

Barwon Heads  
Fine Music Society Inc  
ABN 55677335966

# 2021-22 Annual Report



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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I am indeed honored to take on the President's role of the Barwon Heads Fine Music Society following in the footsteps of the founder Jenny Wallace Smith, who had held that position for many years - thank you Jenny for your guidance

After nearly 2 years, the music returned to Barwon Heads in December 2021 , with a very special concert at the Community Hall starring well known local Marcia Howard of Goanna Band fame . The Hall filled with people who were longing to get back to concerts and we were treated to a wonderfully energetic and soulful concert by Marcia, her son Liam and friends Michael Davis and Matisse Schubert.



In early 2023 We were delighted to welcome Terry Norman as our new Chorale Director. Terry is a very experienced Choir master, having directed choirs all over the world.

The first concert for 2022 year was in March and starred Kym Dillon on piano & Brigid Mantelli on flute. Amongst other beautiful pieces, they played Dillon's own Sonata for flute and piano. This was composed by Kym in 2021 especially for Brigid, and was inspired by iconic plants from the surf coast region, from photographs taken on a walk near 13th beach.



The April concert was Jacinta Dennett & friends. Jacinta is a freelance harpist and dedicated educator who performs locally and internationally. She was joined by Johanna Selleck - a composer, flautist, and musicologist; Billy Abbott on viola and Amos Roach on yidaki (the didgeridoo). The group gave a simply outstanding concert to a full church which was highly appreciated and indicated their popularity and that of the instruments they play.



In May, Avi Cytrynowski – a piano teacher and who has performed at BHFMS on two previous occasions - was joined by Peter Bray who has been studying classical singing for the past 5 years. They presented a broad range of works from the late Classical period to the contemporary period, with pieces by Beethoven, Schubert, Mahler, Chopin, Rodgers & Hammerstein and others.



On a cold June Sunday, Regina Thomae and Sonoka Miyake thrilled the audience with an eclectic array of lovely piano pieces, all composed as duets, played four hands at the same piano.

This was a delightful concert. Our two pianists worked together like a “well-oiled machine”, and it was obvious that they enjoyed playing together just as much as did we, the audience, enjoyed listening. We are very fortunate to have such talented people living close to us!



So the concert year , despite shortened was a welcome back to Sunday musical events.

In 2023 , the Committee have decided to change the concert dates to the third Sunday , so as not to clash with long weekends , Mother’s day etc . The first concert will be on Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> and there are some more exciting artists in the months to follow- check out the website

Of course, all of these concerts don’t just happen – there are the wonderful Committee members and volunteers, who despite their busy lives and family commitments still turn up to assist in setting up the Concerts , putting up the banners ,tickets selling , helping with afternoon tea etc . Also, I would like to thank those members of the Chorale who stepped forward to take on some organizational roles during the year.

Of course we could not continue to bring these wonderful musical events to the community without the help of our Sponsors- The Barwon Heads Community Bank, the City of Greater Geelong, Peter Molloy from RT Edgar, many of the local businesses . Thank you very sincerely everyone!!

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the year and wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and a wonderful musical New Year!

**Maggie Isom – President**

## CHORALE REPORT

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This was my first year working with the members of the Barwon Heads Chorale, and for the singers it was the first year back after a lengthy Covid-induced break, so it has been an interesting year for us all.

I gather that numbers were a bit lower than previous years, but this was to be expected: many groups and organisations didn't survive the lock-downs at all, so we can be proud that we are still very much a going concern.

We performed for a number of occasions: Easter Day service at the Barwon Heads Anglican Church, where the Mozart's moving Ave Verum , followed by the Hallelujah chorus were so much appreciated by the Congregation

The RSL and the community were pleased to have the Chorale sing again at the Anzac Day commemoration at the Barwon Heads Hall – we led the singing of “Oh God our help in Ages past” – a beautiful rendition of Abide with Me , along with the New Zealand National Anthem the first verse in Māori , and finally the Australian National Anthem



All in all, I think we have had a reasonably successful year. I have tried to use a mixture of well-known and new songs, and the singers have responded enthusiastically. While we all love what we know, it is healthy to be constantly widening our horizons and learning new material. And we all know that singing is a healthy activity: good for the mind as well as the body.

However, while the year has been successful, I think it is important not to rest on our laurels. These days we cannot assume that because a choir exists today, it will still be here tomorrow, and consequently, I think it is important that we are always on the look-out for new members, perhaps members who are even younger than our existing members. In particular, I would very much like to welcome some children into the choir. We may have to think exactly how this might work: when would they rehearse; would it be with the adults? But these things can be arranged.

Finally, can I say that I have enjoyed my first year working with the chorale. I believe we have come a long way this year, and I think we can confidently look forward to even more successful years in the future. Many thanks to Maggie, Leanne, and our accompanist Sara, who all put in a lot of time and effort to ensure the smooth functioning of this important group.



**Terry Norman – Chorale Director**

We thank you and our sponsors for your support over this last year, as we have worked to bring quality musical events for the community to enjoy

Remember our concerts are now held on the third Sunday of each Month and do check our website for details of all the musical events  
[www. barwonheadsfinemusic.org.au](http://www.barwonheadsfinemusic.org.au)

