

RSCM



WestNews

Vol. 28 No. 1

FEBRUARY 2019

ISSN 2209-3443 (Online)

Royal School of Church Music, WA Branch

Dear Friends,

To begin, I wish to recognise the wonderful work that Moya Sherlock and Sheila Byfield do to put *West-news* together during the year. It is always a professional product, which can obscure the fact that RSCM Australia is a fully volunteer organisation. We are blessed by so many people giving generously of their effort and expertise.

Once again our Annual General Meeting went well, including a demonstration of the *Hauptwerk* electronic organ which has been installed at Ross Memorial Uniting Church in West Perth. The sounds that we heard were amazing, particularly in comparison to instruments from 40 or 50 years ago and, it has to be said, some more recent installations. Thank you to Tomasz Nowak for displaying the instrument. And thank you to those who gave their time to be present. My report to the AGM is printed in this *WestNews*.

So, full steam ahead for 2019. My report notes that, unusually, there has been no national RSCM school over summer. If you are looking for something similar being held locally, I invite you to consider Choralfest Freo 2019 which is being held Friday, 12 April – Tuesday 16 April. The website is <http://choralfest.org.au/choralfest-freo-2019/>. If you can't be there as a participant, have a look at the myriad of great performances promised.

We have already promoted the 'People's Crucifixion' which takes place in St John's, Fremantle on Sunday, 14 April at 5.00pm. There is a rehearsal on the day at 3.00pm, and for local residents (i.e. RSCM WA members) there is a rehearsal on Saturday, 6 April, 2–4.30pm in Christ Church, Claremont. Information is available at <http://choralfest.org.au/the-peoples-crucifixion/>. Importantly, on that page is a link which you will need to follow in order to register.

Please note that participants are asked to provide their own score. We have some scores in the RSCM Library, and if you email me at [wa.chair@rscmaustralia.org.au](mailto:wa.chair@rscmaustralia.org.au), I will be happy to bring a score to the Claremont rehearsal for you.

RSCM NSW is hosting a national Winter School called SydneyInSpires 2019. Information for this is available at [http://rscmaustralia.org.au/?page\\_id=3385](http://rscmaustralia.org.au/?page_id=3385). The dates are 6–14 July. A couple of WA members have let it be known that they are considering attending. Registration is done by members independently of the local Branch, but it would be helpful if you could let us know that you plan to go by emailing Ken Taylor at [wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au](mailto:wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au). You will be reminded of this splendid event before registrations close.

I hope to see you at our forthcoming functions.

John Beaverstock

CHAIRMAN.

**RSCM WA State Branch Officers  
for Year 2019**

<b>Chairman</b>	Mr. John Beaverstock	jbeaverstock8@gmail.com	0423922472
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr. Ken Taylor	ken@taylor.org.au	wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs. Kate Sinfield	wa.treasurer@rscmaustralia.org.au	0438998300
<b>WestNews Editors</b>	Mrs. Moya Sherlock ( Mrs. Sheila Byfield)	megdean@aapt.net.au swbyfield@bigpond.com	9337 2939 9447 0824
<b>Choir Camp Administrator</b>	Ms. Louise Bell	ellemebell@hotmail.com	
<b>Committee Members</b>	Mrs. Gill Burbidge, Ms. Jacinta Jakovcevic, Mr. Steven Secker, Mrs. Ruth Styles		

### WestNews Information

**Please send material for publication direct to the Editors:**

Email swbyfield@bigpond.com  
megdean@aapt.net.au

**POST OFFICE BOX** 1313, West Leederville, W.A. 6901

**DISCLAIMER** Opinions expressed in WESTNEWS do not necessarily reflect those of the Editors. Occasionally there might be deliberate errors in the text desired by those submitting.

**CONTENTS** The sources of any imported material contained in WestNews are acknowledged wherever this is possible. Apologies are offered to sources of material that for one reason or another may not have been properly acknowledged.

**LIBRARY** The library is now situated at St.Patrick's Anglican Church, Mt Lawley. Please contact Sheila Byfield to gain access.

