



**NEWPORT**  
FIDDLE & FOLK CLUB

# Annual Report 2018





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# Annual Report

This report reviews the activities of the Newport Fiddle and Folk Club for 2018. This was our 14th year of creating spaces in Newport for the purpose of music making, storytelling and sharing poetry. The club, now an established part of Hobsons Bay, has created a range of activities and initiatives that continue to address the needs of our members, and in doing so, serve and enrich our local and broader community.

The report will describe the club's activities for 2018 and assess how the aims of the club can best be met through our range of activities. The club aims to:

- Provide a venue for those interested in locally produced music
- Provide opportunities for amateur musicians to get together, play and learn from each other with an emphasis on, but not restricted to, folk music.
- Provide opportunities for non- musicians to join the club and participate in and enjoy the arts through listening, singing, and dancing.
- Provide opportunities that challenge our members to refine and develop their performance and presentation skills.

Beyond the monthly gatherings of the NFFC, the club has a role to play in the development of young and older musicians through workshops and other planned musical gatherings. The NFFC aims to develop links with sponsors of the Arts to source funding for professional musicians who will be able to provide both musical leadership and inspiration for developing musicians within the club.

This report will assess the extent to which the club is meeting these aims and identify goals that we can work towards in 2019 that will maintain the vitality of the club.

## **INTRODUCTION**

2018 has been a year of consolidation for the folk club. Tues Blues and Beginner Jam have continued to develop and are now an established part of our activities as well as key contributors to our festival. Our other groups – Bush Orchestra, Choir, and Celtic Session – continue to provide our members with a place to develop their skills, and to enjoy the sense of belonging that comes from contributing to community life through their performances within Hobsons Bay. Our groups have each developed their own culture and this is now becoming evident in their pages within our website. This is important as many people visit our website to check out what we offer. Clear descriptions of each group enable them to quickly see which group might satisfy their musical interests. As a result the club continues to grow our membership base and this augurs well for the sustainability of the folk club.

This report will detail our events for 2018 and reflect on how the club can remain a vibrant and viable community organization that meets the needs of our members and of our broader community.

# Our Activities

## **CLUB NIGHT**

NFFC monthly club nights have been a success again this year. We offer an opportunity to musicians, singers and writers to perform in an easy casual environment. We always have guests who attend as audience which is very satisfying to know that people will come out on a Friday night just to hear us perform. In fact several times this year musicians have been almost outnumbered by audience.

Numbers are fairly steady at between 15 and 20 for most nights although mid-winter attendance is lower. On the quieter nights everyone enjoys the chance to play an extra song or two and still get home early. The NFFC Marketing Dept. are doing their job well –we seem to have new first time guests every month as well as our NFFC loyal regulars. It is nice to see that newcomers are often younger people who have found us on social media, it gives us a broader range of ages and often musical styles.

Each night a varied mix of music is presented ranging from the traditional Celtic, Australian & American folk to blues, jazz, country and the always popular, sometimes bizarre assortment of 50s, 60s or 70s pop music. Every night is very different and it never ceases to surprise me how the dominant style for the night changes each month. The writers and storytellers add a special extra to the nights, their presentations add to the entertainment.

I have enjoyed hosting the nights this year and would like to thank Michael Stewart for suggesting I take over from him. I have enjoyed Michael's club nights for many years and have gained a great deal musically and socially from the club and am very happy to continue to contribute to the organisation.

I must give thanks to Alan Davies who is always there to open up and arrange furniture. Margaret Davies and Dharma Picking have helped out every night setting up for the tea break and the not so enjoyable task of washing up afterwards - much appreciated.

Looking forward to another year of music and stories on the last Friday of each month.

***Bill Field***

## **OPEN STAGE**

In 2018 we had another great year of Newport Open Stage (NOS) at the Community Hall. Dharma Picking and her mum Peta enthusiastically helped out with running the nights. Again we were ably assisted by Alan and Sue Davies on the occasions when I couldn't be there.

As always, numbers have been up and down throughout the year but it's always a worthwhile and enjoyable night.

Again there was a mix of people who had had little or no previous involvement with the Club and regulars. The frequent performance of "originals" was again gratifying and several of these performers were new to NOS this year.

