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Accompanist:
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Tel.: (08) 8332 1895

Vice Patrons:
Mr Ray Brown
Mrs Myfanwy James
Mrs Margaret Lambert
Mrs Genty Stevens
Mr Len Turner

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 St., Adelaide

The need to change

Constantly changing

It is very hard, especially for a choir that has been existence for as long as the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, to change.

Nineteen years ago when I joined the choir we principally sang to about 14 retirement homes and did one major concert per year.

I think we used to charge about \$50 to sing at a retirement home. Now we charge \$200. This just goes to show just how much it costs to run what is basically a volunteer group of people who enjoy singing.

Music costs (we cannot keep singing the same pieces each year), insurance costs, printing costs all add up to a sizeable amount of money that the choir has to find to maintain its standards. If we want to exceed those standards then there will be increased costs.

About four years ago we decided to start up a Friends of the Choir to help with the promotion and sustainability of the choir. We have been heartened by the many people who have become a member of the "Friends" - over 200 of them. But now we need to go a step further.

What the choir needs is for all the members of the choir and the Friends of the Choir to really get behind it, for each and every one of them to promote the choir so that everytime we hold a major concert all tickets have been sold.

Why is it that we are not filling the venues when we do a major concert? We receive many compliments on the

quality of our singing and our programmes. We have some wonderful soloists at these concerts and yet we are lucky if we only half-fill the hall. Are there too many functions on at the one time? Do we not promote the choir enough? Do we need a person or persons who would be willing to promote the choir full-time?

We are open to suggestion and look forward to hearing from as many of you that feel they can contribute. Maybe by just giving advice.

- John Lawson, Editor

IMPORTANT - CHANGE OF VENUE

The Spring Concert that was advertised to be held in Elder Hall in the last issue of the newsletter will now be held in CONCORDIA AUDITORIUM, 45 Cheltenham Street, Highgate.

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WEB ADDRESS: amvc.org.au

David Conti: *Singer and Musician*



One of the strengths of the AMVC is the musical and social interaction of people from different countries and backgrounds, and David and his wife Rini have certainly made a fine contribution in that regard, adding a lively Italian flavour to our functions.

When David was seven years old, he and his family left Turin in Italy and set off for a new life in Australia. They landed in Brisbane, then travelled a further 1000 miles north to Babinda, the wettest town in Queensland. During World War II, David's father was interned at a camp in Loveday, near Berri in South Australia. He was released in 1943, after the surrender of Italy, and was allowed to come to

Adelaide, where his family was able to join him.

Even as a young child, David was involved in music making, when he sang Italian folk songs with his parents at family gatherings in Italy. Both his mother and father were good singers and often sang duets. His father also sang in falsetto, which

delighted his listeners. We haven't yet heard David sing in falsetto – in fact he has a beautiful deep bass voice - but he has clearly inherited the family flair for entertainment.

As can be seen from the photograph of young David, he is an instrumental player as well as vocalist. He learnt mandolin at the Adelaide College of Music in Victoria Square, and was successful in winning a competition which led to several years of playing on radio 5DN with the Adelaide Banjo Club. He taught several classes of banjo mandolin players there, and also participated in "On Parade" concerts at the Tivoli Theatre in Grote Street. He then formed a trio (mandolin, guitar and piano accordion) and played at many concerts for the elderly with Gladys Bailey's "Carina Singers".

Along with their music related activities, David and Rini have a strong commitment to family life, and make frequent trips interstate to see their children and grandchildren. A lullaby sung by grandfather David would certainly be a great treat for a small person!

David has the distinction of being one of the longest serving current members of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. He joined the Choir in 1988, when it was known as the Adelaide Glee Club, and has been an active and much appreciated member since that time. He also sings with Adelaide Light, a specialist ensemble within the AMVC.

