



# In Harmony

Newsletter of the  
Adelaide Male Voice Choir  
No. 19    AUTUMN 2006

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Practices are held every Monday  
at 7.45pm to 9.45 pm at St  
Stephen's Lutheran Church,  
152 Wakefield Street, Adelaide

## From the President Welcome to 2006

A very warm welcome to the first edition for 2006 of the AMVC's Newsletter. We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. A great deal has happened for the AMVC since our last rehearsal for 2005.

We are all looking forward to a full and tuneful 2006. It is good to see our members looking relaxed and enthusiastic for the coming year of music and fun together. As you are aware we are always looking to welcome new members - so if you know of any man who enjoys singing might I suggest that you encourage him to make contact with one of the members of the Choir to find out more about us. It would be great to hear from them.

### NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Sadly a past member, Vice Patron and staunch supporters of the AMVC Ray Brown and his wife Joyce have both died. We extend our condolences to their family. We will all miss greatly the cheery smile and words of encouragement we have received from them both. Their contributions to the life and well being of the AMVC cannot be overestimated.

News of our immediate Past President John Lawson is much more encouraging thankfully. John informs us that he is progressing very well after his stroke, and that he and Rose-Ann are enjoying life at Goolwa.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without acknowledging the wonderful contribution John has made to the AMVC not only as President (twice) but as lead

of the Second Tenors. John has been a very hands-on member. He has led by example. He has been unstinting of his time and talents for the benefit of the Choir. When ever there was a task to be done whether it be the design of programs or co-hosting a Quiz night John has always been very happy and willing to become really involved. His encouragement and enthusiasm for the group has been an inspiration to us all and his cheerful smile and ready wit and laugh will be greatly missed.

John would not have been able to devote so much time and effort into the AMVC without the very strong and active support from his wife Rose-Ann. Whenever there was a social event such as the Christmas Dinner, or fund raiser we could always be sure to find her hand

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

behind much of the planning and presentation of the event. She rarely missed a concert and took an interest in all the Choir's activities.

On behalf of all the members of the AMVC I thank them both most sincerely for all they have done to make the AMVC more than a group of men who meet once a week to make music together. We hope you both enjoy life at Goolwa for many years to come and that you both enjoy good health and times together.

Another loss to the Choir has been the services of our assistant conductor Jonathan Bligh. Jonathan has increased his study load and therefore been unable to continue with us. We all enjoyed working with Jonathan and his youthful enthusiasm was infectious. We wish him well for his future and anticipate that it will be successful with the positive attitude he displays to all he tackles.

Congratulations to Ed and Anna Kriek on the safe arrival of their second son Christian. We hope that it will not be long before you all get an uninterrupted night's sleep.

### WE HAVE MOVED

On our return for practices for 2006 we found we needed to find new rehearsal premises. Our traditional home at the Grote Street Church of Christ hall had been considered unsafe and so the hunt was on for new premises. We have enjoyed a great relationship with the Grote Street people and thank them most sincerely for all they have done for us in the past and hope that as the Market Place Church they will go from strength to strength.

All members were asked to suggest possible venues. A small sub-committee was elected to investigate these suggestions. I would like to thank not only the subcommittee but also everyone who assisted with finding our new home - it was no small task. After much time, many visits and disappointments we have found a new home at St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Wakefield Street, Adelaide. We are very grateful for the help and co-operation from the church members of St Stephen's in making our transition so smooth and successful. We can assure our new hosts that we feel at home already and will do all in our power to be worthy tenants.

As many of us know it is no easy thing to leave a place we have called home and there are many things which have to be attended to, like what do we do with all our music when we have limited storage facilities, to name but one. Thanks to all the Choir members who helped with the move of our piano, music and goods and chattels. Especial thanks go to our Music Librarian Denis West and his assistant Bill Brooker who have been able to organise the storage of our non-current repertoire in the home of Mrs Irene Glaros - one of our greatest supporters and Friend of the Choir. What a relief this has been to us all. Thank you so much for your generosity Irene and for the countless hours you have spent on our behalf Denis and Bill.

Now that the search for a new rehearsal venue and the logistics of storing our trappings have been solved it is off to another year of good music and fellowship. I hope you all have a wonderful year and that you will be eager to attend our first concert and any social get together we may organise for 2006.

Let's all have a great year.

- Colin Styles

## Ray Brown . . .

. . . a long-time member and vice-patron of the choir (43 years), died on 14th January. Since 1963 he was a really committed member and served the choir in just about every capacity. He was a staunch member of the bass section and sang many solos and won a few of the annual solo competitions.

I sang duets with him on many occasions but what I remember most was his rendition of *Poor Jud is Dead* from *Oklahoma*, which brought many laughs, and his taking the part of *Fagin* from *Oliver*, when the choir performed a selection of songs from the Lionel Bart musical. Every time we sang the selection he appeared with an additional wardrobe item, including wig, hat, stick, etc., until he really looked the part.

A notable "duet" I did with him was a miming rendition of *Sisters* from *White*

*Christmas*, which we performed at one of the Christmas Dinners held at the Feathers Hotel - and we dressed for appropriately!

Anything Ray did for the choir he did thoroughly. He was instrumental in obtaining the previous hall in Grote Street. Although rather dilapidated, it served the choir well and it was very inexpensive to hire.

He also was the person through whom I joined the choir, initially in 1983 (I left soon after to go to England for 12 months), and by him keeping in touch I rejoined in 1986. He appeared with another choir member on the Lionel Williams Show, promoting the choir and looking for new members. My



Ray as Fagin

wife saw it and within a week I went along to a rehearsal.

It was a testament to Ray's popularity and commitment that 15 members of the choir were able to attend his funeral. At the request of the family, we all sang along with a CD recording of "Lord, Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace". Other choir music was also played in the background during the service.

Sadly, Joyce, his wife of over 60 years, passed away on 13th March. Several members of the choir also attended her funeral. She was a constant support of Ray, and supporter of the choir, particularly up until the late 1980s, when her health began to deteriorate. She often reminisced of the earlier days of the Glee Club when the ladies of the choir were expected to set up for the supper socials and decorate the hall to which only the men attended these functions. The ladies then had to clear afterwards.

Both of them were a great support to Rose-Ann and I when I first became President of the choir in 1993 and our friendship lasted over 20 years.

John Lawson



# Robert Smith - *the all-rounder*

AMVC member Robert Smith is a fine example of the accomplished all-rounder, with a wide range of interests and skills, including sport, acting, dancing, the Army Reserve and, of course, singing.

Below is a brief summary by Robert of his interesting life to date.

"I was born at Peterborough in South Australia in 1929 and moved to Adelaide in 1935. I attended North Adelaide Primary School then Adelaide High School in Currie Street, where now is the Remand Centre.

Whilst at North Adelaide Primary, I became a Chorister at Christ Church in North Adelaide, firstly as a boy soprano, where I became one of the top paid boys (four shillings per month). I was awarded a Scholarship to attend Pulteney Grammar School, but did not take it as I was in my third year at High School.

I left school in 1945, just prior to the end of World War II (VP Day) to work as a Telegraph Messenger at the Adelaide GPO. I became a Postal Clerk/Telegraphist and was first posted to Quorn when the Ghan used to go through there. Then to

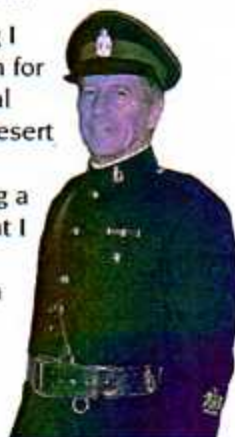
Jamestown, Glenelg, Prospect and Walkerville, where I resigned and went to ETSA as a Clerk.



I married Laurel in 1952 at Christ Church, North Adelaide, and we have two daughters Jennifer and Amanda.

I worked for two years at Clare before returning to Adelaide with ETSA and eventually becoming a Cashier there until retiring in 1992. Whilst with ETSA I spent a number of years as a Tenor in the ETSA Choral Society, where I often sang solos at concerts which they frequently presented.

Just prior to retiring I decided to audition for a part in the musical production "The Desert Song", and was successful in getting a small part. After that I had a part in "The Merry Widow", then "Showboat",



"Oklahoma", and "Fiddler on the Roof", all with the Marie Clark Singers. In all, I have been in eleven musical productions, three times in "Oklahoma" and twice in "Fiddler on the Roof".

It was after taking part with a Chorus and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in a presentation of Scriabin's "Prometheus" in



1996 that the Chorus Master, Russell Larkin, advised me to get involved with a reputable choir. I had an audition and was accepted as a First Tenor with the AMVC. I have been a member of the AMVC since then, even though I had some time off with a throat condition and then a heart attack at the end of that trouble in 2003, but have been 'on deck' continuously since then.

