

PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 2018

It has been another good year for the Mosman Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra members and our audiences have a strong feeling that we continue on a steady upward trajectory in confidence and ability.

Our Musical Director: This is the 21st year with the MSO for our musical director Andrew del Riccio. The orchestra marked this very happy event at our first concert of 2019. Twenty-one years: we hope for many more!

The concerts: In 2018 we again had ten orchestral concerts overall – 4 programmes performed twice each, at the Mosman Art Gallery, one of these performed on the South Coast at a winery, and our Christmas concert. The choir joined with us for three of the programmes, and had 2 further programmes on their own – reported on separately by Sue Briedis. The orchestra's winery concert was a great success, and was to have been repeated this year, but politics, in the form of a state election, interfered, for the time being. Our Musical Director, Andrew, will be reporting on individual concerts, but the fourth concert illustrated the development of the orchestra's skills: The Honegger concerto for flute and cor anglais had to be cancelled at the last minute because of the sudden illness of the flautist – but with only half an hour's notice, we played the Albinoni cor anglais concerto from last year's programme. The audience, including some of our experienced ex-players, thought it was excellent and that no-one would guess that half the orchestra was sight reading. We continue to have ebbs and flows of our active players but overall this has been satisfactory.

Committee activities: More time was required on the revision of the constitution and this is now about to be presented to the membership for formal approval. We thank our Public Officer Greg Hanna who put in a great deal of effort and skill.

The Committee contacted our state MP and was invited to apply for a grant via a government program "Stronger Communities" for financial help with the purchase of a set of timpani. This was successful, and we look forward to having new timpani which will greatly enhance the orchestra. Our current timpani are elderly, and have faults which make proper tuning impossible, but we will evidently be able to sell them to a school or similar group.

Rufina Ismail has been our treasurer for nine years. She recently informed the committee that she would like to retire from the role to be able to concentrate on coordination of our choir. We are all extremely grateful for Rufina for managing our money so well! And many thanks to everyone on the committee – all work so hard to make the orchestra a success.

Bridget Wilcken March 19th 2019.