

PATRON:

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

PRESIDENT:

Colin Styles

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw OAM

ACCOMPANIST:

Edward Krick

JOINT SECRETARIES:

David Evans
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Ian Milbank
Phone: 8339 1425

TREASURER:

John Wear

COMMITTEE:

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

CONCERT MANAGER:

Neville Roach
Phone: 8332 1895

ALMONER:

Bruce Risby
Phone: 8298 8828

VICE PATRONS:

Myfanwy James
Margaret Lambert
Gentry 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

Happy New Year to everyone, and welcome to 2012 with the Adelaide Male Voice Choir!

It seems only a little time ago that we were all looking toward 2011 and wondering what the year would bring. We thought that for the AMVC it could be a busy one. Little did we know just how busy!

Just looking back over the last three or four months has proved that point. We went on a singing tour to Meningie, Penola and Horsham, gave a fund-raising concert in support of the Prostate Cancer Foundation, presented our Gilbert and Sullivan program in Seeds Uniting Church to an audience of more than 350 people at an Every Generation Onkaparinga concert acknowledging the contributions seniors make to the community life of that council area, enjoyed another sparkling and special Opera Dinner at the SA Jockey Club, were part of the ceremony acknowledging the sacrifices made by our service men and women at the Remembrance Day Service at the West Terrace Cemetery, celebrated the end of the year with the folk from the Glynde Lutheran Homes, and gave a lunchtime concert at the Flinders Street Baptist Church.

A particularly exciting event in December was the recording in St Stephen's Lutheran Church by TV Channel 44 Adelaide of a program of Christmas carols by the Choir, with soloist Janice Baker and a string ensemble of talented young musicians. The 30-minute program was shown several times in the week before Christmas.

The Choir's traditional end of the year dinner was a great time for us to relax and enjoy one another's company. At the same time it gave me personally the

opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the contributions many of our members and their partners have made to the life of the Choir. Without this ready support, so generously given, our group would not be (to use Bill's quote) the 'happy band of brothers' who make music 'with unity and joy'.

None of us can say that life is dull and unchallenging when one is involved with the AMVC. So if any of you know of men who love to sing, we would like to hear from them.

Thanks

On behalf of us all I thank Bill and Ed for the way they have worked with us: for their patience, professionalism, inspiration and encouragement.

We have really appreciated the fine soloists who have performed with us at our concerts, both in Adelaide and on our country tour, and we extend our thanks to them.

The AMVC would be nothing without the men who gather regularly to face the challenges of interpreting those 'dots and squiggles' into music that they and our audiences enjoy. Thank you guys for your dedication and support and your willingness to take on the challenges which each new piece of music brings.

I take this opportunity to express my own personal thanks to the Committee members. These men have accepted many and varied tasks when asked. Other Choir members, including our almoner and web-master, willingly take on a variety of tasks to help the smooth running of the Choir, and I am very grateful to them.

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To our partners, thank you most sincerely for your encouragement and support. We do appreciate your being at our concerts, for supplying special food whenever asked, taking on roles such as 'front of house' at concerts and organising social events, editing *In Harmony*, and generally keeping us on track throughout the year.

The Committee members have been very fortunate again in being able to meet in the city offices of Andrew Shaw. This has been a real boon to us and we do appreciate his generosity and hospitality.

To you our FRIENDS thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We feel sure that we can count on it again in 2012 and look forward to catching up with you again.

Colin Styles

GEORGE WILLCOX is a member of the Second Tenor Section in the Choir. As a performer, he demonstrates a real delight in singing, and many audience members have commented on his lively presentation. Here is George's story in his own words:

Born 1942 on the wrong side of the tracks in South Wales, I was the first of 4 children. My father, a merchant seaman, having been knocked around in the North Atlantic, never quite recovered from the war campaign. So without wanting to appear melodramatic, I'd say that my childhood was bleak in a depressed post-war environment. However, our mother was made of stoic stuff, stuck it out, stayed married, fed us, and worked for me to attend Canton High School, in Cardiff.

When I passed Advanced Level at 18 years, the home was in need of extra cash, so I began work as a laboratory technician for Midland Silicones, (now a European satellite of the U.S giant, Dow Corning). We had fantastic fun in the lab, with 45-minute tea-breaks, solving broadsheet cryptic crosswords and generally having a good time. It was there that I, for the first time, established lifelong friendships. After 5 years' work I secured a place at University of Wales, Aberystwyth, eventually obtaining a degree in chemistry. This launched me up to London working at GEC's Hirst Research Centre, near Wembley Stadium.

Whilst flipping hamburgers for pocket money at a cafe in Kilburn High Road, I was confronted by two fresh-faced Australian girls out on holidays from Melbourne. I fell for one of these two, the daughter of Polish émigrés. She had intended to return home after 3 months but stayed for 3 years. During this time her parents came out for a trip, and I got the pass-tick from them.

