

Sweet Sassafras President's Report - 2025

This has been a successful and rewarding year for our dynamic Choir, with a variety of enjoyable activities for Choir Members and Supporters.

During the year we have again welcomed a number of new members who have enhanced the choir. It's what sustains us that we accept and support new people. Welcome and thanks.

Once again we are very lucky to be led so capably by Susy Hull who knows how to get the Best out of us and energises our performances with her music skills and enthusiasm. She also does lots of extra work at Home and all these things which enhance our singing, including arranging, creating song sheets, networking with other choirs and recording practice clips on our website,

Many thanks Susy. The level of our performance has greatly increased since Susy joined us.

We performed five times in 2025 at various Community Venues:

- On March 29th 2025 we performed with a Great response at Kallista Centenary Celebrations - feedback was very positive from the audience who liked our High Energy Performance. Many thanks to everyone who participated, particularly Susy our dynamic leader.
- Our 20 Year Celebration in August 2025 was a huge Success , thanks to everyone who organised and participated. It was great to see a number of Sweet Sassafras Singers return to be part of the Fun, including Jess Nabb who led some songs. Vanda did a great job in Producing a Visual Feast of Sweet Sassafras History: it was well received by all. Chris Risely and Moonshine Coalition entertained with some very appropriate songs to finish the day on a High. May we continue for many more Happy Times - sharing our music with the Community.
- We joined with Lyrebird Choir and other groups to Sing for Unity in September 2025 at Emerald Hub. It was appreciated by all who attended. It was great to combine with other Groups in raising awareness of the Power of Singing.
- A large number of Choir Members were Happy to be part of Selby Fest in November 2025. It's always good to be at Selby Community House – always a Great Day.
- To close off a Busy Year we sang at Kallista Christmas Market on December 6 2025. We're always well received there, even when it's raining.

Sweet Surprises is an ongoing Fun Night held at Mid-Year and Christmas. It continues to come up with some Great Surprises from our very talented Singers . We have a diverse range of musical skills and this is a Great place for them to Shine.

Brian Crouch – May 2026

SWEET SASSAFRAS OPEN COMMUNITY CHOIR

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025

As Brian and Phil have noted 2025 was another busy, energetic and satisfying year for the choir.

Once again Susy led us with skill, patience, enthusiasm and dynamism. She continues to challenge us to improve both individually and as a group.

We were sad to see some members leave us, but we understand that lives change, as do people's priorities. On the other hand, it is always wonderful to welcome new members – even if there aren't enough Basses arriving.

Whilst there have been some potential new members who may have only come once or twice we need to remember that our repertoire may not be to their liking. In the meantime – it's important that we make "newbies" feel as welcome as possible. Thank you to those members who have shared music, tips and enthusiasm.

Reflecting on the times since Covid the following things stand out to me: our discovery of Susy; our purchase of an electric piano - made possible by a Bendigo Bank Grant; our risers – enhancing performances; our banner – advertising our presence; our new performance badges; and, most recently, our PA system – allowing us to be heard. These are all signs of an enthusiastic and dynamic choir – one with a bright future.

Thank you to my fellow committee members for the work you do during and between Monday sessions, and thanks to other choir members who pitch in – setting up the keyboard etc.

May our voices ring out ever stronger.

Stuart Semmens – May 2026