



We are back at Rehearsals



New Year: new songs, new members

Members were all delighted to catch up with each other again after our 6-week break over the Christmas/New Year period. It was great to see the return of some members who we haven't seen for a while - Scotty, Jan, Jen R. and Noreen - as well as to welcome two new members. We've also been enjoying having two visitors from Wiltshire in our midst at rehearsals - David and Doreen - who first saw the choir at our 2019 performance in the Concert Hall and vowed to catch up with the choir on a future visit to Perth.

Bernard has wasted no time in introducing the choir to some new songs to master: "Love is All Around" - do you remember The Troggs? And Anna's favourite, "The Tennessee Waltz". Our multilingual repertoire has extended to include the Italian folk song Santa Lucia; well, the first verse anyway.

It is great to see a continuing strong turnout to rehearsals and the first few weeks point to a lively year of singing and camaraderie.



Plenty of Christmas Cheer in this Choir

Our End of Year Christmas Party

Each year our Christmas Party gets bigger and better, better sound, bigger productions, better talent, bigger ensembles, the list goes on and on.

With a mixer and wireless microphones we have a safer way to present our items and in a way that no matter what the background noise, people can still hear every word. That was a huge bonus as this year we had wonderfully funny poems, a very unusual nativity play, songs and instruments. It is truly great to see the effort that goes into the presentations. Angela was in fine form with her poetry recitation, Beth had us all laughing loudly with her little poem about the 12 days of Christmas Turkey and we were all gobsmacked by the Nativity play lead by Harry Mithen with what seemed like a stellar cast. Who would have thought that our song repertoire could be woven into a nativity play so skillfully? Who would have thought that Mary and Joseph walked down "Country Roads" in the "Moonlight" to get to the stable? With two many songs to mention you will just have to put things together yourself.

Our lovely ladies "Ukulele Ladies" came with hula skirts and well, a ukulele. A beautiful rendition of "The Little Drummer Boy" came with drumming on a cardboard box and a parody song about getting older came with a lot of moves.

Once again we had WA Spit Roast catering for our members with a delicious main meal and scrumptious dessert, tea and coffee. There was so much food that everyone went home full and with a "doggy-bag" as well. Thanks to Amanda and Hayley for their wonderful preparation.

We were thrilled to have Craig (the Church Pastor) join us for lunch and once again thank the Church for so generously allowing us to use their premises.





Look who became a grandma on Christmas Day



Congratulations Jayne

Little Elena certainly is the best Christmas present you could have had. Weighing in at 7.25 Kgs she was quite the bundle. Doting Gran Jayne has been unable to tear herself away.



The Annual Matilda Bay SOS Choir Cricket Tournament.

The 2022 SOS Choir Cricket Match at Matilda Bay was held on Tuesday January 17 with a change of time to 10 am. The weather was perfect, blue sky and a gentle breeze and a temperature of twenty nine degrees Celsius as Bernard's Bashers and Dave's Demons faced off for a game to remember.

Harry Mithen was the umpire extraordinaire complete with orange score cards to help Scorer Eleanor along. There were plenty of controversial decisions and some dodgy scoring from Harry when he held the score card upside down to make a nine instead of a six. The rules of the game meant that no one got out, until they had their two overs bowled, instead a minus three off the team score was recorded. There was no leg before wicket but there seemed to be plenty of umpire before wicket when a wicket keeper tried to get someone out. Families and support people were welcome and it was lovely to see partners, support people and grandchildren joining in. The Choir members who were old hands at the game got right behind the new players and the younger grandchildren, becoming enthusiastic coaches.

The match was followed by a trophy presentation with the following awarded:

SOS Hard Hitter - Mark Britt
SOS High Catcher - Jaxson Kane
SOS Cricket Player with Golf Swing - Mark Cooper
SOS Best New Player - Robyn Collett
SOS Gents Most Unique Bowler - Andrew Hawkins
SOS Champion Umpire - Harry Mithen
SOS Ladies Most Unique Bowler - Poppy Merdi

Robyn and Tayla braved the jelly fish in the Swan River and had a delightful and cooling swim. Then it was time for a burger from the BBQ, birthday cake and fruit. Some people even enjoyed the Matilda Bay so much they stayed on when most people had left and sat drinking coffee and eating chocolate cake in the shade before going home.









