

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

President:
Mr John Lawson

Vice-President:
Mr Colin Styles

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Treasurer:
Mr John Winnall

Committee:
Denis West (librarian)
Ian Milbank, David
Evans, Kevin Fisher,
Jean-Pierre Rival

**Conductor/Director of
Music:**
Mr William Shaw

Accompanist:
Mr Edward Kriek

**Concert Bookings
Manager:**
Mr David Duffner
Tel.: (08) 8356 6849

Concert Manager:
Mr Neville Roach
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Vice Patrons:
Mr Ray Brown
Mr Doug Karran
Mr Len Turner
Mrs Genty Stevens
Mrs Myfanwy James

Life Members:
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

Thank-you

2003 has been an outstanding year for the choir in many ways.

It will be remembered as the year we purchased, with the help of many donations, a baby grand piano from Winston Music. The piano and the canvas cover cost \$9500. Over half of the purchase price was donated with the rest coming from choir funds - and all this in less than one year.

It will also be remembered for the memorable Opera/Dinner held at the School of Hospitality at Regency Park. A lot of help for this successful evening was provided by Fernando Delgado and his students at Regency Park. The meal was superb and the dining room was beautifully set up for the evening. With the inspiration of Annamaria Beni and Tasso Bouyessis the choir performed a small programme that was well received.

The performed three successful major concerts and many minor ones during the year in addition to running a film afternoon, a Friends' Night, a Quiz Night and a Solo/Social evening.

Tonight, Friday, 12th December, we finish the year with a Christmas Dinner at the Glenelg Golf Club.

The success of all these events has been due to many.

First, of course, are the choir members who have enthusiastically supported and performed at these events. There is a great feeling within the choir and it shows through in their singing and active participation. The feeling of commitment is getting stronger and with it greater camaraderie.

The Friends of the Choir are playing an increasingly important role in the affairs of the choir and the Friends Night was a great success. Next year we hope to have a Friends Picnic.

As in any organisation there are some members who show extra commitment and to whom the club is indebted.

Among these in the choir, and not in any particular order, are Neville Roach, who

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Low-down on Bill Lawson

by his family



Magpies' Football Club. He took a keen interest in the history of the township and enjoyed his times as M.C. for the annual Christmas Carols.

In the mid-seventies Bill left General Practice to be Director of the Family Medicine Programme, before becoming Assistant Director the SA Blood Transfusion Service until his retirement. He then continued with rural locums for five years.

Bill was President of the South Australian Branch of the Australian Medical Association in 1978 when he was particularly remembered as an activist for road safety.

William Scott Lawson - born 29th September 1926

The first child of Ted and Maud Lawson, Bill grew up with his younger brother Ted, in Reade Park. He attended Colonel Light Gardens Primary School, St. Andrew's School, then Unley High School. Even in those early days he had a love of music, with jazz and classical his favourites.

On leaving school Bill worked at elders Trustee and while at Elders he was in the Air Training Corps, enlisting in the Air Force when he was 18, keen to serve his country, transferring to the Army later to get some action!

After the war he studied medicine at Adelaide University. In 1954 Bill married Beth Godfrey and following his internship at the R.A.H., they moved to Hahndorf, where he was the local G.P. for 20 years. They had five children - Janie, Digby, Alexandra, Robbie, Helen, who play an important part in their lives as do their respective families. During his time in Hahndorf, Bill was involved in the establishment of the town's golf course, was patron of the Hahndorf Town Band and also the local

He has been Chairman of the James Brown Trust responsible to Kalyra Nursing Home at Belair, Chairman of the Peter Nelson Leukemia foundation, Chairman of the South Australian Anti-Cancer Foundation of the Universities of South Australia and also a member of the Board of Flinders University.

Bill is in the choir's baritone section and regularly and enthusiastically attends practices and concerts. He speaks up at meetings and helps stimulate discussion. He has a wealth of ideas and has the choir's interests always at heart.

Bill and Beth have lived at West Beach for 19 years, where they enjoy walks along the beach and linear park each day with their dog Cassie.

In recent year Bill has been keenly involved with the University of the Third Age (U3A) both as a student and as a lecturer.

Bill's passions - apart from family and the Adelaide Male Voice Choir - include golf, tennis, bridge, swimming and theatre. He lives life to the fullest, making the most of every single day.

Continued from page 1

has not only managed the major concerts but several other events. He has done this professionally and quietly.

David Duffner has arranged the booking of concerts and constantly keeps in touch with secretaries and organisers from various retirement homes and organisations besides constant referral to the Director of Music and President.

