

ACTMEN – 2020

President's report



Committee

President: Naida Blackley

Vice President: Claire Leske

Secretary: Byron Luck

Treasurer: Grace Cornejo

Public Officer: Dan McLean

Council Members: Beth Way, Greg Stenning, Rod Harding, Timothy Norman, Jess Copeman

Meetings

AGM – Friday 1 November 2019 – held at Marist College

Meeting – Friday 14/2/2020 – Postponed

Meeting – Friday 3/4/2020 – Cancelled

Meeting - Friday 1/5/2020 - Cancelled

Meeting - Friday 12/6/2020 – Cancelled

Meeting - Friday 14/8/2020 - Cancelled

Membership

ACTMEN Members – 88 Individual – carried over from 2019

Facebook – 510 members – increase of 48 from 2019

ASME Members in the ACT – 8 Individual and 1 Organisation

Activities for Year

- **Honour Band with Peter Boonshaft (May 2020)**

Due to the suspension of international travel and other covid restrictions this event was unable to take place. We did collect names and set audition pieces so this can be used in the future should the event be able to run. Dr Boonshaft is still keen to be our clinician but again it will be determined by travel and other covid restrictions lifting.

- **Annual ACTMEN Conference (June 2020)**

The annual conference was unable to be held in 2020 due to group restrictions and insurance issues for in person workshops. Instead the ACTMEN facebook page engaged to share a range of online workshops and conferences that members could access.

- **ACTcent Concert (September 2020)**

The annual concert was unable to be held despite initial promise and interest from schools. With limited audience access in place as well as no access by outside hirers to our ANU concert venue (Llewellyn Hall) it was decided that we could not proceed with the event. Insurance issues for performers and teachers were also considered.

MOU:

- **ANU School of Music (ACTcent) and ASME**

We need to establish a new MOU and beyond as the current one is about to expire– discussions have commenced with new Head of School Associate Professor Kim Cunio and School Manager Craig Edwards at the ANU School of Music to cover venue hire and staffing costs. We also need to discuss with the national executive of ASME our MOU as the ACT Chapter of ASME.

Advocacy

- Maintaining an active Facebook Page and website that enables our network to share and engage in ideas.
- Continuing to strengthen our professional relationships with other professional organisations.

Chapter cooperation/liaison with other music/arts organisations

- ACTMEN continues to work closely with a range of professional organisations and associations to promote professional learning, workshops and concerts through email and the facebook page – as an umbrella organisation this is an important role for ACTMEN.
- ANU School of Music has always provided fantastic support of the ACTcent concert.
- Canberra Institute of Technology has provided recent support for the conference setting.
- ASME – I have participated in a number of zoom meetings representing the ASME chapter as they move forward creating a new action plan for their national advocacy role.

Other comments

The ACT Music Educators (ACTMEN) continues to grow as a group of educators and musicians with representatives from both government and non government schools as well as both primary and secondary sectors and instrumental programs across the ACT. Our organisation continues to build links with music education organisations, schools and institutes, music educators, and committee members.

ACTMEN has established itself as an important association in the professional lives of music educators in the ACT. I thank the committee members for their commitment to the promotion of music education and professional learning during this complex and challenging year for educators and musicians. We have a strong, educated and dedicated base of music educators building capacity in our students and teachers.

Author of report: Naida Blackley, President, ACT Music Educators Network (ACTMEN)