NOS continues to advance the Club's aims by providing a venue and encouragement for local performers (and some from further away). It allows them to improve their performance and stagecraft skills and often to "road-test" (even to debut) and hone original songs. It's also great entertainment and an opportunity for club members (and others) to socialise.

***Greg Jenkins***

# Our Activities

## **CELTIC SESSION**

Our regular monthly Celtic session continues to be a popular gathering for those who like to play this type of music, or just listen. Held on the first Friday night of every month (except January) at the Newport Bowls Club, the session is relaxed and informal, and gives musicians with a love of Celtic music and a range of skill levels the opportunity to come together and play tunes, sing the occasional songs, meet new people and just have fun. Numbers are consistently between 12 and 15, and we regularly have out-of-towners come along too. We have now developed a substantial core repertoire of tunes, with new ones being introduced all the time. Our spin-off performance group Newport Craic also gets together every month to rehearse a repertoire of arranged tune sets, which also make their way into the Session repertoire.

A highlight for this year was our very well attended spot at the Newport Folk Festival in July. Another highlight was having expert fiddle player Ewen Baker join us in November for a workshop of advice and technique, as well as teaching us a great new tune. We plan to have more of these expert sessions/workshops in future.

The session kicks off at 7:30pm and breaks for coffee/tea at around 9. Most nights it doesn't wind up until about 11. We collect a small entrance fee (\$5 non-members, \$3 members) to cover costs.

Our thanks to Suzie Pearce who has looked after supper preparations and cleared up afterwards, and to all the loyal sessioners who come along every month to enjoy the craic - Dia dhaoibh !

***Simon Leverton & Alison Dew***

## **BEGINNER JAM SESSION**

At the end of 2018, the Beginner Jam completed its second full year on the Newport Fiddle & Folk Club calendar. The group is for beginning adult musicians (although we have a couple of kids). Each evening we nominate one key, and play only 4 chord songs in that key. The group meets monthly in the Newport Scout Hall, where the homely tumbledown feel suits our confidence levels! The Beginner Jam continues to grow, with 122 people on its mailing list and an average attendance of about 25 people.



We welcome a range of instruments, and always have a large contingent of guitars and ukuleles, with regular appearances from cello, keyboard, harp, fiddle, mandolin, piano accordion, bass and vocalists. We have regular visitors from Gisborne and Ballarat, who report that our group is the only group they can find for beginning adult musicians.

After two years with Molly at the helm, in 2019 we are addressing sustainability. We have divided the coordination tasks into four roles and turned them over to the group. More experienced members lead the music, while others have taken on the tasks of coordinating the chord charts, opening and closing the hall, and welcoming new members. These roles will be re-allocated every six months to prevent burnout and make sure the group stays owned by its members.

We've applied to run a workshop at the 2019 Newport Folk Festival, and two bands have emerged from the group who perform regularly at Open Stages and Theme Nights.

The most common comment about why people keep coming back: "I never dreamed I'd be good enough to do this - it's so much fun to play with other people".

The Beginner Jam - a gateway drug to folk music!

***Molly Galea***

# Our Activities

## **STAGECRAFT WORKSHOP**

The Stagecraft Workshop on 9 June 2018 focused on the ‘non-musical’ aspects of being a performer – forming a relationship with the audience, what to say in between songs, using a microphone. The workshop was led by Jackie Kerin and Alan Davies, who drew on their experience and training as performers to take the 20 participants through a wide range of activities during the afternoon. The workshop covered some very practical skills such as correct microphone technique (with expert advice from Clive Bourne) and strategies for learning lyrics so you can perform without a music stand between you and the audience. It also took us into areas of performance skill that are harder to define – how do you ‘reach out’ and establish a relationship with the audience? This happens on a more personal level and every performer needs to find their own way.

The workshop included some more open-ended activities to help participants with this process. The participants learned from each other, gave each other lots of support and had a very enjoyable and productive afternoon.

***Alan Davies***





# Our Groups

## NEWPORT BUSH ORCHESTRA

Changes were afoot for the NBO in 2018 as Neil Jolly who had been leading the NBO excellently, since I moved out of range (so I thought) in 2014, had decided to step down.

This left the NBO in a pickle as leaders who understood the NBO aims and had the experience and time to do the job were not to be found.

