

A large choir of young people is performing on a stage. They are arranged in many rows, filling the bleachers. Most are holding songbooks and singing. In the foreground, a conductor is seen from behind, and a pianist is seated at a grand piano on the right.

Gondwana Choirs ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The logo consists of a stylized orange and yellow swirl or spiral shape.

GONDWANA
CHOIRS
Lyn Williams OAM Artistic Director

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sydney Children's Choir ●

Gondwana National Choirs ●

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir ●

JANUARY

- 5-18 ● National Choral School, Macquarie University, Sydney
- 5-18 ● Kid's Choral Academy, Macquarie University, Sydney
- 17 ● National Choral School Concerts, Sydney Conservatorium of Music
- 22 ● Performance, Opening of First World War Galleries, Australian War Memorial, Canberra
- 23 ● Australia Day Awards Ceremony, Cairns

FEBRUARY

- 2 ● Term 1 Program commences
- 4 ● Term 1 Program commences
- 27, 28, March 1 ● Sydney Symphony Orchestra Opening Gala, Sydney Opera House
- 27 ● *The Ravens* film score recording

MARCH

- 6-8 ● Senior Choirs Camp, Naamaroo, Sydney
- 20-22 ● CairnsGICC Camp, Lake Tinaroo, Cairns
- 29 ● Performance, *Boy Choir* film premiere

APRIL

- 6-13 ● Gondwana Voices season, ChoralFest, Melbourne
- 9, 10, 12 ● Gondwana Voices performances, ChoralFest, Melbourne
- 12-26 ● Gondwana Centenary Chorale season, Sydney
- 16 ● Gondwana Centenary Chorale recital, Government House, Sydney
- 19 ● Kokoda Memorial Dawn Service performance, *Meeting the Sun* with RAN Band, Concord
- 22, 24 ● Gondwana Centenary Chorale performances, *War Music* with Sydney Symphony Orchestra
- 27 ● Term 2 Program commences
- 28 ● Western Sydney GICC Mt Druitt hub commences
- 29 ● Term 2 Program commences

MAY

- 6 ● Bernstein Mass performance, Sydney Conservatorium 100th Birthday
- 17 ● SCC & CamGICC performance, *Under One Sky*, Wollongong with African Children's Choir
- 23-24 ● Junior Choirs Camp

JUNE

- 3 ● Young Men's Choir sing Evensong, St James Church, Sydney
- 4 ● Sydney Children's Choir, performance, Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation Gold Dinner
- 21 ● Winter Concert, Sydney Boys High School Auditorium, Sydney
- 23 ● Cairns GICC Commercial Performance, Cairns

JULY

- 1 ● Sydney Children's Choir Farewell Concert, Sydney Conservatorium High School
- 2-17 ● Tour of Mainland China/Hong Kong
- 4 ● Performance, Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre, Shanghai
- 5-13 ● Gondwana Young Men's Choir Festival of Voices Tour, Tasmania

7

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11

12

13

14

16

16

17

18

20

22

AUGUST

2

2

11

14-16

21-30

25

30

SEPTEMBER

2, 4

13

16-27

24

28

OCTOBER

12

14

NOVEMBER

5

10

26

DECEMBER

6

12-15

13

14, 15

- Performance, Salvation Army Church with Greater Launceston Young Singers
- Performance, Elizabeth St Mall; Performance, Hadley Orient Hotel
- Performance, Hobart Lending Library; Performance, Showcase Concert Hobart Town Hall
- Performances, Baotou Grand Theatre, Baotou
- Featured Choirs workshop; Performance, Showcase Concert; Big Sing Procession
- Performances, Beijing Concert Hall, Beijing
- Performance, Salamanca Markets; Featured Choirs workshop; Performance, MONA Ferry
- Performance, Finale Concert, Federation Concert Hall
- Performance, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong
- Performance, Youth and Children's Choir Festival, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong
- Workshop, Youth and Children's Choir Festival, Hong Kong
- Performance, Disneyland Hong Kong
- Performance, Xinghai Concert Hall, Guangzhou
- Giving Back to Gondwana, Brisbane
- Term 3 Program commences
- Term 3 Program commences

- CairnsGICC performance at Gimuy Fish Festival
- CairnsGICC performance Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair (CAIF)
- Performance, Art Music Awards, Sydney
- Junior Performing Choirs Camp, Naamaroo, Sydney
- National Choirs Audition Tour
- Performance, City of Sydney Climate Change Talk, Sydney
- CairnsGICC performance, Cairns Festival

- Berlioz *Te Deum* performance with Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Opera House
- Studio Day recording
- Songfest workshops, Western Pilbara, WA
- Performance, Red Earth Arts Festival, Roebourne, WA
- Performance, Dally M Awards

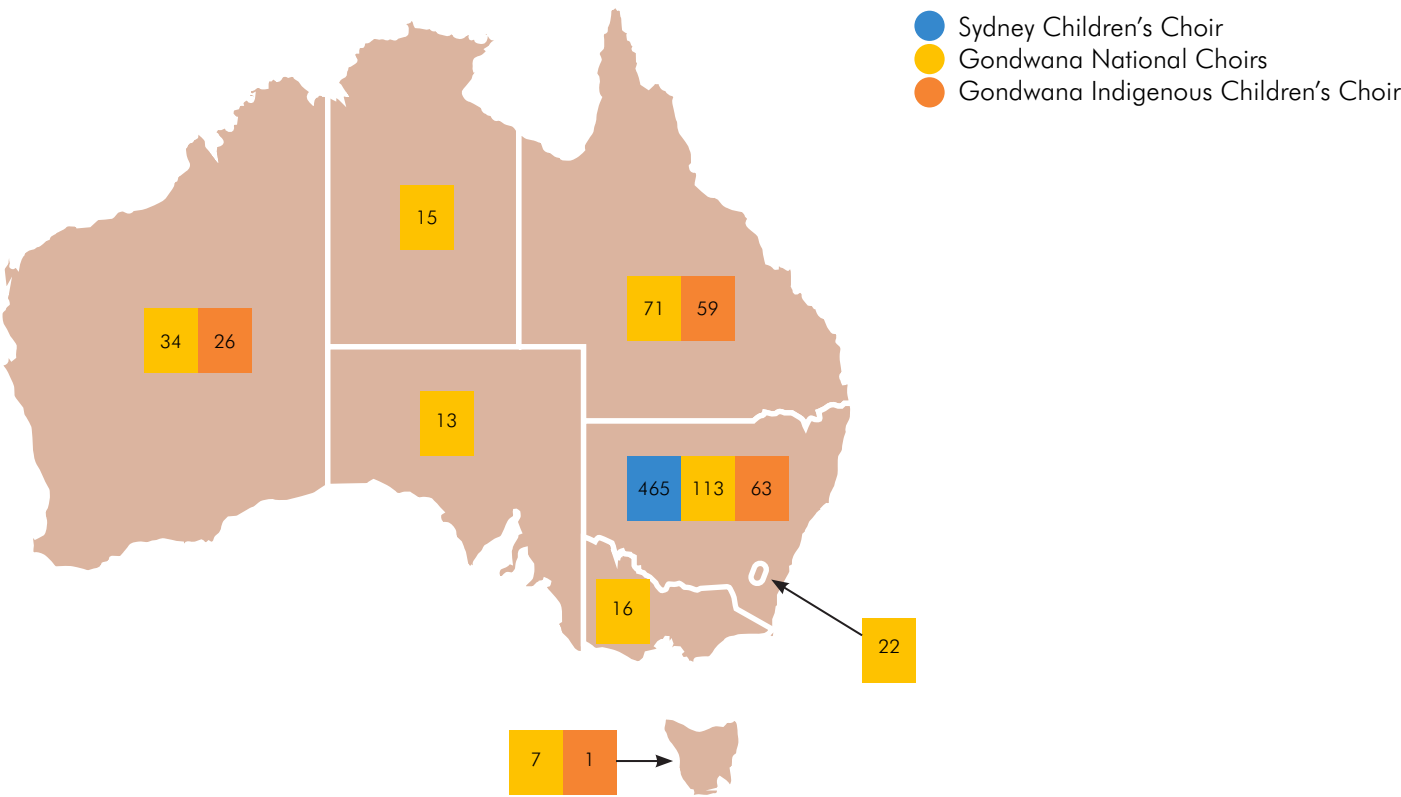
- Term 4 Program commences
- Term 4 Program commences

- Performance with Gurrumul, Business Council of Australia Annual Dinner, Sydney
- Gondwana Choirs hosting the Walsh Bay Arts Table, Sydney
- Performance with Conrad Sewell, ARIA Awards, Sydney

- Performance, *Mini Christmas*, Sydney Grammar School
- Voices of Angels Rehearsal Season
- CairnsGICC performance at Carols by Candlelight, Cairns
- Performances, Voices of Angels, City Recital Hall, Sydney

2015 AT A GLANCE

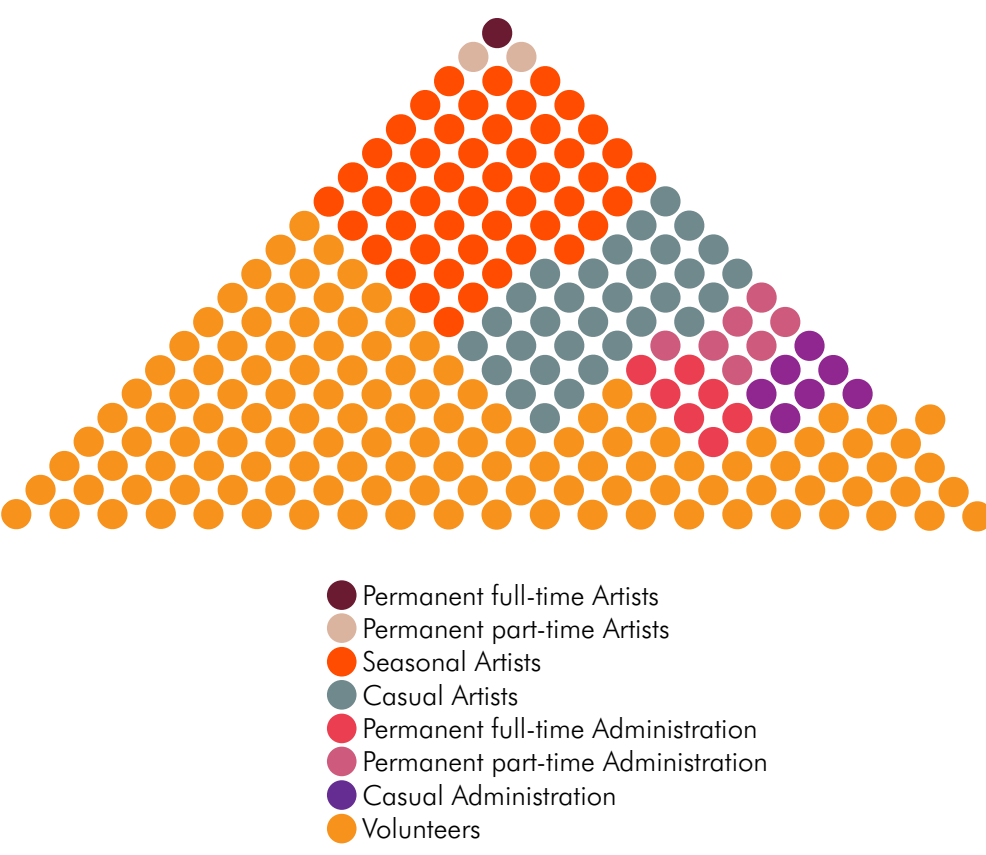
CHORISTER PARTICIPATION BY STATE & TERRITORY



