120 years and still going strong

ONWARD AND UPWARD

Here we are again with the first newsletter of 2004. And an exciting year it promises to be with minor and major concerts and, hopefully, a studio recording session. The fundraising and social prospects also look promising.

We have already performed our first concert - at Gumeracha. It proved to be an outstanding success, not only for the concert itself but for the money raised for the Soldiers' Memorial Hospital at Gumeracha. The concert was also notable for a solo performance by Kevin Fisher, the first concert performance of Adelaide Light (a small group of singers taken from the ranks of the choir) and the ever-popular Eddie Kriek's piano solo, which was enjoyed so much by the audience.

The Director of Music, Bill Shaw, at the following Monday night’s practice, commented favourably on the choir’s performance but stressed that this was not the time to rest on their laurels but to put the effort in to constantly improving every aspect of their performance. Obviously members enjoy coming along to practice on Monday nights for the fellowship but although we enjoy the lighter side of getting together, it must be stressed that we are there to learn and retain the music, particularly remembering all the points that Bill indicates during the course of the evening (as pointed out by one of the choir members).

ANZAC DAY

We shall again be singing at the Cross of Sacrifice after the march, on 25th April.

MOTHERS’ DAY, SUNDAY 9th MAY

A major concert (entitled Love Songs for Mothers) will be held at Pilgrim Church at 2 pm, so make it a special afternoon for your mother and bring her to this concert. Afternoon tea will be available and guest soloists will be Tasso Bouyessis and Anthony Waack.

There is a list of concerts and events on the back of this newsletter but I would like to make special mention of three of these items. The first is the Film Afternoon on Sunday, 15th August. This year, for a change, we are having a Nostalgia Afternoon where we will be...
Low-down on Bob Scott
by his daughter, Helen

I am Bob’s daughter, Helen, and I can’t sing for peanuts, so I have admired my father’s ability and the social outlet it has given him. It has brought him a lot of happy times and given others a lot of joy.

As a child, I remember all of his social friends were singers or somehow involved with music. So parties, barbecues and even fishing trips ended in a sing-song.

Dad’s musical career began as a seven-year-old choir boy at Glenelg, then in a church choir when he was studying to be a mechanical engineer in Wollongong.

Bob was born at Hyde Park in 1926, attending schools at Glenelg Primary, Pulteney Grammar and Unley High before winning a cadetship with BHP to work at their Port Kembla steelworks, live in Wollongong and study mechanical engineering. This involved seven years of night school and included receiving fitting and turning indentures. After graduation and 12 months at BHP’s head office in Melbourne, he resigned from BHP, returning to Adelaide to join ETSA.

Within two years he was posted to Port Augusta where he was involved in the construction and commissioning of Thomas Playford Power Station.

When he came back to Adelaide in 1953 he took lessons from Clement Williams for a year at the Elder Conservatorium and of course Dad sang with the Chandos Chorale Choir in 1998, and is still having and enjoying his music.

Four of them were by Gilbert and Sullivan, which were huge fun for both the audience and the cast. My brother and I were roped in to be pirates in the Pirates of Pencance - pint sized pirates with eye patches.

The 23rd July this year marks the 50th anniversary of the first firing in a boiler of our own fuel (Leigh Creek coal) to generate electricity. My father was present and involved at the time and described it as a very exciting and proud moment.

He was appointed mechanical engineer and finally Station Manager of the plant which, in the 1960s was producing 70% of the State’s electricity.

However he did find time in 1964, with a friend, to build a beach sack on the west side of the gulf some 20 kms from Port Augusta, down a rough, bull-dust track. It was a case of starting from scratch with no water, no electricity, a kerosene refrigerator, a wood stove and gas lights in the saltbush country. We had wonderful times at the shack, living on rabbits trapped or shot by my brothers and fish and crabs caught by Dad and me in our 12 foot tinny.

Whilst “mod-cons” may have been light on at the shack, they weren’t much better in Port Augusta. Dad and Mum’s first home in 1955 had two power points in the whole house, a wood stove and a chip bathheater and no cooling.

In later years we had a horse. At the time our house had a double carport so Dad converted one side into a horse-port. All of his children learned to ride with varying success and a few accidents. I think the horse-port was illegal but Dad knew the town clerk, a fellow Apexian and later a fellow Rotarian.

The family moved to Adelaide in about 1972.

Sadly in 1972 we had to leave Port Augusta where Mum and Dad’s four children were born. Dad was appointed manager of Osborne Power Station and later Torrens Island Power Station before becoming Generation Services Director at head office. He retired in 1986 to become involved for nine years voluntarily helping manage a workshop training unemployed young people in the metal trades. He now exercises his brain playing contract bridge and his legs playing golf.

