

Our Twentieth Anniversary Year

Singing at St Peter & Emmaus

Arrangements have been confirmed concerning our contribution to the church service at St Peter and Emmaus Church, Joondanna, on Sunday 2 September. The service is to commence at 9.30 a.m. and we'll assemble for warm-up at 8.45 a.m. Dress for those who are singing is: black shoes, sox and trousers, white long-sleeved shirt, red chorus tie and red jacket.

The songs we'll sing are – *Balm in Gilead, The Lord's Prayer, You Raise Me Up, The Irish Blessing.*

Singing in the Perth Concert Hall

We're 'all systems go' for our performance at the Perth Concert Hall on Friday 21 September. Please check that all items of No 1 Costume (black shoes, sox, trousers, white long-sleeved shirt, black bow tie, shiny vest, and white jacket) are in good order – including those well-shined black shoes. We wear our red chorus jacket and carry the white jacket and vest in a suit bag until we are in the back-stage dressing area.

We are required to be in the dressing area by 7.30 p.m., ready for warm-up. (Enter via the Stage Door, not the Front of House.)

This year we're singing *I Have a Song to Sing (entering); Shine on Harvest Moon; High Hopes.*

And we'll have a fantastic time!

Citizenship Ceremonies

We are very pleased to report good news concerning our involvement in future Citizenship Ceremonies for the City of Stirling. Not only has any doubt been removed concerning the remaining ceremonies that we expected to take part in this year, but we have also been asked to perform at two further ceremonies. These extra dates are shown on the engagements list in **bold**.

The song list for the (newly listed) ceremony on Wednesday 26 September is: *City of Stirling (entering); Alexander's Ragtime Band; Waltzing Matilda; Harvest Moon; My Country.*

Wonderful Day; Home Among the Gum Trees; I Still Call Australia Home; I Am Australian; Advance Australia Fair

NB: No meeting on Tuesday 25 September.

Aegis Lifestyle Village

We return to Aegis St Michaels Lifestyle Village, North Perth on the afternoon of Friday 28 September. Dress is 'No 1 costume'. The decision whether to wear the white jacket will be made on the day. The song list this time is

Waltzing Matilda (entering); Wonderful Day; Home Among the Gum Trees; Harvest Moon; Balm in Gilead; Coney Island Baby.

I Have a Song to Sing (entering); Alexander's Ragtime Band; Georgy Girl; I Believe; I Still Call Australia Home; High Hopes

Spring Social

- from John Brigatti

We will be revelling in a celebration of song and social conviviality at Saint Petes October 2, starting at 7.00 pm. Members, associate members and partners are invited. Members, associates, and partners of Men in Harmony will be joining us, and there will be vocal contributions from both choruses, a number of quartets, and some combined chorus items. There will also be a good measure of tutti – fun for all. We would welcome visitors, particularly prospective new members, but please check with VP Admin, Ken, to confirm if we have room for them.

'Save the Children' Concert

From its inception our chorus has regularly supported Save the Children Australia. This year's effort is listed for the afternoon of Sunday 21 October at the Anglican Church, George Street, North Beach. This is a public concert and we would love to have a big audience, both for the benefit of the charity and our own satisfaction.

Flyers will be available shortly. Let's do our utmost to promote the occasion.

Brainstorming, the Future and Stuff

How many of us have mentally wandered off, trying to solve the really big questions like, 'Why are we here'? (Most of us, probably.) Well, our barbershop leaders local and national have been at it too.

At the national level Barbershop Harmony Australia has come up with a multi-question on-line survey

about the degree of satisfaction members achieve in various aspects of the hobby. And, on the local level a team has been working with Music Director Kim Sebbage to help shape, define and, possibly, improve our enjoyment of our favourite hobby.

We look forward to the results in due course.

The Four Chordsmen in August

- from Ken Richens

At the beginning of the month we sang at Joondalup Health Campus. This invitation, as with many others, came about after singing for Fremantle Hospital Speech Therapy unit last year. At Joondalup we sang to a dozen or so dementia ward residents and to many staff members who 'downed-tools' to listen.

Two weeks later we sang at The Cancer Centre of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Another extremely rewarding experience for the quartet. The main reception area of the Centre is an atrium and we were at first worried that our voices would be 'lost' in the vastness. Not so. We were pleasantly surprised to hear applause coming from people on the mezzanine floor above us. We were able to sing in various places and ended-up singing in the Oncology room. A Barbershop Harmony demonstration for a Jewish Care group in Dianella completed our activities for the month. Peter McGuire had worked tirelessly for this opportunity to perhaps interest men in visiting our Club nights and in joining our Chorus.