NBO aims remained the same: provide a local ear training group, use Australian collected material as a basis for repertoire, make sure the environment was extremely supportive and non-judgemental, foster a collective atmosphere, welcome all-comers, provide musical performance for local activities using the collected material, act as a springboard for players to develop other avenues of performance.

There were members keen to keep this nascent institution going as the benefits to its members and the local community were obvious.

Various proposals were made and kept as alternatives. the chosen solution was to get me back to lead the orchestra in 2018 and see if we could maintain continuity this way.

Changes were made ,firstly we were to meet fortnightly ( weekly was too onerous on me), secondly I wanted to expand our repertoire to reflect the interests of many of the NBO members, third I relaxed the ban on sheet music (whilst still doing ear training) ,

The changes were experimental to see if we could maintain viability , keep Australiana as a core , attract a broader spectrum of players to the NBO and secure a stronger financial basis as a result.

The fortnightly sessions seem to work , the sheet music introduction is a two-edged sword but seems to be helpful, the new tune material is working and gives members a greater say in what is played and we have secured a small rise in numbers.

Financially we are still on the borderline.

During the year we have learned more tunes , I have tried a number that have not come to fruition and it has been difficult to reconcile the ear players with those who read.

Most of the sessions, chaotic though they may look to an outsider, have been productive and fun. We always run overtime...a good sign.

External performances include the Annual Bush Dance (led by Neil and Dave Isom), a Music on Mason , Performance on Kathryn's 30th birthday and the highlight Playing for the Japanese-



# Our Groups

Australian Friendship Association in Williamstown Town Hall.

I tried various initiatives throughout the year some worked , some fell by the wayside. We have a number of members who can run things in my absence ( I was ill a couple of times) and it seems the NBO is more robust than we suspected and thus has a secure future.

I have to travel 280K round trip to do this and while I love it , it does tire me and one kanga has died as a consequence of my extra travel. I am keen to continue in 2019 , refining the format of our sessions and taking advice from members as to how we can develop it and strengthen the group.

We have an unbelievably disparate group of people present in the group and over the years we have accommodated an outlandish array of personalities. I am amazed at how much fun we have had and how worthwhile the group has been for its members and the wider community.

Music is the glue that enables this wild spectrum of people to operate so well . Members have ranged from a very famous rock guitarist, a world-renowned sound sculptor and jazz guitarist, a bicycle manufacturer and archery champion, a world renowned Science writer, a Tamworth Golden Fiddle winner (me) , a married couple from Barcelona , vintage car and motorcycle restorers, sewage engineers, mayors, chefs . Just everyone comes, has a good time and eventually leaves a better player.

The NBO is more than just an amateur orchestra , it is a valuable institution in your Newport.

In 2019 we will continue doing the same thing.

We will meet every fortnight starting on Feb 11 and continuing till Nov 2019

**Greg O'Leary**





# Our Groups

## **NEWPORT COMMUNITY CHOIR**

2018 was a busy year for the choir, with eight performances to prepare for, including our tenth birthday celebration in September. We kept up the tradition of taking part in World Migratory Bird Day in May. This day is celebrated all over the world. We first celebrated it in 2014 by ‘flashmobbing’ a group of Friends of Newport Lakes volunteers. Since then we’ve seen the event grow to a Council-organised event with lots of groups participating and providing kids’ activities. This year was extra special because we got to sing an original song by composer Todd McNeal, along with a children’s choir. The song was commissioned as part of the club’s Tutti project. The friendship with Friends of Newport Lakes has kept up too – we sang at their twenty-first birthday celebration in April.

We love to sing with other choirs, especially our good friends Willin Wimmin, so we organised to get together with them for a combined performance at the Newport Folk Festival. The combined rehearsals are always fun!

We were invited to perform a song at the launch of the Art and Industry Festival in October. Singing in a huge, echoing warehouse wasn’t easy but we rose to the challenge and belted out a work song that even the people at the back could hear.

We celebrated our 10th birthday at the Bowls Club with an afternoon of singing and catching up with old friends. It was great to see lots of people who’ve sung with the choir over the last ten years. We estimate that over 120 people have sung with the choir since it was formed. At least six singers who came along to the very first rehearsal in October 2008 are still singing with the choir! We’ve done over 60 performances, in venues including a hair salon, a street corner, and Williamstown Town Hall.

