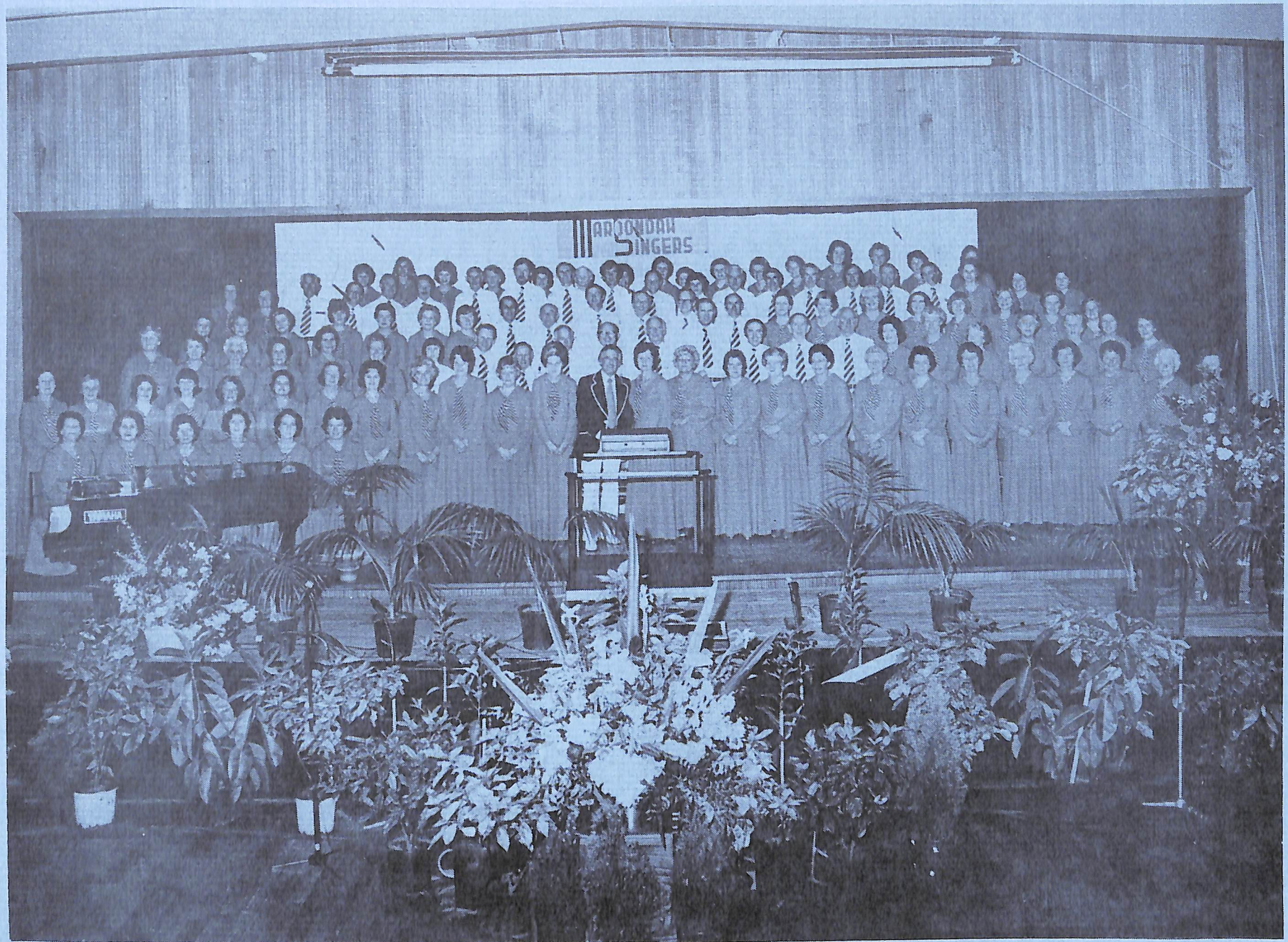


IN UNISON AND HARMONY



C. MERVYN VAGG
VIVIENNE HORNER



MITCHAM HIGH SCHOOL HALL - NOVEMBER 1976





IN UNISON AND HARMONY

THE BIRTH OF A CHOIR

THE CHOIR STORY

This story of the first twenty years of the Melbourne-based choir, The Maroondah Singers, is divided into two parts. The first portion, covering approximately ten years from 1968, was written by the co-founder, founding President and now Patron of the choir, Mervyn Vagg.

The second portion has been compiled by a foundation member, Vivienne Horner, who occupied various positions including that of Secretary over a number of years.

May, 1988.

Vivienne Horner

TEXT: C. MERVYN VAGG
VIVIENNE HORNER

DESIGN: JOHN J. WILLIAMS

The Maroondah Singers became an incorporated body in 1986 and from that time the name became "The Maroondah Singers Inc."



MERVYN VAGG
President: 1968-1981
Life Member

GEORGE IRVINE (Deceased)
Publicity Officer
Life Member



JAMES WATSFORD
Conductor: 1968-1983
Life Member



MAX THOMSON
President: 1982
Conductor: 1983-

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

A LIMITED HISTORY OF

THE BIRTH OF A CHOIR

by C. Mervyn Vagg

*"Music must rank as the highest of the fine arts,
as the one which, more than any other, ministers
to human welfare."*

Herbert Spencer,
Essays on Education.



A few folk who one may call "foundation members" were sitting and reminiscing over some of the problems encountered during the foundation of what was to become "The Maroondah Singers". It soon became apparent that there was one thought uppermost in their minds - that those memories should be converted into print and preserved.

It was at this point that I sensed the drift of their thoughts being focused on me. I tried to look as though I were not there - but then it came. "Mervyn, what about you? You are the logical choice; you a person with the record as an accomplished author - particularly histories".

It was no good trying to escape. Yes, I had just completed my third and, I thought then, last book - all histories. Here I was being pooled into another of sorts, just when I thought I could lay down my pen and rest on my laurels.

As I pondered the issue I was assailed with mixed emotions. Yes, I supposed I was possibly the best informed and able to concoct a history of sorts. But could I, an octagenarian plus with a moth-eaten memory, commit my thoughts and recollections into a sensible record?

I must admit I had a sneaking urge to put into print the story of one of the great loves of my life, the story of what I'm egotist enough to regard as my choir and its members my family. Finally I felt I had a moral obligation in keeping with our constitution to serve.

So, dear readers, bear with one who no longer sings with you but remains your life member, founder and Patron,

MERVYN VAGG.

Melbourne
January 1988

INTRODUCTION

PART 1

When my wife, May, and I left Northcote in 1967, we knew we were leaving our world of music that had been a major part of our lives - May in particular, who had been a member of the Melbourne Philharmonic Society plus several others over the years, but most importantly the Northcote District Choral Society. This choir frequently met the Mitcham Choral Society, which was under the baton of the late Mick Watsford, in competition at the famous Ballarat Competitions. So it was with a feeling of confidence that we made our new home in Mitcham a confidence which was rudely shattered upon finding there was then no Mitcham Choral Society operating in the district, and in fact no district Choral Society and no community choir to meet singers' needs apart from church choirs. Disaster. Being conscious of May's dismay, I felt there must be an avenue to exploit. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast."

We had joined the Mitcham Bowling Club, and, as fate so often decrees, happily I found that avenue in the person of the late George Irvine, my team captain, who was a keen sponsor of the arts and ever ready to promote any cultural effort he felt worthy of receiving a boost in a popular column he wrote for the Nunawading Gazette. I soon had George "hooked" on my idea of founding a district choir in Nunawading. We discussed the possibilities and decided on a course of action.

George had previously discussed at length just such a possibility with a local resident, John Williams, and they were awaiting an opportunity to get a choir "off the ground", with John, who had experience in conducting, to be the initial conductor. Our arrival in Mitcham coincided with this planning.

A couple of notices were inserted in George's column to the effect that a public meeting would be held with the formation of a choir in view at the Old Orchard Shopping Centre, Blackburn North, on 31st May, 1968. Supper would be served and the matter debated. Imagine our pleasure and surprise when George was able to welcome 45 folk of all ages eager for music. George opened the meeting with a short address, then asked me to take the chair. It was clear that the enthusiasm was there. I pointed out the guidelines we would need to follow to become an established and orderly group. At this juncture a gentleman stood up and requested permission to speak. I was happy to comply as I recognised him as the Conductor of the Mitcham Choral Society - Mr. Jim Watsford.

In a few concise words Mr. Watsford introduced himself and frankly admitted that he was present at the meeting in the hope of recruiting some members of the Mitcham Choral Society then operating from premises in the inner city area. However, he said he was delighted to witness the enthusiasm prevailing. He then asked for an indication of the range of voices, following which he said we had all the basic elements upon which to found a choir. He then indicated that, if so desired, he would help us to commence rehearsals with him conducting without fee for three months. We gratefully accepted this kind offer. He also added he would bring along some music sufficient to tide us over.

It was at this point John Williams requested permission to leave as he had another important meeting to attend. He returned shortly and informed us he had secured the use of a hall in an annexe of the Mitcham Uniting Church, now known as the Mountview Church. This news was welcomed with loud applause as it solved our most urgent problem. This prompt action by John enabled us to commence rehearsals within a week. It is extraordinary to note that in another room on the same property the Mitcham Choral Society had been formed some thirty five years earlier.

Before the meeting's conclusion we had a full panel of temporary officers (committee), agreeing we would all assemble at 8 p.m. on the following Friday evening to commence rehearsals. Then the meeting turned to the table where Mrs. Elsie Irvine had provided supper, and, as we partook of the delicacies spread before us, excitement and speculation was rife.



Footnote: One of those present at this inaugural meeting was Sister Elizabeth Burchill, well-known as an authoress. Her works include the Australian classic, "Innamincka". The title of one of her more recent books, "The Paths I've Trod" was inspired by singing with the choir in its early days one of the lines from "I'll Walk with God". Sister Burchill often entertained the choir with stories of her interesting travels and experiences worldwide.

Our first rehearsal. Several rows of expectant faces focused on our new Conductor who addressed us on the rudiments upon which to build a successful choir. He announced he would like to be known as Jim. Applause. A piano was positioned in the hall. Jim felt it would be a good idea to break the ice by joining in singing a few well-known numbers, also providing him with an opportunity to position the voices appropriately. We were told to occupy those same places at subsequent rehearsals for the time being. We were a happy and expectant team who dispersed at 10 p.m. arranging to meet every Friday at the same time and place.

I asked the Committee members to meet at our home through the weeks, pointing out that we needed to appoint a permanent Committee vested with powers to determine a broadly based policy. Officers were appointed - Merv. Vagg, President; John Williams, Vice President; Margaret Cunnington, Secretary; Mrs. M. Klay, Treasurer; Mavis Tinker and Jennifer Martin, Temporary Accompanists; May Vagg, Librarian, and a committee which included John Soltau and Mrs. E. Martin. A range of fees, also joining fee, was agreed upon to meet the current situation, subject to variation and conditions as the choir developed. The presence of Jim on the committee was an asset as his life-long experience of choirs was invaluable. A name for the choir was a much-debated point among the members. Several were advanced, but finally, after some weeks of discussion, in respect to our location on the Maroondah Highway, we settled for - The Maroondah Singers.