CHORISTER PARTICIPATION BY PROGRAM

Sydney Children's Choir	465	National Choral School	291	GICC	122
Senior Performing Choirs	88	Gondwana Chorale	46	Cairns GICC	59
Junior Performing Choirs	90	Gondwana Singers	78	Campbelltown GICC	29
Senior Training Choirs	105	Gondwana Cantique	27	Mt Druitt GICC	34
Intermediate Training Choirs	65	Gondwana Voices	65	Hong Kong/China Tour	5
Junior Training Choirs	117	Junior Gondwana	59	Pilbara Project Choir	36
Hong Kong/China Tour	33	Gondwana Conducting Academy	8		
Festival of Voices Hobart	10	Gondwana Composer School	8		
		Gondwana Centenary Chorale	34		
		ChoralFest Melbourne	32		
		Festival of Voices Hobart	10		

OUR PEOPLE



NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES

Sydney Children's Choir	31
Gondwana National Choirs	16
Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir	14

LIVE AUDIENCES

Sydney Children's Choir	25,961
Gondwana National Choirs	8478
Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir	6975

BROADCAST AUDIENCES

Sydney Children's Choir	1,014,4000
Gondwana National Choirs	80,000

REPERTOIRE

World premières of Australian Works	8
Performances of Australian works	95
Australian Composers Performed	25

VOLUNTEERS

SCC Volunteers	61
Rehearsals	2024 hours
Performances & Projects	274 hours
Camps	716 hours
National Choirs Volunteers	50
National Choral School	3288 hours
Kid's Choral Academy	80 hours
Projects & Tours	1964 hours
Auditions	71 hours
GICC Volunteers	25
Rehearsals	170 hours
Performances & Projects	785 hours
Camps	120 hours
Total	136
Total Volunteer Hours	11,409
FTE	5.7

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Lyn Williams OAM
Founder & Artistic Director
Gondwana Choirs

All the latest research seems to suggest that participation in choral singing has extraordinary powers. At its most basic level, singing increases happiness because it is FUN and doing it with others is EVEN MORE FUN! Not to mention that maybe it leads to improved academic results in children, improves our overall mental health and well-being, apparently increases immune system activity in cancer patients – and so the list goes on.

This comes as no surprise to those of us who have been involved in choral music for some time: when you sing, breathing and heartbeats synchronize and every cell of your being vibrates in tune with those around you. And surely the better the choir, the stronger the effect! The connections made through choral excellence are why Gondwana Choirs continues to thrive, as we experienced last year through a wealth of projects and performances.

2015 was a year of commemoration. The Sydney Children's Choir opened the new WW1 exhibit at the Australian War Memorial, particularly significant as several of our Gondwana choristers feature in the exhibit, and in April premiered *Meeting the Sun* by Elena Kats-Chernin at the Kokoda Memorial Dawn Service. April 16 will always remain etched on my mind as the day our very special Centenary Chorale gave their first performance at Government House in Sydney, under Paul Holley. This unique choir connected remarkable young singers from Turkey, France and New Zealand with our own Gondwana Chorale, commemorating 100 years since these nations were involved in battle in Gallipoli. The choir went on to perform James Ledger's new work *War Music* and other repertoire with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Richard Gill.

In addition to historical connections, SCC made many international ones. Together with the Campbelltown Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, they performed with the African Children's Choir and Gondwana

Choirs alumnae Kate Miller-Heidke in the concert *Under One Sky*. In July, the SCC toured to China and Hong Kong, where the additional rehearsals and performances of an international tour provided a platform for the choir to mature into a truly fine performance ensemble performing in many excellent concert halls and making friends with young Chinese singers as we travelled.

For the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, the sense of connection through singing holds a special significance. The choristers themselves feel that it is a great privilege, as well as their responsibility, to engage with and share the wealth of their Indigenous culture. With the generous assistance of Rio Tinto, the Cairns hub choristers were fortunate to travel to the Pilbara, meeting members of the community, learning so much about local culture and bringing their own special performance style to the Red Earth Arts Festival in Roebourne. The connection with the Pilbara culminated at National Choral School 2016 where the choir, including new members from the Pilbara, performed Felix Riebl's new work *Spinifex Gum*.

Thanks to the rich variety of young people who are the voices of Gondwana and to the hugely talented artistic staff who unite these voices. My enormous gratitude to the remarkable administrative team who care about creating the an environment where each child can achieve the strongest musical result. And personal thanks to Bernie Heard, Kate Lidbetter and to the board of Gondwana Choirs for their ongoing support.

Choristers sing with Gondwana because of the power of choral connections: to unite with friends who believe that achieving the best possible musical result is to be celebrated; to bring history and culture to life through song; to create lasting bonds with young singers and audiences from across the globe; and ultimately, to experience the thrill and fulfilment that all these connections bring.

BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT



Kate Lidbetter
Board Chair
Gondwana Choirs

2015 was another successful and exciting year for Gondwana Choirs. Following 2014's Silver Jubilee celebrations, our choristers managed to fit in national and international tours, recordings and outstanding concerts.

The artistic and teaching team, led by Artistic Director and Founder Lyn Williams OAM, have worked hard to ensure the professional presentations and opportunities are of the very highest standard. 2015 truly was a year of outstanding performances and these are demonstrated in detail on the pages of this report.

I am delighted that Rio Tinto, Principal Partner of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, reconfirmed their support with a new 3 year agreement from July 2015. Our partnership with Rio Tinto has been fruitful and we are grateful for their generous support over a number of years. We also thank the many loyal individual donors who help us in so many ways. Some of these donors have been on a long journey with the company and we thank them specially.

In 2015, the Australia Council and ArtsNSW provided multi-year support for our programs and activities. It is a great disappointment that the company has been advised that it will not receive multi-year support from the Australia Council from 2017 onwards. Future reports will no doubt elaborate on changes that may be implemented as a result.

Financially the company had a pleasing result. The board and management have been strategically building reserves in preparation for the redevelopment of the Walsh Bay precinct, and the 2015 surplus of over \$144,000 will be a welcome addition to our already strong reserves.

Specific fundraising initiatives enabled us to bring members of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir to the 2016 National Choral

School for the first time. These choristers joined with other NCS participants to premiere Felix Riebl's *Spinifex Gum* - a song cycle that has been in creative development for some years. Proceeds from the Walsh Bay Arts Table, a Brisbane fund raising event organised by former chorister Angus Woods, and a private event at philanthropist Ray Wilson's home all contributed to this outstanding event, along with the donations of a number of generous patrons. It is important to recognise that some of the 2015 surplus represents funds raised through these activities, and is applied to costs incurred in the 2016 budget for this important artistic project.

General Manager Bernie Heard provided leadership to her team throughout a busy season. I thank the entire team for their dedication, enthusiasm and skill. They, along with the outstanding artistic staff, are the heart and soul of the organisation and the board is grateful for their contribution. I particularly commend the operations staff who dealt with logistically challenging tours to Hong Kong/China, Hobart and the Pilbara in 2015. Congratulations to you all!

At the helm of this unique organisation is the dynamic Lyn Williams. More than 26 years ago Lyn dreamed of creating a vehicle for her artistic vision, and today we all continue to benefit from her incredible energy and creativity. This was recognised in 2015 through receiving the APRA/AMCOS award for Excellence by an Organisation, for significant contribution to Australian music since 1989. Never content with the status quo, Lyn continues to dream big dreams and I know the entire board feels it is a privilege to help turn her vision into reality.

I commend the 2015 Annual Report to you.

Report

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The performing year for Sydney Children's Choir began in February with 31 choristers, staff and supervisors travelling to Canberra to sing at the official opening of the First World War Galleries at the [Australian War Memorial](#).

Later in February, nine Choristers took part in three performances in Sydney Symphony Orchestra's Opening Gala, singing a short but important scene in Act 3 of Alban Berg's operatic masterpiece, *Wozzeck*. Congratulations to soloist Liam Green, described by the Sydney Morning Herald as "valiant and heart-rending" Marie's Son.

In March, the Senior and Young Men's Choir of Sydney Children's Choir attended their annual camp in Lane Cove National Park. Our Senior Performing Choirs spent the weekend preparing for two upcoming performances, the Bernstein Mass, to commemorate the Centenary of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and *Meeting the Sun*, a new work by Elena Kats-Chernin, to commemorate 70 years since the end of the Second World War, which had its première in a special Dawn Service at the [Kokoda Track Memorial](#) Walkway in April.

On 6 May, the Senior Choir of SCC joined a massive cast in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House to perform Leonard Bernstein's gargantuan Mass as part of the centenary of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Our singers

performed the challenging score (including obbligato kazoo) under the direction of Maestro Eduardo Diazmuñoz, Chair of Conducting at the Conservatorium, with Dominic Grimshaw giving a mesmerising solo performance.

Choristers from SCC Junior Performing Choirs and Campbelltown Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir combined for a tour to Wollongong 15-17 May to take part in *Under One Sky*, a massed choir spectacular featuring SCC alumnae Kate Miller-Heidke and the African Children's Choir. The African Children's Choir is comprised of orphaned and vulnerable children from the disadvantaged Kampala and Luwero areas of Uganda. The tour had a huge impact on all involved. Over three days choristers rehearsed and performed a large amount of repertoire in addition to the opportunity to exchange with peers of a different culture. Repertoire performed included the world première performance of *Who am I?* by 2014 Composer-in-Residence Annie Kwok.

Over the weekend of 23-24 May, the Senior Training choirs of Sydney Children's Choir attended their annual camp and for many, this was their very first SCC camp. The four ensembles that comprise the Junior Training Choirs (the Sally Whitwell, Joseph Twist, Paul Stanhope and Michael Atherton Choirs) participated in combined rehearsals and delved into different worlds with workshops led by staff from the Australian National Maritime Museum and Suara Indonesia Dance Group.



ANNA MARSH
Sydney, New South Wales

The Sydney Children's Choir & Lyn Williams Choir
Gondwana Voices

2015 Highlights

National Choral School
Recording & premiering *Meeting the Sun* by Elena Kats-Chernin
Recording for the WW1 Galleries permanent installation at the Australian War Memorial
SCC tour to China and Hong Kong
Performing Berlioz *Te Deum* with the SSO
Performing Bernstein *Mass* at Sydney Opera House

Being a part of Gondwana Choirs in 2015 has been such an amazing journey for me. It has helped me find some of my closest friends who love music as much as I do.

It's incredible to be able to have the opportunity to perform in such beautiful halls, such as the Sydney Opera House, on a regular basis, both in Sydney and around the world.

In June at Sydney Boys High School, all 480 choristers of Sydney Children's Choir performed in the Winter Concerts. For some of our youngest choristers, this was their first performance and opportunity to show their family and friends their love of choral singing. It is also where all of our members can see and hear the development in sound and repertoire as the choristers progress through to the senior ensembles. 2014 Composer-in-Residence Annie Kwok was featured with performances of four works composed for different ensembles and we were especially happy that Annie could join us for the occasion from Adelaide.

