



Newsletter

November 2014

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland

Past Patron: Dr I G Dicker

From the Director

“So this is Christmas, and what have you done? Another year over, and a new one just begun.”

John Lennon

Maybe John Lennon is an unusual person to quote as he his views on religion are quite controversial and uncertain. However, looking at the words, what has TCS done this year? The New Year is always a good time to reflect on the past year but as TCS does not meet until February, it is a bit late to reflect then!

2014 has been a big year for TCS – the choir started 25 years ago, and still remains committed to its goals of bringing Cathedral-style music to congregations or indeed anyone who would like to hear us.

We started the year with some workshops and recording sessions. The recordings are nearly ready to be mastered. It has taken a while for a variety of reasons. We have also had a very successful tour to Bathurst (as you can see later in the newsletter).

We were pleased to be able to sing the Faure Requiem again at St John’s, Dee Why. There were new sponsors this year and it was accompanied by organ rather than orchestra. We also combined with the parish choir for this.

We have had several leads for new tenors, although none of them has so far led to a “signing”. However, the option of a scholarship has brought some more interest. As mentioned elsewhere, we are grateful to Emma and Janet for filling in temporarily – we have also had basses singing some parts and altos singing others. It has unfortunately limited the repertoire a little but we have maintained our busy programme and still introduced some new repertoire.

We start the Christmas period soon with our regular Advent /Carol services at Leura, Cremorne, Balmain and Gordon. I hope that we will be able to see our friends and supporters at least one of these events.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Jim Abraham
DIRECTOR



From the Chair



Greetings!

For various reasons we have not published a TCS Newsletter for some time and are now preparing for the Christmas season. I personally am really enjoying learning Gibbons "This is Record of John" ready for our annual pilgrimage to St Alban's Leura for Advent Carols.

We are a fairly "select" group at the best of times, but at present we are suffering from having several members of the choir that are doing so well professionally that they are travelling all over Australia. That is a really good excuse for missing TCS events and giving the rest of us good experience in "being prepared". Our amazing lady tenors Emma and Janet are also getting very proficient and we thank them for their adaptability – and expertise. We also thank our faithful tenor deputies who come to our aid when they can. Thanks to our Patron, Sir Trevor Garland, we now have a couple of tenors in the wings and we hope that we can persuade them to join us permanently.

It is very good to have Pdraig coming to sing Bass more often. As their boys get older, we might have Hilary joining us sometimes as well. On a sadder note, we are losing Mary from our ranks and will really miss her soprano contribution as well as her contribution on the committee.

We were very sorry to hear of the loss of Bishop Ken Short, who died suddenly recently. He was an amazing man and TCS was his brainchild.

We had a great weekend away in August when we sang at Bathurst. You will read more about that further on. As well as the thrill of singing at both Cathedrals, we really enjoyed having time to discover what an interesting town it is and some of us found the Museum and Art Gallery fascinating – as you will notice! Thanks to our esteemed leader for being so multitalented that he drove us up in the school bus as well as conducting and playing for the services and concert.

As well as acknowledging our amazing choristers, I would like to thank our committee for all the work they have done during the year. Although we do not have many meetings as such, there is very regular communication by email as everyone is so busy. Everyone is always ready to assist as needed as there is a huge amount of work to do behind the scenes. Our Librarian, Lynn Bock, spends a lot of time in the TCS room at St John's and conscientiously keeps track of the large amount of music that we use. Finally, may I thank our wonderful Director, Jim Abraham, who manages to keep on top of service and music preparation in the middle of his crazy life. Without him, we would not be doing anything!

We wish you all a very blessed Christmas season and hope to see many of you at one of our Carol Services or in the New Year.

God bless
Jan Kneeshaw
Secretary/ Chair



. Check out our website and then tell your friends!

www.cathedralsingers.org.au

See details of the choir, news, coming events, music listings, contacts for bookings weddings and other events, information for interested choristers wanting to audition.

Are you a tenor or soprano? We need you!!!



