

President's message

MCCS members are very excited about our 2016 program, because this year, we celebrate our 25th Anniversary with some challenging and lovely music both modern and from yesteryear. We will be participating in the Stretch Festival in May by holding a fun singing opportunity and afternoon tea in the foyer at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre (MPAC), who is once again our valued partner. Our Proms concert will be held in September in conjunction with the Mandurah Festival Orchestra which promises to be a worthwhile cultural experience for all.

We are very grateful to our talented Music Director, Chris Ryland and accompanist Chris Timoney, without whom we would not have reached our current level of competence. Rehearsals are held each Monday night at MPAC where we share loads of laughter, while expanding our knowledge and experience of choral music. If you love music and would enjoy the benefits that singing in a friendly community group brings, please come and join us.

Jannette Barrett
MCCS President



Current Events

MCCS have a few events coming up:

- **20 Mar 12 noon:** Halls Head Central
- **15 May 3pm:** 25 Anniversary Event @ MPAC
- **25 June all day:** Come & Sing Workshop @ Christ's Church

For more details on any of our events please see our website: www.mandurahchoral.org.au



Music Director's notes

Well everybody, we have begun the 2016 season in fine style, with some great choral singing already. It is promising to be an outstanding year for us, as we celebrate our silver jubilee. Twenty five years is a long time. At this age in life, car insurance becomes cheaper, we have already been allowed to consume alcoholic beverages legally for a while, and many are married with a family, have exciting careers, have travelled (further than Bali, that is), and have settled down!

Has MCCS settled down? Why should we? We are still on an exciting journey, discovering new musical places, developing new talents, perfecting old skills, and continuing friendships, and generally having a good time! The power of music is still working its magic, bringing us joy and happiness, so I'm looking forward to the next 25 years for more merriment! Will we have settled down by then? I hope not! By jingo, it'll be 2041, and I'll be darned!!!

Chris Ryland
Music Director



Meet a choir member – Derek James

My early life in Africa - as told to the Editor

I was born Peter Derek James in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1940, where I remember my childhood as a very pleasant secure time. I have many happy memories of my parents. My father, a Londoner, was the first Actuary in Africa. School was at St John's College where I played hockey and cricket and enjoyed athletics. I graduated from Witwatersrand University having studied African Government and Latin. I then worked in a white orphanage called St George's Home, being in charge of all sports coaching. It was here I started my singing career. I was then asked to start a coloured orphanage. I met my wife Lyn at this stage.

Some seven years later we moved to Botswana in 1972, which has a similar landscape to Australia, and where I became a teacher and administrator. I sang in a choir at this point in my life, very similar to MCCS. I was also a journalist and a BBC correspondent and worked at the wonderfully named Kgalagadi Breweries Ltd as a Personnel Manager.

In retirement, we followed our two daughters to Perth and our life continues in Mandurah.

Due to space restrictions, the editor has had to leave out some fabulous stories told by Derek, but do take the time to ask him about the giraffe incident.



Top Ten reasons for being an Alto

1. You get really good at singing an E flat.
2. You get to sing the same note for 12 consecutive bars.
3. You don't really need to warm up to sing 12 consecutive bars of E flat.
4. If the choir is rough, it's unlikely the altos will be blamed
5. You have lots of time to chat during soprano solos.
6. You get to pretend that you are better than the sopranos, because everybody knows that women only sing soprano so they don't have to learn to read music.
7. You can sometimes find part-time work singing tenor.
8. Altos get all the great intervals.
9. When the sopranos are holding some outrageously high note at the end of a piece, the altos always get the last words.
10. When the altos miss a note, nobody gets hurt.

Anonymous (next edition, Top 10 reasons for being a Soprano)

Cohen's Hallelujah

We have a great diversity in our music programme and one song I really love singing is Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah'. Performing to the audience is a great high and you can see the result of all the hard work we have put it at our fun rehearsals every Monday night.

It is said Cohen wrote as many as 80 verses before paring the song down and recording it on the 1984 album 'Various Positions'. His label CBS Records, refused to release the album, not realizing that Hallelujah would become one of the most haunting, mutable & oft-performed songs in American musical history.

In closing, I quote Victor Hugo who said

Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent.

Enjoy your singing as much as I do.

