



# In Harmony

Newsletter of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir  
Number 59 Season One Jan-June 2017

**PATRON:**

His Excellency  
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC  
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:**

Colin Campbell

**ASSISTANT ACCOMPANIST:**

Alex Burney

**SECRETARY:**

George Willcox  
(0407 724 584)

**TREASURER:**

Denis Harper

**COMMITTEE:**

John Arnold  
David Burney  
Neville Roach  
Geoff Syme  
David Turner  
John Wear

**CONCERT MANAGER:**

Neville Roach (8332 1895)

**ALMONER:**

John Wilksch (0426 207 627)

**LIBRARIAN:**

Terry Helbig

**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](http://amvc.org.au)

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Isn't it strange how the vagaries of the weather can have such an impact on what we remember? That is certainly the case when I look back over the last half year's activities.

**A stormy night: 1920s evening**

The organizing committee's feelings went from despair as the storm and blackout struck us to delight at the sight of the effort our guests had made to dress up for the evening. The candle-lit (what foresight!) room was filled with feathers, sparkling jewels, glittering dresses and immaculate dinner suits. Of course a number of gangsters and their molls arrived, and were joined by a Covent Garden flower seller and her costermonger partner. Initially it looked as if much of the program would have to be abandoned but, thanks to Peter Schulze and his portable generator, we were able to enjoy the specially selected music and activities organized for the evening.

**A beautiful afternoon: Highlights of Opera**

The Choir, together with guest soloists Joanna McWaters, Michelle Greig, Andrew Turner and Adam Goodburn, presented a memorable afternoon of favourite pieces from opera. We were privileged to have Jeffrey Kong as our guest accompanist. We extend our grateful thanks to all these accomplished artists who so willingly and graciously shared their gifts with us. Our audience thoroughly enjoyed the rich and varied program, the venue and also the delicious afternoon tea, which was provided and served by our partners. On behalf of us all, I thank that band of helpers who serve behind the scenes at our concerts.

**Sunny weather: Trip to Orange, NSW**

The Choir was honoured to be invited by the Orange Male Voice Choir to participate in the celebration of its 90th anniversary. A description of our trip appears on page 4, but I would like to express thanks particularly to Bill Shaw and to Bev Glover (accompanist of the

OMVC) for the initial contact for this event and subsequent liaison, to David Turner for the hours he spent on arranging our travel and accommodation, to Alex Burney for taking on the role of our accompanist on this trip, to all the members of our travelling group, who represented us so well, and to our very hospitable Orange hosts and their partners.

**A very warm afternoon: Immanuel**

In November we gave a *Thank You Concert* to the members and friends of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in North Adelaide. We have really appreciated the way in which the administration and congregation have accepted our weekly rehearsal 'invasion'. We really feel at home and we sincerely hope that this close association will go on for many years to come.

**End of the year**

We concluded our performance year with the two concerts which always set the Christmas mood for us: at the Glynde Lutheran Homes, and at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hope Valley. Our Christmas dinner was a great opportunity for the Choir and friends to enjoy a relaxed and happy social evening. Entertainment was provided by the Choir and by our ever-popular soloists Joanna McWaters and Andrew Turner; the raffle prizes were extravagant and abundant, and everyone had a thoroughly good time.

**Thank you**

I extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Choir, to our talented music team, and to the members of the Committee for their active support again this year. None of us can work in isolation but, working together, we can achieve our Motto of *Celebrating Choral Excellence*.

**2017**

We 'hit the boards' again in 2017 with our Adelaide Fringe concerts in March. I look forward to seeing you then and at further events throughout the year.

Colin Styles

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir welcomes **Jim Wilson** to its Second Tenor Section. Here in his own words is a brief account of Jim's adventures in the worlds of business and music:

I was always going to be an accountant – both by nature and nurture.

My father was an accountant in his own public practice and there were many school holidays where I was in his office, answering the telephones (some of you may be of an age to remember the corded plug switchboards), doing the rounds of banks, post office and general deliveries. His office was on the corner of Pirie Street and King William Street on the first floor and I remember sleeping in the office one night so that we could see the parade of Queen Elizabeth pass by. That must have been during the early to mid-1950s. Then there were the John Martin's Christmas Pageants, where I had a great view and was sheltered from all weather.

At school, maths was one of my top subjects; I enjoyed the exposure to an accounting practice, so it was no surprise that I joined an accounting firm (not my father's) after completing Leaving Certificate and then went to night school to gain my Chartered Accounting degree.