Music for the moment was not a burning question as the offer of a loan of some of Mitcham Choral Society's was gratefully accepted. Jim's eventual appointment as permanent Conductor proved the cornerstone of the choir henceforth. Mrs. Lela Wright agreed to become our permanent accompanist. Jim urged us to recruit additional members and publicise the choir. We soon found he was one who wouldn't let the grass grow under his feet. He immediately commenced to groom us for our first appearance.

December, 1968, six months after our formation, found us singing carols at the Old Orchard Shopping Centre. We appeared on stage with ladies in long frocks, gents in dark trousers and white shirts and with a uniform tie. Mitcham Choral Society had loaned us their collapsible platform; a choir member's son who worked at Channel 0 arranged lighting for us. The Box Hill Salvation Army Band was co-opted. Jim had secured the services of baritone

Brian Hansford, and a young boy soprano to sing descants. The Shopping Centre management provided a light supper at the conclusion of the presentation, thanking us for making our debut in their Centre, and congratulating us on the quality of our singing. A sense of well-being with our success augured well for the future.

GROWING FAST

As word of the choir spread, the numbers grew, and within a few months we moved into a larger hall, which in turn also became too small. We had an excellent range of voices in all parts enabling Jim to get from the group a very satisfying sound. Two altos (both Dutch ladies) had some difficulty with higher alto notes, and preferred to sing as tenors, lady tenors!

I had contacted the Town Clerk, appraising him of the advent of a Nunawading-based choir known as "The Maroondah Singers" - an organisation that had come to stay, bringing with it a greater appreciation of music in the district. As a young body we would appreciate some measure of financial assistance to speed us on our way. This was forthcoming, eventually developing into an annual portion. This assistance was noted by the committee, and it was agreed that we should make early efforts to add to the platform as Jim had indicated his intention to combine both choirs on occasions in the future. The task was put in hand promptly. A member who had a large workshop was prepared to assist us as soon as we got a working bee together and the requisite materials on hand. This effort was well supported with labour and materials one weekend, using the Mitcham platform as a sample. This was an example of the teamwork existing among members.

The choir was most fortunate for we soon realised we had a Compere/Conductor without peer; one who could change the programme to suit the audience and their mood and whose engaging personality would soon have the audience in the palm of his hand. Our choice of Jim as Conductor was the single most important decision the committee made in those early days, as events were to prove. His knowledge and experience in the choral world set the pattern for all our future successes. The Conductorship of the choir included the power to select our music and also have the deciding vote on unifroms. We also offered an acceptable fee.

Another source of early music must be mentioned. Through the good offices of John Soltau, a committee member, a generous supply was obtained from the disbanded Wangaratta Choral Society.

It was considered appropriate to invite several of the Nunawading City Councillors to become Vice Presidents, particularly those who showed an interest in or appreciation of the arts. Thus for a number of years we had several non-active Vice Presidents who were able to state our cause from time to time with the Nunawading Council.

STALWARTS

As can be appreciated, there were frequent changes to the composition of the Committee. The appointment of a foundation member, Vivienne Horner, as Secretary during the choir's second year was a milestone in that office where her presence and ability was soon apparent and for me began years of close co-operation plus a continuing friendship. At the beginning of 1973 Vivienne's husband was transferred interstate on a two year posting and the family moved with him. The position of Secretary was taken up very ably, initially by Don Stott and later by Albert Hiep. Both of these gentlemen left their particular stamp on the office and the choir benefited from their expertise. Don was "precision" personified and kept things in order looking through his "legal" eyes, and Albert was a versatile fellow whose happy disposition helped greatly in his work as a psychiatric nurse. Vivienne took over the position again in 1976.

It would be remiss of me not to make mention of the many stalwarts whose contribution and dedication to the choir's success is inestimable. To all those who worked either in the spotlight or quietly in the background - I salute you with great sincerity.



FIRST CONCERT
MITCHAM MEMORIAL HALL
OCTOBER, 1969

THE CHOIR STORY

OUR FIRST CONCERTS

In compiling this history, it is not my intention to cite each concert but to present what I consider were our important ones. I consider it a tribute to the teaching ability of our Conductor, plus the response of the members, that in our first twelve months we had seven concerts taking us up to September 1969 when we appeared at the opening of the Nunawading Arts Festival at the Civic Centre, with Raymond Long, Organist, as guest artist.

One concert which was a red-letter day was our first "Annual" Concert in the Mitcham Memorial Hall in October, 1969. We had guest artists, Raymond Long, Organ, and Ken Smith, Trumpet. We had advertised it well and were rewarded with a full house. The ladies had made their own beautiful peacock shantung dresses and the hall was decked with contrasting flowers. The men proudly wore white shirts, black trousers, bow ties and cummerbunds. It was the first occasion on which I made a short address regarding the choir and our determination to become a factor in the district's musical world. Ten numbers were rendered by the choir. Jim excelled himself with bright quips and compering. Our ladies' committee had provided a supper. We were a proud and happy crew. George Irvine was very supportive through his newspaper column, and without hesitation had been appointed Publicity Officer. The subsequent report in the Nunawading Gazette was glowing in its praise.

We had an obligation to the Mountview Church which we were pleased to fulfil - a concert on Saturday, 30th May, 1970, in aid of their funds. We are a secular choir with many members from church choirs. Once again Jim was able to present a varied programme of 14 numbers, with a good smattering of sacred numbers. Here we were proud to have Pat Watsford, Jim's wife, as soloist singing a bracket of three numbers which delighted the audience. So began a long association, with Pat's beautiful soprano voice featuring in many of our concerts. On that occasion she shared the honours with Len Lancaster whose bass voice was so much like the organ. The accompanist was Mrs. Lela Wright, who was to remain our accompanist for many years. At about this period we had moved again into the large hall where rehearsals are still held, changing rehearsal night from Friday to Monday.

Friday 14th August 1970 found us, in association with the Maroondah Symphony Orchestra, giving a concert in the Mitcham High School assembly hall. Incidentally, this hall became the site of some of our greatest successes (another story). Jim was tireless in arranging concerts, and Friday 13th November 1970 found us for the first time joining with Jim's other choir, the Mitcham Choral Society, and the Hawthorn City Band presenting a concert in the Hawthorn Town Hall. Items were rendered by Ken Smith's band, which Ken conducted, and other brass instrumentalists. This was the first time our own accompanist, Lela Wright, and Janet Perkins of Mitcham Choral Society shared the programme. Janet was an accompanist who was to figure in our choir history as time went on. Her skills in arranging music for choirs were most valuable.

It was with some hesitation that we considered staging a concert in Albury in response to a request from the Albury Music Theatre. This was to be held in the Albury Civic Theatre on Saturday 27th March 1971. We accepted this as a challenge to our organising abilities. We engaged accommodation at two Wodonga motels and travel was by private cars. Our platform men had a busy afternoon setting up, and after a successful concert we were entertained to a fine supper. Guest artists for the evening were Pat Watsford and Raymond Long, Organist. We were able to meet on Sunday morning in the gardens adjacent to the hall where Jim produced a ukelele and led all hands in a jolly singing session of popular numbers. We then drove in convoy to the Hume Reservoir for lunch and then dispersed to find our way home. So ended very successfully our first "country" concert and a happy weekend.

We now move to a concert held in the Dallas Brooks Hall, Melbourne, on Monday 13th September 1972, in conjunction with the Melbourne Singers (late Mitcham Choral Society) and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Band. The choir sang seven numbers and joined with the band and guest artists for the finale with a selection of choruses from "The Sound of Music".

It was somewhere about this time that Jim's parents joined us as honorary singing members - a welcome acquisition and an honour for the choir. "Mick" Watsford, a renowned conductor, had a beautiful tenor voice, and Dorothy, also a singer of note (she sang in her earlier days with the late Browning Mummery), had a beautiful "velvet" contralto voice. Mick subsequently honoured the choir by becoming their Patron until his death in 1974.

THE MECHANICS

Music at this stage was accumulating and storage was becoming a problem. One of our members, Mrs. Vonnie Hitzke, and her family, donated a fine steel cabinet in memory of Joe Hitzke, a foundation member and enthusiastic supporter. A brass plate was affixed to signify this.

We soon realised we should have our own piano. Our funds were growing, so Committee delegated Jim to locate an instrument. Jim, his father, our accompanist Lela and yours truly inspected an instrument which was undergoing a comprehensive overhaul. We were very happy with such a good instrument at the bargain price being asked, and purchased it. It is still in first class condition despite very heavy use. As the piano had to be moved to and fro, a member, Bert Morgan, devised and built a steel trolley with rubber castors which proved to be a boon. Space was allocated in the building complex for the music storage cupboards and piano. After every rehearsal the floor space had to be left clear.

The front panel of the piano seemed to me a fitting place for the choir emblem which I had designed, and the Committee had accepted as such. An excellent wood carving was executed for me by a master craftsman and placed on the piano, and of course the emblem now adorns all our stationery and other choir items and souvenirs.

It soon became clear there were various items of equipment we needed to procure to be independent. We had been using manila folders for our music. Inadequate. May had a folder as used by the Caulfield choir. Committee authorised me to obtain something of a like nature. Being retired enabled me to spend much time on choir business. I consulted with a firm who submitted some ideas. The Committee approved the sample and we ordered one hundred of the stiff blue folders which have been serving us for so many years. When loaded with music for a concert they called for carrying bags. I contacted a local firm with a rough sample as a guide. Committee agreed to purchase half a dozen. Once again, those bags continue in use. A lectern was needed. This I manufactured. It is still in use. Then we found we had to give Jim a podium to elevate him. While I was on the job I made up two - still in use. You note I was so sure the choir was going to outlast me, I built to last!

Sometimes our modern amenities let us down! There were a few occasions when we were without electricity on rehearsal night due to power strikes. Undaunted, we carried on as best we could, with a variety of gas lamps

dangling from the rafters. This usually happened in the dead of winter, so there no heaters, either, but our members just added an extra layer or two of warm clothing. "Long Johns" also became a favourite article of apparel with some ladies under their concert dresses, when singing in cold halls.

We were fortunate, as Jim had persuaded his wife Pat to become one of our members and sing with us regularly. They were a busy couple as Jim conducted the Melbourne Singers on Wednesdays and Maroondah on Mondays. I should draw your attention to the fact that the Maroondah Singers were now the Mitcham district's local choir. In 1972, the Mitcham Choral Society adopted the title "Melbourne Singers" in keeping with their location, having moved to a venue in Melbourne some years earlier.

The Melbourne Singers' collapsible platform and the trailer used to transport same were lent to us until we could become self-sufficient in that respect. For such assistance, and the provision of music in the earlier days we owe Melbourne Singers (Mitcham Choral Society) a big debt of gratitude.

