

# Holdfast Bay Community Choir

Newsletter One

30th June, 1999

Welcome to our first newsletter. We hope this is the first of many to come. We intend to put out a newsletter every two months to keep people informed on what is happening in the choir. Articles or information from choir members are welcome.

## *The NICAN Conference, by Angie (Angela Feehan)*

Hello everybody. As you know when I went to Melbourne on the 7th of April I was really excited about performing for people. On Wednesday morning Jen, Jasmine, Barb, Patrick and I had to catch a very early bus to Bendigo and then a train to Melbourne. It was a long trip. When we got to our apartment at the Metropal in Brunswick Street we all CRASHED! Later we had some dinner, chicken, carrot sticks and dips etc and then we settled in for a really good night's sleep.

We had to wake up early the next morning too because we were performing at nine o'clock at the Hilton on the Park and we had to rehearse before the performance. My heart was thumping but we all sounded great and accidentally sang so loud that our voices went right through into the next room where the conference was. It was so funny!

Then we all went on stage and Pat Rix introduced us to the crowd. My heart was thumping. Everyone clapped and then we all started singing really beautifully. After the performance, people were taking photos of us together. After all the excitement Jasmine, her Grandma and I decided to go cruising at the Victorian markets and we all looked around and I bought some strawberries. Jas and I looked for a CD, watched a fashion parade, looked in a few shops and I bought myself a dress.

That night we enjoyed a night out with Pat. We all had dinner with Barb, Patrick, Glenn, David, and Judy, Jas and Jen. After dinner Jen, Jas, Pat and I went to see a musical play called RENT which was really fantastic. On Friday we went cruising again at the markets. It was all great fun until Barb's purse went missing. It was awful. I didn't know what to do, but in the end I decided to catch a cab to the Hilton on the Park. It was a good thing to do. Everyone sang with us and clapped and cheered the choir.

The whole trip was sensational. Everyone was great together and we had lots of fun. I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to Pat and all who made this trip work. If it wasn't for you guys we wouldn't have done it. Thank you a million times!

Angie

## *Thankyou!*

The Holdfast Bay Community Choir would like to acknowledge the support of NICAN and SPARC Disability Foundation in enabling three choir members to participate in the recent NICAN conference in Melbourne.

THANKYOU.



## *Social Evening*

On Wednesday the 21st of April instead of having a normal practice the choir had a shared dinner. People were able to enjoy catching up with friends, sing a few of their favourite songs and nibble on a range of foods organised by Leisure Options at Minda Incorporated. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this evening a great success. A big thank you also to all the people who helped out preparing the food. Our next social dinner is being planned, and will be on the 23rd of June 1999 in the Recreation and Social centre, at Minda Incorporated. See you there !!

## *Practice Fee*

Just a small reminder that you need to bring your \$2 to practice every week. If anybody has any enquiries to make regarding this fee, please contact Alison Newman on 84226316 or Michael Taylor on 84226315, and they will do their best to help you.

## *Choir Dates*

### **TERM TWO**

<b>June</b>	9th	16th	Rhythm Method / drumming with Roland Cox.
	23rd		Social dinner
	30th		Movement workshop with Anne Thoday
<b>July</b>	7th	14th	Drumming with Roland

**WE WILL BE HAVING A BREAK ON THE  
21st AND 28th OF JULY-NO PRACTICE**

### **TERM THREE**

<b>July</b>	21st	28th		Singing lead by Anne, Jen, Vanessa, and Alies.
<b>August</b>	4th	11th	18th	Singing lead by Anne, Jen, Vanessa, and Alies.
	25th			Practice as usual.
<b>September</b>	1st	8th	15th	Pats back. Practice as usual.
	22nd			Social dinner.

## *Birthdays in May and June*

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you  
Happy Birthday dear Warwick, Eddie and Alies,  
Happy Birthday to you.





## *Personal Profile - Jen Williamson*

**WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?**

4th August.

