

Rhubarb Rhubarb Rhubarb

A Pinker Shade of Blues (and Jazz)



Prestigious New Jazz Club Opens in Perth

On November 19th, the Civic Hotel, transformed for the evening into a seedy Jazz Club, came alive with the sizzling sounds of jazz and blues as the GALSWA singers took to the stage.

In what many people suggested was one of their best performances ever, the choir dazzled the audience with their repertoire.

Choir numbers were interspersed with a star-studded line up of guest performers including the great Jazz icons Louis and Ella, the sultry and sensational Cherie, the divine Debra Hausworth and of course, the dashing Neville who had fans screaming for more after his daring Nevina Simone routine.

The Club was also graced by performances from internationally acclaimed groups such as Dog's Breakfast,' whose renditions of 'My Cat Fell in the Well,' and 'All the Wild Wonders' had the audi-

ence begging for more. 'The Hills Trio' performed a jazz-blues-rock fusion version of 'Big Yellow Taxi,' and the superb hat-lowering choreography of 'The Honey Bees' was a perfect finish to a wonderful rendition of 'Summertime.' The club was also fortunate to have David Bechly and Yvonne Smith appear, and their timely return from their world tour gave the audience the chance to revel in three sublime songs.

The opening of the Jazz Club also provided the opportunity for several GALSWA members to receive awards for outstanding contributions, and Neville was inducted into the GALS Hall of Fame, an achievement which was celebrated by an award of a basket full of abundant (and very practical) vegetables.

The night was a wonderful showcase of talent and the GALSWA Jazz Club was declared a huge success.



**Neville introduces
Nevina Simone**



**Jazz Club Jamie,
our suave MC**

Dancing Cheek to Cheek



A scandal at the recent opening of the GALSWA Jazz Club had the audience buzzing as Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald teamed up to perform a classic jazz number, 'Dancing Cheek to Cheek.'

The relationship seemed rocky at first, as Louis dominated the stage while Ella tried desperately to find a chance to sing her part. Louis eventually left the microphone in favour of blowing his horn

which he did with great gusto.

Perhaps Louis' horn blowing impressed the eager Ella, because the routine ended with a display of dancing cheek to cheek in every possible interpretation of the phrase.

It is rumored that once their performance finished, Louis and Ella continued to practice their cheek to cheek dance routine in the dressing room out the back.

Pussies Disappear Mysteriously

The GALS Jazz concert provided a forum for members of the illustrious group 'Dog's Breakfast' to share the story of a recent mysterious and inexplicable phenomenon which occurred for them during their rehearsals.

The group originally met to rehearse a song called 'All the Wild Wonders' however several weeks into their practices, they all experienced a strange (and very disconcerting) event. Upon waking

one morning, they discovered that their pussies were gone! Understandably horrified, members of the group searched high and low for their missing friends.

In despair, they eventually decided to check the well and there they found their pussies, soaking wet. The group were reluctant to release details of the reuniting of the pussies with their owners, however they assured reporters and police that their pussies would receive lots of tender,

loving care and attention.

Whilst this story ends happily with 'Dog's Breakfast' finding and enjoying the company of their pussies once more, several matters remain a mystery : did the pussies fall, or were they pushed? Just how did they all end up in the well together anyway, and what really happened while they were there? Perhaps this affair is destined to remain one of life's mysteries...



Members of Dog's Breakfast - Nikki Jones, Cherie Koosache, Debbie Bills, Sarah Durling and Tenille Flower show their horror, dismay, disbelief, grief and hysteria at the fate of their pussies.

A Photographic Record of the final Rehearsal



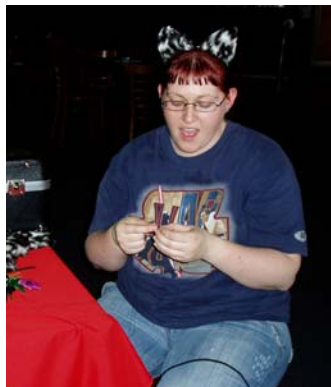
Some of us stressed...



Some of us didn't...



Dog's Breakfast created a stir which had everyone wildly wondering what on earth had possessed them when they suddenly demanded money for their performance. They were placated however, with promises of free bowls of milk for their pussies.



The pressure caused some of us to do strange things. . .



and others to take advantage of the pub and become rather jolly as a result.

Momentary

By Liz Bussell

Recently James Berlyn, former loved member of GALS, was commissioned by the WA AIDS Council to perform a piece to celebrate the 20 year anniversary of the WA AIDS Council. His idea was to combine a group of GALS and Band of Angels members to perform the piece, arranged and directed by GALS member Nikki Jones. On 1/11/05 he sent around an email inviting participation.

