



SA and NT Chapter of ANATS Ltd AGM, July 27th , 2024

Delivered by Katrina Ryan President of SA and NT Chapter ANATS Ltd

Welcome to all our members and committee members here today. We acknowledge this land that we meet on today as the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today. We also pay our respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia/Australia.

This October I will be approaching my second year as President of the SA and NT chapter and over this time I believe we have seen a gradual growth and building of momentum throughout our singing teaching community. I wish to thank the hard working committee members who dedicate their time to promoting the ANATS values and organising events.

I also wish to extend my thanks to Linda Barcum for steering the individual chapters over the past year. I have been grateful for the president's meeting held monthly and the support of the National President in assisting me to build our chapter. There has been an increased vigour in providing opportunities for smaller chapters to grow and this can only be achieved

with significant support and encouragement from the national body. Nationally ANATS has recently seen the masterclass series with Dr Trenice Robertson as well as several other fabulous online workshops and events which support our community with professional development. We are looking forward to hosting Chris Johnson in two weeks here in SA and Tasmania. These opportunities align with the ANATS values and provide accessible and high quality professional development with international teachers, ensuring we provide skill development which is both current and diverse. The increasing opportunity for a more collaborative approach to events, national financial support and professional development opportunities has seen ANATS develop in new ways which can be seen as mutually beneficial especially for the smaller chapters, like ourselves and the ACT. On a National level the current national president is committed to looking at more ways to support the smaller chapters to build membership.

It would be my continued hope that we can continue to be innovative in the events we offer. In particular, offering events which are specific to meeting the needs of our early career teachers who are possibly unaware of ANATS and what we can provide, will enable the future of ANATS to continue well into the future. Additionally we also need to continually look for opportunities to cater for the unique needs of our current members and the singing teaching community specifically by endeavouring to fill the gaps in professional development.

Our recent panel discussion event was in my opinion highly successful despite lowish attendee numbers. I believe the people who attended found it to be a very interesting and informative discussion. It was attended by a few “non-singing teachers” who found the discussion valuable and an insight into the broader context of teaching in an ever changing artistic landscape. It is events like these, which I believe casts our net wider and encourages awareness of ANATS in the community.

Overall I believe we are gradually moving towards a return to in person events and it is my hope that these can be more frequent in order to develop a singing teacher community which is both vibrant and diverse across cultures and musical genres.

Over the coming year, I would like to broaden our reach to the regional areas of SA and ideally to the Northern Territory. A suggestion has been to provide professional development to regional teachers on repertoire selection for SACE solo performance and ways to support teachers who are more isolated. I think this is an excellent idea and could be a way to support teachers who feel they are somewhat 'Out of the loop.' As ANATS members, we aim to be open minded to a variety of approaches and methodologies and bring only the highest quality expertise to our members.

As chapters, we are in a changing landscape and seek to develop new ways to connect and share information. I maintain my commitment to increasing our membership and spreading the word about ANATS and the professional development opportunities through a variety of mediums. Primarily social media platform, email distribution but also the old fashioned word of mouth. I encourage members to let colleagues and peers know about ANATS and what it provides. I believe in the power of passionately speaking the benefits and advantages to others as a tool to garner interest.

We are seeing some increase in membership but I would hope that member engagement in the chapter could be higher. I believe that establishing ourselves as a leading provider of excellent professional development which is both up to date with current research, affordable, accessible and relevant to the needs of our community, will increase engagement and membership. There is possibly a belief amongst singing teachers here in SA that high quality professional development needs to be bought from private providers and many are disadvantaged by the cost of such courses. Increased awareness about quality, accessibility and affordability through ANATS could provide more engagement in workshops and events.

I believe our renewed committee is on the right track with developing our social media pages to reach a broader population. An increased membership will enable us to offer more high quality events more frequently. On a National level there have been some changes with better systems such as the wild apricot database which I think have been working well . This new system enables a more collaborative national approach to marketing national events which is particularly beneficial to the smaller chapters.

Since our last AGM we have facilitated 2 events and our third event with Chris Johnson is upcoming in two weeks time. Our first event was an opportunity to “meet your multidisciplinary team” in August last year. We were lucky to have three exceptional presenters who represented a vocal remediation multidisciplinary team. Dr Theo Anthianadis (laryngologist) Melinda Privos (voice physiotherapist) and Miriam Voortman.(Clinical Voice Therapist) Together, they informed participants about the processes involved in diagnosis and remediation and what to do when a singer presents with what we suspect is an injury. It was a most informative day.

The SA and NT committee meets regularly once a month rotating between Thursday night zoom sessions, Saturday coffee meetings and a Sunday afternoon Pub catch up. I would love to increase opportunities for members to participate and join our meetings and believe the Saturday coffee sessions could work as a network opportunity for our teaching community. We will look at ways to promote these dates and aim to work towards advertising these on social media in the upcoming year to hopefully encourage member participation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who have attended today and also to thank the committee for all their hard work and energy that they put into our chapter. We hope to see many of you over the coming months participating in our upcoming events. You are very appreciated as is your feedback and participation. A collaborative effort is at the

heart of a not for profit organisation so we can continue to cultivate our networks and promote best practice in singing and singing teaching for the betterment of others.

Thank you kindly for your attendance today and I look forward to the upcoming year.