with controlled entities

During the year the Company received \$Nil (2022: \$3,895) from Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd.

During the prior year the Company paid \$Nil (2022: \$42) to Empire Theatre Projects Pty Ltd.

During the year the company received \$18,317 (2022: \$22,467) for services provided from Empire Theatres Foundation. These transactions were at arm's length and were in the normal course of operations.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

**Note 15: Related Party Transactions (continued)**

Transactions with Key Management Personnel (KMP)

KMP includes the Directors of the company and controlled entities and the executive management team. KMP compensation paid or accrued, during the 2022/23 year comprises:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Short-Term Employee Benefits	176,037	147,718	176,037	147,718
Post-Employment Benefits	15,253	16,661	15,253	16,661
Long-Term Benefits	4,000	3,379	4,000	3,379
	<u>195,290</u>	<u>167,758</u>	<u>195,290</u>	<u>167,758</u>

Directors Fees \$44,567 (2022: \$34,160)

Transactions with Other Related Parties

During the year the consolidated entity received income of \$27,554 (2022: \$52,104) and incurred expenses of \$nil (2022: \$6,433) from companies that are related parties to Key Management Personnel. These transactions were at arm's length and were in the normal course of operations.

During the year the consolidated entity received income of \$31,749 (2022: \$34,961) and incurred expenses of \$350 (2022: \$350) from Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise Pty Ltd. These transactions were at arm's length and were in the normal course of operations.

**Note 16: Events after the Reporting Period**

The Directors are not aware of any events after 30 June 2023 that will have a material impact on this financial report.

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd  
ABN 83 086 482 288

**Directors' Declaration**

In the Directors' opinion:

- (a) The financial statements and notes set out on pages 4 to 14 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - (i) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
  - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the consolidated entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date, and.
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

Date: 6 December 2023  
Toowoomba



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Andrew Wielandt  
Chairman



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Thomas Armagnacq  
Director



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd

### Report on the audit of the financial report

#### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Empire Theatres Pty Ltd (the parent) and its controlled entities (the group).

In my opinion, the financial report:

- a) gives a true and fair view of the parent's and group's financial position as at 30 June 2023, and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended
- b) complies with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures.

The financial report comprises the statements of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statements of income and accumulated surpluses, and statements of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including material accounting policy information, and the directors' declaration.

#### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report.

I am independent of the parent and group in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General Auditing Standards*. I am also independent of the parent and group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Other information

Other information comprises financial and non-financial information (other than the audited financial report). At the date of this auditor's report, the available other information in the Empire Theatres Pty Ltd's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023 was the director's report.

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

**Responsibilities of the company for the financial report**

The company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, and for such internal control as the company's directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The company's directors are also responsible for assessing the parent's and group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the parent or group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the parent's and group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of material accounting policy information used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the group.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the parent's and group's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the parent's or group's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. I base my conclusions on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the parent or group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the financial report. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit of the group. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

I communicate with the company's directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Michael Claydon  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

