

PATRON:

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

PRESIDENT:

Colin Styles

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw

ASST CONDUCTOR:

Edward Ananian-Cooper

ACCOMPANIST:

Edward Kriek

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:

George Fort
8258 4867

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

Welcome to the first edition of *In Harmony* for 2008.

Thank you

Firstly I would like to thank those of you who have returned your Renewal Forms as Supporting Friends of the AMVC. Your financial support assists with the costs of producing and distributing our newsletter.

To those who have not got around to sending that subscription yet, let me remind you of the benefits of doing so. Financially, if there are two of you, all you have to do is attend one of our major concerts and you have paid for your subscription; if you are a single, then all you have to do is to attend two of these concerts and you too have paid for your subscription. An added plus is that you get to know more about our members and when concerts and special events are planned so that you can put the dates in your Diary. It really is good value!

Secondly I wish to acknowledge the time and effort which Daina and Bill Shaw put into this publication. They spend many hours preparing, editing, writing etc., to get each edition ready for publication. Thank you both very much.

Thirdly I would like to acknowledge the support given to the AMVC by that band of partners who so quietly and efficiently work behind the scenes to ensure our concerts go as smoothly as possible. Their assistance with the many organizational tasks, including ticket selling, welcoming our audiences, and providing and presenting afternoon-tea, ensures that the singers can concentrate on giving of their best with each performance. Thank you for your help. It is greatly appreciated.

What is in store for 2008?

Once again we are in for a year of new and exciting challenges. We are currently rehearsing commissioned new works for the Pemulwuy Festival in Brisbane in April. We were delighted to be able to accept the invitation to join in this festival of male voices (boys and adult) with other choirs from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. In October we are planning to hold a series of concerts in Horsham, Victoria where we are looking forward to making new friends.

This year we have decided that we will dedicate our first major Adelaide concert to support a charity, so our concert on **Sunday 29 June at 4.00pm at St Stephen's Church** will be in aid of the HOG Heaven Charity Foundation (See item on page 3 of this Newsletter). We have been invited also to perform a series of three concerts for the National Trust in **Ayers House, North Terrace**. We would very much like you to join with us in this historical and beautiful venue on **Friday 20 June at 7.00pm** for "Selections from Favourite Musicals", on **Saturday 5 July at 7.00pm** for "Opera and Operetta Favourites" and on **Saturday 19 July at 7.00pm** for "Around the World in Song". This is a brief look at the AMVC's program to July, with much more to come later!

The men of the Choir are always pleased to welcome **new singers** to our ranks, so if you know of someone who loves to sing, suggest that he contact any member of the Choir, who will be only too happy to tell him all about us and what he could do about joining our friendly group.

Many thanks for your support, and see you at our concerts and special events.

Colin Styles

INTRODUCING BRUCE RISBY

Bruce Risby sings in the second tenor section of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir and is a member of the Committee. Here, in his own words, is Bruce's story entitled "Moving Around":

I was born in Melbourne and grew up in the undulating and pleasant suburb of Glen Iris, to the east of the city.

At home where my mother played the piano and my father sang, I soon developed an interest in music. My first choir work was as a boy soprano in the school choir and madrigal group at Camberwell Grammar School. At that time I studied the violin and recall being a nervous young soloist in several school concerts. My enthusiasm for the violin waned at about age fifteen after successfully completing a fifth grade exam.

From age seventeen, three very enjoyable years were spent at Longerenong Agricultural College near Horsham in the Victorian Wimmera. Here we had an all male choir where my now much deeper voice had me singing in the baritone section.

My early twenties saw me in the musical city of Ballarat working for the Department of Agriculture. Soon I had joined the Ballarat Light Opera Company and sang in several musicals including *The Merry Widow*. While in Ballarat I was fortunate to have twelve months singing tuition from Mrs Elsie Morrison.

Over to the Western Australian wheat-belt some 300km or so north-east of Perth, where I was now share-wheat-farming on a 4000ha property. Koorda, the local small town, had a music and drama club, where we entertained the locals with pantomimes, plays and excerpts from shows. Four years on found me working for the Grain Pool of Western Australia and marketing oilseeds as Secretary for the WA Seed Board. For some reason, these were my non-singing years.

In 1974 I joined the Commonwealth Development Bank and began a 24-year career as a rural specialist, firstly in Melbourne, then in Mildura and finally Adelaide. The load assessments undertaken from the Mildura office included irrigated horticulture, cereal growing and sheep grazing ventures. The work was both interesting and challenging. Property inspections were undertaken over a large area of north-western Victoria and western NSW. Trips out to sheep stations beyond Broken Hill usually involved an overnight stay at the station.

