

# Rhubarb Rhubarb Rhubarb

## GALS : A Year in Review

Issue 4  
July 2005

On Thursday the 14th July, Gals finished their rehearsal early in order to watch the new release movie "GALS : A Year in Review."

This much anticipated new work by film-maker Tessa Millesse is a thrilling drama of the adventures of a Western Australian choir. The story follows GALS through the trials and tragedies as well as the highlights of performing around Australia and searching for food in a small country town.

Produced with masterful editing and brilliant cinematography, "GALS : A Year in Review" captures the raw emotion of one choir's amazing journey together.

The film was a great success, and laughter resounded through the North Perth Lesser Hall as GALS members laughed themselves silly.



GALS settle in to enjoy the movie.



Was the cause of the riotous hilarity the movie, or what was added to the popcorn???

After the film, I interviewed a number of audience members to find out what they thought about the film. Here are their comments:

"That Cherie, what a sad case."

"Even the most embarrassing moments were enjoyable."

"I'm glad there were others who were more humiliated than me."

"Amazing. Stupendous. 4.5 stars. Soundtrack and editing were brilliant."

"Breathtaking cinematography."

"Bloody great, I reckon."

"Fantastic, especially the great famine, and all true."

"Who would have known that Cherie knew all the words to every song ever written, and Tess got it all on camera!"

"I laughed so hard I cried."

And finally, "AWESOME" which sums up the film and our evening very well.

## Nikki's Fame Spreads to Michigan

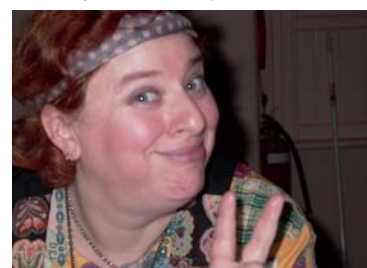
GALS' very own Nikki Jones (of Novak 'n Goode) has been invited to perform at this year's Michigan Womens Music Festival. This is a great honour, and I have been told by a reliable source that Nikki & Judy's audition tape was chosen out of millions!!

When asked to comment on

what she'd be doing in Michigan, Nikki said "well, I don't want to feel like a tourist so I will be buying a big gun in order to blend in with the locals, and besides, they only serve vegetarian food at the festival and a girl has to have her protein." Nikki also informs us that she intends to have her breasts

painted (we look forward to a photo for the next newsletter!) and that she is looking forward to seeing Liz B and Tess. Nikki explained that she had been nervous when she had to send her script over for the interpreters (to translate Aussie into US), but they'd decided to have Morgan Freeman do the narration so

that the Americans would understand it. Nikki also thanks GALS for their support at her fundraiser. GALS congratulates Nikki on her great success and looks forward to hearing the full story on her return.



# The Pat-on-the-back Page

Everybody in GALS makes a contribution. We all contribute just by being members of the choir, as each personality contributes to our diversity, and each person brings their

own talents and skills to share. We also all have times when we can be very involved and times when anything beyond just getting by is not a happening thing. At this point in

time, there are a couple of people we would like to particularly acknowledge for their contributions which go above and beyond the call of duty.

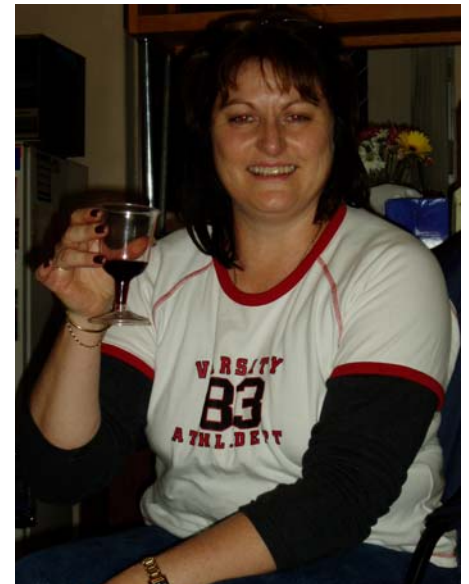
## Hail the Fundraising Queen!!

