

# Founding of the Australian and New Zealand Viola Society

Michael L Vidulich

Prior to the founding of our present *Australian and New Zealand Viola Society* two separate viola societies had been established and were active in the 1970's. One was the *Australian Viola Research Society* headed by Ceska Baret and the other was the *New Zealand Viola Research Society* which had three heads at different times – Glynne Adams, Gavin Saunders and Berys Cuncannon. Both societies were members of the old *International Viola Research Society* (today – the *International Viola Society*). Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any further information regarding the Australian society except that by 1980, it was to my knowledge, no longer active. I would welcome any information about that society, its members, activities, publications, etc. that anyone wishes to share with me. I have been able to gather some information regarding the old New Zealand society from some of the old *NZ Viola Research Society* Newsletters and other correspondence sent to me. I have copies of Newsletters 1 (1977), 2, 3, 4 & 5 (1978), 6 (1980). Newsletter 6 includes a list of 42 members, a few of which are present members of our *ANZVS*. A letter dated 7 December 1978 from the librarian of the University of Canterbury Library states that the library there holds Newsletter numbers 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 (which I have not seen). It appears that by 1980 the New Zealand society was also no longer active.

How the *ANZVS* was founded: When living in the United States, I had joined the *American Viola Research Society* (now the *American Viola Society*) in 1973 and later also both the Canadian and British societies. Each of these societies sent its members its Newsletters and held viola events. When I returned to New Zealand in 1980 I was keen to join the New Zealand society, but was informed that it was no longer active. Soon afterwards, I attempted to find out whether the Australian society was still active (hoping to join that society also), but had no replies from the Australian contacts I had at that time.

In the early 1980's I wrote to the *International Viola Research Society* in Germany inquiring about these two societies. They informed me that both the Australian and New Zealand societies seemed not to be active and that they may have ceased to exist. The International society asked me if I would be willing to try to reactivate the New Zealand society or form a new viola society. After several letters between us, discussing several ideas, the *IVS* officers suggested that the best choice would be for me to form a new viola society – a combined Australian and New Zealand one.

In 1984 the *International Viola Society* formally approved the creation of the *ANZVS* as a section of the *IVS*. My next step was to contact violists to assist me with our first *ANZVS* Newsletter. Glynne Adams kindly

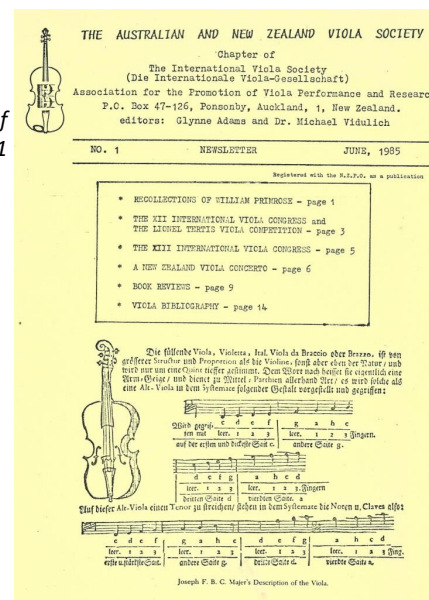
agreed to be my co-editor for the first year. In June 1985 our first issue was printed and sent to many violists throughout Australia and New Zealand free of charge. Annual membership fees were set at \$10 and student members at \$7 per year. By January 1986 we had a total of 98 members (54 Australians and 44 New Zealanders). Helen Pitcher (now Tuckey) became our Australian Representative in 1986 and was responsible for many Australians joining. Helen Tuckey is still a member on our *ANZVS* committee. Other founding *ANZVS* members who are on the present *ANZVS* committee are Olwyn Green (our *ANZVS* Secretary and *ANZVS* Journal editor) and Robert Harris (*ANZVS* former President and present committee member).

I am pleased to state that today's *ANZVS* is one of the largest and active sections in the *IVS*; the *ANZVS* presently hosts numerous events in both Australia and New Zealand; has hosted *International Viola Congresses* in both Wellington and Adelaide and will host next year's Congress - once more in Wellington; our twice yearly *ANZVS* Journal is now and has been for several years, professionally edited and published with an average of between 30 to 40 pages per issue (our first *ANZVS* Newsletter was 17 pages – a 'cut and paste' and hand stapled production). At present, we have a strong and active committee of 10, plus a consultant. We have come a long way since our founding and it an honour for me to still be involved with the *ANZVS* and to continue working with so many wonderful violist friends.

