



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*

## All aboard the saucy S. S. Reed

GAI RAMSAY

It was "Ho Ho Ahoy" on Noosa River on Friday night when 16 singers from Noosa Chorale brought the joy of Christmas to audiences on the foreshore.

Noosa real estate agents, Reed and Co, wanted an original way to thank the community for their support during this testing year so they asked the Chorale if they would like to do a "Carol Cruise"—a ferry tour of the river.

It lasted two hours and it was an outstanding success. Leaving from Noosa Marina we had a rather breezy trip along the Noosa River on Noosa's own ferry, and by the time we arrived at our first official stop, we had gathered a flotilla of at least 10 boats, which increased in number as we proceeded around Noosa Sound.

The first stop was at Ravenwood Park on Noosa Sound, then we doubled back to Noosa Park West, then on to Settler's Cove Jetty and later Lions Park.

By the time we reached Lions Park, it had begun to drizzle but the stalwart Chorale, Maestro Adrian King and accompanist Janet Brewer soldiered on - talk about dedicated!

All of these locations were populated by audiences eager to join in with the Christmas carols and clearly thrilled by the Chorale's repertoire.



On our return journey, we stopped at "The Boathouse" to entertain people on the foreshore and at the restaurant, where the owner brought on board a supply of Prosecco to reward singers.

We then enjoyed a delicious supper provided by Reed & Co.

Chatting over supper with Amelia and Bianca (Reed & Co. event organisers), they

both expressed their utter delight with the Chorale singers - 100% satisfaction with presentation and sound!

And for the singers... they were delighted just to get together and perform for the first time this year.

(More photos on page 2...)





Continued from page 1 Photos—Ian Jobling



(From left) Peter Wright, Paul Ritchie, John Davies, Janet Brewer, Elizabeth Henley, Marianne Seldon, Karen Wright, Kay Cartwright, Fran Wilson, Marianne McLellan, Helen King, Adrian King, Carolyn Hay, Gai Ramsay, Jackie Martin, Rod Probert, Ian Jobling, Jeremy Martin. Photo—Reed & Co.



## Chorale launches Hastings Street Christmas

JIM FAGAN

Passers by stopped and sang, children skipped and danced and coffee buffs at Aroma's sipped and enjoyed the Christmas carols and songs by Noosa Chorale singers on Friday night.

The group of 10, led by deputy music director, Pam Sage, launched the Hastings Street Association's "12 Days to Christmas" celebrations with traditional favourites like "Oh Come All Ye Faithful," "We Three Kings," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

It was a dream start for the entertainment festivities planned to make the popular Noosa street buzz with excitement.

Created by former director of Noosa Long Weekend and Noosa Alive, Ian Mackellar, they include floating fish, Living Statues, Cabbage Patch dolls, illuminated butterflies, unicyclists, a flying angel, acrobats, English Bobbies, stilt walkers, Lollipop Ladies, a jazz band, clowns, carol singers, a harpist, a violinist and Bubbles the Baby Elephant.

Later producer Ian told Tune In: "It was a perfect opening to our 12-day programme. The atmosphere on the street was wonderful.

"It was just so great to see everyone out and about, relaxed and engaged and with big smiles of appreciation on the faces of the young and the young at heart.

"The audience just delighted in embracing the joy and spirit of Christmas cheer on offer and many joined in singing along with the choir.

"The great thing is the magic continues from 4pm to 7pm on Hastings Street daily until Wednesday next week," he said.

One of the Living Statues, "Golden Girl," in real life Asher Bowen-Saunders, was the next "act" to follow the Chorale singers and she later told Tune In she would have loved to "jam" with the choir.

Asher, from the Gold Coast, carries an orb and strikes art deco figurine poses. She has performed as a Living Statue for 11 years and was Australia's representative to the European Moving Statues Competition in 2018.

Could we have our picture taken with her? She gave a long, slow wink and a graceful thumbs up.



Noosa Chorale singers outside Aromas Café in Hastings Street. Photo—Rob Maccoll



Singers pose with the "Golden Girl" Living Statue. Photo—Melinda Purser



Noosa Chorale Deputy Music Director Pam Sage (front) conducts singers at Hastings Street—(sopranos and altos from left) Pamela Turnbull, Trish Fox, Joan Murray, Rose Brown, Wilma Barnes, Debra Schneider; (basses and tenors from left) Donald Grant, Des Storer, John Pennell, and Jim Fagan.



# Rain doesn't stop play at Gai's party

JIM FAGAN

Heavy rain on Sunday afternoon didn't dampen the enthusiasm for singing Christmas carols at Noosa Chorale's end-of-year marquee party in the garden of President Gai Ramsay's home in Tewantin.

It's been a long, dry year for the singers – Friday's carol singing stints at Hastings Street and on the Noosa River really just got them warmed up—and, with Adrian King playing piano, they grasped the opportunity with the teeth gnashing

ferocity of vegans who haven't seen a fruit salad in a month!

Many of the singers hadn't met each other all year and much of the talk was about the choir's rehearsal starting up in February and the magnificent music from the Olympic Games they will be performing in May.

The concert is timed to co-incide with the Games in Tokyo. It was scheduled

for this year but because of the pandemic had to be cancelled.

As Tune In left, the singers were warming up with the lovely carol "Silent Night" and the harmony of the voices and the bright, shining, hopeful eyes of the singers made clear that 2020 was now a memory and a fantastic New Year beckoned.



Photos—Ann Milland





# Flashback to October—Adrian's 70th birthday surprise

JIM FAGAN

Maybe their sound lacked their usual pitch and precision but for the singers from Noosa Chorale and the Sunshine Coast Choral Society the chance to sing "Happy Birthday" was something to relish.

After eight months of no concerts and weekly choir rehearsals because of the pandemic, they were just happy to be able to sing together—even if they were a bit rusty.

And the occasion in October at La Balsa Park near Point Cartwright was worth celebrating, their choirmaster and music director, Adrian King, was observing a birthday "milestone"—his 70<sup>th</sup>.

It all came as a complete surprise for popular Sunshine Coast musician Adrian who thought he was having a quiet picnic with wife Helen and their family.

About 80 singers and musicians (he also conducts the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra) turned up to not only celebrate his great day but to honour this year as being his 50<sup>th</sup> as a choirmaster.

Sadly, because of restrictions like social distancing reducing the number of singers allowed for rehearsals and performances, he hadn't had a choir to conduct.

Adrian conducted his first choir in the UK when he was just 19 and Tune In asked him what it felt like being unable to observe his golden anniversary choral year.

"It's been really strange not being involved with singers and an orchestra. Normally we would be practising for concerts and things. We had a really good programme this year and I've been a bit sad that everything has been cancelled," he said.

"I'm hoping, however, we will be able to sing some carols at Christmas."

Covid 19 has caused turmoil this year but as Tune In left La Balsa Park on Sunday the happy sound of "For he's a jolly good fellow" was filling the air and if you had asked Adrian, Helen and the singers they would have told you all is right with the world.



Adrian and Helen King. Photos/Ann Milland



Ann Milland with Helen King



Singers and musicians from Noosa Chorale, the Sunshine Coast Choral Society and the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra on song with conductor Adrian King. Photo/Ann Milland



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