



**Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Male Choirs Association of Australia**

**The Meeting was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 via Zoom and opened at 1.31 p.m.**

**Present:**

Australian Rugby Choir: Neil Fleming, Albert Orszacsky, Scott Sneddon

Arcadian Lamplighters: David Bryars

Australian Welsh: Lew Wilson, John Miller

Canberra Men's: Choir was singing at the time of the meeting

Cantorian:

Con Men:

Ku-ring-gai : Bruce Sharpham, Gidley McCarragh, Ken Wade

Melbourne Welsh:

Metropolitan Choir of South Australia; Neil Forrest, Evan Patton

Orange: David Kennedy

Perth: Choir is touring the UK

Sydney: Ron Brown, Peter O'Driscoll

Victoria Welsh:

Wagga City Rugby: David Mundy, Judy Ferguson, Brian Buckley

**Apologies:**

Australian Rugby Choir: Frank Bergerson

Arcadian Lamplighters: Chris McRobert

Australian Welsh: Neil Kinsey

Canberra Men's: Robin Scott-Harris

Cantorian: Sid Ford

Con Men:

Ku-ring-gai : Paul Whiting

Melbourne Welsh:

Metropolitan Male Choir of South Australia: Lynton Nicholas

Orange:

Perth: Touring in the UK

Sydney: Tom Coghlan

Victoria Welsh: Tony Davies

Wagga City Rugby:

Neil Fleming opened the meeting at 1.31 p.m. and took the chair. He called for apologies which were duly recorded.

**The Minutes of the 2023 AGM** had been circularised to all choirs. Brian Buckley moved that they be accepted and Lew Wilson seconded the motion. Carried.

**Matters Arising From the Minutes:** Ken Wade had brought to the attention of the 2023 meeting the need to confirm that the ABN of the MCAA was current with the next Festival to be held in Adelaide. In 2025. This had been done and the currency of the ABN was not affected.

**Financial Reports:** These had been circularised to Choirs prior to the meeting. In the absence of Sid Ford, Brian Buckley moved that they be accepted. This was seconded by Peter O'Driscoll. Both Brian and Peter are signatories to the Bank Accounts. Carried.

**Matters Arising from the Financial Reports:** In answer to a question Brian Buckley confirmed that all Songbooks had been paid for by Choirs.

**President's Report:** This had been circularised to Choirs prior to the meeting. It was accepted by the meeting.

#### **Election of Office Bearers:**

Because of the number of nominations for the 2024 Committee no elections were necessary:

President: Neil Fleming.

Vice President: Bruce Sharpham

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Peter O'Driscoll

Committee: Ron Brown, Neil Forest, David Kennedy, Gidley McCallagh, Chris McRobert, John Miller

Public Officer: Ron Brown.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 1:50 p.m.

## **Minutes of the General Meeting of the MCAA following the 2024 AGM.**

Attendance and Apologies as for the 2024 AGM.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the MCAA following the 2023 AGM had been circularised to Choirs. It was moved by Brian Buckley and seconded by Peter O'Driscoll that they be accepted. Carried.

There was no business arising from these minutes.

## **Report on the Organisation for the 2025 Choral Festival in Adelaide to be held on 24-25<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

### **Neil Forrest**

The Adelaide Committee had decided to use Ticketek as the ticketing company who have the contract with the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. This will provide allocated seating and publicity for the Festival.

The Committee has negotiated for the donation of the Hire Fee for the grand piano. The MCAA will be responsible for the transportation and tuning costs.

The Committee has negotiated a reduction from the original quote of \$12 500 to \$8 000 for the Sound and Lighting.

A grant has been obtained from the South Australian Arts Minister for the full costs of the accompanist and musical director.

Brian Buckle had submitted a grant application to the Performance Trust Foundation on behalf of the MCAA for \$5000 towards the hire of Adelaide Entertainment Centre. This application was unsuccessful because of the lack of funds available to the TPF.

The Committee is in negotiations with Tee Lee Travel for sponsorship. It is awaiting the results from choirs on the numbers for accommodation survey which was due to Neil Fleming on 26<sup>th</sup> May. [Currently they sat at 100.]

Preliminary negotiations have taken place with Tee Lee Travel in relation to the Dinner which will be held on Sunday night 25<sup>th</sup> May after the concert. Janet has connections with the Chinese diaspora in Adelaide and favoured a buffet of Chinese food. She had suggested the Australian Wine Convention Centre. The Adelaide Entertainment Centre was another venue suggested by the meeting. The Committee will continue discussions on this.

When decisions are made they will be conveyed to participating Choirs.

### **Recording of the Concert**

Gidley McCarragh asked about the possibility of recording the Festival.

This had proven to be a difficulty in the past. Previous recordings had not been of high quality; a sound technician forgot to turn on the recording switch. Copyright considerations needed to be considered and the availability of facilities had to be costed in Adelaide. It was not out of the question and would be kept in mind.

### **Mobility Issues at the AEC**

Brian Buckley raised a concern he had with mobility issues and choristers in wheelchairs being able to get on Stage. He had been contacted by a choir seeking clarification on this issue.

He had rung the AEC and been informed that there was no lift onto the stage and a ramp could be added when the stage requirements were finalised.

Evan Patton said that this was such choristers could be easily accommodated and it was not a concern as he had had to address this with concerts with the MMCSA in the past.

### **Venue for 2028 MCAA Choral Festivals**

Neil Fleming brought to the attention of the meeting that interest needed to be generated for the venue for the next Festival. He had been in contact with the Perth Male Choir as the Festival had not been staged in Western Australia. The choir was about to leave for a tour of the UK and would consider such a proposal on return.

### **Ku-ring-gai Male Voice Choir MD**

Gidley McCallagh informed the meeting that after 25 years Dr Paul Whiting had indicated his intention to step down as the musical director of the Ku-ring-gai Male Voice Choir. The choir was looking for a replacement and asked the meeting to forward the name of any possible replacement.

The meeting closed at 2:30 p.m.