



Newsletter

October 2015

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland

Past Patron: Dr I G Dicker

25th Anniversary edition

From the Director

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing the last newsletter but it turns out it was July – how time flies! As you will see in the newsletter, TCS has been through a busy spell with many services, a recording session and also a weekend away. Much work for these things goes on behind the scenes and many thanks to the members of the committee who work tirelessly to ensure that things go as smoothly as possible. Most events require many emails and phone calls. One recent service from our weekend away required several emails to find out who to email!

One of the advantages of being a peripatetic choir is that we are used to many different formats of services and are adaptable. This was shown at the morning service in Goulburn where originally there was a baptism in the service. At the last moment, this was cancelled and we needed to sing a Kyrie. The “local” Kyrie was given to us two minutes before the service started but once we were in the choirstalls, the organist suggested that we sing the Darke in F Kyrie if we were happy to do so –we sang it even though we had never rehearsed it in that building!

This year we celebrate the 25th year of TCS – so this is our Jubilee year. Life 25 years ago was very different. What else happened in 1990?

- Nelson Mandela was released from prison
- Margaret Thatcher resigned as Prime Minister of the UK
- Tim Berners-Lee (who most people have never heard of) created the first web server and the next year the internet was born
- Mikhail Gorbachev was elected first executive president of the Soviet Union and Boris Yeltsin was elected a the first elected president of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic
- The Berlin Wall started to be officially dismantled
- Robert Runcie, Archbishop of the Canterbury announced his retirement
- A stampede in Mecca resulted in 1426 deaths,
- Iraq invaded Kuwait
- Bob Hawke was elected for the fourth time.
- The year started in Australia with interest rates of 17.5% !
- Kylie Minogue was a popular singer in the charts
- The Royal New Zealand Navy discontinued its daily rum ration
- The Director of Music at St Mary’s Cathedral was David Russell with the organist being Peter Kneeshaw, while the Director of Music at St Andrews Cathedral was Michael Deasey.

So, a year of some very important changes. Liturgically, there have also been significant changes over the past 25 years. I suspect that church attendance was a higher percentage of the population in 1990. TCS has tried to maintain the tradition of the heritage of church music whilst still adapting to change.

There are plenty of emails that go round talking of the good old days when life was simpler, people had more respect, there was less stress in life and political correctness had not been invented. However, looking at some of the events of 1990, many people around the world were not so well off as they are now. I think that looking through history reveals some things get better and some worse!

I hope that as many of you as are able will be at St John's Gordon to celebrate our 25th year at Choral Evensong at 4.00pm on 11th October. The setting will be Herbert Brewer in D. (It is 150 years since Brewer's birth).

There are also many Christmas services listed later in the newsletter

Jim Abraham
DIRECTOR

Wise words from the Director.....!!!!

From the Chair

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of our 25th year! It is hard to keep up!

One of our best known members, Pauline Thomas, is giving an overview of our history further on. She has been directly involved with TCS for most of those years and was Secretary for some time.

We are celebrating this milestone at the Evensong at St John's Gordon on Sunday 11th October at 4pm. Anyone who would like to join us for this service would be most welcome. We are not having a big celebration due to the crazily busy lives of most of our members, many not having been with the choir long, but will meet afterw the Evensong to celebrate.

We are thrilled to welcome two new choir members - Anita Chan and Sally Rigden. As I was thinking of asking them to introduce themselves in this Newsletter, I realised that a couple of other choristers have missed out on sharing their backgrounds and experiences. Consequently, we are featuring Soprano Nicola Leaney this time. What a fascinating story she has to tell and how little we know each other! Nicola has a job at present that necessitates her often travelling anywhere in Australia..... it is not easy to learn new music when rehearsals are in the middle of the week!

Anita and Sally both have very interesting backgrounds and Sally has excelled herself in this edition by providing an amazing article about Goulburn, it's geological history and the stone that was used to build the cathedrals. She has recently returned from some years in Canada and is a parishioner at St John's Gordon. Would it surprise you to know she has a PhD in Geophysics?

God bless

Jan Kneeshaw
Secretary/ Chair



The Cathedral Singers - 25 years young!

Come and help us celebrate our anniversary

Join us for Evensong at St John's Gordon

On Sunday 11th October at 4pm.



TCS at St Saviour's Goulburn with organist Robert Smith

Continuing TCS Program for 2015

Come and join us for one of these events

| Month | Day | Date | Time | Event | Venue |
|-----------------|----------|------|---------|---|------------------------|
| OCTOBER | Sunday | 11 | 4.000pm | Evensong | St John's Gordon |
| NOVEMBER | Sunday | 1 | 9.30am | Mass | St John's Balmain |
| | Monday | 2 | 7.30pm | Faure Requiem | St John's Dee Why |
| | Sunday | 22 | 10.00am | Mass | St John's Dee Why |
| | Sunday | 22 | 2.00pm | Sesquicentenary of the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney. | St Mary's North Sydney |
| | Sunday | 29 | 7.00pm | Advent Carol Service | St Alban's Leura |
| DECEMBER | Sunday | 13 | 6.00pm | Lessons & Carols | St John's Balmain |
| | Friday | 18 | 7.30pm | Lessons & Carols | St Peter's Cremorne |
| | Sunday | 20 | 7.30pm | Lessons & Carols | St John's Gordon |
| | Thursday | 24 | 11.00pm | Midnight Mass - TBC | St John's Balmain ? |



25th Anniversary of The Cathedral Singers – a thumbnail sketch.

During the latter part of 1989, BISHOP KEN SHORT, as Dean of St Andrew's Cathedral, invited MRS SHIRLEY MILLS to form a mixed choir which could deputise for the Cathedral Choir of men and boys. SHIRLEY was a teacher of singing and had conducted several singing groups. She accepted the challenge, in spite of having no music, no money, no robes and no singers. By October, The Cathedral Singers were ready to sing their first Sunday services. Membership grew fairly quickly, and after 2 months, with almost 30 voices, they were recording an Easter program, on location, for ABC television.

The first accompanist was CRAIG WHARTON, who then resigned to follow another profession, when ERIC PETERSON, the Cathedral's deputy organist, was appointed. Having been a chorister, he had a good knowledge of Cathedral music and the ability to play it, although he was only 17 years old.

The Singers were invited to sing at several churches in the metropolitan area – many with the name “St John's”. They soon undertook tours, eg, to the Blue Mountains for weekends, to Bathurst, Canberra, Bowral, and established the annual Advent Carol Service at Leura, which remains as a “Blue Mountains event”.

When Shirley retired, Eric was appointed as Musical Director. The Singers then visited Brisbane, and soon afterwards New Zealand – Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. Later the “4Ws” trip went to Wagga Wagga, Wangaratta and Wodonga, as well as singing Christmas Carols in shopping centres and hotels. Guest conductors included MICHAEL DEASEY (St Andrew's), CHRISTOPHER DEARNLEY (St Paul's London) and Sheryl Southwood. GLENN MCKENZIE was also very much part of TCS, including a time as Deputy Director.

When Eric resigned, Sydney organist and composer BRETT MCKERN followed as Musical Director.. Under his direction, the Singers made two tours to England, 2008 and 2011, including singing in Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral London, York, Ely, Peterborough Cathedrals and others, plus Great St Mary's Parish Church, Cambridge and St John's College Chapel (there is yet another “St John's”).

The fourth and current Director is JIM ABRAHAM, who came from England in 2001, having married an Australian girl, Melissa. He is now very much part of TCS and manages to fit us into his busy schedule.

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary, The Cathedral Singers, now one of the “choirs in residence” at St John's Gordon, are singing Evensong on Sunday 11 October 2015, at 4.00pm and would be pleased to see former members and families on this occasion.

PAULINE THOMAS

TCS Alto

Formerly Manager of TCS



Pauline and Hilary Byrne in Goulburn

Gallivanting with the Gang to Goulbourn: September 2015



One gloomy Saturday morning in September, the Cathedral Singers and three followers embarked on another journey to a place with not one but two Cathedrals in a bus driven by Jim Abraham.

As usual, I spent most of the journey sleeping while our faithful choir director navigated the bleak conditions.

Those who had driven independently met us at the Astor Hotel. Pdraig Byrne with Sean and Liam, disappeared to work off some energy at a trampolining centre while the choir rehearsed.



The choir sang like angels from the choir stalls in the organ loft of the Old Cathedral of Sts Peter and Paul. The mass was well attended and it was a delight to worship in such an ornate setting where an infant was dedicated and we were so warmly welcomed.

Many of the congregation also stayed for the concert.

Thank you to Jim for selecting such beautiful pieces and bringing out a beautiful blend of voice, particularly after a long day as driver.



Robyn Watson – Groupie!

Dinner at the Paragon was a cosy affair. Everyone enjoyed their meal especially Angela who we have discovered has a sweet tooth!

The décor hasn't changed in many years but the service and food were excellent.

Eucharist at St Saviour's Cathedral was another moving time of worship. The beautiful sunshine and spring flowers showed Goulburn at its best. The congregation also welcomed us warmly at Morning Tea which followed.

Thank you to Madeline for providing us with a full and most enjoyable programme and to the choir and its Director for your inspiring song.

GOULBURN

This seems to have turned into an edition about Goulburn! Here are some Snippets of our trip!

The War Memorial Tower



Nan Lewis and Sally Rigden – with the guns and rosemary

This memorial is for the many people who went to War from the Goulburn region. It features pictures from the War zones, eg Pozieres in WWI.

Rehearsing at the Sts Peter & Paul Old Cathedral





Dinner at the famous Paragon Cafe in Goulburn!

Singing at St Saviour's Anglican Cathedral





A visit to the Brewery for lunch and a tour



We also met Black Watch soldiers from the Napoleonic wars, keeping their skills in firing muskets up to date.



Then we adjoined to the bus to return to Sydney

Sandstone and Bluestone

The White, the Gold and the Grey: Variations on a Geological Theme.

