

# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT

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The Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble (NSSWE) program was established in 2010 as an extension music program for student musicians who play woodwind, brass or percussion in their school band programs in the Northern Sydney region. It is designed to complement and enhance the band programs offered in schools, by challenging those students who have gained a high degree of proficiency playing an instrument in their school bands.

## OUR AIM

Our aim is to be leaders in symphonic wind music education, development and performance

## OUR PURPOSE

- Enriching lives through inspiring musical experiences
- Raising standards of musical performance and development
- Building appreciation of our genre (the symphonic wind ensemble) as a musical form

The program has the following aims:

- to provide students with the opportunity to perform a musical repertoire of a very high standard,
- to develop students' musical skills and talent under the direction of highly qualified directors and conductors, and
- to share a love of music with the broader community.

NSSWE delivers on these aims through a tiered program of four symphonic wind ensembles, ranging from primary school age through to senior high school and tertiary level students. The ensembles are streamed according to age and proficiency. Each ensemble consists of between 50-60 musicians, across the woodwind, brass and percussion sections, and work together with their conductor across a full year, attending rehearsals, delivering public performances and participating in a performance tour as a group.

As a community-based, not-for-profit organisation, NSSWE embraces a philosophy of inclusion based on a shared love of music. NSSWE fosters a strong sense of community spirit by drawing students from public, private and independent schools across the entire Northern Sydney region. NSSWE includes a number of students with disabilities, and students from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Students are encouraged to share their love of music with the local community, and build friendships based on a shared enjoyment of rehearsing and performing together. NSSWE also plays an important role in the wider community by nurturing and supporting school band programs in the region. NSSWE offers professional development to local school band conductors, and also provides a range of performance opportunities for primary and high school bands at ticketed and free events. NSSWE emphasises the importance of non-competitive performances which focus on musical expression and enjoyment. These concerts allow the invited school bands to perform to large appreciative audiences in professional and community venues with high quality production values and support. NSSWE understands the importance of such experiences in inspiring young musicians to continue the study and performance of music at higher levels.

**On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble for the calendar year of 2023. The enclosed reports provide details of the artistic, governance, financial and administrative aspects of the NSSWE program.**

As usual, my report will briefly outline our activities during 2023 against the strategic priority areas set out in our Strategic Plan 2019-2023. The priority areas are:

- Providing musical development and extension
- Building audiences for the symphonic wind ensemble form
- Developing the capacity of community and school band programs
- Growing the NSSWE Spring Music Festival
- Securing long-term premises
- Ensuring the organisation's sustainability.

### **Musical development and extension**

NSSWE continues to deliver a full tiered extension program of four wind ensembles, from primary through to senior high and tertiary age students. The musician numbers have pleasingly returned to 'pre-COVID' numbers, reflecting growing confidence in our ability to deliver a full program of rehearsals, concerts, tours and events. This is also a reflection of the evident rebuilding of school band programs feeding into our ensembles. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and enthusiasm of all our conducting team, Kylie Tyson, Derek Barg and Ben Perche, under the leadership of our Artistic Director Patrick Brennan, who work with the ensembles throughout the year.

NSSWE Plus, our professional development program for tertiary students, has remained strong during 2023, working with Patrick and Ben. In addition to the Plus sessions, we offered a Conductor Development Program for six external participants, building on the strengths of the Plus program.

### **Building audiences for the symphonic wind ensemble form**

This year's first major event was our Music in the Forest event, which was generously funded by the grant received the previous year from the Northern Beaches Council to support an outdoor (Covid-safe) music festival in the local area. We held this at Killarney Heights High School. We are grateful for the support from KHHS that allowed us to plan for an outdoor event on the front lawn, but ultimately deliver the event inside the assembly hall due to rain. The event attracted many families and musicians across the day, and the cake stall, sausage sizzle, ice cream van and coffee cart added to the family-friendly atmosphere. I would like to particularly acknowledge the incredible work of our new Manager Jade Little in pulling this event together, overcoming unexpected challenges and inclement weather with determination and good cheer.

We offered our two series of Community Concerts in Autumn and Winter in Term 2 in 2023 at The Forest High School, and saw strong audience numbers across both weeks. We welcome new school bands to these concerts at each series, and it is wonderful to see the support for the musicians from the community.

In 2023 we were able to deliver performance tours for the PWE and JWE, and this allowed our musicians to perform to different audiences in the Blue Mountains, the Southern Highlands, Canberra and the Snowy Mountains. The SWE used their Gerringong retreat to prepare repertoire for the Spring Music Festival. (The IWE was not able to tour due to low numbers.)

