

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT TO BAW BAW SINGERS INC.

1st July 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

It is with a touch of sadness that I submit this report on my retirement as President after forming the Choir with Ghandi Mandel & John Stevens on 11/4/2011 just over 6 years ago, with no money but a wish to continue singing with a wonderful group of people.

We have come a long way from those early days and our numbers have grown significantly during that time and now often a new face each week. The growth in numbers over the past year has had a major impact on our finances which has enabled us to participate in more public performances, in addition the impact on our finances has come at an opportune time with our hall rental to double in cost as from 1<sup>st</sup> August. Thankfully, our surplus will carry us through for quite a few years without the need to increase our weekly fees. Equally, we have provided for the future replacement of our keyboard and musical equipment which is essential to maintain at or near current replacement cost from year to year.

To our music ensemble led by our talented Co-ordinator, Bob Yuill, our talented flautist, Bret Forge, who entrances us with his nuances each night and of course our evergreen, Maestro of Double Base, Jack Pretty, who inspires us with delightfull music but encourages us all with his zest for life, thank you for your on-going support from day one making our choir grow in learning and enjoyment.

To Libby, I express my sincere appreciation to you in taking up the challenge to be only our 2<sup>nd</sup> Music Director, some 3 years ago at a crucial time in our story. This was a big challenge for you to bring a bunch of sometimes renegade oldies forward, to teach us so much more about choir singing, and to give us the joy of learning a new way of understanding the meaning behind the words and expressing song in a way that we never imagined. Through your influence we are now reaching out to a younger age group that hopefully will take our places into the future and at the same time have the joy of friendship through singing in a group such as ours.

To those Committee members not seeking re-election, Kay Stephenson, Bev Mitchelmore, and Glenda Irwin I thank you for your past service to the Choir. I must make mention of Kay Stephenson for her dedication as Treasurer for the past few years and for the many extra tasks she undertook that many members were unaware of but were essential to our weekly operations, Thank you Kay. To Mavis Falls and Diane Hengel thank you for keeping the refreshment supplies up to us each week.

To the Committee members of the past few years, thank you for your help and consideration of the choir at all times. The Choir not only provides us with a place to enjoy singing but also, a social means of friendship to many people who would be isolated if the choir did not exist. Thank you Margaret for your work in

maintaining Choir contact with our members suffering ill health and equally important to us all, the sadness of bereavement within our families.

Libby, thank you for you being you, your craziness at times has kept us in touch with reality and your gems of "Fill in" when Bob is punching in the music settings between numbers have kept us all amused. To everyone I say, Thank you for your support to me during some difficult times, but we must always remember that our choir is not about one person it is about each and every member that sits beside you each week. I believe we have achieved that and I look forward to continuing to Sing-Laugh and Be Happy.

D. P. O'Shea

President (Retired 31/7/2017)