

Next Committee Meeting: Tue 15th September at 5.15 pm,

Saturday 12th Sep. **Orange Eisteddfod**, Choral Section

Monday 21st September;

Choir Practice attended by St Petersburg Quartet

Saturday 26th Sep. **Concert with St Petersburg Quartet**,
Orange Regional Conservatorium

Wagga Concert and Workshop 24th & 25th October.

Three Choirs: Wagga City Rugby Male Choir
Australian Rugby Choir
Orange Male Voice Choir

Saturday 24th; **Concert; Wagga Civic Theatre**

Sunday 25th; **Workshop:** T.B.A

Mid November; **OMVC Concert in Cowra:** to be confirmed

Monday 14th December; **Break-up Christmas Party**, 6.30
p.m, Roger Nancarrow's place Woods Lane.

If you have photos or stories you would like to share please send them to
the editor; speno.1@bigpond.com

NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF
ORANGE MALE VOICE CHOIR INC.

August 2009, volume 18, No.6

Friendship through song

Founded in 1926

Visit our website www.omvc.org.au



Our postal address is P.O Box 2310, Orange NSW 2800

President:	<i>Chris Morgan</i>	63629646
Vice President:	<i>John Read</i>	63651238
Secretary:	<i>David Woodside,</i>	6362 8218
Treasurer	<i>John Holland,</i>	6362 4744
Music Director:	<i>Leon Paix</i>	6369 6157
Accompanist:	<i>Beverley Glover,</i>	6363 1414
Publicity Officer	<i>John Read,</i>	6365 1238
Notes Editor:	<i>John Spencer,</i>	6369 0903
Distribution:	<i>John Holland,</i>	6362 4744



Spectrum homemaker products offers you a complete range of home improvement products from an extensive network of tried and tested suppliers. Inside and out, we have the solution for you!

ORANGE: 58 Molong Rd (02) 6362 7788
sales@spectrumhomemaker.com.au

*Manufactures & Suppliers of



*Complete Decorating Service



*Patio Awning Systems, Screened & Glassed Enclosures

Survey feedback – the final instalment, by Chris Morgan

This is the fourth and final instalment of my reporting back to the choristers on the responses given by them in the survey conducted earlier this year. The final survey question was an attempt to capture anything important to choristers that they didn't feel they were able to address adequately in the previous ten questions. It simply asked: *Is there anything else you would like to tell us?*

Given the open nature of the question, it isn't surprising that the responses covered a number of areas. Aspects which attracted single comments were:

- A strong statement that for the survey to have validity its findings must be reported back to the choir [whew!]
- A request for occasional sectional rehearsals at the beginning or end of rehearsal time
- A thought that we should all review the objectives as set out in the Constitution
- A suggestion that we should regularly put before the Choir community the thought of making the OMVC a beneficiary of a Will – the respondent felt that a bequest of say 2% of an estate would not affect the main beneficiaries but would be of great help to the Choir to pay for say coach hire
- A statement of frustration that not everyone in the Choir is pulling their weight with rehearsals, concerts, trips or fundraising
- A concern that the vocal quality of some of our more senior singers is deteriorating
- A viewpoint that 'the Welsh Tradition' should be less of a concern to moving with the times and selecting music we enjoy singing and audiences prefer hearing
- The need to be careful to avoid causing offence when we interact
- A request to allow folders if the alternative means someone has to leave the Choir [a more flexible approach than previously now is in place]
- A suggestion that we have some from among our membership take on the specific role of being the MC at our concerts
- A plea for some members to exercise more self-discipline to be fully attentive when being addressed at rehearsal
- A belief that we need to project a more youthful image.

There were two areas that did attract multiple comments:

1. where the focus should be regarding the authority and decision making process associated with Choir business, and
2. uniform matters.

There was a recurring theme among some respondents that the Management Committee's authority and responsibility, as the primary point for decision making, needs to be accepted and supported by all. This was put quite strongly. On the matter of uniform there were suggestions that ties should only be worn on solemn occasions such as funerals, that ties should never be worn at concerts or other performances, that the elected Executive should make uniform determinations, and that the new uniform is fantastic and a huge advance on what we had previously.

In summary, I believe that surveying our choristers to give each one of us the opportunity to reflect on and express their personal views on how they were feeling about the Choir and their views on how to take it forward has been not only invaluable but essential. We have received much thoughtful and heartfelt comment. The survey was not designed to produce quantitative data for empirical analysis; instead a more appropriate qualitative design was used to enable everyone to freely express their sentiments. There was much said that shows the importance of the Choir to so many of us and enthusiasm for what it offers to all of us. Likewise, many suggestions for change, large and small, were made. Some of those suggestions have already been acted upon and implemented; others will continue to be considered. None of us would be so naive as to think we can always please everyone, but we can certainly seek to improve and develop.

Finally, thank you to all who responded to the survey and gave us your thoughts. I would hope that you understand the communication lines are always open and that if anyone has suggested improvements then please pass them through to your Management Committee to consider. My own view is that I would rather know about any concerns or issues than not know about them – by knowing it gives the opportunity to correct any misconceptions, provide balance where there may be distortion or misunderstanding, or to address anything needing to be addressed.

Why We Love Children

A nursery school pupil told his teacher he'd found a cat, but it was dead. 'How do you know that the cat was dead?' she asked her pupil.

'Because

I pissed in its ear and it didn't move,' answered the child innocently. 'You did WHAT?' the teacher exclaimed in surprise. 'You know,' explained the boy, 'I leaned over and went 'Pssst' and it didn't move'

A small boy is sent to bed by his father.

Five minutes later.....'Da-ad....'

'What?'

'I'm thirsty. Can you bring a drink of water?'

'No, You had your chance. Lights out.'

