

# Tune in... to Noosa Chorale

The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc  
Volume 9, Number 4, April 2015

## Book now to avoid disappointment!



Marking 100 years since Gallipoli with Karl Jenkins' powerful work *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. Plus tunes from the trenches and at home—the moving, the cheeky, the brave, the cheery...

**Noosa Chorale**

Gallipoli remembered—  
Anzac Centenary Concert



Saturday 18 April 2015 at 7.00pm  
Sunday 19 April 2015 at 3.00pm

\$38 (\$35 conc.)

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ph: 07 5329 6560

[www.noosachorale.org.au](http://www.noosachorale.org.au)

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### Noosa Chorale is singing at three Anzac Day ceremonies:

- NOOSA MAIN BEACH (GALLIPOLI LANDING TRIBUTE, STARTING AT 4.30AM)
- VERRIERDALE HALL (DAWN SERVICE, STARTING AT 5.30AM)
- EUMUNDI (MARCH ALONG MEMORIAL DRIVE STARTING AT 7.45AM)

### Chorale to sing at Noosa Main Beach landing

JIM FAGAN

The story is an Australian one and we all know it well—the bravery, the mateship, the larrikinism, the tough endurance of the diggers in battles from Gallipoli to the last surge from the trenches in war-ravaged France in 1918.

This year members of Noosa Chorale decided it wanted to remember and pay an Anzac tribute to our digger heroes and we selected Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man" – a powerful evocative work showing the savagery of war and the joy of peace and, on a lighter note, the tunes the diggers sang e.g. "Goodbye Dolly Gray."

The concerts will be held at The J on Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19. Our music director, Adrian King, will conduct close to 70 singers and soloists as well as a 48-piece symphony orchestra, all accompanied by a graphic film showing the ravages of war.

Clearly, Noosa wants to be part of our commemoration of the digger in the slouch hat as tickets for both days are selling fast.

One week later, on Anzac Day, Saturday, April 25, we

will take part in three services—at Noosa Main Beach, Verrierdale and Eumundi.

Tewantin RSL is planning a Gallipoli landing tribute on Noosa Main Beach in front of the surf club. It is a Dawn Service and will start at 4.30am. There will be a slide show of diggers at war on a giant screen and, as part of the theatrical performance underscoring the spirit of Anzac, members of the Chorale will sing "Abide With Me" and a selection of war songs.

Playwright and Noosa councillor Frank Wilkie who has written the script for the performance, which also includes musician Mic Travers and the New Zealand Veterans Band, says, "It is important we honour them, not by glorifying war but by what is hoped to be an honest testament to their courage and dedication to their mates."

At Verrierdale singers from the Chorale will take part in the Dawn Service there and later in the morning at Eumundi, following the March along Memorial Drive which starts at 7.45am, the choir will sing in the amphitheatre.

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#### Contacts:

Cal Webb (Secretary & Publications Editor)  
Email: [cal@carolynwebb.com.au](mailto:cal@carolynwebb.com.au)  
John Davies (President)  
Email: [jad@microed.com.au](mailto:jad@microed.com.au)  
Postal: PO Box 284, Noosaville, Qld 4566



[www.noosachorale.org.au](http://www.noosachorale.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/noosachorale](https://www.facebook.com/noosachorale)

[noosachorale@gmail.com](mailto:noosachorale@gmail.com)

07 5471 2938 (John Davies)

[www.thej.com.au](http://www.thej.com.au) (ticket bookings)

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## Wartime songs create puppy paradise

JIM FAGAN

My two little dogs, Ollie (pictured left) and Johnnie Walker, are ecstatic about the wartime songs the Chorale is singing at the Anzac Centenary Concert on April 18 and 19.

They actually sit and listen when I practice "Goodbye Dolly Gray" and the like and, while that may not seem important to you, it's comforting news for me.

In the past, belting out my black bass notes at home for heavy stuff like the Verdi Requiem and Handel's Messiah has resulted in the pups dashing for the phone to call the RSPCA.

Ollie darts to the front door and scratches so he can go outside and listen to the reassuring singing of the birds and Johnnie Walker (I had naming rights) hides under the dining table and, I swear this is true, puts

his little front paws over his ears!

All that has now changed. It's clear it's the choice of music not me.

It's heart-warming to see Ollie stand up and salute when I sing "Land of Hope and Glory" and Johnnie Walker marching to "It's a Long Way to Tipperary."

And composer Eric Bogle would have tears in his eyes to hear them howl the refrain of "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda."

But the highlight is seeing them rear up on their hindlegs and do the Can Can to "Inky Dinky Parlez Vous."

What's so special about the "Parlez Vous"? Well, the boys are French poodles, naturellement!



## Spare a thought for our 4-legged and feathered war-time heroes and friends

(Photos and captions mostly from Australian War Museum collection)



(left) Private Frederick John Whitcher (seated) and Private William Harold (Willie) Martin, both of the 50th Battalion, posing with their mascot dog, a poodle stray found in a ruined French village that stayed with their section after the men fed it a can of bully beef. After the Armistice, units were instructed to leave their mascots, but the men decided to smuggle the dog back to England inside the base drum. Whitcher was a member of this band and he noted that the scheme worked until the band had to play the men onto the ship returning them to England and the base drummer was trying not to drum too loudly. The Sergeant Major noticed this lack of play and when he stopped the base drummer, the dog barked. The Sgt Maj remarked to the drummer "you had better get on board with your drum and make sure you don't forget to give it a bone". The dog was found a home in England.



(left) A despatch rider galloping from Suvla Bay to Anzac Cove to avoid being sniped at. Great risk was run not only by the riders but also the horses in carrying out their very important duties.



(left) Driver Walter Henry Farrell of the 2nd Divisional Signals Company, with the unit mascot, a rooster named 'Jack' or 'Jackie', perched on his shoulder. Members of the unit had brought the animal from Egypt in 1916 when it was still a chick. They found 'Jack' a better guard than a dog, as he attacked any stranger who entered the unit lines.



(left) Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick, 3rd Field Ambulance Brigade (enlisted as Simpson), assisting an unidentified British soldier, wounded in the leg, being carried by a donkey. Pte Simpson was later killed by Turkish machine gun fire assisting the wounded, near a location known as Bloody Angle on 19 May 1915. The donkey was referred to by a variety of names, most commonly "Murphy" "Duffy" or the "The Donk".



(left) Sergeant Stubby has been called the most decorated dog of WWI. He participated in 17 battles on the Western Front with US Forces and served for 18 months. He once caught a German soldier by the seat of his pants and saved his regiment from surprise mustard gas attacks. He also helped find wounded soldiers.



(left) Members of the 2/48th Battalion, 9th Australian Division, with a pet dog, after evacuation from Tobruk on the ship Kingston in 1941.



(left) Simon (Able Seacat) served on board the Royal Navy sloop HMS Amethyst. In 1949 he was posthumously awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal (the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross) for protecting food stores from an infestation of rats on board the ship during a siege.