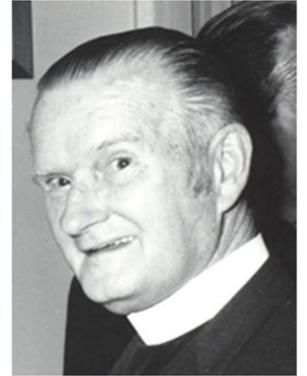




75th ANNIVERSARY 2020

What better time is there to note the history of one of Lane Cove's icons than a 75th Anniversary? 2020 marks that celebratory year for Lane Cove Music.

On 26th March 1946 Reverend Louis Blanchard, Minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Longueville, was inspired to call a meeting to form a music club with the object of providing first class classical and semi-classical music and entertainment for church members and friends. Initial meetings were held at the Manse, the Vestry and the Church Hall. The idea was so well received that a group was formed as an organisation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Longueville and named the "Longueville-Northwood Music Club" with a constitution being drawn up and adopted on 22nd May 1946. Until the end of 1959 concerts were held in the Masonic Hall at 231 Longueville Road, now the Shinnyo Australia Buddhist Temple.



*Rev. Louis Blanchard
1973*

The current name Lane Cove Music dates from 2007, the abbreviated version being in step with the trend set by other music clubs, omission of 'club' being deemed to sound less exclusive at a time when all clubs were seeking a membership boost. For expediency the capitals 'LCM' or words 'the club' will be used henceforth in this text.

At that initial meeting in March 1946 it was agreed there would be five concerts held in the first year – subscriptions to be one guinea, being one pound one shilling (£1/1- in pre 1966 currency) with a fee of four shillings for visitors.

By the third meeting the Executive Committee had been elected with Rev. Blanchard in the Chairman/Convenor/President role. Other executive members were the Vice President Reverend Morris G. Fielding, Rector at St. Aidan's Anglican Church Longueville from 1924 to 1953 – in 1954 to be LCM's first Patron; Secretary Miss Thea Withers, Treasurer Mr. Rex Menzies, Publicity Officer Mr. Hedley Eddington. Mr. Cliff Burgess took on the role of Assistant Treasurer. The first programme-arranging Musical Directorate comprised Rev. Louis Blanchard (Convenor), Mrs. Else Bartlett and Miss Agnes Smart. An Entertainment Committee of six included Louis' wife, accompanist Mrs. Ruth Blanchard, all positions being honorary.

In June 1946 the Longueville-Northwood Music Club was affiliated with the Associated Music Clubs of Australia NSW Council – more of this organisation later...

By the second concert, membership numbered 131 and before long rose to 150. Because of the Masonic Hall's size, membership was limited to 150 necessitating a waiting list.

Membership renewal was due by 10th January each year to provide an opportunity for those on the waiting list to be invited to join. Use of the Masonic Hall caused financial struggles because of printing costs plus venue, chairs and piano hire – the latter at a cost of ten guineas each time – and the situation required fundraising efforts. Six concerts were being programmed by 1949, plus a Christmas Party with entertainment provided by members or ‘outside’ artists. That year membership fees were increased to £1/5/-.

On 31st May 1958 the Lane Cove Town Hall was opened by the State Governor Sir Eric Woodward and the Hall was booked for a members’ night in August that year and for the Christmas concert in December. Right from the club’s inception, members had gathered for entertainment either at their homes or the Church and often performed themselves as in December 1956 when the Pollard Male Octet entertained. Formed about 1947 by member Dr. Alf Pollard to provide recitals once a week for NSW churches and charities, this they did for the next ten years. Miss Rae Candy (later Mrs. Rae Kimmins) “sang beautifully and was presented with a potted plant as her reward.” She sang again many times including October 1971 and September 1973, the latter with a harpist and violist, and into the late 1990s was the club’s PR person.

A list of those who performed for the club during the first few decades were a “Who’s Who” of the musical world and included June Bronhill, Ronald Dowd, Lauris Elms, Yvonne Minton, Isador Goodman, Donald Hazelwood, Miriam Hyde and Gerard Willems among others. Artists in 1956 included baritone Alan Light and tenor Raymond McDonald; more artists of note are acknowledged throughout this text.

In the 1990s yet another generation was emerging – Tamara Cislowska, Nicholas Milton, Richard Tognetti, Amelia Farrugia, Simon Tedeschi and Natalie Chee. All performed for LCM as youngsters and are now nationally and internationally renowned; Simon Tedeschi presented his programme “Gershwin and Me” for LCM’s 70th Anniversary Concert in March 2016. To add to these are four more recent performers known world-wide and all from Lane Cove – pianist David Fung, tenor Pascal Herington, mezzo soprano Anna Dowsley and Sydney Symphony Orchestra’s principal trumpet David Elton.

A custom over a number of years has been to invite a choir to perform at each Christmas concert, more often than not with audience participation in carol singing at concerts’ conclusion. It is only since 2017 that audience participation has been discontinued. A few examples here: 1950: St. Andrew’s Longueville Junior Choir. 1961: Methodist Brotherhood Choir. 1964: Lane Cove Municipal Choir – during the 1960s that choir had four wins in the City of Sydney Choral Championships. 1966 and 2015: Sydney Male Voice Choir. 1968: Orpheus Ensemble and Choir. 1974: Philharmonia Motet Choir. 1988 and 2016: the Taverner Consort of Voices. 2001: Barker College Chorale B’Acappella. December 2009: St. Andrew’s Cathedral Singers with conductor/accompanist Dr. Brett McKern. On tour the previous year this choir had sung in eight English cathedrals.

