

PATRON'S AWARD

26 November 2023

The Patron's Award was inaugurated in 2005 by the Australian Rugby Choir's Foundation Patron, David Lewis OAM, to enable Choir members to annually acknowledge outstanding contributions to the Choir.

The Annual Dinner of the ARC is an enjoyable end-of-year occasion and has always given me the opportunity and great pleasure of presenting the Award to the member chosen by you.

This year there were six worthy nominees, and the Winner of the 2023 Patron's Award is GARRY CHINN.

Garry has been a long-standing member of the Choir and for the last three years has been an integral part of the Management Committee of which he is the current Vice-President. He has readily assisted in various administrative and other tasks facing the Committee. An example, when faced with the major policy of recruiting new members, was the introduction of "business cards" to hand out to prospective new members and make their connection with the Choir easier. Another more recent example of Garry's publicity input was that he coordinated the live ABC 666 radio pre-Annual Concert Choir performance that went off relaxed and without a hitch and may well have encouraged new audience and new future Choir members.

Garry has assumed the role of Welfare Officer for the Choir especially in the demanding post-COVID years and has provided constant updates to members. He has maintained regular pastoral contact with members requiring assistance or support and has provided various practical solutions. Garry follows-up absent members and especially makes new members welcome. His welfare activities have been conducted with care and sensitivity.

Garry has brought a wonderful photographic background to the Choir and for many years has consistently delivered a fine record of various Choir events as well as providing individual portraits of members. These photographic memories will also provide an excellent background for any future history of the Choir along with Garry's interesting biographical information on the website.

Garry has held a positive presence in the ARC. Nominators have commented that his quick wit and humour, unfailing friendship and thoughtfulness, have contributed directly to the esprit de corps of the Choir. All these attributes will be seriously missed when Garry relocates to Queensland in retirement.

GARRY CHINN, YOUR FRIENDS IN THE AUSTRALIAN RUGBY CHOIR HAVE RECOGNISED YOUR OUTSTANDING, WIDESPREAD CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHOIR, AND I AM DELIGHTED TO PRESENT THIS ENGRAVED SILVER TROPHY TO YOU TO MARK THE OCCASION.