

As indicated earlier on we proposed to bring forward the National Gathering next year To June 19,20 & 21 to avoid clashes with other events and activities at our normal Gathering time.

Following the National Gathering in Brisbane we have spun the wheels very quickly and are very pleased to say we have devised a very exciting program. Every event will be very different and together will be a great representation of Sydney. It is also largely a different program to the previous National Gathering in Sydney. I visited Sydney on Monday to check out the venues. We must sell this Gathering as a whole from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. Please see it as one event. That is the attraction of a National Gathering. We can't have just one activity - the groups coming from further afield will not see any value in that. If I am wrong about that maybe those groups might let me know. Once we plan all events we have to ensure that we can cover the costs for all of them. That is why we never release single events first up. We may not do that at all this time. We are very vulnerable with early non refundable deposits needed for the venues we are hiring. I am sure you understand. HOWEVER, we do need a quick response please. We do not want to lose the venues we have. We had the feeling that as you knew we were thinking June you would have already formed a view about whether you are going. We need a non refundable deposit of \$100 by Friday 13 December please. We are not prepared to lock in a venue until we know it can be covered.

The cost of this Gathering will be **\$395** and will include the following program.

**Friday 19 June 2020**

**1830 for 1900 to 2200**

**Welcome Evening**

**Dress: Casual**

**Grand Ballroom, Luna Park.**

**Songbooks: We will advise which books early next year.**

Then venue is nestled in a location that affords fabulous views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House and the surrounding area. An evening of singing our favourite songs plus learning some new songs . We will rehearse some songs for Sunday morning when we again sing with a very powerful pipe organ.

This session will be followed by supper and beverages (this time better managed by the caterers)

It will be an inspirational night. Promise. We can keep a few surprises up our sleeve for the time being.

**Saturday 20 June 2020**

**1000 to 1100**

**Sydney Opera House Forecourt**

**Dress: Sing Australia Uniform.**

Gathering photo and sing a few songs The exact location will be advised by the Opera House management. Sadly we can't have an event inside the Opera House which I had hoped. We have been informed it will be undergoing a major refurbishment. However lets see what we can do outside.

**Saturday 20 June 2020**

**1900 for 1930**

**National Gathering Gala Dinner**

**Sydney Showboats, King Street Wharf**

**Dress: Theme:** Maritime, Pirates, Convicts, Admirals, Wenches, Classy, Showboat  
Cruise on Sydney Harbour with a **3 course dinner and beverages** and our own special entertainment.

**Songbooks:** We will advise early in the new year

**Theme:** Maritime, Pirates, Convicts, Admirals, Wenches, Classy, Showboat

**Sunday 21 June 2020**

**0800 to 0915**

**Morning tea**

**Dress: Casual**

**Sydney Town Hall**

**0930 to 1200**

**Our traditional Sunday Morning sing (part songs)**

**Songbooks: We will advise early in the new year.**

We will have a great morning of singing led by Gian Slater and her band (comprising excellent musicians from Sydney)

We will also sing with the **Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ**. This is a large pipe organ built by English firm William Hill & Son in 1890. When it was installed in 1890, the Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ was the largest in the world and remained the largest concert organ built in the 19th century. It was described by Westminster Abbey's organist, Dr Bridge, as the 'finest organ ever built by an English organ builder'. It remains the world's largest organ without any electric action components and is of international significance. Those who went to the Sydney Gathering loved singing with the Pipe Organ in St Johns. This will be another step up. The program of singing will be led in part by Gian Slater and a brilliant ensemble of instrumentalists from Sydney.

**Conclusion:** Would you please ask your members to complete the pre booking Deposit form that will be available to be downloaded from the website mid next week and send to either [info@singaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@singaustralia.com.au) or PO Box 1840, Croydon Vic 3136. The payment for these deposits will be in the form of the new direct debit system, this means a signature will be required in the payment section only. Once we receive a members booking form we will then send them a request for direct debit. Once this has been set up by the member we will then process the one off payment. If we don't receive these early bookings we will have to rethink the National Gathering for next year. If we do get a good response we can lock it in.