

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2021 AGM

This has been a challenging year for the Society, with Covid continuing to make its presence felt. Up until about June, it looked as if we might be starting to come out the otherwise, with some good momentum building to towards holding the Colonial Ball in September. But Delta changed all that, and as I write it remains uncertain how quickly dance activities will resume. This is not just a matter of government restrictions, but of the willingness of organisers and dancers to get going again.

The music activities of the society are probably in a somewhat better position now that restrictions are starting to ease. In-home gatherings and zoom sessions provide an alternative path forward here. As a complement to our well-established session groups, I am also keen to continue the development of the new small group combos that we started to offer this year.

As the new President, and with a new Committee, this year, I have sought to take the opportunity to think through the future direction of the Society, and to try to foster a vision of "One MFS", with greater collaboration and cross-over between the Society's various subgroups. This will become ever more important in coming years as we seek to attract new members. I am conscious that some of our members may be reluctant to return to Society activities as the "living with Covid" scenario plays out over 2022, which makes it even more important for us to focus our organisation resources on where we will get the most "bang for our buck".

I would like to welcome Liz Bell to her new role as society bookkeeper, and to thank Linda Aunela for all her work in this respect in recent years. I would also like to thank our outgoing Treasurer, Rod Peters, for all his diligence and careful attention to detail over the last couple of years in managing the society's financial records and processes.

Thank you all for your continued support of the society as we negotiate our way through the Covid era. I remain confident that we have much to offer our members, both over the coming 12 months and into the longer-term future.

David