

# Spirit of the Streets Choir

## Members' Newsletter No.3

Hello again to all members of the SOS Choir. Our newsletter this time includes an array of goodies including updates and photos from members, a personal story from Dave sharing a little bit about his life, poems from our wonderfully creative members and a few challenges including a crossword.

We continue to be so impressed by the array of talents amongst the choir members; apart from the gardening and craft skills, members have expanded their computing skills (great to see Beth taking on email and Zoom), Kate's beautiful solo of her mother's WA version of 'An English Country Garden' on Zoom yesterday, and Dot's poem about the 'To Do' list.

**Zoom meetings:** we are continuing to have our Zoom meetings on Tuesday afternoon (anyone who hasn't yet joined the Zoom group and would like to, please contact Dot on [volunteering.SOSchoir@gmail.com](mailto:volunteering.SOSchoir@gmail.com) ). Here is a photo of this week's SOS choir Zoom gathering:



Other members joined in during the session as well. We are enjoying seeing the various members' faces on Zoom each Tuesday and hearing from individuals as to what they are up to. Of course, none of that is nearly as good as being able to get together in person on a Tuesday afternoon at St Albans and we are hoping that we might be able to resume our gatherings in the not too distant future. Let's hope

that everyone remembers to keep social distancing so as to prevent any further Covid 19 outbreaks and that will then enable the WA Government to lift the restrictions on large group gatherings. In the meantime, we have to exercise patience and keep maintaining our own mental and physical activities.

Best wishes from Trish and Dot

Let's start with a very thought-provoking poem written by **Trish VanderWal**

#### CHILDREN OF THESE TIMES

Children of these times, it seems  
are so hung up on broken dreams  
Promises so seldom kept -  
Parents hung up on their own regret ...

They're not really growing up at all  
They're kind of just arriving -  
Caught up in an Adults Only world  
with all its greed and foolish striving.

Children of these times you know  
are products of what their parents sow.  
Too many children with broken hearts  
as families tear themselves apart.

For we give our children things, not love  
as we store up our earthly treasure  
We don't see the pain we cause  
because money is our only measure.

What have we done to the innocent mind?  
Is the adult world continually blind?  
It saddens the heart and touches the soul  
that some little children will never be whole.

Children of these times, it seems  
are so hung up on broken dreams.

Thank you to **Diana and Noreen** for the following:

Having been asked for a contribution to the newsletter we decided to share a few photos of a few of our favourite things ... Reminds me of a song

Noreen lives in Bassendean so after Zoom Choir we usually go for some fresh air and a walk. Even an hour out of the house feels like a holiday and there are many lovely natural spots to visit.



Noreen had a laugh about hugging a tree as with social distancing there aren't too many hugs on offer.

Later she wrote  
Don't Fence Me In

Shhhh! Hugging Out  
I need a fix  
So, don't breathe a word  
Or I'm in a fix  
Diana took me  
And I hugged a tree  
The branches hugged me  
The police did see  
So, we had to flee  
Escaped to safety

How many songs can you put together into a story - challenge from Noreen and Diana  
This is a quick one from us

Sunny Days are here again so the two of us decided to go down by the riverside. Blue skies, such a lovely day and the two of us couldn't get over what a wonderful world we were sharing.

Feeling at home amongst the gum trees we listened and thought we heard a kookaburra singing in an old gum tree....

*(Editor's note: I found 9 song titles or extracts, are there more? Can someone write a piece for the next newsletter with more than that?)*



With love and gratitude to all at SOS Choir  
- from the two of us xxx

**Kathy Gale's** contribution fits beautifully with Diana and Noreen's

"Hello everyone and hi fives to all those angels taking care of us during this difficult time.

I have been inspired and uplifted by all our choir members reaching out to each other and showing their care.

During this time my greatest joy and comfort comes by being surrounding by nature. As long as I can walk and see beautiful trees and hear the birds sing, I experience solitude not loneliness.

During Winter, when nature is dormant, is it a reminder that come, Spring, nature will again "bloom and grow" and so will we, because we have been sustained and cared for by friends and colleagues.

Remember that the beautiful butterfly, had to cocoon as a caterpillar until its life emerged from the chrysalis, to fly free, totally transformed."

