

The Bouddi Society Inc.

Annual General Meeting – 5 April 2016

Management Committee's Report for 2015

On behalf of the Governing Committee of The Society I would like to report on another significant year for the Society with a welcome turnaround in our financial situation, the continuation of our interest and involvement in music and history and the growing strength of our charitable wing, the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts.

Early in the year the Society agreed, in negotiations with the author, Anne McLeod, to publish her biography of the historically important ecologist and feminist, Marie Byles. A publisher was engaged to produce the book and Lee Casey, and later, Peter Park, assisted in editing the text to a manageable size (about half the length of the original manuscript.) Unfortunately, after significant cost and effort had been put into the project by the Society, differences between the author and the Society about production values meant that the project was reluctantly abandoned. It is regrettable that the opportunity to appropriately acknowledge the importance of such a significant figure to the Peninsula was lost. However, it was felt that the work we had provided had got the project close to where the author might take it elsewhere to be completed. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that Anne McLeod has just published “The Summit Of Her Ambition – The spirited life of Marie Byles.”

In more positive publishing news the book “Bouddi Bites”, authored by Robyn Warburton and jointly published with the Wagstaffe to Killcare Community Association” sold out its original print run.

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on 29 April at Wagstaffe Hall. The election of officers to the Management Committee resulted in the following:

President	Phil Donnelly
Vice Presidents	David Dufty, Peter Park
Secretary	Robyn Warburton
Treasurer	Peter Baxter
Membership Secretary	Narelle Jones
Committee Members	Dianne Lewis Topsy Webster Margaret Crane Peter Tryon

Following our donation to the Pretty Beach Public School's string section last year, this year we provided \$500 to Empire Bay Public School for the purchase of band instruments.

In October the Annual Woodwind Scholarship Auditions were held. The Senior winner was Emma Smith (flute), Junior Sophie Kelly (flute) and the Encouragement award went to Cooper Newtown (Saxophone).

As will be seen from the Annual Accounts, the Society's financial position improved markedly from the previous year where an operating loss in 2014 of \$20,511 was converted into an operating

surplus of \$75,018 for 2015. Much of this improved financial position occurred by improved circumstances in the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts and is explained in the Chairman of the Foundation's report to this meeting.

The Society's book "The Bouddi Peninsula – A Very Special Place" continues to sell steadily, providing a dependable source of income for the Society. Remaining stocks of both it and "Reflections of the Beach and the Bay" are depleted and the Society will need to consider the issue of reissuing these publications.

On the other hand, the Society holds sizeable stocks of clothing, enthusiastically purchased to be sold to an unenthusiastic audience at the last "Bouddi at Bells" event. The longer this stock is held the greater the danger of deterioration and this issue will also need to be addressed.

A number of factors contributed to the Society having a quieter year in the staging of community entertainment events in 2015. The Committee is aware of the need to keep our members and the community engaged and is confident that the situation will improve in 2016.

The Committee marks the passing of one of its members, Lee Casey, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Deteriorating health meant that Lee had to reluctantly stand aside from his positions on both the Society's and the Foundation's Committees, but he retained a strong interest in the Society's fortunes to the end. The legacy of his innovative and energetic contribution to the Bouddi Society will be long remembered.

Finally, the Managing Committee would like to thank the Society's members for their ongoing support.

Phil Donnelly
President
The Bouddi Society Inc.

5 April 2016