

RSCM Spring Dinner

WA Branch Members and friends are invited to dinner at Parlapa in Fremantle on September 18th from 6:30pm.

Dominic Perissonotto will speak about his work and experiences with Pipe Organ Plus and at the Basilica of St Patrick.

Please book via our TryBooking link (see page 2), or contact Ken on 63611884 as numbers are limited.

Gospel Workshop and Camp Catchup

Our next event will be the annual *Gospel Workshop* led by **Louise Bell** at **St Patricks Mt Lawley** on the first weekend of the school holidays

Saturday September 26th from 2pm.



Chair Report

In this edition of WestNews, we largely remember the life and work of Gill Burbidge.

Gill was an active participant in the life of RSCM in WA from the mid-70's and was involved at the WA branch committee meeting as recently as our April meeting. I personally regret not knowing Gill for longer, being myself a relatively recent recruit to the WA branch, but even during my time in the committee in the last 5 years, Gill has been involved with all of our choristers' camps and in organising singing events each year.

As to the rest of this year in the WA branch, we continue to cautiously approach the time when we can all sing together without restriction. We remain cautious of organising large events until we hear from the WA government that we have reached "stage 5" of our restrictions. We are planning to hold a small "spring dinner" on September 18th, and a gospel workshop event on the 26th, but we'll hold off on scheduling our Hymnfest event until prudent.

Ken Taylor - Branch Chair



Dates for your Diary

September 18th, from 6:30pm

Branch Spring Dinner

September 26th, 2pm

Gospel Workshop and Camp
Catch-up

**At time of printing, all events are
subject to further advisory on
COVID-19**

**The following events will be
scheduled for later in the year -
stay tuned:**

*Parish Musicians Meetup - St Mary's
Cathedral*

Easy Choral Music

"Ancient and Modern" Hymns

Your Branch Committee for 2020 is:

Ken Taylor - Chair

wa.chair@rscmaustralia.org.au

Lucy Commander - Secretary

wa.secretary@rscmaustralia.org.au

Kate Sinfield - Treasurer

wa.treasurer@rscmaustralia.org.au

Louise Bell - Choir Camp Coordinator

wa.choircamp@rscmaustralia.org.au

Branch Committee Members

Sheila Byfield

Jacinta Jakovcevic

Steven Secker

Ruth Styles

**Please direct all correspondence to the secretary at the address
above, or to:**

RSCM WA Secretary

PO Box 1313

West Leederville,

Western AUSTRALIA 6901

**WestNews needs your events to publicise - please forward these
to westnews@rscmaustralia.org.au**

Branch Spring Dinner

The Branch will hold a small
spring dinner at at Parlapa, 11
William Street, Fremantle on
September 18th from 6:30pm.

Dominic Perissonotto will speak
about his work and experiences
with Pipe Organ Plus and at the
Basilica of St Patrick.



The meal will comprise Italian Antipasto, The best Lasagna
Bolognese in Perth (Hand made Egg pasta, Beef Ragu,
Bechamel Sauce, Grana Padano Cheese), salad and Tiramisu
for dessert - We can accommodate dietary needs, just let us
know.

Price per person: \$50

Book via TryBooking, or call Ken on 63611884

<https://www.trybooking.com/BLKON>

Notes from RSCM UK

'Hear My Words' - RSCM Online Summer Course 2020

We were really pleased to have 65 singers join us for our first online summer course in August, during which we rehearsed, and then recorded, Parry's Hear my words, ye people.

Thanks to Sam Hunt, our Education Assistant, the finished performance can now be viewed here.

https://youtu.be/kp_AdtK-59k

We hope you agree it is inspiring to see and hear people from four continents singing together! Thanks to everyone who was involved in the course, either as an attendee or as a member of staff.

Below is a small snapshot of some of the feedback we received:

"Thank you for keeping my singers singing in these strange times!"

"A big thank you to all the RSCM UK team whom I'm sure have put in a lot of work to make this the success that it has been. Thanks also for making it available internationally."

"My favourite part of this course was the virtual joining together to sing for a special project. I've really missed rehearsals and concerts, and the knowledge that I'm collaboratively singing is very refreshing."

New Resources

Choirs may once again be able to sing together, but there are still practical challenges when it comes to rehearsing and performing. To help, Stuart Beer has created a beautiful setting of the text 'Save us, O Lord' as a canon anthem. All parts sing the same material, so it's easy to teach remotely or socially distanced; and it offers a very flexible range of ways to perform it, so you can adapt it for your particular circumstances.

You can buy copies from the RSCM web-shop in the form of one of our new virtual choir kits. The kit contains a downloadable PDF of the score with embedded links to sound files that include complete sung performances, backing tracks with either organ and piano, and a click track for your singers.

<https://www.rscmshop.com/books/RA647DL/beer-save-us-o-lord--virtual-choir-kit>

On Friday 11 September, we will release on our YouTube channel a 'tips and tricks' video put together by Tansy Castledine to help you teach Save us, O Lord to your choir. Further new anthems in this novel format are on their way, look out for our social media posts.

RSCM

RSCM ANTHEMS
CODE: RA647DL
Over 8 Options Available

STUART BEER

Save us, O Lord
Virtual Choir digital edition

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC

Gillian Mary Burbidge 1943-2020

Born in Daglish, Devon, on May 29th, 1943. Gill was the only child of Fred and Marguerite Snell. Her father was in the Royal Air Force at this time. They lived in the village of Bishopsteignton. The family were committed to the local church (St John the Baptist) where her mother was the organist and father was the sacristan. At the end of the war, they moved to St Andrews in Scotland and then to Kingsteignton where they stayed until travelling to settle in Western Australia in 1956.



