

Male Choirs Association of Australia (Inc)

Annual General Meeting Minutes

AGM held on Sunday 29th June 2014 9.00am at the
South Wagga School Hall, 140 Edward St, Wagga Wagga

- 1. Present:** Alastair Crombie (Chair), Dave Bryars (Lamp), Neil Kinsey (AWMC), Neil Fleming (ARC), Kevin Foley (Wagga), George Pieran (GWMC), Ryben Allantara (GWMC), Chris Morrow (Con Men), Ron Brown (SMC), Judy Ferguson (MD -Wagga), Dave Mundy (Wagga), Leon Paix (Orange), Bruce Sharpham (Kur), Brian Buckley (Wagga), Houston Dunleavy (MD – SMC) and Philip Tomlinson (MWMC) (minutes)
- 2. Apologies:** Bev Glover (Sec), Keith Jones (ARC), Adrian Hill (Perth MVC), Bill Shaw (Adelaide MVC), Tom Coghlan (SMC), Neil Gamble (MMCSA).
- 3. Welcome –** Pres Alastair welcomed all present and invited everyone to introduce themselves and briefly outline their Choir activities.
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes of last AGM**

Neil Fleming advised that he was at the meeting but was not shown as an attendee. The Acting Sec agreed to correct this error on both the minutes for the AGM and the general Meeting.

Moved by Neil Kinsey, seconded by Neil Fleming and carried.

- 5. Presidents Report – Alastair Crombie**

The Presidents report was tabled and is attached to these minutes.

Moved by Alastair Crombie, Seconded by Neil Kinsey and carried.

- 6. Treasurers Report – Dave Bryars**

The Treasurers report was tabled and is attached to these minutes. The Financial end of year accounts have been verified and signed off by Ron Brown. The bank balance shown on the report is \$28,908

Moved by Dave Bryars, Seconded by Ron Brown and carried.

- 7. Appointment of Public Officer**

Ron Brown advised that due to our size we are not required to have an auditor but that he was willing in his capacity as a Chartered Accountant to continue to verify the MCAA financial accounts for the ensuing year.

- 8. Election of Committee**

The following nominations were received and elected unopposed:-

President – Alastair Crombie

Vice Pres – Neil Kinsey

Secretary – Bev Glover

Treasurer – Dave Bryars

Committee members

- Brian Buckley
- Tom Coghlan
- George Pieran
- Bruce Sharpham
- Phil Tomlinson
- Ron Brown (Public Officer)

President Alastair then put a motion that “**due to her health issues, Bev Glover be granted “leave of absence” until she is well enough to resume her position and that Phil Tomlinson be appointed Acting Secretary**”.

Moved Alastair Crombie, Seconded by Neil Kinsey and carried.

9. General Business

Ron Brown provided the meeting with the declaration he will send to the NSW Office of Fair Trading and it reads as follows:-

Declaration as to the financial affairs of the association

I declare that:-

I am authorised by the Committee to make the following statements:-

- The associations financial statements for the last financial year were presented to the members of the association at the annual general meeting
- The particulars set out in the document are correct and give a true and fair view of the financial matters to which they relate and are not misleading, and
- There are reasonable grounds to believe, at the date of this statement that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due, and

Signed – Ronald Bentley Brown 29th June 2014

AGM closed at 9.43am



Male Choirs Association of Australia Inc. (MCAA)

President’s Annual Report, 2013

Odd-numbered years are 'off' years for the MCAA. The third biennial Festival of the reconstituted organisation was held on 17th November 2012 at the Dallas Brooks Centre in Melbourne; the next will be held on 15th November 2014 at the AIS Arena in Canberra.

2013 was a year initially of reflection and review, and then preparation and planning for the 2014 event. MCAA undertook a formal review process of the 2012 Festival, writing to all member choirs with a structured review questionnaire. The responses were collated, synthesised, and reported back to members and was also an item of business for the committee. The basic conception, structure and timing of the Festival were reaffirmed, but there were some useful comments on the selection of the repertoire, amplification to choristers, the appointment of the conductor and accompanist, ticketing, the Afterglow function, and communications with participating choirs.

The more important of these matters are incorporated in the 'Standard Operating Procedures' – the document that sets out roles and expectations of the MCAA and the choir or choirs organising the Festival. In light of the review, some revisions were made to this document in May 2013 [copy attached]. It is important that this document is regularly reviewed and updated. More generally, matters of concern raised in the review have been taken on board by the 2014 planning team.

One vexing issue was location of the 2014 Festival once it became clear that Adelaide would not be an option. The idea of two smaller, 'provincial' concerts was rejected in favour of a return to Canberra. The MCAA was delighted to have the acceptance from the Australian Rugby Choir to plan and organise the event. The issue arises again for 2016, with Perth no longer on the table.