Christian Pollnitz, always a willing helper, organises the tea break at practice nights.

Denis West and Bill Brooker (Librarian and Assistant Librarian) who spend a lot of hours sorting music and arranging for it to be available when required.

Members of the committee, particularly Colin Styles (Secretary and Vice-President) and John Winnall (Treasurer) who have helped in the smooth running of the choir.

Ivy and Kevin Fisher who do such a good job organising the Quiz Night each year.

Ian Hunt, who regularly prints out handwritten music that Bill has arranged.

Soloists who performed so well for the choir during the year were Pru Hompas, Annamaria Beni, Tasso Bouyessis and Anthony Waacke. And not forgetting all those choir members who have performed solos at various smaller concerts.

And, of course, we are indebted to Bill Shaw and Eddie Kriek for their infinite patience and professional input into the choir.

Answers - Word Puzzles - page 8

1. The letter "E"
2. Sailing over the seven seas
3. Making ends meet
4. Too wise you are, Too wise you be, I see you are Too wise for me.
5. NOON



Oh! What a Night



John Lawson, with soloists and honorary members of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, Annamaria Beni and Tasso Bouyessis, after being serenaded by them.

On Friday, 24th October, with the aid of the Regency Park School of Catering, put on an Opera Dinner, the first of its kind for the choir. It was a huge success.

Tickets to the event were sold out seven weeks before the day and the

total number of patrons was 114.

Annamaria and Tasso again inspired the choir with their wonderful solo singing and, although only a short concert, the performance of the choir was well-received selection of numbers.

The meal, prepared and served by students from the college, was superb and the waiters very attentive. The organising by Fernando Delgado and his class of students all clicked into place on the night. The choir is very grateful to all these people and we wish them well for the future.

At the end of the evening many people asked if the choir was going to do the same thing next year and it anticipates that it will. You will receive ample notification of when this will be.

The evening was made an evening to remember (although a little embarrassing) for the president. First Tasso got up and sang 'Happy Birthday' to him, then called on Annamaria to join him in singing to the president and his wife 'Be My Love'.



Opera Concert on Sunday, 19th October



The Opera Concert, which was held at the Adelaide West Uniting Church on Sunday, 19th October, was successful in so far as the performance of the choir and the soloists.

Unfortunately the recording was disappointing because of the acoustics of the church.

We appreciated all the help the staff at the church provided and we loved the atmosphere and all the facilities of the venue.

All three soloists were a delight to listen to and the choir appreciates all the effort they went to and look forward to hearing more from them in 2004.

Pictures: Annamaria Beni with Tasso Bouyessis on the left and Anthony Waacke on the right



Solo/Social Evening



Choir members who participated in the Solo/Social evening held at Adelaide West Uniting Church on Monday, 1st December, were - From left to right (back row): James Thoday, John Wear, Ian Milbank, Ian Hunt, Jean-Pierre Rival, John Winnall. Front row: Eddie Kriek (accompanist), Colin Styles, Mark Tuckwell, John Lawson, Denis West, Charlie Gamba, Kevin Fisher, Bob Cooter.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir wishes its Patron, Vice-Patrons, Friends and all the audiences the choir has sung to this year a

*Very Happy and Safe Christmas
and a Bright and Prosperous New Year*

The choir hopes that they can bring some enjoyment to you next year.



Some memories of my time in the Choir

by Ray Brown

When I joined the choir, the the Adelaide Glee Club in 1963, we practised at the Theosophical Hall in King William Street, just North of Halifax Street on the eastern side. The hall and the rest of the establishment were in immaculate condition and featured a lovely grand piano which we were allowed to use for practice.

Our conductor at the time was the late Roy Mellish, a good conductor who loved nice harmony and so on many occasions we performed lovely works by Hugh Roberton, a very well known composer of choral works. Two of his songs we sang were, *All in the April Evening* and *The Old Woman*. Some of the words still come to me -

*As a white candle in a Holy place,
So is the beauty of an age ago.
Her brood gone from her,
And her thoughts are still
As the waters under a ruined mill.*

Roy Mellish's wife was a former (and I emphasise former) well-known soprano who performed overseas with her husband, who was an excellent accompanist. One problem that Clara had when she came to our concerts was that she lived in the past, wore some of very out-of-date gowns and liked to sing along with the choir, which was quite embarrassing.

The Theosophical Hall had no place to store our music and so it was stored at the conductor's home - not very practical.

