

January - August 2020 Chairman's Report to the AGM of the PPSA on Sunday 23 August 2020

I would like to start this report by acknowledging the incredible disruption and impact that the Covid19 pandemic has had on the PPSA Region and the rest of the world. As music teachers I feel that we have been very lucky to be able to continue with our teaching online but acknowledge that many in our communities are suffering because of the hardships imposed by the pandemic and the restrictions around it. I would like to acknowledge those who have died, been taken seriously ill or lost their jobs during this pandemic. I would also like to recognize that many Suzuki events have had to be cancelled and continue to be cancelled because of the pandemic. Our Suzuki community has lost much of its inspiration through the cancelling of events and activities during this time which leaves a huge gap in all our lives. Hopefully it will encourage us to appreciate the workshops, conferences, concerts, camps etc. even more when they happen again.

The PPSA Board held its annual meeting in Brisbane on 26 January, 2020. Thank you to Lynne Buckley and her lovely family for hosting us at their home. It was an enjoyable and productive time and it is a shame that we may not be doing this again. The next meeting is scheduled for 30 January 2021 and was supposed to be in Melbourne but because of the issues with Covid19 and the forced 2 week quarantine of people returning from overseas to New Zealand we will be holding this meeting electronically. This will however cut down significantly on our expenses.

The only significant activity to take place since the January meeting was the calling for nominations for the ISA Instrument Committees 4 Year Terms 2020-2024 as follows:

- Flute Representative – 1 nomination – Julia Breen - confirmed
- Cello Representative – 1 nomination – Sally-Anne Brown – confirmed
- Voice Representative - Katrina Pezzimenti – confirmed
- Guitar Representative – Zeah Riordan – confirmed
- Harp Representative - Anne ApThomas - confirmed
- Viola Representative – 1 nomination - Lois Shepheard - confirmed
- Violin Representative – no nominations

Because there was only one nomination for each of the above - elections were not required. Unfortunately there was no nomination received for the Violin Committee representative and so I will be making this call again soon.

The Sheila Warby Memorial Fund is now setup and the PPSA Board agreed in January to make the first grant to NSW to go towards a speaker at their Sydney National Conference in April 2020. Unfortunately this event was cancelled so we will wait to see if and when it is rescheduled. Just a reminder that donations to this fund can still be made through the PPSA bank account (please clearly indicate that it is a donation to this SWMF fund).

The ISA Board held its first ever electronic meeting via Zoom video call on 23 February 2020. It was a 2 hour meeting and went well. We were able to vote for two new At-Large members as well as work through some other issues. The term for At-Large members is now 3 years and is renewable. Hiroko Suzuki was appointed the new Honorary President of ISA after the retirement of Professor Toyoda. The annual ISA Board meeting was to take place in Taiwan in early October, 2020 but due to the pandemic it will now be held via Zoom over a number of days. The details of how this will happen still have not been finalised. It is quite complicated because of the spread of time zones.

I have continued to keep the PPSA Website up to date but haven't spent much time on this during the pandemic and lockdown period. I have also endeavoured to keep the calendar on the PPSA website up to date but since everything has been cancelled for months this hasn't been particularly useful nor necessary. There also continue to be a trickle of correspondences regarding PPSA from various quarters.

As always thank you to the PPSA Board Members for giving up their time and attention to serve on the Board. Your volunteer time is much appreciated. Thanks to Julia Breen for keeping an accurate record of our meetings and for keeping me on task. Thank you again to Jennifer Goto for taking care of the treasurer tasks and to Kathryn Bond for continuing in her crucial role as our part-time administrator.

Simon Griffiths
PPSA Board Chairman
21 August 2020