

WHO IS SING AUSTRALIA?

The Sing Australia Vision:

'For Australia to be a country where everyone sings'.

Mission Statement:

'To make singing universally accessible for personal fulfilment and pleasure, for building friendships, for expressing national identity and as a service to community'.

The Sing Australia concept is that everyone is equal in their desire to sing, this is the basis for the formation of the choirs. It is a non-critical and non-judgemental approach to singing.

Sing Australia Pty Ltd was established in 1985 by Colin Slater OAM, an accomplished singer and singing teacher, to promote singing, Australian compositions and Australian artists.

In 1982 Colin was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to study opera in Europe under the famous Italian baritone Tito Gobbi. During his time overseas, he was immersed in the rich musical culture in Europe, making him aware of his poor knowledge of his own heritage in songs and music.

Sing Australia is working to achieve its vision, "*For Australia to be a country where everyone sings,*" by establishing choirs around Australia. There are currently 69 of these community-based choirs spread throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, with new choirs forming all the time. What sets Sing Australia apart is that there are no auditions, no requirements to read music and no singing experience is necessary. The emphasis is on fun and friendship, with members enjoying singing all sorts of music and getting to know people from all around the country.

Sing Australia community choirs do not require people to audition or to attend regularly. The concept also accepts that not everyone can read music, not everyone can sing in tune, and not everyone has yet made contact with their singing voice. However, by accepting everyone as individuals, the concept has proven that most people acquire singing skills at least to a level where they can enjoy themselves immensely in a choral environment or simply for their own enjoyment at home.

As well as performing for over 750 community events throughout Australia, members also have the opportunity to perform overseas. 2007 will be the third consecutive year that Sing Australia has travelled to Gallipoli to sing at the Lone Pine memorial service. Last year Sing Australia was invited to perform at the International Peace Forum, which was held in Vancouver, Canada. Sing Australia is playing an important role in assisting the rehabilitation of rural and outback communities with the establishment of choirs in places like Trundle and Wilcannia.

Sing Australia's focus for 2007 is to help drought-affected communities. With a series of singing concerts, workshops and events, our aim is to relieve the pressures of life. Through our gatherings and choir visits, we will bring economic benefits into drought-affected areas, encourage communities to come together for fun and friendship, set up singing groups and create long-term contact and friendships in those areas.

A lot of rural communities would struggle to find an accompanist, so Sing Australia has developed a songbook called '*Songs around the piano*', which includes CD accompaniment for each song. This book will attempt to revive the importance and value of singing in our communities and in our home life.

Sing Australia Choirs are choirs with a difference

There are NO auditions and there is NO pressure, just lots of **FUN**.