



ROYAL SOUTH STREET SOCIETY
BALLARAT EISTEDDFOD

Volunteer Training Day

April 18, 2024

TRAINING DAY OUTLINE – 18th APRIL

Session 1 – 10am to 12pm

Session 2 – 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Venue – Masonic Lodge (616 Barkly Street, Golden Point)

“I would teach children music, physics and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all of the arts are the keys to learning.”

- Plato

Welcome from Royal South Street Society Board Chair - Lindsay Eaton



Chairman of RSSS – Lindsay Eaton

Lindsay gave the official welcome to the 2024 season.

He highlighted the importance of understanding the role our volunteers play in RSSS. Noting that the structure is so different to other business organisations.

He acknowledged the work of the staff in the office, Judy-Ann Quilliam, Louise Brooks and Carolyn Bennett.

He noted how important the discipline chairs are to ensure the smooth running of events and the in-depth knowledge of the discipline that they offer our organisation.

2024 Royal South Street Society Board



As of last night, the board is now official, and positions will be voted and decided on next Wednesday night. From left to right....

Nichola Sleight

Danielle Coltman (current Treasurer)

Andrea Brown (current Deputy Chair)

Karen Daniell

Adam Miller

Barb Stead

Narelle Carr

Virginia Wise

Lindsay Eaton (current Chair)

Ron Harrington resigned from the board. Lindsay acknowledged the incredible service that Ron has given to the RSSS and board over the past 40 years.



Judy-Ann Quilliam

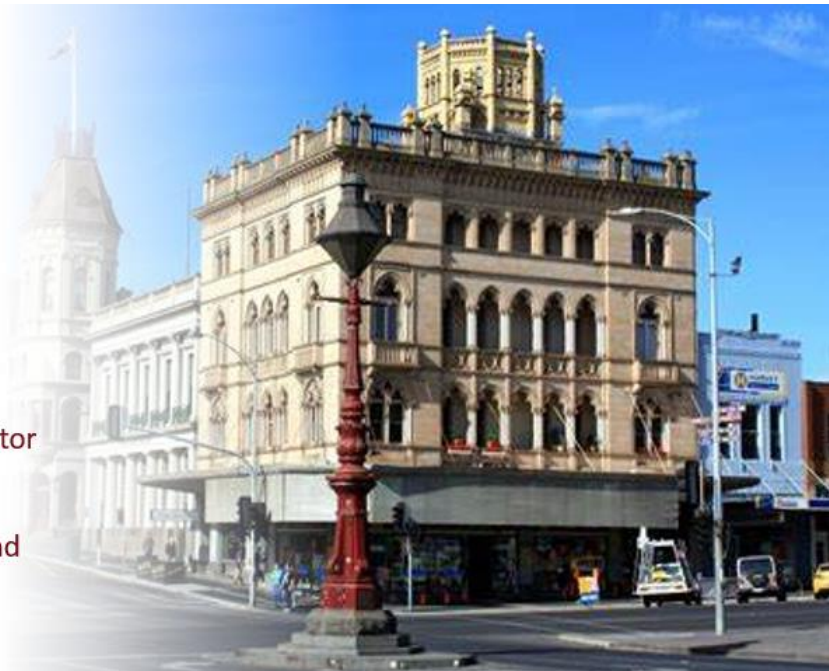
Business and Marketing
Manager

Louise Brooks

Eisteddfod Events Coordinator

Carolyn Bennett

Eisteddfod Development and
Volunteer Coordinator



Discipline Chairs 2024

All Abilities – Rebecca Norris
Calisthenics – Andrea Brown
Bands / Instrumental – Karen Pengelly
Celebrating Chopin – Carolyn Bennett
Choral – Brooke Johnson
Dance – Jess Godfrey / Danielle Coltman

Debating – Loretta Kaval
Herald Sun Aria – Carolyn Bennett
Pianoforte – Carolyn Bennett
Speech and Drama – Kris Carroll
Vocal – Carolyn Bennett

Discipline Overview – Judy-Ann Quilliam / Louise Brooks, Carolyn Bennett

Rebecca Norris - All Abilities

This is Rebecca's 1st year as Discipline Chair. She has one child with a disability and loves this opportunity that RSSS provides as a chance to get up and perform in a non-competitive concert arena. It's always a lovely display of talent and she always has to work hard not to cry!

All Abilities is sponsored by UFS and Asztec and will be held at the Ballarat Special School Farm Campus.

Andrea Brown - Calisthenics

This is Andrea's 5th year of discipline chair, having begun right at the onset of Covid! This year, Calisthenics will be at Founders Hall which is a disappointment after announcing our return to Her Majesty's Theatre. She is still hopeful that the solos finals will be back at Her Maj, which is important as this is the 100 year celebration of Graceful Solo.

There are approximately 40 comps this year to be held over 22 days.

Andrea encouraged people to help, especially backstage. It's not a tricky job, and there's always someone available to help if you get stuck.

Karen Pengelly – Instrumental Bands and Solo

We welcome Freemasons back as the naming rights sponsor for this section. There are new non-competitive sections and masterclasses this year, as a result of feedback from a range of local schools who are looking for performance opportunities and educational benefit, not necessarily in a competitive format.

Bands and Solos will be held at Founders Hall again this year.

Carolyn Bennett / Lauren Knight – Pianoforte

Lauren recently stepped down from Discipline Chair so she could feel more comfortable entering her students and will be an advisor to Carolyn who has now taken over the role. Piano will be held at the Masonic Lodge this year and has also introduced some non-competitive sections.

Carolyn Bennett / Lauren Knight - Celebrating Chopin

As per above, Carolyn has temporarily stepped into the role of discipline chair, with Lauren Knight as advisor. This will be held at the Art Gallery and is generously sponsored and supported by Dr Andrew Cochrane in memory of his mother Margaret Schofield. There are no changes to this event for 2024, but it is an excellent display of talent. Mark it in your diaries to come along!

Brooke Johnson - Choral

This is Brooks 2nd year as Discipline Chair. Last year it was at Civic Hall, and this year at Founders Theatre which is much more suitable for large groups. We offer Primary,

secondary, and Community choral sections. We have also introduced some non-competitive sections in this discipline, along with sections for rural and country schools.

Jess Godfrey / Danielle Coltman – Dance

Energetiks continue to be our major sponsor, with a new sponsor this year, Mulcahy and Co, who are providing great prizes for Troupes. The dance section will be held at Founders Theatre again.

Loretta Kaval – Debating

We have ACU as naming rights sponsor for Debating again this year, and it will be held in Connors Hall, ACU Mair Street. The Heats are the first section for RSSS in July this year.

Kris Carroll - Speech and Drama

ACU have also accepted naming rights sponsor for Speech and Drama. This is Kris Carrolls first year as discipline chair. It will be held at Connors Hall. Kris and her family have a long-standing history with Royal South street Society, having been involved in many disciplines, with Speech and Drama really feeling like a space she truly felt connected to. With so many fun and interesting sections, this is a great one to volunteer for!

Carolyn Bennett – Vocal

Freemasons have recently signed up as naming rights sponsor for Vocal. Carolyn has been vocal discipline chair for just over 15 years after taking over from Lloyd Harvey in 2008. It will be held at the Mechanics Institute (Minerva Space). Along with Freemasons, we have picked up a new sponsor in Victorian Opera who are offering a chance for our classical singers to be selected to perform in the Ballarat Opera Festival. They are also offering show tickets and season passes. This is a great example of what we are trying to offer our young performers, very tangible experiences and connections to future performances. Vocal have also introduced non-competitive sections.

Carolyn Bennett – Herald Sun Aria

This is the centenary year of the Herald Sun Aria, sponsored by Meadownick and Melbourne Opera. The heats and semifinals will be held at the Mechanics Institute following the vocal eisteddfod, and the final will once again be held at the Melbourne Recital Centre. It's an amazing night of incredible performances so mark it in your diaries!

Volunteer Management Plan



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Volunteer Management Plan – Carolyn Bennett

Part of Carolyn's role in the office is 'Volunteer Coordinator' and as such has put together a Volunteer Management Plan at the request of Judy-Ann and the board.

The plan is quite comprehensive, but today Carolyn wanted to cover the three objectives that have been set out in the plan.

1. Engage and Recruit New Volunteers
Over the past month, we have reached out to over 30 community groups (including sporting clubs, libraries, retirement homes, senior citizens groups, not for profit organisations) telling them about our organisation and encouraging new members to sign up.
2. Retain Active Members
Acknowledge the value and experience of our existing volunteers. This feeds into the next objective which Carolyn wanted to outline in detail today.
3. Provide Meaningful Engagement
Finding ways to enhance the volunteer experience through benefits, incentives and rewards.
 - i. Birthday vouchers – sponsored by Homeground Café
 - ii. Volunteer of the Month (August / September / October) – a tally of hours worked during our peak period – sponsored by Michael Unwin Wines
 - iii. Special Awards – go above and beyond to receive a special gift. For example 'refer a friend' (thanks to Kris Carroll who has already signed up 4 new volunteers!) or special mention during the competitions as noted by our audience, competitors or our discipline chairs – sponsored by Hecho en Mexico and Regent Multiplex Cinemas
 - iv. Most Hours Volunteered – at the end of the year, a special award for the volunteer who has donated the most hours (staff and board are not included in this award) - sponsored by Regent Multiplex Cinemas and Michael Unwin Wines
 - v. Credit Pass – sign up for 4 volunteer shifts and receive a gold pass to attend any session during the 2024 season (excludes ticketed finals). All volunteers who sign up for a shift will also receive a small gift.

- vi. Mentor/Mentee programs – Carolyn asked for experienced volunteers to sign up to our mentoring program to help guide new members, or members who wish to train in another area. Sign up by emailing volunteer@royalsouthstreet.com.au. Members wishing to learn from a mentor would also email upon signing up for a shift.