As there was some space at the rear of the hall, my old friend, the late Max Gratton and I built a shed at his home at Taperoo. Max was with a demolishing firm and was able to scrounge corrugated iron and some timber. I went for two weekends from Malvern to Taperoo but it was worth it because the shed held all the music. The only problem was that there was no power so torches had to be used to get the music we needed.

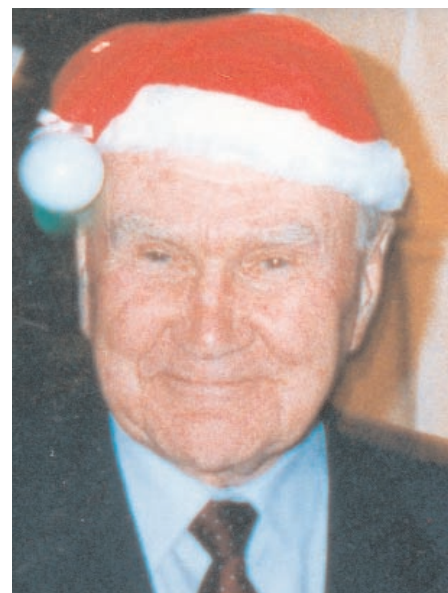
The rent for the hall went up and so we had to find another venue. This became available because one of the choir's members was a member of the Presbyterian Church on Norwood Parade, next to the Norwood Oval. It was at the time quite rundown because the people of the church would not join the Uniting Church (they called it a take-over).

The church was freezing in winter and very hot in summer and we again had a problem with music storage. The church allowed us to put music in various cupboards around the church which was, as you can imagine, quite unsuitable. Our saviour came in the form of Charlie Turner, a tenor in the choir for many years. Charlie was a french polisher and with the help of a cabinet maker with whom he worked, made three cupboards with sliding doors which, when the choir left the church, it took to the next place.

The rent went up and so we had to move on. This wasn't easy and entailed Bryn Cooper (a subsequent president of the choir) and myself hunting round Adelaide, looking for churches, halls, etc., taking down phone numbers and contacting a number of them. Some were not available and others had the usual problem of too much rent.

I then contacted the Minister of the Church of Christ, Grote Street, and they came to the party and that is where the choir has been ever since.

In the early 1960s the Mayor of Port Adelaide, Mr. A. O. R. Tapp, sponsored an



Ray Brown in Christmas mode at a previous Christmas dinner at the Old Colonial.

Ray was in the choir for over three decades and besides serving as President, he was also Vice-President, Treasurer, Assistant Librarian and member of the committee for many years. He is now a Vice-Patron.

He was also a consummate soloist, being able to put across the story of the song. When Bill Shaw brought in music from "Oliver", Ray played Fagin and dressed the part. He so liked doing this that he bought a statuette of Fagin which now takes pride of place on his mantelpiece.

annual Male Voice Choir competition at the Port Adelaide Town Hall. Each choir (there were about six altogether) competed with the best soloist for each club competing in a solo contest. It was a great event which petered out when Mr. Tapp's mayoralty came to an end.

A rather unpleasant incident occurred at one of those concerts. The soloist from one of the choirs was singing and the accompanist for the Metropolitan Male Voice Choir was turning the pages for the soloist's accompanist, when he collapsed dead over the keyboard. Needless to say the concert was abandoned.



'Fagin' Brown

St. Augustine's, Unley

by John Beare



This photograph was taken prior to Christmas 1938. The original photograph was produced in colour and used as a cover photograph for a "Homes and Gardens" magazine. All the choristers were presented with a black and white copy of the photograph and my late mother obtained a second black and white photo which I still have.

Some of the choristers and the clergyman, organist (choirmaster) are deceased.

The choir (boys) practised on Monday and Thursday from 4.30 pm to 6 pm and on Friday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm together with the men and women. Men and women from the choir enlisted in the services when War broke out, September 1939 and many paid the supreme sacrifice and one man (now deceased) was a POW of the Japanese for three-and-a-half years.

Some of the boys are still alive and a few I occasionally still see.

RAAF Association Concert

This concert was this year held at the above venue and proved very successful. With the help of the Minister, the Rev. Brenton

Daulby, the choir was able to perform well and they appreciated the sound qualities of the church.

The church has some magnificent stained

glass windows designed by William Morris.

The soloists for the afternoon were Eddie Kriek, the choir's very popular accompanist and solo artist.

Kevin Fisher, who arranges this concert every year (usually held in the RAAF Association Bowling Club hall in Hawthorn), performed at his usual high standard.

Mark Tuckwell, performed his first solos with the choir and did them very well.



