

Music Council of Australia  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
September 27, 2010  
Queensland Conservatorium of Music

## MINUTES

The Chair, Dr Helen Lancaster,  
declared the meeting open.

### 1. ATTENDANCE

#### PRESENT

Bennett, Dr Dawn  
Bowen, Chris  
Callaghan, Mark  
Collins, Robert  
Conway, Deborah  
Davis, John  
Elhay, Sylvan  
Graham, Phil  
McPherson, Jay  
Harvey, Ian  
Hinckley, Graeme  
Hoegh-Guldberg, Hans  
Holmes, Robyn  
Johnson, Chris  
Knowles, Julian  
Lancaster, Helen  
Law, Jane  
Leonard, Michelle  
Letts, Richard  
Masso, Alex  
Phillips, Art  
Phillips, Stephen  
Roennfeldt, Peter  
Schippers, Huib  
Shepherd, Nathan  
Smellie, Michael,  
Steele, Megan  
Tomlinson, Vanessa  
Tyler, Mike

#### APOLOGIES

Cameron, Kevin  
Capps, Mary Jo (overseas; replaced by  
Michael Sollis)  
Cornish, Colin  
Davidson, Robert (overseas)  
de Vries, Peter  
Hartwig, Kay (overseas; Jay McPherson  
replaced her)  
Homan, Shane (Stepping down)  
John Foreman,  
McKew, Jamie (stepping down)  
McMartin, Michael (overseas)

Newton, Dobe (overseas)  
Ormston, Dean (overseas)  
Peach, Stephen (Stepping down)  
Rix, Pat (big family celebration)  
Rob Appel, (business)  
Strahle, Graham (medical)

#### ABSENT

Colwill, John  
Jeffes, Rory  
Last, Sarah  
Noone, Terry  
Rusak, Helen  
Sarlos, Eliza

### 2. ELECTIONS

#### TO THE COUNCIL

There being no other candidates, the  
following were declared elected as  
Councillors.

Brass and Concert Bands. Kevin  
Cameron

Community Music Development. Pat  
Rix

Contemporary Classical Performance.  
Vanessa Tomlinson

Early Music. Helen Rusak (until 2012,  
to complete six year maximum)

For-profit Music Industry. Ian Harvey.  
Stood again on the Board's invitation.

Indigenous Music. Rob Collins

Music Broadcasting. Community or  
Commercial. Chris Johnson

Music in Creative Industries. Phil  
Graham

Record Industry. Nick O'Byrne

Research. Brydie-Leigh Bartleet

School Music Education. Jane Law

World Music. Chris Bowen

Special Member. The Board agreed to  
the re-appointment of Helen Lancaster  
to a three-year term.

There were no nominees for the following positions.

Folk music

Jazz

Music Criticism/Journalism

Popular music

TO THE BOARD

There were three positions available. There being no other nominees, the incumbents, who stood again, were declared elected.

Julian Knowles

Helen Lancaster

Huib Schippers

### 3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2009

Accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved Callaghan, seconded Schippers, passed

### 4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Presentation of the audit for 2009

The Treasurer reported as follows:

This report is a summary of the financial statements prepared by Page Harrison and Co, auditors to the Music Council of Australia. The report concerns the 2009 financial period being from January 1 2009 to December 31 2009.

Our result in financial terms is very satisfactory. We recorded a surplus of nearly \$71,000.

#### **Income:**

The Council's income for the 2009 was \$816,000 down from \$927,000 the year prior. As has been the case for the past few years our income is comprised of funds earned through:

- the MCA's own commercial activity
- through grants from organisations including government, and;

- philanthropic donation

In some cases these incomes are tied to specific programs (eg. Freedman Fellowships, MCUI) and activities. In some cases they are provided or earned for the general running of the Council.

The reduction of income in 2009 really just reflects the ebb and flow of projects. While some grant and donation incomes were reduced, earned income, including interest earned improved.

#### **Expenses:**

Expenses were significantly down and totalled \$744,000 in 2009 versus \$891,000 the year earlier. In some cases this was the result of ebbs and flows in projects. For example, the Guitars in School, Live Music and some other projects were completed in 2008, meaning little 2009 expenditure. There were less expenses associated with activities such as Music in Communities now in its second year, where we have no longer had to fund start up costs.

#### **Profit/loss**

As I had said earlier, the MCA recorded a surplus of \$71,000 up from the \$36,000 recorded in 2008 and ahead of the budgeted result.

I should make the point here that all this is achieved on the back of a lot of good will by the people who contribute to the Council in its day to day activities. Not one person involved with the MCA from Dick down to the designer of Music Forum takes the full commercial value of what they contribute to the MCA results and achievements. In short, the financial result is significantly enhanced on the back of the large amount of goodwill provided by people who believe in what the MCA is and does.

#### **Assets and Liabilities**

The 2009 surplus further enhances our position with respect to many of the key financial indicators on which organisations are based and judged. Our assets have increased to around

\$476,000 (up from \$331,000), our cash-on-hand position improved and both debtors and liabilities reduced.

