



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

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 It was lovely to see so many happy faces at our first rehearsal for 2009. Welcome to our new members and a welcome back to members who have had a short break. Enjoy a year of great singing, friendship and fun, while increasing your musical knowledge 

Joan Huggan. 

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 March	Ostinato Annual Meeting	7 00pm	at St John's Village
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May Visits to local Nursing Homes. Dates to be finalized.
14 June Rehearsal for Mid Year Concert at TAFE Auditorium
21 June Mid Year Concert at TAFE Auditorium
November Visits to Local Nursing Homes. Dates to be finalized.
29 November Rehearsal for Christmas Concert at TAFE Auditorium
6 December Christmas Concert at TAFE Auditorium

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday 10 March at 7.00 pm

Election of 2009 Committee -

Nomination forms are available from our secretary Helen Porter. Please return completed forms to Helen on 2 March.

 If you are interested and would like to be on the committee please speak to a committee member or your section leader.

VALE HELEN DWYER

Helen was a person who loved interesting, challenging music of all ages and all periods. She also loved her craft work and U3A and Probis and she particularly loved books.

Coming from a musical family, she was especially influenced by her aunt who inspired her to sing in choirs from the age of 8yrs. I believe one of the nuns at St Josephs also encouraged her and so she learned to love to sing from a very early age.

Helen has always been involved with singing and sang with the Merriwa Singers in the late 1970s. This only lasted a few years before the group basically dissolved.

She also sang with the Appin St Singers. This was a small group of people, with no set membership and no regular weekly practices. They gathered together with Joyce Lyle to sing for special events by invitation. Helen often sang duets with Vi Bussell and Marg Wehman for local entertainment through this group.

I have known Helen for over 25 years since David Carolane moved to the North East in 1983 and held singing classes at The Centre. Helen and I both attended and then became inaugural members of The Wangaratta Choristers. In fact at their 20 year celebration concert we were the only 2 originals singing in that concert. Unfortunately there was an uncomfortable situation soon after and Helen and I, with some other Choristers, decided to form a new choir. This was called Ostinato and was a continuation of the idea of a community choir. The fact that it was open to all and non- auditioning was important to Helen who considered everyone had the right to sing and enjoy.

Anyone who had the privilege of knowing Helen would know (as I have already said) that she loved to sing and the endorphins from the exercise (yes singing can be good exercise) made her very happy, almost high at times. She had a very warped Irish wit which often left the back row in fits of laughter - - - or as Ruth puts it "in a disreputable state". We had some great times and I will really miss her one liners.

Helen's love of music was such that she not only encouraged all around her but enthused them with the fun and challenge of new music – "always have a go". I will never forget how Helen took my own son David under her wing with The Wangaratta Choristers. She loved him, despite his smelly teenage feet at age 11 yrs and often joked how the odour beat him to his seat. But his pure boy soprano voice was worth it. Since then he has loved singing and she was thrilled to renew their acquaintance on the times when he has come to sing as a bass with Ostinato during his visits over the last few years. She always welcomed children to the choir and tried to encourage and enthuse them with the love of music just as her aunt had done for her as a child. She made them choir bags and talked to them at tea breaks and if they were in the car on the way to and from choir. She felt they were very important members of a choir, and firmly believed that a choir would die without young blood coming into it.

But the thing I will miss the most was our bus trips to and from concerts especially in Albury. We sang the whole way home and I was always amazed how other people could start a song but Helen knew more verses or in general more songs than anyone else. She had an amazing repertoire.

On top of all this she was a wonderful, compassionate person who always put other people before herself.

We will really miss you Helen.

Bronwyn Pearce