Both choirs agreed to a large container being constructed to accommodate the platform sections. This in turn necessitated the building of a new trailer to take all our gear. These costs were borne equally by both choirs and the trailer proved a boon, as events were to prove.

Our experience in the Mitcham High School made us realise that, with the increasing size of the choir, the platform needed to be brought forward clear of any stage proscenium which restricted the sound, smothering the voices to a degree. This prompted us to make improved platform facilities.

Saturday 30th September 1972 found us once again in the Mitcham High School Hall, filled to capacity, in our own concert as part of the Nunawading Arts Festival. This concert was memorable because of its innovative introduction. One of our numbers was a popular and röllicking piece, "76 Trombones", which the choir was to sing as an introduction but minus the conductor, who then appeared at the hall entrance, marched through the audience, mounted the platform, bowed to the audience and the choir, and commenced conducting. This was the sort of man he was, versatile and innovative, and able to capture the spirit of the moment to advantage. This was also the first occasion on which we used a popular young group, known originally as "What's Their Name?" but later to become "The Pied Pipers", as guest artists.

We soon realised singing in large halls required a boost. This we talked over with Melbourne Singers and decided to invest in a good P.A. system. It proved a popular and desirable piece of equipment, but it did require a skilled operator.

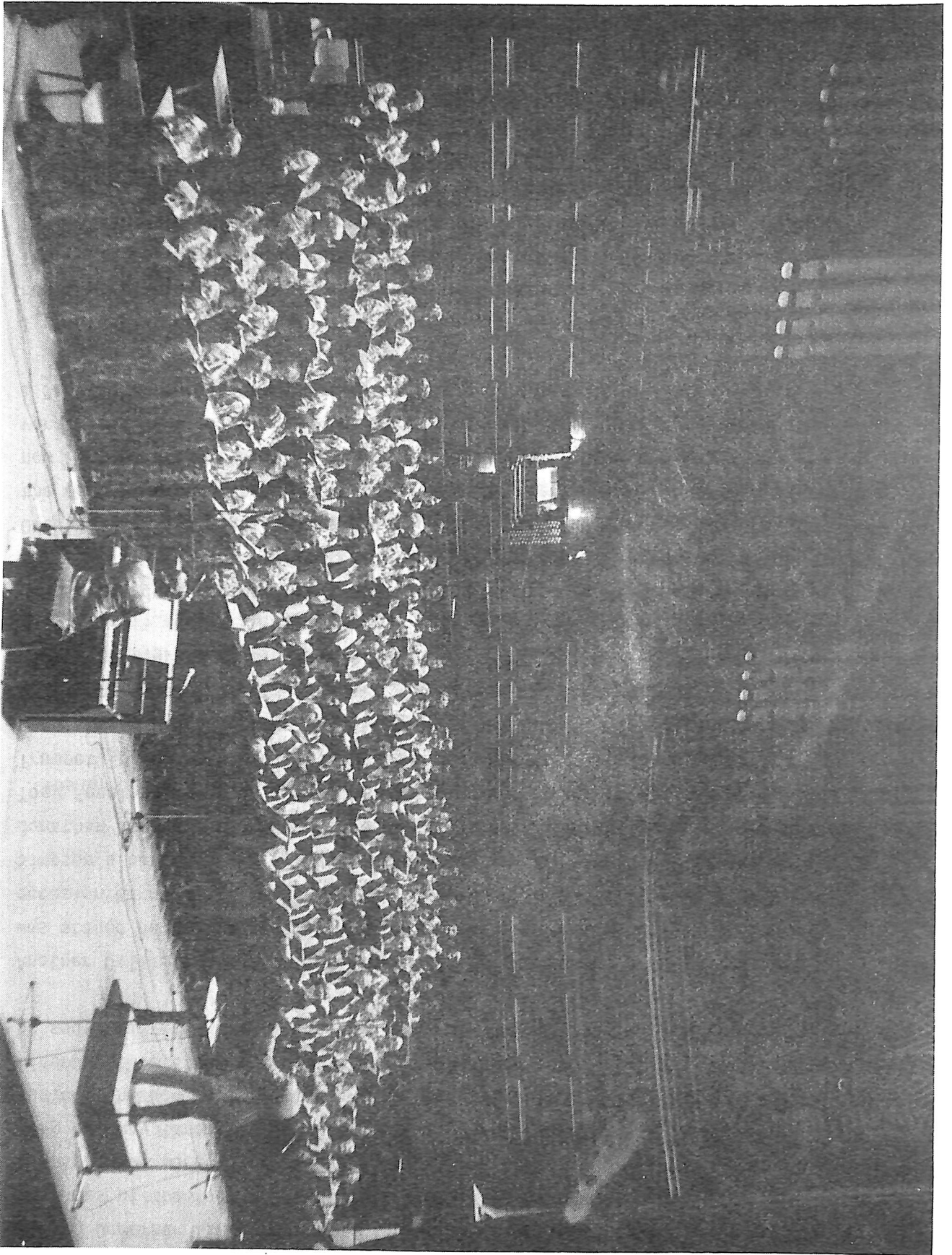
I have spoken of the Nunawading Arts Council. This adjunct of the Nunawading City Council combined the various interests and talents of arts groups in the community, but all laboured under the disadvantage of having no central or permanent meeting or performance place. All groups were outspoken and there was much agitation for the Council to provide appropriate accommodation. Most affiliates were represented on the committee which met regularly year after year. Jim and I were enthusiastic representatives of the Maroondah Singers in the early days but as time went by with dimming prospects, our interest waned a little waiting for the Council to recognise our combined needs. Bert Morgan, John Gearing and others also patiently represented our group over the years. The long-awaited home for the arts has finally materialised in the present Nunawading Arts Centre with its fine auditorium, meeting rooms and sound shell stage.

MUSIC

As our membership increased, so did our need for more music, also storage space. We resorted to using a couple of boxes with lids which we stored under the platform in our rehearsal hall. Jim, ever alert for a source of supply, ordered about fifteen separate numbers from U.S. Some were out of print and these were printed locally, in the order of 100 per copy. Imagine the task for May, our librarian, when they were delivered in bulk to our home in a wheelbarrow. May gagged, but tackled the task. Our floor was littered with sheet music which had to be sorted into correct sequence, numbered, stapled, titled and stamped with a number. What a job it was. However, it was accomplished, and then the question of storage! We, May and I, presented a steel music cabinet. I feel I must pay tribute to May who occupied the role of librarian for ten years. It was no sinecure and Jim was an unpredictable conductor where the choice of music was concerned - he could change like the weather!

EXPANDING HORIZONS

It was with a sense of pride that we progressed into venues such as the Dallas Brooks Hall, generally in association with the Melbourne Singers. Our appearance with the Melbourne Singers and combined Melbourne Methodist choirs in the Melbourne Town Hall on 11th July 1972, as would be expected, was one where we sang mostly sacred music. It was another of those prominent venues that we were to frequent as time went on.



MELBOURNE TOWN HALL WITH THE MELBOURNE SINGERS.

I think another noteworthy concert at the Dallas Brooks Hall was staged on 5th December 1972, in conjunction with the Melbourne Singers, under the auspices of the Footscray and Yarraville City Bands conducted by Merv. Simpson. We were in excellent company, and voice, as with 128 voices we sang our way through a goodly number of items, sharing the festival of music with such notables as Margaret Nesbit, Keith Neilson and The Pied Pipers. I felt we were really in velvet and a choir that was beginning to be sought after. As Jim said, we were now "a semi-professional choir".

Another Dallas Brooks concert, sponsored by the Northcote Rotary Club, was staged on two successive nights, on 2nd and 3rd May 1974. On this occasion Maroondah Singers was the choir and fielded 85 voices. Merv. Simpson's band took part, Peter James was compere and other artists were Jonathan Somers, baritone, George Hegan, tenor, Margaret Nesbit, soprano, Tony Fenelon, organist and accompanist, The Pied Pipers and The Melbourne Trumpet Trio. What a night! We were hitting the high spots. Several concerts in Dallas Brooks Hall with the Melbourne Singers, and always with brilliant guests artists, were an indication of our acceptance into Melbourne's upper level of entertainment music.

Our standard of performance impressed the Melbourne City Council enough for them to give the choirs combined engagements on numerous occasions. Over a period of eight years, Jim's contact with Bob "King" Crawford of the Melbourne City Council's F.E.I.P. (Free Entertainment in the Parks - now Fantastic Entertainment in Public Places) programme led us into a variety of venues including the Melbourne Town Hall, Myer Music Bowl and a "mobile" stage in the Fitzroy Gardens.

I should have mentioned that in the course of events we had attracted a considerable number of well-known guest artists to assist in our concerts. There was Kelvin McMillan, saxophonist (now Executive Director of the Australian Pops Orchestra - originally Kelmier Orchestra), Leslie Miers, (a co-founder of the Orchestra) pianist, and Tony Fenelon, organist, some of many.

I feel we were to reach a high point in our achievements with our concerts in the Mitcham High School Assembly Hall on 6th and 7th November 1976. These concerts were a test of our organisational ability, both in the selling of tickets to fill the hall twice and in constructing and extending the platform to accommodate the one hundred and eleven voices, plus space for

organ and piano. We had acquired and purchased four very large hardwood platforms. They in turn had to be supported to the level of the stage. I had contacted a large Mitcham firm who made available a dozen 45 gallon drums for this purpose. We had them transported to the hall. In the meantime I had constructed six large folding trestles, with decking, to enable a row of singers to be accommodated and overlook those in front. We were obliged to erect our gear on the day of the first concert (Saturday) and dismantle same the next evening (Sunday), our second concert being on the Sunday afternoon. An arrangement had been made with the ladies of the High School Auxiliary to provide refreshments during the programme intermissions to augment their own funds. Flowers were provided and arranged, as at all our annual concerts, by a small group including Vivienne, Jenny Barnfather and May, and potted shrubs were provided by Nunawading City Council, which we had to pick up and return. All in all, a very big job.

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Committee had decided to obtain a photograph of the choir and it was agreed there would probably never be a better opportunity than this occasion. George Irvine undertook to make the necessary arrangements. A tall step-ladder was produced and placed halfway down the centre aisle, which the photographer mounted. This occurred during the interval of the evening concert, and an excellent photo resulted, one of which is in the files. These were sold for \$2.00.

Daughters of members had been asked to act as usherettes over this special weekend. Six volunteered. They were uniformly dressed in white. We had a gentleman in charge at "front of house". We had issued complimentary tickets to V.I.P.'s and Councillors. We were rewarded with a full house on the Saturday evening and almost full the following day. I must add that our publicity was first-class.

Kel McMillan was by this time established as "guest artist in residence" and had become an honorary choir member. He, together with Ian Thomas on the organ and Janet Perkins on piano, were our guest artists on this very successful weekend. We supplied our own piano, but the organ was always supplied by a local retailer as a compliment to the organist.

