

The Blue Mountains Ukulele Group Known as the Blue MUGs

The Story of the Blue MUGs



Who we are

The Blue Mountains Ukulele Group is a bunch of great people of different ages and from different backgrounds, who meet to play ukulele, sing together and enjoy each other's company. We aim to bring the joy of playing the ukulele to as many people as possible and promote playing community music.

We welcome beginners who have never played a musical instrument. Many of us have played other musical instruments for years and have started a late love affair with the ukulele. Some of us are professional musicians who joined the group because they just have lot of fun when they play with the Blue MUGs.

Where we've come from

The Blue Mountains Ukulele Group was established in 2008 to provide local musicians with a forum to play ukulele and perform.

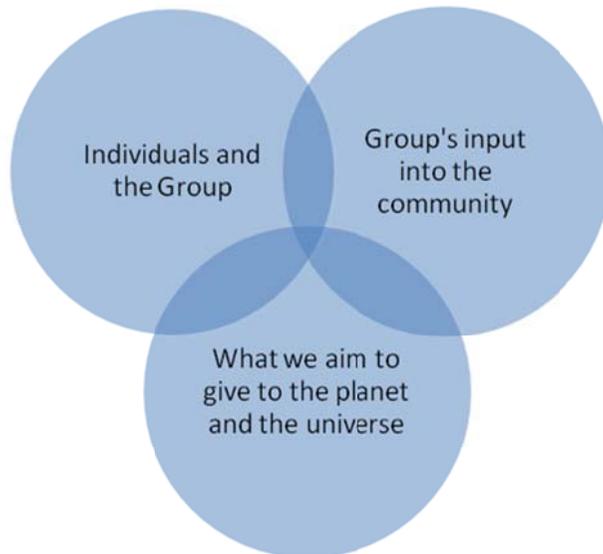
The Group had an interesting start with one group starting at Springwood and another at Lawson. Within a few weeks they both made contact and from these humble beginnings, starting with just a few members, we have grown to almost 1,000 members online in 2013.



What's important to us

- We are inclusive
- We are passionate about and strive to share the joy of music
- We run our group well and have fun doing it

How a Blue Mug saw it at the first Planning Day in 2011



Where we are now

The Blue MUGs play regular gigs at the Springwood Sports Club, the Australian Arms Penrith, the Blue Mountain Hotel Lawson and the Nepean Rowing Club.

We run beginners workshops along with Intermediate and advanced workshops to develop artistic and performance skills. Our workshop program also includes 'Build your own Ukulele' Workshops supervised by a local Luthier (builder of stringed instruments).

The Blue MUGs have organised The Blue Mountains Ukulele Festival held in February each year in Katoomba. This year our Festival won a Blue Mountains Lithgow Oberon Tourism Award of Excellence.

We have recorded a CD entitled 'Call to Arms' featuring 60 performers including guest performers like Greedy Smith (Mental as Anything) and in 2013 will be recording and releasing our second CD.

We also perform at Festivals, Weddings, Birthdays, corporate events, weddings, charity events and other special events. The performance fees from these events help fund our other programs including the Blue Mountains Ukulele Festival, a free festival for the community.

The MUGs have so much fun making music and hope you enjoy listening.

Better still why not join in.

Where we want to be

Our Goals	Our Objectives
<p>Maintain our values in everything we do</p>	<p>Protect and enhance our enjoyment and appreciation of each other, our music and our sense of fun</p> <p>Provide outreach activities and support for our communities of different ages, backgrounds and circumstances</p> <p>Make it easy / possible for anyone to enjoy the ukulele and be included in all social aspects of the group</p>
<p>Plan for growth</p>	<p>Grow our membership to include all those who like to come together to play, perform, listen to and love the ukulele</p> <p>Promote the ukulele and the joy of playing the ukulele</p> <p>Develop a higher performing profile for the Blue MUGs as a group</p> <p>Keep growing and developing as players and performers</p>
<p>Manage the group to meet all legal, risk management and financial requirements (<i>good governance</i>)</p>	<p>Ensure our processes and procedures are transparent, compliant and communicated effectively to all members</p> <p>Maintain a basic operational plan (The Blue MUGs Story) which guides our activities now and in the future</p> <p>Ensure our revenue sources including performance fees, donations, sponsorships, product sales and player fees cover all our expenses</p>

