
MetNews

News of the Metropolitan Male Choir for choir members

November 2007

A Message from the President

At the October meeting of the Management Committee the 2008 Calendar for the Choir was signed off and again it will be a full and challenging year.

The highlights will be the Festival of Male Choirs in March and April, the Proms of course, together with the visit in October from the Wollongong Lamplighters who will assist us in our 80th birthday celebrations by joining us in a celebratory concert.

Our two recent country rehearsals at Lobethal and Owen for the March Festival were well attended and it seems we have the musical program under control apart from one or two notable exceptions. However, what struck me at the rehearsals was the growing comradeship between members of the various choirs. This is especially important I believe, for some of the country choirs whose members, in many cases, are having a difficult time. A good sing with your friends, together with something special to look forward to, can be a very positive thing.

The Choir's travel plans are currently under review following only a moderate response to the recent survey of members regarding the proposed tour of Tasmania in 2009. However, following a recent visit by members of the National Male Choir of New Zealand we have received an unofficial invitation to tour their country in October 2009 to share in the 10th Anniversary celebrations of the formation of their choir. The tour would include both the North and South Islands and be of about 17 days duration. It's an exciting proposal which we are now following up.

As President, I have had the opportunity recently to observe at close quarters the enormous number of hours that are willingly and voluntarily given to the Choir to make it the successful organization it is. This ranges from planning major events, down to the smaller tasks of putting letters into envelopes, running our weekly raffles to bringing the key for the rehearsal premises. My personal thanks go to everyone who contributes in any way to the choir, no matter what the task. It is these contributions down through the years that enable us to look forward to celebrating our 80th birthday with some justifiable pride.

Finally I would like to wish all the choir members and their families the compliments of the season and look forward to another successful year for the choir in 2008.

Bruce Whitehead - President

Broken Hill Visit

What a great weekend! I think the feeling from all those who went to Broken Hill is that the visit was an outstanding success. For that we mainly have John Brimson to thank. Well done John! The bus trip to and from the Silver City, the sightseeing around the area, the Saturday evening concert and the Sunday morning church service were all very much enjoyed, and went without a hitch - well almost. Many of us were concerned about the slow table service at the Social Democratic Club dinner on the Friday evening - could we possibly eat dinner and get to the concert on time on Saturday? However, a few tactful words from John and a change in the arrangements meant all was well the following night.

The social side of the weekend was enjoyed so much by our members that many are asking when will we have another weekend away, and where will we go? The subject has already been discussed at a Management Committee meeting. We will fit something in when we can, but we have to be careful not to take on too much.

Choir Webmaster

We are pleased to announce that Pieter Lammersma has agreed to take on the important position of Webmaster for the choir. The Web Page is especially important in this internet age for interstate and overseas choirs to find out about our choir. We can even post extracts from our recordings on the site so people can hear what we sound like. The Web site can be found at www.adam.com.au/mmc. Have a look at it next time you are on line. Pieter will be updating it in the next few weeks.

New Choir Members

We welcome some new members to our choir 'family' who have joined us since the last MetNews was published. **Don Bartram and Ian Sinclair** have both added their singing talents to the First Bass Section. We hope they both enjoy singing with us in the coming months and years.

80th Birthday Bash

As the President mentioned in his column, one of the big events for the choir in 2008 will be our 80th Birthday Celebrations. We have booked the Mitsubishi Motors Dining Room for the evening of Saturday 18 October for a Buffet Dinner, and we are sure a good night will be had by all. More details will follow as arrangements fall into place.

Startup Dinner 2008

The Startup dinner in 2008 will be held on Wednesday 9 January at the Mount Osmond Golf Club. We will be entertained this time by a young male Barber Shop Quartet called "The Goldfish Boys". I heard them recently on Carole Whitelock's 891 show, and they sounded very good. The price to members and partners will be \$20, thanks to a \$9 subsidy from choir funds.

Friends of the Choir List

It is important to keep our Friends of the Choir list up to date. Some of our older "Friends" may no longer be interested in receiving MetNotes. If you are aware of any changes, please let Murray Huddleston or Milton Lewis know so we can keep our data base up to date.

Recent Choir Events

The Choir Film Afternoon at the Capri on 21 October was another great success, thanks again to John Brimson's organization. There were very few empty seats, and according to our new Treasurer Dean Boundy we made a profit of more than \$4000. The film "My Life So Far" was enjoyed by all - especially the female fans of Colin Firth in the audience! Singing to a packed congregation of Proberians at St Peter's Cathedral on 24 October was a great thrill, especially as the front row of the second basses was only about 3 m from The Governor. I distinctly saw him say "That was excellent" to the lady sitting next to him after we had sung "You Raise Me Up". Speaking to him afterwards over a cup of tea, it appears that we have another Vice-Regal fan.

Lady Larks Column - by Margaret Kessner

What a treat to be at **St Peter's Cathedral** last month. After parking under the magnificent gums in the parklands opposite, some of us were encouraged to 'go upstairs for a better view'. So, through the narrow door from light into gloom; on and up the circular stone stairs. It must have been 4'-4'6" wide with a central column, (each triangular step about 2' wide), and fortunately a solid steel railing in the wall. Wow. Comments afterwards - 35 steps; thought I was going to the bell tower; I totally lost my direction; till afterwards, 'who's leading on the way down?'. Wouldn't have missed it for the world. A privilege to be at the packed service.

At the Ladies Night, we learnt much about the work of a wonderful soul, Dr Colleen Redit, through the enthusiasm and information of Libby Sweetman. A delightful array of useful things made by women in India was displayed and like happy little vegemeters we searched and bought lots - Libby has just told me she sold us \$1,200 worth of goods. Libby's comment - just think how many women that will help. Yes, the money has already gone to India.

At Broken Hill more joy was had - sightseeing and attending the concert and the church service, as well as learning patience during our meals.... Our faithful ladies on the stall at the concert sold over \$900 worth of cards and CD's. Well done and thank you.

Christmas Kytons orders - have now been given out. Lots of Christmas fare and some new items. Do have your order in by Wed. Nov. 21st please. Even one item is 100% better than none.

Best wishes to all going to **Sydney** later this month.

Festival of Male Choirs

John Thomson has been working extremely hard to get all the arrangements in place for the second Festival of Male Choirs to be held in March and April next year. As you will all be aware, the venue for the Adelaide concert on 30 March is the Adelaide Convention Centre - another new venue for us - while a second concert is to be held on 6 April in Tanunda. By the time this goes to print choir members will hopefully have their ticket orders in.

Troy, our "Blind Dog for the Guides", as our President recently called him, has passed his exams with flying colours, and will soon be a fully fledged Guide Dog. Congratulations Troy!

From our Almoner - June Genders

It was wonderful to have Allan Huddleston singing with us again at the Cathedral service after his long illness and the death of his beloved wife Pat. Don Gill is now making good progress after undergoing a course of radiotherapy. We are always inspired by Karl Austin and Ralph Shurdington as they cope the best they can with much of life in a wheelchair. Both attend practices regularly, and when conditions permit, they attend performances. Ralph is a valued member of the Management Committee.

Olga Strizhak, our deputy accompanist, has been battling the dreaded Spring hay fever. We hope she is soon 100% again. Apart from the odd cold or sore throat, the rest of the choir are traveling well.

Bob Triggs - Public Relations Officer