

Secret Chorus Business

Integrity – Commitment - Fun
Dare to be Different

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ZOOM

Due to the changes with Zoom, unless Vicki sets a password for the meeting, you need to be admitted via the waiting room.

Vicki cannot do this easily once she is running the rehearsal – so please sign in a minimum of 5 minutes before the scheduled start time, so Vicki can bring you in before she starts.

REHEARSAL THIS WEEK

Looking forward to catching up with you all on Zoom at our rehearsal this week.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8345956112>

Meeting ID: **834 595 6112**

The meeting will open around 7.15pm tomorrow night

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Emma Edwards November 21
Anne Thompson November 23

Arpy Iskikian December 03
Candace Deller December 08
Frances Gurto December 08



CHORUS PAYMENTS



Please note that there is no option for cash payments available at this time and we ask you to use EFT for your payments to chorus. Please contact Sue Gray if you need further details, or if you have an issue that prevents you from paying using EFT.

CKC Bank Account Details for online payments:

Westpac Bank
BSB 032170
Account Number: 273702
Account Name: Circular Keys Chorus Incorporated

SOCIAL EVENT PINOT & PICASSO NIGHT – CASTLE HILL

Wednesday 9th December – 7pm – 10pm

For anyone that has not paid for the event, please transfer the \$59 payment to chorus account. Make sure you include your name and PandP in the reference,

As of yesterday we have 17 attendees to this event.



CALENDAR DATES

Date	Event
Wednesday 18 th November	Rehearsal including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year End Report • COVID Survey feedback • IBOD Vote
Sunday 22 nd November	Puppy Picnic Social Event
Wednesday 25 th November	Final Rehearsal for 2020 – fun night
Wednesday 9 th December	Pinot and Picasso Social Event
Weekend 22/23 January (to be confirmed)	CKC Social get together
Wednesday 3 rd February	First rehearsal for 2021

PAY IT FORWARD

As you know 2020 has been a difficult time for many people. As we return to normal fees again, we appreciate that some members may have difficulty affording their normal membership fees, which includes an amount set aside to pay for Sweet Adeline's International and Sweet Adeline Australia annual fees.

The CKC Angel Fund cannot be used to pay for monthly membership dues. As a way for those who may like to help members with the payment of fees, the management team are introducing a "PAY IT FORWARD" fund.

The PAY IT FORWARD Fund will be funded from donations and specific fund-raising events and will be administered by the Team Coordinator and Finance Manager and all requests for assistance will be confidentially, in the same way as the Angel fund.

Any member can donate any amount to the PAY IT FORWARD fund by transferring an amount to the CKC bank account with a reference of PAY IT FORWARD.

There is no requirement to repay assistance, but members may wish to make a donation back to the fund when they are able to do so.

Members who are experiencing personal hardship can contact the Team Coordinator or Finance Manager about assistance.

SOCIAL GET TOGETHER



On the weekend before Australia Day, we are planning to have a CKC social get together at Kath Ware's to kick off 2021 CKC year.

Full details are still to be finalized, and it will be dependent on the NSW Health advice around COVID-19 in force at the time. So for now, please put it in your diary as a possible event, and we will provide more details as we get closer.

SOCIAL EVENT - PUPPY PICNIC – FAGAN PARK

SUNDAY 22nd November – From 12 Noon

So the picnic has been moved a week to account for the wet weather predicted on the 15th and to enable Vicki and Ella to attend. (sorry Trixie Wallbank who was looking forward to celebrating her 2nd birthday on the 15th)

Steph and Trixie who are regulars at the park suggested we enter via CARR'S ROAD and use the bigger car park. There's a huge grassy area to the east of the carpark, good for spaced seating, with some shelters (would be good if a few of us can get there early to nab one or two for shade), toilets, \$1 BBQs & another set of play equipment. It's a pleasant stroll from there round the rest of the park & back, but less crowded. Kids can bring bikes too if they like.

Parking is \$6

Organisation will be BYO everything - rugs, doggos, kids, bikes, picnic, chairs etc. Plan is to come and go as you like, just a great opportunity to catch up with everyone in a socially distanced world.



REDUCED CHORUS FEES CHANGING IN NOVEMBER

From November, we have returned to regular fees for all members whose circumstances have not been affected by COVID. So, if you have not had a loss of income because of the pandemic, we are asking you to revert to paying full membership fees from November. We will continue to offer the reduced fee option for any member who has lost their job and remain unemployed due to COVID.

A couple of important things to note:

1. Should the amount in your Escrow Account not be enough to cover your SAI/SAA membership fees when they fall due, you will be invoiced for the shortfall amount.
2. Normal fees will apply for all members once we begin rehearsing at St Josephs.