Our annual Showcase concert was held at The Concourse, Chatswood, and the ensembles delivered a wonderful demonstration of their achievements over the year and presented the full range of wind ensemble repertoire at all levels. The SWE performed a remarkable recent work from female Australian composer Katia Beugeais, *First Light at Uluru*. The concert was professionally recorded, videoed and photographed for our archives.

## **Developing capacity of community and school band programs**

NSSWE's commitment to delivering valuable performance opportunities in non-competitive settings to school and community bands in our local region continued strongly in 2023, with the Autumn and Winter Community Concert Series, Music in the Forest and the Spring Music Festival. With 49 bands performing at the Community Concerts, 21 at Music in the Forest, and 95 at the Spring Festival, we know that we have once again provided thousands of musicians in the local area with important performance experiences. We understand the importance of this in the capacity development and growth of school band programs.

The Conductor Development Program offered another opportunity to six local school band conductors to hone their skills in a series of workshops with Patrick, culminating in the chance to conduct the Senior Wind Ensemble in rehearsal. Two of the participants were returning from the previous year's program, indicating the clear value of this tailored program.

## **Growing the NSSWE Spring Music Festival**

In 2023, due to high demand from school bands, we expanded our four-day Spring Music Festival from 8 to 9 ticketed concerts in the Concert Hall, in addition to our outdoor jazz event. This was an extraordinary effort for all involved, and I would like to particularly acknowledge our exceptional team of conductors, orchestral managers, runners and volunteers who helped to deliver this successful festival.

The Festival was generously supported by the Willoughby City Council with a waiver of fees for use of the outdoor amphitheatre. We also received sponsorship and raffle prize donations from World Projects, Data Diction, Turramurra Music, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, AdLib Music, and FINK Dining, and this support is much appreciated.

We had planned to introduce a 'trade hall' component for the Spring Festival for this year, but found that while many of the local music suppliers were interested in the concept, they had little capacity to staff the event across the weekend, and thus we did not proceed. This may be a reflection of the ongoing challenging economic environment after COVID.

## **Securing long term premises**

There has been relatively little progress in this area during 2023, as we wait for more information about the construction of the new school to replace the current campus of The Forest High School. As noted last year, NSSWE has engaged actively with the planning and consultation process, as a key stakeholder and community user of the school premises. The Board will continue to seek opportunities for input with the Department's School Infrastructure Team as the project advances through 2024.

## **Governance and sustainability**

As always, I am very thankful for the work behind the scenes by our volunteer board members. I extend my thanks to each of the Board members, Vice-President Patrick Brennan, Treasurer Alan Norton, Secretary Tim Burt, and ordinary members Ricard Castillo, Rebecca Hughes, and Kim Gambrill (who stepped down during the year for family reasons). I want to acknowledge Kim's hard work while she was on the board, particularly with the Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee, building strong relationships with sponsors and donors.

NSSWE's financial position at the end of 2023 is very positive, thanks to careful budget management by the Board, and a successful Spring Music Festival. Our Treasurer Alan Norton continues to oversee our finances with diligence and attention to detail, and his guidance is consistently valuable. We are in the happy position of being able to invest some of our surplus from 2023 into assets which will serve all the ensembles.

We are now coming to the end of the strategic planning cycle covered by our Strategic Plan 2019-2023 and the board will develop our next five-year plan in the coming months.

## **Thank you**

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank our musicians and their families for your ongoing commitment to music and your strong support for NSSWE over the past year.

Thank you also to our fantastic team for your continued dedication to NSSWE: the conductors Kylie Tyson, Derek Barg and Ben Perche, and our orchestral managers Emily Costa and Oscar Gibbs.

A very special thank you goes to Jade Little, who began as new Manager at the start of the year, replacing former long-term manager Jane Peggie. Jade's knowledge of the organisation is unparalleled, having begun as a musician in 2010, and later working as an orchestral manager. Jade hit her stride in the new Manager role remarkably quickly and has delivered excellent results across the year, balancing enthusiasm and pragmatism with cheerful good humour. NSSWE is lucky to have her.

I would also like to thank The Forest High School for continuing to support NSSWE through the year, with the rehearsal space and concerts.

The calendar year of 2023 has been a positive one for NSSWE, and we look forward to a wonderful musical year in 2024.

**Diana Perche**

President

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023****Financials in summary**

NSSWE entered 2023 with a greater level of certainty than 12 months before, and 2023 was the first really “full year” unimpacted by COVID since 2019. During 2023, NSSWE was not immune to the pressures of cost inflation, however student numbers were the highest for some years, and it was particularly pleasing that the Spring Festival was the largest which we have run to date. It is pleasing to report a surplus of \$33,432 - most of which can be attributed to the success of the Spring Festival.

