

BLACKSTONE-IPSWICH CAMBRIAN CHOIR

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 22nd MARCH 2015

AGENDA

Apologies

Proxies

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

Business arising from the Minutes

Correspondence

Annual Report (including Treasurers Report)

Auditors Report

Appointment of Patrons

Election of Management Committee

Appointment of Auditor

Review of membership fees

Presentation of Life Memberships (if any)

General Business

Close of Meeting

BLACKSTONE-IPSWICH CAMBRIAN CHOIR INC
ANNUAL REPORT - 2014

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9. Show Choir Report
10. Costume Hire Department Report

This report is being sent electronically to members and will be posted on our website. Some copies will be available (in limited numbers) on hardcopy prior to the meeting.

The Outgoing Management Committee are:

President	Jan Mundt
Vice President	Murray Millikan
Secretary	Michelle Reedy
Treasurer	Marellen Haag
Assistant Treasurer	Warren Parcell
Librarian	Jeremy LLOYD
Publicity Officer	Lauren Roche
Assistant Publicity Officer	Nicola Harris
Membership Officer	Rebecca Pick

Michelle Reedy
Secretary

BLACKSTONE-IPSWICH CAMBRIAN CHOIR INC.
MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30th MARCH 2014

Meeting commenced at 5.20 pm.

PRESENT: 47 members as per the attendance register

APOLOGIES: 9 members as per the register.

PROXIES: No requirement for proxies at this meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Moved: R. Stevens Seconded N. Lewis - carried

BUSINESS ARISING:

Constitution amendments from 2012 need to be re-submitted. These will be incorporated with other proposed amendments to be tabled later in the year.

Replacement of kitchen door. This task has not been addressed to date. Committee will endeavour to seek a suitably qualified person to complete this job.

CORRESPONDENCE:

In: Letter from Noel Lewis (Life Member) commending the committee reports for 2013.

Letter from Michelle Parcell – nomination of Marellen Haag for Life Member.

Moved N. Lewis Seconded R. Pick

ANNUAL REPORTS:

TREASURERS REPORT: Moved W. Walker Seconded K. Bradberry

Future reports to show the Show Choir as a separate breakdown to reflect their dollar worth to the organisation and as a guide for their yearly planning.

Suggestion that a grant be sought to install solar panels and reduce the high cost of power to the choir. Under his terms of reference, the Hall Manager is empowered to act on this project.

Committee to address the cost of our concerts and ticketing prices at the next planning meeting.

Sandra Milliken gave a short overview of the Youth Choir and the direction being taken to re-vitalize this important group after a less than impressive and very turbulent 2013.

Acceptance of reports. Moved D. Rossetto Seconded N. Hartwich.

PATRONS:

Patron – Moved M. Whybird Seconded D. Rossiter that Blodwyn Whitehead be re-appointed.

Senior Vice Patron – Moved M. Haag Seconded N. Lewis that Wendy Walker be re-appointed.

Vice Patrons – Moved N. Lewis Seconded C. Howden that John Whitehead, Elaine Barrett, Brian Thomson, Frank Robinson and Shirley Dawes by re-appointed.

Moved S. Dawes Seconded L. Cocks that Dorothy Graham Wilson be appointed a Vice Patron. All patron nominations were fully endorsed by the meeting. Carried

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Blodwyn spoke about and expressed a vote of thanks to the out-going committee.

Once all positions were declared vacant, Blodwyn took the chair.

The following financial members have been nominated, seconded and have accepted for the following positions.

PRESIDENT	JAN MUNDT
VICE PRESIDENT	MURRAY MILLIKEN
SECRETARY	MICHELLE REEDY
TREASURER	MARELLEN HAAG
ASSISTANT TREASURER	WARREN PARCELL
LIBRARIAN	JEREMY LLOYD
PUBLICITY OFFICER	LAUREN ROCHE
ASSISTANT PUBLICITY OFFICER	NICOLA HARRIS
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER	REBECCA PICK

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

Moved M. Haag Seconded W. Parcell that B. Pyle be re-appointed as auditor. Carried

The committee decided to leave the annual membership fees as they are for the next twelve months.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

The committee fully endorsed the nomination of Marellen Haag for Life Membership.

President Jan invited Blodwyn to speak of Marellen's long involvement with the choir. Blodwyn then had the honour and pleasure of presenting Marellen with her badge.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Nigel raised the question of how the Cambrian Academy of Music fitted into our structure.

The meeting was told that the Academy is for choir members only. Its aim is to make available the opportunity for members to address the issues of voice and pitch which in turn enhances the performance ability or all concerned.

The Academy is not embodied within the association's structure, but is an integral support tool.

