

How Our Concerts Started - Memories of Anne Mills

In the very early years of Lake Macquarie U3A ("LMU3A") a combined social gathering was held at Blackalls Park. There members could picnic or have a BBQ lunch, depending on preference.

However, with the introduction of "Our Choir" in the late 1990s things began to change.

For the first couple of years the members of the choir met practised in the Church Hall at Booragul. Then, at the end of the learning year, the choir members would demonstrate their increasing proficiency by singing a couple of songs for those LMU3A members who cared to attend the last choir session for the year. Usually the President was in attendance. Meantime, the picnics/BBQs, which were open to all members, continued unabated.

All this changed with the election of Ian Tayler as President.

It was during Ian's reign the suggestion was made, and adopted, that an end-of-year concert be introduced. The concert committee consisted of Ian Tayler himself, Tony Parrott and your scribe, Anne Mills, none of whom (to the best of my knowledge) had any expertise whatsoever in the organising of concerts. Consequently much time, thought and end-of-pencil nibbling ensued, until eventually it was decided, amongst other things, that the (very new)Warners Bay Performing Arts Centre would be a grand enough venue to showcase this momentous occasion!

So the great day dawned and the grand piano (no less!), choir members, dancers, musicians and thespians took to the stage and duly strutted their stuff. Afternoon tea was served, congratulations abounded, and in the fullness of time all attendees departed, with smiles on their faces. The concert crew attended to the last-minute clean up and then, if my memory serves me correctly, repaired much relieved, to the nearest watering hole!

Thus began the tradition of the end-of-year concerts.

Anne