The 2023 accounts have been independently reviewed by McCann Accounting in Dee Why.

**Income**

Musician fee income for the year was \$142,262, an increase of 19.3% compared to 2022 reflecting a higher number of students participating and some limited fee increases. Other than the \$9,591 of grants received (see breakdown below), the remaining other income principally relates to tours for the ensembles (which were subsidised by NSSWE), and the ticket sales and entry fees from the Spring Festival and Showcase Concerts.

**Grants received**

NSSWE is extremely grateful for the support it has received from the government, which has been hugely important. The table below sets out a breakdown of the grants received:

Grant	Value	Purpose
Northern Beaches Council	9,091	Support of Music in the Forest event
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>9,091</b>	

Note - that in addition NSSWE has recognised \$500 of Grant Income related to 2018 Federal Grants, where the grant income is being released to the Income Statement over the period which matches against the depreciation for the assets purchased with the grants.

**Operating expenses**

As with previous years, we have maintained our strict focus on tight financial management. The Board agrees a detailed budget before the beginning of each financial year and then detailed budgets for each tour and performance event. The NSSWE team manages actual expenditure to these budgets and the Board reviews the actual financial performance of the organisation throughout the year and can instigate corrective action if necessary. The use of volunteer hours (both from the Board and elsewhere) provides a significant financial benefit to NSSWE and NSSWE remains grateful to all who are willing to support it in this way.

NSSWE also benefits from free or discounted services provided by suppliers who support not-for-profit community organisations such as ours. In particular we would like to acknowledge Google, who provide NSSWE with its Google-Workspace platform free of charge, Xero who provide their cloud accounting system at a significant discount and G-Accon who provide discounted reporting services that we utilise with Xero. NSSWE is grateful for this support.

## **Performances**

The Community Concert series and the Spring Festival were run again in 2023, and were popular with school bands, as well as audience members. The Showcase concert was well supported by parents. In addition NSSWE organised and ran the Music in the Forest event (which as set out above was supported by Northern Beaches Council).

## **Capital expenditure**

During 2023, NSSWE spent \$8,238 on adding to its musical instruments, and a further c\$1,515 on IT and office equipment for use by the manager.

## **Principal risks**

The principal financial risks that the organisation faces and needs to manage are:

- Student numbers - as the cost base of the organisation is largely fixed. The Board seeks to manage this risk by setting a budget, and the fees each year once a realistic assessment of student numbers can be estimated.
- Any concerts that NSSWE promotes at the Concourse have a significant financial risk associated given the high fixed costs of those concerts, and we continue to work to ensure this risk is contained, whilst recognising that it is a core belief of the organisation to enable students to perform at such superb professional venues as the Concourse. With many years of experience in running Concourse events, the Board has an increased confidence in estimating ticket sales and setting and managing a realistic cost budget.

## **Summary**

It was very pleasing to see a surplus of \$33,432 being generated by the organisation which can be reinvested to continue to improve what NSSWE offers and provides a financial “buffer” for future years.

As at 31 December 2022 NSSWE had a total Cash on Hand of \$272,421. Total equity was \$280,789.



## Income statement

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>INCOME</b>					
Musician Fee Income	142,262	113,863	124,483	132,729	136,135
Fundraising and donations Income	13,404	13,269	0	340	26,793
Concert Ticket Sales	117,506	104,029	9,815	10,573	67,783
Grant Income	9,591	41,995	55,397	134,107	5,522
Other Income	10,186	7,960	464	539	12,838
Tour Income	41,100	32,505	0	0	262,509
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>334,049</b>	<b>313,621</b>	<b>190,160</b>	<b>278,287</b>	<b>511,580</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Accounting & Bookkeeping	3,995	1,925	1,750	1,750	1,750
Insurance	4,331	4,279	4,370	2,867	4,862
Music Scores & Folders	6,671	8,727	3,285	669	4,351
Performance & Venue Costs	78,787	58,130	16,755	12,425	46,896
Rent	7,200	5,400	3,050	5,073	6,400
Other Operating Expenses	24,550	17,273	12,262	16,808	23,995
Employment & Contractor Expenses	128,162	114,761	119,732	205,164	120,707
Tour Costs	38,564	32,549	100	0	272,529
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>292,260</b>	<b>243,043</b>	<b>161,304</b>	<b>244,755</b>	<b>481,491</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>41,789</b>	<b>70,578</b>	<b>28,856</b>	<b>33,532</b>	<b>30,089</b>
Depreciation	8,357	6,891	9,929	8,782	6,494
<b>Surplus after Depreciation</b>	<b>33,432</b>	<b>63,687</b>	<b>18,927</b>	<b>24,750</b>	<b>23,595</b>

