

Choir Calender – *important dates*

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 21st July at 5.15 pm,

Next Concert: Sunday, July 5 in Wesley Uniting Church Hall, Anson St Orange.

Saturday 18th July, Bunnings Warehouse Fundraising BBQ

Sunday 9th August, Frost Fest - The Voices, Brass and Pipes Spectacular Orange Civic Theatre, 2.30 pm

1. **Frost Fest special rehearsals:**

- Thursday July 23 with the City of Orange Brass Band in their band hall in William St; time to be confirmed (probably 7:30pm).
- Sunday Aug 2 with the Brass Band, the Canobolas Pipe Band and the OHS Drummers; 1 – 4pm, venue to be confirmed
- Sunday Aug 9; full rehearsal in the Orange Theatre in the morning prior to holding the performance.

A Lasting Legacy

Have you considered providing an enduring gift to the Choir? A bequest in your Will could be used for general purposes or else contribute towards specific needs such as transport and other performance expenses. Contact the Secretary for further information.

NOTES THE NEWSLETTER OF ORANGE MALE VOICE CHOIR INC.

June 2009 volume 18 No.4

Friendship through song

Founded in 1926

Visit our website www.omvc.org.au



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



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A Message from our President

Cancellation of the 2009 OMVC Tour to Tasmania. It will be with very great regret that the Management Committee last night had to take the particularly difficult decision to cancel this tour. All deposits will be refunded in full. It became apparent that we had insufficient numbers prepared to participate and to go ahead would not only have compromised the choral quality we could have offered but also have necessitated a very significant and unacceptable increase in charges for all those taking part as our costings were based on a number we clearly were not going to reach. A great deal of work had gone into the preparations, most notably by Bev and Leon, and we are very sorry at the disappointment this will cause. We are hopeful that this excellent tour may be able to go ahead at a later time.

Next concert: Sunday, July 5 in Wesley Uniting Church Hall, Anson St Orange. It is being organised by the Spring Hill Uniting Church Ladies Fellowship. Time to be confirmed but it is expected to be in the afternoon.

Frost Fest: The *Voices, Brass and Pipes Spectacular* will be the grand finale event for this festival. This is promising to be a very special event of widespread appeal and will be held in the Orange Theatre at 2pm on Sunday, August 9.

Tickets can only be purchased through Ticketek and are \$18 adults and \$12 child/concessions.

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Bunnings BBQ: Our next fundraiser is Saturday July 18. **Volunteers are needed** for 2 hour shifts. **Please add your name to the roster which will be available at our rehearsal this Monday.**

Festival of Male Chords: RESERVE THE DATE, the weekend of 13th and 14th November 2010 at the Sydney Town Hall – rehearsal on Sat and concert Sun afternoon. This is going to be huge, already 12 choirs have committed including the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir.

Yours in *Friendship through Song*,
Chris

17/06/09

A message from Ray Brady

Great to be involved with our choir again, only this time in the audience. How different it was to view the faces from down below, some serious, others with all sorts of expressions.

Margaret and I really enjoyed your performance, and yes, you were GOOD. Still no books – wonderful, though some were stealing little looks at their cheat sheets.

Most of the numbers I knew, and I pictured myself standing in the front of the little master watching his roving eyes and his talented conducting. From a song we are learning in Sydney, *“music is a language that can speak to one and all”*. To me, that is exactly what you did, and in saying that I include Bev on the piano.

The uniform change? I did like part of it. We all have to be subject to change and where there is a majority wanting to do so, then accept it for the good of the change.

You know another good change would be to wear ties when you wear your coat.

A wonderful concert. We enjoyed every bit of it, including the supper.

As most of you know, we have settled well into city life and are having great times with our families. Still involved with sport – particularly lawn bowls.

We are members of a **Sing Australia Choir**, which is a mixed choir and it is very enjoyable. It was formed in Canberra by Colin Slater, a well known opera singer, who believes everyone should sing. His mission is to make the art of singing accessible to **all**, for personal fulfilment, pleasure and building friendships. Much the same as OMVC. **Sing Australia Choirs** now exist all over Australia and total over four thousand members. Our branch is at Collaroy Plateau and has 100 members.

Continue to enjoy your singing and have a great time in Tasmania. It was a pleasure to have Ken and Brenda Fishpool with us and of course they always look after us when we visit Orange.

Regards to all,
Ray Brady

(for those who don't know, Ray is an OMVC life member and former tenor, who attended the Ku-ring-gai Concert a fortnight ago.....ed.)

