



UNLEY CONCERT BAND

ANZAC TOUR BULLETIN #4 15 January 2009

1. Introduction

Progress continues to be made toward our 2009 tour. This tour bulletin will outline information that is known at the time of writing. Members are reminded that tour details and arrangements are subject to change.

2. Itinerary

More information is now available regarding the itinerary for this tour. As follows:

Sydney

- The tour will depart on the morning of Good Friday, 2009. We will be flying Qantas - departing Adelaide at 8.05am and arrives in Sydney at 10.25am. A coach will meet us on arrival and transport us to the City, this being a more cost-effective option.
- We will be staying at the Sydney Central YHA, 11 Rawson Pl, SYDNEY. Actually this hostel is closer to Central Railway, adjacent to Chinatown. You will be staying in accommodation that is configured in the same way as that for Europe in order to minimise confusion and disruption when the rest of the Band returns to Adelaide after the Championships. People who have requested twin rooms will have this request met in Sydney.
- We are still negotiating rehearsal space in Sydney. It is likely to be in the bandroom of the NSW Railway Band (I was Bandmaster of this very historic old band in 1990), directly across Railway Square from our accommodation. We will rehearse on Friday afternoon, leaving the evening free for you to relax, have an early night, and otherwise prepare for 'Contest Day'
- There are set menus for group meals at the YHA. We will take orders for these meals closer to departure date. Continental breakfast is supplied as part of the accommodation package, but you have been requested to advise Brendan if you would like to 'upgrade' to a cooked breakfast.
- We are still working on obtaining a playing engagement in Sydney during our time there, but this remains to be confirmed.

- Easter Sunday and Easter Monday are free days in Sydney.
- We will have one full rehearsal day before our departure for Europe. This will be Tuesday 14 April. This will include marching practice in the afternoon at Sydney Boys High School.
- We depart from our accommodation on Wednesday 15 April, travel to the International Terminal at Sydney airport by coach, and depart on Malaysian Airlines for Amsterdam via KL and onwards to Europe. I highly recommend the upstairs airport lounge at KL – it costs about US\$20 to enter but has free food, gym, internet, lounge area, some drinks, and a shower. You might like to consider this option to rest and refresh between flights.

Amsterdam

- Accommodation in Amsterdam is on a twin share basis.

Ypres

- In Ypres, there may be a hour long concert in front of the Town Hall, followed by a march thorough the city to the Menin Gate. The Menin Gate ceremony always starts at 2000 sharp.
- We will take day trips from Ypres to Bruges and Brussels as previously advised.

Paris

- In Paris, the accommodation configuration is not yet known and will most likely be available only shortly before departure. It is likely that all members of the tour will be dorm rooms arranged according to gender. Please be prepared for this possibility.
- I understand from the website that towels are not supplied – it is suggested that you pack one.
- Our participation in the 'La Flamme' ceremony is confirmed. The ceremony commences at about 1815 and we will need to be there from 1730 onwards.
- The performance at the Cathedral of Louis Les Invalides is confirmed on the evening of Tuesday 21 April. There will need to be a set up and rehearsal time in the late afternoon. Otherwise this day is a free day.
- Wednesday 22 April will feature an organised morning of sightseeing in Paris, with an afternoon performance at the Madeleine Church in central Paris. After the concert, we will depart for Albert.

The Somme

- There will be a Villers-Bretonneaux concert on Thursday 23 April – afternoon set up/rehearsal and a 2030 concert.
- Be prepared for a rehearsal for the Dawn Service sometime on Friday 24 April.
- ANZAC Day will be spent on the Somme, working with the Australian Embassy (Paris) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. As advised, we have confirmed our participation in the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Villers Bretonneaux. We will also participate in two other ceremonies at Bullecourt during the afternoon from 1500-1700. This will be a long and emotional day – please be prepared for this.

- The concert on Sunday 26 April with the Amiens Brass Band is now confirmed. This will take place in front of the main Railway Station in the middle of Amiens under a high glass roofed area. There may be scope for marching as well as playing, and it is being planned as a major event.
- A reminder that as this is the final night of the tour, it is likely there will be a final gathering/celebration to wrap the trip.

Return to Adelaide

- Those members returning to Adelaide will depart Albert on Monday 27 April and travel directly to Charles de Gaulle Airport for a midday departure to KL. Members remaining in Europe are free to make their own arrangements from the morning of this day.
- We will be staying at the Meridian Hotel in downtown KL. It is a 5-Star establishment...
- The remainder of Tuesday 28 after arrival and most of Wednesday 29 April is free, with a late afternoon transfer by coach from the hotel to the airport for the return flight to Adelaide.
- We will depart KL at 9:50 p.m. and arrive in Adelaide on Thursday 30 April at 6:15 a.m. travelling time is 6 hrs 55 mins.

