



In this edition we describe our last concerts and the effort that goes into promoting the larger ones. In addition we preview our upcoming Singer of the Year concert which this year features our MD's other choir the Ashton-Smith Singers. Our profiled chorister this month is our beloved choir MD – in this case a medical doctor – Doug Utley, who in addition to being an excellent baritone has looked after our members' health and well being on our local and overseas trips over the years.

### Recent Choir concerts

Concerts at the Melbourne Recital Centre and Ulumbarra theatre, Bendigo 23/24 June 2018

Isn't it great when a good plan comes together!

Our recent concerts on consecutive days in Melbourne and Bendigo respectively, with Teddy Tahu Rhodes and Kate Amos, lived up to everyone's expectations and left our audiences at the Melbourne Recital Centre, and the Ulumbarra Theatre in Bendigo, wanting more.

Teddy's soliloquy from *Carousel* was incredibly powerful and moving. while his duets with Kate - *La Ci Darem la Mano* and *Bei Männern* in the first half and *If I loved you* in the second, were both tender and amusing.

Not to be outdone Kate demonstrated her range with the *Laughing Song* from *die Fledermaus* and *I could have danced all night* from *My Fair Lady*.

The choir combined with Teddy for *Song of the Golden Calf*, *Shenandoah* and *Botany Bay*, while everyone combined for the show stopping performances of *You'll never walk alone* and *World in Union*.

After an afternoon like that, the audiences and the performers went away from the venues well satisfied and looking forward to an even better show next time.



To attract audiences to such a concert requires lots of planning and hard work. Some of this involved the choir singing on the balcony of the ABC as part of an interview with Jon Faine, while our Music director was interviewed on 3AW and three other members of the choir were involved in interviews with the ABC's Radio National and Southern FM.



Terry and Gwyn were also featured in an article in the Seniors newspaper.

<http://www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au/members/documents/seniors2018.jpg>

Copy the link and paste it into your Internet browser. For Friends of the Choir and indeed for anyone contemplating joining the choir, the Life Matters interview broadcast on Radio National is instructive and is available to download and listen at:

<http://radio.abc.net.au/programitem/pgPG9L3BA7?play=true>

Copy the link and paste it into your Internet browser .. it's well worth a listen

In addition to the benefits of being part of the choir - which the interviewees describe, there are a couple of interesting anecdotes relating to some of the choir's overseas tours.





## The “Thank you for our Heritage” Concert for Allison Monkhouse 30th June at Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University

Both of the performing choirs i.e. the Frankston Ladies Choir together with the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir had little or no involvement in promoting this free concert for clients and potential clients of Allison Monkhouse, who did a wonderful job in promoting the concert, with every ticket being allocated.

Unfortunately, as with all free events there are a number of people who decide they have more important things to do on the day, which left a number of empty seats in the hall. Nonetheless an audience of close to a thousand people attended the 11:00 a.m. morning concert and judging by the comments over the generous snacks provided by Allison Monkhouse following the event, they all enjoyed it. particularly Denise Drysdale who compered the program in her inimitable comic manner.



### Laughter is the best medicine

*An almost hysterical man calls 000 and yells, “Please come quickly! Kailey is pregnant and her labour has started now, it’s really intense!”*

*“Is this her first child?” asks the operator.*

*“No you idiot! It’s her husband!”*

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*An elderly man was on the operating table awaiting surgery to be performed by his son, a renowned surgeon. Just before they would put him under, he asked to speak to his son: “Don’t be nervous, son, do your best and just remember, if it doesn’t go well, if something happens to me... your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife.”*

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*A man to a psychiatrist: “How do you select who should be admitted to your facility?”*

*The psychiatrist replies: “We fill a bathtub with water and give the person a spoon, a cup and a bucket. Then we ask that person to empty the bathtub.”*

*The man smiles: “Ah, I understand, if you are sane you would take the bucket.”*

*The psychiatrist replies: “No, a sane guy pulls the plug. Do you want a room with or without a balcony?”*



### Melbourne Welsh Male Choir’s 2018 Singer of the Year Competition

Entries have opened for the Choir’s Singer of the Year Competition with the elimination heats being held at the Choir’s rehearsal rooms at *Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood* on the evening of Friday 27th and afternoon of Saturday 28th July, with the final to be decided in concert on Sunday 12th August at The James Tatoulis Auditorium – MLC, 207 Barkers Road, Kew.

This wonderful auditorium provides a perfect environment for the finalists to be heard and evaluated.

There is an additional reason not to miss this concert. Our MD’s “other choir” - the Ashton Smith Singers will be joining us on this very special occasion.

Come and hear the differences between a mixed choir and a traditional Welsh Choir in a wonderful environment as well as hearing potentially the best young voices in Victoria.

This venue can only seat 362 and will almost certainly be a sell-out so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Access to the heats of the competition is free and provides possibly the best afternoon of high-class musical entertainment in Melbourne. Come along and hear the contestants strut their stuff – they appreciate a good audience.

You won’t be disappointed.

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*I asked my daughter if she’d seen my newspaper. She told me that newspapers are old school. She said that people use tablets nowadays and handed me her iPad. The fly didn’t stand a chance.*

### Job Appraisals

*This young lady has delusions of adequacy.*

*This employee should go far and the sooner he starts, the better.*

*A photographic memory but with the lens cover glued on.*

*A prime candidate for natural de-selection.*

*If you stand close enough to him you can hear the ocean.*

*Since my last report, this employee has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.*



## Choir Member Profile – Baritone Dr. Doug Utley

Ancestry can be interesting. On a family trip to the village of Utley in Yorkshire we found out some of our forebears were stone masons and others were highwaymen!

