

To: Leaders and Members

Special Recess Bulletin No 15 – 25 June, 2020

Hi everyone,

I can't believe how time seems to be flying. I thought it would drag but with the various things we are doing a week seems to whiz by. It's hard to believe this is the 15th weekly bulletin. I hope you find them helpful. To be honest for my part this and my sessions on Facebook help me feel more connected to you all. I have been a bit slack with my contributions to Facebook over the last couple of weeks but I have started to get back into the swing of it. Thanks to all those who have offered such kind comments.

I mentioned on Facebook the other day that I have been thinking about you all more than ever just lately for some reason. I guess once again it's a time thing. You have all been in an isolation mode for several months now and even though things have been relaxed a fair bit in terms of you getting out and about we are still told fairly firmly to still maintain the Covid 19 safety protocols. You must feel so frustrated and sad that you can't come together and sing with your friends. I want you to know that I really feel for you in this. I too feel pretty desperate about it. I could never have imagined in a million years that Sing Australia would have come across such a difficult roadblock in its long and winding road. I know full well how important it is for you to sing each week with your group. You come to need it after a while. You rely on it. You look forward to it. So I do know how you must be feeling and my heart goes out to you. I wish I could make it different for you but my concerns for your safety are over riding any issues of regret.

We have been doing our best to keep you connected but I also know that this has not involved everyone. I do worry about that. I am just so thankful that we have such good Leaders who have been able to mobilise all sorts of ways of connecting and making you feel loved and supported. Nevertheless I do want you to know that I am not just taking all this in my stride. I do think of you all a lot.

We still have in the back of our minds that the darn virus is still about and it still poses risks especially in Victoria. So our thoughts are particularly with our members in Melbourne at present. I know in some areas it would seem that the health threat is zilch to negligible but in other areas it is still a worry. How we take that on board nationally is a vexatious issue. However, it is a national issue and I want you to be safe.

I would love more people to feel they could join us on our Facebook group. It is important to know that you can do this and remain totally anonymous. We are getting around 2,000 views a week now. The singing sessions on Tuesday night are fun and they provide meaningful social connection. We can eventually expand on this. The communication between members is delightful.

Leaders

I note that some of you have been discussing and planning how you will manage a start back to singing but please don't go to too much trouble just yet because we don't fully know the specifics of these requirements. I know that various venues might have their own specific requirements. When the time comes there will be time enough to set in place management arrangements. What I have seen of those are quite horrendous and onerous.

What I think would be a good idea for Leaders at the moment is to dig out the Leader Manual and review that. It's a perfect time. Some of the Manual needs revising in terms of our Direct Debit payment method now and Facebook. It will in due course also need to be revised slightly to take account of our new safety requirements. We will issue those amendments when they become available. However, just to read through the other aspects of the Manual will be a good idea. Some aspects of the Leadership may have slipped. It's worth checking.

I hope you have a good week. Some good singing every day and some happy reconnections with friends as prescribed in safety terms

Warmest wishes from all of us at Head Office. Lots of love.

Colin

Colin Slater OAM CF
Founder and National Director