***Alan Davies***



# Our Groups

## **NEWPORT STRINGS**

2018 began with a meeting between Michael Stewart, Suanna Harvey and me where Michael asked us to start to take over organisational functions of the group. Up to then, Michael had been the sole organiser, booker of venues and general liaison person for the group. Pleased to be asked, Suanna and I set about taking on those organisational roles under Michael's watchful eye.

Michaela Mee remains as leader of the group and, in collaboration with Suanna, has expanded our repertoire to include more difficult works, most notably the Albinoni Oboe Concerto in D minor and the Handel Concerto Grosso in A minor. This has been a welcome development and further thought will be given to other new music into the future. The group is always pleased to play music from the Baroque repertoire which means there is an abundance of pieces available to explore.

Newport Strings core activity is the Saturday morning performances at The Hub, of which this year, there have been four. In addition N.S. did the Saturday night spot at The Newport Festival with an expanded line-up of 20 players. A number of muso friends were recruited to join us which resulted in a fine ensemble and a performance enjoyed by the musicians and audience alike.

The group has been involved in a number of other activities throughout the year, including a double quartet performance at the Williamstown Town Hall as part of the Williamstown Open House Day and a quartet performance at the Dickens reading night at The Hub. In October we were approached by Audio Engineer student Michael Cook who asked for permission to record our November performance as part of his final year assessment; we agreed to this and now have 10 wonderful quality recordings of our November program.

A number of our members play in other groups and ensembles both within NFFC ... The Tall Boys, The Ricolos and the Newport Gypsy Djangos and outside ... the Doctor's Orchestra, Orchestra 21 the Camerata Orchestra the Melbourne Sinfonia and the Moorabool Light Orchestra. In addition a quartet has formed that has been involved in a number of activities locally, the four members, Matt Gillet, Michael Stewart, Naomi Martin and me while still exploring repertoire are all keen to pursue performance opportunities.

Thanks always to Michaela and Michael and to all our Newport Strings members for their time and enthusiasm; none of this would happen without their ongoing support. And finally, a big thank you to our loyal audience who regularly turn up at The Hub to enjoy our playing.

***Warwick Dawson (cello)***



# Our Groups

## TUES BLUES

Tues Blues has continued from strength to strength in 2018.

Our original aim of providing a supportive environment where locals and others could understand & develop their jamming skills in the genre of blues, souls, roots etc., has continued. We subsequently added the aim of developing and strutting our performance skills, and this has also been more than met.

We started the year with about 15 -18 fairly regular attendees.

With a plethora of stellar performances, numbers rose to 24 over winter, prompting us to say goodbye to our home at Outlets, & investigate a bigger venue. Unable to cope with the acoustics in the Mechanics Hall, we have settled happily into a new home in The Hub.

We continue to meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (with occasional extras before performances) & have played around with various session formats, including a once a month jam and once a month rehearsal. We have found that what works best for us seems to be an hour of jamming, a break, then an hour to 90 mins of song development & rehearsal. This brings both fun and focus into every session.

We decided on a professional look from the start, and I organised a great photographer to do some promo pics for us. Using that, gigs this year started with Yarraville festival, 2 x Tuesdaylele (Werribee & Pt Cook), Open Williamstown in the Town Hall, Newport Festival on the main stage, Newport Lakes celebration, Music on Mason, NFFC theme night and 4 performances at Newport Library. Just before Newport Festival, we also had a weekend skill development day, looking at harmonies, arrangements, and working on mission and goals. No wonder the crew are battle-weary but also inspired!

This is a lovely bunch of people at a variety of levels on a variety of instruments who have worked hard all year to collaborate on songs and reach a good standard (for the size of band we are!).

Our goal for the coming year is to run a day of Blues music at the Substation (Sept 15) showcasing a variety of bands including Tues Blues, and to record at least an EP to sell at that gig.

Phew!

## ***Gaelle Horsley***





# Our Events



## LIVE@NEWPORT

### Theme Nights

Held on April 20th our “Songs of Love and Hate” night required performers to do one song from each of those categories. It had 36 songs from 18 acts (65 performers, including two choirs). It was run by Andrea MacGlashan and me.

