

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ADELAIDE RING. This report is based mainly on 1) the information set out in the official brochure (which I received on 24 February), 2) statements made at the public launch on 25 February, and 3) discussions in a conference on 25 February between Mr Stephen Phillips, the General Director of the State Opera of South Australia, Barbara McNulty and myself at my office at Chatswood.

The present position as I understand it is:

- 1) Our society has been allocated 132 tickets - but although I have been told they are for "good seats" no one can at this point tell me with certainty the actual seating position and cycles reserved for us - although Mr Phillips thought that, probably, our members' first preferences were met.
- 2) All tickets allocated to us are available ONLY on the basis that the ticket holder will fly Qantas.
- 3) We may if we wish apply for "drive" tickets. These tickets DO NOT require a Qantas ticket to fly to Adelaide. Applications for these will not be accepted until 10 March 1997. However only a few of these "drive" tickets are available. These will be allocated by the S.A. Opera. However IF we apply and IF we are allocated any of these "drive" tickets then the tickets so allocated will not be as good as the tickets that have already been allocated to us. We can however apply for these tickets and revise down our requirements at a later stage.
- 4) Qantas have an optional package available which consists of a) a cycle ticket, b) air ticket, and c) seven nights twin-share accommodation at various selected hotels. Mr Phillips only recently received details of the prices for this package but it had not been made clear to him whether or not these prices were firm or subject to variation. He told me however that I could pass the figures on to our members. Prices for this optional package vary depending on the hotel and of course the actual seating required. For an 'A' reserve ticket the prices varied from \$2,131 to \$2,892, 'B' reserve \$1,956 to \$2,717 and for 'C' reserve \$1,623 to \$2,384 (based on air fares from Sydney).
- 5) Although Mr Phillips thought I could contact a named person to find out exactly the seating available to us and the procedural aspects of the actual purchase of our allocation of tickets, that named person told me she had no details whatsoever of any tickets allocated to our society nor had she a seating plan of what was available. She expected to receive details on these matters "sometime within the next two weeks". Consequently I am unable to provide any firm details to those interested as to the actual seats available, the particular cycle they can attend and the method of obtaining and paying for the tickets.
- 6) I propose to lodge an application of 1 March 1997 for ten "drive" tickets for each of the second and third cycles (there are no drive tickets available for the first cycle). Consequently could any member who expressed interest in going to Adelaide but is NOT prepared to fly Qantas, contact Olive Coonan or myself as a matter of urgency so I can include you on a list for any of these tickets that MAY be allocated to us. However I have no assurance that we WILL be allocated any "drive" tickets and members must realise that any "drive" tickets that may be allocated will not be as good as the 132 tickets that have already been allocated to us.

Obviously I am anything but speechless in relation to the position.

We will be in touch with members who have expressed an interest in attending a Cycle as soon as possible after the position is clarified.

PAUL LEHMANN, **President**.