TCS Christmas 2014

Come and join us for one of these events

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
NOVEMBER	Sunday	30	7.00 pm	Advent Carol Service	St Alban's Leura
DECEMBER	Saturday	13	7.30pm	Carols at the Consulate	Oakhurst
	Sunday	14	6.00 pm	Lessons and Carols	St John's Balmain
	Friday	19	7.30 pm	Lessons and Carols	St Peter's Cremorne
	Sunday	21	7.30 pm	Lessons and Carols	St John's Gordon
	Tuesday	24	11.00 pm	Choral Eucharist	St John's Balmain

Grant from Ku-ring-gai Council

We are thrilled to announce that TCS has again been awarded a grant from Ku-ring-gai Council in 2014-5. We have been invited to sing for them on occasions, the most recent event being a small group who led the singing of the National Anthem at the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Council Chambers.



Mary Carter



Mary and Daughter, Rhiannon

Mary has had quite a year! She reports that she and Rod went on a 3 week road trip around England, Scotland and Wales. They even caught up with Marg & Ron Wright in London just before they came back to Sydney. After that trip they flew to Budapest and spent a few days there before joining a Scenic River Cruise which took us from Budapest to Amsterdam. They then went to Melbourne to help their daughter Rhiannon prepare for her wedding.

Mary is now back at School, in the throes of End of Year commitments. We were very sorry to receive her resignation recently as she has decided that she needs to give more time to her family and work commitments. Having got the travel bug, she also now needs to keep working to finance the habit!

We will really miss Mary, who has been in the choir for 9 years and has been our Membership Secretary for some time. We hope that before long, she will be able to come back and sing with us as a deputy – or return fulltime!

TCS Committee

After our AGM recently we can announce that the Committee for 2015 is:

- Secretary/Public Officer:** Jan Kneeshaw
- Treasurer:** David Lewis
- Minutes Secretary:** Janet Long
- Membership Secretary:** Emma Ericson
- Social Secretary:** Nicola Leaney
- Ordinary Member:** Madeleine Rowles
- Librarian:** Lynn Bock.



Singing Fauré Requiem at St John's Dee Why

Our Director and the Secretary are currently finalising our Engagement Schedule for next year.

Valé - Bishop Ken Short – the founder of TCS

“Bishop Short suggested to Shirley Mills that with the demise of parish choirs there should be a choir that could sing regularly during school holidays and when the Cathedral Choir was not

available. His wife, Gloria, was a semi-professional singer and sang with Shirley Mills. The Bishop asked Shirley to start a group called The Cathedral Singers. There was no money, no music, no robes. Their first performance was on the October Long Weekend in 1989.”



Pauline Thomas, TCS Chorister, who was Public Relations Officer in the early days.

The Right Reverend Kenneth Short AO

6 July - 19 October 2014

**ThL hon (ACT)
Ordained 1952**

CMS Missionary Tanganyika 1955 - 1964

NSW General Secretary CMS 1964 – 1971

Canon St Andrew's Cathedral 1970 – 1975

Rector, St Michael's Vaucluse 1971 – 1975

Bishop of Wollongong 1975 – 1982

Chaplain General (Major General) Australian Army 1979 – 1981

Bishop of the Defence Force 1979 – 1989

Bishop of Parramatta 1982 – 1989

Archdeacon of Sydney 1990 – 1991

Dean of Sydney 1989 – 1992

Chaplain for Readers, Wollongong, 1995 – 1999

**St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney
2pm, Monday 27th October 2014**

Bishop Ken Short AO, former missionary, military chaplain, Dean of Sydney and Bishop of Wollongong, Parramatta and the Defence Forces, has died at the age of 87. Bishop Short suffered a massive stroke and died on Sunday, 19th October.

Archbishop Glenn Davies described Bishop Short as 'a faithful pastor, a gracious leader, and an elder statesman of the Sydney Diocese'. He had international experience and was greatly respected around the world. He had a significant impact in all the ministries in which he was involved, whether in parish, chaplaincy, missionary service or diocesan leadership'. <http://sydneyanglicans.net>

Bishop Ken Short was the first Anglican Bishop to the Defence Force and the last of the Army Chaplain-Generals. Because of this service his funeral service was granted full military honours.

