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His Excellency
Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce
AC, CSC, RANR
Governor of South Australia

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Genty Stevens
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LIFE MEMBERS:
John Lawson
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Choir practices are held every
Monday from 7.45 pm to 9.45 pm
at St Stephen's Lutheran
Church, 152 Wakefield St,
Adelaide.

WEB ADDRESS:
amvc.org.au

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It seems very hard to realise that 2009 is racing to a close. It seems such a short time ago that we were planning three major events - the celebration recognising our achievement of presenting choral music to the people of South Australia for 125 years, the annual Opera Dinner and the visit from the Buderim Male Choir - as well as our usual performances. I can truthfully say that 2009 has been a memorable one for us all.

125th Anniversary Concert

A great afternoon of music was enjoyed by those who attended the function in the Elder Hall. We were joined on this occasion by the Band of the South Australia Police, who also celebrated 125 years of providing band music to and for the people of South Australia. Apart from the afternoon acknowledging these two memorable achievements, the proceeds of nearly \$6000 were raised in support of the Freemasons Foundation Centre for Men's Health (The Freemasons in SA were also celebrating their 125th anniversary at this event.) From all reports the members of the audience really enjoyed not only hearing of the joys and tribulations of presenting choral music in and around Adelaide in the late 19th and early 20th centuries but also to hear some of the compositions that were presented from those early days of our State as well as music from our own era. A most rousing and moving combined performance of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* brought a wonderful and memorable afternoon of fine music to a conclusion. It was indeed a most rewarding celebration for us all.

Opera Dinner

Once again this year we were pleased to gather at the Martinhas Restaurant for our now annual event. All who joined us enjoyed an evening of good music and food. We have been fortunate in

being able to hold this event in the city for the last 4 years and have enjoyed the services of the Hospitality staff and students, but unfortunately it would seem that 2009 is the last time we will be able to meet in the city for the event, as we understand that particular course will no longer be offered at the city campus.

We do know that we plan to continue with this event, but that a new venue is to be found. We will keep you informed of future plans, and might I suggest very strongly that if you have not as yet formed a group and booked a table for the evening that you do so as soon as a date and venue have been finalised.

I would like to pay tribute to William and Daina Shaw for the excellence of planning and attention to fine detail for this evening.

Buderim Male Choir

What a tremendous amount of time and energy went into the planning for this weekend. Countless hours of preparation were made to ensure the event went as smoothly as possible. However, there was one aspect that could not be pre-arranged and that was the weather. Who would ever have thought that SA could be so hot and uncomfortable in early November (42C in Tanunda on the day of our concert there). This no doubt had a big influence on our audience numbers but it did in no way dampen the enthusiasm and enjoyment both choirs had in working together. The programme presented at our concerts was rich and varied and the combined items were most rousing (a bit of hot to extremely hot weather couldn't stop either group giving of their best). A number of families billeted some of our guests from Queensland and I thank them most sincerely for opening up their homes.

There were three events when the two choirs and partners met over lunch and supper. These were very jovial occa-

sions, and everyone enjoyed the chance to catch up with old friends or indeed make new ones. I am very grateful to the sub-group from our Committee and their partners for their ready assistance in making this venture as successful as possible.

I think that the email Bill and I received from Hedley Harwood – Buderim's Tour Manager - sums up both choirs' feelings about the event:

What a great weekend we all had – in spite of the heat! Thank you so much for your great hospitality – we were all made to feel very welcome at all times. The concerts were a great success (musically, at least), and all those who spoke to me afterwards said that they loved the music and were very glad they came.

Once again, our thanks to all of the AMVC for their gracious hospitality, and to both of you in particular for all your hard work in the preparation for the Tour.

What Now?

There are but two events recorded for official choir events for this year and one ongoing task.

The events

The Free for Friends Concert at St Stephen's on Monday Dec 7th and the annual Christmas Dinner on Dec 11th. Both events we look forward to firstly to say thanks to the Friends who have supported us loyally again this year and secondly to say thanks to our wives and partners for their patience with us throughout the year.

The Task

We, Friends and members of the AMVC alike, need to be constantly on the lookout for new members.

Please see what you can do to encourage men of all ages who enjoy the chance to make music to contact a member of the AMVC. I am sure that once they make the initial commitment that they will have a lot of fun, learn something different and make some new friends.

Thank you

I would like to thank each and every member of the AMVC for their support during the year, but most especially to the members of the Committee who have been diligent in attending meetings and working for the betterment of the AMVC.

Special thanks to Bill, Ed and David for all their patience, humour and enthusiasm and particularly for their belief in us.

I hope you all have a happy Christmas, that you will take the opportunity to catch up with family and friends and that you will continue to enjoy your association with the AMVC in 2010.

Colin Styles
President

David Lang—Assistant Conductor

I was born on 14 March 1988 in what was then the Queen Victoria Hospital on Fullarton Road, and I've lived in the same house in Urrbrae ever since. My Dad is a botanist and my Mum is a primary school special education teacher. I also have a brother (Stephen) and two sisters (Belinda and Jessica), all younger than me.