Amanda turns 60

It was great fun to be able celebrate Amanda's 60th birthday with her at the Cricket match. Even though her birthday was the weekend before Amanda was still happily telling everyone she had just turned 60. Lucky Amanda had just returned from a three week holiday traveling through the South West with her sister and her son. She was telling us all how much she enjoyed it and how beautiful it was. Congratulations Amanda we thought you were only 45.

We also celebrated the January birthdays and say "Happy Birthday" Devo, Rose, Amanda, Jane, and Steve.

Diana thought she got away without a fuss for her 70th birthday in December but we caught up with her at the match and celebrated.



We're at the Concert Hall Again!

Spirit of the Streets Choir is pleased to announce we have been chosen to feature, along with two other Choirs in the first half of the *Born To Sing* Choral Festival at the Perth Concert Hall on June 11th, 2023.

Once again Martin Meader is putting together a 1000 Voice Choir like he did for the 1000 Voice Journey Home Choir for the Perth International Arts Festival in 2000. This time it will also feature a 250 piece Ukelele Orchestra. There will also be a 50 minute documentary called 1000 voices filmed promoting the mental and physical benefits of singing.

As some of you may know the Spirit of the Streets Choir has previously staged their own very successful Concerts at the Perth Concert Hall.

It is always a buzz for our members to be part of a big production and we are really looking for to participating.

A Member's Story

THEN

I was only 14 when I ran away from home. Life on the street was tough. Alcohol, drugs and mental health issues were a natural progression. Then came a broken marriage, stays in psychiatric wards and finally a hostel for people with mental health issues. I found myself referred to SOS Choir.

AND NOW

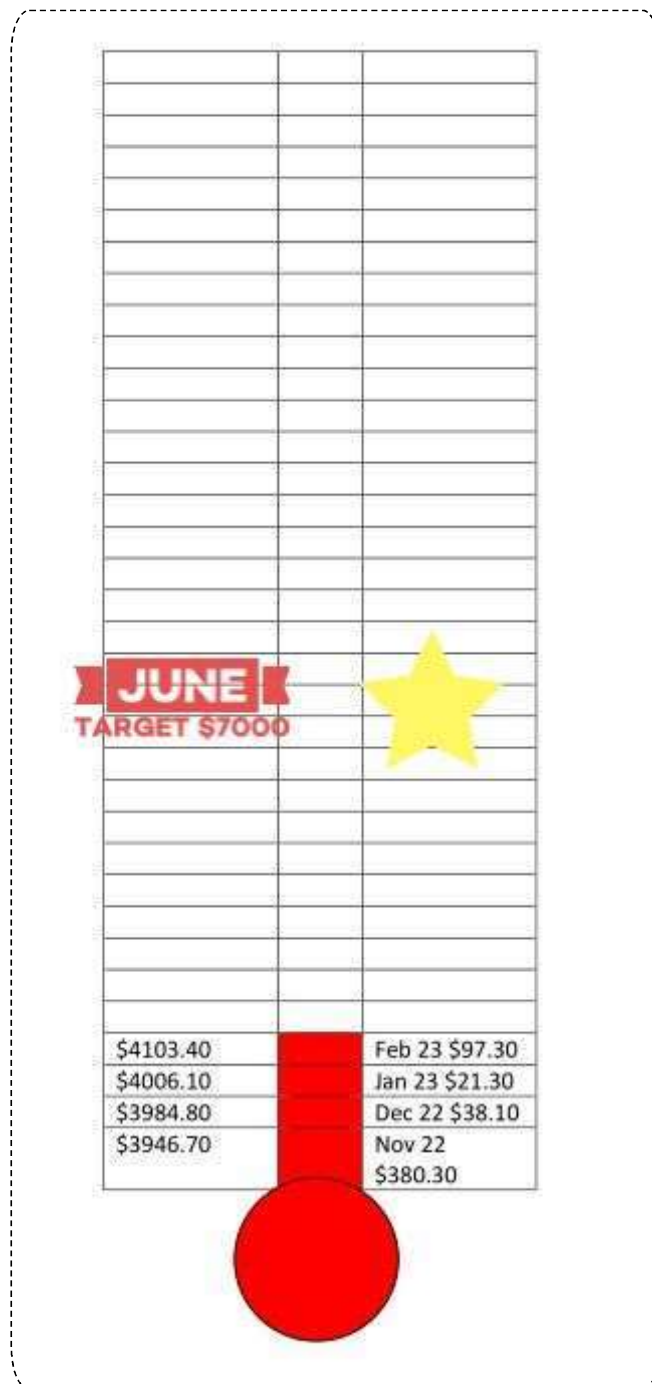
Now, many years later, I have been a member for many years and I love the camaraderie, support and friendship I have found. I am working again and with the help of great doctors, psychologists and friends I am doing well mentally. My physical health is shot as a result of my drugs, smoking and alcohol habits of the past but I continue on with a happy heart knowing that through the Choir I have always got someone to give me a hug, talk to and cheer me up. At rehearsals I give back by helping others and by singing and giving joy to the community.