Introducing



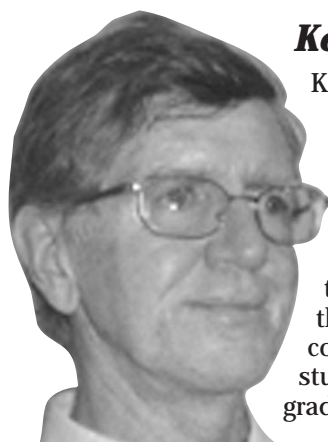
Andrew Dickson

Andrew Dickson joined the choir in September this year, after moving to Adelaide to study a Masters Degree. Prior to that he was in Brisbane for a year and in Sydney for 3 years. Actually Andrew has been on the move for many years, with 10 years in the Navy (with postings all over Australia), with work in the United States and with several years of

backpacking around the world. The joys of being young and single!

Andrew's love of singing started during high school here in Adelaide, when he was a chorister in several Gilbert and Sullivan productions. Many years later in Sydney he sang in a number of A Cappella choirs, with a repertoire ranging from South African apartheid songs to Ukrainian drinking songs, Hebrew love songs to high energy Gospel songs. His singing highlight was "The Choral Sea" – a massed choir performance at the Sydney Town Hall which was so moving that Andrew's then boss (a big aggressive Navy Captain) was reduced to tears!

Andrew's early career was as an Electronics Engineer in the Navy, after training at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. Later he worked as an events organiser for several large events for the Dalai Lama in Sydney and New York, he was Technical Manager for an Internet based NGO in Sydney, and lately he has been working for a small Australian manufacturing company. He hopes to remain in Adelaide, and to steer his career back towards Defence electronics. His other keen interests are sailing and kayaking, and he has sailed from Sydney to Hobart, raced a trimaran around Vancouver Island in Canada, and paddled 2,200km solo down the River Murray in a kayak.



Keith Gooley

Keith was born in Adelaide in 1946 and after spending some early formative years in Murray Bridge attended Westbourne Park Primary School and Unley High School in Adelaide. He was an enthusiastic member of the Scout Movement for more than 10 years before concentrating on university studies in electronic engineering, graduating in 1970. He had decided

he wanted to go to Antarctica after hearing a talk given by a doctor who had spent a year working on an Antarctic station. So in the middle of 1970



he went to Sydney to work for a Commonwealth agency which sent people to Antarctic stations.

The following year he went to Mawson Station spending the year collecting ionospheric data to assist radio propagation studies. Then in 1974 he went to Casey as a glaciologist and drilled boreholes through the Antarctic ice cap to measure rates of movement of the ice and collect core samples for climate studies.

Keith returned to Sydney living there until 1985 when family ties in Adelaide drew him back. He had met a lady in Sydney and they were married in Adelaide in 1982. Together they built an earth-covered house on a 14 acre property at One Tree Hill. They have a son (18) and a daughter (16). Keith has worked for Defence at DSTO Edinburgh, (formerly WRE Salisbury) since 1988 as an electronic engineer engaged on the Over-The-Horizon-Radar program.

In spite of having next to no formal music training, Keith has had a strong interest in choral music for many years, singing in mostly church-based choirs, including performances of "Messiah" in the Sydney Opera House. In later years, he was a member of the Para Singers, a group of people principally from Uniting Churches in the Playford, Elizabeth area. It performed at community functions, nursing homes and churches in the northern area for about 12 years.

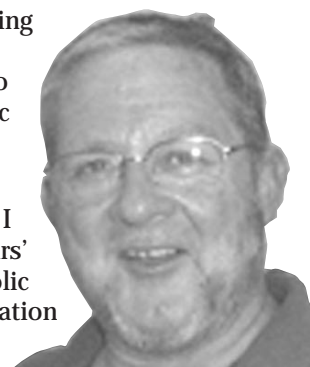
John Agnew

Music, in many different ways, has played a major role in my family for at least four generations.

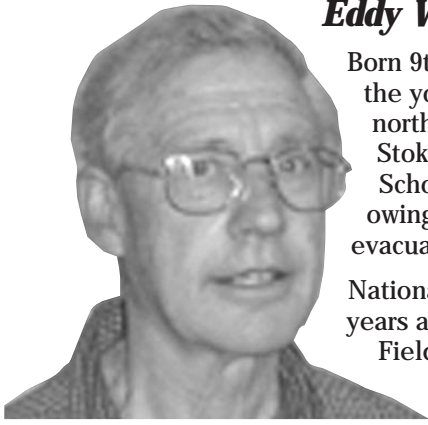
Today, as a retired teacher, joining the Adelaide Male Voice Choir has given me the opportunity to further pursue my lifelong music interest. Music was one of my major teaching areas.