On 3 and 4 September, the Sydney Children's Choir returned to the Sydney Opera House to perform with legendary conductor Charles Dutoit in the impressive *Te Deum* by Hector Berlioz. The Sydney Morning Herald called our ensemble "the superb Sydney Children's Choir" for their contribution.

Performances at the [Art Music Awards](#), the Arias and the [Walsh Bay Arts Table](#) rounded off the year until A *Mini Christmas* on 6 December, our much-anticipated end-of-year concert for the SCC Training Choirs. Director of Ceremonies Nicole Thomson programmed a contemporary "mini" version of *A Christmas Carol*, sending everyone into the holidays with great cheer. *Voices of Angels* on 14 & 15 December were the years' final performances.

Gondwana Choirs is proud to partner with the **Conservatorium High School** in Sydney, offering a special stream for entry in Years 7 & 8. The Junior Vocal Stream, in collaboration with Sydney Children's Choir, entails classroom music, expert vocal coaching, choral training and the performance opportunities and commitments that go with being a full member of Sydney Children's Choir.



MATTHEW BORGERT
Sydney, New South Wales

SCC Paul Stanhope Choir

2015 Highlights

Senior Training Choirs Camp
Walsh Bay Arts Table Dinner and speaking to the guests about why I love SCC
Performing at *Voices of Angels*
Recording for Studio Day CD

I love the feeling of singing with other amazing singers my age, and working together to make beautiful music at awesome venues. I also get to sing harmonies with my little brother!

It is great having something to look up to, knowing that there are other levels of choir above me. Amandine, the conductor, is caring and talented and works hard to make sure we all sing well.

I like the performing the best. Choir friendships are also important to me.

Projects & Performances

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Australia in the Great War is the new permanent exhibition on display in the First World War Galleries of the Australian War Memorial. The exhibition presents the story of Australia in the First World War chronologically, covering all major theatres of operations: Gallipoli; the Western Front; Sinai and Palestine; and the war at sea. The events taking place on the home front and the immediate and enduring legacy of the war are also included.

The Memorial holds one of the world's great collections of material related to the First World War. The First World War Galleries integrate a wide variety of items from this collection, including dioramas and other works of art; uniforms; medals; technology such as artillery and firearms; photographs; film; and personal items such as letters and diaries.

By far the best method to experience the exhibition is using the state-of-the-art audio tour, which is activated by proximity and is provided by the Memorial. An integral and moving part of the audio tour is the songs written and recorded by choristers from Gondwana Voices and the Sydney Children's Choir that give a contemporary connection to the nation-shaping events of 100 years ago. The songs' subjects hold special meaning to each young composer and their families, ranging from stories of relatives killed in action to a mother making the pilgrimage to the Somme many years later to see the place where her son died.

On 22 February 2015, the Sydney Children's Choir performed at the official opening of the First World War Galleries. Artistic Director and Founder Lyn Williams OAM conducted the choir in a moving performance of *In Flanders Fields* in the presence of the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and many other distinguished guests. Beatrice Tucker performed her song from the exhibition and also sang with noted Country singer Lee Kernaghan OAM.

Choristers from Gondwana Voices, whose recordings of their own compositions form a permanent part of the exhibition, are Nicholas Kains, Maeve Kelaher, Jackson Low, Stephanie Macindoe, Anna Marsh and Beatrice Tucker.



The Australian War Memorial, Canberra

Projects & Performances

KOKODA MEMORIAL



Elena Kats-Chernin
Composer, *Meeting the Sun*

The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The men and women who served Australia as it joined its allies to defend the values of freedom and democracy — whether they were many miles away in Europe, the Middle East or closer, in the Pacific, or on Australian territory—did so in a tradition that evoked the Anzac spirit forged in WW1.

The story of Kokoda has, in many respects, become one that has equalled Gallipoli in its symbolism of courage, resilience and mateship—the Anzac spirit. Those who served and strived in the Kokoda campaign did so in the Anzac tradition, and in recognition of this, the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway was opened in 1996. The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway was developed to honour the veterans of the 1942 New Guinea campaign. It is considered to be a war memorial of national significance.

The memorial is located on the Parramatta River foreshore at the gateway to Western Sydney within the extended precinct of Concord Repatriation General Hospital,

which has served the health needs of veterans since the Second World War. The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway is an expansive contemporary war memorial that has been developed in stages over a twenty-year period and it is continually evolving.

In 2013 the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway Board commissioned leading Australian composer, Elena Kats-Chernin, to compose a twenty-minute piece for the Sydney Children's Choir (combined with the Young Men's Choir) and the Royal Australian Navy Band for the Anzac Notes project. *Meeting the Sun* had its world première at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway on Sunday 19 April 2015 at 5.30am.

The broadcast première of ABC Classic FM's studio recording took place several days later on 25 April 2015 and a special podcast episode was produced by the ABC for download. Sound elements derived from the radiophonic work will have a permanent presence at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway.



Right: Dawn performance of
Meeting the Sun

Tours

CHINA/HONG KONG

Sydney Children's Choir was invited to perform at the 2015 Hong Kong World Youth and Children's Choir Festival, an exciting festival showcasing children's choirs from across the world. In addition to appearing as part of the festival, the Sydney Children's Choir and with members of the Cairns Indigenous Children's Choir travelled to mainland China and Hong Kong in July for a truly unique performance tour.

The tour featured a program of Australian choral works, featuring composers Dan Walker, Luke Byrne, Ruth McCall, Elena Kats-Chernin and Joseph Twist, and two sets of singing dances. The first, transcribed by Lyn Williams, were from the Torres Strait Islands and the second were the precise sitting dances from Aceh, Indonesia. Of the ninety minute program, seven of the works were Gondwana Choirs' commissions.

The choir departed for Shanghai on July 3 after a farewell concert at the Conservatorium High School and gave their first performance the morning after their arrival in the prestigious Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre. They then travelled to Inner Mongolia to perform in the vast Baotou Grand Theatre for local audiences and diplomats from Spain, Australian and the UK and exchanged songs and gifts with a local children's choir. Next was Beijing and the Forbidden City, Tienanmen Square, the Great Wall of China and a sold-out performance in the Beijing Concert Hall.

The choirs' residency at the WYCCF commenced with performing in the festival's Opening Ceremony. They then gave their own concert at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre that included the premiere of *Blue Sky* by Cui Wei, a festival commission. A festival highlight was the workshop led by Lyn and the choir for a group of 500 local singers. By the end of the workshop, the participating local students we were performing *Sesere eeye* from the Torres Strait, and one of the sitting dances from Aceh along with SCC. And thanks to the Australian High Commission, there was one extra unscheduled performance at Hong Kong Disneyland.

To complete the tour, the choir gave a performance as part of the WYCCF in the Xinghai Concert Hall in Guangzhou. By this point, the choir became a close-knit group, with many new strong friendships formed. The group proved on countless occasions their professionalism and social adaptability as they navigated new musical and cultural environments.

The Gondwana Choirs' Sydney Children's Choir tour of Hong Kong and China was supported by the Australian Government, through the Australia-China Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Performance of the sitting dances of Aceh in China

Projects & Performances

VOICES OF ANGELS



Sam Allchurch
Conductor, Young Men's Choir

On 14 and 15 December, Gondwana Choirs celebrated Christmas with glorious music from the baroque in *Voices of Angels GLORIA!*, performed to capacity houses at City Recital Hall. One hundred and fifty of Australia's finest young performers from Gondwana Choirs evoked the world of the 17th century Venetian Ospedali, orphanages where abandoned girls received expert music tuition to become professional musicians admired all across Europe, especially by the renowned musicologist Charles Burney.

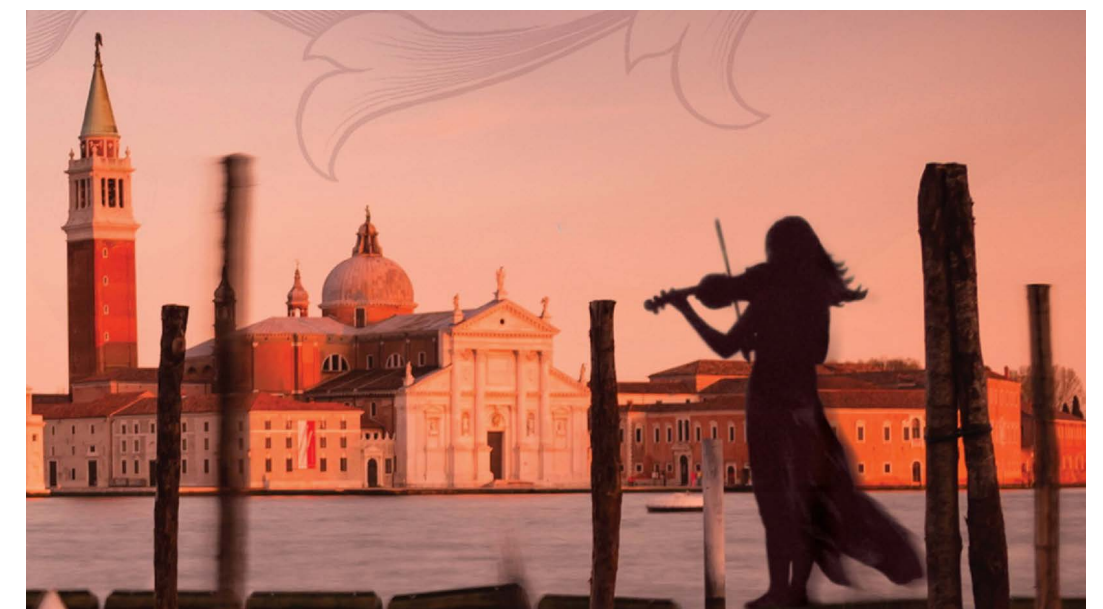
Among the music masters employed at the Ospedali was violinist Antonio Vivaldi whose celebrated *Gloria* formed the centre piece of this program, here sung by the young women of the Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana Voices in Lyn Williams' magnificent transcription for treble voices.

Around the same time in London, a similar project was taking place at the Foundling Hospital, where music tuition formed an essential part of the education of the city's orphans. The composer of the moment, George Friederic Handel, lived only a few doors away

from the hospital. He became heavily involved in the Hospital's musical life and mounted the first London performance of *The Messiah* to financially support the institution. The young men of the choir, conducted by Sam Allchurch, presented excerpts from his moving *Anthem on the Peace*, compiled especially for the Foundling Hospital.

Soloists for the performances were Gondwana Choirs' alumnae Alexandra Oomens, Claire Burrell-McDonald and Nyssa Milligan, and they were accompanied by the Voices of Angels Orchestra.

The concert concluded with the massed choirs singing arrangements of much-loved Christmas carols by Lyn Williams, Owen Elsley, and Dan Walker.



Projects & Performances

NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL



Elise Bradley
International Guest Conductor and
conductor of Gondwana Cantique

Surely the most remarkable choral event held annually in Australia is Gondwana National Choral School. It is said that it is really impossible to understand NCS until you have experienced it and indeed some choristers and volunteers have experienced it up to 13 times! There is joy, passion, intensity, hard work, friendship, food, chair moving, laughter and of course incredible music making in abundance.

