

Rhubarb Rhubarb Rhubarb

Makeover for GALS Member

Who is the mysterious GALS member with the new makeover ?

No, it's not Liz - she's already gorgeous enough.

It's something Liz has her hands on every week though...

That's right, you guessed it— it's our ever-present but seldom-noticed, hardworking cash tin.

Thanks to our inventive and industrious Treasurer, our cash tin has a brand new handle!!

No more fumbling with unwieldy, heavy and sharp-edged metal boxes. Our cash tin is now a pleasure to hold.

Liz says of her efforts, "I



The Lovely Liz B models the colourful, creative, captivating Cash Tin

used about 5 cents worth of wood, and put in about 10 cents worth of labour. When you add the paint and drying time, it adds up to about 50 cents, and I'll expect to be fully reimbursed."

Liz also confided that she has other grand plans brewing to further jazz up this illustrious icon.

Liz has our undying gratitude and admiration for performing this amazing makeover.

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Special points of interest:

- It's Raining Conductors— Find out more about this miracle!!
- GALS member crowned Trivia Queen of the Universe
- Candid camera moments....
- Conducting : The Real Story

RhythmSong 2005 - What a Fantastic Event

By Cherie Koosache

This was my first time to a Rhythm Song event all I can say is WOW - what a wonderful experience and Musical Euphoria.

We had the privilege to work with Andy Watson (Akasa), Steven Taverner (Singer/Song-writer) & Vicki (Akasa) who was asked to step in due Rosie having to fly out to England for family commitments. We learnt African songs, rhythm and percussion beats a number of

group songs and then we had the great range of workshops to choose from, some just for the woman others just for the men. I joined a workshop for song writing which was fantastic then also attended a short workshop on the Marimba.

I got to meet some amazing and talented people and the energy of this camp was something I just can't describe. It was a wonderful collaboration of people from all walks of life and the most incredible experi-

ence to come together in small groups to produce such fantastic sounds.

The food was also something to rave about plus the music bash on the Saturday night after our concert, did we party or what !

I strongly urge anyone and everyone to give this camp a shot next year, there is just so much to gain as an individual from this type of event.



Cherie teaches Robert some of the new skills she learnt at RhythmSong

Conducting: An Inside Perspective

By Joanna Hall

I cried on Jackie's shoulder when she told me that I'd have to do it again maybe - well, she asked me nicely and said she'd do some too and that it was all fine and other such nice things - but I did cry for just a moment. I knew I shouldn't have gone to Grapeskin last night!

Then I remembered a couple of weeks ago Liz said to me, "oh, don't pay tonight because you conducted last week." I was thinking about that on the way home. It seems fair. I didn't pay \$7.50, and that's about the percentage of the experience that was terror. The rest was sheer fun.

I learned a lot too. Like that after more than fifty years of being alive, I don't know how to stand still, or how to keep a really clear mind when I'm anxious. But somehow all the bits and pieces of music and music knowledge that I'd had in my life came back together and now they'll stay that way. It has given me back a lot of my interest in music and love for it and I have really come alive to singing with other people, jamming, playing piano, listening, dancing, the whole thing.

I saw what Jo and Brian meant when they said, "get your heads out of the music and look at me." Lots of people were watching their books. I can't tell you what a relief that was. Of course, a few rebellious souls don't use music; they looked at me all the time but they kept smiling at me, so I got through being visible without dying. I have also

discovered that some people can look at me and at their books at the same time. I have noted down their names and will be having a quiet chat to find out how the hell they do it.

Thank you all for this experience, and for bearing with me. I hope I don't have to do it too often as there is only so far you can go on the basis of having seen something done but not having done it. But I wouldn't have missed it and now I know enough to do it if it's needed. Best of all, I now feel more at home in the choir, more involved, more excited about what we are doing together.

I've stood out the front and really listened four times now, and you really don't know how good you are.

Editor's Note : The Editor believes that Joanna has not given herself enough credit in this report for the wonderful job that she did. On behalf of GALS I would like to thank Joanna for her generosity in stepping in to fill the gap when she was needed, and the time and effort she put into preparing and leading us. Joanna, we think you rock!!



The Best of Brian



GALS would like to extend their thanks once again to Brian for the fantastic job he did with us under sometimes difficult circumstances. Conducting is a really hard job which requires a lot of energy, and I think many of us didn't realize how much the job involves. Brian brought light to our darkness after Jo left, as well as his unique perspective and personality, which we have grown to love and appreciate.

