



Secret Chorus Business

December 10th, 2025

RESPECT EXCELLENCE COMMITMENT EDUCATION FUN

This week's rehearsal will be in the **Pacifica Room** and our songs will be:

- ❖ Christmas Repertoire - see website

Please wear your name badge ☺

Friendly reminders about attending rehearsals:

- 1. When you arrive, make sure you sign at reception.*
- 2. Be ready on the risers at 7.30pm sharp.*
- 3. We need to have vacated St Josephs by 11pm. Please leave quietly so that other guests are not disturbed.*
- 4. Please think of your chorus sisters and keeping them safe from any illness. Please consider wearing a mask and/or sitting off the risers.*

WHAT'S NEW

Congratulations to Betty – 25 Years

Congratulations to Betty for her 25 years of membership with Sweet Adelines International, many of those years as a member of CKC. Betty has contributed in many ways as a chorus member: she is a strong singer and performer and has sung different voice parts in choruses and quartets; she has been and is currently a member of the Management and Music Teams and was Visual Team leader for many years; Betty is always willing to help eager and keen performers to reach their potential; and she's also a lot of fun!

Congratulations Betty and thank you for singing with us for so many years – we miss you and hope you are back with us soon.



Star of the Week

Congratulations to Kath who is our Star of the Week. Kath dedicates much of her time and many of her skills to support and promote CKC: she writes articles, website content, caters for coaches on workshop days and takes care of costumes. Kath recently wrote an article for OzChords about CKC's time in Columbus, completing and submitting this while she was still travelling. Another article describing our success in Columbus and our recruitment drives in 2026 appeared recently in the *Galston Glenorie & Hills Rural Community News*. Kath, you are a star – thank you for everything you do for Circular Keys!

Organza Gift Bags

Alison Anderson has offered to contribute earrings to our charity Mum's Pack for The Wash House (see Christmas Charity below). We would like some organza bags to put these in – if you have any in very good condition please bring them to rehearsal this week. Thank you 😊

Bunnings BBQ Saturday 27th December: McGraths Hill

Crystal has secured a Bunnings BBQ date on Saturday 27th December which will be an extra profitable fundraiser because Bunnings is supplying sausages and onions as an incentive. Please remember that this fundraiser is at McGraths Hill Bunnings: 264-272 Windsor Rd. We would love more hands to lighten the load, so if you are available, please sign up for this event by emailing Crystal. Thank you to all those who have already volunteered and an extra special thank you to our Ooter Vicki S:

❖ 8am - 11am

Carol Ian Jen K Jenny Do Crystal

❖ 11am - 1pm

Deb Anne H Jen S David S Kaye

❖ 1pm - 4pm

Kath Ware Vicki Sutton David Spring

2026

The Management Team is already planning for 2026, and it's time to get excited! More details are to follow but just to give you the heads up that membership growth, fun performances and celebrations will feature next year:

- ❖ 2026 – CKC turns 30!
- ❖ Membership drive: 18th Feb to 25th March: we will be focussing on a new song and Almost There (aka 'The Frog Song') – watch out for social media and other promotions starting in January and share these with your communities
- ❖ We are working on fun performances for all members including prospective members

Christmas Charity

Last year we chose a Christmas Charity to donate toys to a local charity for children in lieu of giving each other gifts. This was a great success for both our members and the charity, and we plan to do this again this year. Below is the email that Jen K sent earlier today – thanks for organising this Jen!

Similar to last year, for good will in the community from the Chorus, and as an option to not having to give gifts to each other at our Christmas Party on Wed 17th December, we've approached Wash House at Mt Druit, who aim to improve the quality of life of women and their children by reducing the impact of poverty, social disadvantage and violence.

They have requested Christmas toys for the children - for both girls and boys between 5-16 years old. And also this year as an alternative 'Mum Packs' that the kids can give their Mums for Christmas. Think health, toiletries and beauty.

All gifts need to be new, unwrapped and can include books too. Members can bring big and small donations.

I'll bring some big sacks that we can fill on the night, and I can drop it off on Sat 20th December to Wash House.

Thanks everyone!