The formation and concept of this aide to the choir was commended by Nigel Lewis and supported by the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 6.40pm

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – 2014

In 2014 the choir had lots of wonderful performances but also its challenges. This year Jan continued as President. She has worked tirelessly and achieved great results for our organisation.

We were unable to enlist a Youth Choir conductor so as an interim measure Sandra continued to lead the CYC for the year of 2014 but has decided to step down from this position. This year we did not participate in any of Carols which was disappointing but we still managed to sing carols at the Junior 50th Celebration and also when Coro held the concert “Deck the Halls”. The overseas trip planned for 2016 was cancelled due to an unbalanced choir. Dorothy Graham-Wilson was appointed Vice Patron.

Our workshop weekend, showcase and Eisteddfod again dominated the early part of our busy year. The trip to Caloundra was enjoyed by all concerned. The choristers put in a lot of hard work but also had lots of fun and laughter. A great time was had by all. Everyone is now looking forward to Brisbane City Hall in 2015.

Twice the Senior Choir has performed at St Mary’s Church. The first was for Rejoice and Sing with Christopher Wrench accompanying on the organ and the second was Messiah performed with Oriana.

Theatre restaurant “Road to Rio” was again a resounding success and lots of fun was had by the cast and the audience. The opening night sold well due to the discounted ticket price but the overall attendance figures were down due to conflict with other functions. The kitchen was equipped with a new oven which made an enormous difference during theatre restaurant.

Jeremy has been transforming our library. He has moved the music into alphabetical order to enable it to be found more easily. He has also in the process of barcoding music to save time when lending to members and ease of returning.

Current leases have been put in place for all tenants and we also have also signed up another tenant this year.

The Youth Choir celebrated their 45th Anniversary reunion by recording a CD and were joined by the Junior choir and past Youth Choir members.

Marellan has organised social events as part of our fund-raising efforts. These have been a success and will continue.

Rena and Dale organised a fantastic Christmas dinner to round off the year. All choristers agreed that it was one of the best ever.

Finally, a huge thank you must once again go to our dedicated team of conductors and accompanists for their input to another great year. Also a huge thank you to all members of the committee who put in a huge amount of work to ensure all events run smoothly. We, the choir members, look forward to supporting your continued endeavours during 2015.

Michelle Reedy
Secretary

SENIOR CHOIR REPORT 2014

As Conductor of the Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Senior Choir, it is with much pleasure that I present my report to this annual general meeting.

Rehearsals for the 2014 choral year began on January 20, launching into Queensland Eisteddfod preparation and a hasty “brush up” of known repertoire for early February Riverlink performances - a great opportunity to showcase all the Cambrian choirs’ talents to the community and to promote the organization.

The annual **Choral Retreat** February 8 – 9, held once again at Women’s College St. Lucia, gave Senior Choir members an intensive work out over the weekend with sectionals, vocal technique workshops, and tutti sessions. We were also fortunate to have **Jason Barry-Smith** working with the choir to impart his expertise and knowledge. Thank you to **Katrina May** for her assistance in both sectional and combined rehearsals and also to **Jan Mundt** and **Marellen Haag** for organising and ensuring the weekend went smoothly.

The **Showcase Concert** on April 13 at Ipswich Civic Theatre, featured “mystery guest” **Leisa Barry-Smith** who entertained us with a range of musical theatre pieces. As an added surprise, Leisa was joined by her husband **Jason Barry-Smith** to sing “The Prayer”. The concert, a showcase for all the talent of the organisation, featured fine performances from four of our Cambrian choirs (Youth, Junior and Show Choir), combining forces for the Finale.

The choral sections of the **Queensland Eisteddfod** were held at Kawana Waters on the Sunshine Coast from April 18-19. I was very pleased and proud of our choral performances and our journey to improve choral tone, ensemble precision, communication and musicality is always ongoing. The continuing decline in male choristers is of a major concern in regards to the balance within the choir. This has a significant impact in competition work.

Congratulations to all the soloists from our choirs who competed very successfully with a number of major wins in Championship sections. Thank you to all the Eisteddfod participants who have been consistently dedicated and committed in rehearsals and performances to produce these results.

On June 1, **Rejoice and Sing!** was held at St. Mary’s Church, featuring guest artist **Christopher Wrench** (Organist) and a spirited concert program of sacred music, which included two minor works: **Missa Brevis in D** by Benjamin Britten (treble voice ensemble from Cambrian Youth and Senior Choirs) and **Timete Dominum** by Michael Haydn (Senior Choir ensemble). We had a number of technical difficulties to overcome with the use of the organ and the grand piano (which could not be moved). Thank you to **Eric Milliken** for organizing and setting up a live video link to the organ loft. The concert was very well attended and we received many wonderful compliments about the program and performance. Once again a very short lead up to the concert!

