

Committee news

April/May

Constitution Lodgement: The constitution has been amended to comply with the Associations Act 2015, and the committee and a motion was passed that it could be lodged with the Department of Commerce.

Come and Sing: The event proved to be a successful day and feedback was positive and complimentary.

Music Purchase from Grants: The music sub-committee will determine which music to purchase in consultation with our Musical Director.

Financial Report: The finances of the Society are 'healthy'.

Paid Performances: Arcadia Waters, June 10 at 3:00pm; Bridge Club middle of August; MPAC 20th Birthday, August 12; Christmas Morning Melodies, December 12.

Upcoming Events: Hills Choir's Soup and Sing, August date TBA; Singing in the City, October 15.

Grants: Thanks were extended to Wendy, Annie, Elizabeth and Mark for their efforts in negotiation grants – one from the City of Mandurah and one from ALCOA.

Website and Technology: An information night was held on May 8 and few members availed themselves of the opportunity to familiarise themselves with accessing the music files on the website and how to access the MD's Weebly site.

Jen Thompson

A gender Item 101

I wonder if there is an answer, to the
problem afflicting our choir
Of ladies there's many
But men hardly any
The circumstances bordering dire

The ranks of our tenors are thinning, the
basses not many more
We need a good plan
With appeal to a man
'Cause the future for males is poor

The gender balance is wrong, the numbers
need urgent resetting
Consider chaps plight
The sexes not right
It's appalling the little we're getting

The fees are all set at two fifty, perhaps we
should re-imburse
And join men for free
Let's try it and see
The situation couldn't get worse

But a thought that seems good to me, it
might have appeal for the guys
A mixture of folks
Sit women with blokes
Disaster if the numbers don't rise

We must try to find a solution, we need their
superior sound
Now I don't suggest
That men are the best
But its grim without them around

So there you have all the answers; These
ideas to the choir will bring
More tenors and basses
They'll fill up the places
And all will be well when we sing



Choir news

Make sure you have these dates in your diary:

- **Sunday, 25 June:** Bedingfeld Concert
- **Monday, 3 July - Monday, 24 July:** Winter break
- **Monday, 31 July:** Return rehearsal
- **Saturday, 12 August:** MPAC performance - 20th Anniversary
- **Mid August:** Bridge Club performance
- **Sunday 17 Sept:** Spring Concert



A Rebuttal

The Committee sat and pondered
 The suggestion about men
 Of letting them come into choir
 Without a single Yen

To let them sit amongst the girls
 And sing an octave down
 Our beauty would distract them
 The MD would surely frown

We'll have to find another way
 To bring the fella's in
 By swelling up their numbers
 They'd make a lovely din

Now the bloke who thought this idea up
 Is in a bit of strife
 It's obvious he didn't think
 To run it passed his wife

She would have said
 "Your plan won't work
 You've sealed your jolly fate"
 We'll simply ask the women
 To call each other mate.

Anon



New Members

Welcome to the following choristers who have joined our ranks. We hope your singing is harmonious and your stay a long one.

David Roberts, Mark Blagden, Olivia Finlay, Tegan Finlay, Gina Knight and Alanna Gardiner Bell

If you feel you have missed out on a welcome let me know.

What's on at MPAC

26 Jun The Beat of Your Feet – WASO

23 Jul RockWiz Live

2 Aug The Graduate – Stray Cats

12 Aug James Morrison

19 Aug The Marriage of Figaro – OA

21 Sep Les Misérables – Stray Cats

Tickets at the Mandurah Performing Arts box office www.manpac.com.au



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Meet a Choir Member Bronwyn Jones

I was born at the Turks Head Pub in Bromsgrove Worcestershire UK, towards the end of WW 2. Aged 3, my family relocated to another pub, in Blackpool. A wonderful childhood, loved school, enjoyed the beach and winter storms, went on picnics to the Pennines and Lake District; a fond memory is of lying in bed Christmas Eve, waiting for Santa and hearing the local Salvation Army Band playing in the lounge bar beneath my bedroom. I was regarded with some suspicion by my childhood friends at Sunday school as my father was a publican, a position coupled in the Bible with sinners! I had fun helping Dad in the cellar, tapping the old wooden beer barrels, straining dregs and topping up; Smiths Crips came in big tins, and the paper bags held small blue salt packets. My Mum made sandwiches for the domed glass platter on the bar counter. Made with rabbit but always labelled as chicken, they seemed very popular. The smell of beer, smoke and fresh bread evoke strong memories.

1953 was an epic year, Blackpool won the FA Cup, and I sat on the pub wall as the charabanc carrying the team and the cup passed by in procession; we all congregated around a hired TV in the public bar to watch the Coronation of Elizabeth 2nd and received news of the conquering of Everest a few days before.

Aged 18 I commenced four years nursing training at Manchester Royal Infirmary, 12 months of Midwifery training followed in Guildford Surrey, where I met and married my husband, Mike. He was on the rebound from the Royal Navy (He says from one institution to another!).

We bought a house in Slough, Buckinghamshire, had two wonderful boys and following a horrendous gas bill migrated to Australia as Ten-pound poms, arriving on the Fairstar in Fremantle July 1970. A wonderful decision never regretted.

We settled in the Northern Suburbs, I returned to nursing at Royal Perth Hospital, then at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. In 1985 I became a Nurse educator at Edith Cowan University. I completed a Bachelor of Nursing and Masters degrees at Curtin Uni and then a Doctoral degree at Murdoch Uni. Teaching, research, writing, graduate student supervision and administration along with extensive professional related travel, and all the activities of raising a family kept me busy for the next 30 years.

Preparing for retirement from my position as Professor and Dean of Nursing at ECU we moved to Mandurah in 2005. I joined the Mandurah City Choral Society in 2007, my experience of singing had been sporadic activity as a member of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society and a passion for listening to opera. Joining the committee and the kindness and friendship of other choir members have led to a very satisfying few years of membership for me.

Now my life is filled with my volunteer work with The Cancer Council of WA, as a volunteer at Peel Health Campus and as a sessional member of the State Administrative Tribunal; I read, do some writing, embroidery and knitting. Our three musically talented granddaughters make sure I have increased my music theory knowledge, tune my ukulele, keep us busy attending school concerts and create our Christmas specials!

Travel is still on the agenda ...

Dr Bronwyn Jones

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