

Our Twentieth Anniversary Year

Singing in the Perth Concert Hall

In our line of business there's no sincerer compliment than a return invitation. And when it's to sing again in the Perth Concert Hall it's extra special.

So, all singers please reserve the evening of Friday 21 September for our return to the Perth Concert Hall.

We have been singing for the WA Primary Schools Massed Choirs Festival for many years – but we never assume that we'll be invited back next time. After all, there are a lot of choirs and singing groups in Perth (and many of them sing very well, too!). So, we are really delighted and complimented that we've been invited back again this year.

Details of repertoire and timing will be provided shortly but keep that date free.

Christmas in July Club Night

Tuesday 24 July was a 'club night' special. As well as singing through our projected Christmas chorus repertoire we took the time, under Kim Sebbage's gentle guidance, to give thought to what we do and why we do it as we meet, week by week. As the comments came forward it was interesting to see how much we value our *fellowship* together, as well as our *singing* together.

On top of that, as MD Kim pointed out, we found we were able to put together a 50-minute program *without Kim directing a single song*. Special thanks go to our assistant conductors: Derek Cook, John Durham, Francis Tay and Michael Verbrugge.

Christmas hats were in vogue – but there's little doubt that Michael Verbrugge's crown topped the lot. And we had no hesitation in dealing with the festive supper, so thanks go to those who supplied it.

Singing at the Church Service

We have been invited back to sing for the church service on Sunday morning 2 September at St Peter and Emmaus Church.

Kim is hoping we can present our debut performance of *Balm in Gilead*. Please keep the date free.

Citizenship Ceremonies

It was almost by accident that VP (Admin) Ken Richens learnt, on Tuesday 24 July, that our chorus was not required to sing for a Citizenship Ceremony at the City of Stirling on the following evening. The lucky coincidence that we were meeting on the Tuesday made it (just) possible for all committed singers to be informed they were not needed.

The late notice of cancellation on this and other occasions is being taken up with the appropriate authorities.

The appointment for Wednesday 22 August is now quite doubtful. We'll be brought up to date during notices. Please listen carefully.

Once More to the Bridge

The *Four Chordsmen* (these impressively shiny gents below, - Peter McGuire, Ken Richens, John Friebe and Francis Tay) have again been singing at Royal Perth Hospital. The venue for these regular musical treats is the bridge over Wellington Street that links the northern and southern sections of the hospital.

These lunchtime events are not concerts – they are casual entertainment for the passers-by – patients, visitors and staff – and they are much appreciated.

Well done, guys!



Looking Forward

An earlier item in this newsletter mentioned the significance of return invitations. Well, VP Ken is currently dealing with another return invitation – but this one is for a date to be fixed in December 2019. That's looking ahead! Further details later.

Rosters for July

(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

31 July

McGuire, Lugg, Lam, Clee, Lehmann, Mitchell

7 August

McGuire, Richens, Tay, Friebe

14 August

Richards, Clayton, Cook, Nelson

21 August

Okely (ten.), Merrells, Verbrugge, Blackmore

28 August

McGuire, Commerford, Tay, Routley

4 September

Richards, Lam, Verbrugge, Durham
Sebbage, Okely, Tay, Brigatti

Kitchen Assistants

31 July: Merrells, Pedler, Durham

7 August: Routley, Richards, Commerford

14 August: Lehmann, Lugg, Clee

21 August: Lugg, Mitchell, Richens

28 August: Merrells, Nelson, Clayton

4 September: Blackmore, Commerford, Pedler

- Barberpole Cat for August: *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*

Engagements and Activities

(Additions and alterations are shown in bold.)

