

To Leaders and Members

## **Special Recess Bulletin No 8 – 13 May 2020**

Hi everyone

We hope all is well with you.

### **Cautious optimism**

Obviously there has been a hint of optimism coming from the National and State Leadership about some relaxation on various management controls on Covid 19 and that has made all of us see that maybe there is light at the end of the tunnel. However, just for now lets not jump to any conclusions about when we can get our groups back singing together. I still think that September is going to be a more likely time given that we are going into winter but if it turns out to be July when we are permitted to meet in large groups then we will go with that of course. I must ask please that you do wait for me to blow the start whistle on all this. I have a national network to consider where there are variables in each State and Territory but seriously I do not want to issue a whole lot of different instructions. That just doesn't sound like a good idea. The health authorities were very slow to support my moves on cancelling the National Gathering and they were slow in their decision to close down community group meetings. In fact, we were well and truly into recess by the time the authorities made those decisions. The reasons for my initial actions, which were supported by experienced medical professionals, who I consulted, were (a) the demographic of our members and (b) the uncertainties of the pandemic. My reasons to give the signal for the groups to return to weekly practices will be guided by the same reasons that actually still remain valid. I am not going to be obstructive about this - just very cautious. Please understand that I would love everyone to be back singing as much as you all do but I want to be able to put out one clear message at the one time for all groups – large and small and in all States and Territories. That message will then be unequivocal, concise and comprehensible. I know full well that we have some communities that have not been affected by Covid 19 but then again there are some communities that are still experiencing new cases. I want us to approach this in the spirit of a national cohesive approach for our network. The Government authorities may well give an overall direction but it will be difficult for them to provide all the variables for all circumstances. That must surely be for us to determine. **So please do not unilaterally just decide to go ahead with your weekly practices or perform somewhere even with a social distancing approach without my approval.** I have been around long enough to know full well that these activities can start out small with the best of intentions but can escalate very quickly. I would prefer to avoid any confusion about when we can do these things by asking you all to please wait for the go ahead. I do thank you for your patience very much but lets not blow it with premature activities.

### **Our Group Facebook page.**

This is going extremely well. Gian's Tuesday night sessions are great and getting better each week. We love your support, your enthusiasm and participation in

this. The songs for next week will be from 'Songs Around the Piano Book 4'. A poll to choose the top 10 will be posted on Facebook today.

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

Last week's spotlight was with Michael Row from Sing Australia Queanbeyan. It was an excellent start to these sessions. Before the end of the week there will be another group featured and that will be Kiama.

If you would like your group to be featured on this all you need to do is let me know your Skype Address and send a video of a Sing Australia song by your group to me at this email address. [info@singaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@singaustralia.com.au) There will be no guarantee of a specific time but Gian will be in touch with you to organise an appointment.

This weeks Spotlight will be on Sing Australia Kiama with Leader/Conductor Maree Shepherd.

### **Singing Lessons**

I have started posting some singing lessons on our Group Facebook. These lessons are designed to help you understand more about singing and to maybe improve the way you sing. I am posting them in easy steps. They are especially aimed at those who think they can never improve but they are also useful for everyone. We can all develop bad habits with our singing and these things can present some problems vocally.

### **Membership**

The membership renewals are continuing to adopt the Direct Debit method of payment. We are delighted to say that we now have close to 1700 members signed up to this. On membership we would like to thank you all so much for maintaining your membership through this period. We are still operational in Head Office. We are still doing what we normally do plus of course the special Facebook activities and presentations.

**Membership Cards.** As you know the membership cards are now one permanent card. Since the recess of the groups we have been holding them for the Leaders. We will send them out once we are back.

### **Our continuing thoughts**

We have not lost sight of or stopped thinking about all of you who went through the terror of the massive fires early in the year. We know that the rebuilding process will be a heartbreaking exercise for some and it will take an enormous amount of perseverance to press on. Just know that we are with you all the way. You have our admiration and support.

We have also not lost sight of those who are still enduring the drought. We know that in some of those areas you have received some tantalising showers but nothing sufficient to break the drought. We think of you too and are inspired by your tenacity and spirit.

To all of you in these circumstances we continue to send our love. You are not forgotten.

**Leaders**

Thank you so much for all you are doing to keep your members connected and embraced. You are doing a fabulous job. It takes a lot of work to keep things happening but you have been doing that extremely well and your group will be forever grateful – as we are for all your efforts. A huge ‘thank you’.

**Finally**

It would be wonderful if the Leaders could just drop me a line with a short update. I do hear from some Leaders but not from the majority and you do mean a lot to us. We do need to know how you are faring. Please – just a few lines. [info@singaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@singaustralia.com.au) It will be greatly appreciated.

All the very best everyone. My wonderful team of Margaret, Mardi, Gian and Di join me in sending our love and best wishes

Colin

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Founder and National Director