As early as 1947 LCM's young members who had been successful in the Sydney Eisteddfod were being invited to perform at the annual Christmas Party. At a 1952 committee meeting discussion centred on the formation of a specific Young People's Group within LCM and a meeting of fourteen young members resulted in the formation of such a group, the aim being "to foster the appreciation of music and to afford opportunities to potential musicians to perform before audiences, public and private." The group comprised younger musical locals and university age children of members unable to join because of age and membership limit of 150. They were hosts and hostesses at the following December Christmas party and led the carol singing at the Christmas concert. The Young People's Group was presided over by a member of the club's main committee and although it was still in existence in February 1959, records beyond that date make no further mention.

In terms of numbers, the 1953 Christmas concert brought forth LCM's largest audience, 240 attendees including the Lane Cove's Mayor George Venteman and Mrs. Venteman. Duo-pianists Frank Hutchens and Lindley Evans with Harry Collins (bass) provided a night of splendid music. Playing the two pianos (necessitating more hiring!) they "led a choir from the Younger Group and an enthusiastic audience in the singing of carols. Auld Lang Syne happily closed the evening and the year's activities." These duo-pianists performed again for LCM on many occasions including September 1961 at a members' evening in the Church Hall.

At the April 1954 concert, bass baritone Peter Dawson performed with pianist/accompanist Dorothy White, Dorothy having being the first Australian woman to gain the Diploma of the Joint Graduate Course of London's Royal Schools of Music in 1937. She held a number of professional positions while a staff member at Sydney Conservatorium and also formed the Sydney Harpsichord Ensemble in 1962. Well before he died seven years later, Dawson was known world-wide through song recitals and many best-selling recordings of operatic areas, solos and ballads. Each performed for the club a number of times, Dorothy performing in 1956, on that occasion with her harpsichord.

Music was certainly 'in the air' in Lane Cove. In October 1955 young singer Roslyn Dunbar of Morrice Street was congratulated by the LCM Committee on her success at the Sydney Eisteddfod. She was promptly booked for a performance on Saturday 8th September 1956 and other performances followed. For a couple of years from age five Roslyn was a pupil at Woodley School in Longueville Road (now Currambeena School) and then at Lane Cove Public School. She received singing scholarships and awards in a number of the Eisteddfods, her 'competitive life' culminating at age 23 with her win in the Sydney Sun Aria contest. Roslyn went on to forge a wonderful career overseas and in Australia. Singer, teacher, adjudicator, music reviewer and author, she had over 4000 singing and acting performances as a soloist and principal artist in many genres – opera, oratorio, operetta, musical comedy and concerts, stage, radio, television and was guest artist in shipboard concerts. In 1973 Roslyn was a soloist in the Federated Music Clubs of Australia concert during the opening

festivities of the Sydney Opera House and has been acknowledged in both the Who's Who of Australian Women and the World Who's Who of Women. In 2018 she was awarded The Order of Australia Medal in recognition of her services to the performing arts.

One of Roslyn's neighbours in Morrice Street was Winsome Evans, a Lane Cove Music member as a teenager who first performed for the club in October 1958. Officially pianist and harpsichordist, she still plays about 25 other wind, string, percussion and keyboard instruments. In 1966/67 Winsome founded The Renaissance Players, a unique ensemble of musicians plus poetry reader, clown and dancers, performing mediaeval, renaissance, baroque and folk music. She co-founded Sydney Baroque (professional musicians playing baroque instruments) and the Baroque Guild in 1984 and achieved recognition as Emeritus Professor at the University of Sydney. In 1980 Winsome was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Honours List, the NSW Jaycees' Award and in 1985 the Order of Australia medal – all three awards for services to music.

Eleven years on from the club's formation the 1957 Annual Report notes there were six concerts and one members' night. "All were of a high standard and added to our enjoyment of good music. Vocalists and instrumentalists were included in each programme. The guest artist on the members' night in June was Nancy Ellis, the aboriginal soprano; Miss Ellis told us of the customs and arts of the Australian aborigines and sang some of their songs."

The first 1958 LCM concert featured husband and wife Geoffrey Chard and Marjorie Conley, bass and soprano. Although in their '20s, each had already won many awards and accolades and was in great demand for concerts. Geoffrey was a foundation member of the National Opera of New South Wales. In 1956 he had appeared in *The Marriage of Figaro*, the inaugural production of the Australian Opera Company under auspices of The Elizabethan Theatre Company Trust. In 1952 Marjorie had won both the national vocal section of the ABC's competition and the Sun Aria award at the City of Sydney Eisteddfod. She was winner in the 1955 Mobil Quest. Fourteen months after performing for the club Marjorie passed away after suffering a stroke, such an early death being a tragic loss for Australian music. In 1961 Geoffrey went to England and performed with many British opera companies including the Welsh National Opera, Glyndebourne, Royal Opera Company at Covent Garden, the Aldeburgh and Edinburgh Festivals and in 1988 was awarded Order of Australia medal for Services to Opera. Regarding his 25 years overseas pursuing a singing career in Europe, in February 2020 Geoffrey said "The circumstances which drove me abroad with our two-year-old son David was, of course, the sad loss of Marjorie. Performing for Lane Cove Music Club would have been one of the many appearances resulting from her extraordinary success, her early death cutting short what most certainly would have been a shining career." And he added "I have been President of Hunters Hill Music since 1986 and now, in my 90th year, I am looking for a replacement!"

For the first 25 years, social/fund-raising activities complemented the annual concert programming. There were film evenings at the Rio Theatre in Lane Cove (approximately

where now the Woolworths Arcade faces on to the Plaza), outings to the city's Tivoli Theatre, North Sydney's Independent Theatre, and the Elizabethan Theatre in Newtown.

These fundraising events also included American Teas, Crazy Whist nights, travel slide nights and progressive dinners – assisting the club's funds but to a great degree benefiting organisations such as the United Nations Children of Europe Fund, the Opera House Appeal, World Refugee Appeal and Lane Cove Community Aid, the latter having been established in 1961.

