

Brisbane Apollo Male Choir



www.apollochoir.com

A Few Notes



July 2009



Kepperra Sanctuary

It wasn't looking good the day before our visit to Kepperra on the 23rd June. Alex was held up in Berlin, Doug McGregor had a flu problem and didn't think he would make it, David was down with the flu, Glen couldn't cancel his appointment with the dentist, we were not sure about Jackie and Michelle was wondering if she had enough in some of the sections to be able to perform. One the day, 16 turned out and did the choir proud as they entertained nearly 250 residents. Many positive comments came back to Michelle after the performance and we should be welcomed back there again next year. An elaborate supper was served to the members before they headed for home. The choir doesn't have many "after dinner" concerts but if they were all as satisfying as this one, they would be happy to do more.



The Treorchy Male Choir thrilled us all with their performance at the Concert Hall on 13th June. Those of us who were fortunate enough to be there appreciated the quality of their singing and the professional way they presented the program. We were acknowledged by the compere and our 125 years also mentioned to the audience. The best part, however, was when they came out and met us after the concert. We found they were a very friendly group and we enjoyed the 15 minutes with them, chatting and smiling for the many photos that were taken. Their Chairman, Gareth Evans (right of Ross) presented us with a publication celebrating the re-forming of the Choir 60 years ago—celebrated in 2006; their Diamond Jubilee. The secretary, Frederick O'Brien, offered us assistance with music if we needed it, although a lot of their pieces were written and arranged only to be sung by the Treorchy Choir. They take about twelve months

Society is like a stew; if you don't keep it stirred up you get a lot of scum on top.



The Two Secretaries

to prepare a concert tour, meeting twice weekly plus a Sunday afternoon. When the program has become



Two Welshmen

familiar, they drop the Sunday and extend the night practices. They don't take part in eisteddfods nowadays, their time is spent preparing for then going on tour. It was nice to go away with the impression that, like the Apollo Choir, they were normal people who enjoyed singing and sharing that singing with others.



Coming up— Concerts.			
Saturday 18th July	Coorparoo Presbyterian Church	2.00pm	
Emyln Street, COORPAROO			
Saturday 25th July	St. Clements on the Hill	2.30 pm	
Eudunda St, STAFFORD			
Tuesday 4th August	Centenary National Seniors	11.00 am	
Jindalee Bowls Club Sinnamon Rd, JINDALEE			
Sunday 9th August.	Oasis Retirement Village	2.00 pm	
Quinlan St, Bracken Ridge			

This Choir has gained support from the Brisbane City Council

My therapist told me the way to achieve true "inner peace" was to finish what I start .

So far today I have finished 2 bags of chips and a chocolate cake — I feel better already !!

Ashworth House



We last visited Ashworth House in 2007. This visit took place on 17th June, a Wednesday.

Tiffany, the occupational therapist at the home, looked after us when we arrived. We had our own warm-up room which was very useful. The Concert was a happy one with close contact between residents and Michelle . Many in the audience had good musical knowledge and good communication took place between the choir and those listening. We sat outside under the veranda for morning tea and it was a pleasant area to sit and relax after the singing.

The committee needed to get together before the City Hall Concert and Tiffany allowed us to have our meeting at Ashworth House, a gesture we all appreciated. It saved us committee members having to find a free night in the week—a rare occurrence in some of our lives.

We will look forward to returning to Ashworth House in May next year.

A woman lay dying on her bed.

She called her husband in and said: "When I die you will probably find another woman and get married again; If you do you can give your new wife my car".

Her husband sadly replied "OK".

She then said: "If you get married again, you can give your new wife my diamond ring".

The husband again said "OK" this time with a tear in his eye.

The woman then said: "If you do get married again you can give your new wife my golf clubs."

Her husband said "I can't do that".

"Why not", she asked .

"She's left handed" he replied.

Yurana Independent Living Units

Our first visit to this location in Springwood was on Saturday ,July 4th . In a lovely bush setting with modern facilities, this concert was a dress rehearsal for the City Hall. The residents enjoyed hearing our program which included two of our Guest artists and were appreciative of the concert we presented. They treated us to a fine morning tea when the singing ended.



Brisbane City Hall—Main Auditorium

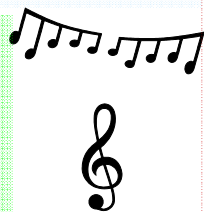
The big day finally arrived. July 7th, 2009. On this day we celebrated our 125 year heritage with the citizens of Brisbane in the place where both our first concert and our 100 year special Centenary concert were held. We arrived by 9.30 to be ready for the sound guys at 10. It didn't happen— the piano tuner was still tuning till about 10.30. The Guest Artists were "sounded" first and by 11.00 we had our turn at practising on stage and getting the fold back levels correct for both the choir and accompanist.

We were pleasantly surprised by backstage visits from Diana Howell and daughter Grace, also John and Pam Hopsick, dropping in to wish us well.

We marched on to warm applause from an audience well into the hundreds. Malcolm introduced Michelle and Margaret, and the concert commenced. Richard Kwan joined the ranks to support his former choir , while we were sorry Ed and Doug could not be there because of illness. George was also missing—he would have been thrilled to hear the first performance of his composition , *Queensland We Love You*.

We had fine support from the 3 Guest Artists, Elizabeth Hood, Jacob Alchin, and Neil Ballment. The signs made by Keith looked good both sides of the Choir, and an Apollo banner also hung from mid-air above us.

Flowers and chocolates were presented at the conclusion of the program and Michelle and Ross cut the special (imitation) birthday cake . Michelle invited all in the audience to join us as we sang *You'll Never Walk Alone*. Our thanks to Keith for making the concert in the City Hall possible , and for all the work he did behind the scenes.



Apollo Choir—125 years Anniversary Concert