More recently my father was a singer. From early childhood I remember hearing *La donna e mobile* and other opera arias from our garage where he did extra weekend work to get three sons through Sydney University.

So I sang; at school, at university and other occasional choirs. I was always exhilarated as a chorister when the performance was much greater than the sum of the parts.

And I played rugby. Initially on the wing but then in my favourite position as breakaway (flank). I played for Manly Boys High school, a Junior Rugby competition and later inter-faculty matches at university. The winter weeks were full of rugby and the summer was taken up with surfing.

I was looking forward to a career hopefully in medicine when my life was turned upside down.

I did not come from a religious family but when I pondered who I really was, and what I was on the planet for, through a variety of people and circumstances I came to know the Living God. I came to grasp what Jesus was on about and the offer of a new life with past and present stuff-ups taken care of. I decided to take Jesus on board and things changed. I discovered God had some thoughts on how much alcohol it was appropriate to consume at one sitting and how to treat girlfriends but mostly it was that the ordinary things were no longer ordinary. People and places and pursuits were in HD colour, and the music! Singing *The Messiah* in the Sydney Town Hall was just 'electric', as the inspired words and music moved me deeply inside. Singing many

of our songs such as *Gwahoddiad*, *Canon Lan* and *Llef* at rehearsals can be spiritual experiences for me. Life was tough at times such as when we were childless but a new perspective and



resources made all the difference.

I have worked in hospitals in Australia and New Guinea and stints in Vanuatu, and was national director of a discipleship organisation for many years, and still work as a part time GP. But it is the choir camaraderie, inspiration and the experiences of performances both here and overseas that is priceless. I look forward to being part of the great ensemble, which is the Melbourne Welsh for many years.

## Recruiting

As part of our promotion for our recent concerts we engaged in a campaign outlining the health benefits of being in a choir. This featured two of our longer serving choir members Terry Thomas and Gwyn Harper as mentioned earlier. In addition to explaining how they came to join the choir the articles pointed out the benefits, which each individual felt comes from being part of a choir and the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir in particular.

If you would like to experience the benefits of being a chorister or just to observe the choir in full voice, pop along to our rehearsal venue at Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood.

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday (excepting one week of school holidays) and run from 7:00 p.m. until around 9:30 p.m. when the choir is updated by the President and Secretary about upcoming events and other choir related matters.

We especially welcome younger members, but prospective choristers of any age are urged to come along to listen, participate in a rehearsal session and possibly audition to join the choir. If you are interested in coming along, please give Gwyn Harper (0419 562 353), or any choir member, a call and we will introduce you to an irreverent but highly motivated group of guys who love singing in 4-part harmony and enjoy each other's company.

## Would you like to hire the choir?

While the choir is a 'not for profit' organisation, in order to maintain our professional image and pay for our music professionals, rehearsal facilities and other choir services, we need to generate revenue. If you or your company are interested in promoting your image, rewarding your clients or staff, or celebrating a significant occasion, then we may well be the answer to your requirements. In the past we have performed at conference dinners, opening ceremonies, board luncheons, weddings and sporting events etc.

For a negotiated fee we can provide entertainment with a number of appropriate songs or we can provide a complete 2-hour concert (with guest artist if required).

We have a large repertoire, which ranges from opera choruses and songs musical theatre to pop and folk music as well as, of course, our own unique Welsh hymns and folk songs. We come as the complete package with electronic keyboard (if necessary) and choir risers. Our music professionals can assist with the staging and content of the performance and we can also help with marketing and promotion if necessary. Give us a call and we will be pleased to tailor a performance to your individual requirements.

## Job Appraisals

*He's so dense, light bends around him.  
Wheel is turning, but the hamster is dead.*



### Would you like to sponsor the choir?

The choir is actively seeking sponsors, in particular for our major events including the prestigious Singer of the Year competition and concert.

If you would like to be associated with this concert, or simply wish to have your name or product associated with the choir in concerts, programs or website etc., please contact Colin Brown (0409 188 109□) or 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 a registered charity. so if you would like to make a donation to assist in keeping the soul of Welsh choral singing alive and well in Melbourne then please do so by contacting the choir secretary.

All donations are tax deductible.

### Would you like to be part of our supporter database?

If you have any friends or family who may be interested in having a copy of this newsletter please feel free to email a copy to them, or alternatively give us their email address and we will send them a copy. This will ensure that they continue to receive a copy whenever we produce the next edition.

We do not make our database available to anyone and the only thing we promote is membership of the choir and our upcoming concerts. In the unlikely event that you don't like our content, you can unsubscribe at any time.

### Up coming events

**Sunday 12th August - Singer of the year** (see flier) →

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August** Australian Youth Band Concert  
2.00 p.m. The James Tatoulis Auditorium,  
MLC, 207 Barkers Road, Kew.

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> September** Salvation Army Concert  
7:30 p.m. 51 Wantirna Road, Ringwood,

**Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> October** Recital at St Mary's Basilica  
(sponsored by Tuckers)  
2:00 p.m. St Mary's Cathedral, 150 Yarra Street, Geelong

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> October**  
Joint Concert with the Sydney Welsh Choir  
2:00 p.m. Kingston Arts Centre,  
979-985 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin



## Ashton-Smith Singers & Melbourne Welsh Male Choir

With 3 Finalists from MWMC  
2018 Singer of the Year Competition

## Singer of the Year Final Concert

3 pm Sunday afternoon  
12th August

The James Tatoulis Auditorium - MLC  
207 Barkers Road, Kew

### Tickets

Adult \$35 Group (6 or more) \$30  
Children (under 15) \$15

www.melbournewelshchoir.com.au/tickets  
Ph: 9800 3889

### Job Appraisal

*Donated his brain to science before he was done using it.*

### Contacts

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