

President's Report AGM 2017-18
Tuesday Oct 16. 6pm Venue- the Hub, Bairnsdale

Maureen Plunkett

It has been a year of changes in all aspects of Crashendo. In October, 2017, there was a major change in committee for personal reasons, and concern that we did not have the funding to continue the project into 2018. The initial suggestion was for Crashendo to go into recession for a period until funding could be secured. The remaining committee decided to keep the programs operational and with the addition of fresh committee members (Linda & Bec), new strategies were suggested. The committee also approached local organisations and businesses for funding.

Responses included-

- Communities for Children \$5000
- Metung Singers \$1000
- Bairnsdale Bowls Club \$200
- Apex club, Bairnsdale

This has given us time to continue to pursue more longer term funding and enough funds to complete the 2018 School year.

Highlights of the year:

- In July 2017 we held a successful Holiday Program with a higher than expected attendance and excellent feedback from all involved.
- We had a film night with community support raising approximately \$1500
- We participated in the 2017 Christmas Parade with John Schmidli conducting a bright and enthusiastic group of students and mentors.
- A local student attended the Melbourne Youth Music Summer School camp for a week with a scholarship the funded by Crashendo!Bairnsdale.inc DGR account. We had a very generous donation by Venables Pre-Cast.
- Our existing tutors and coordinator both gave notice at the start of 2018 academic year due to personal reasons and Samantha Stuart stepped up from being a mentor to taking on these roles.
- We moved to the Hub from BPS for more room and storage. We are now close to U3A and have had wonderful support from GELLEN as managers of the campus.
- Crashendo students busked at the Lindenow Art Show
- In June, we employed an Administrator (Hilary) in a paid role to enable us to manage the administration and move forward with the program.
- In June we had a Sunday Workshop at the Hub with Colin Iversen (strings) and Alison Teychenne (wind) conducting workshops and the day finishing

- with a concert that included a combined item. There were 21 string and 12 wind enrolments, 8 adults from Traralgon playing and 5 student mentor mentors. A very well received concert and excellent organisational work by Anne and Fiona.
- The Website is being updated and Linda has organised a 'donate' button through Paypal. Our facebook page is now a closed group.
- Significant donation of instruments from Methodist Ladies College, some of which we are donating to a Traralgon El Sistema program.
- We have had 10 newspaper articles this calendar year.

Generally our profile in the community continues to grow, with ongoing support from East Gippsland Shire, local and Melbourne musicians and schools, Save the Children, local Rotary, Lions, Apex and sporting clubs. Many in-kind hours of time from the local community including website management from Bairnsdale Web Design, GELLEN for our excellent rehearsal space, Save the Children for grant application assistance, Exchange House Food Store and the many people who do all the little things that keep Crashendo moving forwards.

Personally, I would like to thank our outgoing committee for all the work they have done this year to initially keep Crashendo Bairnsdale operating, then through sheer perseverance and passion, keeping searching for funding, support and focusing on the positives. It has been a steep learning curve for me and I sincerely thank the committee for their skills, guidance and patience.

Through the nature of our program, every year will be a challenge but it is worth it when you see the difference that learning to read and play music as part of an orchestra can make to a child's development. The research is catching up with what we have known for many years and we strive to give this opportunity to those in our greater community who need it the most.