

Ku-ring-gai Male Choir - Presidents Report 2006

Roger T. Nurse - 14 December 2005

History :- The History of the Choir, written by Terry Barrett, takes us back to 1946 at the end of World War II, when returning servicemen banded (or choired) together in order to sing for their own enjoyment, and the benefit of others. If anyone has any of the records or notes about the period from 1946 to 1952, and also from 1981 to 1995, Terry would love to see these and if possible incorporate them in the History.

Myself:- I joined the Choir in July 1999 and my first concert was at Mawarra in West Pennant Hills in September 1999. In those days we were meeting in a dingy, cold Church. The singing was OK, and Norm Lees, with the help of Serena Carmel Pianist, was gallantly acting as Conductor, while we were waiting for Dr. Paul Whiting to arrive and take over. I felt that perhaps the choir was missing Jim Waters, who had made such a tremendous contribution from 1980 to 1998. Since those days the Choir has gone from strength to strength. I was most honoured to be asked to be President this year, after seeing some other even better Presidents in action, and my only regret is that I have not been able to attend all the concerts this year, due to ill- health.

This Year :- Our Secretary Terry Barrett has kept our affairs in order brilliantly through the year and even provided me with some notes for my report, as well as his History of the Choir. Our Treasure Jim Gosby has kept the accounts, and kept the money flowing. Dick Glover has just ended a long run of organising concerts for us, and this year this role has been superbly managed by Gerard McMullen. Next year our new president will be John Gibson, who has already been very busy. I would like to thank Bill Flynn who is our Librarian, and has had a lot of extra work purchasing music which is still copyright. This year our membership has reached 50, with 7 new members, and our practices average over 40 . We have attended 17 concerts, and averaged over 36 members to each concert. Generally our audiences are around 90 at Retirement Villages Our biggest concert was at Macquarie University with 450.

Artists:- During the year we have had Wendy Dalton who has been with us for many years, Melinda Parsons, Vivian Powell, Penny Chilton, Rosemary Long, Cherie Harris, Warren Fisher, and Su-Lin Leong.

We have always had wonderful performances from our own pianist, Grace Edwards-Bametson, as accompanist for the Choir, for soloists, and with her own piano interludes.

We have several of our own soloists, Daniel Younan, Chris Stevens, our past President, Em Sharpham, Bruce Elliot on Flute, and Jo Blansjaar, accompanied by Gerry Foley.

Concerts :- Lastly I must mention our esteemed Conductor, Dr. Paul Whiting, who has given the Choir the confidence to try bigger venues and bigger concerts. Good examples are the giant 'Music for Winter Sundays' concert at Macquarie University, and two large concerts where we shared the program with 'Spirit of Sydney', a wonderful ladies choir.

Charities :- Of course you are all waiting for the end. So I conclude by saying that our Charities Supported are this year :

The Braille Music Camp for Blind Children.
The National Breast Cancer Foundation.

It has been an honour to serve as President for a Choir like this. I thank you all.

Roger T. Nurse, Retiring President, 14 December 2005