## Balance sheet

	31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2022	31 Dec 2021	31 Dec 2020	31 Dec 2019
Fixed Assets	43,039	41,642	41,551	49,667	57,803
Cash at bank	272,421	255,001	170,553	133,049	96,776
Trade debtors	7,742	2,600	34,932	3,345	3,700
Uniform Stock	0	0	0	0	1,009
Prepayments & other debtors	6,564	4,054	4,848	4,442	938
Jobkeeper due from ATO	0	0	0	9,000	0
Trade creditors	(2,545)	(495)	(468)	360	407
Amounts due to ATO	(5,615)	(4,014)	(4,438)	(3,920)	(1,087)
Superannuation	0	(430)	0	0	0
Deferred grant income	(83)	(9,674)	(35,174)	(2,478)	(3,887)
Fees paid in advance	(18,800)	(18,364)	(15,364)	(15,891)	(18,818)
Other accruals & liabilities	(21,933)	(27,898)	(26,323)	(26,381)	(10,398)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>280,789</b>	<b>242,422</b>	<b>170,118</b>	<b>151,192</b>	<b>126,442</b>
Retained earnings (Bfwd)	247,357	178,734	151,192	126,442	102,847
Current year surplus/deficit	33,432	63,687	18,927	24,750	23,595
<b>Total Retained earnings</b>	<b>280,789</b>	<b>242,422</b>	<b>170,118</b>	<b>151,192</b>	<b>126,442</b>

## Public fund

The balance in the public fund account at the end of 2023 is \$363 (2022: \$360).

## Moving forward

We enter 2024 in a solid financial position but aware that the cost of living crisis has pushed some families to make difficult decisions around whether they can continue to afford NSSWE. NSSWE is also aware that the cost of staging concerts such as the Showcase and the Spring Festival have increased at a rate significantly ahead of the cost of general inflation. The solid balance sheet and careful financial management provide a strong position for NSSW to continue to successfully operate and to be able to financially back the artistic vision of the organisation.

**Alan Norton, FCA**

Treasurer

Once again the NSSWE Artistic team, Administration and Board worked tirelessly and cohesively to deliver an outstanding musical extension program to our enthusiastic student musicians. 2023 was certainly a year of musical challenges, performance opportunities and team building for students and staff alike. Highlights included the Spring Music Festival and Showcase Concert and importantly, professional development opportunities for conductors from the community as well as workshop retreats and tours. I am extremely proud of what the NSSWE team created and delivered educationally and musically for the students in 2023 that culminated with an incredible Showcase Concert.

The first concerts for the year included Music in the Forest at Killarney Heights High School and our Autumn and Winter concerts at The Forest High School. These concerts were well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for our ensembles to have direct contact with other school based student ensembles from the Northern Sydney region. All the NSSWE ensembles performed well at these concerts, and a number of students from the visiting schools were inspired to join the NSSWE program.

The NSSWE Plus Program successfully delivered professional learning opportunities for our tertiary students but also conductors from the community. This program is an incredibly important addition to NSSWE that is now a mainstay of our annual education program that gives tertiary students excellent extension and development in conducting and musical pedagogy. The blending of the Plus program with the 2023 Conductor Professional Development Program, in term three, was successful in offering conductors from our community to engage in a holistic approach to building skills on and off the podium. The integration of the Plus program working alongside these community conductors not only bolstered the learning opportunities for all, but importantly generated networking opportunities between working conductors and our aspiring tertiary conductors who in the coming years will be experts in their field working at the forefront of music education and ensemble direction. The Conductor Development Program for 2023 was expanded to enable the visiting conductors to participate on a weekly basis for the whole term. This created flexibility for the conductors as well as a positive changing ensemble environment. This unique high impact professional learning program was very well received by the participating conductors all of whom developed their conducting communication skills as well as their confidence on the podium.

