



KEYS CIRCULAR

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Circular Keys Chorus Online Newsletter – April Issue, 2005



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Accolade & Friends in Indy!

ACCOLADE REMINISCES

Vicki, Amanda, Vicki
& Wendy

Our convention experience in Indianapolis started on Tuesday morning at the Quartet Briefing. What a thrill to sit amongst so many well known quartets who we've watched and learned from on previous years' competition videos. Brava sang, not more than 3 metres away from us and it was truly fabulous to hear them without any amplification and still so beautiful. Their beauty extended beyond their voices to their rapport with all the other singers – such amazing ambassadors to our organisation.

We had the opportunity to do a walk through – now the tricky bit – we had 4 options of how we could walk onto the stage!!! AHHHHH! I'm sure many of you who share the common fear of walking two steps onto the stage and falling flat on your face, will share our alarm at the prospect of 'jumping' through the split curtains, or walking from opposite sides of the stage and crossing over each other mid stage. After about 5 minutes of anguish we went for the truly original (not) walk on from stage left.



That same night we attended the "by invitation only" Coronet Club Reception (with serviettes especially printed with gold crowns – yes we pinched a few to bring home). Helen, the baritone from the 1979 Queens of Harmony "The Hallmarks" was appointed as our hostess and made us feel very welcome and answered many of our questions with good humour.

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Anna's Message (Team Coordinator, CKC)

With Christmas way, way behind us now and the memory of our recent Retreat weekend at Collaroy firmly planted in our minds, we find ourselves catapulting into the heady heights of competition, a journey that will take us along for the next few weeks until we stand to be assessed before our peers! For some members of our chorus competition has been part of their lives for many years, others have competed just a couple of times, and yes, we have members who will take the stage for adjudication for the first time with CKC. Accolade

will also be there competing in the Quartet Section. How proud we are of their achievements as No 1 Quartet in Australia. When presenting their competition package to the rest of the chorus recently, we were spellbound by their beautiful voices and their great choice of songs. In between weekly rehearsals, we will be kept busy with organising a fashion parade, special choreo workouts to keep us in the 'groove', an AGM coming up in mid April, a final dress rehearsal before the big day in Adelaide and preparations for our October show.

This show promises, and will deliver, everything exhilarating in entertainment – *The Idea of North* are our very special guests and the storyline for our Show will 'capture' your imagination!

We invite all **Friends of CKC** to come and visit us at any time during our activities and we appreciate the invaluable support and encouragement which you continue to give us.

Well done everybody and good luck for competition!

Accolade Reminisces cont.

The next day was the Quartet Semi Finals. We spent the day with gentle warm ups and rehearsing our package. We chose not to watch the earlier part of the competition opting to stay at our hotel and focus on the task ahead. It was hard to stay energised and even a walk up and down the fire stairs didn't really help.



The traffic pattern was a marvel in organisation and timing. We had a luxury coach to ourselves from our hotel to the convention centre and were then whisked from each point of the traffic pattern from photographs through to the final holding area back stage. Carol Kirkpatrick greeted us with a warm smile and soon we were standing at the side of the stage clearly able to hear the crowd chanting "**Aussie Aussie Aussie.**"

We tried not to be daunted by the significance and importance of being on the International stage. Our determination in this regard was somewhat challenged when we took in the 6000+ audience and the two rows of judges.

Even so, the judges could not have been more encouraging – Betty Clipman's beaming smile was comforting (but not calming!!).

We were on stage and off again before we knew it – now, when we listen to our competition tape, we ask ourselves who those strange girls singing our songs might have been.

We left the stage and were embraced by the contingent of Aussie and Kiwi girls plus our American friends, especially from Bay Area Showcase Chorus and even Darcy from **Fanatix**. They were so very encouraging and we are grateful and humbled by their support.

Perfect Timing Quartet and the Aussie girls competing with Christchurch Chorus, and the members of Christchurch Chorus went out of their way to look after and include us. We want to especially thank them for making our first International experience one we'll never forget.

After our own competition was out of the way, we were delighted to sit back and watch the Chorus competitions and Quartet Finals. The Chorus

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Semis were enthralling from start to finish and, of course, we screamed (with as good vocal production as possible...) our heads off when **Christchurch** and our Aussie girls took to the stage in their doll costumes.

