

President. Ross Lovell
Vice President : Ed. Lang
Treasurer: Bill Reekie
Musical Director. Michelle Albert
Secretary: David Pitt
 3349 1797
 E-mail sec-apollochoir@optusnet.com.au



SEPTEMBER 2008

www.apollochoir.com

A Few Notes

News about the BRISBANE APOLLO MALE CHOIR

From the Committee Room.

The committee held a meeting at the home of Ed. Lang on the 28th. August. Ross was not present, so Ed. chaired the meeting in his absence .

Michelle reported on her purchase of new music (A Few Notes – August) and still had one more purchase to make. She was happy with all aspects of the choir, not only the singing and attendance at concerts and rehearsal , but the organisation and the way all the different people were carrying out their various duties. She is pleased with the membership increase but urges us to keep trying to recruit new singers.

Bill reported on the finance side of things with an estimate of where we will be ,financially, by the end of this year. He estimates we will be down by about \$1000 .It has been an unusual year– we have purchased badges worth over \$300, including the gold one presented recently, and 2 lots of insurance (because of the way the dates for insurance are set down). He recommends the membership fees be increased to \$40 next year– payable in 2 instalments if required.

The secretary spoke of the need for a promotion or publicity officer to oversee the 125 year anniversary next year. Keith will take on this task, with assistance from Fraser and anyone else who could assist. It is a big task, the main purpose being to get the name of the Apollo Choir into newspapers, on T.V. and radio, and arranging a couple of “BIG” concerts that will also assist us with our financial situation.

To assist with the better use of our rehearsal time, Michelle will give soloists plenty of advance notice so the music can be given to Margaret and practice done prior to our 7.30 start if convenient. Ed. will warn the choir up if Michelle cannot start on time because of business that has to be done prior to rehearsal . The committee will review this at the next meeting and see if the new system works.

Laurie observed that all our music was now stored in a wooden building and, in the event of a fire, we would lose the lot. He suggested we take one copy of every piece and store it elsewhere. Alex will investigate .

Malcolm has agreed to look into submitting another grant application for a keyboard, after being unsuccessful with the last one. We thank him for stepping forward and hope he succeeds .

Music does not excite until it is performed.



It has arrived!

Margaret has told us that the Grand piano has been delivered. The concert that we had for the piano appeal, which raised \$1500 , started other fund raising events at Margaret’s church at Chermshire ; the end result being the purchase of their grand piano. We hope to see it for ourselves when we sing there in 2009.



Compton Gardens

The residents at Compton Gardens had a special dinner the night before Fathers Day and we were invited to entertain them after the meal.

It might have been the meal, it might have been the music, or maybe both, because this was the most responsive audience we have had this year.



Michelle had chosen an entertaining choice of songs, and they were well received. When the final song, *Till we meet again*, was being sung ,all the residents around one of the tables joined hands and swayed in time to the music.



Keith leading the choir with the *Policeman's song* from *the Pirates of Penzance*.

Coming Up- Concerts.

Tuesday **7th. October ; 10.30 am**
 LOGAN UNITING CHURCH
 “Golden Years “ group.
 129 Dennis Rd/off Springwood Rd.
 SPRINGWOOD

Wednesday **15th. October ; 10.15 am**
 SINNAMON VILLAGE
 620 Seventeen Mile Rocks Road.
 SINNAMON PARK

Thursday **23rd October ; 10.30 am**
 St. Johns, WHELLER GARDENS
 930 Gympie Road,
 CHERMSIDE

No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes



By the time you learn to make ends meet, they move the ends.

Don't Fence Me In

In 1934, Cole Porter paid poet-engineer, Bob Fletcher \$250 for the song. He then reworked the words and set them to music. The song was written for a film that was never produced and it was forgotten for 10 years. In 1944 it was sung by Roy Rogers in *Hollywood Canteen* and featured by Kate Smith on her radio show.

Professional expertise?

On 25th July, Bing Crosby and the Andrew Sisters entered a studio. Crosby had never before seen or heard the song.

Within 30 minutes he and the Andrew Sisters had made the recording which later sold over a million copies and topped Billboard charts for 8 weeks.

Although it was so popular, Porter claimed it was the least favourite of his own compositions.

Cayuse.

Where did the Indians get all those horses to attack the wagon trains? Of course they were very skilled horse-breeders. One little known horse from the Old West days is the famed Cayuse Indian Pony of the Northwest. It was developed from the wild horse that became a symbol of everything the west stood for—freedom, stamina and the ability to survive hardship. The history of the breed (including French-Norman horses from Canada in 1600) is fascinating.

