

In Harmony

Newsletter of the
Adelaide Male Voice Choir

No. 6 SUMMER 2002

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Mr Ray Brown
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Mrs Genty Stevens
Mrs Myfanwy James

Practices are held every Monday
at 7.45pm to 9.45pm in the
Hall at the rear of the Church of
Christ, 160 Grote Street,
Adelaide

What a wonderful year

That's 2002 nearly over. And what a year it has been for the choir. Probably one of our most successful years. Twelve local minor concerts, two in the South-East (Millicent and Naracoorte), and three major concerts, in May, July and October. Quite a few extra rehearsals have been required and have been generally well attended.

In addition to all this the choir held a successful Garage Sale (about \$1100) and Quiz Night (well over \$600). Not only were these successful as fundraisers but also as social occasions, especially the Quiz Night. I know many of those who attended will be back again next year.

We are very pleased with the increase in membership with new members - Maurice Buggy, John White, Bruce Robertson, Ian Hunt, Bill Checkley, Phil Priest Mark Tuckwell starting this year, and we welcome back Max Nickson.

We are very grateful to all those who have appeared as soloists for the choir - Tasso Bouyessis (four times), Annamaria Beni, Anthony Waack, Roslyn Lock, Prue Hompas (who stepped in at the last moment and performed so well) and Kirsten Johnston who also sang with the choir on the South East trip. Jessica Dean, who sang at two of our smaller concerts, was outstanding.

We (the committee) this year experimented with the Solo Night, making it a Solo/Social Night, cabaret style. There were many solos, duets and trios - but no competition. We were

overwhelmed with the amount of people who turned up and filled the hall. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves but now that we see how it ran, the committee will need to make some minor modifications. Thanks to those who so willingly helped (particularly the ladies, led by Rose-Ann Lawson and Judy Stylos), those who performed, and particularly to Bill Shaw (who adjudicated) and Eddie Kriek on the piano, who worked the whole evening. It was a very worthwhile social occasion.

Next year promises to be a full one. There will be the normal amount of minor concerts (including some new venues) and three major concerts. On Sunday, March 30th, the choir will be holding a Film Afternoon at the Capri Cinema, Goodwood. There will be another Quiz Evening and on Friday, October 24th there will be a special event at Regency Park. More in the next newsletter about these special events.

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Low-down on Stephen Wellington



From a very early age Stephen's first love has been sport, despite being the leader of the drum and fife band in junior school and one of two who were the school's representatives to join J. Becker's Drum and Fife Band, where they were given extra tuition and active each Saturday morning with Adelaide's entertainment. This he enjoyed immensely.

He grew up midst a musical and sporting background, one of whom was a male voice and ABC Concert soloist. For his twelfth birthday he received a piano. By this time he was enjoying football and cricket, etc., but piano lessons were arranged for Saturday mornings, which, sadly for him, meant no match play and much disappointment.

He began his working career in the office of John Martin & Co. where, over his service of 45 years he managed lay-by, budget vouchers, hire purchase, cycle billing, accounts receivable, credit, and was active in the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Institute of Management and Credit Associations, and the Commonwealth Club. He played football and cricket and five-a-side basketball for the firm. It was said they used him as a goalpost.

During his last ten years he was a Pageant Marshall, his floats being Nipper and Nimble, Stardust Castle and Father Christmas. His daughter was delighted at age four and five when she was allowed to ride each horse.

Keeping all participants in order was a daunting task as they waited in the building, corner of South Terrace and Pulteney Street, where they partook of a small amount of "dutch courage" to help them on their journey to the "Magic Cave".

When war came his enlistment sent him overseas to serve for two or three years.

Upon his return he married Peg and took up residence in Burnside where they resided for 45 years until nine years ago they moved to the Glen

Woodley Retirement Village at Myrtle Bank.

He decided to learn the organ and was in both the Maughan Church choir with tenor Fred Williamson (always a joy to listen to) and Beaumont Church choir for morning service and played the lovely pipe organ for evening service.

