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JULY 2008  
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# A Few Notes

## News about the BRISBANE APOLLO MALE CHOIR

On Saturday, 19th July, after a long illness, Henry Howell passed away. The Apollo Choir extend their sympathy to Diana, Rosemary, and Grace at this time of loss.

Below is a small insight into the life of Henry Howell.

In 1996 Henry Howell became the thirteenth conductor of The Brisbane Apollo Male Choir Inc. He joined a list of people who have contributed greatly to the cultural background of Brisbane and its surrounds.

Henry's own contribution to Brisbane's cultural and religious community has been considerable as a consequence of his sixty years of involvement in choral music beginning with his debut as a six year old treble in English cathedrals and later as a lay clerk.

The professional career of Henry Howell includes a lengthy period as Opera Principal on the European stage and concert platform. This period also saw him occupying the role of resident senior Principal Tenor to the English National Opera as well as fulfilling the demanding role of Choirmaster at the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

Meanwhile, here in Brisbane, Henry, the first lay clerk to be appointed Emeritus at St John's Cathedral, was also involved as the former Head of Vocal Studies to the Queensland Youth Choir.

He continued with the Apollo Choir till early 2007 when, due to failing health, he reluctantly retired from his position as Musical Director.

On 17th. May, 2007, members of the Apollo Choir and friends met to pay tribute to Henry's service to the choir for over a decade of leadership. Long time friends at the gathering spoke about Henry's care for the health of his singers; his insistence on correct enunciation, his instruction on the vocal cords and their correct use and care, the necessity to "tell the story" when performing and the concentration needed to produce what he called the "Apollo sound". The choir President, Ross Lovell, presented Henry with a jade glass plaque with the choir's appreciation etched on the back, and on the front, a replica of a "Golden Lyre", the highest award the choir can bestow.

Henry, in reply, paid special tribute to his wife, Diana, who he described as being the better half of the team.

Henry will be missed by all who knew him, but the musical insights he shared with so many will continue for a long time.



Henry and Diana listening to the tributes from friends at the presentation held in their honour



The funeral service for Henry was at St John's Cathedral on Friday 18th July. Henry had been associated with this Church for many years and the service reflected the feelings that the Church as a whole had for Henry and his family. The Apollo Choir contributed to the music in the service twice, with *Make me a channel of your peace*, and *Holy, Holy, Holy*.



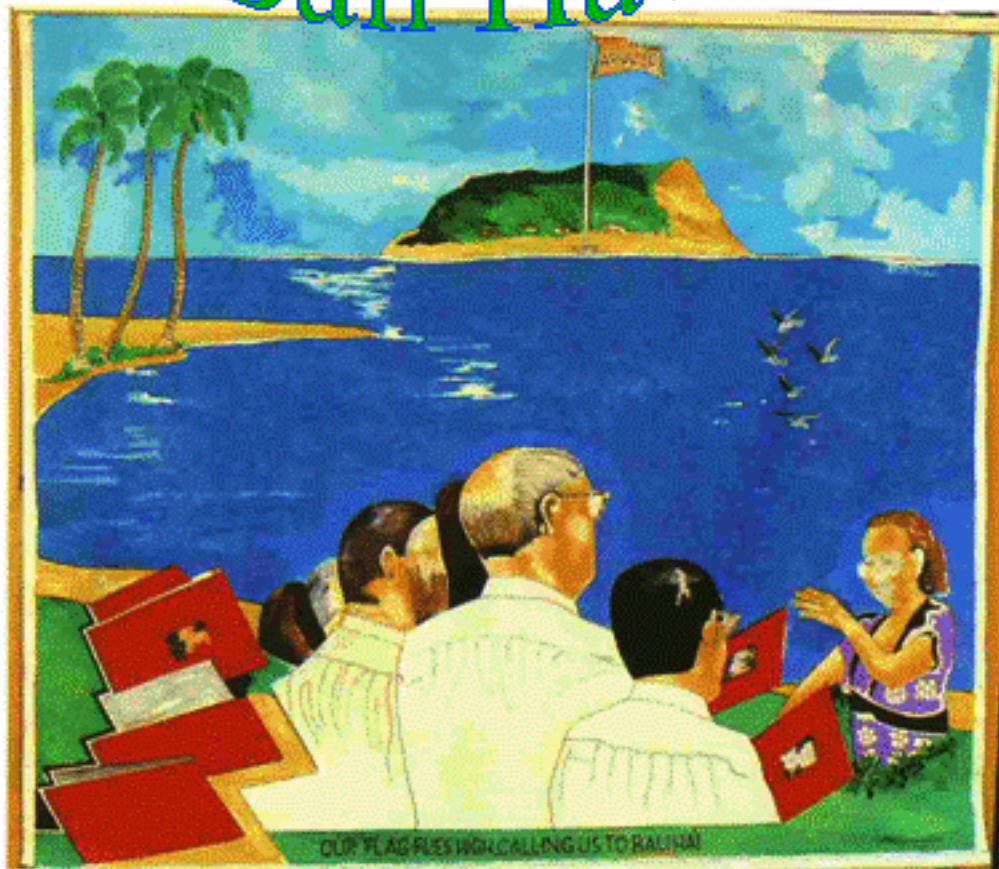
The Cathedral Choir sang before the service during the entry of the ministers; they also led the a psalm. Rosemary Howell delivered a reading from Revelation. The Reverend Cannon Sandy Marshall, who has been associated with Henry for over 50 years, spoke of Henry's drive, his sense of humour and his passion for his music. A large crowd was in attendance for this service of thanksgiving for the life of Henry William Howell.