On November 23rd we held another theme night called “Working Songs” as part of the Art and Industry Festival. It featuring songs about “jobs” ranging from the industrial and military to women’s unpaid work. It consisted of 28 songs by 18 acts with 62 performers.

Steph Payne joined Andrea and me on the organising team. Sue Davies was door and decoration duties.

As always, both nights had renditions ranging from the faithful to the eccentric and some fantastic costumes.

The audiences of 100-odd were well satisfied and I’m sure that Andrea and Steph would agree with me that they were both great successes. We look forward to continuing them in 2019.

### Greg Jenkins

### Singalong

One afternoon and two evening singalongs were held during 2018. Our hard working group of leaders once again came up with a wide variety of songs to delight and sometimes challenge our audiences. Ranging from ‘Danny Boy’ to ‘Singin’ In The Rain’ to ‘The Time Warp’, a total of 76 songs were sung over the 3 dates. Our slideshow contains lyrics for 196 songs and continues to grow. Thanks to the Newport Bowls Club for providing us with a venue for the singalongs and to Scott Petrie who looks after the sound. And to our fabulously generous singalong leaders, thank you one and all. So why not come along and experience a singalong first hand? Dates for 2019 can be found on the club website calendar of events and are published in the club newsletters.

### Sue Davies



# Our Events

## **NEWPORT LAKES BUSH DANCE**

**Sunday 18 March 2018**

This year saw a few new faces involved in the organising and running of our annual Newport Lakes Bush Dance – Rick Sidgwick took over from Sue Davies as event organiser, Jenny Simpson from the bush band 'Blackberry Jam' was recruited as our dance caller, and club member Molly Galea stepped into the shoes of MC. The weather on the day started out extremely wild and windy, which made the marquee delivery and set-up awkward however, by midday all was in readiness as the wind abated and the sun shone through.

Around 200 adults and children of all ages came along to enjoy the music and join in the dancing, which was expertly called by Jenny – her husband Ray also appeared on stage with his concertina, harmonica, bones and spoons – and they joined the nine regular Newport Bush Orchestra members expertly led by Dave Isom in the playing of the various dance tune sets. Lots of people large and small jumped up and joined in the dancing and had a great time. Our soundman Clive twiddled the knobs and as usual did a fabulous job.

Other entertainment was again provided by students from Newport Lakes Primary School led by Ellen Morabito and Strings West led by Laura Sheridan. Club group the Tall Boys - minus Tall Girl Suanna - also performed a set of songs for us later in the afternoon, which allowed the dancers to sit in the sun and catch their breath.

Sue Davies, with assistance from Alison Dew, again ran a children's activity similar to the previous year – the individual pieces of artwork created will be stitched together and prominently displayed at our festival mid-year.

Thanks to all the musicians and teachers for all their rehearsing and wonderful playing on the day and a special thank-you to Dr Mary Burbidge for being our First Aid Officer once again.

Newport Fiddle and Folk Club also thanks Hobsons Bay City Council and Newport Traders Association for their continuing financial sponsorship of this popular family event.

***Rick Sidgwick***





# Our Events

## NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL

The Club staged our 12th Newport Folk Festival in 2018. It was again a very successful event that involved our members as performers and volunteers. It also provided our broader community with a cultural event that has become an important part of the calendar of Newport and Hobsons Bay. The program was varied and the entertainment included a wide range of musical styles (classical, swing, zydeco, folk) as well as the range of workshops and join in sessions that are now the hallmark of the Festival. The program also included theatre and story telling (Stories by the Fire has become another established part of the program), as well a multi-media show (Music for a Warming World) that was created by Simon Kerr (NFFC member) and has been performed at many festivals around Australia.

The festival made a modest financial surplus this year and continues the trend of the last 2 years which have seen the festival move to a stronger and more viable foundation on which to build future festivals. We are fortunate to have the continued support of Hobsons Bay City Council as our principal sponsor, and to have the support of our local traders (Newport Traders Association) as well as Outlets Community Centre and Alan Davies (Civil Celebrant). It is possible that we can develop our sponsorship base in the future, and this would free the program to become more adventurous and include other activities that have previously been out of our reach. We are also fortunate to have the support of our partners: Newport Bowls Club, the Substation, the Newport Scout Group and the Newport RSL. Their venues lay the foundation for the festival, and they provide significant in-kind support and access to their buildings that enables the festival to run smoothly. We look forward to working with these groups to develop our festival in 2019.

