



# FRIENDS OF WOLLCON COMMUNITY MUSIC

Newsletter #2

[www.fowcm.org](http://www.fowcm.org)

December 2022

## What's a FoWCM anyway?

During 2021 a group of long-time WollCon students decided to form the Friends of WollCon Community Music (FoWCM for short); an unincorporated association designed to support community music programmes and associated activities in the Illawarra region; including the community music programmes offered by the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music (WollCon). FoWCM has been registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

FoWCM seeks out opportunities to source funds that can be used to facilitate performances and activities by local amateur community music ensembles. FoWCM will provide funds to help stage inclusive community music events; and acquire suitable equipment and resources which can be made available to ensembles; choirs and bands.

## (Woll)Con – congratulations!!!

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at WollCon are drawing to a close. And what a year it's been! So many wonderful, memorable events, performances, world premieres. I think I can speak for all members of the community music ensembles in expressing our delight in being part of the festivities, and in heartily congratulating David Francis and all of the WollCon staff.

## FoWCM's new committee

Thankyou to all who attended our first AGM in September. Quite a few of the attendees have joined FoWCM, and a couple agreed to join the organising committee as well. Thanks to Anne Rouse and Kerrie Faulkner for their involvement in the previous committee.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?

As members (and parents) of WollCon's many & varied community ensembles we'd love to hear from you on events & activities that you think FoWCM could help facilitate. If you have skills in preparing funding submissions, or an entrepreneurial/event management bent and a bit of spare time:-

GET IN TOUCH!

via our website at  
[www.fowcm.org](http://www.fowcm.org)

Or call / email – Neil Cairns on  
0407213548 or email  
[ncairns53@gmail.com](mailto:ncairns53@gmail.com)

Welcome to the new committee, who are as follows:-

Greg Costello – Treasurer

Rod Cawsey – Secretary

Tom Wren – Committee member

David Curtis – Committee member

with John Spira, Erno Van Alphen & Neil Cairns continuing.

## Our new Logo

A special mention and big thanks to Wendi Leigh, who, despite being given little notice, at this crazy time of the year dropped everything to deliver our wonderful new FoWCM logo (that's it at the top of the first page).

## Our activities in 2022

During its first year of operation FoWCM has supported a number of the events staged by WollCon to mark its 50<sup>th</sup> year of operations, including:-

- Collecting donations at **Celebrating Our Community Musicians** concert at Wollongong City Gallery, April 2, and again, at the **Celebrating Jazz at WollCon** concert at Wollongong Town Hall, April 9.
- Supporting WollCon's successful bid for Create NSW funding to bring **Hot Potato Band** as Artist-In-Residence during 2022.
- Contributing funds (\$2000) to WollCon's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary appeal conducted under Create NSW's PlusOne Funding mechanism; thus helping raise some \$32,000 for WollCon programmes during 2022.
- Presenting a charity fund-raiser as the Welcome to Honk!Oz 2022 event at The Servo, Port Kembla on 14<sup>th</sup> July. \$704 was raised on the night and donated to the NSW Floods Appeal.

Other activities pursued by FoWCM this year have included:-

- Contributing funds to help establish the Minor Swing Guitar Ensemble.
- Successfully securing Wollongong City Council Small Cultural Grant of \$2500 to stage a Performance Workshop for the Five Islands String Orchestra during early 2023.
- Securing of WCC grants to support performances by The Con Artists and the WollCon Community Orchestra during 2022-23.