We had several concerts in the Mitcham High School hall which were to augment our funds considerably over the years.



FUND RAISING

Funds were an ever pressing problem and Committee came up with a plan. Every rehearsal evening there was a long table with a range of articles for sale which had been contributed by members. What a collection it was - like Paddy's market. Pot plants, flowers, fruit and shoes - anything that somebody might happen to want; you name it, it was there.

* * * * *

It would be tiresome to deal with the many and important concerts we staged as we travelled to many distant areas, often engaging motel accommodation, and occasionally having to cope with buses which let us down. There were tyre troubles, engine troubles and electrical faults. The choir members who were on the bus will not forget the occasion when the entire electrical system failed, leaving the bus to travel a hundred or so miles without lights in the late afternoon, and of course that was the day a terrific electrical storm hit the outskirts of Melbourne and five inches of rain pelted down on our already unfortunate members.

Our activities resulted in the raising of many thousands of dollars for worthwhile causes, as well as providing musical enjoyment to a wide range of audiences. The repertoire has been designed to cater for all tastes, ranging from majestic Handelian choruses right through to popular modern numbers - a very successful formula.

SOCIALISING

It's a trite saying, "Man does not live by bread alone". Committee took note of the feeling it would be well to relieve the monotony of rehearsals with a break at half time once a month with a cup of tea, biscuits and the opportunity for members to circulate and get to know each other as most folk just hurried off home after rehearsals. The success of this venture eventually led to a full-scale social evening from time to time (no rehearsal). For a few years the end of the choral season was marked with a big social night, the hall being decked with flowers and large Christmas greeting banners. The Social Committee was busy for weeks preparing a programme of items for presentation from the stage - it was amazing the latent talents that surfaced. There were games and at the conclusion there were large tables groaning under the weight of the delectable food brought by the members, plus a large Christmas cake. These socials became a regular feature for some time until the pressure of rehearsals for Carols by Candlelight intruded.

George Irvine Memorial is set up

The George Irvine Memorial was established last week to finance development of a local region youth choir.

The memorial will comprise a \$100 annual grant from the Mitcham-based 130-voice Maroondah Singers to the 38-voice Lowanna Youth Choir.

The memorial award was announced at last week's 10th birthday celebration and rehearsal night of the Maroondah Singers in tribute to their co-founder, the late George Irvine, Gazette columnist, who died last year.

Music

The grant will enable the Lowanna Youth Choir — already catering for girls and boys of Nunawading and surrounding districts aged from eight to 15 — to buy music and develop its services for local young people.

Maroondah Singers' foundation president, Mr Merv Vagg, whose remark to George Irvine 10 years ago prompted formation of the singers, said all the new choir music purchased for the youth choir would be stamped "George Irvine Memorial. Established 1978."

He said that Lowanna's conductor and musical director, Mrs Marian Reinsch, who would soon be leaving on a trip back to her Californian homeland, would be using part of the first memorial grant to buy special new youth choir music.

Widow

Mr Vagg asked George Irvine's widow, Mrs Elsie Irvine, to make the official first \$100 presentation at last week's birthday gather-

Will help young singers

ing held at Mountview Church centre, Mitcham.

Maroondah Singers' conductor, Mr Jim Watsford said that George Irvine had given the initial inspiration for formation of the Maroondah Singers during a conversation on Mitcham bowling green with Merv Vagg.

The memorial award would help ensure that the tradition of a local music and choral activity would continue through future generations.

Another highlight of last week's birthday night was presentation of life membership awards to foundation president Mr Merv Vagg and his wife, May.

Mrs Vagg has served continuously as the choir's librarian until recently.

The life membership award was presented by Maroondah Singers' vice-president, Mr John Williams.

Lowanna Youth Choir, which has most of its rehearsals in Mitcham, welcomes young choristers and their parents who can contact either Mavis Bristow on 878-5028 or Marian Reinsch 560-3302 for details.



• The two new life members of Maroondah Singers — foundation president Mr Merv Vagg and his wife, May. Mr Vagg announced details of the George Irvine Memorial youth choir grant. Mrs Vagg is seen with the bouquet presented to her at the life membership presentation.

SAT. OCT 15 — Maroondah Singers' charity concert at Box Hill school hall, cnr Middleborough and Whitehorse roads, Box Hill, 8 pm. Concessions available. For ticket inquiries contact 878 9516.

Special ceremony to mark centenary of pipe organ installed at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Box Hill, 8 pm. Combined choirs and guest artists. Details, Eric Smith 232 0042.

Charity concert

Theatre organist, John Atwell, and vocalist, Donald Cant will be guest artists at the Maroondah Singers' charity concert at Box Hill High School hall on Saturday night, October 15, at 8 pm.

Singers' honorary secretary Mrs Phyl David, said this week that the singers had been working hard in preparation and had just returned from last week-end's appearance at a concert at the City of Warrnambool's new civic centre.

Generous group discounts are offered on tickets for next Saturday's concert. Reservations can be made by phoning 878 9516.

Singers

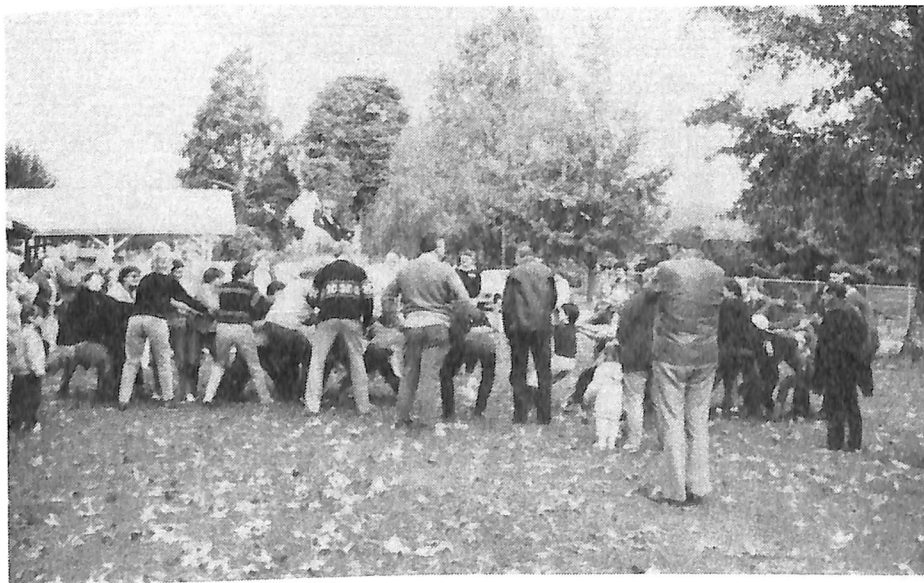
Songs of today and yesterday will be featured in a concert to be presented by the 100-voice maroondah Singers at the Mitcham High School Hall on Saturday, November 14.

Due to the illness of regular conductor, Jim Watsford, the choir will be conducted by his deputy, John Williams, a man with extensive musical and choral experience.

Accompanist will be John Atwell.

Also featured will be the Lowanna Youth Choir, under the direction of Marian Reinsch.

For tickets contact secretary, Mrs Phyl David 878-9516 (home) or 66-2133 ext. 467 (bus.).



UNISON OR HARMONY?
Tug-of-War at Healesville Picnic
1986

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

It was on one of these social occasions and the tenth birthday of the Maroondah Singers that May and I were to receive the accolade of the choir when John Williams called upon us to stand before him as he announced we were henceforth Life Members. May was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers and we were presented with a handsomely framed scroll containing the aforementioned photo of the choir. I was nearly too emotionally involved to respond. This treasured memento is a constant reminder of many happy years.



VALE GEORGE IRVINE

It was like a bolt from the blue when we heard, on 23rd May, 1977, that that lovable man, George Irvine, had passed away quietly in his sleep. He had visited us only the previous night, just a few days before his planned departure on an overseas holiday. Not only had the choir lost a friend, one who was wont to drift into the choir during rehearsal and never left without regaling us with some humorous anecdote, but the entire community mourned his loss. The choir attended at his funeral and sang his favourite piece of music from the choir repertoire, "I'll Walk with God".

This sad event engaged the Committee's attention and it was finally decided that his memory should be enshrined in a memorial to be known as the George Irvine Memorial Grant. This took the form of an annual sum of money given to a local youth choir or choirs. The Lowanna Youth Choir was the first to benefit from this memorial. The initial cheque was handed to them by George's widow, Elsie. The youth choir's music is stamped with an indication of its source. George had been a life member of Maroondah Singers.



CONCLUSION

At this point I shall terminate my short history of the choir's founding and early struggles, and I may say with pride I saw it reach in that period the heights of success. This pride I share with the loyal team I had the privilege to work with, a team that was free of any friction or disharmony, a unique experience when so many folk are engaged in the same project.

This treatise takes us to a halfway point in the story. The rest will be dealt with separately. The remaining story is presently in the making, and from my observation is on course and in good hands.

I know there's not much contained herein; however I have accomplished that which I set out to do. Choir has to thank John Williams, Vivienne Horner and Jenny Barnfather for the persistent urging that brought this treatise into being, and Vivienne for her patience as she checked and typed my manuscript. I tender my most sincere thanks to these members.

MERVYN VAGG.



ACCOMPANISTS



LELA WRIGHT



JANET PERKINS



JENNY JENKINS
(Assistant)



JOHN ATWELL
John Atwell

THE CHOIR STORY CONT'D.

compiled by Vivienne Horner

Under the Presidency of Merv. Vagg and the Conductorship of Jim Watsford, the choir continued in its established pattern of staging successful concerts and being a source of pleasure and satisfaction to both members and audiences alike.

One of the hallmarks of Maroondah Singers has been the friendliness of its members and the caring attitude which exists within this group of people. Many have come to the choir with problems, and have found there friends who have supported them through, if not helped them solve, their difficulties. It has been remarked upon, time and again, by the many people who are in or have passed through the ranks of Maroondah Singers that they have left home on a rehearsal evening perhaps feeling exhausted and depressed, only to find that their spirits are lifted during the course of the evening, and they go home feeling much better for having spent their time with friends in the world of music. May this important facet of our choir life continue! We should also remark upon the number of nationalities which have been represented in our group, and the friendships established between them all. We have had Dutch, German, Portuguese, Swedish, English, Welsh, Irish and Scottish. One beloved Scot, "Wee Georgie" Ross, sang with us until he was 90!

Back to the story

During 1979 we received an invitation to join with Melbourne Singers in being the background choir for Carols by Candlelight staged at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl on Christmas Eve. This was indeed an honour, and our thanks are due to Jim Watsford for his ability to organise such an arrangement. As a result of Jim's close association with the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, who sponsor this annual event, he was awarded a Life Membership of that organisation. Our choir has been privileged to continue to be invited to provide background choral music in the succeeding years. Some young people's choirs have also become involved on our invitation, and the combination of youth and experience has been a good one.

