



**SECRETARYS REPORT AGM 2025**

**Membership and Enrolments**

Term 4, 2024 Enrolments

- BYO String School (BYOSS): 20
- BYO Wind School (BYOWS): 18
- Bellinggen Youth Orchestra (BYO): 42

Term 4, 2025 Enrolments

- BYO String School (BYOSS): 30
- BYO Wind School (BYOWS): 26
- Bellinggen Youth Orchestra (BYO): 42

Percentage Growth (2024–2025):

- BYOSS: 50% increase
- BYOWS: 44.4% increase
- BYO: 0% (stable membership)

This reflects strong growth in our feeder ensembles, suggesting a healthy and expanding base of developing young musicians feeding into the main orchestra.

**Social Media Overview**

Facebook Page Data (as of October 2025):

- Total followers: 1,164
- Audience demographics:
  - 75% women aged 35–44
  - 26.1% men aged 35–44
- Engagement trends: Followers, interactions, views, and link clicks have declined compared with the previous year. This decrease likely corresponds with reduced posting frequency, largely due to fewer available photos and a smaller number of public performances and events during 2025.

**Strategies for 2026**

In preparation for the 2026 Strategic Plan, several key focus areas are proposed:

**1. Content & Engagement:**

- Reinvigorate social media through regular content scheduling, from more frequent music recordings and images taken from all 2026 events. Also, use past posts to schedule.
- Establish a volunteer photography roster for events – JESSE, JAY, ADRIAN
- Showcase rehearsal moments, player stories, and behind-the-scenes insights.

**2. Recruitment & Retention:**

- Continue supporting BYOSS and BYOWS growth through school outreach – Macksville.
- Create a mentoring link between senior BYO players and junior ensemble members.

**3. Website Development:**

- Continue reviewing and updating website content to ensure it reflects current programs and ensembles.





**Website Development Cont.**

- Improve accessibility and integration with social media – including icon placements

**4. Community and Partnerships:**

- Explore new performance collaborations and local partnerships.
- Strengthen ties with local schools and community organisations.

**5. Funding and Grants:**

- Maintain proactive pursuit of grant opportunities and sponsorships – particularly large scale grant opportunities.
- Develop clear project briefs to align with funding bodies and ensure timely submissions.

**Website Review**

The website content review is currently underway and will continue into 2026. This process aims to improve the accuracy, visual appeal, and usability of the site, as well as enhance its function as a communication tool for members and the public.

**Grant Submissions**

Two grant applications were submitted in 2025. We are currently awaiting outcomes to determine whether we have been successful. These grants, if awarded, will support ongoing development of our programs (specifically our biannual camp) and resources.

**Parent Volunteers and Support**

The Bellinggen Youth Orchestra continues to benefit from a sustained and dedicated parent volunteer body. Their commitment ensures the smooth running of all rehearsals, concerts, and community events. Communication has been strengthened through the implementation of WhatsApp groups, improving coordination and efficiency across different areas of support.

**Volunteer Roles and Numbers:**

- Afternoon Tea Volunteers: 9
- Canteen: 2 coordinators and 3 helpers
- Front of House: 7
- Back of House: 7
- Sound and Lights: 2
- Committee Members: 3

The contribution of these volunteers is invaluable, providing both practical assistance and a sense of community that enriches the experience for players, families, and audiences alike.

**Closing Remarks**

2025 has been a year of consolidation and growth, particularly within our developing ensembles. While online engagement has dipped, the enthusiasm and participation of our young musicians continue to strengthen. With thoughtful planning and renewed focus on communication, community connection, and visibility, the Bellinggen Youth Orchestra is well positioned for continued success in 2026.

