

## Another busy year ahead

After finishing off 2002 with the very popular Christmas Dinner and having a break of seven weeks, the choir has come back with renewed vigour to take on new challenges and attain yet higher standards of performance. All members of the choir know the bar has to be raised higher or it will stagnate.

But it doesn't mean all work - there will be plenty of time to relax and enjoy ourselves as a group.

First fundraiser this year is the FILM AFTERNOON, which will feature "Maid in Manhattan", starring Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes and Natasha Richardson, on Sunday, 30th March, 1.30 for 2 pm. The choir will sing two or three songs, the Capri Theatre organ will be played, there will be afternoon tea and door prizes. (See the advertisement on page 3 for detail on how to obtain tickets.)

The first major concert of the year will be in Pilgrim Church on Sunday, 4th May, at 2 pm to raise funds for a replacement practice piano. This will be a nostalgia afternoon of well-known songs, beautiful melodies and foot-tapping rhythms. Added to all this you will hear the keyboard skills of Edward Kriek and Jeff Kong.

About halfway through the year a mystery trip is planned. This was held about 10 years ago and proved very popular. More details will be published in the next newsletter.

We will be having another Quiz Night and the date for this will be announced in plenty of time. Last year was the most popular of all that the choir has

held and we are anticipating that this year's will be just the same (or even better).

A notable event this year will be the Concert/Dinner at Regency Park on Friday, 24th October. Again, more of this in a later newsletter.

Three of our minor concerts are at new venues this year. One will have been performed by the time this newsletter is printed and the other two are at Aberfoyle Uniting Church (for the Flagstaff Hill Rotary Club) and the Willunga Waldorf School to be held at the Arts Centre, Port Noarlunga.

### NEW MEMBERS

The choir needs more members, particularly **First Tenors** and **Basses**. You do not have to be able to read music, but if you enjoy singing come along to our Monday night practices (from 7.45 to 9.45 pm in the Church of Christ Hall, 100 Grote Street). I am sure that you will enjoy yourselves.

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**Patron:**  
Her Excellency  
Majorie Jackson-Nelson  
AC, CVO, MBE,  
Governor of South  
Australia

**President:**  
Mr John Lawson

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**Accompanist:**  
Mr Edward Kriek

**Concert Bookings  
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Tel.: (08) 8356 6849

**Concert Manager:**  
Mr Neville Roach  
Tel.: (08) 8332 1895

**Vice Patrons:**  
Mr Ray Brown  
Mr Doug Karran  
Mr Len Turner  
Mrs Genty Stevens  
Mrs Mylanwy James

**Life Members:**  
Mr Alan Ansell  
Mr Ray Brown  
Mr Robert McLeay

Practices are held every Monday  
at 7.45pm to 9.45 pm in the  
Hall at the rear of the Church of  
Christ, 100 Grote Street,  
Adelaide

# Low-down on Denis West

by Denise Richardson

Now proudly an Australian citizen, Denis was born in Gillingham, Kent, England to Lillian and Earnest West. There were two older sisters and an older brother (who died early in Denis' life) and another sister born later. It's a cliché, but they were a poor but happy and loving family who enjoyed singing and music. His Father had a lovely baritone voice.

The war years came, Father joined the army and Denis and his middle older sister Sheila (who now lives in Hillcrest) were evacuated to Wales. Many tales of mischief have been recounted by Denis in later years, but they were also hard times for a small built boy and his protective sister but Denis has fond memories of Wales. He was a boy soprano in those days, able to hold his own among the Welsh boys of the village.

War ended and the family was back together in Maidstone, Kent. Despite the interrupted schooling, Denis obtained a motor mechanic apprenticeship with Drake and Fletcher. Called John in those days (there was already a Denis in the shop) he did well in his field. In his last exams he topped the county. With a mother and three sisters, much of the 'man of the family' chores fell to him - his father was suffering from muscular dystrophy.