A slide night in April 1962 featured the continuing construction of the Snowy Mountains Scheme which had commenced in 1949 and wasn't completed until twelve years subsequent to the slide night, 1974. August 1967 was a members' night with a difference – a talk given by musicologist Ian Spink on "How to read a Score." In 1986 the club's door takings for the Christmas concert were donated to Lane Cove Community Aid to mark that organisation's 25th Anniversary year.

For over 25 years the club kept a special fund in its accounts for musical therapy – these monies being used to provide free concerts at Callan Park Mental Hospital and to finance music assisting the development of children at Inala School; 1968 minutes relate the fact that LCM forwarded \$140 to Inala for the purchase of a lyre for therapeutic work. Inala, meaning "Place of Peace," was founded in 1958 with commitment to providing the highest quality support to individuals living with disability.

Fund-raising evenings were held in members' homes, sometimes with members performing for each other or sitting around enjoying recorded music. One of the latter evenings took place on 19th May 1950 at Mr. Hedley Eddington's Kenneth Street home, £2/4/- being added to LCM funds. An event 7th June 1952 prompted this minute at the next meeting – "A delightful evening, kindly arranged by Dr. & Mrs. Pollard at their home, was most happily enjoyed by members of the club, proceeds for the music club funds amounted to £4/13/-." At the Annual General Meeting on 29th January 1957 the elected Musical Directorate included Dr. Alf Pollard, Miss Agnes Smart, Mrs. Else Bartlett and Rev. Blanchard. A fund-raising night in 1956 took a different tack – a block of fifty seats was purchased from the Tivoli management for the visiting Don Cossack Chorus and Dancers and seats were sold to members for 15/- with £10 profit for the evening boosting club funds. Fundraising was still 'the go' in 1959 when a (morning) American Tea was organised at the church and in 1960 when the film of the ballet "Romeo and Juliet" was screened.

In the 1940s, '50s and '60s Rev. Blanchard ensured affiliated music clubs were personally invited to attend concerts on a rotational basis, examples being the April 1947 evening when members of Roseville and Earlwood-Dulwich Hill Music Clubs were guests; in May 1950 guests were Strathfield and Killara Music Club members. In 1970 LCM members enjoyed concerts at Cronulla, Peninsula and Mosman Clubs. In 1967, while on long service leave, the Blanchards visited Grenfell Club and other music clubs in the Riverina on behalf of the

Federated Music Clubs— in 1964 Louis had been elected President of that association. Interestingly, even in this day and age (2020), music club members are welcome to attend other clubs' concerts at no charge.

An explanatory word here about the Federated Music Clubs of Australia. In Sydney and surrounds during the early 1920s there were few venues for professional or international artists to perform and remain financially viable. In a bid to remedy this situation, on 7th August 1928 a Sydney baritone named Oliver King held a meeting of Sydney musical notables to discuss ways and means of encouraging the appreciation and culture of music. Thus the national music club movement of Australia was born. In 1929 the organisation settled on the name "The Associated Music Clubs of Australia" and adopted rules for a federal organisation of State Councils of which the first was New South Wales, initiating the name change to Federated Music Clubs of Australia (FMCA). In 1984 LCM was still contributing to FMCA's Oliver King Scholarship Fund set up in those early years. By 1996 FMCA had accumulated some funds and increased support for Sydney and other Eisteddfods. Cultural grants from the Arts Council from time to time were distributed by FMCA – in 1972 these cultural grants were \$150 to metropolitan clubs, \$175 to near-country clubs and \$275 to country clubs.

Invitations to LCM concerts were extended by Louis Blanchard to local Mayors, MPs and NSW State Conservatorium staff; notable guests in the club's first year being Mr Eugene Goosens and his wife. Later knighted, Goosens was chief conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra from 1947 until 1956. Invitees in those early years included two other conductors and their wives – Sir Bernard Heinz, chief conductor of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra 1933-50 (knighted in 1949, he was the first Australian musician to receive this honour); the second, Mr Joseph Post, was SSO's associate conductor during Goosens' tenure as chief conductor. He succeeded Heinze in 1966 as Director of the New South Wales State Conservatorium, receiving the OBE that year. In the 1940s-1960s the Australian Broadcasting Commission was invariably the source of artists, a fact much appreciated by the club. ABC executives were the club's invited guests, among them ABC Chairman Sir Richard and Lady Boyer and ABC General Manager Sir Talbot Duckmanton. By the early 1970s it appears the only 'invited' guests on a very regular basis were Lane Cove's mayors/mayoresses, aldermen/women and staff. Even today the Mayor and Councillors are emailed advice of each forthcoming concert. Other invited guests in those earlier days included composer Mr. John Antill, artist Mr. Cedric and Mrs. Ashton, Northwood artist Dr Lloyd and Mrs Marjorie Rees.

Also on the local scene, media personality Mr. Roger and Mrs. Climpson (OAM 2004) were invited on occasions and on 14th March 1952 the guests were North Sydney Girls High School music teachers and six students. Nearly twenty years later, on 3rd August 1971, NSGHS returned, this time as artists presenting a madrigal group of twenty voices singing German folk songs and Negro spirituals. The occasion was a members' night at the Lane

Cove Lower Town Hall. The schoolgirls' programme included an instrumental octet and a solo flautist. Down-to-earth details – hire of Hall was \$19.00, entrance fee for visitors \$1.00, students 30cents each. Other high schools had their turn to perform....

