



ANNUAL REPORT

2018/19

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ESCFAN Inc. (Eurovision Song Contest Fans of Australia Network) has now operated for just over 3½ years.

Over the course of the past twelve months, ESCFAN has managed an online and offline presence (website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, newsletters), organised a series of activities and events across Australia including 2019 Australia Decides, Preview Parties and at the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv, provided access to our Eurovision artists in collaboration with the national broadcaster (SBS) and tickets to Eurovision events, and maintained our ongoing membership with the OGAE International Bureau.

There is still much to be done to ensure that ESCFAN reaches its full potential and agreed vision:

“To ensure that ESCFAN (OGAE Australia) is the number one option for Australian fans of Eurovision”

The year that has passed has been more active and bigger than ever. The 2018-19 Committee had a great start with so many achievements in a short space of time. Very soon however we had to deal with a couple of resignations due to personal issues. Fortunately, the membership came to the rescue and we were inundated with offers to join the committee. The new recruits have worked harmoniously with the existing team to ensure that the momentum was maintained and that the best results were delivered for our members given the resources available.

We finally tackled the matter of our Rules this year. 13 recommendations for change were put to the membership prior to any changes being made to the rules. The members voted and all recommendations received majority support. A new set of Rules has now been drafted and will be submitted to the members at the 2019 AGM for their approval.



OGAE International also made changes to the OGAE cards this year by replacing the physical cards with the Cardskipper App. We believe the majority of our members have set themselves up using the App and we encourage all to do so to ensure their membership with OGAE International is activated and current.

GOVERNANCE

Committee Members

POSITION	NAME	RESIDENCE
President	William Fedor (resigned 5/12/18)	Victoria
	Troy Bass (promoted from Vice President 5/12/18)	South Australia
Vice President	Christopher Dean (promoted from Committee member 13/12/18)	Victoria
Secretary	Kurtis Carter	New South Wales
Treasurer	John Tzimas	Victoria
Committee Member	Andrew Crossman (resigned 7/12/18)	Australia Capital Territory
Committee Member	Laura Smith	Victoria
Committee Member	Gemma Schuhmann	Queensland
Committee Member	Danie Tregonning	Victoria
Committee Member	Christopher Powell (appointed 31/1/19)	New South Wales
Committee Member	Holly Wulf (appointed 31/1/19)	Victoria

Registrations

ESCFAN was registered on 9 December 2015 as an incorporated association (not-for-profit) under the *Victorian Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, registration number A0094118B.

Our ABN is 52 172 837 162 and we have registered the following business names:

- OGAE Australia
 - Eurovision Song Contest Fans of Australia Network
-

Meetings and Elections

Regular committee meetings are held on a monthly basis to discuss general business. The Rules require an annual general meeting (AGM) of members to be held once a year. Matters relating to the club can be raised via our communication and feedback portals (Facebook, Twitter, Email, Post and Website) by members at any time.

Elections are scheduled to be held once a year for all Committee positions in conjunction with the AGM. This must occur within 5 months of the end of the financial year (30 June).

ESCFAN is holding its 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Committee elections on 3rd August 2019.

Constitution

For its Rules (in effect, its constitution), the club has adopted the 'Model Rules' under Victorian law. A full copy of the Model Rules can be located [here](#). A new set of Rules will be submitted to the members for their approval at the 2019 AGM.

Administrative Activities

Broadcaster Liaison	John Tzimas and Kurtis Carter
OGAE FB Presidents Board	William Fedor/Troy Bass/John Tzimas
OGAE International AGM	Troy Bass/Christopher Dean
OGAE International Membership Cards	John Tzimas
Financials and Membership Management	John Tzimas
Minutes of Meetings	Kurtis Carter
AGM 2019	John Tzimas/Kurtis Carter/Christopher Dean
Social Media Coordination	Danie Tregonning
Rules and Governance	John Tzimas
Website Management & Updates	William Fedor/Christopher Dean/John Tzimas
Newsletter	John Tzimas
Ticket Ballot Allocation	John Tzimas
Members Corner	Danie Tregonning
Competitions	Christopher Dean



MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions

Membership is available at a flat-rate of \$25AUD per person, with 2019/20 membership currently valid till 30 June 2020. As per the agreed motion carried at the last AGM in September 2018, the fee remains the same as the prior year. Also at the 2018 AGM a motion was passed to provide free membership to Associate members under the age of 15 years.

Fees collected cover items including (but not limited to): business fees, documentation submission required by law, website registration, design and hosting, monthly banking fees, costs associated with day to day club printing, stationery and postage, event hosting (venue rental, advertising), the provision of prizes/giveaways to members, and the supply of OGAE cards (via Cardskipper) to members.

Member Numbers & Segmentation

As of 30th June 2019, our membership has continued to grow from 448 last year to 628 members in total. 275 new members joined in 2018/19 with 95 members not renewing or resigning. Over 70% of the total membership resides in two States - New South Wales and Victoria. Our growth this year has been attributed to general promotion of the club, Eurovision in Tel Aviv, the success of our preview parties in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth (featuring EyeCue) and exposure via the first Australia Decides on the Gold Coast.