17th Century Nun's Prayer

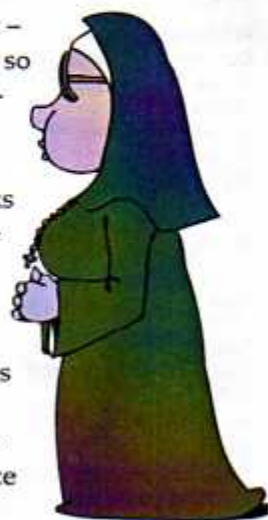
Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out somebody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to

get to the point. Seal my lips upon my aches and pains. They are increasing, and the love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory but for a growing humility and not a lessing cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not

want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so.



Heavenly Music



Sunday 19th June this year was a rather chilly winter's day, but the audience at the AMVC's "Music from Heaven" concert was soon feeling warmed and uplifted by the splendid singing.

The programme of sacred music ranged from Haydn to contemporary items, with several of the pieces arranged by Conductor Bill Shaw. The Choir sang with conviction and demonstrated a sensitive empathy in interpreting the styles of different pieces.

We were fortunate to have guest soloists Tasso Bouyessis, Prue Hompas and Anthony Waack appear on the programme, providing several individual solo items as well as being soloists with the Choir in selected pieces.

The final item for the afternoon was an inspiring rendition of Haydn's "Gloria" arranged by Bill for the Choir and the three guest soloists. The fine voices of the soloists blended with the controlled power of the Choir to create a truly thrilling finale to the concert.

Adelaide Light providing part of the entertainment for the "Music from Heaven" concert



Anthony Waack



Prue Hompas



Tasso Bouyessis

Someone's got to do it!

During September, myself and two other stalwart members of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir - Ian Milbank and Neville Roach - were selected for a special project.

We have been sent out into our beautiful (but tempting) Barossa Valley to try out and select a good quality Tawny Port blend for our choir and friends of the choir.

This project is hoped will raise a few extra funds to cover the ever-increasing expenses of running this historic institution.

We hope to be able to get it at a competitive price and identify the bottle with an AMVC label.

After a number of visits to great outlets we were secretly informed that a lot of the locals get their port from a little winery up Stemgarten Road, off Rowland Flat, called Liebich.

After a quality tasting we performed the back-breaking job of filling and corking a hundred bottles, dealing effectually with all the overflows.

We now have the product ready for the choir and Friends of the Choir.

If this first liquid fund raiser meets to your satisfaction, then another brave team will hit the road again with hopes to bring home the bacon.

- David Evans



New Fuel Gauge



Solos and surprises

On Sunday 10 July this year, the choir held a special function for members and friends – our annual Solo Performance event, plus a surprise party to celebrate conductor Bill Shaw's 20th anniversary with the Choir.

The function was held in the pleasant environment of the Drill Hall of the Torrens Parade Ground, and we thank Choir member Kevin Fisher for arranging to make the venue available to us.

The solo performances were all by members of the Choir, and gave the men an opportunity to demonstrate their individual talents in a range of songs and styles. The standard of singing was excellent, and it was a



Bill, surveying the cake, celebrating his 20th anniversary with the choir, seems to be saying, "All for Me!"

thoroughly enjoyable concert.

The celebration party for Bill, which followed the concert, was a remarkably well kept secret – everybody knew about it beforehand, except for Bill and Daina! It was a very warm and happy function, with a magnificent celebration cake for all to share, tributes to Bill and flowers for Daina.

Many thanks to the good friends who attended and to all those involved in the organisation of such a memorable occasion.



David Hokin drew the short straw and started the solo afternoon with a lovely rendition of "The Rose of Tralee".



Bill and Daina looking at the card given to him, with Daina's cousin, Gundega, looking on.



Part of the audience at the Solo and Surprise Party afternoon.



Shirley, a long-time supporter of the choir, singing a duet with second tenor, Bruce Risby.



Voices from across the Tasman



The Hamilton (NZ) Civic Choir.

styles, especially as the Hamilton Choir is mixed voice choir but this added to the enjoyment of the whole performance.