3. Accommodation and Meals

Rooming preferences and configuration plans have been completed for Sydney, Ypres, and Albert. and are attached to this Tour Bulletin. Please advise any serious issues immediately.

4. Tour Party

The final touring party list will be released early in 2009. Even since the publication of the Europe *Tour Package* there have been changes, and there are still a few issues to be resolved as we approach departure.

5. Tour Variations

Any tour variations should now have been discussed and implemented with our Tour Operator at Angas Travel. If you have not been contacted individually by Angas Travel, please advise immediately.

6. Payments

Thank you to all members for prompt payments. If you are paying by direct debit, please ensure that you complete the funds transfer two days before the due date for payment, and that you attach your NAME to each transaction.

Payments to the Treasurer by cheque at rehearsals are also welcome.

At the request of some members, variations to the payment plan outlined previously have been negotiated. This may be an option for members who wish to pay a lump sum, or are experiencing temporary cash flow difficulties. Please speak with the Music Director or the President *in advance of the deadlines* if you have any issues relating to payments, especially with the final payment now approaching in February.

All members are asked to make a special effort to meet the payment deadlines listed on the tour conditions for this final payment. This is necessary for our tour operators to make arrangements and payments on our behalf, and also to minimise the work of your committee in chasing up late contributions.

The 4th and final payment will be advised in a special *Tour Bulletin* to be issued in February.

Members should be aware that the value of the Australian dollar against the Euro has changed. This, in addition to other influences such as changes in the oil price, fuel surcharges, and government taxes and fees may have an impact on the final price of this tour.

7. Instruments

All members are reminded that you must make appropriate arrangements for insurance cover for personal instruments. It is also expected that you will take your best instrument on this tour – no cheap ‘stunt’ instruments, please.

You are also reminded that each member will be responsible for their own luggage and equipment for the duration for their stay overseas.

Since the last *Tour Bulletin* a very large number of members have indicated individual return arrangements. Please be aware that, because so many are now travelling outside the terms of the group booking for the return flight as well as the need to be responsible for packing and carrying your own luggage, it will *not* be possible for those staying on in Europe to send instruments or other items back to KL and Adelaide with members returning on the Monday 27 April flight. The Unley Committee has resolved that all members will be responsible for their own luggage and equipment for the duration of their stay overseas. Please remember that those returning will be subject to the same baggage restrictions as for the outbound flight and that it is unreasonable to ask those members to shoulder the inconvenience of an extra luggage piece and the associated extra baggage costs on behalf of those extending their stay in Europe.

For those with independent return: there *may* be other conditions and excess baggage costs associated with the number and weight of luggage pieces to be considered. More information has been requested and will be advised in the next *Tour Bulletin*.

8. Travel Insurance

Most members have now submitted the Travel Insurance form.

A reminder that, if an individual plans to stay in Europe at the end of the tour, then our Tour Operator will calculate the extra amount according to the total duration of the trip. Included in the tour cost is the 23 day Plan A policy. 2 Free of Charge days are granted by QBE on a 23 day policy, so tour members will only need to make an extra payment if their trip duration becomes 26 days or more.

Please consider this aspect if you are planning to stay longer in Europe at the conclusion of our tour.

9. Frequent Flyer points

Please be advised that Qantas Frequent Flyers will be able to accrue points on our flight from Adelaide to Sydney. Please supply your Frequent Flyer number and we will forward to our Tour Operator.

10. Tour Information Package

All members should now have received this package. Please read this information carefully as you prepare to undertake this tour.

Please note that there has been a change to the personal luggage limit for this tour: the one suitcase members may check for personal luggage is to be no more than *15 kilograms*. The single piece of hand luggage (max. 7 kilograms) and an instrument in the hold (as previously arranged) remain unchanged.

All members should now have returned the *Code of Conduct* form for this tour.

11. Return of Forms

Members by now should have returned the following:

- Expression of interest
- Acceptance of Tour Conditions
- Passport copy
- Special Dietary and Medical Details
- Personal Particulars
- Travel Insurance (enclosed in the brochure)
- Code of Conduct (signed)

Please complete and return these forms as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

12. Rehearsals

Thank you to all members who made a special effort to attend December rehearsals. We have made an excellent start on the Europe repertoire. Please see your UCB

Schedule for 2009 rehearsals. There are only four rehearsals and the Farewell Concert on 22 March remaining.

Please ensure that you are working on your parts, individually or in sections, outside of the band rehearsal times. We simply do not have the luxury of wasting precious rehearsal time waiting for individuals to learn notes in band rehearsal time.

13. Conclusion

Please contact me directly – i.e. *not* our tour operator – if you have any questions about any issues surrounding this tour.

More details and further arrangements will be notified in the next *Tour Bulletin*.

A reminder again: **the final payment is due in the first part of February.**

Dr Kevin Cameron
Music Director
15 January 2009