

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2022 AGM

This has been another challenging year for the Society, with Covid still having a significant impact. Our music activities and the Merry Muse have continued to be strong, with plenty of enthusiastic participation at the recent Contra music sessions, at the Tuesday Night Music Group and at settlers.

We have also welcomed the long-standing Canberra Celtic Choir into the Society as a sub group, and look forward to the future opportunities this will provide for expanding our singing activities.

On the dance front, I have been heartened to see the Irish Set Dancing group continuing with their regular dance program and thinking about to attract and retain new members. Their recent weekend of workshops and dances was a great success. Ian Bull's recent initiative to establish a monthly dance display (with music from Society musicians) has also been very well received. We expect Dancing in the Park to be held at the end of the year as usual, and the annual New Year's Eve dance might also proceed.

We also had a number of subgroups, and other MFS members, participating in the National Folk Festival as usual.

Our regular indoor dance activities are largely on hold at the moment, due to understandable hesitation of many of our older dancers to resume indoor dancing while Covid is still with us. Hopefully the situation will improve as we head into 2023.

As a Committee, we are continuing to look at ways to improve the marketing and promotion of the Society's activities, and to try achieve greater consistency across various platforms. It seems to me that we are getting better at collaboration and cross-over between the Society's various subgroups (though there is always more that can be done here).

I would particularly like to express my appreciation for the sterling job that Moir Holmes has done in taking on the roles of both treasurer and bookkeeper this year.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Society as we continue to navigate the Covid era. I remain confident that we have much to offer our members, and the broader Canberra community, now and into the future.

David