What is clear is that it is very much a shared experience: the choristers, the artistic staff, operations staff and all our hard-working volunteers all experience the same intensity and work towards creating fabulous choral music.

The process for National Choral School begins months before with the annual round of auditions across Australia, in September and October of the preceding year. In these competitive auditions, prospective choristers perform works from memory, have their ears put to the test and sight sing their way through completely unseen melodies. All the auditions are then evaluated across the board and the careful putting together of choirs begins.

As offers go out and travel arrangements are made, the excitement begins to build, meanwhile, behind the scenes, over 3000 individual pieces of music are assembled, accommodation arrangements for over 300 are finalized and rehearsal schedules are adjusted to ensure everything is ready for the first arrivals.

From 5-18 January, 297 talented young singers, composers and conductors from across Australia came together for two weeks of intense music-making and fun at National Choral School 2015 at Macquarie University. This marked the 19th anniversary of the first national season of Gondwana Voices, which has grown considerably since that first year of 60 participants.

Having so many young singers and conductors working together is a unique offering in Australia and with the continued flourishing of the Composer School and Conducting Academy, National Choral School represents the whole "choral ecosystem." Essential to its success is the artistic staff, which brings together Australia's leading choral conductors and educators.

The challenge of forming each of the ensembles cannot be underestimated – each year the artistic staff begin anew, seeking to unlock the best sounds out of the particular group of young people, all of whom bring their unique musical personality to the choir. The composers were put through their paces by the highly respected composer and pedagogue, Paul Stanhope (Sydney Conservatorium) and James Ledger, while the Conducting Academy was once again in the expert hands of Graeme Morton. This year, we welcomed back the internationally-acclaimed Elise Bradley (Artistic Director of the Toronto Children's Chorus) as conductor of Gondwana Cantique.

Special moments included the visit of renowned conductor Maria Guinand, Graeme Morton conducting the massed choir in challenging works from the contemporary sacred repertoire and Suara Indonesia Dance working with Gondwana Voices in learning songs and dances from Aceh.

In the middle of the season, the choirs performed the works of the Gondwana Composer School participants at an informal concert. Eight world premières of new Australian works hot off the press were a major highlight of the season. The composers relished the opportunity rehearsing and performing their music with the choirs and their conductors and gained valuable insight into the technical and artistic demands of writing for vocal ensembles.



The final concerts were held at Verbrugghen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music and showcased a wide variety of repertoire from each of the five choirs. From the warmth of Stroope's *Amor de mi alma* (Gondwana Singers) to the exuberance of Papoulis' *Kusimama* (Junior Gondwana), the concerts offered a kaleidoscope of choral sounds and colours. Gondwana Voices wowed audiences with *Ratoh Duek*, traditional sitting dances from Aceh, following intensive workshops at NSC with Alfira O'Sullivan and Murtala.

Gondwana Choirs offered younger singers a fantastic taste of National Choral School through the Kids Choral Academy program for ages 8-12. Held over two week-long sessions, the daytime program featured singing, craft, composition, and a chance to interact with other young musical minds.

NCS 2015 Manager Tessa Kay writes:

As the new National Choirs Manager, NCS was such a fabulous introduction to the extraordinary talent and musicianship that Gondwana Choirs fosters as an organisation. I was thrilled to meet so many passionate young singers, composers

and conductors and witness their dedication and professionalism in rehearsal and performance. I hope all our participants enjoyed their time at NCS as much as I did!

Our special thanks to Darryl and Kate Dixon for their financial support of National Choral School 2015. Additionally, the NCS Bursary Program was supported by many individuals and the James N Kirby Foundation. This generosity enables Gondwana Choirs to offer participation in projects such as National Choral School to the most talented musicians across Australia.

Thanks also to everyone involved for making this incredibly complex event happen and succeed: students, artistic and operations staff, supervisors, interns, helpers and sponsors.

Report

GONDWANA NATIONAL CHOIRS



LANA KAINS
Hobart, Tasmania

Gondwana Chorale

2015 Highlights

National Choral School
Performing at Government House
ANZAC Day concert with SSO

2015 was my first year in Gondwana Chorale and my seventh year at National Choral School. It was the year of the centenary and a number of choristers from Turkey and France had come to sing with us for the ANZAC Day concert with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Upon arrival I could feel the enthusiasm and excitement bubbling in the air, everyone joyfully reunited and welcoming our new members. Then we sat down, we took a breath, opened our mouths and as a single entity we sang. That magic is what I love most about Gondwana Choirs and what keeps me coming back.



HANLON INNOCENT
Launceston, Tasmania

Gondwana Singers

2015 Highlights

National Choral School
Performing at Festival of Voices in Hobart

Gondwana Choirs is for me a chance to further my passion greatly for choral music, an opportunity hard to find in a more rural area such as Tasmania.

In 2015 however, I was delighted to be able to perform at the Festival of Voices in Hobart as part of the Gondwana Young Men's Choir, hopefully reaching out to children in Tassie waiting for an opportunity to pursue their passion as I did.

The experiences I have had with Gondwana choirs have been remarkable, and I have formed strong relationships with both fellow choristers and conductors alike.

In the April school holidays, 32 choristers from Gondwana Voices travelled to Melbourne to participate in Choral Fest, the signature festival of the Australian National Choral Association. After intensive rehearsals at Candlebark Farm in the beautiful Yarra Valley, we were pleased to be billeted with our long-term friends, Young Voices of Melbourne.

Gondwana Voices performed in the opening Gala Concert in Melbourne's spectacular St Paul's Cathedral on 9 April and gave two further lunchtime performances at Wesley College, the event venue. They performed a selection of repertoire from National Choral School, including Ratah Duek traditional Indonesian Sitting Dances, which were a highlight for audiences and choristers alike. Concerts were conducted by Lyn Williams and Mark O'Leary, who were also festival keynote speakers.

Special thanks to supervisors Maria McQuinn, Anita Green and Tania Casey, and the families of Young Voices of Melbourne who hosted our choristers during their time in Melbourne.

In July, a combination of the Gondwana Singers and SCC Young Men's Choir toured to Tasmania as Gondwana Young Men's Choir to take part in Festival of Voices.

Following a brief rehearsal period in Launceston, the choir gave a short performance at the Salvation Army Church with the Greater Launceston Youth Singers. The group then travelled to Hobart for the festival where they performed in a series of showcase concerts including in the beautiful Hobart Town Hall as well as presenting several pop-up performances in venues around town, ranging from Salamanca Markets to the Hobart Library. The Choir was conducted by Sam Allchurch and Chris Burcin, accompanied by Jem Harding. Thanks to supervisors Anita Green and Geoffrey Badger and host families of Greater Launceston Youth Singers.

Tours

GONDWANA CENTENARY CHORALE



Paul Holley OAM
Principal Guest Conductor,
Gondwana Chorale

In the spirit of innovation and exceptional artistic standards for which it is known, Gondwana Choirs formed a very special international ensemble to take part in the Anzac centenary commemorations in Sydney, known as Gondwana Centenary Chorale.

Gondwana Chorale was augmented by young singers from Turkey, France and New Zealand. Aged between 18 and 25, reflecting the age of many of the soldiers of those soldiers who fought for their country, the combined choir provides a fitting tribute to the nations represented at Gallipoli and other World War One campaigns.

On Thursday 16 April, after only a day and a half rehearsal, the Centenary Chorale gave a private performance conducted by Principal Guest Conductor Paul Holley at Government House Sydney, in the presence of His Excellency David Hurley, Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Hurley.

The following week on 22 and 24 April, the ensemble joined the Sydney Symphony Orchestra to perform the world premiere of *War Music* by award-winning West Australian

composer James Ledger, with text by legendary Australian singer-songwriter Paul Kelly and other a capella repertoire.

The concert was conducted by Richard Gill OAM, with choral preparation by Paul Holley OAM and Lyn Williams OAM. Thanks also to Luke Byrne for his support and musical expertise. Peter McCallum, writing in the SMH, said of the performance:

The wonderfully clear, transparent and balanced sound of the Gondwana Centenary Chorale was also heard in the requiem plainchant, variations on a traditional Turkish song, Katibim, and music by Parry and Tallis.

The participation of the choristers from overseas was made possible by assistance from the Republic of Turkey, the Ambassade de France en Australie, the New Zealand High Commission and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Thanks also to Gondwana National Choirs and Sydney Children's Choir families for hosting our interstate and overseas guests.



Right: Gondwana Centenary Choral at Government House, Sydney with His Excellency David Hurley, Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Hurley

Report

GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The year started for CairnsGICC with a performance for the Cairns Australia Day Awards Ceremony, presented by our supporters at the Cairns Regional Council. In addition to our arrangements of traditional songs from the Torres Strait, the choir performed *Many Voices One Dream* by Sally Whitwell, Rubina Kimiia and choristers of the choir.

On the weekend of the 20-22 March, CairnsGICC held its annual intensive camp at beautiful Lake Tinaroo, which saw 48 choristers from both the main choir and its newly formed second choir, Cairns Singers, come together. Choristers worked with their conductors Lyn Williams and Chris Burcin, Indigenous Linguist and Cultural Liaison, Seith Fourmile and composer Luke Byrne. Seith and Luke worked with the choristers in creating a newly commissioned piece for the group for a performance later in the year. The camp also provided valuable repertoire learning and rehearsing for upcoming events in addition to developing their choreography skills with Sani Townson.

In April, we began a new Indigenous Children's Choir hub in Mt Druitt, working with the Captivate program through the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. The hub has an enthusiastic group of students who come during school hours to rehearse weekly with Elizabeth Vierboom and will eventually combine with our Campbelltown hub for future performance opportunities.

The Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir had an busy year of performances. In August, they appeared at both the Gimuy Fish Festival and the closing ceremony of the Cairns Indigenous Arts Festival.

Later in August, Cairns GICC also performed at the Cairns Festival on the esplanade with Troy Cassar-Daley. This event was very well attended, with crowd estimates of 40,000. The choir were well supported by family and audience. Repertoire for this concert included the Torres Strait Islands song arrangements and *Li-Anthawirriyarra a Kurija* by Shellie Morris and Yanuwa women.

September saw CairnsGICC and choristers from Kununurra travel to the Western Pilbara for the first time for workshops and a performance at the Red Earth Arts Festival (see [Pilbara Project](#) report).

In November, for the third consecutive year, the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir performed at the Business Council of Australia Annual Dinner in Sydney. The choir were honoured to perform with world renowned artist, Gurrumul for this event, singing his haunting *All God's Children (Yo Djamarrkuli)*. Also featured was the première performance of Luke Byrne's *Storm Bird*, which grew out of the collaboration with Seith Fourmile at the CairnsGICC Camp earlier in the year. This performance was a major highlight of 2015 for many of our choristers.



JASMIN ADAMS
Cairns, Queensland

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir
CairnsGICC
Junior Gondwana

2015 Highlights

CairnsGICC camp at Lake Tinaroo
Performing with Gurrumul at the BCA dinner
Joining SCC on the China Tour
Performing at Red Earth Festival, Roebourne

Gondwana choirs has been a very special part of my life. It has given me opportunities that I may never had experienced. In 2015 I took part in many events and performances. I have met a lot of new people and have made many friends from all parts of Australia.

