



Newsletter

Patron: Sir Trevor Garland
Past Patron: Dr I G Dicker

August 2016

From the Director

I am writing this article the day after the opening of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Whilst watching last night, I wondered what the ceremony would have been like if there had been no music at all. Not all of the music was to my taste, although much of it was. It would be difficult to deny that the mood was increased with the addition of music.

This also applies to choirs singing in services. Hopefully, it helps to create a suitable atmosphere – although most of us have probably experienced the times when it was a distraction to worship!. There are some people who consider that choir items are more like a concert and that everyone should be participating. I think this is becoming more prevalent as we move towards a very me-centred culture with instant gratification and wanting everything now. There are often cries of “it is only older people who like the traditional liturgical music” – and again you cannot dispute that the majority in traditional church music circles are of an age beyond generation Z. However, it may be that to recognise that it is possible to be spiritually moved by another group requires a maturity and life experience that many do not have until later in life.

Best wishes,
Jim Abraham
Director

Stop Press – Today TCS with St John’s Gordon choirs were involved in a moving service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for the Battle of Pozieres in 1916 – the mostly costly battle in Australian lives in any of our history. We were privileged to be joined by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Rt’d) and his wife, as well as other dignitaries.



www.cathedralsingers.org.au

Check out our website and then tell your friends!

Would you like to consider joining us?

Contact Jan Kneeshaw on 9144 4915 or the Director,
Jim Abraham on 0405 817 276

From the Chair

We seem to have had a lull before our activities pick up again with a workshop, a chance to sing Evensong at Holy Trinity Terrigal and our annual country pilgrimage, this time to Mudgee. We should also note that many of the choir seem to lead very busy lives, so apologies for the lack of news recently. We are looking forward to the above activities before we start the Advent and Christmas seasons.



I have to admit to having been overseas for most of May, traveling through Turkey and Greece in the footsteps of St Paul. We went in spite of the travel advisories giving caution about going to Turkey. This is a shame because the people need tourism. Thank goodness we went when we did!

For 3 weeks we enjoyed exploring Roman ruins, Byzantine churches, cave churches and dwellings and more well known sites like the Acropolis in Athens.

Highlights were hot air ballooning over the fairy chimneys in Cappadocia and going over to the island of Patmos where St John was said to have written the book of Revelation.

We became familiar with places with names to be found in the New Testament, although I admit to being very confused when I first got home and am trying to record relevant information to go with the photos I took.



We were privileged to be able to sit in the spot where Paul gave his first sermon at Pisidian Antioch as recorded in Acts 15, vv 14 -51. On their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabus went to the local Synagogue and were invited to speak. So in 46AD Paul, preached the revolutionary new gospel, so soon after the death and resurrection of Jesus. It had a huge impact on the people there.



The three cities of Heirapolis, Colossae and Laodicea were the cities criticised in Revelation as being neither hot nor cold and are in fact close together, situated between the thermal waters of Pamakkale and the snow topped mountains.

Travelling with a very congenial group led by Bishop Rob Forsyth was a bonus and we continued up the west coast of Turkey, to Gallipoli and through Greece to Delphi then Athens. It was a great trip.



It has taken me awhile to get back to normal and lots has happened since, hence the newsletter is late, although a reminder about donations was sent out before the end of the financial year. We would like to especially thank those who generously sent us donations at that time.

We would also like to welcome a new chorister – alto Dr Anne Walton, who is familiar with much of the music we sing, having sung it at boarding school and university in England. Our latest tenor, Alex Hovy, is now well settled into the choir and has written a very interesting article about his background later in this Newsletter. Thank you Alex!

We look forward to seeing many of you later in the year.

Best wishes
Jan Kneeshaw

TCS Program for 2016

Come and join us for one of these events
Other activities will be announced as they arise.



Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
AUGUST	Sunday	21	10.00am	Workshop	
	Friday	26	7.00pm	Songs of Praise	St John's Gordon
SEPTEMBER	Sunday	4	9.30am	Mass	St John's Balmain
	Sunday	11	10.30am	Mass	Christ Church St Laurence
	Saturday	17	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	St Mary's Catholic Church Mudgee
	Sunday	18	8.30am	Eucharist	St John's Anglican Church, Mudgee
	Sunday	25	9.00am	Divine Service	Scots' Kirk Mosman
OCTOBER	Saturday	1	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	St Mary's Cathedral
	Sunday	9	3.30pm	Evensong	Holy Trinity Terrigal
	Sunday	23	3.00pm	Guild of Church Musicians Festival Service	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	30	9.30am	Mass	St John's Balmain
NOVEMBER	Sunday	13	4.00pm	Evensong	St John's Gordon
	Sunday	27	7.00pm	Advent Carol Service	St Alban's Leura
DECEMBER	Sunday	11	6.00pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Balmain
	Friday	16	7.30pm	Lessons & Carols	St Peter's Cremorne
	Sunday	18	7.30pm	Lessons & Carols	St John's Gordon
	Thursday	24	11.00pm	Midnight Mass	St John's Gordon

A Canadian "Choristers' Prayer"

O Lord, whose patience is infinite,
grant unto your servants according to their needs -
Unto your sopranos give the gift of sight reading,
to your altos the joy of a steady vibrato;
unto your tenors the grace of intonation
and to your basses an unfailing sense of rhythm;
and finally bring us all to that place
where there is no carping and complaining about new music,
where all are punctual and have their music at hand;
where ministers make no last minute demands
and choir directors never lose their temper.

