

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2023 Annual General Meeting

2023 has been a more normal and productive year for the Society following the Covid interruptions that we have all experienced since 2020.

Some of our regular weekly dance activities, including Irish set dancing and the Monday night bush dance group have recommenced and have seen gradual growth in numbers (including quite a few new dancers) over the course of the year. The end of month dance organising team has been experimenting with new times, venues and themes for their regular events.

Dancing in the Park was held in December, January and into February this year, with extra media publicity leading to significant growth in numbers. Our New Years' Eve dance and the recent Irish Set Dancing weekend were also very well attended.

There has continued to be plenty of enthusiastic participation at our Contra music sessions, the Tuesday night music group (with a number of new musicians taking part) and at Settlers, and plenty of enthusiastic attendees at our monthly Merry Muse events.

This year has seen a greater use of social media for promoting our events, as well as interviews on ABC radio Canberra and other radio outlets.

Another important recent and ongoing initiative has been the introduction of electronic online payments for memberships and more, recently, at the door at events. This will make it much easier for those who normally carry cash to come along to our events. I would like to particularly thank Moir Holmes, our Treasurer, for her efforts in getting this up and running.

We have now also resolved the ongoing issues with access to the members only section of our website, and are starting to consider afresh what "member only" content we may wish to start posting there.

Over the past year, our members have also been involved in providing music and dance entertainment at various events, such as community and display dances, that are outside the regular planned activities of our subgroups. These events can take place if prior committee approval is given.

Thank you for your continued support of the Society and your participation in its activities. I am optimistic about what 2024 may hold for us.

David