

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

**PRESIDENT:**  
Colin Styles

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:**  
William Shaw

**ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR:**  
David Lang

**ACCOMPANIST:**  
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David Evans  
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**TREASURER:**  
John Wear

**COMMITTEE:**  
John Agnew  
John Dick  
Neville Roach  
John Winnall  
Denis West (*Librarian*)

**CONCERT MANAGER:**  
Neville Roach  
Phone: 8332 1895

**ALMONER:**  
George Fort  
8258 4867

**VICE PATRONS:**  
Myfanwy James  
Margaret Lambert  
Genty Stevens  
Len Turner

**LIFE MEMBERS:**  
John Lawson  
Robert McLeay

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](http://amvc.org.au)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Tempus fugit!* My, how "Time Flies" - here we are nearly half way through the year.

So far this year we have welcomed two new members, and we appreciate their company and contributions. We would dearly like to have more singers join our "band of merry men", so the cry goes out once more: if you know any men who enjoy singing, tell them about us. We would particularly like to have some tenors join us.

### Thanks

Recently Choir members and partners enjoyed a BBQ at the home of David Evans. We really appreciated his and Rita's hospitality and we thank them and those who assisted in any way to making the afternoon such a success. It was a beautiful day in great surroundings.

One very important aspect of the life of the AMVC is that, in addition to making beautiful music together, we really do have fun in one another's company. Another is the support we receive from our spouses and partners and you our loyal supporters. Thank you for your continued support.

### Anzac Day

Once again we were honoured to accept the invitation to participate in the Anzac Day ceremony at the Cross of Sacrifice. What a privilege it was to be there and to assist in creating the appropriate atmosphere. This year the National Anthem of New Zealand was introduced into the service. This was a very tangible way to acknowledge the sacrifices that those men and women (our near neighbours) have made alongside our own service men and women in so many conflicts throughout the world.

### What is coming soon?

#### Next Concert

At 2.00pm on Sunday 30 May at the Concordia College Chapel, we will all

be taking a "Trip around the World". We are being joined on this journey by soloist Tom Brennen (tenor). We do hope that many of you and your friends will be able to come on this journey with us. If you have received your 2010 Red Card please remember to have it ready when purchasing your ticket.

### Opera Concert

On Sunday 12 September our second celebration concert featuring **Music from Opera and Operetta** will be held at the Concordia College Chapel. This promises to be yet another unforgettable afternoon so make sure you mark it in your diary now and start advertising it to your friends and neighbours and encouraging them to come with you.

### Quiz Night

We have organised this event for September 17. Further details will be available later, but one thing I can promise you is that if I have anything to do with the questions they will not be hard. So plan to come and have some fun and get to know some of the AMVC members and friends a little better. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Opera Dinner

Friday 22 October is the date for our **Opera Dinner**. This year we will be leaving the city and going to the Allan Scott Park (Morphettville). Those who have joined us previously are looking forward to this being yet another very special night of fine music and food (with free parking this time). Please put this date in your diary and start organising your table now. Further details later.

### Keeping up to date

Please log on to [www.amvc.org.au](http://www.amvc.org.au) or just enter Adelaide Male Voice Choir on Google for our concert and social function dates. Many thanks to Peter Schulze and Keith Gooley for keeping our web page up to date: your assistance is invaluable.

*Colin Styles*

## John Dick is a member of the Second Tenor Section

"I was born in a small hospital (now a nursing home) between the North Adelaide football oval and Main North Road, and grew up in Sefton Park. Adelaide was smaller then, and through the gap in the row of houses opposite us we could see open paddocks all the way north to the horizon. In 1949 we went for a trip in the back of Dad's Bedford utility out to the southern country area to see the almond blossom – we went to Sturt Road and Diagonal Road intersection – it's now the Marion Shopping centre!

I went to Nailsworth Primary School, and then to Adelaide Boys High School in Currie Street (which is now the remand centre). In grade 3 we were taught how to read music, and I have always been thankful for that. During my school era I had lessons on the violin, but without much apparent result, and later on the piano where the same level was achieved. So that seemed to be the "pinnacle" of any musical thrust in my life. I left school with a Leaving Certificate (Year 11), and started work as a fitting and turning apprentice at Chrysler's Keswick plant (now Le Cornu's). Luckily for me, at the end of the first year I changed jobs to a cadet draughtsman with a general engineering firm in Woodville, and studied part time (for 10 years) to obtain my mechanical engineering qualifications at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering (which was the School of Mines, and now is the University of SA). I enjoyed the small almost family atmosphere of this firm, and the wide variety of work as a draughtsman. They were good and busy times.

During his period I met Roslyn (sweet 16 etc) at our Sea Scout dances. She came there with her brother (who was also in the Sea Scouts). Within a few good but short years he married my sister, and I married his. We built our home in St Marys (almost as far away as that earlier country trip), and we have a happy family of 2 sons and 2 daughters, which has grown now to include 14 grand children, and all still very happy. Christmas time is great but exhausting.