Amen

Discovered by Dave Lewis



100 Years of ANZAC.



This year, TCS participated in two different commemorative events of the centenary of the ANZAC year. Two days before Anzac day, on a cold and rainy Saturday, we gathered to perform a suite of WWI era songs as part of a ceremony of dedication for the ANZAC Centenary Memorial at the West Pymble Mall. Our repertoire ranged well known favourites such as “It’s a Long, Long Way to Tipperary”, “Kiss me Goodnight Sergeant Major” and “The White

Cliffs of Dover” to songs used in the early recruitment drives like “Australia will be there.” A number of students who had won prizes for essays and poetry about the experience of the soldiers read from their work and Father Keith Dalby from St John’s Gordon officiated at the dedication of the Remembrance Walk and Memorial to the original ANZACs. Mayor Cheryl Szatow spoke about the impact of ANZAC on Ku-ring-gai and introduced the prize-winners while MP Paul Fletcher highlighted the importance of remembering the sacrifice of those in our community who lost their lives in the last 100 years.

After the ceremony, the singers enjoyed refreshments from a local café kindly provided by the West Pymble Chamber of Commerce.



The following Sunday, TCS participated in a service of commemoration and thanksgiving at St John’s Gordon to mark the centenary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli.

We joined the Parish Choir, the 8am Singers and Voces Joannis, filling both sides of the choir stalls, to sing the Stanford Te Deum and Jubilate, an anthem by Malcolm Archer based on the well-known hymn, “Who would true valour see” in addition to sung responses and psalms for the day.

Numerous representatives of the local community including elected officials, returned services personnel, representatives of the Ku-ring gai Historical Society, the police and local school children laid wreaths at the foot of the Pozieres Cross, a battlefield cross that has been housed in the Warriors’ Chapel at St John’s since ANZAC Sunday, 1934.

Members of the St John’s congregation provided a delicious buffet lunch after the service.

Sally Rigden
TCS Soprano



Ku-ring-gai Council
Supporting TCS



Photos – Anzac Cove -May 2016 - Jan K

A Melodious Medley of Music in Bowral

It was a brilliantly sunny autumn day on Sun. May 29, 2016 as the Cathedral Singers travelled to Bowral.

Continuing an annual tradition, the choir performed in an Evensong service and a public recital in the beautiful Anglican church of St. Simon and St. Jude (“St. Jude’s”).



View of Bowral from Mt. Gibraltar lookout

The church has had an interesting history. The land on which it sits was given to the church in 1859 by John Norton Oxley, the son of the famous explorer – John Joseph Oxley, who served as the Surveyor General of New South Wales and explored both the Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers in 1817-18. John Norton Oxley himself became a Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly, but in sponsoring legislation which encouraged the use of wagons with broad (instead of narrow) wheels to reduce wear on public roads, he became so unpopular with the farmers in his electorate that he lost his seat. I suppose you could say that they grew “tired” of his policy on wagon wheels.

The first church was designed by the English architect, Edmund Blackett, who is well-known for designing many of the churches in Sydney and the surrounding region during this time (including St. Saviour’s Cathedral in Goulburn, where the Cathedral Singers sang last September). Dedicated in 1874, it was said to have an unusual design in the Norman or Saxon style and was considered “a small gem of architecture”. Unfortunately, the original church was designed for a congregation of only 140 and with burgeoning growth in the area, it was eventually pulled down after considerable controversy.



Anglican church of St. Simon and St. Jude, Bowral

A new church designed by Thomas Parrott of Goulburn was completed in 1887, although some parts of the original Blackett church were incorporated, notably the bell tower and parts of the chancel floor. The church’s organ was installed in 1900 and underwent two major overhauls – in 1981 and from 2003-2009. It has special significance as the largest and most complete instrument of its kind in the Southern Highlands.

After the service, the Cathedral Singers sang in a recital to an appreciative audience of about 30 people. The repertoire was very inspiring, based on various anthems composed for specific religious events throughout the liturgical year.

With this thematic foundation, the choir performed an extremely engaging medley of music from Advent to Corpus Christi, spanning the Renaissance era through to the post-Romantic. Kudos go to the three soloists, who performed with beautiful clear voices, as well as the choir itself, which took advantage of the wonderful



Cathedral Singers in action. Jim Abraham directing from the organ.

church acoustics to blend harmoniously in pieces by Morley, Purcell, Stainer, Wood, and Vaughan Williams to name a few.



Getting a scone, before they're all gone!

