

## CONVENOR'S REPORT 2018

2018 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Stomach in Palmerston North. The Stomach has had many achievements, challenges and changes over the last 30 years and in doing so and remaining as an entity, has ingrained itself into the culture of the local music community and Palmerston North as a whole. While my report focuses on the 2017/18 Creative Sounds Society Incorporated (CSSSI) year, I would like to acknowledge all those that have contributed to The Stomach reaching such a significant milestone.

The 'CSSI year', from annual general meeting (AGM) to annual general meeting, spans across parts of two financial years. The 2017/18 CSSI year includes the majority of the 2017/18 financial year and part of the 2018/19 financial year. Please take the above into consideration when reading the below.

Funding is one of the priorities of the Management Committee in any given year. The 2017/18 financial year was the second year of our three year Fee For Service (FFS) contract with Palmerston North City Council (PNCC). This \$75,000 in operational funding was our major source of operational funding. We are grateful to the PNCC for this continued support. This year, CSSI has received an additional one off grant of \$15,000 from PNCC, which means our total operational funding from the final year (2018/19) of the FFS contract will be \$90,000.

This year the PNCC have reviewed the FFS funding and made changes to this funding scheme. The new look Strategic Priority Grants also provide multiyear funding over a three year period. The immediate focus of the incoming Management Committee will be applying for this grant for the 2019-2021 period.

In 2017/18 we received a \$10,000 operational grant from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) Lottery Funding Board. CSSI will again apply for operational funding from the DIA for lottery funding.

In line with the Management Committee's aim of securing multiple avenues of funding, a concerted effort has been given to actualising financial CSSI membership. Provision of this type of membership was created in the constitution review of 2017. The outcome of this work will be put in place later this year.

Over the course of the 2017/2018 year CSSI received many smaller capital funding grants, mostly from pub charities. These were used to fund the upgrading and replacing of The Stomach's musical equipment. These are regularly acknowledged at the monthly Management Committee meetings (please refer to meeting minutes). We found that this type of funding works well for smaller equipment items and we will continue to apply for these to fund this maintenance. CSSI will apply again to the Central Energy Trust (CET) in the upcoming year for a larger capital grant to allow for further significant equipment purchases.

Following a momentous amount of work from both Stomach staff members Harry Lilley and Nigel Mauchline, the upgrade of The Stomach's recording studio was completed earlier this year. This was funded by the CET grant received in the 2016/2017 CSSI period. Over the 2017/18 financial year there were recording 1,300 hours. While the upgrade made a loss of available recording time

inevitable, it has enabled The Stomach to continue to provide low cost recording facilities to the community at a high level, industry standard.

The rehearsal facilities continue to be well utilised again this year with 2,200 hours of practice time taking place between July 2017 and September 2018.

In January of this year, The Stomach increased its hourly rates for both the rehearsal rooms and recording studio. This was the first increase in over five years. While CSSI is committed to providing low cost facilities and services, it was recognised by both the Management Committee and ultimately the community that the small price increases were required given the increasing cost of running The Stomach.

2018 has also seen the implementation of EFTPOS payment at The Stomach. This is available for payment of both rehearsal time and recording. Given the technological age we live in, this may not seem like an achievement worth reporting, but given The Stomach has been almost solely 'cash only' for the previous 29 years - it is. It does not need to be stated that this has been well received by the community.

The Stomach has been directly involved in delivering 40 live music performances between July 2017 and September 2018. This is a significant increase of live shows alone over what was delivered in the previous CSSI reporting year (which had been an increase on the two years prior). Further to the shows, The Stomach has, in partnership with Radio Control 99.4FM, produced 11 Live to Airs. This mutually beneficial collaboration allows for diverse content for both parties.

An important goal for CSSI continues to be extending the scope of The Stomach beyond its business as usual (BAU) procedures and physical location. This year The Stomach hosted 13 workshops on various music related issues and topics. Many of these workshops would not have been possible without significant contributions from the community; for example, the Palmerston North Performing Arts Trust granted funds to run a sound engineering course for secondary school students in April of this year.

SwampFest was held again in 2017. This festival of local music was held across multiple dates and Palmerston North venues. It would not have come to fruition without the grant from Creative Communities Scheme and sponsorship from Radio Control 99.4FM. The dates and line-up have been announced for this year's SwampFest. CSSI has again been successful in securing funding and sponsorship from the above mentioned organisations. This year's SwampFest even more exciting as it is the celebration of The Stomach 30 year anniversary.

In 2017 The Stomach, in a joint venue with Massey University Student Association (MUSA) and Radio Control 99.4FM, applied for the PNCC summer concert series contract of which they were the successful applicants for. This saw the revised concert series being launched as Summer Social. This series of four outdoor concerts were held across January and February 2018 at four different venues. Although one concert was held at The Stomach due to poor weather, this series truly allowed The Stomach to accomplish a reach much further physically and into different communities than normally achieved.

A continuing goal for the Management Committee is the capacity to have a third staff member within The Stomach team. It is well recognised by the Management Committee that there is plenty

of scope for a third role; however the major constraint on realising this aim remains the need for secure funding to support this position. I believe this will be a major focus of the Management committee for the 2018/19 year.

The Stomach was able to have a member of the community intern for nearly four months this year. This paid internship position was remunerated by New Zealand Music Commission Pilot Internship Programme. It is the hope that this programme will run again in 2019 and that we and the local community continue to benefit from it.

I would like to thank both our sound engineer Nigel Mauchline and manager Harry Lilley for the passion and hard work which they bring to The Stomach and the wider music community - CSSI and the Management Committee would not be able execute its objectives and aims without the staff of The Stomach.

Moreover I would like to acknowledge the volunteers for the donation of their time over the last year from the volunteers and support from the music and wider communities. I would also like to acknowledge the 2017/18 CSSI Management Committee for their significant contribution to The Stomach and the Society. It has been a pleasure to work with you all over the last year.

Lauren Annear Henderson

**Convenor, Creative Sounds Society Incorporated**