

AUSTRALIAN RUGBY CHOIR

PATRON'S AWARD 2013

It always gives me real pleasure to present the Annual Patron's Award to a member of the Australian Rugby Choir. This is because you are a vibrant, well-organised and well-performed Choir and I know that such attainment is not achieved without wide-ranging commitment by many members. In this regard, it is worth noting again this year that the large number of members receiving nomination for the Award is reflective of the Choir's healthy position.

In introducing this year's winner, let me say that this is the first time in the nine years of the Award that the winner has not been a member or ex-officio member of the Committee for the year in question. In fact, this year's winner has been a member of the Choir for only a few years. In that time he has personally advised members, for example, in providing invaluable assistance to the group of members assessing and helping to set up electronic music reading capability for our professional music staff.

By now you may have guessed that the winner of the 2013 Patron's Award is Stephen Wedd.

Stephen brings years of experience in other choirs and repertory performances, and over the last two years he has played a major hand in coordinating contact arrangements with the local Aged Care Retirement Villages, thereby helping to make this year's concert so successful for the senior citizens whom the ARC seeks to serve.

However, it has been Stephen's work over the past twelve months as the Choir's Webmaster and Warble Editor that has been quite remarkable. His work in providing such a high quality website has been outstanding. This level of quality is not achieved without considerable research, consultation and many hours of committed work. And this continues with ongoing development and updating of the website. The website's functionality is exceptional with news, information, current and forthcoming events all readily accessible along with strong links to photos of Choir performances.

In summary, Stephen's initiatives have enlivened the overall presentation of the Choir and drawn the attention not only of members but also the online general public. The impression created is of a vital, active and community-centred Choir.

Stephen Wedd, it gives me much pleasure to present this engraved tray to you as the winner of the 2013 Patron's Award.