

# NOTES FROM THE TOP

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Mandurah City Choral Society Newsletter | Spring edition 2015 | Editor Roger Palmer

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## President's message

The last few months in the life of MCCS have been busy and fulfilling. Becoming familiar with Vivaldi's *Gloria* under Chris Timoney's expert tutelage set us in good stead for Chris Ryland's return. A concert in the lovely MPAC foyer for the Friends of the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre in August was a great success and certainly introduced some more people to our music. Many thanks to Guy Boyce and the wonderful team at the centre.

Our next performance is Vivaldi's *Gloria* at MPAC. This will include a local orchestra and should be a delight. Before we know it Christmas will be upon us with a concert at Christ's Church. Thanks again to all who help to make MCCS a vibrant and successful choir. I hope you come to enjoy our next show – whether you are singing or listening!

**Wendy Summers**  
**MCCS President**



## Current Program

MCCS is currently rehearsing Vivaldi's *Gloria* in preparation for a performance with Mandurah Festival Orchestra on Sunday 4 October. The event will be **Mandurah Proms** held at Mandurah Performing Arts Centre.

Tickets \$35 available from Mandurah Performing Arts Centre box office.



"Can Wolfgang come out and play?"

## Musical director's observations

Well, we have reached a turning point in our efforts to learn Vivaldi's wonderful *Gloria*! There have been many positive points from our rehearsals lately, not the least being that I sense that the music is beginning to have an infectious effect on many choir members. You are beginning to take ownership of it! I have witnessed the delight on the altos' faces as they nail the major third endings in a couple of movements, the beaming faces of the basses as they proudly declaim the opening theme of *Cum Sancto Spiritu*, the tenors as they announce that 'they are getting it', and, of course the sopranos who are dazzling us as ever with their sparkling sound.

I personally try to be passionate about everything that I do in life, and nowhere is this more relevant than with music performance. So, can I ask choir members to strive for this same passionate approach? You will find that it will take you along for the ride of your life! Find out what a choral society is all about and read about what other choirs are doing, Widen your listening experiences to embrace the masterpieces of the choral repertoire, as I suspect that many of you are not aware of this genre, even though you belong to a choral society!

Listen to all the pieces we are performing EVERY DAY! Mark your scores, especially with the timing of entries, practise tricky bits over and over again until you get them! And finally, don't come to rehearsal on Mondays without having done this preparation - you owe it to your team not to be the weakest link! By the way, WASO are performing Vivaldi's *Gloria* in Season 2016.

**Chris Ryland**  
**Musical Director**



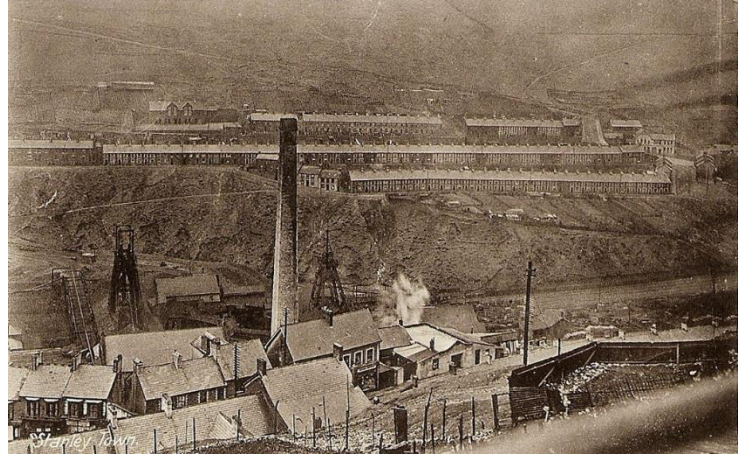
## Meet a choir member – Susan Davies

### *My early life in Wales - as told to the Editor*

My early life was spent in the mountains and valleys of Wales where coal mining cast a dusty shadow. I was born Susan Rogers in 1947 at a place called Llwynypia. When I was 6 weeks old my family moved to Stanlytown, with the nearest city being Cardiff, 30 kms to the south east. My childhood was a happy time and my 3 younger siblings and I lived in the local pub, a large 2 story building run by my parents. Dad, apart from being a publican was also a miner. I have many pleasant memories of that time, particularly the singing and the beautiful voices of the miners in a smoky pub on a Saturday night. My Dad bought the first TV set in the town and I remember being dressed up and watching the Coronation with the rest of the townspeople who had been invited.

I attribute my love of singing to those early days. Winters were cold and when the snow came sheets of cardboard made excellent if unsafe toboggans down the valley. My school was alongside the mine, but this is now long closed and the valley has returned to its original green landscape. I later lived in Gilfach Goch, the valley that was depicted in the novel 'How Green was my Valley'. We eventually moved to Newport where I met Tony and in 1982 Perth became our home. My life continues in Mandurah.

**Susan Davies**



### Mandurah Festival Orchestra

The volunteer Mandurah Festival Orchestra will be reconvening in September to prepare for Vivaldi's *Gloria* on October 4 – Mandurah Proms. Rehearsals will be Sunday 20 at Christ Church and 27 October. (venue TBA).

