

Chairman's Report to the Annual PPSA Board Meeting held on Sunday 27 January 2019 - (September 2018 - January 2019)

Certificates for all the Teacher Trainers currently in the PPSA Region were finally completed in early October in Wellington as Jennifer Goto brought them all with her from Sydney for me to sign! These have now been forwarded to the Associations to be presented along with a cover letter from me. I am extremely grateful to Jennifer Goto for her commitment to getting this job done. Her positivity and attention to detail was much appreciated. She took great care in putting together something for our Teacher Trainers to be proud of. Thank you!

There has not been a lot of progress with regard to getting a PPSA Teacher Trainers group discussion going regarding Teacher Training Alignment across the PPSA. I set-up a Google discussion group in December inviting the two representative Teacher Trainers from each Association which I hope we can get fired-up following our annual PPSA face-to-face meeting. I still have two out of 12 Trainers yet to accept the invitation to join the group. This will all be discussed in more detail in this meeting.

This year's three day ISA meeting was held in New York City from 15 October. We were hosted by the lawyer who is an ISA At-Large member of the board in his law firm's office building. We were required to present our passports and have an ID photo taken each day just to get in! Thank you to all the PPSA Associations for getting their Annual returns of member numbers in to Kathryn and I in a timely fashion - it makes my job of collating the numbers much easier. The official summary of the meeting will be available at some point on the ISA website. The next ISA Board meeting will be held in October 2019 in Madrid, Spain following the 2nd International Teacher Trainers Convention. My personal report is that there is an awful lot of copyright and other technical issues discussed and that my job as Secretary (as for Julia Breen previously) requires great focus and attention to small details. Also the PPSA's budgeted expenditure for this meeting was severely blown due to the outrageous hotel prices in NYC. I would like to ask the PPSA Board to officially request that ISA meetings are held with serious consideration given to the cost associated with the meeting both travel and accommodation. We were complimented in the Financial Report by Pam Brasch, ISA Treasurer, with the costs being way under budget for the Auckland ISA meeting in 2017.

With the resignation of Nada Brissenden it was necessary to appoint a new PPSA representative on the ISA Piano Committee. We have a process loosely outlined in our "Rules" so I set about trying to create a democratic process to make this appointment. After some consultation with Board members it was agreed to invite each association's piano teacher trainers to make nominations. Four nominations were received so a vote was required. Once again it was agreed to have only piano teacher trainers vote. After doing some research regarding online voting options and costs I went with a site called OpaVote. The set-up was fairly straight forward but a number of voters had problems with casting their ballots for various compatibility reasons. Initially the election was free for up to 25 voters but when people made mistakes and had problems and I had to resend new ballots we went over the maximum for a free election and I had to pay AU\$10. I was able to see who had and had not voted but there was no way to see who voted for whom and results were only available once the election closed. Itsuko Bara was declared the winner. There was no outright winner until votes were redistributed twice indicating a fairly split vote across the board. I wrote to Itsuko Bara to congratulate her and instructed her to contact the ISA CEO. I then wrote to all the nominees to thank them for standing and to all the Piano Teacher Trainers to let them know the result (including an embarrassing typo that required me to send it again!). I sent a sincere letter of thanks to Nada Brissenden for her years of service for PPSA on the ISA Piano committee and received a lovely hand written "snail-mail" response back from her.

The PAN PACIFIC SUZUKI ASSOCIATION PTY LIMITED Annual company statement was checked and the fee paid earlier in January. This has to be done each year before 17 February and should be added to the PPSA Annual Timeline. I continue to try to keep the PPSA website up to date with PPSA calendar items and notices from ISA. Please let me know about things like change of web domains - I just discovered that NSW has a completely new website address. My PPSA Chairman "sent" folder has 197 items for 2018 mainly to do with the piano committee representative and the teacher training alignment. I use a different gmail address for my ISA correspondence.

One thing I neglected to do last year was to officially thank Suzuki Music Victoria for allowing us to hold our meeting at their building so this year - I would like to sincerely thank them retrospectively. This

leads me to thanking Suzuki Music NSW for hosting us here in their building. This is very much appreciated as they are ideal venues and save us some expense.

Thank you yet again to Julia Breen for keeping us on task throughout the year and doing a splendid job with the Minutes. Thanks to Kathryn Bond for her continued role as part time administrator for PPSA. Thanks to Jennifer Goto for her work as PPSA Treasurer and thank you to all the Board members for their commitment to an important task and responsibility overseeing Suzuki "Down Under".

Simon Griffiths
PPSA Board Chairman
26 January 2019