

We're back...

The choir is hard at work rehearsing for its upcoming concerts following an exhausting, but very rewarding participation in the 2017 Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival, currently the largest male voice choir festival in the world with over 60 Choirs and 3000 choristers taking part.

30 of the usual 50+ MWMC members took part and, together with some partners, enjoyed the singing, social interaction and sight seeing offered in that beautiful part of the United Kingdom.

We performed at the Eden project (see photo above), in Truro Cathedral, the Hall for Cornwall and in St Austell and Bude Methodist Churches. The choir proudly sang in each of its allotted shared concerts and did well in the competition element held in the Hall for Truro, coming 6th out of 13 choirs which included several from America, Canada and Europe.

Despite the packed schedule we had time to sample a Cornish pasty or two and to visit Port Isaac or "Portwen" as it is called in the Doc Martin TV series.

We happened to be returning to our bus when we met Joe Absolom one of the cast members, who plays Al Large in the series. He was about to attend a script reading session for the next season's TV series and was happy to chat and have a photograph taken with us.

We packed 11 concerts into 12 days (albeit sometimes just a bracket of 4 or 5 songs in concerts with other choirs) and received ovations wherever we performed, so little wonder that many of the touring party extended their tour to relax and to enjoy the delights of the UK and Europe before returning home.

At the conclusion of the festival we travelled to Wales for a joint concert with the Maesteg Gleemen,



and in Swansea, what we had expected to be a quiet informal get together with the Morryston Orpheus turned into a mini concert which was filmed for S4C the Welsh language TV station.

Both choirs sang a bracket or two before (our patron and the former MD of the Orpheus) Alwyn Humphreys conducted the joint choir in "American Trilogy" - which was a fitting end to a wonderful evening.

In Bristol we had the opportunity to visit the SS Great Britain, the first steam driven ocean liner, which has been painstaking restored





after being retrieved from the seabed in the Falkland Islands.

That evening we performed with the Bristol Male Voice Choir at St Bonaventure's Church, Egerton.

Our final concert was with our old friends and our deputy MD's former choir -Weybridge Male Voice Choir. The joint concert had been sold out weeks before and in front of a packed church, both choirs rose to the occasion and were given a standing ovation at the end of the concert.

It was a fitting end to a marvelous tour and a tribute to the organizing skill and commitment of our tour manager - Mike Lyons who orchestrated the whole shebang.

As our MD said

"I was indeed very proud of the boy's efforts and their ability to come 'up' each time we sang – 10 concerts in 11 days. – quite demanding. The standard of their work was admirable. A very good overall experience was had for all those who made the trip, and many fond memories of a well-organized and remarkable 'group' time".

David Ashton-Smith AOM....conductor.

Maroondah Magic - A Grand Choral Happening!

Our next concert is very much a local affair with the Maroondah Singers.

We don't often have the opportunity to sing in concert with a mixed choir and we are very much looking forward to joining with this fine community choir to lift the roof at the Karalyka Theatre.

There will be an element of "duelling choirs" but we will also be combining in some pieces.

Come and hear the differing harmonies of two of the top choirs in Maroondah. A 'one-off' at this concert will be duo pianists (4 hands) playing the very popular *In A Monastery Garden* by Ketelby, with both choirs singing the *Chant of the Monks*.



As usual the cream of Victoria's young singers will be competing for the prize money in what has become one of the most respected competitions in Australia.

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir

MD David Ashton-Smith

and Maroondah Singers

MD Lyn Henshall



7.30 pm Friday

14th July 2017

at the Karralyka Theatre, Ringwood

A Grand Choral Happening!



Adults \$35 Group (6 or more) \$30
Child (12 & under) \$15

<https://www.trybooking.com/292137>

or 9720 4336

He's back..

To help us celebrate the 25th Singer of the Year Competition, Teddy Tahu Rhodes has accepted our invitation to perform for us and with us at this very special anniversary event.

To accommodate the expected audience we will be holding the concert and competition at Camberwell Grammar School, which has a wonderful auditorium, well suited to the wonderful music, which will be performed.

Chorister Profile

In this edition we profile one of the longest serving and most valuable members of our choir - bass section and deputy conductor Ray Kitto.

I was born in Adelaide in 1936, the second of four children. My father was killed in New Guinea in 1942, leaving my mother in a fairly desperate situation, resulting in the family being split with my older brother going to live with my grandparents.

Mum was a very good pianist and I guess my love of singing stems from the time we spent as children singing around the piano. I was always involved in school choirs in both primary and secondary school and had my first tilt at conducting at age 13 when told to conduct the school choir at a secondary schools competition at the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide.