Theatre Restaurant Rehearsals for **Road to Rio** began on June 2 with performances starting in mid-August.

Short précis:

“Experience the colours, sounds and rhythms of South America as we embark on a voyage of discovery setting out from Castile with Christopher Columbus; following in the footsteps of the Conquistadors as they travel high into the Andes Mountains; journeying on down to the coast drawn by the magnetic attraction of Buenos Aires, the Big Apple; and finally, going north to the white sands of Ipanema and the Carnavale city of Rio de Janeiro!”

Congratulations to producer/director **Murray Milliken** for bringing his creative vision to the stage, our team of choreographers: **Lauren Roche, Nicola Harris and Rebekah Barns**, our music team: **Katrina May, Bronwyn French and Adam French** (for his professional backing tracks and guitar accompaniment). Thank you to all those who volunteered to work behind the scenes (props, costumes, stage preparation, kitchen, front of house). Special thanks to non-member volunteers, **Warren Haag and Eric Milliken** for bringing their professional expertise in lighting and sound. Thanks once again to **Jan Mundt, Marelle Haag** and the working bee team for bringing their decorative flair to the auditorium so effectively. The success of the theatre restaurant season is supported by an enthusiastic and committed team effort! Thank you!

This year saw several new initiatives in the expansion of our recital series. A Valentine’s Day concert **Close to You** (February 14) was the first opportunity for soloists and the Show Choir to present a concert of romantic classics, pop and jazz. **Sounds of Summer** (February 26), a morning tea concert featured the talents of 4 women: **Simone Behrendorff, Michelle French, Carly Wild and Sandra Milliken**, as well as compere/soloist **Murray Milliken**. A **Touch of Class** (March 14) was cancelled due to insufficient bookings. **And All That Jazz** (May 9) was another new concert idea, which proved to be successful with both audience and performers. There was an extra surprise with **The Bayside Divas** performing as a “Flash Mob” at this concert! The final concert of our recital series in October was unfortunately cancelled due to the absence of key music staff. Thank you to all our volunteers who managed the bar, prepared cheese platters, managed front of house, lighting, sound and of course our wonderfully talented accompanists. Smaller recital events still take a lot of preparation, organization and management on the actual day so your support is very much appreciated.

The combined forces of the Blackstone Ipswich Cambrian Choir and the **Sunshine Coast Oriana Choir** came together in November to give two performances of the iconic choral work: **The Messiah**. Rehearsals commenced in August, overlapping with the period of Theatre Restaurant performances. **Daniel Calder** took rehearsals for four weeks in my absence and whipped the choir into “melismatic” shape for the challenging major work of Handel. Due to extreme weather conditions, the concert in Ipswich had to be rescheduled to November 30 so the first performance was at Kawana Waters on November 23. Both concerts were very well attended and praised as outstanding and moving choral

performances. Congratulations to Daniel for his amazing work with the choirs and to **Del Rossetto** for her work as venue liaison!

I would like to acknowledge the valuable talents and assistance of our wonderful accompanist and rehearsal assistant, **Katrina May**, also **Michelle French** who provides musical support whenever needed, **Bronwyn French** and **Simone Behrendorff**. We are very fortunate to have a number of professional musicians in our choir who are willing to give of their time and energy. Their support is integral to the success of our concert programs and to the development of the organization.

Thank you to librarian **Jeremy Lloyd** and **Karen Bradberry** for their assistance in maintaining the choral music library, issuing a multitude of sheet music to the five choirs in the organization. The bar-coding system continues to be updated and improved, making the cataloguing and issuing of music so more effective and efficient.

Thank you to **Debbie Lewis** who continues to share her artistic flair in designing graphics and artwork for our concert promotional materials. Thank you to **Lauren Roche** for her work as promotions officer advertising concerts through community newspapers and keeping the Face Book page up to date with tidbits of interesting choral information.

At this time, it is important that I reiterate the need to continue to attract new members and grow the organisation as a whole. The Cambrian Junior and Youth Choirs have an important role in the future growth of the Cambrian family. Members should feel immensely proud to be involved in a highly successful and long-standing organisation such as the Blackstone Ipswich Cambrian Choir and I would encourage each individual to show initiative by taking any opportunity to advertise and encourage the growth of any of our choirs to ensure the sustainability of BICC in the future. It is up to You, our members – word of mouth is the best way to advertise and encourage new members and audiences.

