



In Harmony

Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir
Number 55 Winter 2015

PATRON:

His Excellency
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO
Governor of South Australia

VICE PATRONS:

Peter Goers OAM
Jeffrey Kong

PRESIDENT:

Colin Styles

VICE PRESIDENT:

David Evans (8288 0808)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

William Shaw OAM

ACCOMPANIST:

Edward Kriek

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR:

Harrison Lambert

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(0407 724 584)
Ian Milbank (*Minutes Secretary*)

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Denis Harper

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Terry Helbig

COMMITTEE:

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

CONCERT MANAGER:

Neville Roach (8332 1895)

ALMONER:

Bruce Risby (8298 8828)

WEBMASTER:

Peter Schulze
peter@pkschulze.com

LIFE MEMBERS:

Kevin Fisher OAM
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

WEB ADDRESS:

amvc.org.au

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Choir took a winter recess from rehearsals during July this year, but while Choir members had to find something to fill their Monday nights, Committee members and Tour organisers were busy with organisational matters. We are very fortunate indeed to have this group of people (members and partners) who willingly give up many hours working behind the scenes. Thank you for your continued support. It really is appreciated.

Recent events

Our "Aussie night" social function in July was a *cracking* success! The organisers were *chuffed* to see the sea of green and gold among the Akubras, moleskins, RM Williams boots and Australian flags that came through the doors. There was an air of expectation as people walked through the display of Australian memorabilia into the main hall. They were there for a *beaut* time and they were not disappointed. Not long after the evening got under way our *chin wagging* was silenced when a tall Akubra- and Drizabone-clad character ambled into the hall carrying a number of whips under his arm. *Strewth*, what's going on? Our special surprise guest for the evening, Adrian Fitzgerald, demonstrated his skill with these strips of hide and explained how and where each of his whips can be used. Only one of our revellers, Tim Shaw, accepted Adrian's challenge to try his hand at cracking one of the whips. They achieved this in the wide outdoors of the carpark, and returned inside to have a companionable drink and a good *yarn*.

Singing some rousing, *real dinkum* Aussie bushsongs gave everyone a chance to join in the fun. Further highlights were provided by some of our Choir members: Ron Lewis led us through the adventures of *Mulga Bill's Bicycle* as it went through many well-known towns before ending up in Dead Man's Creek; Robert Smith gave a heart-rending account of the *Senti-*

mental Bloke courting his Doreen; swagman Kevin Fisher sang about his *Old Black Billy*; and Terry Helbig recalled the aromatic adventures of the rascally old dog which dragged its repulsive and stinking morsel through the town. Jean Pierre Rival, with his rendition of a French song, made me reflect that if Nicolas Baudin's discoveries had been followed up more expeditiously, then French could well have been our everyday language.

The food for the evening was an Aussie BBQ with snags, patties, potato bake and salads, followed by pavlovas, lamingtons and chocolate crackles. I congratulate and thank our band of cooks on a great job well done. I am sure that no one went home feeling hungry. Many thanks go to St Joseph's in Tranmere for the use of the School hall again this year. It is an ideal facility for social functions such as this.

Choir Tour

Plans are well in hand for our trip to Meningie and Hamilton. We anticipate performing at the Uniting Church Hall in Meningie on Friday 28 August with soprano soloist Prue Cartledge, and at the Lutheran Church in Hamilton on Saturday 29 August with soprano soloist Francine Bell and violinists Kate Wear and Rahel Bunge.

Tours such as this take a great deal of preparation and I again thank the members of the organising group for the many hours they have spent on the venture. We are looking forward to the time away together.

Coming events

Bookings will open soon for two special events which you will certainly wish to attend. See page 3 for details.

Financial Friends

Just a reminder that if you have forgotten to renew your Friend's membership, please do not leave it any longer.

Thank you for your continued support. See you soon.

