



UNLEY CONCERT BAND

ANZAC TOUR BULLETIN #6 24 March 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. Farewell Concert

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Band on a great concert last Sunday. It was wonderful to see a very large and appreciative audience in attendance, and to know that we travel abroad with a great deal of support and goodwill from our community. Although we still have a way to go in polishing our programme we should be pleased with the level of accomplishment achieved thus far. I would like to encourage all members to keep working on this repertoire and to maintain our level as we set this work aside to focus on the National Championships.

3. Itinerary

All members should now have a copy of the final itinerary. More information about meeting times and other various arrangements will be given at the Tour Meeting at the beginning of each day.

Some other important information appears below:

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. All members will be required to meet at the airport at 6:30 a.m. *Please do not check in individually as a group check in has been arranged.* A coach will meet us on arrival and transport us to the City, where we will check in to our accommodation.
- We will be staying at the Sydney Central YHA, 11 Rawson PI, SYDNEY. As mentioned previously, 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. Please be in touch with the Band Treasurer to arrange payment of the extra cost for the twin room option.

- We will be rehearsing at The King's School, North Parramatta during Friday afternoon and all day on Easter Tuesday. We have arranged bus transport to and from our accommodation to these rehearsals. Please bring some money to purchase lunch enroute
- After returning to our accommodation from the Friday rehearsal, the evening is 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.
- Easter Sunday and Easter Monday are free days in Sydney. You might like to explore the following options:
 - It is likely you will have a season ticket to the contest. Brass band Own Choice and March sections are scheduled for Easter Sunday
 - I am planning to take a group to the Royal Easter Show on Easter Monday – please let me know if you would like to come
 - The Rocks precinct of Sydney is adjacent to Circular Quay. Good for history, shopping, and drinks!
 - Catch a ferry from Circular Quay to Manly for seaside shopping and seafood. Other commercial harbour cruises are available from Circular Quay.
 - Darling Harbour, just beyond Chinatown, is an easy walk from our accommodation. Visit the Powerhouse Museum, Maritime Museum, shops, and restaurants.
 - There is a Sydney Opera House tour that is worth taking. Tickets available on the Boardwalk as you approach the SOH from Circular Quay.
 - Take a walk through the world famous Royal Botanical Gardens – just beyond the Opera House.
 - Catch a train or bus to Bondi Beach. Great cafes and eye candy...
 - Historic Macquarie St includes the Botanical Gardens, Mitchell Library, Hyde Park Barracks, St James' Church, and many other attractions. The Art Gallery is a short walk away on the other side of the Domain.
 - The Queen Victoria Building is a grand and fashionable market building on George St, near the Sydney Town Hall and St Andrew's Cathedral.
 - The Australian Museum in College St is well worth a visit, and then take in the atmosphere of nearby Oxford St.
- 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 The King's School.
- Please be prepared to attend a tour meeting directly after breakfast on Easter Saturday and Easter Tuesday, and on the day of our departure for Europe. There will be no tour meetings on Easter Sunday and Monday.

- We will be having a gathering and departure-eve dinner on Tuesday after returning to the City from rehearsal. Please plan to attend. Details will be advised.
- 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. Please plan to buy lunch before the flight, if you wish. 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.
- Please remember to pack your own towel for use at each of the European hostels.
- As mentioned at our recent tour meeting, it is unlikely that we will be able to check in to our accommodation on arrival. However, it may be possible for us to gain access to some rooms to store luggage and arrange showers, etc. Perhaps have a towel and change of clothes easily accessible if you would like to shower and change before exploring Amsterdam.

Ypres

- In Ypres, there will be a hour long concert in front of the Town Hall fro 1700-1800, followed by a march thorough the city to the Menin Gate. The Menin Gate ceremony always starts at 2000 sharp. We will have dinner after the Last Post ceremony.
- 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.
- Plan your Paris sightseeing carefully. With two concerts and a parade in Paris there will not be a lot of free time for sightseeing, so try to minimise the time you spend travelling between attractions.

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 on Friday 24 April 0900-1200.
- As previously advised, ANZAC Day will be a long day. We have the Dawn Service, a ceremony in the village of Villers Bretonneaux, and two ceremonies at Bullecourt. This will also be an emotional day – please be prepared for this, and

remember to take good care of those around you by being especially kind, considerate, and patient.

- A reminder that on the final night of the tour we will be joining the Amiens Brass Band for a celebratory dinner before returning to the hostel to pack and prepare for an early departure on Monday 27 April.
- Members of the group are welcome to travel to Charles de Gaulle with the returning group on 27 April. Otherwise, members staying on in Europe are free to make their own arrangements from the morning of this day.

Return to Adelaide

- Returning members will be accommodated on a twin and/or triple share basis.
- Each returning member will be assigned an extra piece of luggage to check and carry on the return journey. We are bringing band assets, such as marching percussion, music, hats, and music stands back to Australia. These will be collected from you on arrival at Adelaide.
- After our stopover, 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.

4. A Word about Customs...

Members are reminded that we are passing through countries that freely advertise extremely harsh penalties for the use and trafficking of illegal drugs. The implications of suspicion, possession, or the identification of trace elements on the person or within checked or cabin baggage are very serious and can range from the inconvenience of a customs search through to being detained for interview or further investigation.

Please take all reasonable precautions to avoid problems in this area.

