

## **President's Report of the Activities of the**

### **Adelaide Male Voice Choir**

for the year **2018**

Presented at the **Annual General Meeting, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**, at Immanuel Lutheran Church Hall

Dear Members,

The year 2018 has been a busy, enjoyable, rewarding and successful one. I think it would be true to say that we are a bunch of happy fellows who enjoy each other's company and making music together. I thank you and commend you all for your enthusiasm and commitment. In particular, the thanks of all of us should go to our Music Director Bill Shaw who not only conducts us but also chooses our repertoire, seeks out new concert opportunities and venues, as well as doing much to publicize our performances. Thanks also to our Assistant Conductor, Colin Campbell, who has helped us out in the past two years. Thank you also to our Accompanist, Ed Kriek, and our Assistant Accompanist, Alex Burney, who has willingly stepped in when Ed has not been available. We are fortunate to be led by such skilled conductors and accompanists.

#### **Engagements**

During the year we performed on the following occasions:

- Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> Fringe Festival, Gilbert & Sullivan Concert, St. Stephen's Hall, Wakefield St, Adelaide;  
Soloist: Andrew Turner
- Mar 9<sup>th</sup> Fringe Festival, Gilbert & Sullivan Concert, St. Stephen's Hall, Wakefield St, Adelaide;  
Soloist: Andrew Turner
- Mar 11<sup>th</sup> Fringe Festival, Gilbert & Sullivan Concert, Unley Town Hall; Soloist: Andrew Turner
- April 20<sup>th</sup> Lunchtime Concert at Royal Adelaide Hospital
- April 25<sup>th</sup> Cross of Sacrifice Anzac Day Service
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> "Music from Heaven" concert at Burnside Uniting Church, with Illumina Voices
- June 8<sup>th</sup> Midyear Dinner at Graduates Restaurant, Regency Park
- Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Combined Concert with Victoria Welsh Male Choir, Burnside Uniting Church; Soloist:  
Joanna McWaters
- Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> Unley Town Hall, "Thank You" concert for free use of facilities
- Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Carinya Homes, Myrtle Bank
- Oct 9<sup>th</sup> Lunchtime Concert, Flinders Street Baptist Church
- Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Mary Potter Hospice Christmas Carols with brass quintet from Adelaide Symphony  
Orchestra
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Hope Valley Lutheran Homes Christmas Carols; Piano duet: Ed Kriek & Norman  
Schulz; Organ solo: John Wilksch

In addition, an Octet sang at the Mid-Year Dinner, Hope Valley Christmas Carols, The Brief Club, and Mary Potter Hospice.

This year we put on three Gilbert & Sullivan concerts, one more than in the previous year. The experiment proved to be a success with full houses at each of them. Our concert with the Victoria Welsh Male Choir was a Benefit Concert for Ronald McDonald House and raised \$3,000 for this charity.

### **Social events**

Fostering friendship and camaraderie amongst us together with our wives/partners and friends is also an important component of our choir activities. We held two such events. This year for the first time in many years we went to the Graduates Restaurant at the Regency Park TAFE College for our mid-year dinner. The food was exquisite and the venue very pleasant. The committee has already made a booking for this venue for the coming year.

For our Christmas Dinner we returned again to the Stables Restaurant at Morphetville. Again it was a great night of conviviality. Andrew Turner and Joanne McWaters were our guests and favoured us with several items.

### **Membership**

At the beginning of the year we gained three new members. In April we held a “bring a friend” night. Several men turned up, but only one decided to stay and join up. It’s good to see new people join us, and we need to keep on publicising, and inviting and encouraging anyone we know who may be interested. Unfortunately several members resigned during the year for health or family reasons.

### **Loyal service**

It has been a practice of the choir to present a set of specially crafted AMVC cuff links to members on the completion of 20 years of membership. Colin Styles, Bill Brooker and Peter Schulze were recipients of this award. We congratulate them and thank them for their loyal service.

### **Patron and Vice Patrons**

The current governor of SA, Hieu Van Le, is our Patron and has agreed to continue in this capacity during his term of office. We have two Vice-Patrons. Jeffrey Kong was asked and happily accepted to continue to be a Vice-Patron for 2018-19. Peter Goers continued as our other Vice-Patron (2017-18).

### **Tax Deductibility**

At a specially convened meeting in August it was decided to amend our Constitution to allow the Choir to apply for Tax Deductibility status. This would allow donors to the choir to claim a tax deduction. Jim Wilson submitted the application on the choir’s behalf to the appropriate department of the Commonwealth Government. (Word has just come through that the application has been granted.)

### **Thanks**

When I took on the position of President of the Choir two years ago I wondered what I would encounter. I very quickly discovered that I am surrounded by an army of willing and hard working volunteers who keep the choir running like a well oiled machine.

I want to thank the members of the committee for the many hours they have contributed:

- David Turner, Vice-President and Minute Secretary, for his meticulous attention to detail, and for filling in for me when I have not been able to attend meetings;
- George Willcox, Secretary, who in spite of health issues joins our meetings via telephone link and continues to take care of all correspondence and many related issues;

- David Burney, Treasurer, who cheerfully carries out a difficult task; (and thanks also to Jim Wilson who works behind the scenes offering David his accounting expertise);
- Selwyn Lipscombe, Concert Manager, for checking out concert venues, and using his entrepreneurial skills to secure sponsorships for some of our concerts;
- John Arnold for taking care of uniform matters;
- Geoff Syme for continuing to work on making music scores available on MP3 player.

Thank you to Andrew Shaw who makes his office facilities available to the committee for our monthly meetings.

There are others who are not on the committee who week by week make valued contributions:

- Terry Helbig, our Librarian, who distributes and collates all our scores with such efficiency. In addition, each week Terry opens and sets up the Hall for our rehearsals and locks up after we all leave;
- Christian Pollnitz, each week organizing and supplying our mid evening suppers, and Sylvia Hunt and Pearl Gough, often providing extra “nibbles” and for washing our cups; Sylvia also marks off the weekly attendance roll.

Others on my thank you list include:

- Colin Styles, our Almoner, who makes contact with those members who are sick or going through difficult times;
- Peter Schulze, our webmaster and photographer;
- Daina Shaw for editing and publishing our twice yearly newsletter “In Harmony”;
- Ian Thomas, our Public Officer, able to give legal advice when required.

Finally a sincere thank you to our wives and partners for not only encouraging us but also for providing afternoon teas and working behind the scenes in the kitchen for some of our concerts. I want to pay special tribute to Judy Turner for organizing catering at these events, and for supplying decorations and preparing raffle prizes for our social functions.

2018 was an enjoyable and successful year thanks to the willing contributions of all of you. Thank you the support you have given me and the Committee. I hope we can continue to add to the cultural enjoyment of the people of Adelaide in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Wilksch.  
President, 2018.