Remington, artist of the Old West, described the cayuse as heavily muscled, and while only about fourteen hands high, was still very powerful. Today the breed is nearly extinct but attempts are being



Have another piece?

Roster for Coffee and Cake

Sep 16th: Doug McGregor, and Malcolm Thorne.

Oct 21st: Jim Kitchen, Rob Reid and Fraser Trueman.

Nov 18th: Jackie Carroll, Doug Kinnersly and Keith Cuerel.



For those of you who might have missed seeing the obituary to Henry in the Courier Mail

106 | OBITUARIES

Devoted to music

HENRY HOWELL

Australian tenor

Born: Birmingham, England,

June 13, 1936

Died: Brisbane, July 19, 2008

AUSTRALIAN tenor Henry William Howell enjoyed a considerable international reputation in opera, singing most of the lyric/romantic repertoire in Britain, Europe, and Los Angeles, where he won acclaim as Don Alvaro in Verdi's masterpiece, *The Force of Destiny*.

Mr Howell's music career flourished at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane, under the direction of Louise Grimes and later Robert Boughen. He came to Brisbane on July 2, 1947, with his parents Frederick Leslie (Les), his mother Mildred (Millie) and sister Yvonne (Mrs Yvonne Cochrane) aboard the migrant ship S.S. Largs Bay as one of the first 22 assisted migrants to arrive in Queensland after World War II.

During that life-changing voyage, his mother kept daily diaries of the passage. Those diaries are now a popular source of information for scholars and are kept in the State Library of Queensland's John Oxley Collection.

When his voice changed, Mr Howell stayed with the St John's Cathedral choir as an alto lay clerk, then as a tenor, remaining



TENOR ... Henry Howell.

there until he moved to London in 1973. He attended the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in its early years, as a pupil of James Christiansen. He was in demand as a soloist with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and major Queensland choirs.

He was a founding member of the Queensland Light Opera Company and Queensland Opera, the latter backed by the Queensland Arts Council, where he worked for six years. His record of the first two years of the Arts Council's fledgling opera company became a two-volume book, *With a Mile and a Song*, copies of which are held in the libraries of the Queensland Arts Council and the State Library of Queensland's

John Oxley Collection. During the decade he spent in Europe, he became a leading principal tenor with the English National Opera, and regularly appeared on the concert platform throughout Britain and Europe.

His oratorio appearances involved such major venues as Canterbury Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Royal Albert Hall and St Martin-in-the-Fields, the latter being Henry's parish church, in which he also conducted one of the choirs.

In 1984, Mr Howell returned to his roots at St John's Cathedral, where he remained for the rest of his life, both as a lay clerk and as a reader. On retiring from the choir, he was given the unique title of Lay Clerk Emeritus, the first lay clerk to be so honoured.

A life-long committed Christian, his first love was music, and especially the music of the church, which he always acknowledged as his "form of prayer".

Once established in Brisbane, Mr Howell and his wife, Diana, commenced a singing teaching partnership at their home at Rainworth. His understanding of vocal technique and generosity as a teacher were valued and appreciated by the many students who passed through the doors of Rainworth House.

The end-of-term concerts organised by the Howells were typical of the inclusive nature of

their teaching. Students got the chance to perform for their peers and then reflect on their attempts over a cup of tea.

These concerts were a family affair, with daughters, Rosemary and Grace included.

Mr Howell was the conductor and director of music for the Brisbane Apollo Male choir for 11 years, an appointment he enjoyed.

This led to his association with the St David's Society and their annual Hymn Singing Service or Gymanfy Ganu. He also conducted performances for Ignatian's Musical Society, and appeared with Queensland Musical Theatre, Queensland University Musical Society, the Queensland Choir, the Chorale and the Queensland Pops Orchestra with the late Colin Harper.

Mr Howell was also a member of the Queensland Bookbinders' Guild, a long-serving Justice of the Peace, and was, for many years, a music journalist for *Music Teacher International*.

He was also a well-respected vocal and choral adjudicator.

Mr Howell is survived by his wife Diana, his daughters Rosemary and Grace, and his daughter, Andrea, from a previous marriage.

Readers' contributions are invited for consideration: obituary@thecouriermail.com.au; or Obituary Editor, The Courier-Mail, GPO Box 130, Brisbane 4001. Material is accepted for publication on the condition that Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd, as publisher of The Courier-Mail, may edit and has the right to, and license third parties to, reproduce in electronic form and communicate this material.