### **Equity**

Our equity position is therefore also much improved. The 2009 surplus has resulted in the Councils equity, its total worth if you will in financial terms, increasing to \$176,000 up from \$104,000 in 2008. The Council has achieved reserves of 20% of income as required by the Australia Council.

*Are there any questions regarding the accounts?*

Michael Smellie noted that the Income Statement on page 1 of the audit made no sense presumably because the titles on the lines are incorrect.

Response: This fault somehow had eluded the auditors, the executive director, the treasurer and others. The auditors will be asked to correct it.

The Treasurer: I move that the Council accept these financial statements as a true and correct record of 2008 financial position. Seconded Schippers, subject to the above correction. Passed.

The Treasurer: Thank you. That completes the Treasurer's report.

Finally, just a quick snapshot of the 2010 year. With 9 months of the year complete I can report that to date our financial situation is more or less in line with our forecasts. We anticipate recording a modest surplus in 2010 of around no more than \$35,000. Our budget YTD shows a \$30,000 surplus.

### **5. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR**

Treasurer: I move that the audit again be carried out by Page Harrison and Co, Milsons Point, NSW. Seconded: Smellie. Passed.

### **6. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Executive Director stated that he had intended to present an oral summary of activities. However, given the time constraints, and the fact that he had provided a very full report, available on the website, and a printed summary in the AGM materials, he would not now also deliver the oral presentation.

### **7. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Chair presented a report.

When I delivered my first Annual Report last year, I was worried that I would leave something - or someone - out. This year it's been even busier, so I accept from the start that I can't deal with it all. Instead, I refer you to the very comprehensive Annual Report from our Executive Director, and I encourage you to read it. Quite frankly, although I'm not far from what is happening most of the time, it astounds me to read it in summary, to see in print what we've achieved in these past twelve months.

As I said at the Governor's reception, when people ask me what we do, I struggle to know where to start, and that's because the extent and detail of it is beyond belief.

We are an organisation of volunteers, supported by an incredible band of gifted, thoughtful, committed staff who give far more of their time and talents than we can reward. I want to start from there because without them, we'd not have very much to report at all! I'd like especially to acknowledge Dick Letts whose tireless energy and encyclopaedic understanding of the music sector leaves me in constant amazement. And Tina, thank you, for continuing to deliver - with great panache - on whatever it is that you dream up along your very busy way.

Sadly, we lost Wonderwoman Eve Klein, whose musical talents have taken her where she really should be -

into the spotlight - these past weeks featured in the Brisbane Festival.

But in a bit of a reshuffle, we dragged the wonderful David Worrall back into the fold. Only last year we acknowledged David's contribution to the MCA with life membership. This year he's back in the front stalls, as project manager developing the websites - a rather unstated title meaning he expects to fix everything.

After more false starts than the Board would want to recount, we've finally found a gem of a Marketing Manager in Dianne Webbey who has secured much more advertising for us both in Music Forum and online.

Lynne Gailey has been incredibly productive in producing submissions by the truckload.

And so I could continue, but thank you to all of them - Sara, Heather, Emma, Tony, and Lucia, and those others who add to the mix from time to time.

In the spirit of acknowledging how things get done, I'd also like to bring to your attention the extraordinary efforts of Alex Masso as Chair of the AYMC. Alex looks a bit like another Dick Letts in the making, with a work ethic that is equally formidable. Never complaining, he just gets it done. And in many cases this past year, that means getting it done alone. Thank you Alex for keeping the dream of a youth council not just alive but kicking!

The MCA is blessed with a fantastic board. All of them extremely busy people, they nonetheless throw themselves into the fray without hesitation. As Deputy Chair, Robyn is both careful and caring; as Treasurer Ian is very thorough; and I'm constantly thankful for the intensive support and intellect of Mark, Julian, Dean, Huib and Michael.

I'm concentrating on people because that's where the secret of this organisation lies. As we began our Assembly yesterday, I suggested that if

anyone is still wondering why they are a Councillor, or what they might do in that role, then feel free to come up with an idea which scares you. It's those kinds of ideas which make the MCA what it is.

We're much busier now than ever we were, but we're still taking on more. We can only do that if our Councillors join in on the journey beyond the annual assembly. Where that has happened over these past twelve months - in focus groups, at the Classical Summit, for submissions, and in research, our output has grown.

Tomorrow the Board will meet whilst the excitement of the Assembly still runs through our veins. Our task will be to decide which items on your wish list are possible. It would be really encouraging if those items had a name or two beside them before we even get started. Don't wait to be asked - let us know what you'd like to do. The musicians you've chosen to represent stand to gain from any contribution you make to the work of the MCA.

For me, it's an honour to be part of this organisation, and I acknowledge with pride all of the accomplishments of the past year. I won't isolate any of them because each one brings something special to some part of the music community. But I do acknowledge with gratitude all of those who have made such achievements possible. Thank you.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

There being none, the meeting was closed.