7 December 2023

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

# PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE: 2022 - 2023

DATE/VENUE	EVENT	SOLD	COMP	TOTAL
<b>JULY 2022</b>				
EMPIRE THEATRE	THE TEN TENORS	1,233	14	1,247
EMPIRE THEATRE	HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME	1,110	126	1,236
EMPIRE THEATRE	IAN MOSS AND TROY CASSAR-DALEY	676	44	720
ARMITAGE CENTRE	SUMMON THE HEROES	88	0	88
ARMITAGE CENTRE	LUKE KIDGELL: CHEERS TO THAT	702	0	702
EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	ILLUMINATIONS	158	69	227
EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	STRAIGHT WHITE MEN	123	37	160
EMPIRE STUDIO ROOM	EDGES A SONG CYCLE	85	7	92
<b>AUGUST 2022</b>				
EMPIRE THEATRE	EISTEDDFOD JULY/AUGUST SESSIONS	3,160	5	3,165
EMPIRE THEATRE	EIREBORNE	694	16	710
EMPIRE THEATRE	50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOT AUGUST NIGHT	672	12	684
EMPIRE THEATRE	AMY SHARK	1,383	23	1,406
EMPIRE THEATRE	GUYS AND DOLLS	1,033	72	1,105
EMPIRE THEATRE	THE BOX SHOW	613	69	682
EMPIRE THEATRE	PAUL MORTON CHORAL FESTIVAL	283	10	293
EMPIRE THEATRE	THE SAPPHIRES	656	69	725
ARMITAGE CENTRE	THIS IS EDEN	141	26	167
ARMITAGE CENTRE	HARBHAJAN MANN LIVE	297	45	342
ARMITAGE CENTRE	HONKY TONK ANGELS	130	18	148
ARMITAGE CENTRE	CREEDENCE CLEARWATER COLLECTIVE	348	1	349
<b>SEPTEMBER 2022</b>				
EMPIRE THEATRE	GOOD MORNING VIETNAM	610	49	659
EMPIRE THEATRE	SCHOOL OF ROCK	2,496	302	2,798
EMPIRE THEATRE	A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD	777	9	786
EMPIRE THEATRE	MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL	1,701	16	1,717
EMPIRE THEATRE	BILL BAILEY: EN ROUTE TO NORMAL	1,473	9	1,482
EMPIRE THEATRE	CENTENARY GALA CONCERT	285	14	299
EMPIRE THEATRE	POSTMODERN JUKEBOX	587	8	595
EMPIRE THEATRE	FAIRYTALES ON ICE	1,303	19	1,322
ARMITAGE CENTRE	SEUSSICAL JNR	718	10	728
ARMITAGE CENTRE	MISTERO BUFFO	31	21	52
ARMITAGE CENTRE	CAMERATA & LIOR COMPASSION	220	67	287
ARMITAGE CENTRE	THE GLENNIE MSY ARTS SHOWCASE	213	6	219
ARMITAGE CENTRE	MIRUSIA SONGBIRD	193	12	205
ARMITAGE CENTRE	GOLD: THE ULTIMATE ABBA SHOW	269	7	276
ARMITAGE CENTRE	DINOSAUR TIME MACHINE	296	1	297
ARMITAGE CENTRE	WIND IN THE WILLOWS	249	3	252
EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	CONTRA MOZART	45	0	45
<b>OCTOBER 2022</b>				
EMPIRE THEATRE	JUSTINE CLARKE: EVERYBODY ROAR	181	37	218
EMPIRE THEATRE	QUEEN BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	338	39	377
EMPIRE THEATRE	COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER	1,023	10	1,033
EMPIRE THEATRE	MULTICULTURAL COMEDY GALA	368	21	389
EMPIRE THEATRE	SWAN LAKE	794	22	816
EMPIRE THEATRE	TAKE NOTE CONCERT	152	9	161
EMPIRE THEATRE	JANE EYRE	748	53	801
EMPIRE THEATRE	SYDNEY COMEDY FESTIVAL	448	18	466

