

**ANATS Ltd QUEENSLAND CHAPTER AGM,  
August 4th, 2024**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Good afternoon, it's a pleasure to see you all here both in-person and online. This past year has been somewhat of a whirlwind for the ANATS Queensland chapter. We've been incredibly busy, and I'm so happy to be sharing this year's update with you today.

You may recall from our last AGM that in addition to some great events, the 2023 financial year involved significant 'behind the scenes' work by our committee to help lay a foundation for some new endeavours in 2024. I'm very pleased to say that this groundwork paid off this year in the form of multiple incredible events, increased member engagement, numerous fruitful collaborations, and yet more exciting plans for the remainder of this calendar year. Our membership has remained strong at 134 members, which Wendy will elaborate on later in the meeting.

2023/2024 Events:

**Coffee and Conversation - November 2023:**

To close out 2023, we held a "Brunch & Bubbly" version of the popular Coffee & Conversation format, which was attended by around 15 people. This was a lovely chance to catch up with colleagues and meet some new ones before the busy holiday period began. This was a free event offered by ANATS, where members received a free coffee, and cost us around \$80 to put on.

**Classical Masterclass with Gregory Massingham - March 2024:**

The first event for 2024 was a classical masterclass featuring renowned Tenor, Gregory Massingham. Greg took us on a deep dive into the intricate realms of Lieder, Melodie, and Art Song with both a lecture and masterclass. Greg kindly donated not only his time for the event, but also a video lecture series which was made available to attendees post-event, and is now also on the member resources area of the national website. We thank Greg for his generosity in sharing this amazing resource with us and our members. This event was well attended by 23 classical and contemporary singers and teachers, and returned a small profit of approximately \$370.

Thanks to Ireni Utey who convened this wonderful event, and her sub-committee members Claudia Marcus and Aj Henshaw.

### **World Voice Day Event with Tim Carson - April 2024:**

The first of two international presenters for this year came to Brisbane in April, just in time for World Voice Day. The event 'How To Hit The Money Notes Without Breaking The Bank' featured Tim Carson from the USA and was a very well attended workshop. Tim shared his strategies and tips for working with singers to develop a sustainable and stylistically authentic 'belt' for CCM and Musical Theatre styles.

The event attracted 35 attendees and also returned a profit of approximately \$370.

Thank you to Seamus Kirkpatrick for not only convening this event, but also running the live sound on the day.

### **Singing with Soul with Dr Trineice Robinson-Martin - May-June 2024:**

Our largest undertaking this year was the incredibly successful three-city-tour of the Singing with Soul event, featuring international guest Dr Trineice Robinson-Martin.

A committee discussion at our planning meeting last December resulted in the desire to hold an event which would bring something special to our community. An event with an international presenter that would inspire us and make us feel like a community again after a number of years of predominantly online attendance at events during and after the pandemic.

Naturally, I was thrilled to hear from NSW Chapter President Jo Fabro that their chapter committee was hoping to do the same, so we began the process of seeking out just the right presenter. When the Victorian chapter committee, under the fine leadership of Curtis Bayliss, also came on board, we began the incredibly involved process of planning and executing a three-city, three-event tour.

In the end, we hosted Dr Trineice and her father David in Australia for 24 days, and the three Singing With Soul events in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane were all a complete joy. The feedback from attendees both on the day and afterwards via the evaluation form was overwhelmingly positive, and I think all of us who were there on the day would agree that it was indeed just the inspiration we had hoped it would be.

Due to the costs of bringing a presenter from the US to Australia, and of covering three cities in one trip, the overall financial outlay of this event was significant, at around \$18,000 shared between all three chapters. I'm thrilled to say that the in-person event came within just a few hundred dollars of breaking even across all three state's events, and once ticket sales from the post-event webinar sales close and that income is officially accounted for, it will have made a profit of at least \$1,000.

Our committee had agreed that this was an event worth risking a potential financial loss on, as it was deemed a worthwhile investment in our community. However I'm so thrilled that our community was as excited about this event as we were, and that support was evident in the huge number of attendees who purchased tickets. The Brisbane event was attended by 74 people, while the Sydney and Melbourne events were attended by 51 and 50 guests respectively.

It was a pleasure to convene this event alongside my counterparts in NSW and Vic, Jo Fabro and Curtis Bayliss. I extend a massive thank you to them and to the amazing Qld chapter committee for the phenomenal amount of work that went into making this event happen.

### Collaborations and Sponsorships:

In addition to running our own events, ANATS Qld has continued to connect with other like minded organisations to collaborate and offer support where we can.

#### **ANCA Conference:**

We were pleased to collaborate with the Australian National Choral Association (ANCA) Qld chapter for their conference in September last year, where our Vice President, Wendy Rolls sat on a plenary session entitled 'Experience Matters'. Thank you Wendy.

#### **Ipswich Eisteddfod:**

Continuing our previous tradition of supporting eisteddfods, we were able to donate prizes for three different sections of the Ipswich Eisteddfod in May of this year. We were also very excited to establish the inaugural "ANATS Queensland Emerging Voice Award" which was awarded at the discretion of the Adjudicator to a performer who showed well developing vocal technique as appropriate to their age group. We hope this tradition will continue.

