

President's Report - AGM Monday 7th Jan 2008

Dear friends,

VOSA continues to grow from strength to strength with a fantastic array of events offered each year as well as a number of new initiatives.

The committee work together as a wonderful team of dedicated and enthusiastic people who truly understand the magic and value of music for everyone.

EVENTS 3/2007 & 2008/09

MOSAIC – Jan 2008

Much work has been done to bring you a fantastic 5 day national Orff conference. The guest presenters are Andrea Ostertag (Austria), Keith Terry (USA), Rodrigos Fernandez (Spain) and our very own Christoph Maubach. As well as the main presenters there are a host of other wonderful international and local presenters. I can't believe we are finally here after 2 years of intensive planning and regular meetings. A hearty congratulations to all the committee and to those at Stockdale ACS for the administration.

Each March we see the **Living Music and Dance Conference**

In 2007 – Rick Layton, USA had wonderful comments about his style and teaching. Participants enjoyed Jon Madin and feedback about all the other presenters was exemplary. This year, we have international Orff presenter and drum circle practitioner Kalani from the USA. Many thanks to Nicole Blowfield for all her work in organising this event and we wish you well with your growing family.

In March 2007, we had a new initiative – a **Musicianship Evening**. This event is for those who wish to gain confidence in basic music theory – is a pre-requisite for those without the music basics for the level courses. It is also open to anyone else who would like to come to get a refresher. It will take place again in 2008.

April brings the **Level 1 and 2 Orff courses** held in Glen Waverley. Each year we have participants from Asia and New Zealand and an excellent team of presenters. 2007 had the largest registrations ever in Victoria. Many thanks to Melissa Dods for organising the courses. We are also planning to offer level 3 and 4 in Jan 2009 – watch Musette and the website for more details.

June brought the **Early Childhood Conference of Performing Arts in Kew**

Each year we have over 20 of the best presenters in the field of Early Childhood music, dance and drama from Australia and New Zealand. Soili Perkio from Finland was the International presenter. This year, we have Ciro Paduano from Italy and the conference will be held in August. This allows more time between our two annual conferences.

Each year, over 200 delegates attend from all over Australia as well as Singapore and New Zealand. In 2007 we set up the Jenny Fogarty scholarship in Jenny's memory and this was awarded to Christine Wilksch.

Thanks go to Beth Rankin, Glenys, Paul and nearly all committee members for their help and support over this weekend. After 11 years as a co-ordinator I have decided to hand the reigns over to Beth Rankin and Melissa Dods and wish them much success.

In July 07, the **Marimba Camp** took place which is a wonderful weekend of family music making. Welcome back to Heather McLaughlin who had a hiatus in Japan and is now back in Melbourne and organising this camp. Main presenters were Jon Madin, Andy Rigby, Phil Melgaard and Susie Davies-splitter. This was my first time at the camp and I loved it. Make sure you book in for July 08.

In early July 2007, VOSA presented for the first time – **'The Joy of Jammin' Improvisation course'** presented by Susie Davies-Splitter. This ran over 5 days and will become an annual event. The course has been split into stage 1 and stage 2. Stage 1 will run in July and is for anyone who wants to learn how to improvise confidently. Stage 2 will take place in late Sept/Oct and is an extension of stage 1. Stage 1 will also be offered in Sydney this year over 2 weekends.

The goal of these courses is to promote self expression, Joy, confidence and well being through musical improvisation. They cater for anyone who loves music or uses music in their workplace.

The goal is to hopefully extend this into stage 3 and train participants to run these courses themselves in their workplaces and communities.

The courses are accredited as ANCOS enrichment courses.

Family Marimba Days – take place 2 or 3 times each year with great success. Last year in May, Jon Madin presented a special evening workshop focusing on Marimbas in the Upper Primary and Lower Secondary School at ACU. Another marimba day took place in October. These days have been supported by the sale of chocolates.

Many thanks to Heather McLaughlin for your passion to promote these events.

In July/August each year, Andre Van Der Plas – folk dance teacher extraordinaire from Holland shares his extensive repertoire of folk dances for children. This continues to be enormously successful.

In August 2007, we held a **Middle Years Day** in Clayton North with guest presenters Rodney Waterman, Melissa Dods and Peter Vadiveloo. This has a focus on the older age group and is very well attended.

In October each year, we hold a joint **Celebrations Day** with KMEIA.

This is a joint event with the Kodaly Association and is well attended. We did not participate in this in 2007 due to the enormous organization necessary for Mosaic however it will no doubt continue in 2008.

Regional workshops – Heather McLaughlin has also taken on this baby. This is another event that we join with KMEIA. In 2007, workshops took place in Hamilton and Sale. These workshops will be continued this year. If you live in country Vic and would like a workshop please send us an email.

