



Dear colleagues,

The Australian National Choral Association (ANCA) is a non-profit organisation set up to encourage and promote choral music in Australia. The National President of ANCA, Professor Peter Roennfeldt has co-opted a committee and given it the task of re-establishing ANCA WA. The members of the committee are:

Nicholas Bannan, Eleanor Brockman, Su-Lyn Chong, Ann Clarke, Penelope Kimble, Micheál McCarthy, Sarah Mills Menogue, Paul Sealey, Nikki Sullivan and myself.

This is a team of experienced educators and choral musicians who aim to assist choirs and choral conductors in all sectors of the choral community. Whether you are a music teacher in a primary or secondary school, a conductor of a community choir or a chorister, ANCA aims to engage with the full spectrum of choral music in WA, including regional areas and invites you to become a member.

As a National body ANCA offers many benefits to our members right across Australia.

- ANCA offers professional workshops on choral conducting.
- ANCA provides workshops for Choristers.
- ANCA has chapters in all states, and you can liaise with others for the advancement of choral music.
- ANCA organises many International Conductors to come to Australia offering the opportunity to have a workshop with your choir.
- ANCA provides workshops and sessions in all different aspects of Choir training.
- As a member you receive the magazine *Sing Out*, a magazine dedicated to Choral work.
- As a member you can register for the online "ChoralENews" newsletter.
- As a member you will receive the State newsletter in your home state.
- ANCA offers the best value for money Public Liability cover for choirs.
- Through ANCA, choirs can be covered for Public Liability when and where they perform up to \$20,000,000 limit liability.
- Through ANCA, individuals and choirs can be covered with Volunteer Accident Insurance.
- ANCA offers, free of charges, extensive coverage for members on our Web Site. www.anca.org.au
- ANCA have access to a wide spectrum of choral works.
- ANCA is a proud member of the International Federation of Choral Music (IFCM).
- Individual members and nominated person/s from a choir/school membership may attend ANCA functions at a reduced rate.

At a recent ANCA Open Forum held in Perth the most pressing needs of Western Australian choral communities were discussed. These included choral conducting training, vocal production training, choir interaction and the need for databases of accompanists and concert dates.

With these in mind, ANCA WA is currently in the early planning stages of several events and ongoing levels of assistance. These include:

- organising a launch concert to be held at 2.30pm on Sunday 11th September 11, 2011 in the Hale School auditorium. This is a free concert where choirs from various sectors of the community will perform to each other and to ANCA members and friends;
- planning a choral conducting workshop in January for beginner, intermediate and advanced level conductors;
- organising rehearsal observation sessions available to ANCA members;
- offering assistance with your choir from experienced choral directors;
- establishing a Western Australian e-newsletter;
- establishing an online discussion board where members can share ideas and have your choral questions answered;
- creating a working database of choirs, directors, accompanists, organisations and festivals, available to ANCA members;
- establishing a web page on the ANCA national web site (www.anca.org.au); and
- fostering active links between metropolitan and regional choirs in WA.

Many other helpful ideas are also under discussion. It is the aim of ANCA to work with choral communities to meet their needs. To be successful we require the participation of Western Australia's choirs and their directors. I encourage you to become an ANCA member and help us build better choral communities.

To join ANCA please consult www.anca.org.au for the various membership categories and online application form and email state secretary Su-Lyn Chong on nylus@inet.net.au with your intentions.

The ANCA committee appreciates this opportunity to promote and assist choirs and conductors in this state and looks forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Dr Robert Braham
President ANCA (WA)