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AUGUST 2008  
[www.apollochoir.com](http://www.apollochoir.com)

# A Few Notes

## News about the BRISBANE APOLLO MALE CHOIR

### August Tea.



The Choir received a request from the St. David's Welsh Society for "3 or 4 singers" from the choir to entertain a small group (20 -30) at an afternoon tea . It was held on Aug. 9th. at Auchenflower and 7 of us accepted the invitation . With a variety of 2 part choral pieces, duets, solos , monologues , and the Welsh Tenors' song "We'll keep a Welcome", we provided 25 minutes of music to the group, who then treated us to a special afternoon tea, which included lamb broth and Welsh cakes. The small concert party enjoyed working in this different environment and look forward to repeating this format for smaller groups or clients who cannot afford the usual donation the choir requires to continue operating.

### About people.

**Ted McLean** found he is no longer able to attend Choir practice so has resigned . The Choir thanked him for his service to the group and wishes Ted and his partner well for the future .He will continue to receive the newsletter.

**John Hopsick** has been in poor health for a while and ended up in casualty (while waiting for a vacant bed) at Royal Brisbane on the 16th. Aug. We sent him a card with our best wishes and hopes he recovers soon .He is back on his feet , making a good recovery (Aug 26th.) but cannot find his walking stick. ! Still, being able to walk around again is good news.

**Richard Kwan** was involved in an interesting concert with the "Choral Connection" under Peter Ingram. They presented *A Choral Café* on 23rd August at Brisbane Grammar School Great Hall. We trust it was a great experience, Richard. !

Malcolm and Sandra paid a visit to **Betty Mathewson** in Toowoomba recently. Betty wished to be remembered to all those in the choir , especially those who were members when she was the conductor. They returned with this photo of Betty and husband, Jack.

**Richard Hall** will be in hospital from the 16th. September. (we reported 16th August in the last issue- just one month out) He is having an operation that will assist his condition and will be in for about 10 days. A greatly improved Richard will return to the choir after his recuperation.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with you, Richard.

We have had a new second tenor join our ranks during August. **Glen Schafer** is a solicitor, and ,working full time, will not be able to get to many of the weekday concerts. He is , however, interested in being part of the Apollo Choir and likes what he has experienced so far. He spent some time with the Australian Light Opera and has had key roles in several of their productions.

We look forward to hearing a solo from him in the near future. Welcome, Glen.



### Terry Brae IONA Complex. Kenmore

A very cold Monday morning , 11th. August, found us gathered at Kenmore for a concert . The secretary's mobile phone alerted us to a problem with our conductor's car- flat battery. Although the RACQ had been called ,Michelle doubted she would make it in time. Jim agreed to conduct until she arrived, and Malcolm said he would comperere. Just before we marched in to sing, another call told us Michelle still had not been attended to.

The concert started with Jim leading and we were ¾ the way through when Michelle arrived. Although she had, when she

moved recently, informed the RACQ of the change of address, they went to her old address in the Gap. The Choir was fortunate she got there at all. The audience enjoyed the performance , most of them unaware of the drama.



*There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday.*

*That time is age 11.*

## Coming Up- Concerts.

Saturday **6th. September;** 7 PM  
 COMPTON GARDENS  
 97 Albany Creek Rd. ASPLEY

Monday **8th. September ;** 10.30 AM  
 ST. BARNABAS ANGLICAN CHURCH  
 187 Lister St, SUNNYBANK

Thursday **11th. September ;** 11.00 AM  
 BROOKLAND VILLAGE  
 crn. Romulus & Remus St, ROBERTSON.

Tuesday **16th. September :** 10.30 AM  
 ST.MARTINS NURSING HOME  
 304 Rogham Rd, TAIGUM

The Brisbane Apollo Male Choir is a member of the Australian National Choral Association.

# Conductor's Corner



Recently I ordered some music for our perusal from [www.sheetmusicplus.com](http://www.sheetmusicplus.com), and hope to have it in our hands within the next 3 to 6 weeks.