Other Initiatives, involvements and projects

Early Childhood Resource Centre

Through the support of the Forest Hill Early Childhood Foundation, VOSA obtained a grant in 2004 to develop an Early Childhood Resource Centre You will see our new look home page as well as a new look to our events. You can now register for events online as well. This has recently been updated in conjunction with the lead up to Mosaic and VOSA's 30th Anniversary to include resources for all ages.

VOSA Sales – many thanks to Paul Sierakowski who has continued to look after our sales year after year. Without the profits from these sales VOSA would not be able to bring you such a comprehensive program of events.

Administration As well as doing 13.5 hours per week for VOSA, Glenys and Stockdale are also involved in many other projects including being administrator for Mosaic. We are very grateful to everyone at Stockdale ACS and in particular Glenys Gijbers who holds the fort.

Newsletter – Musette

This continues to be one of our most valuable resources. Six copies are produced each year and it is always jam packed with notes and music for preschool, primary and secondary teachers. Congratulations go to Lynne Burt the newsletter editor with assistance from Glenys and Stockdale. As part of VOSA's 30th Anniversary, we had a special colour commemorative edition that arrived in letter boxes in November. Over \$3000 in advertising revenue has been raised for the project and it is hoped this will cover all the redesign work for Musette and the fliers.

Sale of Videos/DVDs – finally after lots of discussions and advise, we have begun to produce DVD's of workshop sessions. We now have for sale DVD's from ECCPA, LMD and also Mosaic.

Hire of marimbas and instruments – Heather McLaughlin has taken on the role of looking after the VOSA instruments and hiring them out for a small fee. VOSA has also purchased a number of Orff instruments for this purpose. Many thanks Heather. This continues to be very popular.

Book Library – this is still being looked into

VOSA's 30th Anniversary – celebrated last night at the bush dancing event. Special commemorative newsletter edition and updated Resource centre as well as the production and sale of cards.

ANCOS, the Australian National Council of Orff Schulwerk, meets twice per year, either by phone link up or a face to face meeting. The next meeting is after the Mosaic conference this Sat in Mt eliza. ANCOS is the umbrella group of Orff Schulwerk associations. Member states comprise of Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales.

Victoria's representatives are: Carolyn Royal, Christoph Maubach (for Australian Catholic University) and Susie Davies-splitter (International Liasion)

Dr. Carol Richards on behalf of the ANCOS committee has been instrumental in putting together national guidelines for the Levels courses. The committee has also been looking at the process of mentoring to prepare new teachers for the Levels courses, and the inclusion of international Orff educators.

ANCOS produces the publication 'Music Works' and has produced a CD "Australian Ways with Orff".

Stockdale ACS is employed for 4 hours per week as their administrator and has upgraded the website, prepared a general flier and helped with promotion and funding. Stockdale will be the 2010 Adelaide administrator.

There were also discussions about other initiatives such as organising an international presenter to travel around Australia in Jan 09.

OUR WONDERFUL COMMITTEE

What can I say!!! Without a doubt this has been the most dedicated and passionate group of people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. There are 15 of us on the committee and 8 co-opted members – a huge team. We continue to look for new committee members and in particular would like to see some young folk joining the ranks. It's a most rewarding experience to serve on this committee as part of this amazing organization. We continue to make a difference by bringing the gift of music to as many children and adults as possible.

A special thanks again to;

Melissa Dods – VP, Sarah Brooke – Secretary, John Handley – Treasurer, Lynne Burt – newsletter editor, Carolyn Royal – ANCOS rep, Christoph Maubach, Heather McLaughlin, Michelle Neate, Nicole Blowfield, Debbie Tait, Nicole Alexander, Kass Harding and Heather Monro (social secretary). Also to our co-opted members for their contribution. It's been an absolute pleasure to work with you all.

To Glenys and all at Stockdale, for your care and attention to detail, to Paul Sierakowski for looking after our website and sales – you are a gem!

My last hurrah!

I am finally stepping down as President and also co-ordinator of the ECCPA conference. As I turn 50 this year in June, I wish to embark on a new chapter in my life. I have been given my final deadline of end June to complete my Masters which is focused around the joy of jammin' and I do intend to finish it!

Also for so many years I have observed individuals and communities in Australia and overseas countries who cannot afford access to musical activities and resources. These people are denied the joy and well being that music can bring. I want to play my part in helping to promote health and self expression through music that is accessible to ALL.

people through a foundation. I would like to have an information session during the year and need as many people as possible to get on board and help organise a number of projects. Please let me know if you would like to join this new journey with me.

On a final VOSA note as president, please continue to support VOSA through your membership and attendance at our events.

Thank you for attending our AGM and I look forward to celebrating another outstanding and successful year with you all.

Yours in music, Susie Davies-Splitter, VOSA President