

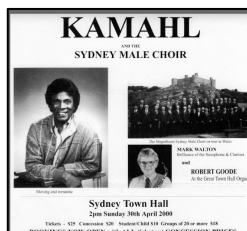
# Alan Thrift & the Sydney Male Choir

This is too short a tribute to Alan. Here is a view of some of the ventures the Sydney Male Choir has enjoyed under the baton of Alan Thrift. The Choir and its audiences around Sydney and New South Wales, around Australia and overseas have appreciated the skills that Alan has imparted to the Choir since joining us in July 1990.

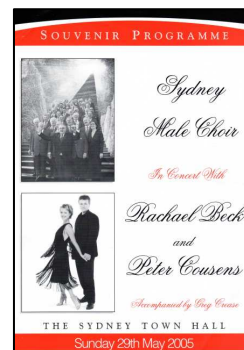


From the time he took over as the Director, Alan has brought his meticulous and thorough style to the Choir, allowing it to develop and improve continually. We have kept the best of the Welsh tradition, but we have expanded into many other genres and styles of performance.

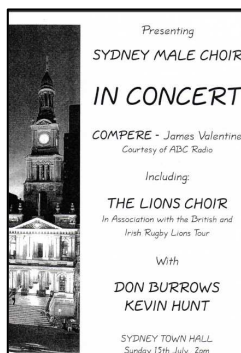
## STYLE AND CLASS AT THE SYDNEY TOWN HALL AND ANGEL PLACE



Back in 2000, a bold step was taken to promote our own concert in the heart of the city, the Sydney Town Hall. Chorister promotion, churches and community groups were the mainstay for our concerts. It was hoped that we would build a city wide audience, and soon, our own concert. So grew a tradition that allowed Alan and the Choir to showcase their talents before an audience of over 1600 people. We thought that would attract an audience by associating ourselves with significant well-known singers. So high profile entertainers, such as, Kamahl, Barry Crocker, Peter Cousins and Rachel Beck were the professionals, but many thought we could provide our own quality professional music. We were growing in confidence and enjoying the likes of Don Burrows and Kevin Hunt, the King's School Dance Band, the British Lions and last year, Andy Firth and Andy Miller. We were confident that we could stand on our own.

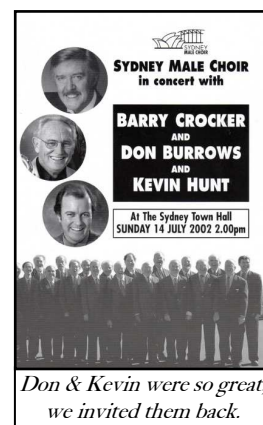


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## EVER EVOLVING STORY - 1990 to 2010

When Alan became our Musical Director, he was not short of ideas and the choristers needed to adapt. One of the early ones was – music sung by heart. There was even a motion put at an annual meeting to overturn the concept. We learned to sing to our audience! Secondly, Alan was meticulous about the light and shade that we needed to apply to our singing. Strong loud chords needed to be supplemented with subtle, soft harmonies – something we are proud of.

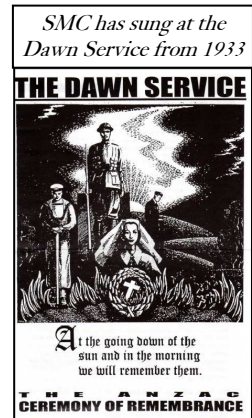


Around 1994, Russell Lyons, a member of the SMC Committee, embarked with Alan to present in 1995, "Australia Remembers", commemorating the end of World War 2. It was an exciting and well presented program that involved some of Sydney's top soloists, professional dancers, including professional staging. Now the choir members needed to learn to move – very unchoral in our previous experience! That changed the choristers approach to singing forever! It amazed overseas choirs and audiences when we moved a little; but now this Choir won't stand still.

**PHOTO GALLERY UNDER THE ALAN THRIFT'S WATCH**



*SMC in Anglican Church  
Newcastle 2007*



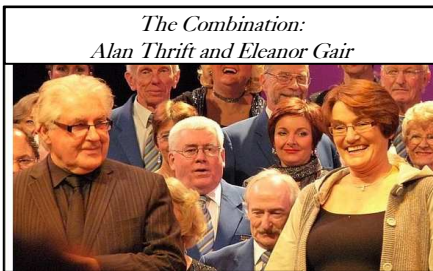
*SMC has sung at the  
Dawn Service from 1933*



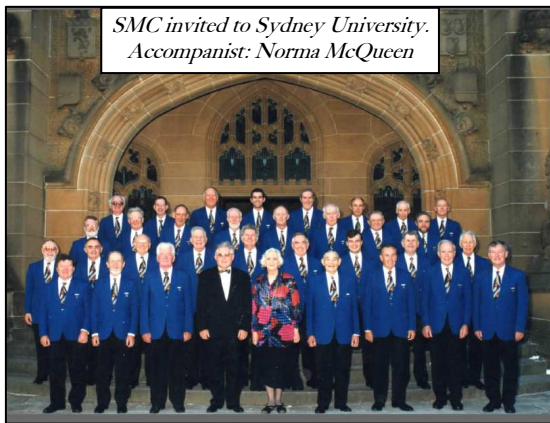
*SMC with Comper, Tony Langshaw  
West Wylong 2007*



