



NEWPORT
FIDDLE & FOLK CLUB

Annual Report 2021





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Annual Report

This report reviews the activities of the Newport Fiddle and Folk Club for 2019. This was our 17th 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 2021 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 2022 that will maintain the vitality of the club.

INTRODUCTION

2021 was the second year of living with C19 and life was difficult for many people in many ways. According to some of our friends in Council, quite a few community organisations simply stopped all activities during the year. The strain of the pandemic and the challenges of operating via ZOOM were simply too much for them. The fact that almost all the folk club's activities continued during 2021 is a major achievement that we can be both proud of, and very grateful for the leaders and organisers of the group for their enthusiasm and inventiveness in bringing people together. One surprising benefit of the 'zoom' years is that we built up an international following from musicians and storytellers from across the globe, as well as people from country Victoria who would otherwise have never had the opportunity to be part of the club. Importantly we also provided many of our members with something to look forward to during the long lockdowns that we all endured. I have heard some heartfelt stories from leaders of how the club was one of their key survival mechanisms for our members.

This section of the report describes how each of the club's activities fared during Year 2 of the pandemic. Behind each report there are certainly many, many stories that could be told.

Groups and Activities

BEGINNER JAM

Beginner Jam started the year well with a couple of in-person meetings at the Scout Hall. The numbers were down a bit with Covid caution and the lack of our usual amazing suppers detracted somewhat from the value of the session.

In May we saw a return to Zoom and a great deal of uncertainty Covid-wise. We continued but by September numbers dwindled, and enthusiasm had flagged among the organisers of the session and so we wisely decided to suspend the meetings indefinitely.

We believe that Beginner Jam (redubbed Beginner Playalong for a short while) is a valuable element of the folk club suite of activities. At its best, it is a fantastic, joyful entry into the music world and a real asset to the mental wellbeing of the community (and beyond). A leader with the enthusiasm and commitment is needed to restart it as a regular event.

For 2022 we have the capacity to do ad hoc sessions, perhaps starting with the “festival” in June. We will see how the year unfolds.

Shameema Esufali

BUSH ORCHESTRA

The NBO has had a battle to keep operating in 2021. The covid restrictions meant very little contact and we had to zoom most of the year. It was a difficult year and we coped well with very difficult circumstances.

We did manage a gathering at Kerry Dukes’ house following strict distancing rules. The library venue was out of bounds. The rest of the year was done by Zoom and I congratulate our members for their persistence in tuning in every fortnight. We did finalize a new edition of the NBO book, incorporating sets and a few new tunes. This made Zooming a lot easier. A new member, Peter Berger from Kyabram, joined us and was enthused to find some kindred spirits online. We did perform at the Bowling club in November and a number of NBO alumni came to join in. Very gratifying. Peter had a ball! Dave Isom helped organize an NBO presence in Williamstown for Christmas over 3 days and while the numbers were small the effect was large in the community. All in all, we did pretty well considering the circumstances.

The aim this year depends on Covid rules, the library venue being available, and the enthusiasm of our members. Trying to find places to safely play in public is a priority.

We are always on the lookout for new participants, and for opportunities for the NBO to play at new or old recurring performance spots and any do-able initiatives. I am getting on, so we are also looking at replacements.

The rest of the plan is to develop more tunes, not necessarily restricted to Australian tunes, and to keep improving our skills and fulfill the modest expectations of our faithful members. As soon as restrictions are opened up, we will be looking for places to perform. Numbers are stable, so if it ain’t broke we won’t fix it. We will work away at getting more people interested and maintaining a resource of capable ensemble musicians with a unique repertoire. We are blessed with an enthusiastic group of people who enjoy coming together to play the NBO tunes and enjoy the friendship and fellowship that has always been central to the group. Many thanks to David Isom and Leon Conway who shoulder much of the organisational efforts that are needed to keep the NBO shipshape and sailing with the winds in our sails.

The aim for 2022? To develop tunes and skills and nurture the group in an uncertain environment.

Greg O’Leary



Groups and Activities

CELTIC SESSION

The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men, Gang aft agley.

In Burns' immortal words, it was indeed an agley year! It started well, and we had our first live session in February after the 2020 lockdowns. Then there was Delta.

