

MINUTES OF THE GIPPSLAND ACOUSTIC MUSIC CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 7.00pm, Neighbourhood House

Item No.	Minutes	Action to be followed up																																																
1. Present	Joan Griffiths, Trevor Lade, Barb Brabets, Geoff Pike, Nola Kirkpatrick, Barry Stuckey, Fiona Tegart, Di Stephens, Miriam McFarlane, Noelle Long, Andrea Hadley, Kathy Shenton, Liz Xuereb																																																	
2. Apologies	Cal Pile																																																	
3. Minutes of 2023 AGM.	Moved Fiona, sec Nola. Carried																																																	
4. President's Report	See President's report below Moved: Joan Sec: Barb																																																	
5. Treasurer's Report	<p>See Treasurer's report below Moved: Barb Sec: Joan</p> <p>GIPPSLAND ACOUSTIC MUSIC CLUB INC</p> <p>Financial Statement 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Income</th> <th style="text-align: right;">\$</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Expense</th> <th style="text-align: right;">\$</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bank Balance 1 January 2023</td> <td style="text-align: right;">23,193.03</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Club Nights</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8,252.11</td> <td>Club Nights</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8,150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regional Arts Victoria</td> <td></td> <td>Regional Arts Victoria</td> <td style="text-align: right;">935.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Membership / Administration</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,733.00</td> <td>Administration</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,645.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Winter Camp</td> <td style="text-align: right;">430.00</td> <td>Winter Camp</td> <td style="text-align: right;">377.45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Uke Group</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,740.00</td> <td>Uke Group Lessons</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,540.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spruik The Uke</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,403.00</td> <td>Spruik The Uke</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,290.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christmas Dinner</td> <td style="text-align: right;">925.00</td> <td>Christmas Dinner</td> <td style="text-align: right;">988.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jam Sessions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">972.00</td> <td>Jam Sessions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$619.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ukelicious</td> <td style="text-align: right;">100.00</td> <td>Ukelicious</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,080.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest</td> <td style="text-align: right;">669.21</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Income	\$	Expense	\$	Bank Balance 1 January 2023	23,193.03			Club Nights	8,252.11	Club Nights	8,150.00	Regional Arts Victoria		Regional Arts Victoria	935.00	Membership / Administration	1,733.00	Administration	1,645.28	Winter Camp	430.00	Winter Camp	377.45	Uke Group	1,740.00	Uke Group Lessons	1,540.00	Spruik The Uke	1,403.00	Spruik The Uke	1,290.91	Christmas Dinner	925.00	Christmas Dinner	988.00	Jam Sessions	972.00	Jam Sessions	\$619.40	Ukelicious	100.00	Ukelicious	1,080.00	Interest	669.21			
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		Bank Balance 31 December 2023	<u>22,791.31</u>
		<u>39,417.35</u>	<u>39,417.35</u>
	Financial Performance	\$	
	Revenue	\$16,224.32	
	Expenditure	<u>16,626.04</u>	
	Profit/(Loss) for year	<u>(401.72)</u>	
5. Ukulele Report	See Ukulele Report below Moved: Di Sec: Miriam		
6. General Business	No General Business		
7. Election of Office Bearers	<p>Joan declared all positions vacant, and Barry Stuckey chaired the election of new Office – All nominations are correctly completed. Bearers.</p> <p>a. President: Joan Griffiths, nom: Di, sec: Miriam, accepted, elected</p> <p>b. Vice President: Fiona Tegart, nom Barb sec: Noelle accepted, elected.</p> <p>c. Minutes Secretary: Di Stephens, nom: Joan, sec: Barb, accepted, elected.</p> <p>d. Treasurer: Barb Brabets, nom: Fiona, Sec: Allan, accepted, elected.</p> <p>e. Assistant Treasurer: Di Stephens nom: Barb, Sec: Geoff, accepted, elected.</p> <p>f. Newsletter Editor /Email Circulation: Nola Kirkpatrick, nom: Nola, sec: Fiona accepted, elected.</p> <p>g. Committee members: Trevor Lade, nom: Barb, sec: Di, accepted, elected. Miriam Mc Farlane, nom: Barb, sec:Di, accepted, elected. Noelle Long, nom: Barb sec: Fiona, accepted, elected, Geoff Pike, nom: Barb, sec: Noelle, accepted, elected Liz Xuereb, nom: Barb, sec: Geoff, accepted, elected Andrea Hadley, nom: Joan, sec: Fiona, accepted, elected Kathy Shenton, nom: Joan, sec: Barb, accepted, elected</p>		
8. Meeting closed	Joan thanked Barry for chairing elections and everyone for attending. Meeting 7.41pm. Next AGM in March 2025 Date and Venue TBA.		

Presidents Report

Greetings to all members.

My sincere thanks for allowing me to be President of The Gippsland Acoustic Music Club during 2023. It has again been a great privilege, and I sincerely thank everyone on the committee for their support. It is a great committee, where people are so willing to take on roles that fit their strengths and interests. A great team.

Unlike the previous three years, there were no Covid restrictions holding us back from planning a full calendar of events for the year. We ran nine concerts in 2023, deciding not to have a concert in November due to difficulties finding a venue, when Tyers Hall is not available to us. We had a variety of artists and support acts entertaining our audiences. Our audience numbers vary from approximately fifty to eighty-five on occasions. During the colder, darker months of June, July, August and September, the Club presented afternoon, instead of evening concerts. These were well supported, and an advantage to audience members who do not like to travel late at night, performers who have some distance to travel and might have to work the following day, and to committee members who can be packed up and be home at a reasonable hour. It is planned that these afternoon concerts will continue in those same months in 2024.

Our committee member numbers increased this year, meaning it was not possible to meet at someone's home. We now have committee meetings at Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House, and this has proved to be a most suitable venue.

Mentorship Program; – Please read Barb's very detailed report, which is attached – Thank you, Barb.

During 2023, Gippsland Acoustic Music Club took the opportunity to engage in a Mentorship Program, which was offered by Regional Arts Victoria. Our mentor for the program was Amber Irving Guthrie. The program gave us the opportunity to have someone look at what we do through different eyes, looking at our strengths, and areas where we might improve. The overall feeling however, was that our club is quite unique, and special. We provide opportunities for performers to entertain in an intimate, boutique setting. This is highly valued by artists who appreciate the opportunity to perform and try new material to an attentive, and appreciative audience. It is nice to know, we are doing most things well. Thank you, Amber, for your guidance.

Acapella Festival; - We did not schedule in, an Acapella Festival in 2023. We had, had to cancel the 2022 festival at the last minute, and some choirs were still tentative about performing in 2023. The committee will discuss the feasibility of a Singing Festival in the future. The Club, however has been working closely with The Gippsland Singers network. An afternoon of singing, led by Gippsland leaders was held at the Tyers Hall in November, and it was great fun. Another 'Sing In' as they are called will happen in Mirboo North in April. Hopefully more people will become comfortable singing in groups in the future.

Ukulele Program; - Please read Di's very detailed report, which is attached.

Congratulations and thanks to Di again for all the time and effort she has put in co-ordinating the Ukulele Program, in 2023.

As can be seen in Di's report, Spruik the Uke was a huge success. The afternoon was good fun, and the leaders were great. The concert was very entertaining. It is amazing what can be done with the humble little Ukulele, in talented hands. Thanks also to The Spruik the Uke committee.

The Jam Sessions have continued to grow. I know these sessions are very important to many, giving participants the opportunity to improve their playing skills, and to share the fun of playing music with others. There is a great community feel at these sessions.

Ukelicious has gone from strength to strength, and is now a very polished performance group.

As you can read in Di's report, the club will not be offering Ukulele lessons in 2024. Dates have been set for Percussion, and Banjo Lessons, and we are hoping to have a Harp Workshop later in the year.

Di will not be continuing as Ukulele Program co-ordinator in 2024. The Ukulele Program began over 10 years ago, and under Di's guidance during the last five years, all aspects of the program have continued to grow and expand. Di is not only a very capable musician, but her strength also lies in her friendly, supportive nature. She has the ability to encourage and bring out the best in people, to ensure everyone does well, and has a wonderful time. I know I speak on behalf of hundreds of people when I say 'thanks Di. You've done a great job.'

We finished the year with our annual Christmas gathering at Tyers Hall. The night was very well supported, with the Toongabbie Group of Wellington/Latrobe Lions Club catering for us with a delicious two course meal. The meal was followed by a jamming session. A wonderful night, sharing food, friendship, and music. During the evening the club was delighted to award life memberships to Nola Kirkpatrick, and Trevor Lade. Both Nola and Trevor have given, and continue to give so much to our club, and we thank them for all their efforts.

My sincerest thanks to the 2023 committee: - Barb Brabets, Fiona Tegart, Nola Kirkpatrick, Di Stephens, Trevor Lade, Geoff Pike, Miriam McFarlane, Noelle Long, Liz Xuereb, Andrea Hadley, Theo VanDerMeulen and Dwayne Pendlebury. I appreciate all the efforts of these great people.

Regards,
Joan Griffiths

Treasurer's Report 1 Jan 2023 to 31 December 2023

6 March 2024

At the 31st December 2023 the club's bank balance was \$22791.31. Of this, the club has \$15,000 invested in a term deposit which matures in Dec 2024. As the accompanying handout shows, total revenue for the 12 months was \$16224.32 and total expenses \$16626.00 and so the club made a loss of \$401.72. It is pleasing to see that several activities covered their costs and made a profit over the year – Club Concerts, Spruik the Uke, Jam Sessions and Winter Camp. Admin fees cover the Insurance and Affiliation with Regional Arts Victoria, OneMusic, Web Hosting and Consumer Affairs. Other Admin costs are Photos, Postage, Tea/Coffee, Catering, etc.

I would formally move at the AGM that Membership Fee for 2024 are \$20 Family, \$15 Adult, \$12 Concession.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Nola Kirkpatrick, Di Stephens, Miriam McFarlane and Liz Xuereb who were the co-authorisers for the Internet payments.