During his apprenticeship he met a lovely young girl from the typing pool, Pamela. They courted in the usual way, dances, walks in the local woods, visiting friends and family. They were engaged, and soon after Denis had to go away for his two-year national service stint.

He was in the REME (Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers) fixing and servicing army vehicles. Denis owned his first car in those days, and raced home for weekends when passes were obtained. Sadly Denis had to sell the car when he left the army, it was unaffordable in 'civvy street'.

August 1953 and Denis and Pamela were married. Their honeymoon was on a bicycle made for two, but the ever-mechanical Denis had fitted a small motor, to aid the pedallers on the uphill stretches.

Always moving during childhood years seemed to have made a rolling stone of Denis. August 1955 saw them on the passenger liner *Orion*, bound for

Australia. Their first home was in the 'silver city' Nissan huts at Gepps Cross - what a hot spot for the two English migrants.

Their first child, Denise, was born, and Denis was working as a mechanic on the Birdwood dam - commuting at the weekend again!

Before long he was on the move to Mundulla, as a mechanic. A second child was born, a son, Nigel. Then a move to Bordertown, and his own business. A further move, this time to Salisbury, and a service station business.

The 60's credit squeeze, and Denis was broke. Time for a change, and he found a new career - selling T&G life assurance but it was not plain sailing. Denis had a bout of illness, including rheumatic fever, and unable to work for some time.

When he recovered, and returned to work, his talent for selling emerged but he only ever sold products he believed in. He moved his family to Gawler, concentrating on the country areas and sales awards followed. His success in sales led to his promotion to inspector, responsible for training and encouraging other salesmen. Again, he topped his field. He then moved to a newly built home, this time at Coromandel Valley.

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*Denis is the epitome of a committed club member, always giving and never looking at the receiving part except to be grateful when it happens. Very soon after joining he became a committee member, concert manager and chief librarian and he has put his heart into all these endeavours, and at the Christmas dinner last year received a Certificate of Appreciation for this commitment.*

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A further change, and he went into selling real estate. He moved house, rented twice while he built again. Another job change, selling swimming pools.

Throughout all these moves and changes, some constants remained in Denis' life. Pamela, his friend and helpmate stayed steadfast, and family life was always important. Somehow he found time to establish new gardens, enjoy outings with his children, and serve on committees for their schools. He joined the local footy club, and was manager for the 'B' team.

His relaxation in those years was playing records on his stereo system which he built himself. A wide range of classical music could regularly be heard emanating from their home.

Their children had by now left home, and they became grandparents. Denise had



three boys, and later, so did Nigel. Another change, he and Pamela bought a haberdashery. They added gem collecting and cutting to their hobbies, by joining the Enfield Lapidary Club. As usual Denis was on the committee, and did well in the cutting competitions. Many happy trips were spent in their caravan. Another move, and another house built and Denis and Pamela were on their way to Westlakes. By now he was selling house insulation.

Ill health again visited Denis, and he retired early. Then a big trip to England he had been promising Pam since they arrived in Australia all those years ago. They spent several months revisiting the places of their youth, and travelled around Wales and Scotland and the Continent. On their return to Australia, Sheila encouraged her brother to join the retired teachers choir. A trip to in their caravan to Queensland, with long time friends - another promise kept and 40 years of happy marriage were celebrated.

The next couple of years were the darkest in Denis' life. On return from Queensland it was discovered Pamela had advanced cancer. Treatment was too late, there had been no warning signs, and only a couple of months later she died at home.

Denis returned to the Retired Teachers Choir, and through them has sung with the COTA choir. A fellow singer, Steve Wellington, introduced him to the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Later met Irene, his very dear friend, who accompanies him to Choir performances and shares his love of music.

Although a love of music has always been part of Denis' life, singing in public, and learning so much has only happened relatively lately. The AMVC has been a source of joy, achievement, friendship and solace, which Denis has tried to repay by being on the committee.

