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# MetNews

## News of the Metropolitan Male Choir for choir members

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March 2008

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### Festival of Male Choirs

Thank you all for your hard work in pushing sales of tickets, especially for the Convention Centre concert, where about 800 tickets remain unsold. Tanunda is about 2/3 sold and will hopefully sell out. Remember that, from now on, about \$8.50 of every ticket sale comes to our choir. There are still posters available to promote the concerts.

Errol Chinner has now taken over from Bob Triggs as our ticket seller, so see him with your requirements.

**Guest artists.** For the Adelaide concert we have secured the services of Rhodri Clarke, the young Welsh pianist, who was the accompanist and guest artist at the Sydney Opera House concert. Harpist Siahli Schmaal, last year's scholarship winner, will be a guest artist at both concerts, as will K&N Brass.

Remember the two important combined practices at Flinders Street Baptist Church. The first is on Friday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm for 7.30 pm, and the second on Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1.30 pm for 2 pm.

### New Zealand Here We Come!

The recent survey of choir members revealed that enough are interested in touring New Zealand in September 2009 to confirm the trip is definitely on. At the last count there are 46 singers keen to go. However, some are yet to return those survey forms, so let's have them all in as soon as possible so we know our likely numbers more precisely.

A committee has already been formed to plan the finer details of the 20 day tour, but it looks like we will be flying to Auckland on Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup>. Joint concerts with New Zealand choirs will be held in Bay of Islands, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Nelson and Ashburton, after which choir members can chose to fly home from Christchurch, or 'do their own thing.'

It is an exciting trip, which we can look forward to and prepare for over the next 19 months.

### 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash

Just as we thought arrangements were going smoothly for this important event on Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup>, the announcement of the imminent closure of the Mitsubishi factory threw a spanner in the works.

Our predicament, in having to find an alternative venue, was minor compared with the workers who have to find new jobs, but none-the-less, it required a bit of quick work by President Bruce and a small band of helpers to visit a number of possible venues and choose those suitable for our birthday celebrations. It came down to a choice of two, and the one decided on by the Management Committee is the Tropeano Function Centre, Tapley's Hill Road, Fulham Gardens..

There is plenty of room for the 250-300 anticipated guests from our choir, the Wollongong Lamplighters choir, and a few friends. It has ample car parking, a good stage, a good sound system, and drinks will be available at bar prices. A two course dinner will be brought to our tables, and the cost will be \$35.50 per person.

### Fundraising Efforts

When it comes to such things as overseas visits and celebratory dinners, we are all happy when we get some sort of subsidy. Remember our overseas visit in 2006 was subsidized to the tune of \$3000 per singer. **Alan Spriggs** runs a fundraising raffle every week, which so far this financial year has brought in over \$1500.

**Don Gill** has now offered to run a "Sock it to me" fundraiser. For those of you new to the choir, and you forgetful longer time members, this involves the sale of socks to you and by you to your friends and relatives. All fundraising efforts will benefit us in the long run, so please support Don when he gets things up and running.

Still on the subject of fundraising, we hope to have the **Lottery Tickets** available by the time this MetNews goes to print. If you want the subsidies to continue, please support all our fundraisers, including of course the **Film Afternoon**, "The Lavender Ladies" later in the year.

### **June Genders OAM**

John Hutton and John Hill's 'Ode to June', sung on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, in celebration of our accompanist's richly deserved OAM, is worth putting into print. The very clever words, written by John Marshman, are reproduced with his permission

**Chorus.** Glory Glory Hallelujah  
She has talents quite peculiar  
Our congratulations to yer  
June Genders OAM

She was born at Ingle Farm where father grew some hay  
And she loved the Clydesdale horses that carted it away  
In loads piled high to Adelaide, until the fateful day  
One tore the power lines down

She started out school teaching to help pay the bills  
At Cherry Gardens & Willunga she was well known in the Hills  
Especially with Stock Agents, that's where she got her thrills  
This lovely country girl.

And now I'll tell you something that many may not know  
She taught children in New Guinea, in Sunday Schools and so  
A single engine aeroplane was the only way to go  
As she spread her wings.

She's been mother to five children & with Robin on the scene  
The have grandchildren between them numbering fifteen  
With her love of entertaining and cooking being keen  
There's lots of family fun.

There's nothing in the world she wouldn't do for her dear man  
And there's nothing he wouldn't do for her its all part of a plan  
Doing nothing for each other as often as they can  
No - that was just a joke!

When unexpected guests arrive and knock upon her door  
She frantically puts things away along the passage floor  
Then gathering her composure she welcomes them for sure  
And makes them feel at home

At home it is quite common to hear the sad refrain  
'Have you seen my glasses? I've misplaced them again'  
Hence when she comes to practice she keeps them on a chain  
She's just so organized!

Volunteering and fundraising is why she got the gong  
Childrens' Hospital, the Salvos, Anti Cancer - the list is long  
Also her musical ability that helps us sing a song  
This lady sure can play

Her musical ability is something of a treat  
She's so alert at practice, she doesn't miss a beat  
Sometimes she plays a little quick while we all tap our feet  
And Don is not amused

In her role as Almoner she shows such love and care  
If we have a problem, she makes it easier to share  
For her we would do anything - and go anywhere  
Because we love her so

It goes without saying that we are all very proud of 'our June'. Her official OAM citation reads "For service to the community through fundraising activities with health and service organizations, and to music."

We all know what a wonderful accompanist she has been to our choir since 1992, as we very much appreciate her work as Almoner and her sponsorship of the "Encouragement Award" for youth as part of our scholarship programme.. However, that is a small part of what she has done in the community.

You may be interested to know that June has held numerous positions over the past years on the Board of Directors and the Friends of the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital, including Chairman of the Coordinating Council of the latter. She has also been a volunteer on the Fundraising Team of the Cancer Council of South Australia since 1999, as well as Deputy Chairperson of the Divisional State Functions Committee of the Salvation Army for 3 years.

Congratulations from us all June for your well deserved award!

### **Lady Larks - Margaret Kessner**

At our recent Ladies night, we heard some 'Stories' from four of our members, and it was a privilege to hear them. A special thank you to Shirley Cox, Pam Lewis and Margaret Harris, (and me). Somehow one feels a little vulnerable when one has exposed some of one's life, and you begin to wonder if you should have. Perhaps keep that in mind when next you say 'hello' to those who spoke. It was such a good night and another one where we continue to grow in friendship and caring. Thank you everyone.

We nominated Raye Whitehead onto the choir committee for the Big Birthday Bash in October.

Now several of our ladies are celebrating special occasions - Nan & Lou Rowe, with their recent diamond wedding anniversary! Our congratulations. Two others, Nancy & Geoff Kamm and Pat & Frank Vanhouse will be celebrating their golden anniversaries in April. Are there any more perhaps?

I've just visited Edna & Louis Kaesler in their beautiful home in Glynde. So good to see Edna managing again after her broken arm.

Don't forget we need some helpers for the Kyttons packing night Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March please.

### **From our Almoner - June Genders**

Our choristers generally continue to enjoy good health. We rejoice in the fact that Allan Huddleston and Ralph Shurdington continue to make very good progress. Don Gill is much better after experiencing health problems. Paul White is unable to attend practices regularly due to continuing health difficulties - we all miss him. We trust that 2008 will continue to bring much happy singing, and good health, to us all