



## **Australian Society for Music Education**

### **National President Annual Report September 2021**

**By Robyn Veitch**

It has been a great honour and pleasure to lead this organisation throughout 2020 and 2021. Serving the Society in many Executive Roles been a wonderful experience. As National President I hope provided inspiration and passionate commitment that have been the hallmarks of my predecessors.

Thank you to the National Executive who work hard to support the society, chapter executives and the general membership body. The National Executive are a committed group who undertake many tasks behind the scenes to ensure that ASME remains a vibrant and viable Music Education organisation. As volunteers, a number of whom work in full time occupations, things are bound to seem a little slow and protracted to the general membership but I can assure you that the time and resource challenges that we face are met with commitment and a strategic and solution based approach. Being a National organisation means that we don't get to see one another very often and must rely heavily on emails and phone calls and Zoom meetings. The ongoing pandemic situation has compounded some of these issues but at the same time has enabled us to meet more regularly and discuss some issues at a national level easily and efficiently. Thanks very much to the Executive Committee. The positive way in which you approach this work has ensured that ASME continues to grow and develop.

Since our last AGM held in June of last year, we have undertaken some major tasks.

Our new strategic plan for the years 2021-2024 has been completed. It addresses four main priority areas for growth.

1. Leadership and Representation
2. Professional Learning
3. Research and Resources
4. Sustainability and Growth

These areas and the goals set will help guide the executive and the chapter councils in identifying and carrying out work to ensure our future sustainability as an organisation and define the major improvements we undertake.

Our Membership Administrator, Sue Simms, has continued to manage membership and our regular communications. She keeps chapters and executive informed and acts as a front person for queries and payments. Thankyou Sue, your work is extremely valuable.

#### **National Conference**

Thank you to the Conference organising committee for their work over the past 18months or more. They have been under a great deal of pressure with the pandemic and rolling lockdowns. The decision to provide an online conference was made in August and they have worked tirelessly to flip the program and provide us with the best entertainment and learning opportunities possible. Congratulations on your program and we look forward to the experience.

#### **Advocacy and Partnership**

##### **National Advocates for Arts Education (NAAE)**

ASME National Executive has continued to be represented on this active group. Leon De Bruin and I are currently involved with this advocates group. 2 places have now been allocated since Music Australia has ceased operations in August 2021. We have supported the ACARA review of Curriculum in the Arts. We

contributed our own response and are currently awaiting a chance to look at and respond to the final draft before it is signed off by the Federal Minister of Education. The review has been the main agenda item at each of the meetings throughout the year.

#### **Australian Alliance of Associations in Education**

Over the past 12 months meetings will be attended by Dr Leon de Bruin.

#### **Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA)**

ASME responded to requests for key contacts in each of the Curriculum Authorities and Music Organisations. In the initial "Critical Friends" consultations, ASME was very well represented across the country. Part of that role was to ensure that stakeholders across the country were represented in both gathering people and providing responses and feedback. It has been great that Helen Champion and Robyn Carmody were able to complete many sessions around the country to illicit responses and opinions from a wide range of circumstances.

ASME has kept our members informed of the progress of the review through newsletter will continue keep members informed as the curriculum is rolled out by providing opportunities for Professional Learning and Dissemination. Support materials will be developed and ASME will contribute to the material as well as create sessional delivery opportunities as required.

#### **Music Australia**

Unfortunately, this organisation has now ceased to operate. It leaves a big hole for industry and educational support across the country.

#### **National Music Teacher Mentoring Program.**

This program is still operating in most states throughout Australia. Bernadette McNamara and the NMTMP state leaders have provided professional learning to all mentors. It is fantastic that this program is continuing and growing in memory of Richard Gill OAM.

In closing I would like to thank all the National Executive and Chapter committees for the drive and passion you provide. ASME has continued to grow and deliver on its aims and objectives throughout a very trying time.

Regards

Robyn Veitch

National President

Australian Society for Music Education