<http://www.defenceanglicans.org.au>.

Bishop Short has three children, all involved in ministry, including Canon David Short, who has been in Canada for more than 20 years. Our sympathies are with his wife Gloria and the family at this time. Ed.



TCS Trip to Bathurst – 16/17 August 2014

We sang at both Cathedrals –

Vigil Mass and Concert



St Michael and St John's Cathedral
Cnr Keppel and William Streets
Bathurst NSW 2795

8.30am Eucharist

4.30pm Evensong



**ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL,
BATHURST**



Having the opportunity of a trip away, all driving done for us was something both Robyn and I signed up for as soon as the arrangements had been made by Madame Chair and Chief TCS Organiser Madeleine.

Bathurst is always a precious place for me. When I was a child my parents always stopped for a meal at Heath's cafe in George street. We never ate out as a family unless it was an absolute necessity. With another four hours to Wellington, where I spent a lot of school holidays, my parents rightly gave a good meal to ensure we wouldn't whinge all the way west!

Confirmation as a Bathurst Anglican was ticked off my list during my year working at the Central Mapping Authority in 1986! I still have wonderful memories of chats with Dean Shuemack in preparation. After being baptised at St John's, Wellington, it was fitting to return to Bathurst to be confirmed.

Now, the trip in the Pittwater House school bus was really well managed by Jim. Despite protestations from the passengers, we did not stop at any sights, well reviewed restaurants, or indeed any place between pickup at Gordon to first wee/dinner stop at Lithgow. Well done team!



How to choose where to stay? Trust Google ads we did! The Knickerbocker Hotel check-in met with immediate disorientation for me. The comfortable sunny bistro has given way to a gambling den. Never mind, as apart from TCS there was one other room filled in the hotel! The publican needs something to pay his bills.

A place I had never been inside was the Catholic Cathedral at Bathurst. On a previous visit, I did see the charter of cooperation between faiths exhibited in the Narthex in Bathurst Anglican Cathedral. A beautiful document, that really shone through in practicality with the welcome we received on Saturday afternoon.



The Saturday Vigil at the Catholic Cathedral was followed by a concert, with quite a few of the parishioners attending. We made use of both organ and electric piano provided by the parish.

Saturday night was good choir bonding time, with most of us going to a delightful Indian restaurant very near our digs. Photos on facebook have been seen by many I'm sure!

Sunday morning came too quickly for most of us, with an early call for 8:30 Holy Eucharist. Michael Hissey was a big help providing collegiate choir support. It was lovely singing with the beautiful pipe organ installed directly above the choir stalls.

Quite a gap between Holy Eucharist and Evensong! My team decided to go on a walk around the river area. After years of thinking I knew which way the Macquarie flowed, I was entirely wrong! A lot of work has been done to mitigate flood waters, but evident from our walk was there has been a long time between floods. Returning to town we crossed over the old Great Western Highway bridge. A very narrow two lane affair, with half of it closed due to gaps in the road surface!

With almost five km walked, you would think I would be able to eat anything in front of me. We stopped at the Acropole, a well established Greek restaurant. How wrong was I! No small towers on huge white plates here. A solid feed of Lasagne which made me feel like going to sleep at Machattie Park for the afternoon.



Machattie Park, Bathurst

Supper was served after in the Diocesan Hall. I was pleased to have some room to eat after my Acropole Restaurant experience! After engaging too long in conversation with our hosts, I was politely reminded that we still had to get back to Sydney!

We will see you again in your bicentennial year (2015),
Bathurst!
Thank you!

Bob Watson - Bass

AKA - Bob the Baritone - who sometimes comes in on time....

Well, time did pass after a stroll through Machattie Park, so that we would gown up again to sing Evensong. The service is conducted in the old part of the Cathedral of Bathurst. An intimate and inspiring service. Thank you Michael Hissey for your cantor contribution.



The Cathedral Singers in Bathurst

Photo: Michael Hissey

BATHURST CATHEDRAL – THE COBURN PAINTING

Quote from co-ordinator of the cathedral's guides, Lalage Gabb in an ABC Interview – May 2014
<http://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2014/05/15/4005393.htm>:

"Surrounding the walls of the nave is a brightly coloured wall hanging. It's around ten metres tall with splashes of brown, orange, blue and green paint covering the canvas.

"The John Coburn painting is the one thing that most people come to the cathedral for when they hear about it," says Lalage.

"It was a big, long painting that was created for the World Council of Churches in 1991 when it met in Canberra.

"When it came to this cathedral it had to be split into five pieces, and John Coburn himself supervised the cutting of the painting where he thought appropriate."
The painting is today worth around \$100,000.

This poor quality photo taken to capture the words displayed on the vestibule wall. – JK

"The painting by John Coburn which hangs on the walls of the Cathedral is a work that was commissioned for the seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches held in Canberra in 1991. The title of the painting is "Come Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation." This painting was enabled to be placed in this Cathedral due to the generosity of the World Council of Churches and as a mark of honour for a generous benefactor to the Diocese of Bathurst, Maud May Papworth.



*This painting was able to be purchased out of the Papworth Bequest and the Diocese wished to remember the generosity of the benefactor by placing a significant work of art in this Cathedral for all to enjoy and gain inspiration and encouragement from its message.
9th April 1991."*

TRAVEL HINTS FROM BATHURST

Two other good reasons to visit Bathurst – apart from the Cathedrals!

Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum

As well as displaying a huge model dinosaur, the Dinosaur museum houses the most incredible collection of minerals and fossils. (If you look hard in this photo you might see another much-loved fossil and I am sure he would see the humour in this - hope so, anyway!)



The tourist sights of Bathurst.

Having read the draft of Bob's description of his adventures in Bathurst, I realised that more tales need to be told. We headed in the other direction and found 2 wonderful places to visit. We were fascinated and had a wonderful afternoon.

Anyone who has not been to Bathurst lately should try to get to these two places:

The Somerville Museum (as above) is located in the 1876 School House – a fitting use of this building. Having lined Dave the Dinosaur up next to the Museum sign to get his photo, we went inside and could not believe what we found there. I recently went to Darwin and Tennant Creek and saw amazing displays of minerals and fossils in those places. Maybe this display beats them both!

To quote the website

<http://www.somervillecollection.com.au/>:

"The Somerville Collection is the lifetime work of Warren Somerville and features some of the finest and rarest examples of minerals and fossils in the world.



The specimens currently on display in the Museum represent about one quarter of the total Collection. Highlights from the mineral collection include crystals from over 100 Australian mine sites, 2,000 million years old garnets, as well as diamonds, sapphires, rubies, emeralds and other gems from around the world.

Features of the fossil collection include a T.rex skeleton, Australia's largest collection of fossils in amber, fossil dinosaur eggs, some of the oldest fossils of early forms of life, and a large collection of Australia's unique opalised fossils.

Professor Warren Somerville AM collector and donator of the Somerville Collection.

Warren Somerville is an extraordinary Australian. The holder of five degrees, a part-time university lecturer for more than 20 years, a full-time teacher in the NSW TAFE for more than 25 years, an orchardist in Orange, he has spent a lifetime building one of the world's leading private collections of minerals and fossils.



The Somerville Collection comprises both Australian and international specimens, including fossils up to 1000 million years old. As part of the museum project, Warren was appointed as the full-time Curator of the collection as well as a professor on the Bathurst campus of Charles Sturt University. He currently holds a position on the museum's management board.

Mr Warren Somerville has donated his priceless life's work and legacy to the people of Australia.

This internationally significant collection is a unique educational resource.”