Throughout these last 20 years, I have assisted in my school choirs' preparations for the annual Public Schools' Music Festival presentation at the Festival Theatre - both as a choir trainer/conductor and pianist/accompanist. This was always a very rewarding involvement with the students - taking the 'raw material' and working towards the final performance, with all the highs and lows along the way.

Today, I'm on the other end of the baton.



Continued next page



Eddy Wagner

Born 9th November 1931, the youngest of nine, in the north London borough of Stoke Newington. Schooling was limited, owing to the Blitz and evacuations.

National Service for two years as a signaller in the Field Artillery, serving in Cyprus and Egypt, then three and a

half years in the Territorials (H.A.C.).

Came to South Australia in 1968 with my wife and son, and settled in a R.D.C. house at Para Hills.

Not able to get work in my trade (Offset Litho), I found employment in the South Australian Library as a bookbinder and later as a Conservator until my retirement in 1991.

Prior to attending the AMVC choir practices, I had completed an eight-week "Singing for Beginner" WEA course. The tutor, on completion of the course, invited me to attend the Monte Verdi Singers practices as a bass singer. On reading through the considerable amount of music I realised that it was mostly of a Latin nature, a language I am not versed in. I really thought I would suit the type of music sung by the Adelaide Male Voice Choir after hearing David Evans express our mutual like of Peter Dawson on the radio (Company Sergeant Major). After a discussion over the phone he suggested I attend Monday nights - so here I am.

David Hokin

I was first trained as a tenor by Sable Grivell in Adelaide from 1958 to 1964, singing both solo and in small groups under his direction. During this time I also sang as tenor and cantor in the church choirs at St James, Mile End, and St Mary Magdalene's, Adelaide.

In 1964 my wife, Meredith, and I moved to Darwin where, unfortunately, there was little music activity at that time.



From 1981 to 1984 I was a member of the Darwin Combined Churches Choir, singing tenor with some solo work. From 1985 to 1986 I was a tenor in the Darwin Chorale. I sang tenor solos with the Darwin Music Society from its inception in 1982 until it closed in 1985.

From 1981 to 1985, and again from 1994 to 1996, I sang first tenor and tenor solos with the Darwin Male Voice Choir. The DMVC was, apart from a few months early in 1997, only operational for these two periods when it's conductor, Jonathan Moon, was resident in Darwin.

The second period of my tenor training was with Ruth Hawkins in Darwin from 1981 to 1983 during which time I passed the 6th grade AMEB vocal exam. The third was with Dean Patterson in Darwin from 1985 to 1986.

From 1987 to 1999 I was tenor, cantor, and tenor soloist in the Christ Church Cathedral Choir in Darwin.

Meredith and I moved down to Adelaide at the end of 1999, and since 2000 I have been a member of the "Random Notes" church choir at St Chad's, Fullarton.

The English Language

Reasons why the English language is so hard to learn

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
12. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
13. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?
14. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
15. They were too close to the door to close it.
16. The buck does funny things when the does are present.
17. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
18. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
19. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
20. After a number of injections my jaw got number.

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted.

In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wiseman and a wise guy are opposites?



The Glynde concert



The choir's usual final concert of the year at Glynde was again very successful with an open invitation to perform again there next year.

Three wonderful performances by soloists Charlie Gamba, Kevin Fisher and James Thoday ensured that everyone in the audience enjoyed the concert and it finished, as usual, with a wonderful supper.

Word Puzzles

(answers page 3)

1. What is the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space; the beginning of every end and the end of every place?

2. sailing
cccccc

3. ENDSSDNE

4. YYUR
YYUB
ICUR
YY4ME

5. Y Y guy guy

6. What word, when written in capital letters, is the same forwards, backwards and upsidetown?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

APRIL

Sunday 25th 10.30 am SING AT THE CROSS OF SACRIFICE following the Anzac March

MAY

Sunday 16th 2.00 pm MAJOR CONCERT

JULY

Sunday 25th 2.00 pm CONCERT for Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church, corner Harvey and Fairfield Roads, Elizabeth Grove

AUGUST

Sunday 15th 2.00 pm FILM AFTERNOON at the Capri Cinema, Goodwood

OCTOBER

Sunday 24th 2.00 pm MAJOR CONCERT

"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 Petrel 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

Postcode

Phone

Mobile

Email address