When the concert came to an end, members of both choirs and their supporters congregated in the hall behind the church for afternoon tea for a social get-together and then later in the evening met at the Hotel Victor for dinner. With over 80 people to cater for at short notice, the staff of the hotel did a wonderful job.

The Hamilton Civic and the Adelaide Male Voice choirs would like to thank all those who helped in any way to make the day such a success, with particular thanks to AMVC President John Lawson, who as a "local" from Goolwa worked hard on arrangements for the concert.

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir joined with the Hamilton Civic Choir (from New Zealand) on Saturday, 17th July, to give a concert in the Church of Christ, Victor Harbor, with part of the proceeds going to the local branch of the Cancer Council.

The ladies of the church not only provided an excellent afternoon tea after the concert but also had the forethought to provide tea and coffee for choir members of both choirs soon after they arrived from Adelaide.

Each choir sang two brackets of songs, with the Hamilton Choir starting off first and the Adelaide Male Voice Choir finishing the concert. There was quite a contrast in



The Church of Christ, Victor Harbor.

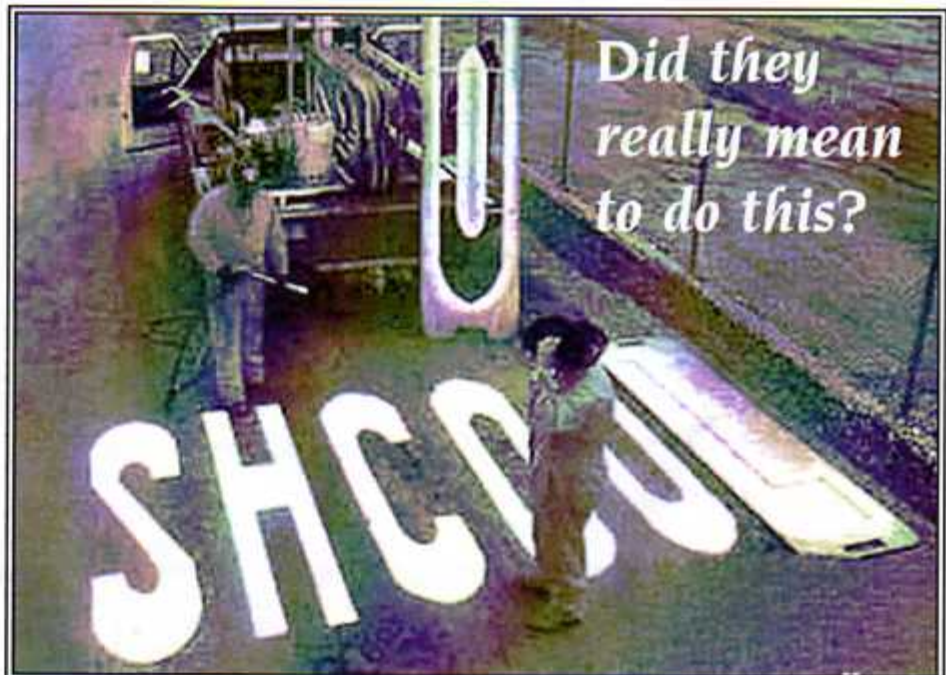


Director of Music for the Hamilton Civic Choir, Rachael Griffiths-Hughes

The venue was admirable, with plenty of room at the back of the church to change, have afternoon tea for about 80 people and to "tune-up" voices before the concert.

Preparations before the concert were greatly assisted with help from John Mathieson, a member of the church, who helped so quietly and efficiently with everything in the Church on the day.

The church also advertised in their newsletter and by projection in the church on the Sunday before the concert.



Music Made in Heaven

by Stephanie and Neville Roach



Lord Of The Dance", played on clarinet and saxophone. What a great future the boys have!

The Tenor soloist Tasso Bouyessis had all in the palm of his hand with both "O Sole Mio" and "Torna A Surriento", when his beautiful voice and his interaction with his audience showed what a favourite he is wherever he sings.

