



Images credit: Christopher Hayles

*Pittwater community choir Karinya Women's A Capella is inviting local females to come and live out their musical dreams.*

By Shahrin Shamim

Founded in 2012 by Pittwater local Anna Humberstone, Hummingsong Choirs started out as just a small group of women passionate about music. Now, it has grown into six separate choirs and among them is Karinya Women's A Capella.

"The primary reason I established the choirs was to enrich the lives of women in our community through music," Anna explains.

"Each choir has its own identity and it was important they have their own name rather than all just 'Hummingsong'.

"Karinya takes its name from the Aboriginal meaning of 'peaceful and happy home'. This reflects our purpose for building the choir."

The community choir offers a fantastic opportunity for local women to socialise, develop their voice and de-stress all at the same time.

"It builds strong relationships and creates a sense of connection and belonging that can literally be life-

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Kylie Tyson conducts the Pittwater-based Karinya Women's A Capella.



changing. It's that sense of being part of something greater than just you," Anna tells *Peninsula Living*.

Christina Frank, a member of Karinya, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2016, says, "The choir was a great source of support for me during that difficult time, and it provided some sort of routine during a tumultuous time. I only missed one night, which was when I had my surgery.

"It wasn't until the end of the year I realised how important Karinya had been to me during that year. It was a weekly dose of joy, as warm community and beautiful music surrounded and washed over me. It helped keep my spirit light at a time of heavy things happening in and around me."

Beyond the social aspect, the choir also has a philanthropic side, raising money for charities and shelters.

"Through our concerts and fundraising efforts, we have been supporting women and children escaping domestic violence for over five years now, with the money raised going to local women's shelters," explains Anna.

"We have raised over \$100,000 so far and are currently supporting the vital work of Women's Community Shelter's outreach program."

Karinya's next gig will be their annual fundraising concert for the Women's Community Shelters, held at Sydney Grammar School, on September 23. It will be a

collaboration with all Hummingsong choirs, accompanied by the Sydney Grammar School Sextet.

Karinya is still eager to welcome more singers into their musical family - whether they be young or old, experienced or novices.

"Women looking for a musically satisfying and joyous experience singing a smorgasbord of songs would love to sing in any one of our choirs. Many of our singers describe their Monday night rehearsals as the highlight of their week," Anna says.

"One of the greatest parts about singing in a choir is your voice only gets stronger by using it, and being one voice in a large group gives you the opportunity to build your confidence over time."

Rehearsals are on Mondays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm during the school term at Pittwater Uniting Church.

For more information, visit [hummingsong.com.au](http://hummingsong.com.au)

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