



## A word from Brett

Welcome to the February edition of the Royal South Street Volunteer newsletter. Shock, we can now officially say entries open next month, look out for all the details on our new look website from March 13<sup>th</sup>. At this time of year there's a lot going on behind the scenes including the development of an online registration system, the creation of our first 'All Abilities Eisteddfod' and a new Chopin Masterclass. We've also been working on a Volunteer in/out board that uses a Samsung tablet instead of pen & paper, exciting stuff!

As you know RSSS would not function without the amazing support of our volunteers, that includes our Discipline Chairs. I'm pleased to announce that we've appointed Mark Witham to Chair the Freemasons Festival of Bands and Strings and Instrumental Solo's. Mark has a long history with RSSS that you can read about below.

It's nearly time for our annual general meeting which means we'll have vacancies on the RSSS board. If this sounds like you see the details below or give me a call. Also below are details of Life Membership, do you know somebody who is worthy?

Recently we received a letter from Victoria's Governor Linda Dessau AM following the tragic events in Melbourne's Bourke Street Mall. The letter focuses on the value of Victoria's volunteers, and a copy has been enclosed for you.

It's never too early to start recruiting new volunteers and we need your help. The best recruitment approach is word of mouth, if you know someone who could give us some time in 2017 let us know so we can invite them along to our next induction.

Finally, thanks to those who turned out for our come & try Croquet day, lots of fun was had. Keep an eye on this newsletter for our next out of season events in March & April.

Until next month... Cheers, Brett



## Vacancy:

**Would you like to volunteer for South Street at Board level?**

Being a volunteer director on the South Street Board is a large responsibility, but one that comes with many rewards. You'll be part of a group of nine directors each with a differing skill set and you will help to guide our Eisteddfod through changing times. The board meets monthly of an evening with most directors also contributing on sub-committees and discipline committees. Skills we are seeking currently for the board include HR and finance along with a knowledge and passion for the performing arts. Nominations must be received by 6<sup>th</sup> April with elections to take place at the AGM on April 20<sup>th</sup>. For further information contact our CEO Brett Macdonald on 5332 1054.

## Training Ops:

**Timing Training-  
6.30pm Tues 28 February.**

Keen to do some timing during the Comps? Then why not aim high and become CVI accredited (remember you need to have done this course to time for Calisthenics). Training will take place at the South Street Offices and run for approx. an hour. Ph Amanda 5332 1054 to book

**Induction Training-  
5.30pm Thurs 2 March.**

Our first session for the year & a great starting point for anyone wanting to join our amazing volunteer crew. If you are curious or know anyone who might be interested in volunteering, give us a call, 5332 1054

## New Kid on the Block

Welcome to Mark Witham, our newest Section Chair who is set to take up the challenge of running the Freemason Festival of Bands and Strings, as well as the Instrumental Solo sections. A South Street alumni, Mark took out the Champion Brass Soloists title in 1975 and comes to us with some 40 years of experience as a musician, conductor and composer. Great to have him on board in 2017.



**Royal South Street has adopted a Life Membership Policy and is currently accepting nominations.** Minimum criteria includes:

- 20 years of voluntary service
- currently active as a volunteer
- significant and sustained service that has enhanced the Society's reputation

A full list of criteria is available on our website to Access to the Life Membership policy for a full list of criteria is available via our website [royalsouthstreet.com.au/about-us/board](http://royalsouthstreet.com.au/about-us/board), or phone the office 5332 1054 to have a copy and/or nomination form sent to you. Life Membership is the highest award available to recognise the exceptional service of individuals to South Street, go on, have your say. *Please note that the nomination cut off date has been extended to the close of business Friday 17 March 2017.*



## Child Safety Standards

At the beginning of 2017 the Victorian State Government introduced new legislation, widening the brief for Child Safe Organisations. Royal South Street has aimed for best practice in this realm and applauds the new Government initiatives. Our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety is available via our website [royalsouthstreet.com.au/about-us/](http://royalsouthstreet.com.au/about-us/)

Please be aware that Ballarat City Council has adopted a Child Safe Policy in response to the legislation. HMT have asked us to remind all volunteers who work at Her Maj during the Comps that you are required to comply with Council's policies and regulations. A copy of the City's Policy is available via contacting our office 5332 1054, or Her Majesty's 5333 5800.

**Outings of Fun:** Four teams hit the green of the Ballarat Western Croquet Club and much fun was had with team Harrington & Macdonald/Whatman emerging victorious. There wasn't time for a grand final as our allotted 2 1/2 hours had flown by and we were due in the club house for a cuppa. If you couldn't make it but are still interested drop by the club Tuesday & Friday mornings, they will make you feel most welcome.



## Safety? Check!

Our next event will be a presentation on community safety by Leading Senior Constable Janine Walker from Ballarat Police Service's, Community Engagement Unit. Janine will give an over view of the activities her Unit undertake as well as tips on ways to stay safe at home and when out an about in the community. So be sure to keep Wednesday 22 March free for this fascinating and handy talk, plus an afternoon cuppa.

**What:** **Feel Safe, Be Safe** with Leading Senior Constable Janine Walker

**When:** 2pm Tuesday 21 March

**Where:** Ballarat Town Hall, Committee Rm 1 (1st Floor - lift adjacent to the Visitor Info Centre)