

PATRON'S AWARD 1 December 2017

The annual Recognition Dinner of the Australian Rugby Choir is always an enjoyable occasion, invariably coming at the end of another busy, successful year for you all. With this in mind, it gives me great pleasure at every Dinner to present the Patron's Award to recipients chosen by you as major contributors to that success.

Your Choir is well recognised widely both for its musical achievements and for its excellent management, administration and strong camaraderie, and so, it is not at all surprising to learn that this year no fewer than 6 Choir members were nominated for the Award. Such a number is a clear indication that this is a choir where major contributions to its smooth running are made right across the board, and, as I have noted on previous occasions, it clearly shows.

This year, for the first time since the Patron's Award was inaugurated in 2005, there has been a 2-way tie in the voting and so we have joint winners of the 2017 Patron's Award. They are;

Keith Jones and Albert Orszaczky, the Choir's Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Keith Jones has been a member of the Choir for nearly 20 years, a member of the Management Committee since 2009 and Secretary since 2013.

As Secretary and Public Officer, Keith performs countless hours of work year after year on usually-unseen, unattractive but highly necessary tasks such as maintaining the Choir's good name with the Office of Regulatory Services and all this work comes atop his role of servicing the Committee's monthly meetings. Keith has meticulously synthesised relevant legislation, guidelines, policies and procedures to keep the Choir's practices current and efficient, and he does all this so professionally.

Over the past several years Keith has played a major role in organising or co-organising the Choir's Annual Goulburn Weekend Retreat which plays such an important part in preparing members for major performances.

As another important contribution, Keith has strongly supported the T2's with additional practices at his home when the Choir has been preparing for major performances.

Albert Orszaczky joined the Choir in 2010, and, with a background in banking, became Treasurer in 2014.

As Treasurer, Albert is a member of the Choir's Management Committee where much of his contribution, also the result of countless hours of work, is largely unseen by the bulk of Choir members. His advice through monthly professional, timely reports, comments, guidance and budgetary considerations is of critical importance to the success of the Choir's management and administration. What stands out is Albert's obsession-like attention to detail coupled with his tireless dedication. During his recent convalescence following major surgery, monthly reports still flowed.

Albert is also acknowledged for his contribution to Committee deliberations well beyond his role as Treasurer. He has an enviable record of making thoughtful and constructive contributions and to becoming involved in them. For example, Albert took on the role of planning the ticketing for families of the Choir at the recent Male Voice Choir Concert in Wollongong. In his general relations with members, especially on practice nights, Albert is seen as always mindful of others.

Keith and Albert, your fellow choristers have acknowledged your valuable roles as Secretary and Treasurer of the Choir and also your additional work beyond those roles, and they appreciate your cheerful, helpful, approachable, professional and dedicated manner, always with the best interests of the Choir at heart.

You are indeed worthy joint winners of the Patron's Award for 2017.