



2017 AGM President's Report

I am excited to report that 2017 was another great year for the ACT Music Educators Network (ACTMEN). We have had a strong committee with a great mix of new and continuing members committed to the network of music educators. The network is financially sound and we have 367 online members and 84 financial members. ACTMEN continues to dedicate the majority of its time and resources to its two major events: The Annual Conference and the ACTcent Concert.

Our 2017 Conference was to feature Richard Gill but ill health prevented him from joining us at the last minute. We have to thank Professor Kenneth Lampl, Head of ANU School of Music, for stepping in at short notice to give the keynote address and present a workshop session. Special thanks to ACT teacher Katharine Finlayson who also stepped in to run a musicianship/singing session with the whole conference cohort also at short notice. How lucky we are to be able to tap into such talent on our doorstep here in the ACT

The conference received generous donations by our principal sponsors, Gullivers Music Travels and ANU School of Music as well as a range of other supporters. CIT, as always, was a generous host providing the venue free of charge. A big thank you to Sandra Taylor and Susan Curbishley, conference convenors, for all of their hard work and organisation to make the conference such a great success. As a committee, we do our best to try to cater for all music educators and value the feedback we get from delegates each year to continue improving the conference. The 2018 conference will be on Friday, 29 June and we thank in advance Sandra Taylor and Susan Curbishley who have agreed to convene the conference again.

In July Sandra Taylor and I attended the national meeting for ASME chapter chairpersons in Melbourne prior to the ASME national conference. It was interesting to hear about the range of activities held by each chapter. ACTMEN is delivering on par or above in the area of professional learning and student centred learning experiences.

In September we held the sixth annual ACTcent concert, highlighting outstanding Year 11 and 12 ACT music students. The concert featured a showcase of the best performers and composers from 13 ACT schools/colleges. The evening's program was a reflection of the extraordinary breadth and depth of music programs offered in ACT schools. From Schubert through to student composers, the concert will cover a wide range of musical styles presented by an array of soloists and ensembles. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the ANU School of Music staff for their commitment to the success of this event. It is wonderful that we are able to provide the students with the opportunity to perform in such a fantastic venue. Thanks to all committee members who supported the event at school level and on the night with special thanks to Kevin Knapp, immediate past president who now works at the ANU School of Music for managing the complex requirements of all students at their technical rehearsal earlier that day.

ACTMEN discontinued their Encouragement Award at the National Choir Eisteddfod due to the limited range of conductors/teachers eligible for the award. The committee felt a professional learning fund for workshop attendance or resources would have a broader reach to schools, students and teachers so in 2017 we made eight awards of \$250 each to teachers in public and private schools across all levels of schooling. Three awards were for workshops & conference attendance and five were for resources.

In the coming weeks I will meet with Professor Kenneth Lampl, Head of ANU School of Music, to renegotiate the current Memorandum of Understanding between ACTMEN & ANU – I will seek a longer agreement now that a permanent head of school is in place who can work with us over coming years.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as president of ACTMEN and I feel privileged to what I have learned about the role and the experiences that I have gained. I would like to thank ACTMEN's immediate past president, Kevin Knapp, for his guidance and mentorship. I encourage everyone to use ACTMEN as a tool for advocacy. This is a wonderful independent umbrella organization of music educators and leaders and we are in a unique position to continue to drive the need to keep music education in a prominent place in the education of children and young people in the ACT. Please consider joining the committee or putting your hand up when there is a job that needs to be filled. I thank the current ACTMEN Committee for their unwavering support.

Naida Blackley
President