EMPIRE THEATRE	MUSIC OF THE NIGHT TOUR	624	8	632
ARMITAGE CENTRE	ICE AGE 3 MOVIE SCREENING	0	283	283
ARMITAGE CENTRE	DIPPY'S BIG DAY OUT	0	553	553
ARMITAGE CENTRE	BY A THREAD	247	38	285
ARMITAGE CENTRE	GOING, GOING, GONE	331	25	356
ARMITAGE CENTRE	ALEXANDER GADJIEV	129	22	151
ARMITAGE CENTRE	LOVE BURNS	54	9	63
EMPIRE STUDIO ROOM	BAITMAN THE MUSICAL	161	4	165
<b>NOVEMBER 2022</b>				
EMPIRE THEATRE	ON BY CIRCA	125	69	194
EMPIRE THEATRE	THE SWEET SHOP	795	10	805
EMPIRE THEATRE	GUY SEBASTIAN: T.R.U.T.H. ON THE EAST SIDE TOUR	1,435	20	1,455
EMPIRE THEATRE	QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA	814	72	886
EMPIRE THEATRE	ISAAC BUTTERFIELD	617	6	623
EMPIRE THEATRE	AUSTRALIA	1,861	61	1,922
EMPIRE THEATRE	A CHRISTMAS WISH	521	160	681
EMPIRE THEATRE	THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF ROCKNROLL	855	40	895
ARMITAGE CENTRE	TOOWOOMBA PHYSIE & DANCE CONCERT	199	1	200
ARMITAGE CENTRE	COOL NIGHTS BIG BAND	135	7	142
ARMITAGE CENTRE	MOZART'S JUPITER	214	48	262
EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	CLEMENTINE FORD: LOVE SERMON	104	1	105
EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	SONGS FROM THE SILK ROAD	132	0	132
<b>DECEMBER 2022</b>				
EMPIRE THEATRE	A HOLLY CHRISTMAS	1131	106	1237
EMPIRE THEATRE	MADELINE	780	44	824
EMPIRE THEATRE	MARINA PRIOR & DAVID HOBSON	787	11	798
EMPIRE THEATRE	PETER PAN	1,988	46	2,034
EMPIRE THEATRE	SLEEPING BEAUTY	915	21	936
ARMITAGE CENTRE	CHRISTMAS TOGETHER CONCERT	253	2	255
ARMITAGE CENTRE	PROJECT 62	137	10	147
ARMITAGE CENTRE	ROCKING THROUGH THE AGES	311	4	315
<b>JANUARY 2023</b>				
EMPIRE THEATRE	OPERATION OUCH!	1,842	12	1,854
ARMITAGE CENTRE	NEXT LEVEL	286	1	287
ARMITAGE CENTRE	TEENY TINY STEVIES	221	5	226
<b>FEBRUARY 2023</b>				
EMPIRE THEATRE	JONATHON WELCH: HARD KNOCK LIFE	292	41	333
EMPIRE THEATRE	MURPHY'S PIGS	703	43	746
EMPIRE THEATRE	STEVE-O: THE BUCKET LIST TOUR	1,250	11	1,261
ARMITAGE CENTRE	SWEET SUITES	177	32	209
ARMITAGE CENTRE	ALL'S NELL THAT ENDS NELL	160	5	165
ARMITAGE CENTRE	CAMERATA: HEARTSTRINGS	218	47	265
EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	GEORGIE CARROLL SISTA FLO 2.0	538	2	540
OTHER	CONFESSIONS FROM THE BELL JAR	65	1	66
<b>MARCH 2023</b>				
EMPIRE THEATRE	COSENTINO: DECENNIUM	1,043	14	1,057
EMPIRE THEATRE	SARAH MILLICAN: BOBBY DAZZLER	1,545	6	1,551
EMPIRE THEATRE	DREAMS	637	12	649
EMPIRE THEATRE	THE BOY FROM OZ	5,950	761	6,711
ARMITAGE CENTRE	ALL FIRED UP	239	12	251
ARMITAGE CENTRE	BEACH BOYS EXPERIENCE	334	8	342
EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	COOL NIGHTS BIG BAND	112	1	113
<b>APRIL 2023</b>				
EMPIRE THEATRE	QUEENSLAND BALLET: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	1,299	102	1,401

EMPIRE THEATRE	DON MCLEAN: THE ANNIVERSARY TOUR	884	25	909
EMPIRE THEATRE	SNOW QUEEN	1,016	32	1,048
EMPIRE THEATRE	ROLLING THUNDER VIETNAM	612	42	654
EMPIRE THEATRE	BEST OF THE BEE GEES	644	49	693
EMPIRE THEATRE	MR STINK	1,037	69	1,106
EMPIRE THEATRE	JIMMY CARR: TERRIBLY FUNNY	3,102	8	3,110
EMPIRE THEATRE	CELTIC ILLUSION	1,085	12	1,097
ARMITAGE CENTRE	QUEENSLAND EISTEDDFOD	549	0	549
ARMITAGE CENTRE	BLACK SUN BLOOD MOON	151	29	180
ARMITAGE CENTRE	FLICKERFEST	338	34	372
EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	EISHAN ENSEMBLE	80	10	90
EMPIRE STUDIO ROOM	QUEENS OF SONG	74	5	79
OTHER	COMEDY NIGHT	12	0	12

**MAY 2023**

EMPIRE THEATRE	EISTEDDFOD MAY SESSIONS	4,078	3	4,081
EMPIRE THEATRE	WE WILL ROCK YOU	1,962	73	2,035
EMPIRE THEATRE	CIRQUE MOTHER AFRICA	707	9	716
EMPIRE THEATRE	KING OF THE SWINGERS	411	72	483
EMPIRE THEATRE	JIMEOIN: THE CRAIC!	1,272	6	1,278
ARMITAGE CENTRE	CAMERATA: FROM MY HOMELAND	231	55	286
ARMITAGE CENTRE	PRIMA FACIE	212	30	242
EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	STAGES OF DATING	148	1	149