This year the festival was created and staged by a significantly larger committee than previous festival. In addition to my role as Director, and Sue Davies (Manager) the committee included the following:

- Chris Phillips ..... Talent
- Noel Landry ..... OHS
- Molly Galea ..... Quality
- Irene Laing ..... Administration
- Suzie Pearce ..... Marketing
- Jane Taylor ..... Volunteer Coordinator

The size of the group meant that the workload was shared more evenly than in the past. This provides the basis for a sustainable festival. At the completion of the festival Molly Galea, as Quality Manager, embarked on a thorough review of each of the committee positions (through one hour interviews for each committee member). From this Molly presented a comprehensive report on the festival structure, and developed a series of worksheets and position descriptions that will be the basis for future planning of the festival. Well done Molly on such an exhaustive analysis of the festival. We can now use these documents to guide the future planning of the festival, and provide the committee with clarity about their tasks and the timeline for completion of each task. We are confident that this will lead to a smooth and efficient planning process for future festivals.



# Our Events

The 2019 festival committee met in November 2018 to launch the festival planning process.

The committee for 2019 includes the following roles:

- Michael Stewart ..... Director
- Sue Davies ..... Manager / Treasurer
- Shemeema Esufali ..... Secretary
- Chris Phillips ..... Talent
- Suzie Pearce ..... Marketing
- Darren Williams ..... Sponsorship / Marketing
- Molly Galea ..... Quality
- Jane Taylor ..... Volunteer Coordinator
- Greg Hammond ..... Sound / Technical
- Noel Landry ..... Safety
- Gavin Tabart..... General member

I look forward to working with the committee to create a fantastic program. The challenge of the group is to develop and implement a comprehensive marketing program that builds on our existing audience for the festival so that it will continue to be both successful and financially viable.

**Michael Stewart**

## MUSIC ON MASON

On October 6 the club revived our Music on Mason series in Paine Reserve. Music on Mason was one of the first of our initiatives to get music into our community, and now that The Hub is established it was time to bring it back. It was a beautiful sunny day and each of our four established groups performed: The Celtic Session (Craic) the Bush Orchestra, Beginner Jam and Tues Blues. Alison Dew and the Saturday Newport Ukulele Group were also on hand to add to the entertainment, and a children’s activity was set up to complete the day. Thanks to Alan Davies on the sound desk, the music wafted the way along Paine Reserve to Newport Station. It was lovely and such a success that we will run it again in April next year. This timing will not only match the good weather but also promote the folk club and our groups, while also promoting the festival. Thanks to Suzie Pearce for taking on this event for 2019. We look forward to another great day in Newport.

**Michael Stewart**



# Our Events

## **CAROLS AT THE SUBSTATION**

The Club held our 10th Carols at the Substation on Saturday December 16 this year. Laura Sheridan has managed the event for the last 5 years and she put systems in place so that the hand over was very clear. There are a range of detailed planning documents and these made the planning and management of the event quite straightforward. I am very thankful to Laura for passing on these systems.



165 tickets were sold and the event was a full house. This provided a lovely atmosphere for the evening. In total there were 55 performers, with 30 in the orchestra (14 young musicians from Strings West), a group of 10 children from Spotswood Primary School as well as 6 acts from the club. It was a great pleasure to have the Mayor and his family attend the event as well as the president of Hobsons Bay Vietnamese Society (Myly Nguyen) and her husband. All in all this was a really enjoyable community event.

Neil Brydges worked with me to create the event and he is ready to take it the Event Manager role next year with my support. We can look forward to celebrating the 11th Carols at the Substation on Sunday December 15th. It is important to note that the Substation is now receiving bookings more than 12 months in advance. Therefore part of the planning process for the 2019 Carols is to book the date for the 2020 Carols at the Substation. This is another part of the system to ensure that the event continues in the future.

Overall a very successful event that serves both the club and our community. I look forward to being part of the event next year under the leadership of Neil Brydges.

