

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

MEMBERSHIP

February 2016: 17 members

December 2016: 13 members.

The current age range for members is 8 to 17. This is consistent with previous years.

Members left during the year for the following reasons: too many commitments (1), transport issues (2 siblings), wanting to play with a more advanced ensemble (1).

COMMITTEE

Treasurer: Rebecca Gowland

Publicity: Yvette Southall

Fundraising:

Stage Management:

Librarian: Leah Hawkins

Musical Director: Rosalind Burns

PERFORMANCES

Term 1 Lake Bolac: Only three players were able to attend this but they really enjoyed the experience of playing with Holly and some of her students.

Term 2 Kallista Market, Austavic String Orchestra Festival at Xavier College

Term 4 Sherbrooke Nursing Home, Monbulk Aquatic Centre, Annual Concert at St Thomas UFTG

The total of 6 performances is less than last year's 9 but was a comfortably manageable amount for the group.

DEVELOPMENT

There were a few tutorial sessions held during the year and valuable weekly support from Piper Blake who completed her silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, using her time at RYS as her community service component. The tutors who assisted were past members Dina and Lore (violin and cello respectively).

WORKSHOPS, GUEST ARTISTS AND TOURS

The tour proposed this year was the Lake Bolac Biennial Festival in the last weekend of the Term 1 holidays. It was advertised at the end of 2015 but the participation rate was quite low with three players being able to attend; two camping overnight and one driving up for the day of the performance.

The one workshop RYS participated in this year was the Australian Strings Association String Orchestra Festival. This involved learning a piece that all orchestras would play as a massed item (*Rainbows* by Stephen Chin) and also playing a work on their own. This was an arrangement of *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, and featured two members as soloists.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Afternoon tea continues to be a very important social time for RYS!

We had a pizza night at the end of terms 1, 2 and 3 and a splendid afternoon tea after our Annual Concert at the end of the year.

PLANS FOR 2016

We plan to play a wide repertoire of styles, attend the AUSTA string orchestra workshop in term 2, have tutorials twice a term and increase our membership if at all possible so we can afford to buy some more music. It would also be great to attend an orchestral concert together. Some students came to the AYO concert in August which was an inspiring evening.