

## Our Twentieth Anniversary Year

### Citizenship Ceremonies

**C**ongratulations to all our singers who performed at the March ceremony. The warm applause throughout – and especially before we had finished our final tag – told the story. There were even quite a number of audience members joining in the National Anthem!

The last-minute provision of a spot of amplification for our worthy, but numerically reduced, lead line-up seemed to work a treat.

Our next appointment for the City of Stirling is on Wednesday 4 April at 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. and the song list for the occasion is:

*City of Stirling; I Have a Song to Sing (with voice-over); Waltzing Matilda; Coney Island Baby; My Country Home Among the Gum Trees; Wonderful Day; I Still Call Australia Home; I Am Australian; Advance Australia Fair.*

### Western Region Quartet Contest

**T**he annual regional quartet contest is to be held on Saturday 21 April at the St Marks Anglican Community School Performing Arts Centre, commencing at 9.00 a.m. Entry fee for non-competitors is \$5.

Quartets wishing to sing in the Adelaide Convention will need first to qualify through the regional contest.

Certain choruses will also be singing in contest; however we will not be taking part as a chorus.

### Autumn Social

**T**he date for our autumn social has been altered to Tuesday 22 May, commencing at 7 p.m. There will be a 'bring-a-plate' supper and former members, friends and family are all welcome.

### Kim Sebbage

**G**ood news: Chorus Director Kim Sebbage is home from hospital and is recuperating. Kim hopes to be back with us from the beginning of May.

### Rosters for April

*(Please make alternative arrangements if you are going to be unavailable. Please speak to John Friebe, if you feel you have been overlooked.)*

#### Quartets and VLQs

##### 27 March

McGuire, Lugg, Merrells, Tay, Brigatti

##### 3 April

1 Aarnoudse, Lam, Cook (or Okely), Durham, Mitchell

2. McGuire, Richens, Tay, Friebe

##### 10 April

Richards, Commerford, Clee, Lehmann

##### 17 April

Aarnoudse, Clayton, Verbrugge, Nelson

##### 24 April

Aarnoudse, Okely, Cook, Brigatti

McGuire, Geiles, Pedler, Tay, Blackmore, Routley

##### 1 May

McGuire, Richens, Tay, Friebe

#### Kitchen Assistants

27 March: Richards, Cook, Nelson

3 April: Mitchell, Geiles, Clee

10 April: Lam, Merrells, Lugg

17 April: Richards, Commerford, Durham

24 April: Pedler, Clayton, Verbrugge

1 May: Lehmann, Nelson, Blackmore

- Barberpole Cat for April: *Sweet Adeline (refrain)*

### Engagements and Activities

*(Additions and alterations are shown in bold.)*

- Wednesday 4 April, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- Saturday 21 April – Western Region Quartet Contest.
- Wednesday 16 May, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- **Tuesday 22 May, 7.00 to 9.30 p.m. - Club Autumn Social Evening.**
- Tuesday 24 July - "Christmas in July" Club Night.
- Wednesday 25 July, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- Sunday 5 August – Participation in morning Church Service at St Peter and Emmaus Church.
- Wednesday 22 August, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- Friday 14 September (afternoon) – Aegis Lifestyle Village, North Perth.
- Tuesday 2 October - Club Spring Social Evening.
- Wednesday 10 October, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- Sunday 21 October, 2.15 for 3.00 p.m. – Concert at North Beach Anglican Church.
- Wednesday 14 November, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- Tuesday 11 December Annual Dinner & Awards Evening.

The above list should be regarded as 'subject to alteration.'

This newsletter is published monthly. Contributions and comments will be welcome. These should go to Bruce Okely, 60/7 Harman Road, Sorrento 6020. Phone: 9447 0719 Email also available.

Our chorus website is: <http://westcoastchordsmen.org.au>

# From the Archives (4)

For the Westcoast Chordsmen the year 2001 was nothing short of (hectic) fun. As the principal reason for this extra activity was our show, *Federation: Century in Song*, this episode of *From the Archives* will focus exclusively on that. Graham Bishop's record, a set out in *A Decade of Song*, will be relied upon for most of this information.

"It was December 2000 when we all suddenly realized there were only 3 months to go before the first performance. By this time all the negotiations for the performance venues had been completed and each of the four locations booked. The opening performances would be held from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2001 in the Lady Wardle Performance Centre in St. Mary's School, Karrinyup. The cast would involve a very large number of community groups and would include:

The Stirling Players, The Westcoast Chordsmen, The Churchlands Community Orchestra, The Bell Choir, The John Curtin SHS Dance Group, The Creaney Primary School Choir, Ladies' Barbershop Quartet "Mischief", John Little, Baritone soloist, Jeff Carroll, Pianist."

