

President's Report

It gives me great pleasure to report KMEIA's activities and successes for 2013. Throughout this very busy year, our branches have had much to do in providing our members with quality professional development and newsletters. Our current membership is 609 financial members (actually 714 active members). This continuing strong membership is testament to the variety and value of these offerings.

In particular, we look ahead to the 2014 National Conference in Sydney, NSW, entitled "Bridging the Gap", 29th September to 2nd October. I'm sure this will be a fantastic event in our year, with inspiration, guidance, opportunities to develop skills and the chance to network with all of our Australian colleagues. I encourage everyone to register very soon, as there are significant early bird savings!

2013 was marked by the International Kodály Symposium, held in Kecskemet, Hungary – Kodály's birthplace. A strong contingent of Aussies attended, and our presenters were especially well received. At the General Assembly, it was very reassuring to note how strong our membership is compared with most other countries, and how vibrant our various state branches are in their activities. The problems of funding and support for quality music education continue to be global issues, and we could all empathise with the different countries' committees, as they described hardships and setbacks.

Two individual members have received notable awards recently, and I would again like to heartily congratulate them both on receiving such significant recognition of their individual contributions to KMEIA. Immediate Past President of NSW, Julie Logan, was presented with an Outstanding Professional Service Award by the Professional Teachers' Council of NSW, in recognition of the significant volume of voluntary work she has undertaken for KMEIA on committees, providing professional development, and supporting do-re-mi teachers.

Dr James Cuskelly was awarded Honorary Life Membership of KMEIA in recognition of his outstanding contributions in every area of music education – including teaching children through to adults, community music making, academic research, and in providing internationally recognised teacher training courses.

KMEIA has been particularly blessed to have the continued services of our National Administrator, Mrs Sue Beech, who is tirelessly revolutionising our systems and procedures. Thank you to the Finance and Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Helene Matters, for approving funding in this area, and to Ann Carroll, for supporting and managing the role of the Administrator.

Jason Boron, our National Membership Secretary, has been exploring further ways to utilise our membership database, and together with Susan Fredline, our National Treasurer, they manage to keep track of our members and branch contacts.

Web based technologies are becoming more familiar to us, and special thanks go to Jason Goopy for his work on our website, which is recognised as first rate by our own members as well as those overseas. It is again exciting to consider the possibility of many KMEIA members attending our AGM via Webinar conferencing. This allows members to join us at no inconvenience of distance or cost. Thank you again, to Ann Carroll for continuing to assist in the organisation of this event.

I received very positive feedback from KMEIA members about the first issue of our National Newsletter, replacing the Australian Kodaly Journal. This web-based newsletter invites examples of best practice from state branches and chapters, as well as individual articles of interest. Our new editor, Ms Joanne Ruksenas, will be happy to receive submissions for the newsletter. I would like to warmly welcome her to the team, and thank her for her kind offer to assist in this capacity.

Our Advocacy Committee has responded to the ACARA draft *Curriculum: The Arts, and the Victorian Parliament Inquiry into the Extent and Benefits of Music Education*. It has also remained in contact

with ASME and the Music Council of Australia (MCA), and looks forward to further working towards the provision of quality teacher training for music education.

Accredited course providers in QLD, NSW and Victoria have continued to give opportunities for members to study towards the Australian Kodaly Certificate. We welcome the interest of the WA and SA branches as they work towards becoming accredited course providers. The Education Committee has recently reviewed and updated the Australian Kodaly Certificate curriculum, and in addition, has commissioned a new certificate designed to recognise the 130th anniversary of Kodaly's birth.

Our founder, Dr Deanna Hoermann, in conjunction with a professional archivist, has completed the first stage of the collection of KMEIA's historical records. The titles of each record have been listed and stored electronically. This will be a wonderful resource providing access when tracing past records and activities of our organisation.

Ann Carroll has been working hard with the NSW branch and our legal advisers to revise their state branch constitution in line with current legislation and the 2012 national KMEIA constitution. I am confident that other branches will be happy to use the model when they revise their own constitutions to align with the 2012 national constitution. Many thanks go to Ann and the Constitution Committee for this painstaking reviewing of the legalities in order to match them as perfectly as possible with branch requirements. Many thanks also go to Clayton Utz, Canberra, where Partner John Carroll and Special Counsel Justin Bernau are providing pro bono legal advice and drafting.

As you can see, the National Council has been very busy, and I would like to thank each and every council member for the time and passion they invest in these many projects. All of them lead extremely busy lives, and many have professional obligations that are very demanding, not to mention families. The Councillors sacrifice valuable time with their loved ones, as they serve the needs of KMEIA members. Thanks also to our Branch Presidents and their Branch Committee members for their inspiring and continuous work in supporting our members with strong and effective professional development for music educators and other musicians. Music education in Australia has been and will continue to be vastly enriched by your collective efforts.

With very best wishes to all members for another successful and fulfilling year ahead.

Signed
Tess Laird
National President