- Wednesday 22 August, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling. **(To be confirmed.)**
- Sunday 2 September, 8.45 for 9.30 a.m. – Participation in Church Service at St Peter and Emmaus Church.
- Wednesday 12 to Wednesday 19 September – BHA Convention & Harmony Academy, Adelaide.
- **Friday 21 September – WA Primary Schools Massed Choir Festival, Perth Concert Hall.**

- Friday 28 September, 1.45 for 2.30 p.m. – Aegis St Michaels, 53 Wasley St., 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.
- Monday 19 November, 12.15 for 1 p.m. – Harold Hawthorn Centre, Victoria Park.
- Friday 7 December, 1.45 for 2.30 p.m. Juniper Riverslea, 100 Guildford Rd, Mt Lawley.
- Tuesday 11 December Annual Dinner & Awards Evening.

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



One night in concert

FRENZY DOWNUNDER

Get ready WA!

FRENZY IN FREMANTLE!

International Queens of Harmony

with Vocal Evolution & Baden Street Singers

Tickets \$25 Concession \$15

Tickets available at the door



Join Nikki Blackmer, Judy Pozsgay, Anne Downton and Melissa Pope for Frenzy's only public performance in WA!

Get ready for a cappella harmony with humour and pizzazz from Frenzy, 2017 International Quartet Champions, in concert for one spectacular night!

7.30pm Saturday 18 August

Fremantle Town Hall

8 William St, Fremantle



Sweet Adelines AUSTRALIA

sweetadelines.org.au

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 (8)

By January 2008 the preparations for our return visit to South Australia in April/May were well under way. Musically, among other things, we were challenging ourselves and our South Australian colleagues to learn an arrangement of the John Denver song, *Perhaps Love*. This arrangement, which our chorus had used previously, is for four-part ladies' voices as well as four-part men's voices. Preparing it for combined performance in the finale of the show was a challenge – and a joy for all.

Led by President Peter McGuire a party of 67(!) travelled from Perth to Adelaide in late April. The singers comprised a few members of the Men in Harmony chorus and the Southside Harmony chorus as well as most of our own chorus, plus accompanying wives and supporters. The Festival State'smen, who were the principal hosts, had organised accommodation for us at a motel in the seaside suburb of Glenelg and this proved a good



choice – mainly because of the ease of transport to and from the city on the tram service. The combined meals, rehearsals and sightseeing were all efficiently planned and appropriately enjoyed, with no shortage of singing – both organised and impromptu.

The public concert was held in the historic Royalty Theatre in Adelaide (pictured) – before an audience of more than 600 – and it was an undoubted success. It was the largest barbershop show that Adelaide had ever seen up to that time and, in the view of this writer, contributed in a major way to encouraging the growth of the South Australian barbershop movement into the strong position it holds today.

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Returning to Perth, we found ourselves involved in an unusually expanded Western Region Convention. It ran over several days and included craft sessions, contests, a concert and a rail trip to Mandurah for a fish-and-chips lunch and impromptu singing. It was an innovation to run such an event at regional level – but one that has not been repeated to the same degree.

On July 30th, 2008 our chorus performed at a City of Stirling Citizenship Ceremony for the first time. This was a follow-up to an earlier occasion when the quartet *Note crackers* performed voluntarily for a smaller, private ceremony. It was at this earlier occasion that the suggestion was made (by us) to the Council officers that a larger group of singers could be provided, at a very reasonable fee, if they were ever needed for a larger ceremony.

Following this July 30th performance it came to pass that we became the entertainers of choice for these ceremonies for the following decade – singing at more than 20 ceremonies in some years.

At the time of writing it appears likely that the need by the City of Stirling for our services could be passed – but it has 'been good while it lasted'. As well as providing us with performance opportunities and experience, this partnership has supported the club budget.

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A regular annual highlight at this time was the joint concert with the youthful WA Primary Strings Orchestra held toward the end of the year in the auditorium of the Churchlands Senior High School. For the 2008 concert we undertook a new challenge: to sing, in Latin, our arrangement of Cesar Frank's beautiful *Panis Angelicus*, accompanied by the orchestra. Sheer bliss!

- Bruce Okely