

O'Sqweek

Feb 2007

In this issue...

Many things that an AUCS fresher might need to know, plus plenty of things to inform, entertain, bewilder and confuse.

REMEMBER

Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7pm in the Madley.

The O'Week barbecue begins outside (in Pfitzner Court) at 5:30pm.

"THERE DOES NOT EXIST A MORE SPLENDID SINGING COMMUNITY IN ADELAIDE (THAN AUCS). THE CAMARADERIE, THE ENERGY, THE CONDUCTOR AND THE CHOICE OF MUSIC ARE WITHOUT EQUAL."

- PETER KELSALL



WELCOME TO AUCS!

Hello, and welcome to AUCS. For those of you who haven't been here before, you are looking at O'Sqweek, the special, shorter, never-to-be-repeated-until-next-year O'Week version of Sqwauk (spelt a dozen different ways by its editors, often all in the one edition!), the less-regularly-that-it-ought-to-be released newsletter of the Adelaide University Choral Society. Skwauk (see?) is a scandalous mix of news and gossip, fact and fiction, useful information and inexcusable rubbish, and this edition is no exception.

The Adelaide University Choral Society is the choir of the staff and students of Adelaide University. It is both a choir and a social club – its members both sing and have fun as a group – and it does not audition its members. This means you do not have to be a “serious” or trained musician – you need only be keen to sing, and to join in the social aspects of the club (that's what makes us a choral society, not just a choir!).

STILL TO COME...

In addition to weekly rehearsals and four concerts, the AUCS calendar boasts a number of social occasions. A rehearsal day and social “thing” [sic] will be on the 10th of March. The annual **pub-crawl** will be held on March the 23rd.

There are two **camps**, the first some time in late April, and the second in late October, which are always excellent fun, as well as being the times when the music is bashed firmly into shape.

AUCS always holds a **formal dinner**, which is an opportunity to glam up, eat fine food, drink, be merry, and dish out the annual awards for various achievements (some admirable, some... not). This year's dinner will be on the 1st of September.

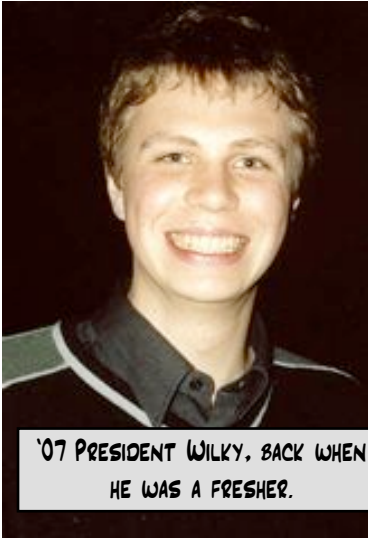
And finally, for the more competitively minded, the Critically Acclaimed Annual AUCS **Quiz Night™** will be in early August, and test your mettle by pitting you and your friends (from AUCS and abroad) against other AUCS members and their friends.

AUCS ONLINE

The AUCS website at <http://www.aucs.org.au> has a list of the committee (so you know who's in charge of what) and a calendar of upcoming events, amongst other things. This year will see the much-loved but short-lived online photo gallery make a return to AUCS cyberspace.

GOING THE FULL AUDREY

There are always AUCS activities going on, but here is our regular Tuesday line-up.



'07 PRESIDENT WILKY. BACK WHEN HE WAS A FRESHER.

DINNER...

Before rehearsal each week many of us have dinner together at a café or restaurant, from about 5:30pm. During term time, our haunt is Rumours (level 6 in the Union Building). Out of term time we choose somewhere nearby.

...REHEARSAL...

After dinner we head over to the Madley rehearsal space, off Pfitzner Court, at the University's North Terrace campus. Rehearsal starts at 7pm, and goes until 9:30, with a short

break in the middle to recover our breath and grab a drink or a chocolate bar¹.

...COFFEE

After rehearsal we retire to a predetermined location to enjoy a nice beverage together. Predetermined locations include the rehearsal room itself, someone's house (volunteers always welcome!), or a local historic building². Beverages enjoyed include, but are certainly not limited to, coffee.



SAUCY '07 LIBRARIAN PHOEBE.



AUCS DOES NOT INVOLVE TRACTORS.

WHO'S THE PENGUIN?

Audrey is the AUCS mascot, and while she may look like a penguin, she is in fact an auk. Here is what a reputable source has to say about auks:

IN THE LATE OR EARLY 1200S SOMETIME THERE WAS STILL A NOBLE SPECIES OF BIRD KNOWN AS THE GREAT AUK. ALTHOUGH A RELATIVE OF THAT WELL KNOWN BIRD THE PENGUIN, THE AUK IS NOT A PENGUIN.