I would like to thank the President, Jan Mundt, and the management committee for their support throughout the year, providing the financial support for music budgets and working to oversee the administrative side of the organisation. 2015 promises to be another exciting year with several performance opportunities outside our main program, a weekend tour and musical challenges and experiences. I look forward to working with, and continuing the direction of, the Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir in the next 12 months.

SANDRA MILLIKEN

Conductor, Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir

March 11, 2015

LIBRARIANS REPORT 2014

This year has been a busy one in the in the Library. Some 37 new pieces of music were added to the Library in 2014. Over 2,500 individual pieces of music were checked out and checked back in. Both old and new music has been barcoded and filed electronically. A new database is being developed to track the Library's holdings and a stocktake has commenced.

The year in earnest began with preparation for the 121st Queensland Eisteddfod. Upon distributing the music for the Eisteddfod, it was discovered that some of the set pieces currently in the Library (most notably “The Snow” and “The Song of the Grey Seas”) were in poor condition. Fortunately, these pieces are in the public domain and could be remade. Unfortunately, the remaking of “The Song of the Grey Seas” ended up being a significant undertaking for Murray and Sandra Milliken in particular. The results of all this hard work resulted in music that was clean and easy to read, and had the added advantage of maintaining its structural integrity. Although still not as smooth as hoped, the electronic checkout system has improved in 2014. For example, all the pieces for the Eisteddfod were checked out by the end of the Choir Retreat at the beginning of the year. I thank Choir members for returning their Eisteddfod music in a timely fashion.

The music for the Rejoice and Sing! concert in June also had led to some challenges for the Library. Some of the sets of music were a mixture of old and newly ordered parts. Some of the older parts needed repairs, and others had been stapled into folders with a different piece of music. These folders needed to be disassembled and the music barcoded and checked out separately.

The Road to Rio and *Messiah* music distribution had few issues. Using a detailed spreadsheet produced by Murray, the music for Road to Rio was checked out to performers early in the rehearsal schedule. Most participants returned their music promptly. Well done, cast! The music distribution for *Messiah* also provided few challenges. Enough copies were available as some members chose to purchase their own copies of the work, while others borrowed copies from the Library. Additionally, the Choir became a member of the State Library of Queensland. This allowed us to borrow sufficient copies of *Messiah* to ensure every member had a copy, for no fee. Choir members who had possession of the State Library copies returned them admirably quickly (as required by the late rescheduling of the Ipswich performance of *Messiah*). As a member of the State Library of Queensland, the Choir will now also be able to borrow music from their collection, which should increase the repertoire we can offer in future.

The Sapphire Anniversary High Tea of the Cambrian Youth Choir provided its own challenges. The celebration called for a collection of favourite pieces from the past 45 years of the Youth Choir, which required searching through various sections of the Library. Past conductors Blodwyn Whitehead and Berniece Hicks, accompanist Bronwyn French and current conductor Sandra Milliken all contributed greatly to ensuring the right music was available for the day. Without the invaluable advice, coordination and collaboration of Marellen Haag, preparing the music on time for this event would not have been possible.

Rena and Dale Stevens have once again been diligent in distributing and collecting the music for Coro Concorde. I extend my deep thanks for the excellent work they put in to help keep Coro singing.

As noted last year, the process of unifying pieces from all choirs into the one catalogue began in earnest this year. Murray Milliken has taken the lead on this process, designing a relational database using the FileMaker Pro software. This catalogue will continue to be developed so that it can check out and track music loans by members.

The Library stocktake has been a slower than anticipated process. This has been partly due to the inconsistencies and double-ups of pieces identified by Murray as the database has been assembled. Delays to the stocktake have also resulted from a reassessment of the way music is organised on shelves. The current categories seem to have resulted in frequent filing errors. Filing methods used in other music libraries have been investigated and changes will be implemented in concert with the stocktake.

I would like to acknowledge that the Committee has approved the purchase of a computer for the Library in 2015 and the provision of internet access. I look forward to these coming online during 2015 and leading to an improvement in the functioning of the library as a result. Next on my wish list is a new set of pigeon holes for members!

As is mentioned every year, most choir members are responsible in returning their music on time and in good condition. Nonetheless, a very small percentage of copies are returned late, or with pencil marks, or (on rare occasions) damaged. Late returns are difficult to file and pencil marks are easily removed by members prior to returning the music – as are post-it notes!

As flagged last year, the Library is entitled to seek replacement costs from members who return damaged music and should be entitled to charge a late fee. It is intended that a by-law will be drafted for consideration by the incoming Committee that will enable the Library to charge a late fee and a standard fee for damaged or lost music. If agreed to, this by-law will be implemented in 2016.