After the recital, the choristers and audience members were treated to a pleasant afternoon tea provided by the church parishoners. Consisting of delicious savoury scones and scones with jam and cream, they provided a much-appreciated snack and a fitting finale to a wonderful day's outing in the Southern Highlands.



References: St. Jude's website: <http://www.bowralanglican.org.au/index.html>
Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Oxley

by **Jim Lee**
(friend of the Cathedral Singers)

FESTAL CHORAL EVENSONG CELEBRATING THE OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Two days after the Thanksgiving Service for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday was held in London at St Pauls' Cathedral, the Choral Evensong for June at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Gordon also celebrated the same occasion. Such a special service attracted over 65 people to hear and participate in music led most ably by the Cathedral Singers under the direction of Mr Jim Abraham.



Dr McKern was assisted by Nicola Chau at the organ, and the service was conducted by Father Keith Dalby, delivering his final sermon before departing on leave which will incorporate a tour of the 1914 – 18 War battlefields.

The theme was set with the playing of the prelude *Nimrod* from Elgar's *Enigma Variations* which was selected by Dr McKern because this music was played in Westminster Abbey before the Coronation Service in June 1953. Similarly the Office Hymn *All People That On Earth Do Dwell* was written for that same service by Ralph Vaughan Williams, and indeed, was the first congregational hymn ever to be included in a British Coronation Service, and the St John's congregation joined in the singing with great enthusiasm.

An anthem of a much older origin was beautifully rendered by the Cathedral Singers – Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, which was composed for the Coronation of George 11 in 1727 and has been since sung at every successive Coronation.

The high standard of musical performance set by the Cathedral Singers was maintained throughout this service, including their delivery of the responses by Naylor and Tomkins. Edward Naylor was an English organist and composer of the late 19th/early 20th century, whilst Thomas Tomkins was a Welsh born composer of the late Tudor/early Stuart period who wrote the majority of the eight anthems sung at the Coronation of Charles 1 in 1626.

Most appropriately our Festal Evensong concluded with the singing of the Royal Anthem before choir and congregation gathered in the Upper Room for supper, when the Loyal Toast was proposed by Sir Trevor Garland AM, Patron of the Cathedral Singers.

Catherine Barker OAM
Parishioner at St John's Gordon



Alex Hovy Story

Not being much of a writer and leading a pretty “even-keel” life (never sky jumped/climbed Mount Everest neither enjoyed train spotting/fishing) I nevertheless hope to not bore you all too much.... so here goes:

I was born in 1957 in a small town in South Africa to a Afrikaans father (my grandfather came from the Netherlands in 1902) and a Swiss mother who come to South Africa for a short work break and fell in love with her boss (my dad) and subsequently stayed.

There was a lot of music as I grew up, me on the piano and euphonium, elder brother cello, next brother violin/trombone, youngest brother trumpet and sister piano (albeit reluctantly, she being a Springbok gymnast).

The musical background came in quite handy during my military service as I was not a supporter of the Apartheid era and what it stood for at the time and I managed to spent most of my compulsory military service year and subsequent camps in the Army Band rather than fighting in the “townships” or the Angola border war.

I completed my Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1982 and subsequently worked as an architect establishing my own practice in the years prior to coming to Australia.

I am married to Maureen and have 3 children (daughter in Perth, daughter in Brisbane and son in Melbourne); we still can’t get a decent response from any of them on what we did wrong that they all have to stay so far away. It is however good for the aviation industry as we visit our 4 grandchildren in Brisbane and Melbourne as often as possible.

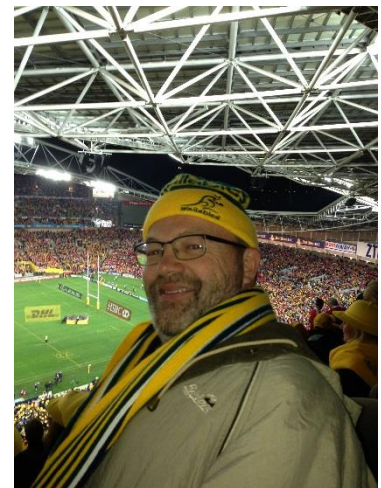
In 2000 I become increasingly disillusioned with the direction South Africa was taking after hoping that Nelson Mandela’s concept of a “rainbow nation’ could work. After much paperwork we got our “permanent residency” papers and I arrived on my own in Sydney with a suitcase in 2002 not knowing anybody or much of the Australian construction industry just walking the streets looking for employment.

The family followed 3 months later and we are now all proud “dinkum” Ozzies with only a slight “twang” giving us away when we open our mouths! I work as a project director for a mid-tier construction company managing the design process on projects mainly in the industrial sector.

I started singing in our church choir in about 1994 and also sung in a large Male choir in Johannesburg from 1998 until emigrating. In Sydney I was a member of the “Ad Musicam” choir in Baulkham Hills and until recently of “the Sydney Male Cantorian Choir” in North Sydney. I enjoy singing in a group and find it a perfect way to break the “building” cycle and enter into the world of song and music!!

Alex Hovy

Tenor



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- Donation for our ongoing ministry _____ \$ _____

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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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