

# Minutes of the Music Broadcasting Society of New South Wales Cooperative Limited 47th Annual General Meeting

Held at 2 pm on Saturday 13 November 2021  
Via online Zoom Webcast

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. There were 50 members and staff online: Jan Akers, Jacqui Axford, Peter Bell, Xavier Bichon, Barbara Brady, David Brett, Maureen Chaffey, Trish Charles, Andrew Clark, Christina Close, Brian Cornish, Roger Doyle, David Edmonds, Michael Field, Owen Fisher, Nina Fudala, David Garrett, Robert Gilchrist, Nicky Gluch, Noelene Guillemot, Bruce Hambrett, James Hunter, Anne Irish, David James, Sue Jowell, Ray Kington, Mary Lenart, Jayson McBride, David McFarlane, Jeannie McInnes, Helen Milthorpe, David Minty, Simon Moore, Michael Morton-Evans, Sue Nicholas, James Nightingale, David Ogilvie, Mona Omar, Keith Pettigrew, Susan Ping Kee, Peter Poole, Alice Roberts, John Shenstone, Julie Simonds, Elaine Siversen, Sissi Stewart, Tony Wallace, Ron Walledge, Stephen Wilson, and John Xuereb.
- 1.2. Apologies were received from Joy Annand, Charles Barton, Elizabeth Barton, John Chaloner, Angela Cockburn, Adam Cockburn, Andrew Dzedzic, Rita Felton, Jenny Fern, Josephine Howie, Ann-Louise Luccarini, Camille Mercep, Judith Miller, Pamela Newling, Barry O'Sullivan, Denis Patterson, Catherine Peake, Neil Runcie, Lindsay Somerville, Jackie Ternisien, Robert Vale, Jill Wagstaff, and Vicky Zhang.

## 2. Chair, Michael Morton-Evans OAM presided and opened the 47th Annual General Meeting at 2 pm and addressed the Members:

- 2.1. The Chair opened by stating that 2021 has been dominated by change. His address then outlined some significant changes during the year starting with the resignation of Rebecca Beare, the former GM, and the search for a replacement. Ray Kington subsequently was appointed as Station Manager. The Chair assured members that Ray understands broadcasting and is a professional radio man through and through and that it has been good to see he has been out and about meeting stakeholders on behalf of the station.
- 2.2. The second major change in the year was the re-introduction of 2MBS into the station's name. This was needed because people didn't recognise our station as Fine Music. This change has been universally applauded. The Chair acknowledged that we have had a few changes, and we have no intention of further name changes anytime soon.
- 2.3. The third change has been to the newly launched website – one which is as good as any in our sphere. The chair thanked the staff team for their great work in launching the site and keeping it up to date.
- 2.4. The fourth change has been changing the wording for subscribers to friends. This is because the Board thought the word subscribe was an unfriendly term for the people that support us every year. They are our friends who we are working hard to reward. We are working on a discount card for our friends.
- 2.5. The fifth change is the need to dismantle and relocate the transmitter. This is a major project started this year. Not only does the transmitter need to be moved; we also need to dismantle the mast and "make good" the area we occupied. This is likely to cost over \$250,000. Our transmitter appeal target of \$160k was surpassed and work will commence in the new year.
- 2.6. The sixth change this year was to rotate the Chairing of the Management Committee through the various committee chairs.

