

ANATS
20th
BIRTHDAY

2008 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of ANATS. This is a season of celebration and the Conference Birthday Lunch is the focal point for thanking and commemorating members, officers and all who have contributed to the story of ANATS. Particular thanks to the writers of the story of the various chapters of ANATS included in this book.

20
Celebrate
Sing
Learn

This commemoration of ANATS' 20 years was produced for the *Sing into Spring* 2008 National Conference held in Perth, Western Australia 18-21 September 2008,

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At different times, and in different places in Australia, singing teachers have felt the need to get together to share knowledge and experience. At the 1988 National Summer School for Singers in Bathurst, NSW, a meeting of singing teachers agreed that it was time for a national association and a Steering Committee was formed to make it happen. At a first conference in Melbourne in September 1988 ANZATS (Australia and New Zealand Association of Teachers of Singing) was formed. Organisation of State Chapters soon became a priority, with meetings being called by National Council members in each State. In New South Wales, 11 members attended an initial meeting in June 1989, with committee members Kay Edwards, Margaret Kozlowski, Lyell Austen and Grace Edwards organising a first event for 'ANZATS Sydney', a presentation of two voice videos at the home of veteran member Dorothy Mewes in November 1989. This initial event reflected the excitement in the voice world at the information on voice emerging from scientific research and the challenge to singing teachers of assessing its implications for their teaching. Events based in some way on the relationship between voice science and vocal pedagogy have continued over the years, including an excursion to Brisbane to explore Adele Nisbet's Voice Station at the Queensland Conservatorium, and sessions by visiting experts such as Jo Estill (US), Janice Chapman (UK), Graham Welch (UK) and Robert Edwin (US). Graham Welch and Robert Edwin both focussed particularly on young voice, a focus of numbers of our events. Other recurrent themes have been: preparation of students for exams and auditions; choral singing; masterclasses on classical repertoire; techniques for commercial contemporary commercial music; approaches to singing in music theatre; various approaches to movement for singers; working in partnership with a piano accompanist; and work on singing in Italian, French and German. The Chapter has taken advantage of many international visitors expert in different areas, including Audrey Langford and Andrew Field, Marvin Keenze; Christopher Hogwood; Frankie Armstrong; Mark Meylan and Neil Semer.

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THE NEW
SOUTH
WALES
CHAPTER OF
ANATS

Over the years our Chapter has been called the 'New South Wales Chapter' and the 'Sydney Chapter'. Whatever the title, it has tried to meet the needs of regional members, as well as those based in Sydney, with from time to time events held in regional centres. At different times Peter Thoms and Margaret Balsom have been active in the Bathurst/Orange area, Mary-Louise Ambler and Jennifer Barnes in Newcastle; Lilja Sile on the Central Coast; and Inge Southcott in Armidale. The Chapter has been led by Presidents Kay Edwards, Jean Callaghan, Robert Mitchell, Anne Way, Lisa Gardner, Pat Wilson, Rowena Cowley, and, currently, Carolann Bentley.

It has taken me much too long to write these few words of history. As I became immersed in 20 years of records I also became immersed in 20 years of ideas, and memories of successes, disasters, friendships and laughs! I feel immensely grateful to the colleagues who have invested so much in our Association. I'm sorry there isn't space here to acknowledge all of them. Thank you!

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The first official meeting of the Victorian Chapter took place in July 1989.

Joan Arnold was the first Victorian President and Bettine McCaughan the first Victorian representative on the National Council.

There were nine events the first year.

Joan and Bettine organised the 1998 National Conference in Ballarat, and Margaret Dalglish was President and Chair for the 2002 National Conference. In 2007 Victorian Committee members organised the National Internship Program and Music Theatre Forum in Ballarat.

In the early years, Victoria brought out international speakers - Tom Cleveland and Marvin Keenze (who came three times), Victor Morris and David Kram,

In 2007 the Victorian Chapter invited Robert Edwin from USA to present a workshop and masterclass.

