

**KU-RING-GAI MALE CHOIR**  
PRESIDENTS REPORT 2009

Fellow choristers, wives, partners and guests, good evening. It is my pleasure to present my report for 2009. This has been another successful year for the choir.

There were 11 concerts at retirement villages and 4 special concerts.

We had total audiences for the year of over 1600 and raised over \$7,000 at these concerts (this includes \$2,300 at the Ku-ring-gai lantern club concert).

We were able to make donations of \$1,200 each to the following charities:

- ❑ Braille music camp for blind children
- ❑ National Breast Cancer Foundation
- ❑ Spastic Centre

The special concerts were:

- ❑ Turramurra Uniting Church: A fund raising concert for the Ku-ring-gai Lantern Club in support of deaf and blind children. \$2,300 was raised.
- ❑ Hornsby RSL Club: A very successful concert for the choir with an audience of over 180.
- ❑ Macquarie University: Again we had a virtual "full house" of over 400 for this concert. I believe we have the best attendance of all the winter concerts at this venue.
- ❑ Killara Uniting Church: A combined concert with Orange Male Voice Choir – The church was full with an appreciative audience for this concert by two fine choirs. Both choirs also took part in the church service the following morning. Thanks to the Orange choir for helping make this a memorable weekend of music.

The choir has sung well at each of our concerts, improving each time through the year, and our performances have been enthusiastically received by audiences.

During 2009, the remainder of our 2007 CDs were sold, giving a total profit of about \$3,200 from the CD sales. An excellent result !

It has been a very successful year.

This all does not happen by accident. It is the result of hard work and dedication by a number of members:

\* Terry Barrett: Secretary – Terry not only carries out the usual secretarial tasks, but also

- organises the retirement village concerts
- ensures we are up to date with copyright issues
- organises this dinner
- keeps the president in line and informed at concerts and various choir meetings
- in general, keeps things operating smoothly

\* John Middleton: Concert Co-ordinator – John arranges our special concerts and our guest soloists. The soloists this year have been: Sherrie Harris, Jenny Bonner, Sophia Mitchell, Marlene Vaughan, Vivian Powell, Adele Johnston, and Warren and Karen Fisher. These soloists not only provide variety to our concerts but a high level of quality and professionalism. Members of the choir and our audiences greatly appreciate their contribution. John puts a lot of effort and enthusiasm into his organisation of the special concerts, particularly the combined concert with the Orange choir.

\* Jim Gosbee: Treasurer – Jim has tight control of our finances and keeps the executive and choir informed.

\* Philip Rennie and John Penn: Publicity Officer and Webmaster – Philip and John prepare publicity and programmes for our concerts and keep our website up to date. This website is a major source of contact with the community, and has been the main source of new members this year.

\* Bruce Elliott: Librarian – Bruce and his assistant, David Magnusson, do a great job in controlling all the copies of our music. This often means they miss a large part of our rehearsals.

\* Roger Davey: Marshal – Roger has the important task of organising the physical arrangement of the choir at the various locations. Some of the sites have problems to be resolved in fitting us in, and Roger sorts these out for us.

\* Tom Dixen over the past two years has put a lot of work into preparing music files so that choir members can practice their parts at home in preparation for rehearsals and concerts. I have found this a valuable resource in learning new songs, and encourage members to take full advantage of this resource.

\* Gerry Foley and Ted Moore are involved in the identification and procurement of new music for the choir. This allows us to expand our repertoire and add variety to our performances.

Thank you to all these members and others who keep the important administrative side of the choir operating.

\* Paul Whiting: Musical Director and Conductor – Again Paul has done a magnificent job in preparing the choir for our concerts. He arranges varied and interesting programmes for our audiences and delivers informative and interesting commentary on each item. Paul puts a lot of time and energy into choir matters outside Tuesday night rehearsals and we are indebted to him in many ways.

\* Grace Edwards-Barnetson: Accompanist – Grace has consistently provided brilliant accompaniments for both the choir and soloists. Grace has exhibited a wide range, from the “orchestral” sounds in items such as Finlandia, to sensitive accompaniments for quiet items for soloists. This year Grace also showed us her vocal talents.

We are privileged to have such fine musicians in charge of our performances.

It is important that we have an alternative when Paul cannot attend a rehearsal or concert. Gerry Foley and Daniel Younan, our assistant conductors, have filled in admirably on a number of occasions.

We were also well served by a number of members who performed as soloists at concerts.

Our performances are improving all the time as a result of the efforts of Paul and Grace and also the diligence of choir members. I thank you all for this.

During the year, two of our long standing members, Len Willey and David Armstrong, regrettably have decided they can no longer carry on as choir members. I would like to thank them for their dedication to the choir over many years.

We were saddened by the passing of two long time choir members, Jeff Flower and Maurice Wheeler, and two former conductors, Jim Waters and Michael Khlentzos during the year. The choir sang at memorial services for Jeff, Maurice and Jim.

I would like to indulge in commenting on an issue that is mentioned regularly. That is the matter of performing without our copies of the music. We could think of this in terms of doing this for the choir, or Paul, or our audience, or Tim. As noble as these reasons are, I would suggest that each of you consider doing it for yourself. I believe that this can only increase your enjoyment of singing. My suggestion is that each of us set ourself the target of learning one song each month during the year.

Next year will be a challenging and exciting one for us all, with a number of new songs to be learnt for the Town Hall festival in November. I am sure we are up to that challenge.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a great new year.  
Bruce Sharpham - President