

## REPORTS

### Team Coordinator Report 2016

The last year was exciting for Circular Keys Chorus. Taking a look back over the last twelve months it seems the time has gone by so quickly and yet we achieved so much in competition, shows and performances. There have been some challenges with a membership decline but we continue to move forward, embrace opportunities and supporting each other to build a strong, musical and innovative chorus.

I have had the honour to work with a great team and would like to thank all the members of the management team. This year Deborah Martin has done an excellent job of maintaining our finances. Our Secretary Barb Morris has kept our affairs in order brilliantly, and Kate Hawkins did a wonderful job of reconnecting us with the community and performance opportunities. Thanks to Sharon Sullivan for PR and helping to raise the chorus profile. Lyn Howells for her role in membership, and Jen Senior who agreed to step in when Lyn needed to resign. Karen Totaro for all the fundraising coordination. To all those who have worked on Committees and had individual roles through the year, thank you.

To our Director Vicki Dwyer, thank you. We are very lucky to have such a talented director who with her passion for barbershop, comes week after week to teach us how to be better singers and have the confidence that we can produce the best sound that we can.

Lastly I would like to thank all of the members for your contribution, for supporting chorus activities, for attending rehearsals, and for being part of Circular Keys Chorus. I look forward to the year ahead and what we can achieve together.

Diane Jenkins  
Team Coordinator

### Music Director Report 2016

A year in review -

In preparation for the 2016 Wollongong contest, introduced a new uptune, stuck with consistent qualification requirements, improved confidence in octet performing groups during rehearsal. Plus, a new costume top.

Result - moved up the rankings from 5th (2015) to 3rd overall and achieved 2nd place in midsize chorus.

After contest, voted to determine if we will compete in 2017. Just over 50% of membership voted to compete. The group was balanced for voice parts and the decision was reached to take a smaller chorus to contest.

Prepared a new combined voicing song for our Sept show at the Independent, had coaching from Gail Jencik (focusing on contest material) and then Lynda Keever (focussing on all repertoire). Feel that this holistic approach for repertoire work was very successful and meaningful.

Review of the show (from people like Lea Baker) indicated that our performance level has again increased and that all the repertoire was of a consistently high standard. Feedback from Sydney Harmony Chorus was that they, once again, enjoyed the opportunity to perform in the mixed format and want more opportunities to do that in the future.

Discussion of whether we can/should join with Sydney Harmony to compete as a mixed chorus in the BHA convention in 2017 saw us looking into the cost for our members. It was determined that the registration fee to join BHA as associate members (individually) and to register for convention as a competitor (>\$300 each) was too expensive.

Started working on How High The Moon with greater emphasis on music theory. Feedback from chorus members was largely positive.

Preparation for Christmas was enthusiastic due to the promising number of performances with huge thanks to Kate Hawkins. All singers who performed conscientiously prepared their songs and this ensured confident and professional gigs that all received positive and glowing feedback from the organizers.

In consideration of a smaller group competing in Perth, it was decided to introduce a new uptune that would specifically cater to 30 voices re visual plan and interp. Oh Look At Me Now was introduced and our first real work on the song was with Carol Persinger in late November. As Carol's strength is interpretation and expression, and as members were not yet assessed on note accuracy, Alouette were used as the guinea pigs and then the chorus could sing through the phrase just worked on with greater confidence. Feedback from both the coach and from members was favourable to this technique for working on such a new song.

Christmas break was a busy time for those who had generously signed up to sing on Australia Day. We didn't get to the newer songs however managed to prepare a solid repertoire for the day. The short notice (less than 24 hours) request to add the National Anthem into the mix did not phase us (much) and we muddled through to get that onto the stage in the Riverside Theatre later in the day for the Citizens' Awards ceremony.

The members who can meet during the day for mid week rehearsals have had a head start on the newer Australian repertoire songs. At next year's performance we will add "I Still Call Australia Home" and "Under The Southern Skies". We will also be sure to have the National Anthem ready just in case we need it. These are available on our songs page for members to work on throughout the year.

Our recent coaching with Lynda Kever was a valuable opportunity to assess where we are and to address the opportunities available to us as we head into the next contest round. Our smaller number on stage means we will be competing in the A "small size" category. Lynda's observation of our performance level puts us in a good position for scoring in the B+ ballpark (should we continue to strive for consistency across the categories and put that on stage). This may well result in being in the running for a Harmony Classic position in St Louis, MO, 2018.

Visual plan created by Heather and Betty has been well thought out and fully enhances the music for our new uptune. We will have Lynne Smith (Showmanship coach) working with us for one rehearsal night, only, on Wednesday 5th April. Management team has approved an additional session for a

small number of members selected by the visual team to work in a smaller group with Lynne on 6th April. The members are from across the chorus and include competing and non-competing members. The purpose is to educate and ease constraint allowing for greater understanding and appreciation of the category and how they can excel under the guidelines.

Section leaders and visual leaders will continue to call section rehearsals and visual rehearsals for all members to help enhance our musical and visual unity and excellence.

Music team meetings have focused on consolidating understanding of the music and addressing inconsistencies. The team has been recording the contest songs and these have been posted on the song page for members to access and study with. We have taken steps to encourage members' improvement in their riser recordings and to provide achievable phases for recording to assist members who find the recording process stressful.

An 'in house' Saturday workshop will be held prior to contest (29/4) to allow members to work in the competing group in a more intensive setting than regular rehearsal nights. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend, those who are not competing are encouraged to look at this as a masterclass style workshop where you can observe, take notes and also provide feedback based on the judging categories.