- 2.7. The seventh change has been the establishment of a fundraising committee reporting directly to the Board. Sue Jowell, an experienced fundraiser, accepted the invitation to chair this committee and assembled a supportive group to work on this challenge. The Chair hopes that once covid restrictions ease we will finally be able to enjoy our deferred celebration of fine music event.
- 2.8. The eighth change has been to remove the paywall on our website. This has benefited the Fine Music magazine, which goes from strength to strength under our new editor, David Ogilvy. David is building the magazine into a publication which I think will soon rival the likes of Limelight and BBC Music. It's open for all to read at a click, and I'm glad to say that the readership figures are going up week by week.
- 2.9. The Chair's biggest regret for the year is that we haven't been able to do very much for our young and emerging artists and musicians. We were exceedingly happy when Roger Benedict agreed to become our emerging artist's patron, but Covid has made it impossible to do much to assist them. We hope we can make up for it in the upcoming year.
- 2.10. Our Fine Music awards have been announced recently: We have awarded our annual Kruger scholarship to the brilliant young pianist Leanne Jin. Our Artists in Residence for the coming year are the Sydney Cello Quartet, a group of young women who are dedicated to performing little known music written for four Cellos, along with adaptations of much-loved classical masterpieces. Finally, we were able to award the Ken Weatherley scholarship to Alex Siegers, who you may know from our Friday Jazz Session programme.
- 2.11. The Chair proudly stated that throughout even the darkest hours of the pandemic, 2MBS Fine Music Sydney hasn't lost one hour of airtime. Our technicians have found ways to keep pre-recorded programs on-air, and our team of dedicated presenters have braved the dreaded lockdowns to man the studios and so bring many programs live to our listeners. It will take more than a nasty virus to keep us down.
- 2.12. In 2021 there were some changes to the presentation: We were all saddened by the sudden death of Terry McMullen, a stalwart of Sunday Morning Music. We also mourned the death of Trevor Jarvie - the father and founder of this station. There was a very nice funeral which the Chair was invited to attend. All the founders of 2MBS, including his friend David James, will remember Trevor lovingly, as without him none of us would be here today. We also said goodbye to two other long-time presenters - Derek Parker and Janine Burrus emigrated to Britain, and we will miss them both. On the plus side, we have trained some excellent new talent who you'll hear more of in the coming months.
- 2.13. In the last month, the Chair and Station Manager have met with the Federal Minister for the Arts - Paul Fetcher, and asked for help to be released from the 5 minute an hour limit for promotional advertising on the basis that this prohibits us from doing activities such as the Sydney Symphony Hour. The Minister has written to the chair of ACMA, and we await a reply. He showed interest to the extent that the week before last he came and visited us in the station and pointed us to a couple of grants. Next thing is to do the same with the NSW State Minister.
- 2.14. Any venture is not undertaken by one person. The Chair congratulated and thanked the Board members and behind them a team of volunteers and willing staff. The Chair concluded his address with a call to continue 'Onwards and Upwards' and wishes that 2022 may prove to be better for all of us.

### **3. Station Manager, Ray Kington then addressed members:**

- 3.1. The Station Manager reflected on the first moment that he walked through the door of 2MBS and was greeted by a little dog called Banjo, and its owner Noelene. From that moment he knew that this was indeed a very, very special place with very special people and a very special history. A radio station that has been supported by wonderful patrons and supporters since 1974. He thanked all of those who have supported this radio station in the past and continue to do so. He noted that this heritage was embraced with a return to the proud name that is 2MBS.

- 3.2. The Station Manager has been struck by the volunteers who built and continue to run this radio station - something which is truly unique. He has been amazed by the machine that is 2MBS and how everything just simply gets done. It gets done because you have the dedication, the spirit, and the willingness to get your hands dirty and make it happen. Over recent times we have had to introduce more automation systems, ripping of CDs, digitisation and working from home during the pandemic, not to mention the move to Zoom meetings. We truly are a very adaptable bunch now.
- 3.3. The Station Manager recognises that there are many challenges ahead for radio but believes that radio still has a place in this world. Radio still does 1-to-1 communication better than any other medium. Daily we receive messages into the station from many of our listeners who get in touch with us and for whom radio is a very constant and intimate friend. It is a privilege to broadcast across Sydney and to be invited into people's homes. At 2MBS, we have embraced multimedia with our social media, some increasing video content on-demand, podcasts, and a world-class magazine. Today we have many, many channels with which to reach our audience, and that means more work - but it means more opportunities as well.
- 3.4. Over the last two years, it's fair to say that working from home was a new and very foreign concept, and yet we still got everything done. We can be proud that we're able to do that and do it effectively. The Station Manager hopes that with things opening and as we all get vaccinated, volunteers will be back in the building again and will stop by for a chat. The people of 2MBS are a very social bunch and can't wait to be back enjoying each other's company – this is what this society and this radio station are about. It's about the music, but it's also about the relationships. It's about the opportunity to come and do something great together. The Station Manager honestly believes that this is the best radio station in Sydney. It is because this is a beautiful radio station, it is kind, and it reflects through those speakers everything that is you because you make the radio. He is excited about 2022 being a new year for the world, where we get to restart everything beautiful - music, the arts, beauty. The station has a role in getting the arts re-established. He encouraged all to know that whatever you do, no matter how big or small in the radio station, everything contributes to this very worthwhile, and noble endeavour.
- 3.5. The Station Manager concluded his address by thanking all for the warm welcome that he received. He is excited to be here, looks forward to coming in every single day, and looks forward to working with all in building the future of this great radio station.

