

VOCALIZE CHOIR - 2017 REPORT



DIRECTOR REPORT – Kerrie Polkinghorne

Celebrations

Vocalize Choir has had many reasons to celebrate this year! The choir celebrated its fifth birthday in April which was a special milestone for our ['first followers'](#). As director I was able to look back on how we have developed over these years, and sharpened a focus for next year.

In June Vocalize [performed](#) for the first time on the Elder Hall main stage as part of the *Adelaide Eisteddfod* choral division. For me, looking up at all of you in your pressed outfits and shining faces, it was truly a pleasure to lead you in letting our voices soar. Adjudicator Carl Crossin provided great feedback accompanied with a score of 83/100, equal to Immanuel College. Well done, everyone!

In July I had the privilege of receiving an [Unsung Heroes Award](#), courtesy of the City of Marion, for volunteer services to the community. This was very unexpected and humbling. Thanks to the stealthy nominator and to the amazing members who came to the ceremony in support!

In August I had the great opportunity to meet [Kirby Shaw](#) as part of a weekend festival hosted by [ANCA](#). I learnt so much over the weekend and thoroughly enjoyed Kirby's relaxed storytelling style, and the way he brought to life his arrangements and musical choices. It was a thrill for Vocalize to be able to sing with and for Kirby and enjoy a massed choir experience.

One of the greatest highlights for me this year has been the incredible team surrounding me. The choir builders team (ie our unofficial committee, as we are not an incorporated body) has been consistently on-the-ball, stepping into their roles with flair and helping this growing ship stay on course. Special thanks to the team: **Adrian Miller** (insurance), **Annette Pelling** (librarian), **Cheryl Carter** (secretary), **Jen Burford** (performance liaison), and **Sally Hyam** (treasurer). Cheryl will step down from her role in 2018, and in her place we welcome **Nicky Tichener** as Secretary.

A special thank you to **Sally Hyam** who stepped up to the plate on three occasions to lead in my absence, and to **Kimberly Wong** for your magnificent accompaniment at weekly rehearsals and performances. Your ability to coolly juggle a range of repertoire as well as technological devices during concerts is seriously impressive!

In 2017 we also introduced section leader teams (SL). This was to help cater for increased numbers and to foster consistency when one SL was absent. Many thanks to our SL teams for your support of our singers: Soprano SLs - **Bron Hern** and **Cathie Malyschko**; Alto SLs - **Linda Barnes** and **Robyn Halliday**; and Baritone SLs – **Tina Schultz** (tenor) and **Alan Smith** (bass).

Vocalize Values

After listening to the other community choirs at *Adelaide Sings* and appreciating the unique story or 'flavour' of each ensemble, I was drawn back to our own choir, pondering what was uniquely Vocalize. Not simply what sound we make, or what cross-section of the community we represent. Naturally these things will change and evolve over time. But a deeper question: *What values underpin who we are and what we're about at Vocalize?*

While the values of the choir are mostly pretty clear, it was something that had never been openly discussed or documented. At a recent meeting, the team discussed the above question, with 3 main values being formed from the discussion. We expanded on these main values and included some goals which we would like to achieve going forward. I encourage you to read through these values/goals and compare them with your own perspective.

QUALITY MUSIC

- Stretching abilities/challenging
- Goal to sing more pieces from memory
- Goal to increase the general responsibility/commitment to learning music
- Goal to increase appreciation of a diverse range of styles
- Goal to increase number of sectional rehearsals in conjunction with SLs

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

- Diverse range of member motivations for joining
- No pressure to perform – gives the option
- Intentional community building opportunities, eg shared suppers, Kris Kringle, small group discussions
- Celebrating 'wins' – concerts, competitions, choir and member milestones

SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

- Encouraging of lower musical abilities: supply musical resources and sectional rehearsals
- Fostering positive and thoughtful friendships
- Following up members who are absent/sick/struggling

Final Words

It is a pleasure to work alongside you and play a part in our overall development as a community and as an ensemble. Thank you for the contribution you have made this year – we wouldn't be a choir without you! I look forward to the challenges and wins going into 2018. Have a safe and restful Christmas, Vocalize!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Cheryl Carter

2017 has been another fantastic year for new members. Our membership is now **78**. There has been a constant stream of people coming each week to ‘have a look’ with **28 new members** joining us in 2017.

