

Chairman's Report to the Annual PPSA Board Meeting held on Sunday 26 January 2020 - (September 2019 - January 2020).

A few days ago I returned from teaching at the 2020 NZSI Wellington Branch Suzuki camp in Masterton. This is an amazing event with over 350 people in attendance and staying on site. It is a wonderful tribute to the Suzuki Method with love, community, fellowship and music at its core. It is also a tribute to the dedication of the teachers, families and students that work so hard to make it happen. This camp was preceded by a camp of 120 people that my wife and I run with 70 violin students that continues to be an inspiration and motivation for us as teachers and to our Suzuki families. It is my feeling that these experiences are pretty uniquely “Suzuki” experiences that I have enjoyed since being a young teen myself.

The PPSA required Annual General Meeting was held via telephone on Sunday 25 August. Thank you to all of you that gave up time and made the effort to attend. I have to say that I find this meeting rather excruciating on a personal level (embarrassing actually). The lack of verbal response and zero visual feedback is very disconcerting for me. I wonder if we can please try to do it a different way?? Also feedback about how exactly to run this meeting would be much appreciated.

The ISA Annual 3 day Board meeting was held 14 – 16 October 2019 in Madrid immediately following the 2nd International Suzuki Teacher Trainers Conference – yet another inspirational Suzuki event but on an International level. The 17 + 8 hour flights to Madrid were gruelling. I have to say that I am not a good nor enthusiastic traveller and in this age of climate change awareness and cautious watchfulness of our carbon footprints I feel we must work towards limiting this sort of travel as much as possible. The ISA is having its first electronic meeting via Zoom in February 2020 and I very much hope that it is a success. The Annual Meeting will be held in Taiwan in October 2020.

It is with personal frustration that I report again that I have been unable to follow through with the plans to get the PPSA Teacher Training program alignment process moving along. It actually is a priority for me but life continues to throw things in the way. Hopefully I will have something to report back later in the year in my AGM report.

I would like to remind everyone that under the ISA “rules” - Australia is supposed to be a one country organisation as a member of PPSA and it would be amazing if steps could be taken to further collaborate and move systems together. In order to encourage transparency and cooperation I would like to ensure that the PPSA representative from each Association is entitled to attend any Association’s Board meetings even if they are not officially on that Board and that they attend at least one Board meeting per year – perhaps the one immediately following the PPSA Board meeting in January or once the Minutes are circulated.

One thing that we have been remiss about is the sub-licensing of NZSI and the Australian Associations to the PPSA’s name agreement with ISA. To meet the ISA requirements we will now request that the member associations sign sub-license naming agreements with PPSA. This is supposed to be done at a country level within each of the ISA Regions but the first step will have to be to have each of the Australian Associations sign one. According to the legal status of the ISA and its ownership of the Suzuki name the associations of Australia and NZ are in fact currently not entitled to use the name Suzuki without signing this sub-license.

Thank you again to all the PPSA Associations for getting their Annual returns of member numbers in to Kathryn and I in a timely fashion - it makes the job of collating the numbers much easier. We

will be discussing trying to coordinate this data collection with the payment of our ISA dues as these currently do not line up which has created some confusion at the ISA office.

We are yet to decide who should hold the PPSA Shares since Sheila Warby is no longer with us. The change over should be straight forward – deciding who should be named will not.

All of our ISA Instrument Committee representatives, except Piano, are overdue for renewal. We have processes in place but this will require quite a lot of work. I am not sure that I can do this all on my own. I decided to not tackle this in the lead up to the International Teacher Trainers Conference and associated instrument committee meetings (specifically Flute and Violin). Also at this point there is still a lack of clarity about the status of the SECE Committee.

I continue to try to keep the PPSA website up to date with PPSA calendar items and notices from ISA. One of the more recent additions was a page devoted to Sheila Warby and the Memorial Fund set up in her name.

Thanks again to Julia Breen for keeping us on task throughout the year and doing such a reliable 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 the important task of overseeing Suzuki in the Pan Pacific

Simon Griffiths
PPSA Board Chairman
26 January 2020