I received an overwhelmingly positive response from the majority of the choir when I asked for people's memories of highlights and favourite things about Brian. Due to the limitations of space here, I can only include a few : *"thanks for all your hard work and tireless effort. Sorry we didn't have longer with you, but we are richer for your enthusiasm and energy. I particularly enjoyed the lip blowing exercise..."*

"I loved the warm-ups where we had to sing our part and move around the hall to see if you could keep in key. It was helpful to be able to listen to your part against others while moving about. I think the warm-ups were a great experience for GALS and good to get the jaw moving and voice warmed up before we sing."

"I love Brian's honesty and ability to articulate beautifully how he was feeling and what was happening for him during the heart to heart meetings we had while he was conducting. I found his insight and intuition pretty amazing and such an admirable quality."

"I loved Brian's gentle approach, his commitment, the way he encouraged everyone to have a go and made you feel worthwhile. I was never stressed about whether I was good enough with Brian. I also think the way he tried to get us to blend and listen to each other more was great."

GALS is thrilled and delighted to have Brian singing with us, as we all love him. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, graciousness and generosity in leading us, and welcome to the basses.

Welcome

The fame of the glorious Gay and Lesbian Singers of WA is beginning to spread far and wide, and so when GALS needed a new conductor, we were flooded with applications from people eager to try their hand at leading us. After careful consideration, GALS has appointed a new conductor—Frances O'Neil. Frances is studying at the of Academy of Performing Arts at ECU. She has a Diploma in Jazz, has studied opera and taught in schools. She sings in an 'Art Orchestra' called Doggox, which is launching a CD soon. She is passionate about singing, conducting and music!! Congratulations, and welcome Frances.

Opera Singing Vampires??

By Jude (the new one)

I was talking to Brian about his Opera one night, and I asked what it was about. For the life of me I thought he said it was about Nosferatu - who is a famous ancient vampire. I got a bit excited by this, thinking it was a brilliant idea, and started asking more about it. After a few minutes of discussion (with Brian looking increasingly confused), I realized he had actually said NOSTRDAMUS...Doh!! I still can't wait to see it though.

Editor's note : We hope to have some more information from the brilliant Brian about his opera soon !!

Ben's Talent Dazzles U.S Publishers

GALS members can now say they know a famous author. I received this newflash from our friend Ben: "On Friday I received a letter from a publishing company in the USA saying that they have chosen my fictional story "Holding the Ball" to be included in the annual international best-selling collection of short stories called "Ultimate Gay Erotica 2006." How kewl is that!! They are paying me for the story, but it's the kudos of being in the book... it's HUGELY popular with gay guys all over the world. I am going to be a published pornographer." Congratulations Ben!!



Tea Bitch's Job Under Threat

Due to the recent absence of our beloved Tea Bitch, a temporary Tea Bitch (pictured below) has been appointed. Whilst the temp has performed perfectly as a time keeper, it lacks our Tea Bitch's sense of humor and personality.

The temporary Tea Bitch has expressed an interest in applying for the job on a permanent basis if the position becomes available in the future. It says it will happily work on it's sense of humor and try to improve it's personality, however we still eagerly anticipate the return of our own irreplaceable and much adored Tea Bitch.



Mysterious Absence Solved

If you've noticed Pam Adams missing over the last few weeks, it's not because she doesn't love us any more, because she's been offered a lucrative recording contract with a famous rock band, or because she's run off to join the circus. It's because she has snapped the tendon in her left arm. If you think that sounds painful, Pam assured me that it is. She has limited use of her left arm, and is awaiting surgery, however she hopes to be back with us soon. GALS extends our support to you, Pam - let us know if there's anything we can do for you!



!! AMAZING TALENTS !!

This is a new section of our newsletter (idea stolen from Rove) is designed to highlight the many varied, but often hidden talents of GALS members.

This issue's Amazing Talent was discovered at our recent games night when participants found out that Robyn has an astounding knowledge of trivia. When asked how she became so brainy Robyn replied, "well, I just have an ability to

remember an awful lot of completely useless crap about a lot of things."

Robyn's incredible knowledge of trivia was not useless for her team during our game of Trivial Pursuit though. When she led them to tie the game by knowing that Marjong the One-Eyed Lion was rescued from Afghanistan by the US army, we crowned her the Queen of Trivia on the spot. Hail Queen Robyn!!



Worshipping our new Queen

Candidly Caught

Miscellaneous Moments of Mirth, Music and Mystery



Left : Jude contemplates what she'd like to do with the kitchen knife...



Below : Liz W, Joanna and Robyn demonstrate their favorite warm-up - farting noise arpeggios. At least, that is what the editor presumes they are doing....

Right : The editor does not know what Nikki has on her fingers, and isn't game to ask, but she hopes it tasted good.