Ken Richens.

Updated List of Engagements

Every singer is asked (begged, implored) to check very carefully whether there is any problem about his attendance at each engagement. We have an 'active singing' membership of around 25 but we rarely achieve a chorus of that size at any of our engagements.

So, the challenge for all of us is to check the list of engagements and inform either Ken Richens or our section leader *as early as possible* if we must be absent from an engagement. (A general statement during rehearsal that *'I'll be away for the next three weeks'* doesn't count.)

This courtesy is particularly important *now*, as we enter our busiest time of the year.

Rosters for September

(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

28 August

McGuire, Commerford, Tay, Routley

4 September

Richards, Lam, Verbrugge, Durham

Sebbage, Okely, Tay, Brigatti

11 September

McGuire, Pedler, Richens, Cook, Lehmann, Mitchell

18 September

Richards, Lugg, Clee, Blackmore

25 September (No meeting)

2 October (Spring Social)

Kitchen Assistants

28 August: Merrells, Nelson, Clayton

4 September: Blackmore, Commerford, Pedler

11 September: Richards, Durham, Routley

18 September: Lehmann, Friebe, Merrells

25 September (No meeting)

2 October: Richens, Cook, Verbrugge, Lugg

- Barberpole Cat for September: *Shine On Me*

Engagements and Activities

(Additions and alterations are shown in bold.)

- 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, Adelaide.
- Friday 21 September – WA Primary Schools Massed Choir Festival, Perth Concert Hall.
- **Tuesday 25 September – No rehearsal.**
- **Wednesday 26 September, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.**
- 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.
- **Tuesday 23 October – No rehearsal.**
- **Wednesday 24 October, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.**
- 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.'

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 (9)

It is quite likely that most readers are familiar with at least some of the matters to be referred to in the remaining parts of this summary of our club's history. In the interest of saving a few trees references to events of the next decade will be brief.

2009

- Planning proceeds for Voices in Harmony 2010, in Perth.
- New repertoire this year: *Bach Air, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Moon River, Sweet Adeline, Santa's On His Way.*
- Concert venues include -St John of God Villas Subiaco, Manoah Village Gosnells, St Ives Centro. A special innovation is a Sunday afternoon charity concert in the North Beach Anglican Church where we share the program with the North Beach Primary School Choir.
- New members welcomed -Ken Richens, Chris Tay, John Little, Andrew Blackmore.
- Recording sessions take place for a new CD to be released in 2010.
- Pender Pedler reports that the chorus membership is 44 and the average age of chorus members is 73.

2010

- January's newsletter shows 18 engagements already listed for the year.
- New repertoire: *I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen, If You Knew Suzie, I Can't give You Anything but Love, Darkness On the Delta, Let there Be Music/Let There Be Love, Lord's Prayer, Shenandoah, Let's Get Away from it All, Under the Boardwalk, Georgy Girl.* (WOW!)
- Combined rehearsals commence with Southside Harmony for Voices in Harmony 2010.
- 10-year medals are presented to Pender Pedler, Kevin Mitchell, Peter McGuire, Stan Mitchell, Geoff Wilkins.
- Voices in Harmony, 4 to 9 May, includes a dinner to welcome our South Australian guests at the Melbourne Hotel, music workshops, a social outing, Western Region Quartet Contest, Concert and Church Service in Wesley Church Perth, farewell luncheon. Our new CD (*Sounds of Harmony*) is released.
- A function is organised in June by the Men in Harmony Barbershop Chorus to celebrate 25 years of barbershopping in Perth. This is attended by the four Perth men's choruses and two ladies' choruses. Great singing, socializing, speechifying, supper.
- A variation in chorus social activities is a lunch at Lynwood Arms Tavern.
- Kim Sebbage is appointed Chorus Director at the 2010 AGM; Yours Truly remains Music Director for the time being.

2011

- We sing for three Citizenship Ceremonies plus casual entertainment on Australia Day. This special effort is later recognized by the presentation of a framed tribute from Lord Mayor Councillor David Boothman, presented by his Deputy, Councillor Giovanni Italiano.
- An invitation is received to take part in Voices in Harmony 2012 in Adelaide.
- New repertoire: *Eriskay Love Lilt, Chordbuster March, Sh-Boom, Santa Claus is Coming to Town*
- Membership reaches 45.
- A Floreat Forum Christmas sing-out results in an invitation to sing on the ABC afternoon program. Sadly, no membership enquiries follow.
- *Bruce Okely*