

RSL RURAL COMMEMORATIVE YOUTH CHOIR, INC.



BEHIND THE LINES

PATRON: MRS HURLEY



NEWSLETTER - Monday, 13 February 2017

President's Report



Rhondda Vanzella OAM
President

The Choir year is well underway with registrations now open for 2017. I would like to welcome back our Choir Family members from last year and offer a warm welcome to those who are joining us for the first time. I would especially like to welcome our defence and veteran families. I am looking forward to meeting you and welcoming you in person.

This year is set to be another wonderful year of bringing music and history together to develop and inspire young leaders. We already have some exciting performances planned including our annual performance for the NSW War Widows Guild Field of Remembrance Service at St Andrews Cathedral. This will be the climax of our first Holiday Music and Leadership Camp held on Cockatoo Island during first term holidays.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our Choir Ambassadors for 2017. Georgia, Jacqui, Zoe, Josef and Mae. These five young people have shown positive personal growth and an ability to represent our Choir at High Profile events either as speakers or singers. Each Ambassador has demonstrated the ability to lead both in practices and performances and has shown a high level of achievement outside of the Choir. I trust, if you haven't already, you will get to meet them at events throughout the year.

I am also very happy to announce our new Ambassador in Training (AIT) Programme. This is a special membership programme offered to those young people who have shown good leadership and potential to represent the Choir. It is the young people who complete this programme from which we will choose our Ambassadors of the future.

To those of you who have already supported us this year, a sincere thank you! Your donations are an important way you can help us develop more young leaders. To give you an idea of where your donations will be used in the coming year, you will find a list of events and activities planned (so far) on the next page. Some of these projects can only be completed if we can raise enough funding. If you would like to support us you can send a cheque to "The Treasurer" at the address at the bottom of the page or you can go to the donate page of our website and donate online: <http://www.commemorativechoir.com/donate.html> For RSL Clubs and Sub-branches, don't forget we are a Tier 1 Organisation.

Do you have or know of someone who has a school aged young person who loves to sing/perform and would like to join us? Please feel free to send them to: <http://www.commemorativechoir.com/about.html> to find out more about the Choir and how they can join.

Rhondda Vanzella OAM, President - vanzellas@bigpond.com, 0427 019 754





Creative Director's Report

This year has already seen some exciting new improvements to the Choir with our Website upgrade being the most notable. I encourage you to go to: www.rslchoir.org.au and see for yourself. The home page now has a link to our latest video "Diduno?" filmed at the Australian War Memorial and a new and improved "About" page in which you can click to find out how to join the Choir.



Our latest Video comes thanks to Damien Leith for the studio recording and backing track, Martin Johnson video production and a huge shout out to Dr Brendan Nelson and the staff at the Australian War Memorial for their support during our visits and filming. I look forward to our next Choir adventure at the War Memorial which seems to be becoming an annual tradition! We are hoping to finally release our DVD for Anzac Day (funding permitting).

As part of our website upgrade, we now have an online vocal warmup training course with our Vocal Coach (and former opera singer!), Alexandra Dalman. There is also a new and improved online leadership course for our Leadership Academy members (including a fun new leadership song). Even our Repertoire pages have new learning tips for a better online learning experience!

As the Creative Director, my heart and passion for the Choir this year is to:

- Recruit new members (with an emphasis on defence and veteran families)
- Develop and strengthen our online Choir Community
- Raise the standard of each individual child's singing and performing and as a group
- Help each young person step into leadership not only in the choir but in their personal lives
- Support more RSL Sub-branches for their commemorative services and events

Here is an idea of what we have planned for 2017/18 so far...

1st Term Performances:

- Defence Family Open Day recruiting and performance
- RSL Dinner Performance
- War Widows Field of Remembrance Service, St Andrews Cathedral, Sydney
- Anzac Day - Mittagong, Colo Vale, Wagga, Goulburn



2017 Projects:

- Finalise the contents and organise first run of our 1st DVD
- Release our 1st DVD which will include Young and Free, Diduno? & Table of Remembrance videos
- Anzac Day/Remembrance Day Education Pack to accompany the DVD
- Finalising Studio Recording of Georgia's Song "Soldier On" with The Wiggles studio
- Filming of the DVD for Georgia's Song "Soldier On"
- Recording our first CD

2017 Activities:

- 2x Music and Leadership Camps on Cockatoo Island
- Canberra Music & Leadership Camp
- Monthly Regional Practice Tours and workshops



Wish list:

- Singing tour of Gallipoli and the Western Front
- Singing tour and trek to Kokoda
- Choir vehicle that can carry sound equipment to regional practices and performances
- National Remembrance Day Sing to Remember Event 2018

OJ Rushton, Creative Director - ojrushton@me.com, 0412 504 153