The Brisbane Apollo Male Choir with Musical Director Henry Howell. Brisbane City Hall—Nov. 2004

Heron Rooms Brisbane City Hall Nov. 19th, 2004

# Bali Ha'i



Composers, when they put words to a piece of music, can sometimes paint a picture with the words they use. Words that can transport you to the place they describe and assist you to feel what they felt when the words were first put to paper. Richard Rogers did this when he wrote the lyrics for Bali Ha'i.

Artists can do this in a different way, using images to describe scenes and leaving you, the onlooker, to find the words.

One of our members, John Lloyd, painted this scene to portray his feelings in the learning and singing of Bali Ha'i with the Apollo Choir.

Here are some of John's words, describing the scene above:

*In order for Bali Ha'i to appear to be in the distance, a large expanse of water was needed, between it and the foreshore. The "low flying cloud", plus "some people live on a lonely island", has also been interwoven into the scene. It will be noted, once pointed out, how the light surface on the water, coming from the island toward the shore forms a "V" with the birds in flight, and this comes down to the centre of the choir, thereby making an imaginary framework within the picture, to add to its balance.*

*The choir music covers, which surround the Choir, are intended to convey the dedication the members have to the music and songs they perform, and the way in which they are presented.*

Our thanks to John for sharing his artistic skills and his thoughts with us.

**For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program**

## ALBANY CREEK.

Our visit to Forest Place Albany Creek took place on Sunday, 20th July. One car load of choir members travelling from south of the river had problems finding the venue and the Concert was held up for 5 minutes while they found their way to the hall. We were told, at the end of the performance, although the hall acoustics were not good, the audience could hear every word that was sung. Michelle was pleased with this comment as it helps to affirm what she is striving for with each performance. Margaret is shown having one of her rare breaks as an announcement is being made.



**Forbidden Fruits end up making some nasty jams**

## Coming Up - Concerts.

August : Saturday 9th - 2.30 pm ( Concert Party)  
St. Davids' Welsh Society  
Anglican Church, Auchenflower

August ; Monday 11th. 10.30 am  
Terry Brae IONA Complex  
129 Brookfield Rd, Kenmore

August : Saturday 16th 2.30 pm.  
St. Clements Anglican Church  
Eudundra St, Stafford

## New Farm

Saturday, July 26th the choir visited the Adult Fellowship at Merthyr Road Uniting Church at New Farm. This group has Agnes Munro as organiser, and Agnes is related to our accompanist, Margaret: her sister -in-law. We had in the audience a regular to New Farm Uniting Church, Lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen.



Lady Flo had a chat with Michelle before the concert and posed for this photo with Michelle and the secretary. The Church building provided a pleasant sound for the choir and the audience seemed to be singing along with many of the tunes.

Our Welsh tenor, Doug Kinnersley, sang his first solo since joining the choir and was given a good reception. He sang a Richard Tauber song, *My Heart and I*. The Choir's *South Pacific* medley was well received.

Margaret was the final soloist, playing the *Elizabethan Serenade*. A lavish afternoon tea, scones with

jam and cream, was a fitting end to our visit to New Farm.



Lady Flo discussing an item with her friend, Marjorie; and the audience enjoying Malcolm Thorne's story of the *Ant Eater*.

### *Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity*

Jackie Carroll has produced a D.V.D. of the combined choirs, the Apollo choir and the Serenata singers, performing *For the Beauty of the Earth* at the recent concert at the Gap. If you would like a copy, please see David and place an order. Jackie played this track recently at one of our Coffee and Cake nights.

Richard Hall will be in hospital from the 16th. August for an operation to assist with his condition. He will spend about 10 days in care and should come out greatly improved. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you, Richard.

We heard from Cec Rule via a postcard. He was in France and is having a great time. He should return to us just before the concert at his church, St. Clements, on the 16th. of August.