

**ANNUAL REPORT
BLACKSTONE – IPSWICH CAMBRIAN CHOIR INC.
2010**

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

1. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

2010 was another successful year for the Choir with another successful Eisteddfod and Theatre Restaurant performance. Administration occurred smoothly throughout the year without any significant hiccups.

Full Management Committee attendance is essential if all facets of our operations are addressed in a timely manner and it is an implicit requirement of committee members that they attend most meetings allowing for sickness and vacations etc.

During the year it appeared there may be a potential significant new building construction on the station side of our building. Your committee immediately took steps to ensure that any damage to the integrity of our building due to underpinning of the foundations was to be indemnified to the Choir. Subsequently, it appears this new building application is not proceeding or is on hold.

It is quite possible, given the desirability of the site that there may be future building applications and the committee will keep a keen eye on any that eventuate but it is unlikely to cause any disadvantage or issue for us.

As part of the committee's desire to continuously improve our Choir and to plan into the future, we are always on the lookout for any opportunities. An organisation that does not seek to critically appraise itself and embrace change, risks becoming increasingly irrelevant.

The growth of Ipswich itself presents potential opportunities for the future, both in audience growth and demographics. In view of this and as a result of a request from younger members of our Choir, your Committee authorised the formation of the Cambrian Show Choir. This Choir is properly constituted with its own committee reporting to our Management Committee.

We hope this Choir will appeal to audiences from the younger demographic.

GRANTS

The Choir continues (successfully) to apply for financial grants. These continue to allow us to upgrade our facilities at no cost to the membership.

The Choir recently received an approach from the Ipswich City Council to consider submitting a tender to the Department of Veteran's Affairs for a tour to Gallipoli to sing at the Dawn Service. The Department proposes to send a community based choir for 5 years and we have applied for 2012. We are supported by the Ipswich City Council and this would be a great honour if we are successful. We are currently awaiting a response which we need as soon as possible as this tour is in the same year as the one proposed to northern Europe and we will only be able to make one tour.

No words can express our appreciation for the dedication and expertise of these people.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Outgoing Committee are:

Nigel Lewis – President

David Palmisano – Vice President

Noel Lewis – Secretary

Warren Parcell – Treasurer

Marellen Haag – Asst. Treasurer

Debbie Lewis - Librarian

Jan. Mundt – Publicity Officer

Sue Vidler – Asst. Publicity Officer

Jenny Mulroney – Membership Officer

Our committee have been very active in the administration of your Choir and some extraordinary efforts have been put in by Jan. and Marellen in respect of the Theatre Restaurant.

Debbie Lewis's librarian's activities are legendary and without which our Choir could not function effectively.

VOLUNTEERS

A large choir such as ours depends heavily, not just on the Management Committee, but on volunteers to supplement the committee operations.

Sincere thanks go to:

Murray Milliken for his directorship of our Theatre Restaurants. As one who has had some involvement in this area, I can readily say that it requires a high degree of expertise and dedication to make these performances the success that they are. Murray has raised the bar to a new level.

Often seen around the hall with tools and ladders and a stalwart of the Theatre Restaurants is Tim Evans. Tim performs many maintenance tasks, big and small which enable our efficient running and saves the Choir considerable costs.

Thanks are also due to the volunteer parents who ably assist the Youth and Junior Choirs.

Due to the huge amount of work carried out by volunteers and your committee, supplemented by grants, membership fees are very low for a Choir of this size and complexity.

If you would like an involvement in the choir's operations but not at a committee level, you should contact the President who will inform you of the possibilities.

IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

The Council are significant supporters of the Arts in Ipswich and our Mayor, Paul Pisasale is particularly helpful. The Committee, on behalf of the Choir expresses its sincere thanks for our Council's support throughout the year.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

This exercise should not be undertaken lightly as this is a successful, dynamic choir and any committee members elected need to understand the workload and dedication required to maintain this standard.

CHOOSE YOUR NOMINATIONS CAREFULLY

Thank you to all members for their support and we look forward to all contributing to our ongoing success in the 2011 year.

Noel Lewis – Secretary

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

This was not available at time of printing but will be presented at the AGM.

