

ROSEWOOD MUSIC CAMP

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, MAY 2018

ANOTHER GOOD YEAR !

Our fourth year at Charnwood (2017) became a celebration of the natural beauty of the valley, and connection with the Koori culture of the area. It is always a bit tricky finding indigenous dancers at our time of year, because Tanderrum in Melbourne is the following week and all the regional groups are preparing for that.

Nevertheless a long series of phone calls, visits, and a tip off from Gippsland (!) led to a quite profound connection with two Taungurung men, Mick and Corey Harding. We are discussing how to develop that relationship. Linked to that is the network of Strathbogie locals who attend our camp, and are involved with various landcare and environmental networks. Turra's work over the years with planting remains an inspiring model!

The merge with Turramurra Music Camp continues to provide some very useful links with shared goals, structures and activities. Special thanks to those committee members who make time, to work with Turra on banking, insurance, programming and other matters.

Our committee remains substantially the same as last year, with some shuffling of jobs as people embark on the usual round of mid-year wanderings. We welcome Rose back to Central Victoria after her stint of long-distance money management from NT.

ENOUGH BEDS?

With Dorothy away at a busy time, the matching of tutors', committee, and participants' bodies to just over 100 beds was well handled by Vera. Thankyou! There is not much room for error in the room allocations.

MIXED THEMES

The programme at Rosewood 2017 featured cello for the first time, and string ensemble. 14 cellos and the usual brigade of fiddlers came to class, despite the now annual overlap with the first weekend of Stringmania in Melbourne. It seems there are enough punters to go round! Amongst the usual core classes of guitar, fiddle, whistle, uke, art, ensemble and dance, we welcomed back several seasoned tutors and great friends of the camp; Mischa Herman (after some difficult years of illness), Joseph Bromley (uke), and the dynamic marimba duo of Dani Rocca and Adam Burke. These last two accepted the job, at one tutor's fee, then insisted on doing twice as many sessions to present a better programme (at the same fee!)

Youth band and instant band continue to pull big crowds. The balance between specific skills classes and ensembles is part of the programmers' task at these camps. There is always a temptation to squeeze just one more event into the weekend, but we have to be aware of

the need for a bit of space in the programme, so that not everyone is running around all the time!

NUMBERS

Our camp filled up to the usual numbers just in time, with a healthy mix of repeat offenders and new families. Newcomers always give us great feedback about the quality of the experience we offer. Many thanks to our digital team, who manage the online bookings. The bookings seem to go through smoothly – it's all a matter of having the content well displayed in a timely manner.

VENUES

The big marquee again delivered the goods as a concert/workshop venue, though one corner was quite wet underfoot due to leakages from the Wash Against Waste trailer. This year we are using a totally different approach to dish washing, at a number of locations, so the wet corner will not be an issue.

LOOKING FORWARD

The talk in committee and with Auscamp about building some more composting toilets has not yet resulted in any action on or in the ground. Our volunteers are all busy people. Watch this space!

Congratulations, committee, for a job well done. The extraordinary music and participation I observed again at the 2017 camp reminded me why we do it. Long may it continue.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Rigby". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andy Rigby, May 2018.

P.S. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2018 is our 21st camp, 20 years since we started at Rose's Gap last century (1998). Photo-memories and a special parade are planned.