

Performance Coordinator's Report for AGM 1 Aug 2019

I am pleased to report that the Blowhole Buskers have had yet another satisfying year with our performances. Some of our fellow ukulele clubs are astounded at how much we have improved. Little do they know that it has taken nearly three years to transform ourselves into the well-coordinated team that we can put forward today. We continue to cater to each audience by selecting, arranging and rehearsing a broad range of songs so that any subset of our entire group can entertain audiences from nursing homes or from the wider community. We have performed almost 20 gigs at carer institutions and performed at more than 12 public gigs including new audiences at two View Clubs, the Car club and the Dapto Anglican Church.

Connie, along with her ever-improving singing, has been a big help in an unfamiliar role of liaising with carer institutions as well as other organisations to confirm gigs for the Buskers. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Bette, with a little help from Steve, myself and the committee, we have established a printed resource of around 38 songs for use at the nursing homes. The simplified song sheets offer alternative musical intros so that whoever has volunteered to lead a particular performance may choose any combination of songs and use any intro. We encourage anyone who is prepared to lead one of these gigs to volunteer to try out their leadership skills and their rapport with the forgiving audience.

We continued to new add songs to our Repertoire Book (now comprising 57 songs) by first workshopping suggested songs published in our Candidates Book. The Buskers are now in a good position of having built a strong catalogue of well-rehearsed songs from which we can present set lists of songs appropriate for our public audiences.

This year, we continually received compliments for both our choice of songs and our balanced "sound". I am particularly pleased with the way we have been able to combine the expert contributions from our instrumental section – Allan (bass), Steve (steel-stringed uke) and Ian (guitar, banjo, flute, didgeridoo), with our variety of lead and supporting vocalists and of course our harmony and echo section. This combination of elements gives us an edge over most other ukulele groups that we hear at ukulele festivals, so I congratulate everyone's efforts in continually improving our "sound". Over the year, and indeed over the last 3 years, I have noticed that Buskers have improved their ability to keep in tune and in time. We've come to the Buskers with varying degrees of musical experience so this tells me that teamwork has played a big part in us producing the tightness and balance of sound we now offer our audiences so congratulations to all.

Graeme Lock Lee