



adelaide
male voice choir inc.
ESTABLISHED 1884

In Harmony

Newsletter of the
Adelaide Male Voice Choir

No. 20 SPRING 2006

PATRON:

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

PRESIDENT:

Cofin Styles

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw

ACCOMPANIST:

Edward Kriek

JOINT SECRETARIES:

David Evans
Phone 8280 7759
Ian Milbank
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TREASURER:

John Winnall

COMMITTEE:

Bruce Risby
Jean-Pierre Rival
Neville Roach
John Wear
Denis West (*Librarian*)

CONCERT MANAGER:

Neville Roach
Phone 8332 1895

VICE PATRONS:

Myfanwy James
Margaret Lambert
Genty Stevens
Len Turner

LIFE MEMBERS:

John Lawson
Robert McLeay

From the President...

Time flies when you're having fun.

This summarises life for AMVC members so far this year. We really enjoy making music together, and at the same time, having some fun. In addition to this we all learn something new all the time – isn't that what life is about?

Among the highlights of the year to date have been:

New home

After an exhausting and frustrating search for a new practice venue we have well and truly settled into our new home at St Stephen's. What wonderful hosts they have been. Nothing has been too much trouble for them – we really do appreciate the way we have been welcomed and made to feel part of the family.

New members

We have been delighted to welcome two new members recently – one a baritone and the other a second tenor. This is great news BUT we would love to have more fellows join us – particularly as some of us go off travelling for part of the year. So if you know of someone who is interested in joining a choir don't be shy in directing him to us.

WEB ADDRESS: amvc.org.au

Concerts

One of the greatest pleasures our group has is performing concerts for the enjoyment of others. The concerts we have held to date have certainly done this and we are confident that those yet to come will be just as enjoyable for us all.

The *Voices from Heaven* concert we held at Concordia was very successful and we are most grateful to the College personnel for all their assistance in making us so welcome. They could not have done more to help us. We are looking forward to holding another concert there later in the year. We also had very enjoyable and well-received concerts at Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church, St Joseph's Church in Tranmere, Tea Tree Gully Salvation Army and St Stephen's Lutheran Church.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members (and in particular the Committee members) of the AMVC for the work they have put in, for their friendship and concern for one another and for their desire to bring enjoyment to others through music.

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

Meet our Treasurer: John Winnall

Below are some interesting reminiscences from our esteemed Treasurer, John Winnall, about his background, work, family and interests:

"My earliest memories are of the family farming property which was situated about eight miles south of the town of Strathalbyn. Although only a comparatively short distance, it meant that in those days we were affected by "rural isolation", for example, the petrol shortage during WW2 limited us to only one trip per week to the town for food supplies as well as fuel for a farm vehicle. Restrictions such as food coupons and black-out curtains during the war, although difficult to explain to four young children, all contributed to family unity.

A vivid wartime memory of mine was the system of farm labour by prisoners of war. I recall two such men, in their customary red shirts and trousers, who once they overcame their "fear of the unknown", related remarkably well to all of our family. Both men had families of their own in their homeland, and they maintained correspondence with my father for several years after the war.

Another farm memory is of two employees, a farmhand and his wife, who were live-in workers on our farm for about two years. The man had served with the AIF in New Guinea but never spoke of this, nor did my father know until many years later that he had won the Military Medal. During the two years of their employment, they had two children, a boy named Peter and a little girl, Mary Olive. Subsequently, there was a tragic change of fortune for this family, in a murder case which will never be forgotten by most South Australians. Mary Olive Hattam as an infant child was murdered on or near the beach at Thevenard near Ceduna on the west coast. Rupert Max Stuart received a life sentence for the crime, after a lengthy trial which touched the hearts of so many.

Because the four children in our family had received a primary education in small rural schools, we were all to receive our secondary schooling in collegiate boarding schools in Adelaide to give a balance to our early education.

During the 10 years prior to 1975 I gained a diploma in Business Management from the SA Institute of Technology (later to become the University of SA), and then an Associate Diploma in General Insurance from the SA Insurance Institute.

Global wool trends had a major impact on my life, particularly in relation to farming life in Strathalbyn and my later employment with

the large wool house of Dalgety. During the years up to about 1970 wool production and the commercial value to the industry of this commodity fell dramatically, contributing to a huge downward movement in farm property values and reduction in farm incomes. It also meant the eventual demise of the large national companies such as Dalgety.

Marion and I first met at the Adelaide office of Dalgety. After two years in Adelaide I had several rural appointments in the south east and also the mid north regions of this state. Marion and I were married in 1961 and spent the first five years of married life in Port Pirie before coming back to the city. While in Port Pirie I was an officer in First Aid and an ambulance driver for the St John Ambulance Brigade. I have been constantly involved in Masonic lodges during a period of forty years, being a Member of many Masonic Orders and Degrees.

