

Sweet Sassafras Open Community Choir Inc.
Annual General Meeting 22/04/2024
President's Report 2023

It is with pleasure I present my report for 2023.

The year commenced with everyone eager to get back, catch up after the break and dust off the vocal chords. Over the year we also welcomed new members as well as saying farewell to others.

Susy continued throughout to bring her considerable talents, energy and personality in her role as choir director, for which we are most grateful. She introduced us to new and varied material and prepared us for a number of performances.

In June we sang at the U3A supported community event at Farndon's Hall in Kalorama to celebrate the survival and resilience of Hills communities following the devastating storms of June 2021. It was a great success.

Not a gig - but in October 20 members and friends were treated to the dynamic energy and voices of the Soweto Gospel Choir in Narre Warren – brilliant!

The choir supported Reconciliation Week in a small way by learning in part 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' and making a short video clip.

In November we again sang at the Tecoma Ethical Market followed soon after by a performance at Selby a Capella.

Christmas carols in Sassafras and Olinda were unfortunately cancelled due to bad weather.

Sweet Surprises were once again held in June and December. As always, a lot of fun and a great opportunity to share sometimes 'hidden' talents.

Other things to note, we subscribed to our local Community Radio station 3MDR, which gives us a vehicle through which to promote ourselves.

The new website is up and running - with very positive feedback from members - and a huge thank you goes to Sue Amico for all the work involved with this. A new feature in the 'Members' area is the inclusion of individual member Bios that they have provided – a novel way for us to get to know each other better.

Thanks also go to Tammy in designing our new logo and Marge for making the new badges.

Thanks go to the committee for their diligence and dedication for keeping our choir 'Rollin' along, now in its 19th year.

Rin van Raay

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Secretary's Report 2023

Greetings once again.

As Rin has stated, the Choir has had another successful year.

On my database I have 42 names listed as Active Members. This would be a little optimistic as it includes some who've recently gone missing in action. In fact, we've been averaging in the high 20s each week in warmer months and a little below that in the cooler, darker times. Thank you to the stalwarts who roll up each week, no matter what.

Although we've had some members melt away, we have been able to welcome several new faces. We're sure they'll enjoy their time with us.

I've done my best to keep up with correspondence this year – making sure members know what's going on in the choral world. On occasions, however, I have exercised editorial judgement e.g. An invitation to attend an International Choral Contest in Krakow, Poland, is not of great relevance to us humble little Hills Warblers. (Although it would be great fodder for grant application writers.)

No matter what the weather, being with our fellow warblers adds warmth to Monday nights. Susy's smile and energy has a lot to do with that!!

Sing well,

Stu