

# Australian Rugby Choir

## PATRON'S AWARD 2018

Once again I have great pleasure in presenting the Patron's Award at the Annual Recognition Dinner of the Australian Rugby Choir. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> time the Award has been presented since its inception in 2005.

2018 has been another busy year for the Choir especially with 4 concerts coming late in the year and including a considerable number of new songs which had to be learned and brought up to concert standard.

It is no small wonder then that the winner of this year's Patron's Award, working in conjunction with your Musical Director, provided a vital and much appreciated opportunity for members to ease into the range of new songs at home and subsequently to polish up the directions and subtleties given by your Musical Director at practice.

You may have guessed by now that the 2018 winner of the Patron's Award is Colin Keith.

The Choir is fortunate in two regards to have Colin as a member. The first advantage is that Colin was a former audio engineer who now works in information technology. He knew which software programme to purchase, at his own expense, and worked out how to use that complex software. This valuable knowledge enabled him to produce the material members found so useful with their heavy programme of songs. Let there be no doubt that members have specifically expressed how easier and quicker it was to learn and raise standards using Colin's aides.

The second advantage to Choir members is that while Colin is still in full-time employment, he has been prepared to be very generous with his time. It takes him on average an hour to produce just one page in a score, bearing in mind virtually all notes have to be in four parts, along with the piano score, words and song dynamics, note by note. It has been a painstakingly difficult process.

And all this work has been carried out quietly behind the scenes. In fact Colin has been viewed as an unsung hero.

Another sample of Colin's talents and his willingness to help is that he assisted in sourcing the best possible images for the rear-screen projections used so effectively at the concerts at the Q.

Colin, your fellow Choristers have gratefully acknowledged that both your skills and your generous use of your time have been of particularly great assistance to them this year. I'm delighted to present this engraved tray to you as the winner of the 2018 Patron's Award.