

## President's Report 2024

It is with great pleasure that I report on the work of the Public Primary Schools Music Society over the last 12-month period.

As President, I wish to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank Irene and her team for their ongoing commitment and contributions to the work of the Society.

I would also like to congratulate Irene for being reappointed to the Manager position.

The work of the Board is made much easier as a result of the outstanding knowledge, skills, work, and commitment of Irene, Robyn, and every staff member who work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the delivery of a high-quality program which culminates in the Festival of Music Concert series.

On behalf of the Board, schools, and Society members, I thank Irene and Robyn for their leadership, and the staff and volunteers for their ongoing commitment to the work of the Society. The success of the FOM is a direct result of their contributions to, and promotion of, music education in our member schools.

2024 saw the FOM concert series on the stage at the Festival Theatre.

We are pleased to announce that we have secured a commitment from Minister Blair Boyer to provide ongoing financial support for the Festival of Music concert series. This support will ensure the continued success and potential expansion of our program.

Additionally, we have collaborated with The HR Room to appoint a new staff member, Regina Rose. This appointment has enhanced our team's capacity to deliver exceptional programs. Our partnership with NJD Bookkeeping has also been instrumental in ensuring we meet industrial agreements for our employees, maintaining compliance and supporting our staff effectively.

Early in 2024, we welcomed the opportunity for Board members to work with the FOM team to develop a clear vision and mission. We thank Katrina Spencer for facilitating this work which reinforced our dedication to the future of the Public Primary Schools Music Society (PSMS) and Festival of Music program. This strategic focus will guide our efforts and ensure the continued growth and impact of our programs.

As the work to transition the Society to a Public company limited by guarantee resulting in being granted status as a not-for-profit organisation was completed in 2023, we turned our focus to ways of promoting our status to attract financial donations and sponsorships. This work will be ongoing.

We thank everyone who provided advice, contributed, or supported us to get this far.

As you may be aware, this status enables the Society to attract additional funding which will support the continual expansion and improvement of our choral program.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to discuss sponsorship or making a financial donation, please speak to a member of the Board.

As we are now in a position to apply for a range of grants, we are looking to work with the right person to engage in this process. Once again, if you become aware of a grant opportunity or know a business that may be interested in entering into a sponsorship arrangement, please let a member of the Board know.

At the AGM last year, I reported that the MoAA between the Society and The Department for Education was an ongoing piece of work. This work continued to be a feature throughout 2024. I am delighted to report that the MOAA has been finalised and signed off. We thank everyone who contributed to this outcome.

We have received a resignation from Board Member, Chan Welfare. We thank Chan for her contributions to the Board and wish her every success in her future. We also thank Kendall Hurst who has been the HPI representative on the Board for her contributions.

I had a range of discussions with DfE personnel throughout the year to continue to grow their understanding, and strengthen the relationship between the Department and the Music Society. This has included discussions with Rod Nancarrow, the recently appointed Executive Director, Curriculum and Learning, to provide him with an update on the work of the Society and the Festival of Music. It will be important for us to continue to build his understanding and strengthen the relationship between the Society and Department.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of The Board for their contributions and commitment to the work of the Music Society and look forward to another productive year in 2025.

Terena Pope

President