**WEBSITE** The website of RSCM Australia is [www.rscmaustralia.org.au](http://www.rscmaustralia.org.au). This website includes WA Branch events, as well as details of the interstate branches. Please send details of items for inclusion on the website to [wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au](mailto:wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au)

**FACEBOOK** The RSCM Australia Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/RSCMAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/RSCMAustralia)

**ST. JAMES PRESS** [www.sjmp.com](http://www.sjmp.com) Login [wa.treasurer@rscmaustralia.org.au](mailto:wa.treasurer@rscmaustralia.org.au)

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS FRIDAY, 26th April, 2019**



Due to time constraints, the next edition of WestNews will not be produced until after Holy Week and Easter, and you are encouraged to send us articles about your parish activities during this period. Although many of our members will be involved in the music in their own parishes, the opportunity exists to join with a larger group of singers at St.John's, on the afternoon of Palm Sunday. Registration details are listed in the Chairman's letter.

Good wishes are extended to everyone for this very special time of the Christian Year.



*Moya and Sheila*

## Choralfest Palm Sunday – 14 April 2019

Palm Sunday 2019 will be a weekend unlike any other experienced in Fremantle, as delegates from around Australia spend 4 days in Fremantle learning, discussing and performing choral music as part of *Choralfest 2019*.

Incorporated into this exciting programme of events will be a focus on sacred music linking St John's Anglican Church and St Patrick's Basilica. We hope that you will be part of bringing the Fremantle faith communities together with others as we celebrate Jesus' procession as a king into Jerusalem and his subsequent trial and crucifixion.

On the Sunday morning we will gather outside St John's in Kings Square around 9:15am for a blessing of the palms by Fr Patrick King, the Parish Priest of St John's at 9:30am, proceed into the church for their service focused on his welcome to Jerusalem, with music directed by St John's Director of Music, Daniel Masmanian, including excerpts from JS Bach's St Matthew's Passion sung by soloists and the combined choirs of St John's and St Patrick's.

At the conclusion of this service we will return to King's Square for the *Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem* led by the Parish Priest of St Patrick's, Fr John Sebastian, which is the commencement of the Basilica Palm Sunday Mass. At this stage the choirs will be joined by more singers, including The Winthrop Singers, Piñata Percussion and other Choralfest delegates. Following more blessing of the palms, the percussion and singers will lead us in procession up Adelaide St from St John's to St Patrick's and into the Basilica for the 11am Mass.

The music at St Patrick's will be led by a 60 voice combined choir, and include the world premiere of Nicholas Bannan's Setting of The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 22:14-23:56. James Hagan, well-known Australian actor and Basilica regular, will read the part of the Narrator, with Fr John Sebastian reciting the part of Jesus, and the choirs and soloists singing the remaining parts, all underpinned by the Basilica Director of Music, Dominic Perissinotto at the organ.

We hope you will join us for all or part of what will be a very special morning of worship on Sunday 14 April, bringing together worshipers from all around Australia.

Visit <http://choralfest.org.au/> for more information on all the events in *Choralfest 2019*.

### THE PEOPLE'S CRUCIFIXION

St. John's Anglican Church

As announced in the Chairman's letter, the Stainer's 'Crucifixion', will be sung at St. John's at 5.00pm as part of *Choralfest 2019 Free*. and you are invited to participate. Registration details are to be found in the letter.

Hugh Lydon will direct the performance, with soloists Kieran Lynch (Evangelist) and Christopher Allan (Christ), accompanied by organist John Beaverstock.

### JANE BEAVERSTOCK QUIZ NIGHTS

Due to poor ticket sales, it was with regret that the Quiz Night scheduled for 8th March had to be cancelled.

**HOWEVER**

The Quiz Night at the Wonthella Bowling Club, 290 Eighth Street, Wonthella, is still to go ahead.

**Date: 22nd March, 7.00pm.**

Quiz master: Steven Secker: Raffle, silent auction and spot prizes.

Tickets: \$20 per head or \$150 for a table of 8.

**Bookings: <https://trybooking.com/BAVRN>**

Please contact Steven Secker ([RSCM@stevensecker.com](mailto:RSCM@stevensecker.com) or 043 005 2502)

## **CHOIR CAMP 2019**

Registrations are now open for Choir Camp 2019! You can register online here: [www.trybooking.com/BAVJI](http://www.trybooking.com/BAVJI) which also has answers to all your burning questions about camp. We're off to Geraldton, staying at Geraldton Residential College and singing at Francis Xavier Cathedral and Holy Cross Cathedral. Eva-Marie Middleton will conduct and Dominic Perissinotto will be the organist.

Camp is an annual event, now in its 45th year! On camp we form a 4-part choir, learn some beautiful music, make a bunch of friends, improve our musical knowledge through the Voice for Life training scheme, and participate in fun activities like a games night and party. Open to those aged 8—18 who love to sing.

