

To all Leaders and Members

Special Recess Bulletin No 17 - 9 July 2020

Hi there everyone,

Wow are we feeling for our members in Melbourne. It is so gut wrenching. No planned trips out of Victoria for a long while and for us living interstate no long awaited family reunions back in Melbourne. Oh well, we will just have to take it in our stride and find plenty of things to keep us happy and safe in the meantime. We do wish you all well.

We are coming up to our special virtual National Gathering on Friday and Saturday and that bit of fun and distraction should be just what we need right now. This event not only gives us an opportunity to sing and connect with each other but it gives us a perfect excuse to go over the top and dress up, make a special meal, pop open a bottle of sparkling wine or water, dress the table, throw a few decorations around, line up some pre event music and pretend we are at a real National Gathering. I think I will make a prawn entre, with a fillet steak main with snow peas and roast potatoes with a mushroom and pepper gravy or maybe as an alternative some grilled salmon with asparagus and pasta mixed with shredded carrot and a butter and dill sauce. A sprinkling of parsley as a garnish. Yeah! Then before we sing we might have a freshly baked apple pie in puff pastry and a generous dollop of thickened cream and maybe even some ice cream. Oh yes. That will do. Yum. I can't wait.

Then the singing – we have lots lined up.

Friday is Christmas in July so if that doesn't warm the cockles of your heart nothing will. We have some very lovely surprises for you from within our network. As much as I would have loved to have some special 'stars' join us we decided we have enough of our own!

Then on Saturday we will return with a Celtic Theme. The forecast is for a wet day so we might have some Irish Stew or maybe some haggis, neeps and tatties– nah that would be too offal! We will probably warm up with a good scotch broth or a cullen skink. I wish I had a kilt – my ancestors come from Orkney Islands and they didn't have a clan system and thus no kilt. I have tried one on and to tell you the truth I looked like a seagull. But I will wear my Scottish beret. We have a brilliant line up of songs for Saturday night. Unfortunately we can't have the band we were hoping for because of the lockdown in Melbourne but we have got around that a bit by other means. It's a nice long program – it will go for about 1 ½ hours.

Both events start at 7.30pm Melbourne time on our Special Facebook page and they can be seen then on our Sing Australia YouTube channel. Please remember that if you want to watch the live sessions live, you will need to

be on the Facebook page. YouTube cannot go live so these sessions will be uploaded to YouTube once they are finished on Facebook.

We are thinking that we can start to develop our weekly presentations a bit and they will be like National Gatherings anyway.

Survey

We need to let you know that the survey about our future possibilities on Facebook was sent randomly to 1,000 members of our group page. It was done on what is called a Survey Monkey and it randomly selected 1,000 which, will give us a larger sample than normal to make our assessments. If you are one of the recipients we would appreciate you completing it please.

Thanks for your continued understanding. Since our last bulletin, further information has come to light about the issue of aerosols being a big spreader of Covid 19. We are definitely on the right track by not going back to singing.

YouTube

If you would like to have access you simply need to email info@singaustralia.com.au and ask to join the YouTube channel.

Try to join either Sing Australia Members Only Group on Facebook or request to join the YouTube group to participate and have access to our online services.

All the very best everyone. Stay safe

Colin