Thanks to everyone who purchased items on behalf of the club, not only for giving their time and energy to do so but for keeping the receipts and submitting them to me to obtain their refunds.

Thanks also to the members for participating and those that have already renewed for 2024.

I must also, on behalf of the club, thank our financial auditor, Tony Dickinson, for auditing the club's accounts in an honorary capacity. Tony has graciously performed this task for many years.

Barbara Brabets

Honorary Treasurer

Ukulele Report 2023 – GAMC Annual General Meeting (2024)

Ukulele Lessons

During 2023, the format for ukulele lessons changed with 4 leaders offering short courses throughout the year.

Theo van der Meulen ran 3 Blues sessions. This was well attended with 14 people participating.

Andrea Hadley offered 3 sessions of Clawhammer for Ukelele. This had 8 people signing up.

Ariane Ramsay offered 3 sessions for Open Tuning. Unfortunately there were not enough participants to make this viable and had to be cancelled.

Di Stephens was to have run 6 Beginner sessions but again there was not the number of participants to make it viable, and so she took the few that were interested into private lessons.

This seemed to be an indicator that there was not the interest or need for further ukulele lessons in 2024. With the Jam Sessions running well with a huge ukulele contingent attending these, as well as the GAMC Ukulele band Ukelicious, AND our ukulele festival, Spruik the Uke, people seemed to be satisfied with what was on offer in more general terms. So the committee decided that it was time to cease Ukulele lessons and to offer something different and maybe some new instruments and experiences in 2024.

GAMC Jam Sessions

Jam sessions have just continued to grow from strength to strength. Our final session in December for our breakup had almost 40 people attending and it was a fabulous atmosphere with a small celebratory Christmas party afterwards.

More people have stepped up to help with the jobs required during the sessions(organising tea/coffee supplies, setting up serving tables, cleaning kitchen afterwards, packing away chairs etc). It has allowed Barb and myself (or whoever is running the session) a chance to step back and not be so task driven. It has been much appreciated.

Also we have had some new people pop in to see what's on offer. Some have stayed and it has been wonderful to see them regularly turn up to the sessions.

Financially the jam sessions have provided a healthy balance and is certainly maintaining its sustainability and then some (see Treasurer's report)

I look forward to the 2024 jam sessions as we continue to build our community music participation.

Ukelicious

In 2023, Ukelicious reformed and after 6 weeks, successfully performed at the HILLS Ukulele Festival, the October GAMC Concert night and then finally at the Spruik the Uke concert 2 weeks later.

The members of Ukelicious would have to be some of the BEST people I have ever worked with. They are so dedicated to the band and its performance commitments, as well as really trying to be the very best that they can be for each performance. They practise, listen to the leader/s and take on board the challenges. Ukelicious really are an amazing group to work with.

Already in 2024, Ukelicious had been accepted into the HILLS Ukulele Festival (in May), and is on our books for the October Concert night and Spruik the Uke. Currently we have 21 people interested in the band this year.

However, this will be my final year as leader and coordinator for Ukelicious and it would be wonderful to see someone else take over the reins in 2025.

Spruik the Uke

Spruik the Uke 2023 was a success both as an event and financially, even though there was a hiccup in the week prior to the Festival (illness of our main presenter). It was wonderful have Jacqui Poulson step in for an extra workshop on the day, even though it meant she missed out on the workshop she had wanted to attend. I looked after the afternoon workshop and the concert was a huge success with performers from the local area, South Gippsland as well as others.

I recommend that the STU committee access funding through LCC in order to secure a Melbourne based recognised Ukulele teacher in 2024 for the Festival. I feel we have used our local leaders enough, and that some fresh ideas and techniques can be offered for our local Ukulele Community by inviting reknowned facilitators to be a part of our festival.

Farewell

As this is my last report as the GAMC Ukulele Coordinator at our AGM, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge a few thank yous.

Barry Stuckey: When I initially took over the coordinator's role, Barry was an absolute lifeline for suggestions and reality checks when starting out.

Barb Brabets: Wow! So much information and common sense, and the ability to cut back things to manageable sizes. Thanks Barb for putting up with all the panicked phone call chats and confused moments, settling my thoughts and planning as we got things sorted and problem solved the chaos.

Joan Griffiths: for all the phone conversations about how to and who should ... you are an amazing leader Joan as you are able to direct people to participate and contribute in a gracious and supportive manner. I thank you for that.

Fiona Tegart: you saved my brain – thanks Fi.

General Committee: The general committee has always been very encouraging and trusting, allowing me to run with the program as I wanted to, and supporting my decisions and requests without hesitation. It has been fantastic to know that you have had my back, both in principle and with volunteering at events/occasions as needs arise. It has been so easy to work with you and I thank you for your support and interest in the Ukulele program.

It has been an honor to be the Ukulele Coordinator for the Gippsland Acoustic Music Club over the last 5 years and I have learnt so much. Thank you all for your support and help. It's time for the club and myself to move in a different direction and I look forward to being on that journey with the Committee (If you'll still have me!)

Warmest Regards

Di Stephens

2018 – 2023 GAMC Uke Coordinator