

I'm going to ask you for 10 mins of your attention this evening

Who's ever thought about how we can take the Good Kuringai Male Choir and make it the Great Kuringai Male Choir?

(members may answer)

Do we have a plan on how that might happen?

Perhaps to put that aspiration into more detail:

Our goal is to return our scale (size & capability) to a sustainable performance choir of 50 committed and excellent singers, performing around 12 times per year, on a range of days, and be known for our quality and performance capability.

We are currently a group of seasoned (or well-preserved) male choristers, who enjoy fellowship, harmony and service. And our commitment to the cause takes us a long way. Maybe like me travelling from Port Macquarie to speak to you tonight.

I'm talking to you as a 16 year KMC member, with that passion for musical performance and a desire to be part of a fellowship of men providing entertainment to many in the community. And I'm sure I share those passions and desires with many of you.

But KMC is at a crossroad.

Without significant and urgent focussed action from our Committee and measurable support from all members alike, the Choir is on a path to unsustainability which may lead to closure.

Should I say that again?

Without an aggressive roadmap and well-executed action plan, supported by everyone here tonight, the choir will not be able to match its aspiration of being a great community choir.

Our cashflow will not support our future probable costs, and without solid technical (musical) leadership we will fail to either attract members of good quality and importantly, talented musical leaders.

Put simply:

- Dr Paul Whiting has advised the Committee that it is likely that he will be standing down as Musical Director later in 2024
- There must be a shift in the mix of people riding on the KMC train from mostly passengers enjoying the view to those who work keeping the train on course and the boiler fed, and the service level right
- **Apathy is our enemy**
- The membership must change its paradigm of "oh, my \$5 per week subs pays for the hall and the music" and get serious about the real cost of paying our way

A few more specifics:

- our small retirement village revenue is all given away to our charities.
- it costs us at least \$300 to put on each concert, on top of our base operating costs
- the only concert from which we have bankable income is the annual RSL concert, and that money is earned through a lot of work by a few people.
- for 25 years we have not had to pay a conductor, and it will be a miracle if we can find anyone willing to carry on under this arrangement

However, we have not been sitting idle

- A working group consisting of Vice President Gidley, our Musical Director Paul, Treasurer Kim, Secretary Ken and I have been working on a range of matters over the last year, and in a more focussed way in the past few months
- We are creating an executable “business plan” and you’ll be pleased to know you all need to be part of it.

Key themes in the plan are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening our financial viability through new funding approaches and in particular a membership that pays its way	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looking out for potential Associate Conductors who may have the right stuff.• Strengthening of our musical leadership as we seek to place – and pay for - a new MD• If we are to cover the anticipated costs, in the absence of additional funding mechanisms, we will be looking at a considerably greater increase in fees – something in the order of \$500.00 per member.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New membership entry by a simple audition to ensure that we are able to focus on improvement of our musical quality and repertoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change in focus on recruitment from come-all to one of selective marketing for musicality and organisational skills

So, we have 5 key but pragmatic actions, all of which must continue or commence with some urgency:

1. Seek and appoint a new Associate Conductor with the potential to become there MD of the choir, in a paid capacity
2. Adjust the process for assessing prospective members before asking them to consider joining us
3. Commence a program of special training for choristers
4. Put a motion at the forthcoming AGM that annual subscriptions for 2024 become \$260. *That’s less than \$7 per week. \$7.*
5. Shift gear in our marketing of performances to a wider range of organisations and therefore venues

That’s lots to take in, so I’ll paraphrase it this way:

Without a supported and robust approach to our “business” plan, progress will stall and our aspirations of moving from Good to Great may fall away

Our AGM is in two weeks. Please give some consideration to your contributions, and commitment to support our future.

Thanks for listening.

..... Are there any brief questions for Paul or me before we get onto our practice?

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