Later performances, involving different choirs, orchestras and dancers, were presented at the Carine Senior High School, Sorrento Sacred Heart School and Hale School. Ms Julie Bishop MP attended the Hale School performance and was obviously delighted with the show. She was heard to say that this type of activity was just the sort of thing that the funding was aimed at. (Perhaps it should be mentioned that money for the white jackets our chorus so proudly wears originated from the show grant.) To quote once again from Graham Bishop:

## "THE CLOSING STAGES OF THE FEDERATION SHOW

There were many folk of diverse talents, from many trades and professions and varied communities taking part in *Federation - The Century in Song*. The production drew from primary and secondary schools and colleges, music groups both professional and amateur, and performing arts groups ranging from the Bell Choir to The Stirling Players. It involved artists, administrators, accountants, business men and women, carpenters, electricians, tailors, sound and vision technicians, musicians both vocal and instrumental, specialist teachers and lecturers. It was a great team of young, middle-aged and old thespians with a mutual desire to educate and entertain as effectively and proficiently as they could.

In his report to the Annual General Meeting of the Westcoast Chordsmen in November of 2001, the President, Jack Loneragan, spoke glowingly of the huge effort everyone had made for the production of this "musical extravaganza"; of the many lives that had been touched and enriched by their association with its presentation; he spoke of some of the outcomes mentioning several of the statistics emerging from the various reports from several sources.

- The production included over 65 song and program compositions married to a narrative scripted for actors and choristers accompanied by piano and orchestra.
- It involved over 315 community members from 12 diverse groups in eight performances in four school theatres over four months.
- It grossed \$35,152.00 in ticket sales and \$77,463.00 in receipts.
- It involved all members of the Westcoast Barbershop Harmony Club.
- It involved all members of the Westcoast Partners Group.
- It created wide community interest, memorable entertainment and
- An enviable reputation for Westcoast Chordsmen."





## A FEW SCENES FROM *FEDERATION - THE CENTURY IN SONG*

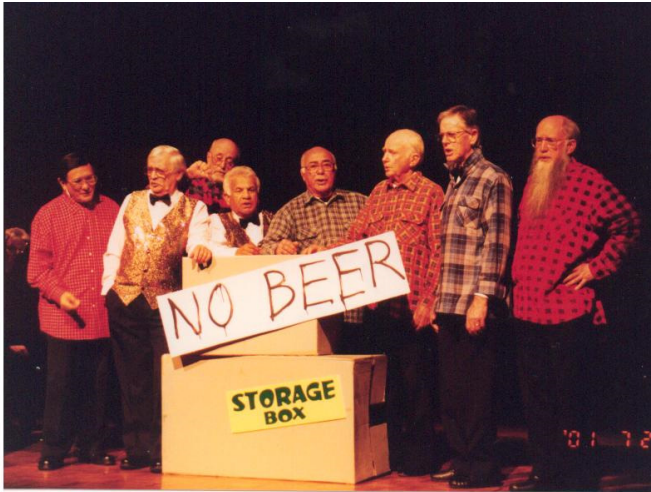


*The chorus line-up for 'Tootsie'.*

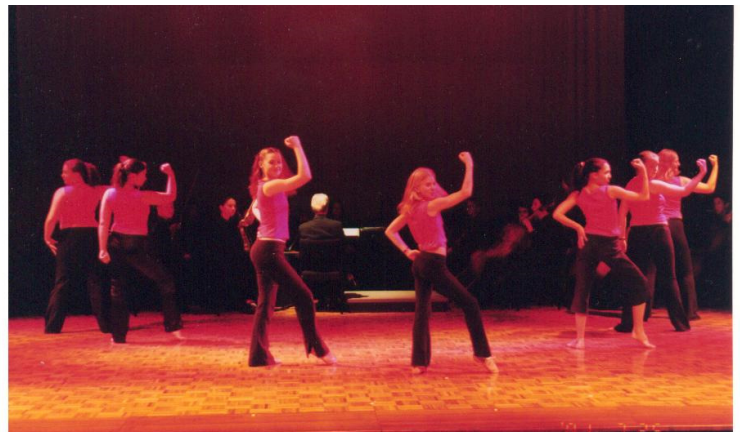
*Pianist, composer, arranger, the brilliant and ever-reliable Jeff Carroll.*



*The heart-broken singers complaining about 'The Pub With No Beer'*



*The dancers enjoy themselves in 'I Am Woman'.*



*(Left) Baritone John Little sings of 'Our Don Bradman'.*

*Joan Pope (below, left) directing the cast in a dress rehearsal of the finale to the show.*



## **A LETTER TO JOAN POPE (IN FIJI) -10 June 2001**

Dear Joan

I thought you might be wondering how it went last night at Sacred Heart, so I'm going to try to give you a summary. Talk about living in 'interesting times'! Where should I start? ...

