

January 2025

Welcome to the *With One Voice* Choir Conductors Meetup 2025!

We are absolutely thrilled to have you join us for this special two-day gathering of inspiring voices from across Australia. This is an incredible opportunity to connect, share, learn from each other, and grow together as leaders of the *With One Voice* choir program.

Inside your welcome pack, you'll find the event schedule, along with bios and photos of the other amazing choir leaders you'll be spending time with. We hope this helps you get to know one another and sparks great conversations and collaborations.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community. We can't wait to dive into this experience together and leave feeling good (birds flying high, you know how I feel!), refreshed, inspired, ready to continue making music with your choir in 2025!

Please let us know if there's anything you need to maximise these two days of creativity and community!

Happy Singing!

Enya, Chris, Sally, and George  
The *With One Voice* team

## EVENT DETAILS

**When:** Fri 17 & Sat 18 January 2025

**Where:** Creativity Australia HQ

**Address:** Level 4, 479 St Kilda Road Melbourne VIC 3004

On arrival, you will need someone with a swipe card to let you into the building. Our offices and events will be on Level 4.

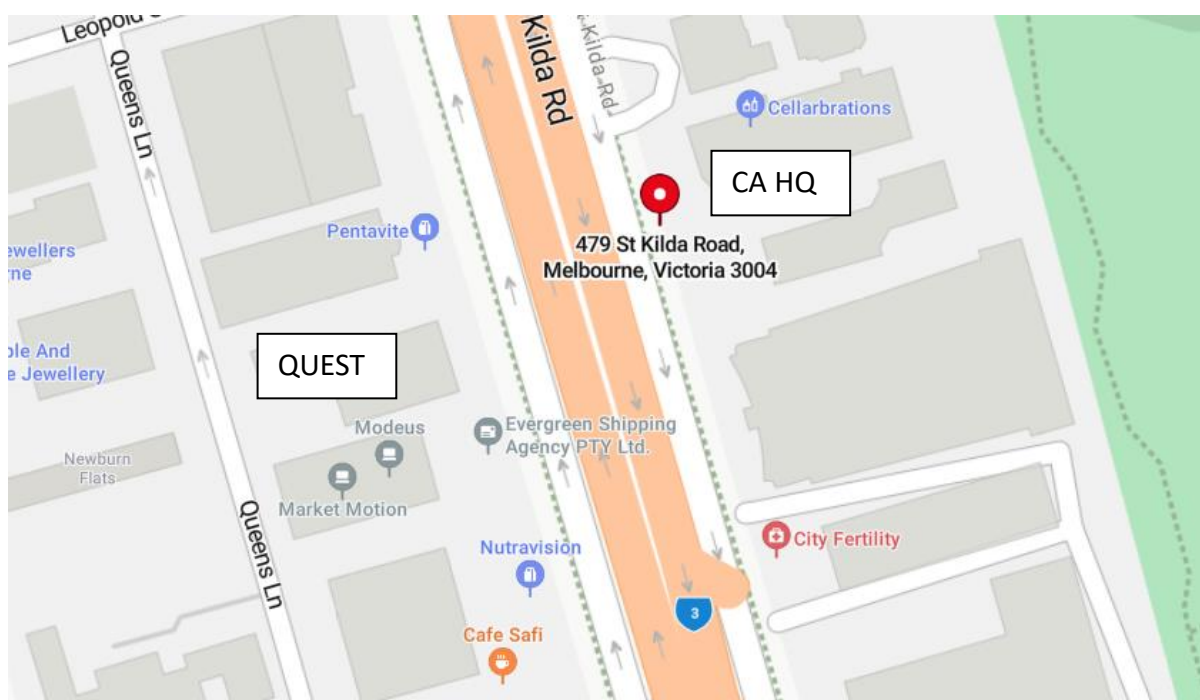
## CONTACTS

Enya Cai: 0493 740 497

Chris Blain: 0414 687 115

Sally Rehfisch: 0401 848 916

George Williams: 0434 525 595



## ACCOMMODATION

For those with accommodation covered by CA, you will be staying at Quest St Kilda Road @ 478 St Kilda Road, Melbourne (right opposite the CA office). Special thank you to those of you who have agreed to share a room for the night!

## TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS

Please keep any receipts for ubers/taxis/petrol for us to reimburse you to/from your home and email them to [enya@creativityaustralia.org.au](mailto:enya@creativityaustralia.org.au) with your bank details for reimbursement.

We'll aim to have funds back to you within a week of receiving your receipts.

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## PARKING



Free underground parking is available at the CA offices at 479 St Kilda Road.

A CA team member's swipe card is required to enter and exit the car park.

Please allow 10-15 mins extra time for parking as there will be lots of us arriving!

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## WHAT TO BRING

We recommend that you bring:

- A pencil
- A notebook
- A water bottle
- A friendly smile and positive attitude!
- An instrument of choice (if convenient!)
- Your favourite warmup(s) to share

***Please leave some extra room in your bags for WOV goodies to take back to your choir (eg t-shirts, printed materials)***

## SCHEDULE

*Friday Evening 17 January 2025*

From 14:00	Hellos and welcomes for early arrivals. Meet the CA team!
17:00	Casual Jam Session
17:30	Everyone Arrived
<b>18:00</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>
18:30	DINNER – Simply Spanish Paella and salad (Vegan option available)
19:30	Session 1: Team Challenge
20:00	Mini Concert
20:30	Guest Conductor: Steph Payne
<b>21:00</b>	<b>Close and briefing for Saturday</b>

Saturday Morning 18 January 2025

<b>08:00</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b> - light breakfast at CA offices
09:00	Welcome / Intro ( <i>Georgie Williams &amp; CA team</i> )
09:30	Workshop Session: Warm-ups and Vocal Technique ( <i>Everyone!</i> )
10:15	Workshop Session: Arranging & Sourcing Music / Pub Choir Model ( <i>Chris Blain</i> )
<b>11:00</b>	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
11:15	Workshop Session: Creativity Australia's Vision and Conductor Support ( <i>Enya Cai</i> )
11:45	Guest Conductor: Kym Dillon
12:15	Reflection / Discussion
<b>12:30 - 13:15</b>	<b>LUNCH</b> - Kai Kai lunchboxes by Mabu Mabu with native ingredients from across Australia all the way up to the Torres Strait (all boxes GF and DF, vegan option available)

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Saturday Afternoon 18 January 2025

13:15	Welcome Back
13:30	Guest Conductor: Ellie Ferguson
14:00	Guest Conductor: Kristiana Withers
14:30	Reflection / Discussion
<b>14:45</b>	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
15:00	Workshop Session: Nuts and bolts, Open Q & A
15:30	Guest Conductor: Liz Lecoanet
16:00	Reflection / Discussion
16:15	Closing Session
<b>16:30</b>	<b>EVENT CLOSE</b>

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## Introducing our 2025 With One Voice Leaders

We are so privileged to have you as part of an exceptional group of talented musicians and facilitators in our *With One Voice* network. We're all building towards the same goals – community connection and joy through song.

We hope you take the time to meet and connect with the wonderful WOV leaders here with us at this meet up!

### Adelaide CBD (SA) Kate Lewis & Katie Pomery



Kate and Katie are the perfect match. Leading WOV Adelaide together since the very beginning, they are both accomplished singer/songwriters and singing teachers. Welcome Kate and Katie!

*"Kate and Katie are excellent! Extremely inclusive, kind, joyful and encouraging. They do an excellent job, and I love that they are not overly serious yet still are both really good at what they do."*

### Ashburton and Geelong (Melbourne and regional VIC)

**Kym Dillon** – Kym is a composer, jazz pianist, writer, presenter, arranger, teacher, and conductor. She's been involved in *With One Voice* for over ten years and leads two of our largest choirs. Welcome Kym!

*"Kym is so engaging and welcoming, each song feels achievable. She is so talented and keeps everyone on track so well. There also doesn't seem to be as much pressure to do well, you really feel encouraged to experience the joy of singing from her."*



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### **Bayswater (Melbourne)**

**Lady Shaula Salathe** –following a lifetime of stage and concert composing, Lady Shaula splits her time between performing, touring her one woman show (Europe and Country Victoria in 2023) and the Composer studio.