My father died at a relatively young age from a heart attack (he was 67) so at the age of 34, I purchased his practice and commenced my career as a sole practitioner. I sold the practice in 2000 and I then concentrated on being a manufacturer, as well as continuing a small accounting practice. Getting into manufacturing was, perhaps, an odd choice as I have no practical experience in that field, but it arose quite by chance. One of my clients had a manufacturing business in Magill that had been commenced by their grandfather more than a hundred years before and the third generation was nearing retirement age with no-one in the fourth generation interested in the business. Apart from that, the real estate on which the business operated was far more valuable than the meagre profits the business generated could justify. They sold the land and were going to close the doors. Another of my clients (experienced in practical operations) and myself took over the business and its seven employees.

The business is now in the safe hands of our

former manager and the business is flourishing.

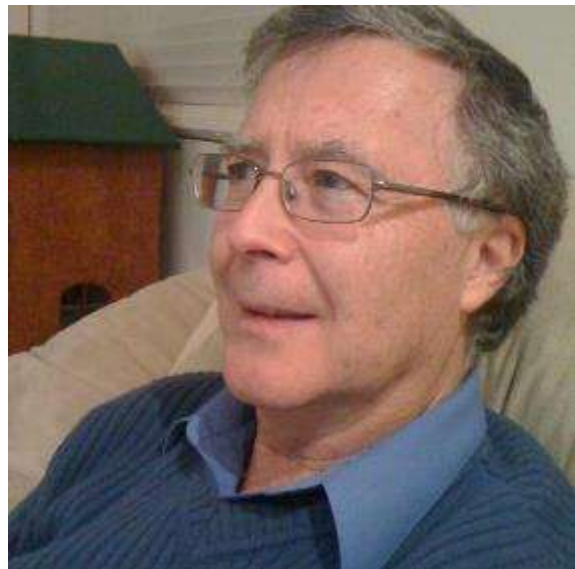
I came to music via a circuitous route. I sang in my Primary School Choir at the Thousand Voice Choir Festival in the Adelaide Town Hall in 1957 as a descant but, after that I, had no real contact with music until about four years later when my Sunday School class was asked to audition for the church choir. When it was intimated that I "could not sing in tune" I went into self-imposed exile as a singer.

Quite some years later, I became exposed to singing once again when my two younger daughters joined the Adelaide Girls Choir (now Young Adelaide Voices).

That choral experience affected my accounting practice to the extent that I found auditing to be a completely negative experience as opposed to the positive, uplifting involvement in music (left brain v right brain involvement). I gradually relinquished the auditing side of my business.

My wife, Deb, gave me for my sixtieth birthday some singing lessons which I thoroughly enjoyed and then was encouraged by my teacher to become involved in choirs. It was not, however, until I joined the AMVC that I finally felt fully comfortable being in a choir and I am gradually gaining in confidence. Deb likes to say she "discovered my voice". I cannot disagree!

Many thanks to Bill Shaw and the AMVC for giving me the opportunity to experience the wonder and joy of choral singing.



### **A Good Time With Gilbert and Sullivan—at the Adelaide Fringe**

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir, together with guest baritone Andrew Turner, perform highlights from the G&S repertoire of comic operas. They were all the rage when the AMVC was established in 1884 and the witty lyrics and sparkling music are as fresh today as ever. Who are today's Mikado or Lord of the Admiralty? Enjoy a delightful entertainment!

**PRESENTED BY:** The Adelaide Male Voice Choir with  
guest baritone Andrew Turner

**WHEN:** Saturday 4 March 2017 at 6.00 pm  
Friday 10 March 2017 at 6.00 pm

**WHERE:** St Stephen's Lutheran Church Hall  
152 Wakefield St, 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: \$23

This concert lasts about 1 hour, so there is time afterwards to go out to dinner or other shows.

### **Songs of Love and Travel**

Ah, the romance of travel ... the mystery, the excitement!

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir, together with a guest soloist, present some of the most romantic and evocative songs from around the world celebrating Love and Travel

**WHEN:** Sunday 28 May 2017 at 2.00 pm

**WHERE:** Burnside City Uniting Church  
384 Portrush Road, Burnside

**TICKETS:** \$25 / Concession \$20. Tickets from Neville Roach (8332 1895);  
through the AMVC website (amvc.org.au and follow the prompts);  
from Choir members; or at the door

**AFTERNOON TEA:** Our famous afternoon tea will be available at interval

### **Community Co-operation**

In keeping with the AMVC's long tradition of support for community projects, we have been pleased to participate in a COTA SA undertaking for the benefit of residents in aged care facilities. The AMVC and the Lions Club of Burnside have collaborated in creating a DVD featuring the Choir singing old favourites, accompanied by 460 images contributed by viewers to the ABC News Weather segment. These images were made available to the Lions Club of Burnside by the ABC (with contributors' consent) for the not-for-profit *Digital Images for Aged Care Program*.