I love being part of the Gondwana choir because everyone can share their passion for singing. We get to learn and teach others about different cultures. Most of all in a choir, everyone has to work together because every voice counts. We have to sing as one.

Carols by Candlelight is a major event in the Cairns schedule in December and this year saw the Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir with conductor Lauren Hannay.

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir are very grateful to Angus Woods in the success of his *Giving Back to Gondwana Concert* and the proceeds raised going to our program. Sisters Tionee, Nia and Marnee Seden performed *Li-Anthawirriyarra a Kurija* at the event and it was wonderful to hear them sing together as Tionee and Nia are now studying at university.

CampbelltownGICC had a successful year in performing with Sydney Children's Choir at the *Under One Sky* performance in Wollongong, the *Winter Concert*, City of Sydney Climate Change Talk at Town Hall and finishing the year performing for community members in Rosemeadow. We're looking forward to another successful year and furthering our performance opportunities with our newly developing Inner Sydney Gondwana Indigenous Children's hub beginning Term 2, 2016.

The Inner Sydney Gondwana Indigenous Children's will consist of students primarily in the City of Sydney region and will be conducted by Lyn Williams. Gondwana Choirs is looking forward to combining our three Sydney-based Indigenous Children's Choirs for camps, a performance at the Maritime Museum and further performance opportunities.

Gondwana Choirs is proud to recognise the following partners who provide generous assistance in offsetting venue hire costs for our weekly GICC hub rehearsals and activities in Cairns and Western Sydney in 2015 and 2016:

- Cairns State High School
- Family and Community Services Housing NSW
- Briar Road Public School
- Captivate Program, Jarara Indigenous Education Unit NSW.



JAALA SADLER
Bradbury, New South Wales

Western Sydney GICC
Junior Gondwana

2015 Highlights

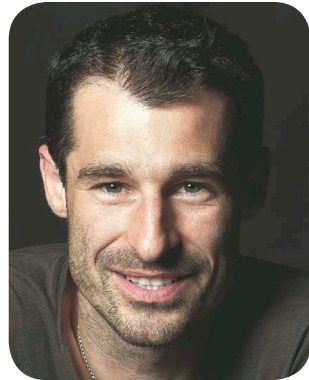
National Choral School
Performing with Gurumal at the BCA dinner
Performing with Christine Anu at Climate Change Conference

It was such a great honour to have sung alongside Gurrumal at the Business Council - you could just feel the wisdom from him! And being able to perform with Christine Anu was wonderful. She had such positive vibes, she made everyone feel good, she's just that type of person. But a big part of doing all this was being able to meet so many new people from everywhere! I made friends from Tasmania, the Pilbara and Cairns.

I'm looking forward to performing Spinifex Gum at National Choral School 2016 and performing at the 200th anniversary memorial of the Appin Massacre.

Projects & Performances

PILBARA PROJECT



Felix Riebl
Composer, *Spinifex Gum*

In March 2015, Gondwana Choirs Artistic Director Lyn Williams, Artistic Operations Manager Sam Allchurch and Composer Felix Riebl visited Karratha and Roebourne in the Western Pilbara region of Western Australia. The aim of this trip was to establish relationships with artists, teachers and students in the area, as Gondwana Choirs had commissioned Felix to write a song cycle based upon the contemporary Indigenous experience and wonderfully rich art heritage of the region.

This new work commission was made possible by the generous support of our donors, in particular Vicki Olsson.

During this first visit, Lyn held inspiring choral workshops in schools across the Karratha and Roebourne region. Lyn, Felix and Sam were made to feel at home with the artists at Yinjaa-Barni Arts Centre, in particular the well-known local painter Allery Sandy, and Felix later returned for his own research trip in May.

In September, Lyn, Felix and Sam were joined by choreographer Sani Townson, Choral Education Coordinator Nicole Thomson,

pianist Jem Harding and the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, supported by Rio Tinto, for workshops and performances in Karratha and Roebourne district. 36 choristers from Cairns and Kununurra and seven young singers from Karratha/Roebourne rehearsed for the performance at the Red Earth Arts Festival in Karratha on 24 September 2015. They were joined for 2 songs in the concert by the larger SingFest choir, who had rehearsed after school each day.

Prior to that, on Saturday 19 September, two shopping centre appearances in Karratha by GICC helped to generate interest in the visit and the concert. One of the most fulfilling parts of the tour was the interaction with GICC and Gondwana Artistic Staff with the local community, especially renewing the ties with the community at Yinjaa-Barni Arts Centre and watching Allery at work.

Another highlight for our choristers was attending the Aboriginal Church in the Pilbara and joining in the singing during the service. Other non-musical activities included a visit to Cossack, Point Samson and Hearson's

Cove and Rio Tinto's impressive iron ore loading facility in the region.

Spinifex Gum - a song cycle was composed by Felix following these multiple visits to the area. It is based on his experiences and research into local traditional and contemporary stories, especially those of the Yinjaa-Barni people. The completed work is the result of the collaboration between Felix and Ollie McGill, Felix's long-time arranger and co-composer.

In January 2016 at Gondwana National Choral School, Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir came together to learn, rehearse and perform *Spinifex Gum* during the two-week long residential camp. The choir of 35 included choristers from Queensland, New South Wales and four choristers from Western Australia who had joined GICC for the Red Earth Arts Festival.

The world première performance of *Spinifex Gum - a song cycle* was conducted by Gondwana Choirs Founder and Artistic Director Lyn Williams OAM on 23 January 2016 at The Concourse, Chatswood as part of the National Choral School final concerts. Special thanks to Rio Tinto for making this tour possible and for their ongoing support as Principal Partner of Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir.

SPINIFEX GUM - a song cycle

CREATIVE TEAM

Lyn Williams OAM, Conductor
Felix Riebl, Composer and Lyricist
Sani Townson, Choreographer
Ollie McGill, Arranger and Sound Designer
Elizabeth Vierboom, Assistant Conductor
Jem Harding, Rehearsal Pianist

Commissioned and developed by Gondwana Choirs with support from the Australia Council and the following donors:

Vicki Olsson, Commissioning Patron
Helen & Matthew Allchurch
Roger Allen
Kerry Bennett
Christine Bishop
Jane & Richard Freudenstein
Scott & Rachel Hadfield
Elizabeth & Bob Johnston
Suzie & Jason Lee
Magnolia Foundation
Ken & Elizabeth Nielsen
The Shaw Family
Sam Weiss
Angus Woods *Giving Back to Gondwana*



Right: GICC in the Western Pilbara
Far right: Dress rehearsal of
Spinifex Gum at NCS2016



Performances & Projects COLLABORATIONS

The various ensembles of Gondwana Choirs regularly collaborate and perform with the most exciting and established artists in Australia.

In 2015, the Sydney Children's Choir continued its long association with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Other notable performances included with Gondwana alumna Kate Miller-Heidke (*Under One Sky*) and Conrad Sewell (Aria Awards).



Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu is one of Australia's most original and exciting Indigenous performers, best known for his haunting style of singing. He performs both as a solo artist and as a member of Saltwater Band, prior to which he was a member of Yothu Yindi. The 2015 performance at the Business Council of Australia Annual Dinner was his first collaboration with GICC.



Charles Dutoit is the Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and regular guest conductor with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. The 2015 performance of Berlioz's *Te Deum* continues the maestro's collaborations with the Sydney Children's Choir, which date as far back as 2005 and *Le Damnation de Faust*.

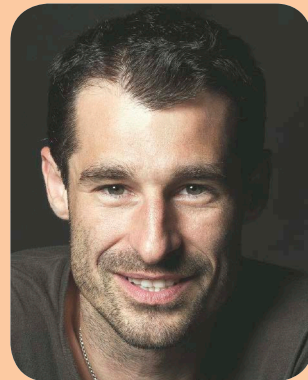


The Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir has a proud history of collaborations with Australia's most respected Indigenous and non-Indigenous performers. In addition to Gurrumul and Felix Riebl, GICC performed with Christine Anu at the Sydney Climate Change Talks in August.

Elena Kats-Chernin is one of the most versatile and most performed contemporary composers in Australia. She has composed for all of the leading companies in Australia, including Opera Australia, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Ballet. *Meeting the Sun* for the Kokoda Memorial is the largest collaboration yet between Elena and Gondwana Choirs.



Felix Riebl is a Melbourne based singer, songwriter, and composer who co-founded the iconic Australian band The Cat Empire. Felix's association with Gondwana Choirs began in 2013 with the Australia Day Spectacular and continued at National Choral School 2014. The 2015/16 Pilbara Project collaboration is Felix's first large scale work for Gondwana Choirs.



In 2015 Gondwana Choirs collaborated on three occasions with the **Sydney Symphony Orchestra**, continuing the long association between the two organisations. Chief Conductor David Robinson conducted members of the Sydney Children's Choir in the 2015 Opening Gala, Charles Dutoit conducted the Sydney Children's Choir in the Berlioz *Te Deum*, and Richard Gill led Gondwana Chorale in the world première of *War Music* by James Ledger.

In 2016, the orchestra will partner with the Junior Performing Choirs of Sydney Children's Choir for the first time in the Australian première performances of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Colin Matthews.

Awards APRA/AMCOS AWARD



The Art Music Awards, held on 11 August at City Recital Hall, Sydney, are presented each year by the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) and the Australian Music Centre to recognise achievement in the composition, performance, education and presentation of Australian music.

Sydney Children's Choir, conducted by Matthew Winnell, was honoured to perform two works: *Our Song* by Kate Miller-Heidke and *Rain Dream* Joseph Twist, accompanied by Sally Whitwell. Renowned composer, and friend of Gondwana

Choirs, Ross Edwards received the *Award for Excellence by an Individual* for his contribution to Australian chamber music over almost five decades.

Gondwana Choirs was thrilled to accept the APRA/AMCOS award for *Excellence by an Organisation* for the 2014 Artistic Program and significant contribution to Australian music since 1989. This national award recognises the breadth of Gondwana Choirs, from the world-renowned Sydney Children's Choir choral training program, the reach of Gondwana National Choirs and the incredibly positive impact of Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir..

Previous recognition in the Art Music Awards include:

2013	Finalist, <i>Excellence in a Regional Area</i> (Cairns GICC)
2012	Finalist, <i>Excellence in a Regional Area</i> (Cairns Residency Project)
2012	Finalist, <i>Excellence in Music Education</i>
2011	Winner, <i>Excellence in Music Education</i>
2009	Vocal or Choral Work of the Year (Lyn Williams)
2006	Long term Contribution to Australian Music (Lyn Williams)



Gondwana Choirs congratulates Lyn Williams in being named one of The Australian Financial Review and Westpac's *100 Women of Influence* in 2015. Lyn's ability to communicate with young people and motivate them to achieve the

highest possible artistic standards, combined with her incredible talent for musical innovation, is well known to all members of the Gondwana Choirs family. She has had such a positive influence on so many people over the last 26 years as Artistic Director and Founder of Gondwana Choirs and Sydney Children's Choir that this announcement won't come as a surprise to many people.