Additionally, a by-law will be drafted for the introduction of a Music Levy. A Music Levy would help to address both the costs associated with purchasing new music for the Choir and would assist with the distribution of music to Choir members. It is envisioned that this Levy would be a small fee, payable in instalments, and would be introduced in 2016. It would also replace the gold coin donation at the beginning of rehearsals.

A Music Levy would help to provide more funding for music purchases. Over \$3,500 worth of music was added to the library in 2014. This excludes some digital purchases, photocopied public domain works, and Sandra's arrangements for the choir. The current gold coin donations to the Music Fund provide less than half of the amount spent on music each year and do not contribute to the other costs associated with the Library.

A Music Levy would also improve the process for distributing music. Many members (especially new members) have expressed their concerns to me about receiving their music in a timely fashion at the beginning of the year. The Library is only supposed to distribute music to financial members of the Choir who are intending to take part in an upcoming performance. To date, music has been checked out to members appearing on attendance rolls. This process often involves a degree of guesswork about who is intending to participate in upcoming performances. The rolls also usually omit members who are new to the Senior Choir. A Music Levy would ensure that only those members who had contributed to the Levy would receive their music. The Levy would also permit the distribution of music to potential members who had not yet formally had their membership confirmed, ensuring they can prepare for and participate in upcoming performances.

I would like to thank all those who have helped or who have offered to volunteer. Although I may miss some names, I feel that I should recognise some people specifically. The Show Choir, especially Adam French, have been diligent in checking out and returning music on time. Kate Wentz has been very dedicated to managing the Youth Choir music (while things were changing around her). Michelle French and Bronwyn French have been looking after the Junior Choir pieces and ensuring that they have the required music at the required time (thanks for your patience!). Michelle also worked very hard during the Christmas season to ensure music was provided to a number of different ensembles performing at different events. Nicola Harris has provided invaluable assistance with sticking, stamping and repairing music. Karen Bradberry has again been outstanding in helping with all sorts of bits and pieces. Marellen has put in a big effort in collecting, distributing and ensuring music appears in appropriate places and at appropriate times. I also would like to recognise the people who have offered to assist with the stocktaking process and will be happy to call on their help again in the coming year. As always, Sandra and Murray have been a great help and reassurance in 2014.

Jeremy Lloyd

CORO CONCORDE – 2014

As Conductor of the Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir's Coro Concorde, it is with much pleasure that I present the annual report for the second year since its foundation to the annual general meeting.

Coro Concorde began 2014 rehearsals on Wednesday May 14, with 30 choristers and a changed demographic from 2013, with the core ensemble being retirees. We welcomed several new members from within the Ipswich and greater community.

Our 2014 sub-committee:

Chairman - Paul Fyfe

Minutes Secretary – Jo Hales

Assistant Treasurer/Membership – Elaine Barrett

Assistant Librarian – Rena & Dale Stevens

Publicity – shared by the membership

The first concert, "From the Hearth" on July 23, was again publicized through Coro members who took on the responsibility of contacting various communities, supplemented and by a photo and editorial in local papers. The concert included a wide range of wintery themed repertoire plus a few carols and some "feel good" songs. Solo performances broke up the choral content of the concert and sing-a-longs still proved to be popular. Audience members congratulated us on the warm, informal atmosphere and the wonderful singing, so from all accounts it was an enjoyable and highly successful concert with over 100 in the audience. Coro Concorde then worked on repertoire for the last concert of the year "Deck the Halls", an Australian Christmas themed concert with a wide range of repertoire from traditional through to ethnic flavoured carols. The hall decorations were also themed to coordinate, with thanks to Rena Stevens and a great working team! Once again, we performed to a 110 + strong audience who thoroughly enjoyed their morning and, of course, the morning tea is fantastic! Congratulations once again to our soloists and the whole ensemble. A huge thankyou to **Katrina May**, who filled in as conductor/accompanist for this performance while I was recuperating (under strict instructions) from an operation.

Congratulations to all Coro Concorde members and supporters for their beautiful singing and volunteer teamwork throughout 2014. I would especially like to mention the enormous contribution and dedication of **Rena and Dale Stevens**, who have been responsible for concert coordination, library/music organization and general rehearsal duties. Thank you for your continued and highly valued support.

I look forward to another successful year for Coro Concorde with the opportunity to sing for fun, relaxation, good health and education in 2015.

Sandra Milliken

Musical Director and Accompanist

CAMBRIAN YOUTH CHOIR - 2014

As Conductor of the Cambrian Youth Choir for 2014 (celebrating 45 years), it is with much pleasure that I present my report to this annual general meeting.

