

**Minutes of AGM Wairarapa Youth Orchestra**  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**Kuranui College Auditorium, Greytown**

**Committee Members: Lisa Rossiter (Chair), Andrew Atkins, Rachel Miller, Kathryn Seagrave, Roger Fraser, Mel Ewart, Caitlin Morris**

**WYO tutors were present, along with members of the orchestra and their families and supporters**

**Apologies: Todd Priest**

The meeting was opened at 5.30pm by Co-Chair Lisa Rossiter who welcomed everyone and commended the orchestra on their superb performance.

The Chair gave a synopsis of their report to the meeting and spoke of how the orchestra has gone from strength to strength and confirmed that the committee had now secured funding for all core activities for the rest of the year. Thanks were given to the committee for all their mahi, and the chair acknowledged the efforts of Co-Chair Lana Stockman and Nicola Belsham who have recently stepped down from their positions due to work commitments. The Chair welcomed feedback and suggestions from parents, guardians, and whanau to help make further improvements to the orchestra and expressed appreciation for any help that is given to the orchestra whether this was by volunteering for the committee, helping with the organisation of performances or donating items for fundraising. Thanks were given to the tutors and to the families for the support shown by being present for the performance and AGM.

The Wairarapa Youth Orchestra has been very fortunate to receive funding from many generous sponsors and special mention was made of core funder Creative New Zealand. A list of sponsors can be found in the annual report and on the Wairarapa Youth Orchestra website.

The orchestra is a free, fun, and fantastic place for all student musicians to develop their craft and the Concert on 8<sup>th</sup> June at Carterton Events Centre should be fantastic judging by the quality of this evening's performance.

The Treasurer, Todd Priest, sent his apologies for being unable to attend the AGM, however the financial reports are available as part of the Annual Report, which has been sent to all members and will be made available on the website [wyo.org.nz](http://wyo.org.nz).

The Musical Director Andrew Atkins spoke to his report, acknowledging how far the orchestra had come since being set up by Caitlin and himself in Term 4 of 2021. The Wairarapa hasn't had a dedicated youth orchestra in over 15 years and the makeup of the orchestra with students from so many different schools around the Wairarapa shows that there is a need and desire for

the opportunities and learning that come from performing as a large ensemble. The Musical Director thanked everyone for their support.

The Chair concluded by addressing the next steps for the orchestra which is to formalise a legal structure enabling the orchestra to exist as its own entity and to gain charitable status which will allow the orchestra to access a wider range of grants and funding. As part of this the orchestra is looking for pro bono support for legal work in developing the necessary documents to allow the orchestra to formalise so if anyone can help that would be greatly appreciated.

The Chair also noted there were other areas the orchestra was seeking help with, and that these were outlined in the report, including filming the 8 June concert, making donation boxes for fundraising purposes and providing organisational/logistical support. New Committee members were also sought from those with time and energy to give.

A round of thanks were given to those present for their time and to the students for their performance.

The meeting closed at 5.45pm