

**August 2006  
Newsletter of**

# **A Kappella Munda**



## **Why AKM Exists ...**

To provide an opportunity to sing together in a safe, fun, welcoming, non-judgmental and supportive environment. Come join and stay with us.

## **Welcome to new members**

*Belated welcome to  
Not only...Lesley Pearce – Alto and Peter Horne – Bass  
But also Robyn Warren – Alto*

*Apologies if I we've missed anyone... let me know and we'll acknowledge you personally.*

## **Upcoming Events and Other News**

- **Digby with Spookys** – our “Super-Digby” is away at the Edinburgh Festival with the zany Spooky Men’s Chorale – one of only two WA members deemed perverse enough to qualify. Edinburgh will never be the same again!!!
- Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Aug 2.30 – 4.30 - **Toning** with Mollie Mcleod – see more Page 2
- Sat 2nd Sept 3.00 – 5.00 - Jo Randell – **Revision** of some oldies, by some oldies, with some oldies, for some oldies...
- 7<sup>th</sup> October – **Zig Zag Promo**
- 28<sup>th</sup> October **Zig Zag Arts Festival**

## **This issue**

- **Commentary on Denmark FOV**
- **Reflections of returnee - Maggie Snell**
- **Profile of Simon Nield**
- **Our 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday incl. photos**
- **Toning - It's good for your voice ...**

## **Denmark Festival of Voice**

**Report by Kim Douglas**

### **“Voicefest in Top Form”**

Blue skies, nothing but blue skies and bright sunny days were the perfect backing to a highly successful fourth Denmark Festival of Voice from 2-4 June 2006.

A Kappella Munda was part of a glorious vocal range that spanned top professional performers from the east, west, north and south and choirs of all genres, genders and ages.

The fresh sweet voices of Denmark and Steiner primary schoolers started the show on Friday night and the nightcap from the superb women of Akasa left us thirsting for more.

Akamundians kicked off Saturday's Big Sounds bracket in the Civic Centre in classic style: dressed to the hilt, exuding joie-de-vivre and unfazed by an initial half-full audience which happily swelled to a full complement by the end of our show.

Director Diggers took a punt and successfully ran the previously untried *Cecilia* and *Ponta De Areia* plus some cheeky extra base bars in *Goodnight Sweetheart*. 'Big Ed' Wykman introduced our songs in his usual graceful and humorous style (especially 'In De Jungle' but he's bribed me not to say more). Our eclectic mix included the delicate *Ave Maris Stella* and the African McDonalds number *Singahamba* and through it all, A Kappella Munda gave the audience a heartening demo of the richness and joy community choirs can offer.

**(Continued Page 2)**

*If you're riding ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.*

**Will Rogers**

### Denmark FOV .. Continued

The festival presented delicious dilemmas: which workshops and concerts to choose when you want to have it all? Personal favourites were Akasa's expert tuition of songs for the Big Sing; Valanga Khosa's African rhythms; Peter Brandy's heartfelt songs from country; and anything that Stephen Taberner performed whether solo, with talented Simon Nield, or with Stephen's madly musical Spooky Men of the West.

As for our Walking Four-part Wonder Conductor Digby Hill, he not only directed us AND the engaging Voicemail but strengthened the pure, Georgian sound of Lile and was a lynchpin of the marvellous Spooky Men!

Coda to a fantastic voicefest was the Due South Festival Club closer where the above performers led a high-voltage happy crowd into the wee hours. Your reviewer left happy after seeing our own Marcia and Ed shine on stage.

To organisers Graham Mason, Simon Neville et al, hearty congratulations for a top festival.



*Every great and commanding movement in the annals of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm. Nothing great was ever achieved without it.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

### Reflections by an AKM Returnee Maggie Snell

Around 5 years ago-for various reasons, I left the choir and proceeded to fulfil my life in other areas. Or so I thought.

After trying my hand at many things including singing in other choirs, I finally woke up and realised that I deeply missed A Kappella Munda and not just the singing.

The people that make up A Kappella Munda are unique in the way they accept and care about the members who come and go. There always seems to be an interest in what is happening in other choir member's lives without being nosy and nary is a bad word spoken. The positive enthusiasm is such a wonderful thing to be around again.

