

Friends of the Melbourne Welsh Newsletter December 2009

Our Annual Concert and Singer of the Year was another great success with 21 entrants vying for a \$10,000 prize pool, and a concert audience of over 700. The three finalists chosen from the heats were Jocelyn Hickey (Soprano), Samuel Dundas (Baritone), Emily Ulrich (Soprano). As a first for this competition we also featured Honourable Mentions in the concert, namely Angela Hogan (Soprano) and Michael Lapina (Tenor). Samuel Dundas was our winner after competing for quite a number of years. We started the programme with a new African song with cello accompaniment, and added cello accompaniment to quite a few of our songs throughout the concert, with cellist Imogen Manins being a guest artist. This concert and the Singer of the Year was sponsored by The Opus 50 Charitable Trust, The Robert Salzer Foundation, Air Conditioning Engineering Services, and Hans and Petra Henkell. We are very appreciative of their support.

The Choir celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a dinner on Sunday 26th July at the Waverley Golf Club and everyone enjoyed the venue the food and the entertainment.

On Sunday 16th August we sang at a **Gymanfa Ganu** in the Welsh Church. We acquitted ourselves well and the congregation was very appreciative. We enjoyed a pleasant lunch of sandwiches and cakes and chatted with the audience members.

Fashion Parade at Monbulk on Thurs Sep 17th at 1pm and 7.30pm What a great event this turned out to be, and we had a good turn up of choristers.. We were looked after very well by the staff of Jenny's Shoppe with food and refreshment, and the audience was very appreciative at both shows. Hopefully we have gained some new fans as indicated by the enthusiastic applause and comments afterwards. You will note in our list of concerts for next year that we will be singing at another Fashion Parade on 25th March, this time in the New Hope Baptist Church in North Blackburn.

Tuckers Funerals (Geelong) concert for Seniors was held on Friday, 2nd October at 2.00pm. Another great concert in front of 800 people who appeared to enjoy every minute. Again we rose to the occasion and by all reports sang and blended well. It was a pleasure to sing in St Mary's with the wonderful acoustics.

St Patrick's Cathedral Concert (Charity concert for Centacare) on Sunday 4th October. Another pleasant day was had by all who attended. The sun was shining and we were treated to a BBQ and then sang our hearts out in what is a magnificent Cathedral. Lucas was masterful in his conducting taking advantage of every echo and reverberation. Our entrance with *Cwm Rhondda* was another experiment and seemed to come off well especially when the sound came together at the stage area. *The Creation* in particular seemed to thrill the audience.

Barwon Heads Fine Music Society Festival of Music Saturday 10th October. Not a large audience, but very enthusiastic and supportive. Despite it being a long programme the audience thoroughly enjoyed it and gave us a standing ovation. We have been invited

to return again next year. We had an unfortunate aftermath to this concert. Most of us had left our cars at Federation Estate in Ringwood and travelled by coach. We got back to Ringwood after midnight to find that vandals had smashed windows in five of the cars belonging to choir members.

One of our choir members, **Bill Dorman turned 90** on 4th October. Still singing as well as ever, and he received a standing ovation from the audience at Toongabbie with his solos.

Toongabbie Sunday 15th Nov. The Toongabbie concert was a real highlight for November with a pleasant drive followed by a nice lunch provided by our hosts. The hall is quite unique in its layout with nooks and crannies both up and down. The steeply sloping stage is unusual but thankfully did not cause us any concern. It was a full house and the Lions Club of Wellington/Latrobe was very pleased with the financial outcome - so much so that they have booked us again for Sunday 14h November 2010.

Our final performance for 2009 was for the **Margaret Pratt Heart/Lung Transplant Foundation** at Coppin Gve, Hawthorn on Sunday 6th December. This was a performance of *Carols in the Vineyard*, in a garden on the banks of the Yarra to raise funds for the Foundation. The choir sang from a marquee adjacent to the tennis court to a large audience picknicking on the lawns and the edge of the vineyard. We shared the programme with a young soprano soloist, Jess Young.

We wind up the year with our **Choir Christmas Party** on Saturday evening 19th December, again at the Waverley Golf Club, followed by a short break. Our first performance in 2010 is at a wedding in the Welsh Church on 16th January, then back into rehearsals working towards our St David's Day concert on 27th February.

We are scheduling extra Monday rehearsals early in the year in preparation for a **new recording**. Our first recording session is scheduled early in March. Hopefully the new CD will be available in time for our **Morning Melodies Concert** in June. If you haven't been to Hamer Hall in the Arts Centre recently, this may be the last chance you have for a couple of years, as it is closing for refurbishment in July. Although the Morning Melodies programme is only an hour it is a good concert for little cost, in a great venue.

A recording was made of the **Voices & Brass** concert on 21st June with ourselves, the Australian Welsh Male Choir and City of Greater Dandenong Brass Band, resulting in a CD which is now available from the choir, and at concerts, for \$15.