Dad sang with the Chandos Chorale for 10 years and I remember sitting in a lovely church and hearing the heavenly music.

For the next 10 years the Hills Choral Society was only the name of another choir Dad was in and I was elsewhere then. He joined the Adelaide Male Voice Choir in 1998, and is still having and giving pleasure with his voice.
The Adelaide Male Voice Choir
sings
Love Songs for Mothers
at Pilgrim Church
12 Flinders Street, Adelaide
SUNDAY, 9th MAY 2004, at 2 pm
Special guest soloists
Tasso Bouyessis and Anthony Waack
AFTERNOON TEA AVAILABLE
$12.00, concession $10.00
Phone 8332 1895, 8270 2628, 8353 6359
or tickets at door
Another enjoyable Christmas Dinner was held at the Glenelg Golf Club at the end of a very successful year for the choir.

The venue is an ideal one, providing the choir with plenty of room, a glorious view and all the facilities it needs to make the evening memorable.

The year the choir sang carols with Jessica Dean providing some wonderful solos.

The decorated baskets and boxes were of a very high standard and the choir thanks all those who contributed.

The evening was further highlighted by an unexpected solo by Max Meaney, who brought many laughs with his satire, repeated on another page of this newsletter.
Golden Rules for Choral Singing

1. Everyone should sing the same piece.
2. Stop at every repeat sign and discuss whether or not to repeat. The audience will love it.
3. If you sing a wrong note, give a nasty look to the person on your left.
4. The right note at the wrong time is a wrong note (and vice versa)
5. If everyone gets lost except you, follow those who are lost.
6. Markings for dynamics, slurs and ornaments, should not be observed. They are only there to embellish the score.

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7. If a passage is difficult, slow down. If it's easy, speed up. Everything will work itself out in the end.
8. If the choir has to stop because of you, explain in detail why you got lost. Everyone will be most interested.
9. A true interpretation is realised when there remains not one note of the original.
10. When everyone else has finished singing, you should not sing any notes you have left.
11. A wrong note sung timidly is a wrong note. A wrong note sung with authority is an interpretation.
12. If you are completely lost, stop everyone and say “I think someone has gone wrong. Can we start again?”

A Satirical Interlude by Max Meaney

There has been a number of requests for the lyrics of a musical item which was performed at the Christmas dinner (and naively introduced by John Wear as a 'vote of thanks'). It was sung to the tune of 'The Quartermaster's Store', and the words are as follows:

Chorus: We are tone-deaf, we cannot sing;
To practice nights discord we bring;
So no-one will hire Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Conductor Bill, why is he with us still?
In the choir, in the choir,
Once in a blue moon, we get to sing in tune,
In the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Chorus: President John is easily put on
In the choir, in the choir,
But we groan, groan, when he hogs the microphone
In the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Chorus: Treasurer John, he gets his sums all wrong,
In the choir, in the choir,
And pianist Ed, always a bar ahead
In the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Chorus: There's Daina Shaw, the girl we all adore,
In the choir, in the choir,
And Maxes, Maxes (two thoroughly decent chaps)
In the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Chorus: There's Robert, as ever, a hyperactive tenor
In the choir, in the choir,
While Alex was there, a regular grizzly bear
In the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Chorus: Christian's smile, the ladies all beguile
In the choir, in the choir,
And Jean-Pierre's lasses have legs up to their hips
In the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Chorus: And Ian Hunt, he likes a bit of food
In the choir, in the choir,
On a solo night, he gave us all a fright
For Ian was here, and Ian was there,
And Ian was *xx*x nearly everywhere
In the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Chorus: There were men, men, with heterosexual yen
In the choir, in the choir,
We are old, half-blind, so it's mainly in the mind
In the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Chorus: Come and let us fill the flowing bowl,
In the choir, in the choir,
And drink the health of every singing soul
In the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Chorus: It was pleasing to note that the choir members present at the dinner quickly picked up the verse refrains and chorus, and contributed, in several parts, to the melody with no apparent discord. Thus could illustrate the relaxing effect of a few glasses of wine on the vocal chords, confidence and inhibitions of the singers or, possibly, on the ears of the listeners.

An encore was provided, with enthusiastic choral back-up, as follows:

There were men, men, with heterosexual yen
In the choir, in the choir,
Get up to tricks, with the aid of walking sticks
In the Adelaide Male Voice Choir.

Chorus: A repeat of the final verse,
“Come and let us . . .” with an entry worthy of "Brothers Sing On" must have surely pleased our conductor.

There is no truth in the rumour that this item will feature in our next major concert.

Young Daniel Kriek giving Max a hand with his musical item.
Put these dates in your diary . . .

