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A Few Notes

News about the BRISBANE APOLLO MALE CHOIR

Settling In

The Choir is enjoying its new rehearsal venue and has settled into the new routine. The acoustics are pleasant and Michelle has frequently remarked on the lovely "sound" of the hall. With a kitchen adjacent, the members have decided to have a "coffee and cake" finish to the third Tuesday practice of each month. This will allow birthdays for that month to be celebrated and a little more social interaction between members. The first of these will be on 20th. May. (no practice after the concert on 15th April at St. Martins Nursing Home.)



We have appreciated having Carolyn Hall playing for us during April. Thank you Carolyn.

Cec Rule holds a "key" position in the choir; he is responsible for opening the hall. Doug Kinnersley looks after the water and glasses, and a volunteer is needed to coordinate the Coffee and Cake nights. Alex is expanding into the space he has now in his new library.

The forced move from the Spring Hill Centre seems to have been to our advantage and we are all enjoying the new home.

If you really want to do something, you will find a way. If you don't, you will find an excuse.

Oasis Retirement Resort

The Oasis Retirement Resort is a new complex at Bracken Ridge and the home of Cec Rule and wife, Leisha. We are singing there on Sunday, 4th. May, and the recreation room (pictured) should be an ideal setting for this afternoon concert. The choir will be located along the far end of the polished floor, from the piano across the right of the picture. The acoustics should be excellent as it has a high ceiling. There is a stage (blue curtain) but it faces the narrow side of the room and is not suitable for a group the size of this choir. The resort is not hard to find; ask Cec for directions during the next few weeks.

Coming Up.

Tuesday 15th. April	St Martins Nursing Home	10am for 10.30
	304 Rogham Rd. TAIGUM	
Sunday 4th. May.	Oasis Retirement Resort	1.30 for 2pm
	Quinlan St, BRACKEN RIDGE	
Saturday 10th. May	Wedding of Jackie and Denise	
	Ann St. Presbyterian Church	3 for 3.30 pm.
Tuesday 13th. May	Southerndon Lodge	10 for 10.30am
	351 Days Road, GRANGE.	



One of the warm-up routines Michelle has the choir doing prior to singing involves a neck stretching exercise based on the Alexander Technique. Here are a few facts about F.M. Alexander, the founder of this technique.

F.M. Alexander (1869-1955), who began his career as a Shakespearean orator, developed chronic laryngitis while performing. Determined to restore the full use of his voice, he carefully watched himself while speaking, and observed that undue muscular tension accounted for his vocal problem. He sought a way to eliminate that restriction. Over time, he discovered and articulated a principle that profoundly influenced health and well-being: "When neck tension is reduced, the head no longer compresses the spine and the spine is free to lengthen". Alexander restored his own natural capacity for ease by changing the way he thought while initiating an action. From this work on himself and others, he evolved a hands-on teaching method that encourages all the body's processes to work more efficiently - as an integrated, dynamic whole.

The Alexander Technique is a practical method for consciously improving how we use ourselves in routine and performance activities. It helps in maintaining good health and avoiding accidents through better control, coordination, balance and poise.

It is taught Worldwide in the same way as Yoga, Pilates, and other health promoting practices are taught.



About us.

Ed. Lang gave the choir an encouraging report after his visit to Henry. Henry is walking a lot, and although still weak, feeling very positive, and would like some time soon to come and hear the choir sing again. A new members list will be circulated next week— there are many changes since the 2007 list; 4 new members and a few new address and contact details. It might be an idea to dig out the vests— we will be wearing them again in the coming months. (Lowes Menswear still have them as a stock item)



Surrey with a Fringe on the Top



This is the view as you park the car at Redcliffe for the annual visit to the Redcliffe Seniors Cultural Club. (Wed. 9th. April)

During the visit in '07, we negotiated a later start; 10.30 instead of 10am, because of the difficulty in travelling and arriving by 9.30. in preparation for the 10am start. Unbeknown to us, another group has started using the C.W.A. Hall (seen below) after this group, and this put pressure on the organisers to finish the concert early. The audience enjoyed the slightly shortened concert and we shared the traditional lunch with them before departing.

The choir members all enjoying singing at Redcliffe. One member, Peter, still came to sing after admitting his wife, Pamela, to hospital at 9 that morning (making sure a friend would stay with her. of course). We wish Pamela well in her treatment.

It was great seeing Cyril Well in the audience. He came along with his daughter to hear us again and renew acquaintances.



The family carriage was developed comparatively late in the Carriage era. The first ones appeared in the United States about 1867. They were popular as long as horses were the principal means of transportation. Surreys could be purchased at the turn of the century for prices ranging from \$50 to \$100.

It would have been every girl's dream to be taken to the big dance in this form of transport.

"When I take you out in the Surrey with a fringe on top" from Oklahoma—Rogers and Hammerstein.

A note from Allan Male.

Keith wrote to Allan Male, thanking him for the long association we had with the Shaftsbury Centre. We received this reply.

Your card received and noted. Thank you for your retirement wishes and kind words about the use of the hall. I'm very sorry that it has not continued as you wished. My life has been enriched with meeting such marvellous fellows as yourselves.

He goes on to say he is now the new minister of the Church of Christ, Boondall—not exactly retirement.

signed—Allan Male



Better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness



Richard Kwan has let us know about his involvements since the beginning of the year— the start of his 12 months of different musical experiences.

He is in the Show "Into the Woods" a work by Stephen Sondheim and based on one of Grimm's timeless tales. It is showing at the Schonell Theatre, University of Queensland. It runs from 11th to 26th. April. Ticketing info. at 3371 2751.

Also, Choral Connection—a choir conducted by Paul Holly, is presenting a concert at the great Hall, Brisbane grammar School, Gregory Terrace. More information from Richard or phone 3263 3277.

The wedding of Jackie and Denise will take place at the Presbyterian Church in Ann St. (near the City Hall). The couple have requested that the beautiful John Rutter composition, *For the beauty of the earth* be sung at the service. Some members of the Apollo Choir will combine with some of the Serenata Singers and perform this piece during the service. Michelle will arrange one rehearsal when the Apollo men will go to the Gap to practice on a Monday night, and the reverse will occur for a Tuesday practice. Both Choirs wish Jackie and Denise all the best on the day and for their future together.



We have received a letter from the Parish Manager of St Gerard Majella Catholic Parish at Chermside West. It stated that this year, as always, they will be staging their Christmas Festival incorporating a huge lights display, Christmas Crib, visits from Santa, gift Shop, Coffee Shop,



Sausage Sizzle etc., and nightly live music performances from Friday 5th December till Tuesday 23rd December. We have been invited to take part in the festival and have been booked tentatively for the 10th. and the 16th. Dec. The musical performances begin at 7.30pm each night and run for an hour, usually with a break at the 30 minute mark, where supper is provided for the performers. The Christmas Festival is the reigning champion in the "Churches and Community Groups" category of the 4KQ Lights Competition. Many thousands of people came to enjoy the festival last year, and it grows bigger every year. The organizers guarantee that the appearance of the Apollo Male Choir will be well advertised and our audience will be considerable.