

PATRON:

His Excellency
Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce
AO, CSC, RANR
Governor of South Australia

PRESIDENT:

Colin Styles

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw

ASST CONDUCTOR:

Edward Ananian-Cooper

ACCOMPANIST:

Edward Krick

JOINT SECRETARIES:

David Evans
Phone: 8280 7759
Ian Milbank
Phone: 8339 1425

TREASURER:

John Winnall

COMMITTEE:

Bruce Risby
Neville Roach
John Wear
Denis West (*Librarian*)

CONCERT MANAGER:

Neville Roach
Phone: 8332 1895

ALMONER:

Sid Donnellan
8356 6302

VICE PATRONS:

Myfanwy James
Margaret Lambert
Genty Stevens
Len Turner

LIFE MEMBERS:

John Lawson
Robert McLeay

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

WEB ADDRESS:

amvc.org.au

From the President

It seems no time at all since we were planning for a busy concert season in November and by the time you receive this edition of *In Harmony* these concerts will have come and gone and we will be planning for the Festive Season celebrations and programmes for 2008.

2007 In Review

There is an old saying that "*variety is the spice of life*". I think we can safely say without fear of contradiction that for the members of the AMVC this year has been anything but boring. Some of our most exciting experiences have been:

- The *Out of the Square* series of concerts. These were great new experiences for us and I am sure we all enjoyed bringing male choral music to a number of new audiences across the wider metropolitan area of Adelaide from Port Noarlunga to Golden Grove. Never before had we faced the challenge of performing a number of concerts within such a short time frame. We really enjoyed the experience.

- Our participation in the launch of the Freemasons Foundation Centre for Men's Health was an opportunity to support an important community health initiative.

- Being introduced to and working with a new group of soloists – as well as with some 'old' friends – has proved to be both inspiring and challenging. The skill and dedication of these artists augers well for the future of music in our state.

- Learning new repertoire and maintaining some well loved choral pieces has proved to be stimulating. We can thank both our Music Director and Assistant Conductor for having the confi-

dence in us to present such a variety of music.

- Enjoying once more the music and fun of preparing and presenting another most successful Opera Banquet.

Members

As I have reported earlier in the year we have had much pleasure in welcoming several new members to our ranks. Unfortunately in recent months a number of our stalwarts have suffered some serious health issues. We do hope that after our end of the year break they will be fit enough to rejoin their friends at our practices. We really have missed their happy faces and smart quips.

It is vital that we seek more men to join our ranks so that our strong heritage can go on for many more years. I seek your support in encouraging any man who loves singing to not only think about joining us, but to actually take the step and come to a rehearsal and *give it a go*.

2008

Planning is underway for the new year. As a choir we have been invited to Brisbane in April – over the ANZAC weekend – to take part in a national festival for male voices. A number of us are really excited about being able to accept this invitation. In addition we have been invited to give concerts in the state dining room at Ayers House – another new and exciting venture. There is also the strong possibility that we could participate in another series of *Out of the Square* events later in the year. So it looks like it's all go in 2008.

All the best

*On behalf of the members of the AMVC
I wish you our supporters and friends a
happy and refreshing festive season.
May the new year bring you joy, happi-
ness, adventure and satisfaction.
Colin Styles.*

DAVID HOKIN: A PROFILE

David sings in the First Tenor section of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, and performed as a soloist at the recent AMVC "Free for Friends" concert at St Stephen's Lutheran Church, giving an elegant rendition of Tosti's *My Dream*.

Although born in South Australia, David (one of four siblings) spent most of his life in the Northern Territory. Here is his description of some of the milestones in his eventful life:

When I was eight, we moved to the semi-desert town of Tennant Creek in the NT: hot, dry, dusty, flies, and "willy-willies". Dad was head teacher, and Mum was his only assistant for most of our three years there. Our trip from Parafield to Tennant Creek was by TAA in a DC3, arriving there about 9 hours later. Electricity was supplied to the town from the Government gold crushing battery; there was no reticulated water supply; and sanitary services were provided by a "night cart man". Mum grew tomatoes using the bath water. Sometimes we would go bush with adult friends to shoot kangaroos and wild turkeys to supplement local "shop food".

In 1951 we moved to Mount Compass: hilly, cold, wet, pine trees, cows, blackberries, and swamps. There was no electricity or reticulated water, and we children had to be "night cart men" for both home & school. I started piano lessons from an elderly lady who lived in an old hut near the Goolwa turnoff. In 1953 I started at Victor Harbor High, travelling by school bus with my elder siblings.

Our next move was in 1954 to Virginia: flat, market gardens and travelling to Enfield High School by train. On Friday afternoons I went by tram from the Enfield terminus to piano lessons at Wayville, and then home again by tram and train. In December, Dad had a massive stroke which left him paralysed down the left side for the rest of his life. This totally changed family life: Dad retired, Mum stopped teaching to care for him, and I transferred to Adelaide Boys High School.