3. SENIOR CHOIR REPORT

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

The choral year began with the first rehearsal on January 25 and the annual **Choral Retreat** on January 30 and 31 at Women's College St. Lucia. With Jason Barry-Smith as the guest workshop clinician, the Senior Choir launched into learning new Eisteddfod competition repertoire and brushing up on their vocal technique. The weekend attracted a majority of choristers who made the most of the intensive rehearsals and the social opportunities. We once again thank **Adam and Michelle French** for their time and assistance in recording rehearsal CDs, which have proven to be a valuable learning tool for choristers in between rehearsals.

The choir won the coveted award of **Champion Queensland Choir** at the 2010 **Queensland Eisteddfod** held in Gympie along with a number of prestigious awards and placings throughout the competition. The magical moment we felt after singing Tichelli's "There will be Rest" will remain with us forever as an unforgettable experience. Our men were stunned and pumped by their win in the **Male Chorus** section, which had not been won by the Cambrians for decades. We were also very proud of our newly formed **Cambrian Show Choir** and the **Cambrian Youth Choir** who had a highly successful Eisteddfod run. Over the

last year, the choral tone/blend has developed along with the commitment and responsibility of each chorister resulting in a more cohesive choral ensemble. The organization has also attracted a number of valuable new members including younger members who have developed their skills in the Cambrian Youth Choir and moved up to join the Senior Choir. It is this community mix of age groups from 18 through to 80 plus that gives the Cambrian Senior Choir it's attractive choral tone. Well done all!

The **Cambrians On Tour** concerts in Toogoolawah (June 5), Boonah (June 19) and Beaudesert (June 20) proved to be wonderful opportunities to showcase our choral music in the community. Featuring the Cambrian Show Choir and a few of our resident soloists, the three concerts were very well received by the general public and we were also well catered for by the local organizing committees. The participating choristers agreed that it was a worthwhile experience and should be repeated in the near future. Sandwiched between the Cambrians on Tour, a "not so large" ensemble performed at the RAAF Amberley Airbase for Bomber Command Service on June 6. Thank you to those choristers who made the additional commitment to squeeze this into their busy lives.

The **Cambrian Show Choir** made their concert debut with two sell-out concerts in June 2010. This group of younger members (with the advice and assistance from experienced members), have since continued to fill a special niche in the Cambrian Organisation.

Theatre Restaurant Rehearsals for **Below the Salt** began in late June. The four acts were each in themselves a story: The Tale of Phyllis and Amyntas, The Tale of the little Black Pawn (a one act play written by **David Palmisano** – world premiere), The Tale of Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and The Tale of the Maid, the Swain and the Sherrif. The repertoire covered many styles from madrigals through to musicals, Steeleye Span, Rick Wakeman, ABBA and a touch of Monty Python parody. Thank you once again to **Murray Milliken** for producing, directing and bringing his creative vision to the stage. Thanks and congratulations must also go to both **Jan Mundt** and **Marellen Haag** and to all those who assisted in any way working behind the scenes in props, costumes, stage preparation and the kitchen. There is always an enormous amount of work to be done and it was a great team effort with much support and commitment from choir and committee members ensuring the show's sell-out success!

The **Ipswich Gala Concert** was once again speedily rehearsed before **Patrick Burns'** leadership in conducting the performance on October 2.

The last performance for the year was at the **Mayor's Carols by Candlelight** where we were very pleased to be singing with the acclaimed Australian performer, **Anthony Callea**. Apart from the usual moments of organizational chaos in arranging repertoire for a large event (what key, what version, orchestral parts etc.) the performance went smoothly to a capacity crowd of 15,000. Being flexible is the key to success! We did have another Christmas performance at **Wynnum** scheduled in the calendar but unfortunately several severe thunderstorms rendered the grounds unsuitable for use and they were cancelled. Thank you for all your team effort and support!

I would once again like to acknowledge the valuable assistance of our accompanist and rehearsal assistant, **Katrina May** as well as **Michelle French** and **Simone Hicks** who have assisted when necessity has required. Thank you to our wonderful librarian, **Debbie Lewis** who performs this task (along with artwork etc.) on a voluntary basis and with the experience of a professional. Her support and efficiency is very highly valued by the music team.

At this time, it is pertinent to mention the need to attract 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. Current members should feel immensely proud to be involved in a highly successful and long-standing organization 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.

