



The Townsville Choral Society Inc.

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Presidents report 2011

It is with much pleasure that I bring you my first report as President on the year 2010.

As usual our year began with another musical.

CHESSESS – 29th January to 5th February

Directed by Sandra Neal, Chess featured the music of Abba's Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, with lyrics by Sir Tim Rice. Beautifully choreographed by Debbie Clements, the show featured a magnificent ballet, with the chess pieces coming to life to help tell the story. A ninety voice on-stage choir was also a feature. The orchestra, directed by Ryan Christoffersen, dressed as Russians and Americans, were also on stage rather than hidden in the pit. Vocal director was Tyler Chin Dou Foong.

Kudos to all cast, orchestra and crew who carried on through black outs and loss of air-conditioning. The show was well received by audiences and produced a modest profit.

Vale Daphne Pease.

The Townsville Choral Society deeply mourned the loss in March of our life member and treasurer **Mrs Daphne Pease**. Daphne was a member of the Choral Society for close to 60 years. She was variously treasurer, publicity officer, costume maker, chorister, soloist and performer on stage. This years North Queensland Eisteddfod will see a new trophy named in Daphne's honour – a perpetual trophy for First Grade Soprano. This is a fiercely contested competition and will serve to honour Daphne's commitment to choral singing for generations to come.

Eisteddfod – Mackay, Easter,

This year thirty-three choristers travelled to Mackay for the North Qld Performing Arts Festival where we competed in the Medium Choirs category. Although Mackay & Cairns had much larger choirs than ours, we held our own in the open sections. We won the Chief Chorus, Madrigal, Ladies Chorus, Men's Chorus & Sacred Chorus for Medium choirs and in the open sections against the larger choirs, we placed second in the Mixed ensemble, Folk Group & Open Quartet, and third in the Oratorio, Modern Chorus, Welsh Hymn, Folk Singing Group, Ladies ensemble, Cabaret Item and Novelty Chorus. Many of our choristers also performed well in solo sections. Thanks to Tyler Chin Dou Foong for his outstanding piano accompaniments and Tiffany Hamilton for choreographing the Novelty Chorus for us. Tyler also conducted the ladies chorus, with John Grantham accompanying, Nicole Ireland conducted the folk group and along with Fiona Moran assisted with some piano accompaniments. This Eisteddfod was probably the first time in well over fifty years that we didn't have Brian and Daphne singing with us.

Anzac Day 25th April

Once again we were invited to sing at the Dawn Service held at the cenotaph on The Strand. This is a particularly moving service and one that our members always feel privileged to be invited to sing for.

Monty Python's SPAMALOT - 21st to 25th July

This hilarious musical brought the Monty Python humour to our stage. Telling the story of King Arthur and the search for the illusive Holy Grail, the musical featured a host of knights, wenches, peasants, heroes and a most charming heroine. Directed by Karen Vane, Meghan Walsh was Musical Director – vocal and orchestral, and choreographer was Megan Qualischefski. The set was one of the largest we have ever built and thanks to Jim Pollock, John Findlay, Jim Lamont, Ron Theuf and Glenn Shield for their efforts here. The costumes also provided a challenge. Well done to Louise Neal and her band of helpers.

Audiences loved it, some came back several times, but sadly not enough came to see this spectacular show and we recorded a loss at the box office, but we must continue to “Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life”

Thanks to Katie Boyd who stepped up and assisted Brian as Production manager and Peter Bonney who stepped into the role of publicity officer. Peter was able to give us a detailed report for use by future publicity officers.

Choral Concert – “For The Love Of Music” 15th August

Once again our Tuesday night choristers under Cheryl Platt performed their mid year concert, however this year we combined with the various choirs from Kirwan State High School under the direction of Suellen Johns. Enthusiastic audiences joined us for this very successful afternoon held at the performing arts block at Kirwan High School. Our members certainly enjoyed singing with the young choristers, and what a magnificent sight and sound when all choirs combined for the grand finale. My thanks to Suellen & Cheryl for their effort in producing this event, and to the Kirwan High School community for the use of their performing arts block. We hope to repeat this experience later this year. While we did not embark on this concert for a profit, rather for the sheer enjoyment, none the less a small profit was made and shared with the school music programme

Theatre Restaurant – November

When we wonder whether we should continue to carry on with this event, will we be able to find enough material etc, somehow it just seems to happen. Our audiences start ringing early in the year to book, even though we haven't yet finalised any dates. John Grantham Jim Pollock, Lyn Tarring and myself put our heads together to come up with yet another successful show. The audiences continue to love these shows, even though it is getting harder and harder to come up with new material

