

## Our Twentieth Anniversary Year

### Australia Day

Congratulations to all the singers who assisted in our performance for the new Australian citizens and their supporters on Friday 26 January.

Notwithstanding the challenges involved in early morning singing we did our part to good effect. Special thanks to Kim for helping us to achieve this.

(The lash marks will disappear over the next few weeks!) ☺

The schedule of proposed further ceremonies for this year appears at the foot of this newsletter.

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*Behind the scenes at City of Stirling*

### Membership and Visitors

Toward the end of 2017 our good friend and ever reliable baritone, Jim Wilkinson, announced his retirement from active service on the risers. Jim has been a member since November 2006.

We'll all miss Jim, and we hope that he will accept our President's sincere invitation to come along on any Tuesday he feels like singing an 'old song' or two with the guys.



Don Bowes has also indicated that he is stepping into Associate Membership. We'll miss Don's mellifluous tones from our bass line-up but hope he too will accept the open invitation to pop in on the Tuesday evening when he feels like it.

It was a pleasure to meet a couple of visitors recently. Josh, a friend of Kevin Mitchell, came along to a rehearsal and even attended our performance at Regis Aged Care, North Fremantle. And on Tuesday 23 January Daniel Cain paid us a visit. Whether either or both gents move into membership is yet to be seen – but we always welcome visitors!

### Annual Awards Night - Erratum

In listing the recipients of '20-Year Badge' in the previous newsletter your scribe made a careless and grievous error. It was wrongly reported that Pender Pedler, although absent, had qualified for the badge. This remark should have referred to Terry Geiles. An opportunity will be found to present Terry with his badge; Pender will be eligible in June this year.

### New Music for 2018

We are expecting to issue the new songs, CDs and indices for 2018 during this month. Following the practice begun last year the 'Annual Songs CD 2018' will include part-specific learning tracks for practically all this year's performance songs. This means that the Annual Songs CD 2017 can be (thoughtfully) discarded.

The tracks for other songs, that we regard as part of our 'permanent repertoire' are found on the 'Perennial Songs CD'. This CD is not being re-issued at this stage and **should be retained**.

There are two new arrangements being issued:

*Balm in Gilead* – a traditional African/American spiritual, and

*Shine on Harvest Moon* – a foot-tapping, barbershop classic.

Old favourites that are being revived are: *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, *Georgy Girl*, and *In the Bleak Mid-winter*.

## Special General Meeting

**O**ur Treasurer, Doug Routley has recently circulated all members with information concerning an important Special General Meeting of the Club, to be held on Tuesday 27 February, commencing at 5.15 p.m. in the St Peter and Emmaus Church Hall.

Doug's explanation for the need to amend our Club rules reads:

- a) *The reason for this meeting is to pass the special resolution outlined in the notice, that the Club adopt the rule changes resulting from the W.A. Associations Incorporation Act 2015 coming into effect.*
- b) *The new Act requires that all associations incorporated under the 1987 Act review and update their rules by the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to ensure compliance with the new legislation.*
- c) *Our rules have been reviewed and updated with the assistance of a legal practitioner experienced in the commercial field and also conversant with the requirements of the W.A. legislation. The changes proposed are the minimum considered necessary to comply with the new Act.*
- d) *In order to keep the meeting as short as possible it you have any queries concerning the proposed amendments please address them to me, so that they can be responded to before the meeting.*

*In regard to this meeting I draw your attention to Rule 14 and in particular to the fact that to pass a special resolution it requires the approval of not less than three fourths of members entitled to vote either in person or by proxy or by postal vote. As our membership entitled to vote is now down to 26 then not less than 20 need to cast a vote. If you cannot possibly attend the meeting, please e-mail the Secretary and indicate if the chairman can act as your proxy and how you wish him to vote on your behalf.*

*In harmony*

*Doug Routley*

Full details of the changes were provided by email to those members who have it. If you do not have email and need a copy to study, please speak to Doug.



