

## **Special Recess Bulletin No 7 – 6 May, 2020**

### **Hello everyone,**

We hope all is fine with you. I guess one of the big plusses about staying at home is that we are keeping away from the Flu and other things that come with the onset of winter.

### **Tuesday nights on Facebook**

We had a fabulous session last night. Gian was in full flight showcasing the many aspects of her voice and certainly her great musicianship. It was terrific fun. She gave some pretty good vocal tips as well. It all seems to be getting better every week. We are getting around 550 or so each week on the live session. Next week will showcase Songbook 5. Should be another beauty. The poll to select the top 10 is on Facebook.

Some may not have yet signed up to our Special Facebook page – **‘Sing Australia Members Only Group’**. Just a quick reminder – all you need to do is go to Facebook and search for our special group and request to join. If you are not already on Facebook it is easy to join. What we are offering on this page is a singing session with Gian Slater on Tuesday nights. Gian conducts and leads the singing. She also offers some vocal tips. Gian is a very highly respected vocal teacher, performer and composer in Melbourne. My son Nathan, who a lot of you have met at National Gatherings will also be contributing to these nights shortly. Nathan is a much sought after guitarist in Melbourne – great singer as well. He too is a teacher and composer. I know Gian is very grateful for your wonderful and supportive comments. She is enjoying her connection with you all very much.

### **Spotlight on Sing Australia with Gian Slater**

We are starting to record these this week so look out for the postings on our Special facebook page. They are just cameo presentations of Leaders or others talking about their group together with a video of their group. It should be delightful, inspiring and interesting.

### **Membership**

Our membership renewals by direct debit is growing week by week. We now have over 1600 members signed on to Direct Debit, which is very reassuring. Thank you very much. I must thank Mardi and Di from Head Office for their continued efforts in assisting members in signing up. We are expecting that when we finally come out of our recess period we will have an organisation that is not only secure financially but stronger in many ways. Thank you all for your continued membership. As long as we are operational we will continue to serve you all as much as we can which of course does include our engagement of Gian. She is putting in a lot of time to present such a professional session.

In that regard we are thinking that we will probably continue on with the Tuesday night sessions well after our recess period has come to an end. It is such a great way to feel the energy of the whole network. Of course, once Gian is able to work from a bigger studio she will be able to look at a bigger production in terms of vocalists and instruments. It would be great for everyone to hear their voice type in that mix. It will be easier to then sing in parts. So this is just one of the things we are looking at for down the track.

## **National Gathering**

Just as an update there is really nothing we can do at this stage in terms of even planning a date. One would hope that we would be able to have a big gathering by the latter part of next year. It is all going to depend on the availability of a vaccine for the Coronavirus. If that becomes available we will feel more secure about producing events. However, ideas are coming to mind. Watch this space.

### **When will this recess end?**

I know that some groups will be starting to feel that maybe things will be relaxed shortly given the low incidence or even no new cases of the virus in their state or maybe in their town but seriously please don't get too optimistic at this stage. The uncertainties are still great. We are approaching winter. We need only observe the recent outbreak in Melbourne. Without being alarmist there is still a strong view prevailing that there can still be a second wave of this virus and until we have absolute certainty, which is a big ask, I could not see any resumption of groups until maybe September. It would not be advisable to be even planning small groups at this stage. Of course any future developments will also be informed by the number of people who have taken up the Covid Safety App on their mobile phone. I am sure you will understand that we cannot open the door even slightly until we have the strongest assurances possible. Please be assured that we are watching all developments very closely. As we keep saying your safety will always be front and centre.

### **Groups with Facebook Pages**

Could I please request groups that have their own Sing Australia Facebook page to use this as a tool to inform **your members only** of group happenings. These must not contain video presentations – certainly not of whole songs. It must not be used to provide music to your members in video form or printed form. If you have done that please delete it. I realise it would have been done with the best of intentions but it is in breach of copyright. We have checked this out. I am happy for you to email a video of a song to your members but that must be done on the proviso that it is strictly a Sing Australia song and strictly to **members only** and **not to be shared** more broadly. We have allowed you to use our company name in your Facebook page in good faith that it would be used as a tool for informing your members only. I do hope you understand. Our **Sing Australia Members Only Group** is a special page conducted in accordance with our copyright requirements. That is why it is strictly for members only. While we are all needing to keep connected we do still need to comply with copyright and we do need to ensure that we are serving our members and giving value for that. It is certainly not a free for all.

**Stay well – Stay safe – Stay happy – Stay in touch. ( don't hesitate to be in contact if you are anxious or concerned or lonely)**

My wonderful team – **Margaret, Mardi, Gian and Di** join me in sending you our love and best wishes

**Colin**

**Colin Slater OAM CF  
Founder and National Director**