Colin Styles

INTRODUCING DAVID BURNEY, a member of the Bass Section of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

David's son Alex also sings with the Choir (see *In Harmony*, number 52, Spring 2014), and we are delighted to have such talented singers representing two generations of a family where music clearly provides much enjoyment and entertainment.

Here in his own words David gives a summary of some aspects of his life and interests:

"Life began in Toorak Gardens in 1957. I was the oldest of 4 children (2 brothers, 1 sister), and I also have 4 children (3 boys, 1 girl) and 2 grandchildren (1 girl, 1 boy).

My father was a vehicle battery maker and had a scrap metal business in the north east suburbs, and I would often work there after school and during school holidays.

My grandfather, who was a printer, had a holiday shack at Port Broughton, where we would go boating, fishing and sailing. Unfortunately, while sailing at Brighton beach, our sailing boat capsized and my dad drowned at the young age of 34, when I was 13.

I did okay at school, but I couldn't wait to finish Year 12, so I went off and worked at MS McLeod's as a store person and tyre fitter. From about age 20 till now I have worked as a garden manager / horticulturalist. During this time I completed Certificate 4 in both Parks and Garden Management and Sports Turf Management. I have looked after and managed grounds and gardens for a number of government and private clients. One of the more significant was the SA Sports Institute Football/Soccer grounds for elite junior development players.

I have always had a love of a range of music and singing in choirs, but I have never taken it to any serious level. My first early memories are of singing nursery rhyme songs and Sunday school songs like "All things bright and beautiful" and "Be careful little eyes", etc.

As young children, I remember us giving my dad's reel-to-reel tape deck and microphone a good work-over, recording and singing from an old pedal organ. Then there were a couple of old "78" gramophones which we enjoyed playing the "Goons" and other music of the era before that. We always looked forward to singing along with my mum's aunty's pianola rolls.



When I was at school, I had a teacher who played the guitar, and we would sing Peter, Paul and Mary, and Seeker songs at school, which I liked doing, especially "Puff the Magic Dragon".

My first purchase when I started work was a portable cassette player that did a lot of work with '70s songs and music. After that, car cassette players got well used for the next 20 years.

I have always enjoyed singing in youth, church and other choirs most of my life, but I never really started singing properly until my youngest son Alex dragged me along to the AMVC two years ago. It is challenging finding the time to practise and learn new music, but it is also fun and rewarding when I gain confidence in having mastered a particular song.

Thanks, Bill!"

Are you having any fun?

The answer is "Yes", if you come to our Adelaide Fringe concerts!

The AMVC's first venture into the Fringe scene in March this year was such a sold-out success that we will be participating again in March 2016.

Here is advance notice to put the following dates into your social diary for our 2016 Fringe concerts entitled ***Are you having any fun?*** :

Friday 26 February at 6.00pm and
Saturday 5 March at 6.00pm
St Stephen's Lutheran Church Hall,
152 Wakefield Street, Adelaide

So, enjoy life and have some fun with the Adelaide Male Voice Choir!

Spring Harmony

An Adelaide Male Voice Choir Presentation

Conductor: William Shaw OAM
Accompanist: Edward Kriek
Assistant Conductor: Harrison Lambert

A Special Celebration Concert to honour our Vice Patron Jeffrey Kong as he retires after 40 years as a music teacher at Brighton Secondary School's Special Interest Music Centre, the last 10 years as Head of Music

Funds raised through this Concert will support the Brighton music student tour to Europe in November

Enjoy an afternoon of sparkling entertainment featuring
The Adelaide Male Voice Choir
The Brighton Tour Choir
Exciting soloists
Dazzling pianists

Our famous afternoon-tea will be available

- WHEN:** 2.00pm on Saturday 24 October 2015
- WHERE:** Brighton Secondary School Concert Hall
305 Brighton Road, North Brighton
- TICKETS:** \$20/ Concession and AMVC Financial Friends \$15 / Students \$10
Tickets will be available from Monday 21 September 2015
- BOOKINGS:** Through Choir members
OR phone Neville Roach on 8332 1895
OR phone Brighton SIMC on 8375 8215
OR buy tickets at the door

AMVC Christmas Entertainment and Dinner

Time to plan ahead!
Our Christmas Dinner is a very popular function, so here is advance notice, so you can include the event in your social diary.

