Greetings from the Editor

2015 will well and truly go down as a colossal year for VIC Branch! We hosted a public symposium that celebrated 40 years of Music Therapy in Australia, had our highest rate of attendees ever to our Tune Up! sessions and established new roles on the committee such as a social media coordinator and new graduate representative. We celebrated like we know RMTs can at our Vic Branch Happy Hour events and dined like kings at our High Tea SAM at the Gryphon Gallery. Not to mention a huge National Conference in Sydney that continued with the 40th celebrations.

What a year!

We sadly farewelled two great and long serving committee members in treasurer Priscilla Pek and work experience coordinator Laura Medcalf. These two have been tireless workers in the engine room of VIC branch.

However we welcome three new members to the committee who are very excited to join the ranks!

As always, if you have any questions or feedback, please contact us via head office (03 9525 9625) or directly at vic@austmta.org.au- And for those that have not connected with us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/452579194768948/

Wishing you an enjoyable and relaxing festive season!

Alex Dean
Tutti Editor
Meet the Committee!
(“Who’s Who in the Zoo”)  

Co-Chairperson:  
Jennifer Bibb

This is Jen’s fifth year on the committee. Jen works in adult mental health and is studying a PhD at Melbourne Uni focusing on group singing and mental health recovery. Jen is looking forward to being Chairperson for the second year and collaborating with Sarah (co-chair) and the committee to plan some great events for members.

Co-Chairperson:  
Sarah Punch

Sarah graduated from The University of Qld, Brisbane in 2008 and is currently employed at Monash Children’s Hospital where she specialises working in the Adolescent Medicine (eating disorders) & Paediatric Oncology Units. Sarah also runs a mobile private practice ‘Music Plus’ that is based in Brighton. She has a fluffy 2 year old pup named Mille who is delighted to have been nominated for AMTA Vic Branch Mascot.
Vice-Chairperson:
Alex Dean

Alex graduated with his Master of Music Therapy degree in 2014 and is loving life as a music therapist post study! Since graduating, Alex has had an enjoyable and stimulating year launching his private practice business and working in areas of aged care with dementia and special needs (school age). Alex is looking forward to his third year on the committee!

Secretary:
Liz Mclean

Liz has been working as a RMT in Melbourne for 7 years across a range of areas including palliative care, grief and loss, aged care and currently within Paediatrics and Neonatology at Monash Children’s. She is currently completing her PhD through NaMTRU, focused on her work with hospitalised infants and families in neonatology. Liz is super excited to be continuing on as a member of the Vic Branch committee for 2016 as Secretary!

Treasurer:
Sally Nuyens

Sally graduated from the University of Melbourne Masters of Music Therapy course in 2013. Since graduating, she has specialised in working with children with special needs. Sally works in two Special Developmental Schools across Melbourne, and teaches piano in a mainstream primary school. Sally was the student representative for Vic Branch in 2013, and is looking forward to returning to the committee in her new role as treasurer.
Social Media Coordinator & New Graduate Representative:

Rachael Comte

Having loved the position as student representative on the Vic Branch committee in 2015, Rachael Comte is continuing on the committee as a general member. Rachael has just completed her Masters of Music Therapy and is extremely excited to commence her position at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre working for Parkville College where she completed her independent placement.

Work Experience Coordinator:

Irene Sandjaja

Irene Sandjaja graduated with her Master of Music Therapy degree in 2014. She has recently joined the music therapy team at Monash Health as a Grade 1 music therapist for Kingston Rehabilitation Centre, as well as working privately in early childhood and aged care with dementia. Irene is also the current Australia and New Zealand student delegate for WFMT. Together with the committee she looks forward to serving fellow Victorian RMTs and students.

Student Representative:

Zara Thompson

Zara is a 2nd year music therapy student at the University of Melbourne. So far she has enjoyed her placements in adult disability and at a paediatric hospital, and is looking forward to starting her next clinical placement in adult mental health. Outside of music therapy, Zara helps to co-ordinate a community music program for refugees at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Zara is looking forward to representing her fellow music therapy students, and working with the committee.
Asami Koike and Matt Lewin received a financial bursary from the Vic branch to assist in presenting at the AMTA national conference in Sydney. The bursary helped in providing both encouragement for their presentation and easing the financial strain associated with interstate travel. Their presentation "New playing fields: Musicking with the MaKey MaKey technology to support musical equality and collaboration.", demonstrated an innovative music therapy technique that encapsulates both resource-oriented and community music therapy frameworks. The presentation was awarded the Denise Grocke award. The award recognises both the quality of the content of the presentation and the professionalism of the presenter. These awards particularly value a well articulated and presented session, with innovative and inspiring content.

