



### CONTACT US



**COLLINS CONNECT WEBSITE**

<https://www.collins-connect.com>



[collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com](mailto:collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com)



Group: Collins Connect

### YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL

[✉collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com](mailto:collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com)

Collins Connect encourages you to seek permission to use any articles and photographs from this publication; but permission must first be sought from the Editor. Acknowledgment of the source must be provided.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Collins Connect acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we live and pays its respect to the Elders past and present.

### *What an amazing start to the Christmas Season*

It's been an incredible start to the Christmas season with the 'best ever' Christmas Carols hosted by Collins Connect— a number of musicians, singers and a tremendous effort by the team made this event the talking point for the following weeks!

And as if that wasn't enough there are plans to make it bigger and better in 2024!

With high interest and anticipation of a larger crowd, the team decided to move the Collins Connect Family Christmas Carols to a bigger venue. The musicians organised, groups and brackets finalised, it was time to open the doors to our family and friends to herald the start of Advent and the Christmas season. And what a start it was!

On sale were the traditional kuk-kuls, OT (AI ginger wine), Christmas fruit cake and pickles. With many donations over the months, our raffle was a big hit!

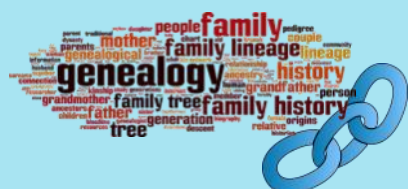
Collins Connect acknowledge our musicians and our Collins family members that kindly donated their time to make this a great success.

- \* Harold Lynch and musicians (Band Hitchhikers); Lester DeMonte
- \* **Jessica Soares** (our newest Collins family member & what a voice?!)
- \* **Ian Collins** (our first time Collins family member from Canada)
- \* **Corrine Collins** (founding member & roving singer/crowd spruiker)
- \* **The Collins Family tree representatives:** Darryl Collins, Conchita Jasmy (Peter Collins), Vonita Mansoor (Joseph Collins), Corrine Collins, Lauren Rafferty, Marian Collins, Elvis Collins, Angel & Winston D'Silva and Barry Collins (Victor Collins)
- \* Leylan Lamb and Glen Blanche (audio & music equipment set up)
- \* **Keith Collins** (sound engineer)
- \* **Conchita Jasmy, Vicky Collins and Danica Mansoor** (Stall assistants)
- \* Bayers Catering (food on sale)
- \* The Jingle Bell Carollers lead by **Sharlene Heldt** and friends
- \* BASIC coordinated by **Sheldon' D'Silva** and friends
- \* The Blended Family Carollers of **Angel D'Silva, Winston D'Silva, Sheldon D'Silva, Cassandra D'Silva** and Michael Elliott and Edgar D'Cunha

With a medley of Country Christmas Songs and the community singing of traditional Christmas Carols, the time just flew. As with the Collins Connect tradition, Sharlene Heldt conducted her children's nativity, be it with a fewer children, it was not to be missed. Next in line was the big man himself. Who could forget Santa, arriving on a scooter. Angelo Mansoor played the modern Santa exceptionally well and very soon had the children following him around the hall looking for the Santa goodies.

The coordination of the song selection by the team ensured there were no duplicates with the variety of Christmas carols and songs, it was well organised!. Many new comers provided feedback to the team and with their encouragement, Collins Connect Carols 2024 is pencilled in their calendars. It was lovely to witness the growth of the team and the crowd that also supports the Collins Connect Mission statement.

The bench mark has now been set, Collins Connect Family Christmas Carols is the event to attend that brings in the Advent Season of Christmas.



"Christmas gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us." –David Cameron







Collins Family Tree representatives L-R: Barry Collins, Marian Collins, Vonita Mansoor, Conchita Jasmy, Lauren Rafferty, Corrine Collins, Angel & Winston D'Silva, Darryl Collins and Elvis Collins



Collins Sextet L-R: Barry Collins, Marian Collins, Lauren Rafferty, Angel D'Silva, Elvis Collins and Ian Collins. Milton Collins children singing "I'll be home for Christmas".



**EDITOR**—Karen Collins

**CO-EDITOR**—Corrine Collins

### **Want to help?**

If you would like to contribute to the Collins Connect newsletters, we encourage you to get in contact with any team member.