In 1947 a member of the newly formed Liberal Party of Australia, Mr. Kenneth McCaw, was elected to represent Lane Cove in the Legislative Assembly. His many local interests included Lane Cove District Boy Scouts' Association and Lane Cove Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women's Association, Kenneth being president of both groups. On Sir John Cramer's resignation in 1975 as LCM's Patron, Ken McCaw agreed to the club's invitation to replace him; that same year he was knighted. Sir Kenneth and Lady Valma McCaw enjoyed the concerts so much that they became members and remained so until their deaths in 1989 and 2003 respectively. Valma encouraged many friends to join and always arrived at concerts with a carload of members and guests.

Since its formation in 1946 Lane Cove Music has supported Lane Cove Council's activities, participating in the Cameraygal Festival when one of its concert dates coincides with that Festival's date. In turn, Council has been a faithful supporter of Lane Cove Music with financial support gratefully received annually for the last sixty years since the first cheque of £50 in 1960.

The Jubilee of the Commonwealth 1901-1951 was celebrated widely in 1951 and two LCM representatives attended a meeting at the Lane Cove's Mayor's invitation, the idea being to form a committee to arrange suitable celebrations. LCM's co-operation resulted in a concert on 9th March 1951 featuring Joan Sutherland whose fee was five guineas – quite a steal by today's standards even accounting for currency value changes. It was customary for invitations to be received from Council with acceptance by one or two of the executive committee members such as the occasion of the Testimonial Dinner for retiring Town Clerk Mr. Alder and Mrs Alder in November 1960. From the other angle: Town Clerk Mr. Byleveld and Mrs. Byleveld were invited to the LCM's final 1985 Concert.

Duo-pianists Frank Hutchens and Lindley Evans featured again in 1964 at a concert celebrating the Opening of the Lane Cove Lower Town Hall with proceeds going to the

Mayor's Youth Fund. 1964 was certainly a busy year for those two; in celebration of their 40-year association as duo-pianists they presented a concert at the Sydney Town Hall with proceeds to the Frank Hutchens and Lindley Evans Fund assisting talented young musicians. LCM members attended this event.

Lane Cove resident, the late Patricia Wooldridge, merits mention here. A double graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with performing and teaching diplomas in both singing and piano, she first performed for LCM on 13th September 1958. A double degree of this type was most unusual in the 1950s. She was accompanist at one LCM concert every year at

least. From 1980 until 2000 Patricia was welcomed regularly as accompanist for professional artists and for performers in the Young Musicians series of annual concerts during the early 2000s. In 1998 she formed the vocal group Quintessence who entertained the club's audiences in June 2002, May 2003 and November 2004. Patricia attended concerts regularly, remaining a loyal Lane Cove Music member until her death in July 2017.

With the opening of the Town Hall in 1958, two concerts were held there that year and three in 1959 but it was 1960 before the Town Hall was the venue for six annual LCM concerts with bookings being made at the start of each year and the year's rental being paid in advance to Lane Cove Council. However Council's £50 grant offset that to a degree AND facilities for storage of the Club's supper china were made available free of charge.

The idea of a Spring Festival for Lane Cove was first mooted in 1968, Council requesting LCM to participate by arranging artists for a free concert to be presented as part of the Festival. The Committee was happy to co-operate and, together with Lane Cove Musical Society, presented a charity concert at the Town Hall on 20th September that year.

Entire proceeds £60/14/6 from an October 1961 "Intimate Opera Group" concert went towards the new St. Andrew's (Longueville) Memorial Hall Fund – "artists most generously giving of their services" with singers being Lane Cove Municipal Choir, soprano Roslyn Dunbar and Lane Cove resident/bass baritone Barry Strong accompanied by two cellists and a pianist. The programme comprised three short operas with artists in full costume. On 25th January 1962 LCM was able to hold its Annual General Meeting in the new Memorial Hall for the first time.

In December 1961 The Sydney Men's Methodist Brotherhood Choir of 50 voices was welcomed to the stage together with accompanist Beryl Potter. One artist who was a regular during the 1960s, certainly 1961, was pianist/accompanist Joyce Hutchinson. That name will be recognised by some of us 'of a certain age' as the pianist for ABC Radio's programme "Kindergarten of the Air" broadcast from mid World War II until 1953. From the 1960s until retirement twenty years later Joyce was principal keyboard player for the SSO, talented on piano, harpsichord and celeste.

In the 1960s Valrene Tweedie formed Ballet Australia and in July 1961 brought some company members to the Lane Cove Town Hall to present an 'all ballet' evening. A similar event took place the following year with artists being the Sydney Ballet Group from the Joan Halliday School of Ballet launched in 1950 by twin sisters Joan and Monica Halliday. Joan was the first Australian to be accredited by the Royal Academy of Dance as an overseas examiner. Ballet was on the agenda again in 1969 when artists from the Australian Ballet Company presented "Ballet in a Nutshell" – actually a dance-in-education group from The Dance Company founded in 1965. Graeme Murphy became artistic director in 1976, changing the name to Sydney Dance Company in 1979.

Just for the record, the club's membership in October 1960 numbered 157.

The Official Opening of the 1963 North Side Arts Festival took the form of a Combined Music Clubs Concert at the Lane Cove Town Hall, those clubs being Cammeray, Mosman, Roseville and Longueville-Northwood (LCM). The evening was an “artistic and financial success” and the NSW Governor Lieutenant General Sir Eric Woodward, who opened the Festival, congratulated all concerned. The artists were visiting Austrian soprano Ruthilde Boesch, pianist Eunice Gardiner, clarinettist Thomas White and accompanist Marie van Hove – all big names in the music world.

This Festival was held for ten days every second year from 1963. The financial side of that first concert makes interesting reading with the four ‘organising’ clubs initially being allocated £20 towards expenses. Other clubs in the area – Chatswood-Artarmon, Killara and Pymble supported the venture by selling tickets at 7/6d per ticket. Profit realised was £160 with each of the four organising clubs receiving £40. W.H. Paling & Co. had “donated the use of grand piano for Miss E. Gardiner” and the first half of the concert was broadcast by the ABC.