Lady Shaula's performances are awe inspiring, deeply moving and delightfully unpredictable! Welcome Lady Shaula!

*"An amazingly talented and beautiful human being. She is never negative and brings out the best in me."*



### **Ballarat (Regional VIC)**

**Kristiana Withers** – when she's not directing WOV Ballarat choir, Krissy may be found leading school choirs, classroom music teaching, and directing musicals for Lyric Theatre, defying the limitations of any specific musical genre as she lunges deftly between Les Misérables and We Will Rock You. Welcome Krissy!

*"I enjoy the versatility of songs, the arrangements of parts & feel I have learnt a lot from our conductor. I am a person who gets bored easily, however not while Krissy is the Conductor, there's always a challenge."*

### **Break O'Day (TAS)**

**Lila Meleisea** – Lila has over 25 years' experience in music, teaching and community arts and holds a Bachelor in both Music Performance – Improvisation majoring in saxophone (Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne), and Education–Primary (University of Tasmania). She leads our southern-most choir, with a bus that picks up singers from nearby towns, and hearty home-cooked meals after every rehearsal. Welcome Lila!

*"I love the way she draws attention to our breath, body, presence and cultivating joy."*





### **Brisbane CBD (QLD)**

**Georgia Cross** – Georgia is a passionate and dedicated singer, voice teacher, and choir conductor. She's dishing up sweet rhythms and harmonies every week as she nurtures the excitement about music and singing in her choir members no matter the terrain! Welcome Georgia!

*"She is lovely. I love her faith in us and patience when we are slow to get it!"*



### **Canberra (ACT)**

**Sam Andrews** – Sam is a musician, multidisciplinary artist and educator with 15+ years playing, teaching and coaching a variety of ensembles. He is passionate about community music-making and inclusion and loves to impart a practice of listening, reflection and creativity. He believes that everyone can and should sing!

*"He is open-minded and his love for music is divine."*

### **Chatswood (Sydney, NSW)**

**Liz Lecoanet** – Rest assured that Liz's choir are well prepped for any occasion with her training in singing, Music Theatre directorship, conducting, vocal coaching, and if this sounds at all stressful, don't worry as Liz is also a sound and massage therapist, teacher, and researcher. Welcome Liz!

*"Liz is amazing! The energy, encouragement, openness and warmth she brings to every single rehearsal is exceptional! ... She is so full of energy and enthusiasm – it's hard not to feel the same."*





### **Greater Dandenong (Melbourne, VIC)**

**Cherie Baxter** – Cherie is an experienced music therapist, community singing leader, choir conductor, piano/keyboard and guitar accompanist, ensemble percussionist and loves to sing in harmony. Cherie loves to share inspirational, fun, and heart-warming songs with the *With One Voice* Greater Dandenong choir. Welcome Cherie!

*“Cherie has a lot of differently abled and enthusiastic people she manages to rally very well.”*

### **Hobsons Bay & Wyndham (Melbourne, VIC)**

**Steph Payne** – Steph has been a musician for over 25 years. She is a performer, musical director, arranger and singing, ukulele and music theory teacher. She performs in *Paisley & Plaid* and *Queens of the West*, and leads Willin Wimmin, Wyndukes Ukestra, and Daisy instrumental ukulele quartet and not one but two WOV choirs in Melbourne’s west. Welcome Steph!

*“Steph is so full of music. She actually makes it infectious so you can’t help catching it!! She’s TOPS!!!”*



### **Kingston Park (SA)**



**Michelle Kerin** – yogi, sound therapist, and musical powerhouse who’s mastered the art of stretching body and soul. As conductor of the WOV Kingston Park choir, she’s a maestro of music, zen, and pots and pans. When she’s not teaching yoga or leading choirs, you’ll find her performing globally, backing artists, or playing drums in the kitchen—because why not? A lover of sound and mantras, Michelle’s album *Rise and Shine* is the perfect soundtrack for your yoga practice (or just to make you feel super chill). Catch her on iTunes, Google Play, or Spotify—she’s basically everywhere! Welcome Michelle!

