

Barwon Heads
Fine Music Society Inc
ABN 55677335966

2023-24 Annual Report



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Barwon Heads Fine Music Society has been presenting concerts for nearly 20 years now and our purpose is to bring quality musical artists to perform in our community at an affordable price and we try to do that for each of our performances.

The 2023-24 year began with the annual Jazz in July event – a lunch at 13th Beach Golf Club, With the wonderful Sandra Talty's Jazz band & some fabulous jazz



BARWON HEADS FINE MUSIC SOCIETY
Jazz in July
featuring
Sandra Talty's
Swing Quartet
SUNDAY 16TH JULY 12.15PM
13TH BEACH GOLF CLUB
TOMARA DRIVE, BARWON HEADS
TICKETS THROUGH TRY BOOKING | [HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CIZBT](https://www.trybooking.com/cizbt)
INCLUDES A TWO COURSE LUNCH & A GLASS OF WINE
come and join us for a wonderful afternoon of music
ENQUIRIES:
PHONE: 0412 713 102
EMAIL: BHFMUSIC@GMAIL.COM
Keep up to date with our upcoming
concerts and events on our website
www.barwonheadsfinemusic.org.au
Book on Book

In August we were delighted to be able to hold our concert in the new venue , The Barwon Heads Arts Hub – this is now a joining together of the performing arts into this space. International classic guitarists artists Ziggy & Miles delighted us with a gorgeous afternoon of very special music – attended by family and many friends



In September we held our very first good old Aussie Bush Dance with the Newport Bush Orchestra in the Barwon Heads Community Hall . It certainly was a multigenerational event involving parents, children, grandparents, small children and a few new faces. A great afternoon enjoyed by all.



On a sunny Sunday in October, the Barwon Heads Community Hall was filled with the Sounds of Music! The Barwon Heads Chorale presented their Annual concert in the Barwon Heads Community Hall. Promoted as “Come Sing with us Again” the concert with Terry Norman as Musical Director, gave the large audience a wonderful range of musical treats complete with a community Sing along.



As is our custom, door takings from the Chorale concerts are given to a different community group , and in 2023 this was the Barwon Heads Scouts who are starting work on a new Scout Hall . The cheque was presented at the Annual General Meeting in November.



The Chorale led the singing at the Combined Churches Christmas Carols. I stepped in for Terry and conducted the Chorale this time- they sang beautifully especially the Vivaldi's Ave Verum November – the Savoy opera with Die Fledermaus attracted a good crowd in the Community Hall.



The 2024 year began in February with fabulous international pianist Dr Donna Coleman from New York in the Arts Hub space with our beautiful upright piano. Donna's music featured American and Australian composers immersed in the Romantic and Ragtime traditions. Works by Grainger, Cronin, Easton, Arlen, Gibling, Beach, Parker, Joplin, Evans, and Ives (for his 150th birthday, his rollicking gospel version of "Bringing in the Sheaves") create a variegated tapestry of sounds from both sides of The Pond".

In March, a large audience was treated to a truly wonderful concert with the Stewart Armitage Trombone Quartet with Stewart, Graham, Brittany and Ian (Graham's son who had travelled from Melbourne for the concert). Graham and Brittany both play in Salvation Army Bands and they all are current or past teachers. They offered a musical smorgasbord playing in four parts – Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. The members of the audience who sing in the Barwon Heads Chorale found it hard not to burst into song when they heard the "Ave Verum Corpus" by Mozart as we have performed it several times! The popular "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" followed and transported us to another planet with a beautiful rendition.



In April, we were fortunate to have a great Blues guitarist player Brad Palmer and WOW – what a refreshing and unique musical afternoon Brad – who drove down all the way from Queensland especially for this concert and stopped at Gundagai on the way. Brad shared the story of his life with the various stages expressed through his music. He described himself as a drifter and I for one could hear the road in so many of the tunes. Brad told us that he was playing a Gibson guitar that was 60 years old, so he takes good care of this beautiful instrument.



Our May concert was very special with the return of Jacinta Dennett on harp .

Despite a cold and showery afternoon, friends, members and new visitors gathered at the Arts Hub to listen to her beautiful rendition of “Nightscape “

Jacinta explained the title of the concert Nightscape as a mesmerizing journey into the mystique of the after hours. Jacinta draws on a diverse repertoire of original harp music from Australia and across the globe. Each composition offers a unique glimpse into the enigmatic realm of the night.

June 15th was certainly a treat. The beautiful blend of piano and violin played by two very gifted artists , Sonoka Miyake & Olivier Bonnici was probably one of the best concerts we have had for a long time.

The music was simply breathtaking, beginning with the Baroque Bach Sonata in C Minor to the romantic lilting warmth of the Beethoven romance in F, to the mischievous Ravel Sonata, with its touch of blues and jazz – reminding me of a magical blend of Gershwin & Leonard Bernstein’s West side story !



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, ticket selling, advertising. Also, I would like to thank those members of the Choral who stepped forward to take on some organizational roles during the year.

We could not continue to bring these wonderful musical events to the community without the help of our supporters and Sponsors- The Barwon Heads Community Bank, the City of Greater Geelong, RT Edgar, All Saints Op shop , and many of the local Barwon Heads businesses .

Thank you very sincerely everyone!!

Maggie Isom – President

MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I have now been working with the Barwon Heads Chorale for nearly three years, and I believe that in that time the choir has come quite a long way.

I gather that numbers are still lower than in pre-Covid times, but the fact that we survived Covid at all, is a credit to the hard work, determination and commitment of the members and the committee.

We performed for the usual occasions during the year, although not for Easter Day service at the Barwon Heads Anglican Church. However we sang at the usual Anzac Day commemoration in front of the hall, and our annual sing-along concert in the hall, We have one more appearance for the year: the Community carols.

All in all, I think we have had a very 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 or younger people 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. However, over the last few months we have welcomed a few new members who have added to the sound of the chorale, and this is encouraging.

Finally, can I say that I continue to enjoy my time working with the Chorale. I think, or at least I hope, that we all enjoy our time with the Barwon Heads Chorale. It is a group of lovely people. I believe we are singing better than ever, at least in my time, and I think we can confidently look forward to even more successful years in the future. I should particularly mention Sara our wonderful accompanist who attends week in and week out and provides a marvellous accompaniment for our singing. Many thanks also to Maggie and the committee who all put in a lot of time and effort to ensure the smooth functioning of this important group. And not least, thanks to all the singers, who make the wonderful sound, and who display such commitment, friendship, generosity, and musical skill

Terry Norman – Chorale Director

We thank you and our supporters & 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)



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