

Special Recess Bulletin No 3 – 2 April 2020

Dear Leaders and Members

Breaking news -

A big, big successful start to our singing session on our Facebook page on Tuesday night with Gian Slater. Brilliant. More later on in this bulletin

Starting to get into a new routine

I think we are starting to get into a new routine. We have accepted that getting together is now out of the question and that we can stay in touch quite well through emails, facebook and telephone calls. We can even have a sing. I reckon we will hone our communication skills through all this. **TIP:** I have made up a little motto – **'Stay at home, Don't roam, If you're alone, Get on the phone. (SDIG)**

It used to be letters and now its emails and facebook

We used to write letters quite frequently in the 'old days' and with the onset of computers, emails and mobile phones etc that sort of dropped away. I used to love receiving a letter. To go out to the letter-box and find a letter from home was great. Now we look forward to a response to an email or an SMS. I suppose that's not much different to getting a letter with exception that now everyone wants a response straight away or sooner! Maybe we should get back to writing letters especially to those without computers. **TIP: Lets find out who is not on computers and start writing letters to them.** I think we can do that by simply asking those people if its OK for their address to be made known (out of respect for their privacy) to those who might like to write to them. This could be so reassuring. The point is, we love contact and we need it. Well, I suggest, most do anyway. It is so reassuring to hear or receive word from someone. So with this in mind we will keep up our communication in Sing Australia and keep us all connected somehow through all our joint efforts.

Individual group initiatives ...

The individual groups are coming up with all sorts of ways of communicating with their members. The Leader of the Tuggeranong group, Colleen Wilkinson, wrote a nice note to all her members last week and she outlined to them how she was filling her day. The Conductor of Goolwa, Liz Bettess sent out a note to the Goolwa members with a list of songs and some helpful musical instructions. I have seen the wonderful newsletters produced by members of Sing Australia St George for their members and I received a fabulous update on the group from their Leader, Sue Cran- Allison. All of these initiatives are excellent. Well done to all concerned.

Facebook

We started our Facebook interactive singing night on our **'Sing Australia Members Only'** Facebook page on **Tuesday night**. It was a massive success. We have received overwhelming positive feedback. Thank you all so much for your great enthusiasm and support. We are certainly encouraged by it. It was heartening to see all the comments. As at sending this out we have 769 members

signed onto our members only page. If you would like to join this and you are a current member all you need to do is go to the "Sing Australia Members Only Group" page on Facebook and request an invitation to join. Answer the questions listed and agree to the rules and you will be joined to the page. If you are not a member or your membership is due it will be essential for you to join Sing Australia or renew by Direct Debit. Please feel free to ring Head Office and we can assist you. The reason for a **member only page** for this special project is to ensure we comply with our copyright requirements. I am sure you will understand that we must comply even in these times.

Tuesday night was great. Gian was wonderfully received. She was excellent. **TIP:** The next session is **Tuesday night, 7 April at 7.30pm Melbourne time.** This session will go for 45 minutes and she will be using **Songs Around The Piano, Book 4.** (pink book) She will post the list of songs on the Members Only page on Monday. Thanks again to Gian. She certainly has a very relaxed and assured approach and we appreciate her musical accuracy and she is easy to follow. I am sure you will not only enjoy it but learn lots at the same time.

We noted that some who watched on Tuesday night didn't have a Songbook 1. **TIP:** Just so that you know **Di Carlile, in our Head Office in Melbourne, is still processing merchandise orders.** You can still order songbooks on line. Gian will work on the songs on Songbook 1 in future sessions.

Finally, thank you all for your very lovely responses to my video presentation last week and the Special Recess bulletin No 2. It has made us feel very confident that we have great solidarity in Sing Australia and that through this we can stay firmly in touch with everyone through our various initiatives. **TIP:** I will post another video tomorrow on our main Facebook page. I propose to sing a special song that has helped me through difficult times.

All our love and best wishes to you all and to your family and friends

Colin – Margaret, Mardi and Di