

**delaide**  
male voice choir inc.  
ESTABLISHED 1884

# In Harmony

Newsletter of the  
Adelaide Male Voice Choir  
No. 18 SUMMER 2005

## Thank you

It seems as if I have to go out with a whimper and not a bang.

I will not be standing for nomination as President of the Choir for next year, and gave my reasons as the distance I now live from Adelaide and the increasing costs of travelling to and from choir and concerts. Unfortunately another reason has materialised since in that I have had a mild stroke. It has certainly curtailed a lot of my activity, especially as I cannot drive my car for at least a month. This means that I won't be attending any more functions of the choir before Christmas and so will miss the choir's Christmas Dinner.

Because I won't be at the Christmas Dinner I would like to say a big thank-you to all who have supported me during my presidency and hope that you will continue that support with your new President and committee.

This thank-you also includes all the wives and partners of choir members and the many registered friends the choir now has who so faithfully support the choir.

I have been in the choir now for 19 years, three of those years being on the committee and a total of eight as president and have seen many changes since 1986. The main change has been the way our concert programme has changed. We used to perform to at least 14 retirement villages or nursing homes and one main concert a year.

Now the choir performs at so many different venues and also with other choirs.

The choir's main concerts feature some wonderful, young artists, who provide added impetus to the choir with their enthusiastic singing, encouraging members to try even harder.

## Look at my brother



Daniel, son of our accompanist, Eddie Kriek, and his wife Anna, looking very pleased after the arrival of a brand new brother on Monday, 5th December. Congratulations to them all

### CONTENTS

Ian Milbank: <i>Singer and Linguist</i>	2
Jacques Offenbach	2
Serenade to Spring	3
Quiz night	3
Northern experience	4
School howlers	4
I don't believe it	4
A sparkling night	5
Goolwa concert	5
A rural view of Handel's "Messiah"	6
Dates for your diary	6

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

**President:**  
Mr John Lawson

**Vice-President:**  
Mr Colin Styles

**Secretary:**  
Mr Colin Styles  
4 Petrel Court  
Flagstaff Hill 5159  
Tel.: (08) 8270 2628  
Email:  
coljudst@bigpond.net.au

**Treasurer:**  
Mr John Winnall

**Committee:**  
Denis West (librarian)  
Ian Milbank, David  
Evans, Jean-Pierre Rival,  
Neville Roach

**Director of Music:**  
Mr William Shaw

**Accompanist:**  
Mr Edward Kriek

**Promotions and  
Concert Bookings  
Committee:**

Mr David Evans  
Mr William Shaw  
Mr Ian Hunt  
Mr David Duffner

**Concert Manager:**  
Mr Neville Roach  
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

WEB ADDRESS: [amvc.org.au](http://amvc.org.au)

# Ian Milbank: Singer and Linguist

Ian Milbank is the Leader of the Bass section of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. He adds a richly resonant tone to the Choir, and his musicality and accuracy are greatly valued.

Ian has had a long interest in all aspects of music and more recently in choral music. One of his earliest recollections of singing is as a boy soprano, helping with the washing-up at home with his mother, Bessie Milbank (a trained coloratura soprano), singing the harmony part to force him to keep in tune. He feels it worked, as he can usually hold his part against opposition from other sections. While he was a boy soprano, he sang in the combined choirs which used to perform annually in the Adelaide Town Hall.

Once his voice had broken, Ian did very little singing until he was at University, where he was part of the Adelaide Teachers College choir, and later, a member of the French Madrigal Group, organised by the French Club of the University of Adelaide and directed by Dr Jack Peters.

