



In Harmony

Newsletter of the
Adelaide Male Voice Choir
No. 19 AUTUMN 2006

Patron:
Her Excellency
Marjorie Jackson-Nelson
AC, CVO, MBE,
Governor of South
Australia

President:
Mr Colin Styles

Vice-President:
Mr David Evans

Joint Secretaries:
Mr David Evans
6 Wood Crescent,
One Tree Hill 5114
Phone: 82807759
Mr Ian Milbank
PO Box 354
Stirling 5152
Phone: 8339 1425

Treasurer:
Mr John Winnall

Committee:
Mr Denis West (*librarian*)
Mr Bruce Risby
Mr John Wear
Mr Jean-Pierre Rival
Mr Neville Roach

Director of Music:
Mr William Shaw

Accompanist:
Mr Edward Kriek

**Promotions and
Concert Bookings
Committee:**
Mr David Evans
Mr William Shaw
Mr Ian Hunt
Mr David Duffner

Concert Manager:
Mr Neville Roach
Tel: (08) 8332 1895

Vice Patrons:
Mrs Myfanwy James
Mrs Margaret Lambert
Mrs Genty Stevens
Mr Len Turner

Life Members:
Mr Robert McLeay

Practices are held every Monday
at 7.45pm to 9.45 pm at St
Stephen's Lutheran Church,
152 Wakefield Street, Adelaide

From the President Welcome to 2006

A very warm welcome to the first edition for 2006 of the AMVC's Newsletter. We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. A great deal has happened for the AMVC since our last rehearsal for 2005.

We are all looking forward to a full and tuneful 2006. It is good to see our members looking relaxed and enthusiastic for the coming year of music and fun together. As you are aware we are always looking to welcome new members - so if you know of any man who enjoys singing might I suggest that you encourage him to make contact with one of the members of the Choir to find out more about us. It would be great to hear from them.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Sadly a past member, Vice Patron and staunch supporters of the AMVC Ray Brown and his wife Joyce have both died. We extend our condolences to their family. We will all miss greatly the cheery smile and words of encouragement we have received from them both. Their contributions to the life and well being of the AMVC cannot be overestimated.

News of our immediate Past President John Lawson is much more encouraging thankfully. John informs us that he is progressing very well after his stroke, and that he and Rose-Ann are enjoying life at Goolwa.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without acknowledging the wonderful contribution John has made to the AMVC not only as President (twice) but as lead

of the Second Tenors. John has been a very hands-on member. He has led by example. He has been unstinting of his time and talents for the benefit of the Choir. When ever there was a task to be done whether it be the design of programs or co-hosting a Quiz night John has always been very happy and willing to become really involved. His encouragement and enthusiasm for the group has been an inspiration to us all and his cheerful smile and ready wit and laugh will be greatly missed.

John would not have been able to devote so much time and effort into the AMVC without the very strong and active support from his wife Rose-Ann. Whenever there was a social event such as the Christmas Dinner, or fund raiser we could always be sure to find her hand

Continued on page 2

CONTENTS

President's Report (continued)	2
Ray Brown	2
Robert Smith: <i>the all-rounder</i>	3
A Sentimental Journey	4
"Food, Glorious Food!"	5
Don Jessop writes	5
Where was I?	5
Wedding Bells	6
Bounced cheque	6
Volunteering at the Commonwealth Games	7
Dear Milkman	7
Best Wishes, Jonathan!	8
Dates for your diary	8

WEB ADDRESS: amvc.org.au

behind much of the planning and presentation of the event. She rarely missed a concert and took an interest in all the Choir's activities.

On behalf of all the members of the AMVC I thank them both most sincerely for all they have done to make the AMVC more than a group of men who meet once a week to make music together. We hope you both enjoy life at Goolwa for many years to come and that you both enjoy good health and times together.

Another loss to the Choir has been the services of our assistant conductor Jonathan Bligh. Jonathan has increased his study load and therefore been unable to continue with us. We all enjoyed working with Jonathan and his youthful enthusiasm was infectious. We wish him well for his future and anticipate that it will be successful with the positive attitude he displays to all he tackles.

Congratulations to Ed and Anna Kriek on the safe arrival of their second son Christian. We hope that it will not be long before you all get an uninterrupted night's sleep.

WE HAVE MOVED

On our return for practices for 2006 we found we needed to find new rehearsal premises. Our traditional home at the Grote Street Church of Christ hall had been considered unsafe and so the hunt was on for new premises. We have enjoyed a great relationship with the Grote Street people and thank them most sincerely for all they have done for us in the past and hope that as the Market Place Church they will go from strength to strength.

All members were asked to suggest possible venues. A small sub-committee was elected to investigate these suggestions. I would like to thank not only the subcommittee but also everyone who assisted with finding our new home - it was no small task. After much time, many visits and disappointments we have found a new home at St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Wakefield Street, Adelaide. We are very grateful for the help and co-operation from the church members of St Stephen's in making our transition so smooth and successful. We can assure our new hosts that we feel at home already and will do all in our power to be worthy tenants.

As many of us know it is no easy thing to leave a place we have called home and there are many things which have to be attended to, like what do we do with all our music when we have limited storage facilities, to name but one. Thanks to all the Choir members who helped with the move of our piano, music and goods and chattels. Especial thanks go to our Music Librarian Denis West and his assistant Bill Brooker who have been able to organise the storage of our non-current repertoire in the home of Mrs Irene Glaros - one of our greatest supporters and Friend of the Choir. What a relief this has been to us all. Thank you so much for your generosity Irene and for the countless hours you have spent on our behalf Denis and Bill.