### Singing for Parkinson's

I have been living with Parkinson's (PD) for nearly 10 years and belong to the Peel Speech Therapy Group. Some people with PD have problems with their voices and can lose the ability to speak entirely. Our self help group seeks to improve this outlook in a number of ways, one of which is singing.

Up to 9 people attend our group each month and we are lucky enough to have a guitarist and a couple of good voices (one of which is from your MCCS) to lead this part of our therapy which is so important to us.

Singing with music puts me in a happy mood and we have all benefitted enormously with improvement in our voice projection, breath control, self confidence and communication. I feel that speech therapy teaches us how, and singing puts the therapy into action.

Keep singing MCCS.

**Elizabeth Lang**

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## German Apple Cake

**Prep** 15 min | **Cook** 55 min | **Serves** 12

### INGREDIENTS

2 eggs  
 3/4 cup vegetable oil  
 1 1/2 cups sugar  
 1 teaspoon vanilla  
 1 cup wholemeal flour  
 1 cup white self raising flour  
 2 teaspoons cinnamon  
 1 teaspoon baking soda  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 4 cups peeled chopped apples

### DIRECTIONS

1. In large bowl, beat eggs and oil until smooth.
2. Add next 6 ingredients and mix well.
3. Fold in apples.
4. Pour into greased 9 by 13 cm pan.
5. Bake at 180° C for 50-55 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of Wendy Summers



## Boronia is here again

*Boronia Is Here Again* is now officially MCCS's own song. Words and music have been donated by member Phil Bodeker, who composed the piece for Boronia Week in Perth in 1999.

Written for the Nedlands' Primary School Choir, and sung in public for the first time at a Forrest Place launch, it was not sung again until presented by MCCS at the Nannup Flower Festival in spring last year.

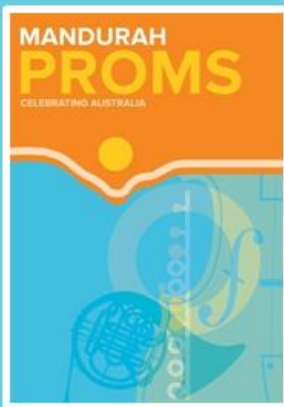
Phil and his wife Janice grew boronia commercially on their 16 acre Dwellingup property from 1994, and for three consecutive years supplied the Kings Park Flower Show, as well as florists in Perth, Pinjarra, Dwellingup and Mandurah. Words for the ANZAC version to the same music now also belong to MCCS.



## FOMPAC Concert

The Friends of Mandurah Performing Arts was a great success and lots of fun. Thanks to Guy Boyce and all the team. Here are a few photos from the day.





## Act-Belong-Commit Mandurah Proms

An afternoon of delightful and elegant music. The versatile Mandurah City Choral Society with the Mandurah Festival Orchestra present a varied program, featuring Vivaldi's sublime *Gloria* followed by some light operetta.

The orchestra will showcase their talents with an overture from Gilbert and Sullivan. Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, made famous by the Choir of Hard Knocks, will lead a hail of Hallelujahs concluding with the buoyant and energetic Hallelujah chorus from Handel's *Messiah*.

With something for everyone, this is an event not to miss. Enjoy the spectacular acoustics of the Performing Arts Centre's spacious foyer as it resonates with the music of an ensemble of talented local musicians.

Sunday 4 October | Tickets from MPAC box office - [www.manpac.com.au](http://www.manpac.com.au)

## What's on at MPAC

Sun 4 Oct	Mandurah Proms
Sat 10 Oct	Ali McGregor's <i>Alchemy</i>
15-18 Oct	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
12-14 Nov	Evita

Tickets at the Mandurah Performing Arts box office.

[www.manpac.com.au](http://www.manpac.com.au)



## Editor's comment

Spring is upon us and with it the vernal equinox and the spring edition of our MCCS newsletter. The winter edition seems to have been read by most choir members and I hope you notice the high esteem in which MCCS is held. You will observe some differences in the style of this publication as was always intended. Shorter, more light hearted and full of contributions from choir members. Do you have an interesting story to tell about yourself? The editor would be happy to help you write it if you want.

How do you know it's the bass section arriving at the church for choir practice? They can't find the key and don't know where to come in!

To finish, a lesson in poetry.

A limerick is a humorous poem consisting of five lines. The first, second, and fifth lines must have seven to ten syllables while rhyming and with the same verbal rhythm. The third and fourth lines only, should have five to seven syllables, and rhyme with each other and having the same rhythm. Rhymes may be unconventional.

As an example

*We have a top music director.  
Of wrong tones his ear's a detector.  
With notes white and black,  
He keeps us on track,  
So we can sing much more correcter.*

**Roger Palmer**  
Editor

## Welcome to new members

**Derek James** is our new bass and hails originally from Botswana where he was a director of orphanages. He now lives in Halls Head.

**Kate Henning** sings for the altos and also lives in Halls Head. She is studying at UWA and has had experience in choral work at school.

Our third recent member is **Angelyn Sarahgih**.

Please make yourself known to these brave choristers and welcome them into MCCS.