5. Accommodation

As we have had some movement in our touring party lists it has been necessary to re-configure rooming lists. Please advise any serious issues immediately.

6. Personal Funds

Please remember that you will need funds for the following:

- Meals in Sydney (except breakfast)
- Travel in Sydney (except airport and rehearsal transfers)
- Personal expenses
- Lunches and some dinners in Europe

Please make sure that you have arranged sufficient funds to be available while you are away. It is also a good plan to have an alternate source of funds identified in case of emergency.

7. Instruments

All members are reminded that you should now have made 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 of their stay overseas. This applies to all personal instruments excepting band assets that will be brought back to Australia by the retuning group at the end of the tour.

Please remember that those returning with the group will be subject to the same baggage restrictions as for the outbound flight.

For those with independent return: the best information we have available at the time of writing suggests that each of you will be subject to the usual luggage requirement for overseas travel, i.e. checked baggage at 23 kgs. There *may* be other conditions and excess baggage costs associated with the number and weight of luggage pieces to be considered. For your return flight, it is suggested that you check in early and be especially polite – the rules and interpretations of same seem to change from person to person at airport check in counters. Please be prepared for this.

Also regarding instruments:

- Is your instrument in good working order? Does it need servicing? If so – now is the time.
- Have you set aside time to clean your instrument?
- Have you considered extra packing protection, particularly for instruments travelling as checked baggage?
- Woodwind players – do you have a range of reeds being worked in, and are you rotating regularly? Have you organised spares?
- Brass players – do you have slide cream, valve oil organised?

8. Luggage

Please weigh your suitcase as you pack. You will certainly need to make decisions about what to discard in order to meet the 15 kg limit. Members are reminded that laundry facilities will be available at all accommodation hostels, and that a light and practical approach to packing is needed.

It is of key importance for all members to not be overweight where luggage limits are concerned. We need all the extra kilograms we can get for our instruments and equipment.

9. Travel Insurance

All members are now covered by our Travel Insurance arrangements.

A reminder that, if an individual plans to stay in Europe at the end of the tour, further travel insurance arrangements are your responsibility and should have been made by now.

10. Tour Information Package

Please review the *Tour Information Pack* and the *Code of Conduct* as you undertake your packing and preparation for this tour.

11. Punctuality

All members are reminded of the need for punctuality as a basic necessity for a tour of this nature. Please ensure you have a working alarm clock, and that you establish a routine that assist you to be where you need to be *before* the appointed time.

12. Tour Jobs

Each member of the touring group has been allocated a key task to assist the smooth-running of this tour. Please refer to the attached list for further information.

13. Well Being and Health

Members are asked to take special care in the weeks remaining before departure. We want to make sure that everybody in our touring party actually boards the flight!

In addition, try to eat well, rest, and prepare yourself physically for this trip. It will be important to use your free time in Sydney wisely - make sure you have adequate rest before we embark on this major overseas tour.

Please be aware that this tour will be quite demanding – there are not really any rest days owing to the relatively short time we are away and the nature of the concert engagements we are performing. You will need to be in good shape to perform at your best and we do not have the capacity to fill holes in the ensemble created by illness.

Simply stated, we need *everyone* available to play *every* concert. It is no fun being ill overseas with no one to look after you, and perhaps having no choice but to travel on a bus when you would rather be resting in bed.

Two simple requests:

- *Handwashing is a crucial preventative measure for avoiding colds, flu, and gastro-related illnesses. Make sure you have handwash product on your person at all times from our Adelaide departure. It is a good practice to use your handwash each time you re-board a coach.*

- *Avoid all tap water and ice in drinks. Use only bottled water – even for cleaning your teeth.*

14. While You are on Tour...

It is now time to consider what should happen if some type of emergency arises while you are on tour. Please think carefully about the following:

- Emergency involving an immediate member of your family or a close friend – how should you be informed? Under what circumstances would you consider leaving the tour and undertaking an expensive, short notice return trip to Australia?
- Possible passing of an ill or elderly family member or friend while you are away – have you discussed this possibility with your family or friend? Who will have responsibility for decision making while you are away?
- Death of a pet – do you want to know?
- Who is taking care of your house? What happens if there is a problem?
- Who is collecting your mail?
- Have you made arrangement for any bills or payments that may fall due while you are overseas?
- In the event of a serious problem at home, what are your plans? Are you committed to the tour and prepared for any eventuality? Have you made contingency plans? Are the foreseeable decisions made, and have these been communicated to those who need to know?
- Unfortunately accidents do happen – have you made a will?
- Has your medication changed? Have you informed the Band by completing an updated Medical Form?

It is also important to consider the impact of your situation on the tour group as a whole. For this reason, I ask that all members inform the Tour Leadership Team *immediately – not other members of the touring group* - in the event of a serious issue arising at home while we are on tour. It is the members of the Leadership Team that have the experience and contacts to most effectively work with and assist any member to achieve the best possible outcomes while considering the broad impact and the pastoral needs of the group in the case of an unexpected situation.

15. Conclusion

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

This is the final *Tour Bulletin*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the Unley Committee and other members who have contributed significant ideas and expertise for assistance and support in bringing this tour to fruition.

Best wishes to all for a marvellous and memorable tour!

Dr Kevin Cameron
Music Director
24 March 2009