When I returned, Jo Randell approached me to find out if I had noticed any changes occurring in my absence. I have of course, and am happy to report from my point of view they are all positive.

The organization and direction is much slicker without being authoritarian. The use of the blackboard to advise what songs we will be singing is great and encourages individual organisation (not sure if it is achieved with the practicing democrats (self included) that make up A Kappella Munda).

Digby shows positive leadership and gives very clear direction and sometimes 'We The Choir' actually take notice of him. I am glad to say his patience and kindness have not changed nor diminished.

I am very grateful for the extra time put in behind the scenes by the A Kappella Munda elves who, magically provide music, information, newsletters and update information lists. This is also a positive change.

Glad to be back

*Maggie*

(And we're glad to have you back Maggie - AKM)

### HERE'S WHAT TONING WILL DO FOR YOU AND YOUR VOICE:

- release tension, so you feel relaxed and your voice sounds full
- increase resonance - the quality and richness that make voices beautiful to hear. (Think of Verity James and Sean Connery voice quality)
- give you an experience of FEELING your voice, so you get more control and expression.
- give you more courage, because you can depend more on your vocal instrument.
- help you with your breath control, so you might even end up being able to outlast your vocal competitors!

## A Kappella Munda – A Choir of Wonder

Part of "Thigh Five"



Running Bear & Little White Dove



### High Noon – Legend Lives On ...

Pitcher's worth a thousand words.

The Wild West was never quite this wild with AKM turning out another great birthday celebration for our 12<sup>th</sup>. We are now into our teen years – yeeehhhaaaa... which means we can expect the future parties to be even wilder!!!!

The talent quest was a highlight with the sopranos doing unspeakable things with their "buns". Basses had the "hide" to do some pretty "raw" stuff. "Oklahoma" will never be the same again with the Tenors' adaptation "tribute" to AKM and of course our adorable altos still Cain't Say "No".

There was not a dry eye in the house after M 'n M's (Maggie and Mike's) spirited acting out of the tragic, mega-epic Running Bear under the baton of Pete Randell.

Thanks food people, decorators, prop makers and AKM widows and widowers.

Rumour has it that 13<sup>th</sup> is going to be **Horrorble**. Can't wait to see Mike as Frank. N. Furter... oooooo those fishnets do it every time. It's just a jump to the left ....

Could this be Roy Rogers and the man with no Name?



They let Injuns in too



A Kappella Munda meets every Saturday at 2.30 (3.00pm Market Days) at the Town Square Hall. Contact Ed Wykman 9291 9087

### Simon Nield - Profile

Dibgy's absence with Spooky Men Chorale has provided an opportunity for AKM to experience another musical director and during August we have been fortunate to have Simon Nield fill the gap.

Simon is an accomplished acoustic guitarist, a skilled composer and an eloquent songwriter. His broad musical and performance skills have been developed by playing in folk, rock, jazz and world music bands, conducting choirs, and performing to schools, concerts and festival audiences.

Simon directs a thriving community choir (Camelot), sings Georgian songs in a small ensemble (Lile), has occasionally directed and sung with the WA chapter of the Spooky Men's Chorale choir. He is an energetic and creative leader, and has provided numerous successful workshops in songwriting, guitar and group singing.

Simon's first album, **We're Mostly Water (2002)**, received five top-ten awards in the National Songwriting Contest, including winner (Instrumental Category). The album established him as a songwriter, opening doors to further artistic and performance opportunities.

Simon's second album was the mainly instrumental **Resonance (2004)**, which has further established his reputation as a guitarist and composer. Resonance received a "thumbs-up" from Roots magazine (UK, July 2005), and airplay on Radio National (mainly the Planet), ABC Classic FM (Classic Drive) and local (Western Australian) radio.

Thanks for joining us at AKM Simon. You are welcome back any time. Now that you know us, joint gig with Camelot perhaps???



Simon Nield

And now for something completely different

- 87 % of what we worry about never comes to pass. 7% we can take charge of.
- *"640Kb of memory should be more than enough for anybody".* Bill Gates 1981
- *"I see a world market for perhaps 5 computers".* Thomas Watson Jnr. President of IBM
- *"I have had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it."* Groucho Marx