Events

GIVING BACK TO GONDWANA



Giving Back To Gondwana

Back row (from left): Tyus Arndt, Jeremy Donovan, Angus Woods, Scott Emerson MP
Front row: Tionne, Marnee & Nia Seden, Bernie Heard

On 18 July, former Gondwana Voices chorister and Music Captain at Brisbane Grammar School, Angus Woods, organised a substantial fundraising event that enabled five young Indigenous singers to attend Gondwana National Choral School 2016.

The evening was introduced by Mr Scott Emerson MP, State Member for Indooroopilly, and compered by Angus Woods and Jeremy Donovan, CEO of Generation One. Music ensembles from the leading schools in Brisbane and the Queensland Conservatorium performed a wide and varied program, which also featured a performance by Tionne, Marnee & Nia Seden, representing our Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir, with former chorister Tyus Arndt.

The evening had many sponsors, including several galleries that donated art work for the silent auction. Thanks to all involved, especially St Peters Lutheran College for donating the use

of their magnificent Performing Arts Centre.

The final amount raised exceeded \$26,000, which is an incredible effort. Gondwana Choirs applauds Angus and his mother Samantha for the many hours they spent organising the evening.

Bravo Angus. Thank you for your imagination in conceiving of *Giving Back to Gondwana Choirs*. We wish you well in your future at Harvard University!

Event

WALSH BAY ARTS TABLE



Pier 2 on the evening of the Walsh Bay Arts Table with the replica HMB Endeavour in the left background

The Walsh Bay Arts Table is a fundraising initiative by Walsh Bay Arts and Commerce in partnership with the arts companies of the precinct. All proceeds raised go to the host organisation for the development of its arts and cultural activities.

Gondwana Choirs had the privilege of hosting the event in 2015 on a perfect November evening. More than 250 guests enjoyed the al fresco, five-course degustation dining experience on the apron of Pier 2 with the iconic Harbour Bridge as the backdrop.

The biggest thrill for the evening was the replica HMB Endeavour being docked at the pier, whose appearance was made possible by a significant partnership with the Australian National Maritime Museum. Most guests eagerly took the opportunity to tour the tall ship between courses.

The three performances throughout the evening highlighted the range of our organisation. The Senior Training Choirs of Sydney Children's Choir, conducted by Amandine Petit gave one of their first ever public performances, singing Paul Jarman's *The Captain's Tale* between the first two courses. After the second course, four members of Cairns GICC gave

a beautiful rendition of *Li-Anthawirriyarra a Kurija*, written by Shellie Morris and Yanuwa women. The final performance of the evening was given by the Sydney Children's Choir, who sang *My Field* by Felix Riebl from the deck of the HMB Endeavour.

Five Walsh Bay restaurants each prepared a course, with matching wines provided by Tempus Two. Thanks to The Loch, Pier One, View By Sydney, Simmer of the Bay and Sydney Dance Lounge for their creations, and to Sonoma, Vittoria and Fratelli Fresh. Wollumbi Wines and One Point created the popular Treasure Chest and many Gondwana Choirs' families and local businesses donated prizes to the Silent Auction and Raffle.

Thanks to event partners Dixon Advisory, Walsh Bay Arts and Commerce, Australian National Maritime Museum, Mirvac, One Point and Integral Risk Group for their generous support. After costs, more than \$40,000 was raised through ticket sales, the silent auction, raffle and treasure chest, making the event a considerable success for Gondwana Choirs.

Partner Report RIO TINTO

The Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir program provides a comprehensive and developmental music education especially for young Indigenous people aged 8 – 17 years. Gondwana Choirs' expectations are high and we want to ensure that young people involved receive a high quality and thorough arts education. This is achieved through regular rehearsals with leading Gondwana Choirs conductors, sight singing, music theory tuition, and incredible performance and touring opportunities. At the core of GICC's mission is the preservation and development of language and story through song, involving intergenerational cultural activity and developing a new contemporary Indigenous repertoire.

In July 2015 we were pleased to enter into a new three year partnership between Gondwana Choirs and Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto has been the Principal Partner of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir (GICC) since 2012, and in this time, this partnership has enabled the program to grow and thrive, providing extraordinary opportunities for young Indigenous people from throughout Australia.

In addition to the core activity of regular rehearsals and intensive camps, the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir participated in two extraordinary opportunities in 2015 especially supported by Rio Tinto. In September, CairnsGICC toured to the Western Pilbara, performing in the Red Earth Arts Festival and singing with local Indigenous students. In

November the choir gathered for a national season in Sydney, rehearsing and performing with the incredible artist Gurrumul, for the Business Council of Australia Annual Dinner.

Rio Tinto is proud to be the principal partner of the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and to help our talented young Indigenous youth get involved in their culture and the performing arts.

The Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir provides a voice for the unique and diverse culture of Australia's Indigenous boys and girls and the opportunity to share their passion, stories and history around the nation.

Rio Tinto is proud to give the support needed for the indigenous choir to take their powerful performances into our communities and to be build greater mutual respect and reconciliation.

The Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir provides a wonderful vehicle to build identity through deep collaboration with local elders and communities and an excellent pathway for young Indigenous girls and boys to pursue a career in the performing arts.

Andrew Harding - CEO Iron Ore
Australia, China and Korea



Sponsor Profile ONE POINT



Kerim El Gabaili
CEO, OnePoint

OnePoint is an integrated creative, marketing communication and production team with a unique understanding of customer journey design and a very clear focus on commercial outcomes for their clients. By having acquired several agencies and merged them into one integrated solution, OnePoint eliminates the frustrations of managing every detail with third-party suppliers because they take care of everything under one roof.

OnePoint CEO Kerim Elgabaili writes:

Our specialist experience in both B2B and B2C allows us to develop engaging end-to-end solutions that will resonate with your audience to provide cut-through like you've never experienced. This focus and flexibility is what makes us one of the few preferred full service creative and production agencies for many of Australia's leading firms.

Over the past few years, Gondwana Choirs has engaged OnePoint for its printing and merchandising needs. In 2015, the relationship between the two organisations developed when OnePoint became a

corporate sponsor at the Supporting Partner level. The sponsorship was applied both to the building of the new Gondwana Choirs website and printing corporate stationary carrying our new branding.

I grew up having been taught that there is real pleasure and self-satisfaction by contributing back into your community. This way of thinking and living has been translated back into my business that has had the distinct pleasure of supporting one of the most talented and rewarding organisations I have ever had the pleasure of partnering up with in our 20-year history.

The team at Gondwana Choirs is truly amazing and bring out the best in our team as they are a pleasure to work with, and I think we share similar values, vision and culture.

The partnership has continued to evolve in 2016 with OnePoint supporting the storage of all Gondwana Choirs merchandise.



Right: Brothers Kamahl, Kerim and Jim El Gabaili

ALUMNI VOICES

I was a member of Gondwana Voices from 1997-2000. I went on to complete a Bachelor of Music at the Sydney Conservatorium and then a Masters at the Royal College of Music, London. I am now a principal artist (soprano) at the Deutsche Oper Berlin. My time with Gondwana was some of the best of my late childhood. I'm still close with many of my fellow choristers and absolutely acknowledge the powerful role my Gondwana experience played in moulding my future career.

Alexandra Hutton (Gondwana Voices 1997-2000)

On my first day with SSC I was met with a level of passion, discipline, knowledge and skill from every chorister that I didn't know could be expected from adults, let alone my 11 year old self. They were singing in many different languages and the music was so detailed and complex, but so beautiful. Lyn commanded a level of respect that made young people want to give their all. I learned that performing in a choir was more than just musical teamwork - it was learning, evolving and combining that energy to create something so powerful and unique. And it was so much FUN. I took that sense of fun and let it inspire. I experienced that team environment and creative flow and let it guide my ambition.

Today I am living in the UK and working professionally with Glyndebourne Festival Opera. Regardless of whether I had pursued music as a career, the benefits of childhood musical involvement and development are well documented and they STICK. It's disciplined, creative, social, highly cerebral, physical, and emotional. It's life skills and memories, passion and education. I can't imagine my childhood years any differently and certainly wouldn't be who I am today without these experiences.

Lauren Easton (Sydney Children's Choir & Gondwana Voices)

In my 8-year stint with Gondwana Choirs, I travelled the world, singing in more languages than I can count and learning more about international cultures than most of my scholarly cohort. I sang in the Vatican on my twelfth birthday, I nearly fell into the chasm surrounding the Olympic flame during the Sydney Opening Ceremony, I learnt Indigenous dances and SO many national anthems. I was taught discipline alongside sight-singing, made memories with people I still call friends to this day, and had some of the happiest years of my life ... This institution is a national treasure, one that has shaped the lives of thousands of young Australians.

Lizzie Garrett (SCC 1997-2005 & Gondwana Voices 2004-05)

SCC and GV gave me the best introduction to this industry. The importance of professionalism, reliability and passion for what I do. I may no longer sing in a choir but I'm never late - I'm always early. I learn my material as soon as I get it. I leave my ego and issues out of my work and I feel I owe much of that to the training I got with [you] Lyn Williams. Thank you for teaching me the importance of team work and standing up for what you believe in and never being afraid of creating something different. I owe my career as it is today to SCC and I hope many other kids will find the same thing - regardless of the career they end up in.

Morgan Smith (Sydney Children's Choir & Gondwana Voices)

Gondwana and Sydney Children's Choir are everything, a national treasure that truly defines an Australian musical culture and passes it on from generation to generation.

Joe Twist, composer

I am not alone in saying that I owe much of my career to you and the chance you gave me back in 1999.

Paul Jarman, composer

Since my time with Gondwana, I have been a high school music teacher, leader of children's choirs in three different countries, I have started a foundation for inter-cultural choral exchange between students in Germany and students in the Kalahari desert in South Africa. The level of true professionalism we were taught by Lyn Williams and all our other conductors has been unparalleled in groups I have since been a part of. Gondwana taught me about teamwork, support, focus, community and learning, developed more of my own capabilities, determination, musicality and success, and opened my mind to international possibilities I had otherwise never considered.

Beth Martin (Gondwana Voices 1997-2000)

I'm now a conductor, voice coach and performer. I conducted massed choirs of around 700 children at the Opera House and Sydney Town Hall for the NSW Department of Education. Last year I was one of the six Australian judges for Kids Eurovision. I conduct a woman's choir of 60 women called *Iluka Woman's a Capella*.

SCC was the most important thing I did as a child and teenager. It kept me afloat and gave me confidence when nothing else could. Lyn Williams was the most important role model that I ever had, both as a woman and a musician.

Natasha Cupitt (Sydney Children's Choir 1989-1993)

I completed my BMus at Sydney University, Diploma of Opera at the VCA, became a Young Artist at Opera Queensland and a guest Young Artist at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden where I worked with some of the best vocal coaches and conductors in the world! I now freelance as a vocalist across various platforms and I'm about to release my debut solo album of my own songs.

I remember my SCC days extremely fondly and still believe I got such a strong core musical training there that has set me up for a wonderful career in music across a wide range of genres. I love the choir so much that my 5 year old daughter has now joined the mini singers and is LOVING it.