**MELBOURNE WELSH MALE CHOIR
AUSTRALIAN WELSH MALE CHOIR
CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG BAND**

Live Recording Sunday 21st June 2009

On Sunday 28th February, the day after our St David's Day concert, we are joining the Australian Welsh, The Victorian Welsh, and the Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir in a **Gymanfa Ganu** organised by the Welsh Church, at St Michael's Church, 120 Collins St, City. This is a wonderful event which you should try to get to, where the congregation and choirs sing many popular Welsh hymns (some verses in Welsh, but if you're not Welsh you can muff those or take a rest!)

Now on sale

St David's Day Concert

7.30 pm Saturday 27 February 2010

George Wood Performing Arts Centre
Yarra Valley Grammar School, Kalinda Rd, Ringwood

New songs, and all your old Welsh
favourites with Welsh Harpist,

Alannah Guthrie-Jones

Special Guest Stars

SUADE

Suade is a five-part male 'a cappella' vocal group based in Melbourne. That's five guys singing, each with a microphone and nothing else.

No band, no backing tracks. Suade have been recognised as Melbourne's finest a cappella group for some time now, having spent the last ten years dazzling audiences all over the country. Smooth harmonies and soulful voices when the lads hit the stage. They're the Melbourne boys with a sparkle in their voices and a twinkle in their eyes!



Tickets: Adult \$30 Children under 12 \$12.50

Early-bird \$27 until 7th February 2010

Group of 10 or more \$25 each

Mail-order (on back page), online at our website

or Phone Bookings 9800 3889

Now on sale

Performances scheduled in 2010

- St David's Day Concert – Saturday 27 February 2010 at 7.30pm Yarra Valley Grammar School, Ringwood
- Fashion Parade – Thursday 25th March 2010 at New Hope Baptist Church, North Blackburn
- Karralyka Theatre, Ringwood – Sunday 18th April 2010 2pm – Sing along with Melbourne Welsh. Bookings open 28th February
- Morning Melodies, Hamer Hall – Monday 7th June 2010 11am and 1.30pm - a good chance to enjoy the hall before it closes for refurbishment
- Singer of the Year – Saturday 4th September 2009 at 7.30pm Robert Blackwood Hall
- Tuckers Geelong concert for Seniors – Friday, 1st October 2010 at 2.00pm
- Toongabbie Concert – November 14th 2010 at 2.00pm
- St Aiden's Music Society Nth Balwyn Sunday 28th November 2010 2pm

**Tickets on sale from
28th February 2010**

SING ALONG WITH MELBOURNE WELSH

2pm Sunday afternoon 18th April, 2010

Karralyka Theatre, Mines Rd, Ringwood

We've brought this forward a week
(originally advertised 2nd May).

Here's your opportunity to be the star and sing old favourites backed by the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir.

We are putting together a special programme of songs from our repertoire that you will enjoy singing with the choir.

Songs from the war years, old favourites like Danny Boy, Amazing Grace, You Raise Me Up, Now Is The Hour, Ar Hyd y Nos and many others you have listened to the choir singing over the years.

It will be a great afternoon of nostalgia and the chance to sing your hearts out with the choir.

Tickets: Adult \$30 Children under 12 \$12.50

Group of 10 or more \$25 each

Early-bird \$27 (1st March to 30th March)

Mail-order (on back page), online at our website

or Phone Bookings 9800 3889

**Tickets on sale from
28th February 2010**

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of tickets and mail to

Address:Postcode

Name

Name on card

I enclose a cheque Please debit my credit card Visa Mastercard Expiry Date

Special Early-bird 1st March to 30th March tickets @ \$27 ea. Total \$

..... tickets @ \$25 ea. (Group - 10 or more)

Please supply tickets @ \$30 ea. Children under 12 @ \$12.50

2 pm pm Sunday 18th April at Karralyka Theatre, Mines Rd, Ringwood

Mail Order for tickets to Sing Along With The Melbourne Welsh

Bookings Open 28th February 2010

Cut Here

Mail Order for tickets to St David's Day Concert

7.30 pm Saturday 27th February at George Wood Performing Arts Centre

Yarra Valley Grammar School, Kalinda Road, Croydon

Please supply tickets @ \$30 ea. Children under 12 @ \$12.50

..... tickets @ \$27 ea. **Early-bird (only until 7th February)**

..... tickets @ \$25 ea. (Group - 10 or more) Total \$

I enclose a cheque Please debit my credit card Visa Mastercard Expiry Date

Name on card

Name

Address:Postcode

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of tickets and mail to

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir P.O. Box 1034 Mountain Gate 3156

Phone enquiries 03 9800 3889



If not claimed within 7 days, please return to:
MELBOURNE WELSH MALE CHOIR
PO Box 1034 Mountain Gate 3156

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA