
MetNews

News of the Metropolitan Male Choir for choir members

June 2008

Festival of Male Choirs

The Festival of Male Choirs, back in March and April, was a great success, thanks mainly to the efforts of Don Noblet, June Genders and John Thomson. For John, the work stretched over more than two years with all the detailed planning and arrangements. The change of venue in Adelaide was overcome, as was the challenge of selling enough tickets to make a profit. In the end 1800 seats were sold for the Adelaide Convention Centre concert and the Tanunda concert was a sell out.

A big thank you to all the choir members who put a lot of effort in to sell tickets. Your hard work resulted in the event making a profit of more than \$25,000. This was divided up between the participating choirs in proportion to the numbers of choristers taking part, and the MMC share was over \$7000. Well done everyone. Will there be another Festival of Male Choirs in three year's time? We don't know, but I think we can safely say that John Thomson has more than 'done his bit'. Hopefully someone else will step forward to organize a Festival in 2011.

Before we leave the subject of the Festival of Male Choirs, the Management Committee has agreed to enter the event in the Ruby Awards. These prestigious annual South Australian Arts and Culture Awards, named after Dame Ruby Litchfield, are selected in a number of categories, including 'best work or event' and 'community impact'. John Thomson has submitted an application, which will include video and audio recordings from the Festival. Genty Stephens has agreed to support the submission.

New Zealand 2009

The dates of the New Zealand concert tour have been delayed by one month. The purpose is to give the choir an opportunity to accept an invitation to take part in the 10th Birthday Celebrations of the National Choir of New Zealand. These celebrations will be taking place in Nelson over the weekend of October 24th and 25th, so we now plan to leave Adelaide on October 11th and return on October 29th.

The Travel Committee has been working hard on your behalf to get the best possible price for the trip. Although no final decision has been made on which travel company will be used, I can tell you that the price may be considerably less than the original 'ball park' figure we estimated. The management committee has also decided to subsidize the trip by up to \$1000 per chorister. The exact figure will of course depend on the success of our fundraising efforts over the next 15 months. So let's all make a big effort to sell tickets to the "Ladies in Lavender" Film Afternoon on 3 August.

Don Noblet is already in touch with some of his counterparts on the other side of the Tasman, and we are sure it will be an exciting time for the choir. There should be enough sightseeing, socializing and singing to keep everyone happy.

80th Birthday Bash

Arrangements are well in hand for this significant event in the Choir's life. As we reported in the last MetNews, it will be held on the evening of Saturday October 18th at the Tropeano Function Centre, Tapley's Hill Road, Fulham Gardens..

The Wollongong Lamplighters choir will be there to help us celebrate, and we hope that, apart from a short performance by both choirs, a few guest artists will also come along to entertain us. A two course dinner will be brought to our tables, and the cost will be \$35.50 per person. Drinks will be available at bar prices.

No decision has been made yet on when bookings for the dinner will open, but we would like you to think about how many of your own friends or relatives you want to invite, so you are ready when the time comes. It seems unlikely now that we will be opening bookings to the whole of the Friends of the Choir list.

The Mount Pleasant Oval has been booked for a BBQ lunch on Friday October 17th, to which our visitors from the Wollongong Lamplighters will be invited. So keep that day free for a good social get together.

The Proms 2008

Tickets for our annual Proms at Adelaide Town Hall are selling fast. This year John Williams has printed the tickets for us, to avoid BASS fees. In the past few years although we have returned very few tickets to BASS for them to sell, we have still incurred a large fee.

At the time of writing, the Sunday concert on August 31st is practically sold out, but there are some stalls and alcove seats still available for the Saturday evening. The Governor of South Australia enjoyed last year's Proms so much he will be attending again on the Sunday afternoon.

John Williams will be traveling overseas in August and September, but Milton Lewis has agreed to take over the ticket sales for the Proms from mid July.

You Win Some, You Lose Some

Unfortunately, the **Royal Adelaide Hospital Health Concert**, which was to be held on July 5th, has been cancelled due to poor ticket sales. However, we have been asked by **Aled Jones'** management organization to be a supporting act at his Festival Theatre concert on **Monday October 20th**. **COTA** have also asked the choir to perform a 20 minute bracket of songs to wind up their Norwood Town Hall concert on the afternoon of **October 28th**.

It looks like being a very busy October for the choir with the PSA at Colonel Light Gardens and the Birthday Celebrations already scheduled for the same month!

Red Jumpers

We are having difficulty in sourcing matching red jumpers for the choir casual uniform. If you know of any retired choir members who may be willing to sell or give them to new members, please let someone on the Management Committee know.

Bill Buxton's CD

The choir has been busy recording songs for our new CD in the last couple of weeks. However, our own Bill Buxton has beaten us to it, putting together a CD of his own. Bill's CD, entitled "Got my Song" is to be launched on Sunday July 13th at 2.00 pm. Let's get as many choir members along as possible to the Blackwood Hills Baptist Church to sing lustily and give the CD a good send-off. Someone who shall be nameless has suggested that Bill started the project to take his mind off his favourite football team. Not so, and they are improving. They only lost to Geelong by 59 points last week - an improvement on the 2007 Grand Final margin!

Deputy MD and Accompanist

Unfortunately our Deputy MD, Josh Valstar, has decided to end his relationship with the Metropolitan Male Choir, and recently handed in his resignation to President Bruce. This comes only a few weeks after Olga Strizhak decided her new school teaching appointments left her insufficient time to continue as Deputy Accompanist. Enid Shurdington and Geoff Sieben have volunteered to fill the breach if needed, so it is now 'back to the drawing board'.

News from the Almoner - June Genders

We were thrilled to see **Arthur Evans** rejoining the ranks after a lengthy illness - welcome back Arthur... We were also delighted to welcome **Darrell Kessner** back to the fold after an 8 week break, due to a knee reconstruction. **Peter Macmichael** is unable to attend regularly due to health problems and we wish him well. **Bevan Williams** has had a long bout of shingles and was looking forward to rejoining us when bronchitis struck - get well soon Bevan, we miss you. Lastly we were pleased to hear that **Frank Vanehouse** has moved to "Bucklands" Southern Cross Homes on Marion Road. It is not far from their home and Pat and the family are delighted. We think of you often Frank - we miss you very much, but will always keep in touch. Lastly welcome back **Graham Coulter** who has been missing from the choir for a few weeks with a medical problem.

"Lady Larks" by Margaret Kessner

The last two concerts have added to our value - we were nearly half the audience! Well done. Funny how, in one, we had to pay for the privilege to slowly freeze then pay to warm up. Oh well - loved the singing though.

Good to see both Colleen M and Ruth E back looking so well. Maureen S likewise. Ronda G says thankyou for her card; is her cheerful self, though pain is a pain. Elizabeth B would describe her back the same way. Do keep surrounding Pat V with your prayerful support.

Pauline B is rejoicing in their new home. Betty K, Marcia W and Jan F all anticipating travel in August. Margaret G continues to sell her jams on freezing cold Saturday mornings, and Margaret L continues to prove she is a top artist. 1st Prize at the Campbelltown Art Exhibition (800 entries). Now guess who of us umpired a netball match Sat 21st? Not me.

Next Ladies meeting August 13th - SA Police Dog Operations. Love to you all. Margaret K