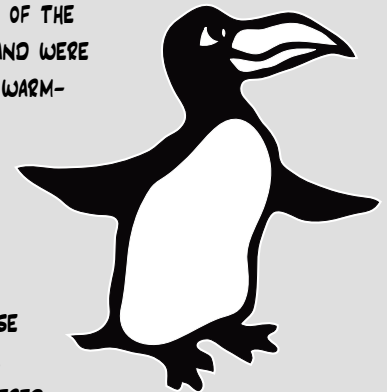
AUKS LIVED IN THE WILD AND UNTAMED BEAUTY OF THE ARCTIC REGIONS AND WERE ONE OF THE FEW WARM-BLOODED INHABITANTS.

HUMANS EVENTUALLY GOT AROUND TO DISCOVERING THOSE ICY WASTELANDS.

AND ALSO DISCOVERED (PROBABLY RIGHT AFTER THE LAST AUK WAS KILLED AND DEVoured) THAT DUE TO A LACK OF FOOD, IT WAS PROBABLY NOT SOMEWHERE THAT HOMO SAPIENS SHOULD TRY TO LIVE.

APPARENTLY THEY DIDN'T TASTE TOO GOOD ANYWAY (AUKS THAT IS, NOT HOMO SAPIENS), BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT WHEN YOU'RE STARVING TO DEATH. AT SOME STAGE, ONE WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF THE LAST AUK SAID "OH DEAR, WE SEEM TO HAVE TRAGICALLY KILLED OFF THE LAST OF A BEAUTIFUL AND VALIANT CREATURE; I FEEL DREADFULLY ASHAMED", BUT I DOUBT IT.

So when, in the late 20th century, the Adelaide University Choral Society was deciding on a mascot, the honour was given to the bird whose name resembled the society's. And that's the end of the story.



AUCS LINGO

To talk the talk, there are a few things which need to be cleared up. AUCS, as you already know, stands for Adelaide University Choral Society.

Members of AUCS are known either as AUCs (Adelaide Uni Choristers) or AUCsters. There is not agreement on what the official term is, and the committee has hitherto, wisely, not attempted to make any ruling on the matter. Thus you can use whichever you like. For the record, my vote is with AUCs.

There is a particular euphemism for pub which became the subject of the critically acclaimed 2005 pubcrawl t-shirt (the Broogle one), and that is Historic Building. Adelaide, being the city of both churches and pubs, has a lot of historic buildings, and AUCs like their Historic Building Appreciation Night (read pubcrawl) a lot!

¹ Healthier goodies are available also.

² See AUCS Lingo above.

CONCERTS

Our weekly rehearsals culminate in a concert. It makes all that practice worthwhile. This year, due to timing, and the raw enthusiasm of the committee, AUCS will be putting on four concerts. Here is what is currently known about the upcoming bevy of performances.

1: MARCH 31ST

The first concert of the year, one of two smaller concerts, is deliberately early, to immerse our new members in the fun of concerts (and the accompanying Post Concert Parties) as soon as musically possible. The concert will feature a number of mostly short works of varying nature and background. A number of them come under the loose heading of “pubsongs” in the Intervarsity Choral Society vernacular – that is, songs which members will (to, variously, the delight or horror of the resident publican) sing in full voice at a pub, unrehearsed and mostly from memory.

2: JUNE 16TH

The first of two large-scale concerts, the June concert will boast Simon Preston – composer, conductor, and one of the most acclaimed organists of the last century – with the full might of AUCS, singing predominantly English works from the first half of the 20th century. While the programme hasn't been set, expect to see works from Parry (composer of the hymn Jerusalem - “And did those feet in ancient times”), Elgar (Land of hope and glory), Holst (The Planets), Vaughan Williams (arrangements and settings of many of the greatest hymns and hundreds of English folksongs), Stanford (lots of English church music, along with many beautiful secular works, and teacher of Vaughan Williams) and Walton (Belshazzar's Feast, and the ceremonial marches for the coronations of George VI and Elizabeth II).

3: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

This concert will feature a broad variety of secular music. The concert will be led by AUCS' new Assistant Conductor (whom the Editor is assured is a fine conductor and a delight to work with), who is apparently considering a programme featuring madrigals, spirituals, secular songs by some of the composers listed above, and possibly even an arrangement of Good Vibrations (although that last one may just be a threat)!

4: DECEMBER

The final concert for the year will see AUCS go out with a bang. The committee is planning a performance of one of Handel's more popular oratorios (which one will remain a loosely guarded not-quite secret until more details are worked out), hopefully joining forces with one of Adelaide's other large choirs. Rumour has it we may even have a special guest conductor.