The aim of our Celtic session group is to bring together lovers of traditional Celtic songs and tunes to share the music, learn from each other, and keep the tradition alive in our pocket of Melbourne. Newport and its surrounding suburbs have no shortage of people with a rich Celtic immigrant heritage, so little wonder that this music strikes a strong chord in so many.

As lockdown-hardened veterans of navigating the zoom music session minefield, we hopped back onto our computers, dusted off our USB microphones, refamiliarised ourselves with the mute button, and kept going. As in 2020 we logged in, played some tunes, sang some songs, had lots of laughs, and caught up with our session buddies. We had 10 Zoom sessions, with attendances varying between 5 and 15 people. It was wonderful having club members and friends join in from country Victoria and, again, our buddy Linn from the UK.

Our first live session for 2022 was held in February at Paine Reserve, on the deck under the big tree. The turn-out was great – a bunch of new club members came to play along and listen, and the regulars took to the tunes with alacrity, proving the value of the zoom sessions in keeping fingers nimble and instruments in tune during the COVID winters.

Looking ahead in 2022, we hope to be able to hold COVID-compliant live monthly sessions at the Newport Bowls Club. If live sessions continue, we will revisit the plan to invite one or two experienced session musicians to join us to provide 'tutorials' in session tune playing. Our repertoire continues to grow and evolve as members introduce new tunes and songs to the sessions. Sheet music and lyrics will continue to be available for download on our club webpage. We look forward to playing again at the club's Newport Folk Festival in June, the highlight of our musical year.

Simon Leverton

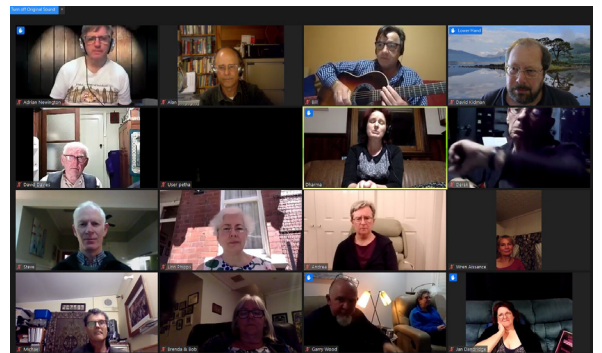
CLUB NIGHT

The monthly club night is aimed to be a night where club members and visitors can meet and mix in a casual environment to perform or hear acoustic music, poetry, or stories. It is an ideal opportunity for beginners to begin performing live without a large audience, for newcomers to visit the club.

As with last year, monthly club nights have been disrupted due to Covid-19. Most sessions were conducted using Zoom. As well as the regular members, several people from outside the metropolitan Melbourne area and from the UK participated each month. On average we had 15 or more logging in, most of them as performers.

Considering the difficulties that Covid-19 has presented, it has been another good year for club nights, and we are looking forward to resuming the sessions at the hall again.

Bill Field



Groups and Activities

COMMUNITY CHOIR

The choir ended the year as we began it – singing outdoors at Newport Lakes Park. In between, we had to be very adaptable as changes to the Covid restrictions forced us to change venues and move online at times.

After online rehearsals for most of 2020, everyone was keen to sing together in person, and our first rehearsal at Newport Lakes was a joyful occasion. There's something special about singing in harmony as the sun goes down and the birds join in. However, singing outdoors has its down sides; it's hard to hear what the rest of the choir is singing, and the mozzies don't help! By Term 2, as the weather grew colder and the days got shorter, we were glad to move indoors. We needed a bigger venue because of spacing requirements, and Hobsons Bay Council generously allowed us to use the Supper Room at Williamstown Town Hall, which is a lovely venue for singing, (thanks also to the friendly and helpful staff at the Town Hall).

Changes to the Covid restrictions cut short our time at the Supper Room and forced us back online for a few weeks. Then after just one rehearsal at our 'normal' venue (the Mechanics Hall at Newport Community Hub), Lockdown #6 came in and we were back online until the end of October. For the first time ever, we changed our rehearsal time (from Wednesday evening to Sunday morning) and rehearsed at Newport Lakes for the last six weeks of the year. At our end-of-year gathering we reflected on how well the choir has 'weathered the storms' of Covid. There's a special bond that comes from singing together, and it's kept this group together in tough times.