Members by State	
VIC	252
NSW	206
QLD	59
SA	17
WA	40
TAS	5
ACT	21
NT	0
OVERSEAS	28
TOTAL MEMBERS	628

Members by Age	
Not Given	31
0 to 19	22
20 to 29	96
30 to 39	180
40 to 49	158
50 to 59	114
60 Plus	27
TOTAL MEMBERS	628

Gender Diversity	
Male	405
Female	221
Other	2
TOTAL MEMBERS	628

TREASURER'S REPORT

(Our treasurer, John Tzimas, explains some of the numbers included in the official financial report attached in Appendix A).

We commenced 2019 with a significant surplus from prior years. As a result, we decided to utilise some of the past surpluses to provide more benefits and services to members primarily via events. We set a budget with a projected deficit for the year of \$4,300 in order to retain some past surpluses for future years while also providing increased events to members. Memberships were our main source of revenue in 2018-19 and, in addition to a high renewal rate, we also achieved our highest ever membership base to 628 members as at 30th June 2019. This was beyond all expectations and can be attributed to members who continue to refer our club to their family and friends. As of the date of this report a large proportion of these have renewed and we already have new memberships for 2020. These fees will allow us to deliver free and subsidised events and competitions for members, and to cover all the costs required to run the club successfully.

We were expecting to run at a deficit in 2018-19, however as mentioned above. We ended up spending more money than budgeted on events however this was offset by the unexpected growth in membership and thus we achieved a deficit for the year of \$2,846 as reported in the financials.

As this is a national club we have significant expenses to keep ESCFAN running. Other than membership and event costs, competitions and prizes, web-related costs and OGAE costs are our next main recurring costs. The Committee always meets by Skype and Committee members bear their own costs in relation to attending events, in their home state or territory and beyond.

The last four committees have left ESCFAN in a very secure and strong financial position so that members can be confident that the club can look to the future with ease.

Moving forward to 2020 we anticipate renewals to continue and memberships to grow. With some work on developing ongoing relationships, we aim to deliver free/subsidised events and competitions that will keep the membership engaged both in Australia and hopefully in the Netherlands.

DELIVERABLES

As expected, ESCFAN has continued to forge good relationships with important partners. The club has strengthened cooperation with Australian broadcaster, SBS, working together on our events and ensuring our members feature as a valuable part of its coverage over the Eurovision weeks. Our relationships with SBS assisted 10 members achieving Fan Accreditation for Tel Aviv. We also established a great working relationship with radio station Joy 94.9fm which in January hosted our Eurovision Hottest 100.



OGAE Competitions

Given ESCFAN's full membership status within OGAE, we are committed to future participation in the range of competitions and other activities offered. Work is underway in selecting entries for the 2019 OGAE Song & Video Contests and for participation in the 2019 OGAE Second-Chance Contest. Such competitions promote engagement and activity within and between clubs, requiring our members to suggest appropriate entries of Australian artists to compete against those put forward by other OGAE clubs across Europe.

In addition, ESCFAN as OGAE Australia contributed to one of the most valued, large-scale prediction tools of Eurovision - the 2019 OGAE Preview Poll. All Australian members were given the opportunity to vote for their favourite entries earlier this year, which then formed the Australian vote towards the overall OGAE Member results.

OGAE Cards & Ticketing

As ESCFAN continues its membership status within the OGAE community, it enjoys all the benefits of the many other OGAE clubs across Europe. During 2018-19, ESCFAN was again able to coordinate with the OGAE International Bureau to supply members with internationally-recognised OGAE ID cards. As mentioned previously, the Bureau introduced the new Card Skipper App, which allows members to carry their card on their mobile phone (or print). The introduction of the new system commenced in January 2019 and we were able to ensure that all travelling to Tel Aviv had their Card registered in time for the events. The Club continues to pay a fee to OGAE International for each member registered on the Cardskipper App and it is anticipated that the App will be expanded in the future to allow timely communication with members and provision of additional services.

Over 90 members registered for our OGAE ticket ballot in late 2018 and we were successful in receiving 41 OGAE ticket packages for our members (20 Package 1 and 21 Package 2). Many members withdrew from the ballot due to changes in travel plans and the pricing of tickets this year. The remaining registered members were assisted via our committee and members to obtain numerous tickets for the Grand Final and Semi Finals in Tel Aviv. A copy of the 2020 Ticketing policy is available on the ESCFAN website.

Other Competitions

ESCFAN are committed to providing both the opportunity for its members to become more actively involved in the club, as well as providing reward for such engagement. Over the past twelve months, the organisation has run several competitions. These included random prize draws for voting at events, in OGAE competitions and "best dressed" prizes at ESCFAN gatherings.

Thanks to our relationships with key Eurovision contacts in both Tel Aviv and Australia, members have been recipients of prizes such as CDs, artist promotional material and limited invitations to events. A special thank you also goes out to our Social Media Coordinator (Danie) for all the live competitions she ran during her time in Tel Aviv and for all the prizes that members won. Where she managed to pick up these little gems we won't be asking, but some amazing merchandise made its way through the tight custom controls.

Events

Events have been a big focus for our committee this year. All committee members have contributed to the delivery of 2018-19 events with some additional assistance from member volunteers.

As a result of these activities, ESCFAN also hopes to encourage new memberships and repeated yearly renewals, create 'word of mouth' for the organisation, and develop and grow relationships with associated organisations and communities such as the Australian host broadcaster SBS and interested groups.