I started work at age 16 with the wholesale drug manufacturer F.H. Faulding, where I worked for 6 years prior to being employed by another similar company for another 4 years. During that time I met, wooed and married Barbara in 1960. We have 3 sons.

At this time I was involved in church choirs both singing and conducting.

We built our first home in 1963 using our block of land as deposit and forking out the enormous sum of £3000 for the building.

Later that year I was headhunted by the Ansell Rubber Company, a small but growing family business. My role there was as a sales representative and merchandiser.

In 1970 I was asked if I would transfer to Victoria to take on the role of sales supervisor and to expect that role to change as the company developed. By this time Ansell had been purchased by Pacific Dunlop who were looking to grow the business internationally. Manufacturing facilities had been started in Malaysia and further expansions were in the planning stages.

There followed a quick succession of roles; National Sales Manager of the footwear division, Advertising Manager, Product Manager Medical Division and ultimately the appointment by the managing director of "Managing Mentor". This meant the "Ansell-isation" of four new managers employed to establish marketing offices in USA, Asia, Middle East and Europe. At this point my

job description was changed to "at the discretion of the Managing Director".

Upon arriving in Europe and seeing the task ahead, the manager appointee requested my transfer to Germany to assist in the establishment of the business there. Initially scheduled as a 3-year assignment this turned into a 5-year stay.

On my return to Australia, I was appointed Marketing Services Manager for the Asia Pacific region, which saw me travelling for 35 weeks of the year. During that time I was also involved in evaluating businesses in India, Thailand, Austria and USA for possible takeover. I also spent time in Japan as General Manager.

In 1974 I was sent to the UK for 3 years to sort out a problem there and that's where my choral interests were rekindled.

Barbara pointed out to me that we had been in England for 12 months and I had not met a single person outside of business. This changed on a visit to the Brooklands shopping centre to purchase a Christmas gift

for my secretary. The Weybridge Male Choir were doing a charity performance and they noticed me mouthing some of the words of the carols they were singing and invited me to join In .

That led me to join the choir and I spent the next two and a half years enjoying the experience. Just before I was due to return to Australia we had a visit from a member of the Melbourne Welsh who suggested I might like to come and join them and gave me a contact number. So on the first rehearsal night in 1998 I turned up at rehearsal, got seated next to Herb Jenkins and there I've stayed ever since.

I very much enjoy choral singing and this has led me to expand my interest.

In 2002 I was asked to be the Music Director of the Greenwood Singer, a mixed senior choir operating in Ringwood, an appointment which lasted 8 years

Following a request in 2009 for additional basses to assist in a major production, I offered my services and enjoyed the experience so much that I joined the Maroondah Singers and have continued singing with them ever since. A similar request to bolster the bass section led me to join the Cranbourne Chorale in 2010 for their tour of China.





Sponsorship

The choir is actively seeking sponsors in particular for annual funding of our Singer of the Year Concert.

Samuel Dundas who was our guest artist for of St David's day concert is a fine example of the results of the SOTY sponsorship.

If you would like to be associated with this wonderful event or simply wish to have your name or product associated with the choir, please contact any member of the choir's committee and we will be delighted to work with you to make the most of your sponsorship.

The choir is also available for corporate and sporting events, dinners, anniversaries, weddings etc.,

So if you require anything from a flash mob to a full two-hour concert please contact me, or any committee member to discuss these opportunities.

Up coming events

Friday, July 14 Joint concert with Maroondah Singers
7:30pm Karlyka Theatre, Ringwood

Friday evening August 11 Singer of the Year heats
Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood

Saturday afternoon August 12 Singer of the Year heats
Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood

Saturday evening August 26 Singer Of The Year Final
with Teddy Tahu Rhodes
7:00pm Camberwell Grammar School Auditorium
55 Mont Albert Road, Canterbury. VIC 3126

Friday evening September 29 Joint concert with
Australian Welsh Male Choir and Wanganui Male Choir
Kingston Arts Centre, Moorabbin



25th Melbourne Welsh Male Choir

Singer of the Year Final

MD David Ashton-Smith

With Special Guest Star

Teddy Tahu Rhodes



7 pm Saturday 26th August 2017

**Camberwell Grammar School
Performing Arts Centre**

55 Mont Albert Road, Canterbury

**www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au/tickets
or 9720 4336**

**Adults \$40 Group (6 or more) \$35
Child (12 & under) \$15**

**Competition Heats - Free admission
Friday evening 11th and
Saturday afternoon 12th August
Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood
For Heat start times check website
or 0403 271 468 after 6th August**

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