Alan Davies

DRUMMERS

Newport Drummers has been in inception since 2021, and we have a vibrant membership that continues to grow. The aim of Newport Drummers is to include both participants and audience into experiencing the healing effects of West African music. This style of music has been attributed to alleviating the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease, depression, and dementia.

Last year being our first year was an introduction to the style. While we met briefly before lockdowns, we remained strong as a group through our zoom meetings. Using the time in zoom to our advantage, a plethora of multi-media materials were created. These were not used just in the lectures but given to students to use throughout the week and were well received by the members.

This year, post-covid, we are looking forward to many outdoor concert experiences. We already are guaranteed to perform at least once a month through performance at the Cherry Lake Cultural Series, at Cherry Lake Market, in Altona.

This year, while still welcoming new members, we are working on perfecting our performance setlist, which we plan to record for an upcoming album later in 2022, at the Newport Community Hub Recording Studio. This year we are also negotiating with Newport RSL to offer lessons to our local veterans.

Martin Case



Groups and Activities

OLD TIMEY SESSION

The Newport Old Timey Session was set up in 2019 to meet the interests of anyone interested in Old Timey and Bluegrass oriented music and song. It is hosted by Bruce Williams and Noel Landry and was scheduled to meet one every fortnight in the Newport Hub. A song/tune book is available from the Newport Fiddle and Folk Club website under the 'Events' heading. A small fee of \$3.00 (members) or \$5.00 (non-members) covers costs. The format is that each attendee could perform a song or tune of their choice and teach it to others. There is also a chance to learn tips on fiddle, mandolin, guitar, banjo, and any other relevant instrument.

Newport Old Timey Sessions for 2021 started with a very successful session on Monday 22 February attended by 19 people. All had a great time despite the current government rules enforcing facemasks and limiting singing.

We managed to get three meetings under our collective belts before the government imposed Covid-19 restrictions. After discussion with several attendees, many of whom were in the high-risk group, it was decided to abandon the sessions until gatherings groups could reconvene. Several the attendees were already with other NFFC groups, and it was agreed that people could only take so many Zoom sessions and that the established groups such as Newport Bush Orchestra, Club Night, Open Stage, Storytellers, and the Celtic Session should be the ones to continue online.

Throughout the Covid-19 lockdowns, a monthly email was sent with practise tips and links to relevant videos of tunes to learn. This proved a successful formula and we received positive feedback from folk club members. In addition to this, many of the Old Timey attendees continued working through the Old Timey song/tune book throughout the pandemic and this has been gratifying to all.

Planning for a possible renewal of the session took place in late 2021 and a schedule for monthly meetings at 7.30 pm, on the third Monday of the month is now in place. We have chosen monthly over fortnightly, as there are many other folk club sessions available, and this provides people with a chance to explore different sessions.

Sessions for 2022 will take place in the Newport Hub Room Number 2 with the first session at 7.30 pm on Monday 21 February 2022, all being well in terms of Covid restrictions. Information on the sessions and the pdf tune book are available on the Old Timey Session and calendar sections of the Folk Club Web Page.

Bruce and Noel thank all those who expressed interest in this session and attended the few sessions we were able to have in 2021, and we look forward to getting back into the live gatherings in 2022.

Bruce Williams & Noel Landry



Groups and Activities

OPEN STAGE

2021 was another challenging year for Newport Open Stage (NOS).

COVID restrictions lead us to have most of our meetings on Zoom. We stuck with our established Zoom format. Dharma Picking and Alan Davies again helped with MC'ing. Attendance was similar to last year (8-14), including our two English friends.

Even online, NOS continued to advance the Club's aims by providing a venue and encouragement for local performers (and some from further away). It also provided connection and musical camaraderie in trying times while physical venues were closed, and performance opportunities limited.

In the coming year the team aims to return to the Mechanics Hall, COVID permitting, with the option to return to Zoom if necessary.

