New Zealand, report 2007

Activities

The New Zealand Branch’s year was characterized by interactions with other organisations with concerns in common. We became part of the National Digital Forum, a national coalition of libraries, museums, archives, galleries and professional groups working together to enhance electronic access to New Zealand’s culture and heritage. We also provided some support to Metanz, the music education community, in their submission to the government on the place of music in the school curriculum, and we also started discussions with LIANZA, the Library and Information Association of Aotearoa New Zealand, so that membership of IAML might be recognized within the framework of professional registration for librarians in New Zealand.

April also saw the launch of Philip Norman’s biography of Douglas Lilburn, arguably New Zealand most well known composer. IAML(NZ) had a hand in the publication having provided a grant for the production of a high quality index. On a very different front, IAML(NZ) acted as a collection point for distribution of music materials to a local prison, and has been asked to produce a brochure setting out some guidelines for people intending to donate or bequeath substantial collections of music to libraries – we are still working on this.

Membership

Membership stayed fairly static. Of note however was the retirement of Jill Palmer, Music Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library. Jill had been a member of the branch since its inception and a member of the combined Australian and New Zealand branch before that. Her work in setting up the Archive of New Zealand Music at the Turnbull Library and her ongoing contributions to the work of IAML(NZ) were considerable, and we have much to recognize and thank her for. Cathy Bentley has since taken up the position at the Turnbull Library and we are delighted that she is again an active member of IAML(NZ).

Conference

Our annual conference in November in Wellington was very well attended and covered a wide range of topics. Sessions on the publishing and availability of New Zealand music, developments at Sounz, the New Zealand Music Information Centre, publishers catalogues in London 1780-1837, photographic resources relating to music and updates from 2 tertiary education music collections ensured that there was something for everyone. Planning also started for the celebration of the Branch’s 25 year Jubilee in 2007. The Executive Committee of Elizabeth Nichol, President, Marilyn Portman, Secretary and Phlipaa McKeown-Green were re-elected for a further 2 year term.

Crescendo
After much discussion and negotiation we signed an agreement with Ebsco for the content of our journal *Crescendo* to be included in one of their databases. This is an exciting development and an opportunity for contributors to receive wide recognition of their work. *Crescendo* continues to be published 3 times a year with Lisa Allcott as Editor and Rose-Marie Tonk responsible for production design.

*Roger Flury*