

NSW DOCTORS ORCHESTRA INC

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Peter Duly Hall, Abbotsleigh School, Wahroonga

**MINUTES:**

The meeting was opened at 11:25am on Saturday, 15 June 2019

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**Apologies** – Committee:Natasha Freeman, Viviane Dubosq, Tanya Nippita

Members: David Moore, Peter Purches

**Present** – Committee: Cathy Fraser, Susan Allman, Jacky Pollack, Isabella Williams, Andrew Kennedy, Austin Lee, Antony Lau.

Other members: David Banney, Jeremy Pigott, and approximately 50 orchestra players.

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**Minutes:**

Minutes of last AGM on 15 September 2018, President’s Report and Treasurer’s Report provided.

Accepted as true copies of proceedings.

Proposed by Andrew Kennedy

Seconded by Austin Lee

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**President’s Report** – for year Jan to Dec 2018 – appendix

Accepted by Andrew Kennedy

Seconded by Susan Allman

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**Treasurer’s Financial Report** – appendix

Accepted by Cathy Fraser

Seconded by Andrew Kennedy

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**Election of Office Bearers**

All committee members accepted re-election in current positions. All re-elected unopposed.

Roles – President: Cathy Fraser

Vice-President and Webmaster: Susan Allman

Treasurer: Jacky Pollack

Librarian and Catering: Tanya Nippita

Database Manager: Isabella Williams

Social Media Managers: Natasha Freeman

Austin Lee

General Committee Members: Andrew Kennedy

Antony Lau

Viviane Dubosq

Nomination received for Sponsorship Co-ordinator: Jeremy Pigott. Elected.

Nomination received for General Committee Member: Peter Purches. Elected.

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**General Business**

Discussion was opened to all players present on the following topics:

Concert venue – Concern re increasing costs and reducing income.

Preference for Concourse due to ideal concert hall, larger audience capacity, better parking, and access to good public transport.

Other venue options discussed– return to Conservatorium, try new venue of Sydney Grammar School, explore other possible venues.

Ticket pricing – Lower ticket prices trialled this year, no increase in ticket sales to date. Insignificant difference, proposed to increase ticket prices next year.

Audience numbers lower last year and this year (bookings to date). Suggestions from players included collaborating with community groups to increase audience size. It was stated that it was important to schedule our concert to not clash with other community orchestras.

Program charge $5 new, compared to gold coin donation in past

Sound recording – electronic last year rather than CDs as in the past. Cost saving, high quality. Voted by show of hands: General consensus that electronic sharing of recording is accepted to continue. No objections.

DocsVox – Inaugural performance with NSW Doctors Choir “From the Heart” 17th February 2019 at Music Workshop, organized by Dr Shamistha de Soysa, conducted by Simon Kenway. President explained difficulties in filling positions in orchestra, requiring employment of more non-medical musicians than usual. Planning was particularly time-consuming, and included multiple stresses. It took careful diplomatic effort to have our costs of $35.. reimbursed. The president and treasurer were supported by the committee in their stance to not collaborate with DocsVox in the future. Discussion from members included timing of concert, unpopular repertoire, too short a concert, not enough music and no major work to play. Players much keener on annual concert repertoire.

AMSO patronage – Players were informed of the request from Australian Medical Sstudents Orchestra (AMSO) for support, and our proposed annual donation from our Development Fund. Amount of $500- $1000 to be confirmed by committee after reconciliation of figures from concert income. Agreed in line with our mission. Several players have played with AMSO, and AMSO players are potential future members of NSW DO. Important collaboration.

A member suggested that we could also offer ourselves in a mentoring role with medical students in the orchestra. Cathy committed to communicate that with AMSO.

Donations: Jeremy Pigott suggested sending out an email to all members on the database encouraging donation to NSW DO before the end of financial year 30 June 2019. Agreed to draft email and share with committee.

The question was raised as to whether members could approach people for donations, and the response was positive, this was encouraged.

Sponsorship: Thanks were expressed to Jeremy for helping Cathy raise sponsorship, specifically from Multigate and from B Braun. Players were encouraged to liaise with the staff in the foyer and thank them for support, to maximise the potential of ongoing support.

Facebook: David Banney shared the idea of advertising our concerts in future by posting photos of posters with local community retailers. This had been successful in marketing Newcastle Music Festival.

Repertoire: David Banney talked up choice of repertoire involving finding a balance in the music for the audience and the orchestra. He summarized the factors considered in choosing repertoire, to satisfy the maximum number of players, including enough wind and brass, at the same time as optimizing audience appeal.

While members were keen to perform with choirs again to increase audience numbers, David pointed out the costs involved to us, that sufficient repertoire and a large proportion of rehearsal time was required to make it worthwhile for a group to be involved. There were pros and cons to involving large groups or choirs.

The meeting concluded at 12:07pm

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**Date of next AGM –** proposed for Saturday 16th May 2020