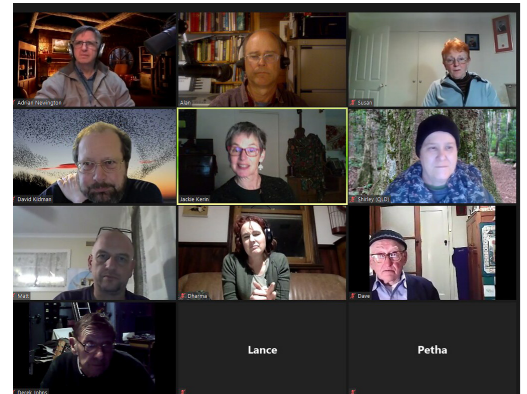
Greg Jenkins

STORYTELLERS

AIMS

The aim of the storytelling gatherings is creating an open-hearted and inclusive space for people. The aim of the storytelling gatherings is creating an open-hearted and inclusive space for people who want to learn to craft true tales, traditional stories, tall tales, yarns and stories for children; heart to heart and without notes. We also welcome musicians wanting assistance and practice with their patter and we love a song with a story.

We subscribe to the Newport Folk and Fiddle Club aims to make all our events inclusive and welcoming to everyone, regardless of gender, age, race, disability, or sexual preference. We ask that all performers consider whether their material is likely to cause offence. Offensive content is not welcome at our events.



PUBLIC PROFILE and COMMUNICATION

- We operate a blog.
- A Facebook Page
- A google email group
- We have a general page on the NFFC website where you can find links to our activities and social media <https://www.nffc.org.au/storytellers.html>

EVENTS 2021

Zoom

In 2021 the Storytellers switched back to zoom and for the most part we maintained good attendance; numbers swinging between 10 – 20 a session. While many missed the face-to-face gatherings, others relished the chance to connect and participate from around Australia and the world. As well as local Newportonians and NFFC members, we had storytellers check in from distant suburbs around Melbourne including Bentleigh, Point Cook and Mill Park, regional towns - Ballarat, Maryborough, Castlemaine and Geelong, interstate - Tasmania and NSW and from overseas we welcomed storytellers from India, Singapore, the UK and Berlin.

Groups and Activities

Live

In March (between lockdowns), a small group of us were invited to Eltham Library for World Storytelling Day and Harmony Week. The live audience was minimal however the library live-streamed the event and the number of people who checked in for the stories was eye watering. Sadly our live podcast recording event planned for the June Newport Folk Festival was cancelled because of Covid.

PLANS FOR 2022

Monthly Gatherings

We plan to continue organizing our gatherings on the third Friday of the month, February – November (excluding Easter in April).

Many of our attendees expressed distress that they will be excluded from the Club storytelling community if we return to face-to-face gatherings only. So after consulting with the storytellers – it was suggested we try to run hybrid zoom and face-to-face gatherings.

With the support of the Newport Hub and NFFC member, Adrian Newington, we are trialing our first hybrid session in February.

We will continue to keep our eyes open for opportunities to share our stories either face-to-face or live.

Podcast and Grant

Following the success of our podcast series of 6 episodes featuring NFFC musicians and storytellers we applied for another grant from Hobsons Bay - a Make It Happen Grant. Our plan is to make another 4 episodes and round the series up to 10. The original application has listed the completion date as May 2022 and the acquittal report is due 30 June 2022, hopefully this will allow enough time to complete the project. However, we are currently accessing our capacity to follow the project through. Covid has tested us in many unforeseen ways.

COVID SAFE

We are respectful of our responsibility to the Club and our partners and will adhere to all guidelines and when in doubt seek advice.

THANK YOU

- We thank Alan Davies for his time and encouragement with things technical, communications and always being there.
- Adrian Newington for valuable advice and support on hosting hybrid sessions.
- All the storytellers and musicians who made stories happen throughout 2021
- The NFFC committee who keep the club wheels greased and turning.
- Hobsons Bay grants program.
- The Newport Community HUB

Jackie Kerin

Groups and Activities

STRINGS

In 2021 again, we only did one glorious performance, on 17th April, then as we all know everything fell in a heap. The performance we did was well attended and the program consisted mainly of our tried and try favourites, giving our members a chance to find their fingers again.

Our 2022 program of three performances is now in place with both rehearsal and performance dates set. I have left space in the calendar for a performance of some sort around June, either as part of a Festival Program or something stand alone. It will be our aim to get the NS organising group together soon to figure out what we want to do so any feedback or advice from the committee about how we can proceed would be very much appreciated.

We are always conscious that the number of our regular players is only just adequate, for a few years now we have been talking about expanding our violin numbers so I would like to think that this year we may be able to find one or two more players to join our group as regular players.