4. Volunteer Service – we acknowledge the years of service our volunteers have given us. Awards for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service. Particular mention to Dr. Tony Cole, Ron and Dawn Harrington and Peter Zala for 40 years of service in 2024.
5. Dates for the diary
 - a. Child Safe Training sessions will be held during June on Wednesdays and Saturdays. There will be the choice of one full day training session, or two half day training sessions. All organisations must comply and RSSS is not exempt in this area. More details to follow shortly.
 - b. Ballarat Tramway Social Function #1 – Sunday 19th May
 - c. Social Function #2 – Wednesday 03 July (Karen to announce)
6. Volunteer Shirts

\$10 each – can order and pay today if you haven't already done so. These should be ready by our next social function.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Stay up to date

- 1 Service awards - Congratulations
- 2 Fortnightly Newsletter and Website
- 3 Child Safe Training
- 4 Volunteer Shirts
- 5 Social Functions



Tramway Museum
Sunday 19th May. Families welcome

Volunteer Sponsor



Karen Eaton
Community Sales Manager

Sponsor Talk - Karen Eaton – Ingenia Parkside Lucas

Karen Eaton was invited to talk about Ingenia and her connection to RSSS.

Karen is the Community Sales Manager for the past 3 years, and works in developing the lifestyle community. Currently they have 69 homes settled and 105 residents. She acknowledges the journey is not for everyone, but the fantastic facilities and amazing people at Parkside Lucas are something to be proud of. Ingenia is a publicly listed company, with 3 properties in Victoria (Lara, Beveridge and Ballarat, with plans for opening in Sunbury in the future). It's a booming industry, with numbers growing all the time. She invited everyone to the open day on Saturday 20th April between 11 and 2.

Karen noted that the feeling she got at the AGM last night, resonated strongly with the community like-minded people within Ingenia. They are all looking out for one another, they are passionate, love what they do, and are eager to help.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in finding out more about Ingenia, she is always happy to chat to you.

Ingenia's connection with RSSS began last year and they were happy with the outcome, and can see a definite benefit to both parties with a continued association.

Karen announced our next social event which is to be held at Ingenia Parkside Lucas on Wed 3rd July at 10.30am. This will be a great opportunity for our RSSS volunteers to talk to some of the Ingenia residents about how great it is to be involved in RSSS with the view that hopefully some new members might sign up. Our members will also get the chance to tour the brand-new facility and be entertained by a special musical item.

Karen encouraged everyone to enter the draw for the Mount Zero Hamper with the winner to be drawn later that night.

HAMPER WINNER – Congratulations Verna Martin

RUNNER UP (received a bottle of Michael Unwin wines) – Congratulations Tanya Cook.



**Business & Marketing Manager
Judy-Ann Quilliam**



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Business and Marketing Manager – Judy-Ann

Judy-Ann acknowledged that we are here today because of the incredible work our volunteers, staff and board have put into this incredible organisation throughout the long running history of almost 140 years of RSSS. Everything we do today is with the knowledge of this behind us, and we honour and respect the traditions and experience of those who have gone before us. With that vision, we move forward towards developing a sustainable future. Reflecting on our vision comprised of words like 'premier' meaning leading or the best. 'Encouraging participation and enjoyment' through every facet of the competition (alumni, volunteers, parents, schools, venues, sponsors, supporters, city, region, discipline chairs...)

Our Vision

**To conduct Australia's premier eisteddfod –
promoting and encouraging participation, enjoyment,
and enrichment through the performing arts.**

We are planning and implementing, we are training, we are refreshing logos and signs, we are trying to be everywhere and to raise the profile of RSSS. We are letting people know we are still here!

We have a Marketing and Communications plan, a Fundraising and Philanthropy Plan, a Volunteer Management Plan, and we have so much work to do in developing our Alumni database.

We face challenges, as we are not a well-funded sporting organisation. We need to work to find large sponsors that align with our business. We need to stay relevant to contemporary times and be flexible in our approach. We need to work out why people aren't entering.

Judy-Ann emphasised the amazing team that she is working with, and in particular she noted the incredible work that Lindsay has done over the past 12 months.

MyStage Training Session – Welcome to Albert (or Wilson) MyStage



Albert Ferguson

Wilson Ekayapan

We then heard from Albert and Wilson, the co-creators of MyStage who gave us an overview of the basics of MyStage (this is one of the computer platforms we use during the competitions)

We learnt how to;

Register a new competitor on arrival

- Check their entry details
- Amend or fill in their performance details (ie song name)
- Mark whether they are using a backing track

Change the Status of a competitor (eg registered, stage-ready, awaiting results)

Enter and View Results and Aggregates

Change competitor order

Withdraw a competitor from a section

We then had some time to play with a 'test mode' version of MyStage to we could get a feel for how it worked.

When volunteering for a role (ie Registration) you will always be paired with someone who knows the role very well. Once you register a few competitors, the repetitive process helps you to gain confidence in the role very quickly.

During the competitions, a detailed 'how-to' guide will be at every volunteer station.



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Thank you

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"The world is a complicated place, and there's a lot of division between people. The performing arts tend to unify people in a way nothing else does."

~ David Rubenstein