The GALS Pat-on-the-back Committee would like to acknowledge Cherie Koosache for her contribution to GALS. Here is a list of just some of the things Cherie does for the choir :

- Has been single-handedly responsible for generating literally thousands of dollars for GALS through fund raising.
- Member of Main Committee and Fund Raising Committee
- Was responsible for creating and maintaining a very efficient email contact list
- Is responsible for the creation and maintenance of our excellent website.

- Provides I.T support in various ways
- Keeps us informed about music events in the community
- Has been responsible for getting GALS paid gigs and greater publicity
- Always participates in everything which is happening and is always willing to lend a hand to do anything which needs doing.
- Delights us with her sense of humour, her cheerfulness, positive outlook, dedication, enthusiasm, Kiwi accent, and fun-loving nature.

GALS is privileged to have Cherie as a member and thanks her for her outstanding contributions.



Cherie toasts GALS' healthy bank balance



Liz B contemplates the meaning of life, while singing 'Yellow Submarine' at Indigo' in Denmark.

## Tales of the Treasurer

Liz Bussell is another of GALS' unsung heroes. A quiet, mild mannered Tenor at rehearsals, Liz B is secretly a dynamic whirlwind of contribution to GALS. Here are some of her most recent contributions:

- Member of Main and Music Committees
- Treasurer - Liz keeps GALS' accounts impeccably, provides exciting finance reports and updates, takes care of paying the bills, keeping track of money, reimbursing people and all the other details involved in managing our finances.
- Spent many hours recording, editing and producing a practice cd for us (along with

Jackie, whom GALS also greatly acknowledges).

- Bought and donated 5 new pieces of music from the Denmark Festival including Sister My Sister.
- Copied and donated to choir members dvds of our performances and antics
- Has a wonderful girlfriend who creates fantastic videos/dvds for us.
- Is always punctual, committed, prepared and willing to participate in everything.

Thank you for your generosity Liz. Have a simply spiffing time in Michigan!!

**And a few more photos just to fill in this page...**



## Meet the Newbies



**Sarah Durling**

“My mum used to sing to me in the womb; singing allows me a pathway to express my essence. I also like that we live in this place called the ‘universe’, connected by the ‘one song’.”



**Wendy Williams**

“Like Maria Wilson, I also got thrown out of a school, but unlike her, I still can’t sing.”

(Editor’s note– we assure Wendy that she is doing fine, that she can actually sing perfectly well and that she will gain confidence in time. Don’t give up).



**Janet Hoskings**

“Watch for the recumbent tricycle with a big rainbow flag around town - that’s me. I haven’t been run over by a homophobic truck driver yet either!”



**Debra Barnes**

“I’m a mad keen North Melbourne footy supporter, and the love of my life is my pet Chihuahua Xena.”



**Jenni Cobb**

“Grew up in Freo, and would often walk to Port Beach. Since travelled and enjoyed living and working in Europe and also in the midwest. Now live in southern suburbs with a fish pond and two cats.”

## The Awesome Adventures of Jude

Our beloved Jude Comfort will be away in East Timor for the next 5 weeks. Jude says, “I will be undertaking some research for my Masters research project looking at the impact of foreign health workers. I will also be undertaking some volunteer work. I will probably go to church on Sundays as this is where the singing is. So yes an adventure indeed.” GALS wishes Jude a safe and produc-

tive trip.

(Editor’s note : Although I will miss the people who are away, I am glee-

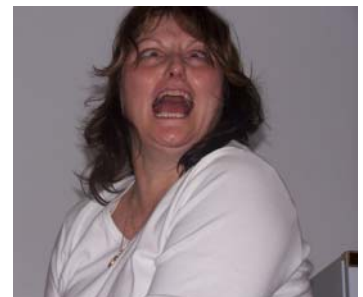


## News Flash!!

Cries of horror could be heard at GALS rehearsal during tea break last Thursday. The cries of horror preceded the ‘thump’ of a body hitting the ground in a dead faint.

Was someone injured? Had someone received news of a tragedy? Had aliens suddenly appeared in the North Perth Lesser Hall? No, Cherie had suddenly heard these words from Nikki, “no I haven’t looked at the website yet.”