Jessica O'Donoghue (Sydney Children's Choir 1989-1993)

I work at the New England Conservatorium of Music as a music therapist and violin teacher, am involved in the community orchestra and chamber choir and regularly perform in community music events. Being in Gondwana Voices provided me with the opportunity to prepare and perform music at professional level, an experience which is hard to come by for children living in regional areas of Australia. My experiences in Gondwana Voices had a huge influence on my decision to study music and subsequently music therapy. Gondwana gave me the opportunity to experience the immense effect music can have on people, and to connect with other young people with whom I had the same interests and goals - a rare experience for a "country kid." Without Gondwana the Australian musical landscape would be incredibly bleak.

Hannah Rowland (Gondwana Voices 2013)



Gondwana Voices 2006



Sydney Children's Choir 2001

SUPPORTERS

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

Principal Partner

RioTinto

Major Partners

OnePoint

THEME
VARIATIONS
PIANO SERVICES

Supporting Partners

CMC COMBINED
MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS

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Australian Government
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Australian Government
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China
Council

CITY OF SYDNEY

Cairns
Regional
COUNCIL

ARTSLINK
QUEENSLAND
QUEENSLAND ARTS COUNCIL est. 1961

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Conservatorium High School
Cairns State High School
University of Queensland
Briar Road Public School
Family and Community Services Housing
Captivate Program, Jarara Indigenous
Education Unit

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

Crown Resorts Foundation
Packer Family Foundation
The E Robert Hayles & Alison Hayles Charitable
Trust, Managed by Perpetual
James N. Kirby Foundation
Collier Charitable Fund
St George Foundation

Magnolia Foundation
Todd Family Foundation
Sydney Community Foundation
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

Thank you to the individuals who have supported Gondwana Choirs in 2015 and 2016

SPINIFEX GUM - THE PILBARA PROJECT

Vicki Olsson, Commissioning Patron
Helen & Matthew Allchurch
Roger Allen
Kerry Bennett
Christine Bishop
Jane & Richard Freudenstein
Hadfield Family
Elizabeth & Bob Johnston
Suzie & Jason Lee

Magnolia Foundation
Ken & Elizabeth Nielsen
Vicki Olsson
Shaw Family
Sam Weiss
Ray Wilson OAM
Angus Woods, Giving Back to Gondwana

NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL GUEST ARTIST SUPPORTERS

Darryl & Kate Dixon

INDIVIDUAL GIVING PROGRAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE - contributions above \$5000

Anonymous (1)
Christine Bishop
Daryl & Kate Dixon
Peter & Michelle Goes

Magnolia Foundation
Vicki Olsson
Shaw Family
Todd Family Foundation

INNOVATIONS PATRONS GOLD - contributions between \$2000 and \$5000

Helen & Matthew Allchurch
Duke Foundation

Lyn Williams OAM

INNOVATIONS PATRONS SILVER - contributions between \$500 and \$2000

Anonymous (6)
Roger Allen
Melanie & Michael America
Kerry Bennett
Lisa Chung
Katy Evans
Simon Fernwick
Jane & Richard Freudenstein
Anitra Gollings
Anita Green
Grimshaw Family
Hadfield Family
Gaye Headlam
Mary Heath
Clare & Tom Herschell
Steven & Meredith Huntingford
Elizabeth & Bob Johnston
Gorbatov Family
Suzie & Jason Lee
Kate Lidbetter & Kerin Family
David Longmuir

James & Maria MacNamara
Sarah McNaughton
Paul & Jacqueline Massey
Keith Miller
Steven J Miller
Annette Milroy
Phillip & Ellen Nicholson
Dr Catherine Playoust
Sylvie Renaud-Calmel
Vanessa & Mark Rohanna
Pasquale Rombola
Robert & Jenny Rowland
Timothy Samway & Jemima Littlemore
WGCDR Michael Stuart-Watt
Penny & Imogen Sturrock
Alan Yap & Michele Tjeuw
Sam Weiss
Helen Williams
Ray Wilson OAM
Siew Woo

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gondwana Choirs would sincerely like to thank retiring Board Directors Warren Lee and David Lumb for their invaluable contribution to the organisation over many years.

We are delighted to announce two new appointees to the board, Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine and Caroline Sharpen. Tessa was a founding

member of the Sydney Children's Choir who has gone on to a distinguished career in public policy and advocacy and Caroline brings with her extensive experience in fundraising and development.



KATE LIDBETTER, Chair. Board Member since 2012

Kate Lidbetter is Chief Executive Officer of Symphony Services International, which provides a range of services and products to Australian and international orchestras. Previous roles have included Director of Music Administrator of the Australian Youth Orchestra and General Manager of Sydney Children's Choir. Kate is also a Councillor on the Music Council of Australia and a Director of Accessible Arts NSW and regularly participates

on panels, committees and juries for various music organisations in Australia and abroad.

Kate's passion for Gondwana Choirs began in 1994 when she joined the company as General Manager. Her son Vincent was a chorister from 2008-14. Kate has observed the many positive outcomes Vincent achieved and wants as many children as possible to have these experiences.



LYN WILLIAMS OAM. Board Member since 1994

Gondwana Choirs' Artistic Director and Founder Lyn Williams is Australia's leading director of choirs for young people. For 26 years, she has been the driving force behind Gondwana Choirs' internationally acclaimed choral programs, working with hundreds of young Australian musicians each year.

Gondwana Voices, Gondwana Chorale and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir nationally and internationally. She is a recipient of the NSW State Award, a Churchill Fellowship the Medal of the Order of Australia recognition of her services to the arts and a noted composer. In 2014, Lyn was named one of The Australian Financial Review and Westpac's *100 Women of Influence* in the category of Culture.

Lyn has conducted the Sydney Children's Choir,



DR TESSA BOYD-CAINE. Appointed 2015

In 1989 Tessa Boyd-Caine joined a small choir under the musical direction of Lyn Williams. Months later, that choir became Sydney Children's Choir, where Tessa was one of its founding choristers. Since then she has developed a strong career in public policy and the non-profit sector. Tessa the CEO of the new National Centre for Health Justice Partnerships. A criminologist by training, she has previously worked

in the areas of human rights, mental health law and criminal justice, both domestically and internationally.

Tessa has a PhD from the London School of Economics, and was awarded the inaugural Fulbright Professional Scholarship in Non-Profit Leadership in 2013. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



NICHOLAS JAMES. Board Member since 2007

Nicholas James is a Director of Campus Living Funds Management. He has 30 years of global experience in investment banking, investment management and finance. He was CEO, and prior to that CFO, of Transfield Holdings from 2005 to 2015, during which time he was a member of the Transfield Holdings Advisory Board. Previous positions include with Deutsche Bank, London; Macquarie Bank, Sydney,

London and New York; and Westpac, Sydney.

Nicholas' interest in Gondwana Choirs was through his son, a former chorister. Nicholas takes great pleasure in providing his financial and management skills to the organisation, helping to facilitate the opportunities for the sensational young singers who journey through Gondwana.



WARREN LEE. Resigned 2015

From an initial background as a mergers and acquisitions lawyer with Freehills, Warren has more than 20 years' experience working in, and advising on, traditional and new media. He has served as Director of Strategy and Corporate Development at the Ten Network, FOXTEL and News Limited.

Warren was the CEO of Liberty One, Australia's first



DAVID LONGMUIR. Board Member since 2003

David has qualifications in engineering, business management and applied finance and is a co-founder of the bespoke infrastructure services business, Everything Infrastructure.

After attending an uplifting Sydney Children's Choir concert, David's eldest daughter, Sophie, joined the choir, followed by her younger sister Henrietta a few



DAVID LUMB. Resigned 2015

David is a senior manager at The National Roads & Motorists' Association, with broad responsibility across a number of areas including membership, marketing communications, publishing and business intelligence.

Previously he was the Managing Director of the Sydney office of a global public relations firm,



KAREN MUNDINE. Board Member since 2011

Karen is a proud Bundjalung woman from northern NSW. She is Deputy CEO of Reconciliation Australia and has over 20 years' experience in public advocacy, communications and social marketing. Ceremony is at the heart of Aboriginal culture and Karen has always had a strong belief in the power of song and music to transform lives, break down barriers and unite people. Joining the Gondwana Choirs Board has given her



CAROLINE SHARPEN. Appointed 2016

Caroline is the Principal of Sharpen Creative Industries Consulting. As a classically-trained musician and with degrees in music, musicology and an MBA, she understands the dual drivers of creative industries businesses and the challenges involved in balancing creative integrity with fiscal imperatives. Her approach lies in pursuit of clear strategy and communication and an uncompromising approach to organisational culture.

publicly listed online business, and the founding CEO of APN Online. Warren also sits on the World Nomads Board (one of Australia's leading travel insurance providers) and is an ambassador of the Powerhouse Museum.

Warren's daughter, Tabitha, was a member of both Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana Voices.

years later. David volunteered as supervisor, at camps, concerts and an overseas tour. He and his wife Libby also billeted many young choristers from across Australia and around the world. Henrietta also sang and toured with both Gondwana Voices and Gondwana Chorale, with Sophie also joining Chorale. David became a Director of Gondwana Choirs to help develop and support the business.

having originally started his professional career as a corporate lawyer.

David is the father of four young children, the oldest of whom was a chorister in the Sydney Children's Choir. He has a keen interest in music and in his younger days was an enthusiastic (if not entirely competent) bass trombonist.

the opportunity to apply her professional skills to her passions and be a part of an inspiring arts organisation that nurtures the talent of today to become the leaders of tomorrow. Karen is particularly excited by the growth of the Indigenous Children's Choir and the opportunity for choristers to proudly share their stories and language with each other, other Australians, and the world. For Karen, this is reconciliation in action.

With more than 17 years senior executive experience in cultural organisations in Australia and the USA, Caroline has successfully overseen the development of corporate and business unit strategy that places creative integrity at the heart of revenue growth and aligning the needs of organisations with the goals, values and beliefs of their supporters.