Other large and important venues were gradually opened up to our group. Over the course of the years we have sung, with Melbourne Singers, at such

venues as the Melbourne Cricket Ground (on the occasion of a Football Grand Final - what a day!), the Carlton Football Ground (on New Year's Eve, for the World Fair), the Frankston Bowling Club (for the World Bowls Tournament), in addition to the many large halls in Melbourne such as Robert Blackwood, Dallas Brooks and Melbourne Town Hall. We also sang as guest artists in our own right with the Footscray-Yarraville Band at the Melbourne Concert Hall, a most exciting occasion. One very interesting occasion was participating in the world premiere of the "Box Hill Gloria", composed by George Dreyfuss, in the Box Hill Town Hall. We also recorded with the ABC.

A memorable occasion was a concert staged by F.E.I.P. at the Melbourne Town Hall in 1978 at which the combined choirs of Melbourne and Maroondah Singers, and the recently formed Kelmier Orchestra, held the stage for the entire afternoon. We little realised when we sang with the orchestra that afternoon that we were witnessing the burgeoning of a group which was to become renowned throughout Australia and overseas under the name of the Australian Pops Orchestra. Using the Boston Pops Orchestra as his pattern, Kel McMillan brought together a group of talented musicians capable of playing any type of music, from popular to classical, and this has met with tremendous success. Regular full houses at the Melbourne Concert Hall, interstate performances (e.g. the Sydney Opera House) and direct broadcasts over the B.B.C. are now part of the story. From small beginnings ... Our Conductor gave great encouragement to the formation of this orchestra.

Much has already been said about some of our very successful concerts. The tales must also be told of the "not so successful" - due generally to lack of sufficient publicity on the part of the organisers. Many miles were travelled by choir members - always at their own expense - to sometimes find a hall or theatre containing only a handful of people. On one occasion the two choirs - Melbourne and Maroondah Singers - travelled a long way to the south west of the state and sang to a house which contained just six people apart from choir members' relatives and friends! That type of story was repeated on a few occasions. The reasons given for lack of attendance by the local population were varied - other functions in the town, a "flu epidemic, bad weather - but to the credit of the choir, the performance was always exactly as it would have been if the hall had been bursting at the seams, and the small audiences invariably tried to make up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers.

One unforgettable day was a Good Friday presentation in the Fitzroy Gardens. It had been an atrocious night - a dreadful storm, pelting rain and howling winds. The Secretary's phone ran hot that morning. Would our outdoor concert

still go on despite the dreadful weather? A phone call to the Conductor quickly resolved the issue. NO performance is ever cancelled. Once a commitment is made, we're on. (We'll weather the weather, whatever the weather ..!) A Melbourne newspaper told the story the next day. It pictured an elderly couple huddled in raincoats and under an umbrella listening to the choirs singing excerpts from the "Crucifixion". They comprised almost the entire audience! On other occasions we would have an audience of many hundreds sitting on the lawns under the beautiful trees or in brilliant sunshine.

Over a period of eight years the combined choirs provided background music on Good Friday during re-enactments of the Crucifixion by various church and theatrical groups. On one very dramatic occasion, the clouds rolled over at the height of the drama, adding to the sinister atmosphere, and a moment later gave way to allow a shaft of sunlight to illuminate the empty Cross, symbol of the Christian faith. It seemed we had a very good Stagehand working with us!

We had numerous engagements with F.E.I.P. As well as regularly performing in the Fitzroy Gardens on Good Friday singing sacred numbers, we sang on St. Andrew's Day with appropriate Scottish items. On other specific occasions, such as Anzac Day, we were the choir selected to sing with orchestras and bands at the Myer Music Bowl or the Melbourne Town Hall. We quickly became known for our quality, discipline and versatility, and soon found ourselves receiving invitations to sing with such prestigious musical groups as the Third Military District Band, the Footscray and Yarraville Band, the Dandenong Municipal Band and various bands of the Salvation Army, to name but a few. One exciting night was as guest artists with "The Army in Concert" at the Dallas Brooks Hall. What a variety of engagements we have enjoyed!

At this point I should mention the spirit of co-operation which prevailed between Jim's two choirs, the Melbourne and Maroondah Singers. There was excellent liaison between the Presidents, Secretaries and other office-bearers, and on the occasions of the combined appearances, frequently involving 150 singers, arrangements were generally most efficiently executed. Special thanks must go to Barbara Boland for her liaison work when she was a member of both choirs for several years.

* * * * *

HIGHS AND LOWS

In the twenty years of the life of the choir there have been high and low moments. One of the "low" moments came in 1983 when our long-standing Conductor, Jim Watsford, found it necessary to resign because of ill-health. How do you replace the irreplaceable? The answer came in the form of Max Thomson from our own ranks, an experienced chorister who had also spent some time under Jim's baton, and another "natural" musician also capable of playing and arranging. Max filled the void and the Singers now wear his mantle - different in some ways to that of their previous "chief", but demanding the same standards of discipline and excellence. So the Maroondah flag continues to fly high!

And that is what progress is. Change to meet the changing demands of the times, but always maintaining sight of the original goal - in our case the provision of high-standard choral music for the enjoyment of listeners and performers.

Over the years we have shared joy and sadness with our members. We were privileged to share the happiness of Val Box when her tenth child, and tenth son, was born. It was a moving moment. Other members have lost loved ones and we have shared their grief. The choir was represented at the funeral services of Jim Watsford's parents, "Mick" and Dorothy, and also supported Max Thomson when his father passed away. Max gave a wonderful display as organ accompanist in the "Battle Hymn" shortly after his father's death and said that his inspired performance was "for Dad". We also grieved with John Atwell in the loss of his beloved father.

We were saddened by the untimely death of several of our members, including Joe Hitzke, David Owen, Arthur Tate, Tom Wynne, Les Youlten and Rex Libbis. We took part in the funeral service for Les, and sang, at Rex's family's request, at his service. Other loved and respected members have passed on and been greatly missed.

ACCOMPANISTS

So much of what a choir achieves, particularly on a concert platform, is dependent on an accompanist. Maroondah Singers have been privileged to have as their "permanent" accompanists three very talented people. Lela Wright first occupied the position, to be followed by Janet Perkins and currently John Atwell. John's musical versatility and his sense of humour have been a continuing delight over the last eight years. We are grateful indeed to have had musicians of this calibre working with us. Jenny Jenkins and John Cleghorn have more recently been "backup" accompanists, and Judy Greenhill,

Geoff Cheal and Greg Mason also gave valuable service. For many years, our faithful member Molly Culvenor, an alto, stepped into the breach as rehearsal accompanist. Thank you, Molly. I should mention that all our permanent accompanists were equally proficient on piano and organ, and with musical arrangements. John keeps up a supply of original arrangements for which we are most grateful.

LAUGHTER

Laughter is an important part of our "choir therapy". Some of the stories which must be told are the funny and no-so-funny incidents in the life of the choir. We are fortunate to have had two in-built comedians in our ranks for many years. Frequently the choir has "broken up" with comments, sometimes in an otherwise serious moment, from Jean Magee and Harold Chivers. Bless you both!

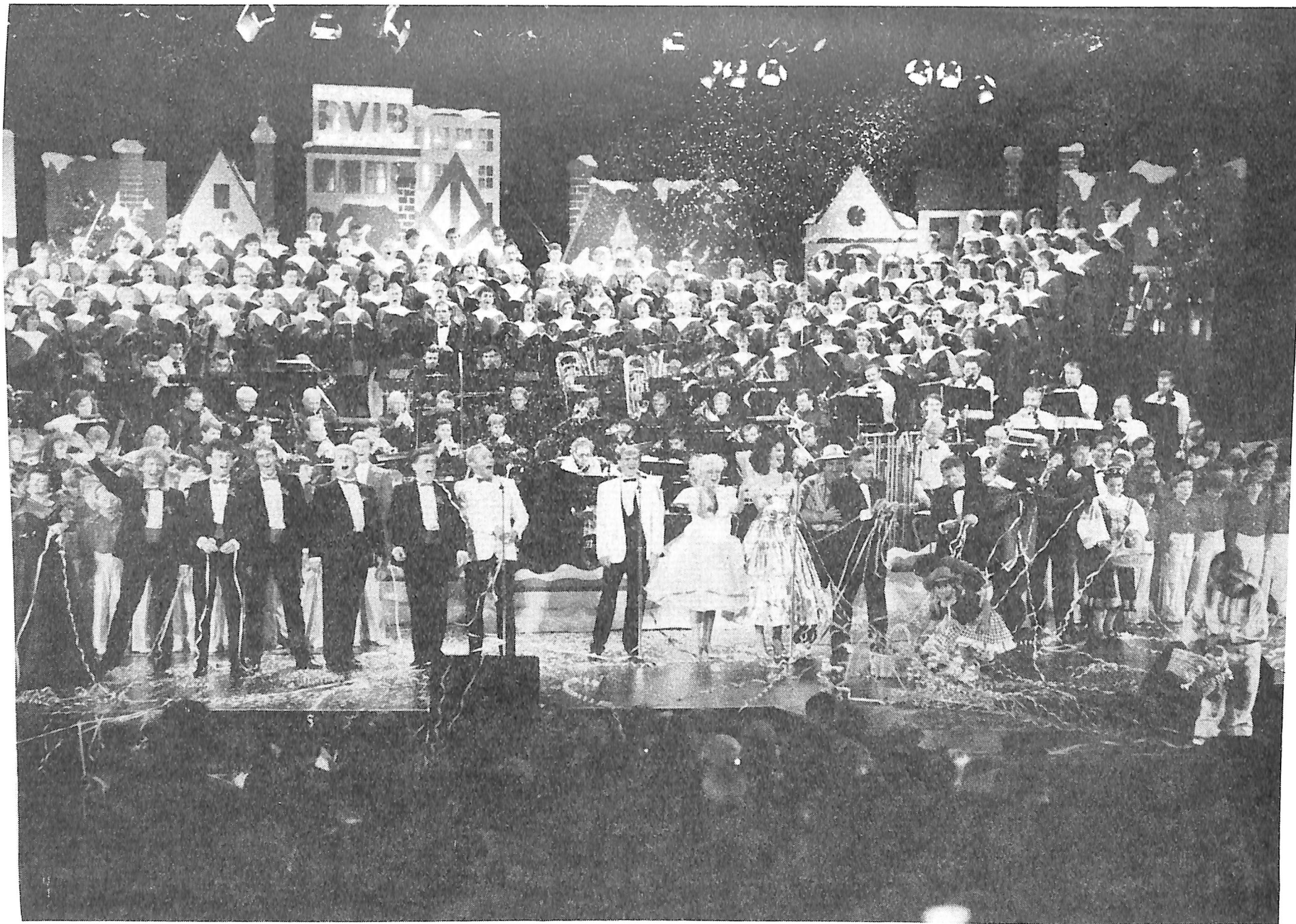
We remember well one occasion when Jim, who is a very mobile conductor, (he's even been known to waltz down the aisle with a member of the audience) was conducting very energetically from his podium, missed his footing, fell to the floor but continued conducting from his seated position. That's dedication for you!