**Michael Stewart**

## **TUTTI!**

All Together Tutti! A Hobson's Bay Partnership Grant between Newport Fiddle & Folk Club and Strings West is now complete.

'Tutti', meaning 'all together', was a specially commissioned choral suite bringing Hobsons Bay communities together through song. Using bird songs, Tutti drew parallels between the unique environment of Hobsons Bay and our celebrated multicultural communities. The score was arranged for both adults and children so that families, communities and different generations can participate all together 'tutti'.



The music was been composed by award-winning western Todd McNeal, and the libretto by award-winning western poet Barry Hill. Workshops and performances began earlier this year. In May, Spotswood Primary School Choir and the Newport Community Choir performed the first of the suite, Godwits, as part of World Migratory Bird Day at the Newport Hub. In June, participants at the Newport Folk Festival enjoyed uncovering the hilarious antics of the Ibis, during a Newport Substation Workshop.

A complete set of the choral work including conductor's score, accompaniment, parts and practice recordings will now be made available to any school or community groups within Hobson's Bay to learn and perform.

**Laura Sheridan**

# Our Organisation

After being involved in the folk club for all of its 14 years, it is very clear that while there are many chance meetings that lead to great things, none of our groups or events occurs without considerable thought and effort. They may appear to happen so easily, but the lack of stress at our events is directly proportional to the effort of our members in preparing for, managing and reviewing each event and activity. The strength of our organization is reflected in the smooth operating of our activities and groups. We are indebted to our members who put up their hands to organize, run and manage the many events of the club.

THE NFFC committee continues to have a role in leading the club and creating and driving activities and making connections with groups outside the club. However, as the club grows and develops, the committee increasingly has the role of providing oversight of the activities that are run by non-committee members. This governance role is most important and we are fortunate to have a strong committee who have the skills to manage the club throughout 2018.

## **NFFC COMMITTEE**

The club currently has a committee of eight members. We meet each month to review the operations of the club and to plan for the months (and years) ahead.

### COMMITTEE

Michael Stewart .....President  
Alan Davies .....Vice President  
Neil Brydges.....Treasurer  
Rick Sidgwick .....Secretary  
Alison Dew  
Suzie Pearce  
Greg Jenkins  
Andrea McGlashan  
Frances Brennan

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for their time and efforts throughout the year. It is a great pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic group and our 90 minute meetings are most productive. Our planning calendar for 2019 (attached) illustrates the breadth of the club's activities and provides the committee with the scope of their oversight role for the next 12 months.

***Michael Stewart***



# Our Organisation

## MEMBERSHIP

At the time this report was compiled, the Newport Fiddle & Folk Club held 140 memberships. This is 28 memberships up from last year. This is a key indicator of the continued growth of the club over the last 12 months.

There are 3 types of memberships.

Type	Memberships	Members
Single	68	69
Family	72	144
Organisation	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>213</b>

*Alison Dew*

## WEB STRATEGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The club website had almost 7,400 visits over the year. The most popular pages on the site were:

- Festival page
- Choir resources page (frequently used by choir members for practicing songs)
- Performers listing
- Events page

The general information pages for the choir and Bush Orchestra were also popular.

For the first time, the festival website garnered more visits than the club site: over 7,700 for the year. The most popular pages were:

- Program page
- Performers listing
- Tickets page

On social media, the club Facebook page has just over 500 likes and the festival page has well over 1,200 likes.

Our monthly email bulletin goes out to 582 subscribers, with a 45% open rate, which is very high by email-marketing standards.

*Alan Davies*





# Our Organisation

## 2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Members	Membership	2559
<b>Groups</b>	Choir	13
	NBO	-1808
	Celtic Session	-187
	Tues Blues	409
	Newport Strings	235
<b>Activities</b>	Open Stage	-8
	Club Night	-8
	Beginners	66
	Singalong	517
<b>Events</b>	Bush Dance	-565
	Music On Mason	117
	Carols	-236
	Theme	973
<b>Other</b>	Stagecraft	340
	Tutti	0
	NYFS	18
		<b>5247</b>
		<b>-2812</b>

This is a summary of the financial activity of the club, detailed reports are prepared for submission to Consumer Affairs. Please contact me with any queries.