During the year, a number of activities and functions have been organised and co-ordinated by members of our Committee:

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

2018 AGM Euroclub	Troy Bass/John Tzimas
2018 All Stars Trivia Event	Christopher Dean/John Tzimas
2018 OGAE Song Contest (Hosts)	Christopher Dean/Troy Bass
2018 JESC Artist Profiles	Kurtis Carter/Holly Wulf/ Matthew O'Sullivan (member)
2018 JESC Sweet 16	Kurtis Carter/Holly Wulf/ Matthew O'Sullivan (member)
2018 OGAE Video Contest	Christopher Dean
2018 Brisbane Gathering	Gemma Schuhmann
2018/19 Summer Playlist	Danie Tregonning
2019 Tel Aviv Ticket Ballot	John Tzimas
2019 Australia Decides events (Gold Coast)	Gemma Schuhmann and Christopher Dean
2019 Chillout Festival	John Tzimas and Christopher Dean
2019 Canberra Gathering	Ruth Oldfied (member)
2019 Sydney Preview Party	John Tzimas/Christopher Powell
2019 Melbourne Preview Party	John Tzimas/Christopher Dean
2019 Perth Preview Party	Kate Hansen and WA team (members)
2019 Adelaide Preview Event	Staffan Ramsey Axelsson (member)
2019 Brisbane Preview Event	Dale Roberts (member)
2019 Facebook Countdown to Tel Aviv	Christopher Dean
2019 Tel Aviv Tours	Christopher Powell/John Tzimas
2019 Tel Aviv Gathering	Christopher Powell
2019 OGAE Second Chance Contest	Christopher Dean
2019 Eurovision Hottest 100	Christopher Dean
2019 Lipsync Festivalen	Danie Tregonning
2019 Ogaeaustraliabet	Christopher Dean
2019 Song Reviews	Christopher Dean
Wish you were here	Danie Tregonning
Eurovision All Stars (Facebook Group)	Christopher Dean
2019 ESC Final Live-Screening Sydney	Kurtis Carter with Georges River Council
2019 ESC Final Screening Melbourne	Holly Wulf/John Tzimas/Troy Hughes (member)
2019 Melbourne Gathering	John Tzimas/Christopher Dean/Laura Smith
2019 Sydney Gathering	Christopher Powell
2019 AGM Event – SYTYCE	Christopher Dean

2018 AGM Euroclub**Troy Bass/John Tzimas**

It was a case of no rest for the newly elected committee in September 2018 – there was a party to attend! With the 2018 AGM all done and dusted (in record time, we might add), it was time for the committee of old to relax and celebrate an amazing 2017/18, and hand the reins over to the new committee who had a big year ahead of them.

Estonian House in Sydney was transformed into a Eurovision hub – celebrating the best of Eurovision, welcoming the new committee, and a chance for members from all over Australia to come together to meet new members, and catch up with old members.

Our resident Sydney drag and DJ personality, Nell’ee Maydit ensured our dancing feet kept on moving, while there were plenty of familiar faces in the crowd in the form of Netta, Rassmussen and Alexander Rybak. OK...so maybe not the “real” stars of Eurovision, but our members made us all look twice as part of the dress-up competition.

By the end of the night, we were tipsy, we were tired, and ready for the year ahead. The new committee at the time had no idea what was about to hit them...

2018 Eurovision All Stars**Christopher Dean**

Eurovision All Stars began in May 2018, not so much as a committee venture, but one that would rope in a brand new committee member later that year – me! The concept was simple – highlight the last 10 years of Eurovision entries from a different country each week and have the members order them from 12 points to 1 to decide the best and the worst performance/song. With some 48 countries in total to go through, this contest was not for the faint hearted.

All Stars played out like one massive Eurovision contest. Each week was like a National Final, advancing the winning songs through the two semi-final rounds, and then a “Best Of” and “Worst Of” Grand Final which saw 10 songs from each semi join the best and worst of the Big 5, and host country, which was, of course, Australia.

As the committee created more and more events, All Stars became harder and harder to maintain on a weekly basis, but all was completed before Eurovision 2019 – just! Oh...except for the final Grand Final scoreboard, which had to wait until a couple of weeks after Tel Aviv wrapped up. It was all worth the wait, however, with Sergey Lazarev winning the entire contest by just two points with “You Are The Only One”. Seems Sergey finally found his justice after a relatively disappointing 3rd place in 2016.

2019 Eurovision All Stars 2**Christopher Dean**

When one All Stars closes, a new one begins – at least that’s what we think.

All Stars 2 carried on the tradition of the first All Stars, with a twist. This time we were going back – back to the 90’s. With most of our membership forming around their love of the last decade of Eurovision, we thought it was important (and fun!) to check out the years not so well known.

With extended voting periods, a couple of new rules, and very fancy video compilations of each country created, this All Stars promises to be a fun eye-opener for our members. Oh...and certainly wrapped up well before Eurovision 2020 – we’re not making that mistake again.

2018 All Stars Trivia Event**Christopher Dean/John Tzimas**

Eurovision All Stars had been quite the talking point amongst our club members from week to week, so when it came to the 1st semi-final, there was only one thing to do – bring our members together to test their Eurovision knowledge.

OGAE Australia took over the top level of Chasers nightclub in Melbourne for a trivia extravaganza that had everyone scratching their heads for most of the night. However, the highlight came from our hands rather than our heads with Create Your Own Eurovision Star. Each team adopted a doll that was to become their Eurovision star using all sorts of arts and crafts, and it was nice to see the team that was in last place at the time being named the winning doll by our lovely bar staff.

