



Minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 25 February 2014 at Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood at 7pm.

PRESENT

24 Members of Maroondah Symphony Orchestra Inc (MaSO):

Kendra Bousfield, Arthur Braun, Steve Burns, Robert Dorin, Lyn Farnworth, John Ferwerda, Joella Gould, Gitta Green, Tony Hodges, David Keeffe, Ina Koetsier, Anne Lacey, Karen Martin, Moira Nagorcka, Geoff Oakes, Elaine Ogden, Myra Peeler, Felicity Schijf, Shahriah Shams, Suneith Sukumar, Hilton Vermaas, Tania Vethanayagam, Leah Walsh, Rob Weiss.

Conductor: Willem van der Vis.

APOLOGIES

Helen Jeske, Elaine Ogden, Michela Scully, Gerry Tan, Ilona von Möller

The President, Steve Burns presided as Chairman of the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

MINUTES OF AGM ON 27 NOVEMBER 2012

Moved: Ina Koetsier Seconded: Tanya Vethanayagam
that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Maroondah Symphony Orchestra Inc held on 27 November 2012 be accepted. Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF AGM OF 27 NOVEMBER 2012 - Nil

MINUTES OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF 29 OCTOBER 2013

Moved: Hilton Vermaas Seconded: Felicity Schijf
that the Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the Maroondah Symphony Orchestra Inc held on 29 October 2013 be accepted. Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF SGM - Rob Weiss asked if Consumer Affairs Vic had accepted the submitted revised rules, and change of financial year. Lyn Farnworth confirmed that in correspondence dated 27 January 14, the Orchestra received confirmation that our application had been approved, and were to take effect on 31 January 2014.

REPORTS

President

Steve Burns presented his President's report. See Attachment 1.

Moved Rob Weiss Seconded Joella Gould
that the President's Report be accepted. Carried.

Treasurer – Ina Koetsier

Ina tabled the 2013 Treasurer's report which had been sent to members, (by email and post). See Attachment 2.

Questions from the floor:

1. Robert Dorin queried size of rent payments. Ina answered that this includes rent for rehearsals at Federation Estate, concert venues and additional space rented for Messiah rehearsals with the choirs. Joella Gould noted that Karralyka (a more costly venue for concerts) was also included. Robert Dorin asked if Maroondah City Council grants the Orchestra a reduced rental fee, as we are a community organisation. Rob Weiss stated that the Committee will follow this up. Rob Weiss stated that we do receive a community rate at our usual concert venue.
2. Tony Hodges queried profit for MaSO from Messiah concert. Ina advised approximately \$1800.
3. Robert Dorin commented that the size of the audience has increased since we have held concerts at Yarra Valley Grammar School. Rob Weiss confirmed that this is the case.

Moved: Ina Koetsier Seconded: Tony Hodges
that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Carried unanimously.

Subscriptions

Ina Koetsier stated that the Committee recommends to members that the subscriptions remain at the same level as in 2013, i.e. \$200 for members and \$150 for concession. Ina recommended that these be paid by 18 March 2014.

Moved Lyn Farnworth Seconded Robert Dorin
that the annual subscription be \$200 for members, and concession subscription \$150. Carried

Moved Lyn Farnworth Seconded Ina Koetsier
that the subscriptions be paid by 18 March 2014. Carried

Conductor's Report - Willem van der Vis

Willem reported that he was pleased with the performance of the Messiah in November 2013. He thanked Tanya Vethanayagam for her contribution as Leader. The feedback he received was terrific, and thanks to Rob Weiss for his key role in the organisation. The third program, performed the week before Cherry Tree Retirement Village, was for various reasons, not as good as it could have been. He noted the excellent flyers produced by Elaine Ogden. He would like to increase the number of strings, (except cellos).

Rob Weiss gave a vote of thanks to Willem for his work over 2013 and his dedication to the role.

ELECTIONS

Steve Burns declared all positions vacant on the Committee and conducted the election of the President. As there was only one nominee, Steve declared Rob Weiss elected. Steve stepped down from the Chair, and handed it to Rob Weiss, the newly elected President.

