

## **PATRON'S AWARD 2019**

Once again it is my pleasure to attend the Australian Rugby Choir's Recognition Dinner and to present the Patron's Award for 2019 to a member chosen by colleagues in the Choir.

Since the inauguration of the Patron's Award, 14 years ago in 2005, it has never been awarded to a member who has been a previous recipient. This year's recipient received the Patron's Award in 2008 and for many of the same reasons then as I will detail shortly, applying in 2019. The 2019 winner of the Patron's Award is ... **FRANK BERGERSEN**.

Frank conceived and instigated the visit by the Choir to the Cornwall International Male Choir Festival held over 5 days in early May this year. He was the driving force and took the leadership role for the 22 members plus professional staff, partners and family who took part. They have expressed their appreciation of the role played by Frank over a lengthy period of time leading up to the Festival and have acknowledged that his planning and unremitting attention to detail were directly responsible in making the Festival so memorable for them. Virtually every aspect of the Choir's visit to Cornwall such as accommodation, transport, tours, singing venues, meetings with other choirs and a major workshop, was encompassed by Frank.

Additionally, over the period of the lengthy arrangements for the Cornwall visit, Frank maintained and subsequently returned to his long-term support of the Choir in the important role of Equipment Manager. This role usually requires him to set-up equipment and be among the last to leave many of the Choir's events.

In other roles displaying his strong commitment and contribution to the Choir, Frank has been a Committee member, the name badge organiser and the co-ordinator of the Choir's basses. Frank also organised the successful New Members' recruitment campaign and practice night in February 2019.

Frank, your colleagues who attended the Cornwall Festival have recognised your major contribution and acknowledge that the Patron's Award is a well-earned recognition of that contribution.