



ASME Tasmanian Chapter C/O 72 Murray Street East Devonport TAS

**Chapter Report 2006-2007
ASME Tasmanian Chapter
Prepared by Dr Bill Baker
Date: Thursday 14 June, 2007**

1. Members of Chapter Council.

Chair:	Dr Bill Baker
Deputy Chair (North):	Mrs Angela Howie
Deputy Chair (South):	Mrs Wendy Ross
Secretary:	Mrs Carolyn Cross
Treasurer:	Mrs Wendy Ross
Publications:	Mrs Carolyn Cross
BAMER Representative:	Associate Professor Margaret Barrett
Council Members:	Mr Stephen King, Ms Andrea Scott, Mr Simon Reade, Mrs Sarah Elliott, Mr Luke Beasley.

2. Chapter Council Meetings.

The Tasmanian Chapter held its AGM on 29 October 2006. Subsequent meetings have been held on 19 November (Campbelltown), 28 January (Launceston), 11 February (Launceston), and April 22 (Campbelltown). Council decided early to prioritise membership. To this end the Chapter meeting of 19 November saw the election of two student representatives to Council – Mrs Sarah Elliott (South) and Mr Luke Beasley (North) - both these members are Bachelor of Teaching students at UTAS. The meeting of April 22 in Campbelltown saw the election of three new members to Council – representatives of each school sector: Mr Stephen King (Independent Schools Representative), Mr Simon Reade (Government Schools Representative), and Ms Andrea Scott (Catholic Schools Representative). It is anticipated that through these new positions new memberships will be attracted.

3. Chapter Membership.

Chapter membership has steadily grown from 16 to X and remains the first priority of the Tasmanian Chapter Council.

4. Activities for Year.

Council identified the following four priorities for 2006-2007: 1) to increase membership; 2) to host a State Conference; 3) to provide significant ongoing Professional Development after the State Conference; and, 4) to develop plans for the 2009 National Conference through negotiations with National Executive. The development of the State Chapter website was also considered important by the Council. By far the biggest activity for the Chapter has been the 2007 State Conference held at the University of Tasmania, Faculty of Education in Launceston on Friday May 4 and Saturday May 5. The theme for this conference was Inclusive Music Education – a link with State initiatives in the area of inclusion was identified and 23 delegates attended this very successful event which also facilitated an increase in Chapter membership.

5. Chapter Publications.

The Newsletter *TASME News* is the major publication of the Tasmanian Chapter Council. This publication is published 3 times per year – once for each school term. The first *TASME News* for 2007 featured articles by Mr Stephen King on his recent travels to the USA and to Northwestern College in particular and an article by Mrs Carolyn Cross on her recent trip to the Lincoln Center in New York on a Hardie Fellowship. The development of an online

presence for the Chapter has also been an important development for 2006-2007. Student Representative (North) Mr Luke Beasley has developed a Tasmanian Chapter website, the second upgrade of which will be completed just prior to National Council. This website allows for issues of TASME News to be stored and downloaded by members. This website has been hosted free of charge on the University of Tasmania Faculty of Education server, and can be accessed at <http://www.educ.utas.edu.au/asmetas/index.html>

6. Chapter cooperation/liaison with other music/arts organisations.

Negotiations are in train for the visit in August by Ralph Hultgren organised by the Tasmanian Band League (TBL) to be supported also by ASME. The second upgrade of the Tasmanian Chapter website includes links to many Tasmanian music organisations and groups.

7. Developments in schools (ECE, Primary, Secondary) and in instrumental music teaching

The place of music specialists in our schools appears to be firmly established; across all schools, in excess of 90% include a music specialist as part of the staffing profile. Many Tasmanian school music departments have benefited from the Federal Government's Investing in Schools program, with grants ranging from about \$500 to \$50000 for music equipment.

8. Status of curriculum documents and changes to policy

During 2006 the controversial Essential Learnings (ELs) curriculum was officially abandoned by the new Minister for Education Mr David Bartlett. A revised Tasmanian Curriculum Framework has been proposed however the arts are not a mandated area in this proposal. The Tasmanian Chapter officially responded to the Minister, highlighting our concerns with the proposed model and received a personal response from him. In his response the Minister states "I am becoming increasingly aware of the broader place of the Arts in learning generally... [and] The extent to which any elements of this curriculum model should be mandated is part of the process of consultation. Community responses will inform the development of the ultimate model". No further information has been made available at this time concerning the place of the Arts and Music in particular in the new curriculum model.

9. Government initiatives.

The Tasmanian Department of Education announced a decentralisation of support services into four "Learning Services" groups: one located in the south, one in the south-east, one in the north and one in the north-west.

10. Developments at the University level in relation to delivery of programs and teacher training

The University of Tasmania, Faculty of Education Arts, Culture and Community Research Group including those academics responsible for the arts and music education units for pre-service teachers in the Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Teaching degrees continues to be active. This group presented a symposium at the AARE Conference in Adelaide, and hosted a visit to the Faculty by Professor D. Jean Clandinin in January 2007. Professor Clandinin is Director of the Centre for Research for Teacher Education and Development at the University of Alberta. The Faculty has also undergone a significant review of postgraduate coursework programs with "Arts Education" featuring as a theme area for the Graduate Certificate and Masters of Education programs. The Faculty of Education kindly hosted the 2007 ASME Tasmanian State Conference in Launceston.

11. Bid for 2009 National Conference.

At the meeting of February 11 2007 the Tasmanian Chapter passed a motion to bid for the 2009 ASME National Conference. At the meeting of April 22 the broader aspects of this decision were considered. The principal decisions taken during this meeting, to be discussed with National Executive were: location – Launceston; theme - Musical Understanding; and presenter - Professor Jackie Wiggins. The meeting agreed that the details of the bid document were to be developed and forwarded to National Executive for their consideration as soon as possible.