Partly in response to issues raised in the review, a great deal of effort was put into consultation with members – on the selection of a Conductor, and selection of the choral program. Expressions of interest in the role of Conductor were invited from member choir Musical Directors. In the end, it was agreed to appoint Dr Guy Jansen from New Zealand. Lucas de Jong coordinated gathering of suggestions for the repertoire, which Leon Paix then melded into a program. Leon was initially appointed joint Program Director for the 2014 Festival with Lucy Bermingham from the Australia Rugby Choir, but Lucy resigned during the year. Neil Fleming, President of the Australian Rugby Choir, took on the additional role of coordinator of the Festival planning group.

Once again the very challenging task of creating and distributing the songbook a year ahead of the Festival was undertaken by Leon Paix and Bev Glover, and participating choirs were able to begin rehearsing the repertoire when they returned to practice after Christmas breaks. This is a major task, and it is a great credit to Leon and Bev that our 'Orange books' (an indulgence which we think justified!) are already getting dog-eared. Lucas de Jong has again produced a set of learning tracks, for which we are very grateful.

Discussion continued throughout the year on a number of financial issues – and in particular, the issue of appropriate treatment of the MCAA's accumulated surplus. All such funds are of course the property of the member choirs, and so it is a matter on which their views are key. I believe there is acceptance within the organisation that there should be some sort of 'dividend' to members when the level of surplus permits. There is less agreement on how the dividend should be delivered – by a cash distribution, or by subsidising costs of participation in the Festivals? (eg: free Songbooks). The key prior question however, is what is an appropriate level of reserve for the MCAA to hold? This depends in turn, on how ambitious we are for the MCAA. It should also be noted that the costs of staging such an event have been growing.

We have also continued to address the challenges of conducting the business of a small, national, voluntary association. Opportunities for face to face meetings are rare, but we have found we can hold quite effective committee and executive meetings by teleconference, at a reasonable cost. In this, the MCAA has been greatly helped by the continuing commitment and involvement of your committee members, who bring a wealth of relevant experience to the table. Their contributions to the association are gratefully acknowledged.

Alastair D Crombie
President
June 20 2014

MCAA Committee 2013

President – Alastair Crombie

Vice Pres – Neil Kinsey

Secretary – Bev Glover

Treasurer – Dave Bryars

Committee members:

- Brian Buckley
 - Bruce Sharpham
 - George Pieran
 - Tom Coghlan
 - Philip Tomlinson (Assistant Secretary)
 - Ron Brown (Public Officer)
-

TREASURERS REPORT for 2013 Financial Year

Comments on the attached Financial Report

The report shows a loss of \$6,432.68 for the year ending 31 December 2013; however this is strongly influenced by early costs for the 2014 Canberra concert and overruns from the 2012 Melbourne Concert.

Taking this figure away results in:-

2013 RECEIPTS -	\$1,078.91
2013 EXPENDIRE -	\$ 823.13
2013 PROFIT -	\$ 255.78

Outside our Concerts MCAA to date has only obtained Income from Members Fees and Bank Interest and spent money on meetings.

The Treasurers suggests that if in future years there are plans to budget to spend more on meetings and other MCAA items e.g. Web Site consideration should be given to raising the Membership Fee or finding a new source of regular income.

Dave Bryars
Treasurer
MCAA Inc.



MCAA Finance Report for 2013 (1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013)

Bank Balance

Change

As at 31 December 2007	\$ 4,097.91	
As at 31 December 2008	\$18,572.83	+\$14,474.92
As at 31 December 2009	\$18,366.65	-\$ 206.18
As at 31 December 2010	\$21,103.56	+\$ 2,736.91
As at 31 December 2011	\$17,793.75	-\$ 3,309.81
As at 31 December 2012	\$35,341.33	\$ 17,547.58
As at 31 December 2013	\$28,908.65	-\$ 6,432.68

Receipts

GENERAL		
- Memberships 2013	\$ 428.00	Total Financial Members17
- Bank Interest	\$ 650.91	(\$14.61 + \$140.05 + \$496.25)
- Bank Adjustments	\$ 0.00	
Total General	\$ 1,078.91	
Melbourne 2012		
- Extra CDs	\$ 380.00	
Total Melbourne 2012	\$ 380.00	

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$ 1,458.91**

Expenditure

GENERAL		
- Bank Charges	\$ 5.75	
Total General	\$ 5.75	
Melbourne Concert Overrun		
CONCERT CD		
- AMCOS Licensing Fee	\$ 605.79	
- CD Postage	\$ 9.95	
Total Melbourne Overrun	\$ 615.74	
Canberra Concert		
Hall Hire		
- Deposit for Venue	\$ 2,500.00	
Songbook		
- Licenses	\$ 3,943.82	
- Music Postage	\$ 8.90	
Total Canberra Concert	\$ 6,452.72	
Other Expenses		
- Management Conference Calls	\$ 156.33	
- AGM Catering	\$ 202.50	
- Melbourne AGM Travel Allowances	\$ 458.55	
Total Other Expenses	\$ 817.38	

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 7,891.59**

Loss **-\$6,432.68**