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not published by Editor
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Congratulations Jane & John

Grinning from ear to ear Jane announced at the Cricket Match that she had become engaged and was off to Florida for four weeks with her new fiance. What a lovely surprise it was and we wish John and Jane a very happy future together. Whilst in America (John is a US resident) they caught the overnight train to Washington DC for a couple of days. It was mighty cold and snowed a little. They returned by car, which took almost a day to get to Florida which was warm. (16 - 26). Jane says " The trip was delightful and John has returned with me, until 18 April". Jane is currently studying Grad. Dip in Creative Art Therapies at Murdoch University and says she mentioned SOS Choir in her application as singing and the camaraderie of the choir really helped me through depression after her Mum's death.



The above graph shows how we are tracking with our Containers for Change Program since the introduction of our Containers for Change fundraising in October 2020 starting from November 2022.

Your Containers lodged under our scheme number help us reach over our targets and continue to help us help and entertain you. A

HUGE thank you to all of you who lodge containers against our scheme ID .C10337043.

Cash in those Cans, Bottles and Cartons



WHICH CONTAINERS CAN YOU CASH-IN?

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Most glass, plastic, aluminium, steel and paper-based cartons between 150mL and 3L.

The advertisement features a blue background with a green bar at the top containing a white checkmark and the text 'ELIGIBLE CONTAINERS'. Below this, a row of seven different types of containers is shown against a white background with a green border. The containers include a white carton, a silver can, a brown glass bottle, a smaller brown glass bottle, a clear plastic bottle, a white carton, and a clear plastic bottle. Below the row, the text reads 'Most glass, plastic, aluminium, steel and paper-based cartons between 150mL and 3L.' In the top right corner of the advertisement, there is a circular logo for 'CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE' with a green bar and a white checkmark.

Donate them via Containers for Change

to Spirit of the Streets Choir

Scheme Number C10337043

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Don't know where or how? Click the link below.

Where to Donate your empty Containers ? Click here!

Where do your donations go?

All donations are used for :

Uniforms

Insurances

Association fees

Computer and printing costs

Storage costs

Transport where public transport unavailable

Catering

Stipend for Choir Director

[**Click to Donate Personally Here**](#)

Come Sing and join the fun

at the Spirit of the Streets Choir

no auditions, inclusive and supportive



Each Tuesday from Mid-February to Mid-December

at Mountry - (Mt Hawthorn Baptist Church)

98 Hobart Street, Mt Hawthorn

1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

Contact :0409100868 Dot or 0420926929 Trish or
info.soschoir@gmail.com

Would you like to be in our next newsletter ?

Next quarter we are doing a new THEN and NOW segment.

This will feature a choir member's photo in a past period of their life and them now.

If you had an interesting past, let us know

send your photo and article to volunteering.soschoir@gmail.com

Don't forget to book

To make sure you don't miss out for your function our 2023 Booking Calendar is now open.
Call Eleanor on 0424019574 or press the Bookings button underneath to be directed to our booking information sheet and form.

[Click here to make Bookings](#)



**Thank you to our supporters,
for your kindness and generosity.**

Your support enables the Choir to make a real difference and to share the joy of
friendship and family, singing and music!

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We had so much fun this quarter with our Christmas Party , our Cricket match (cricket is not a dirty word to us) and getting back into rehearsals again on Valentines Day. Thank you to our members who contributed to articles.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and taking yet another journey with us. It is always a pleasure to be able to share our lives with you all. If you have a friend who might like to receive our newsletter they can subscribe by sending us an email : info.soschoir@gmail.com

Best wishes

Dot & Trish

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