Throughout the night, we also played the semi-final 1 songs, and announced the 10 songs that would progress through to the Grand Final.

In what was the first taste of what the new committee were all about, everyone agreed it was an amazing night of fun – and the first of many for our members.

**2018 OGAE Song Contest (Hosts)****Christopher Dean/Troy Bass**

In 2017, OGAE Australia won our very first OGAE International contest when Dami Im's "Fight For Love" was voted the OGAE Song Contest winner for that year. So, with that honour, it was our turn to host the 2018 edition of the series.

The first part was easy, selecting the Australian entry, which was decided to be Troye Sivan's "My My My". The next part, not so easy, as we rounded up votes from another 30 OGAE Clubs across Europe. And just because we really LOVE a challenge, we decided the scoreboard should contain video clips of each club president (or representative) presenting their clips themselves. After countless emails, we got all the clips we needed, except one (but they did have a good excuse as the host of Junior Eurovision that year).

The winning song was Steps "Scared Of The Dark" representing OGAE UK, who will take on the challenge of hosting later this year. Australia finished in 8th place overall.

2018 OGAE Video Contest

Christopher Dean

Before we had a chance to rest from the excitement (and hard work!) of the 2018 OGAE Song Contest, it was time for the 2018 OGAE Video Contest – sprung on us quite unexpectedly! Thankfully, OGAE Australia didn't have hosting duties on this one, with last year's winner, OGAE Belgium, taking care of proceedings.

After a quick survey, OGAE Australia chose 5 Seconds Of Summer's "Youngblood" video to represent the club, placed 11th overall from 24 entries.

Fresh off the back from a successful Eurovision campaign, Mikolas Josef helped the Czech Republic win the contest with "Me Gusta", the first time they have won *any* OGAE competition.

2019 OGAE Second Chance Contest

Christopher Dean

In 2018, OGAE Australia took part as part of "Rest Of The World" in the annual OGAE Second Chance Contest, eventually won by OGAE Italy. But by the end of 2018, something very special happened... the announcement for Australia Decides!

With our very first National Final staged in February 2019, OGAE Australia was now eligible to officially take part as a competitor in our own right, to decide which national finals performance not to make Eurovision would be voted the best.

With Kate Miller-Heidke named our entrant for Tel Aviv, it was up to our members to decide which of the remaining nine songs would represent us at the 2019 Second Chance Contest. There was no denying the quality was high, and while we would like to say it was a close contest, it was Electric Fields with "2000 And Whatever" who had this won seemingly before we even started.

At the time of writing, voting is still in effect, with results due to be revealed in August, but if the dancefloors in Tel Aviv are anything to go by, Australia could very well have a winner on their hands. "2000 And Whatever" was played just as frequently as many "real" Eurovision songs!

Junior Eurovision (JESC) 2018 Artist Profiles and Sweet Sixteen Celebration

Kurtis Carter/Holly Wulf/Matthew O'Sullivan

The Committee in collaboration with members, published daily and weekly articles and posts in the lead up to Junior Eurovision in Minsk, Belarus. This featured artist and country profiles of each of the 20 entries of the contest. In celebration of its 16th anniversary since its inception, members contributed in brainstorming and creating posts highlighting which previous JESC entries fit the 2018 theme of 'light up'. In regards to the actual contest, Australia was represented by the talented Jael who sung 'Champion' placing an incredible 3rd place! However, it was Poland's Roksana Węgiel with the song 'Anyone I Want to Be' who claimed the Junior Eurovision victory. As a result JESC 2019 will be held in Gliwice, Poland on the 24th November 2019. We were also very pleased to hear that fellow Australians attended the JESC event, including our very own



source: jaelwenaofficial

member, Sharleen Wright. Who gave Jael an Australian flag outfit to wear during the flag ceremony of the contest.

2018/19 Summer Playlist

Danie Tregonning

The best way to kick off an Australian Eurovision summer is some new tunes, so this year the members picked their favourite summer hits by Eurovision and national final performers, and the playlist was posted on our Spotify and YouTube. It was a great team effort!

2019 Tel Aviv Ticket Ballot

John Tzimas



On 10 November 2018, the Ticket Ballot was held at Benji's Bar in Brunswick East, Victoria. Members were invited to express an interest in obtaining OGAE tickets packages for Tel Aviv 2019. 92 members ultimately put their names forward to obtain packages. The draw was hosted by John Tzimas with Fleur Menezes and Nektarios Christopoulos acting as scrutineers. Christopher Powell was the first member to be drawn. The event was simulcast on Facebook to members with the assistance of Alistair Birch and was

followed by a fun night of Karaoke.

After the draw and allocations of tickets from OGAE International, John Tzimas had the pleasure of notifying people via email or via phone of their success. The process was complicated this year with the two types of packages offered and the high pricing of tickets and packages. Members who were unsuccessful attempted to obtain tickets for the biggest song contest in the world through the various waves of public sales.