**WHAT STAR SIGN ARE YOU?**

Leo.

**WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?**

Music, walking and dogs.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?**

Smoked Salmon Baguette.

**WHAT IS YOUR WORST FOOD?**

Hot curries.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE TV SHOW?**

Wildside on channel 2.

**WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE BAND?**

Fruit.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SONG?**

You want it, You got it - Roy Orbison

**WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE FOOTBALL TEAMS?**

Crows and Norwood.

**WHERE DO YOU WORK?**

Gowrie Training Centre, training people to work in children's services.

**WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE CHOIR?**

August 1998

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE CHOIR?**

That we can all be ourselves and that we accept each other for what we are.



## *Drumming with Roland*

Hi. My name is Roland Cox. Many of you will have seen me over the past month or so coming into Minda Inc. to help Pat and take part in the Holdfast Bay Community Choir. I was a member of the Australian Ballet from 1994 - 1998 and I spent those years touring Nationally and Internationally with the company. In 1997 I won a scholarship to study music and dance in Ghana, which is a financially poor but culturally rich country in West Africa. On my return, the Australian Ballet commissioned me to write the music for a ballet which was performed by the company last year.

Pat Rix read a newspaper article about that ballet and contacted me to see if I would be interested in working with the Holdfast Bay Community Choir. We communicated with each other for 9 months solely by e-mail. At first I didn't even know if she was a man or a woman, finally we met each other in April when I came to Adelaide to work with Leigh Warren and dancers.

While Pat is overseas, she has asked me to develop rhythm and movement skills for members of the choir. I am delighted to work with the choir and look forward to having heaps more FUN!!





# Pat's Word



A big hi to all choir members!

Well. Let's see. One day last year Anne Thoday, asked people in our choir if they would like to go to Melbourne to sing at a conference that she was helping organise. Everyone jumped at the chance. Vanessa, Michael and Anne wrote many funding submissions, but in the end it wasn't possible to raise enough money for the whole choir to sing at the conference. David, Glenn, and Judy, Barb and Patrick, Jas, Angie and Jen, Vanessa, Maria, Mark and Anne all made it over to the conference one way or another. Kathy Kelly now residing in Melbourne would also be joining us. On Thursday morning 8th April we enjoyed the honour of being the opening performance for the NICAN conference held at the Hilton on the Park. Before this performance we rehearsed very hard because we knew we were representing the whole choir and we were missing the voices of all the other members. As it turned out we had lots of time to rehearse because things were running a little behind schedule. We chose three songs for the performance, 'Good Company' by Andy Leach, 'The floating zoo' with music by Mozart and words by Judith Harris. The third song we chose was 'Kil - le -le'.

That afternoon we had our workshop and everyone turned up to help. I talked about the choir and we played some of our recordings. People asked many questions about how we work and everyone from the choir contributed to answering the questions. I have since received emails telling me how inspirational we were and how two new choirs are starting up - one in Bendigo and one in Wagga.

On the last day of the conference we sang at the closing ceremony where everyone heard that the NICAN conference would be held here in Adelaide to coincide with High Beam 2000. We invited all the people who had attended the workshop to sing with us on the stage to sing the 'High Beam Rap'. All the new singers were rather nervous but thanks to the choir members who were on stage holding it all together we managed to sing a rousing version of the 'High Beam Rap'. Even though we were short a couple of our singers (because of bad luck and tiredness) we sang really well and people loved it.

Congratulations to all those who made the journey and participated in the performances and workshops. Thank you also to our sponsors SPARC, NICAN and Minda Incorporated for supporting our involvement in the conference. Together we did a fantastic job and it is wonderful to think that we are inspiring people all over the country to begin their own choir. It was an overwhelmingly good experience. I'd like to do it all over again with everyone! I am looking forward to many more adventures with members of the Holdfast Bay Community Choir.

Kind regards  
*Pat Rix*

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