

From the President

MCAA Concert Sydney, I think almost all has been said about this gig and after the intensive workshop with Alpha last Sunday, the ARC promises to be in good shape.

Now that we can almost see the “whites of its eyes” (that is a diphthong!), I trust that final polishing of repertoire is being practised, accommodation and travel arrangements finalised, logistical instructions for each day is at the ready, lunch for Sunday noted to be bought or prepared in advance, and a soft hat with corks arranged for the Outback song.

Remember that this latter item must be a soft hat (no Akubra type hats) able to be tucked into the back of our trousers or in a pocket. Whatever the musical directors decide about our performance style, let us just have fun. We have put a prodigious effort into our preparation as usual. Let us make it pay off.

We have received a late invitation from Major Geoff Gray to participate once again with RMC Band Duntroon in the final Music@Midday concert in the Canberra Theatre on Tuesday 30th November. Please add your names to the gig sheet. Assemble 9.30am for 11.00am and 12.30pm performances. Further details to come.

Also, thank you for the immediate good response to participate in the celebratory dinner proposed for the late Martin Pitt of Braidwood. See the Uni of Sydney Rugby Club website article in this Warble. Details are still brewing but it is likely for the evening of Friday 3rd December in Braidwood. Organisers propose to provide us with a meal. I am thinking that we could arrange for some designated drivers to transport others, both to save and share costs and allow some to indulge in the odd drink after we perform. Please add your name to the gig sheet in anticipation of confirmation of this gig.

The Annual Dinner on Friday 19th November has been well subscribed so far. Well done. Please try and be part of this important recognition element of our year. Please note that you must have your name and partner on the gig sheet and have paid your money to Eddy (contribution of \$35 per head) or made arrangements about payment with him by Tuesday's practice on 16th November.

Eddy has to confirm final numbers with University House on Wed 17th Nov. Also, you must understand that, after 16th Nov, if you have to withdraw from participation in the dinner, your payment will stand, as the ARC will be invoiced for numbers as at that date.

Nomination forms for the 2010 Patron Award have been distributed. Please take some time to consider your nomination of a worthy member and return your nomination to Robert Macaulay. Our Patron, Colonel Ian McLean will present the award at the Annual Dinner.

Before the end of 2010, fuller details and draft calendar will be distributed to members. For the moment, please note for your diaries that the final Tuesday night practice in 2010 will be 7th December.

But we will participate in the Fyfe Street Carols in Kambah on 14th December. Final touches are being put on arrangements about our continued use of the Canberra Services Club as our practice venue in 2011 and details are expected to be communicated to members next week. Practices will resume on 18th January 2011.

Practice hard. Have fun. **Neil**

It is with great sadness and a hint of joie de vie that we note the passing of Martin Pitt.

"Marty" as he was known to players and supporters was an irrepressible rugby enthusiast who played a key role in the rejuvenation of the Sydney University Football Club in the late 1990's. His rapport with players was legendary and he gave selflessly of his time and inexhaustible energy to inspire the Colts players to lay the platform for the Club's renaissance.

Marty had a long association with the Cranbrook school as pupil (Prefect and Head of Davidson House), Old Cranbrookian, geography teacher, rugby coach to 1st XV level for both School and CAS, manager of Australian Schoolboys Rugby touring teams, Social Service mentor, explorer, wordsmith, Housemaster of both Chelmsford and Woodward, Senior Master, Deputy Headmaster, Acting Headmaster, first Director of the Foundation, Honorary Secretary of the OCA, Director of Alumni and Braidwood farmer.

On top of his thirty five years working at Cranbrook and several years (1969 to 1975) teaching at The Armidale School and Shore, Martin made major contributions to the wider community, as Sub Warden, Acting Warden and Council Member at St Paul's College, Sydney University, as Board Member of the Boys and Girls Brigade, as Church Warden and Synods man for the Anglican Parish of Braidwood, as the initiator and driving force behind fundraising activities enabling young country people to afford living in Sydney so that they could undertake university studies, and much else besides. Where he saw a need he acted. And he carried every player with him.

There will be a celebration of Martin's life in due course, in memory of an exceptional and much loved educator, exemplar, mentor and friend. We will let you know when the venue and date are fixed, and plans are in place.

Dearly loved husband of Robin, devoted father of Lucinda and Angus and adored grandfather of Piers. Brother of Robert. Martin died suddenly on 8th October in Panama City.

November 2010

Thursday 11 Nov Australian War Memorial - Remembrance Day

Uniform - Blue Chambray Shirt, ARC Tie, Broad Brimmed Hat, Blue Jackets at the ready.
Blue folder with appropriate songs, 9.30am assembly, seated 10.00 for 10.15am

MCAA Town Hall Concert

Saturday 13 Nov Final Practice - Male Choirs Association of Australia Festival

Assemble at 12.30 for 1pm at 264 Pitt Street, corner of Pitt and Park St - just around the corner from the Town Hall. The rehearsal is expected to be finished by 5.00pm at the latest.

Sunday 14 Nov 10.30 Assemble at town Hall 11.00 Staging & final rehearsal.

There will be a significant break between staging and assembling for warm-up before the Concert starting at 2pm.

As always the Warble is available in the latest news section on our website. www.rugbychoir.org.au

In accord, Paul