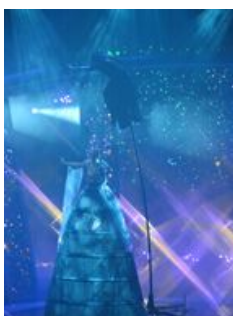
2019 Australia Decides events (Gold Coast)

Gemma Schuhmann and Christopher Dean

For the first time ever, Australia was getting their very own national final, and to say the country was excited was an understatement. We knew it was going to be a big weekend, so finding the right venue was paramount. Unfortunately, it was a long road before I came across the perfect venue in the Envy Hotel. Due to their general support, what was only going to be a one night event turned into three. Resulting in a mini Eurovision.



The weekend started with our Social Media team heading to the arena for interviews and a sneak peek at the stage. After an amazing first show, our own little EuroClub kicked off. This was the first



time, since the AGM, members from all across the country had been together. Everyone let their hair down with the party finishing around 2am. Saturday morning, new and old members socialised over a relaxing lunch. Some left early to head to the rehearsal show, while others stayed and chatted. All too quickly the live show was upon us.

There is no denying how impressed everyone was with the national final SBS and Blink Tv presented to us, people were singing and dancing for the entire run of Saturday's show. The buzz for Kate was unbelievable which continued

into the After Party. Our members partied so hard the windows fogged up, extra fans were brought in to help cool us down. What the venue didn't realise was, it is a Eurovision fan's dream to have their own wind machine. Many people without tickets who were turned away at the door came back later when the room had emptied out and partied along with us until 2am.

A huge thanks to everyone who made this weekend what it was. From the organisers to all the members and fans. Christopher Dean and Ricky Li ran the music at all three events and decorated the venue. The social media team who kept everyone up to date over the weekend. The team consisted of Danie Tregonning, Kurtis Carter, Mark Perkins, Jayde Gray and myself, Gemma Schuhmann. This included a media scrum, interviews with artists, the winners press conference and much more..

2019 Chillout Festival

John Tzimas and Christopher Dean

In March 2019, the OGAE Australia committee decided to take our club's promotion to Daylesford, Victoria, home of ChillOut – the biggest Queer Country Pride Festival in Australia. With a stall set up on Carnival Day, the Eurovision fans flocked to our area to say hi, listen to a little Eurovision music, and meet the one and only Miss Zero Dignity, a Kate Miller-Heidke wannabe who captured the attention of everyone in sight – including the police! Most importantly, she caught the attention of many Eurovision fans not yet an OGAE Australia member, and quickly signed up to join in the fun. The five committee members and three club volunteers all had a ball on the day, and after a tiring 8 hours of promotion, enjoyed a well-deserved spread of cheese and beers on the patio back home. In fact, there was so much fun that we even had a couple of us legs up in the air with laughter – but that's a story that remains a committee secret!



We have our eye on another round of Chillout fun in 2020, so hopefully our members will all come along and join in on what is a great weekend in the country.

2019 Sydney Preview Party

John Tzimas/Christopher Powell

2019 Melbourne Preview Party

John Tzimas/Christopher Dean

2019 Perth Preview Party

Kate Hansen and WA team (members)

2019 Adelaide Preview Event

Staffan Ramsey Axelsson (member)

2019 Brisbane Preview Event

Dale Roberts (member)

After a lengthy negotiation process, considerable logistics and financial discussions within the Committee, OGAE Australia was able to bring EyeCue (FYR Macedonia's 2018 Eurovision artist) to Sydney, Melbourne and Perth for the preview parties. Each event featured 'meet and greet' sessions, at which members were able to have their photograph taken. Whilst EyeCue were meeting and greeting their fans, members and their friends were able to preview the 2019 ESC entries and vote for their favourites. The results were then revealed, EyeCue performed, and prizes were awarded for the best dressed.

Estonian House in Sydney posed some technical challenges, which EyeCue were able to overcome to ensure that the show did indeed go on. Providing an acoustic and intimate experience for those in attendance. Members were also given an opportunity to witness an incredible lip-sync performance by the drag performer and DJ Nell'ee Maydit (Paul Croft). We would like to thank Don Bemrose for the acknowledgment to country and Sharleen Wright for her role as DJ for the event.



The Melbourne event was held at Inflation Nightclub on Anzac Day eve, allowing some attendees to party late into the evening. Those who attended the event in Melbourne were given an opportunity to see fellow members performing lip-syncs of Eurovision songs. These included Hatari's Hatrid Mun Sigrá, performed by Liam Clark, Sally Mojay and Lukman Andi Uleng; Kate Miller-Heidke's Zero Gravity, performed by 'Miss Zero Dignity' aka Christopher Dean; and finally Conchita Wurst's Rise Like A Phoenix, performed by Ricky Li. Two members, Jayde Gray and Holly Wulf were given the opportunity to perform on-stage with EYECUE.

Our first ever Preview Party was held in Perth at Connections Nightclub, and EyeCue continued to entertain our members in WA. This event was organised by Kate Hansen and her team in cooperation with the committee. The members from Perth showed EYECUE great hospitality, making their time in Perth very enjoyable. We would like to thank Tim Soltys for the acknowledgment to country and for all those who attended.

Joining in on the fun, a couple of smaller events were held in Brisbane and Adelaide, unfortunately "EYECUE-less", but still packed with all the Eurovision fun of the major events. A big thanks to Dale Roberts in Brisbane and Staffan Ramsey Axelsson in Adelaide for expanding our preview parties in these areas.