Jen K

RECAPS AND UPDATES

City of Sydney Xmas Performance Dates

We have **FOUR** Christmas performances booked with City of Sydney – please put these dates in your diary now and mark your attendance on the website. Three more to go:

- ❖ Friday 12 December, 6:00pm - 8:00pm at Martin Place
- ❖ Saturday 20 December, 6:00pm - 8:00pm at Customs House
- ❖ Tuesday 23 December, 6:00pm - 8:00pm at Customs House

Thank you to Crystal for securing these dates for us so that we can raise funds and do what we love to do – perform for audiences!

Christmas Party

The date of our Christmas Party and last rehearsal of the year is December 17th. The Social and Hospitality teams will need some help setting up on the night, so please arrive early to help. If you have any larger easily transportable Christmas decorations that we could use, please let Kaye, Jess and Spring know. St Joseph's/Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre have confirmed the Pacifica room for that date

- ❖ Finger food to share
- ❖ Basses and Leads: please bring savoury items to share
- ❖ Baris and Tenors: please bring sweet items to share
- ❖ BYO drinks
- ❖ BYO table decorations
- ❖ BYO plates, glasses and cutlery
- ❖ There will be a few fun games and plenty of time to relax and enjoy each other's company
- ❖ Attire: Christmassy if you like, and not if you don't!

It will be a fun night of games, socialising and celebrating together.

Thrive Visit with Bec Hewitt

Bec will be leading us in a Thrive visit on January 21st during our regular rehearsal time. When this event goes up on the website, please mark your attendance as soon as possible so that we can assess how many will be attending. Thrive is about building the non-singing strengths of our chorus, and this will be an area of focus for 2026. More information on Thrive can be found on the Sweet Adelines website here: <https://sweetadelines.com/thrive>

PLEASE MARK YOUR ATTENDANCE ON THE WEBSITE FOR THIS EVENT ASAP

Wednesday 28th January 2026 – No Rehearsal

There will be no rehearsal on Wednesday 28th January – the Music and Management Teams will be having a joint planning session.

Hospitality Roster

Thank you, Hospitality Team! We love your great suppers – they are delicious and give us the opportunity to wind down and socialise after rehearsal

December:

10th - Rehearsal Marea Witt, Sue Rosenblum and Cathy Horner

17th - Christmas Party All team to help with set up and clean up

Thank You to our Anonymous Donors – continuing to thank you with all our hearts



If you notice any missing or incorrect information in the Secret Chorus Business, please let Rachael know – thank you 😊



CKC COMMITTEES AND TEAMS 2025-6

Thank you for the time and energy you spend supporting our chorus

Committee	Team Leader	Team Members
Hospitality	Kaye K	Jenny D, Marea W, Anne H, Deb W, Mon W, Cathy H
Fundraising	Sue G and Sue R	Crystal F, Deb W, Frances G, Linda VA
Rehearsal Equipment	Kaye K	Anne T, Spring Z, Cheryl W
Coach Coordination	Kath W	Pippa A, Vicki D

Marketing	Jen K	Jen S, Philippa T, Kath W
Photobucket	Ursula H	Anne T
Website		Carol L (Webmaster), Kath W (Public Pages), Sue G
Costumes	Kath W	Jen K, Vicki D, Jessi F
Social Committee		Jessi F, Spring Z, Sue G
Makeup	Kaity D	Vicki D, Courtney CD,
Physical Warm-Ups	Courtney CD	Jess F, Betty F, Sue R

Management Team

- ❖ Musical Director: Vicki Dwyer
- ❖ Team Co-ordinator: Rachael Moessis
- ❖ Finance Manager: Susan Kelly
- ❖ Secretary: Anne Harris
- ❖ Public Relations Co-Ordinator: Jen Kumar
- ❖ Performance Co-Ordinator: Crystal Forbes
- ❖ Membership Chair: Frances Gurto
- ❖ Appointed Member: Diane Jenkins
- ❖ Appointed Member: Betty Fuller
- ❖ Appointed Member: Anne Thompson

Music Team

- ❖ Musical Director: Vicki Dwyer
- ❖ Assistant Musical Director: Diane Jenkins
- ❖ Bass Section Leaders: Jenny Do Rozario, Betty Fuller
- ❖ Baritone Section Leader: Kaity Dwyer
- ❖ Lead Section Leaders: Rachael Moessis, Susan Kelly
- ❖ Tenor Section Leader: Diane Jenkins

If there are teams or team members missing from the lists above, please let Rachael know

