

**Hi everyone** and welcome to choir for 2014! I trust you have had a restful Christmas break (yes we had Christmas a month ago) and happy turn of the New Year. This year brings many new things and I look forward to another fun and exciting time for us as a choir, as we learn new music, welcome new members and blend our talents together!

## **2013 STATISTICS**

You may be interested in the following data, based on our term-by-term sign-in sheets. This includes all 2013 members:

- Average member age: 56
- Gender: 9 male, 33 female
- Vocal parts: 17 soprano, 12 alto, 13 baritone
- Total number of attendees in 2013: 64
- Number of performances: 7
- Average performance attendance: 24

Thank you also to those of you who completed the 2013 Choir Survey – your feedback is greatly valued!

## **CHRISTMAS GIGS**

Congratulations on three great performances over Christmas – Glandore Community Carols, Lutheran Disability Services, and the Hackham West Christmas Party. As always we adapted to the conditions and brought joy to many people as we shared our music with them!

## **MEMBERS**

This term we anticipate to meet several new faces and learn new names. And as you well know, the first experience is always an impressionable one. Can I please encourage you to volunteer to be a 'buddy' to any new singers in your section – simply being a friendly face, directing them to a seat and supporting with sheet music when needed.

*This newsletter has quite a bit of information for you to take in. Please take the time to read this information carefully so that you are informed.*

**2014 DATES & FEES**

Our first rehearsal for this year will be **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**. Please note that the fee schedule has changed, depending on the term joined:

|        |      |
|--------|------|
| Term 1 | \$90 |
| Term 2 | \$75 |
| Term 3 | \$50 |
| Term 4 | \$35 |

So that means, if you join in Term 1 the cost is \$90 for the year. This equates to approximately \$3/week which you would agree is very affordable! That said, please chat to choir treasurer Jen Gilbert if you would prefer to pay in instalments.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM**

To both new and existing members, please ensure you complete a NEW membership form, as the form has changed. You can find this on the website or in hard copy at rehearsal.

**ASSISTING ROLES**

To improve choir logistics, we have appointed the following roles. These people are your first point of call and will be able to assist you should you have any queries in these areas:

| ROLE                            | NAME/S                         | DESCRIPTION  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Secretary                       | Christine O'Brien              | Membership forms (incl. changes of information), name tags, weekly sign-in sheet, member birthdays |
| Librarian                       | Jen Gilbert, Christine O'Brien | Sheet music allocation and collection  |
| Treasurer                       | Jen Gilbert                    | Record fee payments, issue receipts, deposit funds   |
| Performances                    | Sally Hyam, Larissa Bailey     | Assist with performance bookings   |
| Choir events (eg choir parties) | Sandra Morrison                | Organizational assistance  |

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR THE NEW YEAR

I would like to remind you about several things before we launch into the new choir year:

**Rehearsals** – a reminder that we start at 7:00pm sharp with 15 minutes of warm ups followed by a short 'admin spot'. It is important that we adhere to these times so that we can maximize our rehearsal time. Please make every effort to arrive on time, but if you arrive late please take your seat quickly and understand that you may need to catch up.

**Sheet Music** – Sheet music is allocated to financial members only, using a numerical system. Please remember that your music is the property of Vocalize Choir and must be returned on request. If you lose your copy please notify the librarians.

**Pencils** – you are encouraged to mark your scores in pencil. Can you please come prepared with a pencil to every rehearsal.

**Recalling music** – can you please return ALL existing sheet music at the next rehearsal, as we will be starting new repertoire.

**Performance uniform** – I would like to 'neaten' this up a bit as the interpretation is broadening and I would like us to present with more consistency. The performance uniform is *black with a touch of orange* – that is, predominantly black (ie, black pants, shirt, dress, skirt) with one orange accessory (tie, scarf, small hairpiece). This will be streamlined in the future to be black with either a tie or a scarf which we will supply. We will also look further into choir folders and will update you on the options.

**Read your Newsletter** – Please ensure you take note of the details supplied to you in these newsletters (eg dates, times, repertoire, any special rehearsals). Time is taken to keep you informed so please do keep these details in mind to save unnecessary reminding or explaining. For those that do not have email, hard copies of the newsletter will be supplied at the sign-in table or posted home.

That's about all for now, I look forward to seeing you at our first rehearsal!

**Sing on!**

*Kerrie*