

Rhubarb Rhubarb Rhubarb

GALS News: The Good, the Bad & the Odorous

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Choir to be Renamed

As a tribute to famous choral director Jonathon Welsh, who will be visiting GALS in October this year, along with the Melbourne Gay and Lesbian Chorus for a combined Pride concert, GALS has decided to rename itself for the occasion. Suggestions for new names and costume ideas include: wearing tight tops and calling ourselves "the Choir of Huge Knockers," wearing mini-skirts and calling ourselves "the Choir of High Frocks," wearing chef outfits, learning Chinese cooking and calling ourselves, "the Choir of Hot Woks," wearing worn stockings and calling ourselves "the Choir of Holed Socks," and making a successful investment with our choir savings and calling ourselves "the Choir of Large Stocks." The Main Committee has advised that if a decision cannot be made, then GALS will be stuck with their original name.

Paternity of Baby in Question

There has recently been some debate over the paternity of Frances' unborn baby. Rumours are that it is actually well-known lady's man, Neville who is the father. Frances continued to insist that the father is a trumpet player, but Neville fans recall his talent with a trumpet on several occa-

sions. Pressed further, Frances informed us that her baby's father was a music teacher. When questioned about this statement, Neville replied, "what do think I do with the lovely ladies? They've learnt a few lessons from me, I can tell you."

Farewell Jackie

GALS recently farewelled their beloved pianist Jackie, who has embarked on a whirlwind world tour. Jackie's reluctance to share details of her itinerary has led to much speculation about her plans for the trip. Some members assert that being a frequent traveller, Jackie may well have a case of "a girl in every port," however others dispute this notion, and pointing out that Jackie has been known to wear disguises (see photo on left below) and is much more likely to be an undercover secret agent who has been sent on a dangerous mission. Others still suggest that Jackie may actually be off to audition to become a member of a famous heavy metal band. Whilst Jackie's overseas antics may remain a mystery until she returns, GALS are enjoying the skills of talented pianist Adele who has generously offered to fill in for Jackie. The nature of Adele's connection to Jackie is as yet unknown.

New Book Soon to be Released

Famous writer and film maker, Tessa has recently revealed plans to release her latest masterpiece, a book entitled, "Confessions of a GALS Archivist." Fans look forward to the intimate perspective of Tessa's encounters with the choir afforded her from behind the lens of a camera. Tessa says, "my position as GALS archivist gives me the chance to get up close and personal with the choir and I wanted to share some of their behind-the-scenes antics with their fans."

Strange Smell in Town

North Perth residents have recently complained that a strange smell has been infiltrating their houses and streets recently. Fearing a possible biological weapon had been released by terrorists, military experts were called in to investigate the situation. The origin of the smell was tracked to the North Perth Lesser Hall, where an in-depth inquiry fortunately revealed a harmless source - a simple excess of Chile Concarne being consumed by members of the illustrious choir, GALS.



A Question of Community



Recently, the Rhubarb was approached by a university student who is doing his thesis on the phenomenon of 'Community' and how it occurs in today's world. He told us that he'd heard that GALS was an exceptional example of community spirit and asked us if we could comment on how and why GALS has formed such a great community. All of our reporters acknowledged that this was the case, however none of them were able to answer the question of why. I decided to have the reporters interview experts in various fields and try to determine just how GALS has come to be a community, as well as a choir...

- The Editor

Crystal Rainbow Moondancer

Well-known professional astrologer

"If you look at the alignment of Venus with Neptune and consider that the moon is in the 7th house, it's really quite obvious. I mean, the planets are arranged in such a way that Mercury's rising influence is creating this community dynamic through it's interception with the powers of Saturn. Of course, the choir's conductor may have something to do with it. After all, just as the moon conducts the tides, a conductor is a unifying power who pulls the choir together. Your conductor, Frances, seems to have the right combination of humour, excellent musicianship and personality for your group."

Dr David Upanattem

Nature documentary narrator

"If you observe the creatures of GALS in their natural habitat, you will notice that one particularly rare animal, the Nevillopholous Cucumbersaurus, better known as the 'Nev' flourishes in groups of Galswanians. Indeed, its presence creates a curious codependency, where the Nev is nurtured by the colony of Galswanians, and they in turn are entertained by the Nev's antics and provided with a higher status in the wider community. If you look closely, you'll see that this symbiotic relationship is surely the cause of the organic community which flourishes in GALS."

