

Chairman's Report (September 2020 - January 2021) to the Annual PPSA Board Meeting held on Saturday 30 January 2021 via electronic conferencing (Zoom).

After a year of world wide chaos and "virtual" Suzuki events I was thrilled to be able to teach at two Summer Suzuki Camps again this summer. We were so fortunate to be able to celebrate the wonder of all things Suzuki and be inspired by what can be achieved with the Suzuki triangle, love and care, listening and good teaching. At the same time we acknowledged every day of these events that else where in the world Suzuki students and teachers are not so fortunate and our thoughts went out to those still struggling with the more complex world created by the Covid-19 pandemic. On the penultimate day of the second camp there was an announcement regarding a community case of Covid-19 in Northland but no action was required by the wider public and the camp concluded without any disruption. An aspect of things Suzuki that I should also mention here is the huge amount of volunteer time and energy that goes into these events. They would not happen without the generosity of our teachers and parents.

The PPSA required Annual General Meeting was held via Zoom on Sunday 23 August. Thank you to all of you that gave up time and made the effort to attend. It worked so much better for me being able to see everyone and we were done in quick time as usual.

The ISA Annual Board meeting was held also by Zoom 16 – 18 October 2020. Timing was tricky and the Eastern side of the USA fared the worst with the meeting ending in the very early hours of the morning - long after midnight. The two European representatives had to get up very early - Indonesia - Japan - Taiwan - and NZ were midday times. Day 1 was 3.5 hours and day 2 was 4.5 hours. I will give a more detailed report later in this meeting. The meeting went smoothly due to people having up-skilled in all things "virtual". The ISA Portfolio which holds hundreds of pages of documentation is now easily accessible online. I have to admit though that my desk was quite a sight with three devices necessary for the meeting - one for Zoom on one internet connection - one for the minutes and another for the documents on a different internet connection.

PPSA Teacher Training program alignment was put on hold by me because there were further developments regarding reciprocity at the ISA level. I will present the outcome of this later in the meeting but the pressure is now off with regard to how we present to other ISA members. However I think it would still be good to do some work on establishing some consistency of training across the PPSA region. This continues to be a priority for me but life continues to be so complicated with a number of different roles.

After the PPSA AGM I called again for nominations for the position of PPSA representative on the ISA Violin Committee. We were fortunate to have two good nominations this time (Kim Bishop and Haruo Goto). I setup an online election and had Margaret and Julia oversee things as I had a conflict of interest being entitled to vote. The numbers were very close but Haruo was appointed to the position. Thank

you again to all the people who have volunteered for the ISA Instrument Committee roles.

Because our annual PPSA expenses have been reduced significantly due to no international travel it was agreed via an electronic vote that the PPSA would not levy any dues for 2020 except for those required from teachers by the ISA. We need to have further discussions about the level at which PPSA fees should now be set as there are unlikely to be any overseas meetings in the foreseeable future.

I dropped the ball on getting the sub-licensing agreements done last year. I will get on to this as soon as possible.

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 may not.

I continue to try to keep the PPSA website up to date with notices from ISA. The calendar feature hasn't really been required due to everything being cancelled!

To conclude this report I would firstly like to sincerely thank Mr Yasuki Nakamura for his many, many years of service to the PPSA as an ISA Board member and ISA Violin Committee and Viola Committee representative. While writing this report I was reminded to write an official letter to him on behalf of the PPSA Board which I have sent to Jennifer to print out and mail to him. Thanks to Julia Breen for keeping us on task throughout the year and being so diligent about 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 volunteer commitment to the important task of overseeing Suzuki in the Pan Pacific.

Simon Griffiths
PPSA Board Chairman
30 January 2021