

DUNLOP'S

DRAPERS & MERCERS

Specialists in All School Clothing, Hats and Shoes

182 HUME HIGHWAY
YAGOONA — 70-3658

23 THE BOULEVARDE
STRATHFIELD — 76-7920

(P)

Mrs.

To AGM, May 1971

Aldermen ^{Frank} Lions Mrs Lions, Mayor & Mayoress
of Strathfield ladies and gentlemen,
on behalf of the Council of the Strathfield
Symphony Orchestral Society, I welcome you
to the first Annual General Meeting of the Society.
I hope your evening will be enjoyable and
I extend to you an invitation to ~~join~~ warm
the cockles of your heart with a cup of tea
& biscuit at the conclusion of the formal
business of the evening. We ~~believe~~ ^{wish} ~~that~~ ^{to}
~~this will~~ provide an opportunity to mingle, get
to know one another better and informally discuss
the work of the Society. Often ~~for~~ free ranging
informal conversation such as this can generate
excellent ideas of great ultimate benefit.

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At the beginning of this year ~~the~~ ~~our~~ ~~out~~ ~~as~~ ~~Mayor~~ ~~of~~ ~~Strathfield~~ secretary wrote to alderman Lyons ~~of~~ ~~Strathfield~~ requesting him to accept the office of Patron of the Society. I am extremely happy tonight to ~~welcome our Patron~~ ~~the Mayor~~ ~~of Strathfield~~ who has graciously found time in a very busy life to interest himself in our activities. Having our Mayor as Patron symbolises the interest & support of the Strathfield Council for our efforts, ~~and shows~~ to promote this musical facet of the cultural life of our Community. The extent of this help will become clear in the course of the evening. later I will call on our

APOLOGIES

Patron to take the chair & conduct the election of officers.

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3.

Ladies & Gentlemen we are here tonight to review the activity of the society in the past year, ~~and~~ hear reports of the ~~officers~~ ^{retiring} Council and elect new officers for the coming year. The Society was inaugurated at Public Meeting on *23rd March 1970 with Ald Bill Boyce then Mayor of Strathfield acting as chairman, later he became our first Patron. His interest ^{generosity &} ~~and~~ help in the following months contributed greatly to the successful presentation of our first Concert. His assistance has been vital. At that meeting Miss Emily Fink was elected first President of the Society and Musical Director. After filling both these positions for most of the year she found that the pressure work was too great and decided that in the best interests of the society and orchestra she should concentrate her efforts on the work of musical director and leader

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where she has been performing work of the utmost importance to the success of the orchestra's performances. We are all most grateful to her for her efforts in this sphere.

I must also mention at this point Mr Albert Keats who served as our Conductor during the year. Mr Keats brought to the orchestra the immense benefit of his many years of experience ~~in~~ as conductor of Wellingborough Orchestra. His high standards and professional approach have wrought a beneficial change on the orchestra which will remain his permanent contribution to Strathfield Symphony Orchestra. It is with the greatest regret that we accept his resignation.

We must not forget ~~at~~ the players of the Orchestra. Particularly those ~~who~~ who arrive regularly each week for rehearsal and pay for the privilege.

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Without them there would be no orchestra. Nor must we forget the players from Willoughby Orchestra who have come regularly ^{a great} ~~all that~~ distance to ^{aid} fill out the Orchestra and help it through the difficult establishment days, Also Mr. Kevin Stumbles for ~~his~~ generously giving his time to appear as guest artist at the first concert.

Twelve months ago the society set out with much enthusiasm but ~~precious~~ ^{very} little money. To overcome this the social committee instigated ~~an evening~~ ^{a cheese} and wine tasting evening. The success of this venture was due to the ~~kind~~ zeal of Dr Diana Bass who bravely lent her home and energies for the occasion which raised \$130. However we need more

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Helpers for the Social Committee to carry it forward into the coming year with a vigorous programme. We hope too that the social committee will be able to serve refreshments at future concerts.

During the year a critical need for funds arose to finance the purchase of the Double Bass and Tympani. A suggestion that five fifty dollar loans be sought met with immediate response. In fact far more was offered. The loans were raised applied and later repaid as funds from concerts became available. Without this generous gesture the work of the orchestra would have been greatly hampered.

All this effort would be in vain if the world at large knew nothing of it. Well we kept it informed through the good offices of our publicity people, Mrs R. W. Prior

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who spread the word far and wide wherever she went. One place she went with good effect was with Mrs & Pike to the Westfield Centre seeking their support with the printing of programmes & tickets for our concerts. As a result of their visit we have to thank the Westfield Centre for their donation of this considerable item. Mrs Pike incidentally was often seen helping the cause with a freshly Baked cake and raffle book. ~~George Pike~~

Our thanks also go to Mr. Monty Maynard for his work in placing articles & advertisements in the local press, and to Mr. Ross Brown who arranged for & permitted the sign which ~~is~~ hangs outside his shop. He has allowed us the use of the shop as a booking office and naturally this means his time and the time of his staff to attend to the Booking Plan.

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8.

He is always an enthusiastic music-loving ambassador for the Society at any ~~the~~ times place.

Orchestral performances are only possible as the result of constant rehearsal which has been made possible during the year by the good graces of St Anne's Church of England, and the rector Rev. Angus Tepping in allowing us the use of the crypt. each week, ~~for~~ This has been the orchestra's home.

Plainly the existence of Strathfield Symphony Orchestra results from the ~~do~~ efforts of many people. ~~I have~~ I have been able to mention some tonight. Our ~~many~~ thanks go also to the many others who have contributed to the success of the past year.

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9.

During the coming year equally tireless efforts will be needed to promote the public performance by the orchestra. In this we are endeavouring to provide people, particularly young people, with a chance to play the instrument they have learnt. Years of effort can be largely wasted if there are no outlets for performers. This is one of the most important aspects of ~~the~~ musical societies