I umpired Australian Rules Football with the SA National Football League for 23 years, umpiring in all part of the state as well as in the city. Then, with my wife Laurel, I umpired Women's Netball for over 10 years.

I joined the CMF (later renamed Army Reserve) in 1957 and served in that for 27 years, and was Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) for a number of years before compulsory retirement at 55.

I was fortunate enough to be selected as a Torch Bearer for the 2000 Olympic Games, which was a great experience also.

My wife is involved with a tap dancing group called "The Timestep Tap Dancers", and they perform concerts at nursing homes, retirement villages and other charitable functions. I accompany them and comper their shows and sing a solo or two in between their acts when they have to change costumes.

My wife and I are both having ballroom dancing lessons, and having recently received our Silver Medals are now having lessons for the Gold Medal.



# A Sentimental Journey

During January and February this year, AMVC Conductor Bill Shaw and his wife Daina took an overseas "sentimental journey", to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

The first part of the journey was a train trip through the Canadian Rocky Mountains, to realise a childhood dream of Bill's, who has been a train



enthusiast all his life and the proud inheritor of his grandfather's rare collection of early train magazines, featuring famous trains and great railway journeys of the world.

The train trip was preceded by a few days spent in Vancouver, a beautiful city on the west coast of Canada, situated on a bay and with a background of snow-capped mountains. It is an elegant and laid-back city, with glamorous high-rise buildings, a sophisticated but leisurely life style, courteous motorists and a general sense of cosmopolitan tolerance. Daina and Bill stayed on the 17th floor of a hotel with breath-taking views over the harbour and city, and were intrigued to find a camera crew in the lift with them one day. Unfortunately, it was not that they had achieved fame at last, but that the hotel was an ideal location for filming, and the penthouse above them was featured in many a wellknown television series!

The 3-day rail journey across Canada from Vancouver to Toronto on the Via Rail express "The Canadian" was a memorable experience, travelling in comfort through some of the most magnificent mountain scenery in the world. The glass-enclosed observation dome and lounge car gave uninterrupted views of snowy mountains, icy lakes, and even

occasional small clusters of deer on the edges of snow-covered forests.

In Toronto, Daina had a happy (and tearful!) reunion with a childhood friend, whom she had not seen for nearly 50 years, but with whom she had maintained contact by letter and phone over the years since her friend's family had left Australia to

live in Canada. It was heartwarming to find that the bonds of friendship established so long ago by the little girls were as strong as ever, and that they had led almost parallel lives but in different countries.

After several days of socialising and reminiscing late into the night, it was on to the next stage of the journey, this time to another

country (across the border on a small propellor plane to Cleveland in the USA) and another sentimental meeting (with Daina's American cousins). In the uncertainty and chaos of post-war Europe, many families were separated, so while Daina's immediate family came to Australia, some of her extended family made their lives in the USA. She had never met her three

American cousins in person, although they had corresponded over the years, but it was a case of instant recognition and familiarity when they saw each other at the airport.

Daina and Bill were welcomed with great warmth by the American cousins (now grown to 46 in number!) and were overwhelmed with hospitality. They spent most of the 4-day visit chatting and feasting and catching up on family history, but managed to glimpse a little of Cleveland, which is a distinguished and dignified old city on the shores of Lake Erie. John D Rockefeller established the Standard Oil Company there in 1870 and the city is home to a renowned medical research centre, the Cleveland Clinic, and also the respected Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum is a

popular drawcard, and Bill and Daina spent a few hours in that remarkable building, looking at the interactive displays, original film footage and memorabilia tracing the history of rock and roll from its early jazz beginnings. Apparently it was a Cleveland radio DJ, Alan Freed, who in 1952 coined the term "Rock 'n' Roll".

The next destination was London, spending nearly three weeks with youngest son Nick and his wife Miriam and their two little daughters. It was wonderful enjoying the homely pleasures of cups of tea, chats, taking 4-year-old India to nursery school and of course cuddling the newest arrival, warm little baby Iris. Daina and Bill even had time for a little sight-seeing, including a fascinating visit to the Cabinet War Rooms, where Churchill and his staff planned WW2 strategy, and a cruise along the



Bill with his newest grand-daughter, Iris.

history laden River Thames to Greenwich. The Maritime Museum in Greenwich has a fine collection of paintings by an ancestor of Bill's called William Hodges, who was the artist on some of Captain Cook's voyages. An entertainment highlight was an evening at the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, to see a performance of the ballet *Giselle* by the Royal Ballet Company.