We then found the **Bathurst Regional Art Gallery** that our intrepid Tour Leader Madeleine had found on Google. Here again we were interested by the exhibits and the story behind them.

<http://www.bathurstart.com.au/>

Built in 1989, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery was the first purpose built regional gallery in NSW, and provides professional development opportunities for local and regional artists.



It operates the highly celebrated Hill End Artists in Residence Program. This began as a partnership between Bathurst Regional Council and curator Gavin Wilson in 1995. Since then the program has grown into one of Australia's most sought after residencies. The Hill End AIR Program allows contemporary Australian and international artists the chance to experience and respond to the historically charged landscape of Hill End. Successful applicants spend four weeks living and working in either Haefligers or Murrays Cottage during the period March 2015 to March 2016.

I hope all this wide-ranging description of our entire weekend may inspire some reader to visit this historic town. Ed.

TCS is available to sing at weddings and other events.

Contact us:

By Mail: **PO Box 569 GORDON NSW 2072**

By email: **tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au**

By phone: 02 9144 4915 Mobile: 0411 785 117

www.cathedralsingers.org.au

Japanese Maple

BY CLIVE JAMES

Your death, near now, is of an easy sort.
So slow a fading out brings no real pain.
Breath growing short
Is just uncomfortable. You feel the drain
Of energy, but thought and sight remain:

Enhanced, in fact. When did you ever see
So much sweet beauty as when fine rain falls
On that small tree
And saturates your brick back garden walls,
So many Amber Rooms and mirror halls?

Ever more lavish as the dusk descends
This glistening illuminates the air.
It never ends.
Whenever the rain comes it will be there,
Beyond my time, but now I take my share.

My daughter's choice, the maple tree is new.
Come autumn and its leaves will turn to flame.
What I must do
Is live to see that. That will end the game
For me, though life continues all the same:

Filling the double doors to bathe my eyes,
A final flood of colors will live on
As my mind dies,
Burned by my vision of a world that shone
So brightly at the last, and then was gone.



Clive James



From the New Yorker September 15, 2014

This is not quite the normal TCS entry – an indulgence of mine as I contemplated this poem – Jan Kneeshaw –Ed.

The poem ends with an acknowledgement by James that he led an extraordinary life. I hope people remember the amazing exploits of Clive as an incorrigible boy adding to the woes of his poor mother when living at Kogarah about the 1950s. He writes hilarious tales of his crazy childhood in "Unreliable Memoirs", published in 1980. It is one of the few books I still read and always laugh with. Remember Billycart Hill and the Dunny man??

I heard Jack Thompson read this poem today, in a voice uncannily like Clive James' himself.

Clive James AO, CBE is known for his wit, erudition and prolific output. He received the Special Award of the 2012 NSW Premier's Literary Awards in recognition of his contribution – as a writer, critic, broadcaster and poet – to the Australian literary and creative communities. On Australia Day this year he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

CD Order/Donation Form



The Cathedral Singers



TCS Sings Evensong



Lo! The Star

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Other _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Enclosed is my cheque/money order for: (✓ Tick appropriate box/s)

- CD 3 “Lo! The Star” @ \$15 each _____ \$ _____
- CD 2 “The Cathedral Singers” @ \$15 each _____ \$ _____
- CD 4 “The Cathedral Singers Sing Evensong” @ 15 each _____ \$ _____
- Any 2 CDs - \$25 _____ \$ _____
- Any 3 CDs - \$30 _____ \$ _____
- + Postage and handling @ \$5 per CD _____ \$ _____

- Donation for our ongoing ministry _____ \$ _____

- Total: _____ \$ _____

Cheques should be made payable to “The Cathedral Singers Donation Fund”

Banking details for direct transfers (please notify us by email):

Bank account details: BSB 814 282 A/c 504 371 53

Note: this is a new account.

Postal address: The Cathedral Singers PO Box 569 Gordon NSW 2072

Please email us for further details: tcs@cathedralsingers.org.au

or ring Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or 0411 785 117

More details on our website: www.cathedralsingers.org.au

All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible

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