Survey feedback

by Chris Morgan

In the last edition of *Notes* I provided an overview of responses to the first two questions asked of choristers in our recent survey. The purpose of the survey was to find out how everyone was feeling about the Choir and their views on how to take it forward. Here I will do likewise with the next three questions asked in the survey. While all responses are being considered, some were specific to individuals and as such are not appropriate to expose in this public forum.

Q3 Are there changes you would like to see made to rehearsals?

The responses were evenly split between those who didn't see any need to change current arrangements and those who responded with some comment. Among the comments tendered there were those who supported warm-ups as we have them, but there were also a couple who would prefer to dispense with them and get straight into the singing. There were several who commented occasional section practice would be beneficial as it would assist individuals to more thoroughly learn their own part. However it was pointed out that if a section is having a practice it needs to be organised such that the other sections are not waiting idly by, a logistical difficulty with just the one rehearsal room. There were comments about the need for choristers to be able to use their folders at rehearsal. There were comments that it would assist individuals prepare for rehearsal to know what songs were to be rehearsed a week in advance. There were a couple of requests for the announcements to be kept to a minimum (I'm trying). There was a plea for choristers to exercise self-discipline and refrain from chatting when someone is addressing the choir. There was a request that when bits of songs are being practiced then the whole song be sung from start to finish before moving onto another song – my observation is that this suggestion is being implemented. There was a suggestion that an earlier start and finish time would be an improvement as it was felt many tire by 9pm and those from out of town have too long a night – this suggestion has been put to choristers with no clear preference emerging.

Q4 How do you feel about the music that is selected for our repertoire?

Again the responses were fairly evenly split between those who said they were happy and those who said they would like to offer some thoughts. There was acknowledgement that we each have our own preferences in music and that we should continue to have a wide variety to provide wide appeal. It was useful to learn how choristers were thinking even though sometimes their thoughts were contrasting. Regarding the repertoire there were calls for more modern songs to appeal to younger members and younger audiences and for songs that are or more appeal to the general public, but a couple asked for more old classics and Welsh songs. There were requests for Scottish songs, contemporary songs, less church music, more recent church music rather than very old hymns, more unaccompanied singing, more/ less light-hearted pieces, more popular pieces from musicals. There were a couple who asked for a music selection committee to be formed but others who were happy to leave song choices entirely with the MD. There were suggestions we use soloists less and full sections more. There were several who asked to be taught to read music and a suggestion that training CDs be prepared for each of the parts.

Q5 Would you like to see changes to concerts?

There were many comments offered here and by far the most mentioned matter related to the use of music folders at concerts. While there were some who felt we should not be using folders at all, there were more comments suggesting a flexible approach be taken [we have seen this more flexible approach employed at recent concerts]. There seems to be a general feeling that we should strive to do without folders but not insist upon it. It was suggested that those requiring their folders should not be in the front row. It was also suggested that using cheat sheets looks worse than using folders. Other comments included the view that more choristers be utilised for any solo pieces, that we need to be smarter moving on and off stage [we now have a Backstage Manager to help with this], that concerts need to be marketed well, that we have more local concerts and invite members of local community groups to rehearsals, that we should continue to visit other towns for concerts but space them well, and that our concert programs continue to involve a variety of items.

A Bit of OMVC History

Submitted by John Read

The following is a description of the Orange Male Voice Choir that was published in 1928. I know that many of our members know about and have read this article, but it is worth thinking about the choir in those early years and its ambitions to perform and travel to compete in eisteddfods. The amount raised is quite incredible when you discount it for inflation. I believe that we can also aspire to similar goals and be very successful. I hope this article, which I have copied word for word with the appropriate permission, will give each one of us inspiration.

"Orange Male Voice Choir

A great deal of attention is given to music in the Queen City, and the Orange Male Voice Choir, though very young, having celebrated its first birthday on October 1 of last year, is already most successful, and contains many splendid voices. The moulding of this beautiful form of music is ably done by the conductor, Mr. R. L. Gregory, a Welsh singer, and splendid leader. Members of the choir with one accord admire and respect him, and it is certain that, under his tuition, the choir will, before very long, achieve big proportions, and win its way to the front rank. It has a membership of about 50, and some of these are fine soloists, with excellent tenor and baritone voices. A number of concerts, given at intervals, are well attended, the proceeds from the majority being devoted to charitable institutions.