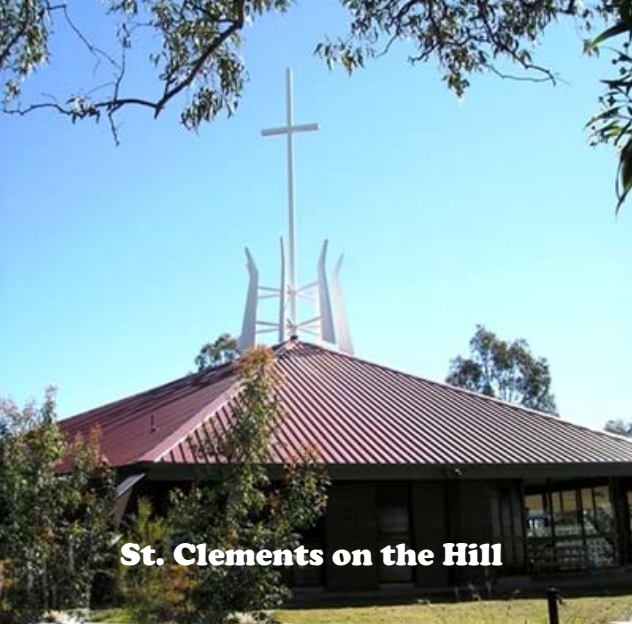
There is a full set of Cole Porter's 'Don't Fence Me In' so we will be able to start that as soon as it arrives. The other titles are in minimum order quantities, however they are on the agenda for the hopefully not too far distant future if the arrangements suit our needs.

The titles I ordered were: Bring Him Home (from Les Miserables), Manly Men's Chorus Extravaganza, Don't Fence Me In, Dry Bones, Standing on the Corner (from Act I Scene II of The Most Happy Fella), Broadway Hits for Men's Chorus, Maria (from West Side Story), Sick of the Songs of the Sea, Cape Cod Girls and We Sail the Ocean Blue (from H.M.S. Pinafore).

Sounds like some fun for the coming months and New Year.

I hope you look forward to starting them as much as I do.

Michelle.



## St. Clements on the Hill

On 16th. August, we visited St. Clements on the Hill at Stafford. This is Cec Rule's Church and this concert was a fund raising concert to assist the Church in fitting out the building (pictured) . The roof was the last major project of the parish and it has just been paid in full.

The concert was a full one , longer than usual, and featured violinists Colin Brandon and his wife Janet as guest artists.

The response from the audience was very positive and we will be asked to perform at St. Clements again next year.



Michelle told the audience( with a larger than normal proportion of males) of the benefits of being part of a male choir and the enjoyment they would have if they joined. We did receive a few inquiries— let's hope they result in membership. A fine afternoon tea was served at the conclusion of the singing.



*Don't worry about avoiding temptation;  
As you grow older it will avoid you.*

## Brief History of Brisbane Apollo Male Choir.

IN 1884, an appeal was made to interested gentlemen to attend a meeting for the purpose of forming a male choir in the city of Brisbane .

As a result of this meeting, sixteen gentlemen indicated their interest in supporting this project , and on 16th July, the Brisbane Liedertafel was formed. Rehearsals were commenced under the direction of Mr. H.J. Pollard, with Mr. W. A. Calfisch as accompanist, and proceeded at regular intervals.

The first public concert of the choir was presented on 16th. July, 1885, in the Brisbane Town Hall, then situated in Queen Street, approximately where Lennox Hotel is now situated.

The title "Liedertafel", initially given to the choir, was of German origin, and translated into English meant "song table" , indicative of the custom in Germany of men gathering around a table with their beer steins and rendering songs in harmony. During World War I, patriotic feeling was at a high level, so a decision to change the name of the choir to Brisbane Apollo Club was adopted early in 1916. In Greek legend , Apollo was the leader of the Muses, the God of music, song, and poetry, of agriculture and the pastoral life. The Choir retained this name until October, 1993, when official approval was given to register as a Body Corporate with the title Brisbane Apollo Male Choir Inc.

Since its formation, the choir has presented numerous performances, initially within the precincts of the city of Brisbane , and announcements of impending concerts aroused considerable interest among the community generally in anticipation of a feast of good male choral singing. Press reports bore testimony of the choral excellence of the choir, particularly under the leadership of Leonard Francis, (pictured) from 1913 to 1936, and Percy Brier, from 1936 to 1939.

More next issue.....



## With Cat-like Tread — Did he steal?

*Love's Old Sweet Song* was written by J..L. Molloy in 1884 and became a very popular song .

*The Gondoliers* was first presented in December 1889. In Act 1, Tessa sings *When a Merry Maiden Marries*.

Several critics detected a strong resemblance between the opening bars of WAMMM and JASAT. When this was pointed out to him, Sullivan responded, " I do not happen to have heard the song, but even if I had, you must remember that Molloy and I had only seven notes on which to work between us." One critic said, " the quote strikes me as odd because Sullivan clearly knew Molloy professionally and JASAT was Molloy's most popular song. Could Sullivan possibly have not heard it? There were a host of barrel-organs in London at the time blaring it out.

An older couple is lying in bed one morning. They had just awakened from a good night's sleep. He takes her hand and she responds, "Don't touch me." "Why not?," he asks. She answers , "Because I'm dead".

The husband asked..."What are you talking about? We're both lying here in bed together and talking..!" She said, "No. I'm definitely dead." He insisted, "You are not dead. What in the world makes you think you are dead?"

"Because I woke up this morning and nothing hurts."