



BRYN TERFEL WITH THE CHOIR

The power of song and the wonderful relationships it generates was evident when the choir had the pleasure of holding a “musical soiree” at the Welsh Church with Bryn Terfel and his wonderful harpist Hannah Stone plus a surprise guest Menna Cazel Davies.

Bryn and Hannah were in Melbourne for concert and opera engagements and were gracious enough to break their busy schedule to sing and play with our choir.

For the choir it was a great experience to meet, listen to and sing with one of the world’s great voices. For Bryn and Hannah it was a chance to touch base with their Welsh roots and for the audience of 150 people (all that the church could hold) it was a magical experience.

Menna had sung with Bryn in the St David’s day concert in Cardiff a few weeks earlier and was on holiday in Melbourne when Bryn called her to ask if she would like contribute a song or two for the evening. Who could refuse such an invitation?

The Welsh Church has rarely had such a talented group and as the last notes of “Mae hen wlan fy’n hadau”, the Welsh national anthem, died away there was hardly a dry eye in the church.

Then it was into the hall at the rear of the church for coffee, tea and cake plus the inevitable “selfies” and photographs with our charming guests. It was an evening few of us will ever forget.

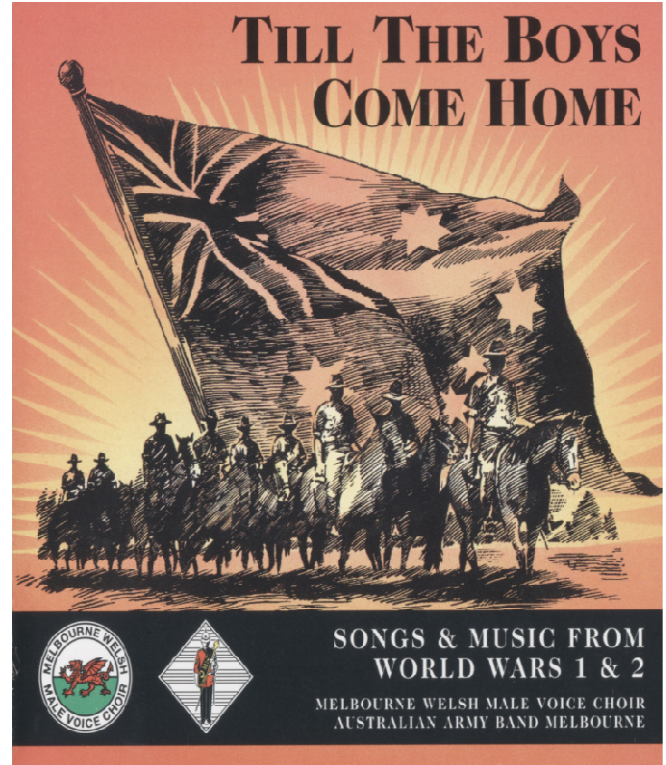
TEDDY TAHU RHODES

Another bass/baritone friend of the choir Teddy Tahu Rhodes is also in the news of late, starring as “the Don” in Mozart’s opera Don Giovanni at the Arts Centre, State Theatre, Melbourne.

Teddy will be the Choir’s featured guest artist at our upcoming concert in the Melbourne Recital Centre on Sunday November 15.

This is sure to be a must see event so make sure you book early!

100th ANNIVERSARY of the ANZAC GALLIPOLI LANDING



Those of you who attended the Choir’s Morning Melodies concert at the Hamer Hall on the 20th April would have heard two medleys of songs from the first and second world wars. These have remained a favourite with audiences since the CD was first released in 1992.

This recording “Till The Boys Come Home” utilised the combined talents of three members of a single family. The Choir’s then musical director, Bill Mead was joined on the conducting platform by his son David. The Medley of War Songs was arranged exclusively for the choir by Bill’s brother Clifford Mead.

The Australian Army Band Melbourne under their conductor Major Malcolm Bell provided the musical backing to the choir as well demonstrating their own prowess with a Sousa Medley. Their soloist Simone Dew, who features in a Vera Lynn medley, sounds uncannily like her.