Marion and I have three children. David in particular developed an early interest in music, when at the age of eight he joined the Kensington and Norwood Youth band. His love of music never faltered. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Adelaide and then gained a Diploma in Education. He has worked in the Music Branch of the Education Department for about twenty years.

After leaving school, Jeni joined the Police Force, where she served in suburban stations and at headquarters. She went to Europe as a nanny working in Milan and Monaco. On returning to Adelaide she became a flight attendant for Ansett. She now works in the Coroner's Department in Melbourne.

Sue made nursing her profession. After graduating she went to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, where she met her husband-to-be, an Englishman. They married in England and subsequently lived in Amsterdam, Tokyo and Hong Kong before moving to Sydney. We now have a grand-daughter, Naomi, who is two and a half years old.

Since my retirement I decided to branch out in new activities, namely as a volunteer with the Holdfast Bay City Council with duties at the historical centre known as the Bay Discovery Centre. I am also a volunteer with the Adelaide City Council as a mobile information service in central streets of the city. In addition, I am continuing my service as a Justice of the Peace with regular duties at the Glenelg library. Also as a Justice, I have served on the bench in Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, until this branch of the law court structure in this state reverted to courts presided over by magistrates.

Marion and I were both Olympic Volunteers for the Sydney 2000 Games, and the honour and joy of involvement was a high point in our lives.

Now, because of my lifelong interest in music I decided to join the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, after previously working with one of the larger Masonic choirs in Adelaide.

Music has always been in our home, both as children and later with our own children. Marion and I have had a forty five year marriage (so far), which is based on the elements of trust, love, respect and a complete faith in each other's judgement."



John contemplating the AMVC accounts

OPERA BANQUET
Friday 27 October at 6.30pm
Martinhas Restaurant, Adelaide
TAFE

Our annual Opera Dinner has proved to be a very successful and enjoyable event in the past three years, and has been sold out each time.

This year our new venue, the Martinhas Restaurant, has promised a really splendid sit-down banquet, prepared by the future leading chefs of Australia.

So don't miss the unique opportunity to hear opera stars Deb Caddy and Tasso Bouyessis with the Choir performing some sparkling opera and operetta highlights as an aperitif to a wonderful evening.

Drinks and canapés will be served from 6.30pm, in preparation for the 45 minute opera concert, followed by the banquet, accompanied by classic South Australian wines.

Bookings are now open – see the advertisement for details. Tables seat 10, so make up your own table or we can place you with other guests. See you there!

SPECIAL EVENT
OPERA BANQUET

An irresistible entertainment package featuring
Superb food
Classic South Australian wines and
Wonderful music.

A unique opportunity to relax with clients, colleagues and friends
and enjoy an evening of musical and culinary delights
Make up a table or we can place you with other guests

The Opera Banquet is presented with the combined talents of:
Opera soloists Deborah Caddy (soprano) and Tasso Bouyessis (tenor)
and the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
singing well known songs from operetta and opera

WHEN: FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 2006 AT 6.30 PM
WHERE: MARTINHAS RESTAURANT, ADELAIDE TAFE
LIGHT SQUARE ADELAIDE
COST: \$72 per head
(Bookings through the Choir)
ENQUIRIES: 8332 0449 or 8332 1895

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Friday 27	6.30 pm	Opera Banquet (Bookings through the Choir)	Martinhas Restaurant Adelaide TAFE, Light Square
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NOVEMBER

Saturday 4	8 am – 5 pm	Garage Sale	13 Cottesloe St, West Beach
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Sunday 12	2.00 pm	Concert	Centenary Hall, Goolwa
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Thursday 23	7.30 pm	Concert	Glynde Lutheran Homes 24 Avenue Rd, Glynde
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Sunday 26	2.00 pm	Opera Concert	Concordia College 45 Cheltenham St, Highgate
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DECEMBER

Friday 15	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Christmas Dinner (Bookings through the Choir)	Glenelg Golf Club
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FEBRUARY 2007

Sunday 25	2.00 pm	Film Afternoon	Glenelg Cinema
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MARCH 2007

Monday 12 to Friday 16		Out of the Square Popular Concerts	Various venues
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APRIL 2007

Sunday 15	2.00 pm	Concert	Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church
Wednesday 25	11.00 am	Anzac Service	Cross of Sacrifice

A Sentimental Journey for David and Rita

David Evans sings in the bass section of the Choir, and gives a wonderfully Welsh flavour to our performances. Here is his description of a recent trip which he and his wife Rita undertook to the UK, which they had last visited 16 years ago when on a world tour:

"We were picked up by my cousin Hugh at Heathrow and driven down to Dorset, where we stayed with him and his wife Lyn in a 500-year-old farmhouse called Glebe Farm. This is situated right in the middle of the village of Charminster, next to one of the churches there called St Mary's, of which Hugh is the rector. The other is called Stinsford Church, where the writer Thomas Hardy was baptised and attended and where eventually his heart was buried. The village has beautiful walking trails, and thatched roof cottages are commonplace. It was the sort of place you expected to meet up with Miss Marple around every corner, and the Vicar was plump and female.

