The Male Choirs Assn. Of Australia
JULY 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to this edition,
We are again featuring the two MCAA Choirs continuing their **Centenary Celebrations:** The Perth Male Voice Choir, and The Orange Male Voice Choir, who both came into being in 1926.

The Perth Male Voice Choir celebrates its centenary—a remarkable milestone marking 100 years of music, community, and charitable contribution.

How are we doing that? Firstly, we held a Gala Dinner on 29th April at the Flying Squadron Yacht Club. It was a great celebration with 140 people including local music industry luminaries and various political representatives. We awarded life memberships to Sam James and David Bonner and acknowledged the amazing and long-term contribution to the choir of our Musical Director Simone Bishop, our accompanist Andrew Angel, and our previous Musical Director Adrian Hill. In mid-May we travelled to Bunbury for a concert with the Bunbury Men of Song.

On 14th August we will be performing at a sellout concert at the Fremantle Town Hall one hundred years to the day and at the same venue as our very first concert in 1926. Our guest soloists will be Paul O'Neill (Tenor) and Teddy Tahu Rhodes (Baritone) who will be appearing courtesy of WA Opera. The choir will perform a new work, premiering the song "A Century of Singing", composed by our accompanist Andrew Angel to mark our Centenary.

On the following weekend we travel to Kalgoorlie with a party of 80 plus, as part of the Kalgoorlie desert Heart Songfest. On the last weekend we will be singing at the Welsh Free Church's Gymanfa Ganu, which translates as “Festival of Sacred Song”, in the Wesley Church.

The final major concert for the year will be with WA Brass on 1st November.

The celebrations will culminate on 1 November with a joint concert alongside WA Brass at Churchlands Concert Hall. In a powerful tribute to their journey, the choir aims to bring together 100 voices on stage, “100 men for 100 years”.
The Perth Male Voice Choir stands not only as a testament to its past, but as a living, evolving community—keeping the rich tradition of male voice singing alive while inspiring future voices to carry it forward.

By Ellis Griffiths, President PMVC **(**adapted from earlier work by Mark Stevens, John Brierley & Sam James)

If you are planning on being in Western Australia on either of these two dates, please check out these concerts with the Perth Male Voice Choir.

Meanwhile in Orange preparations for OMVC's celebrations continue

The main event in Orange will be The Gala Concert on the 7th of November.
We have all six living past Music Directors as guest conductors Including Leon Paix, Barry Patterson, Melanie Meers, Roland Auguzszczak (OAM), and Phil Rees along with past-accompanists Beverley Glover, Donna Riles, Debbie Nicholls and Heejin Kim.
There will also be some surprise guest performances, and a set from our Patron Paul Jarman.
The concert will also feature a massed choir of around 120 choristers.
Choirs attending;
Wagga City Rugby Male Choir, Sydney Male Choir
Arcadian Lamplighters Male choir, Australian Rugby Choir, and the Orange Male Voice Choir.
A full program with something for everyone. It is worth noting that over the last 100 years OMVC has only had 8 Musical Directors and 6 of them will be conducting at the Gala Concert.

A rare photo of the choir performing at the opening of the Orange Civic Theatre in 1976. After the passing of Rowland Gregory, (right) The Choir was re-named 'the Rowland Gregory Orpheus Singers' in his honour. The late Donovan Burn, who took charge, as the Choir's second M.D, has the baton.(left)

The choir in their new Rowland Gregory Orpheus Singers uniforms, after performing at the Llangollen Eisteddfod in Wales in 1985. That is **Donovan Burn** on the left of accompanist **Donna Riles**, (holding their memento Certificate), who went on to become director of the Orange Regional Conservatorium and returns as guest accompanist in our Gala Concert on November 7. Two more Choir legend

Arcadian Lamplighters Male Choir, supporting OMVC's 100th Anniversary Celebrations

We heard about Orange's plans for their exciting 100th milestone early this year and quickly decided we wanted to support them.

We put the word out and soon had 22 singers wanting to go, plus 16 partners and our Music Team, Accompanist Jan Oyston and MD Doreen Bryars, OAM (pictured) The singers include 3 Tenor 1's , 7 Tenor 2's, 11 Baritones and 3 Basses. We have purchased 20 tickets for the Concert.

We have chosen to all drive to/from Orange and have booked accommodation in town. As most of the songs in the Concert program are not in our 2026 song list, Doreen has added extra rehearsals for choir members going to Orange. A very enthusiastic group!
We are looking forward to catching up with the OMVC, the 1st MCAA choir we shared a concert with, soon after we met at the inaugural MCAA meetings.

"Arcadians, and all those coming to Orange, Thank you. May the wind be always at your back, We can't wait to welcome you. Safe travel!".

Just for a laugh