Since 2002 the Victorian Chapter has given assistance to the ailing Tasmanian Chapter by sending all Tasmanian members the newsletter with a Tasmanian section included. Tasmanian members have also been recipients of several bursaries to a National Conference or to Victorian Chapter events. Some Victorian members have also presented workshops in Tasmania.

The Victorian Chapter continues to Sponsor a prize at the South St Competitions

The Victorian Committee usually meets bi-monthly with 4 or 5 events each year. Currently there are 10 committee members.

Victorian Committee members have contributed to the VCE syllabus discussions and the Chapter is registered with the Music – Sing for Life program and aMuse.

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A SHORT
HISTORY OF
THE SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN
CHAPTER OF
ANATS

Norma
Knight

In January 1989 I went to Bathurst to the Summer School of Music. It was there that I first heard of an Association of Teachers of Singing. It seemed to me to be a fantastic idea. I don't remember whether I offered or was asked to set up a Chapter in SA but I went home full of enthusiasm. And so on July 5th the first gathering of teachers, singers and voice specialists occurred. There were 18 people present and 11 apologies. A steering committee was set up with yours truly Norma Knight in the chair, Helen Tiller - secretary, David Cox – treasurer, and Mary Branagan, Pat Rice, Lyndon Piddington and Alison Bagnall on the committee.

Our first presentation was "How to prepare for an AMEB exam" ably led by Genty Stevens and Norma Hunter who were AMEB examiners at that time.

The following years were not easy. Hundreds of letters were sent out and a handful of people would reply or come to a function. Jo Estill was presenting her findings about the anatomy and physiology of the vocal tract and some of us were enthusiastically learning all we could soak up. Others thought singing was "artistic" and that "all this science" wasn't necessary. Indeed in March 1991 the majority rejected a visit from Dr. Thomas Cleveland because it was considered that his talk would be too technical and "too much technical stuff would put students off". One teacher actually said that "it would constrict the throat of the teachers, let alone the students!"

Helen Tiller, very much a proponent of the Estill Method, offered to stand down as secretary as she felt it could have been a reason for teachers to shun the fledgling Association. Her place was taken for the next 10 years by Fay Haddad. Fay was an amateur singer with an enormous knowledge of committee structure and meeting procedure who was a great help to us.

We have hosted two National Conferences in 1992 and 1997. The welcome to 1997 featured Ralph Middenway's condensed version of the Ring Cycle starting with the

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obligatory maidens "Singing in the Rhine, just singing....". Elisabeth Howard from Los Angeles was our international guest.

In September 2003 we initiated the Spring Workshop, a two-day mini-conference. This was intended to give our members and their students access to some of the material and experiences of National Conferences, which few of our members attended because of distance and perceived cost. The first one featured Jean Callaghan and the new and exciting Sing&See software. It was so successful that we set up the SA Library of over \$1500 worth of singing pedagogy books, biographies, and the NATS Journal of Singing with some of the profits. Annual Spring Workshops followed with Pat Wilson and Adrian Barnes, John Lander, Alison Bagnall, Irene Bartlett and Daniel Kay. We have worked with accompanists and Dalcroze teachers, and learnt how to swing with Libby O'Donovan. In an effort to encourage people to go to the National Conferences we have decided to go bi-annual, so our next Spring Workshop featuring the work of Alfred Tomatis will be in 2009.

My thanks must go to the teachers who have stuck with our small group. To Tom Leech, Susannah Foulds-Elliott, Pauline Jamieson-Harris, Beverley Peart and Stella Panozzo who have willingly taken their turn at leading the South Australian Chapter. The new generation of teachers who are joining now promise a strong future for ANATS in South Australia.