While in Mildura, I married Robina, a farmer's daughter from Katanning WA, whose interests include playing the piano. Our two children Elliott (now 26) and

Caroline (now 24) had happy early years on our Mildura 8ha property. While in Mildura, I sang in several musicals with a local amateur company.

My banking career concluded in 1998 when I retired from the Adelaide office. Since then I have studied singing with several teachers, including Bill Harrison and Malcolm Potter, while also participating in a number of musicals with local companies. Prior to joining the AMVC, I sang in Bill Harrison's King Fishers Choir.

In the AMVC I have appreciated the opportunity to learn and sing a wide range of musical styles, while singing happily with my fellow second tenors.



Twenty years ago, young Bruce looks forward to singing in the AMVC one day!

AMVC LINK TO FREEMASONS FOUNDATION CENTRE FOR MEN'S HEALTH

In October 2007, the AMVC participated in the official launch of the Freemasons Foundation Centre for Men's Health. An item about the event was included in edition Number 24 of our AMVC Newsletter.

The Centre, the first of its kind in Australia, is based on an innovative partnership between the Freemasons Foundation and The University of Adelaide, and is part of the University's School of Medicine. The Centre's vision is to enable men to live longer, healthier and happier lives, and its mission is to pursue innovative research programs, significantly improve health services, deliver evidence-based training programs, and disseminate the latest health information and education resources.

A Board of Patrons for the Centre has now been established, with Sir Eric Neal AC CVO as its Principal Patron and Chair. The Terms of Reference for the Board are that it will provide support, as necessary, to enable the Centre to fulfil its mission and pursue its objectives.

The Choir is pleased to note that its Director of Music, William Shaw, has accepted the invitation to become a member of the Board of Patrons. This link with the Centre continues the Choir's history of active involvement in supporting community projects.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PATRON

The Choir was delighted to learn that its Patron, His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, was included among those receiving high honours in the Australia Day 2008 Honours List.

Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia in the General Division, one of only six awarded nationwide in this year's Honours List.

He received the honour for distinguished contributions to Australia's defence industry through the provision of leadership and strategic advice on the development of naval capabilities, to maritime transport management, and to the people of South Australia.

The Choir sends sincere congratulations to His Excellency on the receipt of this Australia Day Honour.

HOG HEAVEN!?

The title evokes images of a piggy paradise of clover and truffles, but in fact the explanation for the name is that the HOG Heaven Charity Foundation was established in memory of Hew O'Halloran Giles (initials HOG) by his grand-daughter Joanna Giles, who is the Director of the Foundation.

Joanna is a native of South Australia and comes from a long family history of philanthropy, with the philosophy that "What we do for ourselves dies with us, what we do for another, lives forever". She has travelled the world and continues their work to raise money to help those less fortunate. **HOG** stands for **Helping Others Grow**, and the Foundation aims to provide support in places of most need to create a brighter future for children and families throughout the world.

The Foundation has initiated and supported humanitarian projects in countries such as Nepal, Kenya and Sri Lanka, and provided funding for a wide range of needs such as medical supplies, eye cataract operations and orphanages.

One of the Foundation's on-going projects is the "Cleft Lip and Palate—Light up a Smile Operations" in remote areas of Nepal. For the amazingly low amount of \$300, surgeons in Nepal can successfully perform this transforming and life-changing operation—a truly miraculous gift.

The AMVC has committed its concert on **Sunday 29 June at 4.00pm at St Stephen's Church, 152 Wakefield Street Adelaide** to raise funds for the HOG Heaven Charity Foundation. Please put this date in your diary and make every effort to bring friends and neighbours for a late afternoon of music, and know that you will be supporting a really worthwhile cause.

TRIBUTE TO JIM THODAY

It was with great sadness that the Choir sang at the funeral in January this year of its late member - Jim Thoday.

Jim was a courteous and cultured gentleman, with a witty sense of humour and a true love of music. He was born into a musical family and learnt singing at the Elder Conservatorium. As a young man, he participated in concerts, opera presentations and national singing competitions, and even gained a high placing in the Mobil Quest in the year that Joan Sutherland won the contest.

Work commitments with the Caltex Oil Co took him to Port Augusta, where he participated in the lively musical scene, and took many roles in productions there, including the Pirate King in "The Pirates of Penzance" and Koko, the Lord High Executioner, in "The Mikado". He established lifelong friendships with Don Jessop and Bob Cooter, both of whom joined the AMVC in later years after returning to Adelaide .