Our first view of the city of Goulburn was from Rocky Hill, site of the Goulburn War Memorial. This iconic tower can be seen from the highway that now bypasses the city and is used in miniature to mark the entry to Goulburn from both Hume Highway exits. It was a dull and drizzly day when we arrived but the tower still provided a spectacular view over the Mulwaree Ponds and the cityscape beyond. St Saviour's Cathedral and St Peter and St Paul's Old Cathedral were clearly visible on either side of the yellowish stucco of the Post Office tower - the gold and the grey.



Both these churches dominate the cityscape with their towers and spires. Their interiors provided wonderful acoustics for The Cathedral Singers on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.



Goulburn War Memorial Tower

The White: The War Memorial, opened in 1924, commemorates those who served and died during the First World War. It is an imposing square tower constructed of concrete, mortar and locally derived clean, white, fine-grained sandstone from Rocky Hill. Rocky Hill is part of a longer resistant ridge of this sandstone from the Cockbundoon Formation.

Jointing and fracturing in this rock provides the small-brick sized blocks from which the tower is built.



Close-up of fine-grained, clean white quartz sandstone of Rocky Hill

Detail of quartz sandstone bricks in War Memorial Tower





The Grey: St Peter and St Paul's is purportedly the only "bluestone" church in the southern hemisphere.

Contrasting Bishopsthorpe Dolerite and Wingello Sandstone on the exterior of St Peter and St Paul's Old Cathedral



Adjacent dolerite and sandstone blocks



Close-up view of massive dolerite

While the exterior walls are dominated by the distinctive grey-green dolerite (locally known as diorite porphyry), the colouring a feature of the dark greenish minerals in the rock, the contrasting golden sandstone used elsewhere in the construction and in the stone carvings is Wingello Stone from Marulan. After some consultations and further research with geological and topographic maps and the ever-present Google, it seems likely that the local quarry from which the dolerite is sourced is about 2km to the WNW of SPP on Range Road. An old quarry is clearly visible from the air and the geological map confirms that rock is the aptly-named massive, grey-green Bishopsthorpe Dolerite. This stone was also used to construct nearby Bishopsthorpe, the residence of the first Anglican Bishop of Goulburn, in 1870. Thus, the quarry was already well-developed when construction for the Catholic Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul began in 1871. It is interesting to note that the massive nature of the diorite and its hardness would have made it significantly more difficult to work than the sandstones used in some parts of the construction and almost exclusively at St Saviour's. This may account for the rougher form of the stone blocks in the Old Cathedral. A further point of interest is that the term "bluestone" is also used to describe the rocks of Stonehenge, also dolerite.

The Gold: St Saviour's Cathedral is a spectacular example of Edmund Blackett's ecclesiastical architecture with its exterior and interior walls of the warmly-cream Marulan Sandstone, interior load-bearing columns of dark golden Pymont Sandstone and facings and detail of luminous white Bundanoon Sandstone. Weathering has painted the exterior walls, tower and carvings a warm gold. The sandstone construction of this building has made it easier to produce the evenly shaped sandstone blocks from which it is made.





Contrasting Pymont (columns), Marulan (walls) and Bundanoon (arches) Stone at St Saviour's Cathedral.

Detail showing coarse-grained Pymont Sandstone column topped with the luminous, fine-grained Bundanoon Sandstone. Pymont Sandstone is used in many public buildings in NSW in a load-bearing capacity in view of its strength.



Edge of Screen (Bundanoon Sandstone) that separates the Memorial Chapel from the northern aisle. The screen abuts the coarser golden Marulan Sandstone. The Chapel is entirely constructed of Bundanoon Sandstone.

Sally Rigden,
TCS Soprano
October, 2015



**Support The Cathedral Singers
BUY A PEN!!!
Good quality pens available for a donation to TCS. Ask a choir member!**

Nicola Leaney – Soprano



Nicola Leaney first sang at Artarmon Public School and won a talent contest on the Showboat where she was allowed to steer the ship under the Sydney Harbour Bridge. During her formal singing career she sang with Yvonne Kenny and when asked whether she wanted to be a professional singer chose science instead!

Nicola and Emma in 2014 - with Jim Abraham Yvonne Kenny went on to have a very successful singing career and Nicola contributed to the national gene pool by birthing four children. Nicola continues to sing with The Cathedral Singers which is uplifting (for her) and brings happiness to the churches where we perform.

Nicola 3rd from left - at St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn. Sorry, Nicola, I could not resist it!

Preparing to rehearse:

Back row: John Stanbridge, Dave Lewis, Bob Watson

Front Row: Angela Ngu, Sally Rigden, Nicola Leaney, Lynn Bock



TCS - 25 Years young!

We look forward to seeing many of our friends and supporters at
Evensong at St John's Gordon next weekend
Sunday 11 October at 4pm.
Come and worship with us on this significant occasion!

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.

Would you like to consider joining us?

Contact Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or the Director, Jim Abraham on 0405 817 27

CD Order/Donation Form



The Cathedral Singers



TCS Sings Evensong



Lo! The Star

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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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