I would like to thank the President and the committee for their personal and professional support throughout the year, providing the financial support for music budgets and working to oversee the administrative side of the organisation. 2011 promises to be an exciting year with new musical challenges and experiences. I look forward to working with and continuing the direction of the Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir in the next year.

SANDRA MILLIKEN
Conductor, Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir
February 23, 2011

4. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The Choir was the recipient of a large quantity of music in the latter part of the year, left to us from a deceased estate. It has been a very time-consuming job to sort and catalogue the hundreds of pieces of music. Some of the music belonged to BICC and was being returned home after a long absence but much was from Ipswich Choral Society and the private collection of Mrs Myfanwy Sullivan. About one third of the music still has to be catalogued and filed.

We have run out of room in the TTBB section of the library and there is no space for any more shelving, so the next job is to sort through the titles and remove and rehouse any music that our men are not likely to sing again, freeing up space to house new music.

Thanks as always to Jenny Mulroney for her help in the library and to Sue Vidler and Prue Gordon for also lending a hand in the middle part of the year when I am most swamped. I am extremely grateful for all their help.

Debbie Lewis
LIBRARIAN

5. YOUTH CHOIR REPORT

2010 has come and gone with year full of challenges in performances, eisteddfods, concerts and just enjoying being a community Youth choral group who love to be together. In 2010 we saw 45 committed young people from all walks of life be touched by the joy of singing as a team effort.

For this report, I would like to start at the end of 2010 because this year had a different flavour to it for sharing music at Christmas. Our Christmas Musical ... "THE LITTLE BELL THAT WOULDN'T STOP RINGING" was well received along with sharing the Evening with the Junior Cambrians on the Friday and then a late afternoon performance on the Saturday, which featured the ShowChoir and the St. Pauls Bell Ringers. At the session, we had a couple of gift stalls. Afternoon tea was also available with yummy Christmas treats, organized by our Music Leaders and CYC Parents. The crowds were warm and thoroughly enjoyed our presentation in word and song, of the true meaning of Christmas.

Our end of year Semi Formal also took a new approach, venue and style being held at the Ipswich Club, because of charges at the Civic Centre being too high. The evening was capably led by our Music Captain {Sophie Coward} and Music Leaders - Katherine Grosvenor, Holly Pearce. We missed Rebecca Dobbs who was on a trip overseas. These young people showed strong leadership all year, and set a high standard in attendance and performances. Thank you also to their parents who supported them always.

Going to Marburg Church of Christ with Christmas program; sharing carols for the neighbourhood at Hicks' Home; and singing to Aged residents from Colthup Home were other ways the voices were heard at this festive time. Finishing off with 3 performances of traditional carols at Brothers League, with approx 35 present each time including past CYC members singing as well as parents in Senior Choir, all makes it such a family time.

Community events regularly performed at were: ICC Citizenship ceremonies; ICC Open Council Meetings and International Students' day at the Civic Centre; singing once again in Relay for Life. Great support was also shown at the Bundamba ANZAC DAY service where a wreath was laid by the Music Leaders.

'JAZZ and SING' in JULY was a great new touch for repertoire by the CYC ... The evening was a shared performance with Salvation Army Band Youth Jazz Group ... I think the roof of the Cambrian Centre was nearly blown away, when we joined forces and performed items together, finishing the evening with SOMEWHERE. Great to see so many talented Youth in Ipswich on stage in conjunction with our new formed Cambrian Show Choir.

October Gala Performance was a challenge because of the end of term 3 school holidays. However, it came off well. Lovely to have past CYC get onboard and support the current CYC.

It was our CITY of IPSWICH 150 year celebrations and we were asked to join forces with the Young Orpheus Singers to present music which included 2 of the Qld Eist. pieces. Lovely to see Mrs Bronwyn French Accompany, with a past CYC member, Mrs Denelle Rosenberg, conduct the item while I sang with the Choir. All the Youth enjoyed mixing in together and celebrating their love of Music

Our Mid year Concert with the Cambrian juniors was a huge success and CYC were the support acts for the presentation of the Juniors musical “ HUMPTY DUMPTY “ - a great presentation . As leaders, we use these opportunities to encourage growth through the ranks of the Cambrian Music Families, letting parents see what is available for their children in their future years – continuing on involvement with community singing.