In our own way we will also emerge stronger and more resilient, ready to spread our wings.

**Dave Scott** is the Chair of the SOS Choir Board and a fantastic member of the choir. As you all know, Dave comes along to most rehearsals, encourages, teases, and always is willing to help out when he sees a need. Dave generously agreed to share a bit of his life story with us so here it is in his own words.

"I was born in Subiaco on May 23, 1945 after my father had returned from four years away in the war. After the war my Father resumed his job in the State bank and we travelled throughout WA, changing towns every two years as Dad got promotions. I started school in Morawa in 1949 and when I was 13, we found ourselves in Merredin and I was able to complete my high-school without moving towns. My folks moved to Perth during my final year and I found somewhere to board.

In 1962 I began working as a clerk at the Clerk of Courts office in Merredin. I enjoyed my young life over the next three years, buying a new car, finding a girlfriend and going to plenty of country dances.



In 1965 when I was 20, I was called up into the Army. I was the 13th West Australian to be called up. In early February 1966 I went to Puckapunyal in Victoria for basic training then after three months was posted to the Second Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (infantry), at Brisbane. There we trained hard for a year until the Battalion was posted to South Vietnam in April 1967.

The early war in South Vietnam was like no other, there was no defined enemy - it was rare to engage North Vietnamese soldiers - mostly we fought Viet Cong, who looked just like any other village people until they shot at us. There was no defined "front line" either and as we patrolled in

the thick jungle against an enemy that didn't look like an enemy, and being conscious always of booby traps and mines, it was a harrowing experience. In early December that year when we were on an operation, and as we were about to set up a defensive position for the night, I and a mate were told to hack out a drop zone in the dense jungle for a helicopter resupply. When we had finished that we were told to pack our gear as we were going out on the chopper. We flew back to base and were told to pack all our gear as we were going home to Australia. 36 hours later I arrived in Perth.

There was no debrief or counselling. I found it very difficult to cope in a world so foreign to what I had been accustomed to and without my mates for support. I started drinking and I was so mentally broken that my Father kicked me out of the house three weeks after I had returned. I was discharged from the Army in February 1968 and I went back to work at the Courts in Perth. I was very fortunate to have a boss who recognised my troubles and

gave me much support. I was able to stop drinking and smoking and eventually I met a girl, got married and had two children.



I struggled through the next 25 years, suffering night sweats and flashbacks and becoming more and more angry. During this time, I left my marriage but after a few years I met Sue through our separate work connections, and, eventually we married. We have been together for 35 years and Sue has been a significant and wonderful support for me.

I have always enjoyed staying fit, however, that has not stopped me from two bouts of cancer which have been very debilitating. Whilst they say there is no connection to service in South Vietnam, a disproportionate number of Veterans have contracted cancer and many believe this is as a result of the defoliation and other sprays used during the war. In the late 1990's a mate, who was also a Vietnam Veteran, told me about Veteran's counselling service - so I went there and started on a long road to recovery. I still see my counsellor on a regular basis.

Dave"

### **Jen Rennie** reports



"I managed to keep the surprise Mother's Day High Tea a secret until 12:30pm Sunday; Mum had started to talk about lunch suggestions. I tried to stall her and gave her a hint "Suzanne has organised something, it will be here soon" and luckily it did (pew). Got Mum to answer the door when the High Tea was delivered...and she got really

excited when she realised what it was (she was thinking my sister had sent her a bunch of flowers) couldn't keep the gigantic smile off her face for the rest of the day. The High Tea itself was lovely; having it at home was just perfect; full of yummy treats and enough to make you feel comfortably full and satisfied."



And **Steve** reminds us of the early days of Covid-19 when toilet paper was such a highly valued commodity. This article was published in The Big Issue paper which Steve sells.

topic of newspaper allowance - I won my favourite circum...

## On a Roll

It was a real pleasure to be able to help out this morning. I went to Coles at 8am, and I couldn't believe how many people were there. I was going to grab two bundles of toilet paper - with 20 rolls in each. But I was only allowed to buy one. I rang Andrew in Perth Vendor Support straight away, and said I'd buy some. So after I finished on my pitch, I took out 10 rolls for myself, and gave 10 to Andrew to be distributed to other vendors. I am feeling really up in the air about everything; it's driving me mad. I can only see my girlfriend two or three times a week, and we can't even hug or kiss or anything. We spend a couple of hours together, talking. I have to ring her once a day now, while this is going on.