With touring now possible, 2023 saw two of the NSSWE ensembles tour in Regional NSW. These tours included the Primary Wind Ensemble visiting the Blue Mountains and the Junior Wind Ensemble touring Canberra and Jindabyne. Touring is an especially important element in the NSSWE educational delivery and philosophy underpinning our yearly programming that not only offers additional performance opportunities but more importantly generates cohort building and collegiality amongst the students and staff. The Retreat produced in Gerringong for the Senior Wind Ensemble also serves a similar purpose with the additional outcome of students building self confidence and ownership on their own musical journey both individually and as part of a team through learning and engaging in student lead sectional rehearsals that feed into conducted large ensemble rehearsals. The learning outcomes at the Retreats are always exceptional and enable the participating ensemble to rise to the next level so they can perform at their very best at the Festival and the end of year Showcase Concert.

The 2023 Spring Music Festival was a true triumph, the largest and most impressive event we've ever organised. From Thursday's opening concert to the finale on Sunday evening, it was a weekend filled with almost 100 school bands showcasing their talents. The NSSWE ensembles hosted and were showcased at each concert, delivering wonderful performances to large audiences.

Special thanks to our fantastic new Manager, Jade Little, and the entire NSSWE team for their hard work in putting together such a wonderful festival. Their dedication and passion were evident in every aspect of the event, making it a truly memorable experience for all involved.

The annual Showcase Concert marked a pinnacle moment for our ensembles, a moment where they showed collaborative brilliance whilst performing on the Concourse Concert platform. Each ensemble delivered a performance of exceptional calibre, tackling intricate and demanding repertoire that pushed both individuals and the collective to new heights of musical performance and expression. A heartfelt congratulations is in order for the students and our esteemed conductors, whose unwavering dedication and passion shone through in every note played. Their tireless efforts culminated in a performance that was nothing short of stellar and a testament to their commitment to musical excellence and artistry.

I'm delighted to report that we have an exceptional team of conductors including Ben Perche (Primary Wind Ensemble), Derek Barg (Junior Wind Ensemble) and Kylie Tyson (Intermediate Wind Ensemble). Our conductors are talented and have once again achieved excellence in their ensembles this year. I am grateful to them and the entire NSSWE team for jumping wholeheartedly into such a massive performance program for 2023.

I applaud our NSSWE families, friends, caregivers and parents for continuing to believe in the NSSWE program as a worthwhile venture for their student musicians to continue to engage. This support and encouragement over the course of the year enabled us to pursue our programming and goals through to the year's end.

2023 was another highly successful year of musical growth, collegiality and excellence in music performance. I'd like to offer thanks to our incredible teams of artistic and administration staff, notably Jade in her first year as manager and of course the Board, in particular Diana Perche for her wisdom and unwavering support to me through another challenging year.

**Patrick Brennan**

Artistic Director and Chief Conductor



In 2023, the NSSWE program returned to pre-Covid membership levels from the start of the year and continued its tradition of providing opportunities for young musicians in the Northern Sydney region. The four-tier ensemble structure was maintained and, from our youngest musicians in year 4 through to our tertiary musicians in our flagship Senior Wind Ensemble, NSSWE offered each of them the chance to develop and foster their musical talents.

## Musicians and ensembles

The following table shows the musician membership for each ensemble at the start of 2023. We commenced the year with 195 musicians, compared with 160 the previous year.

Ensemble	Conductor	Year Group	Number of musicians
PWE	Ben Perche	Years 4 - 6	49
JWE	Derek Barg	Years 6 - 8	39
IWE	Kylie Tyson	Years 8 - 10	51
SWE	Patrick Brennan	Year 10 – 12 and tertiary students	56
NSSWE Plus	Patrick Brennan	Tertiary Students	13*
<b>Total</b>			<b>195</b>

\* (already included in total)

The Artistic team was headed by Patrick Brennan (Artistic Director and Chief Conductor). Patrick also conducted the Senior Wind Ensemble and led the NSSWE Plus program. Kylie Tyson, Derek Barg and Ben Perche continued to conduct the Intermediate, Junior and Primary ensembles respectively. We farewelled Isabelle Ironside and Sarah Bernard from the Orchestral Management team and welcomed two new Orchestral Managers, Oscar Gibbs and Emily Costa. Ben Perche continued to lead the team.

NSSWE continued its commitment to being a Child Safe Organisation. All policies and procedures were updated in line with the NSW Office of the Children’s Guardian, and staff were provided with the relevant training.

## Administration processes

We continued using Bandforte, a cloud-based band management system, in 2023. All parents and musicians had access to a unique portal to view a summary of key information for their ensemble such as rehearsal times, contacts, events and current repertoire. Bandforte was used to take the roll at each rehearsal and contained the database of NSSWE equipment and music library.

Thank you to Ben Perche who also took on some of the administrative tasks, managing and liaising with the conductors and orchestral managers in regard to scheduling and operations and assisting with events.

