

# **TFMC President's Report to AGM**

## **September 11, 2021**

My first statement tonight is I believe our club is in good heart. This would not be possible without the work of previous committees and members who have gifted us our club culture and heritage for which I'm thankful. Quite simply, there wouldn't be a Titirangi Folk Club without their efforts.

It is also due to the enthusiasm and work of the current committee, Jude Black, Paul Brown, Helen Douglas, Paul Howarth, John McKeown, Cathy Munro, Tony Smyth and Janet Thomson. I believe the committee work well together, thank you for the range of skills you bring.

Even then, the club is all of us and the willingness of all club members to "bring a friend and if not come and make a friend" while welcoming new faces to our club family is critical to creating the friendly atmosphere, we all enjoy and for which we are all responsible. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the club this year whether as performer, audience or organiser and especially to those who wear multiple hats.

TFMC membership correct to Tuesday 7 September is as follows:

- 78 members (60 financial) (15 life members) with
- 22 new members this year.

Some 18 members from last year are yet to pay this year's sub. Each club night attracts a slightly different audience and we estimate that about two thirds of the audience on a club night are members.

Covid-19 has continued to require us to act with flexibility and innovation in the past year. Examples of this are our first AGM via Zoom tonight and many committee meetings via zoom. International zoom meetings were happily hosted by Cathy Munro with Paul Howarth's technical support. This facilitated club members connecting with each-other, NZ and international folkies.

In spite of Covid-19, this year we have enjoyed the music and stage craft of the following guest artists at our regular club nights: Looking for Alaska, Aro, Cameron Bennett, Lothlorien, High, Wide and Handsome, Cajynx, Butter Wouldn't Melt, Sadie and Jay, Sarita Murdoch and Adam McGrath. The September 2020 club night was locked down with Lothlorien rescheduled for February 2021.

In addition to club nights and zoom meetings, Friday club progresses from strength to strength. Thank you in particular to Cathy Munro and John McKeown for facilitating these evenings. It is great to see Friday club musicians coming through and performing floor spots on Saturdays.

The committee were involved in organising musical outreaches to the wider community during the year.

The first was in celebration of NZ music month with performances from a variety of club members at the Blockhouse Bay library. Our music was received with thanks and we have been asked to perform again during 2022.

Received with even more success and acclaim was the afternoon of music at Pinesong Retirement Village ably organised and MCed by Helen Douglas. This event was postponed a number of times due to Covid. The afternoon was supported by a large number of TFMC musicians and we thank you for your commitment to sharing the fun. The event was very well attended by Pinesong residents and we have been asked to return.

The committee are also making initiatives to encourage another generation of TFMC folkies. My thanks to Jude Black and Helen Douglas who have connected with the music department of Green Bay High School. Similarly, we are scheduled to host the Auckland University Folk Club, Covid permitting, at our October club night.

Many Titirangi Folk Club members continue to play an active part in organising and running the Auckland Folk Festival. While we await the passing of a new constitution for the Festival, the structure of the festival committee has been informally rejigged in the past year with more use of sub-committees. Ian Bartlett, Tony Smyth and Paul Brown contribute actively to various committees for which we thank them.

During the 2021 Festival, Trisha Lee, Paul Brown and Terry Free MCed a very successful Friday night Come-All-Ye in Roger Giles' memory.

For the second year in a row, TFMC have organised and run the Barn as a traditional music hub during the festival. We are organising a similar programme for both the Saturday and Sunday of the upcoming 2022 festival. Thank you in particular to Jude Black for the immense amount of background coordination and communication that this event involves and to Cathy Munro and Paul Howarth for their grand efforts as MCs on the Saturday. We were pleased to share MCing at the Barn on the Sunday with the Devonport Folk Club.

In summary, despite societal challenges, we have had a good year. Thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to meeting again in

person at the Beach Hall, once we are able, for the celebration of folk music and ongoing conviviality. This is our club and its continued health is up to all of us. You are our best ambassadors.

*Noel Armstrong*

**President, TFMC**