## Rosters for February

*(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

#### 30 January

- (a) Richards, T Bruce, Verbrugge, Brigatti
- (b) Sebbage, Commerford, Cook, Clee, Durham

#### 6 February

- (a) Aarnoudse, Clayton, Geiles, Davies, Verbrugge, Routley, Nelson
- (b) McGuire, Richens, Tay, Lehmann, Blackmore

#### 13 February

- (a) Richards, Lam, Merrells, Okely, Blackmore
- (b) McGuire, Richens, Tay, Friebe

#### 20 February

- (a) McGuire, Lugg, Cook, Brigatti
- (b) Richards, Okely(ten), Bruce, Verbrugge, Mitchell, Routley

#### 27 February

- (a) Aarnoudse, Lam, Tay, Durham
- (b) McGuire, Pedler, Okely(bari), Routley, Friebe

#### 6 March

McGuire, Commerford, Verbrugge, Lehmann, Blackmore

#### Kitchen Assistants

30 January: Lam, Richens, Friebe

6 February: Richards, T Bruce, Pedler

13 February: Clayton, Geiles, Verbrugge

20 February: Lehmann, Nelson, Blackmore

27 February: Cook, Commerford, Mitchell

6 March: Lugg, Lam, Pedler

- Barberpole Cat for February: *Down by the Old Mill Stream*

## Engagements and Activities

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

- **Tuesday 13 February, 4.00 p.m. – Committee meeting.**
- **Wednesday, 7 March 2018, 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.**

**Further Citizenship Ceremonies are to be held on 4 April, 16 May, 25 July, 22 August, 10 October, 14 November.**

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 (2)

At some time during the year 1998 we heard about the Commonwealth Government's plan to involve the whole community in celebrating the Centenary of Federation. The scheme provided for up to \$200 000 to be spent in each House of Representatives electorate in recognising and celebrating this anniversary.

In due course the Club Committee accepted the suggestion that we should try to obtain a grant to do something special – involving our barbershop chorus, naturally. So sub-committees were formed, and work began.

In the meantime, the chorus was as busy as ever with our 'normal' program. The first major activity was our involvement in a special Valentine's Day concert at the South of Perth Yacht Club. As there was completely new and different music to learn we resumed rehearsals on 8<sup>th</sup> January! As described by Graham Bishop in his article in *A Decade of Song*:

*We had agreed to perform with the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Jacek Slawomirski together with the Sweet Adelines. The joint 'operatic' company of Sweet Adelines and Westcoast Chordsmen were to perform 'The Slaves Chorus' (Nabucco – Verdi), 'The Anvil Chorus' (Il Trovatore-Verdi), 'The Humming Chorus (Madame Butterfly – Puccini) and 'The Drinking Song' (The Student Prince – Romberg).*

This was a huge challenge – but one that was met with great enthusiasm, winning plaudits from both the audience and our fellow performers.

A second opportunity to sing with an orchestra occurred in August, when we sang with the Western Australian Secondary Strings Orchestra in Churchlands Senior High School. This was a fundraising concert on behalf of Save the Children Australia and gave us the joy of performing with the young students and, we hoped, *vice versa*.

While all this was happening on the surface, behind the scenes various groups were beaver-ing away on the Centenary of Federation Project. From the beginning it was agreed to try to tell our version of the history of the 100 years with and through the medium of story and song. Music lists were drawn up - and whittled down. Ideas for how to bring the events of the century to life were thrashed around. And a special group, under the direction of Don Bowes, was tasked with preparing a strong case to support our application for a grant. But in the forefront, was our singing! Before the end of the year the chorus undertook to make its first recording, *'Christmas Time and Anytime with the Westcoast Chordsmen'*



Originally this was in cassette format, later CD. Many have been sold. Recommended listening!

*The Westcoast Chordsmen on stage at the Churchlands Senior High School, circa 1998*

– Bruce Okely  
February 2018