

VIC AGM 2022 President's report – Julia Nafisi

It seems fair to say that we all, singers, teachers and students, still feel somewhat in the grips of COVID-19 with teaching and performing practice still affected in a number of ways. In some ways.

As an organisation of and for voice teachers, we have found it difficult to get people to attend live events. The highly successful Vocal Wellness event with Debbie Phyland and Gary May last October, showed that members were very happy with attending worthwhile events online, even if it meant spending several hours on consecutive Sundays in front of a screen.

On the other hand, it proved difficult to entice teachers and students to attend in person, as shown in the experience with the ACV your VCE, whose first part had run as a hybrid (online and live) event with the result that all attendees opted for online. When the second part was deliberately run live-only - in the hours before and at the same venue as the AGM –only a small number of attendees made the effort. Given the immense amount of dedication and experience that went into the event's organisation (on the part of the organising sub-committee [Curtis Baylis, Blanka West and Wendy Todd] and the presenters [Katrina Wellins and Margaret Arnold] this is a rather disheartening outcome.

We can only learn from this and, in communication with our members keep fine-tuning event formats that take advantage of the greater ease and reach of online attendance without giving up completely on the indisputable benefits of a live events.

We were also very happy to have again been in a position to run Bettine McCaughan scholarship in Aug last year as well as the OWLS scholarship in October and are looking forward to the events again this year.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank the committee of the Victorian Chapter for their dedication and ongoing commitment, in full acknowledgement of the time required for meetings, discussions and work behind the scenes to get events off the ground.

One valued committee member, Nikol McKail regrettably stepped down from the committee, due to personal reasons and I thank her warmly for the years in which she gave us her time and expertise, not least in the field of social media.

Our much-valued Linda Barcan is stepping down from her role of secretary of the Victorian chapter and I am stepping down from my role of president. At the next chapter meeting Curtis Bayliss will be taking on the role of president with the other office bearer roles still undecided.