## Events

### **Music In The Forest - Killarney Heights High School (2 April)**

Music in the Forest was a first-time event for NSSWE, made possible due to an Arts and Creativity Grant received from the Northern Beaches Council. The one-day festival-style event gave 21 local school and community ensembles a stage and audience across 5 hours of performances. With a total of 819 performing musicians, we estimate between 1500-2000 audience members attended throughout the day, despite the rain. Music in the Forest not only provided a platform for local talent, but also fostered community engagement and collaboration. We extend our gratitude to the Northern Beaches Council for their support.

### **Community Concerts - The Forest High School**

Autumn Concerts (8-11 May)

Winter Concerts (19-22 June)

Our Community Concerts provide bands from schools in the local area the opportunity to perform in front of a large supportive audience, free of charge and in a non-competitive environment. Both the Autumn and Winter Concerts were well attended and NSSWE hosted 49 school bands over the 8 evening performances. We would like to thank The Forest High School for the support they provide with the venue and the sound and lighting. Many thanks to the NSSWE staff who worked hard to produce smoothly run events. Special mention to Denis Perche as the backbone of the volunteer team.

### **Spring Music Festival - The Concourse Chatswood (8-11 September)**

	<b>Number of Bands</b>	<b>Number of musicians</b>	<b>Tickets Sold</b>
Thursday 7pm	10	366	458
Friday 7pm	11	377	496
Saturday 10am	9	397	471
Saturday 1pm	8	335	497
Saturday 4pm	8	298	374
Saturday 7pm	11	275	490
Sunday 11am	10	297	405
Sunday 2:30pm	10	357	444
Sunday 7pm	9	357	400
Sunday Jazz	14	246	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3103</b>	<b>4035</b>

Totals exclude repeat NSSWE ensembles

The annual NSSWE Spring Music Festival, held at The Concourse in Chatswood, returned in 2023 with an additional concert, marking one of our organisation's most significant and successful festivals to date. With an attendance of 95 bands, the festival boasted nine concert hall performances that were not only fully subscribed but also exceeded expectations, a testament to the hard work and dedication of the NSSWE crew in delivering a seamless and professional event.

The Sunday Jazz event, a highlight of the festival held at the Concourse Outdoor Amphitheatre as part of Willoughby City Council's Emerge Festival, featured 14 primary and high school jazz ensembles. These performances were met with enthusiastic support from an appreciative audience.

We are grateful for the sponsorship and raffle prize contributions received from World Projects, Data Diction, Turramurra Music, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, AdLib Music, and FINK Dining, whose support was instrumental in the success of the event. Special thanks are extended to Willoughby City Council for their invaluable financial and logistical assistance, which significantly contributed to the festival's overall success.

### **Showcase Concert – The Concourse Chatswood (1 December)**

The end of year Showcase Concert was held at The Concourse in Chatswood and featured all the NSSWE ensembles. This was the final event of the NSSWE year, and it celebrated the hard work of everyone involved in NSSWE. The Showcase was attended by an audience of 429.

### **Retreats and Tours**

For the first time since Covid restrictions were lifted, we were able to take two NSSWE ensembles on tour. The Junior Wind Ensemble toured to Jindabyne and Canberra, doing three performances as well as activities such as tobogganing at Perisher across the three-day tour. The Primary Wind Ensemble then toured to the Blue Mountains to perform twice and see the sights as a group. Our Senior Wind Ensemble also attended a two-day retreat in Gerringong.

### **2023 auditions**

The 2024 auditions were held online throughout November and early December, including re-auditioning all current NSSWE members.

<b>Ensemble</b>	<b>Number of musicians commencing 2024</b>	<b>New applications</b>	<b>2023 member not returning</b>
PWE	43	38	22
JWE	46	30	8
IWE	43	9	13
SWE	59	5	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>37</b>

## **Thank you**

I would like to acknowledge the members of the NSSWE Board led by Diana Perche (President) and Alan Norton (Treasurer).

We are also grateful to the parent body for their continued support, in particular our volunteers at events and tours throughout the year.

We are also appreciative of the ongoing support given to us by The Forest High School in the form of The Performing Arts Centre for our rehearsals and the Assembly Hall for our Community Concert series. I would like to thank both Nathan Lawler, Principal, and Rebecca Constantin, Head of CAPA for the time and assistance they provide us throughout the year.