The Adelaide Male Voice Choir

Presents

Nostalgia Film Afternoon

Sunday afternoon, 15th August

with an Old Newsreel and Cartoon

• Songs from the Choir • Capri Theatre Organ • Afternoon Tea • Door Prizes

Name of the film and time will be notified well before the above date

Spring Spectacular Concert

Sunday, 10th October
2 pm
Elder Conservatorium

with special guest artists

A repeat of our very popular

Concert Dinner

at Regency Park Catering College
Thursday, 28th October
6 for 6.30 pm

(It was booked out seven weeks before the event last year - so book early!)
To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or students - here is something to make you chuckle.

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was "DON'T!"

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit." God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve...we have forbidden fruit!!!!!!"

"No Way!"

"Yes!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!" said God.

"Why"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants.

A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was cross!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" God asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?" said the Father.

"I don't know," said Eve.

"She started it!" Adam said

"Did not!"

"Did too!"

"DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God’s punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed.

BUT THERE IS REASSURANCE IN THE STORY!

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.

2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.

3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.

4. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.

5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.

6. We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY:

Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home one day.

AND FINALLY

IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF TENSION AND YOU GET A HEADACHE, DO WHAT IT SAYS ON THE ASPIRIN BOTTLE: "TAKE TWO ASPIRIN" AND "KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN"

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Recipe

SMOKED SALMON FILO QUICHE

10 Sheets filo pastry
90gm Butter, salted
200gm smoked salmon
4 Tablespoons chopped spring onions
3 Eggs
3/4 Cup cream

Salt and pepper to taste

Butter a 20 cm pie dish and line with sheets of filo pastry, letting the corners project above the edges, butter between each layer (vegetable spray can be used in place of butter). Cut smoked salmon into strips and place in the filo base, add cream, season with salt and pepper, onions and beaten eggs, bake at 180°C for 30-40 minutes or until the custard is lightly set and the pastry golden.

Serves 6.

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New Zealand

John and Rose-Ann Lawson and Neville and Stephanie Roach are in the initial stages of planning a trip for the choir to the South Island of New Zealand in October 2005, hopefully visiting and singing in such places as Nelson, Picton, Blenheim, Christchurch, Ashburton, Dunedin, Gore, Te Anau, Milford Sound, Queenstown and back to Christchurch. If any friends would like to join the choir on the tour, more details will be in the next newsletter.
**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 2004**

**APRIL**
Sunday 25th 10.30 am SING AT THE CROSS OF SACRIFICE following the Anzac March

**MAY**
Sunday 16th 2.00 pm MAJOR CONCERT - “Great Love Themes”. Pilgrim Church, Flinders Street, Adelaide.

**JULY**
Sunday 25th 2.00 pm CONCERT for Elizabeth Grove Uniting Church, corner Harvey and Fairfield Roads, Elizabeth Grove

**AUGUST**
Sunday 15th 2.00 pm FILM AFTERNOON at the Capri Cinema, Goodwood
Sunday 22nd 2.00 pm CONCERT for Resthaven, Paradise, 61 Silkes Road.

**SEPTEMBER**
Sunday 12th 2.00 pm CONCERT for Milang Institute Committee, Milang Institute, Coxe Street, Milang.

**OCTOBER**
Sunday 10th 2.00 pm MAJOR CONCERT - “Spring Spectacular”. Elder Hall, University of Adelaide, North Terrace.
Thursday 28th 6.30 pm CONCERT DINNER at Regency Park Catering School

**NOVEMBER**
Thursday 25th 7.30 pm CONCERT for Lutheran Homes, Glynde. 24 Avenue Road

**DECEMBER**
Friday 10th 7.30 pm CHRISTMAS DINNER, Glenelg Golf Club, James Melrose Road, Novar Gardens.

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**Deadline 21st May**

As stated at choir practice, unless the editor receives articles for the next edition of this newsletter by the above date, then I will be unable to produce it.

Contributions can be on any subject of interest, not necessarily music, such as hobbies, pastimes, memorable holidays, recipes, etc.

The Editor

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**Word Puzzles**
(answers page 3)
1. Once
time

2. LANG4UAGE

3. go it it it it

4. welieight

5. EZ

   iii

6. big big
   ignore ignore

7. Either weigh or whey

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**“Friends of the Choir” Mailing List**

Our special “Friends of the Choir” mailing list informs you of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir’s Concerts and Functions. Functions include dinners and other social occasions at which we would be pleased to welcome you.

For details please contact the Secretary

Mr Colin Styles, 4 Petrel Court, Flagstaff Hill, 5159
Tel.: (08) 8270 2628   Email: coljud@ozemail.com.au

Please include me on the special “Friends of the Choir” mailing list

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone   Mobile   Email address

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[Deadline 21st May][Word Puzzles][“Friends of the Choir” Mailing List]