



## **Australian Tour 2018**

### **Tour Newsletter No 2.**

#### ***Dear Choristers and Partners.***

##### **Travel Agent:**

Your Tour Committee put out the tour details to four agents to quote. The successful agent was again Simon Hocking from House of Travel in Tauranga.

##### **Deposits**

\$500 Tour Deposits are now well overdue!! The final cut-off date will be Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017. At that stage priority will be given to those (choristers, spouses and supporters) who have paid their Deposits. While this sounds harsh we are now in a position to book airlines in order to secure the cheapest fares. Moreover, we have only one luxury 60 seater coach available. There are currently 53 confirmed "definites" (some of which have not yet paid their deposits). We are holding these places until June 16<sup>th</sup>, before commencing the booking process. Please do not risk incurring a surcharge because of tardiness or indecision.

##### **Alternative Arrangements:**

A couple of members have asked about alternative arrangements to our tour, either wanting earlier start time or wanting only land options. The situation is as follows.

1. Everyone on the tour must travel over together in order to get the cheapest possible fare. Any saving that we can make on airline purchases are shared equally among all tour members.
2. The tour returns from Adelaide on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June. If anyone wants to extend their visit at the tour end – there is no problem. However, any additional airline costs will be have to be paid directly to our travel agent.
3. Extended land arrangements can be made by your agent or the tour agent but all airline changes must be made through Simon Hocking House of Travel.
4. There may be withdrawals and priority will be given to choristers and partners first followed by supporters outside the choir.

**Passports:**

A reminder that all those travelling must have a passport that is valid for a clear six months after returning from the tour. The tour return date is 10<sup>th</sup> June therefore passports need to be valid till at least 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

**Visa:**

If you are travelling on a New Zealand Passport you DO NOT require a visa to travel in Australia.

If you are on another passport e.g. British then you WILL NEED a visa. These are usually available electronically.

**Itinerary:**

The Itinerary is close to being confirmed. Briefly:

Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Depart Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch for 3 nights in Sydney.  One lunch time concert at St Stephen's and One Evening Concert with the Sydney Male Choir.
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Fly Sydney to Wagga Wagga. 2 nights Billeting with an evening concert with the Wagga Wagga City Rugby Male Choir.
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Fly Wagga Wagga to Adelaide for 5 nights.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	12.30pm Lunchtime Charity Concert at St Peter's Cathedral.
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Evening Concert with Metropolitan Male Choir of South Australia.
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Fly Adelaide to Sydney and Sydney to Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch.

**Shady Tours:**

Organised by "WE" for "US"!! will be offering a couple of Shady Tours to the unknown by the bewildered. As always seats will be at a priority and strictly limited. First come – first served. "Watch this Space".

PLEASE GET YOUR DEPOSITS IN BY THE 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017

Best Wishes from "The Land of Song"

Taffy

(On behalf of the NZMC Tour Committee)