*Thank-you Adelaide Male Voice Choir.*



# Notes from Committee

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting on Monday, 3rd February, all officers and members of the committee were re-elected for a further year

## COMMITTEE MEETING, 22/2/03

### FILM AFTERNOON

The Film Afternoon, on Sunday, 30th March, was discussed. It will be in the Capri Theatre and all members and friends are asked to get behind this effort to raise funds for the choir. It is hoped that we can at least get 500 to this function. The tickets will cost \$10 and will include some singing from the choir, the film "Maid in Manhattan", lucky door prizes and afternoon tea and biscuits.

### "WE'D LOVE A PIANO"

This is the title of the major May concert in Pilgrim Church at which the choir will launch its appeal to raise funds for a new practice piano. Our present one has stood us in good stead

for the past 14-15 years but is nearing the end of its useful life. At the concert Edward Kriek will be joined by Jeff Kong. Not only will both of them play solos but they will join forces and perform duets. This promises to be an exciting event and one not to be missed

### CD OF PILGRIM CONCERT

A recording on CD of the last October concert in Pilgrim Church is now available at \$15. Not only does this include the choir but also items by Tasso Bouyessis, Kirsten Johnston and Edward Kriek.

### SPECIAL FUNCTION NEXT NOVEMBER

There will be a lot more about this in the next and subsequent newsletters up to the date of this exciting function, but suffice to say that it will be something quite different to what we have done before and, hopefully, will further add to our funds.



## Drama

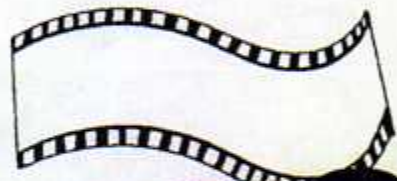
Have you always wanted to act or work behind the scenes in theatre? Here is your chance! The ARPA PLAYERS are looking for new members. No experience necessary as our director will bring out any talent you might have. For further particulars contact Bill Brooker - phone 8297 6724

- Answers - Word Puzzles: Death Valley  
 1. Forgive and forget  
 2. Big fish in a little pond  
 3. Odds and ends  
 4. Take from the rich, give to the poor.  
 5. Breaking a custom

*Tickets also available at cinema on the day*



# ADELAIDE MALE VOICE CHOIR



*invites you to a*

## FILM AFTERNOON

# Maid in Manhattan

*Starring Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes, Natasha Richardson*

**CAPRI CINEMA, GOODWOOD**

**Sunday, 30th March, 1.30 for 2 pm**

**Tickets: \$10**

**Phone: 8276 4229, 8270 2628, 8353 6359**

- *Film*
- *Songs from the Choir*
- *Capri Theatre Organ*
- *Afternoon Tea*
- *Door Prizes*



# Christmas D Glenelg C

The Christmas Dinner last December was probably one of the most excellent, the service and organisation great and a good time was already booked the venue



# anner, 2002

## olf Club

the best ever. The setting was wonderful, the meal  
time was had by all, so much so that the choir has  
ain for this December.



*We'd love a piano*

During this year a date has been set aside for a special concert at Pilgrim church on Sunday, 4th May at 2 pm. Our goal is to establish a fund towards the purchase of another practice piano. We'll even be singing the Irving Berlin song, *I Love a Piano*.

Our existing piano has given us good service and is still doing so, but as we strive to raise our standards in all areas, there is now a need for a replacement.

As this newsletter goes out to all members and "Friends of the Choir" we would like to appeal for donations towards this fund and to this end it has been suggested that people who wish to donate might like to "buy a piano key" for \$100. "Middle C" has already been purchased for \$500 by Gwen Jones, a long-time supporter of the choir and wife of the late George Jones, who was a prominent member of the choir for many years.

Also, if there is anyone who has a baby grand for sale, the choir's Director of Music will be happy to assess if it is suitable and an agreed purchase price determined.



