

Media Statement – ASB Theatre Marlborough 20th May 2020

At the ASB Theatre Marlborough and through its off-site brand Marlborough Light and Sound, the team offers venue hire, production expertise, business event coordination, gala dinner and special event coordination, audio/visual capability, off-site event production, and ticketing. We also hire out equipment for private events. We are open for business (in accordance with guidelines) and are happy to support the community that supports us.

Like so many Marlborough institutions the ASB Theatre Marlborough is severely impacted with the COVID-19 situation. In March we had a significant number of events cancelled or postponed. The doors were closed on live performances and events. However, the team are looking to the future and at Level 2 we have opened the box office with shows on sale and hosting some business events that comply with the regulations. We are enormously grateful for the support we have received from our community and sponsors. We are looking forward to welcoming the crowds back in when it is permitted.

We are optimistic that with the opening of the trans-Tasman ‘bubble’ some of the larger shows can go ahead and we are working with locals to get our Marlborough performing arts groups back in front of an audience. We have to be realistic in that the regulations will force our hand in regards to what events can go ahead, and we have no control of that. What we can do, however, is find the opportunities to serve the community in ways we have more control in. So we are working with our key stakeholders and developing a training program to build skills within our community; strengthening partnerships. We are building our own capability to offer business events that maximise flexibility through technology.

The Marlborough Civic Theatre Trust, a charitable trust, has worked tirelessly over the years to build this amazing venue. As volunteers working with volunteers they have raised funds and made this facility for the people of Marlborough. I am confident that the drive and commitment of the trustees, the Theatre team and our wonderful community will ensure the ASB Theatre Marlborough has a bright future once we navigate the challenges ahead.

To date theatre has lost 21 bookings (equating to 49 hire days) and 18 events have been cancelled for Marlborough Light and Sound. Seven have been confirmed as postponements to later this year or next, and we have a significant number of events we are waiting for confirmation one way or the other. Although this is a very challenging position to be in to plan ahead, we recognise that the organisers of these events are facing the same challenges so we will work with these groups to support as we can. The good news is that we are taking some enquiries and bookings. Small events can be booked for the immediate future and larger ones are being scheduled for later.

Our website is kept updated with the latest news and we also update our Facebook and Instagram. Stay tuned for more information on our training offering and events or drop in to the box office.