

## President's Report

Good evening, fellow members, it is my pleasant duty and privilege to report to you on the activities of this wonderful club for the previous year.

To begin with, may I say that it has been an honour and a delightful experience to lead this club for the past year, meeting and greeting so many talented, positive people who enjoy visiting this building for its music, art, poetry and welcoming atmosphere, whether they be regular locals or first time visitors to our town.

### MEMBERS

The membership of the club remains steady at a total of 242, comprising 217 financial, 4 provisional and 41 life members as recorded at our last board meeting. We remain at about the same level as previous years, with people coming and going from our community. We could always do with new faces, so invite your friends to come and have a drink, enjoy some music and chat and let them see how welcome they are.

### FINANCES

A more detailed accounting is available for those who are interested in how we are travelling, but my overall view is that although we are holding our own financially, there has been a slow decline over the last two years in bar sales, caused I believe by several factors; fewer regular patrons, fewer large functions and gatherings, a tighter economy and this last winter has not been much fun to go out in. I could be wrong, but wiser heads than mine might have more accurate reasons.

### BUILDING ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

There has been quite a bit of activity in this area:

- Restoration of mezzanine cornice and painting of mezzanine level
- Installation of security cameras
- Installation of closed circuit TV and new large-screen monitor
- Improved LED lighting for artists (art and music) in the gallery room
- Repair of flashing on Stone House roof
- All fire extinguishers replaced and updated
- Garden maintained to a good standard
- Side window between bar and gallery room updated and repaired (Thanks Ian McCormack)
- Beginning work on outdoors footpath entrance and concreting of ramp for disabled access.

Each piece of work has helped the functioning and appearance of our club and my thanks to those who have assisted, whether as paid contractors or as volunteers.

### ART EXHIBITIONS

There have been 6 Art Exhibitions this year:

- Mag Marshall – BOLD
- The Taralga Art Collective
- Joe Zappia – Goulburn's Historic Buildings
- Goulburn and District Art Society
- Helen Strano – Art as Trauma Therapy
- Charles Weyman – Retrospective

The standard for the most part has been exceptionally high, and I would like to express my thanks to the efforts of our Art Coordinator, Rebecca Noonan, for her skill and good taste in selecting the works and the care and time she has taken in curating and displaying them.

### SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

There have been fewer bookings for special interest groups this year, in fact only 11 in total, comprising –

3 birthday parties, 4 Southern Tablelands Arts gatherings, 1 lunch, 1 pizza dinner and meeting for young ANU Doctors in training, 1 Meeting and AGM for Volunteers for Peace, and 1 Psychic Pinup function.

It seems the Club has gone off the radar for special occasions not connected with music. We should look into this aspect of the club's activities.

## MUSIC

Music is the area of the arts we are chiefly known for and the variety and standard of the music performed in this club has given me and others a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction this year.

Friday nights are music nights and we have a regular routine of:

- First Friday of each month, Garth and Friends and Australian Bush Traditional Music
- Second Friday, Open Mic Night,
- Third Friday, Celtic Traditional Music,
- Fourth Friday, various bands and musicians, both local and visiting,
- Fifth Friday, Cocktail hour, Lounge music and Folk Music Open Mic Night

Some of the notable nights have had Local Musicians such as:- Kial Malone, Trev Takenberg, Mike Baker, Ron McLaughlin, Gabrielle Couch and her "Live Karaoke" with Friends nights and Keva Prentice with her "Women in Song" Night.

We have also been entertained by visiting acts, such as

World Music of Moussa Diakite, The Casuals, The Bellhops, Hat Trick, Loose Surface, and Worlds Collide (blues, funk, pop, folk and jazz- something for everyone)

On Thursdays we have hosted the 'Grubs' (Goulburn Region Ukulele Band) and on some Saturday afternoons we have had Mike Baker and his "Market St. Moochers" (Jazz and 30s-40s standards)

The various groups have also entertained people at the Masonic Village (Grubs) and at the Rotary Markets (Trads, Celts, Grubs, and Moochers)

## SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Throughout the year various groups and bands have used the club as a venue for their own music making and we have been pleased to welcome them.