*We'd love a piano*

# Adelaide Male Voice Choir

presents a

## Nostalgia Concert

at Pilgrim

**Sunday, 4th May, 2 pm**  
PILGRIM CHURCH, 12 Flinders Street, Adelaide

Conductor: William Shaw    Accompanist: Edward Kriek

Piano Duets and Solos by  
Edward Kriek and Jeff Kong

\$15.00  
concession \$12.00

Phone  
8276 4229  
8270 2628  
8353 6359



## Food for thought

A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a very large, empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks - about 2" in diameter.

He then asked the students if the jar was full?

They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full?

They agreed it was.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of

course, the sand filled up the remaining space.

He then asked once more if the jar was full? The students responded with an unanimous - "yes".

The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and proceeded to pour their entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

The students laughed.

The rocks are the important things - your family, your partner, your health, your children - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, you life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car.

The sand is everything else. "The small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first,"

he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and take out the garbage.

"Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented.

The professor smiled, "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers."



# Presentation of awards



At the Christmas Dinner, at Glenelg Golf Club, awards were presented to Christian Pollnitz (left, with Bill Shaw, Director of Music) and Denis West (resplendent in his Christmas party hat).



Christian, the youngest member of

the choir, was awarded the certificate by Bill for being the Most Improved Choral Performer of the Year. Denis received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding service to the choir, in particular his duties as librarian.

## The Touch of the Master's Hand

*'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer  
Thought it was scarcely worthwhile  
To waste much time on the old violin  
But he held up with a smile -  
What am I offered, good folks?" he cried  
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"  
"A dollar, a dollar not two, only two.  
Two dollars, who'll make it three?  
Three dollars once three dollars twice  
Going for three . . ." - But no,  
From the room far back, an old grey haired man  
Came forward and picked up the bow,  
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,*

*And tuning up all the strings,  
He played a melody pure and sweet  
As sweet as an angel sings,  
The music ceased, and the auctioneer,  
With voice that was quiet and low,  
Said: "Now what am I bid for the old violin"?  
As he held it up with the bow.  
"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?  
Two thousand and who'll make it three?  
Three thousand once, three thousand twice  
And going, going, gone," he said.  
The people cheered, but some of them said,  
"We do not quite understand  
What changed it's worth, and a man replied*

*"The touch of the Master's Hand"  
And many a man with a life out of tune,  
And battered and torn with sin,  
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crows  
Much like the old violin.  
A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,  
A game, and he travels on.  
He's going once, he's going twice, he's going  
And almost gone.  
But the Master comes and the foolish crowd  
Never can quite understand  
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought  
By "The touch of the Master's Hand".*

## Think you've got troubles?

A man was visiting his doctor for a check-up. Upon returning from the examination room to the doctor's consulting room he was given the verdict. "Your trouble is quite easy to diagnose", said the doctor. "You're hitting the booze too much."

"But, hey Doc, I can't go home and tell the missus that. She'd kill me", replied the man.

"Well, that just happens to be the case," said the doctor. "What else would you expect me to say?"

"Surely you can give me one of those high faluting complicated medical terms", came the response. "I don't think that would be ethical," said the doctor.

The man refused to accept this fact and continued to pressure the

doctor for a different description of his problem. Eventually the doctor relented and finally said, "Well! Go home and tell her you've got syncopation."

"Yeah. Sounds great," says the man, and he goes on his way practising the word, "Syncopation, syncopation," as he went.

Upon arrival home his wife immediately asked, "What's the story?" To which he answered, "Well my dear, I have a very rare medical condition."

"What is it?" came the next question, to which he answered, "It means that I have to have lots of rest and relaxation. I have to eat well and ensure that I don't come under any stress."

"But what's it called?" To which he replied, "It's a very unusual illness. It's called, err . . . syncopation."

"Syncopation eh?" she replied as

she left the room, having brought him the newspaper and helped tilt back his recliner chair.

