



# Annual Report

## High Street Bells Choir Inc

1 January – 31 December 2018

### President's Report

Another great year! We performed a record total of eight times for a variety of audiences: local aged care facilities, Down Syndrome Victoria's annual fun day, and St. Vincent's Hospital (for Care Week and Christmas carols). We were especially honoured to perform at head office of the Department of Health and Human Services for International Day of People with Disability. We also participated in two City of Darebin events – the Music Feast and Christmas carols.

Sarah Mandie's musical leadership is phenomenal. The introduction of new material and the use of percussion instruments (and kazoos!) has really lifted our performance.

Our volunteer team has been very stable, and we have been fortunate to gain new volunteers as well. I am amazed and grateful to have such a wonderful team of people supporting the choir. Particular thanks go to Jan Briggs, who accompanies the choir each week at rehearsals and when we perform.

A major achievement was the making of our short (about seven minute) video 'Why We Sing'. We thank our talented videographer Sam Osborn for enabling us to realise our vision. We hope to produce a few shorter videos during 2019.

Each term we produced an electronic newsletter, and each one featured a brief

interview with one of our singers. We continue to refine our communications to most effectively keep our singers, their families and carers and our general supporters informed about the choir. I want to thank Sally Green for all the work she does to do this and to keep the choir going.

Every year presents challenges. In 2018 we were able, through the efforts of many people, to meet challenges in funding and performing. Our total membership remains steady at around 30 singers. Including carers (who also participate) and volunteers, we have up to 60 people present for many rehearsals.

We have continued to involve singers in tasks and decisions related to running the choir. The choir has become more than just an activity for many: it is a friendship and support group in which all members are valued and appreciated. This is deeply gratifying.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the individuals who form our Committee – Katherine Wositzky (Vice President), Judy Rassaby (Secretary), Nettie Harper (Treasurer), Jan Clare, Tom Russell, Catherine Merry, David Joy and Scott McFie. Everyone makes a unique and valued contribution to running the choir.

**Julie Contole**

## Music Director's Report

The year 2018 was a year of consolidation and inspiration for the High Street Bells Choir.

New members arrived and settled in very smoothly. The group identity and cohesion is currently very solid, and as director I am committed to giving each choir member a voice, a chance to shine and opportunities to connect with all the other participants. There is an inspiring sense of equality in the choir, as choir members, carers and volunteers all participate together.

The concerts, gigs and open sessions were received with energy and gratitude.

The introduction of percussion to the choir has been very positive for musical development. Using the instrument requires dynamic physical and mental activity, and it is a lot of fun. Some members who are less inclined to sing throughout the session now have another outlet for their rhythm and self-expression.

The group is getting more confident singing harmonies, and I am pleased with the slow but steady progress we have made in this area. The new songs have brought joyous unity to the group and we keep all avenues open for new suggestions and requests.

The High Street Bells Choir is flourishing, and it is always rewarding and an honour to lead such a vibrant and open community choir.

### Sarah Mandie



## Treasurer's Finance Report January to December 2018

The financial report is for the 12 months from January to December 2018. This is the first 12-month report since the change in the Choir's financial year from 31 March year-end to 31 December year-end.

During the 2018 operating year there were cash receipts of \$29,086.92 and payments of \$23,990.28. Operating costs and fees paid to the Musical Director and the Administration Officer remained relatively stable.

The choir received substantial donations in 2018 that significantly contributed to the increase in the overall cash position.

Financial sustainability remains a challenge. Again in 2018 the high level of donations and substantial grants meant the cash position at the end of the 12-month period was increased to \$17,220.73. 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 committee recognises that both the level of fees and the low collection rate are issues. In 2018 less than two thirds of the 30 registered choir members paid fees.



Lyn Harper

### HIGH STREET BELLS CHOIR INC Special Purpose Statement, 1 January– 31 December 2018

CASH RECEIPTS	<i>Notes (see over)</i>	2018		2017 (9 mo)
Grants	1	14,502		10,520
Fees & t-shirt purchases		2,686		1,460
Fundraising		2,323		-
Donations	2	8,726		4,879
Concert fees	3	850		
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>29,087</b>	<b>16,859</b>
<b>CASH PAYMENTS</b>				
Musical Directors fees		7,600		6,000
Administration Salary		7,860		5,450
Operational Costs	4	8,530		2,093
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>			<b>23,990</b>	<b>13,543</b>
<b>NET CASH</b>			<b>5,067</b>	<b>3,316</b>

#### Movement of cash

Bank balance 1 April 2017	12,124.09
Net cash movement	5,096.64
Bank Balance 31 December 2017	17,220.73

## Notes

- 1 Grants
  - Sisters of Charity \$5,000
  - Inner North Community Foundation (in partnership with Portland House Foundation) \$5,000
  - Bendigo Bank \$1,502
  - City Of Darebin \$3,000
- 2 Donations
  - Tom Russell \$5,000
  - Friends of Julie Contole \$1,920
  - Funds in Court \$1,000
- 3 Concert fees
  - Down Syndrome Family Day \$250
  - ADEC Artability \$600
- 4 Operational costs
  - The major operational costs include Rent (\$1,272) Insurances (\$512) and registrations.
  - Also included was the payment of \$2,000 for production of the HSBC video.

### Assets held at 31 December 2018

Item	Purchase price	Purchase date
Percussion instruments	692.60	Sept, Nov 2018
Head set and microphone	456.50	4/07/18
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 December 2018

Stock of t-shirts	145.28	19/3/18
Stock of CDs	331.76	15/11/13

## 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.**

The High Street Bells Choir is proudly sponsored by the City of Darebin.  
Thanks to our other sponsors, too!