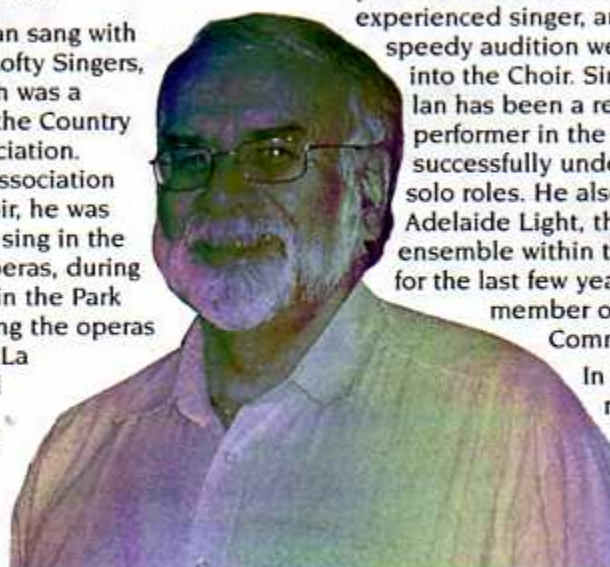
After his University days there was

an excursion into Gilbert and Sullivan, singing in Enfield High School productions of *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Patience*, *HMS Pinafore* and *The Mikado*.

For a time Ian sang with the Mount Lofty Singers, a choir which was a member of the Country Choral Association. During his association with the choir, he was also able to sing in the chorus of operas, during the Operas in the Park series. Among the operas were *Tosca*, *La Traviata* and *Beatrice et Benedict* all under the baton of visiting overseas conductors.

Once the funding ran out for these, Ian sang in the Fiesta Chorus, accompanied by the Youth Orchestra, in a production of *The Creation*.

It was during a second stint at



Woodville High School that Ian met AMVC Conductor Bill Shaw and asked him in early 1995 if he could use a Bass singer. Bill was only too pleased to recruit such an experienced singer, and after a speedy audition welcomed him into the Choir. Since that time Ian has been a regular performer in the Choir, and has successfully undertaken several solo roles. He also sings with Adelaide Light, the specialist ensemble within the AMVC, and for the last few years has been a member of the Choir Committee.

In addition to his musical talents, Ian is also a gifted linguist, with specific proficiency in the French and Italian

languages. He has visited France several times, including a period in 1969/70 when he worked in France as an Assistant, teaching English conversation. He currently holds the position of English and Languages Coordinator at Mt Barker High School.

# Jacques Offenbach

Bill Shaw

AMVC members have frequently asked Conductor Bill Shaw for background stories about the composers of the music they sing, so



here is some information from Bill about Jacques Offenbach, who wrote such singable music, as we all heard at the recent Opera Dinner.

The most popular composer of

Second Empire France, Offenbach dominated the Parisian musical theatre between 1855 and 1875. He was a composer with a gift for writing catchy, tuneful melodies, with a witty and somewhat cynical view of the world, who composed dozens of operettas which were hits of the time in Paris, Berlin and London. The International Exposition of 1855 held in Paris made that city the toast of sophisticated Europe, and Offenbach's music was quickly adopted by every band in a city which was mad about dancing.

Offenbach was born in Cologne in 1819 (he was later known to his friends as "O de Cologne") and learnt the cello as a child. He was accepted into the Paris Conservatoire at an early age, but only lasted a year - he wanted to compose theatre music, not to study harmony. He played cello in the orchestra of the Opera Comique and later became conductor at the Theatre Français. He gradually won a reputation as a prolific composer of

light and humorous operettas, including "Orpheus in the Underworld", "La Belle Helene" and "La Vie Parisienne".

Despite the popularity of his operettas (he produced between three and seven per year!), he often lived beyond his means and was constantly on the run from his creditors. Only in his later years did he achieve some financial security, even though his popularity waned in Paris from 1871, the year of the Prussian invasion of France. He often travelled to London to perform his works and was immensely popular there. It was the presence of numerous Offenbach theatre pieces on the stages of London which galvanised Gilbert and Sullivan into starting their careers as men of the musical theatre.

"I have one horrible, invincible vice, that of working all the time. I regret it for the sake of those people who do not like my music, for I shall certainly die with a melody at the end of my pen." - Jacques Offenbach



# Serenade to Spring

The AMVC, conducted by Bill Shaw and accompanied by Edward Kriek, welcomed springtime in fine style at the "Voices of Spring" concert on Sunday 18 September in the beautiful setting of the Concordia College Auditorium.

