



In Harmony

Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
No 29 Summer 2008

PATRON:
His Excellency
Rear Admiral Kevin Scause
AC, CSC, RANR
Governor of South Australia

PRESIDENT:
Colin Styles

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William Shaw

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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:
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Where has 2008 gone? Can you believe it? City streetscapes and stores sprouted Festive decorations weeks ago, the Pageant has come and gone, our Choir engagements for November and December have been fulfilled, and plans for 2009 are being firmed up. So 2008 must be nearly ended.

Looking back on 2008

What a very interesting and different year it has been for the AMVC. Among the many highlights have been for us to:

- enjoy renewing our friendships at a number of regular venues.
- perform a Charity Concert for the HOG (Helping Others Grow) Heaven Foundation. This event assisted them to raise much needed funds to continue their life-changing work and to also raise their profile in our community.
- accept the challenge of travelling to Brisbane for the Pemulwuy Festival. What a thrill it was for us to join with so many enthusiastic men and youths to make music. The chance to explore Brisbane in the company of friends also proved most interesting – especially for those of us whose sense of direction isn't all that it could be.

- take part in a series of Winter Concerts at Ayers House. This was a most rewarding experience and gave us a chance to imagine what life in such a house would have been like at the turn of the 20th Century in Adelaide. It also introduced us to a number of new friends.

- travel to Naracoorte where we were hosted by the local Rotary Club, and then to Horsham where we were the

guests of the people of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. In addition to our singing together, the social aspects of travelling and sharing meals and getting to know one another even better were again a lot of fun and added to our sense of "unity and joy". Further details of our Naracoorte and Horsham trip are on page 2 of this Newsletter.

- enjoy the company of friends at the Opera Banquet at the Adelaide TAFE. All who joined us for the evening were treated to a feast not only of fine music but also of delicious food. The opportunity this event provided for the Hospitality Students to serve a large group such as this and for their supervisors to observe them in action was also an appreciated 'spin off' for both students and lecturing staff.

- sing and work with a number of young and exciting soloists. Each one added another dimension to our concerts.

- learn new music (often arranged especially for us by Bill Shaw).

Our music team

On behalf of the Choir, our Friends and wider audiences, I would like to express thanks and appreciation to our Director of Music Bill Shaw and our Accompanist Ed Kriek for their splendid work throughout the year in providing us with such great musical experiences.

Members and supporters

On a personal note I would like the members of the Choir to accept my thanks for the way they have supported me and the Committee during the year. To the Committee members – thank you for all the time and effort you have so willingly and conscientiously given to ensure the success of all we attempted in '08. Our Committee meetings have been held at the offices of Andrew

Shaw, and I would like to thank him for his support and generosity.

We have enjoyed having some new members join us during the year. It is a never-ending task to attract men to join us, so I am asking all our Friends to encourage any of their menfolk who enjoy singing to consider joining us.

This year has again seen a number of our members going through some 'rough patches' as far as their physical health has been concerned. It is great to see them bounce back and take their places in the Choir.

Once again this year we have appreciated the very ready and cheerful support of a number of the wives or partners of our members. Not only has this group assisted with our concert organisation, but also has been very willing to carry out any task asked of them. Without this help I do not think our Choir would be as happy and successful as it is.

To you our Friends I extend thanks for your continued support and encouragement. We look forward to seeing you in 2009.

Season's greetings

On behalf of all the members of the AMVC I wish our Patron, Vice-Patrons, Friends and supporters a happy and refreshing Christmas and that 2009 is all you hope it to be.

Colin Styles

THE TRAVEL BUG BITES!

Choir Trip to Naracoorte and Horsham

After our very successful trip to Brisbane in April this year, it was inevitable that sooner or later there would be suggestions for another singing tour - and so on the sunny long weekend in October, twenty-five Choir members plus supporters set off for a trip to Naracoorte and Horsham. Most were on board our chartered coach, but some adventurers travelled independently to meet up in Naracoorte and Horsham.

Our Naracoorte visit was hosted by the local Rotary Club, and as our President Colin Styles expressed it "we were treated right royally and enjoyed typical country hospitality and a warm and appreciative audience".