Although the North Side Arts Festival was not gazetted for another two years the North Side clubs were inspired to organise a concert again in 1964. A North Side Combined Committee was formed and that 1964 event took place at Mosman Town Hall – “Scenes from Opera” in costume by arrangement with the Elizabethan Theatre Trust. Other such concerts followed through the 1960s and ’70s with the venues being rotated. From the early 1970s the “combined” concert was regarded as one of Lane Cove Music’s annual subscription concerts; research indicates the final one was presented in October 1989 by Manly, Roseville, Mosman and Lane Cove Clubs.

The fifth (1971) North Side Arts Festival concert featured the Ku-ring-gai Chamber Orchestra and Choir; it is unclear as to whether the Festival continued beyond 1971. The Ku-ring-gai Male Choir had been formed in 1946 and in May 1960 had played a supporting role in the inaugural concert of the Ku-ring-gai Chamber Orchestra. Two singers also were billed on this programme – tenor Russell Cooper and his wife, soprano Pearl Berridge. Russell was to become LCM’s Assistant Music Director in February 1987 then Musical Director after MD Mrs. Agnes Davie’s passing in 1989, his co-MD being wife Pearl. On Russell’s death in 2004, Pearl was MD until her passing in 2010. Certainly sad losses for Lane Cove Music.

In 1970 the club’s name was changed to Lane Cove District Music Club, reason being to broaden its sphere of activity and serve a wider community. Also, it was constitutionally necessary for (official) ties with St. Andrew’s Church to be severed because Reverend Louis Blanchard had retired from the ministry in July 1967 and the existing constitution required the incumbent minister to be President of LCM. With legal amendments under way the new minister at St. Andrew’s, Reverend Graham Debus, took the chair with Louis being Vice President. With relevant matters settled, the Church’s Session was advised “that the Club is deeply grateful for its association with St. Andrew’s over the past 24 years since its inception and it will endeavour earnestly to maintain its high standard of service to the community.”

Louis remained President until 1984 and Foundation President until his death in December 1985. Almost 40 years of service.

Postscript to previous paragraph... the Club's committee members are delighted to have Rev. Graham Debus' son Murray with them on the committee since the February 2019 AGM.

The first concert under the new name Lane Cove District Music Club was thrown open to Lane Cove residents at no charge and those present enjoyed music performed by tenor David Parker, clarinettist Anne Menzies, pianist Marie van Hove.

Many founding members remained committed to the club for years. In 1969 Honorary Life Membership was awarded to Rev. Louis and Mrs. Ruth Blanchard, Mr. & Mrs. Hedley and Grace Eddington and Mrs. Agnes Davie née Smart in recognition of their service. In 1989 when Mrs. Davie retired she had clocked up 43 years as Musical Director. Ruth remained a Club stalwart until her passing in 1991. In March 1983 Mrs. Dorothy Nicholls was elected a Life Member having been Treasurer for 15 years and she remained in that role for another two years.

LCM arranged a concert held 21st July 1970 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Lane Cove, on this occasion the artists being the previously mentioned soprano Roslyn Dunbar, tenor David Gray and pianist Beryl Potter.

Fundraising for good causes was still a priority in November 1971 when a musical evening held at a member's home resulted in door takings of \$60.00 for the Autistic Children's Association of NSW. Dr. Andrew Vern-Barnett was the speaker. In the 1970s he co-founded the Aspect Vern-Barnett School, ASPECT being Autism Spectrum Australia; the school has satellite classes Aspect-run and operated within the NSW Education Department. Lane Cove Primary School is one of them, in 2020 six to ten students from Kindergarten to Year 3 are assisted via these classes.

LCM's second 1973 concert was billed "Memories of the Theatre Royal," this 1875-built theatre was demolished 1971-72; another took its place in 1976 but closed in 2016 for further development. The New Theatre Royal is due to be up and running in 2021.

A performance in 1975 by the R.A.A.F. Operational Band Command under the baton of Flight Lieutenant Archie Burt was a concert with a difference.

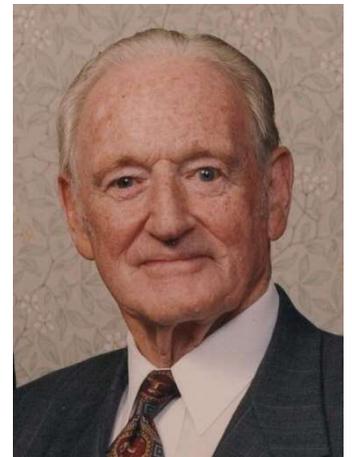
About this time most music clubs were experiencing a decline in numbers and a seminar in October 1975 was organised by FMCA and Sydney Conservatorium's Director Mr. Rex Hobcroft to discuss ways and means of increasing membership. As a step towards membership increase that year, LCM members were permitted to bring guests free of charge to the November concert "Principals of the Australian Opera." Artists' fees were to rise noticeably in the 1980s however six first class annual concerts maintained and continued as

they do today. To quote Club minutes, the increase in artists' fees "is justified by the very good artists engaged...."

A Gilbert & Sullivan group in March 1979 drew much applause.

The club's membership had certainly increased by 1981 when numbers were happily settled at 142. The year concluded with the December concert featuring harpist Louise Johnson, mezzo soprano Margaret Forbes-Smith and a choir of twelve voices from Abbotsleigh School Wahroonga. The programme for a May 1983 evening titled "Edwardian Drawing Room Concert" advertised "Prima donna assoluto Madame Pearl Berridge and noted operatic baritone Robert Bickerstaff will render for our enjoyment a Programme of Sacred, Patriotic and Popular Ballads. The artists will be accompanied on the Pianoforte by the well-known Composer and Pianist Werner Baer."

On 1st March 1983 Professor Alf Pollard (AO 1990) was elected President, a position he held until his death in December 2000. He and the club had always been greatly supported by his wife Pearl who passed away six weeks before Alf. Both had been Lane Cove Music members for 50 years. Among his many other honorary positions in various fields Alf was President and Founding Governor of the Sydney Eisteddfod Foundation, Chairman of the Sydney Cultural Council, and Wesley Mission's secretary. Locally he was instrumental in fundraising for Lane Cove Men's Shed, an undertaking of the Uniting Church; President of Longueville Tennis Club for twenty years; Life Member of, and chorister at, St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Longueville.



*Prof. Alf H. Pollard AO
c.1995*

1984 was particularly 'vocal' with the Opera Ensemble in February and the Georgian Singers at the Christmas concert, the latter visiting again in December 1997. October 1985 artists included a piano, violin, cello trio from Lane Cove Public School and in November the St. Andrew's Cathedral School Choir concluded another successful year.

November 1985 marked the death of Foundation President Reverend Louis Blanchard whose contribution to Lane Cove Music and to Sydney's musical life in general has been touched upon in this essay.

Lane Cove Council's records include a December 1985 letter of thanks from the club for Council's purchase of a new grand piano for the Town Hall, a Kawai Grand Superior Model GS700-225cm. This purchase was prompted by music critic Fred Blanks' Sydney Morning Herald review of the club's previous March concert when the pianist had complained about the old piano. Most aptly the first 1986 concert was performed with pianist Joshua Tsai on the stage.

The Lane Cove Town Hall was demolished in 1991 and LCM moved its concerts in 1992 to its current venue, Lane Cove-Mowbray Anglican Church, formerly St. Andrew's Anglican Church situated behind the Lane Cove Post Office at 19 Rosenthal Avenue. At the club's February 1992 AGM "particular reference was made to the assistance and support given by Rev. Russell Avery of St. Andrew's Anglican Church. The Church has proved to be a very satisfactory venue for our concerts and we were fortunate that the Council agreed to the piano being transferred to the Church during the rebuilding of the Council Chambers." Mr. Arthur ("Rex") Lemaire's assistance with the move was appreciated also – he was involved with the new venue as parishioner and warden, had been the club's Secretary from mid-1980s to mid-1990s, was a Lane Cove Councillor 1971-1977 and Mayor 1973-1975.

Among the first few concerts at the new venue was pianist Tamara Cisłowska's recital of music by Bach, Mozart, Brahms, Rachmaninov and Liszt.

Enter Lane Cove Music's current President, Christine Butters née Pollard, who maintained the continuance of the club by taking on the presidential role after her parents' deaths in 2000. She was no stranger as to the running of the club, having been Treasurer since February 1986 on Mrs. Dorothy Nicholls' retirement. In fact she acted as Treasurer AND Secretary during 2000 on the passing of Secretary ("Rex") Lemaire that year.



*Christine Butters
Lane Cove Music's President since 2001*

Possibly because of improvements in communication technology, committee meetings from the 1990s were less frequent – being down to one or two a year as distinct from the monthly meetings in earlier years. Certainly since 2001 committee members rarely meet in person other than at concerts, the February Annual General Meetings and the Committee's end-of-year bring-a-plate Christmas dinners!

It is obvious each concert over 75 years (six concerts annually) cannot be itemised in this document, here is mention of a few...

April 1982. Sydney Wind Consortium performed "Music discovered in Libraries of Castles and Monasteries in Europe. Mozart, Weber, Beethoven, Hoffmeister and Haydn." Duos trios, sextets with clarinets, French horns, bassoons.

September 1983. Young artists included Lane Cove's violinist brothers Michael and Nicholas Milton with guest pianist Warren Thomson performing Sarasati's Duet for Violin and Piano. Michael these days is a violinist with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra as is another brother Alexis. Nicholas is chief conductor of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and Willoughby Symphony also conductor of the State Theatre Orchestra in Germany,

permanent guest conductor of the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and principal conductor of the Croatian Chamber Orchestra.

October 1996. Concert pianist Tessa Birnie OAM. At 12 years of age Tessa could sight-read all 32 of Beethoven's piano sonatas; and violist Hartmut Lindemann, since 1997 Professor for Viola at the Detmolder Musikhochschule, Germany.

March 2001. "Peter Dawson Revisited" a concert dedicated to the memory of LCM's immediate Past President, the late Professor Alf Pollard AO, who had passed away three months earlier. A recital by baritone Tim Collins, accompanist Marie-Louise Catsalis.

March 2005. SBS Youth Orchestra celebrating Lane Cove Music's 60th Birthday.

March 2014 and March 2018. Jazz concerts with (Lane Cove's own) Billy Burton and Friends – Billy on trumpet and flugelhorn.

August 2015. "Rags & Irreverence" presented by versatile pianist and Lane Cove Music's good friend John Martin, co-artist Victoria Jacono-Gilmovich. Music by Scott Joplin, Gershwin, 'Fats' Waller, Leroy Anderson and even John Martin himself with his Swing Song/Renegade Rag. In his roles as pianist and accompanist John Martin has been programmed eight times during the 2000s, not only when a Greenwich resident but since his move to the Southern Highlands.

March 2016. Sydney Symphony Orchestra members David Elton on trumpet and piccolo trumpet, flugelhorn and cornet with his wife Rachel Silver on French horn, piano – much welcomed not only as professionals but as family of Northwood residents and long term current LCM members Bill and Kathy Elton.

May 2016. Ursula Quartet: Artists from Sydney Symphony Orchestra: Carolyn Harris (flute), Sophie Cole (violin), Longueville resident Rosemary Curtin (viola), Fenella Gill, (cello).