**Jade Little**

**NSSWE Manager**

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## NSSWE Management Committee 2023

<b>President</b>	Diana Perche
<b>Vice-President</b>	Patrick Brennan
<b>Treasurer</b>	Alan Norton
<b>Secretary</b>	Tim Burt
<b>Board Member</b>	Ricardo Castillo
<b>Board Member</b>	Kim Gambrill
<b>Board Member</b>	Rebecca Hughes
<b>Board Member</b>	Vacant
<b>Public Officer</b>	Alan Norton

## NSSWE Staff 2023

<b>Artistic Director/ Chief Conductor</b>	Patrick Brennan
<b>Manager</b>	Jade Little
<b>Conductor Senior Wind Ensemble</b>	Patrick Brennan
<b>Conductor Intermediate Wind Ensemble</b>	Kylie Tyson
<b>Conductor Junior Wind Ensemble</b>	Derek Barg
<b>Conductor Primary Wind Ensemble</b>	Ben Perche
<b>Senior Orchestral Manager/ SWE Assistant Conductor</b>	Ben Perche
<b>Orchestral Managers</b>	Emily Costa Anjali D'Chuna Oscar Gibbs Matilda Hardy

## NSSWE Sub-Committees 2023

### **Public Fund Committee**

Alan Norton  
Mandy Arnold  
Sarah Duncan

### **Artistic Projects Committee**

Diana Perche  
Patrick Brennan  
Jade Little

### **Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee**

Kim Gambrill  
Tim Burt  
Patrick Brennan

### **Governance, Policy and Procedures Committee**

Diana Perche  
Rebecca Hughes  
Tim Burt

### **Risk, Audit and Financial Committee**

Alan Norton  
Diana Perche  
Ricardo Castillo

**INDEPENDENT REVIEWER'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
NORTHERN SYDNEY SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE INC  
ABN 92 896 883 409  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Report on the Financial Report** I have reviewed the accompanying financial report of Northern Sydney

Symphonic Wind Ensemble Inc (the Association) which comprises the Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023, and the Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

**Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The committee of the Association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012. The committee is also responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

**Reviewer's Responsibility**

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. I conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2023

and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 (ACNC Regulation). ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report. A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

**INDEPENDENT REVIEWER'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
NORTHERN SYDNEY SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE INC  
ABN 92 896 883 409  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Independence**

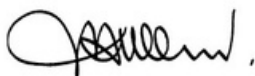
In conducting my review, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

**Reviewer's Opinion**

In my opinion:

The financial report of Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble Inc is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012 including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position on 31 December 2023
- (ii) and of its performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (iii) complying with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012; and
- (iv) that the financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial results of fundraising appeals conducted during the year; and
- (v) that the accounting and associated records have been properly kept during the year in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the regulations; and
- (vi) complying with Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Act 2012
- (vii) at the date of this report there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.



J A McCann CA CPA  
Sydney 6 March 2024

# Profit and Loss

## Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Trading Income</b>		
Concert School Entry Fees	24,627	21,168
Concert Ticket Sales	92,878	82,861
Donations (excl Public Fund)	7,792	9,834
Gross Fundraising Income	5,613	3,435
Miscellaneous	1,545	2,484
Musician Fee Income	142,262	113,862
NSSWE Inc Membership	16	-
Sponsorship	3,000	3,773
Tour Income [44010]	41,100	32,505
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>318,833</b>	<b>269,923</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>		
Concert & Performance Costs	78,787	58,130
Fundraising Expenditure	1,439	50
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>80,226</b>	<b>58,180</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>238,608</b>	<b>211,743</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Covid-19 Grants	-	36,495
Interest Income	5,625	1,703
Other Grant Money Rcvd	9,591	5,500
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>15,216</b>	<b>43,698</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Advertising & Recruitment	328	32
Auditor Remuneration	1,750	1,925
Bank Charges (Merchant Fees)	69	161
Bank Fees	279	326
Bookkeeping/Accounting	2,245	-
Contractors-Conductors Casual	780	1,162
Contractors-Conductors Perm	18,500	12,586
Contractors-Orchestral Manager	1,681	1,303
Depreciation	8,357	6,891
Filing Fees & Licenses	56	-
Gifts & Incentive Prizes	1,307	546
Instrument Repairs/Maintenance	1,179	989
Insurance	4,331	4,279
Internet/Email/Website	2,201	2,901
Music Scores & Folders	6,671	8,727
NSSWE Connect	210	210
Other	422	1,341