Early in 1955 we moved to Kurralta Park. At ABHS I joined the school orchestra, learned the 'cello and then the violin (the 'cello was too big to carry on the bus!).

In January 1958 I started work with the PMG as a clerk in the Engineering Division (now known as Telstra). Later that year I started singing lessons as a tenor with Sable Grivell in Adelaide, singing both solo and in small groups. During this time I also sang as tenor and cantor in the church choirs at St James, Mile End, and then St Mary Magdalene's, Adelaide.

Meredith (whom I met at St Mary Magdalene's) and I married in April 1963 and lived in a little cottage in the wildflower sanctuary on the side of Black Hill at Athelstone, amongst the koalas and wallabies. Three months later I was transferred to the PMG Engineering office in Murray Bridge for 9 months: married life became week-ends only! (An early version of "fly in, fly out"!)

In July 1964 I was transferred to a new position in Darwin

for three years. We travelled there by car and Ghan. Darwin had a population of about 12,000 at that time and was very isolated. We had to get used to a very different climate: warm and dry during the Southern winter, followed by the thunder, lightning and heavy rain of "The Wet".

I found that there was little music activity in Darwin at that time: it was another 17 years before I took up singing again!

Our four children (Christopher, Jenny, Damian and Andrew) were born in the NT. My job had carried on for five years and in 1969 I moved to the administrative staff of the NT Police, an area in which I worked for the next 30 years!

I usually took leave every two years, and we were in Adelaide when Cyclone Tracy struck Darwin on Christmas Day 1974. There was massive devastation, 66 people killed, hundreds injured, very few dwellings left habitable and all essential services lost. As there are no backup resources available (the nearest place of any size is Adelaide, 3,000 km away), within a week the population was reduced from 54,000 to 11,000, mainly by air to Southern cities. Fortunately, many people were already away on leave.

Access to Darwin was closed, and we were not allowed to return home. We found a house in Edwardstown and were helped by our family and disaster relief services to set up home for the six of us. About three weeks after Tracy, I gained a three-day pass to go home, check our house and get out. The house was generally OK, but most of the roof had disappeared and the contents ruined by rain and mould. While I was checking the house a Navy truck pulled in with a load of corrugated iron and they put a roof on (an aircraft carrier had arrived with building materials). Police HQ told me that my job was still available and that they needed me.

In mid-February I flew back to Darwin with the two elder children to clean up, and Meredith followed with the younger ones two days later. The children's school had reopened, as had some shops. Living conditions were a bit rugged for a while, but we cleaned up, repaired and replaced.

In 1976 we moved into a new cyclone-proof house in the Northern suburb of Anula. The children went to new schools and we made new friends in the area. On completing high school, our children all went to Southern universities since the new university in Darwin then had limited courses available. Three of our children - Christopher, Jenny and Andrew - stayed interstate to work.

I had singing training with Ruth Hawkins (from Melbourne) from 1981 to 1983, during which time I passed the 6th grade AMEB vocal exam, and then with Dean Patterson (from Adelaide) from 1985 to 1986.

In 1981 I joined the Darwin Combined Churches Choir, singing tenor with some solo work. From 1985 to 1986 I was a tenor in the Darwin Chorale. I sang tenor solos with the Darwin Music Society from 1982 until 1985. From 1981 to 1985, and again from 1994 to 1996, I sang first tenor and tenor solos with the Darwin Male Voice Choir. The DMVC was only operational for these two periods. I competed as a vocal soloist in the North Australian Eisteddfods from 1982 to 1986.

(Continued next page)

DAVID HOKIN: A PROFILE (continued)

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

In 1997 Meredith and I had our first overseas holiday - to Britain and Europe for three months. Jenny had been working in Windsor and, when her contract there finished, she joined us in our touring before she returned to her job in Adelaide.

In October 1999 I retired from the NT Public Service: they must have wanted to make sure that I went, because there were farewells from three different areas! Meredith and I moved to Adelaide in December 1999 after 35 years in Darwin - more farewells from friends and the Cathedral parish.

We stayed with Jenny while we house-hunted, eventually buying a house in Gilles Plains. We have found new friends at our church, St Chad's at Fullarton, and at the Wandana Community Centre in Gilles Plains. We both joined the "Random Notes" choir at St Chad's.

It was my Aunt, Consie Scott-Todd, who arranged for me to learn singing in 1958 with Sable Grivell, and it was she who, in 2003, mentioned my name to Bill Brooker which then led to me being invited by John Lawson to join the Adelaide Male Voice Choir in November of that year - more new friends! Through AMVC member Ian Hunt, I have also been invited to sing solos at recent concerts held biannually by the Mormon Church at Fulham Gardens.