Now that the search for a new rehearsal venue and the logistics of storing our trappings have been solved it is off to another year of good music and fellowship. I hope you all have a wonderful year and that you will be eager to attend our first concert and any social get together we may organise for 2006.

Let's all have a great year.

- Colin Styles

Ray Brown . . .

. . . a long-time member and vice-patron of the choir (43 years), died on 14th January. Since 1963 he was a really committed member and served the choir in just about every capacity. He was a staunch member of the bass section and sang many solos and won a few of the annual solo competitions.

I sang duets with him on many occasions but what I remember most was his rendition of *Poor Jud is Dead* from *Oklahoma*, which brought many laughs, and his taking the part of *Fagin* from *Oliver*, when the choir performed a selection of songs from the Lionel Bart musical. Every time we sang the selection he appeared with an additional wardrobe item, including wig, hat, stick, etc., until he really looked the part.

A notable "duet" I did with him was a miming rendition of *Sisters* from *White*

Christmas, which we performed at one of the Christmas Dinners held at the Feathers Hotel - and we dressed for appropriately!

Anything Ray did for the choir he did thoroughly. He was instrumental in obtaining the previous hall in Grote

Street. Although rather dilapidated, it served the choir well and it was very inexpensive to hire.

He also was the person through whom I joined the choir, initially in 1983 (I left soon after to go to England for 12 months), and by him keeping in touch I rejoined in 1986. He appeared with another choir member on the Lionel Williams Show, promoting the choir and looking for new members. My

wife saw it and within a week I went along to a rehearsal.

It was a testament to Ray's popularity and commitment that 15 members of the choir were able to attend his funeral. At the request of the family, we all sang along with a CD recording of "Lord, Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace". Other choir music was also played in the background during the service.

Sadly, Joyce, his wife of over 60 years, passed away on 13th March. Several members of the choir also attended her funeral. She was a constant support of Ray, and supporter of the choir, particularly up until the late 1980s, when her health began to deteriorate. She often reminisced of the earlier days of the Glee Club when the ladies of the choir were expected to set up for the supper socials and decorate the hall to which only the men attended these functions. The ladies then had to clear afterwards.

Both of them were a great support to Rose-Ann and I when I first became President of the choir in 1993 and our friendship lasted over 20 years.

John Lawson



Robert Smith - *the all-rounder*

AMVC member Robert Smith is a fine example of the accomplished all-rounder, with a wide range of interests and skills, including sport, acting, dancing, the Army Reserve and, of course, singing.

Below is a brief summary by Robert of his interesting life to date.

"I was born at Peterborough in South Australia in 1929 and moved to Adelaide in 1935. I attended North Adelaide Primary School then Adelaide High School in Currie Street, where now is the Remand Centre.

Whilst at North Adelaide Primary, I became a Chorister at Christ Church in North Adelaide, firstly as a boy soprano, where I became one of the top paid boys (four shillings per month). I was awarded a Scholarship to attend Pulteney Grammar School, but did not take it as I was in my third year at High School.

I left school in 1945, just prior to the end of World War II (VP Day) to work as a Telegraph Messenger at the Adelaide GPO. I became a Postal Clerk/Telegraphist and was first posted to Quorn when the Ghan used to go through there. Then to

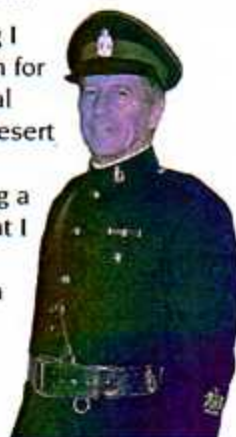
Jamestown, Glenelg, Prospect and Walkerville, where I resigned and went to ETSA as a Clerk.



I married Laurel in 1952 at Christ Church, North Adelaide, and we have two daughters Jennifer and Amanda.

I worked for two years at Clare before returning to Adelaide with ETSA and eventually becoming a Cashier there until retiring in 1992. Whilst with ETSA I spent a number of years as a Tenor in the ETSA Choral Society, where I often sang solos at concerts which they frequently presented.

Just prior to retiring I decided to audition for a part in the musical production "The Desert Song", and was successful in getting a small part. After that I had a part in "The Merry Widow", then "Showboat",



"Oklahoma", and "Fiddler on the Roof", all with the Marie Clark Singers. In all, I have been in eleven musical productions, three times in "Oklahoma" and twice in "Fiddler on the Roof".

It was after taking part with a Chorus and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in a presentation of Scriabin's "Prometheus" in



1996 that the Chorus Master, Russell Larkin, advised me to get involved with a reputable choir. I had an audition and was accepted as a First Tenor with the AMVC. I have been a member of the AMVC since then, even though I had some time off with a throat condition and then a heart attack at the end of that trouble in 2003, but have been 'on deck' continuously since then.

I umpired Australian Rules Football with the SA National Football League for 23 years, umpiring in all part of the state as well as in the city. Then, with my wife Laurel, I umpired Women's Netball for over 10 years.

I joined the CMF (later renamed Army Reserve) in 1957 and served in that for 27 years, and was Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) for a number of years before compulsory retirement at 55.

I was fortunate enough to be selected as a Torch Bearer for the 2000 Olympic Games, which was a great experience also.

My wife is involved with a tap dancing group called "The Timestep Tap Dancers", and they perform concerts at nursing homes, retirement villages and other charitable functions. I accompany them and comper their shows and sing a solo or two in between their acts when they have to change costumes.

My wife and I are both having ballroom dancing lessons, and having recently received our Silver Medals are now having lessons for the Gold Medal.