The Care and Share group at **St. Barnabas , Sunnybank**, was our destination on the 8th. September. A small but enthusiastic crowd assembled for our performance. A lady in the group said they were puzzled by what they had read in the papers about Henry and Michelle explained what had happened over the last 18 months, adding as she finished that she was fortunate to now be in charge of the group that Henry had spent 11 years with.



The ladies invited us to lunch at the end of the performance, and were looking forward to our visit in 2009

Brooklands

Bill Smith welcomed us again to Brooklands Village on the 11th September. Bill has been President for many years at the village. We just managed to squeeze onto the stage (there were 22 of us) and enjoyed singing in such a nice environment.



Margaret had been involved in a minor car accident just prior to the concert and occasionally missed a note, but was magnificent as she finished the hour with her piano solo, *The theme from Love Story*.



We joined the residents for lunch and a few of our members won lucky number prizes. Our photographer, Sylvia Pitt, managed to take a group photo, the first for many months.

A Brief History of the Brisbane Apollo Male Choir continued from August

Membership of the Choir reached a maximum of 60 voices during the early decades of the century, but dwindled considerably with the onset of World War II and for several years following the cessation of hostilities. The early 1950's saw an increase to just over 30 members, and the choir embarked on presenting concert programs at aged-persons homes, church and charitable organisations, not only within the metropolitan areas, but at centres as far afield as Southport, Ipswich, Nambour, Woombye, Buderim, Montville, Woodford, and Kingaroy.

The first performance by the reformed Choir was held on 17 July **1885** and on the same date in **1985** The Brisbane Apollo Club Male Choir celebrated its centenary by presenting

“A Special Centenary Commemorative Concert” in the Ithaca Auditorium of the Brisbane City Hall. It was compered by a well-known radio announcer, Mr. Howard Ainsworth and featured several associated artists. Mr. George Hogg (Baritone, Eisteddfod winner and founder of the Ipswich Orpheus Choir), Mrs. Cynthia Harvey (whose husband had been a member of the choir for a number of years and who was a guest artist with the Choir for over 20 years), and a String Quartet consisting of William Doyle, Diane Powell, Carolyn Maguire and Helen Hurst. The President of the Choir at the time was Mr. George Muggeridge, the Conductor Mr. John L. Hopsick and the Accompanist Mrs. T. Loving. The proceeds of this concert went to the St Vincent's Hostel, South Brisbane.

A glance at the programme inset will see a few of the present members who sang in that concert. John Hopsick, the conductor at that time, has this year served as a member of the Apollo Choir for 57 years.

BRISBANE APOLLO CLUB
1984-1985
President
G. Muggeridge
Conductor
J.L. Hopsick
Accompanist
Mrs. T. Loving

First Tenors	Second Tenors
B. Perren	J. Eresaut
P. McCrossin	G. Muggeridge
P. Elliston	C. Jones
J. Powell	R. Jones
E. Spencer	R. Keating
M. Thorne (in absentia)	A. Carver

First Basses	Second Basses
H. Cross	R. Cuere1
R. Gallagher	R. Harvey
A. Gray	C. McEwan
V. Mapleston	F. O'Hara
K. Hawley	A. Crocker
J. Foster	

The choir presents about 15 concerts a year, without charge, to aged persons' homes, church and charity organisations. For many years it has provided a choral segment to the Dawn Service in the City on Anzac Day.

Rehearsals are at Kelvin Grove College on Tuesday nights at 7.30.

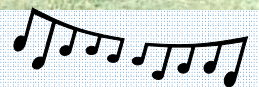
Enquiries: Secretary 38 5012

From 1988, the choir was under the musical direction of Mrs. Betty Mathewson, the first female conductor in its long history. The choir averaged over 20 concerts performances each year, bringing considerable enjoyment to lovers of male choral music.

The choir was also fortunate in having the support of Mrs. Thelma Loving, B.E.M., who had given invaluable service as official accompanist to the Queensland Eisteddfod movement for 60 years.

The Choir made a recording during Betty Mathewson's leadership and copies are available from the secretary of the Apollo Choir.

More in October — — — —!



You Need To Be Appreciative of Others Work.

Apparently, a self-important college freshman attending a recent football game took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation. 'You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one', the student said, loud enough for many of those nearby to hear. 'The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon. Our space probes have visited Mars. We have nuclear energy, ships and electric and hydrogen cars, cellphones, computers with light-speed processing...and more.' After a brief silence, the senior citizen responded as follows: 'You're right, son. We didn't have those things when we were young.....so we invented them. Now, you arrogant little upstart, what are you doing for the next generation?' The applause was amazing.....



Brookland Village . September 2008

