

Lane Cove Music and Cultural Association Inc.

Presidents report to members - 2020

>Welcome to the 2020 Annual General Meeting, thank you to all who attended today 25/11/2020.

Our last AGM was November 2019, at that point LCMCC was sailing along like the rest of the planet with no view to what was about to unfold around us with COVID 19 on our doorstep and in our communities.

Who could have predicted the many adjustments required by our staff, closing the Centre doors to all lessons on March 24th, (very sad day for me) managing new skills required to understand and master the program, setting up a community health care COVID 19 plan, preparing equipment and chemicals for the daily cleaning rituals to come and most challenging, moving 180 students, their parents and 18 tutors to an "on line lesson format" with very little notice for all. To say we all had to "step up" is an under estimation of the time, energy and the resilience required.

Well, I can report that we our staff and students were amazingly adaptive and we have survived everything COVID 19 threw at us, we are now stronger as a community, more skilled, more tolerant, and now about ready to claim back "near normal" as soon as we can.

COVID 19 certainly had an immediate financial impact both negatively and positively on the Association. Lane Cove Council are to be highly commended for their swift support with immediate rent relief. The NSW Government provided excellent guidance for our organisational and health care needs and the Federal Government stepped in with Jobkeeper subsidies for our permanent staff ensuring the organisation remained financially stable during these past 8 months of upheaval.

I want to commend our General Manager Cardinia Steane for holding up, stepping up to all the many demands placed on her desk, to the teaching staff for their immediate and professional responses to this new situation, for their adaptability and willingness to experiment with new teaching techniques, for assurance given generously, so our children had the best that could be provided, to parents for cooperating so willingly at home with the online lessons and to our wonderful students for staying the course with their new online lesson formats, so many lessons have been learned by all.

During the past 8 months as President and Director of LCMCC I was faced with many important decisions. I frequently needed support from the Executive committee and guidance to manage our staff and the financial situation to ensure the best outcome. Big thanks to Bookkeeper Sam Wolf Accountant Alex whitehead, but my greatest appreciation goes to our remarkable management committee Jim Crew, Louise Ackroyd, Helen Smith, Helen Dalton, Rick Harris and Steven Mah who were there when I needed this support and guidance.

During COVID19 our enrolled numbers and facility hirers were reduced, Now November they are again on the rise as families slowly return to normality, in 2021 we hope to see our early childhood classes fully recommence and to introduce a new course of Sound production and DJ skills.

During late 2019 early 2020 we acquired a number of new music staff, Cellist Harrison Werlemann-Godfrey, Violinist Emilie Glasson, Guitarist George Wills, Pianist Jen Lo, Flutist Merryl Neville ,Pianist Mya Zhang and Grace Wong, all of whom have proved excellent with our students. We have said goodbye to long term staffer Doris Cheng who returned to live in Taiwan to Mya Zhang as she focusses on her Master's Degree, To Nazli who is expecting her first child, to Ted who moved to Hornsby and Ben He as he returned to further studies, all really great staff members we were very sad to see go.

LCMCC were successful with a number of Government grants which have resulted in some new TV equipment for our new online lesson format as well as an I pad for Cardinia to enable her to work remotely. Our Webpage has had a small update thanks to additional funds, and we have made a few improvements to the venue as well. Late 2019 Council provided funds for much needed window blinds and window transparencies on studio 5. We do very much appreciate receiving these funds so we can then provide our facility users with the optimum use of this wonderful community space.

Financially LCMCC are presently in a safe and secure financial position (see the financial reports tabled). We would like to acknowledge and thank the national job keeper program, the NSW Government for grant opportunities and Lane Cove Council for a annual community grant and rent relief. Without these supporting bodies it would be very much harder to manager our stability.

We are excited to report that our General Manager Cardinia Steane as part of her ongoing training as General Manager is now undertaking Certificate 4 in Accounting and Bookkeeping. This will ensure her good understanding of financial governance and management and pave the way for myself to achieve my long-awaited retirement plans, work less hours as the GM becomes more proficient, skilled and confident.

Members of LCMCC Inc can be confident that the organisation is strong and resilient, in the good hands of an excellent cohesive Management Committee and General Manager. We however are always keen to encourage parents and members of the association to consider what skills or time they may be able to offer/volunteer to LCMCC going forward because as a community group this organisation is only as strong as the interest and participation of its members. We are presently looking for an additional committee member who might be available for 6-8 committee meeting per year so that essential decisions can be made and new ideas on our future can flourish. Anyone interested should contact the office, myself or any committee member for more information.

Thank you to all for assisting with this very demanding year, as a community we can be proud of our achievements. I wish each and all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to an exciting 2021 whatever it presents to us.

Regards

Robyn Mah
President
Lane Cove Music and Cultural Association