Bill Shaw and Peter Schulze from the Choir and John Dunn from the Lions Club of Burnside arranged to meet with residents at Resthaven Leabrook to watch and listen to the DVD together and to gain feedback on the choice of songs and images presented. The residents expressed delight in the DVD and there were many smiles of recognition at familiar melodies accompanied by the beautiful background images. The residents asked questions about the Choir and the Lions Club and were interested in how the project to provide them with such an enjoyable and on-going experience had come about.

## Dates for Your Diary 2017

<b>January</b>			
Monday 30	7.30 pm	Rehearsals resume	Immanuel Church, Archer St, North Adelaide
<b>March</b>			
Saturday 4	6.00 pm	Fringe Concert 1	St Stephen's Hall Wakefield St
Friday 10	6.00 pm	Fringe Concert 2	St Stephen's Hall Wakefield St
<b>April</b>			
Friday 21	12.00 noon	Lunchtime Concert	Royal Adelaide Hospital, North Tce, Adelaide
Tuesday 25	10.30 am	ANZAC Service	Cross of Sacrifice, King William Rd, North Adelaide
<b>May</b>			
<b>Sunday 28</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Concert</b>	<b>Burnside City Uniting Church 384 Portrush Rd, Burnside</b>
<b>June</b>			
Sunday 18	2.00 pm	Concert	Burnside City Uniting Church 384 Portrush Rd, Burnside
Monday 26	7.30 pm	Last rehearsal for Season One	
<b>August</b>			
Monday 7	7.30 pm	Rehearsals resume	Immanuel Church Archer St, North Adelaide
Sunday 27	2.00 pm	Concert	Langton Park Homes, Montecute Rd, Campbelltown
<b>October</b>			
Sunday 22	2.00 pm	Concert	Aberfoyle Park Uniting Church
<b>November</b>			
<b>Sunday 5</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Benefit Concert Cranio-facial Unit W and C Hospital</b>	<b>Burnside City Uniting Church 384 Portrush Rd, Burnside</b>

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

## A CHORAL TOUR TO ORANGE

Following discussions between our Music Director and the Orange Male Voice Choir, it was decided that, yes, we would travel up there and contribute to their 90th anniversary celebration concert.

And so it was that on a Friday morning early in November, a group of our choristers and some of their partners arrived at Adelaide Airport to be greeted by the warm smile of a QANTAS staffer, who obviously picked us by the smart new maroon polo tops we were sporting. "Group check-in? No problem", she cheerfully announced, then led us to a separate quiet desk, away from the shuffling queues! Two hours later we were in Sydney, collected our baggage and were on a bus and on our way over the Blue Mountains into country NSW.

Late afternoon, after having threaded our way through the delightful streets of Orange, we tumbled out of our coach straight into a school-room, where renowned guest conductor Paul Jarman was already putting our hosts, the Orange Male Voice Choir, through their paces. We cheerfully mingled into their sections and immediately sensed the warmth of country hospitality! We sang together as if we'd been one body for years!

Dinner that evening was a delightful affair at the well-appointed Duntry League Golf Club, where we mingled, laughed and chatted away the evening, sharing stories and jokes.

Next day we were back at the school with Emeritus Conductor Leon Paix for the morning. After a light lunch we made our way to the concert venue Orange Civic Theatre for staging, rehearsals and sound-checks with two children's choirs thrown into the mix, Woden Valley Youth Choir and Kinross Wolaroi School Koristers. While the men rehearsed, our partners were treated to warm hospitality from the Orange ladies with sight-seeing, boutique shopping, home-made cakes and a picnic lunch.

That evening we all sang to a delighted audience in a packed theatre! It was an exciting and varied program and included, in addition to the singers, a brass ensemble for good measure.

Up again on Sunday morning and on board a bus to take us to a church service celebrating the Feast of All Saints at St John's Anglican Church in Molong, where we and the Woden Valley Youth Choir contributed choral items. We were served with a lovely buffet lunch at the church, after which we were driven in the opposite direction where we performed with the OMVC again at the Millthorpe Public School Hall. The choir items were preceded by the smallest children of the school singing *Rubber Ducky*, with actions!

A short rest at the motel, though some went on short sightseeing tours, then off to dinner with our hosts at the Hotel Canobolas. Gifts were exchanged, speeches made, laughter shared, and friendships forged.

Alas, all good things come to an end, so next morning it was back again across the mountains and on to the flight back to Adelaide, a little weary perhaps, but brimming with satisfaction and a bunch of happy memories.

*George Willcox, Secretary AMVC*