



Sydney Male Choir

Newsletter Autumn 2010



Concerts in March & April 2010



Editorial

Here goes with Issue 2. From the comments I have had it seems that the December 2009 issue of Newsletter met with general approval. I am keen to get contributions from members of the choir or from our Friends, in order to broaden the range of items covered. So don't hesitate to send items that you think might be of interest to others.

Peter Marshall, Editor

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Chevalier College, Bowral 7th March

What a great way to start the year's busy schedule of events! The Southern Highlands are always great to visit and when the reception is so appreciative the pleasure is doubled!

The *Sydney Male Choir* gave a great performance which belied the length of time since the last concert in 2009. The break from performing had obviously rested the voices and bodies of the choir members and they gave of their best. The setting was the auditorium at Chevalier College in Burradoo which was filled with a near capacity audience. We were also charmed by the performances of the college's String Quartette and Chamber Choir. What talented young people! The college should be proud of them and the way they performed with style, musical ability and confidence.

The event had been staged to raise funds for Challenge Southern Highlands to aid their work with people with intellectual and physical disabilities and in particular as funding for the Welby Garden Centre, Berrima Street, Welby where employment and training is given to 42 adults.

Further information from <http://www.challenges.org.au/>



Sydney Male Choir + Chevalier College String Quartette & Chamber Choir

The day was also important for Nico Jusuf who sang in his first concert for *Sydney Male Choir*. Here is the smiling face of the proud new chorister.



Nico

Blackheath 13th March

From Southern Highlands to Blue Mountains for the next concert held in the Community Hall, Blackheath at the invite of the Blue Mountains Performing Arts Association. The weather was cold with temperatures of around 14° C but this was made up for by the incredible warmth of the welcome from the more than capacity crowd that greeted us. We shared the concert platform with the Blackheath Phoenix Choir, augmented with singers from the Leura Singers, shown on the right, who sang a

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Blackheath Phoenix + Leura Singers

wide range of music from Felix Mendelssohn, through Dvořák to John Rutter by way of that well known composer Anon. Also on the bill were an intriguing group of ladies singing songs from the Balkans. They glory under the title Pacopezants and were dressed in wonderful array of brightly coloured dresses as seen in the picture.



Pacopezants

Maybe we can get some ideas for a uniform change!

I love the quote from the programme - *'The songs are about the important things in life such as love and doing the washing'*

The *Sydney Male Choir's* programme started with the religious items 'Let there be light' and 'Jesus shall reign' and progressed through various ages - 'This old man' and 'Two little boys',

the inebriated 'What shall we do with a drunken sailor', the moving 'Bui doi' and 'You raise me up', the outback with 'Never never' and ending up with the audience rousing finale of 'When the saints go marching in'. A standing ovation was just reward for a great concert aided and abetted by a responsive, warm audience.

We almost forgot how cold it was.

Eastwood 11th April

Advertising in the local press and on Sydney radio stations, combined with the dedicated efforts in pre-selling many tickets by committee members from the Macquarie Breakfast Club, were the keys to an over-capacity audience of more than 250 greeting forty-five members of *Sydney Male Choir* for a memorable concert at Eastwood.



Damien

The unseasonal warm weather was a complete contrast to that experienced in Blackheath and it was matched by the warmth of the applause given by the appreciative audience to every song on the programme. These included the selected solos sung by choir members Baritone, Damien Blackburn and Tenor, Tom Coghlan, as well as the choir's two encores.

A sumptuous afternoon tea, provided by the ladies of the church, rounded off the afternoon perfectly. The main beneficiary of this concert will be Allowah Children's Hospital at Dundas.

Thanks to Alan Crapp for organising the concert and for the report.



Tom

Shoalhaven Music Club, Nowra, 18th April

The lovely 19th century Nowra School of Arts was the venue for a concert at the invitation of the Shoalhaven Music Club. This was a return visit to the great acoustic and decorative hall where a capacity audience enjoyed



Nowra School of Arts



Eleanor & Wolf

the varied programme from the *Sydney Male Choir*. They were also delighted with the lovely 'O del mio amato ben' by Stefano Donaudy sung by Wolf von Kehler.



Afternoon tea

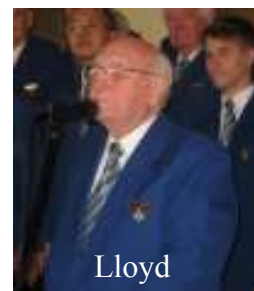
Again we were treated a wonderful Tea provided by the Music Club. Choir members will have to watch their waist lines if this trend continues!

