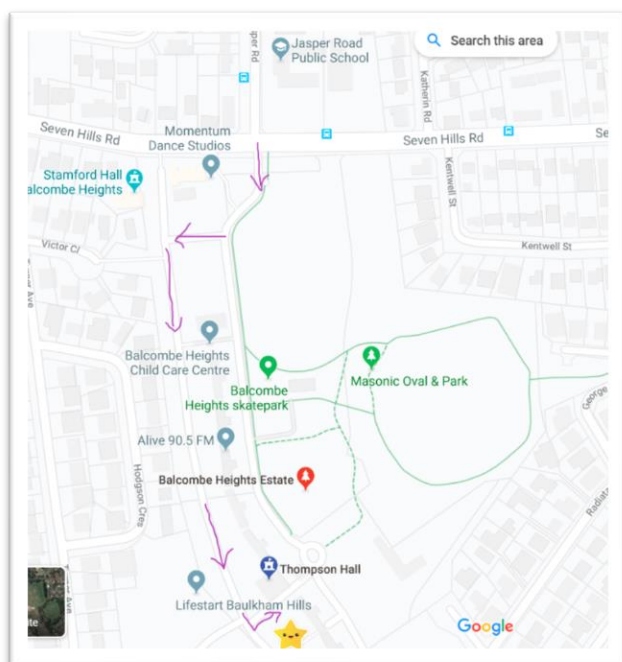


# Secret Chorus Business

*Integrity – Commitment - Fun*  
*Dare to be Different*



## **STILL AT A DIFFERENT VENUE FOR REHEARSAL THIS WEEK**

This Wednesday night we will be rehearsing at Thompson Hall in the Balcombe Heights estate again.

There is car parking available (see the Star on the map).

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## **PLANNING FOR REGIONAL CONVENTION 2022**

I received an email from Sweet Adelines Australia over the weekend regarding a possible change of dates for the Regional Convention in 2022.



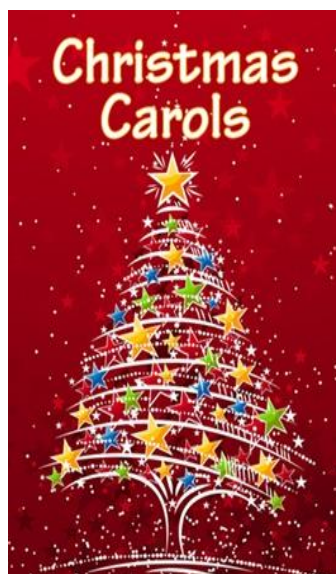
There is a possibility that the convention will be held in Perth, but the desired dates, 19-22 May 2022 aren't available at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Convention Centre have offered SAA the 28th April to 1st May 2022, three weeks earlier than usual. Before making any decisions, SAA would like to ask you, the members, if these dates would be acceptable.

If the earlier time is approved by the region, we will then apply to SAI for the change, which may or may not be allowed. If a panel of judges is not available at this time, our plans may have to be changed again and another venue found.

During business this week I will be asking for your thoughts on the change of dates so I can respond on behalf of CKC.

## CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE CITY



We have our dates for the Christmas Carols in the city. This year we have three performances:

- Saturday 23rd November at Town Hall Station  
Call Time 5.30 pm
- Saturday 30th November at Martin Place  
Call Time 5.15pm
- Sunday 15th December at Martin Place  
Call time 5.15 pm

Can you please respond to the events in Groupanizer – email invites have been resent to the 7 members who have not responded yet.

These are paid performances and we need to know that we have enough singers attending.

More details to come closer to the time.

A number of members have expressed concerns about passing risers for the Christmas gigs. The management team discussed this at our last meeting and Vicki will be allocating rehearsal time to learn and go over these songs.

Please also review the new *Assessment Recordings Protocol* at the end of the newsletter (it's also in the Documentation area of the website). This protocol will help make sure everyone is prepared well in advance in future and help reduce the last minute panic.

The Christmas songs we will be working on are as follows. Vicki will adjust the rehearsal schedule as required to make sure we all have the opportunity to sing out with CKC this Christmas:

CHRISTMAS SONG	REHEARSAL SCHEDULE	
It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas	21 August	28 August
The Little Drummer Boy	21 August	28 August
All I Want for Christmas is You	28 August	4 September
Do You Hear What I Hear	4 September	
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas	4 September	
Santa Baby	11 September	
Santa Claus is Coming to Town	11 September	
Various Themes of "Fa-La-La"	18 September	
We Need a Little Christmas	25 September	
Jingle Bell Rock	25 September	

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Marea Witt August 23  
Pippa Anderson September 10  
Rina Pinto September 17



Judith Bourne September 24  
Kaye Kendall September 24

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## STAR OF THE WEEK



Noticed one of our CKC members doing something fabulous lately? Why not recognize them with a nomination for the Star of the Week?

To nominate a member: Please email Jen Senior ([jasenior@hotmail.com](mailto:jasenior@hotmail.com)) with the member's name and short description as to why you would like to nominate that person.