Baritone Terry Thomas, a founding member of the choir, who sings the solo parts in the War Songs Medleys, reprised that performance in the recent Morning Melodies concerts.

The CD was put together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Anzacs Gallipoli landing and



features an evocative painting on the cover by West Australian artist Richard Yeates, of the Australian light horsemen against the Australian Flag and rising sun. This image was used for the Hamer Hall promotion. Twenty years after its production the CD remains one of the best selling items at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne and at the War Memorial in Canberra.

LEGACY CONCERT

Continuing on in the spirit of the Morning Melodies Hamer Hall performance (which incidentally attracted the highest audience for Morning Melodies this year), the choir is giving a concert at the Kingston Centre, 979 Nepean Highway, Moorabin 3189 on Sunday June 21 at 2:00 pm in aid of Legacy.

This is the 92nd year of Legacy and we invite you to support this wonderful work by being entertained with a great afternoon of song.

Appropriately titled "Songs we love to sing" the choir will reprise the war medleys and in addition Dame Nellie Melba is coming out of retirement, Vera Lynn is making an appearance and the Beatles are re grouping for the occasion (not sure about John Lennon). There is a rumor that The Phantom is going to appear out of somewhere and Les Mis will definitely feature. The Melbourne Welsh Male Choir will bring their magic sound and get you singing along too!

We have 800 seats to fill and the profits go to Legacy. So don't miss out on this wonderful afternoon and help contribute to this great cause.

THE CHOIR'S HOME BASE

The choir's permanent home is at Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

This is the site of the former Ringwood Primary school which closed in April 1998, at which time Maroondah City Council purchased and redeveloped the site, with assistance from the State and Federal Governments.

The purchase was made with the plan to provide the community with brand new facilities and cultural opportunities. The overall cost of the building, including the land, was \$4.43 million.

on January 31 2001, Maroondah's newest community asset, Maroondah Federation Estate, was officially opened by the Mayor of the time,

Councilor Peter Gurr; The Premier of Victoria, The Hon. Steve Bracks MP; and Federal Member for Deakin Phillip Barresi MP.

The new Maroondah Federation Estate now consisted of the existing school building, a Cultural Centre incorporating the Maroondah Art Gallery and a contemporary Lifestyle Centre, designed by architect Leigh Mattingley.

On October 25 2002, Maroondah Federation Estate received 'Best Sustainable Development' from the 'Urban Design Awards Program'. The buildings and grounds were also awarded a 'Special Commendation' for 'City Pride and Outstanding Beautification', presented by 2002 City Pride Awards.

Today the Maroondah Federation Estate offers a wide range of cultural events, activities and plays a vital role in the community. The facility contains function rooms, artist studios, a community workshop as well as a kitchenette to cater for visitors and their requirements.

It is a vital recreational, social and community resource for the local community and surrounding districts, and is an excellent venue for a variety of performance groups, leisure, recreation and social clubs.

The choir was a foundation member of the Centre and was heavily involved in the initial design phase to ensure it was appropriate for a choir of our size. Our rehearsal space can be transformed for minor concerts and special occasions. The availability of ample parking adds to the amenity of the Centre.

Visitors are always welcome at our rehearsals and we will offer you tea or coffee and a biscuit while you listen.

If you are lucky, then you can join us on the first week in the month when one of the sections of the choir will provide us with a veritable feast.

On that night we will finish rehearsal a little earlier than usual and enjoy each other's company over a cuppa with tea cakes, buns or even welsh cakes.

We are particularly keen to recruit new members so if you are interested in seeing and hearing how the choir generates its wonderful harmonies give us a call or just turn up. You will be made most welcome.



OUR NEW PRESIDENT MIKE LYONS



A Londoner, Mike narrowly survived the blitz, despite losing two homes to direct hits from German bombers, thanks to the family's underground Anderson Shelters.