Newport Stings exists to give local string players an opportunity to play in ensemble and does that very well. Under the leadership of Michaela Mee, we have been lifting our standard of playing and performance, but the hiatus of the last two years will have taken a toll, we now need to take time to re-establish connections with each other, to consolidate past repertoire and to start enjoying playing together again.

Our first performance for the year is on Saturday 2nd April at 11:30am.

Warwick Dawson

TUES BLUES

Last year, like everyone/thing else, Tues Blues was in treading water mode.

We continued to meet up fortnightly over Zoom with a reduced attendance, but enough to make the exercise worthwhile - about 10-15 people per session. We started by trying to maintain a repertoire in preparation for the festival, but by the end we were just jamming.

This year, we started off jamming outdoors at the Botanic Gardens, as people felt concern about singing indoors. But we had our first indoor meeting at the Bowls Club 2 weeks ago, with good attendance. I have subsequently emailed around for opinions about how we go forward - keep jamming or start preparing a repertoire for gig/s or a show. Feedback was mixed - there were some useful suggestions about improving our etiquette (like amps turn down etc), and people looking forward to having something to work towards.

Tomorrow we will confirm etiquette and general improvement issues, then will start to put together a Speakeasy show which I hope we may do in the RSL sometime in August.

No other goals. Too many goals seemed like challenging the cosmos!

Gaelle Horsley

Groups and Activities

THEME NIGHT

2021 was another challenging but rewarding year for the Live@Newport Theme Nights. The team (Andrea McGlashan and I are still “in”, Steph Payne has bowed out – thanks heaps for all your work, Steph! – and Dharma Picking has joined us - welcome & thanks, Dharma! Despite lockdowns coming and going, we managed to run two theme nights:

We finally ‘got there’ with the ‘Getting There’ theme night on Saturday 24 April at the Newport Bowls Club. It was originally organised for 2020 but lockdowns prevented us from doing it face to face. As it turned out, it was a great show with 15 acts of a high standard. Thanks to Dharma and Sue Davies for doing the decorations.

“Colour our World” was held on Zoom on Saturday 9 October. – another very successful show with 50 people online and almost 20 acts.

Our plan is to run two theme nights at the Bowls Club this year, circumstances permitting, and to continue to provide local performers with a chance to play and our audiences with a couple more great nights out.

Greg Jenkins



Events

NEWPORT LAKES BUSH DANCE

The Club was not able to present Newport Lakes Bush Dance in 2021 due to COVID restrictions. We look forward to the Bush Dance returning to Newport in 2022.

Rick Sidgwick

FOLK FESTIVAL

The Club was not able to present Newport Folk Festival in 2021 due to COVID restrictions. We did successfully stage a afternoon and evening at the Bowls Club featuring Newport Drummers, Tues Blues, Newport Bush Orchestra, Newport Celtic Session, and the Newport Gypsy Djangos. It was a very successful event that enabled our members to come together, play, and have respite from the challenges of the past year.

The club will not be staging a Festival in 2022 as the environment is still too uncertain. However, a small group from the festival committee will arrange a series of high-participation/low-risk events to continue to bring our members together and share our resources with our local community.

Michael Stewart

CAROLS AT THE SUBSTATION

The Club was not able to present Carols at the Substation in 2021 due to COVID restrictions. We look forward to Carols at the Substation returning to Newport in 2022.

“WRITE, SING, SOCIALISE, SYNERGISE” PROGRESS REPORT

2021 saw an attempt to reprise and extension of 2016’s “Newport Song Writing Project”.

On Saturday 8th May a dozen of us attended a song writing workshop with Andrew McSweeney, who also facilitated the previous one.

We all came up with at least the beginnings of a song.

The intention was to then have 4 progressively more formal and public performances of the songs, culminating in a “showcase” at the Newport Folk Festival. We were then going to record these songs with the help of Martin Case. The Club had a grant of \$3400 from Hobsons Bay Council.

Shortly after the very successful song writing session, Melbourne was locked down again, effectively preventing public performances and face to face recording sessions. A few self-reliant individuals recorded tracks themselves at home and sent them to Martin for him to perform his audio magic on them. They came up well – well done, those people!

Now that restrictions are easing, my plan is to help those of us who are still keen to do so to finish the program, as originally planned, albeit very late!