- Rocky Hill Musical Theatre Society (twice)
- Lilac City Brass Band
- Mulwaree High School Music Night
- St Patrick's Day Song Session

## THANKS

Running a club such as this with its financial and regulatory obligations, and relying on it functioning by staffing with unpaid volunteers is a massive job, and I could have not managed to be its President without so many willing people to call upon.

A massive vote of thanks goes to the Current Board members, and as well as them, so many willing members who gave their time, skills and positive efforts to keep this club the wonderful place that it is.

First of all the Board Members:-

**Harold**, our Vice-President Music Committee member, Board minute taker, wine merchant, late-night bar worker, security TV installer, and countless hours of his own time taken up in correspondence and negotiations with architects, contractors, and local council officials.

**Ian**, our Secretary/ Manager, mountains of correspondence, written and digital, dealing with Liquor and Gaming Commission meetings, applications for grants, Music Committee work, bar work, and assisting Harold with Council business.

**Elly**, our valued Treasurer, Work Health and Safety supervisor, overseer of squash court bookings, sign-ins, and running our website.

**Anna**, our Membership Secretary, functions coordinator, calendar manager and sign-ins.

**Griz**, our cashier, ever reliable Thursday night and Sunday afternoon bar man and stock purchaser.

**Marcus**, our Jack of all Trades, opener and locker-upper, gardener, wood and fire man, bar stocker and bar worker.

**Julie**, our Publicity and Newsletter editor, Music Committee member.

### **Vollies Extraordinary:-**

- Mary Booth - cleaning, food supervisor, catering for special events, Sunday Sessions work, helping to run the Bush Trad Gathering, bar closing on Trad nights. bar work.
- Ron McLaughlin - Grubs organiser, sound assistance, bar work, stand-in Bass Muso for many gigs, Sunday sessions work.
- Mike Baker – Music Committee, Visiting Bands liaison, Cocktail Nights music, “Moochers” organiser for Saturdays and Markets sessions.
- Ian McCormack – Mr. Fixit!
- Gabrielle Couch – bar work, Verandah Band on Sundays, special music nights (Eno Experience), Live Karaoke Nights (4!)
- Lyndell Allen and Lynette De Wolff – Sign-ins.
- Sarah Boot Guiver – cleaning bar work on Sundays.
- Rhys and Allison Howitt - bar work and special catering.
- Howard Spark – Maintenance on many occasions.
- Callum White and Jack Heath – Sound Techies for many gigs.
- Rod McCarthy – sound assistance and cleaning.
- Bronwyn Gerathy – bar work, especially on Saturdays for “Moochers” sessions.
- Jenny Hargraves – bar work and music selection and sheet music for Grubs functions.
- Shelly Hughes and Christine McLaughlin – bar work.

What a wonderful bunch, always supportive when asked to help, sometimes at short notice! My sincere thanks to all of you!

### **CLUB PRESENT STRENGTHS AND SOME FUTURE CONCERNS**

#### **Strengths**

- The Members, - positive, friendly, supportive and welcoming to visitors;
- The Music Scene – Variety of genres and styles, pop, rock, blues, jazz, world, folk:- very impressive and something for everyone.
- Art and Atmosphere – thanks again to Mary and Rebecca, wonderful work!
- Building and Ambience – warm (especially the fires in winter!), welcoming, cosy, casual and relaxed.

#### **Concerns**

- Volunteers – we always need more to help spread the load; how do we gather them in? Suggestions welcome.
- Demographics – most of us are getting a little on in years, I certainly am. We need to seek out and encourage younger folk to come to our club, and retain them to give this place a younger demographic. Again, suggestions welcome.
- Bar Sales and other sources of income – money is tight, heavy drinking is (thankfully) decreasing, fewer celebrations being booked; perhaps some more publicity is needed.

**SUMMARY** Some people ask me - ‘What do I do as President, actually?’ Well,

1. I have no particular skills like other Board members,

2. I chair the Board Meetings (well I try) and sign the minutes and some legal documents,
3. I organise the Volunteers roster,
4. I sit on the Music Committee
5. Try to get to the club as often as I can
6. But I think the best job I have is coming into the club on a Thursday, Friday or a Sunday and meeting and welcoming new visitors, introducing people to each other, pouring beers, mixing drinks and being seen to be having a lovely evening or afternoon, which I always do.

I am so glad I was given the chance to be your President this year and have enjoyed every minute of it.

So, thank you all very much and have a good evening.