"Oh boy!" he thought to himself as he leaned back. "This is really going to be a good deal."

Having happily relaxed, and already thoroughly enjoying himself, he was suddenly surprised when all of a sudden his wife stormed in, hit him under the ear with a book, slammed the book down onto the floor and stamped out of the room yelling, "You and your syncopation ! ! ."

"What on earth has gone wrong?" he exclaimed to himself, at the same time picking up the thrown book which he soon discovered was a dictionary. "Oh my", he muttered as he turned the pages to locate the word.

And there it was, defined. "Syncopation: A musical term; an irregular movement from bar to bar!"



## Gladys Bailey, OAM

Gladys Bailey passed away on 31st December, 2002 in Pinnaroo Soldiers Memorial Hospital.

Her funeral was held at St. Co umba's Church in Hawthorn and was attended by members of the choir.

Gladys was a vice-patron and a regular supporter of the choir for many years.

## The Good News . . .

David and Rini Conti have become proud grandparents to Mathew James. He has undergone and is still receiving surgery to correct some problems.

Don and Barbara Jessop have become great-grandparents for the first time.

## and the Bad News

John Beare was involved in a car accident after choir rehearsal. Fortunately he is recovering from a cracked sternum and broken ribs

## Word Puzzles

(answers page 3)

1. Give Get  
Give Get  
Give Get  
Give Get

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2. poFISHnd

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3. 13579 AZ

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4. ch poorri

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5. CUSTON

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

### MARCH

- Monday 3rd 7.45 pm CONCERT for Adelaide Music Club at European Centre, 292 Findon Road, Findon
- Sunday 16th 2.00 pm CONCERT for Flagstaff Hill Rotary Club at Aberfoyle Park Uniting Church, 42 Sunnymead Drive, Aberfoyle Park
- Sunday 30th 2.00 pm FILM AFTERNOON at the Capri Cinema, Goodwood

### APRIL

- Sunday 6th 2.00 pm CONCERT at Lutheran Homes, corner Frew and Fisher Street, Fullarton
- Friday 25th 10.30 am SING AT THE CROSS OF SACRIFICE following the Anzac March

### MAY

- Sunday 4th 2.00 pm MAJOR CONCERT - "We'd Love a Piano" - in Pilgrim Church
- Sunday 25th 2.00 pm CONCERT for Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church, corner Harvey and Fairfield Roads, Elizabeth Grove

### JUNE

- Sunday 6th 2.00 pm CONCERT for Wiltunga Waldorf School at the Arts Centre, Old Institute Building, Gawler Street, Port Noarlunga

### JULY

- Sunday 1st 2.00 pm MAJOR CONCERT - "Music from Heaven" in Pilgrim Church

### AUGUST

- Sunday 31st 2.00 pm CONCERT for Milang Institute

### SEPTEMBER

- Sunday 21st 2.00 pm CONCERT for Colonel Light Gardens Uniting Church, Goodwood Road, Daw Park

### OCTOBER

- Sunday 19th 2.00 pm MAJOR CONCERT "Opera Concert". Venue to be confirmed
- Friday 24th 6.30 pm OPERA DINNER at Regency Park Catering School

### NOVEMBER

- Thursday 27th 7.30 pm CONCERT at Lutheran Homes, 24 Avenue road, Glyde

### DECEMBER

- Friday 12th 7.30 pm CHRISTMAS DINNER, Glenelg Golf Club

## "Friends of the Choir" Mailing List

Our special "Friends of the Choir" mailing list informs you of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir's Concerts and Functions.

Functions include dinners and other social occasions at which we would be pleased to welcome you

For details please contact the Secretary

Mr Colin Styles, 4 Petre Court, Flagstaff Hill, 5159  
Tel. (08) 8270 2628 Email: coljud@ozemail.com.au  
Please include me on the special "Friends of the Choir" mailing list

Name

Address

Post code

Phone

Mobile

Email address