There was also a dramatic moment when one of our foundation members, Joyce Smith, fell from the end of the platform at the Myer Music Bowl during a Christmas Eve performance, fortunately without serious injury. She was able to laugh about it! Brian Naylor, the Compere, cushioned her fall!

We have always been able to tell by the agonised or delighted expressions on our Conductors' faces how we are performing. A sure barometer. And currently there is a joke told at the end of each rehearsal by our Conductor which sends us off in a happy frame of mind. It is most important that his supply of good jokes is replenished!

On a more serious note, we are grateful indeed that both of our Conductors emerged from serious operations to lead healthier lives. Jim has taken on a new lease of life after heart surgery, and we know that Max's strong character and spirit were instrumental in his overcoming a serious illness. We believe Max will provide his particular brand of strong leadership for many a year to come, and we congratulate him on his achievements over the past five years. He identifies well with all age groups and his encouragement of younger singers is commendable.

* * * * *



ROYAL VICTORIAN INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND "CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT"
50th PRESENTATION, 24 Dec. 1987. (Photo by courtesy R.V.I.B.)

WORK AND PLAY

Over the years we have had a number of people who have helped to liven our social life by being on the Social Committee. They have organised social evenings, items (Will anyone ever forget Sheila Jamieson and company in "Nobody Loves a Fairy When She's 40"?), suppers, picnics, dinners, weekend excursions and "cuppas" during or after rehearsals. We have had some great times and the venues are always left immaculate. Our thanks to them all. There have even been some romances blossom in these conditions.

We also have to thank the menfolk, and some ladies, who organise the hall or venue prior to our concerts. The platform is erected and seating organised. The choir arrives en masse at the appropriate time, is marshalled and files in to its allotted seats. Few realise how much has been done beforehand so that the proceedings can run just like clockwork. Then at the end of the concert, the platform disappears like magic, to be tucked away in its box again waiting for the next performance. Thank you, all of you. This spirit of co-operation also exists on rehearsal nights with the necessary movement of chairs, tables and piano. Thank you.

On the subject of a spirit of co-operation, we must mention the occasions on which choir members, relations and friends "rolled up" to the working bees for the production of our new platform. It was a sight to behold, with ladies wielding drills, hammers and hacksaws, toting boards and passing nails. The men, of course, were ultimately responsible for the end product - an excellently versatile platform which stacks easily into our new trailer. The whole system - platform and trailer - was designed, with precise engineering drawings, by our multi-talented President, and was built with the assistance of several choir members and friends. It's good to have practical people who can sing and conduct as well! Yes, our Conductor was there, too!

UNIFORM

The uniform, notably the ladies' has changed several times over the years to meet changing situations. It has been a challenge to each successive dress committee to come up with something which had all the right characteristics, including good stage colour, attractiveness on all sorts of people and serviceability. Many were the hours spent in the homes of May Vagg, Val Speed, Jenny Barnfather and Vivienne Horner drafting and cutting patterns for the entire choir to use for the first dress. Jenny has played a continuing role, having been involved with several committees. The second dress, red, with a smart black and white tie (with a matching

tie for the men) was made by a professional company. There was a gasp of approval when the elegant Pam Lockett modelled it for the first time. That dress served the ladies well. We then moved on to multi-coloured dresses, shared by Melbourne Singers, which were regarded as appropriate colours for T.V. lighting, a consideration with our Carols by Candlelight appearances. The next step was a burgundy dress with blue trim, and now we have come full circle, back to a peacock colour, as was the original, but different in fabric and style. Elaine Hopkins spent many years as Wardrobe Mistress, Barbara Boland again provided liaison on uniforms between the two choirs, and Joan Stott and Margaret Jenkins have also contributed. Elsie Young has had the position of Wardrobe Mistress for several years and is doing sterling work. She has also coped with the men's uniform, and the current smart combination of slacks, blazer, shirt and two ties, should please everyone. Thank you to all of you who have contributed in this area. It would be interesting to speculate on what we might be wearing at the time of our 40th birthday!

PROGRESS

During the last several years our "Annual Concert" has taken on a different form, with some new innovations to add to the interest. We have moved from the barn-like surrounds of the school halls to the more intimate and comfortable (padded seats!) atmosphere of the Karralika Theatre in Ringwood. I was privileged to be in the audience last year (a rare opportunity, thanks to a viral throat infection) and felt the choir sang with great discipline and beauty. The projection of some beautiful slides on to a screen above the platform enhanced the message of the lovely Trent/Hatch version of "My Country".

We are also delighted with the response we have had to some of our recent country concerts. We have just been back to Wangaratta for a third visit and are assured there will be a fourth. One of the delightful aspects of these country trips is the friendships which are forged, particularly between people who provide billets and those who avail themselves of them. Total strangers at the beginning of the weekend and firm friends at the end! Those who stay in motel accommodation also enjoy themselves immensely, particularly if Jean and Harold are nearby!

The present Committee has a modern approach, good business heads, and are full of good ideas for the furtherance of the choir's aims. Thank you all. As Merv. said, "We are on course and in good hands".



• ABOVE: Clunes people were entertained on Saturday night by the Maroondah Singers Choir at the Uniting Church. Musical director was Max Thomson and accompanist, John Atwell, pictured front. The choir also sang at a church service the next morning.

A regular guest on the Channel Nine Carols by Candlelight program on Christmas eve, the choir is an amateur group who formed at a public meeting at Mitcham in 1968. The choir was invited to Clunes by Lyn Trakell whose sister performs with the group.

KINGSWOOD
You are cordially invited to attend
Maroondah Singers
CONDUCTOR — MR. MAX THOMSON
FRIDAY, 1st JULY 8
BRIMACOMBE HALL, COLLEGE GARDENS
Station & Piedmont Sts. Boroondara
Guest Artists: **MR. JOHN ATWELL** (organ (organ courtesy Paul Hayward Centre))
MR. DOUGLAS PHILLIPS — violin
Tickets available at the College of Education (Ph. 890 0677) or at the door.
Adults: \$4 Students Pensioners: \$2
— A TOP CLASS EVENING IS ASSURED

An Easter feast An evening at the Bowl

WHAT is it about carols by candlelight that year after year draws hoards of misty-eyed Christmas well-wishers to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl?

Even the period's rampant commercialism can't dim the glimmer of hundreds of candles lit by a rapt audience every Christmas Eve.

In Brian Naylor's view, for some reason people of all ages are returning to the more traditional aspects of the season's celebrations.

He remembers vividly the first year he hosted the evening at the Bowl. "I had no understanding of the magnitude of it."

"I entered the stage at the top of the choir and walked all the way through the choir and orchestra. To see that sea of people and candles, to the opening theme of 'Come All Ye

Faithful" sent tingles up my spine.

"It still has that, if not greater, effect on me."

This year is Brian's 5th as host, and an estimated crowd of 60,000 is expected, while thousands more will tune into Channel 9 for a live broadcast at 9 p.m.

Entertainers will include "Mr and Mrs Music", Jackie Trent and Tony Hatch, Karen Knowles, Philip Gould, Jackie Love, Colette Mann, and the Austrian Children's Choir.

Special guests are Humphrey B. Bear and Father Christmas.

For Brian it is his last job before he goes on holiday for three weeks, to do little more than sail and potter about on his farm.

"Carols by Candlelight" is a "superb" night, and offers a welcome change from television news, he says.

"It's marvellous to see the number of people of different ages who attend."

"There are babes fast asleep in their mothers' arms, to senior citizens."

"This is a great illustration of good will, all those people, particularly the young ones, coming together."

"You'd think it would be the last thing they'd want to do, what with the early rising on Christmas Day, to have a late night at the Bowl listening to carols."

In concert
THE Maroondah Singers will be guest artists at a Christmas festival concert at the Robert Woodward Hall, Monash University, on Friday, November 28 at 8 p.m.

The concert is being presented by the Hawthorn City Band, the current national and State champions.

Musical director will be Mr Ken Macdonald. For tickets contact Bryan Bennett, 653 8385 (BH) or 49 6305 (AH) or Kevin Morgan, 763 6813.

Anyone interested in joining the Maroondah Singers may contact John Burch on 814 0585, or 870 1988 (A.H.)

The Ringwood Civic Centre where Tony Felton, well-known Australian and overseas organist, will be guest performer.

"Last Christmas we sang at the Ringwood Market, we have featured in the Melbourne City Council's 'Free Entertainment in the Parks' (FELP) program, and on March 31 we will be performing for Kingswood College, Box Hill.

"We support many charitable organisations and churches through concerts, services and pleasant Sunday afternoons."

"A popular feature of the group's activities is the weekend away providing an opportunity to perform as well as to socialise," Mr Burch said.

The Singers group comprised of people from Croydon to Box Hill, is associated with the Nunawading City Band and Council.

The past few years have seen increased interest in the group's activities. The annual concert will this year be held in September, at the Uniting Church hall, at 59 Doncaster East Rd, Mitcham, on Monday evenings, at 8 p.m.

Make your voice heard now — join Mitcham choir

Sacred music in concert

Supporting artists will be Philip Ledger, member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and John Trakell, a theatre and recording artist.

Supporting artists will be Philip Ledger, member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and John Trakell, a theatre and recording artist.

By Lisa Tendler

PEOPLE

A history of this sort would not be complete without making mention of the thousands of man (and woman!) hours which have gone voluntarily into running this successful choir. John Williams, as has already been mentioned, has occupied the positions of Vice President, Deputy Conductor and now President, the first two since the inception of the choir. John also occupied the post of Chorus Master during the years when it became apparent that Jim Watsford's health was a problem and he needed to be relieved of the strain of regular conducting. As Chorus Master, John took over the actual teaching of the work - the hard "yakka" - and Jim was able to come back just a short time prior to a performance and "polish up" to his satisfaction. John also conducted in Max's extended absence in 1987, and has acquitted himself and the choir well in performances, including one of our annual concerts. We are fortunate indeed to have had such an excellent Deputy.

Our thanks must go to John for all that has been involved in the foregoing, and for his fidelity to the ideals of the choir. Even from a distance of many thousands of miles (e.g. Middle East) he has kept up his interest and enthusiasm, and has urged the choir on to bigger and better things. It is said very simply, but with the utmost sincerity - "Thank you, John".

John Soltau, John Gearing and Mick Murlis spent many years in the not-easy job of Treasurer, and Mick remained our "Financial Advisor" for some time after his health precluded his attending rehearsals. To all these our thanks are due. Max Thomson was also Treasurer, and then succeeded Merv. Vagg as President before being appointed Conductor. Thanks, Max, for all you have done and are doing. Marge Gibson took over the Presidency from Max but unfortunately moved to Adelaide after a brief period. John Burch has acted ably as Treasurer and Vice President as has his wife, Pat. (Any more Burches we can call on?) Trevor Hilson occupied the position of Vice President during one year, making valuable contribution. Thank you to you all. Andrew Gibson currently holds the post of Treasurer and we know our finances are in good hands.

