

Special Recess Bulletin No. 6 – 29 April 2020

Dear Leaders and Members

How are you all? We really hope that you are happy and relaxed and enjoying the opportunity to catch up on a few things. Sorry about not producing a Bulletin last week. We have had a busy week or so and it's been most enjoyable.

Anzac Day

We had our hands pretty full with Anzac Day preparations. On that score I have to say I am delighted with how that all went. It was quite an historic occasion for us. To link up with members from all around the network on our special Facebook page was wonderful – inspiring in fact. I know in the mix we all had an interest in other events on that day and we apologise that ours may have clashed with one or more of those but we felt we had to do it in the morning. I am so thankful to those who contributed to our commemoration – Jerry Tipping and Peter Rose from Canberra Blokes, Hayday Cekic from Turkey and Terrence Grube from Norfolk Island. We also had Mr Chuong on line from Vietnam and Laura Serafin from Italy. We may have even have had on line - Nagendra from India and Alex from Russia. All these people were either our brilliant guides or they assisted us with our tours. I am also very grateful to Gian for piecing all the components together and presenting them so well in addition to leading us in the singing of the Anzac Hymns and other songs. I know we had a good number of members with us on the day –certainly in excess of 500. A great effort everyone.

Tuesday night & our members only Facebook page.

Moving on we have some new special projects in the pipeline for our Facebook page. If you haven't yet joined this I do commend it to you. It is great fun and it is helping us to feel connected. Last night we just wanted to relax and sing some easy going songs from **Songs around the piano Book 1**. We had another big following which is great. It is so wonderful to see all the names and the comments – they are so supportive and encouraging. Thank you so much. We are doing all this from Gian and Chris's studio at home with minimal production equipment. So if we have a couple of little glitches just bear with us – we'll always iron them out – its not always easy to do that at the time however but by the next broadcast we usually have it sorted. Gian is 'knocking it out of the Park'. Next week she is going to conduct and lead the songs from Songbook 6. We will post a list from which you can choose your top 10. This will be a more challenging sing – It should be amazing. Gian is very strong on reading the music. It should be a good sing.

I am also going to post a few songs and a few singing tips on Facebook this week as well. We now have 1450 members signed onto our members only Facebook page.

Spotlight on Sing Australia with Gian Slater

We are about to start a new program on Facebook called 'Spotlight on Sing Australia with Gian Slater'. We will invite various people from around the network to maybe prepare a video of them singing a song from one of our books and each week Gian will interview one of these on Skype and then play their video. This will be a live session on Thursday mornings at 9.30am. It will only be brief but it should be fun and interesting.

Future outlook – Covid 19

We don't know how long we will have to remain isolated but I can assure you I won't be giving the green light to Sing Australia's involvement in the community until we are absolutely certain. I am bound very strictly by the duty of care implications in our Public Liability Insurance in terms of when we can meet up again and I do take that seriously of course. I will let you all know when we can get back into things. Apart from these formal constraints you are all too precious and much loved for us to make any moves that can subject you to risk. Even if we have to wait a little bit longer than most we will know that we are safe. The fear of a resurgence of the virus with winter coming on is something we need to be aware of as a possibility. To always know that we will only move when it is 100% safe must surely be reassuring to you as frustrating as that thought may well be also. Lets just enjoy what we have – lets enjoy the moment. Write or record your memoirs. Go through and organise your photos – I am only suggesting this because these are things I need to do. See you on Tuesdays.

I hope you have had your flu jab or are about to do so. Also could I encourage you to download the '**Covid Safe**' App on your mobile phone. The more people that do this the quicker we will be able to resume something of a normal life. The Australian Government in collaboration with the State Governments and the Health Authorities and the Opposition and not the least of course the Australian people have all collectively done a great job in containing this Pandemic in Australia. Lets keep the strategies going.

Direct Debit

We are continuing to sign members on to Direct Debit. We now have 1600 signed up which is great. Thank you for continuing to support Sing Australia with your membership. It is enabling us to maintain our operations and to provide the Special Facebook activities.

Members not on Computers/Emails/Facebook

I have written a long letter to each of the members, around 250, who do not have access to a computer with the aim of making them feel included and just as much loved as everyone else. I have given them an update on things.

Best wishes everyone – lots of love – stay safe – keep well.

PS Don't hesitate to be in touch if you ever feel concerned or become too lonely.
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