Unfortunately 9 members have left us for various reasons and their music has been reallocated to new members. 5 of those members joined us this year. With 80 copies of each score, there are only 2 numbers left for new members.

The section leader team concept has been working well – my general observations from newcomers were that Vocalize is a well-organised, welcoming choir – a big thank you to all of you.

***In 2018 the secretary role will be taken over by Nicky Tichener.*

PERFORMANCE REPORT – Jen Burford

Marion Celebrates – Sat 25th March

Vocalize performed at this very well run event, along with many other entertaining acts, with Sally Hyam conducting due to Kerrie’s absence on holiday leave. All agreed Sally did a great job and the choir and our repertoire was warmly accepted.

St Elizabeth of Hungary – Sun 21st May

Our concert for the church’s outreach activities fund raiser, was really well received and it was a pleasure for the choir to be able to help such a lovely group of people. The choir performed 2 sets, along with 2 guest spots, featuring the Hyam Family and the Reunited Trio. The church presented us with a welcomed donation and their thanks.

Adelaide Eisteddfod – Thurs 15th June

Our first eisteddfod took place at the beautiful Elder Hall, Adelaide University and didn’t we do well? What a most wonderful experience that showed to all, just how far we have come in the choir’s short history. A difficult category placed us in competition with some of the top music schools in Adelaide, but we definitely held our ground, running equal 5th place with prestigious Immanuel College. Well done, Vocalize! See you next year.

Kirby Shaw Festival – Sat 12th & Sun 13th August

This was an inspiring weekend of singing and learning from the great Kirby Shaw. Singers participated in mass choir rehearsals, workshops and masterclasses, and showcased two Kirby Shaw songs as part of the festival concert on the Sunday night. Despite dwindling numbers, Vocalize pulled together a good performance which was well received by the audience.

Domestic Violence Fundraiser – Sun 22nd October

At Hallett Cove Civic Library, we performed one set of our music for a fund raising luncheon, held in aid of raising awareness of the persistent menace of domestic violence within our society. Although we were crammed into a tiny space and in very noisy conditions (along with sound system problems), we were true pro's and were well received, adding a bit of flair and joy into the lives of those who were present.

Adelaide Sings – Sun 29th October

Agreed by all, a worthwhile experience as a performance opportunity, presenting the chance to hear and see the other group's styles while assessing our place in the pack. It was generally agreed that we sounded and looked professional and polished with a forceful sound and Kerrie is pleased with the tone we have now developed. A comment by another choir, on hearing our performance, of "how do we follow that?" is fulfilling! Opinions like that from peers are a good indicator of the level that we can and have attained, when performing at our best. One more thing that showed out strongly once again, is the benefit of having to perform without our music, because it highlights the fact not only do we look more professional, more importantly it allows us to give our full attention to Kerrie's direction. And, when having to learn the words of a piece you have no choice but to practice more to do so!

Allambi Eldercare – Sun 3rd December

Each Christmas, we aim to present a concert at a retirement facility and this year we chose Allambi. The hall was full to the brim with residents who quietly and joyfully received our choir and solo numbers. For the choir it served as an important dress-rehearsal for the following week.

St Andrews by the Sea – Sun 10th December

All is in readiness for our Christmas concert, 'Christmas by the Sea'. St Andrews is a beautiful facility in which to perform, and the staff there are very gracious in allowing us to lease it at no expense and are looking forward to our return this year.

TREASURERS REPORT – Sally Hyam (as at 5/12/17)

Balance b/f 1/1/17 \$2,464.63

INCOME

Membership Fees	\$9,045.00
Donations	\$350.00
Events - Kirby Shaw 16@\$25	\$400.00
Bank Interest	\$124.19
TOTAL INCOME	\$12,383.82

EXPENDITURE

Membership /Insurance	\$1,164.27
Equipment	\$6,728.55
Stationery	\$362.60
Events	\$814.09
Hall Hire	\$1,111.20
Honorarium	\$750.00
Membership Refunds	\$115.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$11,045.71

Total Income – Expenditure \$1,338.11

Balance in bank account Total \$1,338.11

STILL TO PAY

Honorariums K Wong	\$250.00	
K Polkinghorne	\$1000.00	
Hall Hire Term 4	\$270.00	
TOTAL	\$1,520.00	Net loss \$181.89