Daina and Bill returned to Adelaide in time to enjoy the excitement of the Festival and Fringe, and to participate in the happy move of the AMVC to its new rehearsal location and home at St Stephen's Lutheran Church in Wakefield Street. It has all been a wonderful start to the year 2006.

DS and WFS



# "Food, Glorious Food"

It would not be surprising to hear AMVC member Jean-Pierre Rival singing a few bars of the song "Food, Glorious Food" as he hurries about the tasks of his working day. Jean-Pierre is well-known to us as a superb chef, and we were very pleased to hear of his appointment a few months ago to the position of kitchen manager at the new furniture store IKEA. He has recently been particularly busy with the exciting preparations for the opening of the store.

Jean-Pierre is a valued member of the First Tenor section of the Choir, and is also popular with our concert audiences for his solo items, particularly the sophisticated French love songs, which show his dramatic flair and beautifully expressive voice to advantage.

So while we enjoy some refreshments in between shopping at IKEA, we may be lucky enough to hear a snatch of song from Jean-Pierre backstage!

DS



## Don Jessop writes



A few years ago I was asked to speak to the Men's Fellowship Breakfast at Malvern Methodist Church on the Centenary Service at which the new pipe

organ was dedicated. Prior to this I did some research with respect to previous organists and choirmasters. I found to my surprise that the organist and choirmaster in 1893 was my grandfather Thomas J. Jessop. He held that position until 1898 and proceeded as choirmaster until 1900. In 1900 his eldest daughter, Mabel (my aunt), served as organist for a year to 1901. During my grandfather's tenure he conducted choirs during

church services and at Sunday School anniversaries that were very popular and well attended. He had an extraordinary ear for music and could pick out a child who was out of tune with incredible accuracy (very much like Bill Shaw!).

In 1935 Barbara's (my wife's) cousin, Norman Chinner, was organist and choirmaster until 1939. Regrettably he died in 1961 aged 40 years. He was well known in South Australia and Australia as one of the best conductors nationally and internationally having conducted the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonic Choir for many years. My father, Lindsay, was one of his leading tenors and took the lead in The Messiah, St. Matthew Passion and Elijah, to name a few of his performances. He also was a member of The Adelaide Singers, a

mixed octet, consisting of Mary Heppenstall, Marie Clark (sopranos), Elsie Wooley and Gwen Collet (contraltos), Max Worthington and Lindsay Jessop (tenors) and Bill Harrison and Bill McEwen (basses).

The Adelaide Singers were disbanded in about 1972 to the dismay of the Friends of the ABC and the music public at large.

Another historic event in my family was when my grandfather, Thomas Jessop, was tenor soloist at the installation of the Adelaide Town Hall organ and coincidentally my wife's grand uncle, Wilfred Chinner was the organist.

Unfortunately I did not inherit the solo expertise of my father and grandfather. However, I enjoy singing with the baritones in the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

## Where was I?

Three sisters, 96, 93 and 91 all living together are getting a little vague.

One evening the eldest runs a bath then calls downstairs, "was I getting in or out?"

The 93 year old starts up the stairs, halfway she stops and calls down "was I coming down or going up?"

The youngest one, hearing this, says "I hope I don't get like them" and knocks on wood, then calls out, "I'll be up in a minute, I'll just see who's at the door".



# Wedding Bells



The Cathedral Choir sang, the Cathedral bells rang out and the organ resounded at the wedding on 19 March this year of Jessica Dean and Anthony Hunt at St Peter's Cathedral.

Jessica is well-known to the AMVC and its audiences for her enchanting guest soloist appearances at several of the Choir's public performances over the past few years. Her pure soprano voice, sparkling personality and interpretative and acting skills have endeared her to all her listeners.

The members of the AMVC were delighted to hear of Jessica's marriage to Anthony Hunt, a very talented and versatile young musician, who also has a fine reputation in the musical world of Adelaide. Both Jessica and Anthony have recently received music grants and are currently in London undertaking further studies.

The AMVC extends congratulations and best wishes to Jessica and Anthony for their future life together and their successful music partnership.

DS

## Bounced cheque

The following letter is purported to have been sent to a bank by a 96 year old female client. Many readers are likely to identify with the sentiments expressed:

"I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire income, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eighty years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and

hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an offence under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact Status form which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.



Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof. In due course, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service.

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Let me level the playing field even further. When you

call me, press the buttons as follows:

1. To make an appointment to see me.
2. To query a miss-ing payment.
3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
4. To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
5. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
6. To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated to you at a later date to the Authorised Contact.
7. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7.
8. To make a general complaint or inquiry. The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous New Year.