A special thanks to Christopher Dean for producing all the Preview Screenings for each location, and we would like to thank all who volunteered their time and effort to these events.



Facebook Countdown to Tel Aviv

Christopher Dean

There's no better way to count down the days to Eurovision than with a good old-fashioned Top 100. The Top 100 Countdown started exactly 100 days before the 1st semi-final in Tel Aviv. We counted down the highest scoring songs of all time, in relation to the amount of points possible in their

respective year. We are glad to say we never missed a post, bar maybe a few minutes (or hours on one occasion) late.

Scoring a massive 80.39% of the possible score in 1976, Brotherhood Of Man took out the #1 position with "Save Your Kisses For Me".

Spooky Fact: One day after we posted #67 entry, Alsou's "Solo" from Russia, one of the backing dancers from the performance met us at the ChillOut festival in Daylesford! That really is an example of how small the Eurovision world is.

2019 Tel Aviv Tours

Christopher Powell/John Tzimas

For the first time, OGAE Australia's tour was opened up to other OGAE clubs. This led to a great mixture of people from all over Europe and Australia (these included OGAE members from UK, Spain, France and Belgium). The day started bright and early in the warm sun by the beach where our bus picked us up. A short hour drive to Jerusalem was soundtracked, of course, to all the Eurovision hits. We met our very relaxed local tour guides at the city gates before we headed into the old city and to the church of the Holy Sepulcher. Since we were so many in number, we split into two groups to learn as much as we could from our tour guides. This was where we first ran into Miki of Spain and his entourage. We almost lost our Spanish friends who were chatting to their entrant. Then it was off to the Western Wall. Once again we were graced with Miki's presence. The two groups reunited and boarded the bus to head to the Dead Sea. Slowly we descended down to 430 meters below sea level. Due to the weather being hotter than expected, our day was switched around. Which meant we were very ready for lunch and a relaxing float in the sea. Before too long it was time to head back. As was fitting to the day, it was touch and go as to whether our bus was going to make it back up to sea level. But thankfully the Eurovision gods smiled upon us and we made it back to Tel Aviv in time for Jury Semi 2!



Special thanks to Simone McDonnell (member) for connecting us with the tour operator.

2019 Tel Aviv Gathering

Christopher Powell



In true Tel Aviv style our member gathering didn't go quite to plan. We ended up with two gatherings to suit everyone's needs. One in the village where the members got to sing along with Sergey in the party atmosphere. While just next door at the Beach Club,

other members could hear the screams of the Sergey fans while relaxing in the shade. We may not have all been together but a good time was had by all.



2019 Eurovision Hottest 100

Christopher Dean

The JJJ Hottest 100 is an iconic Australian event occurring every year, counting down the 100 most popular songs played on alternative radio station Triple J over the past year, as voted for by the listeners. This year, OGAE Australia decided to crash the party!

The Eurovision Top 100 gave our members the chance to vote for their favourite Eurovision songs of all time. Selecting 10 songs for 2 points, and another 10 songs for 1 point, we received over 100 votes to contribute to our definitive list of Eurovision hits.

And because we hate to do anything in halves, Australia's only Gay & Lesbian radio station, JOY, came on board to help count down the entire 100 songs! Six nervous committee and club members eagerly awaited their chance to go on the air, with a little help from a few JOY regulars, to really bring this countdown to life – AND to the world. We even had a visit from Australia Decides hopeful, Leea Nanos, who gave us the lowdown on her preparations for the Australian selection final.

While JOY is based in Melbourne with limited reach on the airwaves, the ability to stream the show meant that we had listeners all over the world tweeting reactions about our show on Twitter. Before we knew it, the #EurovisionTop100 hashtag was trending in Australia!

Taking over the JOY studios for 7 hours in a 100% Eurovision marathon, the winner was revealed. Dami Im's "Sound of Silence" took at the #1 position in what was a very close affair with Loreen.

Are we doing it all again in 2020 – you betcha!



2019 Lipsync Festivalen

Danie Tregonning

In 2019, OGAE Australia received a whopping 14 entries. Members were able to show off their creative and technical skills in producing very entertaining 30 second lip-sync videos from previous Eurovision entries. We had 59 valid results from members. There was an intense duel for places 5th – 8th, with only 11 votes separating those spots. One video got votes from almost everyone (56 out of 59). 12 videos got at least one 12 point, with one video getting 13 Douze Points. Three videos got over 400 votes, and the first place won by just 3 votes. Be sure to check out the full details on our website and watch the videos and results on the OGAE Australia Youtube Channel.

<http://bit.ly/2XFhrvG>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFBzO-BtMAM>

2019 ogaeAustraliabet

Christopher Dean

With the excitement for the upcoming Eurovision at its max, all eyes turn to the bookies to see who is gaining interest, and ultimately, the favourite. OGAE Australia took this idea to the next level to produce our very own odds table compiled by "betting" from our members.

With 20 votes in hand, each member spread their votes over as many or as few countries as they wished in a virtual bet. The "bets" helped create our betting table that saw a different artist leading the pack almost every week.

Running alongside this, each individual members' bets are recorded and tallied to give each a total score for each of the countries they laid bets on. The member holding the most bets on a single country "owned" the country, and if that particular country won, then an OGAE Australia prize pack was theirs.

With The Netherlands taking out Eurovision 2020, member Liv Webster won herself an amazing prize packed full of CD's and goodies collected from our members in Tel Aviv.