The Choir's program was based on songs related to spring and the passing of winter. Not surprisingly, the theme of love predominated, in traditional airs such as "My Luve is Like a Red Red Rose" as well as classical songs like Dowland's "Come Again Sweet Love" and contemporary pieces such as Milton Ager's "Ain't She Sweet". The diversity of songs gave the Choir the opportunity to demonstrate its interpretative ability across a range of styles, its technical skill and its sheer joy in singing.

Adelaide Light, the specialist ensemble within the AMVC, gave a polished performance of two classical pieces "April is in my Mistress' Face" by Thomas Morley and "Bon Jour Mon Coeur" by the

French composer Orlando di Lasso.

Guest artist at the concert was accomplished soprano and harpist Emma Horwood. Emma's purity of vocal tone blended beautifully with her delicate harp accompaniment in a delightful performance of various pieces ranging from Caccini's "Ave Maria" to the traditional "How Can I Keep from Singing".

The concert concluded with the AMVC singing a Lennon/McCartney medley, arranged for the Choir by Bill Shaw. The haunting and wistful melodies were a charming finale to an afternoon of lovely music.



Emma Horwood

## Quiz night

Good fun was had by all at the annual Quiz Night, held in the RAAF Association Bowls clubrooms on Friday, 18th November.

The prizes for the raffle, beautifully wrapped by Rose-Ann Lawson and Judy Styles, were much appreciated by the participants (and particularly

the winners).

Colin Styles and John Lawson as quizmasters, kept the evening going and Judy and Rose-Ann kept the score.

Funds raised for the choir totalled just under \$500.



One of the teams on the quiz night.



Paul and Lyn Busuttill, winners of the first prize in the raffle - a basket of fresh, organic fruit.



# Northern experience *by John Wear*

## Northern Experience

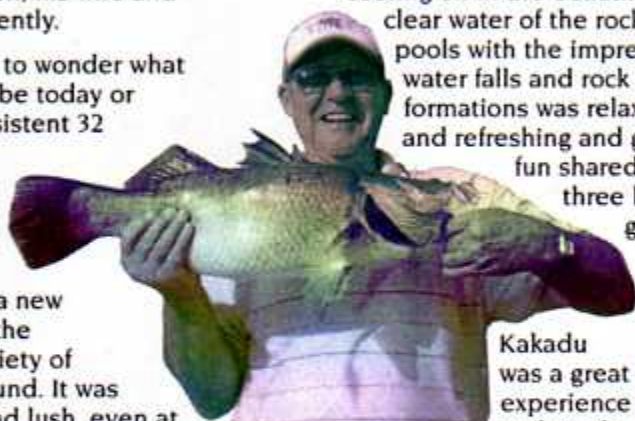
"You will never know if you never go" is very true, as AMVC member John Wear and his wife Lois found out when they spent four weeks in Darwin with their son, his wife and three little girls recently.

There was no need to wonder what the weather would be today or tomorrow, as a consistent 32 degrees plus and fairly humid was the order of the day. You could not help but feel you were experiencing a new environment, with the abundance and variety of tropical foliage around. It was still pretty green and lush, even at the end of the dry season. The daily presence of little geckos and lizards could not help but make you aware of your new location, and the chorus of the green tree frogs of an evening was worth listening to and interesting to observe.

Like most tourists and locals alike, visits to the local sights were enjoyed, such as watching the beautiful sunsets from Mindil Beach and Cullen Bay. Visiting the markets at Mindil and Parap was fun, where you could savour a wide variety of food and purchase items of jewellery and art made by people from different cultures. To the background of live entertainment you could even have a massage, if you were able to

switch off from all the activity around you, as people of all ages were enjoying the atmosphere and excitement.

Visiting Litchfield and experiencing cooling off in the beautiful clear water of the rock pools with the impressive water falls and rock formations was relaxing and refreshing and great fun shared with three little girls.



