

NSW President's Report August 2022

Dear members,

It gives me great pleasure to present the annual report for ANATS NSW, marking the end of another successful financial year. This year has been filled with exciting developments and achievements, and I would like to take this opportunity to share some of them with you.

One of our key focuses this year has been our continued advocacy for singing voice training and the organisation of ANATS. Jo Fabro and myself were thrilled to have the opportunity to be guest speakers on several radio stations in honour of World Voice Day. These appearances have helped us raise awareness about ANATS as an organisation and the importance of singing voice training within the community.

We also held two successful Early Career Teaching Sessions, continuations of an initiative started in 2022. On February 12th, Naomi Lewandoski discussed building a successful singing studio, and on May 28th, Debbie Grade and Judy Lindeman led a session on lesson planning. It was particularly special to see both Debbie and Judy work with students to demonstrate how they run lessons in their studios. While these events have seen ongoing interest, encouraging teachers to attend in person remains a challenge.

On April 2nd, we hosted "Maximizing Your Marks – Tips for HSC Singers." This event, featuring presenters Meryl Jackson-Kew and Jennifer King, had a fantastic response with 60 tickets sold. Meryl and Jennifer worked with singers on their HSC performance pieces, offering valuable insights into repertoire, presentation, and vocal technique. The event generated a profit of \$301.45.

Our next major event, "Music Theatre for the Modern World," took place on July 30th. This half-day musical theatre event featured Associate Professor Narelle Yeo and Co-artistic director of Hayes Theatre Company, Victoria Falconer. We were fortunate to host this event at the beautiful Factory Theatre in Marrickville, providing a genuine theatre experience for the participants. Narelle worked with pre-professional music theatre singers on audition pieces, while Victoria spoke about diversity and inclusivity within casting. This event sold 50 tickets and generated a profit of \$924.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our upcoming two-day Accent Breath Method workshop with Ron Morris in September. Limited to 20 attendees, this promises to be a fantastic event. Only three spots remain, so be sure to book your tickets soon.

As we reflect on the past three years, we acknowledge the challenges we faced amidst the COVID pandemic and the adjustments we made to operate in the "new normal." With optimism on the horizon, it is time for ANATS NSW to embrace change and growth.

This year the ANATS NSW committee bids farewell to Judy Lindeman. Judy is one of ANATS's inaugural members and her insights and contributions to the committee will be dearly missed.

Additionally, two highly-valued members of the NSW committee will also step down from their roles. The first is Dr. Naomi Cooper who has served as the NSW Treasurer since 2019. She has spearheaded some difficult adjustments for ANATS NSW including changing banking providers (not an easy feat for a national organisation) to benefit from the zero-account fee policy afforded to not-for-profit organisations. The treasurer role is a demanding and vital role on any committee, and we thank Naomi for her dedication over the past five years.

Debbie Grace will also be stepping down from her role as secretary after nine years of exemplary service. She has single-handedly managed countless responsibilities such as writing comprehensive meeting minutes, responding to countless emails, organising every event afternoon tea, keeping accurate records of events and closely managing masterclass singers, accompanists and event attendees. Despite carrying a demanding workload, Debbie consistently approaches each task with a welcoming smile on her face, creating a warm and supportive environment for everyone involved. I personally have benefitted from her support whether it was picking up another task that needed to be done or being willing to answer a late-night phone call to discuss ideas. We thank Debbie for her hard work over the years and wish her luck with her future roles within ANATS.

I too will be stepping down from my role as NSW President of ANATS. Serving as NSW President has been a fulfilling experience, as I and the committee have worked towards various goals such as providing more opportunity for emerging singing teachers, advocating for ANATS within the singing teaching community and streamlining event organisation. I am

pleased to report that these goals are well underway and will continue to flourish in the coming years. Although it is a difficult decision to make, I believe it is time for new leadership and fresh ideas within the NSW committee. I have full confidence that under new leadership and with the collective efforts of the NSW committee, ANATS will continue to thrive. I will continue my dedication to ANATS through my role as National Vice President and as a NSW National Representative.

In my last act as NSW President it gives me great joy to award Debbie Grace with a NSW Chapter Service award. This award is voted on by the ANATS NSW committee and is given in recognition of outstanding, ongoing commitment to the furtherment of the ANATS NSW committee and singing pedagogy in general.

Debbie has contributed to ANATS over the years in many ways including as secretary, national representative, and VocalEyes editor. Her passion for teaching, performing, and lifelong learning is contagious, and her warmth, kindness, and generosity are admired by all who know her. Despite her numerous contributions, Debbie is not one to seek recognition or praise for her work. Instead, she simply does what needs to be done because she cares deeply about singing and the success of ANATS. It is an honour to work alongside Debbie, and I feel privileged to call her a colleague and a friend. Debbie Grace is undoubtedly one of the unsung heroes who have propelled ANATS NSW forward over the past ten years. Her selfless actions and tireless efforts have made a significant impact and inspired numerous members to also contribute to the organisation. I can think of no one better deserving of this award and am delighted to be able to present this to my friend and colleague, Debbie.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Meryl Jackson-Kew and Jo Fabro, who served as vice-presidents during my tenure. Their support has been instrumental in the success of ANATS NSW. Additionally, I want to thank the entire committee, including Dr. Naomi Cooper, Christina Wilson, Liz Lecoanet, Naomi Lewandoski, Robyn Wells, Carol-Ann Bentley, Judith Lindeman, and Sue Carson, for their efforts and support over the past six years. Your friendship and dedication mean the world to me.

Lastly, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our amazing members. Your talent and passion continue to inspire us, and it is a privilege to work alongside such a vibrant community. Our future lies in the capable hands of the new leadership and direction of the

NSW committee, and I have no doubt it will thrive. Thank you all for your support, and it has been an absolute honour to serve as your president for the past six years.

Sincerely,

Nadine Manion