This concert, which raised \$660 for Catholic charities, was the first of its kind in our church, for the parish community, and was enjoyed so much by the 125 people who attended that many commented that next time they would come again and bring a party with them!

Interestingly, the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, which is a voluntary organisation, and sings without payment to its singers, does not appear to have sung in a Catholic church in the memory of any of the singers. For some of them, it was their first visit to a Catholic church and a number of them thanked the community for the warmth of the welcome they received. One comment heard several times was how "bright" and "fresh" and "clean" our church is. Interesting, isn't it, how we appear to others?

All in all, a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

On Sunday, 3rd July, the Parish of St. Joseph's was treated to an afternoon of "Music Made in Heaven", a concert organised by the Social and Charities Committee, featuring a range of musicians.

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir, at 121 years old the longest continuously running choir in the State, sang a variety of songs, including the rousing "Brothers Sing

On", the tender folk tune "Aura Lee", the well known hymn "The Holy City" until they concluded with "The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves". The tune of this finale was at one time used as an Italian anthem, and was familiar to many of the audience.

Interspersed with the choral numbers were solo and small group acts which were greatly enjoyed by all. The quartet "Cantora", featuring our own Julie Priem, left the audience wanting more, especially after their rendition of The Seekers hit "The Carnival Is Over".

More Parish talent in the form of Daniel and Ben Clohesy impressed all, with their own arrangement of "The



Roll up! Roll up!

Come to the Choir's Quiz Night

Friday, 18th November, 7.30 pm

RAAF Association Bowling Club Hall, 150 Belair Road, Hawthorn

Only \$5 per person

Lots of fun - Prizes - Not too serious

See you there

Tables of 10 to be pre-booked. Bring your own supper and drinks.

Phone 8270 2628 - 8332 1895 - 8353 6359



Fiji adventures for Colin Styles

In May this year, Choir member Colin Styles was involved in a backbreaking but rewarding Rotary aid project in Fiji. Congratulations to Colin on successfully completing such a worthwhile endeavour. His description of the project is given below:



One of the houses being built.

"A team of seven Rotarians from SA travelled to Lautoka, Fiji, to work on a project ROTAHOMES in May 2005 for 19 days.

The aim of the project is to build one-room houses for the poor of the area. Our group had received sufficient funds to provide a separate Toilet, Shower, Kitchen (TSK) for the house we built.

The project, the brain child of Fijian born Peter Drysdale, is in its 20th year. To date there have been 696 houses built in the country and 16 in the subdivision we worked on. The project can be worked on only in the dry season.

The weather was hot - we consumed at least 3 litres of water each whilst we were on site from 7.30am to 4.00pm, and we sweated most of it out pretty readily and lost a bit of excess weight.

Before a start at the subdivision, we had to prepare the rented accommodation which we and the 20 other teams which will go to the area during the next few months were to use. The house which once was a mansion had no water (the pump had broken down), lots of blown globes, broken light switches, no gas, broken toilet cisterns and the insides of the cupboards were more than a little green. All these were fixed (just as well we had an electrician with us!) and then we got around to making our beds - this now has a new meaning for us as we literally had to make the beds, as only the parts were provided. Still we did it and, as well, made sufficient for the teams



- SELF SUFFICIENCY WORK**
 - Grow own food
 - Work, Share
 - Celebrate achievement
- SAVE OUR SOIL**
 - Soil conservation
 - Composting Mulching
- CLEAN AIR, SAVE WATER**
 - No burning
 - Re-use water - gardens
- GREEN & CLEAN**
 - Landscaping, Flowers, Pride
 - No Litter
 - Food, Shade, Firewood
- PEACE & QUIET**
 - No dogs, roosters
 - 10pm morning quiet

to come.

We had a taste of what to expect from the local dogs that and every night we were there - they howled and barked seemingly all night and slept all day. As most houses seemed to have at least 2 or 3 pets the cacophony of sound was anything but a lullaby. Still, that was part of life in that area.