Kind Regards to you all,

Michael L. Vidulich, Founder and President Emeritus, *ANZVS*

Right: Front cover of *ANZVS* Newsletter No. 1



# ANZVS Journal 40th (Ruby) Issue: A Little Production History

Olwyn Green, editor

Yes, I certainly feel like raising a glass to this colourful production! Ruby red wine or a rosé will do. After the last journal issue, I started been having a look through past issues, reminiscing. I joined the ANZVS almost since its beginning, and have kept every issue of the Journal (originally called ANZVS Newsletter). The first 10 issues I had bound. This trip down memory lane has taken up a lot of spare 'side-tracked' time, a bit like when you go to look up one thing on YouTube and 3 or 4 hours later in the wee small hours realise you've sat in front of the computer far too bl...(ruby red) long!

While indulging in some fond, and even a couple of embarrassing or quite distressing memories, I jotted down a few milestones concerning the ANZVS Journal from the production point of view, which I would like to share with current readers.

Officially I have been the journal 'Production Editor' since Issue No 14, though in my capacity of Secretary/Treasurer since December 1993 (Issue No. 6) I assisted Michael Vidulich who was editor for the those earlier issues, mainly with journal reproduction and mail-out.

## Issue Nos. 1-10, June 1985-December 1998

*ANZVS Newsletter*. White A4 paper stapled at the edge with a coloured paper cover. All print and illustrations were in black and white. Michael and Olwyn wrote many of the articles, photocopied, collated and stapled the journal ourselves, hand-delivered as many as we could and often paid the cost ourselves.

## Issue No. 11, December 1999

Name changed to *ANZVS Journal* at issue No. 11 to reflect the true nature of the publication. The sequential numbering was kept, probably a librarian's nightmare, but nevertheless made a good sequence and the Newsletter was officially put to bed with an index to volumes 1-10 prepared during my 'spare time'!

## Issue No. 12, September 2000

First 'silk gloss' cover with colour on the outside and one coloured inside page advertising the congress *2001 Viola Odyssey* (IVC held in Wellington April 2001).

## Issue Nos. 13-20, September 2001-October 2006

Back to plain paper and cheaper plain coloured paper on the covers.

## Issue No. 21, August 2007

Silk gloss cover with pictures on covers and inside pages all in colour to celebrate the 21st issue.

## Issue Nos. 22-40, August 2007-November 2016

Silk gloss covers with colour both sides became the norm, the editor gradually realising the more coloured photos on the covers and inside covers the merrier, at the same cost as for a single picture.

Originally we put the production together using manual typewriters, scissors, Selotape and glue. Clip art, rulers and pen and ink went into the journal effort, sometimes you can spot a photo which wasn't quite straight. Mostly the photos were removed again and returned to the submitter.



The first computer-generated journal was Issue No. 14, (December 2001) with still some cutting and pasting of illustrations as no scanning facilities were available to me until Issue No. 16. Computer-generated journals have not been all plain sailing. Hands up those who remember Word Perfect? The vagaries of MS Word including compatibility (or not) of updated versions, the programme taking page-numbering into its own hands and inserting ghost pages with nothing on them when converting to a PDF for the printer. The editor taking a few issues to remember there needed to be a multiple of 4 (counting the covers inside and out) for an A3 folded format, then a shift to MS Publisher in Issue No. 25 (June 2009) - another hasty learning curve, again the software making decisions of its own accord. The disappointment of turning it into a PDF ready for the printer before I owned a colour printer, when any text in colour reverted to black and white!

The excitement of waiting for a call to come and pick up the print copies. Will the photos be too black? Will the text be too faint? Was I sure I gave the printer the correct version and not a previous draft - like before the pagination and contents page were completed?

Following the production of issue No. 39, I was looking for 40th celebratory inspiration (other than wine) from Uncle Google on a 'ruby' and 'viola' search. You would not believe how many women are named Ruby Viola or Viola Ruby! I even found a dahlia flower variety by Arkwright named Ruby Viola - go figure? I should leave it at ruby red blood (sweat and tears) and certainly very many happy hours of reading and re-reading. Enough about 'read' things! I'll go to bed quietly now.

Enjoy our 40th, everyone.



Ruby Viola Case