

## **President's Report 2012: Joseph Blansjaar**

The past year has seen the Choir develop and stabilise its performances and its place in the North Shore Community. Our involvement in a number of significant events, including the MCAA joint male choirs performance in Melbourne, the major functions at Hornsby RSL and Macquarie University and our continued commitment to our friends in Retirement Villages, has been greatly appreciated by both patrons and members.

The demographic of our members has changed over the recent years. The choir membership has stabilised to around 50 members which appears to be a 'comfort spot' for the enterprise; not too large for good venues, a sufficient level of membership fees to offset operating costs, a sufficient variety of voices (although more first tenors please) and, not too large to teach and control for the Conductor.

The Choir is blessed to have the dedication of its Director of Music, Dr Paul Whiting and the support of the assistant conductors. Further, I believe that the choir, through the dedication and skill of its Conductor, provides its members with the opportunity to both enjoy singing and learn more of music. Some members have over the years turned their singing participation to develop their knowledge of music, develop teaching aids (e.g. sound tracks), interactive website music resources and so on. Hence the value of the choir is that it provides a musical "Men's Shed" to us; that strange breed of bloke that wants to sing.

I'm delighted to acknowledge the new members that appear from time to time to take a peek at KMC. I'm sure that our quality is improving and community awareness is growing and all leading to deepen our social foundations in our community. As the community appreciation grows so does the burden of responsibility to build a sustainable business that is KMC. I suggest that we need to appreciate that KMC is becoming an institution in the best sense of the word. Such a thing requires our dedication and loyalty.

This is my last year in the Choir, however over the years I've seen how the choir has sustained some of our members through the depths of personal tragedy and pain. Men who have lost loved ones and have found solace and strength through their Choir participation. Men will always need access to this nourishment and, I'm delighted to observe, the choir shows the highest Christian values.

Keep up the good work, savour the delight of the company of men, support and share the burdens, consolidate the Choir at every opportunity.