



ASME
Tasmanian Chapter
C/O 72 Murray Street
East Devonport TAS 7310

Recent Developments Report
ASME Tasmanian Chapter
Prepared by Dr Bill Baker
Friday, 24 November 2006

1. Members of Chapter Council

The Tasmanian Chapter held its AGM on Sunday 29 October 2006 and the following people were elected:

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Chair | Dr Bill Baker |
| 2. Vice Chair (South) | Mrs Wendy Ross |
| 3. Vice Chair (North) | Mrs Liz Young |
| 4. Secretary | Mrs Carolyn Cross |
| 5. Treasurer | Mrs Wendy Ross |
| 6. Newsletter Editors | Mrs Carolyn Cross
Dr Bill Baker |
| 7. Research Officer | Associate Professor Margaret Barrett |

At the Chapter meeting of Sunday 19 November the following additional members were elected:

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| 1. Student Representative (South) | Mrs Sarah Elliott |
| 2. Student Representative (North) | Mr Luke Beasley |
| 3. Chapter Website | Mr Luke Beasley |

2. Developments in Schools (ECE, Primary, Secondary)

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.

3. Development of instrumental music teaching

Term 1 2006 (May) – Ruth Bonetti gave a 4 hour teacher workshop and a 2 hour student seminar in both Launceston and Hobart. Her teacher workshops focused on how to motivate, retain and inspire students, as well as tips on parent-teacher communication. Her student workshops focused on 7 easy habits for confident performance. We had an excellent response to these workshops in Launceston with 19 teachers and 129 students attending, whilst in Hobart 3 teachers and 69 students enjoyed Ruth's presentation. Ruth is a highly engaging speaker who connected immediately with us and gave us real solutions to real problems that we and our students face when performing. Ruth very kindly paid her own airfare and accommodation. The Examiner newspaper published a story and photo from the Launceston workshop.

Term 2 2006 – After the 2 day workshop “Thinking in Sound” run by SED at the Conservatorium, James Humberstone was able to stay for an extra day and generously provided his time free subsidised by Sibelius. The workshop involved music teachers - most of whom were not members - bringing their own laptops with Sibelius already installed. James is a developer and constant user of Sibelius. James had some samples to show and also guided workshop participants through a worksheet he had devised.

4. Status of curriculum documents/Changes to policy

On 28 August the Tasmanian Department of Education released “Refining Our Curriculum” which describes changes to the Essential Learnings curriculum “to ensure successful implementation”. This includes simplified framework and language, development of scope and sequence statements and a simpler approach to assessment. The “Tasmanian Curriculum Framework” includes the following six curriculum areas:

- English/Literacy
- Mathematics/Numeracy
- Arts
- Society and History
- Science and Technology
- Personal Development

“Thinking” and “ICT” are incorporated into the six curriculum areas.

The Arts comprise Dance, Drama, Media, Music and Visual Arts – all as separate subjects. Each will have a K-10 syllabus developed (Standards 1 – 5). Years 11/12 will continue to use TCE syllabuses. The Music syllabus will draw on and be informed by 2 supporting documents. The “Arts Atlas” describes the purposes and processes of arts education, with a music-specific section, while “Scope and Sequence” charts identify the “what”; the materials of music. Work on both of these is in progress. Guidelines for Standards 1, 2 and 3 in music were completed some time ago, and are being revised and extended to Standards 4 and 5. It is intended that syllabuses and supporting documentation will be completed by July 2007 for implementation in 2008.

5. Government initiatives

The Tasmanian Department of Education has also 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.

6. 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. The group is presenting a symposium at the AARE Conference in Adelaide, and is hosting a visit to the Faculty by Professor D. Jean Clandinin in January. 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.