ARTISTS 2015



Sally Whitwell
Principal Pianist,
Gondwana Choirs

SYDNEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

SENIOR CHOIR & LYN WILLIAMS CHOIR

Lyn Williams, Conductor
Matthew Winnell, Assistant Conductor
Sally Whitwell, Pianist

YOUNG MEN'S CHOIR

Sam Allchurch, Conductor
Jem Harding, Pianist

JUNIOR PERFORMING CHOIRS

Lyn Williams, Elizabeth Vierboom &
Francis Greep, Conductors
Sally Whitwell, Jem Harding & Estella
Roche, Pianists

TRAINING CHOIRS

Erica Byrne, Lanneke Jones, Ruth McCall,
Amandine Petit & Nicole Thomson,
Conductors
Sally Whitwell & Reomi Mito, Pianists

EMERGING COMPOSERS

Patrick Baker
Rachel Bruerville
Olivia Swift
William Yaxley

GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

CAIRNS GICC

Lyn Williams & Chris Burcin, Conductors
Lauren Hannay, Pianist

WESTERN SYDNEY GICC

Elizabeth Vierboom, Conductor
Brendan O'Mahony, Pianist
Sani Townson, Choreographer

GONDWANA NATIONAL CHOIRS

GONDWANA CHORALE

Paul Holley & Carl Crossin, Conductors
Luke Byrne, Pianist

GONDWANA SINGERS

Kate Albury & Chris Burcin, Conductors
Jem Harding, Pianist

GONDWANA CANTIQUE

Elise Bradley, Conductor
Sally Whitwell, Pianist

GONDWANA VOICES

Lyn Williams & Mark O'Leary,
Conductors
Chris Cartner, Pianist

JUNIOR GONDWANA

Paul Jarman & Elizabeth Vierboom,
Conductors
Estella Roche, Pianist

GONDWANA CONDUCTING ACADEMY

Graeme Morton, Program Director
Lauren Hannay, Pianist

GONDWANA COMPOSER SCHOOL

Paul Stanhope & James Ledger,
Program Directors

KID'S CHORAL ACADEMY

Nicole Thomson, Program Director
Ruth McCall & Liz Birell, Conductors
Reomi Mito, Pianist

GONDWANA CHOIRS 2016



Bernie Heard
General Manager,
Gondwana Choirs

Lyn Williams OAM

Founder & Artistic Director

Sam Allchurch

Artistic Operations Manager

Emma Barnett

Sydney Children's Choir Manager

Majeda Beatty

ArtsReady Trainee

Erica Byrne

Indigenous Children's Choir Manager

Emma Carson

National Choirs Manager

Wendy Cundy

Accounts Administrator

Gondwana Choirs would like to thank Antonio Fernandez, Tessa Kay, Mark Ramsden and Nicole Thomson for their contributions in 2015.

VICE REGAL PATRONAGE

Gondwana Choirs is honoured that His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AS DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Linda Hurley have graciously agreed to become Vice Regal Patrons of Sydney Children's Choir.

SYDNEY SINGS

We are also thrilled to announce our participation in the inaugural SYDNEY SINGS 2016 in July. The opening concert in this new festival is the *Gondwana Gala* on in the Sydney Town Hall, featuring Gondwana Chorale, Gondwana Voices, Sydney Children's Choir Gondwana Singers and Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir. Conductors Lyn Williams, Carl Crossin, Mark O'Leary, Rowan Johnston and Elizabeth Scott will direct over 400 of Australia's finest young musicians in a wide variety of music.

Gondwana Gala

28 July, Sydney Town Hall

Voices of Gondwana

29 July, Sydney Town Hall

30 July, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

GICC and the Soweto Gospel Choir

29 July, Sydney Town Hall

Bernie Heard

General Manager

Steph Dillon

Sydney Children's Choir Assistant Manager

Owen Elsley

Artistic Operations Assistant

Francis Greep

Marketing & Development Manager

Susan Hart

Finance Manager

Aimee Palfreemann

Philanthropy Coordinator

Sani Townson

Indigenous Children's Choir Coordinator

THE PIED PIPER

Join the Junior Performing Choirs of Sydney Children's Choir In 2016 in their first major collaboration with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in the Australian premiere of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Colin Matthews. 9 October, Sydney Opera House

NATIONAL CHORAL SCHOOL 2017

In an exciting development, Gondwana Choirs can announce that National Choral School 2017 will move to the University of NSW. This important new partnership will bring many wonderful opportunities for Gondwana Choirs' choristers. We look forward to working closely with UNSW to make National Choral School the place to be in January 2017.

CONCISE ANNUAL REPORT

This concise financial report is an extract derived from the full financial report of Gondwana Choirs for the year ending 31 December 2015.

This extract cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance and position of Gondwana Choirs as is provided by the full financial report with accompanying notes. Please contact us to receive the full financial report or download it from gondwana.org.au

Operating Result

The operating surplus for the year ended 31 December 2015 was \$144,825. This compares to an operating surplus of \$27,967 in the previous financial year.

2015 was a significant year with major projects and collaborations including *Anzac Notes* with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, tours for Sydney Children's Choir to Hong Kong & China, and for Gondwana Voices to Melbourne for Choralifest, a company rebranding and the establishment of a new website and CRM.

The company reported a pleasing surplus result due to careful controls on expenditure, and significant fundraising in 2015 for the Pilbara Project, which was developed in 2015 and performed in 2016, therefore some of these funds will be spent in the 2016 calendar year. There were increased commercial events and projects, including a major composition and installation with the Australian War Memorial.

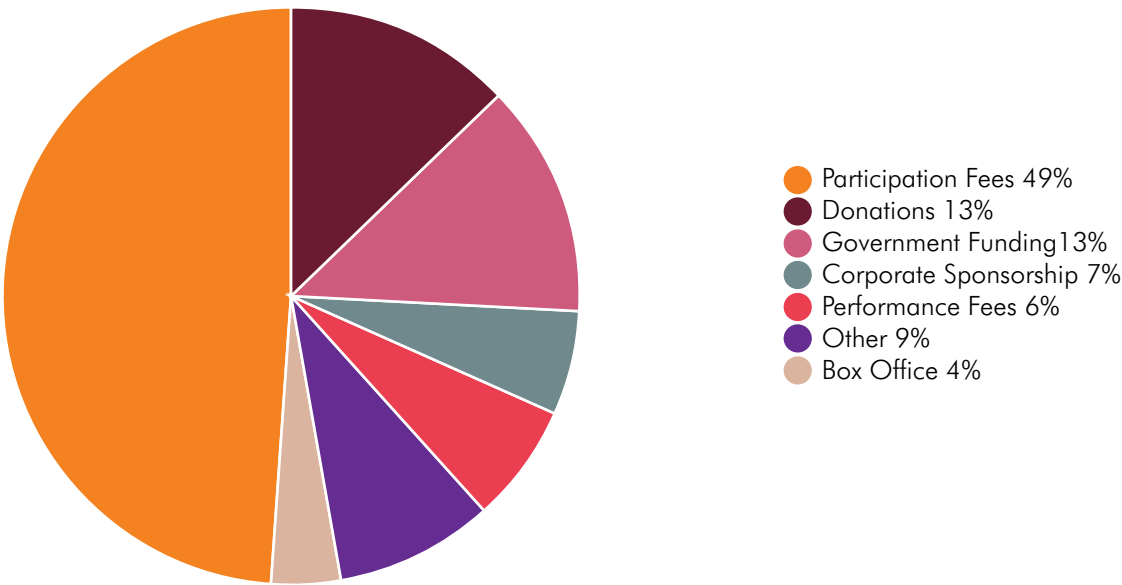
The company invested in senior management personnel and continue to demonstrate strong results on self-presented performances, increased membership for the Sydney Children's Choir training program, and increased applications nationally for the Gondwana National Choirs.

Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2015
Gondwana Choirs

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue	4	2,633,616	2,278,910
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense		(1,149,783)	(1,145,427)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(20,899)	(29,979)
Administration expenses		(274,081)	(274,899)
Marketing expenses		(36,613)	(47,988)
Production expenses		(1,007,415)	(752,650)
		(2,488,791)	(2,250,943)
Net surplus for the year		144,825	27,967
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		144,825	27,967

2015 INCOME



Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2015
Gondwana Choirs

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1,101,030	1,220,023
Trade and other receivables	6	599,975	588,973
Inventories	7	41,120	18,575
Other current assets	8	79,911	38,008
		-----	-----
Total current assets		1,822,036	1,865,579
		-----	-----
Non-current assets			
Plant and equipment	9	8,432	13,621
Intangibles	10	27,679	277
		-----	-----
Total non-current assets		36,111	13,898
		-----	-----
TOTAL ASSETS		1,858,147	1,879,477
		=====	=====
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	124,885	160,998
Provisions	12	112,028	90,606
Government grants	13	86,633	196,632
Income in advance	14	686,105	728,118
		-----	-----
Total current liabilities		1,009,651	1,176,354
		-----	-----
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	12	3,462	2,914
		-----	-----
Total non-current liabilities		1,013,113	1,179,268
		-----	-----
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,013,113	1,179,268
		=====	=====
NET ASSETS		845,034	700,209
		=====	=====
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds		845,034	700,209
		=====	=====

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Funds

for the year ended 31 December 2015
Gondwana Choirs

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at 1 January	700,209	672,242
Surplus for the year	144,825	27,967
	-----	-----
Balance at 31 December	845,034	700,209
	=====	=====

The above statement of changes in funds should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 December 2015
Gondwana Choirs

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
<i>Receipts</i>			
Receipts from customers		1,972,821	1,958,826
Receipts from donors		267,269	208,659
Sponsorships received		250,461	242,770
Interest received		20,631	10,468
<i>Cash flows from government</i>			
Receipts from appropriations/grants		232,392	432,005
<i>Payments</i>			
Wages and salaries		(956,881)	(888,972)
Other suppliers		(1,862,574)	(1,563,344)
Net cash (used in) / provided by from operating activities		(75,881)	400,412
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for plant and equipment	9	(5,988)	(5,410)
Payments for intangibles	10	(37,124)	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(43,112)	(5,410)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents held		(118,993)	395,002
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		1,220,023	825,021
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	5	1,101,030	1,220,023
		=====	=====

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Responsible Entities' Declaration

In the opinion of the Responsible Entities of Gondwana Choirs Ltd:

- (a) The financial statements and notes of Gondwana Choirs Ltd are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including;
 - (i) Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 31 December 2015 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*; and
- (b) There are reasonable grounds to believe that Gondwana Choirs Ltd will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable. (Refer Note 3.9)

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Responsible Entities.



KATE LIDBETTER
Responsible Entity

Sydney
Dated 2 / 5 / 2016

Declaration by Chair of Directors in respect of Fundraising Appeals

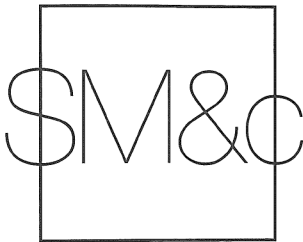
I, Kate Lidbetter, a director of Gondwana Choirs, declare in my opinion;

- (a) the financial report gives a true and fair view of all income and expenditure of Gondwana Choirs with respect to fundraising appeal activities for the year ended 31 December 2015;
- (b) the statement of financial position gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs with respect to fundraising appeal activities as at 31 December 2015;
- (c) the provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Regulations and the conditions attached to the authority have been complied with for the year ended 31 December 2015; and
- (d) the internal controls exercised by Gondwana Choirs are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied from any fundraising appeals.

KATE LIDBETTER
Chair and Responsible Entity



Sydney
Dated 2 / 5 / 2016



Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Gondwana Choirs

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Gondwana Choirs Ltd, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015, the statement of surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the responsible entities' declaration.

Responsible Entities' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The responsible Entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the responsible Entities' preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the responsible entities, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Steven J Miller & Co
Chartered Accountants
18-20 Victoria Street
PO Box 477 Erskineville NSW 2043
Tel (+61 2) 9560 3777
service@stevenjmiller.com.au
www.stevenjmiller.com.au
ABN 23 690 541 177



Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Gondwana Choirs

Opinion

In my opinion the financial report of Accessible Arts Ltd has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2015 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

I also report that:

- a. the financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year;
- b. the accounting and associated records have been properly kept during the year in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the Regulations;
- c. money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year have been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the Regulations; and
- d. at the date of this report, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.


STEVEN J MILLER & CO
Chartered Accountants


S J MILLER
Registered Company
Auditor No 4286

Sydney

Dated 2, 5, 16



gondwana.org.au