Fee structure from November 2020

CKC Normal Fees	Full Members	Youth members	Associate members
TOTAL fees due per month	\$50	\$25	\$15

CKC reduced Fee options	Full Members	Youth members	Associate members
TOTAL reduced fees due per month	\$15	\$7.50	\$15

We will continue to review this going forward may revert to normal fees based on the state of things.

The management team would like to thank the members who have continued to pay full fees. We appreciate your continued support as your fees help cover the continued costs of running the chorus.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

As a reminder, normal fees will be payable during December 2020 and January 2021.

Member Profile

Name: Jen Senior

Voice part: Bass

When did you join CKC?: I came along to the “Bellas” programme in July 2015 and became a fully fledged member on 4th February 2016.



How did you hear about CKC?: Kate Hawkins and I had been friends ever since we met each other when her Andrew started school. My younger son was also in that class and, at that time, I was teaching part time at the school doing library and LOTE (Languages other than English. I taught Indonesian.). Kate and I were on the P&C together and the boys played Saturday sport. She talked about CKC when she joined and had mentioned some workshops, but I didn't really consider it seriously until the Bellas programme. I guess it was the right time as I was thinking that I needed to be doing something just for me now that the family was grown. Now I wish I'd gone along so much earlier!!!

Brief history: I had an average upbringing in the western suburbs of Sydney. I was part of a large, loving extended family and spent most of the time with them. Dad had been a surf life saver for years, so the beach always featured heavily. After high school I was lucky enough to go to Jakarta as an exchange student. I got to do lots of travel around Indonesia and made lifetime friends. I went back several times during the following years and was able to take my kids to visit a couple of times, too. When I came home from my exchange, I went to teachers' college and became a primary school teacher. I have to say, I have loved teaching and count myself so lucky to have had a job that I enjoyed so much. I met David in 1979 and next year we'll celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. We have 2 sons and a daughter and recently welcomed a little grandson. After working for so many years I decided that it was time to cut back, so the last few years I've been gradually cutting down the number of days I worked. This year I took long service leave for the year with the idea of trying out some new things, seeing if I missed work (NO I didn't!) and being able to spend more time with my parents. I felt like I was just getting into the swing of my new life when Covid hit. It's sure been a different and often challenging time! I've tried to keep myself occupied with things like walking, knitting, doing puzzles, cooking etc but I think it's made me realise that it's ok just to let life happen and go with the flow.

Brief music history: I don't come from a particularly musical family. My nan was Welsh and I remember her singing in Welsh choirs. I could always carry a tune and at school I was in the choir or the annual musical and I did elective music until 4th form. I learnt piano and am grateful that it taught me to read music. When I started teaching, I always took the choirs and played the piano at assembly but I never actually sang for myself. Coming along to the Bellas programme was the first time I really got involved in singing.

Chorus roles: I first joined the management team in 2016 as a chorus representative. When Lyn decided to travel overseas, I took over from her as membership co-ordinator and have done the role ever since.

Favourite song: There are so many great songs that we sing but I think I have 2 stand outs. The first is 'Everything'. As a bass there are a LOT of 'dn dns' but I just love the song as a whole. My other favourite is 'Shelter'. It just encapsulates so much of what we aspire to as a nation and singing it on Australia Day in Parramatta Park, seeing all the faces from around the world, really brings the message home in a tangible way.

Best times: Once again, I think that out of so many amazing experiences that I've had with CKC, I can probably choose 2 memorable moments. The first was sitting in the auditorium in Perth in 2017 waiting for the contest scores to be announced. We knew that we were vying for a place in Harmony Classic but most of us didn't know what score we needed. Vicki and Di were on the stage and when the score was announced, Di leant into the announcer and double checked the score. When Vicki leapt into the air, I think we all knew it was what we needed. So much excitement and anticipation! The second had to be going to St Louis. The whole time from start to finish was just the best. It's hard to find the words to adequately describe it.

What has CKC done for me?: I've never been a very confident person and having to put myself out there has been an enormous learning curve and boost to my confidence. I've learnt so much, done so much and met the most special women.

My message: I guess that during these times, to me, it's even more important to be kind to ourselves. We're so out of our comfort zones and as women, we're so used to handling things and making things better for those around us. We have to realise that it's ok to feel unmotivated at times and to accept that we're all struggling in some way, but things will get better. We'll come through the other side and then, when we're together again, how wonderful will that be?!

TEAM COORDINATOR REPORT 2019

2019 was a busy year for Circular Keys Chorus as we reflected on our achievements in the 2018 International Harmony Classic competition and started preparation for our next regional competition. What an exciting time as we worked hard on our skills and on our new competition songs in preparation for Hobart 2020. Building on friendships and teamwork, we continued to move forward, embrace opportunities and support each other, becoming a stronger musical chorus, proud of our achievements and ready to shine.