Youth Choir rehearsals began on January with preparations for performances at **Riverlink**, which provided an opportunity to perform in the community and to promote the breadth of our Cambrian organization. We were fortunate to have **Mayor Paul Pisasale** make an appearance as well! Well done to everyone who performed at short notice and so early in the choir year.

In the second week of rehearsals, we announced our Music Captains for 2014: **Kayla Yarrow, Brenna Pick and James Bird**. They were also ably supported by our Year 12 leaders: **Matthew Westphal, Isaac Brown and Kate Pedley** throughout the year. We celebrated with a ceremony, presenting badges and the traditional cutting of the cake. Thank you to **Elaine Barrett** for organizing this for us.

Preparation for the **Queensland Eisteddfod**, held at Kawana Waters on the Sunshine Coast, kept the choir busy for the first 10 weeks. We had a very successful full day rehearsal with a St. Patrick's Day theme, lots of singing, games and team activities finished off by choreography of The Lion King. Thank you to **Rebekah Barns** for her great work with the youth choir and thank you also to Mrs. Alison Barns for the wonderful green food! The Cambrian Youth Choir had very successful Queensland Eisteddfod performances.

- 1st Small Ensemble
- 1st Junior Choral
- 2nd Youth Modern Chorus
- 2nd Youth Musical Theatre
- 1st Small Ensemble
- 3rd Intermediate Choral

Once again, members of the Youth Choir performed at the **Bundamba Anzac Day** Ceremony on April 26. Thank you to everyone who participated, including a number of parents. Thank you to Mrs. French for organizing the music folders.

The Ipswich Eisteddfod Choral Sections were held on May 23. We presented a number of new pieces, so had a busy lead up to performance, which included poor attendance numbers as a result of school musicals.

Ipswich Eisteddfod Results:

- 1st Sacred Chorus
- 1st Modern Chorus
- 1st Concert Item
- 2nd Chief Chorus

A **Relay for Life** team was organized by the **Music Captains**, raising funds for a much needed cause. This was originally scheduled for March 30 but was rescheduled May 24 because of bad weather. Well done to members, parents and friends who participated in this event.

On June 1, a number of youth choir trebles performed as part of a small ensemble in the **Missa Brevis in D** by **Benjamin Britten**, accompanied by internationally acclaimed organist

Christopher Wrench at the Senior Choir concert **Rejoice and Sing!** This was a rare opportunity to sing beautiful and challenging music in an ambient venue.

Choralation, held on June 20 was a great success musically. Our guest artists, the **WESTMAC Percussion Ensemble** under the direction of **Cameron Kennedy**, performed with both the youth and junior choirs, a combined finale and their own repertoire. The Youth Choir presented a range of new repertoire including several works with Spanish texts. Thank you to everyone, parents and members, who assisted in running the concert, front of house, lighting and sound, canteen and the clean-up.

To celebrate our 45th anniversary, the youth choir received funding from the **Ipswich City Council** (through Cr. **Bruce Casos**) to record a new CD. This enabled us to work in **GhostGum Audio**, a recording studio at **Cannon Hill Anglican College**. Both the Youth and Junior Choirs recorded for the CD entitled **Sapphire – Musical Gems**, joined by WESTMAC Percussion Ensemble in tracks that required percussion. The choristers made great efforts to listen, learn and challenge themselves to deliver a better performance each time we sang in the studio. As a result, we spent only one day in the studio without needing an extra session to patch any mishaps. Special thanks to **Brian French** for being available to take photos of our special day.

The 45th **Sapphire Celebration** weekend began with a Youth Choir concert on Friday August 12 entitled **Out of Africa**, with guest artists the **Cambrian Show Choir**. The Sapphire CD was launched. Despite small audience numbers, the youth choir gave a fine performance of repertoire that tied into the theme. The artistic lighting effects really enhanced the standard of our performance (thank you to **Eric Milliken**). Thank you to the Cambrian Show Choir under the direction of **Adam French** for joining us.

This celebration was then followed by a **High Tea** on Saturday August 13, attended by more than 150 past Cambrian Youth Choir members, conductors, accompanists and their families. It was a rare opportunity to not only reflect on the tradition of musical excellence in the Youth Choir and the friendships and bonds that have been formed over the years but, to also fully realize the history and legacy of the choir within the community. The current youth choir members served afternoon tea, chatted to past members and also performed a bracket of repertoire to launch their Sapphire CD. It was an amazing day full of memories, friendships that still remain strong, uniform and costume fashions, touring memories and re-creating performance of the music. Thank you to those choristers who took part in this special day. Term 4 saw the choir preparing repertoire for Christmas performances, the **Silkstone Eisteddfod** (first place in Musical Theatre Section) and the wind down of the year. Thank you to both **Michelle and Bronwyn French** for taking rehearsals in my absence. 2014 finished off with the annual **Semi-formal**, an evening of formalities and fun hosted by the Music Captains. A special thanks to **Kayla Yarrow** for all her work in organizing the decorations and to **Mrs. Elaine Barrett** for coordinating the event.