Member Birthdays



- ❖ Frances Gurto December 8
- ❖ Crystal Forbes December 20
- ❖ Jeny Do Rozario January 21
- ❖ Courtney Churchward January 24

Member Leave

Are you planning on taking holidays or unable to attend rehearsal? If so, please email absence@circularkeys.org

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



- ❖ Sue Gray returning 2026
- ❖ Kaity Dwyer 12th November 2025 -11th March 2026
- ❖ Courtney Churchward 12th November 2025 – 11th March 2026
- ❖ Heather Baeza – date of return unknown
- ❖ Betty Fuller – date of return unknown

Remember that our rehearsals are streamed on our Circular Keys-On Key Facebook page and are saved there, so if you do need to miss a rehearsal, you can watch at home or catch up later – also a great way to review any content to consolidate your learning.

Diary Dates 2025

2025	
Fri 12 th Dec 6-8pm	Performance: City of Sydney: Christmas repertoire: Martin Place
Wed 17 th Dec 7:30pm	Christmas Party
Sat 20 th Dec 6-8pm	Performance: City of Sydney: Christmas repertoire: Customs House
Tues 23 rd Dec 6-8pm	Performance: City of Sydney: Christmas repertoire: Customs House
Sat 27 th Dec 8am-4pm	Fundraiser: Bunnings BBQ: McGraths Hill
2026	
Wed 21 st Jan 7:30pm	Thrive visit with Bec Hewitt
Wed 28 th Jan 7:30pm	No rehearsal. Combined Music and Management Teams planning session and Susan K's house
Wed 18 th Feb 7:30pm	Membership Drive start date
Fri 20 th Feb 7:30pm	Management Team meeting: Anne H's house
Wed 29 th July 7:30pm	Coaching: Nikki Blackmer (supported by SAA) TBC

Chorus Fine Print

SUGGESTION BOX

Have a suggestion you want to raise? Send it to suggestionbox@circularkeys.org

This email has been set up so that it is sent to the Team Coordinator. All suggestions will be discussed by the Management Team.

Please remember to send your suggestions with kindness – it makes it easier for the Management Team to receive them with kindness.

ABOUT THE STAR OF THE WEEK

Any member of the chorus can nominate someone who has gone above and beyond, who has personally helped you, who has made a special difference or contribution to the Chorus or who has tried extra hard.

There are many other positive attributes that can be recognized with this award. To nominate a member, simply email Frances Gurto (fgurto@gmail.com) with the member's name and short description as to why you would like to nominate them. If no nominations are received, the star will not be awarded.

CKC FEE INFORMATION

Circular Keys Chorus charges an annual fee to cover the costs of venue hire for rehearsals and coaching sessions, Director's Honorarium, International and Regional fees, costumes, insurance and other costs related to running an organisation, music and learning tracks, promotional materials such as banners ... and more. As you can see, not all of these expenses are related to running rehearsals, which is why we pay every month including the weeks we do not rehearse (eg Christmas/January break).

The annual fee is broken up into 12 equal payments of \$60 per month. It can be paid annually (\$720), quarterly (\$180), or on another regular basis (always in multiples of \$60 please), but it needs to be paid in advance for a member to be in good standing. These fees are also payable even if you are not attending rehearsals, and if a member is taking leave, fees should still be paid in advance so that membership is maintained. This is because all our costs remain the same, whether or not individual members are attending.

If paying your fees slips your mind, add it to your diary, or set up direct debit so that the fees are paid when due. If you do forget your fees and the Finance Manager reminds you, please pay the outstanding amount promptly. Remember that the Finance Manager is a volunteer, and we need to be considerate of her time by paying our fees regularly and by responding to her requests promptly and with courtesy.

CHORUS PAYMENTS

Please be advised that EFT should be used for your payments to chorus. Please contact our Finance Manager if you need further details, or if you have an issue that prevents you from paying using EFT.

Make sure you include your relevant information in the reference field so the finance team knows who the payment is from and what it is for.