*“Very relaxed and musically gifted, makes people feel relaxed ... Always a positive attitude, inclusive, encouraging and supportive.”*

## Mornington (regional VIC)



**Judy and Barry Woods** – This dynamic duo are partners in music and in life! A founding member of Acoustic Kitchen, Judy has performed at festivals and weddings, proving that her music can elevate any event to a new height. Judy has led community singing for a number of years, and has coordinated several Gippsland Acapella Festivals. Judy and Barry believe that when people make music together, connections develop – and people of any age or ability may benefit from singing regardless of musical skill or background. Welcome Judy and Barry!

*“Judy and Barry are wonderful at making everyone feel welcome... thoughtful, joyful, and encouraging.”*

## Mt Druit (NSW)

**Wendy Toulmin** – Wendy is the fearless leader of WOV Mt Druit, out in Sydney’s west.



The choir performs at multiple festivals every year, and has even been featured on the ABC! Wendy organised the performance of the Opera Orchestra and a 700-voice mass choir at the Sydney Opera House for the BBC’s Songs of Praise program filmed for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. We’re counting ourselves lucky to have such a superstar with us – welcome Wendy!

*“Our good conductor seems to read the charge of the group and amplify its power ... she brings out the best singing and friendship qualities in all of us.”*

## North East VIC (Myrtleford)

**Joe Davis** – From studying piano, vocals, and guitar at Box Hill Institute and playing bass and singing in the cool Melbourne scene to living in Bright and Myrtleford, Joe is a brilliant musician who takes music with him wherever he goes! Currently Joe is working at the Australian Children’s Music Foundation and also stages free live music events in his community. Welcome Joe!

*“He is a great musician on keyboard and guitar.”*



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### Sunshine Coast (QLD)



**Ellie Ferguson** –Ellie spends time experimenting with new vocal and teaching techniques for WOV Sunshine Coast choir, her primary school students, and 9-part harmony touring choir. Ellie’s novel techniques include singing in tall buildings to reach those high notes – most notably the Empire State Building in NYC. Welcome Ellie!

*“We absolutely love having Ellie as the newest leader in our WOV choir family.”*

### Whitehorse (Melbourne, VIC)



**Chris Blain** – can throw a hot potato in the air and catch it while DJing, leading a choir, creating a sensational choral arrangement, and ensuring that the knot is tied on your special day. In this picture though, he’s diving for the bouquet! Welcome Chris ... oh, you’re already here!!

*“Chris is amazing. Gives singing lessons weekly disguised as fun games. Makes everyone feel included and important. Is a great listener as well as a motivator. Every week is a joy with him.”*

### Sing Social (Melbourne, VIC)



**Daniele** (dan-yell-ay!) **Buatti** – is another new kid on the WOV/Creativity Australia block behind the mic at Sally’s brainchild, *Sing Social* our choir-in-a-pub for 18–40-year-olds. Daniele is a talented Musical Director, pianist, vocal coach, arranger and budding kinesiologist! Welcome Daniele!

*“Daniele is AMAZING and has great energy! So warm, fun and talented.”*

## **Special Guests!**

Joining us on this meetup are some very special guests including some incredible fill-in conductors, former WOV leaders and community music warriors. Please join us in welcoming them!

### **Geoffrey Williams**



Wherever Geoffrey goes he brings a rainbow of sound with him. We don't know whether this is because he's synaesthetic or the fact that he ate all the sour straps while no-one was looking! Geoffrey has written songs for Michael Jackson, Dusty Springfield, and Color Me Badd, and led choirs in UK, regional Victoria and Melbourne for over 20 years. In his spare time, he teaches voice at Ballarat Grammar and interactive composition and songwriting at VCA (University of Melbourne). Welcome Geoffrey!

