

PATRON:

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

PRESIDENT:

Colin Styles

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw OAM

ACCOMPANIST:

Edward Krick

JOINT SECRETARIES:

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

TREASURER:

John Wear

COMMITTEE:

John Agnew
John Dick (*Librarian*)
Neville Roach
John Winnall JP

CONCERT MANAGER:

Neville Roach
Phone: 8332 1895

ALMONER:

Bruce Risby
8298 8828

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 everyone to another new year. What a great way to begin 2011 by celebrating the awarding of an OAM to our highly esteemed and respected Musical Director William Shaw. This wonderful recognition for so many years of tireless dedication to the musical life of South Australia, and in particular to the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, is most justified. To be able to give so much to music, professionally and voluntarily, puts demands not only on the recipient but the whole family, and I do believe that all the members of the family, and most especially Daina, can and do share in this recognition. To recognize Bill's award a Celebratory Get Together was held in late February for members of the Choir and their families.

Concerts

Rehearsals have recommenced and we are all coming to grips with the music for our **Gilbert and Sullivan concert on May 1st at Concordia College**. We are really looking forward to this event and we know that the programme will have an appeal, not only to our regular audiences, but to some people who have not previously attended our concerts. Of course they can only come if they hear about it. So, I would ask you, no urge you, to spread the word and invite as many people as you can to come along and join us for a most enjoyable afternoon. See Page 4 for further details. Previous to this major concert, members of the Choir are performing in the foyer of the **Royal Adelaide Hospital at 12.30pm on March 25th**. If you happen to be at the RAH visiting friends or relatives about lunch time that day do try to take that little extra time to stop and listen. This will be the third year that we have visited the hospital and we have been told that our singing floats up throughout the hospital and brings joy to patients, visitors and staff members. We too delight in bringing joy to others.

Our second Concordia concert is

booked for August 21st. It is planned that this concert will feature Sacred Music. Please put this date in your Diary and I would encourage you to invite as many of your friends and neighbours as possible to what promises to be another delightful afternoon of fine choral music. It would be great if we could fill this chapel. A large enthusiastic audience adds not only to the atmosphere but it gives a great deal of encouragement to soloists and Choir members. Initial planning is in hand for a trip to Horsham in September. We visited this thriving town a couple of years ago and enjoyed the friendship and support from the community there and we are really looking forward to catching up with some of the people we met during our last visit.

Honour Roll

We are fortunate to have in the AMVC several members who have been singing with the Choir for over 20 years. This dedication is worthy of recognition, and it has been decided to create an Honour Roll listing the names of members with 20+ years of service.

Financial Friends

I would like to thank those of you who have already renewed your financial status with the Choir. It is good to have your support, and I would encourage those of you who have not done so to fill in and return the application form included in this edition of *In Harmony*. As you would realise, the contribution you make assists with the costs of printing and postage of this publication and any updates about our concerts as well as discounted admissions to concerts, to say nothing of the invitation to special Choir events such as the *Free for Friends Function* at the end of the year. Once again I thank you for your interest and support.

Colin Styles

John Thompson—Baritone

John has written an entertaining story of his life, with many colourful memories centred largely around cycling and rugby. Here are some extracts:

John was born in Exeter, Devon in 1939, but his only memories of the war years are of barrage balloons, some nights in the shelter, and ration books. In his childhood years, "life revolved around roaming the local fields and lanes of Devon. It was during these early years I was introduced to cycling. There were no cars in those days, but my father had his bicycle, to which he fitted a wooden seat on the cross bar for me to sit on. Every Sunday we rode the lanes of Devon but always ending up at the same thatched barn where my father participated in a glass or two of cider with the local farmer. To this day I am not sure if the ride was for me or him, but it was the highlight of the week. The farmer was a useful contact as eggs, butter and sometimes a chicken supplemented our ration book food."

John remembers times when, "as young boys, we used to put our bikes on the coastal shipping that came into Exeter by way of the ship canal and travelled back down the canal until it joined the sea, and then cycled home. Most of the ships were foreign, mainly from Scandinavian countries, bringing in food, timber, cement etc. To think of 10 to 12 year old boys travelling on board not speaking the language, and if we failed to get off, the next stop would be Europe! Yet our parents seemed not to worry. In fact we were encouraged to be out of the house from morning until dusk doing our own thing. One other activity I remember was our salmon fishing using our bow and arrow to spear the fish as they came over the weirs of the River Exe. The success rate was extremely low, which was probably a good thing, as it was highly illegal".

After school, John gained an engineering traineeship with the Signals Research and Development Establishment at Christchurch, Hampshire, and while working for the Ministry of Defence and training to be a professional engineer, he also became a formidable rugby player. It was at a rugby club dance that he met Valerie, and they married in 1966.