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## COMPETITION – 2020 HOBART

Dates: 14 to 17 May 2020

Location: **Wrest Point Hotel & Casino**

Competition: **Quartets – Friday 15 May**  
**Chorus – Saturday 16 May**



Things to start planning/considering/saving for:

- Registration – Early Bird \$230 (youth \$115)
- Flights – approx. \$300-\$400 return (keep watch for specials) – You will need to organise your own flights
- Hotel – Allow approximately \$600. Once booking is done you will know full cost. Bookings will be coordinated by CKC.
- Hotel roommate/s – would you like to share a double or triple? Will you be bringing family?
- Organizing Leave with work
- Committing to weekend workshops, coaching and regular weekly rehearsals
- Spending money for food & drinks

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## ANY IDEAS FOR A NEW CKC LOGO?

The management team are still looking for a new CKC logo. Kate is still accepting ideas, so keep them coming in.



## MEMBER LEAVE

Are you planning on taking holidays or unable to attend rehearsal?

If so please email [absence@circularkeys.org](mailto:absence@circularkeys.org)

Using this email address ensures the Musical Director, Membership and the Music Team are all notified at the same time.



### Current member leave

Linda Vitali-Alchin	11/08 – 30/10/19	Kaye Kendall	17/09 – 23/09/19
Alison Anderson	14/08 – 21/08/19	Arpy Isikian	23/09 – 09/10/19
Anne Harris	21/08/2019	Heather Will	25/09 – 30/10/19
Alison Anderson	28/08 – 18/09/19	Kath Ware	27/09 – 04/10/19
Jane Masters	02/09 – 15/09/19	Miryam Baeza	30/09 – 17/10/19
Lyn Howells	04/09 – 30/10/19	Frances Gurto	02/10 – 06/11/19
Cheryl Benson	12/09 – 04/10/19	Miryam Baeza	22/11 – 13/12/19

## SUGGESTION BOX

The Suggestion Box is kept on top of the microwave during rehearsal for you to place a note you would like Management Team to address.



Last week we discussed 2 suggestions at the management team meeting. As a result of our discussions, each week half the chorus will be asked to help with the risers. There are a number of members who are unable to lift, or who need to set up for supper after rehearsal – we are not trying to punish anyone by making them work harder, just share the workload. There should be enough members in each half of the risers to share the task of putting the risers away each week. It was suggested that we include everyone on a supper roster, but this is adequately covered by volunteers each week, and we don't have a shortage of lovely ladies bringing supper each week.

The other suggestion was from someone concerned about the optics of choosing a soloist in performance. In response – as the concert was SHC's project, not CKC, the songs in that portion of the show (and how they were to be staged) were chosen by Sydney Harmony's music team. Due to the delayed arrival of the chart, the short period of time to learn and prepare the material, the two solo lines still in a state of flux (ie the additional harmonies and cross-overs were still being decided up to and including the combined rehearsal) and in the best interests of the show performance; an artistic decision was made with a view to limit additional time/preparation stress on the membership at large. We are sorry that it seemed this decision was unfair as that was not Vicki's intent. Moving forward, and with the collaboration of the CKC music team, we will provide more opportunities to build the talent and capacity of the chorus by a transparent audition process.

**EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE**

**IT'S AUGUST ALREADY!**

Nooo! Don't miss  
August A Cappella!

Yesss! There's still time  
to register. But you'll  
need to get a wriggle on.  
Think like a champion.

Just do it!

**YAY!**

**When: NEXT WEEKEND – DON'T MISS OUT**

Saturday 24th August - 10.00am to 4.30pm (registration from 9.30am)

Sunday 25th August - 9.30am to 1.00pm

**Where:**

Parramatta RSL

2 Macquarie Street, Parramatta, New South Wales 2150

To Book – go to <http://www.cvent.com/d/lyqk3z>

Or check out the events page on the Sweet Adelines Australia website -

<https://www.sweetadelines.org.au/events/>




## RISER ROSTER

DATE	RISER TEAM	DATE	RISER TEAM
Wed 21 August	No risers – alternate venue	Wed 11 September	Risers Yoga half
Wed 28 August	Riser – Kitchen half	Wed 18 September	Riser Kitchen half

## SUPPER ROSTER

DATE	NAMES	HOSPITALITY TEAM
21. Aug	Rehearsal at Balcombe Heights – BYO Drinks & Snacks	-
28. Aug	Jen S, Kath W, Jessi F, Inese (Birthday Cake)	Kaye & Jessi (Milk)
4. Sept	Ann K, Emma E, Anne H, Susan K	Anne H & Susan K (Milk)
11. Sept	Steph W, Rachael M, Frances P, Kaye K	Kaye (Milk) & Frances P
18. Sept	Liz PW, Jenny D, Cathy S, Inese K (Milk)	Liz PW, Jenny, Cathy, Inese
25. Sept	Maria P, Jane M, Inese, Verne, Yasi W (Birthday Cake)	Yasi W (Milk) & Verne