A highlight of 2010 was a Musical Tour to EMERALD on the June Long Weekend. Our emphasis was to encourage a new Junior Choir called Central Highlands lead by past Ipswich Residents Lauren Gehrke and her accompanist. Choral workshops were a feature with a Performance in the City Hall, a local Church. Fun was had around the campfire and many on-going emails have kept connections open with their new Chorale friends . We enjoyed the company of Parents. and our strong mentor Pa Risson with us on our travels. A big thanks to Mrs Milfull for the lovely Tour Booklet she compiled as a keepsake for our tour members.

Our Choral Eisteddfod music was greatly enhanced by a Choral Workshop with our expert Senior Choir Music Director Sandra Milliken. The young people responded so well and felt honoured to be led by such a professional musician. Thank you again Sandra for working so closely with the Youth of the Cambrian Family, and we could see the positive attitude in the Youth as they sang under the Showcase Cambrian Concert Banner led by Sandra.

I conclude on a high note as I began this report. It was so wonderful to win at the QLD EISTEDDFOD, held in Gympie, and bring home the Youth Aggregate. I take the opportunity to say a huge thanks to Cathy Crozier, who has co-ordinated all our costuming and ordering. The costumes for “JOSEPH TECHNICOLOR DREACOAT” contributed to our winning the Musical Theatre item in various competitions. These were an outstanding example of Cathy’s work. Also to all parents and grandparents who help sew them ..Thankyou so sincerely!!

The IPSWICH and SILKSTONE EISTEDDFOD saw a clean sweep of success – again keeping the CYC name out there in high standard. CYC is a major team effort. To Melissa Milfull who does Library and Administration so capably; Nicole Grosvenor with Minutes at our meeting always filed and printed correctly; and Del Rossetto with all the great fund Raising ideas which keeps our finances going strong; Paul and Marilyn Coward for Catering and Photos.

Many years of faithful support from our Finance Administrator, Mrs Elaine Barrett can not be overlooked. In some ways it has been a great challenge for her with all financial funding being now under the Cambrian Banner in 2010. However, we cannot do without her guidance and great understanding in this Youth choir section of the Cambrian organisation. Thank you so much for your help, guidance and patience.

For Bronwyn and I {Berniece} our year started on a high with being awarded Life Membership of the Cambrian Choir at the Annual General Meeting in March. We were both honoured to wear our badge and the Cambrian name proudly. We anticipate our 15th year as a team effort in leading CYC.Music.

Now we are not only BI and B2 but proud grandmas in the same year - 2010. Together we seek to serve the musical Youth across our community.

Thank you for the honour of leading and nurturing young people's lives - not only in music but also in mentoring and molding them with the hope of producing responsible citizens and leaders of the future.

Mrs Berniece Hicks
Conductor Cambrian Youth Choir

6. JUNIOR CHOIR REPORT

Conductor: Mrs Michelle French
Accompanist: Mrs Bronwyn French

Rehearsal Year: January 29 – December 3

Membership: We had 37 members who consistently attended in 2010. At one point we were up to 45 children, but for various reasons (moving out of the area etc) a few of these children have been unable to continue. Of our core group of 37, 6 members will be moving up into the Youth choir in 2011.

Eisteddfod: Ipswich Junior Eisteddfod in May. We entered the Open Junior Choral section and the Glee section.

Performances:

March 28 – 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.
- August 20 – “Humpty Dumpty” This was our mini-musical for 2010. We had so much fun singing Nursery Rhymes both old and new! Our part singing has really improved over this year and it was great to have the children singing so many songs in 2 or more parts. A big thank you to Mrs Young for being our

photographer on the night – she was very kind and donated her services for this. She then went away and formatted the photos of each child into an A4 portrait which we were able to sell as a fundraiser for the choir. We raised \$120!

- December 3 – As we had a theme of Nursery Rhymes throughout the year, we investigated Pantomime for our end of year concert. This was loosely based on the Hansel and Gretel story, but involved lots of different songs. The second part of our bracket at this concert contained Christmas songs, including “Do you hear what I hear?” which was very well received.

Junior Cambrians will re-commence on January 28, 2011.

During this year we have worked very hard with the children on making a good choral sound (excellent vowel shapes, clear diction, dynamic variation) as well as making our part singing even stronger. These are all habits we will continue to instil in our members during 2011.

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!