**4. To receive and adopt the attached minutes of the 46th AGM, held on Saturday 31st October 2020**

- 4.1. A motion to receive and adopt the minutes of the 46th AGM was proposed and carried. **Prop:** S. Ping Kee, **Sec:** D. James

**5. Business Arising from the minutes:**

- 5.1. None.

**6. To receive and adopt the Annual Report inclusive of the Director's Report and the Finance Committee Report and Financial Statements, for Year Ending 30 June 2021.**

- 6.1. A motion to receive and adopt the Annual Report inclusive of the Director's Report and the Finance Committee Report and Financial Statements, for Year Ending 30 June 2021 was proposed and carried. **Prop:** P. Poole **Sec:** B. Hambrett.

**7. To receive and adopt the Activity Reports, for Year Ending 30 June 2021.**

- 7.1. A motion to receive and adopt the Activity Reports, for Year Ending 30 June 2021, was proposed and carried with a note that the presenter's committee activity report although included in Annual Report was regrettably not listed in the AGM papers. **Prop** S. Jowell, **Sec** J. McBride.

## **8. To re-elect or elect an Auditor.**

1. A motion to maintain the society's auditor "CountPlus One" was proposed and carried. **Prop:** P. Poole.  
**Sec:** R. Burgess

## **9. Ordinary resolutions**

1. none

## **10. Election of 4 directors**

- 10.1. The Election of four directors has been conducted in accordance with the rules and with David James and Ron Wallege as the returning officers.
- 10.2. David James, the returning officer, reported that the election was held on election buddy and was closed at 2 pm today. There were 88 votes (134 possible) with a result being that the four directors from five candidates elected were: Robert Gilchrist, Susan Ping Kee, Jayson McBride and Andrew Clark.

## **11. Special Resolutions to amend the rules of the society**

- 11.1. The following special Resolution had been notified to members in advance of the meeting and David James, the returning officer, reported that 95.1% of the voting membership had voted in favour of this resolution. This resolution was duly carried.
- 11.2. Special Resolution:
  - a) that the Rules of the Music Broadcasting Society of New South Wales Co-Operative Limited be altered, effective from the date of this special resolution, by:
    - i. amending Rule 48(b) to delete the word "four" and insert in its place the word "three"
    - ii. inserting a new Rule 48(h) as follows:

(h) This Rule applies only to elected Directors and does not apply to Directors appointed under Rule 46.1(a).
    - iii. amending the Rules for small typographical errors to ensure references to the Rules are accurate, and that terms defined in Rule 1 are used consistently.

## **12. Other Business.**

- 12.1. The Chair thanked the returning officers and congratulated the re-elected directors and newly elected director Andrew Clark.
- 12.2. He advised members that several questions were received by the Board on the subject of the name of the station including a question on whether the Board intend to change again as there had been 4 changes in 8 years? The Chair advised members that the reasons for the change were that few sponsors had heard of Fine Music Sydney but without exception knew 2MBS. This is a powerful asset and important. He recognises that changing names costs us in changes to websites, signage, paper and registering trademarks and believes we do need to limit future change. He noted that a presenter had commented this new name was a bit of a mouthful and suggested that perhaps a shortened version can be agreed with the presenter's committee.
- 12.3. The Chair closed the AGM with a thank you to all members for everything they have done over a year in which we have made enormous advances. The Board is looking forward to a very exciting 2022. He thanked retiring Deputy Chair Roger Doyle for his contributions.

**The meeting closed at 2.35 pm**