At the end of the first year, it was shown that the income had been £220, and, with the exception of £39, which was raised by a concert for the choir funds, the entire sum had been devoted to charitable institutions. The choir had taken part in eisteddfods at Wagga and Wollongong during the year, and, though it had not achieved a victory at either, it had been very favorably spoken of by the adjudicators.

The formation of the choir filled a long felt want in musical circles, and its genesis was the result of a proposal by Mr. Gregory, which was not too seriously received at first. It had seemed an almost impossible task at the beginning, but the success attending their first year of life surpassed the most

sanguine expectations. Much of the credit for this was due to Mr. Gregory's assiduous endeavours, and the zest shown by the retired secretary (Mr. E. T. Coller), and Miss Sadie West, the young lady whose accompaniment of the choristers has meant much for their progress. The Male Voice Choir is totally non-sectarian, and occasionally a concert is given by the combined choirs. The Methodist School Hall is generously lent to the choir for practice.

The day is confidently looked forward to, and it is not far distant when Orange will figure largely in the music circles of the State. The choir bids fair to be unsurpassed. It is cherishing certain great ambitions, and intends to inaugurate an annual eisteddfod in Orange, which will bring it to the fore.

The Mayor (Dr Colvin) is patron of the society, the president is Mr. S. T. Lamrock, and the vice-presidents are Messrs W. E. Bouffler, C. A. Wulf and A. Goode. The secretary is Mr. R. G. White."

From: *Orange & District Illustrated*
Orange, NSW, Orange City Council 1989.
A facsimile of *Orange & District Illustrated 1928*
Orange Flynn & Leggo 1928

OMVC Goings On

By Harold Balcomb

Ku-ring-gai Visit

The recent trip to Sydney for a return visit to the Ku-ring-gai Male Voice Choir after theirs to Orange last year was a great success. Many friendships were renewed and the audience on Saturday night was a very appreciative one, swelled by many OMVC relatives and friends. I received a high five from my grand-daughter after the concert as she had come with our son, Ian, and family. Dorothy rallied her cousins, including Meg Reynolds, sister of Tom Davidson, and Meg was pleased to meet Barry and Rodney Davis who had travelled with Tom to choir practice for many years. Don and Betty McDonald's son, Ross, came with his wife, Joy Westcott had guests there and there were many more I did not know about. Uel sang with us as he was on weekend leave from his radiotherapy treatment and was staying with friends, Tony and Pauline Engels, of Pymble. Another long term friend, whom Cranbury people know as 'Doc', was also there. It was great to meet up with Ray and Margaret Brady both at dinner at Roseville Club and at the concert. They send their greetings to choir members who could not go because of the long weekend.

Thanks to Bev, Leon, and committee for their organisation. Our accommodation was luxurious and we saw how people on expense accounts live these days. The drivers of the two Avis Rent-a-Buses, Leon, Chris and Malcolm, are to be thanked for taking the responsibility of delivering us safely there and back.

Many members no longer like driving in Sydney, especially with the ever-changing expressways and heavy traffic.

The Killara Uniting Church, venue for both concert and church service, was formerly Killara Congregational Church, opened in 1925 as a War Memorial to replace an earlier wooden church on the site. Dorothy sought out the church historian, John Middleton, of the Ku-ring-gai Choir, as she thought some of her Norrie relatives might have been foundation members when they lived in Stanhope Road, Killara. In those days before the Harbour Bridge was built, a trip to the city involved a train journey to North Sydney or Milsons Point and then a ferry trip across the harbour. The sermon of the minister, Chris Udy, was aptly linked to the theme of music and its contribution to the praise of God and the Christian way of life: the highs and lows of music, and discords which make for contrast when they resolve into the next chord.

Winners

Male Scone Cooks: Congratulations to Rob Westcott for coming third in the Rotarians' scone-making challenge for the Biggest Morning Tea at the local ABC recently. He said his recipe was from *The Commonsense Cookery Book*. For those who don't have a copy, here's what ours says:

Ingredients: 2 cups self-raising flour, 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, ¼ teaspoon salt, 1 cup milk.

Method: 1. Have a hot oven in readiness; 2. Grease an oven slide; 3 Sift flour and salt together; 4. Rub butter in lightly with tips of fingers; 5. Pour nearly all the milk in at once, keeping a little for glazing; 6 Mix quickly into a soft dough; 7. Turn onto floured board, knead lightly and quickly; 8. Roll or press out to a round shape about 2 cm thick. 9. Cut into pieces using a floured knife or use a round cutter: 10. Glaze with milk; 11. Cook quickly, 8 to 10 minutes in a hot oven, 230° - 260° C. 12. Cool.'