**Neil Brydges**  
Treasurer

# Conclusion

## CONCLUSION

The Newport Fiddle & Folk Club continues to be a very active organization within our community. After 14 years, the club maintains a wide range of musical groups and performance activities that serve our members. This in turn enriches our broader community in Newport and Hobsons Bay through our participation in local events. We have built up a network of partner organisations who enable us to stage significant events throughout the year. These networks have been developed over a long period of time and continue to provide strength to our ability to grow and develop.



The club now has two strong committees that manage our activities. We continue to develop new members of each committee who understand our ethos and the importance of our welcoming culture that nurtures such a strong sense of community. A healthy sign of the club is that, in addition to the committees, we have a new generation of leaders who have found new ways for people to come together to play music. These innovations continue to expand our rich community of musical partnerships. While the Club Night continues to play its role in our calendar, we can take pride in the fact that the list of NFFC groups and activities is extensive. I would like to acknowledge and thank all of our members who have taken the initiative as leaders and supporters of our groups. It is a great pleasure to hear all of the joy that so many people gain from being part of our groups. Well done, and I encourage all of our members to take the time to acknowledge the efforts of each of our leaders.

In 2019 we look forward to another year of music making and providing our members, and anyone who wishes to join us, with the opportunity to find, explore and develop their 'inner musician'. We will also celebrate our 15th birthday in August this year. This will be a celebration of our stories, our friendships, our shared history, and our community. It will also be a good time to savor our good fortune at finding so many people (200 members+) who share our love of music making. It is a great thing to have in Newport.

The challenge of the club is to continue to promote our key message - Music is Good! and continue to extend our invitation – Come and Play! On the evidence of this report, we are more than capable of delivering on both!

Let us all create a bright future for the club!



**Michael Stewart**  
**Club President**  
**2005 - 2018**



**NEWPORT**  
FIDDLE & FOLK CLUB

## TIMELINE BY DATE

- 2004 First Monthly Meeting
- 2005 Committee Formed  
First Major Event: 'The Tank'
- 2006 First Newport Lakes Bush Dance  
First 'Music on Mason' Series  
New: Newport Bush Orchestra Formed
- 2007 New: 'Music at Breizoz' launched (monthly concert)
- 2008 First Newport Folk Festival  
New: Newport Community Choir
- 2009 NFFC Incorporated  
First Workshop Series  
First Carols at the Substation  
New: Newport Strings Formed
- 2010 New: Incredibly Supportive Songwriting Group Formed  
First Open Stage
- 2011 First Monthly Celtic Session (Bowls Club)  
Newport Bush Orchestra plays at the National Folk Festival
- 2012 Breizoz gig becomes 'Live@Newport'
- 2014 10 Year Celebration of NFFC
- 2015 Year of Consolidation
- 2016 Newport Bush Orchestra - 10 years  
First Family Jam Session
- 2017 Year of Consolidation
- 2018 Club Night – 14 years  
Bush Dance – 14 years  
Newport Bush Orchestra - 13 years  
Newport Folk Festival – 12 years  
Live @ Newport – 12 years (8 + Breizoz 4)  
Workshop Program – 11 years  
Carols at the Substation – 11 years  
Newport Strings – 10 years  
Open Stage – 10 years  
Celtic Session – 9 years  
Strings West – 6 years  
Tues Blues – 5 years  
Beginner Jam – 3 years

# NFFC Year Planner 2019

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
JAN																																
FEB																																
MAR																																
APR																																
MAY																																
JUN																																
JUL																																
AUG																																
SEP																																
OCT																																
NOV																																
DEC																																



**NEWPORT**  
FIDDLE & FOLK CLUB

- Monthly
- 1st Friday
- 2nd Friday
- 3rd Saturday
- Last Friday
- Celtic Session
- Newport Bowls Club
- Open Stage
- The Hub
- Beginner Jam
- Scout Hall
- Club Night
- The Hub
- Weekly
- ncc
- Bi We
- tb
- As Per Timetable
- nbo
- Special Events
- Newport Community Choir
- The Hub
- Tues Blues
- The Hub
- Newport Bush Orchestra
- The Hub
- Public Holidays
- School Holidays
- Hub Concerts
- Theme Night
- Newport Bowls Club
- Singalong
- Newport Bowls Club
- NFFC Committee
- Festival Committee
- Newport Bowls Club