

# RSL RURAL COMMEMORATIVE YOUTH CHOIR, INC.



## BEHIND THE LINES



RSL Rural Commemorative Youth Choir Patron: Mrs Hurley

NEWSLETTER - Friday, 29 July 2016



Tasman wears our new uniform

Term 2 saw the introduction of our beautiful new Choir uniforms thanks to the Wagga Wagga RSL Sub-branch. The striking black and red depicting the colours of the Poppy of Remembrance. Branded with both our logo and the RSL Logo, they have added a new dimension to each performance as we commemorate both visually and in song.

Singing on stage at the NSW RSL State Congress in the Sydney Town Hall in May was a wonderful experience for our

young people. Both our singers and their families showed great commitment in travelling from as far as Wagga Wagga, Junee and the Southern Highlands at short notice for an early morning performance. The rousing standing ovation by the delegates made the trip very special and is something our young people will never forget. We would like to thank the Principals of the schools involved in giving their blessing for students to take the day off to be involved in this special event.



The Choir receives a standing ovation at the RSL State Congress, Sydney Town Hall.



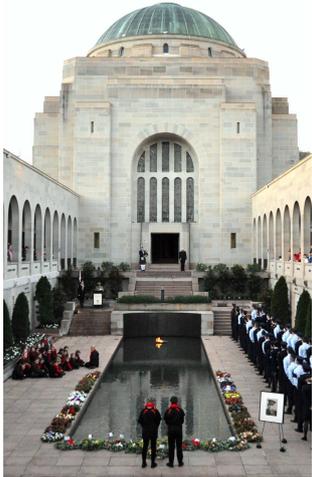
The Choir Performs at RSL 100th Anniversary Dinner, Wagga Wagga

As winter set in, the choir gave a warm June performance in Wagga for the Wagga Wagga RSL Sub-branch as they celebrated 100 Years of the RSL with a special Anniversary Dinner. Guests included both the Riverina's State and Federal Politicians, the Mayor, Kapooka's Commandant and the Wagga RAAF Base Wing Commander along with the newly appointed National RSL President, Rod White. The Choir was well received as they took us on a journey of the last 100 years in poetry and song with their "Singin' Soldiers Tribute" showcasing CJ Dennis' "Singin' Soldiers" poem from "The Tales of Ginger Mick" all the way through to Rachel Platten's "Fight Song".



Choir Rehearsals at Old Parliament House, Canberra

School holidays came around quickly and featured our July Canberra Music and Leadership Camp. The three amazing days of life-changing experiences for our kids started with a Choir practice, tour and short performance in Old Parliament House before moving to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) where our young people, under the guidance of our Choir Mob Helpers, spent an afternoon learning about the symbols in The Table of Remembrance and how they connected with stories found in the War Memorial.



Wreath and National Anthem AWM Last Post Ceremony

Day two was a very long but successful day of filming for two videos in the AWM First World War galleries and then in the Green Screen studio. The day finished with the Choir leading the National Anthem for the Last Post Ceremony which was streamed live across the internet.



Filming in the AWM First World War Galleries

Day three was a fun opportunity to connect with current serving members as a contingent of Australia's Federation Guard arrived to pick us up in a Defence Force bus from the War Memorial for a day of life and leadership lessons at ADFA. This included a challenging morning on the Overwater Obstacle Course. Alexe Murray, one of our choir members, is to be congratulated for completing what was a very challenging course. The day ended with a spectacular performance by the Fed Guard drill team and a surprise presentation by their Commandant of a "Beary" cute Mascot as a gesture of good will between the Choir and the Federation Guard (see picture).

For the last couple of weeks, the choir has been practicing to go into a recording studio to record their song, "Diduno?" with Australian Idol Winner, Damien Leith. Around 18 of our Choir members have passed auditions and will be recording in early August.

Our next holiday Music and Leadership Camp will be at Cockatoo Island in October and will feature a concert at our very own Vice-Regal Reception hosted by His Excellency the Honourable, David Hurley AC, DSC, Governor of NSW and our Patron, Mrs Hurley.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have supported us both financially and in-kind. As you are probably aware, we are Tier 1 in the RSL funding structure. Your continued support is what keeps us bringing music and history together to inspire and develop young leaders with an understanding of Australia's culture and heritage.



Commandant of Australia's Federation Guard presents our new Mascot to Alexe



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