	2023	2022
Postage & Couriers	147	153
Printing & Photocopying	7,601	5,811
Promotions & Marketing	5,277	1,554
Purchases < \$500	(94)	507
Realised Currency Gains	5	(26)
Rent	7,200	5,400
Square Chargebacks	(364)	364
Square Fees	2,414	657
Staff Training & First Aid	445	171
Stationery & Consumables	17	159
Superannuation Guarantee	10,936	8,946
Telephone	73	561
Tour-Accom & Meals	24,234	21,521
Tour-Conductors/Orch Mgr Allow	1,625	5,888
Tour-Entertainment/Entry Fees	918	-
Tour-Other	63	-
Tour-Transport	11,724	5,140
Transportation	686	589
Travel/Bus Hire/Tolls/Parking	329	217
Wages - Admin	-	679
Wages - Art.Dir/Chief Cond.	33,262	30,794
Wages - Conductors	9,212	6,460
Wages - Events	12,749	10,318
Wages - NSSWE Mgr	27,961	28,288
Wages - Orchestral Managers	10,926	12,871
Wages - Tours	1,350	-
Workers' Compensation	805	1,353
Write-Offs and Bad Debts	523	-
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>220,392</b>	<b>191,754</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>33,432</b>	<b>63,687</b>



# Balance Sheet

## Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble As at 31 December 2023

31 DEC 2023

31 DEC 2022

### Assets

#### Bank

Bendigo - Operating Acct	12,584	27,356
Bendigo - Public Fund Account	363	360
Bendigo - Sandhurst At Call	109,596	227,294
Bendigo - Term Deposit A/C	150,000	-
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>272,543</b>	<b>255,009</b>

#### Current Assets

Creative Kids Clearing Account	100	100
IntegraPay Clearing Account	2,600	-
Prepayments	2,506	2,530
Provision for doubtful debts	(523)	-
Sundry Debtors	1,158	1,224
Trade Debtors	8,265	2,600
Uniform Stock	-	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>14,106</b>	<b>6,454</b>

#### Fixed Assets

Instruments/Equip Accum Dep	(86,011)	(77,654)
Instruments/Equip Cost	129,049	119,296
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>43,039</b>	<b>41,642</b>

#### Non-current Assets

Deposits/Security Bonds Paid	200	200
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>

#### Total Assets

329,887 303,305

### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

Conversion clearing account	134	134
Conversion clearing offset account	(134)	(134)
Credit Card	121	8
Fees in Advance	18,800	18,364
GST	60	756
Other Current Liabilities	8,815	12,207
PAYG Withholding Payable	5,555	3,258
Rounding	-	-
Trade Creditors	1,045	495
Trade Creditors [21200]	1,500	-
Wages Payable	-	300
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>35,897</b>	<b>35,388</b>

#### Non-current Liabilities



	31 DEC 2023	31 DEC 2022
Grants Rcvd in Advance	83	9,674
Long Service Leave	13,118	15,391
Superannuation Payable	-	430
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>13,202</b>	<b>25,495</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>49,098</b>	<b>60,883</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>280,789</b>	<b>242,422</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	33,432	63,687
Prior Year's Adjustment	13,551	8,616
Retained Earnings [30800]	233,805	170,118
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>280,789</b>	<b>242,422</b>



**NORTHERN SYDNEY SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE INC ABN 92 896 883**  
**409 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES YEAR ENDED 31**  
**DECEMBER 2023**

This financial report covers Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble Inc as an individual entity. Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble Inc is an association incorporated in NSW under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984.

(a) Basis of Statements Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations and the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 and the financial reporting requirements of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Regulations.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply. Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards ensures that the financial statements and notes also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

(b) Income Tax

The association is exempt from Income Tax in accordance with Section 45-50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(d) Instruments and Equipment

Each class of property and equipment is carried at fair value or cost less any accumulated depreciation.

All depreciable assets are written off on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life, commencing from the time the asset is available for use.

(e) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australia Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the assets or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.



**NORTHERN SYDNEY SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE INC**  
**ABN 92 896 883 409**  
**NSSWE PUBLIC FUND**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the members:

***Report on the NSSWE Public Fund***

I have audited the NSSWE Public Fund of the Northern Sydney Symphonic Wind Ensemble Inc, which is a special purpose financial report.

***Auditor's Responsibility***

It is my responsibility to express an opinion on the NSSWE Public Fund based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the NSSWE Public Fund is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts in the NSSWE Public Fund. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report.

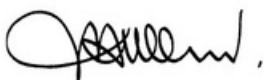
This financial report has been prepared for distribution to members. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the NSSWE Public Fund to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

I believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

***Auditor's Opinion***

In my opinion, the NSSWE Public Fund, which shows a balance of \$363.52 in funds at 31 December 2023, presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the NSSWE Public Fund and of the transactions for the year then ended.



J A McCann CA CPA  
Registered Auditor 3413  
6 March 2024