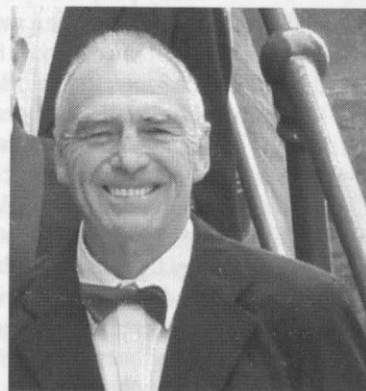
John subsequently undertook post-grad studies in engineering, gained a Master's Degree, and looked around for a new job. He received offers from Coventry and Whyalla, and chose the latter as the place to take his wife and young children Nicky and Ian. "I knew nothing of Australia other than Don Bradman, kangaroos, emus and black swans. I looked at a small map of South Australia, saw it was red, meaning it was British and hence English speaking, not realising that it meant heat and desert. The Spencer River looked good for canoeing to Adelaide, and the lakes to the north would be good for fishing. An additional

factor was that Whyalla had a rugby team. I was a little taken aback when I arrived and found that the little map in my Boy Scout diary was not quite the reference that I should have used for making such a decision. However, it turned out to be the best job, the best colleagues and the best students I have ever worked with in education, and I was able to continue to play rugby."

After 16 years at Whyalla, John transferred to the main campus of the University of SA at Mawson Lakes, and worked there for the next 12 years before retiring with 25 years of service in 1999. "On retirement, I continued to work as a small business providing training courses and consulting mainly to the motor industry in manufacturing and management. This also included some continuing work for the University's business arm and some overseas work on their behalf and, as Adelaide University had lost their manufacturing lecturer, I also took up a part-time position within the Engineering Department. This was the time that I recommenced my cycling activities and discovered that my time on a bike and camping was far better than working. So over a period of a couple of years I rolled back the business and part-time teaching to zero, so as to allow me more time for the bike."

"My first real biking/camping trip was in 2005, when I put my bike on a plane to Rome and keeping the sea on the left-hand-side rode up the west coast of Italy into France and almost to Spain along the Mediterranean coast. After back-tracking, I then rode up the Rhone Valley and eventually reached Paris before continuing to the UK." John has subsequently cycled in Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Germany and France, and plans further trips during 2011. "To avoid the problems of putting bikes on planes, I keep a bike in every port, rather than a girl friend."

"It was through riding that I met David Evans, and like so many others who meet David, I found myself in the Choir. At the time I did not think it was me, but after a very short time I found that singing is one of those activities that provide me with an immense sense of pleasure and fulfilment."



The latest fashion look for cyclists!

Congratulations William Shaw, OAM!

The Choir is delighted to offer congratulations to its Conductor/ Director of Music on being awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day Honours this year, for his service to music through the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Right from early childhood, music has played an important role in Bill's life. As a toddler, he was so fascinated one Christmas by the Salvation Army Band playing carols in his street that he determined to follow the Band when it moved to its next spot. He managed to clamber over the front fence, lifted his black and white terrier after him, and together they set off in pursuit of the music. His anxious parents found him 20 minutes later in the next street, in the middle of the Band, completely absorbed by the splendid music, and very reluctant to return home! This joy in music has continued right through his life.

Bill is a professional music educator and a trained choral and orchestral conductor, singer and pianist, with a strong life-long commitment both to music education and music making in the wider community. He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Music (Music Education), Bachelor of Arts, and Master of Educational Administration.

Professionally, Bill has taught at all levels of the education sector, from primary school to university. His higher degree work was concerned with the education of children gifted in the performing arts, and his published teaching materials have been used in several states. In addition to his own work as a practitioner "in the field", he has also been involved at tertiary level in the training of future music teachers. He has conducted many in-service teacher education courses and presented papers at state and national music conferences.

Bill has made a consistent and extensive contribution to music education and to music in the community throughout his life, both at a professional and personal level. His influence has spread widely through his own continuing involvement and energy, and through his ability to inspire others, as a mentor and role model. Many of his former students, at school and university, have themselves taken on significant roles in spreading the benefits of music in the community, as teachers, composers, conductors, instrumentalists and singers.