Jim joined the Immigration Department and spent two periods overseas, where he particularly enjoyed attending opera performances at Covent Garden in London. When he returned to Adelaide, he took the advice of his good friends Don and Bob and joined the AMVC, becoming a valued member of the Choir and singing occasional solos at our concerts.

The Choir extends deep sympathy to Jim's family. We feel honoured to have known him.

MAX MEANEY: SATIRIST SUPREME

One of our Choir members, Max Meaney, masquerades as a medical researcher during the day, but his particular talent really lies in composing satirical ditties. These ditties are an eagerly awaited feature of the entertainment at the AMVC's annual Christmas Dinner. Max gets together a band of willing collaborators from the Choir, rehearses them, and then gives a hilarious presentation at the Dinner.

The verses mercilessly satirise individual Choir members, the Director of Music, the Accompanist and the Assistant Conductor, and are cheerfully insulting, largely libellous and very funny. Fear of litigation prevents our publishing any of the personal verses, but we have included the finale from the 2007 Christmas Dinner performance, to give just a taste of the irrepressible versifier:

"So now we must come to the end
No-one should our anthem condemn
Any words rude and witty, to make you feel
aggravated
Were axed by the choir committee".

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2008

APRIL

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|---|
| Sunday 20 | 2.00 pm | Concert | Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church Cnr Harvey Rd and Fairfield Rd Elizabeth Grove |
|-----------|---------|---------|---|

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--|---------------|
| Friday 25 to Monday 28 | Various Concerts | | Brisbane Tour |
|------------------------|------------------|--|---------------|

JUNE

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|--|
| Friday 20 | 7.00 pm | Concert | National Trust, Ayers House North Terrace, Adelaide |
|-----------|---------|---------|--|

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|--|
| Sunday 29 | 4.00 pm | Concert | HOG Heaven Charity Foundation St Stephen's Church, 152 Wakefield St Adelaide |
|-----------|---------|---------|--|

JULY

| | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|---|
| Saturday 5 | 7.00 pm | Concert | National Trust, Ayers House North Terrace Adelaide |
|------------|---------|---------|---|

| | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|--|
| Monday 7 | 8.00 pm | Concert | Adelaide Music Club, Tropeano Centre 443 Tapleys Hill Rd, Fulham Gdns |
|----------|---------|---------|--|

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|---|
| Saturday 19 | 7.00 pm | Concert | National Trust, Ayers House North Terrace Adelaide |
|-------------|---------|---------|---|

AUGUST

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|--|
| Sunday 10 | 2.30 pm | Concert | Magill Church Council Clayton Church, The Parade, Norwood |
|-----------|---------|---------|--|

SEPTEMBER

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|--|
| Sunday 14 | 2.00 pm | Concert | Concordia College 45 Cheltenham St Highgate |
|-----------|---------|---------|--|

OCTOBER

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Saturday 4 to Monday 6 | Concert Tour to Horsham Victoria | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|---|
| Friday 24 | 6 for 6.30 pm | Opera Dinner | Martinhas Restaurant, TAFE Light Square Adelaide |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|---|

NOVEMBER

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Thursday 27 | 7.30 pm | Concert | Glynde Lutheran Homes |
|-------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|

NATIONAL TRUST CONCERTS

As previously announced, the Choir will perform 3 concerts for the National Trust this year in the State Dining Room of Ayers House, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

- Fri 20 June "Selections from Favourite Musicals"
- Sat 5 July "Opera and Operetta Favourites"
- Sat 19 July "Around the World in Song"

The special ticket price for AMVC Friends (\$26.50 per concert, or \$75 for the season of 3 concerts) includes supper and wine at the interval.

Bookings are essential and tickets will be posted out in advance. Please contact the Manager at Ayers House Museum on 8223 1234 for information and bookings.

BRISBANE TOUR

The Choir will be singing at a variety of concerts as part of the *Pemulwuy! National Male Voice Festival* in Brisbane on the Anzac Day long weekend (see edition 25 of *In Harmony*).

In addition, we are fortunate to have established a friendly link with the Buderim Male Choir and will extend our Queensland stay in order to sing at another concert on the evening of April 28 at a venue on the Sunshine Coast. This concert will feature both choirs singing some of their own repertoire and also singing some combined items.

Many thanks to the Choir St Nicholas who will lead the singing at the Cross of Sacrifice service here on Anzac Day in our stead, while we are away.