

# The Regeneration Project

As many of you know, we have been talking about 'Regeneration' as the theme for the activities of A Chorus of Women over the next few years. Our end-of-year concert in 2016 combined music and spoken reflections on the laws of regeneration, regenerating humanity, and regenerating the Earth. In the current political climate, working towards political and cultural regeneration is more important than ever and we have been thinking about ways that Chorus can give voice more publicly to the underlying theme of regeneration that has been in the background of much of our previous work.

We would love to hear your thoughts, dreams and longings about how to bring this idea to life. And we welcome your active participation as this project takes shape.



## SOME POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- **Artistic work** — new songs, music, stories, artistic interpretations of current issues, further development of previous work, such as *A Passion for Peace*
- **Musical events** (regular events eg Anzac Eve vigil, invitations such as Peace Works! book launch (May), events we initiate (eg Climate Council fundraiser, Peace event)
- **Offerings into public discourse** — talks and workshops about what we do/have done, public conversations/dialogues that weave issues of concern with artistic expression (eg Canberra Conversations), conversations/forums with other like-minded people
- **Writing and publishing** — insights/collation from reading and previous activities, transcripts of talks and introductions, blog/webpages, newsletter, online forum for women (see below)
- **Collaboration with ACC&C** — for example we have been invited to contribute to the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change national conference early 2018 (see *The Blue Ark* project, below)
- **Intergenerational transfer of ideas** — working with young women via our network of school teachers; empowering other younger activist women through connection to women's history (see 'Women's online forum' below)
- **Citizen's chorus development** (encouraging young composers to write for citizens chorus voice, singing workshops for citizens)
- **Ongoing reading, research and philosophy** — exchange of articles, background reading, extending our philosophy circles in Chorus and with others

## SOME DETAILS

### The Women's Wisdom Web

To tune into and provide a platform for the regenerative wisdom that underlies the upwelling of women's voices around the globe by (a) relating women, particularly younger women, to their history; (b) encouraging wisdom conversations among women and others; (c) providing a virtual organising/dissemination centre for 'Wise Ways Workshops' and other activities. We would create, and invite others to contribute offerings about:

- wisdom for now from movements past, including the 1915 International Congress of Women
- stories about Chorus start, mission and activities
- stories about wise individual women and wise women of myth and traditional story whose actions may be inspiring in current predicaments
- blog/designated website
- generating forms of peaceful, wise, visible gatherings of women hosted by Chorus. (By way of inspiring example, we're thinking of the stories in Johanna's song 'When People Start to Sing ...' See also <http://www.yaeldeckelbaum.com/en/prayerofthemothers>)
- a hub for creating new creative events/workshops based on online exchange of experiences about how-to/ how-we-did-stuff; eg on Rhetoric/Writing/Organising/Planning/Singing to Amplify the Common Good

### The Blue Ark Project

Stephen Pickard (ACC&C Director) has asked Chorus to contribute to the first national conference of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) in September. Glenda has suggested a project based on her idea of 'The Blue Ark', with two parts to it:

- The Blue Ark Storybook
- The Blue Ark Drama to be performed at the conference (and suitable for other audiences, eg, as part of a Chorus 2017 Climate Council fundraiser, if we do that again)

**The creative idea:** *The Blue Ark is a mysterious vessel that sails the mist and the night. Its hold is filled with stories that the crew teach the birds, and sing into dreams and the thoughts of prophets, poets, clowns and other fools. Few have been listening, though some say the stories are strong enough to help preserve human love and even life itself.*

The observation under the idea is that all indigenous and spiritual traditions hold much of their wisdom in stories: in likenesses or analogies of life that show people how to live properly in relation to each other and their environment. When political and religious cultures turn further right, more fundamentalist and harder they become more doctrinaire, dogmatic, literalist, and inclined to suppress artists and other creative spirits. Countering with science and ethical considerations is necessary, and a lot of the ARRCC conference will be devoted to that. However, storytelling that conveys common humanity, wisdom and shared purposes is a refreshing way to regeneration. We can help with that by gathering age-old and current stories into The Blue Ark.

## SOME DATES

- 2017:** **24 April** – Anzac Vigil – Chorus leads sunset singing on Mt Ainslie  
**6 May** – Launch of Peace Works! book – Glenda has contributed a paper about the *Passion* and part of the libretto.  
**Spring** – Another fundraiser for the Climate Council, maybe with parts of *Blue Ark* music.
- 2018** **April or May** – Australian Religious Response to Climate Change national conference  
**11 November (centenary of end of WWI)** – Passion for Peace work in progress event
- 2019** **May-June** — reworked and regenerated *Passion for Peace* for centenary of 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Women and Treaty of Versailles