

Brisbane Apollo Male Choir

125 years entertaining the citizens of Brisbane



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A Few Notes

Brooklands



October 2009



On the 10th of September we made our annual visit to Brooklands Village. We always get a warm welcome from Ted Smith, the president of the group, then

we proceeded with the concert.



Michelle was to conduct but was unable to, due to a migraine headache. Jim took over as deputy conductor and did a fine job.

The residents at Brooklands are an enthusiastic lot, and appreciated the program we presented. There were solos from Jackie and Doug K., Jim sang *Serenade* from the Student Prince, Keith placed his little friend on his shoulder and sang *Blue Bird of Happiness*, and Margaret played the Glenn Miller tune, *Tuxedo Junction*.

After the singing had ended, we sat down with the residents and enjoyed lunch with them. We will be returning there on the 9th. September, 2010.



It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing,

It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.

Mother Teresa.



VIRGINIA PRESBYTERIAN CONCERT

On Monday, 21st September the Apollo Choir gave a concert for the Virginia & Banyo Women's Guild who meet at the Virginia Presbyterian Church. The concert party booked to perform on this date had to withdraw and the Apollo Choir was approached to see if they "could fill the gap".



Keith Cuerel managed to contact most of the choir members and, with help from Jim Kitchen, provided 11 choristers. The audience appreciated the programme despite the low numbers, and signed up for a concert next year.

The accident prone Murphy (Richard) put in an appearance; Ross took us to Galway Bay; Keith's Blue Bird of Happiness was so convincing that one lady in the audience approached him after the concert wanting to know how he got the imitation budgie on his shoulder to sing. She obviously didn't notice the whistlers amongst the choir members. Cec Rule sang "Because" and he explained "because he wanted to". Ed Lang, one of the tallest in the choir, sang "Little Things Mean a Lot", and Malcolm told a tragic tale about an "aunt-eater".



Carolyn Hall had almost none or no rehearsal for some numbers but performed admirably.

Jim Kitchen, positioned down amongst the audience so that Carolyn could see him, led the whole programme with skill and enthusiasm.

After the concert the choir was offered tea and coffee together with a selection of sandwiches and cakes which was much appreciated by the choristers. Ross Lovell thanked the ladies for their hospitality.

Coming up— Concerts.

Wed. 30th Sept. Terry Brae IONA Complex

129 Brookfield Rd, Kenmore 10.30 am

Wednesday 7th October Masonic Care

60 Wakefield St, Sandgate 10.00 am.

Wed. 14th October Pine Rivers Senior Citizens Community Hall, Anzac Ave, Kallangur 10.30am

Community Hall is part of Library and is opposite Red Rooster in Anzac Ave.

Sat. 25th Oct. St Clements on the Hill 2.30pm

Eudunda St, Stafford.

Wed. 4th Nov. Sinnamon Village 10.15 - 11.30 am
620 Seventeen Mile Rocks Rd. Sinnamon Village.

This Choir has gained support from the Brisbane City Council

Viv Rees has just returned from a visit to his homeland, Wales. Here is his account of the trip.

Our trip to UK in June was a sad one as Ann's mother passed away after having a stroke in late March. She was badly affected by the stroke being paralyzed and in a virtual coma for six weeks. She died peacefully on 2nd July. She would have been 90 years old next month. We were of course glad that we were there especially as Ann is an only child and there are only two elderly aunts to deal with things. As anyone who has had to deal with such matters would know, there is a lot of organizing to do, what with funeral arrangements, estate matters, probate applications, pensions, government and council notifications etc., so we were glad we could relieve them of those responsibilities. We still have to deal with disposing of the property, but we ran out of time and will be returning in March next year to make a few improvements before sale.

So our trip was the end of an era for our family, as Ann's mum was the last immediate family member of that era, having been born between the two world wars in 1919, a period of great hardship and austerity and which fashioned her life and beliefs. She was the salt of the earth and we will miss her, but she died with dignity for which we are very grateful. Viv

Good news from Charlie & Gay in their battle with cancer.

We have just had tremendous news. The latest PET/CT scans show that the major lung cancer and all except one of the small ones are now cysts, and it is a lymph node which continues to reduce in size. Dr Mainwaring has sent the scans & results to the US and these will be studied world-wide (making Gay a hero even though her name can't be used). Gay will continue to have the drug (ASA404) every three weeks and a CT Scan every six weeks for life or until the drug stops working.

Here is how Gay feels. *I'm feeling quite overwhelmed at the moment, I'm so excited and can hardly believe what's happening. It's been so wonderful to have your love and support and to know that you have been praying for Charlie & me. Thank you very much. God has really blessed us. I don't believe it's just by chance that I was referred to the truly dynamic Dr Paul Mainwaring who is a leading cancer specialist in the world. He's managed to arrange for me to have this wonder drug and I am, in his words, "the first woman in history that I've seen with such a dramatic response" !!!*
Much love to you all and thank you very much.

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.
 Martin Luther King Jr.

Life isn't about surviving the storm; It is about learning to dance in the rain.

Eric Jones has decided to leave the Apollo Choir. He resigned early in September. He still had a strong voice and will be missed although his lack of mobility was an increasing problem for him. He shared some interesting stories with us about his time in Rhodesia before the big changes there.

Alan Woods has returned after an eye problem that kept him sidelined for some time.

Philip Chen has joined us and will sing with the second tenors till he finds his niche. He has had experience with barber shop Quartets

Neil Krause (pictured) turned up on the "Coffee & Cake" night as a new member.

We look forward to singing alongside all three of these new members.



Email from Viv. when he heard about the secretary's throat problem.

Sorry to hear of your throat problems, trust that the treatment will be a success and you'll be back to the fray before too long. A friend of mine in the UK Welsh Male Voice had a throat operation a few years ago, and when he came out of it his voice was a high falsetto, his doctor advised him to gargle every morning with a glass of port which he did. It was amusing to see a large flagon of port in his bathroom and as he said it would be a terrible waste if he had to spit it out, and it did give a lovely start to the day. He is now back singing baritone with the award winning Bridgend Male Voice in South Wales.



Caravan Trip Richard and Carolyn Hall have returned after 6 weeks caravanning.. The aim of the trip was to visit Richard's Mother for her 100th birthday in Parkes, NSW. They achieved this, and also spent time in many western towns in Qld & NSW. They attended Qld Music Festival concerts at Jimbour (a mix of opera with other music) and St. George, where they were fascinated by a Finnish accordion player who used farming machinery as part of the performance. Ask them about him- they were amazed



It is good to have them back with us again.

The Brisbane Apollo Male Choir Inc.

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