In summing up 2014, I would like to congratulate our music captains on the fine job they have done, providing social and musical leadership and assistance throughout the choir year. Thank you also to those who have performed special roles/tasks:

- Mentors: Gabi Dodds and Emily Critchley who have attended rehearsals regularly and been of enormous assistance in rehearsing part work and keeping things on track.
- Rebekah Barns for providing her award winning choreography for The Lion King
- Tam Time organizers: Kayla Yarrow and Kate Pedley
- Newsletter graphics and design: Kayla Yarrow
- Year 9 Library assistants: Liz Wentz and Ryan McFall

- Thomas Haag for helping to lock up the hall and doing the odd jobs and technical support.

There have been a number of parents (too many to list) who have made significant contributions (costumes, library, concert coordination, fund raising) to the choir this year and the Cambrian organization as a whole. Thank you for your work as parent volunteers and your commitment to making this a strong family-oriented organization. We now have generations of Cambrian choir members in our ranks and as you are aware, these families form the backbone of our Cambrian family and everything we strive for in our music making. Long lasting friendships forged through music!

Special thanks must also go to **Mrs. Elaine Barrett**. Despite Elaine's busy schedule as a Grandma and Junior Choir admin, she is always a fount of knowledge in all things youth choir. Thank you for your personal involvement over many years. It is truly appreciated.

I would also like to acknowledge the assistance **Michelle French** has given throughout the year. She is a very talented conductor and we are lucky she is so supportive of the youth choir, given her junior choir responsibilities as well. Thank you very much Michelle! Finally I would like to take this opportunity to make a special, personal vote of thanks to **Mrs. Bronwyn French**. Without her assistance this year, there would have been quite a few gaps in our program. She has been involved with the youth choir for many years and knows just how everything happens. She has filled in during my absences, kept rehearsals going and has handled any changing circumstances with great expertise. Bronwyn is not only down to earth and talented, but a "rock" in terms of being reliable and knowing that everything will be OK. From the bottom of my heart (and the choir's hearts), a huge "thankyou". We really appreciate everything you have done for us.

I have been very proud to be your conductor in 2014 and look forward to another rewarding year in 2015 with new music and the Queensland Eisteddfod in Brisbane kicking off the year. Many thanks to the President Jan Mundt and the Committee for their support throughout the year. I am extremely proud of this organization and the great choral tradition it represents in Ipswich, Queensland and Australia.

Sandra Milliken
March 13, 2015

JUNIOR CAMBRIAN REPORT 2014

Conductor: Mrs Michelle French **Accompanist:** Mrs Bronwyn French

Rehearsal Year: January 31 – December 5

Membership: It was my goal to have at least 30 regular members during 2014 and I am very pleased to say that we made it to 33.

Eisteddfod: Ipswich Junior Eisteddfod in May. We entered the Open Junior Choral section (2rd place) and the Glee section (2nd).

Performances:

- April 13 – BICC Showcase: The Junior members love being part of this concert where they can see what all the “big kids” and adults do when they go to choir practice. It is an excellent chance for our older members to see what they can aspire to be singing in their next few years.
- June 20 – Concert with the Youth Choir: this was a lovely chance for us to finish semester one and to re-sing the music we had learnt for the eisteddfod earlier in the year.
- September 19– “On a Wonderful Day like Today” A fun concert full of songs that celebrate special days throughout the year, one from each month. The children linked the concert with poems and short skits about each theme, e.g. Easter, Birthdays and Christmas.
- November 28 – Silver Celebration “50 Years of the Junior Cambrian Choir”. This was a wonderful evening of celebration. The Junior Choir presented their Christmas Program, based on the songs from “Frozen” in the first half, then had our awards presentation. This was followed by a Cambrian Family Christmas Celebration that featured members from each branch of BICC presenting an item, leading a carol and one member from that choir who used to be in the Junior Choir speaking about their memories of their Junior Choir days. Mrs Blodwyn Whitehead was our very special guest and made a lovely speech and presentation to celebrate this time for a choir that hold a special place in her heart. Thank you to all choir members who were able to come along and support the Juniors on this occasion.

CD Recording:

For the very first time, the Junior Cambrian Choir were invited to take part in a CD recording! This was a very exciting and daunting task for such a young group. We recorded 4 pieces on our own and keeping the children quiet and focussed for that length of time was certainly a challenge! We also sang combined with the CYC on “OYE!” and with the full choir on “Why we Sing” (an absolute favourite of the Juniors). Thank you to Sandra and Murray for giving us the opportunity to take part in this special event, and to celebrate the Youth Choirs’ 45th Birthday.