Vicki Dwyer  
Musical Director

#### **Public Relations Report 2016**

This past year has been a busy time on all fronts for the Chorus. The opportunity to perform within our local community and further afield has been an important way to promote the chorus in a positive way.

Our Facebook page has seen an increase in likes and is consistently updated with interesting content, stories and photos. This is a going activity and an important tool for keeping our friends, families and supporters up to date with what we are doing.

We are constantly looking at ways to attract new members and have recently joined Meetup. This is a new platform for us, we are hoping it is another way we can promote what we do and attract visitors to rehearsals. We have in recent months welcomed visitors to rehearsals, outside the scope of a new member drive through Facebook posts and word of mouth.

We were fortunate this past year to dramatically increase our presence with our busy calendar of performances. Our relationship with Parramatta City Council continues to strengthen and enable us to be active within our local community.

Our Sirens of Song Concert was a great success. The photo shoot prior to the Concert was a fabulous way for us to update our image and rebrand ourselves. Having high quality photos of current members that we can use for promotional purposes is invaluable. Promotion for the Concert saw us gain exposure in the Manly Press, North Shore Times as well within our local press. Our relationship with The Hills Shire Times and Rouse Hill Times journalists remains solid.

It was an overall wonderful year, all CKC members should be proud of what we achieved.

Sharon Sullivan  
Public Relations Chair

### **Membership Report 2016**

'Circular Keys Chorus currently has 46 full members and 1 associate member. In the year since our last annual general meeting we have seen a natural membership fluctuation as family, time and work commitments, as well as health issues, have seen a number of members reluctantly resign. On the upside, we have also welcomed 5 prospective members who are currently taking part in the audition process. There will be a membership drive in August 2017 but we are always happy to welcome prospective members at any time.

A number of our chorus members received longevity pins in the past year and there will be eight more recipients in the coming months including a 25 year pin, two 20 year pins and five ten year pins.

We are very proud of Kate Hawkins who has not only done us proud on the Region 34 Team this year, organising an outstanding convention in Wollongong, but who now has been asked by SAI president, Paula Davis, to accept a position on the International Board on the Editorial Review Committee. This is a reflection of Kate's amazing work ethic and the high esteem in which she is held.

Everyone has embraced the many coaching opportunities that we have had in the past 12 months and attendance at these sessions has been excellent. Our enthusiastic, welcoming spirit has been greatly appreciated by our visitors.

We continue to be a supportive, caring group of women who not only share a love of singing but also display a genuine love for each other and the sisterhood we have created.'

Jen Senior  
Membership Coordinator

### **Performance Report 2016**

Circular Keys Chorus enjoyed an array of performances over the past 12 months with nine paying, and three community performances, resulting in a contribution of \$5,200 to chorus funds.

2016 saw us re-establish ties with the City of Sydney, which resulted in four performances as part of the City of Sydney's Choirs in the City program. Our relationship with the City of Parramatta continued to strengthen and we are looking to build on both these in the coming twelve months.

Performances included:

- Australasian-Pacific Polio Conference
- International Day of Peace
- Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Women's Shelter

- Hills Community Care Dinner, Castle Hill RSL
- Lighting of the Christmas Tree, Parramatta
- Galston Seniors Christmas Dinner
- Kenthurst Carols by Candlelight
- 4 x City of Sydney performances
- Australia Day

Kate Hawkins

Performance Coordinator

<b>Fundraising Report 2016</b>
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Thank you to my hard working team, Ann Keating, Liz Vrhovsek, Liz van Miltenberg, Mary Owen, Lorraine Barlow, Cheryl Benson, Virginia Hackenberg, Lyn Howells, Barb Morris and Karen Tucker. Thank you also to the Chorus for their help, donations and support and to the Management team for their support. Total takings in profit for the year was \$5,306.92

Entertainment books

April/May/June                      Organised and carried out by Ann.

Profit = \$ 300

Profit = \$300

Miscellaneous:-Selling of second hand items at chorus.

Organised by Ann

Second-hand items = \$130

Blue Illusions (Castle Hill)

24th June 2016 Organised by Ann.

Profit = \$ 422.05

Profit = \$422.05

Trivia Night-Christmas in July

2nd July                      Organised by Lyn with help from Cheryl.

Total takings- \$2,076.95

Costs- \$385+\$200=\$585

Profit = \$1,491.95

Bunnings sausage sizzles:-

17th July Castle Hill

Organised by Liv Vrhovsek

Sausages sold- 600

Total takings- \$1,782.60

Costs- \$505.70

Profit- \$1,276.90

Profit = \$1,276.90

Small Raffle (in conjunction with the Sirens of songs Concert)

17th Sept

Organised by Karen Totaro

Costs- Nil (Donations from Chorus members)

Profit- \$558

Profit = \$558

Cadbury Chocolates

Aug/Sept/Oct                      Organised by Karen Totaro

5 x mixed box

15 x Goody box –best seller

10 sweet treats box

20 x Freddo & Caramello

Total takings- \$2,702.95

Costs- \$1,574.93

Profit- \$1,128.02

Profit = \$1,128.02

Total for the CKC financial year= \$5,306.92.

This financial year has been 9 months not 12 months. For the last two month no fundraising was undertaken as the chorus had many performing commitments.

All the best,

Karen Totaro

Chair of Fundraising CKC