The quartet finals were mind blowing, especially witnessing the almost perfection of "**The Buzz**" and trying to imagine the road that gets a quartet to that level of ability.

Chorus Finals had us perched on the edges of our seats, when we weren't leaping up to a standing ovation. Harbour Lights were **PHENOMENAL!!!!** We can't wait to see them again on the competi-



tion video. The other competitors too were incredibly entertaining and have yet again raised the bar for all of us to strive towards.

The classes were great and we especially enjoyed the class with Jim Arns, Rene Porzel and the Melodeers – we made lots and lots of notes and even ordered the video!!

Of course, we can't end our International Experience without mentioning **HARMONY BAZZAR!!!!!!** An entire convention hall dedicated to Barbershop CDs, jewellery, costumes, make up, shoes, and even the odd under garment – what's not to like hey? Yes, we admit it, we spent quite a bit of time strolling through the hundreds (I'm not joking) of booths. This was also a great opportunity for meeting and chatting with lots of other Sweet Adelines!

We had a fantastic time and hope that we can earn the opportunity to do it all again one day. Our heads are still overflowing with all that we learned and look forward to sharing this with our region.



My Indy Journey (by Doris Ward, Bass Section Leader & former Director of CKC)

On 20 October we flew to Christchurch 'one last time' to rehearse our Indy songs, and before heading off the 57 member Indy-bound Chorus ran a dress-rehearsal disguised as a show with the full **Christchurch Chorus** (110 members), the Canterbury Plainsmen and Phoenix Rising—men's 2004 champion quartet. We made sure we packed every piece of our costumes to take with us on

arrived at our hotel at 11:30pm, washed our smalls, went to bed in the nuddy and all was well with the world—we had arrived at last!!

It was way back in 2003 that Virginia mentioned at a Circular Keys' weekend coaching session that she was inviting Australian members of Sweet Adelines to join her chorus, Christchurch Chorus, to sing on the international stage in Indianapolis in October 2004. I thought this would be a really cool thing to do—a new experience! So I spoke with Virginia & told her I'd give it a go; we discussed the minimal number of rehearsals necessary & I jotted these dates in my diary. Over the course of the next few months, numerous get-togethers were arranged either here, on the same weekends she came to coach Sydney town Chorus, or in Christchurch.

Billets were offered but we 17 Aussies from 4 different choruses opted to stay at a motel near the rehearsal hall each trip. We enjoyed expert coaching, not only from Virginia herself, but also from CC's official vocal coach, Mary Dick—famous for the "Dick Breath." We also had a weekend retreat with the uninhibited but totally likeable Cindy Hansen, choreographer extraordinaire, famous for her 'enHANSENments' and instant on-the-spot fix-'em-ups and creations, and her constant chatter with lots of journeys down 'dirt tracks'! Either one or both coaches were at our many rehearsals in Indy before the competition. We were so well rehearsed and geared up on the day that we couldn't wait to get out there and show 'em our stuff! We were excited but totally focused and enthused out on that stage. We had a great

time, we certainly knew the plan, knew why we were doing every move and we were 'dolls' performing the package. Our songs were, of course, "*Oh! You Beautiful Doll*" and "*I'm Alone Because I Love You*" - and we were dolls in the toy box come to life, wearing costumes as in the picture (L). There were Barbies, along with Ken, GI Joe, baby dolls and little girl dolls. I was a Raggedy-Ann



doll complete with makeup and looking so darn cute! We found out that Indi was the home of the original Raggedy-Ann doll! A man had created it to amuse his sick daughter. So all the Raggedy-Anns amongst us tried to find a small doll as a memento (mine sits in my bookcase).

We all looked forward to the day of the quartet competition semi-finals. Every quartet was so fantastic! They were 'music to our ears.' When **ACCOLADE** finally came on, we were so excited, and they were so good! They did a fabulous job and we Aussies were oh so proud! Quartet finals day came and the winner was obvious the moment they sang—**The Buzz**. Chorus finals next—and the winner—Harborlites Chorus—scored 135 points more than second place! Their tone was crystal clear and beautiful, and they wowed us with their presentation & costumes. A great song, "*This is Just Some Lucky Day*" was sung by the Melodeers Chorus (last year's champions), as they finished their class. They demonstrated backbeat vs on-beat, how sync errors occur, and explained finesse.