In the wider community, Bill has always been involved in music making for all ages, from presenting programs and courses for young children, to conducting various choirs, bands, ensembles and orchestras for participants of all ages and at both professional and amateur levels. For Bill, the promotion of music in

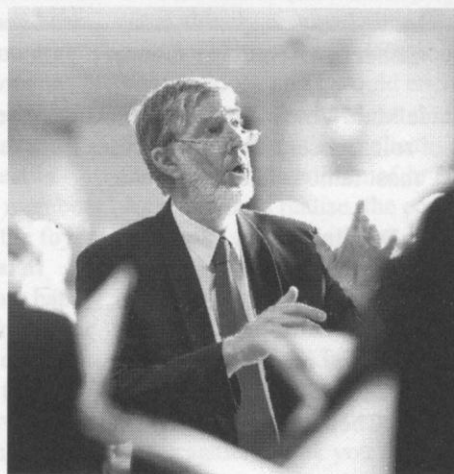
the community has been a central focus of his professional life and personal mission. He sees the arts not as an optional "add on", but as a vital ingredient in the health of the community – both at the individual level in the personal development and fulfilment of the participants, and at the community level in the spreading of enjoyment and friendly links.

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir holds a special place in Bill's heart, and his work over the past twenty-six years as Conductor of the Choir has been a "labour of love". In 2001, he retired from full-time professional work as a music educator, so that he could devote more time to community projects, particularly his work with the Choir.

He greatly appreciates the enthusiasm, commitment and support of the Choir members. "It's a privilege to work with such a fine group of men. They readily tackle new and challenging pieces of music, and work hard to master them. I see the OAM as a tribute to the Choir's enduring tradition of fellowship and good singing. It recognises the Choir's central place at the heart of community music-making in South Australia".

The OAM reflects on the whole AMVC community (the singers, Friends, and loyal audiences), and we all endorse the sentiments expressed in the words of a well-wisher, who wrote to Bill: "You've brought happiness to a lot of people by using the gift of music and leadership that God has given you, and deserve this honour. Keep up the good work! God Bless".

(PS: In addition to music, Bill has had since childhood a great love of steam locomotives. Probably his ultimate dream would be to drive a steam engine while simultaneously conducting the Adelaide Male Voice Choir in a rousing chorus!)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

Friday 25	12.30 pm	Free Lunchtime Concert	RAH Foyer, North Tce Adelaide
-----------	----------	------------------------	----------------------------------

April

Saturday 2	7.30 pm	Hills Musical Extravaganza	Aldgate Memorial Hall Kingsland Rd, Aldgate
------------	---------	----------------------------	--

Monday 25	11.00 am	Anzac Service	Cross of Sacrifice North Adelaide
-----------	----------	---------------	--------------------------------------

May

Sunday 1	2.00 pm	Gilbert and Sullivan Concert	Concordia College Chapel 45 Chelmsford St Highgate
----------	---------	------------------------------	---

July

Saturday 30	6.30 pm	Music Dinner	St Joseph's School Hall Magill Rd Tranmere
-------------	---------	--------------	---

August

Sunday 21	2.00 pm	Sacred Music Concert	Concordia College Chapel 45 Chelmsford St Highgate
-----------	---------	----------------------	---

September

Friday 16 to Monday 19	Trip to South East & Horsham
------------------------	------------------------------

October

Friday 21	6.30 for 7.00 pm	Opera Dinner	Venue to be confirmed
-----------	------------------	--------------	-----------------------

These dates are accurate at the time of printing, but sometimes concert dates have to be changed because of unavoidable circumstances. Please check with future editions of *In Harmony*, go to our website (amvc.org.au) or ask a member of the Choir. Other concert dates will be added through the course of the year.

Your Help is Needed!

Thank you to all our "Supporting Friends of the AMVC" and to the many people who have made additional donations. Your gifts and continued support are very much appreciated. So far this year, we have 25 financial Supporting Friends. Our *In Harmony* newsletter distribution is over 200, so we are encouraging more financial members this year, to help with the costs of printing and postage, and to enable you to take advantage of discounted ticket prices for concerts.

John Wear (Treasurer)

Gilbert and Sullivan Concert

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir and Soloists present a concert of solos, ensembles and choruses from the most famous G & S operettas.

Deborah Caddy (Soprano)
Adam Goodburn (Tenor)
Andrew Turner (Baritone)

at

**Concordia College Chapel
45 Cheltenham St Highgate**

on

Sunday May 1 at 2.00 pm

Tickets \$20, Concession \$18, Supporting Friends \$15
Contact: Neville Roach 8332 1895

Stop Press:

RFDS Honour for Dr Robert Cooter AM

We have just received news that doctors Robert Cooter and John Mickan, who helped pioneer the Royal Flying Doctor Service in South Australia have been honoured with the dedication of a new aircraft. It is a tribute to their splendid work with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and also an acknowledgement of the ground-breaking research they undertook in the mid-1900s in identifying amoebic meningitis. Bob Cooter is a long-standing and valued member of the Choir's First Tenor Section, and we all join in offering him our congratulations on this honour from the RFDS.

(See *In Harmony* Newsletter No 33 Summer 2009 for an article about some of Bob's other achievements)