While the family was growing up, and after my graduation, I worked for a construction firm at Torrens Island power station, where I assisted with the installation of the first two boilers. I also spent a few months in their Sydney head office, which I enjoyed, but Roslyn with two small boys in a small flat did not. I also had a couple of smaller jobs for the firm, one at Birkenhead, and another in Pt Pirie (for 6 months).

The rougher life of the construction industry was not for me, so I left, and worked for Chrysler again in their plant engineering office at Tonsley Park. This was great, I could walk to work - even in the rain. I spent most of my time there putting in plant and facilities at their Lonsdale foundry and machine shop. However, in 1972 Chryslers had to cut back on staff and I was lucky to be "let go" - it opened up a new era for me.

Before my accrued leave had expired I obtained a position as a Lecturer with the Mech Eng Department in

TAFE, both at Kintore Ave in the city and Regency Park Campus. If the last part of that sounds a bit like what George Fort has written, it's because he was there a year and a bit before me. So read what he wrote in the Autumn 2010 *In Harmony* to refresh your memory. We worked closely together, sometimes sharing the same office. I avoided the joys of high office, and remained at the top of the lecturer scale, but I did act as senior a few times when George was on leave. It was almost the perfect job, I wouldn't expect to find a better one. I worked with TAFE for 27 years, the last 5 being at Panorama Campus, and there I was responsible for the Mechanical Engineering design section of the course. I retired in 1998, and promptly forgot about all that stuff.

After I retired I joined a harmonica & bush (percussion) band which gave concerts at local nursing homes. I was the baby of the group, the oldest member being 95 years old. Then Roslyn decided to go to singing classes with Guido Coppola's Santa Cecilia School of Singing. She was singing in our Village Singers - a concert choir which gives concerts at local nursing homes etc. I could not understand why anyone had to have singing lessons – you just learnt the words and the tune then sang it! Anyway she went. She enjoyed it so much that next year I went too, but on the understanding "not in her class". I went so that I could join the Village Singers and be useful, and I only intended to do the one term of "Singing for Beginners" (through the WEA). Anyway, 4 years later, I was still enjoying Guido's classes, but I was looking for something more to do.

In July 2006 some friends of the Choir gave us their tickets to use at the AMVC concert at Concordia. I liked the concert. There was an "invitation to join" sheet given out and Roslyn said to me "you could do that". Then we noticed George Fort in the Choir. So I joined up. My earlier exposure to music has not been a waste after all.

Joining the Choir has been one of the best things I have done. I enjoy the good nature of the members, the good music (singing some stuff that I've never heard before but it still sounds familiar), the practices and the socialising, and the satisfaction of doing a pleasing performance at a concert. So I hope to be with the second tenors for a good few years.

Forgive the reminiscing, but Adelaide really is a small place, and I hope that my memories may spark those of others. We do live in good times."

*Enjoying the good times together*



## A Very Special Occasion!

### Celebration Concert 2 "Operatic Highlights"

A concert of the most popular pieces of opera and operetta sung by the Choir with their soloist friends.

"Hear all the best bits!"

Sunday September 12  
at 2.00 pm

Concordia College Chapel  
45 Cheltenham St Highgate

Tickets available from John Wear (8260 2814),  
from August 16, or at the door

### *Everything I need to know about life I learned from Noah's Ark.*

- Don't miss the boat.
- Plan ahead—it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Don't listen to the critics—just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Build your future on high ground.
- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- Speed isn't always an advantage—snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- When you're stressed—float awhile.
- Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.
- Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Stay fit—when you are 600 years old someone may ask you to do something really big.
- No matter what the storm, God has promised us a rainbow to follow.

### More Choir History Notes from Bill Shaw:



*The Choir in 1905*

As many of you know, I have spent quite some time in the State Library researching the Choir's history, especially in preparation for the celebrations to do with our 125th anniversary last year. Those exciting celebrations are now over, but there are many interesting snippets of history to share with you, about performances and events in the Choir's earlier years. Here are a few:

- In 1899 the Choir sang at a celebration in the Exhibition Hall in support of an 8-hour working day.
- In 1907 Smoke Socials or Concerts were begun, and subsequently were held for many years at the old South Australian Hotel. Prominent Adelaide citizens were invited to preside at these functions, and there were speeches, choir music, and refreshments.
- In 1909 a fundraising concert was held in the Woodville Town Hall in aid of the Messina Earthquake appeal. It raised in excess of £100 for the charity.
- In 1910 an orchestra associated with the Choir was formed by Mr H H Davies and the two groups performed together at a specially organised Operatic Concert.
- In 1916 the Choir performed with the St Cecelia Ladies Choir in the Adelaide Town Hall in aid of the SA Soldiers' Fund.
- In 1932 the Choir gave a special fund-raising concert for the purpose of helping send Miriam Hyde, well-known Australian pianist, to London for further study.
- In 1935 the Choir sang in aid of the Central Mission and welcomed soloists Florence Austral and John Amadio.
- During World War II, the Choir performed many concerts at the Wayville Army Camp and the Bedford Park Sanatorium, to raise the spirits of the troops and patients.
- In 1948 the Choir took part in a Choral Concert in the Adelaide Town Hall to raise funds for the Lord Mayor's Food for Britain Fund. Mr Fred Williamson was the conductor on this occasion.



*Here we are in 2009*