March 2017. Gerard Willems' Piano Students from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

May 2005 and August 2019: Mark Walton presenting clarinet and saxophone musical delights and humour as a bonus!

Since formation in 1933 of The Sydney Eisteddfod, winners from the Eisteddfod's music performance categories have always been invited to perform for LCM, in the early days as support artists. Since 2009 the club has presented an annual concert in conjunction with the Eisteddfod, each concert showcasing the ten best solo instrumentalists in that year's 12-15 age group. As of 24th March 2020, the 2020 Sydney Eisteddfod has been cancelled because of the CORVID-19 pandemic.

Here is an extract from 13th October 2009 programme "Alf & Pearl Pollard Memorial Awards for Performance Excellence."

“Alf and Pearl Pollard were lovers of music and the arts and keenly aware of the joy that music brings to performer and audience, young and old. Both were members of Lane Cove Music Club for over 50 years and served on its committee, with Alf our President from 1985 to 2000. Alf was also Chairman of Sydney Eisteddfod from 1988 to 2000. Alf with Pearl's support enjoyed every moment of his 12 years' involvement with the Eisteddfod. He had a keen interest in encouraging dedicated young talent and saw in the Eisteddfod its important and significant role in teaching young people the importance of self-discipline, the value of having something to aim for: the rewards for hard work, the challenge of competition, the satisfaction in achievement, the confidence to appear in public and (in group events) how to work as part of a team – all of which are so important in our daily life.”

Accordingly, Lane Cove Music feels it is appropriate to join with Sydney Eisteddfod in the presentation and encouragement of these talented young musicians and thanks Sydney Eisteddfod for the opportunity to do so. The funds for these awards were donated in 2001 by the Pollard family and friends of Alf and Pearl.

Listed here are winners of the annual Pollard Awards and good wishes go to them all for their musical futures:

- 2009 Eric Kong, piano
- 2010 Anna Da Silva Chen, violin
- 2011 Brian Kim, flute
- 2012 Charlie Westhoff, violin
- 2013 Oscar Han, violin
- 2014 Lily Higson-Spence, violin
- 2015 Benett Tsai, cello
- 2016 John Wu, cello
- 2017 Lawrence Wei, cello
- 2018 Joshua Zhi, piano
- 2019 Justin Wang, clarinet

LCM's committee and members are grateful to Lane Cove-Mowbray Anglican Church for offering a home these last 28 years – a home with excellent acoustics, warm-up room and good supper facilities. The club's purchase in 2016 of a new Kawai GX6 grand piano, sited at the church, has enhanced concerts and is much appreciated by artists and audiences.

Lane Cove Music has seen many changes since those early days, recent examples being its incorporation in 2019 and in July 2020 the establishment of a Lane Cove Music website. Monthly committee meetings have been replaced by ‘technology’ such as email, text messaging and Zoom meetings. Discussions have even been known to take place over coffee in Lane Cove Plaza! Members' nights are a thing of the past and members are no longer charged 50 cents for their Christmas concert supper as in 1981; meetings no longer begin with a prayer and end with a benediction as in the Reverend Louis' era. However it can be

said that the aims of the first President and his committees as stated in the 22nd May 1946 constitution have been faithfully followed: “The object of the Club shall be to provide good music and social intercourse for the enlightenment and entertainment of its members and their friends, and for the advancement of music in the community.”

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Information Sources:

- Lane Cove Music’s records including Annual General Meeting and Committee Meeting Minutes.
- Council and other records held at Lane Cove Library Local Studies Department.
- Verbal and email contact with LCM members and artists past and present.

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Above essay was researched and compiled by Rosalie Lucas and submitted as an entry in The Lane Cove Historical Society’s Literary Award Competition 2020. The essay was subsequently published in the Society’s December 2020 Journal. The author thanks LCHS for permission to include the document on Lane Cove Music’s website.

Reader please note: The Addendum was not submitted with the essay because the number of words would have exceeded the 7,000 word quota.

ADDENDUM:

Biographies of seven of the young artists who participated in **Lane Cove Music’s “Young Musicians of Lane Cove” Concert Series** in the first decade of the 2000s and who moved on to a career in music....

Anna Dowsley – Mezzo soprano. Concerts October 2008 and 2010.

Anna performs leading roles with Opera Australia and sings with major Australian orchestras and festivals on the concert stage. In November 2019 Anna was the chosen recipient of the **Australian Opera Award**.

Readers are invited to look at her website: annadowsley.com or visit web: <http://annadowsley.com/biography>

Jennifer Eriksson – Viola da Gambist. Concert October 2002.

With Musica Viva Jenny has performed over the years at Lane Cove and Lane Cove West Public Schools and at St. Michael’s School Lane Cove. She completed her initial musical studies at the NSW State Conservatorium then studied the viola da gamba at the Rotterdam Conservatorium for three years, completing her postgraduate studies there in baroque music. She founded *The Marais Project* in 2000 with the aim of performing the complete works of the French baroque viola da gamba virtuoso, Marin Marais. Jenny has recorded six commercial CDs and performed in Holland, Sweden, Germany, Singapore, New Zealand and New Caledonia as well as undertaking a residency at the Banff Arts Centre for Arts and Creativity, Canada. In 2015 Jenny founded *Elysian Fields*, Australia’s only electric viola da

gamba ensemble, and from Australian composers has commissioned more than twenty works for viola da gamba and electric viola da gamba thus bringing these instruments to a growing and appreciative audience. In 2019-20 *The Marais Project* and *Elysian Fields* were named Artist in Residence by Fine Music Sydney, a recent name change from the original 2MBS FM 102.5.

Jenny's performance schedule is certainly a busy one and includes a 25+year commitment to present up to eighty concerts each year through Musica Viva's In Schools programme— this she does via her ensembles “Sounds Baroque” and “Da Vinci's Apprentice,” thus bringing the viola da gamba to a growing and appreciative audience. *Courtesy Jenny 02/02/20.*

David Fung – Pianist. Concerts October 2002 and August 2006.