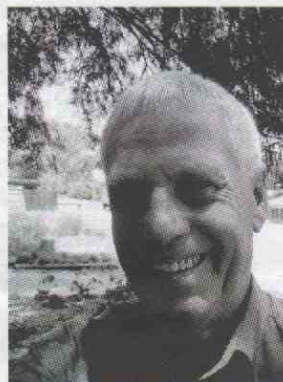
So, about 2 weeks after Gough Whitlam got the boot from Parliament, (November 1975), I touched down on to the scorching hot tarmac at Sydney, having unknowingly picked up Delhi-Belly on an overnight stop in Calcutta. I lost 6kg in a week, and wondered what I was doing in this strange country, where swans were the wrong colour, and girls were forbidden to drink in the same bar as blokes!

I started work at a metal sintering factory where her dad was foreman, thence as a development chemist for a printing ink firm in Moorabbin. We married a year later. Alas, it failed after 6 years. Devastated, and pondering a return to Wales, I found comfort by joining a Welsh Male Voice Choir, and so remained in Melbourne, where I eventually met my lovely wife, Mary. The circumstances of that encounter are a story in itself, saved for the telling another time!

In 1991, my work in winemaking supplies' sales brought us to Adelaide, where Mary, originally from Crystal Brook, had completed her training as an Enrolled Nurse years before. We've been married 26 years, and have 2 sons, Luke, from Mary's first marriage, and Bryn, whom we produced together. We've attended Paradise Community Church for the last 10 years, where I sang with their choir. Though I loved this, I gave it away because of nagging pains in a childhood ankle injury.

Just over a year ago I fell into semi-retirement as a result of the Global Financial Crisis and thought about how to fill my time. One Saturday, I picked up a copy of *The Senior*, something I'd never done before, and saw an article about the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. That evening I phoned and left a message on the President's phone. The very next day, whilst lugging a 20kg pot around at a local nursery, I heard a Welsh man talking. We exchanged pleasantries, and he asked me if I wanted to sing. I replied, "I'll be joining your Choir next week"!

The rest, as they say, is history, I love singing and serving in the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. Lots of fellowship, laughs and JOY!



ON YOUR BIKE!

The *Tour Down Under* event (15-22 January) was a colourful and exciting start to the year and involved some impressive international and Australian cycling talent, including two of our AMVC members - David Evans and John Thompson. Here are their reminiscences about their cycling careers.

David Evans

I have always been interested in cycling and have always lived at the end of very long and steep hill-side roads. My first ride was in Wales with an older boy who lived next door when I was about 9 years old. I rode my 20-inch-wheel bike to the town of Usk and return of about 30 miles. As a teenager I rode with the Pontypool Cycling Club and also considerable distances to and from work each day. At various times in my life trying to make a come back to cycling but never quite making the time, i.e. more interested in the opposite sex.

In 1972 we migrated to Australia with my family and after coming to SA I started to cycle more seriously and went with a friend on a ride to Melbourne (a 3-day ride), and returned on the bus. We did not realise how far everything in distance was in Australia!

My cycling has progressed to the point where I have cycled part of the *Tour Down Under* for the last 4 years, taking part this year in stage 4 on Friday 20 January. The total ride of the Tour was 130km from Norwood to Tanunda. I joined up from Gumeracha to Kersbrook, Mount Pleasant, Springton, Williamstown, Lyndoch, Bethany, Angaston via Menglers Hill and back to Tanunda for the finish of 103 km.

At present I try to do two rides a week with John Thompson and the Wednesday group "Star Cycles Elizabeth" and try and do an average of 160km per week; if I have time I'll try and squeeze in an extra 40km as well. We average approx 23-28km.p.h. The Star Cycle group is a real men's health therapy session, just to meet up and talk at the inevitable coffee stop. Several riders have successfully overcome significant health problems. I guess we are a group of older people trying to keep away from the walking frame with a lightweight bike and having fun doing it.

In reference to cycling it is not unlike singing in a concert, you know you have hit the spot with the audience; you can enjoy the memory of it long after the event.