### **Chrissy De Jong**



Singer-Songwriter and Flautist with over 30 years of musical experience in concert bands, orchestras, and choirs, including many solo performances Chrissy is Assistant Musical Director of the Frankston Ladies Choir, Solo Vocalist with the Down South Big Band, and Flautist for Cranbourne Chorale. She provides flute, singing, piano and recorder tuition in several schools on the Mornington Peninsula, as well as in her home studio. Welcome Chrissy!

### **Nicki Johnson & Craig Barrie**

Nicki & Craig are at the forefront of music-making in Victoria, as the Program Manager & General Manager of Community Music Victoria. Together they have years of experience leading choirs around Melbourne (including WOV Greater Dandenong and Kingston). They also perform together as folk duo *All the Way Home*, where they conjure up original folky spells that will have you bewitched. This duo will have you humming their catchy tunes all the way home. Welcome Nicki and Craig!



## Zoom attendees & Apologies

And finally...Our amazing conductors at large on holidays all over the planet zooming in or who will be watching back are:



### **Robert Teicher (Sydney CBD, NSW)**

Robert is an accompanist, conductor, composer, arranger, and radio presenter. He does one-man cabaret shows around Sydney, and spends his Tuesday evenings with WOV Sydney CBD!



### **Cindy-Anne Macdonald (Kingston Park, SA)**

Cindy-Anne is a holistic vocal coach, with over 30 years of teaching experience. She also does songwriting, performing, conducting, sound meditation, and reiki!



### **Jennifer Bee (Mackay, QLD)**

Jennifer runs three community choirs, is involved in local theatre, and teaches handbells, choir, voice and piano at a local school. They have nine years of experience in teaching classroom music, and also run their own teaching studio.



### **Vanessa Dale (Mackay, QLD)**

Vanessa has worked in classroom music for many years, which is where she discovered her love for choral conducting. She's worked with the Mackay choral society, and is part of Tutti Vocal Ensemble. We're so grateful to have Vanessa filling in for WOV Mackay while Jen is away on their travels!



### **Kai Whyte – WOV Geelong Aged Care Workshops (VIC)**

Kai has over 30 years of experience in the community, education, and community arts sectors. They've run a wide variety of community singing programs and vocal improvisation/vocal play workshops, and have been helping us administer a series of performances in aged care centres around Geelong!



### **Liz Walsh (Riverina, NSW)**

Liz started teaching violin at 17 years old, and has now built up an impressive school of 30 violin students in Narrandera. She leads ensemble groups, performs, and even stages musicals! As the fearless and much-loved leader of WOV Riverina, she convenes one of our most regional WOV chapters.



### **Elly McKinnon (Sunbury, Melbourne, VIC)**

An accomplished vocalist and intuitive singing teacher, Elly works with students of all ages, abilities and genres to unlock their voice and build confidence in their vocal ability. She's also the lead singer of alt-country & Americana band Elly Mck & The Unbelievers, leader of youth singing groups, and creator of a pre-school music program.



### **Rhys Bates (Perth)**

Rhys' talents are as diverse as they are numerous – while he spends his Monday evenings teaching three-part harmonies at WOV Perth, he spends his days as a Civil Engineer!



**Mary Kiani (Redfern, Sydney, NSW)**

Internationally known chart-topping diva of the 90s! Mary rose to prominence as the lead singer for the dance music group *The Time Frequency*, and is now a performer, DJ, vocal coach, and choir conductor based in Sydney.



**Daniel Brinsmead (St Kilda, Melbourne, VIC)**

Daniel is a composer, musical director, tutor, accompanist, arranger, and orchestrator. He is currently the Artistic Director of the Australian Children's Choir, Choristry, and WOV St Kilda!



**Jane York (Fill-in and former WOV conductor)** is a multi-skilled and talented doer and instigator whose work spans community music education, strategy, community, economic and arts development and impactful events.

She is the founder of contemporary community choir Just Holler, workshop project Big Feminist Sing and uke group Strumming Singers.

**CA HQ staff**

**Enya, Chris, George and Sally**

Think The Beatles meets The Wizard of Oz. But who is wearing the red shoes? We're here to help with any query, big or small.

We hope you have an awesome 2025 Conductors Meetup.



With many thanks to you all for the exceptional work you do building inclusive communities through song.