On our first morning at Glebe Farm, Rita was looking out through the upstairs small window and saw the head of a large brown furry animal. Her first thought was that it was a kangaroo, but on closer inspection the intruder was seen to be a deer. Then another one appeared, which was quite a thrill for us.

We stayed in Dorset for two weeks, travelling down as far as Cornwall to visit the Eden Project, which was an incredible tourist attraction, created from an exhausted deep steep-sided clay pit 60 metres deep, the area of 35 football pitches, without soil, 15 metres below the water table. It was carved into a flat-bottomed bowl and the sides were landscaped, using 83,000 tonnes of soil made from recycled waste to enable a huge diversity of plants to grow. We even saw our bottlebrushes, gum trees and Patterson's Curse.

Next we collected our hire car from Exeter and drove up to South Wales on our first wet day. We crossed the new Severn bridge into Wales and found that you have to pay to go into Wales but that it is free to drive back into England!

We stayed for two weeks with my brother Alan and family at Cwmbran, a town built near existing villages. There is no other place in the world with so many roundabouts! Many of them are double and even up to four roundabouts joined, which can be very confusing – even the locals have problems. All the signs are in English and Welsh and make for too much reading. Even to get to the town centre, where my brother and family live, had a lot of roundabouts to negotiate. However, my sister-in-law Moira solved the problem of finding their home – just down the road from where they live is a community

farm, open to the public, so all the brown signs with a sheep on will eventually lead to their home, so she said "Just follow that sheep!"

A very special evening for me was a dinner with most of my work colleagues from the Girling laboratories in Cwmbran, where I worked for 14 years prior to leaving for Australia in 1972.

We set off from South Wales driving along the coast to Comarthenshire, where we visited Laugharne, the home of Dylan Thomas, then on to Tenby (no space to park), and to the Cathedral at St David's. That evening we arrived at our next destination Anglesea for 5 days with my cousin Barbara and her husband Clive at their home set on 18 acres and known by the locals as the "Dallas mansion". Barbara, a vegetarian, had just had a Scandinavian round timber BBQ hut erected, so that Clive and visitors could enjoy BBQs while staying on windy Anglesea.

We had a great time sight-seeing, but all too soon we were heading for Sheffield, where we stayed with friends for 5 days. We had met Allan and Marjorie when we did our world tour. We took many wonderful trips to the Peak district of Derbyshire, and also visited York with its magnificent Cathedral.

More goodbyes and then on to see an old school mate Tony and his wife Pearl at Middleton about 20 miles outside Birmingham, where we were persuaded to spend a night with them and had a lovely meal on a hot evening sitting outside the small town pub, which was packed inside and out.

We drove south after spending a good part of the day in Stratford-upon-Avon, staying that night in the town of Evesham on the edge of the Cotswolds. We moved on to Bourton-on-the-Water, where we spent two days seeing as much of the Cotswolds as we could, and then drove towards Heathrow, where we managed to spend most of the day at Marlow, doing a boat trip on the Thames.

Then a nightmare traffic experience getting the hire car back to Heathrow, before the long haul to Singapore, which was made more pleasant after a few Singapore Slings along the way. We had a 3-day stopover at the Plaza Park Royal in Singapore and continued with the Singapore Slings just to stop us from overheating! We managed to include a City tour and river cruise and a visit to Sentosa Island, which has changed a great deal since being there many years ago. A wonderful experience was going up in a balloon flight, which was spectacular and gave an idea of just how large and high everything is in Singapore.

We were met at the Adelaide International Airport by Danielle and Liam. It was so good

being home again after 7 weeks away. Now to catch up on some sleep!"



Rita, who is of Dutch background, managed to find a windmill on Anglesea Island



David and friends in front of the house where he was born

GARAGE SALE Fundraiser for the Choir

8.00am to 5.00 pm
SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2006
At 13 Cottesloe Street, West Beach

We'd welcome contributions of items for sale – eg household goods, bric-a-brac, books, plants, etc. Contributions can be made through any Choir member or by contacting Neville Roach on 8332 1895.

You're sure to find a bargain at the garage sale, so come and buy and enjoy the company and sausage sizzle as well.