

January - August 2021 Deputy Chairman's Report to the AGM of the PPSA on Sunday 22 August 2021

I would like to start this report by extending the PPSA Board's heartfelt condolences to our Chairman Simon Griffiths and his daughter Aleena on the sudden death of Simon's partner/Aleena's mother Stacey Shuck on 15 July. We will all miss Stacey so much – she gave tirelessly to her students and so generously to the Suzuki movement. Stacey and Simon have very much been the heart of the New Zealand Suzuki Institute through their voluntary work and their direct link to Dr Suzuki's teaching.

In 2021 we are still feeling the effects of the new variants of Covid-19 and as I write New Zealand's border with Australia has closed again for the foreseeable future, having just been open briefly. We are very privileged to have been able to conduct most of our events in person here in New Zealand, including summer camps, and although things are now more constrained in parts of Australia, we have all been able to conduct in-person lessons for some of the time and much earlier than our colleagues in other countries. There is a very special appreciation of the joy and the importance of making music together when we can gather in groups.

On 30 January 2021 the PPSA held its annual meeting by Zoom, and thanks to a well-prepared agenda (thank you Julia and Simon) and Simon's efficiency in running the meeting, we were able to work through all the items in one day (compared to 2 days in person previously).

The inaugural Sheila Warby Memorial Lecture, postponed in 2020, was given by Professor Alan Harvey at the NSW online Professional Development week in April 2021. Professor Harvey's lecture, Music, the Brain, and a Lifetime of Benefits! is now available online to everyone in the PPSA - thanks to everyone involved in facilitating this active memorial to Sheila.

The 2021 award was made to Victoria and in July the second Sheila Warby Memorial Lecture was given at the online Suzuki Teachers Symposium organised by Victoria. The speaker was Anita Collins, her topic: "How Suzuki Music Learning Develops Every Child's Brain".

In March the first meeting of Teacher Trainer representatives from all PPSA member associations was held online, working on Teacher Training Course alignment. Details of courses were updated, and the course spreadsheet was revised subsequent to the meeting. Minimum course requirements are still needed to be posted to the PPSA website.

Three new Teacher Trainer appointments have been made, following procedures previously detailed by the Board, and using a panel of Teacher Trainers to confirm that correct procedures were following by the nominating Associations. The panel process was fairly labour-intensive for the Chairman and we will review the procedures in the future. We have also been contacted by the ESA for approval for a trainee to undertake studies through the ESA on an instrument not currently taught in the PPSA; it is good to see the ISA policies on teacher training being implemented.

Finally, we are farewelling Julia Breen from the PPSA Board and the role of Secretary. Without Julia's and Sheila Warby's vision, persistence, and patience we would not be meeting today, and we are indebted to Julia for her superb organisational skills and professional leadership. Thank you, Julia, we all wish you a happy and productive retirement, and I hope we will still be able to ask you questions!

Margaret Cooke
PPSA Board Deputy Chairman
16 August 2021