Choir Patrons, Reg Kidd and Russell Turner, also tried their hand. Russell gave a step by step on-air commentary the day before as he made his scones, guided by his wife, a Home Economics Head-teacher, in the background. Reg won the 1st prize. Is there a challenge there for other choristers, who, like me, have never made scones?

Dorothy Balcomb was also an ABC winner of a recent limerick competition on the subject:

The Weather.

'It's a lovely day', we often say, to start a conversation,
The weather helps us break the ice, no matter what occasion,
In every season, wet or dry,
We look outside to scan the sky,
Deciding what to do or wear to suit the situation.'

Her entry came second !

Well done you Dorothy (who also plays an important technological and literary part in putting Harold's thoughts on paper for this article by the way... Ed.)

We must be a lot of ABC listeners. Perhaps we should donate Choir CDs for playing on morning programs. H.B

(Well done you Harold also ... Ed)

Do It Yourself Corner

Subject: **WD40**

Before you read to the end, does anybody know what the main ingredient of WD-40 is.....?

I had a neighbor who had bought a new ute. I got up very early one Sunday morning and saw that someone had spray painted red all around the sides of this beige truck (for some unknown reason). I went over, woke him up, and told him the bad news. He was very upset. Another neighbor came out and told him to get his WD-40 and clean it off. It removed the unwanted graffiti paint beautifully and did not harm his paint job.

'Water Displacement #40'. The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and degreaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. Its name comes from the project that was to find a 'water displacement' compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40. The Convair Company bought it in bulk to protect their Atlas missile parts. Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you.

Here are some other uses:-

- Protects silver from tarnishing.
- Removes road tar and grime from cars.
- Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.
- Gives floors that 'just-waxed' sheen without making them slippery.
- Keeps flies off cows.
- Restores and cleans chalkboards.
- Removes lipstick stains.
- Loosens stubborn zippers.
- Untangles jewelry chains.
- Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
- Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
- Keeps ceramic/terra cotta garden pots from oxidizing.

- Removes tomato stains from clothing.
- Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
- Camouflages scratches in ceramic and marble floors.
- Keeps scissors working smoothly.
- Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes.
- It removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor!
- Just remember to open some windows if you have a lot of marks.
- Bug guts will eat away the finish on your car if not removed quickly! Use WD-40!
- Gives a children's playground gym slide a shine for a super fast slide.
- Lubricates gear shift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on riding mowers.
- Rids kids' rocking chairs and swings of squeaky noises.
- Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
- Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close.
- Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.
- Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles.
- Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans.
- Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles, wagons, and bicycles for easy handling.
- Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.
- Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades, and other tools.
- Removes splattered grease on stove.
- Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.
- Lubricates prosthetic limbs.
- Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
- Removes all traces of duct tape.
- Folks even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain.
- Florida's favorite use is: 'cleans and removes love bugs from grills and bumpers.'
- WD-40 attracts fish. Spray a little on live bait or lures and you will be catching the big ones

- Use it for fire ant bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch.
- It is great for removing crayon from walls. Spray on the mark and wipe with a clean rag.
- Also, if you've discovered that your teenage daughter has washed and dried a tube of lipstick with a load of laundry, saturate the lipstick spots with WD-40 and rewash.

AND If you sprayed WD-40 on the distributor cap, it would displace the moisture and allow the car to start. This is one of its best known uses.

P.S. The basic ingredient is: **FISH OIL**. How about that!

.....

Why it's sometimes dangerous taking messages for your wife



The Don Spot

Have you heard about

A Russian woman married a Canadian gentleman and they lived happily ever after in Toronto. The poor lady was not very proficient in English, but did manage to communicate with her husband. The real problem arose whenever she had to shop for groceries.

One day, she went to the butcher and wanted to buy chicken legs. She didn't know how to put forward her request, so, in desperation, clucked like a chicken and lifted up her skirt to show her thighs. Her butcher got the message and gave her the chicken legs.

Next day she needed to get chicken breasts, again she didn't know how to say it, so she clucked like a chicken and unbuttoned her blouse to show the butcher her breasts. The butcher understood again and gave her some chicken breasts.

On the 3rd day, the poor lady needed to buy sausages. Unable to find a way to communicate this, she brought her husband to the store...

(Please scroll down.)

**What were you
thinking?**

Her husband speaks English!

Now get back to your emails.

**I worry about you lot
sometimes!**