MCCS Member: Janet Cridge

Lemon Zucchini Bread

Prep 15 min | **Cook** 45 min | **Serves** 10

INGREDIENTS

1½ cups zucchini, grated
¾ cup brown sugar
1 egg
½ cup vegetable oil
1 cup plain flour
½ cup wholemeal plain flour

½ tsp salt
½ tsp baking soda
¼ tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon
2 tsp lemon zest



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 165°C. Grease an 8x4 inch loaf pan.
2. In a bowl, beat together the zucchini, sugar, egg, and oil. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, salt, baking soda, and baking powder; stir in the cinnamon and lemon zest.
2. Stir the flour mixture into the zucchini mixture until just blended. Pour the batter into the prepared pan.
3. Cook for 45 minutes in the preheated oven, until a knife inserted in the centre comes out clean.
4. Remove from oven, and cool for about 10 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Recipe courtesy of Wendy Summers

Each Living Moment Invitation

Each Living Moment (ELM) invites members of the MCCS to become involved with a community project called **'Shelter - Jam with Eric Bogle'**. Eric has issued a personal invitation to you all. The project will culminate at the 7-8 May 2016 Mandurah Stretch Festival. You have the opportunity to be involved as performers and helpers.

MCCS members can either record a rendition of the song 'Shelter' on their webcam or as has been done in past ELM projects, attend a facilitated recording session. Practice music is available at www.eachlivingmoment.net/by-sight.html or go to <http://www.eachlivingmoment.net/fairbridge-program.html> for details of our involvement at the **Fairbridge Festival on 15 – 17 April**.

Use the links provided or contact Walter Bennett on 9537 7324 or mgtcpilot@gmail.com if you require further information or would like to participate as a performer and helper.

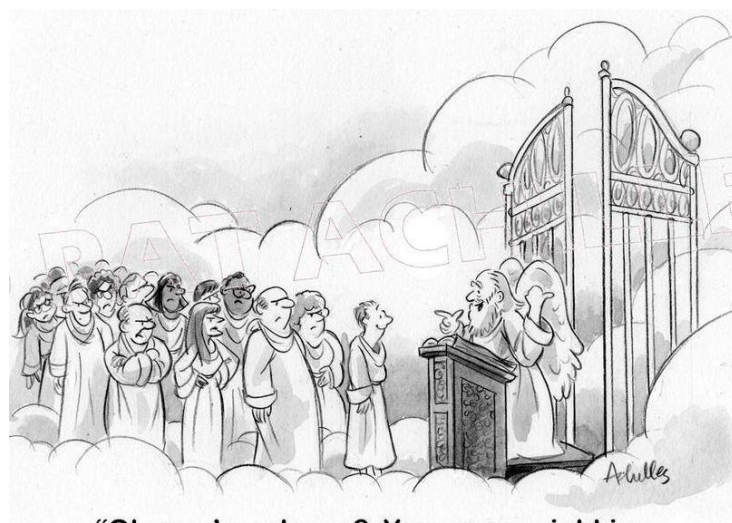
Walter Bennett, Director ELM

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Phone Derek James 0421765549



"Oh, you're a tenor? You can go right in, they're always looking for tenors."

What's on at MPAC

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Sat 5 Mar | WASO in Mandurah |
| Sat 12 Mar | The Choir of Hard Knocks
Hope and Inspiration Tour |
| Wed 27 Apr | Gudirr Gudirr – Marrugeku Theatre |
| Thur 28 Apr | Joseph and the Amazing
Technicoloured Dreamcoat |

Tickets at the Mandurah Performing Arts box office.

www.manpac.com.au



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Editor's comment

With the Autumnal Equinox, which this year falls on Sunday, 20 March 2016 at 12:30 PM AWST in the southern hemisphere, comes the Autumn 2016 edition of your news letter. As the editor, I wonder if we are achieving a publication that is eagerly looked forward to and the articles read with great relish, or is it just another email that is quickly transferred to your trash box? Could you get the same information from our web site or an occasional email? Let me know what you think on the subject. In fact let me know what you think on any subject and it will get published.

Turning to matters more poetic, Shakespeare observed.

*The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils.*

I observe that none of us are fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils, at least I would hope not. If you know anyone who has music in himself and is mov'd with concord of sweet sounds, mention to them the possibility of joining MCCS.

I should comment on our new committee. Following on from the outstanding work of the previous members, we have a new President, a shuffling of positions and some new faces in harness to take the reins and canter into a new year. Give them your support and perhaps a pat, as they saddle up and take the bit between their teeth, on track to another successful year. I will not entertain any criticism for trotting out mixed metaphors.

One of our founding members passed away recently. I hope the following words give pause to us all.

*There are those that join our choir ranks, who sing with
flair and style.*

*They harmonise and socialise, and stay with us awhile.
But as our time runs swiftly by, see old give way to new,
Remember those who once were young, and ask will
this be you?*

*Embrace each moment with great joy, hold music in
your heart,*

*For all too soon will come the time, when even we must
part.*

Roger Palmer
Editor

Welcome to new members

Welcome to our new members Diane Palmer, Tess Hill and Lynne Hoffman. Please make yourself known to these brave choristers and welcome them to MCCS.

Also, a special welcome to returning member **Alison James** – lovely to have you back with us!

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