CKC Bank Account Details for online payments:

Westpac Bank: BSB: 032170

Account Number: 273702

Account Name: Circular Keys Chorus Incorporated

RISER ETIQUETTE

Just a friendly reminder about riser etiquette: riser etiquette is an important part of showing respect to our fellow members and our Musical Director, Coach, Leaders, or any person who is addressing the chorus. It is always important, but is extra important when we have a coach

- ❖ Pay close attention to the person out the front
- ❖ Do not make comments or suggestions unless you are specifically asked to do so
- ❖ Raise your hand if you have a question
- ❖ Focus on learning

- ❖ Do not chat with other members when the Director or Coach is working with another section – it is distracting and can make it difficult to hear
- ❖ Refrain from phone use unless it is related to chorus work – if you need to use your phone for other reasons please step off the risers and leave the room

Thank you for remembering our top value – **RESPECT** 🙏

CKC STOREROOM

The CKC storeroom at St Joseph's is under the care of the Costume Coordinator (Kath W) and the Fundraising Coordinator (Crystal F). If you need to access the storeroom, please contact one of them first – they'll be able to help you with what you need. If you are planning to visit St Joseph's for any reason (eg to work in the storeroom or the kitchen) outside of rehearsal times for any length of time, please contact St Joseph's to make sure that it is convenient for them. Whenever you visit, please remember to check in with Reception staff on your arrival and sign the visitors book so that have a record of who is in the building. Thank you 😊

NEW MISSION STATEMENT

Our new Mission Statement is based on the work on values that Diane Jenkins did with the chorus during 2024-2025. The values that were prioritised by the chorus members were: Respect, Excellence, Commitment, Education and Fun. The Management Team believes that this new Mission Statement incorporates these values. Many thanks to Crystal who got the ball rolling on this project. The new mission statement is:

'We unite through music, creating a harmonious space where voices blend, friendships grow, and artistry thrives'

OUR VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Values: Respect – Excellence – Commitment – Education - Fun

Guiding Principles

Respect

We foster respect through kindness, inclusivity, and commitment. By listening, supporting, and valuing each other, we create a welcoming space where every voice matters and we grow together.

Excellence

Excellence is commitment in action—showing up, pushing boundaries, and striving for growth. With focus, passion, and unity, we rehearse, perform, and lead with purpose, always raising the bar for ourselves and each other.

Commitment

Commitment is being present, prepared, and engaged. It's taking responsibility, supporting the team, and embracing every opportunity to grow, contribute, and create success together.

Education

Education is a lifelong journey. With curiosity, dedication, and an open mind, we embrace challenges, learn from experience, and grow together.

Fun

We unite through singing, performing, and laughter—celebrating friendship, music, and fun as we grow and create joy together

COPYRIGHT

Circular Keys Chorus pays for the copyright of our sheet music, and membership of CKC entitles us to access this sheet music. Visitors and prospective members are not entitled to receive copies. We do have Visitors books which have copies of our current repertoire for use during rehearsals – these folders remain the property of CKC and must not be taken home by non-members.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

We celebrate our members' birthdays at the end of each month, and we want you to know how much we cherish each one of you by singing happy birthday and sharing a cake together. Thank you to the Hospitality Team and our amazing bakers who make this happen.

We won't celebrate special birthdays because we don't know when they are coming up and members can be hurt if their special day isn't remembered. We are sorry that some of our precious members have been upset by this, although intentions were well meaning.

At each birthday celebration, a special hat or a tiara will be available for anyone to wear if they have a special birthday that month, so that we can share the special occasion with you.

No other special celebrations will occur during chorus time.

RETURN AND EARN

A Return and Earn account has been set up for the chorus for fundraising, so remember to keep your plastic and glass bottles, aluminium cans and some tetra packs aside for our Return and Earn. Compatible items have 10c marked on the packaging. Remember **not to crush** your eligible items. You can deposit them at a depot using the barcode below and at the end of the newsletter. You can take a screenshot of the barcode to use at the depot. If you prefer, you can print the barcode. If you are not a big consumer of drinks yourself, why not ask your friends, family, colleagues, church group etc. to give you their empty bottles?

How to Return and Earn:

<https://youtu.be/OYDROMQIDbU>

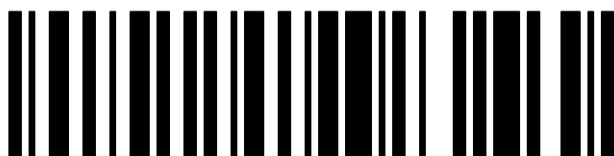
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=966272033522727>

Return and Earn Location Points:

<https://returnandearn.org.au/map/>

Hi Circular Keys Chorus!

Ready to recycle?



Scan your barcode at the machine