The editor appeals to all Rhubarb readers - in order to save Cherie’s sanity, please visit the GALS website at [www.galswa.org.au](http://www.galswa.org.au)



## Guys Spotted at GALS

Rumours had been flying thick and fast amongst GALS. Could we at last be gaining new male members? Would we even remember what a man looked like? Had the recruiting campaign for men (done by a bunch of lesbians) done any good?

Well, over the last two weeks, GALS’ intrepid photographer was able to capture what appears to indeed be a man at a GALS rehearsal. The photog-

rapher said she thought she saw another one too, but it was too quick for her to catch on camera. GALS members hope that they haven’t frightened away the guys and that they will stay in the choir.



## No Nightingales

GALS recently debated attending a music eisteddfod in Bunbury later this year.

Debate was heated and the decision was a difficult one until one of Rhubarb’s informers called with vital information - the organiser of the festival was none other than the infamous conductor of the Nightingales!! That settled the question quickly, because as Michelle so eloquently said, “if I have to hear those Nightingales again, I’m sure I will be sick, and quite possibly simply curl up and die.”

The editor asks Rhubarb readers to be understanding and remember that

Michelle had a traumatic experience with the Nightingales in Denmark and it is clear that she has not fully recovered from it yet.

**Below : Liz, Carole and Leslie make their feelings about the Nightingales known.**



# It's Party Time!!

# Dates for the Diary



It's party time again folks.  
We are getting together  
for some socializing and  
celebrating on



**Friday 12th August, 7pm**  
**at Carole's place :**  
**20 Malvolio Road, Coobellup**

Bring a plate to share  
and whatever you want to drink.

We may also be lucky enough to enjoy a special guest  
appearance from Jo Brooke.

12th August, 7pm - PARTY

24th August, 6.30pm - Events Committee  
Meeting at Tenille's (33 Tenth Ave, Maylands)

30th August, 7pm - Main Committee Meeting

25th October - Pride Fairday Performance/Stall

19th November -  
GALS CONCERT  
(to be confirmed once  
venue is booked).



## Getting High on Opera

Since none of you slack GALS members has sent in a story this month, you now get to put up with a teacher story from the editor, since she has exhausted her supply of wit and humour at this point.

This is the story of how Saani taught her 6-8 year old school children to get high on opera. One fine afternoon, I decided to do something a bit different with the kids. I told them that we were going to do something special and that if they did it properly, they would feel something magical happen. I set them up to lay on the wooden floor of our echoey hall so that they weren't touching each other. They were under strict instructions that they weren't to move, make a sound or open their eyes during the activity or it wouldn't work. I warned them that the music would be very loud.

Once they were all settled, I put on a piece of opera. It's a short section of Alexander Borodin's "Polovtsian Dances." You may

not know it from that title, but you might if you heard it. It starts off quiet and then builds until a series of amazing, extremely loud crescendos with lots of cymbals, hundreds of voices and an incredible atmosphere. Then it gradually subsides again. At the climax, it is very loud.

I played this piece of music to the children with the cd player turned up fully. The music is so loud that it creates a sort of cocoon effect where all background noise is smothered and you can feel the music in your body. You also have the vibrations through the floorboards and from the walls. That, combined with having their eyes closed creates a very surreal and intense experience.

The children were rapt. Not one of them opened their eyes or moved during the whole thing. When they sat up again, they were in awe. These are some of the comments about what they felt :

"I felt like I was falling and falling"

"I felt like I was spinning in circles and there were bright colours whizzing around me."

"I felt like I was flying."

"I felt like the music was inside my body running up and down."

"I felt like I was out of control and turning around on the floor but I wasn't."

"I felt like the sound was a blanket over me and pressing down on me."

"I felt like I was in the sky going through all this light and then storms and clouds."

"I felt like I was going through a tunnel."

"I felt really dizzy and like I could see all these shapes and stuff rushing at me."

As you can see, it's a very fun exercise which produces very interesting results. If you ever feel like getting high without drugs, give it a go. And as for me, I say "what's the point of being a teacher if you can't mess with children's minds?"