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SHORT
HISTORY OF
ANATS
TASMANIAN
CHAPTER
Marilyn
Smith
Co-
ordinator
Tasmanian
Chapter
ANATS
National
Councillor

The Tasmanian Chapter of ANATS was initiated in 1991 by Helen Jones OAM. Helen was inspired to form a Tasmanian Chapter after attending the inaugural Bathurst Conference in 1988 and the subsequent one in 1989. In 1991, with the help of Alan & Janice Light and input from well-known local identities Lyall Beven and Russell Smith, Helen went about the onerous task of organizing the 4th National Conference at the Burnie Civic Centre on the North-West coast. The special guest on this occasion was Janice Chapman. Helen recalls that there were about 90 attendees, which was not a bad effort for a small State with limited resources. Helen worked at maintaining the interest in the chapter, which in her words "was a hard road to hoe".

In 1992, I came on board as Secretary and have maintained that role ever since, along with other executive roles. The roles of President and Treasurer have been rotated around the membership, along with that of National Council representative, with Deborah Witt and myself taking the honours for serving on the Council for the longest periods of time. With a small team we have nevertheless organized some very noteworthy events. Of particular note were weekend workshops with Gregory Yurisich (Hobart) and Irene Bartlett (Hobart and Burnie), as part of the national tour of Master Teachers. In addition, we were able to hold a wonderful weekend in Hobart with Mark Meylan, thanks to the generous help and co-operation of the N.S.W. Chapter.

We have been fortunate in having a close association with the City of Hobart Eisteddfod. This has enabled us to engage several vocal adjudicators of note – Bettine McCaughan, Joan Arnold, Merlyn Quaife and Jane Edwards - to present masterclasses with ANATS members' students who had competed in the Hobart Eisteddfod. We have also sponsored several prizes which were designed to encourage young Tasmanian singers to go further with their chosen career. The first such prize was in 1997, when the Victorian chapter offered 2 airfares to Melbourne for our winners to compete in a competition held by their chapter. It is pleasing to note that the recipients, Alison Farrow and Adele Phillips, have

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continued their studies and are now singing in a professional capacity.

In 1998, we ran our own ANATS Tasmania Encouragement Award of \$1,000, in which each singer had to present a 15-minute recital. The adjudicator on this occasion was Cynthia Johnston and the winner was Jassy Husk, who is now carving out a career in opera in London and Europe.

There have been visits by individual presenters, most notably Sally Collyer, who presented an informative session on breathing. We are grateful to the Victorian chapter for sponsoring this visit. The Victorian Chapter also sponsored one of our members, Elizabeth Sandman, to attend their session on "Boy's Changing Voices". Their generosity extends to an inclusion of all Tasmanian members on their mailing list, a copy of "Victorian News" and even our own page in their newsletter. We can't thank the Victorian chapter enough for their support of us as a smaller chapter – it certainly helps keep us in the loop!

We have held meetings and AGM's all over the State in order to allow as many members as possible to attend - from private homes and restaurants, to schools, the Conservatorium of Music and even an AGM at Campbell Town, half-way between Hobart and Devonport. Tasmanian members have always been well represented at National Conferences and other events held by the larger chapters, particularly N.S.W and Victoria. Our membership numbers have remained fairly constant, with new members joining to replace those who have left. We are at the moment negotiating a new phase in our chapter. Whatever the outcome, we will continue to support ANATS into the future.

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ANATS
QUEENSLAND
CHAPTER
Daniel Kay

ANATS Queensland Chapter has had, and continues to enjoy a wonderful history of collegiality, professional development opportunities and general promotion of voice and the teaching thereof. Since its inception the Queensland ANATS Chapter has had strong progressive leadership starting with Professor Jan Delprat as President and Gloria Ward as Secretary/Treasurer.

One of our first 'events' hosted the formidable Jo Estil, and it might be said that the quality of Queensland events, for both content and stature of speaker, has never waived from this exceptional standard. From the annual state based Symposium to the highly acclaimed "Voice Odyssey 2000" to our biennial regional Symposium, the Queensland Chapter committee continues to follow a mandate to provide progressive education in both scientific developments and flow of artistic expression.

