

ANATS ACT Chapter

President's Report 2023-24

During the last twelve months your ANATS ACT Chapter committee has

- continued to arrange in person and online events addressing different aspects of teaching singing and found new ways to promote them;
- contributed to the development of ANATS;
- raised awareness of ANATS and singing by interacting with related organisations.

Thanks are due to the committed and engaged, but not tireless, ANATS members who undertake this work: Angela Giblin, Vice President and Board Representative; Sarah Louise Owens, Treasurer and Facebook Administrator; Theresa Rayner; Doreen Robinson, Secretary, Membership Secretary and alternate Board Representative; Helen Swan and Teresa Wojcik who were elected to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting in August 2023. Sharon Tree, while not on the committee, provided designs for promoting our events and managed our Mailchimp emails until emailing was centralised and done through the membership database.

Our first professional development event of the year was Head to Toe: a Movement Perspective on Body Relationships, a half day workshop held at LDK Greenway Views on 17 March presented by Riccardo Galeotti and based on Anatomy in Motion (AiM) developed by Gary Ward. The seven registrants learned about and experienced the impact of a neutral spine. Using the excellent facilities which LDK allow us to use at no cost, kept our costs low, but the small numbers meant that we did not cover our costs on this event.

On 28 June we offered a Repertoire Fair presented by Pat H. Wilson at the Ainslie Arts Centre. In order to increase our reach we advertised this event through ANATS, the National Eisteddfod Society as it has an interest in appropriate repertoire for competition sections and contact with teachers who are not members of ANATS, and the ACT's Teacher Quality Institute (TQI). Despite this, only 9 people attended and benefited from the issues raised and ideas shared during the afternoon, and we again failed to cover our costs.

Reports of both of these events have been published in Voice of ANATS. Back issues are available on the members' section of the ANATS website.

Since then we have been arranging our 2024 National Webinar – Play-Based Learning, Engagement and Lesson Pacing in the Voice Studio with Nikki Loney from The Full Voice in Canada to be held this Sunday. National Webinars are advertised to all ANATS members and we have again advertised through TQI and the National Eisteddfod Society. We currently have 39 registrations including six from the ACT region two of whom are not members. The number is likely to increase after a planned reminder email and social media posts. Income will be received in the 2024-25 ANATS reporting period but will nevertheless balance losses on our events in 2023-24.

The Committee was delighted to recognise and celebrate Helen Swan's contribution to ANATS and the wider singing community by presenting her with a Chapter Award at our Repertoire Fair. Helen

has been an ANATS member for more than 20 years, and has served on the ACT Chapter Committee for more than 18 years. She has made generous contributions to education and mentoring as a teacher, piano accompanist and presenter at workshops about Kodaly Method.

In addition we have contributed to ANATS by raising two member concerns with the Board:

1. continuing email engagement with lapsed members, which was specifically mentioned as important by two ACT teachers
2. the need for the Find-a-Teacher database to be optimised to be found in internet searches for singing teachers in local areas.

Both have been acknowledged by the Board. Chapters may include lapsed members in event notification emails. The ANATS website was already due for redesign, and Find-a-Teacher discoverability is included with the requirements.

This year we continued to support the National Eisteddfod Society by funding the Joan Richards Aria Competition and we contacted Bigger Better Brains to suggest that they develop resources about the benefits of singing to add to those which already exist about playing instruments.

The ACT has a small population. We are a small Chapter with only 23 members. In the last few years we have worked hard to reach and attract new members. It is a poor return on investment to arrange events which attract few registrants and incur a loss.

We need to find a sustainable way to 'do ANATS' in the ACT region. We are all volunteers. We need to use our time effectively. We need more members to be involved. If you have ideas about what would work for you and other members we would love to hear them. Just email act.president@anats.org.au.

Rosemary Lohmann
President
ANATS ACT Chapter

19 August 2024