Following their presentation, many music therapists who attended the conference directly shared with the presenters their interest and excitement in the use of the MaKey MaKey. RMTs working from various populations shared how they might use the MaKey MaKey to meet the needs of the varying populations they are working with. As music therapy students, both Asami and Matt found the process of presenting and connecting to the broader national and international music therapy community inspiring and insightful. Through the development of the networks and exchanges of ideas, both presenters experienced a sense of positive engagement with the music therapy community. Since the conference, Asami and Matt have continued to develop their ideas and approaches and are looking forward to sharing their work at future conferences.

You can read an interesting interview on the World Federation of Music Therapy website, where the Denise Grocke award winners talk more about their project:

As part of AMTA’s 40th celebrations of music therapy in Australia, VIC Branch held a public symposium at the University of Melbourne. We had a full program of high profile speakers from the music therapy field, who reflected on how music therapy has grown in their respective fields. Professor Denise Grocke launched her new book: *Guided Imagery and Music*, we had the Massive Fam youth hip-hop choir perform and... we enjoyed a massive birthday cake and celebration champagne. There was a fantastic turnout of music therapists and public members alike and the day reinforced how far this great profession has come in Australia!
Tune Up!

This year was THE year for Tune Up! We had a record number of attendees across all events and we launched the annual New Graduate Panel. We started off this year with the New Graduate Panel with three RMT panelists and a whopping 23 attendees! Throughout the year we had a body percussion workshop (pictured below), a vocal health workshop, a professional self-care workshop and an experiential guided meditation session. The events we chose this year were guided by listening to what AMTA members wanted in a PDS, and... we will continue to listen in 2016 (I sound like a politician!). So keep in contact with us and tell us what events you would like to attend. We are all ears!

2015- A year in review

AMTA National Conference

The AMTA National Conference in 2015 was held in the decadent surrounds of Sydney’s Darling Harbour during September this year. The conference theme was MUSICKING- From Clinical Practice to Community Care and was lucky enough to host keynote speaker Professor Gary Ansdell from London. We welcomed our new batch of New Graduates (pictured above) and continued the celebrations of 40 years of music therapy in Australia, with... yes you guessed it, more large cakes. The 2016 AMTA National Conference will be held in Melbourne...stay tuned!
2015- A year in review

High Tea SAM and Vic Branch Happy Hour

VIC Branch State Annual Meeting (SAM)

This year we continued with the successful format from 2014 of High Tea prior to the SAM (pictured below). Our tummies agreed. Once again the SAM proved to be a great networking event for RMTs in Victoria and also serves as the prime opportunity to hear about what your committee has been up to during the year.

VIC Branch Happy Hour

This year we had some fun VIC Branch Happy Hours- a chance to catch up with your fellow RMTs. These were held at Sahara in the CBD and the Wesley Anne bar in Northcote. These events have been particularly well attended (who would have thought- RMTs and drinks!) so they will continue in 2016- stay tuned!
2016… What’s in store?

As pictured above, we have a VERY excited conference committee who are busy planning for the AMTA conference in Melbourne (2016). It is going to be H.U.G.E.

We have also listened to member ideas as always and have planned some exciting workshops for 2016. Please do stay in touch with us if you have any feedback or ideas at vic@austmta.org.au, they are ALWAYS welcome. And connect with us on Facebook to stay up to date with the activities for the year. See you in 2016!

Alex Dean - Tutti Editor

Proposed 2016 Calendar (*subject to change)

January: Return to work
February: New Graduate Panel
March: VIC Branch Happy Hour
[April: No event]
May: Singing and Conducting Workshop
June: Beatbox/ Rap Workshop
July: Technology in Practice Workshop
August: Self-Care Mindfulness Workshop
September: AMTA National Conference
October: VIC Branch Happy Hour
November: VIC Branch SAM
December: Tutti newsletter distributed

*Note: An official Vic Branch Calendar will be circulated in 2016