Administration Reports

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Club finished the year in a sound financial position with available funds (after known commitments) of just over \$22,065 between the general and festival accounts – a decrease of \$677 from last year. However, like last year much of the available funds is earmarked for our commitments to run the festival, our regular activities, new initiatives, and a buffer for a “rainy day”.

Over the last year the folk club community supported the Club by renewing memberships or joining for the first time. We also allowed people to make donations to the Club and thank the people who did.

While COVID-19 meant we could not run our regular activities on a face-to-face basis the Club has ongoing commitments in terms of insurance, registration, the website, and other administration costs. The support of the Club’s friends and members meant we only needed to draw on the “rainy day” buffer to a limited extent (\$677).

As most of our activities were conducted online without charge, or not at all in 2021, we have not broken out the net cash inflows / outflows of each activity this year as that would be misleading (or irrelevant).

More detailed financial reports are prepared for submission to Victorian Consumer Affairs.

Neil Bridges

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At the time this report was compiled, the Newport Fiddle & Folk Club had 172 memberships.

This is 11 memberships down from last year. While this is the first decline in memberships for many years, if ever, given that we were experiencing the second year of COVID restrictions, the loyalty of our membership is encouraging.

There are 3 types of memberships.

Type	Memberships	Members
Individual	82	82
Family	88	176
Organisation	2	2
TOTAL	172	260

Neil Bridges

Administration Reports

COMMITTEE

Many thanks to the committee of the club for their hard work during 2021. We met each month on ZOOM and were able to manage the business of the club. Thanks to each of the committee members:

COMMITTEE

Michael StewartPresident
Alan DaviesVice President
Rick SidgwickSecretary
Neil Brydges.....Treasurer
Alison Dew
Greg Jenkins
Kerry Duke
Deb Supriyono
Adrian Newington

The club's committee has had another successful year of managing the club's operations and I look forward to meeting the new committee in 2022 in person. We will continue to manage the club's activities prudently. We will also assess and support new initiatives, activities and projects that our members propose to ensure that they are aligned with the aims of the club.

Michael Stewart

Conclusion

NEWPORT FIDDLE & FOLK CLUB - 2022 AND BEYOND

Completing this report has been a reminder that 2021 (like 2020) was a challenging year for the club. Many community organisations simply went into recess last year as they, and their leaders, were not able to muster the enthusiasm and technical skills required to keep going during lock-down. It is a great tribute to our leaders that we have kept the various threads of the club alive in one way or another. Well done, and on behalf of all our members, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to keeping the club going! Thank you.

As we cautiously enter 2022 – so far, so good – there are no shortages of challenges ahead of the club. We are entering our 18th year of operation, and we have 11 regular activities and a range of events to manage. All this involves significant administration and reporting. I look to the leaders of each of the groups to regularly provide the committee with the key information so that we are aware of how things are tracking. Many organisations fall over once they reach maturity due to lack of strong governance. Our committee is committed to ensuring that the NFFC does not fall into this trap. We want to ensure that the club can flourish and build on what we have established over the past 17 years.

The club continues to grow as a tree with deep roots. We look forward to seeing what events and activities will arise from new branches. The growth is due largely to the enthusiasm and hard work of our members and leaders. However, we have also effectively used Grants to nourish our growth and enable us to create new ventures. The first grant we received was from Folk VICTORIA in 2005 that enabled us to create the Bush Orchestra. We have subsequently successfully applied

Conclusion

for many grants from Hobsons Bay City Council, and these have enabled us to run our major events (Festival, Bush Dance, Carols) start other groups (Drummers and Choir) initiate creative projects (Song Writing and Music Composition) and develop new skills for our members (Sound Recording, Leadership). There is money available for new ideas and I encourage you to keep dreaming up projects that will contribute to the club's aims. Just be warned: the only successful projects we have embarked on require time (think marathon, not sprint). This might help you assess your level of enthusiasm for your idea. For the committee we need to carefully manage the grants process so that we deliver on the projects that are funded so that we continually build our reputation as a reliable organisation that is worth investing in.

