

## GAMC Ukulele Annual Report 2017/18

Ukulele events and activities are part of GAMC's community music offering.

In 2018 the Uke lesson program was revised. After 2017 we farewelled Harry Harrison from the Yinnar lessons, and in 2018 the club welcomed Julie Bradley to lead the Traralgon Beginner lessons. We also introduced a Specialist Intermediate Program at ARC Yinnar. This involved five leaders running two lessons each. To date the program has been successful in variety, content and quality of lessons. There is a high retention rate amongst the participants who were initially challenged by a 300% registration increase to reflect a 400% fee increase for leaders.

A sign of the changing times and probably a future flag to also note locally.

The Uke lesson groups each have strong enough registrations to meet the global Uke budget. Fifty Club members registered in 2018.

- Julie: Traralgon Beginners = 25. High quality popular lessons.
- ARC Yinnar Specialist Program = 16, plus walk-ups. Well received.
- Ariane: Traralgon Intermediate = 9. Quality aims to push players.

Attendance is good in each group and we still have a high retention rate.

Special thanks to ARC and Traralgon CWA for the venues. Special thanks to Barb, supported by Anne Pawley for the registrations and troubleshooting. Thanks also to those such as Joan and Barb etc who help with venues and key arrangements etc. Also thanks to Nola for the Uke content in the newsletters. And finally, thanks to Joan and the committee for their support and advocacy of the program in the music club and the community.

### Ukulele Wingding

Di Stephens and Julie Bradley have launched a new club event which will be reported on separately to the AGM. Within the club this is a great initiative which will likely help launch the 2019 lesson program. Registrations and other outcomes, such as memberships, will be a spin-off benefit for the club. Congratulations to Julie & Di. Preparations to date show it to already be a success, and I recommend the committee to attend on the day, helping where needed.

### Community Uke events.

Organised by Joan Griffiths, the nursing home uke gigs continued to happen in Traralgon, and in Yarram through Allan McAlpine. Thanks to the many Ukers for giving up their time, and to the Carlins and Lades for offering their homes for rehearsals. Patrick and Patricia moved from the area during the year and they will be missed by the music club and the Uke community. Thanks Pat & Patricia, we miss you already.

### Ukelicious (GAMC's performance ukulele group).

MUF in 2018. Ukelicious performed at the Melbourne Ukulele Festival on Sunday March 4th lead by Di Stephens and Julie Bradley. Thanks to them, plus Jeannie Kokshoorn and Jo Whitelaw, Ukelicious had a great time in

Thornbury. MUF is an important experience for our players, so congratulations and thanks to all. Ukeliicious went on to be the club support act at the June clubnight, and will perform at Wingding in October.

Separate to these GAMC activities, the local Uke community continues to be active with performance and events occurring in diverse settings such as nursing homes, Catinellas, Boolarra, Jambusters, and the LV street-band, Boomulele. This cross-over is great to see, and in particular "Caylee" are one of a few Gippsland uke artists/groups gigging at concerts and festivals. Well done Caylee's Di & Julie, they are deservedly popular players.

#### **GAMC Uke Coordinator Position**

At the AGM, Barry Stuckey will step down as the club's Uke Coordinator. In addition to events such as Strum Club, Uke Musters, previous MUFs, Seniors Week Concerts and Traralgon's Carols by Candlelight, this position has organized the Club's Ukulele lesson program. Lessons began with Barry Woods at Churchill in 2012. Lessons then came more under the club umbrella in 2013. Since then, GAMC has hosted lessons in Traralgon and Yinnar at Beginner, Beginner Plus, and Intermediate levels lead by Harry Harrison, Greg Simmons, Mike Forwood, Ariane Ramsay, Julie Bradley, and Specialists: Alex Burns, Betty French, Lucy Wise, Harry Harrison and Helen Begley.

Recently the committee sought expressions of interest for a new Uke Coordinator. A position description was circulated within the club's Uke Community. Di Stephens has lodged an expression of interest. This was previously circulated to the committee. No others have applied.

#### **Recommendations:**

1, That the 2017/18 Ukulele report be accepted at the AGM.

2, It is with much personal delight that I recommend to the AGM that DI Stephen's application be accepted, and that she be appointed to the committee as GAMC's next Ukulele Coordinator. Di brings to the position a proven record in organizing and understanding of the Uke community and is already widely known and accepted within that group.

I commend her to you.

**In summary**, the uke players enjoy musical opportunities to get involved in the music club with lessons, community performances, club-nights, music camps, and other events. I'd like to thank the committee for their on-going support of the Uke program. Special thanks to all the lesson leaders and participants. I wish the program well under its new leadership in 2019.

*Barry Stuckey*

PS Apologies if I've missed anything or anyone.