**JUNE 2023**

EMPIRE THEATRE	FOOTLOOSE	2,018	82	2,100
EMPIRE THEATRE	STRING OUT	461	4	465
EMPIRE THEATRE	ARE WE THERE YET	1,684	159	1,843
EMPIRE THEATRE	THE TEN TENORS	1,138	11	1,149
EMPIRE THEATRE	FOREST SONG & DON QUIXOTE	573	19	592
EMPIRE THEATRE	BILLY V ELTON	383	7	390
EMPIRE THEATRE	TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOL ARTS FEST	1,082	41	1,123
EMPIRE THEATRE	MELBOURNE COMEDY FESTIVAL	649	45	694
EMPIRE THEATRE	JAMES REYNE & ELLA HOOPER: WAY OUT WEST TOUR	651	38	689
EMPIRE THEATRE	ELVIS: ONE NIGHT IN VEGAS	506	17	523
ARMITAGE CENTRE	FAME JR	658	23	681
ARMITAGE CENTRE	THE LANDMINE IS ME	272	11	283
ARMITAGE CENTRE	LADY SINGS THE MAROONS	174	51	225
ARMITAGE CENTRE	URB URBS AND BUCKETS	401	23	424
ARMITAGE CENTRE	AUSTRALIAN EAGLES	272	4	276
ARMITAGE CENTRE	JOHN GRANGER FISHER PIANIST	115	16	131
ARMITAGE CENTRE	TIM FREEDMAN & OLLIE THORPE: BLACK STUMP DUO	204	6	210
ARMITAGE CENTRE	ALIVE & KICKING WITH DENISE DRYSDALE & CRAIG BENNETT	87	11	98
ARMITAGE CENTRE	THE JOE COCKER EXPERIENCE	151	8	159

**PAID**

EMPIRE THEATRE	78,561	EMPIRE THEATRE	3,594
ARMITAGE CENTRE	11,355	ARMITAGE CENTRE	1,630
EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	1,440	EMPIRE CHURCH THEATRE	121
EMPIRE STUDIO ROOM	320	EMPIRE STUDIO ROOM	16
OTHER	77	OTHER	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91,753</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,362</b>

**COMP/FREE EVENTS**

**TOTAL TICKETED  
ATTENDANCE**

**97,115**



MILESTONE REACHED:  
**2.5 MILLION**  
 TICKETHOLDERS SINCE THE  
 GRAND REOPENING  
 IN 1997



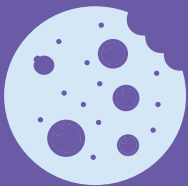
**\$43.8 MILLION**  
 ESTIMATED SPEND LOCALLY AS A RESULT  
 OF VISITATION TO THE EMPIRE

\*From Southern Queensland Country Tourism Empire Theatre Financial Year 2022/23 Report



TOTAL VISITATION FOR  
 THE EMPIRE 2022/23  
 WAS AN ESTIMATED  
**126,979**

\*From Southern Queensland Country Tourism Empire Theatre Financial Year 2022/23 Report



NUMBER OF BISCUITS SERVED BY  
 FRIENDS OF THE EMPIRE  
**2,030**



**35**  
 RECIPIENTS WERE  
 AWARDED  
**\$26,000**  
 IN YOUTH  
 BURSARIES  
 IN A SINGLE  
 ROUND



**99%**  
 OF PATRONS SAID  
 THEY WOULD  
 ATTEND AGAIN  
 BASED ON THEIR  
 EXPERIENCE



NUMBER OF YEARS  
 RETIRING GENERAL  
 MANAGER KERRY SAUL  
 DEDICATED TO THE  
 EMPIRE BEFORE  
 RETIREMENT  
**26**



**624kg**  
 WORTH OF  
 SMARTIES  
 SOLD IN  
 THE BARS



BOX OFFICE SALES  
**\$2,040,559**

NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE  
 ENGAGED WEEKLY THROUGH THE  
 EMPIRE YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMS  
**OVER 100**



OPERATING RESULT:  
 CONSOLIDATED A  
 PROFIT OF  
**\$82,165**

# THE EMPIRE



**TOOWOOMBA  
REGION**

Empire Theatres Pty Ltd is owned by, and managed on behalf of, Toowoomba Regional Council