Rehearsals began in mid November involving myself and Cherie from GALS, former GALS members Ben and Vinn and a handful of Band of Angels members, the final group comprising 15.

The piece comprised three songs, Miss Me (Culture Club), Mad World (Tears for Fears) and One More River to Cross (traditional gospel), the first two were arranged (very well, by the way) by our own Nikki.

After 12 hours of intensive rehearsal, we gathered at the Perth Town Hall on the night of Friday 25/11/05, dressed in black with red AIDS ribbons. It was an invitation-only event, with representatives from the AIDS Council, local politicians, media and other VIPs.

The guests received formal speeches in the foyer prior to being ushered, glass of wine in hand, into the main hall containing visual displays. The lights dimmed and we started to sing Miss Me from an elevated balcony. Two bars in and we were blinded by spotlights. After the first song James began his very moving commentary about his last 20 years of seeing the wrath of HIV destroy the lives of friends and acquaintances. We each contributed personal dialogue, portraying how HIV and AIDS has touched all of us in some way. The song Mad World was hauntingly beautiful, dark and intense, filling the town hall with palpable emotion. James spoke again, completing his commentary, and as he wiped tears from his cheeks we sang the final song, which conveyed hope and a sense of uplifting purpose.

James was outstanding, his passion and sincere emotion as he told his own tale. Nikki did an amazing job of arranging two of the pieces, and she MUST put some of that arranging skill to work for GALS.

Tess offered to video the event, and on the night had control of no less than three cameras, one of which was carried by former GALS member Jamie.

When all was done we all gathered at a restaurant in Northbridge, for an enjoyable meal and chance to unwind...surprisingly we resisted the urge to entertain the other eaters with our fabulous singing.

I hope that we get a chance to do some more combined GALS/BOA works. I suggested we call ourselves Band of GALS...which seemed to be received favourably. If this in fact happens I'd encourage others to participate, it was quite something working with others who love to sing.



Timor to Curtin

By Jude Comfort

The last two years have been dominated by study. However I am pleased to say that I have completed and submitted my thesis (and had it returned with a great pass!). So I now have my Masters in International Health. My thesis was on the role, motivation and impact of foreign health workers in the post conflict setting of Timor Leste. I spent 5 weeks in Timor in August/September of this year conducting interviews and also doing some volunteer work.

Having completed my study I thought I would have a quieter time but that was not to be. Regional work trips, parents visiting from Canberra, a GALS concert, applying for a job etc. After 10 years working at the Cancer Council WA in the prevention area it was time for a move and last week I accepted the position of Lecturer in Health Promotion in the Health Sciences Faculty at Curtin University!

So the year ahead for me will be one of new challenges on the work front but one I am looking forward to. Christmas will be spent bushwalking on the Bibbulmun Track around Walpole and then a few weeks off before starting at Curtin.

Thank you to all those who have supported me over the last 2 years of study and if anyone is thinking of studying in health promotion give me a call.

The Hills Are Alive

By Saani & Robin Haley

The hills in Darlington were alive last week with the sounds of the last Main Committee meeting for 2005. This momentous occasion was celebrated in style by Saani, Jackie, Joanna, Liz B, Liz W, Rikki and Cherie at Joanna's palatial abode. After the champagne and caviar, we enjoyed a 5 course meal served by Joanna's butler whilst the string quartet playing by the fountain provided light dinner music.

We congratulated ourselves on doing such a marvellous job during the year, and after a brief discussion of vital matters for 2006 (such as who would provide the pizza for the first meeting and who would organise the tickets to the Bahamas for our final meeting next year, as that would need to be done in advance), we settled back to watch the stupendous display of fireworks and the magnificent exotic dancing girls.

We also reminisced about our last visit to the hills, when a group of us watched Sarah star in a performance of 'Anything Goes.' We enjoyed the show so much that we were feeling very inspired and decided that it would be a good idea for GALS to do a musical next year.

We decided that 'The Sound of Music' would be an appropriate choice, although we decided to make some changes to the storyline - Captain Von Trap would end up marrying Uncle Max and Maria would marry the Baroness. We also felt it was vital to include tap dance routines and have feather boas as part of the costumes. Other suggestions included having the nuns give a rendition of ABBA's 'Mama Mia' in response to Maria's wayward behaviour, the Nazis objecting to the Captain flying the Pride flag, and Liesel and Rolf singing 'I Just Can't Get You Out of My Head' in stead of 'I Am 16 Going on 17.'

No final decisions have been made regarding the casting as yet, however suggestions include; Sarah as Maria, Deb H as Mother Superior, Carole as the Baroness, Nikki as Uncle Max, Neville as Captain Von Trap, Liz B as Rolf, and Joanna as the other nuns. Stay tuned for more news as this exciting musical production unfolds in 2006.