

## KU-RING-GAI MALE CHOIR

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008

Fellow choir members, wives/partners and guests, it gives me great pleasure to present my report for 2008.

There were 3 highlights during the year, all of which were the culmination of initiatives and planning over the last 2 years.

Firstly, the massed choir "Maestro and the Men" concert in Canberra on 22nd November.

Twenty-two of our choir members attended with a total of 300 male voices from 8 choirs. For me, this was an inspirational experience and the best concert I have participated in during my 15 years with the choir. The Male Choirs Association of Australia is proposing an even more ambitious concert in 2010. The proposed concert venue is Sydney Town Hall with more male choirs participating including choirs from Victoria and Queensland. I hope that all Ku-ring-gai choristers will participate. I recommend this concert to all.

Secondly, our visit to Orange, weekend of 12/13 April, for a concert with the Orange Male Voice Choir. The Orange men were the perfect hosts and arranged a very full programme-----practice Saturday afternoon, the concert Saturday night followed by the afterglow, Blessing of the Harvest service in a local vineyard Sunday morning followed by a BBQ at their clubhouse. This was the first time in over 20 years that the Ku-ring-gai Male Choir has travelled outside the Sydney environs for a concert. All 27 participating members and their wives thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. We will host a return visit by the Orange Male Voice Choir on the 2009 June long weekend. Again I trust that all choristers will commit to this weekend's activities and return the Orange mens' hospitality.

Thirdly our CD.

The business plan approved by the choir in August 2007 budgeted for a project cost of \$3900 to produce 500 CDs for sale at \$15 each. A profit of \$2200 has already been realized and less than 100 CDs remain to be sold.

-----good planning, good production, good selling.

Our regular programme for 2008 consisted of 12 concerts at retirement villages plus 3 specials, Macquarie University Music on Winter Sundays, Ryde Eastwood music club and carols at Cherrybrook war vets retirement village Christmas party (another first). Macquarie University is worthy of special mention with an audience of some 420 and outstanding performances from our guest artists Vivienne Powell (mezzo soprano), Heather Lee (soprano) and our accompanist Grace Edwards-Barnetson. I understand that our concert attracted the largest audience of the 9 concerts in this series.

All in all a very successful year. Successful years don't just happen, they are the outcome of the dedication of numerous committed people.

Our musical director and conductor, Dr Paul Whiting

Paul had an even bigger work load than normal this year due to the Orange and Canberra concerts-----prestige events where our performance can be directly compared to that of our peers plus, for Canberra, the need to sing the 13 songs in the programme without our music. Paul approached this significant challenge with his typical dedication and commitment while retaining his sense of humour. Thank you Paul, we are indeed indebted to you, Thanks also to our Assistant Conductors Gerry Foley and Daniel Younan who took charge when required.

Our accompanist Grace Edwards-Barnetson

Grace also had the increased workload due to the Orange and Canberra concerts with extra practice nights required. As well as her superior abilities on the piano, Grace's ability to identify areas for improvement in our voice production was a significant factor in improving our performance at Orange and Canberra, and indeed, improving our performance at all concerts. Thank you Grace, we all love you.

Secretary Terry Barrett

Terry is the glue that binds the choir together in an administrative sense. He organizes the regular retirement village concert programme, ensures we remain up to date with copyright licences for our music, ensures the smooth running of executive and annual meetings and other activities such as this Christmas dinner plus the myriad of other tasks that come with the secretary's job. Thank you Terry.

Major concert coordinator John Middleton

John played a huge part in our successful concert year. He arranges our concert guest soloists. These ladies, Sherie Harris, Vivienne Powell, Marlene Vaughan, Sophia Mitchell, Heather Lee, Emma Goodsir, Jennifer Bonner and Ann Finlay are high quality performers that add professionalism and variety to our concerts and are always well received and popular with our audiences. We thank them sincerely. John is also responsible for our major concert programme---this year Canberra, Orange, Macquarie University, Ryde Eastwood, Narrabeen War Vets and Cherrybrook war vets Christmas party---all very successful. He is dedicated to improving the choir's performance and is always searching for new concert possibilities, particularly those that will stretch the choir to a higher but achievable level. Thank you John.

Treasurer Jim Gosbee

Presents detailed accounts to executive and annual meetings and keeps a watchful eye on expenditure versus income.

Publicity officer Philip Rennie

Philip's ability to have press releases published, not only in the local suburban media, but also the metropolitan dailies undoubtedly played an important part in achieving the 420 strong audience at

Macquarie. Philip in association with our webmaster John Penn prepared and distributed promotional brochures and programmes for a number of concerts. Philip also headed our CD sales team. Thank you Philip, webmaster John Penn and the CD sales team of Philip, Jim Gosbee and Vic Seaglove.

Thanks also to our librarian Bill Flynn, marshal Roger Davey, VP Bruce Sharpham, Tom Dixen for his CDs that were a real aid to the ability of choristers to learn their parts particularly for Canberra, and to the executive committee during a very busy year.

Thanks to choristers who performed individual parts at concerts---Joe Blansjaar, Warren Baker, Peter Burrow, Jeff Flower, Gerry Foley, John Middleton, Chris Stevens, Daniel Younan.

To all choir members for practicing diligently through the year to achieve an improved standard and particularly those members who put in that extra effort to learn their parts for Canberra.

A sad event during the year was the passing of a popular member, Rusi Kharas. Directed by Paul and accompanied by Grace, 26 choristers sang 2 of Rusi's favourites at his funeral service.

Finally I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

David Magnusson