Our concert was held in the Naracoorte Town Hall on the Saturday evening and helped to raise funds for a playground project in the town. It was a pleasure to meet new friends and also to see some familiar faces from our previous visit to Naracoorte some years ago. Sincere thanks to Val McGlashan (President of the

Rotary Club in Naracoorte) and her helpers for making us feel so welcome.

Early on Sunday morning a happy and relaxed group met for breakfast in the motel dining room, and then boarded our comfortable coach for the trip to Horsham in western Victoria.

Our special contact with the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Horsham was through Pastor David Wear, son of one of our Choir members John Wear.

The Church community was most supportive, friendly and hospitable, and the Choir sang to a packed and enthusiastic audience. It was one of the best concerts the Choir has done this year—the sound was tight and disciplined, the attention to musical detail was excellent and the sense of joy in making good music was obvious to the audience. Well done to all who were involved, including our supporters.

We were privileged to have three local musicians as guest performers at this concert—two Year 12 students performing on double bass and piano respectively, and music teacher Kate Wear (wife of Pastor David Wear) playing violin. Kate performed a wonderfully varied programme and captivated us with her virtuosity as she played the *Sonata in G minor, Largo and Allegro* by George Frederick Handel, and *Introduction and Polonaise* by Carl Bohm.

The Director of Music Bill Shaw would like to thank all those who travelled to Naracoorte and Horsham for their devotion to the performances we undertook - their ability to be welcoming and tolerant of the travelling conditions, to greet new audiences with enthusiasm and musical skill, and to adapt to new and unfamiliar venues quickly and carefully. Special thanks go to our soloists for the trip - Colin Styles, Kevin Fisher and Ian Hunt, and to Ed Kriek for his superb playing on unfamiliar pianos! Many thanks also to the organising committee for their hard work in preparing and organising the trip.

This weekend proved that we have much to be proud of and that we need to take every opportunity to show our skills to more distant audiences.



Biography from Keith Gooley (Second Tenors)

I joined the Adelaide Male Voice Choir on 3 November 2003 after my wife, Jeanne heard David Evans talking about the Choir on ABC Radio. I had been making enquiries about choirs I might possibly join and the timing of David's interview could not have been better. Added to that, David and I live quite close to each other in One Tree Hill so that we have been able to share the driving to practices and concerts.

I'm an Adelaide boy from way back having been born here in 1946. I spent 5 of my formative childhood years in Murray Bridge where my father was the PMG (now Telstra) engineer responsible for telephone line construction and maintenance from Murray Bridge to Mount Gambier to Renmark. He worked for the PMG for 43 years until his retirement in 1978. Incidentally, he sang in the Murray Bridge Glee Club. We moved back to Adelaide in 1955 and by then the family had grown to 7. Of the 3 boys and two girls in the family, I am the second eldest. My parents bought a house in Millswood and I lived there until I left home in 1970.

At Westbourne Park Primary School I remember being lined up on a stage with all the other boys of that year and singing a song or two. As we did so, the music teacher walked along the rows of us and tapped those on the shoulder she deemed to be suitable to join the school choir. We had been instructed that if we were chosen, we should step forward. Along with quite a few of us I took that step and we ended up singing in the Adelaide Town Hall later in the year, my first and only auditioned choir.

I went to the former Institute of Technology on North Terrace and graduated in 1970 with a Technology degree in Electronic Engineering. It was then time to spread my wings; I left home and drove a 1954 Triumph TR2 sports car to Sydney for training prior to working for a year at Mawson Station, Antarctica. I installed and operated equipment for collecting radio wave propagation data. I went to Antarctica again in 1974, this time as a glaciologist, drilling deep (340 m) boreholes in the ice sheet to study ice movement and collect core samples. These two years were just a wonderful experience being in such a pristine undisturbed environment and seeing scenery of such awe-inspiring beauty.

It was fortunate that on my return from my second year in Antarctica, I went back to work in Sydney, because there I met Jeanne and we married in Adelaide in 1982. We renovated a small terraced house in Marrickville, inner western Sydney and then in 1985 moved to Adelaide to be nearer my family. Jeanne's family live in Devon, UK and we have had several lovely holidays over there.

I worked at DSTO Salisbury for about 20 years, retiring in 2006. I remained in the one section of the organisation all that time doing research engineering work in the Over-The-Horizon Radar program, (Jindalee).

