



Annual Report

High Street Bells Choir Inc

1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017

Our Vision

The High Street Bells Choir welcomes people of all abilities to experience the joy of singing and to participate in the wider community through performance

Thanks to our sponsors!



Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy
Community Bank® Branch

 Bendigo Bank



President's Report

During the first few months of the year we basked in the glory of the Darebin Community Group of the Year Australia Day award received the year before and presented in January 2016. It is still a lovely reminder of the community's esteem of our choir.

A Communication Strategy was written by Katherine Wositzky in April 2016 and is a helpful guide for future thinking and planning. She also assisted with the Relationship Building Project that was primarily carried out by Sally Green in a role additional to her usual administrative role. The Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank® provided the funds for this project, which have been used to promote and educate the community about our choir.

Julie Contole and Katherine Wositzky have been tireless in their efforts to secure funding for the choir by applying for grants. We are very grateful to them for their efforts and to the funders who helped support us for all or part of our 2015/2016 financial year, namely Clifton Hill/North Fitzroy Community Bank®, the City of Darebin, State Trustees Australia Foundation, the LaTrobe Golf Club, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and the Inner North Foundation, Scanlon Foundation and Refuge of Hope.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) promises to be a source of funding for the choir but has been slow to roll out across Victoria. We will continue to learn about it and how to educate planners and participants about the choir. Membership fees are a small but important part of the choir's income and are needed to ensure the choir continues.

Roles at choir, a document written in October 2016 describes paid positions, voluntary positions, the carers' and the singers' roles. These will evolve as the choir moves forward and the document will need to be revised regularly.

In January of this year we had assistance to begin a social communication strategy. Tiarney Miekus wrote a document outlining a possible strategy, and it will continue to be used to assist us to reach more supporters in future. Workshops were set up and processes were looked at; this, too, will be an evolving story.

Thanks to Jenny Taylor and the singers for their performances throughout the year and for participating in Your Story My Story in May 2016.

A huge thanks to the entire committee, including 'ordinary members' Jenny Penfold, Thomas Russell, David Joy and Aldo Farfalla. Particular thanks to office bearers Lynette Harper, Katherine Wositzky and Julie Contole, for their support and brilliant efforts throughout the year.

We had to pull together to make possible a 'sabbatical' for Jenny Taylor this year. Advertising and interviews were organised, and we welcomed Sarah Mandie to the team as Musical Director for Term 2 .

I will step down from my role as President after the AGM and thank all for their support over the past years.

Catherine Merry

Musical Director's Report

In our seventh year of singing together, we are a tight, strong performing group who have a diverse repertoire of pop, rock, traditional and jazz songs.

We performed at the Exclusion and Embrace Disability, Justice and Spirituality Conference in August at The Jasper Hotel in the City. This was a Uniting Church conference, and the experience was uplifting for us and the audience. I attended several of the conference sessions and got some insight into programs they offer and heard people with disabilities speak about their experience of accessing services.

In October we participated in a workshop, and then performed, with Orkezttra Glasso Beshalde for the Village Festival in Edinburgh Gardens. Following this, we then performed a full length show with Orkezttra Glasso Beshalde for Darebin Music Feast. It was a great experience singing with and meeting the orchestra, and some fine dancing was done also.

In December we did our customary performance at Carols In All Nations, followed by a break-up Christmas party and performance at St Vincent's Hospital. These events were enjoyed by all and attended by extended family members.

We also did a story session with Jenny and Peter Batten, which was funded by Darebin Council. This was quite profound for all who were able to attend. Choir members worked with Jenny and Peter in a very trusting way and the result was a sharing of aspects of people's life stories which deepened our connection and respect for each other. It was a wonderful experience and gave some inspiration as to the deeper conversations we could be having.

The start of 2017 has been slow with events and this is our next area of focus – to find some good performing opportunities. A priority for the music/admin team is to create an EPK (Electronic Press Kit) and contact conference organisers.

I am on leave for Term 2 of 2017, and the choir is currently led by Sarah Mandie, who has been warmly welcomed.

Jenny Taylor



Treasurer's Report

Financial sustainability remains a significant challenge for the choir. Membership fees contribute less than 10% towards the annual operating costs, and the choir must depend on grants, fundraising and donations to make up the difference. The choir was less successful in grant applications in 2016-2017, with several supporters opting to not renew grants and others providing smaller grants than in previous years. A project to strengthen the choir's web presence was initiated in 2016-2017, which it is hoped will lead to an increase in donations.

During the 2016-2017 operating year there were cash receipts of \$11,427.89. This includes grants \$8,000; donations \$1,347; fees \$1,180; and fundraising \$900. Cash receipts are significantly lower in 2016-2017 than in 2015-2016. At the end of the year there were outstanding fees of \$280 owed by eight members. These factors have placed the choir in a seriously risky financial position going into the 2017-2018 operating year. The cash held fell from \$17,906 to \$8,808.

Total payments of \$20,526 were made, which is significantly lower than in 2015-2016 as there were fewer grant-funded projects. Operating costs and fees paid to the Musical Director and the Administration Officer remained relatively stable.

Lyn Harper



Performing at the Uniting Church's Exclusion and Embrace Conference

HIGH STREET BELLS CHOIR INC
SPECIAL PURPOSE STATEMENT for 12 months 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

CASH RECIEPTS	<i>Notes</i>		2015-6
Grants	1	8,000.00	21,000
Fees		1,180.00	1,820
Fundraising	2	900.00	1,085
Donations	3	1,347.89	9,029
Nepalese Fundraiser		-	2,654
TOTAL RECIEPTS		11,427.89	35,589
CASH PAYMENTS			
Grant acquittals	4	937.50	6,115
Musical Directors fees		7,600.00	6,650
Administration Salary		7,800.00	7,287
Operational Costs		4,188.67	4,380
Nepalese Fundraiser			2,654
TOTAL PAYMENTS		20,526.17	27,087
NET CASH		-9,098.28	8,501

Movement of cash

	<i>Notes</i>	
Bank balance 1 April 2016		17,906.50
Net cash movement		-9,098.28
Bank Balance 31 March 2016	5	8,808.22

Notes:

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|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Grants | City of Darebin \$1,000; Bendigo Bank \$2,000; DHHS \$5,000; |
| 2 | Fundraising | Performance fees included \$600 to perform with the Orkezttra Glasso band; City of Darebin \$200; City of Yarra \$100 |
| 3 | Donations | Includes donations received via Paypal \$675.5 net (\$700 less fees \$24.50); and GiveNow \$123.76 net (\$125.00 less fees \$1.24) |
| 4 | Grant acquittals | Costs associated with funded projects |
| 5 | Donations not yet transferred | The bank balance does not include \$113.28 Donations via PayPal not transferred to bank account as at 31 March 2017 |

Assets held at 31 March 2017

Item	Purchase price	Purchase date
Computer	1,582.08	1/06/15
Computer	2,449.00	30/10/15
Projector	449.00	30/10/15
Microphone & speaker	112.80	30/10/15
Printer	270.00	Pre June 2013
Sound System	299.00	Pre June 2013

Stock held at 31 March 2017

Stock of t-shirts	110.16	23/6/13
Stock of CDs	1,063.14	15/11/13



The Your Story My Story Workshop conducted by Peter and Jenny Batten



Singing Christmas carols in the foyer of St Vincent's Hospital



Getting ready for a performance at the Darebin Music Feast



Some of our Singers





Singing for Joy

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