

President's report for AGM on 15 August 2021

The year since the last AGM on 19 July 2020 seems to have flown past and we need to blink a few times to understand that we find ourselves in a frustratingly similar situation (Lockdown) – albeit with a more realistic light at the end of a long and winding tunnel.

Yes, we had hoped and planned for a face-to-face meeting following a live event. However, the year has doubtlessly taught us adopt a philosophical or rather stoic attitude in dealing with the pandemic and what it means for our profession.

We have become better with technology and more appreciative of the times in between lockdowns. And of course, we are glad that the virus has by and large been kept at bay in Victoria.

The necessity of moving events online has also had its positives – namely an extended reach to many members who would not have been able to attend in-person events. Also, it should be noted that online events run at a fraction of the cost of live events.

We managed to offer a number of interesting events to our members, all online: Teaching Transgender Voices (2 May); Ace your VCE (part 1 & 2, 21 March & 15 Aug); Bettine McCaughan Scholarship (21 Aug). Still to come are a Jazz Workshop on 11 Sept and a Vocal Wellness and Technique Workshop on 3 Oct.

Three of our committee members will step down at the AGM, namely Martin Visser (who is absent today) Vivien Dickson and Carole McKenzie. In the name of the committee, I thank them for their contributions over, in the case of Vivien eight and Carole well over thirty years. I have asked both to say a few words about their time on the ANATS Vic committee and am looking forward to what they have to say.

We are very happy to welcome Freya Meredith onto the committee and I have also asked her to introduce herself and tell us a little about herself. I am looking forward to working with Freya in the coming year.

Last not least, a big THANK YOU to our wonderful committee whose esteemed members have pulled together fabulously.

Onwards and upwards and don't forget your masks...

Julia Nafisi