- WHEN:** 7.00 for 7.15pm on Friday 11 December 2015
- WHERE:** Legends Room, The Junction, 470 Anzac Highway, Camden Park
(Plenty of parking; easy access)
- COST:** \$60 per person (3-course dinner, plus tea/coffee and chocolates; beverages can be purchased from the bar in our private function room)
- BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:** Phone Colin on 8270 2628. Make up a table of eight, or we can place you with a friendly group.

You are warmly invited to join us for a festive and enjoyable evening of good food and quality entertainment in a friendly environment. (Our raffle prizes are legendary!)

Dates for Your Diary

August			
Friday 28 to Sunday 30		Choir Tour	Meningie and Hamilton
September			
Monday 28	7.45 pm	Recording Session	Immanuel Lutheran Church 139 Archer St, Nth Adelaide
October			
Monday 5	7.30 pm	Concert for Adelaide Music Club	Tropeano Function Centre 443 Tapleys Hill Rd, Fulham Gdns
Saturday 24	2.00 pm	AMVC Spring Concert	Brighton Secondary School 305 Brighton Rd, North Brighton
November			
Sunday 1	2.00 pm	Concert for Immanuel Church Congregation	Immanuel Lutheran Church 139 Archer St, Nth Adelaide
Sunday 15	2.00 pm	Concert for St Joseph's Church	484 Magill Rd, Kensington Gardens
Sunday 22	2.00 pm	Concert	Hampstead Rehab Hospital 207 Hampstead Rd, Northfield
Thursday 26	7.30 pm	Concert	Glynde Lutheran Homes Avenue Rd, Glynde
December			
Friday 11	7/7.15pm	Christmas Entertainment and Dinner (Bookings essential 8270 2628)	Legends Room, The Junction, 470 Anzac Hwy, Camden Park
Tuesday 15	7.00 pm	Concert	Hope Valley Lutheran Homes 1217 Grand Junction Rd, Hope Valley
2016			
Friday 26 Feb and Saturday 5 March	6.00 pm	Fringe Concerts	St Stephen's Lutheran Church Hall 152 Wakefield St, Adelaide

These details are accurate at the time of printing, but sometimes dates or venues have to be changed because of unavoidable circumstances. Please check future editions of *In Harmony*, go to our website (amvc.org.au), or ask a member of the Choir. Further concerts and events will be announced as arrangements are confirmed.

Can you help us with publicity?

From the feedback we receive after concerts, there is no doubt that our audiences have had a thoroughly enjoyable experience of quality musical entertainment in a convivial environment. We often hear comments such as "My friend brought me to this concert for the first time. It was really great, and I had no idea before that such a wonderful choir existed. How can I hear about your next concert, so I can come again?"

We have a loyal group of Friends of the AMVC, with whom we communicate via our Newsletter *In Harmony*. Information is also available through our website amvc.org.au, and we advertise our concerts through posters placed in libraries and community centres. However, we need to reach a wider public, to let people know about the music treats on offer. We have found that items in *The Advertiser*, the local Messenger press and on local radio are an effective way of promoting our concerts and attracting new audience members, but we need a bit of help with organising this on a regular basis.

Do you enjoy public relations and communication? If so, we would be very grateful for a little help from you in liaising with the media and promoting Choir events. Many of our concerts raise funds in support of charitable causes, so there is always positive community interest.

Please contact our Choir Secretary George Willcox (on 0407 724 584) if you would be willing to give some of your time and talent to helping us. Volunteers are a greatly appreciated element of the Choir community, and you would be a very welcome addition to our dedicated band of supporters.