

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 2017**

Two thousand and seventeen was another good year for the orchestra, and as a whole it seems we are growing in abilities and confidence as an orchestra. Our concerts continue to be sold out on Sundays. This year has seen the Mosman Symphony Chorus become well established, under the leadership of Sue Briedis. We held the first choral concert in June. Due to the illness of our musical director, Sue Briedis kindly undertook conducting the whole concert including the purely orchestral Greig Holberg Suite.

In 2017 we performed ten concerts overall, of six different programmes, needing 44 rehearsals. This is a very commendable amount of activity and must contribute a lot to local availability of classical music. One of the on-going problems for community orchestras, as also mentioned in last years' report, is the variability of players' availability for these rehearsals and concerts. In some years we have had a dearth of cellos – then an influx, more recently a marked variability in the number of violins – from a high of 27 to a threatened low of 8, until a remedial effort bore fruit. This is inevitable when most of the players are employed full time, and have so many commitments.

Our programming, under the impetus of our musical director, continues to be interesting, challenging, and adventurous. Last year we included one concert of French music. This year (2018) we will attempt a Spanish programme, and have our eyes on an English programme down the track.

Committee activities: Much time has been spent in preparing for an overhaul of our constitution, under the guidance of our public officer, Greg Hanna. This necessary task followed the discovery of various anomalies. It has proved difficult owing to the dearth of early records of the orchestra, from over 40 years ago, but we hope to complete this soon.

We continue to have generous sponsorship, as well as support from the Mosman Council. This has enabled us in 2017 to purchase percussion instruments which would otherwise have to be hired: we bought a keyboard and a glockenspiel.

The committee has been wonderful this year, with all pulling their weight. Our first concert Mosman of 2018 is yet to come, but we all greatly enjoyed being on tour to the Mountain Ridge Winery on the South Coast, where we gave a preview of most of the programme. We hope for other tours like that in the future.

Bridget Wilcken April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018.