

## NSW AGM: PRESIDENT'S REPORT, AUGUST 2024

Greetings members.

It is with great pleasure that I present the ANATS NSW President's report for the first time. My first year as NSW president has absolutely flown by and I am delighted to report on the many successful achievements that have occurred over the past year. Our 2023 AGM saw an almost complete changing of the guard in office holders as I stepped into the role of president, Christina Wilson took on the mantle of Vice President (whilst continuing in her role as national treasurer), Naomi Lewandoski hit the ground running in her role as Secretary, Lisa Genovese took on the role of Treasurer and we are grateful to Meryl Jackson-Kew for remaining in her role as Membership officer. Debbie Grace, Christina Wilson and I remain in our positions as National Council members and I am pleased to announce that Nadine Manion has stepped in to the role of National Vice-President, so NSW members are more than adequately represented at the National level.

Early on in my presidency, we established an advertising sub-committee in acknowledgement of the growing importance of online communication in promoting our events and communicating with our members. Our newest committee members Lucia Neville and Stefanie Ashmore have taken on this role with gusto, bringing a wealth of knowledge, and working together to tackle what is often a labour-intensive, time sensitive and thankless job. A special note of thanks must be given to Natalia Melnik, who has taken a sabbatical from the ANATS NSW committee in order to focus on the final year of her PhD studies. I want to personally thank Natalia for her amazing work over the past few years in advertising our events, and for being a valued member of the committee. We wish you all the best in your study and look forward to your return.

This year, we have also begun investing in updating some of our equipment, to facilitate better quality online events, hoping to improve access to learning for our regional members, and any members that find it hard, for any reason, to attend ANATS events in person. We hope that this will contribute to allowing all NSW members to participate in the ANATS community.

Since the last AGM we have hosted several successful events. We finished 2023 with a sold-out two-day workshop on Accent Method breathing hosted by Dr Ron Morris, who travelled down from Brisbane to share his expertise. We commenced 2024 with our latest Advanced Tools and Techniques event and national webinar, Navigating Adolescent voice change. Wendy Rolls and Chris Allen provided a wealth of information for our members, leaving us with a better understanding of how to help our young students navigate this trying time, giving attendees many practical tools to use in future lessons.

Our biggest event to date was 'Singing With Soul'. The NSW, QLD and VIC chapters worked together to bring the amazing Dr Trineice Robinson-Martin to Australia to present a series workshops on contemporary singing and improvisation in the Soul,

Blues, Gospel and jazz styles. This was the first time since pre-COVID that the ANATS NSW chapter has endeavoured to sponsor an international presenter coming to Australia, under our own steam, and not in conjunction with some other event. This was an imposing task, both operationally and financially, even when shared between three states, but one that we felt was important and in keeping with our principles of providing ongoing support and value to our members.

I am thrilled to report that we sold 175 in-person tickets, nationally, bringing in another 12, in post-event sales, which will garner us a with small profit for the event which is an absolutely amazing achievement. The feedback from the event has been fantastic and our post-event video has received over 100 views, meaning that in-person ticket holders have been returning to watch the sessions again.

Personally, undertaking the organisation of this event was a huge learning curve and one that I will always be grateful for. I would like to formally thank Victorian president Curtis Bayliss and QLD president Emma Wilson for their efforts and support. It has been an absolute pleasure working so closely with them both and the experience has certainly strengthened the relationship between all three chapters. A further thank you must go to National president Linda Barcan, National treasurer Christina Wilson and National Administrative assistant Freya Meredith for their efforts. I also want to give a special note of thanks to our NSW advertising team Lucia Neville and Stefani Ashmore who took on the lion's share of the national advertising. Without their skills and hard work this event would not have been such a success.

In 2024 ANATS NSW has continued its commitment to supporting the development of singers and singing teachers, especially those that are at the start of their careers. Firstly, we have continued our sponsorship of the Sydney Eisteddfod Art Song category, which was held this past July and garnered some amazing young talent. We have also continued running our Early Career Teacher Sessions. In February, Naomi Lewandoski and Debbie Grace presented 'Starting out teaching young voices', which has been one of our most successful sessions to date, with 18 attendees, both in person and online. Our second ECT event 'Games and gadgets in the Singing Studio' is in planning, to be held later this year.

Looking ahead we have one final event for 2024, which is in the final planning stages and event details will be released very soon. We have also begun planning for 2025. We are hoping to present a regional event and are also looking forward to the 2025 National conference.

In finishing this report, I would like to personally give my thanks to every member of the NSW committee: Christina Wilson, Naomi Lewandoski, Lisa Genovese, Meryl Jackson-Kew, Nadine Manion, Carol-Ann Bentley, Debbie Grace, Liz Lecoanet, Lucia Neville, Stefani Ashmore, Robyn Wells, Sue Carson, Dr Naomi Cooper and Natalia Melnik: I cannot express how wonderful it is to work with you all, and to learn from you all. I look forward to the year ahead and to the continued building of the ANATS NSW chapter. On that note I am so pleased to note that we will be welcoming two new members onto the committee today, Racheal Cunningham and Jennifer Turnbull. We are thrilled to have you joining us.

Finally, I would like to make a special note of thanks to our former president Nadine Manion. Nadine served as NSW President for 6 years, and steered the chapter through some very difficult times, most notably, the many COVID shutdowns and post-covid restrictions that we encountered. As NSW members pivoted to life online, the NSW committee were able to keep everyone learning and teaching, providing a sense of connection during a time of isolation. Nadine left the NSW chapter in a strong financial position, with every event under her presidency making a profit, enabling us to reinvest money in future events and technology, to enhance the quality of NSW events, and support our members. Most importantly, perhaps, is the way that Nadine nurtured a sense of community and comradery for NSW members, and especially for the NSW committee. We have a strong committee, full of wonderful, committed and knowledgeable volunteers, who dedicate so much time and energy to keeping the NSW chapter running. Nadine has led by example, always working hard, giving time and encouragement to all the committee, and demonstrating caring and thoughtful leadership. And so it is with great pride that we would like to present Nadine with an NSW Chapter Award for her many years of service. This award is voted on by the ANATS NSW committee and is given in recognition of outstanding leadership, ongoing commitment to the furtherment of the ANATS NSW and singing pedagogy in Australia.

To end this report, I would like to offer a final thanks to our NSW members, for whom this association exists. It is our interactions with our members that drive this committee to continue working, we value your membership, your feedback, and we value the relationships that we, through ANATS NSW and ANATS AUSTRALIA, are able to build.

I am excited to continue in my role as NSW president in 2025 and I look forward to meeting more members during that time, and to the exciting events we have planned for next year.

Sincerely,  
Jo Fabro

I would like to present this report to the NSW committee and ask that it be accepted: