

Special Recess Bulletin No 10. (29 May 2020)

Hello everyone and Greetings from Adelaide

Hope you are all well and happy. Here's the latest and greatest.

Firstly -

Facebook Group - 'Sing Australia Members Only Group'

Tuesday night (26 May) was another wonderful night with Gian. We sang songs from Songbook One. The songs we sing on Tuesday night are usually the result of a poll on the Members Facebook Page. Members choose their top 10. It is working beautifully. We had 440 members online to enjoy and participate. Gian's brother, Nathan Slater, contributed to the session this week with an exquisite rendition of 'He was Beautiful' (Songbook 1) which he sang and accompanied himself on guitar. The whole evening was very well received by those online. These sessions remain on this Facebook page and can be watched again and again. We are expecting Nathan to present another item soon. Thank you so much Gian. Your sessions are exciting, delightful, relaxed and very informative. There is something very congenial and special about the atmosphere you create through this event. It is something we can continue indefinitely.

More and more members are joining this Facebook page. It is fun and its success in keeping members connected is brilliant. Please – if you are a member and you are not joining this because of a pre-determined view about Facebook please be assured that once you join you can remain anonymous. However, it will open up a new world for you especially at this time. It will enable you to enjoy all the things we are offering. For those who can't join because of not having a computer maybe there can be a way where a roster can be produced to have members visit these people and show them the latest. Obviously the way things are going we are able to visit now. **Just not sing!** We have to take this aspect seriously. Even though we might think we are OK you can be carrying the virus and not know it. How about the recent case of someone arriving from a ship and it took 10 weeks for the virus to surface in that person. You can visit someone and observe the usual social distancing and hand hygiene and the limit on numbers.

With all the criticism of Facebook, and I must admit I was an early detractor many years ago now, how good is it that we now have this technology available to us to stay connected and to support and encourage each other. Really Facebook is giving us the tools to stay in touch but more than to stay in touch as a 'family' and to allow us the opportunity to keep the singing going and to provide some additional services such as singing lessons and so forth. There are many more things available to us. These will be explored. Those who are not joining Facebook but technically can please give this some thought. You can always pull out if you don't like it. However, bottom line we do totally accept your right not to be involved.

In the meantime for those members who are in our Special Facebook Group please continue to enjoy what we are offering. Tuesday nights with Gian Slater are exciting, delightful, relaxed and very informative. There is something very congenial and special about the atmosphere created by this event. It is something we can continue indefinitely. It has also been an enormous pleasure for me to acknowledge everyone associated with Sing Australia through this Facebook page.

I am going to post an idea on Facebook today that could make a big difference to your singing and especially your own appreciation of your voice.

Next BIG event on Facebook.

We are planning to have a National Gathering on our **Sing Australia Member Only Group** Facebook page. It will involve three consecutive events on three consecutive nights – all with different themes – all with special guests, all with different dress up opportunities. We are thinking about asking you to send in photos of your dress up that we can post through the night. That will give us a greater sense of the National Gathering. We are hoping to run this event later in June. We will let you know an outline possibly next week. The choice of repertoire for each event will be determined by a Poll as will the ideas for themes. It should be a lot of fun. A virtual National Gathering. Stay tuned as the saying goes. It has the possibility of being bigger than Ben Hur!!

Membership Renewals and New Members

We are continuing to process membership. More and more members are adopting the Direct Debit method of payment. We now have 1720 on Direct Debit. A few have rejoined so that they can avail themselves of our Facebook page. Welcome back to all those people. Thanks to Mardi Davies and Di Carlile for their continued efforts in the office to process membership and any Merchandise Orders.

Feedback from Leaders

Thanks to all the Leaders who have sent me an update on their group and thank you for your kind and supportive comments. I have posted some of these further on. I will post more next week. They are terrific.

However, there are still some Leaders I haven't heard from for quite a while. Just a short update would be very appreciated please. I do need to know that my messages through the weekly Bulletin have been seen and understood but it would also be nice to know how you are.

Return to weekly choir practice – a way off yet.

I can't see any evidence yet as to when it will be safe for us to do this. I am sure many of you have seen the articles and media sessions on when choirs can return to their practice venues. It is not altogether encouraging particularly for our demographic. Simply put the problem is the aerosols from singing.

Some snippets from around the network

From Ineke Smith , Batemans Bay

Just to let you know that all is o.k. here in the Bay - as far as I know. Thanks for your regular Bulletins - which I send on to all our members - with usually with a couple of funnies and a bit of waffle from me. Only 2 members do not have email addresses - and I deliver your newsletter to one of them as she lives in the next suburb. Cecilia lives in Long Beach, and I do know she keeps in touch with other choir members.. I've also been keeping in touch with Kathie, our conductor and family - who have become good friends.

The aftermath of the bush fires have certainly been very intermingled with the Covid19. and personally, I have been very occupied with tradesmen around, having all the damage around my home, fixed. Just the garage to go! Am very busy getting my garden looking good again.

Our 2 members who lost their homes altogether have now bought another and moved in - although Cheryl and Warren Harper still hope to rebuild on their block eventually.

I am enjoying Gian on Tuesday night and want to thank you both for keeping in touch with us.

From John Lambkin - Wallsend

This in reference to last weeks Bulletin

To all of the people in Cc I'd like to point out the website erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them was posted by the son of my school friend Jeff Bromage.

Erin grew up in Valentine and went to Valentine Primary and Warners Bay High School. He gained his doctorate at James Cook University and did further studies in Virginia. Erin still lives in America with family.

His area of expertise is in his study of our immune system as per the "About the Author" at the foot of this article.

From Carole McKenzie - Tecoma

Sorry I have been a bit tardy in not checking in with you, but just over 3 weeks ago I was "exercising" on our treadmill in the garage gym, while my granddaughters started home schooling. In a very quick lapse in concentration I fell off the treadmill and managed to break my right tibia and fibula just below my knee. After 2 nights in hospital and many jokes from family and friends I'm back home sitting all day it is nearly driving me bonkers but at least I can't go anywhere even if I wanted to!

In saying this I have been in constant contact with all Tecoma members with my regular emails and many members have been posting on our link cheering each other up and it has been a wonderful experience for us all. I have spoken to our three members not on email by phone and they are also being contacted by other members.

We are all missing our weekly sing together but those who have been able to log on to FB are really enjoying the weekly singalong with Gian and of course your lovely performances as well.

From Robyn Lovett - Ringwood

We at Ringwood are doing our best in isolation as I hope you are also.

We have been keeping in touch via the Internet thanks to Brendan's assistance and also via Gian's Tuesday sessions. Thank you to all for organising this as well as your singing lessons and a peak at other groups.

I have been forwarding the newsletters to Jane Stamp and Jane Sukarsa so they can keep up to date also. They were happy to keep up with our news and have been continuing teaching their students on line.

From Chris Melican, Southern Highlands

Greetings from the Southern Highlands. Thank you, each of you, for your part in keeping choir members informed and connected. I know quite a few sing with Gian on Tuesday nights, and love your singing lessons, Colin. I wondered if there is anyway you can gather data about who joins in from which choir. I forward the Newsletter to SASHers, and for the 5 people who don't have the internet, I print it and deliver it to their letter boxes. Rhonda does a great job sending out a list of songs we know with links to famous folk who sing them. I listen with earplugs as I go for walks and sometimes I forget myself and burst into a song with ABBA or John Denver or Aled Jones or someone - fortunately no-one is close to get a fright from such a sound! I have visited a couple of people - standing at a distance and run into several people in Bowral or Moss Vale and been able to have a distanced chat.

From Di Trotter - Geraldton

Just a HELLO!! and thank you for all your support, time and love you have done for us all in this time of needing to be connected.

We are all doing pretty good over here. We have been very lucky with the Covid 19, as there has been only a few cases in the Mid-West. Must say we are all feeling pretty blessed. **Just this one time**, it is good to be so far away from you all.

I am loving all your singing lessons Colin, plus the added Bonus of a few songs. Enjoyed them immensely THANK YOU!!

Tuesdays are the best night of the week (used to be Thursdays) !! THANK YOU!! Gian you are amazing and I know how much time you have to put in to make it run so smoothly. We all appreciate your time and efforts greatly.

I have been keeping in touch with my group with a weekly newsletter, and now the Bulletin so they are well informed with what is going on in Sing Australia. Have heard from a few members and they are all coping well, which is great, now they are all able to go shopping, get out and about has made a great difference. Once again everyone Thank You for your support!!



Lots of ☺ joy and happiness!!!

From Tony and Eraine - Hobart

Thanks for your regular updates and correspondence.
Sing Australia Hobart is going along quite well under the circumstances.
All of our members appear to be in good health still and our leadership keeps in contact by means of a weekly newsletter.....

Have really enjoyed the Tuesday night sings with Gian. Just fabulous she is so talented!
Facebook has given SA another dimension which is a big positive to come out these lockdown times.
Plus your own singing tips and songs have been very well received too.

Tassie would have been doing very well except for the outbreak on the North West which set us back. However things appear to be on the improve now.
.....Hope you and Margaret are adapting well to Adelaide and have settled in well?

From Jocelyn Paterson - Sale

Hello Colin,
Our little group is doing ok. Everyone is well and between Wendy, Ian and myself we are in touch with everyone with phone calls etc. I've been sending your bulletins and members have been enjoying Gian's Tuesday nights singalong. I'm sure we will all be happy when we can get back together again and I for one can't wait for a Gathering to be able to get away and sing with others!
Regards to Margaret,
Regards,
Jocelyn

A big thanks to all the above Leaders. I'll post more of these wonderful reports next week

Lots of love everyone from Head Office. Take care – keep safe.

Colin, Margaret, Mardi and Di.