During this time he played cricket for Burnside Turf Association and social tennis. He sustained a broken leg in an accident and then became the

Stephen is a long-time member who doesn't hesitate to quietly help where he can. He has gained many additional friends since joining the choir and is at all times a loyal and committed member.

Turf Association's publicity officer, reporting on the Saturday afternoon matches to *The Advertiser*, *Sunday Mail* and *5AD*. Thus he kept a useful interest in the game.

Retirement day arrived and accompanying that was a set of bowls from a friend who left a message which said "Please join us at Beaumont Bowling Club". How could he refuse? With his competitive spirit encouraged, he was soon into matches and enjoying the companionship of old and new friends.

Other invitations came to join the ARPA Choir (where he met the gentle George Jones) who invited him to join the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. He also sang with COTA and Retired Teachers where he met Denis West and suggested he do the same.

Singing as a choir member and being

inspired by the leadership and professionalism of Bill Shaw with Eddie Kriek accompanying and in addition the friendly atmosphere and dedication of fellow members, make even the practices as well as the concerts a opportunity to strive to be better.

Much gratitude must be conveyed firstly to John Duffield and Atha Asi-Stevens, who kindly undertake night transportation after eye surgery made it difficult to drive at night. Also to Don Jessop for his supportive services.

It does seem at this time appropriate to relate that after 55 1/2 years of marriage and 22 years of wonderful retirement, he and Peg have been truly blessed. So many memories of overseas travel, leisure time at his Victor Harbor holiday home and Stephen's interest in sport, reading from his library, regular luncheon meetings (male only), always ABC FM in the background, piano playing, plus a little gardening (not too hard - turning the sprinklers on to keep the lawns nice and green), with just a little time to smell the roses.

Five grand-daughters and one grandson, whose wish to be taller than his grandfather has been fulfilled at almost 17 years, and two very young great-grandsons complete it all.



Notes from Committee

FILM AFTERNOON

The Film Afternoon, on Sunday, March 30th, was discussed. It will be in the Capri Theatre and all members and friends are asked to get behind this effort to raise funds for the choir. It is hoped that we can at least get 500 to this function. The tickets will cost \$10 and will include some singing from the choir, a latest-release film and afternoon tea and cake.

"WE'D LOVE A PIANO"

This is the title of the major May concert in Pilgrim Church at which the choir will launch its appeal to raise funds for a new practice piano. Our present one has stood us in good stead for the past 14-15 years but is nearing the end of its useful life. At the concert Edward Kriek will be joined by Jeff Kong. Not only will both of them play solos but they will join forces and perform together on two pianos. This

promises to be an exciting event and one not to be missed

CONCERT BOOKINGS MANAGER

David Duffner has been appointed to the above position. Although not a member of the committee, David has willingly accepted this commitment and we are sure that next year's programme is in safe hands.

CONCERT MANAGER

Another non-member of the committee, Neville Roach has, again, willingly accepted the above position. He will look after all the details regarding our major concerts so that things run smoothly on the day. Neville will, no doubt, be effective in this position.

CD OF PILGRIM CONCERT

This monster microphone helped record the October concert in Pilgrim

Church and the CD should be ready any day now. Not only will this include



the choir but also items by Tasso Bouyessis, Kirsten Johnston and of course that wonderful solo by Jamie Adam on the marimba with the outstanding accompaniment by Edward Kriek.

SPECIAL FUNCTION NEXT NOVEMBER

There will be a lot more about this in the next and subsequent newsletters up to the date of this exciting function, but suffice to say that it will be something quite different to what we have done before and, hopefully, will further add to our funds.

The Glynde Concert



Another enjoyable evening's concert was held at the Glynde Lutheran Home where we regularly perform every year on the last Thursday in November. Being a warm evening we were able to show off our new shirts with the choir's logo embroidered on it - they looked good! Charlie Gamba sang solo as usual (it wouldn't be the Glynde concert if Charlie didn't sing). He was joined by James Thoday (his usual polished performance) and Jessica Dean, who stopped everyone breathing for 2 or 3 minutes when she sang, unaccompanied, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot".



