

# Annual General Meeting

For

The Anthroposophical Society in Australia

Management Committee Chair Report

*April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

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As I stand before you to give my Chair report at our 2022 AGM. I am reflecting on the year we have all had. The theme of COURAGE, LOVE and TRUTH as HEALING resonates strongly with my experience. From pandemics to natural disasters to international conflicts it seems we are all being called upon to bring these qualities to the foreground.

The current pandemic has challenged many of us to find new ways of working together. Many of us have either had COVID or know someone who has. Some of us have been forced to make difficult choices to navigate the current mandates or have endured being separated from loved ones and some of us have had loved ones pass over. And some of us have had to rebuild our communities after natural disasters have decimated our communities.

Not one of us has been left unaffected over the last couple of years.

This has been no different in our work as your Management Committee. We have continued to meet virtually via Zoom on a monthly or sometimes fortnightly basis when needed holding all of you in our hearts.

It has been a year in which we have focussed on building our individual and collective capacity to better serve you and support communication between the members of the Anthroposophical Society in Australia.

What that looks like in the earthly realm is the improvement of processes to ensure transparency and communication with and between members:

These have included a monthly chair report which is published in the society's newsletter.

Reviewing and implementing a new Code of Conduct for Management Committee members bringing clarification for each of our roles.

Creating a Cyclic Calendar that ensures we are working in a timely and efficient manner to meet our obligations and launching a new Grants process.

## **Acknowledgements**

Along with the other circles mentioned by Jane in her report.

The Youth Circle and Culture and Diversity Circle and Constitution Circle were also formed.

As you have already seen the Youth Circle has transformed into the Youth Section of Oceania.

The Culture and Diversity Circle members include James Deefholts in Northern Rivers, Terry Flynn in Canberra and Michelle Forbes in Adelaide and myself from Perth. We met quite

regularly last year and created an Indigenous Scholarship to support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island persons to undertake anthroposophical studies in education or the arts. This process is still being finalised and will eventually become a part of the grants process for the Anthroposophical Society.

I would like to acknowledge the members of the Constitution Circle who have spent time considering potential changes to the Constitution of the Anthroposophical Society in Australia. Hannah Semler in Canberra, Christopher Charles (our legal expert) in Adelaide, Jennifer West now also in Adelaide, Ian George in Melbourne and Paul Martin from the Management Committee, based in Queensland.

The Management Committee considered some of the proposed amendments and appreciates suggestions received from a number of members. There is much more work to do before we feel confident that a new draft constitution is ready for consultation with Branches and members. Therefore we see this as future work and look forward to sharing ideas and proposals over the year ahead.

Thank you to all the Branches who have submitted their annual report.

I have been so filled with joy at reading each branch's report as many of you have indeed been able to continue to come together in person or virtually throughout the year.

At this point, I would like to thank all the members of the Management Committee for their professionalism, love and commitment to serving the members of our society with the integrity and an open heart.

Thank you, Anna you have brought an incredible amount of professional support to the committee, which has enabled us to work together with clarity and efficiency. I would not have been able to enjoy my role as chair as much without you. You are the queen of process, and we are all deeply grateful for it.

Terry Flynn thank you for your willingness to step into whatever role is required with grace and gravitas. Last year Terry took on the role of Public Officer along with supporting Zsafia in her role as treasurer and has been a key person in ensuring the financial integrity of the Management Committee throughout this year.

Vivien Hillman thank you for your long and enduring service to the Management Committee it was a delight to work with you.

Zsafia Kennedy thank you for always managing to get the financial report done. I know it has not been an easy task for you to juggle this year. Zsafia will be stepping down as Treasurer after this AGM and we welcome Judith Howard from Sydney who will be our new Treasurer she brings a wealth of experience and expertise in finance and accounting.

Paul Martin, you have been the steady reassurance and questioner just at the time it is always needed. Thank you.

Peter Fern thank you for your clarity, integrity and wisdom.

I would like to acknowledge Jane our gracious visionary. You have worked tirelessly this past twelve months to enable the voice of members to be heard and to represent us with integrity in the world. It has not been an easy task in a time when we are juggling a pandemic and natural disasters. Thank you. I thoroughly enjoy working in partnership with you in service to the Anthroposophical Society in Australia.

Last but not least of all, I would like to thank the members of the Anthroposophical Society. We have endeavoured to work in service to you with integrity and transparency. We continue to invite your participation and communication and we promise to keep listening with open hearts and ears.

Thank you to all of you who have participated in the circles, written letters or shared your expertise. All your communication as part of this consciousness soul epoch we are living in is truly welcome.