**STEVE W UNDERGROUND | MURRAY ST | PERTH**

A photograph of Steve W Underground, a man wearing a blue cap with 'EAGLES' on it, a yellow high-visibility vest, and glasses. He is smiling and holding a large roll of Quilton toilet paper. The roll is labeled '10 ROLLS', 'Quilton', '20 SHEETS', and '3 PLY SOFTNESS'. There is a signature in the top right corner of the photo.

ALL VENDOR CONTRIBUTORS TO STREETSHEET ARE PAID FOR THEIR WORK.

And **Helen** shared the following riddle during our Zoom session:

"Why did the teddy bear say "No" to dessert? Because it was stuffed."

On a sadder note, **Cath Jennings** has written a poem in memory of Dianne Barrett; here are the first 11 lines:

**Lament for Diane, by cj**

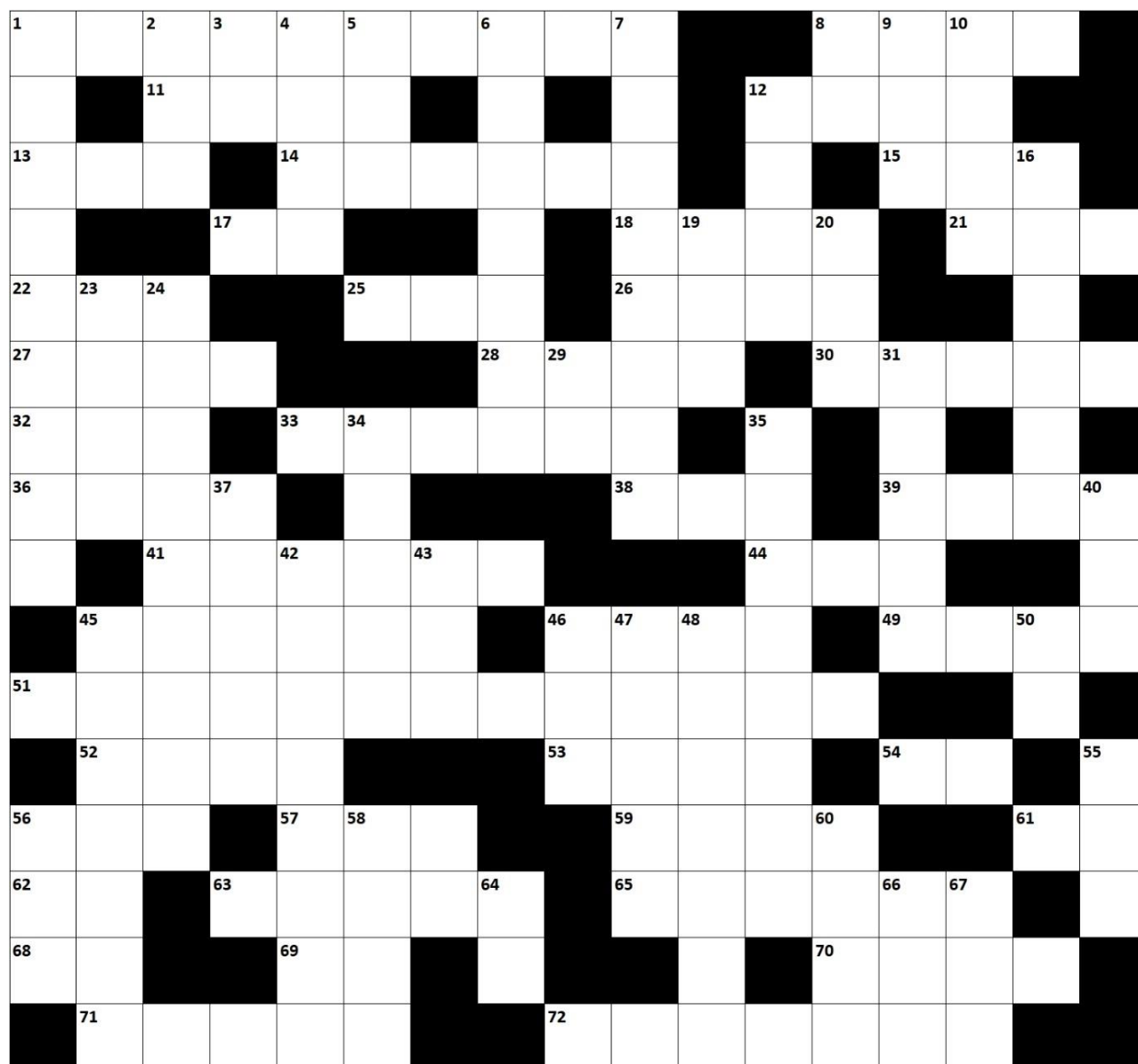
Oh my, oh Di, our enigmatic  
mate,  
Serially late,  
So nimble on your strings;  
Intent on higher things.  
You'd rescue waifs and  
strays;  
Such kind maternal ways.  
Deep thinking soul,  
Could hold your own  
When playing rock and roll  
Mix it with the boys!  
Music the apex of your joys.