How we're getting there

Our Objectives	Our Actions in 2013
Protect and enhance our enjoyment and appreciation of each other, our music and our sense of fun.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create an atmosphere where players feel comfortable to join in
Provide outreach activities for our communities of different ages, backgrounds and circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create and run a Schools Program ▪ Create and run an aged care program ▪ Run free beginners and intermediate workshops
Make it possible for anyone to enjoy the ukulele and be included in all social aspects of the group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide free beginners workshops ▪ Provide regular avenues for performances so skills can be built up over time ▪ Provide support and music appropriate to each players development
Grow our membership to include all those who like to come together to play, perform, listen to and love the ukulele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the Group through the website and performances ▪ Encourage people to join in whenever possible ▪ Provide a number of opportunities to perform in different venues and on different days
Promote the ukulele and the joy of playing the ukulele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct the annual Blue Mountains Ukulele Festival
Develop a higher performing profile for the Blue MUGs as a group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perform at community events and Festivals
Keep growing and developing as players and performers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide workshops for beginner players twice a month ▪ Offer Open Mic sessions to assist members to improve their performance at least once a year ▪
Ensure processes and procedures are transparent and compliant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comply with all legal and financial reporting
Maintain a basic operational plan (The Blue MUGs Story) which guides our activities now and in the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organise an annual Planning Session for members to review and update our Operational Plan

Our 2013 Income & Expenditure Statement

BLUE MOUNTAINS UKULELE GROUP INCORPORATED

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2013

INCOME

July	\$ 2,227.05
August	\$ 1,180.50
September	\$ 1,105.45
October	\$ 3,592.25
November	\$ 543.25
December	\$ 3,505.25
January	\$ 2,925.00
February	\$ 9,582.50
March	\$ 2,800.05
April	\$ 3,441.05
May	\$ 2,553.25
June	\$ 479.10

Total \$ 33,894.70

LESS EXPENSES

July	\$ 2,312.50
August	\$ 199.74
September	\$ 1,079.00
October	\$ 3,285.00
November	\$ 588.85
December	\$ 2,231.80
January	\$ 3,074.18
February	\$ 554.95
March	\$ 10,968.84
April	\$ 3,329.19
May	\$ 2,190.00
June	\$ 1,007.09

Total \$ 30,820.94

Surplus/Deficit \$ 3,073.76

Opening Balance \$ 2,480.38

Cash Book Balance \$ 5,554.14

Our reporting requirements

Tier 2 associations

The committee must ensure the financial statements for the association, and any trust for which the association acts as a trustee, are prepared as soon as possible after the association's financial year, for submission to the AGM.

The statements must give a true and fair view of the association's affairs and must include:

- an income and expenditure statement that sets out detailed income and expenses
- a balance sheet that sets out assets and liabilities
- details of any mortgages, charges and other securities affecting any property owned by the association
- a separate income and expenditure statement and balance sheet for each trust for which the association is the trustee.

What needs to be lodged for Tier 2?

The association must ensure that an Annual summary of financial affairs (Form A12) for the financial year is lodged with the Director-General one month after the AGM which must be held within 6 months of the end of the financial year unless approval has been granted for an extension of time to hold the AGM. The prescribed fee must be paid at the time of lodgement of the documentation.

What records must be kept?

All association's must keep records that correctly record and explain its financial transactions and financial position, in order to prepare the appropriate financial statements.

Where records are kept in a language other than English, an English copy must also be kept.