Fundraising:

As a new venture this year, we tried a “Sing-A-Thon” with the Junior Choir. On June 20th the children arrived at their usual rehearsal time of 3:30pm and we sang through until 5:30pm, had a short break and then sang some more in the Concert that evening. Each member was given the goal of

being sponsored a minimum of \$25, and I am pleased to say that each child made that goal. There were prizes for the top 3 fundraising people, and Rebecca Moreton won by a mile with a grand total of \$156! I think this event worked very well, no expenses, little co-ordination and great reward. In 2015 we will raise the goal to \$30 for each child which will give us an overall target of approximately \$600. Not bad for one afternoon of singing!

Our other fundraising ventures included the Raffle at Showcase, and the BBQ/Market Stalls at our Christmas concert. All of these funds go directly into helping BICC inc, thank you to choir members who have supported us in these pursuits.

Thank you to Mrs Elaine Barrett for all her dedication and hard work for the Junior Choir. She is at rehearsal each Friday and is a great help in co-ordinating our events and performances as well as looking after our finances. Thank you so much!

I would like to thank Mrs Bronwyn French for all her hard work with and dedication to our young singers. Without her knowledge and effort our choir would not have the wonderful sound that it does today. Thank you!

Mrs Michelle French
Conductor
Junior Cambrian Choir

CAMBRIAN SHOW CHOIR REPORT 2014

Eisteddfod: 3rd Place Open Music Theatre Section QLD Eisteddfod with “Rent – a Medley”

Concerts:

- February 14 – “Close to You”. A new concert in the BICC concert series, the Show Choir provided the majority of music for this event through full ensemble pieces as well as soloists. It was certainly a challenge to put together enough music for this in such a short time frame as well as preparing our music theatre item and full choir songs!
- April 13 -Showcase – We performed our Music Theatre item “Rent – a medley” as well as combined choir pieces.
- July 12/13 – “Vocal Infusion”. This was our major solo event of the year. A huge thank you to Adam French who organised all of the music and arranged several of the pieces, as well as creating some backing tracks. It is wonderful to have a group of singers who work so well together and who are happy to help. From catering to costumes and choreography, we have it covered!
- December 8 – Raceview Carols. We combined with the Youth Choir to sing at the Carols under the big tree. This was a lovely night where we performed as a choir and to lead the carol singing.
- December 14 – This year we were invited to participate in “Organic Productions” Christmas presentation. Held at St Mary’s church in Ipswich, it was a lovely afternoon of some different Christmas music from Tavener and Poulenc, as well as some well loved Australian Carols by Wheeler. Thank you to Nick Kirkup for the chance to participate in this event and to further promote BICC through the Show Choir in the wider community.

A very big thank you must go to Mrs Bronwyn French for being a special part of the Show Choir. She gives up her time to attend rehearsals and our concerts and provides much appreciated advice and support. Thank you!

Finally, this will be the final report from myself as the co-ordinator of the Cambrian Show Choir. While there is not an official position to step away from, I would like to thank the choir for giving us the chance to create this new branch of the BICC family. I am so proud of how this group works so well together, and are able to meet all the challenges that are thrown their way. We have learnt a LOT of music in the few years we have been singing together and I hope the repertoire of the Show Choir keeps on expanding. Thank you to Lauren Roche for her un-ending support and tireless enthusiasm - our entire organisation is so very lucky to

have her part of it. Lastly, thank you Adam. Your knowledge of music arranging and production technology is amazing and such a key element in the success of this group. Thank you for stepping up and taking on so much for choir after the arrival of Meg and for figuring out how we could both still be part of making such great music together! Show Choir members – I won't be far away and you know I'm always happy to help, as well as being your biggest supporter! All the best in 2015.

COSTUME HIRE DEPARTMENT 2014

The costume hire has had a slightly less successful year last year with bulk hire sales were up and expenses up but shop sales down on last year. It was good to see that our bulk orders were up and some outstanding accounts have finally been paid.

Volunteers are the life force of this part of the choir. We cannot operate without them. Huge thanks go to all our regulars – Brenda, Jo, Pamela and Beth on Wednesdays, Jane, Sara and Wendy on Fridays and Marlene on Saturdays. I wish to thank them for all their hours they spend in our costume hire. Thanks to all the other members who have given some of their time to help out. There is always a need for more volunteers.

Costume hire continues to support the choir with costumes for performances and financial contributions to the association funds.

Jan Mundt
Costume Liaison