Your Humble Client"



# Volunteering at the Commonwealth Games - By Colin Styles

Recently I have returned from a stint as a member of the 14000 strong Aqua Army which helped make the 18th Commonwealth Games a success.

To be chosen as a volunteer required a process of two interviews, one by phone and then a one on one face to face in Adelaide. During the second interview small group exercises were conducted and preferences taken for areas of interest. At this interview we could suggest where we would like to work, but there could be no guarantee that our request could be satisfied.

Once selected it was a requirement that successful applicants attend two training sessions and a uniform collection session in Melbourne. There were a number of daily updates keeping volunteers informed of any changes made and highlighting events for the day. There were daily competitions to keep us on our toes and minds active. One of the training sessions was held at the Chadstone Campus of the Holmesglen Institute of TAFE. This conference outlined and gave participants practical experiences of being a Spectator Services Assistant - Spectator Services, and the second session was Venue Specific. At this session we learnt of the various idiosyncrasies of our specific venue.

I was fortunate enough to be given

my first choice of venue - the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. There were two main duty sessions during a normal day at MSAC during the Games: 7.00am - 3.30pm and 3.00pm - 11.30pm

Early morning "rev up the Volunteer" sessions ensured we were all awake by the time the first of the spectators arrived. During this time we were issued with daily general updates and venue specific publications. We were divided randomly into different task groups each day. I congratulate the supervisors on the way they managed large groups. The roles which I carried out varied greatly so that I could not groan about being on the same thing every day. During my term of duty I acted as stroller minder, information officer, queue monitor, spruiker, usher, VIP entrance door-keeper, to name but a few of the tasks through which I was rotated.

I was lucky enough to be in the team of volunteers chosen to supervise the foyer of the MSAC for the Queen's official visit and later to be usher when Prince Edward visited the Squash. As well as this we came up close and personal with a number of State and Federal politicians and Games officials. This was an advantage of being placed at the Games' prime venue.

As volunteers we were fed, supplied with distinctive Aqua uniforms, given

free transport for the month of March on Melbourne's extensive public transport system, a ticket to the closing ceremony and a thank you march through the streets of the city. As well as this we were given incentive badges and small gifts during the course of the official Games. We were looked after well and encouraged all the way. This was a great idea, for it made us feel we were in fact an important part in making the Games successful.

We had a great deal to do with the general public and I felt that almost all of them were out to have a good time, and that once they had got through the necessary heavy security they were out to cheer on the athletes and it was not long before the atmosphere became electric.

As volunteers we were told to enjoy the moment. We were exhorted to exhibit the following traits in our dealings with the public and each other. We were asked to be passionate, determined, united, confident, adaptable, respectful, friendly, proud and professional and most of all to have fun.

I know that this volunteer was pretty tired at the end of the day, but I did have a good and fun time. It was really worth getting up early in the morning or getting home late just to be part of such a well organised and exciting event.

## Dear Milkman

Many of you will remember the days when the milkman delivered bottles of milk to the door, and you could leave milk money in a tin by the gate. Below is a sample of the notes which have been left for the sometimes bewildered milkman.

- \* Dear Milkman, I've just had a baby, please leave another one.
- \* Cancel one pint after the day after today.
- \* Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.
- \* Milkman, please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.
- \* Milkman, please could I have a loaf but not bread today.
- \* Please cancel milk. I have nothing

coming into the house but two sons on the dole.

- \* Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby and I've been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks.
- \* Sorry about yesterday's note. I didn't mean one egg and a dozen pints, but the other way around.
- \* When you leave my milk knock on my bedroom window and wake me because I want you to give me a hand to turn the mattress.
- \* Please knock. My TV's broken down and I missed last night's Coronation Street. If you saw it will you tell me what happened over a cup of tea.
- \* Please send me a form for cheap milk, for I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me

- \* From now on please leave two pints every other day and one pint on the days in between, except Wednesdays and Saturdays when I don't want any milk.
- \* My back door is open. Please put milk in fridge, get money out of cup in drawer and leave change on kitchen table in pence, because we want to play bingo tonight.
- \* Please leave no milk today. When I say today, I mean tomorrow, for I wrote this note yesterday.
- \* When you leave the milk please put the coal on the boiler, let dog out and put newspaper inside the screen door. PS Don't leave any milk.
- \* No milk. Please do not leave milk at No.14 either as he is dead until further notice.