.....



## Dot's crossword



### CLUES

#### Across

1. Collection of items to be performed (10)
8. Love Love Love I call your..... (4)
11. Repeated in our warm up song (4)
12. All you need is..... (4)
13. A song that makes it big
14. Special days mean special (6)
15. Choir members love to (3)

- 17 We don't ask for this (2)
- 18 A Welcome face (4)
- 21 we sing songs old and ..... (3)
- 22 Tina recently hurt her ... (3)
- 25 The kitchen fairy (3)
- 26 Bernard is in the ..... before choir (4)
- 27 No more will I .....(4)
- 28 Stevo wore a horse head and ..... Melbourne Cup day (4)
- 30 Beatles song .... And ivory (5)
- 32 Short for our choir (3)
- 33 We do our ..... before a song in gigs (6)
- 36 sometimes we run .....(4)
- 38 Hasn't been for a while now (3)
- 39 We .... Have fun (4)
- 41 A new warm up song (3,3)
- 44 One of our male voices (3)
- 45 Sometimes we ..... with laughter (6)
- 46 We laugh till we .....(4)
- 49 Which sister went to the dance ? (4)
- 51 You usually find a .....(6,3,4)
- 52 a fee .....paid (4)
- 53 we do ..... Exercises (4)
54. Chair of the board's initials (2)
56. We are .... To have a lot of fun (3)
57. Amazing Grace (3)
59. at open mic we do an .... (4)
61. the good cook is a .... (2)
62. Dot looks after most ... (2)
63. No one ever does this (5)
65. sometimes our notes are a little ....(6)
68. ....t it be (2)
69. passed member fond memories (2)
70. Dot loved going here (4)
71. Afternoon tea makes you do it (5)
72. The type of welcome you get (7)

### Down

1. Happens every Tuesday (9)
2. A new member (3)
3. Short for a tiny dancer (2)
4. We .....songbooks (4)
5. AC/DC song (3)
6. Gail can .....a kookaburra (7)
7. Warms up are good .....(8)
8. Aint got ..money, honey (2)
9. .... Maria (3)
10. No one is ever this (4)
12. We get a song... at gigs (4)
16. Harry plays .... (6)
19. Midnight .... (3)
20. What you keep on the prize (3)

23. Always .....for more (4)
24. 3 gigs every Tuesday. Is Bernard one of these? (9)
29. He doesn't come very often (2)
31. We know the colour (5)
34. some songs are fast ...(5)
35. Every member is one of these (8)
  
37. She is a long term member (5)
  
40. How many Choir directors? (3)
42. You can't play this at choir (8)
43. ....Devo (3)
45. Our intros are never ..... (7)
46. we have ... at the end of the year (1,2)
47. Our Facebook queen (5)
48. A kitchen flower (7)
50. Initials of person on the board
55. Eleanor supports ... husband (3)
56. We send a card if you .... (3)
58. Eleanor wore this for a song once (4)
60. I'd walk 500 ..... (4)
64. Board secretary's initials
66. John wrote a song . . . Vegas Casino (3)
67. we are a varied ..... (3)

The solution will be provided in the next newsletter but if you can't wait until then, email [info.soschoir@gmail.com](mailto:info.soschoir@gmail.com) and we will forward it to you.