The club will launch its new website in June 2022. Many thanks for Alan Davies for his work and creativity, and thanks to the Hobsons Bay City Council for the grant that has supported the process. The website is one of our primary marketing tools (apart from your 'word of mouth' telling people about the club) and we look forward to the site attracting many visitors who will learn about the club and, in due course, come along and 'sing, play, learn, listen and enjoy'. Beyond the website there are many other opportunities for us to market the club to attract people from our local community and beyond. The club is working on a new tri-fold brochure, and we have the potential of creating (and selling) club merchandise such as jackets and t-shirts. These will help promote the club and spark the conversations that give all our members the chance to tell people about the club. We have a great club – I think we have been a little shy about telling our story. This is certainly an area that we can explore over the next 24 months.

We can all look forward to enjoying 2022 and our newfound freedoms. The club is in a healthy position with many members, and strong and enthusiastic leaders of our activities. The club was set up with a clear intent to welcome people who would be able to join and be welcomed into our community and each of our activities continue this ethos. Over time we have established strong relationships with the community outside NFFC, especially with the council and our Newport Partners. It is especially gratifying to see how the club contributes to our community events such as the Anzac Day Memorial Service at the Newport Cenotaph. To me, these are the surest signs that we are on the right track doing something that not only serves us personally and as a club, but also as a vibrant contributor to our broader community.

May it all continue to thrive in 2022 and way beyond!



Michael Stewart
Club President
2005 - 2021



NEWPORT
FIDDLE & FOLK CLUB

TIMELINE BY DATE

- 2004 First: Monthly Meeting (Friday 27 August)
- 2005 First: Committee Formed
First Event: 'The Tank'
- 2006 First: Newport Lakes Bush Dance, Music on Mason,
Newport Bush Orchestra
- 2007 First: 'Music at Breizoz'
- 2008 First: Newport Folk Festival
- 2009 First: Carols at the Substation, Workshop Series,
Newport Community Choir, Newport Strings,
NFFC Incorporated
- 2010 First: Open Stage, Incredibly Supportive Songwriting Group formed
- 2011 First: Celtic Session (Bowls Club), Newport Bush Orchestra plays
at the National Folk Festival
- 2012 Breizoz transforms to 'Live@Newport'
- 2014 10 Year Celebration of NFFC
- 2015 First: Tues Blues
- 2016 First: Family Jam Session
10 Years: Newport Bush Orchestra
- 2018 10 Years: Newport Community Choir
Music on Mason – revived
- 2020 First: Newport Old Timey Session
COVID COMES - NFFC GOES ZOOM!
- Initiatives for 2021:
Newport Drummers, Redesign of Website, Songwriting Program, Storytellers Podcast
- Activities: Beginners Jam, Bush Orchestra, Celtic Session, Club Night, Community Choir,
Drummers, Old Timey Session, Open Stage, Storytellers, Strings, Tues Blues,
Theme Nights
- 2022 18 years in August – Worth Celebrating with a Theme Night!



NEWPORT FIDDLE & FOLK CLUB

2004-2022

- 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 come enjoy and participate in music through listening, singing, and dancing.
- Provide Opportunities that Challenge our Members to Refine and Develop their Performance and Presentation Skills
- Provide opportunities for our members to contribute to the organisation and running of folk club activities
- The Club has a role to play in the development of young and older musicians through workshops and other planned musical gatherings.

MEMBER DRIVEN ORGANISATION		NFFC OUTCOMES	1—5 YEAR PLAN?
Income	Costs		
• Subscriptions	Insurance	• Strong Sense of Community	• Marketing of What We Do
• Grants	Logos & Banners	• - A Participation and Performance Culture	• Support New Ventures eg Drummers
• Sponsorship	Gear—Audio ++	• Develop a Range of Skills	• Develop and Strengthen Our Image
• Tickets	Web Redesign	• - Performance—Organisation—Leadership	• - Web Redesign—Imaging of Groups
• Membership	Hire Rooms etc	• Build Community Resources	• New Projects—eg Recording, Composition,
• Festival	Hire Skills (eg PA)	• - Sound and Recording Equipment	• Develop our People and Leaders
		• .	• Collaborate with other Organisations

OUR ACTIVITIES		EVENTS	NFFC COMMITTEE
Beginners Jam	Drummers	Bush Dance	Accountable and Transparent
Bush Orchestra	Old Timey Session	Carols	Focus on Our Aims
Celtic Session	Open Stage	Festival	Provide Leadership
Club Night	Storytellers	Special Projects	Support Members
Community Choir	Strings		Vision for the Future