2019 saw a change in the management team with a new Team Coordinator, a new Finance Manager, a new Secretary and a new Performance Coordinator. I have been blessed to have worked with such a strong united team from our first meeting. It is clear that each and every member of your CKC Management Team has CKC's best interests at heart. Sue Gray, our Financial Manager who stepped in to take over from Deborah Martin after many years, has done an admirable job managing CKC finances. Pippa Anderson keeps all our discussions documented in the minutes and Jen Senior, continues to excel looking after our membership. A big thanks to Diane Jenkins, who stepped in to take over PR after Kate Hawkins resigned from the team. Sharon Sullivan did a wonderful job with community and performance opportunities. Susan Kelly has been a wonderful committee member, willing to put her hand up to support the rest of us where she can. And our Fundraising coordinator, Lyn Howells, who although unable to come to our meetings, continued to work hard and raise

funds throughout the year. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with this amazing team, and I thank you for your time and effort.

The biggest thank you must go to our wonderful Director, Vicki Dwyer. I am sure everyone in CKC feels lucky to have you as our director. Your enthusiasm, talent and passion for teaching us to become better singers week after week is infectious and greatly appreciated. Your subtle approach to teaching us all music theory does not go unnoticed, and it is truly appreciated.

To all the CKC members, I want to thank you for your support and all your contributions to chorus activities, including attending rehearsals and performances, supporting our fundraising and social activities, and generally being willing to chip in and help whenever you are asked. You are core to making CKC as wonderful as it is. Without each and every one of you, CKC would not be the same.

Moving on to 2020. Who would have predicted the start of 2020 and the arrival of COVID-19, that would become a global pandemic and change chorus life for far longer than anyone could have anticipated?

In true CKC style, we have all adapted to Zoom rehearsals and keeping COVID safe. Whilst I know we all long for the day when we can sing together in the same rehearsal space, I thank you all for continuing to attend the rehearsals regularly and participate in the virtual performances. It certainly shows the strength of the spirit of CKC.

I look forward to what 2021 will bring – hopefully the COVID situation continues to decline in Australia and as restrictions ease, we can find a way to safely sing together. Vicki has a number of ideas about how we can do this, and the management team discusses it regularly. Our main concern is the safety of you, the members. We don't want to put anyone at risk, but rest assured when there is a safe way forward, we will sing together again.

Thanks again everyone,

Carol Lutz

Team Coordinator.

THE FINANCIAL WORLD OF CIRCULAR KEYS CHORUS - 2019 POTTED EDITION

In the absence of a formal AGM this year, this sets out to provide a statement of the financial year for CKC for 2019 (also known as life as we knew it.....).

Over the year our income exceeded our operating expenses, so we closed out 2019 with a profit of roughly \$7,500 – largely on the back of the fabulous fundraising and three performances (remember them?) and our membership fees for the year.

Unfortunately, we received no grants for 2019, but our membership drive netted us \$2,595.36

FUNDRAISING

Bunnings BBQ	\$1,366.65
Garage Sale	\$2,148.40
Trivia Night	\$1,420.65
Cake Stall	\$664.40
No More Plastic	\$560.00
General Fund Raising	\$1,238.00
Entertainment Books	\$238.00
Donations	\$310.00
TOTAL	\$7,946.10

PERFORMANCE

Australia Day	\$1,500.00
Sydney Harmony Concert	\$1,000.00
Carols In the City	\$900.00
Cotswolds (Bunch of Keys)	\$100.00
	\$3,500.00
Entry Fee	-\$100.00
Sydney Eisteddfod Prize	-\$200.00
	-\$300.00
TOTAL	\$3,200.00

FEES

Fees	35,516.80
SAI Membership	-6,399.64
SAA Membership	-3,953.00
TOTAL	25,164.16

Expense wise, our biggest expenditure remained focussed on the education and coaching of the Chorus in preparation for the now “non event” Hobart Convention 2020. We had a number of coaching sessions over the year, one Skills Advancement weekend retreat following the Superheroes membership drive and two sessions with the fabulous Ann Downton.

OPERATING EXPENSES

St Joseph's Room Hire	\$7,740.92
Director Honorarium	\$7,685.00
Director Convention Expenses	\$1,953.51
Licences & Insurance	\$1,479.90
Music Admin	\$1,045.31
Costumes (Fabric)	\$614.40
SAI Longevity Pins	\$422.91
Misc Expenses	\$1,270.93
TOTAL	\$22,212.88

COACHING

Di Huber Coaching	\$1,873.82
Di Huber Airfare	\$1,031.25
Ann Downton Airfare	\$932.00
Ann Downton Coaching May	\$1,341.61
Ann Downton Airfare May	\$1,108.91
Ann Downton Coaching Nov	\$1,489.22
Linda Keever Coaching Airfare (shared)	\$187.50
Glenda Lloyd Coaching	\$1,013.50
Jan Carley Coaching	\$1,051.03
Coaching Gifts	\$28.90
TOTAL	\$10,057.74