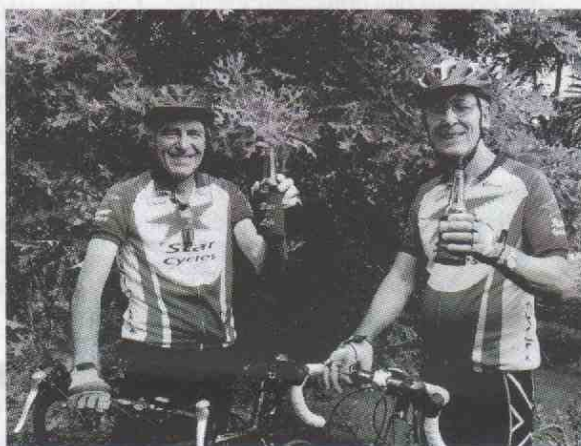
John Thompson

I commenced cycling mid 2003 with a \$100 bike from 'Woolies', due to my knee not standing up to any other sporting activity. My first outing with the local bike group was a little embarrassing. I turned up with the bike in the boot of my car (as I was not capable of cycling back up the hill) and with clothes

pegs as cycle clips to hold in the bottoms of my trousers. The group were all in the Lycra with top of the range bikes. One of the group was telling others that he had just bought a new pair of wheels for \$1100. I could not hold back and said "that's more than my car is worth". I was a real nerd but I adapted and still ride with the same group today, but now on a flash bike and in the Lycra. I took to riding as a duck to water and a few months later rode the 2004 *Tour Down Under* ride of 150 km in 40 plus degrees. I was so done in, I vowed never to do the *TDU* again. Before the year was out I was riding the Great Ocean Road with six others from the group. We had a ball and that was my introduction to cycle touring and camping, which has continued to be my favourite pastime. I have camped and ridden several 1000km in all states other than Qld and the NT and my overseas rides have covered Italy, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, Portugal and England. My first real trip was an eight week ride from Rome to the UK. Without any real planning, I put my bike on a plane to Rome and on leaving the airport turned right at the coast and keeping the sea on my left set out for England. Up the Italian coast and within 10 days there I was in Monte Carlo followed by Nice and the French Riviera to Marseilles. It was then a right turn up the Rhone Valley and eventually Paris. Riding through Paris early one morning there was the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and several other famous land-marks. The feeling was exhilarating and the trip turned out to be 2500km, and all this done alone during my first year of cycling. I have now seen more of Australia and Europe from a bike than would normally have been possible.

My weekly program (usually with David) is a coffee ride on Wednesday morning of about 70 to 90 km with the cycle group and a week-end ride with David to the Barossa or the northern Adelaide Hills of about the same distance. I have also been fitting in as many cycle/camping trips as possible and New Zealand is now on my list for February 2012.

I cycle for enjoyment; it is a leisure and pleasure activity. The only competitive element is to enjoy the next ride as much as the last. No training is required and in my case I am just as happy riding alone as I am in a small group.



Cheers to John and David!

Dates for Your Diary

February			
Monday 6	7.45 pm	Rehearsals resume	St Stephen's Church 152 Wakefield St, Adelaide
April			
Friday 13	12 noon	Lunchtime Concert	Royal Adelaide Hospital, North Tce, Adelaide
Sunday 22	2.00 pm	Gilbert and Sullivan Concert (proposed videotaping for TV)	Concordia College Chapel 45 Cheltenham St, Highgate
Wednesday 25	11.00 am	Anzac Day Service	Cross of Sacrifice North Adelaide
May			
Sunday 27	2.00 pm	Music from the Stage	Concordia College Chapel 45 Cheltenham St, Highgate

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. Further concerts and events through the year will be announced as arrangements are confirmed.

We could not resist reprinting this item from *In Harmony* Autumn 2004:

GOLDEN RULES FOR CHORAL SINGING (not necessarily all endorsed by Conductor Bill Shaw!)

1. Everybody should sing the same piece.
2. Stop at every repeat sign and discuss whether or not to repeat. The audience will love it.
3. If you sing a wrong note, give a nasty look to the person on your left.
4. The right note at the wrong time is a wrong note (and vice versa).
5. If everyone gets lost except you, follow those who are lost.
6. Markings for dynamics, slurs and ornaments should not be observed. They are only there to embellish the score.
7. If a passage is difficult, slow down. If it's easy, speed up. Everything will work itself out in the end.
8. If the choir has to stop because of you, explain in detail why you got lost. Everyone will be most interested.
9. A true interpretation is realised when there remains not one note of the original.
10. When everyone else has finished singing, you should not sing any notes you have left.
11. A wrong note sung timidly is a wrong note. A wrong note sung with authority is an interpretation.
12. If you are completely lost, stop everyone and say "I think someone has gone wrong. Can we start again?"

A FINE VINTAGE

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir is pleased to honour the following members, currently performing with the Choir, who have given twenty or more years of service to the AMVC:

David CONTI

David EVANS

Kevin FISHER

Bill GOUGH

Don JESSOP

Bill SHAW

The Choir acknowledges the fine contributions made by these members to the musical life of the Choir (like good wine, they just get better with maturity!) and to the roles they carry out in helping the Choir achieve its motto of *celebrating choral excellence*.

At the Christmas Dinner in December last year, these members were each presented with a set of cuff-links engraved with the AMVC logo, as a token of appreciation for their years of service.

The Choir was established in 1884, and we are proud to be continuing its tradition of good singing and good fellowship into the 21st century.