

AUSTRALIAN RUGBY CHOIR

PATRON'S AWARD 2016

Presenting the Patron's Award at the Australian Rugby Choir's Annual Recognition Dinner is always a pleasure which seems to grow each year as the Choir becomes increasingly recognised as a valued contributor to the Canberra community.

This status comes about not only through the essentials of quality musical direction coupled with sound management and administration, all of which the choir has in abundance, but also through the strong commitment and dedication of the members themselves.

This is well illustrated in this year's recipient of the Award. He is not a long-term member of the Choir, in fact he has been a member for just over three years, but, from the moment he joined, his commitment and dedication have led him to become involved in a wide range of significant Choir functions.

The winner of this year's Patron's Award is Russell Grainger.

Russell lost no time in joining the Choir's planning and management Committee two years ago and he is noted for working through issues in the Committee in a timely, fastidious and proactive manner.

As the Choir's Gig Co-ordinator he is responsible for liaison with the Choir's various clients, and for publishing a detailed calendar of events throughout the year. In ensuring gigs run smoothly, he spends considerable time speaking with organisations such as the Australian War Memorial and the Brumbies and others involved in the Choir's visits both within and outside Canberra. In this regard Russell often makes special trips to venues to ensure the staging, equipment and accommodation facilities are suitable for the Choir's requirements. This was ever so evident this year when a late change was necessary in moving the Choir's gig from Mittagong to Chevalier College in Burradoo.

Russell has been at the forefront of adopting new technologies in the Choir. He has given considerable time to the selection and purchase of large tablet PC's for the Musical Director and the Accompanist and in visiting members' homes to provide assistance with setting up equipment and ironing out any problems. His personal knowledge of devices now used by many Choir members has been invaluable.

On Thursday nights Russell arrives quite early to take responsibility for unlocking and re-securing the Choir's practice venue at the Curtin Primary School and, with the help of others, for getting all the equipment ready for practice.

During this year, Russell also presented a case for the new raincoats now in use at outdoor events and was heavily involved in their sourcing, design selection, purchase and distribution.

Russell Grainger, your outstanding commitment towards the smooth-running, organisation and development of the Australian Rugby Choir is gratefully recognised by your fellow Choristers, as is the friendly and convivial manner in which you demonstrate this commitment.

I'm delighted to present this engraved tray to you as the winner of the 2016 Patron's Award.