Schooled partially in overground shelters during air raids, Mike majored in Chemistry at London University, and spent his National Service as an Observer/Navigator in the Fleet Air Arm, on and off aircraft carriers and 'stone frigates'!

He started work with Formica International in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and in Germany, before building their new laminate factory in Poona, India, and running their plywood and particleboard factory in Newcastle. He raised capital on the London and US money markets and built a major new particleboard and medium density fibreboard (MDF) Mill near Stirling in Scotland.

Recruited by the UN as the project manager of a joint FAO/UNIDO Forest Industry Advisory Group for Africa, based in Addis Ababa, Mike worked all over Africa.

He was later seconded by the World Bank to manage an Export Rehabilitation Project in Ghana.

Mike then moved to Kuala Lumpur with an ASEAN Aid project assisting Asian countries with the development of their forest industries. He started a new monthly technical magazine 'Asia Pacific Forest Industries' published in Kuala Lumpur throughout China Lumpur with 10,000 copies in English and 3,000 copies in Mandarin, distributed throughout the Asia Pacific.

Mike met wife Margaret in Kuala Lumpur, where she was establishing a new hospital. They married in Aviemore, Scotland, and moved to Australia, where he bought a vineyard in the Yarra Valley, having studied Viticulture and Oenology from Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, via Holmesglen TAFE.

After being squeezed out by the massive new vineyards from the major wine companies, he tried his hand at mortgage broking before finally retiring at 80.

Mike has five children by his first wife, and they are dispersed far and wide. Greg a jazz musician and keen cyclist, is based in Kuala Lumpur; Sally lives in Crete; Clare is working for the BBC in Rangoon; Veronica is a freelance journalist in London, and Maria, a budding Counsellor, lives in Bristol. Mike also has seven grandchildren, six in England and one in Berlin.

He has been singing in choirs all his adult life, starting with the Newcastle and Gateshead choral union, the Motley Singers in Addis Ababa, the Philharmonic Choir in Kuala Lumpur, and now the Melbourne Welsh. One daughter and a niece sing with the London Bulgarian Choir, and Clare has a choir in Chiang Mai, specialising in Bulgarian and Georgian music.

Among his other interests, Mike is a long time Hash House Harrier and a Scottish Country Dancer. He is the extended family's genealogist, and his main reading matter is ancient history.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 31, 2:30 pm
St John's Church, 5 Toorak Ave,
Croydon.

Sunday, June 21, 2:00 pm
“Songs we love to sing”
with **Kate Amos**

Kingston Centre: 979 Nepean
Highway, Moorabbin VIC 3189

Concert in aid of Legacy

Tickets:
www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au/tickets

Sunday, July 12, 2:00 pm
“ANTHEMS”
- the greatest songs of all time

Frankston Arts Centre,
Cnr Davey St & Young St,
Frankston VIC,

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir and
Frankston Ladies Choir combined in
concert.

Tickets: 9784 1060 or www.thefac.com.au

Saturday, September 19, 7:00 pm
“Singer of the year Concert”

Karralyka Centre,
Mines Rd,
Ringwood VIC 3134,

Tickets:
www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au/tickets

Thursday, October 1, 2:30 pm
“Tuckers Seniors Week Concert”

St Mary's Basilica,
Geelong

Tickets: from Tuckers 5221 4788

Sunday, November 15, 3:00 pm
**“Teddy Tahu Rhodes sings with
Melbourne Welsh”**

Melbourne Recital Centre,
31 Sturt Street,
Southbank
VIC 3006,

Tickets from Recital Centre 9699 3333

Mooroolbark Concerts:

Saturday, December 12, 7:30pm

Sunday, December 13, 2pm

**Mooroolbark Community Centre,
125 Brice Ave, Mooroolbark, Vic
3138**

**Tickets: from Community Centre
9726 5488**

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THIS NEWSLETTER: The production of this newsletter is a joint effort. Contributions of all kinds are sought from members to keep the newsletter varied and interesting. We also welcome contributions from our supporters.

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Brian Evans, Editor