

PATRON:

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

VICE PATRONS:

Peter Goers OAM
Jeffrey Kong

PRESIDENT:

Colin Styles

VICE PRESIDENT:

David Evans (8280 7759)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw OAM

ACCOMPANIST:

Edward Kriek

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR:

Harrison Lambert

SECRETARIAT:

George Willcox (Secretary)
Phone: 0407 724 584
Ian Milbank (Minutes Secretary)

TREASURER:

Denis Harper

LIBRARIAN:

Terry Helbig

COMMITTEE:

John Dick (Asst Librarian)
Neville Roach
David Turner
John Wear

CONCERT MANAGER:

Neville Roach (8332 1895)

ALMONER:

Bruce Risby (8298 8828)

PUBLICITY:

Tony Hull (0450 768 705)

LIFE MEMBERS:

Myfanwy James
Margaret Lambert
Robert McLeay
Genty Stevens
Len Turner
Denis West

Choir practices are held every
Monday from 7.30 pm to 9.45 pm
at Immanuel Lutheran Church,
139 Archer St, North Adelaide

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A very warm welcome to this edition of *In Harmony*. I am sure you will enjoy learning of our coming engagements and finding out more about our history and our members. Details of future concerts as well as interesting stories from past editions are available on the AMVC web page, and we are very grateful to Peter Schulze, our web master, for keeping our web page up to date.

Recent events

Over the last several years St Joseph's Parish Tranmere has been very generous in offering its facilities to support a number of our fund-raising social activities (mid-year dinners, quiz nights, a cabaret and a Pirate Night, to mention but a few). As a token of our gratitude and appreciation it was our pleasure to present a concert on 30 March to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Tranmere Parish. We shared the program with some delightful young performers from the Parish, and enjoyed a happy afternoon of music-making.

On 6 April at the Wyatt Hall in Pulteney Grammar School we performed our very popular concert of selections from Gilbert and Sullivan and a medley from *Les Miserables*. For this afternoon we were joined by Deborah Caddy, Adam Goodburn and Andrew Turner as our very talented guest soloists. The program, including as it did items which ranged from the witty and humorous to the deeply moving, certainly gave something for everyone, audience and singers alike. I know that I speak for the Choir members when I say that we really enjoy the opportunity to perform with such professional artists.

I thank our partners for assisting as front of house personnel and for the provision of a sumptuous afternoon tea again. We are very grateful for the support they give us.

ANZAC Day found us at the Cross of Sacrifice. We were honoured to share again in this very moving ceremony. It is indeed a very public way that we and the assembled gathering can honour those who gave so much to ensure that we can live safely in this wonderful land.

On the social side, a number of us gathered at Hazelwood Park for a picnic on 26 April. After what looked like being a damp mid-morning, the sun broke through and we had a relaxing time enjoying one another's company. Events such as this are a most important part of the life of the AMVC.

Vice Patrons

I am very pleased to inform you that Peter Goers OAM has accepted our invitation to continue as one of our Vice Patrons.

Our other Vice Patron, Jeffrey Kong, has invited us to join with Brighton Secondary School's guests from Shanghai for a concert on 16 August. We are really looking forward to joining these young people again.

Both Vice Patrons will play an important role in our 130th Anniversary Celebration Concert on 12 October.

Membership

We have been very happy to welcome new members to our group again this year. As I have mentioned a number of times, one does not have to be a great soloist or experienced choir member to join us, one simply needs to enjoy singing and making music with other fellows. See page 3 for my notes on the benefits of joining a choir.

Coming events

Please see Dates for Your Diary on page 4 for details of some very special concerts and social events in our 130th anniversary year.

Colin Styles

DARRYL SHOESMITH, who recently joined the Second Tenor section of the AMVC, shares some glimpses of his eventful life:

Life began in Toowoomba Queensland in 1957. I was born the second son of a dairy farmer. The farm was situated in an area called Cadarga, about two hours west of Toowoomba. At that time the local school had seven pupils in attendance, of whom I was the youngest in grade one at the age of four.