CKC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 1 JAN 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019

<u>INCOME 2019</u>		
Bank Interest (net of fees)	918.03	
Bunnings BBQ	1,366.65	
Cake Stall	664.40	
Donations	310.00	
Entertainment Books	238.00	
Escrow	2,744.85	
Fees	32,525.00	
Fund Raising	1,238.00	
Garage Sale	2,148.40	
Harmony Classic Washup	21.41	
Membership Drive	2,595.36	
No More Plastic	560.00	
Performance	3,200.00	
Prospective fees	247.00	
SAA Membership	-3,953.00	
SAI Membership	-6,399.64	
Trivia Night	1,420.65	39,845.11
<u>EXPENDITURE 2019</u>		
CKC Bling Transfers	-1,030.86	
CKC Receipt Books	-41.88	
Coaching Airfares	-3,072.16	
Coaching Fees	-6,956.68	
Coaching Gifts	-28.90	
Costumes	-614.4	
Director Honorarium	-7,685.00	
Hobart Convention (Director Expenses)	-1,953.51	
Insurance	-1,028.21	
Membership & Licences	-451.69	
Music Expenses	-1,045.31	
Name Badges	-219.60	
Room Hire	-7,740.92	
SAI Pins	-422.91	-32,292.03
<u>BALANCE</u>		7,553.08

Our Westpac Bank accounts have closed 2019 :

<u>Westpac Balances 31 Dec 2019</u>	
Transaction Acc	18,662.60
Cash Reserve	22,035.34
Term Deposit	37,956.74
	78,654.68

And here we are in 2020, the year we would all most likely want to forget.....

Going forward to 2020, we were in a good position financially. Who knew that come March we would all be in a new working landscape and some of our members would unfortunately no longer be employed, plus we moved our rehearsals to Zoom. Our financial standing gave us the opportunity to assist some of our members by reducing our fees in the short term even though the only expense we have not incurred going forward is the room hire at St Josephs

We also made the decision to increase our Director Honorarium in recognition of the extra work Vicki does to continue our rehearsals via Zoom – and what a brilliant job she does! We have also had two major projects for both “Stronger” and “Something’s Coming” which we had not budgeted for but were both necessary to keep the Chorus together.

The \$1,000 grant from Mental Health NSW meant we could open our doors for a free short workshop which saw a number of friends and family join us to live the CKC experience.

With the massive assistance of Susan Kelly, we are currently moving our accounts from Admin Bandit to Xero which should make the whole management of CKC Finances a whole lot easier. I am acutely aware that the CKC website is not up to date with where our member fees have been paid up to. To do this takes time and this is not time I currently have with the long hours and weekends I have been required to do for my paid job. If anyone is available to help me out once a month to update these for me, please reach out.

The full accounts for 2019 and potentially 2020 will be presented at our next formal AGM.

Sue Gray
Finance Manager

PERFORMANCE REPORT

2019 Summary

The City of Sydney Christmas in the City performances and Parramatta Council Australia Day performance have been a solid event in the CKC calendar for the past several years.

These performances have been a valuable income stream of around \$3,000 per annum. The timing of these opportunities in a normal year is also important, as it does not interfere with preparation for competition.

Thank you to all CKC members who participated, submitted risers and did a fantastic job at these events.

2020 Summary

With options for in person singing and performances in hiatus, looking for alternative ways to supplement income will be important moving to 2021. Identifying and applying for grants in 2021 will be on the radar.

Sharon Sullivan

Performance Chair

Other state of the nation reports will be presented at the rehearsal tonight.



Check you emails from Sweet Adelines Australia for full details – I got mine on the 15th November.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTE

It is time for the membership of Sweet Adelines International to elect three members who will serve three-year terms on the International Board of Directors beginning May 1, 2021. The 2020 election of International Board of Directors members for the 2021-2024 term will be conducted electronically.

Each Chapter President/Team Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that her chapter casts its vote by the December 2, 2020, 3:00 p.m. Central Time deadline.

So that I can cast CKC's vote, we will run an anonymous poll at our rehearsal on 18th November to collect your votes and then we will submit CKC's vote to SAI.

In the poll, you will need to select your 3 preferred candidates from:

- Sharon Cartwright
Vocalescence Chorus
Region 34
12-year member
- Annika Dellås
Rönninge Show Chorus
Region 32
34-year member
- Elaine Hamilton
Forth Valley Chorus
Region 31
30-year member
- Janice McKenna
Pacific Sound Chorus
Region 13
39-year member
- Julie Starr
Bay Area Showcase Chorus
Region 12
31-year member