Five minutes later: 'Da-aaaad.....'

'WHAT?'

'I'm THIRSTY. Can I have a drink of water??'

'I told you NO! If you ask again, I'll have to smack you!!' Five minutes later.....'Daaaa-aaaad.....' 'WHAT!' 'When you come in to smack me, can you bring a drink of water?'

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, 'Mummy, will you sleep with me tonight?' The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. 'I can't dear,' she said. 'I have to sleep in Daddy's room.' A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: 'The big sissy.'

It was that time, during the Sunday morning service, for the children's sermon. All the children were invited to come forward. One little girl was wearing a particularly pretty dress and, as she sat down, the minister leaned over and said, 'That is a very pretty dress. Is it your Easter Dress?' The little girl replied, directly into the minister's clip-on microphone, 'Yes, and my Mum says it's a bitch to iron.'

Some Choir Expectations

by Chris Morgan

We all take some pride in doing things well. The OMVC has built a reputation for the high quality of its singing. We continue to strive to sing as well as possible.

Singing groups are like sporting teams in some ways. If they are to excel then they have to work at it. The preparation and fine tuning need to take place and this must involve all participants. Everyone in the team has to be fully aware of how implementation is to occur. This is why the OMVC has developed certain expectations regarding choristers rehearsing and performing.

The expectations are:

- that choristers attend rehearsal each Monday evening – it is recognised of course that there will be other things that need to be attended to from time to time but the expectation is that we all attend every scheduled rehearsal that we are able to.
- that only those choristers who have attended no less than two of the three rehearsals immediately prior to a performance participate in that performance. This is our quality control measure.
- that only those choristers who have regularly been attending rehearsal sing with the choir at funerals. Members attending funerals where the choir is singing but who have not been regularly attending rehearsal are expected to sit with the congregation and not with the choir.

Sometimes a member will stop coming to rehearsals. When that occurs our expectation is that the member will surrender his music folder and uniform jacket in good order (to John Holland). Should that member subsequently resume his choir participation then a music folder and uniform jacket can be reissued at no further charge.

Choir Notes

We have had lots of good feedback following the very successful Voices Brass and Pipes Frost Fest Concert and the show was a credit to all concerned. Special mention must be made of the efforts of Leon Paix whose drive and direction brought the whole thing together. No doubt the groundwork has now been laid for similar ventures in the future, probably on a bi-annual basis. So hang on to those music sheets particularly the clever bridging part between "bagpipe key" and "Brass and Choir key" in *Amazing Grace*. Well done Leon. Not sure about the skirt worn in the concert though! They say if you hang around tenors long enough you'll end up with a bit of cross dressing! Ooops!

We now look forward to the Orange Eisteddfod on the 12th September and a choir practice and concert with the brilliant St. Petersburg Quartet on the 21st and 26th of September.

October sees us travelling to Wagga on the weekend of the 23rd/24th for what should be a great combined concert in their Civic Theatre with the Wagga boys and The Australian Rugby Choir from Canberra.

November takes us to Cowra for another concert and a date in the middle of the month is being negotiated. Details soon.

A date I can confirm is Monday the 14th of December. That is the date of our last gathering of the year and following tradition it is in lieu of choir practise. Yes it's our break-up Christmas Party and this year it will be held at Roger Nancarrow's place up the top of Woods Lane. Mark it down in your diaries. (6.30 p.m and knock with your elbows)

Finally, 1st Bass Peter Reid has filled the vacant position on the Management committee. Well done Peter, thanks for putting your hand up to help with the administrative workload of the choir.

An Irish Diet

An Irishman was terribly overweight, so his doctor put him on a diet.

'I want you to eat regularly for 2 days, then skip a day, and repeat this procedure for 2 weeks. The next time I see you, you should have lost at least 5 pounds.

When the Irishman returned, he shocked the doctor by having lost nearly 60lbs!

'Why, that's amazing!' the doctor said, 'Did you follow my instructions?'

The Irishman nodded... 'I'll tell you though, by jae-suz, I t' aut I were going to drop dead on dat 3rd day.'

'From the hunger, you mean?' asked the doctor.

'No, from the bloody skippin'.

A little boy was doing his math homework.

He said to himself, 'Two plus five, that son of a bitch is seven.

Three plus six, that son of a bitch is nine....'

His mother heard what he was saying and gasped, 'What are you doing?'

The little boy answered, 'I'm doing my math homework, Mum.' 'And this is how your teacher taught you to do it?' the mother asked 'Yes,' he answered.

Infuriated, the mother asked the teacher the next day, 'What are you teaching my son in math?' The teacher replied, 'Right now, we are learning addition.' The mother asked, 'And are you teaching them to say two plus two, that son of a bitch is four?'

After the teacher stopped laughing, she answered, 'What I taught them was, two plus two, THE SUM OF WHICH, is four.'

86-year old lady's letter to bank...

Shown below, is an actual letter that was sent to a bank by an 86 year old woman. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the New York Times.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my check with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month.

By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the check and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it.

I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank. My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways.

I noticed that whereas I personally answer your telephone calls and letters, --- when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person. My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by check, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an offense under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope. Please find attached an Application Contact which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof. In due

course, at MY convenience, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further.

When you call me, press buttons as follows:

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER DIALING, PRESS THE STAR (*)
BUTTON FOR ENGLISH**

#1. To make an appointment to see me

#2. To query a missing payment.

#3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.

#4. To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping

#5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.

#6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home

#7. To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated to you at a later date to that Authorized Contact mentioned earlier .

#8. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 7

#9. To make a general complaint or inquiry. The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service.

#10. This is a second reminder to press* for English. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call..

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement. May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous New Year?

Your Humble Client