

Congratulations, Talarm

Once again the committee responsible for the old Talarm Hall demonstrated the enormous value of keeping the community halls in our valley functioning.

What a great venue the hall provided last Thursday for the group *Loosely Woven*.

It is a long time since I have been involved in a musical evening where an audience has been so completely entertained and engaged – completely captivated, one hundred percent.

Young and old cheered, clapped and danced the night away. The little old hall bounced and rocked on its stumps. I don't think anyone wanted the programme to end.

How lucky we were that on a rare short country tour to Tamworth, Armidale and Grafton, Armidale defaulted and, through a fortunate set of circumstances, the group filled in at Talarm (fortunate that is for those who made up the audience).

Loosely Woven is a troupe of musicians based in Sydney's Northern Beaches who put together and perform 3-4 free acoustic shows each year – just for the fun of it.

What a talented and diverse group they are!

Their vocals are accompanied by keyboard, accordion, concertina, harp, fiddles, professionally orchestrated to provide the very best backing to a well selected programme.

We had folk, jazz, bluegrass, gospel, rock and traditional ballad.

My particular favourites were Sonia Bennett's rendering of "Bye Bye Baby", "Nobody knows you when you're down and out", and "Where have all the flowers gone?"

But each item was a special hit for someone in the audience. And how well the MC, concert master, conductor and keyboard player, Wayne Richmond, managed the whole evening's entertainment.

The Theatre Singers from Bowraville were invited to provide additional choral support for most items; a task which they, as well as the audience and our guest performers, obviously enjoyed and appreciated.

Loosely Woven never accepts any kind of payment (proceeds were generously donated to the Talarm Hall Committee).

We are so looking forward to their return to Talarm and the Bowraville Theatre next year.

**Keith Graham
Newee Creek**