Work began in earnest and we built the house from the bearers and joists upwards. This was no mean feat as all the houses had to be the same size etc. The wood from which



Well, it's off to work we go.

the wall and roof frames, floorboards, doors and window shutters were made was locally grown and treated pine, which literally wept when nailed.

Insulation was installed on the side of the house which faced the sun. This was needed as the walls were made from colorbond. The windows and doors were wooden and placed in such a way as to catch any breeze. The kitchen in the TSK consisted of 2 planks on a support. All cooking and washing up was done out of doors. (We thought of starting up a business when back in SA, but weren't too sure of how many orders we would get!) This may sound very basic, but in comparison with the conditions in which so many of the residents were living it was 5-star.

We were fortunate enough to meet the family who was allotted our house. The family - father, mother, two children and a crippled grandmother - had been living in the fertilizer shed of a sugar cane farmer and as it was time for preparation for harvest to be made the family was evicted with nowhere to go.

One Fijian, Saten, is employed to assist and work with the teams and to prepare sites for additional houses. He was an absolute gem and so skilled and proud of what he

was helping to build. There were a couple of other paid workers and they were under Saten's charge.



Two very wet children from the area.

Other help appeared on the Sunday in the form of the Volunteers. These were the male residents who were expected to help with the construction (if they didn't help at all there was the threat of eviction from the subdivision - and there were plenty just waiting to take their place). The little boys of the subdivision were around during the weekends filling every possible hole with nails. (There was so much metal in the form of metal strapping and nails that should a cyclone hit the area the whole subdivision would resemble a scene from the Wizard of Oz). None of us have seen such a clean work site, for any timber off cuts or metal left on site in the afternoon were gone in the morning - the wood to act as fuel for their fires and the metal for home improvements.



Sitting down to a "thank-you" meal from residents of the village

We did have a rest day after 11 days of working, and we travelled to the Beachcomber Island and spent the time relaxing and enjoying water sports (a much needed break I can assure you).

We progressed sufficiently well in that we virtually completed two houses and one TSK before returning to SA."



"Euro-English"

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should clear up konfusion, and keyboards can have one less letter.

There will be growing public enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter. In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling can be expected to reach the stage where more komplikatated changes are possible. Governments will encourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v". During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" can be dropd from voids kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensihl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urep vi finali kum tru. Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

Voices of Spring Concert

CONCORDIA COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

45 Cheltenham Street, HIGHGATE (plenty of parking)

Sunday, 18th September, 2005, 2 pm

Conductor: William Shaw Accompanist: Edward Kriek
and Soloist EMMA HORWOOD

(See enclosed flyer for more details)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 2005

SEPTEMBER

Sun. 18th 2.00 pm

VOICES OF SPRING concert with solo st.
CONCORDIA COLLEGE AUDITORIUM, 45
Cheltenham Street, HIGHGATE (plenty of parking).
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE.

OCTOBER

Fri. 28th 6.30 pm

OPERA DINNER at ADELAIDE PAVILION, Veale
Gardens, Adelaide. Soloists Deborah Caddy and
Tasso Bouyessis.

NOVEMBER

Sun. 13th 2.00 pm

Concert at Goolwa for St. John's Auxiliary, Centenary
Hall, Cadell Street, Goolwa

Fri. 18th 7.30 pm

QUIZ NIGHT - RAAF Association Bowling Club Hall,
150 Belair Road, Hawthorn

Thur. 24th 7.30 pm

Concert for Lutheran Homes, 24 Avenue Rd., Glynde.

Sun. 27th 4.00 pm

Proposed Wine Tasting, Windy Point Restaurant.

DECEMBER

Fri. 16th 7.00 pm

Christmas Dinner at 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. A donation of no more than \$10 a year per family would be greatly appreciated to help defray the costs of printing and posting the newsletter. The committee hopes you think the choir and newsletter are worth supporting and can understand the request for the above donation.

For details please contact the Secretary

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

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone

Mobile

Email address

