

CANTORION SYDNEY CATCHES THE PASSION OF MUSIC.

There were many extraordinary firsts at the Yass Music Club Concert held in the Memorial Hall on 3rd November as part of the ClassicYass celebrations.

One of the most spectacular of them came during a glorious rendition of 'Cantique de Noel' (Oh Holy Night) by Bernice Zandona (Contralto) when the fire alarms went off and there had to be an orderly evacuation of the building while things were put to right. We were thankful that the Fire Station was so close and handy for what was unique in the Music Club's long and fruitful sixty years of participation in the Yass community. We were grateful, too, that Bernice sang the Cantique again, uninterrupted this time.

The Memorial Hall was packed, unpacked and packed again for a superb performance given by the magnificent Cantorion Sydney Male Choir in the Welsh tradition, under the direction of Dr Sion Lloyd and Ms Rachel Harding, with Mavis Wang assisting in the piano accompaniments and, as well as Bernice as soprano soloist, with Kaine Hayward contributing splendidly in his tenor roles.

The music was superb and ranged across the full spectrum of choral, piano and solo music, all presented with equal love and skill from the wide variety of opera, from such as Verdi and Offenbach, and from folk and traditional sources, including sacred music and wonderful national music from Russia, France, Germany, Poland, Sweden and Wales with such favourites as Cwm Rhonda, Myfanwy, Will Ye Go?, the Gendarmes Duet and many others, with the choir concluding after several encores demanded by the audience (If it had had its way, we'd still be there!) with "We'll keep a Welcome" before the singing of the Welsh and Australian National anthems, with the spirited participation of the audience. Cantorion Sydney provided Yass with a rare and beautiful experience and the memory of the evening will long be a rich one for all who were there.