Currently the Queensland Chapter Committee is preparing to host the 2010 National ANATS Conference in Brisbane. Additionally, the Queensland Chapter Committee has committed itself to the presentation of a National Council backed bid to host the 2013 International Congress of Voice Teachers.

The current Queensland Chapter Committee would like to extend appreciation to all those members who have contributed so faithfully to the chapter events and a special thank you to each person who has volunteered their time and effort in the office of Chapter Committee.

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In 1993 the ANATS National Conference was held in Canberra and the enthusiasm which it engendered, was carried through to the setting up of the local chapter in 1994.

Lois Bogg who passed away earlier this year, was the driving force, and she encouraged a number of Canberra teachers to become involved in the chapter. From small beginnings our numbers have grown to the present 26. As well as Canberra, the chapter covers the South Coast, Goulburn and Wagga Wagga.

Phil Perman was the first president and when Phil stepped aside, Pat Whitbread took over. Angela Giblin became president in 2007. Judith Bauer and Jenni Mueller are secretary and treasurer respectively, and others who have assumed those tasks at various times include, Jill Upstill, Michael Politi, Margaret Sim and the late Joan Richards.

We have had two National Councillors since 1994, Lois Bogg, (1994-1997) and Margaret Sim, (1997- present). Lois was Deputy President of National Council from 1994-1996, and Margaret was National Treasurer (1997-2004).

The ACT Chapter is very active, holding regular meetings, workshops and master-classes, but the biggest undertaking for the Chapter was the hosting of the 2006 National Conference. A small but dedicated group of committee members worked tirelessly to achieve a successful conference.

There is a great feeling of camaraderie within our chapter which augurs well for the future of ANATS in the Canberra area, as we look forward the next 20 years.

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HISTORY OF
WA
CHAPTER OF
ANATS

Ruth
Atkinson
Young

When I was contacted in 1988 announcing the concept of forming a singing teachers' association I was immediately enthused with the idea. So as soon as it was inaugurated in 1988 I became a member of ANZATS.

I soon realized the value of membership when I received the first newsletters. They were always interesting and full of ideas, advice and relevant information.

Even though I was enthusiastically spreading the word it took a long time to gather enough singing teachers together to form a Western Australian Chapter. This was achieved on 20th May 1990.

We all agreed that singing is such a multi-faceted discipline that we would benefit from specialists in their varying fields. So this was our aim, to have workshops on specific areas of voice training.

Over the years we have covered a number of specialities.

Janice Light presented our first workshop in October 1990.

This workshop covered Vocal Health and Voice Disorders.

Since that first event the list of presenters and topics over the years has been extensive and includes:

Professor Thomas Cleveland, USA. Lecture and Demonstration

Marven Keenze, USA. Lecture and Demonstration

Trish Hawkins----- Alexander Technique

Thea Peterson, Voice Therapist. Lecture and Demonstration

Richard Gill.----- Choir Training

Janice Chapman----- Masterclass

Ian Westrip----- Audition Preparation

Margaret Pride----- Notation For Singers

Molly McGurk----- Mock AMEB Exams

Laura Bernay----- Singing in French

Greg Yurisich----- Masterclass and Fach

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HISTORY OF
WA
CHAPTER OF
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Megan Sutton Workshop for Choral Singers
WAAPA Music Theatre Staff Audition Advice
Ros Barnes Voice Craft based on the Estill Method
Irene Bartlett----- Contemporary Styles

ANATS Singing Competition — National

ANATS Singing Competition — Local

Our chapter established Performance Practice on Sunday afternoons every two to three months. This is not competitive or evaluated but allows students to get used to performing for a friendly audience of teachers, students, families and friends. Our performers' afternoons have proved popular with the students and valuable for teachers.

On a personal note I felt very honoured to receive the first certificate of recognition in 2003. I thank the WA committee for nominating me.

The past year has been taken up with the planning and managing of the first national conference to be held in Perth. We look forward to an exciting and successful conference.

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