It is dangerous to begin mentioning individual names, lest someone very deserving should be overlooked, but some of the ones who spring to mind for outstanding service over long period of time are:-

Marge Gibson, one-time President and versatile Committee member who stepped in to conduct, play or organise socials as the occasion demanded. Marge also worked on one of the dress committees.

Ian Barker, for faithfully carrying out his duties as Concert Equipment Organiser.

Clare Wishart, long-time collector of "dues" and welcomer of people at the door (now assisted by Pauline Thomson and others).

Milton Hallett, for occupying the position of Honorary Auditor for many years.

Freda Taylor, for many years a capable Ticket Secretary.

Eric Smith, for assistance with signwriting.

Norma Hargreaves, for "cheer up" messages.

Max Napper, Alan Strachan and John Commaskey, and more recently Lois Simon and Jean Magee for "Transport & Accommodation" work.

This list is by no means complete, but where does one end? So much thanks is due to so many people.

The position of Librarian, occupied for many years by May Vagg, was taken over by Joy Robinson, ably assisted by Joy Chivers. These ladies, ever gracious, handled this onerous task admirably. We are indeed fortunate now to have Les Beasley, assisted by his wife Phyl (and others from time to time) handling the work most efficiently. Our thanks to you all.

Many of the foregoing members have also been General Committee members and to them and all the others who have accepted nomination to the General Committee, and the responsibility which goes with it, we offer our sincere thanks. Their names are too numerous to mention, but our thanks are nevertheless sincere. Thanks, also, to the "ordinary" members who have displayed great loyalty, some over many years. Without you there would be no choir!

Our current Secretary, Phyl David, took on the position at the beginning of 1981, and shows all the signs of staying in the job forever! We thank her for her loyalty, efficiency, dedication and hard work over these past seven years. We also thank her good husband Ron for allowing her to give so much of her "retirement" time in the service of the choir, and for his other work behind the scenes, e.g. trailer building.

There are many family members who have given help in a variety of ways over the years. Without their co-operation in such areas as baby-sitting and transport, and in the very practical areas of provision of building facilities and working bees, we could not have been so successful. On behalf of all the choir, thank you.

"OUR PARENTS"

Although so much has been contributed by so many over all the years, the part played by Merv. and May Vagg, particularly in the early years of the choir, cannot be overstated. Merv. said, "Being retired enabled me to spend much time on choir business". That is an understatement. Their contribution, in so many ways, was enormous. May and Merv., the Maroondah Singers are indebted to you.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the Annual Meeting on 29th February, 1988, the choir bestowed the honour of Life Membership on six members who had been in the choir since its inception. These were, in alphabetical order, Jenny Barnfather, John Gearing, Vivienne Horner, Joy Morgan, Joyce Smith and John Williams. Thus they joined the ranks of those who, though not still active members, gained recognition for their past services - May and Merv. Vagg and Jim Watsford, and the late George Irvine.

* * * * *

(On Page 33 Vivienne stated that there is danger in listing individual names. She then graciously omitted herself from the list. Vivienne Horner was our second Secretary and served most efficiently for a total period of nine years before and after a family move interstate. Since then she has offered her services in special ways. Her wisdom is valued, and her particular skills are apparent in her preparation of this history book and assisting with organising our 20th birthday celebrations.

J.J.W.)

As I have written these notes, I have experienced again the thrill of our great successes of the past and the disappointments when something didn't go as planned - but overwhelmingly I remember the wonderful people with whom I've been involved. All have been prepared to share the ups and downs of life in a choir, taking the bad moments with the good. Who could forget the exciting moment when the cannons roar in the "1812 Overture", as we desperately await our next introduction, or the standing ovations when the audience has told us we've done well, or the perspiration streaming from the face of our tired but exhilarated Conductor as he takes the final bow? ... But we also remember the haranguings from that same Conductor when we wouldn't remember what he'd told us! And the absolute crash, sometimes, when we'd get the words wrong or miss an introduction altogether. Good times and bad. But always lovely people, good friends and the joy of singing, hopefully bringing pleasure to all who hear us.

We have done well. May our goals be set as high as ever, and our standards never be lowered. The nearly four hundred people who have passed through or are in our ranks have reason to be proud.

Happy 20th birthday, Maroondah Singers, and many happy returns!

V.H.

RECORD OF APPEARANCES

No.	Date	Venue	Location	Purpose or Beneficiary
1	18/12/68	Old Orchard Shop. Centre	Blackburn	Community service
2	13/4/69	Forest Hills Theatre	Forest Hill	Nuna. Community Chest
3	27/6/69	Box Hill High School	Box Hill	Community Aid Abroad
4	26/7/69	Box Hill Salv. Army	Box Hill	Community service
5	22/8/69	Mitcham Memorial Hall	Mitcham	Community service
6	14/9/69	Ringwood Town Hall	Ringwood	Community service
7	5/10/69	Nunawading Civic Centre	Nunawading	Nuna. Arts Festival
8	10/10/69	Mitcham Memorial Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Arts Festival
9	20/12/69	Ringwood Lake Sound Shell	Ringwood	Community Carols
10	19/4/70	Nuna. Senior Cit. Club	Nunawading	Community service
11	30/5/70	Mountview Church Centre	Mitcham	Mountview Church
12	14/8/70	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	N.A.D.R.A.S.C.A.
13	27/9/70	Nunawading Civic Centre	Nunawading	Nuna. Arts Festival
14	16/10/70	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Arts Festival
15	* 13/11/70	Hawthorn Town Hall	Hawthorn	Community service
16	20/12/70	Doncaster Shoppingtown	Doncaster	Community Carols
17	27/3/71	Albury Civic Theatre	Albury	Albury Music Theatre
18	23/4/71	Methodist Church Hall	Ringwood	Community Aid Abroad
19	* 25/4/71	Princess Theatre	Melbourne	T.U. Arts Festival
20	29/5/71	Croydon High School Hall	Croydon	Maroondah Hospital
21	26/6/71	Alex Rigg Theatre	Shepparton	Shep. Mus. Adv. Society
22	10/7/71	Blackburn High School Hl.	Blackburn	Nuna. Mayor's Concert
23	* 13/9/71	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	M.F.B.B.
24	16/10/71	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Arts Festival
25	6/11/71	Presbyterian Hall	Warragul	Assoc. for the Blind
26	13/12/71	Plenty Psychiatric Hosp.	Plenty	Community Carols
27	* 31/3/72	Lorne Theatre	Lorne	Lorne Lions Club
28	15/4/72	Anglican Church Hall	Warragul	Assn. for the Blind
29	17/5/72	Norwood High School Hall	Ringwood	Maroondah Hospital
30	26/5/72	Strathdon Presby. Home	Forest Hill	Community service
31	16/6/72	Church of Christ Hall	Wattle Park	Comb. East. Ch.of Ch.
32	9/7/72	Mountview Church Centre	Mitcham	Mountview Church
33	14/7/72	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Mayor's Concert
34	* 11/8/72	Melbourne Town Hall	Melbourne	Methodist "Million"
35	30/9/72	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Arts Festival
36	28/10/72	Hamilton Town Hall	Hamilton	Hamilton Rotary Club
37	29/10/72	Ararat Town Hall	Ararat	Ararat Music Club
38	3/11/72	St. Catherine's Church	Sth. Caulfield	St. Catherine's Church
39	* 5/12/72	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	Foots. & Y'ville Band
40	10/3/73	Kernot Hall	Yallourn	Latrobe Valley Festival
41	17/3/73	St. Edward's C. of E.	Blackburn	St. Edward's
42	7/4/73	Technical School Hall	Morwell	Morwell Rotary Club
43	5/5/73	Meth.Presby. Church Hall	Koonung Hts.	Koonung Meth.Pres. Ch.
44	24/5/73	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	Rotary Club of Northcote
45	25/5/73	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	Rotary Club of Northcote
46	3/6/73	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Mayor's Concert
47	23/6/73	Strathdon Presby. Home	Forest Hill	Community service
48	27/10/73	Ararat Town Hall	Ararat	Ararat Music Club
49	8/11/73	Northland Shop. Centre	Northland	N'land Lions Club
50	1/12/73	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Arts Festival
51	* 6/12/73	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	F'scray & Y'ville Band
52	10/12/73	Box Hill Hosp. Grounds	Box Hill	Community service
53	2/5/74	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	Rotary Club of Northcote
54	3/5/74	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	Rotary Club of Northcote

Record of Appearances
Cont'd.

No.	Date	Venue	Location	Purpose or Beneficiary
55	12/10/74	St. Edward's Church Hall	Blackburn	St. Edward's Church
56	* 22/10/74	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	F'scray & Y'ville Band
57	9/11/74	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Arts Festival
58	10/11/74	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Arts Festival
59	* 24/11/74	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
60	22/12/74	Doncaster Shoppingtown	Doncaster	Donc. Comm. Appeal
61	1/3/75	Pakenham High School	Pakenham	Pakenham Rotary Club
62	* 28/3/75	Fitzroy Gardens	Melbourne	Community service (Easter)
63	1/5/75	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	Northcote Rotary Club
64	2/5/75	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	Northcote Rotary Club
65	* 4/5/75	Melbourne Town Hall	Melbourne	Conf. of Ch. of Christ
66	21/6/75	St. Alban's & St. George	Coburg	Miss. for Sts. & Lanes
67	6/7/75	Mountview Church Centre	Mitcham	Mountview Church
68	20/9/75	St. Andrew's Church	Aberfeldie	New Guinea Hospital Appl.
69	26/9/75	Murr'beena United Parish	Murrumbreena	Church Organ Fund
70	4/10/75	Methodist Ladies' College	Kew	Meth. Ch. Internat. Fund
71	8/11/75	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Arts Festival
72	9/11/75	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Nuna. Arts Festival
73	* 16/11/75	Myer Music Bowl (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
74	* 23/11/75	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
75	21/12/75	Doncaster Shoppingtown	Doncaster	Community Carols
76	27/3/76	Warrnambool Town Hall	Warrnambool	Merri Kinder. C'tee
77	* 16/4/76	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service (Easter)
78	24/4/76	Pakenham High School Hl.	Pakenham	Pakenham Rotary Club
79	30/4/76	Healesville Shire Hall	Healesville	Rotary Ambulance Appl.
80	29/5/76	Maryborough Town Hall	Maryborough	Maryborough Foot. Club
81	19/6/76	Nuna. United Parish Ch.	Nunawading	Nuna. Unit. Church
82	* 5/9/76	Melbourne Town Hall (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
83	6/11/76	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Annual Concert
84	7/11/76	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Annual Concert
85	* 28/11/76	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
86	29/11/76	Robt. Blackwood Hall	Monash Uni.	Dandenong Munic. Band
87	19/12/76	Forest Hill Shopp. Centre	Forest Hill	Community Carols (Lions)
88	26/3/77	Warrnambool Town Hall	Warrnambool	Merri Kind. C'tee
89	* 8/4/77	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service (Easter)
90	29/4/77	Healesville Shire Hall	Healesville	H'ville Lions Club
91	6/6/77	Robert Blackwood Hall	Monash Uni.	Dandenong Munic. Band
92	* 11/9/77	Melbourne Town Hall (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
93	27/11/77	Box Hill Salv. Army	Box Hill	Community service
94	* 4/12/77	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
95	5/12/77	Robert Blackwood Hall	Monash Uni.	Dand. Munic. Band
96	18/12/77	Forest Hill Shopp. Centre	Forest Hill	Community Carols (Lions)
97	17/3/78	Healesville Shire Hall	Healesville	Heales. Lions Club
98	* 24/3/78	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service (Easter)
99	8/4/78	Rye Civic Hall	Rye	Pen. Search & Rescue
100	22/4/78	Warrnambool High School	Warrnambool	Merri Kind. C'tee
101	5/8/78	Box Hill Town Hall	Box Hill	Tallaringa Trefoil Gld.
102	* 2/9/78	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	3 MD Band Concert
103	* 20/11/78	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	F'scray & Y'ville Band
104	* 26/11/78	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
105	8/12/78	Ringwood Tech. Sch. Hall	Heathmont	Boronia Unit. Church
106	* 12/12/78	Melbourne Town Hall	Melbourne	Kelmier Orch. Concert
107	17/12/78	Forest Hill Shopp. Centre	Forest Hill	Community Carols (Lions)
108	22/12/78	235 The Boulevard	East Ivanhoe	Carols (Epilepsy Found)
109	* 31/12/78	Carlton Football Ground	Carlton	World Fair