Rob moved a vote of thanks to Steve Burns for all his work as President. Seconded Robert Dorin. Carried unanimously.

Rob Weiss called for nominations for each position separately. As there was only one nominee for each position, Rob Weiss declared them elected in turn.

Committee Members for 2014:

Office	Nominee	Nominated by:	Seconded by:	Result
President	Rob Weiss	Lyn Farnworth	Ina Koetsier	Elected
Vice-President	Elaine Ogden	Rob Weiss	Steve Burns	Elected
Secretary	Lyn Farnworth	Robert Dorin	Ina Koetsier	Elected
Assistant Secretary	Steve Burns	Rob Weiss	Lyn Farnworth	Elected
Treasurer	Ina Koetsier	Rob Weiss	Lyn Farnworth	Elected
Librarian	Michela Scully	Lyn Farnworth	Ina Koetsier	Elected
Ordinary Committee Member	Geoff Oakes	Rob Weiss	Tony Hodges	Elected
Ordinary Committee Member	Leah Walsh	Anne Lacey	Ina Koetsier	Elected

APPOINTMENTS

Conductor	Willem van der Vis
Assistant Conductor	David Keeffe
Orchestra Manager	Geoff Oakes
Leader of the Orchestra	Tania Vethanayagam

Rob Weiss announced that the Committee has reappointed Willem van der Vis Conductor. Steve Burns moved, seconded Tony Hodges, that the Committee's appointments of the Conductor, Willem van der Vis be ratified. Carried

Rob Weiss announced that the Committee has reappointed Tanya Vethanayagam as Leader of the Orchestra.

Hilton Vermaas moved, seconded Suneith Sukumar, that the Committee's reappointment of the Leader of the Orchestra, Tanya Vethanayagam, be ratified. Carried.

Rob Weiss announced that David Keeffe will continue as Assistant Conductor, and Geoff Oakes as Orchestra Manager.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Honorarium - Rob Weiss stated that the Committee recommended that the Conductor's honorarium be increased from \$6500 to \$6700, with a bonus of \$500. Seconded Ina Koetsier. Carried.

Robert Dorin asked about plans for the Orchestra's 50th anniversary. Rob reported that Elaine Ogden is researching the history as a first step. The Committee is considering nominating one of the 2014 concerts as a 50th anniversary concert, perhaps commission a work from David Keeffe. Other suggestions from the floor included: inviting special guest speaker(s), former members and former conductors to this concert, social function to celebrate, former soloists invited to perform, ensembles from the Orchestra.

Rob Weiss thanked the members for their suggestions, which will be considered by the Committee.

Date of next meeting

The 2015 Annual General Meeting is to be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday 24 February 2015.

Meeting was closed at 7.50 p.m.

Lyn Farnworth
Secretary
Maroondah Symphony Orchestra Inc

ATTACHMENT 1

President's Report

Steve Burns

Welcome to all of you who make up this fine community group, the 'MSO', and who I have been privileged to play and organize with for a number of years now. I have observed a steady improvement of playing prowess over that time as an orchestra, with some truly impressive performances performed by a player mix that has introduced many younger faces along with the older stalwarts. Classical music is alive and well in Ringwood! Today is my last official act as President as I have decided to stand aside and so today you will vote in at least one new position. Here is a summary of 2013.

Concerts

Our 2013 concerts were well attended and we have increased the numbers on our email and 'snail mail' databases for advising of upcoming concerts. Special thanks to Anne Lacey who looks after our 'snail' mail outs and to our wonderful volunteers who look after the 'front of house' at each concert, especially Pat Hodges and Cathy Tan. Elaine Ogden needs special mention for the concert publicity, front on house organisation and ticketing, all of which have ensured the smooth running of our concerts.

Messiah

Our *Messiah* performance with the five combined choirs was an enormous success (so uplifting to have a standing ovation), and an enormous organizational task for the steering committee. Congratulations to Rob Weiss, Lyn Farnworth and Elaine Ogden. Rob led the team, Lyn took on choir liaison and secretarial role and Elaine very ably handled the publicity, ticket sales, and front of house. Of course thanks to Willem for his pivotal role both in this concert and throughout the year. We used online booking (Trybooking) successfully for this concert and intend to provide this facility for all future concerts. We received much positive feedback from concert goers, enquiries from prospective Orchestra members and from people wishing to go on our mailing lists. This has lifted our profile considerably within the city of Maroondah.

Library

Under Michela Scully's excellent hand, everything has gone very smoothly with the Library - no problems sourcing music, no music has gone missing for long, and only one case of music destroyed by a puppy. Michela's assistant, Arthur Braun, has been a godsend and expertly took over the reins for the Messiah concert while Michela was away. Thank you Michela and Arthur for a job well done.

With the grant of \$1000 from Arts Nunawading Inc we purchased a range of music to add to our library. Storage for the music is a concern as the cupboard is full. Some extra storage is needed and Michela will look into this in 2014.

Thank you everyone for making the Librarian's job straight forward and we look forward to her standing as the librarian at the election.

Grants

The Committee successfully applied for two grants in this financial year. Maroondah City Council granted us around \$420 to update our logo, and Arts Nunawading generously granted us \$1000 for music for our library. Thanks to Ina Koetsier, who submitted the Maroondah City Council grant submission and to Lyn Farnworth, who submitted the Arts Nunawading Inc grant request. Thanks too for those behind the scenes who provided information (quotes and list of music) for these submissions.

Publicity

The main focus this year has been the development of new branding to make our publications look more professional and to give a fresh look. After considerable research we engaged the Blackburn based firm, *Wizarts*, which was financed through the Maroondah City Council grant. Special thanks to Committee members who gave feedback resulting in the final design and to Matt Ogden who took the photographs.

Wizarts designed our 2014 Season brochure which looks brilliant.

We plan to redevelop our website using our new branding as well as redesigning our concert fliers and programs in 2014.

A big thank you to Elaine Ogden who was the driving force behind our publicity last year.

Rules Review

On 26 November 2012, the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (and its associated Regulations) replaced the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*. Incorporated associations are required to meet the provisions of the new legislation, and so we undertook a review of our existing rules. Our Special General Meeting was held on 28 October 2013, at which we passed special resolutions to change our Rules, and our financial year.

Earlier this month, we received confirmation that our new Rules (including our end of financial year date) had been approved by the Department of Justice, effective 31 January 2014. Thanks to Lyn Farnworth and the Committee for their work on adapting the Model Rules for our needs. Copies of the Rules are available to members by email.

Committee 2013

The Committee has been together now for several years with just a few individual changes, and in my view has been extremely effective. As you have heard, a lot was achieved by the Orchestra but all the background activities which allow us all to enjoy this success is due to the hard work of these fine people. Organisation of concerts, funding and the many logistical details have all been handled smoothly, and a huge thanks from me for making my job so easy and for putting the Orchestra in such a strong financial and musical position.

Finally I encourage everyone in the Orchestra to consider spending time in the Committee, and so have a chance to help shape the future of the Orchestra.

I look forward to more good years and hope you all continue to enjoy the experience as I have.

Steve Burns
President
Maroondah Symphony Orchestra Inc
25 February 2014

ATTACHMENT 2

Treasurer's Report

Ina Koetsier

I am happy to report on a successful year once again. This was good year in terms of income. Also we had no outstanding member's fees this year.

Our concert takings this year were all excellent. Once again much of the credit must go to Willem for his excellent leadership and choice of programs, to Elaine Ogden for her work in publicity and to everyone who helped in any way.

A highlight of course this year was our November Choral Concert. We didn't make a huge profit on this concert per se, after we shared the profit with the five choirs.

A Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet are available and have been emailed to all members (with email). These will read somewhat differently this time due to our financial year now ending on 31 December of each year, so this financial year just gone included five concerts and expenses. Also available for distribution is a Job Report, listing profit and loss per concert.

My thanks to John Lethbridge from DCA Tax & Finance for once again professionally auditing the books at no charge.

Last but not least my gratitude to the Committee. You are a nice group to work with.

Ina Koetsier
Treasurer
25 February 2014