Kakadu was a great experience and much

more than the usual picture of some water, lilies and crocodiles. The Yellow Water tour was worth getting up early for, as the variety of bird life was abundant, from little Kingfishers to Brolgas and Jabirus.

Visiting Ubirr and Nourlangie to see the sunsets was ethereal, and you could not help but feel in awe of aboriginal rock paintings and respect the people who had lived in this environment. It was like you were aware of their presence so long ago and felt rather sad that time had changed everything so much. The

scenery and splendour of the rock formations in their many colours to the wetlands below were breathtaking and beautiful.

All the noted attractions were visited, from the Wharves which were the first hit when Darwin was bombed, to the Museums which included both War and Aviation, and the lovely Botanical Gardens and Crocodylus Park.

John's highlight was getting up at 4.30am for a fishing trip to the Mary River at Shady Camp and being rewarded with a 67cm Barramundi. AMVC member Bob Cooter and his



wife Marie were visiting Darwin at the time and were invited to share in the catch at a BBQ with the family the next day.

It was a great holiday, and they are now looking forward to a return visit in the future.

## School howlers

Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and travelled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere. Certain areas of the dessert are cultivated by irritation.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.

Nero was a cruel tyrant who would torture his poor subjects by playing the fiddle to them.

Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.

Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but another man of the same name.

Magna Carta provided that no man should be hanged twice for the same offence.

Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines.

Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients.

Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada.

## I don't believe it!

David Conti, from the choir's bass section, has recently taken up Pilates - you can see the results



# A sparkling night

The AMVC Opera Dinner on Friday 28 October in the Adelaide Pavilion Restaurant was a truly sparkling event in every aspect - glorious singing and wonderful food and wine in a beautiful parkland setting.



Soloist Tasso Bouyessis, Colin Styles (secretary of the choir) and Tasso's lovely wife Angelique.

Earlier this year, AMVC Conductor Bill Shaw had spent quite a few happy hours researching opera and

operetta repertoire in order to select some particularly melodious and enjoyable pieces for the Choir and soloists to perform at the Dinner. He finally settled on music by Verdi, Lehar, Johann Strauss and Offenbach, and in some cases arranged the pieces specifically for the Choir and soloists. It is likely that one of the songs, Lehar's "Volgalied" received its first Adelaide public performance at the Dinner.

Our guest soloists Deb Caddy and Tasso Bouyessis are both highly qualified professional singers, who have achieved international recognition, and we are very fortunate in

having them to perform with us. They have developed a special rapport with the Choir which is

reflected in their singing together.

The exhilarating Brindisi chorus from "La Traviata" with soprano, tenor and chorus set the mood for the 30-minute opera program, which continued with pieces from "Die Fledermaus" by Strauss and "Der Zarewitsch" by Lehar. Both Deb and Tasso are excellent actors as well as accomplished singers, and captured the mood of each song, whether mischievous, flirtatious or nostalgic. The last item was from Offenbach's "La Vie Parisienne" with Bill inciting chorus, soloists and accompanist Edward Kriek to an exciting finale to the program.

The festive atmosphere established by the concert continued throughout the evening as audience and performers enjoyed the fine food, wine and good company. It was particularly delightful that so many Friends of the Choir were present, and we look forward to meeting again at the Opera Dinner in 2006.

## Goolwa concert

This concert was well attended and the choir and soloists are still being talked about with various people



saying they will definitely be there next year.

The choir was well received as they sang a good mix of music.

Tasso Bouyessis was the usual expressive, unselfish entertainer and gave a wonderful performance (which all the ladies in the audience particularly appreciated).

Jamie Adam had the difficult task of assembling his marimba (thank you Stephanie Roach for helping him transport it to Goolwa) but when he played he amazed the audience with his dexterity and musicianship.

The afternoon was finished off with a lovely country-style afternoon tea, supplied by the St John's Auxiliary ladies.

Thank you to those ladies and to Jocelyn Bayly, for all the co-operation given.

