

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

SECRETARIAT:
George Willcox (*Secretary*)
(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)

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

Recently a radio announcer declared that once Australia Day has been celebrated, the exchanging of the greeting "Happy New Year" has lost its significance, so in its place on behalf of all the men of the AMVC, I welcome you to another year of good music and good company.

What's been happening since our last Newsletter?

We had a busy concert schedule leading up to Christmas 2015, and really enjoyed our time with our friends, the folk at the Glynde and Hope Valley Lutheran Homes. These venues have become our traditional places to celebrate the arrival of the Christmas Season. At Glynde, our soloists were tenor David Hokin from the Choir, Asst Conductor Harrison Lambert playing flute, and guest baritone Ian Vayne. The Hope Valley programme included guest soprano Natalie Lambert, organ solos played by Choir member John Wilksch, and duo piano pieces from Choir Accompanist Ed Kriek with guest pianist Norm Schulz.

Our 2015 Christmas dinner was held in the Legends Room at The Junction Function Centre, and we were very pleased to have a number of our Friends join us for this gala event. Jazz singer Luke Thompson added his own special touch to the evening, and we look forward to hearing him again at our Fringe concerts this year. At the dinner we acknowledged the consistent work put in over many years by several of the Choir's supporters, including the sterling contribution made by Daina Shaw to the administration of the Choir, especially in editing *In Harmony* for the past ten years.

What's coming?

The Adelaide Fringe — see page 3 for details of our concerts. We are looking forward to participating again in this amazing event, which has become such a part of the life of Adelaide.

Combined Concert with the Metropolitan Male Choir — see page 3 for details. We are very pleased to be joining with the MMC for an exciting afternoon of fine choral music, which will include combined as well as individual performances by both choirs. Our guest soloist will be well-known soprano Joanna McWaters, who has delighted our audiences on a number of occasions in the past.

Membership

During 2015 we were delighted to have several new fellows join us. I have been impressed by the way they have joined in and become part of the AMVC and how willingly they have shared their skills and knowledge as well as their voices for our benefit. We all find that belonging to the Choir is a personally rewarding experience, so please spread the word around among your friends, so that they also can join the Choir in celebrating choral excellence and providing the people of South Australia and beyond with musical enjoyment. Our first rehearsal this year saw the return to active membership of several Choir members who had been ill during the past year. We heartily welcome them back and we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to those members still on the sick list.

Thanks

We could not function as well as we do without the dedicated help from a group of our partners, who spend many hours undertaking front-of-house and other administrative tasks, so that Choir members can concentrate on their prime task of providing music. Sincere thanks to you all and to our Committee members and other Choir members, who simply say "I can do that" and go ahead and do it. I look forward to catching up with you, our Friends, during this coming busy year of concerts and social events.

Colin Styles

INTRODUCING RON LEWIS, a member of the First Tenor Section of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. Ron's reflections on his eventful life, written with his characteristic dry sense of humour, reveal a resourceful and multi-talented person. We are very pleased to have Ron and his wife Mary as part of our Choir community.

"The day I was born, on the 24th of July 1932, at Lobethal, I have been told there were four inches of snow on the main street. I suppose this is why I hate the hot weather! I was the middle child of a family of five, with an older brother and sister, and two younger brothers. My parents owned a dairy farm near Charleston in the Adelaide Hills, so life was pretty hectic, working from daylight to dark.

My primary schooling began and finished at Spring Head Lutheran School, a one-teacher school, with seven grades and about thirty pupils. Secondary school consisted of a three year stint at Oakbank Area School, where I obtained my intermediate certificate. A nine mile trip each day.

From the age of ten I was milking four or five cows each morning and night, before and after school; my brothers and sister with mum and dad having to milk cows night and morning by hand. People called this milking machine a MDK—Mum, Dad and Kids! After WWII the farm became productive enough to buy a proper milking machine. No phone or 240 volt power in those days; candles, lanterns and lamps were the only lighting. The only power was man power!

For a short period of time after leaving school I worked on the farm, but it soon became clear that the farm could not accommodate all of us, so I decided to come to Adelaide, where I found work as an apprentice motor mechanic at Freeman Motors, a GMH dealership, where I worked for seven years. Looking for higher wages, I left Freemans, working at various service stations, until in 1969 I bought my own business, calling it Ron Lewis Motor Repairs, which I ran with my wife Mary until 1994. We usually employed three mechanics.

On the 10th of October 1959, I "met my doom", marrying my wife Mary, having had a house built in Magill, where we lived until 2010. We then moved to a new house in Paradise, which is our present abode. We have four children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Entertainment. Not much of this in my early days while on the farm; rabbiting and birds' eggs collecting was about it. Later, when I had my own wheels, dancing at different venues on a Saturday was quite common. However, this was my downfall! I became attracted to Mary, who was also a good dancer. Even after the kids came along we would go dancing.

Sport. At school I played cricket and football, but after leaving school I soon found out that my body was not made for playing football. I kept up playing cricket off and on until I was fifty, when my knee joints were giving me so much pain that I had my doctor X-ray them. He told me I had arthritis in them the equivalent of a normal seventy year old. I wonder what he would tell me if he X-rayed them now that I'm eighty three!

Interests. I was twenty four years old when I bought

my first fishing boat. Fishing is one of my interests. In 1988 we bought a new holiday house at Port Broughton and soon after that a new boat. Last year we sold both house and boat. We used to go up to Port Broughton for a few days once a month trying to catch whiting. Over those twenty seven years there were not many times when there were no fillets of fish in the freezers. By that statement, I must have also become a competent filleter. While living at Magill I had sixteen fruit trees and another ten at Port Broughton, so when the fruit was ripe the freezers had a choice: fish or fruit.