Before launching into the musical side of my life (which seems to be most of it), I'll start with my other interests. The one sport I follow intently (to the exclusion of all others) is cricket, which I first became interested in when I discovered how many statistics and numbers it involves. I also love reading (anything from A.A.Milne to Dostoevsky!), bushwalking (a recent trek was from home to a friend's house in Balhannah) and chocolate (especially Haigh's). I am a Christian, and in March 2008 I was baptised at Glen Osmond Baptist Church, having chosen the perfect weather to be submerged in cold water – it was at the end of that epic two week heat wave!

When I was 8 I started learning the trumpet and piano, but for several years before then I'd already been making lots of music with anything noisy I could find around the house, and playing along with Louis Armstrong records or Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Dad taught me how to draw a treble clef (one of the most difficult tasks for a young musician to master) and soon I was attempting to write my own music too. As well as imaginary street maps, Stobie poles and factories, I also used to draw big pictures of orchestras, making sure I had all the instruments assigned to the right places, and generally having the most fun starting with the percussion and brass, and then getting bored drawing all those violins – but I had enough patience to complete several of these large drawings. I used to write my name down the bottom on the conductor's podium... perhaps a sign of things to come! Another favourite pastime was gathering up all my teddy bears and soft toys, assembling them as an orchestra on my bed (the "stage"), and then conducting them all afternoon, often just to music made up in my own head. I developed my own "orchestra noises" to help – singing or humming in different tones for all the different instruments.

Skipping ahead a few years, at the age of sixteen I found myself conducting a *real* orchestra at Marryatville High School, and writing slightly more complicated music for *real* singers and instrumentalists to play. I didn't have too much trouble deciding that music was the career path that I wanted to follow, and received lots of encouragement in this, as well as fantastic opportunities such as two trips overseas as a piano player with the school's Big Band. It was also at Marryatville that I was first roped into singing in a choir... reluctantly at first, but before long I loved it! In fact, the ensemble I was most keen to join when I got to university was the Elder Conservatorium Chorale, which I still sing with.

As I write this, I am just finishing my Music Studies degree at the Elder Conservatorium, having majored in composition, but continued to learn trumpet, piano and conducting. I've been fortunate to have had many of my compositions performed by ensembles and soloists at university, and even by the Australian String Quartet earlier this year. I'm also a volunteer presenter at Radio Adelaide, and – to cap it all off – now I'm assistant conductor of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir, which I'm finding not just good for my conducting skills, but also very enjoyable and even inspiring – it's wonderful to be around so many people who find so much joy in music. In the meantime, I'm intending to go on to further music study next year to develop my skills - there is much "biography" still yet to be experienced!



David wishes he had a third hand to conduct with!

Lion Dr Robert Cooter AM

The Choir congratulates Bob Cooter, a member of the First Tenor section, on receiving a most prestigious Lions Club award.

The following history highlights excerpts from the citation, as written by Dr Bob Coulthard, for the award to Lion Bob of the Ambassador of Goodwill Award of Lions International at a Lions District Convention in SA during October this year. The citation and the award were presented by an International Director, ID Ken Bird.

The Ambassador of Goodwill Award is the highest award given to eminent Lions in the world by the International Association of Lions Clubs, based in the USA. There have been only six recipients in the whole of Australia over many years.

Over the past 40 years Lion Bob has initiated and or-

ganised more major Lions Health Projects than anyone else in the Multiple District 201 involving all the Australian Lions Clubs, and when it is considered that our Multiple District leads the world with its Foundations and Multiple District projects it is probable that his record is unique in Lions Clubs International.

As a general medical practitioner in the rural city of Port Augusta in South Australia, Bob was a charter member of Port Augusta Lions Club in 1966.

The following is a summary of his work in the Health-Care field of Lions. His work centred on support for people with chronic disease and disablement, and also Primary Health Care and Preventive medicine with early diagnosis and early treatment of disease resulting in the prolonging of the life span of people by 15 to 20 years with some diseases.

The following list represents a summary of Lions Health Projects he was involved with and in many cases initiated:

- Glaucoma Screenings
- Amblyopia (Lazy) eye screenings
- Home renal dialysis
- SA Lions Heart Research Foundation
- SA Anti-Cancer Foundation
- Mobile Mammography unit-screening rural women
- Prostate cancer awareness project
- Newborn hearing screening programme
- Lions hearing dog training centre at Verdun
- Australian Cranio-facial Unit and Foundation
- Lions health screenings in the community
- Royal Flying Doctor Service—commencing the service in Port Augusta in 1955.

In addition to the Lions Ambassador of Goodwill Award, Bob received another prestigious award, the Distinguished Alumni Award of the University of Adelaide, for the discovery of the cause of Amoebic Meningitis in Port Augusta. It was a fatal disease which claimed the lives of 20 children and young adults in 3 towns of the Spencer Gulf Region—15 cases in Port Augusta, 3 in Port Pirie and 2 in Kadina. Bob and his medical partner, Dr John Mickan, discovered the living amoeba for the first time in the world by viewing the spinal fluid under the microscope in Port Augusta. Later they directed a researcher to the source of the amoeba in the River Murray pipeline water, because of their suspicion based on their research of environmental and epidemiological factors and case histories of the young victims. The other reason for this award was his outstanding and innovative commitment to Rural Health over 40 years.

Bob was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for "his service to the community through Lions Clubs International, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Rural Health".