Book now to get the early bird discount, \$50 until 12th April. A bus will be provided to and from Perth. Geraldton students are welcome to attend as non-residential participants at a reduce rate. Email [wa.choircamp@rscmaustralia.org.au](mailto:wa.choircamp@rscmaustralia.org.au)

Please distribute the information about Choir Camp at your church, school, and local community.

### **Choir Camp Reunion**

The Choir Camp Reunion was held on 24th February at Cowden Park, West Leederville. It was great to catch up with some familiar faces, and the weather was perfect for an afternoon in the park with friends. We hope to see even more of you at the next reunion.

### **Garage Sale**

Thanks to everyone who donated items for the garage sale to raise money for Choir Camp, and to those who helped out with the set up. We raised some much needed funds for camp, to keep the costs affordable for everyone.

### **Easy Choral Music 1st May at Aquinas College.**

Save the date for a new and exciting workshop to showcase some Easy Choral Music on the evening of Wednesday 1st May. Perfect for those conducting or choosing music for small, inexperienced or children's choirs (or larger choirs looking for something quick to learn.) Hugh Lydon (Aquinas College), Louise Bell (Mazenod College), and Eva-Marie Middleton (Soprano and 2019 Choir Camp conductor) will showcase some of their favourite pieces, ably accompanied by Dominic Perissinotto. It'll be a great way to try out some new repertoire prior to purchasing. There will be an opportunity for networking to meet other teachers, conductors, musicians and singers.

*Lucy Commander.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ANZAC DAY SERVICE at ST. EDMUND'S, ANGLICAN CHURCH, WEMBLEY**

**25th April, 5.00pm**

Rehearsal times for this service are:

Thursday 11th April, 6.30pm St. Edmunds

Monday 15th April, 10.00am St. Edmunds

Monday 22nd April, 10.00am St. Edmunds

Thursday 25th April, 4.00pm prior to service.

All are welcome to attend this service.

## **GOSPEL SINGING WORKSHOP at ST. BARNABAS, LEEDERVILLE**

**Please note change of date to 19th May.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

I would normally say that it gives me pleasure to present my report on 2018 for our Branch. For a number of reasons that is not appropriate on this occasion.

**Membership**

25 Affiliate Members	(2017—24)
6 Individual Members	(2017 - 6)
1 Friend	(2017 - 1)
12 WA Members	(2017—12)
0 Student Members	(2017 - 0)
2 Honorary Members	
2 Life Members	

**A Sad Year**

Former Branch Chairman and Director of Music at St. George's Cathedral, Dudley Bastian, had been in declining health for some time, and his death at the end of February was the end of a life of notable service to God through music. His funeral at St. Edmund's, Wembley, reflected this. The organ, which was no longer wanted in its original home in England, was found for the parish by Dudley. It was my privilege to play for the occasion, and I particularly remember the strong singing of the hymns.

The death of Gordon Appleton on Easter Day was completely unexpected. Some of us were with Gordon when he came through Perth on his way to visit Tasmania, and again on his way back. It seems that he became aware of a serious illness only 10 days or so before he died at the organ console at an Easter Day service. I am amazed to reflect that Gordon was at St. George's Cathedral for only seven years, for I still remember fondly the occasions on which I sang and played there under his direction. Of course, he was at Guildford Grammar School before that for just over 15 years, and his contribution to the RSCM spanned more than 20 years. He was a rare person, and we can only thank God that when difficulties appeared to be arising at the Cathedral, the position that he took in RSCM UK became available, and he served there with great distinction for some years. It is a tribute to him that so many people came to sing at his funeral at Ripon Cathedral (I must confess that Parry's 'I was glad' would not be on my list, but Gordon probably had not thought it was time to make his list.)

The death of my daughter Jane in September came as a shock to everyone. Some of us know that there had been some dark times in the past, but she seemed to have found her place studying Music at the UWA Conservatorium, while becoming a mentor to so many of the students there. Her frenetic activity perhaps signalled that all was not right, but she contributed to so many groups and activities. She went to 2017 Choir Camp in Narrogin and then had a major role in organising our 2018 Camp in the Swan Valley. When the casual vacancy for Branch Treasurer happened, she offered to step in. Jane was associated with the Branch for only a short time, but in that time she made a difference to many people's lives. On a personal note, I thank the members of the Branch for all the love you have given to Linda and I as we have travelled through these last months. It has meant much.