2019 Song Reviews

Christopher Dean

There's no denying we have some very talented and passionate club members, so we thought we would test their writing abilities with our 2019 Eurovision Song Review series. Although we weren't necessarily expecting quality work, we certainly got it, with A-grade reviews from over 20 members. Not only were the members able to flex their writing chops, their work was published on our website with their name, and shared on social media including the artists in question. Many even received acknowledgements from the artists they wrote about.

The idea for the reviews came rather late, and at an extremely busy time for Eurovision fans, so we were a few reviews short of a complete set. However, it's an exercise that we will definitely be repeating next year. In 2020, we'll be onto it straight away!

Wish You Were Here

Danie Tregonning

While on the Gold Coast for Australia Decides, we launched our first ever club promotional campaign, Wish You Were Here to celebrate what our members get up to during the Eurovision year. Thanks to the committee, social media team, and members, we were able to piece together a highlights video from February to June 2019. Footage included our 2019 ballot, Chill Out, Preview Parties in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, and during May in both Tel Aviv and at home. An instrumental version of Zero Gravity by Kate Miller-Heidke pulls it all together and you can find the video here - youtube.com/ogaeaustralia.com

2019 ESC Final Live-Screening Sydney

Kurtis Carter with Georges River Council

After facing an election the day before, many of us were very tired when waking up in the early hours of the morning to watch the Grand Final of the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest. Some of us didn't even sleep. As we arrived at the Civic Centre in Hurstville, we were greeted by free coffee, champagne and breakfast provided by Georges River Council. There was also an opportunity for photos, where guests were able to feel like stars next to the wall of Eurovision stars beside them. Many were very excited to see Kate Miller-Heidke perform, with many adorning Kate's crown in support. When Kate performed, you could feel a sense of excitement, astonishment and pride in the room. We were also lucky enough to also be featured on SBS, with many members being spotted. We at OGAE Australia would like to thank Georges River Council for the event and for SBS for promoting the event and featuring us on the news.

2019 ESC Final Screening Melbourne

John Tzimas/Holly Wulf/Troy Hughes

Our member Troy Hughes approached the committee to work with Classic Cinemas in Elsternwick to screen the delayed SBS telecast of the Grand Final. Holly hosted the evening for the Club and many fans arrived not knowing the winner of the event. It was a fun filled evening and thanks to Troy and Holly for presenting on the evening.

Member Gatherings

OGAE Australia not only hosted a stack of events over the year, but also encouraged our members to entertain smaller gatherings with some financial assistance from the club.

2018 Brisbane Gathering

Gemma Schuhmann

Brisbane's first gathering in a while was a small but lively event. It started with a catch up over dinner. Before the night became wild as Queensland's Premier Drag Pageant kicked off. The first round was Eurovision themed. We may have been the only table that knew all the songs, but we didn't care. We waved our flags and sang as loud as we could. Our own club member, Liam Clark, was one of the judges, so there was only one thing to do – scramble some local fans together to ensure he made the right decision. The party then continued into the early hours of the morning.



2019 Canberra Gathering

Ruth Oldfield (member)

When you put Eurovision together with our national capital, one name comes to mind – Ruth Oldfield. Together with a handful of locals, Ruth took over Saffron Middle Eastern for a night of Eurovision musings, that may or may not have involved a goat. Judging by the photos, everyone had a VERY merry time.

2019 Melbourne Gathering

John Tzimas/Christopher Dean/Laura Smith

It was a night of Eurovision games at Mount Waverley, as our treasurer opened his home to 13 very rowdy Eurovision fans. The night started out with Eurovision Celebrity Head, as 6 members at a time tried to work out who they were by asking simple yes/no questions before anyone else could. We then moved onto the official Eurovision Board Game as we all tried to build the best Eurovision act by answering some pretty easy questions, and a few ridiculously hard ones. And finally it was time for Cards Against Humanity – Eurovision style! By 10pm, we all figured 8 hours of gameplay was enough for one afternoon.

2019 Sydney Gathering

Christopher Powell

Melbourne wasn't the only city having a leisurely bit of Eurovision fun, with Sydney also coming together for an afternoon catch up and drinks. The flags were out as members braved the chilly Sydney winter on the balcony of the Kings Cross Hotel. We were also lucky enough to have a surprise acoustic performance and meet-n-greet with short-listed Australia Decides artist Danielle Lamb. Many discussions were had and beverages drunk, with the party continuing late into the evening. Thank-you for all those who attended, making it a wonderful evening.



SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

As we grow as a club, we can report that we have had a very solid year across our social media channels.

When this new committee started in September 2018, our aim was to reach out to all fans of Eurovision, local and abroad, across many different channels including Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Youtube. We also rebranded all our public channels from ESCFAN to OGAE Australia to reflect our OGAE member status.

Our Twitter (formerly known as ESCFAN_Club) was started in 2016 by our former President Sharleen Wright. Since September 2018, we experienced a 100% increase in followers. Our biggest wins have been live tweeting the Top 100 (in conjunction with Joy 94.9) and reporting on the ground in Tel Aviv.

Our Instagram (formerly known at ESCFAN_Club) was started in 2017 by former committee member Tim Soltys. In this committee year, we have had a 250% increase in followers, largely due to our social media team working together to create exciting and innovative posts to keep our followers engaged. Highlights have been the coverage of the Top 100 and Eurovision updates and reflection.