Record of Appearances
Cont'd.

No.	Date	Venue	Location	Purpose or Beneficiary
110	* 13/4/79	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service (Easter)
111	* 22/4/79	Myer Music Bowl (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service (Anzac)
112	28/4/79	Rye Civic Hall	Rye	Pen. Search & Rescue
113	21/7/79	Monbulk Civic Hall	Monbulk	Rudolf Steiner Home
114	* 15/9/79	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	3 MD Band Concert
115	* 29/9/79	Melbourne Cricket Ground	Melbourne	V.F.L. Grand Final
116	10/11/79	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Annual Concert
117	* 2/12/79	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
118	* 13/12/79	Melbourne Town Hall	Melbourne	Kelmier Orch. Concert
119	* 24/12/79	Myer Music Bowl	Melbourne	Carols by Candlelight
120	* 16/1/80	Frankston Bowling Club	Frankston	World Bowls Ch'ship
121	* 2/2/80	Frankston Bowling Club	Frankston	World Bowls Ch'ship
122	15/3/80	Traralgon City Hall	Traralgon	Latrobe Valley Festival
123	* 4/4/80	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service (Easter)
124	* 20/4/80	Myer Music Bowl (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service (Anzac)
125	16/7/80	Moorabbin Town Hall	Moorabbin	Theatre Organ Society
126	* 3/8/80	Melbourne Town Hall (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
127	* 24/12/80	Myer Music Bowl	Melbourne	Carols by Candlelight
128	21/3/81	Traralgon City Hall	Traralgon	Latrobe Valley Festival
129	* 26/4/81	Myer Music Bowl	Melbourne	Community service (Anzac)
130	* 28/6/81	Melbourne Town Hall (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
131	14/11/81	Mitcham High School Hall	Mitcham	Annual Concert
132	* 24/12/81	Myer Music Bowl	Melbourne	Carols by Candlelight
133	* 9/4/82	Fitzroy Gardens (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service (Easter)
134	5/6/82	Kew High School Theatre	Kew	Nunawading Band
135	* 12/9/82	Melbourne Town Hall (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
136	22/10/82	Ringwood Tech. Sch. Hall	Heathmont	Uniting Church (Strathdon)
137	* 21/11/82	Myer Music Bowl (FEIP)	Melbourne	Community service
138	16/4/83	Poowong Community Hall	Poowong	Korumburra Uniting Ch.
139	17/4/83	Korumburra Uniting Ch.	Korumburra	Church service
140	1/7/83	Kingswood College Hall	Box Hill	Kingswood College
141	11/9/83	Mountview Church Centre	Mitcham	Mountview Church Centre
142	8/10/83	Warrnambool Town Hall	Warrnambool	W'bool Eisteddfod C'tee
143	9/10/83	Warrnambool Uniting Ch.	Warrnambool	Church service
144	15/10/83	Box Hill High Schl. Hall	Box Hill	Annual Concert
145	25/11/83	Robert Blackwood Hall	Monash Uni.	Olympic Telethon
146	2/12/83	Ringwood Shopping Centre	Ringwood	Community Carols
147	9/12/83	Ringwood Shopping Centre	Ringwood	Community Carols
148	16/12/83	Ringwood Shopping Centre	Ringwood	Community Carols
149	18/12/83	Nunawading Civic Centre	Nunawading	Community Carols (Jaycees)
150	* 24/12/83	Myer Music Bowl	Melbourne	Carols by Candlelight
151	31/3/84	Kingswood College Hall	Box Hill	Bap.Ch. SE Asia Refugees
152	15/4/84	Glen Iris Lutheran Ch.	Glen Iris	Community service (Easter)
153	18/4/84	Mountview Uniting Church	Mitcham	Community service (Easter)
154	1/7/84	Blackburn Baptist Church	Blackburn	Nuna. Arts Festival
155	18/8/84	East B'wick 7th D. Bap.	Brunswick	E.B'wick 7th D.Bap.Church
156	15/9/84	Karralika Theatre	Ringwood	Annual Concert
157	23/9/84	Box Hill Uniting Church	Box Hill	Box Hill Uniting Church
158	14/12/84	Forest Hills Shopp.Ctce	Forest Hill	Community Carols
159	16/12/84	Nunawading Civic Centre	Nunawading	Community Carols (Jaycees)
160	20/12/84	Moonee Ponds Shop.Ctce	Moonee Ponds	Community Carols
161	21/12/84	Ringwood Shopping Centre	Ringwood	Community Carols
162	* 24/12/84	Myer Music Bowl	Melbourne	Carols by Candlelight

Record of Appearances
Cont'd.

No.	Date	Venue	Location	Purpose or Beneficiary
163	23/3/85	Inverloch Uniting Church	Inverloch	Inverloch Uniting Ch.
164	14/4/85	Arawata Uniting Church	Arawata	Arawata Uniting Church
165	26/4/85	Kingswood College Hall	Box Hill	Bulleen Baptist Church
166	1/6/85	Kingswood College Hall	Box Hill	Churches of Christ
167	19/10/85	Alexandra Civic Hall	Alexandra	Up.Goulb.Valley Arts C'cil
168	16/11/85	Wangaratta Uniting Ch.	Wangaratta	Wangaratta Uniting Church
169	17/11/85	Wangaratta Uniting Ch.	Wangaratta	Church service
170	1/12/85	Croydon Reserve	Croydon	Community Carols
171	24/12/85	Myer Music Bowl	Melbourne	Carols by Candlelight
172	26/4/86	Myrtleford Uniting Church	Myrtleford	Myrtleford Uniting Church
173	27/4/86	Myrtleford Uniting Church	Myrtleford	Church service
174	31/5/86	Ivanhoe Uniting Church	Ivanhoe	Ivanhoe Uniting Church
175	25/5/86	Doncaster Ch. of Christ	Doncaster	Church service
176	14/6/86	Dallas Brooks Hall	Melbourne	Unit.Ch. Share Appeal
177	20/7/86	Nunawading Civic Centre	Nunawading	Community service
178	26/7/86	Carey Grammar Sch. Hall	Kew	Bap. Ch. New Settlers Cte.
179	9/8/86	St. Peter's Ch. Hall	Box Hill	St. Peter's Ch., Box Hill
180	22/8/86	Agora Theatre	Latrobe Uni.	Diamond Valley Band
181	20/9/86	Wangaratta Uniting Church	Wangaratta	Wangaratta Uniting Church
182	21/9/86	Wangaratta Uniting Church	Wangaratta	Church service
183	27/9/86	Masonic Lodge, Ringwood	Ringwood	Ringwood Masonic Lodge
184	9/11/86	Kardinia Park	Geelong	Geelong Springding Fest.
185	28/11/86	Robert Blackwood Hall	Monash Uni.	Hawthorn City Band
186	7/12/86	Croydon Reserve	Croydon	Community Carols
187	14/12/86	Doncaster Shoppingtown	Doncaster	Community Carols
188	24/12/86	Myer Music Bowl	Melbourne	Carols by Candlelight
189	28/3/88	Clunes Uniting Church	Clunes	Clunes Uniting Church
190	29/3/88	Clunes Uniting Church	Clunes	Church service
191	23/5/87	Karralika Theatre	Ringwood	Ringwood Ch. of Christ
192	28/6/87	St. Peter's Church Hall	Box Hill	St. Peter's Ch., Box Hill
193	25/7/87	Ivanhoe Uniting Church	Ivanhoe	Ivanhoe Uniting Church
194	26/9/87	Ringwood Masonic Lodge	Ringwood	Ringwood Masonic Lodge
195	18/10/87	Alexandra Civic Hall	Alexandra	
196	5/12/87	Prince Philip Theatre	Melbourne Uni.	Anti Cancer Council
197	12/12/87	Camberwell Civic Centre	Camberwell	Hawthorn City Band
198	13/12/87	Doncaster Shoppingtown	Doncaster	Community Carols
199	24/12/87	Myer Music Bowl	Melbourne	Carols by Candlelight
200	19/3/88	Mooroolbark Baptist Ch.	Mooroolbark	Community service (Easter)
201	26/3/88	Wangaratta Uniting Church	Wangaratta	Wangaratta Uniting Church
202	27/3/88	Wangaratta Uniting Church	Wangaratta	Church service (Easter)
203	28/3/88	7th Day Adventist Church	Wantirna	Wantirna Unit.Ch. (Easter)
204	14/5/88	Nunawading Arts Centre	Nunawading	20th Birthday Concert

* Denotes combined appearance with Melbourne Singers

PRESIDENTS

Mr. Mervyn Vagg - 1968-1981

Mr. Max Thomson - 1982

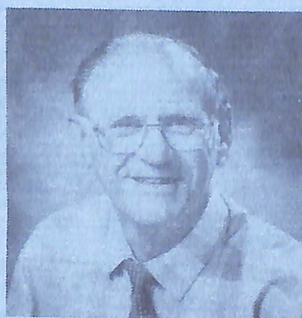
Mrs. Marge Gibson - 1983 (until June)

Position occupied by

Vice President John Williams

Mr. John Williams - 1984-

JOHN WILLIAMS
Assistant Conductor
President: 1984-
Life Member



John Williams

