

AUSTRALIAN RUGBY CHOIR

PATRON'S AWARD 2012

Once again it is my pleasure to present the annual Patron's Award, inaugurated in 2005 for Choir Members to acknowledge their colleagues who have given outstanding service to the Choir.

While the enjoyment of singing under a Musical Director is the paramount reason for being in a choir, for a choir to be smooth-running and successful, it really is necessary that it has sound planning and good management and this only comes about if the choir members along with their committee make meaningful contributions.

I believe that the very fact that there were no fewer than 8 individuals nominated for tonight's Award clearly indicates that Members of the Australian Rugby Choir do make a wide and dedicated input to their Choir and it certainly shows. The result is not only a strong, well-managed Choir, but also a happy, vibrant Choir of which you can be proud, a Choir always ready and willing to respond positively to your delightful Musical Director.

Choir Members have voted to recognise the outstanding service provided to the Choir in 2012 and I am pleased to announce that the winner of the Patron's Award is ... Peter Cole.

Peter's contribution is quite varied and not just as a valued member of the ARC Committee.

Perhaps not so apparent, but very important, is his role as a member of the Repertoire Committee and in managing the distribution and storage of the Choir's music. While this role as a "keeper of the music" has not been so prominent over the last year because music was supplied in book form by two concert organisers, Peter's on-going role with the Choir's music is a major contribution.

Peter attends almost all gigs and performs the role of "sar-major" with minimal fuss or conflict and with a good deal of common sense.

Another example of the range of his work is that he has been indispensable as an organiser of practice night venues. For the duration of the Choir's time at the Tradies (and prior to that at the Services Club), Peter managed the practice room set-up, regularly arriving very early to arrange the chairs and other practice gear, often without assistance. He also organised and supervised the relocation of equipment from the Tradies to the present practice location at the Smith Family premises.

Peter Cole is a quiet achiever, happy to do whatever is asked of him with minimal acknowledgement of his efforts. Well, tonight, Peter, you have indeed been recognised by your fellow Choristers and it gives me much pleasure to present this engraved tray to you as winner of the 2012 Patron's Award.