When I was ten years old, the family moved to Toowoomba to enable my father to assist in the running of my grandfather's new and second hand goods business. This was a great time for me, as school holidays and Saturday mornings meant helping in the business. This created a great grounding for retail knowledge and gaining people skills. After the death of my grandfather, my father split the business in two between himself and my uncle. Father retained new and used firearms and related goods, archery, knives and fishing gear. This was great, for I loved hunting and fishing.

After high school I attended Queensland Agricultural College, studying rural techniques and wildlife management. I returned to the business in 1977 to assist in its running, and in 1982 journeyed to the USA where I gained qualifications as a gunsmith. Some terrific hunting experiences were enjoyed there in Colorado. Returning to the business, I took over its ownership and operation in 1985, and continued to operate it successfully. Not to lose track of my land connections, my wife and I purchased a cattle property not too far from the childhood farm. This we ran on weekends for a number of years. We sold the property, then in 2008 we sold the business.

Early retirement seemed a good idea, but overseas and local travel, hunting and fishing, visiting and annoying our children were just not satisfying.

Life was to head in a new direction. I was accepted as a student at the Australian Lutheran College here in Adelaide to study to be a minister. I attended Immanuel Church and as a result of Terry Helbig's persuasion I joined the Adelaide Male Voice Choir last year. My only musical experience was one year of singing lessons in 1978. I took up learning the bagpipes seventeen years ago and still enjoy playing them, so singing those long lines without a breath is no problem!

The desire to sing had been hidden for a considerable time, but now the challenge has awakened the more than rusty hidden voice. Since joining the Choir, not only have I gained a greater appreciation of the

various types of music performed by the Choir but also the pleasure that the Choir instills in those for whom we perform. This has also created in me far greater confidence, which I am sure will carry forward into my future vocation, and I consider it a privilege to be a singing member.



AMVC SOCIAL FUNCTION "INTERNATIONAL NIGHT"

Do you look:

Bohemian in a beret
Cute in a kilt
Delectable in a dirndl
Scintillating in a sarl ?

Come and join us for a relaxing evening of fun, food and music with an international theme

WHEN: 7.00pm on Friday 18 July 2014

WHERE: St Joseph's School Hall
1 Birkenshaw Avenue, Tranmere

DRESS: You can wear a little touch of something international or you can really go to town!

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Phone Neville 8332 1895

Planning for this function is currently underway. Details will be available soon, so please contact a Choir member or visit our website (amvc.org.au).

WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO JOIN A CHOIR?

AMVC President, Colin Styles, provides some answers to that question:

On a quick search of the internet (reference: Alice Bignell *The Benefits of Singing*) and from the experience of various members of the AMVC, I mention these as very good reasons you should consider joining us.

By joining a choir you are looking after your physical and mental health

Physically: increased lung efficiency, oxygen intake. Among the physical benefits it seems you can improve the airflow in your upper respiratory tracts. This means, I am assured, giving bacteria less opportunity to flourish.

Mentally: you gain much benefit from the challenges which are presented to you in the interpretation of "those symbols" on the page. Even more beneficial is the committing of the interpretation of these symbols to your memory.

Singing can assist bringing about a "feel good" feeling

A number of us have mentioned that at times we have gone to practice feeling a "little low" and that after a while we feel much better. Perhaps that is because we are in the company of others and our minds are kept occupied by a variety of things.

Singing also can increase one's feeling of self worth

One continues to learn, to keep the mind active and to be a real part of a community activity. This is certainly so, as is evidenced when we have been involved in a very successful concert performance — all are "on a high".

Singing in a choir also means that you have to make an effort to get out and to socialize

Both of these activities are essential for a healthy attitude toward life.

So, for some of those few reasons alone maybe you should think about joining us. You would be very welcome.

