

Ku-ring-gai Male Choir

President's Report

Fellow choristers, ladies, gentlemen and guests.

A special welcome to Joe and Rasa Blansjaar. Joe has recently been made a life member of the Ku-ring-gai Male Choir in recognition of his long and valuable service to the choir, including two terms as President.

I am pleased to present my President's Report for 2013.

I believe this year has been a very successful one for the choir and one which we can all look back on with great satisfaction.

Our membership has been maintained at a healthy level, with several new members joining. Retirements from the choir were :-

Jim Gosbee – a member and Treasurer for a long period. We say thanks to Jim for his services to the choir in handling the finances and his comprehensive reporting to the Executive Committee and his Annual Report to the choir.

Roger Davey – has acted as Marshall and carried out this task, a very important aspect of public performances, with dedication.

Mac Knowles – a long term and dedicated member of the choir.

We performed, once again, as part of the “Winter Sunday Series” at Macquarie University together with another choir. The concert was held on 14th July in the recently re-furnished Macquarie Theatre. Our guest artist was Anita Kyle.

Our Annual Concert at Hornsby RSL Club on 11th August was a great success with Naomi Giselle and Anita Kyle as the guest artists. The auditorium was well filled with an enthusiastic audience. The financial result of the concert was an increase over the previous year.

A charity concert in aid of Streetwork was held at Killara Uniting Church on 15th October and featured guest artist Elizabeth Hylton. An enthusiastic audience raised over \$900 for Streetwork and the evening was capped off by an excellent supper.

On June 3, we performed for the Killara Music Club with Anita Kyle and Naomi Giselle as our guest artists. The Ravenswood Centenary Centre was well filled by the Music Club members and our performance was enthusiastically received.

Lane Cove Music Club was the venue for our last concert of the year on 3rd December. Anita Kyle and Sophia Mitchell were the guest artists and this proved to be a successful and fitting end to 2013.

We have had a busy year at Retirement Villages, with eight engagements (two less than last year) – each of which presented an opportunity to perform in public and sharpen our presentation skills as well as provide entertainment to a wide variety of audiences. Funds received from these performances are wholly donated to charity. This year we decided to support two charities - the Braille Music Camp for Blind Children at Mittagong and Streetwork – a new charity for the choir, which is dedicated to working with homeless and destitute youth on the North Shore – particularly in the Chatswood – Willoughby area. At these concerts, some members of the choir performed as

soloists and we thank Ken Davis, Chris Stevens, Chris Phang; Chris Moore; Richard Deane Butcher (Trumpet) and Gerry Foley (accompanist) for their performances.

A highlight of the year was the visit of the Orange Male Choir. A combined concert was held in the Turramurra Uniting Church on Saturday 4th May, followed by a church service at the Garden Island Naval Chapel on Sunday 5th May. We look forward to visiting Orange in 2015.

We were approached by The Sydney Male Choir to join with them in the Anzac Day Dawn Service in Martin Place, as a large number of their members were overseas singing at the dawn service at Villers-Bretonneux, France. 28 of our choir participated in this most moving service.

In November next year the choir will participate in the Male Choirs Association of Australia concert in Canberra under the direction of New Zealander, Dr. Guy Jansen. I anticipate that this will be of a very high standard and trust that we will have a good attendance.

I want to pay special tribute to the Executive Committee :-

Gerry Foley and Chris Moore – assistant conductors - always ready to assist Paul when called upon.

Ian Stapley – our hard working Secretary, who wished to retire at the last AGM, but agreed to continue for this year.

John Middleton – our concert co-ordinator - can take a great degree of satisfaction from our public performances and the enthusiasm of audiences towards the choir and our guest artists.

Kim Rennick – has stepped into the Treasurer's role and kept our finances running smoothly.

Bruce Elliott – our librarian (assisted by David Magnusson) – a very necessary job.

John Penn – who has put a lot of time and effort into re-vamping our website. In this day and age it is an essential first point of contact for the choir.

Philip Rennie – our publicity officer has arranged articles in local newspapers as well as regularly updating our website.

Ken Davis – marshal – for the choir placement - so necessary for public performances.

Bruce Sharpham – our social secretary.

At the invitation of Joe and Rasa Blansjaar we enjoyed a delightful BBQ in the garden of their home in Medlow Bath on Sunday 24th November. The weather was excellent; the food was exceptional and the company was superb! We have been invited back!

We are indeed fortunate to have Grace Edwards-Barnetson as our accompanist. As well as her piano accompaniment, her input to the choir in voice production as well as warm-ups is a bonus. I know our visiting artists greatly appreciate her piano accompaniment. Thank you Grace!

Finally, our conductor, Dr Paul Whiting, has taken us through another year of learning; improving; performing and delighting audiences with his knowledge and also his introductions to songs when we perform. Thank you Paul!

I joined the choir 3 years ago (having previously attended several public performances prior to that) and, in my opinion, in those 3 years, there has been a noticeable improvement in presentation and singing quality. I look forward to further progress and an enjoyable and successful year in 2014.

Ross Smith

President