#### **Queensland Vocal Competition:**

Also in May this year, ANATS sponsored the Queensland Vocal Competition Festival (QCVF) run by the Queensland Music Teachers' Association. Congratulations to Marina Posa and team for an excellent event, and I'm so glad ANATS Qld is able to support the continuation of this festival.

#### **Sennheiser Partnership:**

I was very excited to secure a partnership with Sennheiser for our Singing With Soul event in June this year. Sennheiser generously provided three prizes each for our Melbourne,

Sydney, and Brisbane events, which I'm sure was greatly appreciated by our three winners in each city. My thanks go to Ruth Bailey and Maria Avila at Sennheiser, and I'm hopeful we will be able to continue this partnership into the future.

### **SVARA Project, Voice Summit Oz:**

Currently, ANATS Qld is sponsoring the Voice Summit Oz which will be held by the SVARA Project (USA) from August 21st to 24th this year. The SVARA Project co-founders, Reena Gupta and Mindy Pack are highly respected in the voice and vocology worlds and this is the first time they have brought their popular voice summit to Australia. We're thrilled to be able to support this, and hope to see some of you and your students there! Keep an eye on your emails for a ticket purchase link which will be sent out this week.

### What's next?

#### **Social Media Takeover**

Keep an eye on the ANATS national social media pages later this month, as the Queensland chapter stages a take over. We look forward to sharing more of our chapter committee's smiling faces and singing stories with you then.

#### **Ask Me Anything**

In the coming months, we're planning a return of the 'Ask Me Anything' format which is an informal facebook live interview, where members and followers are invited to ask our guest anything related to voice and teaching.

Our next guest will be announced shortly, so keep an eye on social media and your emails!

#### **Regional Symposium - October 2024:**

You may recall that at this time last year we were very excited to be working on the establishment of a Regional Roadshow of sorts. I'm thrilled to announce today that ANATS is going to Rockhampton, where we will present the Central Queensland Regional Singing Symposium on October 19th and 20th this year. Tickets will be available this Thursday the 8th of August, so please spread the word to your colleagues in the central Queensland region.

Our regional sub-committee, consisting of Qld Vice-President Wendy Rolls, Eric Yates, Kath Williams, Robyn Edgar, and Elspeth Sutherland, have been hard at work getting this

event ready for launch, alongside Aj Henshaw who has been working on the marketing. I'd like to commend Eric Yates for his work convening this event and being active on the ground in Rockhampton, where he has rallied the support of local teachers and businesses to help ensure the success of the event.

The event was designed based on responses to a survey of regional singing teachers. It will run for a full day on Saturday and a half day on Sunday, and will include a mixture of lectures, workshops, elective topics, roundtable discussions and even a karaoke night.

We plan to use this event as a pilot project to ascertain the feasibility and value of such a symposium, in the hope that it can form a template for future events in other regional locations.

### **Christmas Coffee and Conversation - November 2024:**

Once again, we plan to round out the calendar year with a coffee and conversation event in November, so please get your location and theme requests in, and we'll keep you posted with the details as that moves closer.

### **2025:**

Ideas are already flowing amongst our committee members for events in 2025, to complement the national conference which will be held in Melbourne next July 3rd-6th. If you have any suggestions for other events that you would find beneficial to your teaching and singing practice, please don't hesitate to reach out, we'd love to hear from you.

### Thanks:

In closing, I'd like to extend my gratitude to the entire Queensland chapter committee, as these hardworking volunteers are what makes ANATS Qld continue to thrive, particularly in such an incredibly busy year as this one was. In no particular order:

General committee members who have all been amazingly helpful on the ground at events this year, Aj Henshaw, Claudia Marcus, Kayleigh Pincott, and Mia Putri. I'm very happy to say almost all of our committee members are planning to stick around to continue their amazing work, but I'd like to thank Mia for her contributions this year, and wish her all the best as she steps down from committee for now, and we hope to see her back in the future! Thanks also to Bronte Mitchell who served on the committee for a time and also had to step down during the year.

National representative, national membership officer, and resident live sound guru,  
Seamus Kirkpatrick.

Regional representatives Kath Williams (Sunshine Coast), Robyn Edgar (Wide Bay), and  
Eric Yates (Central Queensland).

For incredibly speedy minute taking and always being up for an extra administrative task,  
our Secretary and National Representative Ireni Utley.

For always keeping us fiscally responsible and being the voice of reason, our Treasurer  
Elspeth Sutherland.

For spearheading the regional sub-committee's outreach work and for being my  
ever-present sanity checker, Vice President Wendy Rolls.

And lastly, to the members and friends of ANATS whose support is essential to keeping  
this organisation running from year to year. I always love hearing from you and can't wait  
to see all of you at an event in the near future!

Kindest regards,

***Emma Wilson***

**President - ANATS Ltd, Qld Chapter**

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