Senator Robyn Banks

Politician

"Well, according to the polls, the sense of community present in GALS is directly due to policy changes proposed by my party. These policy changes have been broadcast through the media and in fact, it's the media who play the greatest role in creating community. Take the GALS archivist, Tessa for example. Where would GALS be without her stunning mockumentaries and the press coverage and publicity she provides the choir. Actually, do you think she'd come and work for me instead? I could use a talented archivist to boost my image and bring voters together by showing films of my party."

Professor Des Imal

Mathmatician

"It's a simple equation actually - you add a choir to a website and an excellent system of email communication, subtract ego and power struggles, multiply by people committed to making a difference and divide by rhubarb pi to the power of L and you're left with the product of community."

Geranium Spear

Feminist

"Naturally the reason you have such a great community in GALS is because you're mostly women. What more is there to say? Women are more supportive of each other - look at the way they support people learning the music by organizing sectional rehearsals, and the way everyone rallies around to help or offer support when someone is down or is having trouble. Women are so much more communal and frankly, I don't know why they want men at all."

Helen Riner Stice

Hallmark Advertising Consultant

"I think that the cause of community, is something you can't necessarily see. It's a smile or a word, a phone call or letter, To let someone know that you hope they feel better. It's saying thanks when someone's done well, It's letting them know that you think they are swell. It's sharing and caring, being there as a mate, And it's all of these things, which make GALS so great."

Mike Rofone

Crazy Warehouse Guy

“Come on in shoppers. It’s the great GALS warehouse sale, everything must go. We’ve got democracy by the bucket-load, that’s right, not only do GALS have committees, but everyone can have a say in decisions, that’s right, everyone. Not one person or two, but everyone. What else have we got? We’ve got social events - Evil Santa at Christmas parties, games nights, bowling, film nights, dancing, concerts and more - so many social events and all at ridiculously low prices. We’ve got communication, yes shoppers, communication. You won’t find this in many other places, but GALS are oozing with it - there’s problem solving, discussion and openness and there’s plenty of it. So come in and grab yourself a bargain from GALS today and you too could have community spirit in your group.”

Harmony Arthere

New Age author

“Ok, let me just tune in to my higher self. Right (not that there’s really any right or wrong), I’d say that the source of community in GALS is the way they are able to put aside their egos and think about what works for the group. It’s not about people wanting power or positions or control. The wonderful souls at GALS are able to look outside themselves and look for what they can give, not what they can get. Of course, the other reason is love. They genuinely love each other, although there may be people that drive them nuts sometimes, or traits in others (which are a mirror for themselves) they find frustrating, but they all respect and care about each other. Do you know how rare it is to find a group of 22 people who all like each other and work through problems maturely? I think they must be old souls who have learnt a lot in their past lives.”

Wanda Farr

Travel Agent

“I’d say the key to GALS success as a community lies in their travel experiences - Denmark (a lovely country town and a perfect place to get back to nature), Melbourne (often dubbed Australia’s cultural capital offers a smorgasbord of rich experiences), Sydney (the place to be for excitement and diversity) and more. A choir who travels together, makes community together.”

Teresa Green

Gardener

“A community is like a garden and a good

garden isn’t complete without Rhubarb. The GALS newsletter helps the choir grow. It’s like compost - made up of lots of scraps, humour and in-jokes which tie people together, pieces about people’s lives outside of choir, acknowledgement of people’s contributions and successes and all the other elements which nourish connectedness and help the choir bloom.”

Dr Figmund Fraud

Psychologist

“If you consider the combined effect of genetics and socialization on humans, it isn’t surprising that every person is unique. This diversity can make it difficult for humans to relate to each other, as our societal tendency is to focus on differences rather than similarities. GALS is a group of 22 highly individual people with vastly different backgrounds and personalities and yet somehow, they seem to have managed to transcend those intrinsic differences to find a common ground of respect for each other. Each member of the group has a role and a place and whilst specific friendship groups can be observed, GALS have a remarkable ability to accept everyone for who they are and the unique contribution they provide. Thus it is that GALS is not threatened by cliques or subgroups and everyone is included. GALS can often be seen dancing, eating, partying, socialising and of course, singing together.”

Scarlett van Gopher

Artist

“I think GALS is such a great community because they’re so self-directed. They don’t need an authority to run the choir and dictate every move, they’re so independent - free spirits, as well as colourful personalities. They’re even creative about how they use the committees which run things - that Events Committee for example, they’re wild! I think it’s their maturity and use of perspective to balance light and shadow which creates community.”