Our Facebook Page (formerly Eurovision Song Contest Fans of Australia Network) has experienced a 35% increase in likes over the year and it is still the first place people find us on Facebook. We have kept members and fans of Eurovision updated with club news and info via this page.

Our members only Facebook Group has increased by 60% over the year with a record number of new members. This is the place where general Eurovision chatter and discussion happens between our members and our place as a committee to share Eurovision news, club news, and competitions, both ours and those of OGAE. The group is our main outlet for relaying news to the members.

We have also worked to produce original content for our YouTube Channel. Our first ever member reaction video gained 1,800 views. Our other videos have included LipSyncFestivalen, All Stars, interviews and press conferences with Australia Decides artists, European pre-parties, our Preview Party guests EyeCue, Eurovision coverage from Tel Aviv, and our current promotional video Wish You Were Here.

In February 2019, we also took on the day to day running of the largest and longest operating local Facebook Eurovision group, Australian Eurovision, which was formed in 2013 by Alistair Birch and Sharleen Wright. We are pleased to report that since this group fell under our social media umbrella we have had a 10% increase in members. This group is a place for all Australian fans and supporters to come together and share stories of their experiences of Eurovision.

We have also started our own Spotify account, OGAE Australia. Small steps so far but we hope to build on this in the coming Eurovision year and beyond.

Our website, ogaeaustralia.com has gone through two major upgrades during this committee year thanks to former President William Fedor and current Vice President Christopher Dean, with assistance from our Treasurer John Tzimas. We also encouraged more member input this year by slowly revamping the Member's Corner and Eurovision 2019 song reviews.

Our newsletters, run by John Tzimas, reached all of our members with updates and information.

Redbubble was in desperate need of a makeover. After the revamped logo was finalised it was added to the website, where all products were made available. Because who doesn't want their house decorated with ESCFAN merchandise... After the Eurovision season was over, the products were all readjusted and updated after some positioning of the logos on shirts were wrong. We will now all look professional in our new ESCFAN gear.



As a relatively new OGAE club, our social media accounts are on par with likes and followers of other clubs who have been running much longer than our 3 years. We couldn't do it all without help from the committee, the social media subcommittee, and our members.

Our Eurovision coverage was extended to the European Preview parties thanks to Gemma Schuhmann, and the Dare To Dream Team on the ground at Tel Aviv, which included committee and members, Danie Tregonning, Christopher Dean, Troy Bass, Gemma Schuhmann, Christopher Powell, Jayde Gray, Ricky Li, and Mark Perkins. We were also able to work alongside members Stuart Wilders (ESC FAN TV (UK), Alistair Birch (Eurofile.tv), and Michael Polh (Joy 94.9) in Tel Aviv, Head of Delegation Paul Clarke, and Nikita Jacka, Jo'an Papadopoulos and Ben Lewis from SBS.

And we cannot end this report without thanking the Home Team for their assistance during the year and Eurovision: John Tzimas, Kurtis Carter, Laura Smith and Holly Wulf.



Financial Report - Appendix A

ESCFAN INC		
Balance Sheet as at 30/6/2019		
	This Year	Last Year
Assets		
Bendigo Cheque Account	\$804.53	\$1,367.62
Bendigo Debit Card	\$97.16	\$0.00
Bendigo Online Saver	\$7,500.00	\$10,549.03
Paypal Account	\$1,339.79	\$671.23
Total Assets	\$9,741.48	\$12,587.88
Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Assets	\$9,741.48	\$12,587.88
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$12,587.88	\$5,750.86
Current Earnings	-\$2,846.40	\$6,837.02
Total Equity	\$9,741.48	\$12,587.88
ESCFAN INC		
Profit & Loss 1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019		
	This Year	Last Year
Income		
Membership Fees	\$13,075.00	\$10,475.00
Donations Received	\$61.00	\$165.00
Commissions Received	\$55.65	\$48.13
Event Income (Gross)	\$10,120.00	\$13,822.00
Interest Received	\$76.90	\$43.88
Total Income	\$23,388.55	\$24,554.01
Expenses		
Advertising	\$138.32	\$188.68
Bank Charges	\$201.93	\$159.58
Competitions and Prizes	\$1,034.93	\$213.00
Event Expenses	\$21,827.55	\$15,800.13
Filing & Registration Fees	\$225.80	\$56.90
Gifts & Donations	\$164.94	\$0.00
Meeting & AGM Expenses	\$405.50	\$276.67
OGAE Related Costs	\$898.85	\$494.69
Postage, Print & Stationery	\$467.68	\$256.35
Website & Internet Costs	\$869.45	\$270.99
Total Expenses	\$26,234.95	\$17,716.99
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$2,846.40	\$6,837.02


**Schedule 1
Regulation 15
Form 1**

*Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012
Sections 94 (2)(b), 97 (2)(b) and 100 (2)(b)*


**Annual statements give a true and fair view of financial performance
and position of an incorporated association**

We, John Tzimas and Christopher Dean, being members of the
committee of **Escfan Inc.** certify that –

“The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of
the financial performance and position of the above named association
during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending 30th
June 2019.”

Signed:  John Tzimas (Treasurer)

Date: 7 July 2019

Signed:  Christopher Dean (Vice President)

Date: 7 July 2019