*David and Meredith have found the right spot for singing
"The hills are alive with the sound of music!"*

Quick Quiz for our readers

Q: How many choir conductors does it take to change a light globe?

A: Nobody knows. Nobody ever watches the conductor.

Q: How many mezzo-sopranos does it take to change a light globe?

A: The whole section - one to go up the ladder, and the rest to stand around asking "Isn't that a bit high for you, dearie?"

AMVC TO VISIT BRISBANE

In April 2008 the Adelaide Male Voice Choir will be taking part in the *Pemulwuy! National Male Voice Festival* hosted by the Birralee Blokes, a young male choir which has been successful in gaining funding to commission several new Australian works for male choirs. Here is some information about the Festival and the celebrations associated with it, taken from the *Pemulwuy!* website:

"The remarkable success of the Birralee Blokes in the 2006 ABC Classic FM Choir of the Year competition inspired Directors Julie Christiansen and Paul Holley to consider ways to further the engagement and retention of men in singing and to recognize how the Birralee Blokes could continue their role in raising the profile of all men in Australia who sing. Hosting *Pemulwuy! National Male Voice Festival* resulted from that vision.

Pemulwuy! aims to create new audiences for choral music by giving individual singers, choirs and communities the opportunity to experience music making with professional musicians in a relaxed and innovative environment."

The Australian Arts Council provided funding for commissioning new works for male voices. The nine composers engaged include Elena Kats Chernin, Colin Brumby and Stephen Leek.

The festival will take place on Friday 25 April to Sunday 27 April with opportunities for singers to meet members of other choirs and to take part in a forum to discuss ways of promoting male voice choral music performance.

Three concerts are included in the program—an AN-ZAC concert on Friday 25 April, a Warrior Concert on Saturday 26 April and the final Finale Celebration Concert on Sunday 27 April. In addition there will be opportunities for participating choirs to sing at either lunchtime or evening performances as part of the organised concert schedule. There will also be an interactive 'music in the park' Sunday morning event.

It is certain that this will be an exciting and innovative occasion for the AMVC to take part in, with an extensive performance list for us to learn and sing. It will no doubt form the foundation of links with male choirs in other states which we can develop in the future to our mutual benefit.

Because of the need for us to learn new music and to polish our performances to a high degree, the performance schedule of the Choir is a little different for the first part of next year in that we will not be presenting concerts until the end of April—but we certainly will be when we return from Brisbane!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2008

APRIL

Sunday 20	2.00 pm	Concert	Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church
Friday 25 to Sunday 27	Various Concerts		Brisbane Tour

JUNE

Friday 20	7.30 pm	Concert	National Trust, Ayers House North Tce Adelaide
Sunday 29	2.00 pm	Concert	H.O.G.Heaven Charity Foundn Concordia College Chapel 45 Cheltenham St, Highgate

JULY

Saturday 5	7.30 pm	Concert	National Trust, Ayers House North Tce Adelaide
Saturday 19	7.30 pm	Concert	National Trust, Ayers House North Tce, Adelaide

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 14	2.00 pm	Concert	Concordia College Chapel 45 Cheltenham St, Highgate
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OCTOBER

Friday 24	6.00 for 6.30 pm	Opera Dinner	Martinhas Restaurant TAFE, Light Square, Adelaide.
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NOVEMBER

Thursday 27	7.30 pm	Concert	Glynde Lutheran Homes Avenue Rd, Glynde
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[Dates to be confirmed—check with future editions of *In Harmony*]

Singing for the National Trust in 2008

We have recently finished making arrangements for the Adelaide Male Voice Choir to perform for the National Trust in a series of concerts to be held in Ayres House, North Terrace. These will form a mini-series on their own—three concerts to be held on Friday June 20, Saturday July 5 and Saturday July 19.

The National Trust has its museum and shop in Ayres House and presents this concert series in the beautiful state dining room of that building, complete with an antique piano in first class condition. The Choir will present three contrasting programmes of music in the series, using its extensive repertoire to highlight different kinds of music.

Bookings for the concerts are essential, in order to ensure that seating is available and to cater for the supper included. Please book with Ayers House on 8223 1234 from 4 weeks before the event.

On the Buses

Mick and Paddy are walking home from the pub.

Mick says: "I can't be bothered to walk all that way."

"I know" says Paddy, "but we've no money for a cab and we've missed the last bus home."

"We'll borrow a bus from the depot," says Mick.

They arrive at the bus depot and Mick tells Paddy to go in and get a bus while he keeps a lookout.

After shuffling around for ages, Mick shouts: "Paddy, what you doing? Have you not found one yet?"

Paddy shouts back: "I can't find a Number 9."

"Oh for Pete's sake, yer fool—take the Number 14 and we'll walk from the roundabout!"