Right : Cherie shows off her very fine tongue - why? Who knows? Has she just eaten something gross? Is it another wonderful technique from RhythmSong? Is it her Kiwi background showing? The answer my friends, is blowing in the wind, the answer is blowing in the wind...



New Name for Newsletter

The editor (Saani) has received a number of ideas for names for our newsletter. At present, these are: 'GALS Talk,' 'Notes,' 'GALS Goss,' and 'The Gaily News.' Here is how we will elect a name - a sheet for each suggestion will be placed on the walls, and everyone will get a certain number of votes. Votes are calculated by taking the number of letters in your middle name, adding 20 if you're an alto, 6.5 for any other part, dividing by the number of windows in your house, and multiplying by chocolate.

No, only joking. If you have a preference for a name, or any better ideas, let me know in person or by email, and I will rename the newsletter according to the responses received. Of course, if you're too lazy to bother, then I'll just pick whichever is my favorite.

Queerstock & Denmark

Yes folks, it's going ahead... and it's only 4 weeks away!! Our Queerstock Concert is on the 21st of May at the North Perth Lesser Hall. Entry is \$5 (pay at the door—seating will be limited, so tell your friends to get in early). Flyers are available from the events committee soon. Costumes are early 60s (modes & rockers) or late 60s (hippies). If you are planning on doing a small group item (please do), please let the events committee know ASAP.

People, we only have 4 weeks to go. We have had lots of ups and downs whilst we've been working on this material, but there is no reason that we can't put on a bloody good show if we knuckle down and work hard in the next month.

This means learning our words and music, listening during rehearsals, practicing, turning up and really putting in the effort to have this concert be our usual brilliant GALS standard!!

Ok. Lecture over. Let's have fun with the Swingin' Sixties and give it our best!! The sopranos model the right and wrong things to do for this concert in the photos below.

Wrong—Not learning your words !!



Right—Learning your words !!



Denmark

Denmark is also fast approaching. Our accommodation is booked, and we will be taking the best of our 60s material for our performance there. Rikki has sent out information to everyone—please see her if you have any further questions, return the info form that she needs, and remember to make your payments to Liz B. Thanks.

dates for the diary

26th April - Main Committee Meeting

at Rikki's: 1/1 Cleopatra St, Palmyra 7pm

3rd May - Events Committee Meeting

at Saani's: 4/13 Grant Pl, Bentley. 6pm

5th May - Small group items due for presentation at rehearsal

21st May - Queerstock Concert !!

3rd - 6th June - Denmark

NOTICES

If anyone has any contributions, information or ideas for the newsletter, please let Saani know at choir or by email :

creativityunlimited@myplace.net.au

Giggles Galore at Games Night

Our Great GALS Games Night opened with a fast and furious game of Pictionary. Tess, Liz W, Joanna & Liz B gave the opposing team a run for their money, but not even Tess' picture of a fig leaf (or was it???) could beat the quick fingers and even quicker thinking of Debbie, Saani, Cherie and Robyn. The 'Picture of the Night' Award goes to Cherie, for her very, well, Kiwi rendition of a weathervane, which looked like... that's right, a sheep!!

Drawing is hungry work, and we took a break to enjoy Tess' speciality sushi and other nibbles, as well as more laughter.



The Battle of the Pencils— Who is the quickest on the draw? Cherie and Tess fight a duel.



Tess rolls her eyes at yet another Aussie question,, Liz B grins because her team has a secret weapon—The Trivia Queen, while Joanna shares secret Quaker knowledge with us.

Once sustained, we felt up to a challenge of Trivial Pursuit. Liz W, Joanna and Tess were thwarted by the appearance of Evil Saani (sorry again Liz!!). Robyn, Liz B and Cherie answered some tricky questions, but it was the pre-primary teachers - Debbie, Sue and Saani, who united and led the way until the end when Robyn's knowledge of one-eyed lions brought her team to tie the game.

After filling our heads with all sorts of useful information, such as who the Queen posed with on her 50th birthday, the more tired amongst us departed. The rest of us

stayed and rocked on with a rollicking game of Balderdash, which the editor will refrain from mentioning her skill at.

It was a night of laughter, fun, laughter, good food, laughter, good company, laughter, games, and more laughter (and participation in perhaps a couple of the 5 Deadly Sins). Debbie summed up our experience the next day when she wrote, "I must admit I had been feeling a little poorly for several days before, but after a night of belly laughing I was cured. I woke the next morning feeling quite elated. As they say, Laughter is the best medicine!!" Our night was such a success, it was unanimously decided to do it again in a few months, so stay tuned, and in the meantime, keep practicing for Pictionary with those important finger workouts!!



Liz W, Joanna and Tess debate strategy.

Gay and Lesbian Singers of WA
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