Life Memberships



Keith

On May 2nd at the concert at Gynea (report next issue) Lloyd Dowd and Keith Ross were presented with citations to mark them being awarded Life Membership of *Sydney Male Choir* by President, Jim Layton. Both Keith and Lloyd joined the choir in 1987 and served on the Committee, Keith being Secretary and Lloyd, Treasurer for several years. Also elected as Life Member was John Marlow who joined the choir in 1990 and was also a Committee member. John was unable to be at Gynea and will be presented with his award at a later date.



Lloyd

Calendar for 2010

Events for the rest of the year are -

Date	Venue	Time
May		
Saturday 15th	MCAA Workshop/Rehearsal, Kilara Uniting Church	9.30am
Sunday 30th	Little Sisters of the Poor, Randwick	2pm
June		
Sunday 20th	John Paul Village, Heathcote	2pm
Saturday 26th	Dooley's Club. Lidcombe for Auburn Cricket Club	2.30pm
July		
Sunday 11th	Joint concert with Orange Male Choir, Orange Civic Centre	2pm
Saturday 17th	Brass & Voices with Australian National Brass, Pitt Street Uniting Church, Sydney	2pm
Sunday 25th	Brentwood Village, Kincumber	2pm
August		
Sunday 1st	Dee Why RSL	3.30pm
Sunday 8th	Rockdale Catholic Church	2pm
14th to 21st	Proposed tour of Northern New South Wales - to be confirmed	
Sunday 29th	Gosford Leagues Club, Gosford	2pm
September		
Sunday 12th	11th Annual City of Sydney Concert, Sydney Town Hall	2pm
October		
2nd & 3rd	Dubbo and Dunedoo - to be confirmed	
Saturday 9th	MCAA Workshop/Rehearsal, Kilara Uniting Church	9.30am
Sunday 24th	Castle Hill RSL	2.30pm
Saturday 30th	Frank Vickery Village, Sylvania	2pm
November		
Thursday 11th	Remembrance Day Service, Martin Place Cenotaph	10am
Saturday 13th	MCAA Rehearsal, Pitt Street Uniting Church, Sydney	9.30am
Sunday 14th	Australian Male Choirs Association Combined Concert, Sydney Town Hall	2pm
Sunday 21st	Newcastle Wests Club - to be confirmed	
December		
Tuesday 7th	Choir Christmas Party	

President's Ponderings

Here is an excerpt from President Jim's recent letter to the Friends of the Choir -



Well...2010 is racing away...here we are and it's April already! Like everyone we were affected by the 2009 Financial Crisis so we're looking to 2010 as a record breaker!

2010 also brings some sadness as we prepare to say farewell to our Musical Director of 20 years, Alan Thrift. Alan has brought so much to the choir...and now we are busy finding a new MD who can continue Alan's great work. Alan's farewell will be our Annual Concert in September...this year we're back 'home' in the refurbished Sydney Town Hall.

We have our latest CD and DVD available...taken from the wonderful Angel Place Concert last September. We will soon have a new CD of sacred music available for your enjoyment as well.

Our plans for our Centenary in 2013 are progressing well. We are looking forward to some exciting events to celebrate a century of great musical endeavour and progress.

Thank you for your support & encouragement as Sydney Male Choir Friends...it is important to us...we continue to be amazed at and appreciative of your ongoing involvement...and most importantly...we look forward to seeing more of you as the year progresses.

May 2010 be a year music and enjoyment for us all...

Jim Layton, President

Brass & Voices Concert

All those who went to the concert at Avondale College, Coorabong last year where the *Sydney Male Choir* shared the stage with the great musicians of the **National Australian Brass** will want to repeat the experience and those who did not witness this truly remarkable concert will not want to miss the chance to see and hear them again. This time the chance to do so is no Saturday 17th July at 2pm in the Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney. As at Coorabong the **National Australian Brass** will be conducted by **Professor David King**, who amongst his many claims to fame has won the north of England solo cornet championships three times, is Chair of Music-Performance at the University of Salford and has represented England in the European Brass Band Championships on eleven occasions, winning the title an unprecedented ten times! You are in for a treat with combination of brass band and the voices of the *Sydney Male Choir*.

If you couldn't make it to Coorabong last year here's your chance - right in the city of Sydney!

Book your tickets now!

Brass & Voices

Featuring

The National Australian Brass

Conducted by Professor David King



With the Renowned

Sydney Male Choir

Alan Thrift—Musical Director



Venue: Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street Sydney
Time: 2pm, Saturday 17th July 2010
All Tickets: \$20 available at the door or contact
Brian Ellis on 02 9966 4994
dbe@tpq.com.au

Tailpiece

If you like what you see here, please let me know. If you don't like it, also let me know but more importantly let me know what needs to be changed to be better. Let me have any contributions as soon as you can.

Peter Marshall, Editor