Finally, I would like to encourage all BICC members to keep an eye out for potential junior choir members, particularly from within our own families who are already part of our great organisation. What better thing could there be than having our own children and grandchildren being part of our choir from young people all the way through to adulthood?

Yours in music

Mrs Michelle French
Conductor
Junior Cambrian Choir

7. CAMBRIAN SHOW CHOIR REPORT

In its first year of operation, the Cambrian Show Choir has certainly had a big year!

The Cambrian Show Choir rehearses on Wednesday nights and has between 15 and 20 members. The Show Choir aims to be a collaborative choir, with members getting input into song choice, costuming and staging. The Show Choir has put together a Strategic Plan for 2010-13. We are pleased to say that we have met each of the action items we set out to achieve for 2010!

The Show Choir’s first performance was representing the Cambrian Choir in the Musical Theatre item at the Queensland Eisteddfod. The Show Choir was very proud to have won this item and look forward to competing in it again at the 2011 Eisteddfod.

The Show Choir was officially launched at the 'Presenting ... the Cambrian Show Choir' concert on Friday 25 June 2010. The concert showcased the Show Choir's talents, including soloists, music direction, music arrangement, choreography and accompaniment. This concert sold out very quickly so a second show was put on.

In 2010, the Show Choir was invited to perform at the Cambrian Showcase Concert, two Cambrian Youth Choir concerts and the Senior Choir's 'Cambrians on Tour' concert in Boonah. The Show Choir has relished the opportunity to take part in these other Cambrian concerts.

After the success of the first Show Choir concert, we decided we should put on a second show. The second concert, titled 'Road Trip, was initially scheduled for late 2010, but was postponed until Saturday 12 February 2011. This concert was also a sell-out show.

The Show Choir has also been met with some challenges in its first year of operation. Membership numbers have dropped off, particularly after the first concert. This was mainly due to members being too busy to attend two choir rehearsals per week. With membership numbers dropping and with the postponement of the second concert, the choir was also faced with members displaying a decrease in motivation and enthusiasm for the Show Choir. The Road Trip concert has certainly been a step towards regaining our member's enthusiasm.

The Show Choir plans to be just as busy in 2011. The Show Choir plans to once again compete in the Musical Theatre item at the Queensland Eisteddfod. Lisa Graham-Wilson will choreograph this piece in a workshop to be held in March. The Show Choir also plans to hold another concert in the second half of 2011 and will also perform in other Cambrian Choir concerts as invited. The Show Choir will also face many challenges in 2011, particularly with many Show Choir members moving away. The Show Choir will encourage more members to join in 2011.

The Cambrian Show Choir would like to express our sincere thanks to the Cambrian Choir management committee, as well as all the Cambrian choirs and their members, for their support and encouragement in establishing this new choir in the Cambrian family. We have had a wonderful first year, and we hope that the Show Choir goes from strength to strength!

Yours in music

Mrs Michelle French
Conductor Cambrian Show Choir

8. COSTUME DEPARTMENT REPORT

The last twelve months saw a continuation of the sorting and culling of items to make it easier for our volunteers to work. Costume hire has dealt with a very selective clientele wanting more in the style of fancy dress than period costumes. This has brought about a change in the layout to make easier access to the most

requested items. Rose Broadfoot, Brenda Daye and Pam Browne, have spent many hours going through the volumes of clothing to find some things that were very past their prime or in sizes that no longer fit the general public. There has also been a large amount of alterations done to make the most out of the stock available.

There hasn't been an increase to the numbers of volunteers offering to work in the shop so Saturday openings have not been able to reestablished the trading hours

To allow this vital fund raising service to continue we need your support by providing additional volunteers.

Our bulk orders to musical groups and schools have reduced slightly.

The storage boxes have been used in large quantities to relieve the racks of bulk items that are only hired out occasionally. There has been some maintenance done to make displaying items better and to make shelving more secure.

The Eftpos facility has now been installed into costumes and it has been well received by customers and choir members.

I wish to acknowledge the hard work done by our core volunteers, Brenda, Rose & Pam on Wednesdays and Wendy, Sara and Margaret on Fridays as well as all the other choir members, past and present who regularly come along to help out. Pam Brown has now had to retire due to her ill health and family issues. She will be greatly missed.

Jan Mundt
Costume Liaison