

Dear Opera Lovers

We are emerging like a chrysalis for spring!

After quite a break (not of our choice), we are planning events again. The restrictions required because of Covid-19 have made it difficult to hold events but we have now made arrangements e.g. bigger venues that make it possible for us to hold events that are safe for you and for the performers.

I will be sending the details for our first event tomorrow but want to alert you to what we are planning for the rest of the year. Your committee has been busy working on your behalf and we have some new events as well as some of the traditional events that are always popular.

We hope you have been well and have managed to avoid the coronavirus, have enjoyed the online operatic events and are now ready for some live performances. We look forward to seeing you soon.

September

Meet the WAO Young Artists. This has traditionally been held at the beginning of their year but this time it is after a year in the program. You may have heard/seen them in a number of WAO events in the past year both live and online. We have supported the Young Artists Program for some years and late last year made a grant of \$1000 to each of these young artists. They make a stunning collection of talent and we will have them perform for us in September at the Government House Ballroom. Details of this will be available tomorrow. Please mark your diary – 6.00pm Friday 11th September at Government House ballroom. And note that we will be taking all precautions to ensure that this event is Covid-safe.

October

We have worked with WAAPA to develop a competition with a prize for the best aria. You may be aware that we have been thinking for some time that we would like to hold a competition and give a prize to the singer who performs the best aria. We will be doing that this year for WAAPA final year students. Emma Matthews, representing WAAPA, and Helen Brown, as our representative, will form the adjudicating panel. You will be invited to attend to enjoy this performance.

November

A special event in a lovely garden, with plenty of room to allow safe distancing. If you had hoped to go to Glyndebourne this year, you can still enjoy a beautiful garden with wonderful performers. We will hold this event in cooperation with Freeze Frame Opera.

Our plans for a soiree with Emma Matthews and Paul O'Neill at Diana's home have been postponed till early next year, pending social distancing requirements. Under current requirements, we would not be able to accommodate everyone in her home.

December

Our Christmas dinner. This will be held, in early December, in a different venue as the Karrakatta club has moved and their building that we have used in the past is no longer available.

Other news

Donations -

Many thanks to those members who made a donation at the end of the financial year. Your generosity in donating is really appreciated. It makes it possible for us to help support opera in WA. So THANK YOU!

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Young artist profile

On September 11th you will meet the Young Artists. We are hopeful that Matt Dixon will be able to sing but he has been out of action recently. There are 7 Young Artists this year and I expect you may have seen some of them during the past 12 months. For information on each of them, refer to the WAO pdf attached

Matt is a baritone who has been studying with Robert Dean at the Guildhall of Music and Drama. Matt hopes to go to Cardiff to the Welsh International Academy of Voice after having successfully auditioned for Dennis O'Neill in December before coming back home to Perth earlier in the year. He is also a cyclist who shattered his right clavicle falling off a bike in April and had to have emergency surgery and a metal hook plate put in to stabilise it. He thought it was healing well until last Friday when his surgeon told him after doing an X-ray that it hasn't even knitted yet. He has further surgery to have the metal plate in his clavicle removed and will be in a sling for about 3 weeks afterwards. So he may/may not be able to sing. Hopefully ...

This has been incredibly frustrating for Matt as he's been able to sing (with only mild discomfort) for the last month until being told that he can't now until the surgeon gives the green light. We wish you well Matt and hope to see you on the 11th September.



See you soon
Regards
Margaret