

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

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President: Joan Huggan ph. 5721 3639
Section Leaders:
Soprano: Helen van Riet ph. 5725 7207
Alto: Irene Niederegger ph. 5726 5298
Tenor: John van Riet ph 5725 7207
Bass: Neil McPherson ph 5763 2381

COMMITTEE POSITIONS FOR 2008

President	Joan Huggan	Vice President	Leo Maguire
Secretary	Helen Porter	Music Librarian	Anne Bittner
Treasurer	Glenda Burke	Assistant Treasurer	John Porter
General Committee Members:-			
Carmel Carmody	Helen Dwyer	Agnes Kendall	Irene Niederegger
Margaret Roy	Bev Vonarx	Patrick Ward	Janet Wigg

Section Leaders:-

Bass	Neil McPherson	Tenor	John van Riet
Alto	Irene Niederegger	Soprano	Helen van Riet

Historian Ann Van Rooyen

TREASURER'S REPORT:

We have a healthy balance, but in the near future a major purchase of risers for performances is planned.

TOTAL OF OUR MUSIC STOCK: 5,728 copies 206 songs
Stored in three filing cabinets at Anne's home.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007 – 2008

It is my pleasure to report our choir currently has 52 members, some of whom have requested Leave of Absence because of health or family matters. We are delighted to have 3 medical students join us for 6 months and in 2007 the Japanese Exchange Teachers sang with our choir. It is fantastic that Ostinato welcomes and enjoys the company of these International visitors while they are in Wangaratta, and a wonderful way for us to share with them in singing.

Ruth our Musical Director selects, prepares and arranges a variety of music for us to learn and enjoy. Sharing her musical gifts and expertise with us each week, "she waves her arms" endeavouring to improve our singing especially when we look at her now and again - *Thank you Ruth*. A special thank you to the team of supporters - Bronwyn, David, Patrick, John and Helen van Riet, who assisted when Ruth was away.

During the year we received invitations from Max Parkinson, St John's Village and Nursing Home, Rangeview and the Senior Citizens. We sang at the launch of the new "Recreation Activities Directory for Wise Adults", held in the King George Gardens. When Illoura, Wangaratta's newest Nursing Home opened, Ostinato was the first group to entertain the residents.

Earlier this year we said a final farewell to Evelyn Canavan and sang *Ave Verum* and the *Ascot Gavotte*, Evelyn's requests, at her funeral service. I would like to thank all our choir members who are able to come and sing at these special functions.

Our Winter Concert at the Cathedral was enjoyed by all and we have been invited back this year.

Now a choir of more than 45 singers and with increasing audiences, it was necessary to find a new venue for our Christmas Concert. TAFE Auditorium was a great venue for the singers and the audience. The Choir sang to a full house and appreciated the closer contact with their audience. A start with the fire brigade in attendance and Mary Ward at the end of the concert with her team producing cups of tea from one small urn did not detract from the success of the day.

Thanks to all those who assisted Mary on the day and to everyone for a very fantastic Christmas Concert. The reports I heard were all positive - *Congratulations*. Wangaratta Council's Tri-annual grant and the Community Raffle assist with the purchase of music. We have also had some donations of music increasing the choices for Ruth. Thank you to Anne Bittner, who keeps our increasing library in order and needed a new filing cabinet to "house" the music.

A special thank you to all the members of the committee for their commitment and assistance during the year. My role as president has been made much easier with Helen Porter as secretary, who turns my scraps of paper, phone calls and notes, in amazingly short time into agendas, programs, certificates and advertising material and always with a smile. *Many thanks Helen*.

To you all, our singers, thank you for your support, assistance and your regular attendance. The behind the scenes members - Anne our historian; the drivers who collect people each week; the furniture movers; Nancy who makes sure there is tea and coffee and the supper providers - *you are all appreciated*.

Enjoy another year of singing and friendship.

Joan Huggan.



MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT APRIL 2008

The end of another successful year of music making for *Ostinato*; we seem to be going from strength to strength. Last year's mid-year concert was one of which we could be justifiably proud. Our ensemble work is steadily improving and as we all listen to each other more closely we are tuning in better and better. I think that the new seating arrangement has worked extremely well. The rich, full sound of the tenors and basses is being enhanced by the now much rounder sound of the altos, with the sopranos giving a lift to the overall sound.

Performing in the TAFE auditorium at the end of the year proved to be a great highlight. The acoustic is very sympathetic and this is a venue to which I feel we should return, as long as we can organise that everyone can not only stand comfortably, but also see the one out the front waving her arms around.

At this point I must thank yet again, Bronwyn and David Pearse for their taking over the rehearsals whilst I was off gallivanting. It was because of their preparation that the Christmas concert was such a success. Whilst in the thanking mode I'd also like to say a huge one to Glenise Williams, without whom the rehearsals would just not come together at all. When she has been off on her bicycle somewhere, Neil McPherson has been a true stalwart stepping into the breach. Another thank you needs to go to Patrick Ward and the van Riets who looked after *Ostinato* when I was called away and Bron was not available. We are all very grateful for the expertise of our fellow members.

One of the things that we all need to remember is that the choir is as good as the sum of its parts. Boggy Creek Vineyards make a very pleasant Cabernet Sauvignon. They also make a very drinkable Shiraz. When the two are blended they produce an award winning, stunning wine. We may not all be soloists. In fact a choir containing 40 soloists wouldn't be a choir at all. What we have is a great combination of different voices blending to make a good sound. This is where the work of section leaders needs to come in. Your section leader is not there just for his/her good looks. Your section leader is there to help solve problems and, where possible, help organise section rehearsals and the like. It is always easier to sing well if you can sing confidently and it's amazing what a difference knowing your part can make. We are very privileged to have new faces/voices joining us as we continue to grow. It's been great having our medico friends join us whilst they are based at the hospital. Alicia no longer has the position of "baby" of the group. It's terrific to be able to welcome Nicholas Bronwick into that role. We hope you both stay with us for years to come and with a bit of luck bring along a few of your friends as well, the more the merrier.

As ever, I must say a thank you to our President, Joan Huggan, and all the committee members, for their hard work. I think that we can now say that *Ostinato* is an established community choir.

May we continue to sing, have fun and enjoy ourselves for a long time into the future.

Ruth Hill Noble.