After I retired in 1994, I did a course at the TAFE on opal cutting. I soon bought my own equipment and started cutting and polishing opal and other gemstones, making pendants, rings and ear-rings, fitting them into sterling silver. I'm also a member of the Adelaide Gem and Mineral Club.

Religion. Having attended a Lutheran day school for seven years and being baptised and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, I still practise the faith as a member of the Lutheran Church at Magill.

Health. I was twenty one years old when I fell down a car pit at work, rupturing my spleen, which had to be removed. I still get pains in my stomach, which vary depending on what I eat. Alcohol is one of the main culprits. In 2003 I had chemotherapy for non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, which is still monitored every six months. I had a heart attack in January 2011 and was taken to the RAH, when a stent was fitted.

Thanks to the doctors, I'm still alive. It's said that if you live long enough, you will get old!

Choir. When our local church choir disbanded, with which I had been singing for over fifteen years, I joined the Metropolitan Male Choir of SA. Two trips overseas to America, Canada, Europe and England were part of the Choir's itinerary, in which I had the pleasure of taking part, the highlight being singing in the Royal Albert Hall in London with 900 other choristers to an audience of 5000 people. Another performance was at Goonhilly satellite station in Cornwall, which was telecast around the world. After eighteen years with the MMC, I found it too hard learning music in German, French, Italian, African, Welsh, Latin, with no music in front of us while performing. It got the better of me, so I joined the AMVC in 2011, which I am enjoying."



Are you having any fun?

The answer is “Yes”, if you come to our Adelaide Fringe Concerts!
So, enjoy life and have some fun with the Adelaide Male Voice Choir!

The concerts will feature popular music of the 1920s and 30s
A touch of glamour! A touch of bravado! A touch of nostalgia!

- PRESENTED BY: The Adelaide Male Voice Choir with
Well-known jazz vocalist Luke Thompson
- WHEN: Friday 26 February 2016 at 6.00pm
Saturday 5 March 2016 at 6.00pm
- WHERE: St Stephen’s Lutheran Church Hall
152 Wakefield Street, Adelaide
- TICKETS: Available from the Fringe Booking website
(adelaidefringe.com.au), or Fringe box offices,
or by phoning Fringe (1300 621 255),
or take a chance with tickets at the door.
See your Adelaide Fringe Guide for more details.
Tickets: \$20

Please note: In keeping with the shorter duration of most Fringe events, this concert lasts
approximately one hour, so there is time afterwards to go out to dinner or other shows

ADELAIDE MALE VOICE CHOIR
and
METROPOLITAN MALE CHOIR OF SA
together present

A GALA CONCERT OF CHORAL MUSIC
LET THE MEN SING!

An exciting afternoon of splendid choral music presented jointly by two of Adelaide’s leading
male choirs, united in celebrating the joy of singing

Guest Compere: SA icon Peter Goers OAM
Guest Artist: Soprano Joanna McWaters

- WHEN: Sunday 10 April 2016 at 2.00pm
- WHERE: Elder Hall, University of Adelaide
North Terrace, Adelaide
- TICKETS: \$25; Concession \$20
Tickets will be available from early March from Choir members, or phone
Neville Roach on 8332 1895, or buy at the door.

Dates for Your Diary

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| February | | | |
| Friday 26 | 6.00 pm | Fringe Concert | St Stephen's Lutheran Church Hall 152 Wakefield St, Adelaide |
| March | | | |
| Saturday 5 | 6.00 pm | Fringe Concert | St Stephen's Lutheran Church Hall 152 Wakefield St, Adelaide |
| April | | | |
| Sunday 10 | 2.00 pm | Concert [with Metropolitan Male Choir] | Elder Hall, University of Adelaide North Tce, Adelaide |
| Monday 25 | 10.30 am | Anzac Service | Cross of Sacrifice, King William Rd North Adelaide |
| May | | | |
| Tuesday 10 | 1.00 pm | Lunchtime Concert [Free] | Flinders St Baptist Church 65 Flinders St, Adelaide |
| June | | | |
| Monday 27 | | Season One finishes | |
| August | | | |
| Monday 1 | 7.30 pm | Season Two rehearsals begin | Immanuel Lutheran Church 139 Archer St, North 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.

Let's keep in touch!

As mentioned in *In Harmony* (Number 55) last year, one of the ways of keeping in touch with our Friends is through this quarterly Newsletter. Not only are people kept aware of future concerts and social events, so that they can enter the dates in their diaries, but they are also able to read background stories about the Choir and its members and really feel part of the Choir community.

Unfortunately, the recent big rise in postage costs means that producing and posting hard copy of *In Harmony* constitutes a significant financial commitment for the Choir. It has been decided by the Choir Committee to reduce the number of issues from four to two per year, to reflect the structure of the Choir's performance year. This will still provide the necessary information, but halve our costs.

Another cost-cutting measure will be to send the Newsletter via email to those people who have an email address, and continue to send a hard copy by post only to those people who have specifically requested this. *In Harmony* will still continue to appear at our website, and our Friends can check there for the latest information on Choir activities.

Some of our good Friends have already paid their 2016 Financial Friends membership in advance, and they will receive their discount ticket price for our two major concerts this year. Financial Friends will need to get their tickets through the AMVC, and not through any booking agency. The Financial Friends scheme will no longer operate from the beginning of 2017.

We seek your advice on what would be the most convenient way for you to keep in touch. Enclosed in this Newsletter is a form outlining the various options. We would be very grateful if you could take a moment to identify the best option for you, and contact us as indicated on the form.