

AUSTRALIAN RUGBY CHOIR

PATRON'S AWARD 2011

Once again I have great pleasure in presenting the Patron's Award, inaugurated in 2005 by the Australian Rugby Choir's Foundation Patron, David Lewis, OAM.

As usual, Choir members have voted for persons they have individually judged to have given outstanding service to the Choir. I realise that although the contribution is judged for the year in question, those receiving the Award invariably have made contributions over a number of years.

Such is the case with this year's winner, and I am pleased to announce that it is Rick Dresser.

Members have highlighted Rick's outstanding work for the Choir and it has been many faceted.

Rick has been the Choir Treasurer for a number of years. He has worked tirelessly and effectively as Treasurer, bringing a quiet, capable and level-headed approach to this important role. These attributes also make him a valued and effective member of the Choir's Management Committee.

Rick has selflessly extended his role in the Choir well beyond his role as Treasurer and Committee member. In 2008 he did considerable administrative work in regard to advance bookings in New York, thereby materially assisting in making the Carnegie Hall visit such a great success.

However, it is this year's liaison in the planning for the Choir's next overseas concert that has focused members on Rick's overall contributions. Rick is a leading light in the ARC's Concert Sub-Committee dealing with the complicated arrangements for those singing in The London Welsh Choir of the World Concert in July 2012. Apart from advance bookings, members receive important information from Rick as it becomes available and this is no mean feat as obtaining timely details from overseas organisers is notoriously difficult and slow. In this regard, Rick's energy and drive are gratefully acknowledged by his fellow Choir members.

In conjunction with all these achievements, Rick regularly attends Choir practices and gigs, and is often seen befriending and helping new members.

In conclusion, let me say that it is good to see such a quiet achiever acknowledged for his outstanding work across a range of Choir activities.