The amount raised for the St John's Auxiliary was \$1000.



# A rural view of Handel's "Messiah"

A farm lad, fresh from the fields, was given the opportunity of attending a performance of Handel's Messiah in the neighbouring town. Here is his description of the event.

"Well, it was all right, but not quite what I expected. There wasn't a lot of movement on the stage. In fact, there wasn't a lot of room on the stage. It was full of singers.

I was sitting there for quite a bit, when in comes a load of fellas carrying fiddles. Then they brought in the biggest fiddle I have ever seen. It was so big that they had to wheel it in on castors. Then a little chap rubbed its belly with a stick and you should have heard it groan. It sounded like a cow with croup. Well, all the fiddles joined in and made such a racket. Then they settled down and it all went quiet.

After about a minute in came the Messiah; well I think it was him. He was a dapper bloke all dolled up in a white waistcoat with a red carnation in his buttonhole. Yes, I'm sure he must have been the Messiah. Then he picked up a little stick and started waving it at everybody on the stage. They were all staring at him, wondering what was up. Then they started to sing.

They had not been going long before they were fighting like cats. They wanted to know who was the King of Glory. First one side said HE is the King of Glory, and then the other side said HE is the King of Glory, and then they went at it hammer and tongs, but it fizzled out in the end.

Then there was a right to-do about some sheep which had gone astray. Some of the singers must have been partial to a bit of mutton because they kept singing "All we like sheep". Personally, I like a bit of well-done steak, but never mind. Well, I think that them lost sheep must have belonged to one of the singers, because he stood up and said that every mountain and hill should have been laid low. Good, I thought to myself, if they flatten all the mountains they'll be sure to find the sheep that had gone astray.

Then the organist started up and the band joined in, and by gum, they seemed to be getting mad over something. The way they were sawing at those fiddles, I was expecting them to fall apart.

Then after that all the women stood up and started to sing. Believe me, some of them were a bit past it by looking at them. They must have been 70 if they were a day and they sang 'unto us a child is born' and all the fellas shouted 'wonderful'. I thought it was a bloomin' miracle! Then they all composed themselves a bit and sang about a woman called 'Joyce Greatly'. I had never heard of

her, but apparently she's a daughter of Zion, whoever he is.

I was getting a bit fed up by now. I had been seated for nearly two hours when all of a sudden I got a cramp in my leg. I jumped up at the same time. All the rest of the



audience must have had cramp, it seemed to me, for they all stood up too. Then the choir shouted 'Hallelujah. It's going to rain forever'. Well I'd never thought to bring my brolly, so I thought I had best get off home before it started. So seeing I was on my feet, I reckon I'd had my money's worth. Anyway, it was a good do, but I hope they find those lost sheep."

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 2006

### FEBRUARY

Mon. 6th 7.45 pm  
Mon. 20th 7.45 pm

PRACTICES RESUME.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

## "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: coljudst@bigpond.net.au  
Please include me on the special "Friends of the Choir" mailing list

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_



# ***Do You Sing In The Shower????***

***If so, read on . . .***

All those bathroom *basses*, *baritones* and *tenors* out there who would like to develop their voices and sing a range of music from Gershwin and Opera Choruses to modern musicals, try being part of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

The Choir, founded in 1884 as the Adelaide English Glee Society, later the Adelaide Glee Club, has entertained Adelaide and country audiences since that time . . . with a change of name and personnel along the way! During its history many notable people such as Peter Dawson and Percy Grainger have had association with the Choir. We are fortunate to have as our current patron Her Excellency, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson.

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir aims for excellence in its choral performances and to build on its qualities by inviting new members to be part of a group of welcoming people with a variety of interests and occupations. We sing three major concerts and six or seven smaller ones each year, usually on Sundays, and practise each Monday evening in the city

*If you would like to observe a practice night or to ask  
about joining, please call*

**8270 2628, 8280 7759, or 8332 1895**

or check our website [www.amvc.org.au](http://www.amvc.org.au)