*Maori Welcoming Ceremony in  
Nelson Ceremony - NZ 2009*



*The Combination:  
Alan Thrift and Eleanor Gair*



*SMC invited to Sydney University.  
Accompanist: Norma McQueen*



*SMC pause outside Hay on Drought Tour 2008*



*Alan & Bev from Orange*



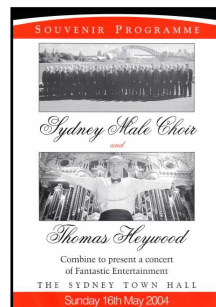
*SMC in Perth for Millennium Tour 2000*



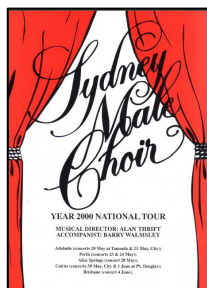
*Alan and great supporter and  
Vice Patron - Peter Kneeshaw*

**SYDNEY MALE CHOIR HEADS OVERSEAS – WITH ALAN**

Alan had his first experience of taking our Choir overseas, with Norm Green as organiser in 1998. We had toured England and Canada, under the previous conductor, but this was something new for Alan. The tour took 29 singers on a three week tour of England, Wales and Ireland over a three week period, with 35 supporters. The zenith was the Gwyl Beaumaris Festival, where we sang with (against?) the Welsh Cor Meibion y Traeth (70 of them, 29 of us). Our unique contribution was – light and shade, subtle and strong. The program at that time looked much more traditional than our current repertoire – we sing much more exciting different material now. After that tour, Alan never looked back! At Dublin, at the end of the Tour, we sang "Danny Boy", and one of our supporters heard the Irish in front of them say: "They've made it their own!"

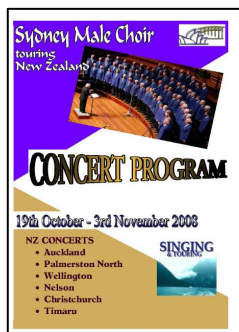
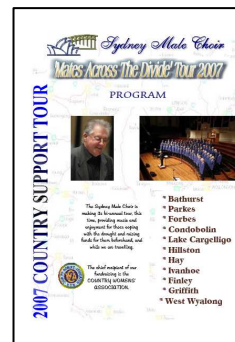


**WE WILL GO ANYWHERE TO SING**



The Choir has toured near and far in our twenty years. The most fascinating was our tour around Australia in 2000, our "Millennium Tour". A series of plane hops to Adelaide, Perth, Alice Springs, Cairns and Brisbane. We have toured extensively on the East Coast of Australia, every two or three years. In the middle nineties, we toured many towns as far west as Cobar. Under the management of Winston Eldridge, we travelled the New England and Pacific Highway on the Federation Tour, as well as Southern New South Wales and Victorian circuit and Tasmania. They involved singing in major rural communities, as well as little hamlets. These tours soon became the 'choral and gourmet' tours.

Recently we completed a sixteen day tour of New Zealand, culminating in the participation in the Nelson Male Choir Festival. This was an exciting sixteen day tour in 2009. Previously we toured for two weeks in 2008 in south-western NSW. This was the 'Mates across the Divide Tour'. Singing in the struggling communities, leaving money and goodwill turned out to be a learning experience for us all. We gradually learned that they had much more to offer us by showing the strength of their communities.

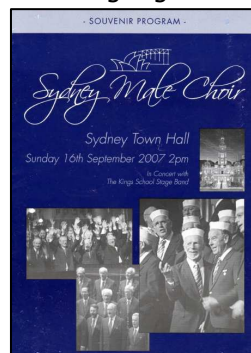


Have you been to these places and enjoyed the people in these communities? We have. Can you list the states for these towns?

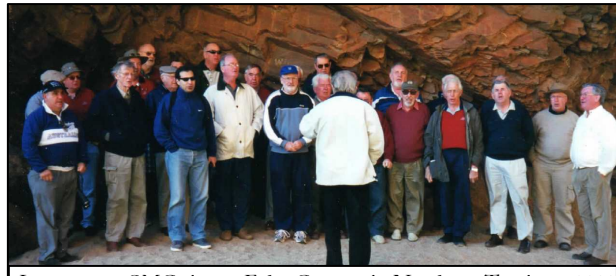
Ivanhoe, Nelson, Devonport, Toorak, Griffith, New Norfolk, Hillston, Bellingen, Burnie, Alice Springs, Ivanhoe, Palmerston North, New Norfolk, Campbell Town, Port Douglas, Ballarat, Swansea, Christchurch, Cottesloe, Tanunda, Condoblin, Tenterfield, St Helens, Nunden Stanley, Kawana, Queenscliff, West Wyalong, Robertson and Lake Cargelligo.

**SOME DIFFERENT THINGS WE HAVE DONE**

The Sydney Male Choir was part of a "The Proms" in 1995, and invited to sing at a Taronga Park Christmas Party. Our Choir sang the National Anthem for the Cronulla Sharks, for the first of Rugby Unions Super 12 match at the Sydney Football Stadium (now a larger competition). Weddings were a new innovation for us. We sang at many of them, including for our Vice-Patron, Norma Rosenhain. Weddings in the former Manly Seminary Chapel provided a spectacular place for sound. The choir contributed to the Christmas Eve programs in Darling Harbour. A number of us were involved in the main chorus in "Happy Feet"! Hey! There is more to happen in the future! Brothers! Sing on!



**THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY, ALAN THRIFT**



*Impromptu SMC sing at Echo Canyon in Northern Territory 2000*



*Alan & Lindsay Christian on NSW Drought in 2008*



*SMC invited to sing at NSW Gov't House for Peter Sinclair - mid 1990s*



*Two snaps from our New Zealand in 2008*

*SMC singing in Burnie Tasmania 2003*



*SMC on the Two Highways Federation Tour - 2001*



*SMC Tour of England, Wales & Ireland 1998*

