

Hello everyone for 2020.

This year we are making a few changes to our choir newsletter. We are planning to go bi-monthly instead of quarterly, in a possibly vain attempt to avoid novel length publications. The Editor does love to babble on. Items for inclusion will be accepted up till the 20th of the even numbered calendar months – ie February, April, June, August, October and December. We will aim to publish on the last days of those months. There is a long and robust tradition of readers feeding back their opinions to our Secretary, and we hope to hear from you about these changes.

The Choir will this year participate in the three-yearly concert staged by the Male Choirs Association of Australia. The Event is in Sydney, at the Town Hall, on Sunday, 1st November. Our own President, Neil Kinsey is also the President of the combined body, so a good showing might be seen as a good idea!

Naturally enough, the repertoire for Sydney will comprise a large part of the choir's learnings in rehearsal this year, so when the first rehearsal for the year came round on 20th January, choristers already had the charts issued, and Tom Buchanan was ready to go.

Bunnings Mentone opened the social part of the year on the Australia Day Holiday. Thanks to Dominic Xeureb and Barry Tucker, who organised the supplies and the troops, and thanks to the troops too. Like many Community Groups, we are greatly assisted by cooking in the Bunnings tent!

Richard Simcock and David Madill were both impressed by the briskness of trade all day,



photo: Richard Simcock

Our second photo shows the queue of customers!



photo: Richard Simcock

Probably every person in Australia is aware of the disastrous bushfires this summer. They have caused considerable loss of life and enormous destruction of property and bushland. All of us have seen, too, the way that our own people and people overseas have rallied to extend what help they can.

The choir was proud to take part in an afternoon concert dedicated to bushfire relief on February 15th.



Concert photos: Lindsay Richardson

Over forty choristers gathered at Deakin Edge, in Federation Square, and joined some of Melbourne's best musicians in concert. The choir sang just three songs, but for most of those present it was certainly a memorable experience. We were very happy to have the redoubtable Simon Stone as our accompanist for the day in the absence of Michelle Nguyen.



Word has it that a dozen or so choristers had a small afterglow at Young and Jacksons, though most headed home on trains that were rather patchy owing to infrastructure works. Thanks to Secretary Phil Young for researching which trains were running when.

The first of the Singing in the Pub series for 2020 was held (as usual) at Kirks on the Esplanade in Mornington. And what a great night it turned into!

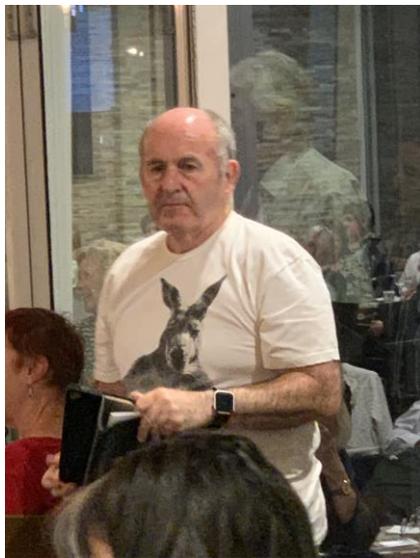
Special guests for the evening were the Conductor and featured artists for the Gymanfa Ganu at the Melbourne Welsh Church on St David's Day (of which more next issue.)

Pub patrons were treated to solo items from Erfyl Tomos Jones, winner of the Blue Riband at the 2019 Welsh National Eisteddfod, and both solos and duets from the husband and wife team Eleri and Aled Edwards, who are each Blue Riband winners also.





Guest Conductor, Dilwyn Price ran the Choir through its paces on a couple of Welsh standards, too. A great evening of free entertainment for all concerned!



Terry Read, and Cedric Howard were presented with 10 year service awards in February, as was Leon Knoop, who was not in the photograph here printed



As a Bass I take little satisfaction in reporting that the TOM award – the trophy awarded to the section of the month – was in February cartured by the second tenors for an excellent rendition of *Anthem* from *Chess*. It is worth noting that the TOM is a fun way to motivate some really focussed rehearsal – witness the basses sneaking in an extra rehearsal in a private home. Maybe next time it will work!



Many thanks to our Patrons and Sponsors. We are most grateful to all who help to cover the substantial costs for a choir of our size, especially to Mr Sidney Baillieu Myer AC, Mrs Tamie Fraser AO, and Dr Haydn James, our Patrons.

Our Sponsors:-



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N.B. Deadline for inclusion of articles is the 20th day of February, April, June, August, October. David Brown. Editor. All correspondence to Secretary AWMC

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 4th March 7:00 pm. (Private Concert) Cranlana, 62 Clendon Rd Toorak.

Wednesday 25th March 8 pm. Singing in the Pub. Kirks on the Esplanade Mornington. This event often books out early. [03]5975 2007.

Saturday, 25th April. 10:30 am. Anzac Day Service, The Esplanade, Hastings.

Wednesday 29th April 8 pm. Singing in the Pub. Kirks on the Esplanade Mornington. This event often books out early. [03]5975 2007.

