

My report is more comprehensive this year as we are currently without a chairman to write the usual Chairman's Report so I have combined that with my Booking Officers report. All committee members have contributed to this 2014 annual report.

First of all, we would like to record a vote of thanks to Han Roeters, who willingly gave us almost 3 years of leadership in his role as chairman prior to his resignation a short time ago. We also had 2 resignations from committee members - Carrie Dean who was moving from Otaki part way through her second term as a committee member, and from Paul Webster after a brief period as a committee member. I would like to thank my fellow committee members who have been very active on your behalf to ensure this club is highly thought of throughout the country and sought after as a performance venue. The committee's hard work has ensured that the club has stayed strong and membership has grown both as financial membership, and those registering to receive our email newsletter. It has been a cohesive and dedicated committee and we have enjoyed our time together.

Our membership for 2013/2014 stood at 49 and already for this new financial year that started at the beginning of this month, we have 35 members, many of them brand new members. A further 10 were added this evening, making a current total of 45 .

We have noted some small improvements in this hall that we use twice a month as our venue. Partially this is due to Dale Webb, our treasurer, arranging the donation of some comfortable padded chairs and some small tables. These were given to the club by her previous employer. However the Scottish Society have made efforts to ensure the premises are more tidily presented, especially the kitchen. Any issues with the hall are swiftly dealt with by the HSS eg the central lights failing earlier this year. The front door lock has recently been changed by the Scottish Society to make the hall more secure. We had a small rent rise this year, it now costs \$600 for annual rental which covers both main club night and Acoustic Night. This is a very reasonable rental.

Our thank to Committee member Jo Sheffield for volunteering to compile a roster of helpers for hall set-up and other duties. Many thanks to those who have stepped up to do a part in ensuring the smooth running of our club nights. The roster has been positive in that newcomers are drawn into a helping role early, eg on door duties. Hopefully someone will take over the responsibility for continuing the roster from next month.

We sincerely thank all the club members and members of the audience who assist with hall tidying after our meetings. Our thanks also to all those who play a part on the door teams, sound set-up, and compere duties. The club cannot run without you. A special thanks to Charlie Boyce, who shows such dedication to giving you a good supper every club night. He is usually assisted by his son Simon. We thank Charlie for his commitment to this role.

The committee have made some tentative plans regarding our 25th Anniversary celebration in September which will be handed over to be finalised by the in-coming new committee. It will be one of their first tasks as a new committee to finalise this club night that celebrates our 25th Anniversary. The band for this special evening on September 12th has already been booked and is Gumboot Tango from Taranaki. They were very keen to help us celebrate our 25th anniversary as they have had a long association with our folk club.

Membership fees are set at our AGM, and the committee brings the recommendation that our membership fees remain the same at \$20 per person, and that the door charges also remain the same for the 2014/2015 financial year.

Our monthly email newsletter which I compile goes out to over 150 recipients. We also have over a dozen different ways each month that we advertise our guest nights and Acoustic Night.

We have a club website set up by Han Roeters but we need someone updating it so it is more relevant. We have had Kings Sound Centre offer the club a passworded area on their shop website, which the committee is in favour of utilising as it exposes the folk club events on a broad music web site to many other musicians.

Ian Todd does a grand job of writing an article each month for the local newspaper, and committee member Jo Sheffield has been the one who creates and distributes the posters that you will have seen in shop windows.

I have endeavoured to provide a variety of guests for the club this year. Choices are discussed at our committee meetings. Committee members and club members have recommended performers they have heard. Not all guests apply to appear, as many are head-hunted due to their talent and professionalism and are offered the opportunity to perform here.

This past financial year we have had Otagolands, Karen Clarke, Sue Pugmire and her band 'Strings and Things', Bob Cooper-Grundy and Kate Marshall, Legal Tender Band, Nick Charles from Australia, Jayne Freeman and Adam Piggott from the UK, Wayne Mason and Clint Brown, The Federal String Band, (The Fedz), Dave Murphy, and The Jimmies. This has included genres such as blues, NZ folk, Americana, popular music, celtic music etc. Some acts are hard to define as they cover many genres within a performance.

For the remainder of this year, we have Rob Joass with Kim Bonnington and Dusty Burnell still to come, as well as Gumboot Tango, My Pennyworth, and Laura Collins with her Back Porch Band.

We have supported many talented New Zealand musicians and singers, plus have had the occasional overseas artists. Looking ahead to 2015, we have a great start to the year with 3 international artists in a row - these are the return of A.J. Clarke in February, Hungrytown in March, plus Australians Enda Kenny and Lindsay Martin are currently negotiating with me for an April gig. Overseas artists need to book ahead, well in advance, before they book their air fares out to NZ, to ensure a viable tour. Some are booking a year or more ahead of time.

Jo Sheffield undertook to compile a list of club members who had the room to billet guests occasionally, and this spread the arrangements for accommodating any guests overnight. Few guests require accommodation, usually only those who are touring the country or who come from outside the Wellington region. If you are a financial member of the folk club and have the room to accommodate guests, do ask to join this billeteers list.

I move that this report be accepted: