

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I think it appropriate at this point in time to summarise what I consider to be some of the more notable events that occurred during the first year in which I had the privilege - with commensurate responsibilities - of being president.

Probably the most important single event was our return to the Goethe Institut for our monthly meetings. For me this signifies the end of our "nomadic" period and will mean that, at committee level, we will not have to spend so much time as we did in the past dealing with the numerous problems that erupted with our other venues, so we can now spend more time considering what we can do to further the aims of our society. My special thanks to Olive Coonan who was responsible for the "break through" that enabled us to successfully firm up our return. Once we were back it was broadly "business as usual". However, thanks to the entrepreneurial skill of our member Dr Ivor Zetler, we arranged a public playing of the Solti *Rhinegold*, which, costwise, was about "break even", and we turned our hands to the "rag trade" with the marketing of our T-shirts. As a committee we discovered from these exercises that we have a lot to learn about the skills needed to undertake these activities. And I note that D.J.'s HAVE NOT asked any of our committee to join their board of directors. However, thanks to Ivor for his initiative. Thanks also to Hilda Perini and Christiana Stold who were conscripted to act as our German translators. It is obvious that our German friends have been quite agreeably surprised to receive letters in their native language.

My personal thanks are also due to each and every committee member. Very rarely does a committee meeting last as short as two hours, and we meet once a month. However each member devotes a considerable amount of additional time to the other chores that must be done. Some of these duties include the collection of the mail, gathering information for our newsletter including typing up whatever may be necessary, writing the various letters that must be sent, managing our membership list, monitoring renewals, catering for functions, paying bills, banking receipts, preparing minutes of meetings, "distributing" our Bayreuth ticket allocation, organising theatre parties, arranging the annual luncheon/dinner (eg sorting out the venue, arranging menu, organising members' bookings), and KEEPING OUR AUDITOR HAPPY - and so the list goes on.

As for the next twelve months I would like to see us, as a committee, establish a rapport with the major music schools such as the Conservatorium of Music and the University of Western Sydney. I would like us to consider whether or not we could make a special effort to attract some young members and do more to help those members who are new to Wagner's music. Finally, with the economy being what it is, we will have to "toughen up" on budgetary matters. Be that as it may, even though I am by profession a pessimist (I always have to be alert to what might go wrong) I am by nature an optimist so I am looking forward to a year of growth for our society.

And finally thanks to you all for allowing me to continue as your president for another year.

PAUL LEHMANN
President