

## **2019-20 Annual President's Report**

Without a doubt it has been a challenging six months for our industry, and I would like to commence by expressing my support for any member who has been doing it tough during the pandemic. The ANATS website has a [range of resources available](#) for members, and if you would like to talk, myself or anyone on the ANATS NSW Committee is available.

Despite the hurdles presented by COVID-19, it has been another year of considerable success for our Chapter. We increased our number of events from three to four, with a total of 210 attendees.

Our *Young Voice* event on October 20 saw three presenters speak on a range of topics focused on the young singing voice. Australian presenters Kelly Pecina and Tracy Bourne delivered valuable information on effective pedagogy and belting respectively. This event then made use of live streaming technology to enable our international guest, Robert Edwin to finish the day speaking on tips & tricks for the developing voice.

Returning for another year, our *Fundamentals and Further* event on March 20 focused on content designed for advanced teachers as well as beginners, and it was lovely to host this event at the University of NSW in Sydney. Our three presenters for the day were:

- Dr. Gemma Turner presented her research on movement and contemporary voice
- Christine Douglas presented on anatomy for breathing
- Jo Fabro (NSW Committee Member) presented on teaching different contemporary commercial music styles

By far the most well attended event was *Conquering Performance Anxiety* with Sarah Marshall on June 21, which was adapted to an interactive webinar for 76 participants following lockdown restrictions. Ticket prices were reduced to just \$20 for members, ensuring a large turn-out for what was a highly informative online event.

A major achievement for ANATS NSW this year was our registration with the Professional Teachers Association (PTC), allowing future events to be considered professional learning for school teachers in New South Wales. This allows us to extend our reach as an association, and paves the way for ANATS to have a considerable impact in the primary & secondary education space.

Our *Coffee & Conversations: Vocal Warm Ups* event, part of a national series, was offered free to all members. The one hour discussion on vocal warm ups was facilitated by NSW Committee Members Christina Wilson & Jo Fabro and I would like to thank them for volunteering their time and directing the conversation. And as part of our new accreditation with the PTC, NSW school teachers who attended this event were eligible to apply for professional development credit.

This year's upcoming ANATS National Conference has been moved to a two-day online event on October 2-4. We are incredibly excited that our bi-annual conference can still take

place, albeit not in Adelaide as originally planned. Ticket prices have been reduced to reflect the change and I encourage all New South Wales members to attend.

I would like to make special mention of Meryl Jackson-Kew who will be stepping down from her role as NSW Vice President this year. Her support over the past three years has been invaluable and we are very pleased to know that she will be staying on in her role as Membership Secretary.

The hard work of the volunteers on our Chapter Committee ensures we can continue to deliver such a high level of professional development for NSW members. I would like to extend my appreciation to Meryl Jackson-Kew, Debbie Grace, Dr. Naomi Cooper, Lisa Genovese, Jo Fabro, Christina Wilson, Liz Lecoanet, Robyn Wells, Carol-Ann Bentley, Judith Lindeman, Sue Carson and Courtney Teixeira for their tireless efforts over the past 12 months.

We understand that the future is uncertain and have kept this in mind when planning the calendar of events for 2020/2021. It's our intention to be flexible and agile in how we deliver ANATS NSW events, accommodating for the ever-changing landscape. We're pleased to announce that the popular *Fundamentals and Further* format will transform into our next edition of this series, *Advanced Tools and Techniques*, offered both online and in-person in February 2021. It's designed for established teachers who want to take their teaching to the next level, and we'll delve into more complex issues and topics.

This year more than ever I'm proud to be part of an association that brings our community together in what could be a really isolating time.

So until next time, we hope that you stay safe, stay optimistic and stay in touch.

Kind regards,

Nadine Manion  
NSW President