THE EDITOR ENJOYS A GOOD DRINK NOW AND THEN (ESPECIALLY AT CAMP AND ON THE PUBCRAWL), AND LOVED SAMPLING THE WARES AFTER A CONCERT AT SEVENHILL WINERY CHAPEL.

COME TO IV!

Come to what, you say? Every year up to 200 choristers from university choirs all around Australia descend on one of the capital cities for a fortnight of fun, frivolity and full-on music making, known as the InterVarsity Choral Festival (IVCF, or IV for short).

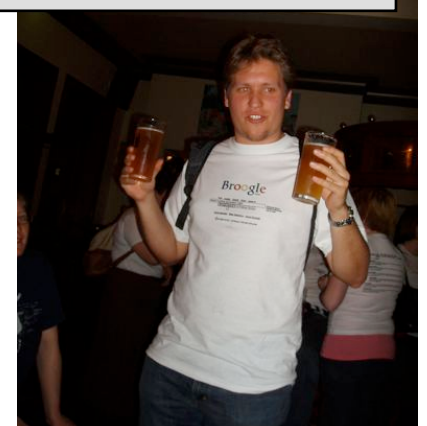
The calendar is packed, and the hours of rehearsals culminate in a concert at the end of each week. For the first week, IV goes on camp to rehearse somewhere away from the hustle and bustle of town, and every night is a party (or a sculling night, or something equally raucous). In the second week, everyone is billeted by the local choirs, and some of the bigger social events take place, such as the Academic Dinner, an even bigger and snazzier version of our own formal dinner, and the two requisite Post Concert Parties (again, even bigger and more raucous than local AUCS ones)!

The next two are Brisbane IV in June this year, and Sydney IV in January 2008.

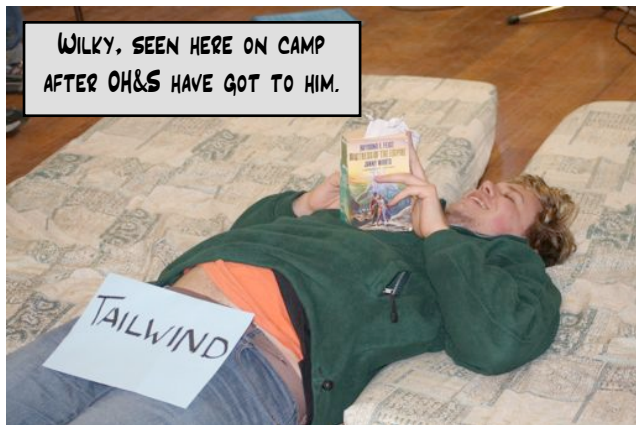


A REHEARSAL DURING ADELAIDE IV IN JANUARY '06.

TOM SHOWS US WHAT PUBCRAWLS ARE ABOUT.



WILKY, SEEN HERE ON CAMP AFTER OH&S HAVE GOT TO HIM.



JANELLE, '07 MORALS OFFICER, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE EVERYONE GETS UP TO ENOUGH MISCHIEF.



SOMETIMES, IF YOU DO STRANGE THINGS, PEOPLE PHOTOGRAPH YOU. THEN YOU END UP IN THE CHOIR NEWSLETTER LOOKING LIKE AN IDIOT. BUT THAT'S ALL PART OF THE FUN.

'07 VICE-PRESIDENT MICHAEL PUTS ON HIS BEST CHICK-MAGNET EXPRESSION OVER A BEER IN THE GERMAN CLUB.



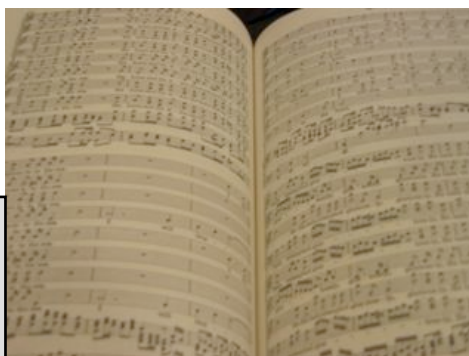
MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY CHORAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT RORY TAKES HIS BALL AND GOES HOME.



BEING AUCS SECRETARY IS SUCH A DANGEROUS POSITION THAT '07 SECRETARY JEFF HAS TO WEAR A DISGUISE.



THIS IS THE STUFF WE READ IN REHEARSALS. THERE ARE LOTS OF BLACK DOTS AND LINES, WHICH MAGICALLY TURN INTO NICE THINGS COME CONCERT NIGHT!



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