Australia

Point Walter Camp was the family's first home in WA where they stayed until settling in Como.

Education

Gill completed her education passing the leaving certificate - the year 12 public exam - from Santa Maria College, the school closest to Point Walter Camp. She trained as a nurse at Royal Perth Hospital and was a staff nurse there and then qualified as a midwife at King Edward Memorial Hospital.

Before emigrating to Australia, Gill had enjoyed piano and singing lessons, which she recommenced, joining the Bach Society and performing in many productions, enjoying the challenge this brought.

Membership at Como and St Augustines Choir

At 21, she was invited by the parish priest of Como to train the choir at St Augustines church which grew in number and contained children as well as adults. It was here that she became involved in the RSCM, the parish being a keen member and participating in many events. Stuart Good, a former secretary and chair was the rector there.

Family and Church

Gill and husband Tom were married at St Augustines in 1968 and settled in Como and became very committed to parish life.

After raising a family of four, she returned to nursing at Lefroy Hostel in Bullcreek working with dementia patients there until retirement.

RSCM and Awards

Gill became a WA branch committee member of RSCM in 1974.

In 1976, she passed the Archbishop of Canterbury's Certificate in Church Music, including all aspects of choir organisation. She was also awarded Life Membership of the RSCM by Chair and committee of the WA Branch in 2002.



Gill (second back row with Tom on left) at the 1980 RSCM Summer School

For five years, Gill agreed to conduct the Mothers' Union choir, accompanied by her mother Marguerite. The services took place at St Georges Cathedral and a festival took place each year on "Lady Day". She was also a member of the occasional choir at St Georges Cathedral with Gordon Appleton as organist and conductor. The introduction of women into a choir in the Cathedral was a big step forward. This choir sang at the 5pm Sunday Evensong.



St Georges Choir

RSCM Bookshop

While at St Augustines, Gill coordinated a bookshop called “Shop Window”, stocking a large variety of merchandise from Addington Palace, the head office of the RSCM UK. This was very successful and many made use of the resources available.

Camps

Gill became very involved in the RSCM Junior Choristers’ Camps for forty years administering ten of them with Tom, whose work took him into the country areas and so he was able to visit and check venues, churches, priests and suitable camp picnic spots in person. This worked out to be very efficient with regard to time planning and finance.



Bunbury Choristers' Camp 1985

These camps were held in city and regional centres as far apart as Geraldton, Albany, Bunbury, York, Northam and Narrogin and every fourth year in Perth.

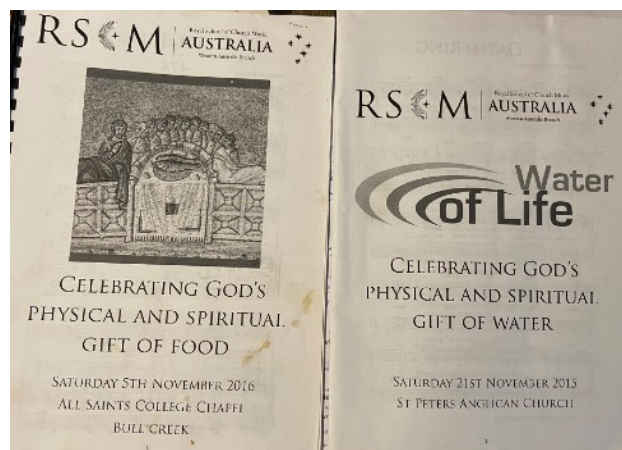
Voice for Life

At choristers’ camps camps, Gill continued the ‘ribbon training’ programme introduced by Dudley Bastion, who had initiated the camps. This programme was the theory component of the choristers course and was taught in the afternoon sessions of the camp (1 hour for 4 days of the camp). When choristers competed the levels from RSCM (white, light blue, dark blue, red and yellow) they were awarded the appropriate ribbons and badges. In recent years this programme has been updated by RSCM UK and is now called ‘Voice for Life’. Books replaced the original card system used for many years. Gill was the main leader for these levels. She was also a co-examiner of the St Augustine’s Award - a WA vocal-based programme.

WA Branch Committee

Gill coordinated many elements of the yearly programme of the WA branch, including;

- Venites - 1998 and 2005-8.
- Compiling and Presenting repertoire for small parish choirs with Deirdre Russell and Gerald Crooks
- Taizé Music
- Themes celebrating God's spiritual and physical gifts of Water, Holy Spirit, Advent and Christmas



- Fundraising dinners at TAFE for the Australian Conference
- Christmas in July dinner at Perth College

Other Parish Work

Gill has been a tireless worker for RSCM for many decades and will long be remembered for introducing many new hymns and songs from all over the world for us to use and enjoy in our parishes. Her contribution to the music at All Saints Chapel and fantastic input at St Basil's Murdoch, her last parish, will be remembered and sadly missed.

Her contribution to church music is remarkable and her tireless patience in presenting and sharing her wealth of knowledge will be long remembered by those who were encouraged by her and worked with her.

Random Reminiscences

- *Chips and Shower Curtains* - Geraldton - Remember, Pam?
- *Absconded from Dorms* - Bunbury - Remember, Louise?
- *Photographing White Cockatoos instead of Jazz Mass Rehearsal* - Muresk - Sorry Deirdre? - Ruth?
- *Corn Custard Trifle* while locked in the cool-room - *The Wavy Corn* from Schubert -- Albany Thanks Dominic!
- *If I were not in music ball* - see photo - "Gill, dear, do you think you could get it right?"

