

Christchurch Schools' Music Festival Association (Inc.)

Annual General Meeting
FEBRUARY 15, 2017, 3.45 pm
President's Report

I would like to begin my first President's report by officially thanking the executive (which is inclusive of the music team), for their hard work and support during my first year in this new role. The 2016 year's Festival 'All Creatures great and small' was another great success with a lot of very positive comments and feedback especially around the choice of music, the slick running of the show and the visual production aspects. I would like to especially thank our musical director, Dr Patrick Shepherd for his leadership of the team and his support and partnership as we work together on this treasure we call the Festival.

Today we are formally farewelling two executive members who have collectively served for over 50 years between them: Robyn Forbes, outgoing Vice President and Kathy Cowan, outgoing Business Manager and Treasurer. Malcolm Long has written two wonderful synopses of their service to the Association which are available on the website. For the purposes of this report I have drawn from Malcolm's research.

Robyn joined the Festival Executive in 1986 and over the 30 years since then she has been Business Manager, Secretary (several times), Vice President, Holiday Course Supervisor, Town Hall Co-ordinator, Back of House Manager, Programme Seller co-ordinator, general guide and problem-solver. Robyn was made a Life Member of the Association in 2007; a small but sincere thanks for her enormous contribution.

Kathy took up the role of Treasurer in 1997 and then combined that with the additional responsibility of the Business Manager from 2003, a total of 21 years of service.

As a very small token of our appreciation and thanks the executive has recently by way of a secret ballot moved, seconded and unanimously agreed on the motion that '***Kathy Cowan's long service to the Christchurch School's Music Festival Association be acknowledged with a life membership.***' (Awarded by Patron: Russell Kent)

The CSMFA and the children of Christchurch are indebted to both Robyn and Kathy for their outstanding service over these extended years and we know that there will have been many unseen hours donated and we can only but say we are truly grateful and wish them both well for any new ventures in the future.

I would like to thank our major sponsors, our naming rights sponsor the Lions, vbase and Rata Foundation for their generous donations. Our thanks also to TapWaterWells, Rangī Ruru Girls' School, University of Canterbury, New Zealand Graduate School of Education, KBB music and the Christchurch School of Music for their representative group and conductor, accompanist and tutor sponsorships. It will become clear in the 2016 Financial Statements that the overall funding received through sponsorship and donations was reduced this year and combined with some increased expenses in venue hire, and reduced ticket sales we have operated at a loss. However, as an executive we are committed to a renewed effort in implementing some fresh innovative ideas in the areas of promotion and public relations. To this end we are delighted to officially announce the appointment of our new Business Manager, Miranda Donnell who brings to this role experience, passion and a skill set in seeking sponsorship deals and promotions as well as an array of financial qualifications. We warmly welcome her to the executive team and we look forward to working with her.

On the completion of my first year in the position of President I have had a resonating thought. 'If we build it, they will come'. I think we have an opportunity to build on the respect and kudos the Festival has established historically by blending the wonderful range of music we already utilise with creative elements that surprise, stimulate and educate our audiences. 'If they are captivated, they will come'. I think that a major objective of our executive team is to breed a culture of creative musicality that captivates the schools' involvement interest and the children of Canterbury.

Sharyn Hay
President