In October we were saddened by the death of Sheena Prince. She had been ill for some time, and there had been some periodic improvements in her state of health, but she finally went to her rest. As well as being a fine teacher of Music in schools, Sheena worked hard in St. John's Parish, Albany, promoting the aims of RSCM. Her and Kevin's three children all became regular attenders at Choir Camp, and for as long as they could, they became tutors, and finally leaders of Camp. Zoe and Imogen teamed up with Louise Bell to reinvent camp, and the rest is history. We are grateful for all that Sheena gave our Branch over many years.

## Chairman's Report (Contd)

### Programme

Following our Annual General Meeting on 3 February, 2018, the programme was as follows:

24 February—Reluctant Organist morning. St.Cuthbert's, Darlington. This was put on at the request of the parish who had also taken out Branch membership, and was attended by five people from the parish, and directed by me. It had been hoped that some people from the plain might have attended and gone to a local café afterwards, but that did not eventuate.

6 May— Gospel Workshop, St.Barnabas', Leederville. Some 25 people attended this event. They comprised RSCM regulars, people from St. Barnabas' and members of the Mothersong choir. A piece, 'Hold up your lantern' arranged by Celia Mayers, the Director of Mothersong, was sung, and it was decided to use that at Choir Camp.

19 May—Cantor Workshop, St. Mary's Cathedral. This was directed by Jacinta Jakovcevic with abouts 10 people attending. It was agreed that it was a very worthwhile event, and should be repeated, trying to spread the word more widely among musicians in Catholic parishes, which is not an easy task.

20 May— Hymnfest at St. George's Cathedral. This was not an RSCM event as such, and notice was given quite late that it was going ahead. The programme of hymns was interesting, but some would have appreciated the opportunity to sing parts rather than melody throughout. We are encouraging the Cathedral to give more notice if they want our people to support this worthwhile event.

9 June— Choir Camp Fundraising Concert, St. Michael's, Mt. Pleasant. Around 60 guests and performers attended. Over \$750 was raised at this very fine afternoon of music.

3-8 July—Choir Camp, Swan Valley Adventure Centre. There were 21 participants with eight residential and four other staff members. Sarah Mills-Menogue was Director. It was quite a learning experience for her, particularly discovering that the young people were able to learn music somewhat more quickly than one might expect. With the Branch Choral Festival in mind, one of the services was a Choral Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer at St. Matthew's, Guildford. Sunday morning Mass was at St. Francis of Assisi Maida Vale. Holly Broadbent was accompanist, although I was called in for the Evensong as Holly was offered a role in a major concert that clashed. Musically the results were worthwhile. It continues to be important to do everything possible to make Camp more widely known.

29 July—Choral Festival, at St. George's Cathedral. 'Hold up your lantern', from the Gospel Workshop was sung as an Introit from the west end of the building, and Stanford in B flat was the service setting. An arrangement of Brother James' Air, by Don Michael Dicie was enhanced by Tim Walker's flute obligato.. 29 members, including a good number from Choir Camp, did a fine job.

One of the significant items of business for the Festival was an opportunity to give thanks for the lives of Dudley Bastian and Gordon Appleton, both former Directors of Music at the Cathedral.

6 October—Singing Tudor Music with Stephen Darlington, St.Mary's Cathedral. This event was run in conjunction with UWA and the Australian National Choral Association, and attracted some 60 participants. The Cathedral's acoustic was completely right for the music, and the final sing-through of pieces demonstrated the development of music through the Tudor period.

27 October—HymnFest at Willetton Uniting Church. A small but enthusiastic group attended this event led with great flair by Revd. Stuart Good. Stuart focussed on hymns by Timothy Dudley-Smith, and it was worthwhile discovering a wider selection of his hymns. I was delighted to accompany the singing.

## **Chairman's Report (Contd)**

Your Committee met nine times during the year. They comprised:

Chairman: John Beaverstock (7)

Secretary: Ken Taylor (9)

Treasurer: Jane Beaverstock appointed to fill casual vacancy (5/6) Kate Sinfield appointed to fill further vacancy (2/2)

Committee Members:

Gillian Burbidge (6) Jacinta Jakovcevic (6) Lucas Phillips (6)

Steven Secker (9) Moya Sherlock (9) Ruth Styles (9)

I thank the Committee members for their hard work, in particular, I acknowledge Kate Sinfield's willingness to take on the role of Treasurer, and Ken Taylor for stepping in to chair meetings in my absence.

I also thank the group of people who worked so hard to create a good Choir Camp. So much work is needed for that, and we are fortunate to have people who have a passion for seeing the Camp succeed.