Our children are Chris, 23 and Erica, 21. Chris went to Adelaide University and graduated with a Maths and Computer Science degree. He now works in the IT industry. Erica is studying Environmental Management, Biology and Hydrology at Flinders University and hopes to complete the two degrees in 2010. Both are now living away from home as it is too far to travel on a daily basis from One Tree Hill.

I have always enjoyed singing and over the years have sung in a number of church choirs. For several years while we lived in Sydney, Jeanne and I sang in a combined churches choir performing *Messiah*. It was a very large group of 4 or 5 hundred people and I remember the director, Clive Pascoe saying one day "Conducting this choir is like stirring honey with a feather." A couple of times, we had memorable performances in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House. Other years, the performances were in the Sydney Town Hall with its wonderful acoustics.

More recently in Adelaide I sang with a small group called the Para Singers. They were drawn mainly from churches in the northern suburbs. This lasted for about 10 years, singing at retirement villages, small town halls and churches. I mostly sang bass in this choir but the conductor encouraged me to try some tenor parts, developing the upper register of my voice. I'm sure this was instrumental in my being placed in the second tenor section of the AMVC.

I love singing in the Choir and usually come away from practice with an uplifted feeling. Of the 6 or 7 groups that have calls upon my time, the Choir is generally at the top in terms of priority.



Keith takes a breather between rehearsals

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009

MARCH

Friday 20 12.30 pm Lunchtime Concert Royal Adelaide Hospital
North Tce, Adelaide

APRIL

Saturday 18 TBA Installation of Grand
Master, Masonic Lodge Entertainment Centre
Adelaide

Sunday 19 2.00 pm Concert Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church

Saturday 25 11.00 am Anzac Day Service Cross of Sacrifice
North Adelaide

JUNE

Sunday 14 2.00 pm Celebration Concert Concordia College
45 Cheltenham St Highgate

[More concerts and performances will be confirmed in the next Newsletter in early 2009]

FROM A SCHOOL ESSAY

"Bach was the most famous composer in the world, and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian and half English. He was very large."

"Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him."

LYRICAL SCHUBERT

By John Wear (Baritone Section)

At our Spring Concert in September we were privileged to sing two beautiful songs by Schubert. These songs were very professionally arranged by our Musical Director Bill Shaw. We are most fortunate to have such an extremely talented leader of our Choir; this gives us the opportunity to perform such delightful pieces.

Our congratulations also are extended to our soloist, Robert Macfarlane, who performed a great presentation with our accompanist Eddie Kriek. A special thanks should also be given to Ian Hunt who compiled the musical type setting.

Here are some facts relating to Franz Peter Schubert. Born in Vienna he lived from 1797 to 1828. He began learning the violin and piano at the age of eight. In 1808 he was admitted as a chorister at the Imperial Chapel in Vienna. At the age of fourteen he composed his first song (*Hagar's Lament*). In 1813 he composed his first symphony and first three string quartets.

At the centre of Schubert's art are his songs, the sheer number of which is more than six hundred. He was a voracious reader of poetry, which led to many of his songs. The chronological thematic catalogue of Schubert's works by O.E. Deutsch lists 998 works. He was certainly a great master of music and we appreciated having the opportunity to sing some of his work.

STILL HAVING FUN SINGING

In 2009 the Choir will have been singing for 125 years. It was formed in 1884, and has been performing without interruption since then. We intend to present a Celebration Concert to commemorate this milestone in our history and to entertain our very good Friends and their friends!

Some information exists concerning the history of the Choir and its week-by-week running, noting rehearsals, concerts, social events and special performances. However it is likely that there are a number of people in the community who remember aspects of the Choir's performing life, either under its former name of the Adelaide Glee Club or as the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. We would like to hear from anyone who has information about the Choir, especially in the form of programmes of concerts, concert posters, flyers, committee minutes, photographs etc which will help us to re-construct a history of the Choir over the long period of its existence. We would also like to hear reminiscences from past members or their families about the activities of the Choir.

If you are able to help with any of these requests, please contact our Secretary (David Evans on 8280 7759), our Concert Manager (Neville Roach on 8332 1895) or Musical Director (William Shaw on 8332 0449) so that we can follow up with our research.