One of the things I learned about the whole experience was 'intensity.' Virginia & the coaches left nothing to chance—we were constantly reminded about really basic stuff. Even if you think you know, your neighbour may have forgotten. Next time, do it better; do it again—convince me! Make me believe it; involve me! Take me on your journey, cover me with your voices, the louds & the softs. Send it out, give give give! We want more etc... (sound familiar?!)

I've come home feeling good about my experience & thank Virginia & the 40 Christchurch girls who went for letting us "OOTers" share this time with them, to our mutual benefit (and they can party, too!)

It's 6am and
Kathy has
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4:15am wake-
up call!

the long journey to Indianapolis. But wait—It's 6am and Kathy missed her 4:15 wake-up call! Jenny & I scurried to help her pack & called a taxi ("*Hurry please!!*"). She arrived just as they were closing her flight, but she successfully begged them to open it ("*Please please please!!*") Phew! Five of us left a couple of hours later. We arrived in Auckland to find our flight to LA had been delayed 11/2 hours thanks to a baggage-handlers' strike in Oz!! Go Aussies! Of course, after landing & disembarking at a 'remote hangar' we had 15 minutes to catch our flight! One of our bags decided to be last off the plane & we missed our next flight. The helpful airport staff rescheduled us & we sent our luggage on its way. However at the ticket counter we were asked "*Do you want the good news or the bad news...actually the news is all bad!*" Our flight had been cancelled an hour before due to mechanical problems—so we decided that it was good news that we hadn't caught that flight after all! After much searching he solved our problem with tickets to Chicago and then to Indy. We were assured our bags would be put in this plane, but they had other plans and went on to Denver without us! We



ELIZABETH JENKINS AND THE COLLAROY CENTRE—by Deborah Martin, Bass.

The **Collaroy Centre**, where we had our recent weekend retreat, and the nursing home next door are both owned by the **Salvation Army**. This site has special meaning for me because the land was once owned by my great, great, great, great grandfather, **James Jenkins**, who left it to his daughter Elizabeth – my great, great, great, great aunt. Elizabeth gave it – and a lot of other land – to the Salvation Army. The nursing home is named after Elizabeth: the *Elizabeth Jenkins Nursing Home*.

Elizabeth Jenkins was born on 29th September 1816 in Sydney, and died on 26th June 1900. She was the eldest child of James Jenkins, a convict who arrived in Sydney on the *Coromandel* in 1802 convicted of stealing seven sheep, and Elizabeth Saunders, born at Prospect in 1797 and herself the daughter of two convicts.

In the space of a few years after he arrived in the colony James Jenkins established himself in boat building, stonemasonry and farming. He lived with his family in Kent Street, Sydney, and owned 1740 acres (704 hectares) of land extending from Mona Vale Hospital to Pacific Parade, Dee Why, and 2½ acres at North Harbour. In 1826 James built a road and thirteen bridges to transport produce from his farm at Long Reef, Collaroy to North Harbour, Balgowlah for the water crossing to Sydney's markets. The route is marked by Condamine Street, Old Pittwater Road and Pittwater Road.

Salvation Army

In 1894 Elizabeth Jenkins (James Jenkins' daughter) conveyed all her real and personal property to the Salvation Army in accordance with her Will of March 1894. The story I heard from my aunt was that Elizabeth hated men and never married. She was befriended by Salvation Army pastors in the late 1800's and gave her property to the Salvation Army in return for a place in the nursing home that they built on the site.

As well as the land on which the Collaroy Centre stands, Elizabeth also gave the Salvation Army the land on which Mona Vale Hospital now stands, previously locally known as Sheep Station Hill. It was later resumed by the government of the day for utilization of a public hospital.

Another part of land now forms the Dee Why Lagoon Wildlife Refuge, purchased from the Salvation Army by Warringah Council in 1937. The land is subject to a covenant that prevents it being used as anything but a public and recreation area.



Deborah and her ancestor, Elizabeth



Don't forget to hydrate girls—but be water-wise!

We're on the web—
visit our site!
www.circularkeys.org

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Dates for your diary:

- 13-15th May— Adelaide Convention!!!
- Sat 18th June— New Members Workshop
- Sat 23rd July— Christmas in July at the Galston Club
- Sat 22nd October—**CKC Show**—the Hills Centre, Castle Hill
(with Guest Artists *The Idea of North*—CARA winners of Best Jazz album in 2005)