The 2019 Committee, I think, should consider whether nine meetings are warranted: perhaps fewer Committee meetings would give members time to be more involved in planning for events, particularly Choir Camp.

### **National Matters.**

This is the first time since the 1980 AGM that there has been no report from a Summer School. In 1980 our Branch was preparing to hold a National School, which, like the first one in 1973 in Western Australia, was to take place in May in cooler weather. This year, the *SydneyinSpires* RSCM Winter School will run from 6—14th July. We are told that many distinguished musicians, including David Hill, Stephen Cleobury and Anne Marsden Thomas, will be involved, and the school will finish with a performance of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*.

This information I have found on our National Website from a post dated 23 July 2018. There is a meeting next weekend of the National Council. This is a face-to-face meeting, and I thank Steven Secker for being our Branch Representative and Ken Taylor for deputising for me. Jacinta Jakovcevic will also be there in her capacity as national youth representative. There is a formal launch of the Winter School during this meeting, and I am sure that we will hear much more after that. We certainly need to.

I noted last year that almost half of our expenditure outside of Choir Camp is needed to send people to these meetings. For various reasons, there will not be as much money spent this year by us. Steven is planning to ask some questions about financial support of more distant branches who do not benefit from the National Meeting being held in their state.

### **The Future**

This is my final year as Chairman, as it is my sixth. Even had we not agreed to the amendment to our constitution last year, I would have stepped down. I don't think it's healthy for the same people to carry on in executive positions for extended periods of time, or to be expected to do that. We need to do some serious soul-searching as a Branch. Choir Camp is something that we know we do well, but we continue to manage with small numbers of participants. It is important to grow the numbers, and I know that the Camp Sub-committee is thinking hard about this.

Outside of Camp, what do we do? Many of our events attract five or ten participants. The Gospel Music workshop had a reasonable number because there was a visiting choir. The Annual Choral Festival had 29 singers, including people from Camp, because the same repertoire was in use. The HymnFest was rather smaller than in previous years.

## Chairman's Report (Contd)

We have only two school memberships, and their continuation is not assured. Once upon a time RSCM provided important opportunities for school children to sing at large events. Today school music programmes—particularly independent schools—are so comprehensive that they have no space to include RSCM activities. Many have overseas tours in the July holidays, so Choir Camp is not for them.

There are fewer and fewer voluntary choirs in suburban churches. A number of Anglican parishes over the last couple of years have gone to paid quartets of singers, and these people really have no use for RSCM. They are learning the craft of singing at university. We are most fortunate that Jacinta Jakovcevic is so personally committed to RSCM and to using Voice for Life for her choristers. We have a couple of other professional or semi-professional church music foundations who are happy to pay their subs, and welcome us to have events in their building, but we never see anyone from them at our functions.

Your committee, once it is selected, will need to consider our future, and it is my hope that this process will involve our wider membership. On a number of occasions last year, I pointed out that I was in my final term as Chairman, and I can tell you that I have had only two conversations on the question of succession planning. We now have twelve months.

One possibility may be to work with other organisations. We have an opportunity to do this in the Choral-Fest being organised by the Australian National Choral Association (ANCA) in April. One thing in which you could consider participating is a 'People's Crucifixion' at St. John's Anglican Church, Sunday 14th April (Palm Sunday), with a rehearsal at 3.00pm. There is a rehearsal at Christ Church, Claremont on Saturday, 6th April. 2—4.30pm. There is no charge for taking part. Flyers are available here and an email will be sent out in which the links are live.

## In Conclusion

Again, thank you for your support and kindness over a difficult time. It has been difficult for the Branch as a whole, and I again pay tribute to Ken Taylor and Kate Sinfield for the work they are prepared to do for us.

We have some serious thinking to do over the next year, and I ask you to regularly uphold the work of the Branch in your prayers.

*John Beaverstock 9th February, 2019*

\*\*\*\*\*

## UNITING CHURCH IN THE CITY



'Wesley at One' recitals resume on 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month.

Ross Recitals will be on Thursday 11th April at 12.30pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

## ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Fauré's Requiem will be performed at 7.30pm in the Cathedral on 11th April.

Renowned Australian choral conductor, Jonathan Grieves-Smith, leads WA's finest young singers in Gabriel Fauré's Requiem, accompanied by Stewart Smith., plus other choral works.

Tickets: \$32 Full \$26 Concessions

For booking information contact [www.stmaryscathedralperth.com.au](http://www.stmaryscathedralperth.com.au)