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# A Few Notes

NEWS ABOUT THE BRISBANE  
APOLLO MALE CHOIR

## TIME:

It flies, it drags and sometimes crawls.

We keep it, waste it, wish we had more of it. Another year has gone –2011 has become history and we are now part of 2012. What happened to the last 365 days that now are only a memory. ?

2011 was the year that the big floods came—they affected some of us more than others. They flooded the home of a music teacher and conductor in Ipswich up to her roof line and she lost all her music and instruments—as well as all the family's personal possessions. The choir, through our president Cec, found her, gave her some funds to assist her to get back on her feet, and the choir held a concert to encourage her, and assist in fundraising. We go back there this year to help her raise funds for other organisations.

2011 was also the year when Ross Lovell decided his sight was not sufficient to allow him to continue as a choir member. We were sad to lose a man who had done so much for the choir. Fraser Trueman also pulled out because of commitments.

We purchased a public address system to assist us in venues with poor acoustics, and now have soloists adept at microphone use.

We supported several members by singing at funerals of family members and partners.

We gave about 25 concerts to a variety of audiences from Redcliffe to Ipswich.

And we finished 2011 with a very successful Christmas break-up dinner and party—it was nice to have Diana and Cyril there with us.

So what does 2012 have in store for us as we embrace our 128th year of entertaining the citizens of Brisbane? We don't know, of course, but we can be certain the time will fly at an unbelievable pace till we are once again looking at happy faces at the Christmas break-up, just like those ones below from last year.

### Coming up in 2012.

Annual General Meeting  
St. James Hall 7.30 pm  
Tuesday, 7th February.

Saturday 9th March at 10.30 am  
Yurana Independent Living Units  
129 Dennis Rd, SPRINGWOOD

Tuesday 20th March at 10.00 am  
Lynndon Ladies Bowls Club  
47 Goldsworthy St, HOLLAND PARK

Tuesday 27th March at 10.30 am  
St. Martins Nursing Home  
304 Rogham Rd, TAIGUM

**EARLY WARNING:** Our visit to Keperra Sanctuary this year is in July when we entertain the residents following their special monthly meal. Their theme this year is " Bastille Day". We are not aware of any French music in our library so if any soloists have something with a "French" flavour it might be welcome on that night—  
Tuesday 24th July



## St. Brigid's

Catholic Church at Red Hill was the venue for the service conducted for John Hopsick, the longest



serving member of the Apollo Choir. (54 years)

The service was a Requiem Mass and both the resident choir and the Apollo Choir took part during the service.

Father Gerry Hefferan, who was at one time a neighbour of John and Pam, spoke of John's love of and involvement with the church and his love of music.

John joined the Apollo choir when a friend invited him to come along—he was 32 then, and stayed as a member till age 86, a great innings.

John passed away on 11th January after declining health over the last few years. The Apollo choir sang for him (and Pam) at Oxford Park Nursing Home during 2011.

John told us he always had a "feel" for the way a choral piece is compiled, and had used this gift when filling in as assistant conductor many times over a 30 year period. He became the Choir's 11th conductor during the time of the Choir's Centenary (1985), handing over to Betty Matthewson in 1988.

He regularly attended practice and sang at concerts till 2007.

Most of the Apollo choir attended to pay their respects to an outstanding member of this choir.



John Hopsick: 24th Dec. 1919 to 4th Jan. 2012



Doug McGregor attended the Creek Road Presbyterian Church for many years and it was the fitting venue for the service held to remember him. He was a man of strong Christian belief and the theme of the service expounded that belief. He held many positions in the church's organisation and was responsible for some of the changes that are now in place in the life of that church.

His 7 grandchildren shared their memories of Doug amid the tears shared in their grieving.



All of the large group of friends present caught a

glimpse of a man who not only served his country with distinction but was also very good at his job and well liked by all who knew him. One of his fields was Industrial Relations which explained why he was such a guiding light to the Apollo

Choir in drawing up and maintaining the Choir's constitution.

Doug joined the choir in February, 1990 and commenced keeping records of members and events; just about all the information we have from 1990 onward comes from Doug's records.

He became President in 1995, and continued in that role for 5 years. It was Doug who first approached Margaret to become accompanist for the choir during that time.

As a choir member he was a real strength to the baritone section: Any baritone unsure of his part could rely on Doug to lead with the correct note. He was also a fine soloist and the audiences enjoyed his rich baritone voice.



A great singer, a diligent worker, one of nature's gentlemen; Douglas Robert McGregor will be sadly missed by all the members of the Brisbane Apollo Male Choir.



Doug McGregor: 16th June 1923 to 10th January 2012



*Time seems to slow down when you are frightened, and flies when you're having fun. And it seems to pass more quickly as you get older.*



**"WHEN A SINGER TRULY FEELS AND EXPERIENCES WHAT THE MUSIC IS ALL ABOUT, THE WORDS WILL AUTOMATICALLY RING TRUE."**

**From ANCA:** On Sunday 19 February, 2012 the internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble **The King's Singers** will be performing a concert at QPAC with the Qld Pops Orchestra at 3.00pm. Please pass this information on to all your choristers and friends who might be interested in this wonderful concert. I understand that the last time this group visited Australia was in 1984 so this will be a very special event indeed and not to be missed. **Paul Holley** President: ANCA

**THE APOLLO CHOIR IS A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHORAL ASSOCIATION**