Conversations with grandchildren

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied "I'm not sure". "Look in your underwear, Grandpa", he advised. "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know", she replied. "I can't read."

130 YEARS OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP

(Notes by Bill Shaw, Director of Music)

In continuing to record for you some of the Choir's history, I thought that in this edition of *In Harmony* I would focus on Choir membership, to complement our President's interesting notes on this page about some good reasons for joining a choir.

The Choir was founded in 1884 with about a dozen enthusiastic members. The numbers grew little by little, although in the early days numbers were limited by a very practical consideration — members and their families needed to be able to fit into the horse-drawn dray transporting the Choir to performances in such far-distant places as Summertown.

In subsequent years, as the Choir grew larger, meticulous records were kept of attendance at rehearsals. Absences were marked in red ink, and a row of absences resulted in a "please explain" letter. If no satisfactory explanation was received, the member was struck from the rolls. I noted however that an exception to this strict rule was made in 1915 for prisoners of war, who were allowed to stay on the books for the duration of the war, without having to send a written apology! In early 1914, the Choir's accompanist Mr Short went to Berlin to further his musical studies, only to find himself trapped there when World War I broke out. He was interned for the duration of the war, then continued his studies there after the war for a few years and finally returned to Adelaide to a warm welcome.

In the 1920s, the Choir had over 70 names on the books, but only half that number present at rehearsals. If they were different members each time, it would have been quite a nightmare for the conductor!

During the Depression years of the early 1930s, it became evident to the Choir that some of the members were going through particularly hard times. A decision was made to waive the membership fee for anyone who had lost his job or whose business was struggling. In addition, the Choir provided those members with return tram tickets, in order to be able to attend rehearsals. Members whose fees had been waived were still considered full members with all rights and privileges, including voting rights.

Right from the beginning, the Choir performed concerts in aid of worthy causes and this tradition of supporting charitable organisations has continued to the present day. Not surprisingly, this ethos of community goodwill has also prevailed within the Choir, and from early days the minutes of Annual General Meetings reflect high levels of friendly cooperation between members. It seems to me that this sense of good fellowship, as we share our lives and our joy in music, is a fundamental strength of the Choir.

Dates for Your Diary

June

Friday 13	6.00 pm	Shared concert	St John's Grammar School, Belair
Sunday 22	2.00 pm	Concert	Russell Hall, Masonic Village Diagonal Rd, Somerton Park
Sunday 29	2.30 pm	Celebration Concert 2 "Music from Heaven"	Clayton Wesley Church Cnr The Parade and Portrush Rd Norwood

July

Sunday 13	2.00 pm	Concert	Immanuel Lutheran Church 139 Archer St, North Adelaide
Friday 18	7.00 pm	"International Night" Social function (Bookings essential 8332 1895)	St Joseph's School Hall 1 Birkenshaw Avenue Tranmere

August

Saturday 16	7.00 pm	Shared concert	Brighton Secondary School Brighton Rd, Brighton
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October

Sunday 12	2.00 pm	Celebration Concert 3 [with Police Band]	The Forge, Marryatville High School Kensington Rd, Marryatville
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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.

AMVC 130 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONCERT 2

"MUSIC FROM HEAVEN"

Glorious music and glorious voices to set your hearts and souls afire!

Conductor: William Shaw OAM

Accompanist: Edward Kriek

Assistant Conductor: Harrison Lambert

Guest soloists: Joanna McWaters (soprano), Adam Goodburn (tenor), Andrew Turner (baritone)

WHEN: 2.30pm on Sunday 29 June 2014

WHERE: Clayton Wesley Church, corner The Parade and Portrush Road, Norwood

TICKETS: \$25; concession \$20; Financial Friends \$15
Tickets available from Choir members, or phone Neville on 8332 1895, or go to amvc.org.au and follow the prompts for epayments on line

Our famous afternoon tea will be available at interval
We look forward to seeing you at this Celebration Concert