## DIARY DATES

2019	
August 24-25	Education - August A Capella – Sydney
September 22	Fundraising - Bunnings BBQ @ Castle Hill
FRIDAY September 27	Performance at Heather's wedding
October 19	I am Woman video shoot @ Blues Point Reserve World Singing Day
November 1-3	Coaching Weekend with Anne Downton
November 16	Giant Garage Sale 
November 22-24	Education – Steve Scott – Canberra (member own organization)
November 23	Christmas Carols – Town Hall Station - Call Time 5.30pm
November 30	Christmas Carols – Martin Place - Call Time 5.15pm
December 15	Christmas Carols – Martin Place - Call Time 5.15pm
2020	
Feb – 21 -23	Coaching Live in Weekend @ St Joseph's – Diane Huber
March - 27-29	Coaching Weekend with Lynda Kever
May – 14-17	Convention – Hobart



## ASSESSMENT RECORDINGS PROTOCOL

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*The pathway to excellence in our singing performance is to ensure that every singer is fully prepared in her knowledge of her part, confident to sing it correctly and has thoroughly practiced and prepared her voice to capably navigate the song with energy and freedom.*

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### *Why are riser recordings necessary?*

- Encourage you to practise at home;
- Help you address any misunderstandings of interpretation (phrasing/dynamics/breath plan);
- Call your attention to any incorrect/mis-learned notes;
- Unify approach to word/vowel/consonant/diphthong sounds;
- Receive advice on technique when issues are occurring for reasons other than note/word/breath;
- Raise ensemble confidence that the team is ready to perform.

Riser recordings, when submitted early, allow information to be shared by the music team to include areas of section discrepancy in rehearsal planning.

### *Recordings need to be submitted for:-*

- All new material
- Songs that have new interpretation (notes/breath plan/interpretive plan or new key)
- Songs that have not been assessed in more than 15 months
- Contest songs after coaching

### *When should I submit a riser recording?*

- As soon as possible after the new song is introduced and sung in chorus without the sheet music.
- As soon as you fall outside the qualification period from previous assessments

### *Do I have to submit risers for Christmas songs, Australia Day songs, special repertoire songs?*

Yes, unless you are specifically advised otherwise. Notable exceptions to this rule have been when songs are performed for a funeral service and we have not had time to assess recordings in advance.

### *What if I'm away sick?*

Get your recordings in as soon as you possibly can. If you have been sick and could not get your riser assessed before a performance, you will be ineligible to perform that song in the performance.

### *What if I'm on holidays?*

When possible, get everything you need submitted before you go away. If not, your riser might not have time to be assessed before a performance and you will be ineligible to perform that song.

### *If I had my assessments done before I went on holidays, can I still perform on the show/concert etc?*

This needs to be assessed on a case by case basis and is determined by:-

- How well you were performing the material before you left;
- How many rehearsals and key preparation time you have missed out on;
- The importance of the performance and what will be required of you in that performance as an ensemble member
- How well the ensemble is performing as a unit (will the sudden addition of a voice that has been absent benefit or adversely affect the riser placements already set in your absence?).

*NB: the factors that influence whether you can perform on your return may change during your absence based on what is in the best interest of the ensemble. You are not guaranteed a place on the risers if you have missed concurrent rehearsals prior to a performance date.*

### *May I mime in a performance:-*

This is extremely rare and is only ever permitted if the visual plan will be significantly altered by a person missing from the ensemble. If members are not well enough to sing or if they are not assessed as approved to sing, they will not be eligible to perform.

### *If I have not met the assessment requirement, when do I need to step off the risers?*

- In rehearsal, once we have passed the assessment period (most relevant for contest songs in the lead up to contest), if you have not been approved as performance ready you will need to step down from the risers when those songs are 'performed'.
- In coaching in the lead up to contest, if you have not been approved prior to the session, you will stand on the floor at the sides of the risers without obstructing any front row members. In full run throughs of the material, you may be asked to sit to the sides. You should still attend the coaching sessions even if you are not intending to or eligible to compete.
- In a show, if there is an appropriate moment between songs for you to do so, you will quietly and surreptitiously move to the side of the risers and walk down at the edge and remove yourself from the stage area. Your riser position should be planned to allow this with minimum disruption to other performers.
- In a performance without risers, move to the side and out of the ensemble group.

In contest you need to be fully approved on both singing and visual performance in order to be eligible to compete. Singing qualification is 'approved'. Singing AND visual qualification is 'performance ready'.



### *Commitment to submit risers in time for assessment*

- In fairness to your section leaders, recordings need to be submitted with sufficient time to provide feedback and for you to have ample time to re-record as many times as needed to achieve the standard for approval.
- Your performance approval needs to have been granted two rehearsals before the performance date. This allows the ensemble to have two rehearsals where all singers are confidently performance ready.
- For contest preparation, the approval date will be six weeks prior to the contest. Any variations to this will be on a case by case basis.