We hope that this article has helped to clear up the mystery as to just why GALS has such a great sense of community and to finish, we will leave you with the words of one choir member, “I think what we’ve got is so special. I know so many groups who are supposed to be about saving the world and yet they’re all fighting with each other and having power struggles and internal politics. Sometimes I think that just by caring about each others lives, working out our problems and singing together we’re doing more to save the world than many other people.”





Book Review: Harry Potter and the Secret Closet

This month, the Rhubarb reviews the soon-to-be-released and much awaited final Harry Potter book. Here are some excerpts:

“Quick,” hissed Ron, “Snape’s coming. Get under the invisibility cloak.”

“Do you think we’ll both fit,” said Harry doubtfully, “we’ve both grown a lot this year and we’re not kids any more.”

“Who cares,” said Ron desperately, “do you want Snape to catch us snooping around here? Hurry up!” Harry threw the cloak over himself and Ron just as Snape stalked down the corridor. The boys held their breath and huddled closer together as the footsteps stopped just in front of them. It seemed like an eternity before they finally heard the footsteps retreating down the hall.

“Phew,” said Harry, “that was close.”

“Yes, it was,” said Ron, still leaning against Harry and breathing heavily.

“Ron, what’s your arm doing around my shoulder?” asked Harry.

“Oh, nothing,” said Ron quickly, removing his arm. “I just thought it would make more room.”

“Well, Snape’s gone now, let’s go,” said Harry.

“Do you really think it’s safe?” said Ron breathlessly, “I mean, what if Snape is just waiting around the corner for us. Perhaps we should stay here a while longer.”

“Don’t be stupid,” said Harry, “you don’t want to be stuck under this stuffy cloak any longer than we have to, do you?”

“Oh, it’s not that bad,” said Ron, “it’s warm, it’s cosy, no-one can see us and it’s well, it’s intimate,” he finished, as Harry interrupted, drowning out his last words, “I don’t know what’s wrong with you Ron. You’ve been acting rather queer lately. Is there something you’re not telling me?”

Hermione paced up and down the dormitory anxiously.

“Oh, where can they be?” she muttered, “stupid boys, always getting themselves into trouble. If only they would use a bit of common sense for a change.”

“You’re lucky you didn’t have to grow up with 5 brothers,” said Ginny.

“Well, I know they’re annoying, but what if this time they’ve really got themselves killed?” said Hermione, her voice starting to quaver, “I mean, they are my best friends. I feel so alone without them here,” and she threw herself onto the couch and burst into tears.

“Oh Hermione,” said Ginny sitting down next to her and putting her arm around her shoulders, “please don’t cry. They’ll be alright, I know it. They’ll figure something out - they always do, and besides, you’ve got me here, haven’t you? Ginny wiped Hermione’s tears away with a corner of her robe and gently brushed the hair away from her face. Hermione looked at Ginny as if seeing her for the first time.

“Thanks Ginny, you’re so sweet,” she said, and then added as she stared into Ginny’s eyes, “and you’ve got such beautiful eyes. Why did I never notice that before? And you’re right,” she continued, “you are here for me. In fact, you’re always here for me when I need you,” and she embraced Ginny warmly.

“Well,” said Ginny, “I care about you.”

“I care about you too,” said Hermione, “in fact,” she added, “I don’t think I realised

how much I cared about you until now. I’ve been so busy always bailing the boys out of scrapes that I’ve taken you for granted. You’re gorgeous.”

“Do you mean that, Hermione,” said Ginny, “because I’ve always thought you were just wonderful.”

“I mean it,” said Hermione breathlessly, “Ginny, I think I love you.”

“Well, of course you do. I’m one of your friends,” said Ginny.

“No,” said Hermione, moving her hand slowly down Ginny’s back, “I mean I think I really, really love you.”

“Oh,” squeaked Ginny, as Hermione’s hand crept under her robe.

Speculation about J.K Rowling’s final Harry Potter book has been voracious, as fans and critics alike try to guess what lies in store for Harry and his friends as they battle their nemesis, Voldemort for what could be the last time. From reading the excerpts above, it seems that despite predications by critics that the final chapter of Harry Potter would be a disappointing flop, Rowling has as usual, provided a few surprises and a gripping story where there’s not a lot of flop at all. On the contrary, the book is a wonderful coming of age tale full of love, loss, heartache and ecstasy, rampant wands and magical devices which is sure to delight readers.