A special thank you to Dawn Wakelin for providing wonderful piano accompaniments and encouragement. Thanks also to **Lyn Tarring, who assisted me with directing**, Kym Wilson – choreography, set and costumes, Fiona Moran – choreography for finale, John Findlay – stage manager, Andrew Mikic lighting and sound, Julie Dell for bookings and shopping, Brian Pease – shopping and bar, Jan Andrews, John Dell, Rod Neal and Ryan Mills – bar, Jan Andrews and her army of washer-uppers, Lousie Neal for organising food handlers, and to all performers who help make these shows such a success. Catering was again provided by Magnums. Theatre restaurant has traditionally been a very successful fundraiser, which benefits ALL members of the society. **My sincere thanks to everyone for their efforts.**

Choral Aires

The Choral Aires continued to have a fun filled Monday morning of singing, socialising and just enjoying each other's company. While Sandy Voss commenced the year as director, ill health forced her to step back and Dawn Wakelin stepped into the breach to keep the choristers “on song”. Margaret Bolster continued as pianist. They held a most enjoyable concert at the hall in December, as well as performing concerts at many venues throughout the city

Carols by Candlelight

Once again the choir was invited to perform at Carols by Candlelight, this year moving from the Strand to the redeveloped Reid Park. Cast members of “*West Side Story*” joined our regular choristers, with Rachel Cairns and Sandy Neal sharing the vocal director duties and 1RAR Band accompanying. After spending many hours in rehearsal in the weeks leading up to the day and many hours in the hot sun rehearsing on the stage on Sunday morning, sadly the heavens opened and the event was washed out.

Carols.

A small group performed carols at the Leukaemia Lodge. Others performed at Rupertswood Progress Association,

Improvements

The warehouse had a section of its roof replaced. Rod Neal has done some painting at the front of the main hall

In February, youth choir, Townsville Youth Voices wound up their Society and gave a cheque to our Society for \$3356. It was suggested that we purchase an overhead projector and screen. This has been most useful for information nights and rehearsals for shows and was also put to good use during theatre restaurant.

COMMITTEE

Following the passing of our long time treasurer Daphne Pease, I was most grateful to **Tiffany Hamilton** for stepping into the role of treasurer. She has done an outstanding job and I thank her most sincerely

Brian Pease continued to work tirelessly in the areas of administration, secretarial, production management for musicals and advertising. He has also helped look after hall supplies.

Julie Dell vice president continued her duties as Librarian, looking after music requirements for the society and also looked after theatre restaurant bookings, programmes for musicals and shopping for hall supplies and some publicity.

My thanks to **John Grantham** for his efforts in co-ordinating the Rotary Raffle and organising all the tickets. He has also looked after the society's computer needs, helped with working bees and did the dump run each weekend of the Theatre Restaurant.

Jim Pollock and **John Findlay**, along with Ron Theeuf, and Jim Lamont continued to escape home duties, working in the warehouse both in set construction and building improvements throughout the year. Their efforts continue to save the society of thousands of dollars each year.

Kym Wilson rejoined the committee this year and has again looked after sets and choreography for Theatre restaurant as well as assisting with costuming the Novelty Chorus for Eisteddfod and theatre restaurant

Jan Andrews, Nicole Ireland, Lorraine Peagram and Sharon Rogers, continued as most valuable members of the management committee and as always have been a wonderful support behind the scenes. They see jobs that need doing and never fail to put their hands up to help. Jan also coordinated the list of helpers in the kitchen for theatre restaurant. Nicole has also been minute's secretary at committee meetings

Sandra Voss and Melody Silver also were part of the committee this year but resigned due to health concerns

Thankyou to **Ryan Mills** for his continuing work on the Society's web site. (www.tcs.org.au)

Louise Neal, while no longer on committee, has worked tirelessly sewing costumes for productions. Louise also assisted with the food handling for Theatre restaurant. We are very grateful continues in the role of looking after the costume house.

Leonie Batt has looked after the uniforms for Eisteddfod as well as doing some magnificent sewing for musicals.

Gayle Robertson and Cheryl Smith continued looking after the props for the musicals.

Thank you also to **Peter Jepson** for his assistance with audio-visual and media advertising needs of the society

My thanks go to **all members** who have participated, on any level, in any of the Society's activities or working bees. All members are important and every voluntary effort appreciated.

Musical Director. Cheryl Platt continues as our musical director. Cheryl has been tireless in keeping the Tuesday choir “on song” for both the Eisteddfod and the mid year Choral concert.

We have also been most fortunate to again have **Tyler Chin Dou Foong** as our official accompanist this year. Tyler has been our pianist / repetiteur both for Eisteddfod as well as assisting as rehearsal pianist in the musicals

Finances

2010 has again seen two wonderful shows at the civic theatre. While not hugely successful financially with Chess returning a modest profit and Spamalot sadly making a loss, they were none the less well received by audiences. Theatre restaurant again was a financial success as were the concerts held by both the Tuesday night and Monday morning choirs. Tiffany will present a more detailed report on our finances for you.

As I stepped into the role of president, I was very mindful of the huge task ahead in what would be a difficult year of adjustment. We had some big shoes to fill with many jobs to be learned and shared. But move forward we did, and I am grateful to all members who have stepped up and continued to work together for the common good,

Rod Wilson
President

9th March 2011