To begin with - you probably remember that (actor) Maureen Barrett was unwell and did not make the rehearsal. Well, she was not able to make the show, either. The rest of the troupe sorted it out so that her most vital lines were covered and, at 6.30 p.m. they were wandering around, glancing at the script and looking up to repeat lines. Then, a little while later someone said, 'Do you know where Gordon is? He's not here.' There was a sort of 'don't panic, don't panic' atmosphere, and things started to get a bit tense. A mobile phone was produced and a quick call to Gordon revealed that he'd forgotten about the 7 p.m. start!

WELL! It was by now almost time for 'beginners on stage'. With a quick look at the script and a few minor adjustments we achieved agreement to make a start, which we did - by 7.05 p.m. I made a brief announcement to the effect that, owing to the indisposition of one of the players, the 'gang of six' was going to be a 'gang of five'. Gordon arrived very shortly after and the show proceeded - quite well, in fact.

Quite well, that is, until the first FX cue! Guess what - the you-beaut sound system which had been specially set up since the rehearsal **SIMPLY FAILED!** Jeff (Carroll) again brilliantly improvised missing bits of music and train whistles while Daniel and his assistant went seeking a back-up system. This they found, trolleyed it in, etc, while the show proceeded. It was more or less a domestic set-up, not all that powerful, but better than nothing.

The audience, of course, was mainly oblivious to all of this and was laughing, singing and clapping along. Did I say it was a good audience? Well it was - in all senses. Around 300 people apparently and obviously thoroughly enjoying the show. I was doing virtually all my bits from the orchestral spot. This brought the men well forward and made it possible for them to be heard.

Interval came, 8.10 p.m. - an opportunity to pause and refresh, make one or two checks, then on with the show at about 8.30.

Things went quite well then - until we heard the football siren! I moved confidently out to the lobby, to lead the kids in and, guess what - no kids! I ran around on the spot, trying to make them materialise, but to no avail. Dependable Jeff, of course was pounding out the cue music in a variety of rhythms, keys, etc. Daniel and I (and a bevy of assistants) went racing across to the boarding school, yelling out 'YOU'RE ON - NOW'. Well, they got the message and ran straight across the lawn, to the gym, through the foyer, - arriving excited and breathless - into position on the steps and did a simply **WONDERFUL AND EXUBERANT** rendition of 'Football, Meat Pies, etc'. Their moving into the men's chorus, exchanging of football gear, then their Beatles Medley all went well. So far so good.

The dancers, through all of this, had been doing their parts exceedingly well. However, it was their turn now! We got to the 'Black Box' scene, the cue line was given for 'Treaty', I heard the music start and the dancers were just about to enter, when 'Spirit' went on with the next line! (I'm not sure whether Claudette heard the music - it might have been too soft for her to get the message.) Stunned silence and horrified looks back stage! Daniel wound the sound down - actors leapt into the breach - urgent questions were going around - but it was just impossible to find a way to return to the spot so that we could have the dance. So off went the dancers, to change for their next appearance.

Well here lay the problem. Somehow their next appearance occurred quicker than they were ready for and, guess what, they missed it! I hurried over to Daniel and got him to fade the music, then restart it. This time it all went well, and the audience just got a bit more of Helen Reddy than they might otherwise have done.

The show then proceeded without serious blemish to the end. The large audience was very enthusiastic, and we had an encore and three curtains! The orchestra --who really did such a good job - got a huge ovation, as did all of the company!

And that should really have been the end of the story. **BUT** - I discovered that I only knew the half of it. I learnt that, while the children were on stage, thieves got into the kids' things, stealing a wallet and mobile phone. I was really sorry to hear this. But there's more! Some of the kid's fathers, and their bus driver, searched around and discovered the culprit, hiding in a toilet cupboard! The stolen items were retrieved, security personnel and police were called and the villain/s apprehended by the **LAW**.

Well, as this was only intended as a summary, I'll leave it at that point. We got cleaned up and out - including all props - by about 10.30 p.m., which was pretty good. Andy, from Sacred Heart, was there at the end and he had no complaints. I refrained from telling him of ours! (Apart from the burglary, which he had to handle.)

Joan, do have a good trip (I heard you are off again - good luck) and don't worry about us. After last night we are bullet proof. - Bruce Okely