



# Secret Chorus Business

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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*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.*

*Wishing everyone a safe, relaxing and happy Christmas with family and loved ones.*

*Thank you to everyone for everything big and small that you did for CKC this year, too many to mention! Together we achieved amazing things: outstanding results at BHA Eastern Region; a fun and fabulous concert in Richmond; Xmas flashmobs and gigs; and a stunning performance on the international stage in Columbus which amazed our audience. And along the way we learnt and laughed a lot and made new friends along the way. What a fantastic year!*

*Rest up and get ready for another great year in 2026!*

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## WHAT'S NEW

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### Congratulations Deb

Many congratulations to Deb for her first public performance singing with CKC – we hope you had a lot of fun and that there are many more ahead!

### Star of the Week

Our Star of the Week this week is Anne Harris. Congratulations Anne and thank you for your calm and kind nature, your enduring dedication to CKC and for being the host with the most by sharing your beautiful home for our Management Team meetings. Anne, you are a star!



### Christmas Party

The date of our Christmas Party and last rehearsal of the year is December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## 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***

## Bunnings BBQ Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December: McGraths Hill

Crystal has secured a Bunnings BBQ date on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 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: 18<sup>th</sup> Feb to 25<sup>th</sup> 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

# 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:

- ❖ 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!

## Thrive Visit with Bec Hewitt

Bec will be leading us in a Thrive visit on January 21<sup>st</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – No Rehearsal

There will be no rehearsal on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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:

10<sup>th</sup> - Rehearsal Marea Witt, Sue Rosenblum and Cathy Horner

17<sup>th</sup> - 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*

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Team Leader</b>	<b>Team Members</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Kaye K	Jenny D, Marea W, Anne H, Deb W, Mon W, Cathy H
<b>Fundraising</b>	Sue G and Sue R	Crystal F, Deb W, Frances G, Linda VA
<b>Rehearsal Equipment</b>	Kaye K	Anne T, Spring Z, Cheryl W
<b>Coach Coordination</b>	Kath W	Pippa A, Vicki D
<b>Marketing</b>	Jen K	Jen S, Philippa T, Kath W
<b>Photobucket</b>	Ursula H	Anne T
<b>Website</b>		Carol L (Webmaster), Kath W (Public Pages), Sue G
<b>Costumes</b>	Kath W	Jen K, Vicki D, Jessi F
<b>Social Committee</b>		Jessi F, Spring Z, Sue G
<b>Makeup</b>	Kaity D	Vicki D, Courtney CD,
<b>Physical Warm-Ups</b>	Courtney CD	Jess F, Betty F, Sue R

## Management Team

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- ❖ Musical Director: Vicki Dwyer
- ❖ Team Co-ordinator: Rachael Moëssis
- ❖ 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

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- ❖ 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

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- ❖ Crystal Forbes December 20
- ❖ Jeny Do Rozario January 21
- ❖ Courtney Churchward January 24
- ❖ Rachael Moessis February 9
- ❖ Sue Rosenblum February 21

## Member Leave

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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, Team Coordinator, Membership and the Music Team are all notified at the same time.**

- ❖ Sue Gray returning 2026
- ❖ Kaity Dwyer 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 -11<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- ❖ Courtney Churchward 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 11<sup>th</sup> 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

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2025	
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7:30pm	Christmas Party
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 6-8pm	Performance: City of Sydney: Christmas repertoire: Customs House
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 6-8pm	Performance: City of Sydney: Christmas repertoire: Customs House
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec 8am-4pm	Fundraiser: Bunnings BBQ: McGraths Hill
2026	
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan 7:30pm	Thrive visit with Bec Hewitt
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan 7:30pm	<b>No rehearsal.</b> Combined Music and Management Teams planning session at Susan K's house: 66 Carmen Dr, Carlingford
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 7:30pm	Membership Drive start date
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 7:30pm	Management Team meeting: Anne H's house
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> July 7:30pm	Coaching: Nikki Blackmer (supported by SAA) TBC

## Chorus Fine Print

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### SUGGESTION BOX

Have a suggestion you want to raise? Send it to [suggestionbox@circularkeys.org](mailto: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](mailto: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>

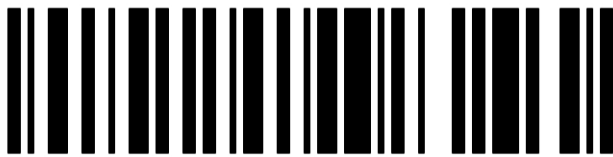
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=966272033522727>

**Return and Earn Location Points:**

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

Hi Circular Keys Chorus!

Ready to recycle?



Scan your barcode at the machine