Greenwich resident in past years; with cellist Martin Penicka he was co-winner of the 2002 Young Achievers Award presented at the Lane Cove Citizenship Awards Ceremony on 14th May 2003. David appears regularly with the world's premier ensembles including Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Israel Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, National Orchestra of Belgium, National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, San Diego Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and with the major orchestras in Australia.

As a recitalist and chamber musician, David is a frequent guest artist at prestigious festivals and venues worldwide. Festival highlights include performances at the Aspen Music Festival, Blossom Music Festival, Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, Brussels Piano Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Ottawa ChamberFest, Festival and, in recent seasons, he has performed at the Kennedy Centre Lincoln Centre, Carnegie Hall, the Louvre Museum, the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, and the major venues in Asia including the Beijing Concert Hall, Shanghai Oriental Art Centre, the National Concert Hall in Taiwan, and Hong Kong Town Hall. David garnered international attention as a winner in two of the "top five" international piano competitions (the Queen Elizabeth International Music Competition in Brussels and the Arthur Rubinstein Piano International Masters Competition in Tel Aviv). In Tel Aviv, he was further distinguished by the Chamber Music and Mozart Prizes, awarded in areas in which he has a particularly passionate interest. The first piano graduate of the prestigious Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles, he holds degrees from the Hannover Hochschule für Musik and the Yale School of Music. David is on faculty at the University of Georgia and is a Steinway Artist.

Courtesy David 19/02/20.

Martin Penicka – Cellist. Concerts Octobers 2001 and 2003; also October 2005 with harpist Genevieve Lang and pianist John Martin.

Martin began learning cello at Lane Cove Public School with Dorothy Sumner in 1988 and was a member and then tutor of the Lane Cove Youth Orchestra. With pianist David Fung he was co-winner of the 2002 Young Achievers Award presented at the Lane Cove Citizenship Awards Ceremony on 14th May 2003. Martin studied at the Australian Institute of Music and graduated in 2002 with the degree of Bachelor of Music (Performance) with First Class Honours. A solo artist in the Symphony Australia Conducting Program in 2001, he has been a casual member of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Martin was a semi-finalist in the 2004

Symphony Australia Young Performers Awards and the 2MBS FM Young Performers Award and in 2006 and 2007 was involved in the Sydney Symphony Fellowship Programme. In August 2008 he joined the Tasmania Symphony Orchestra and also regularly plays in chamber music ensembles around Tasmania including the baroque ensemble Van Diemen's Band. Martin has appeared on several ABC Classic FM Sunday Live Broadcasts.
Courtesy Martin 13/03/2020.

Sarah Martin – Pianist. Concert August 2004.

AMus (Distinction), LMus BMus (Honours) Sydney) PhD(Southampton, UK). Sarah is based in Sydney. She completed a Bachelor of Music (Hons) at the University of Sydney in 1992, majoring in piano performance and musicology and went on to study musicology at the Southampton University (UK), gaining a doctorate in 1996. Since returning to Australia, Sarah has worked as a private music teacher and performer, as well as a tutor at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and a lecturer in music at the University of Sydney and the Australian Institute of Music. She is currently working as a freelance teacher and accompanist. In 2005 Sarah was a finalist and 3rd place winner in the Geoffrey Parsons Award for piano accompanists, and she is a member of the Piano Accompanists' Guild of NSW. She enjoys working with students and performers of all ages and abilities. *Courtesy Sarah 02/02/20.*

Catherine Upex née Tabrett – Cellist. Concerts October 2002 and August 2004.

Catherine studied cello with Dorothy Sumner and Georg Pedersen, graduating with a BMus (Honours) in 1997 at Sydney University. In 1994 she started learning the viola da gamba with Jennifer Eriksson. Since 2000 Catherine has performed regularly with the Marais Project and played on several CDs including “Viol Dreaming” “Love Reconciled” and “Lady Sings the Viol”. She has also performed on the viola da gamba in masterclasses with Wieland Kuijken, Jaap ter Linden, Susie Napper and Margaret Little and has played with several ensembles including the Renaissance Players, Backgammon and the Opera Project. She is now a regular member of Josie and the Emeralds and Consort 8. She also teaches cello at the Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School, the Scots College and Lane Cove Public School – the latter being where she had her first music lessons and where her pianist mother Robin Tabrett accompanied students and taught flute in addition to being a member of the school’s Music Committee. *Courtesy Catherine 22/01/20.*

[Catherine’s twin brother Michael Tabrett learned violin at Lane Cove School, at secondary school he was a member of the SBS Youth Orchestra while taking violin lessons from Faina Krel. At Sydney University he gained his Bachelor of Music degree. After further studies of viola at the Australian Institute of Music he graduated with a Diploma of Education from the University of New England. Michael is a classroom music teacher at Epping Boys High School and gives much of his time to extracurricular activities with and for the boys, including concerts and overseas tours.]

Arne Tripolone – Violinist. Concerts August 2006 and August 2008.

While a student at the Conservatorium High School Arne won two sections of the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra's 2009 Concerto Competition – the senior section and orchestra's choice awards. During his time at the Conservatorium he participated in international music tours and festivals at the Julliard School Manhattan, San Francisco Conservatorium, Boulder Colorado (University of Colorado) and Bronbacher Festival Germany and in 2013 graduated with his Bachelor of Music Performance degree. A violin/viola teacher of young music students at Lane Cove Public School since 2010, he returned to the place where he had not only received violin lessons out-of-school hours from Yasuki Nakamura but rehearsed as a player with the Lane Cove Youth Orchestra. In 2014 Arne was awarded a freelance position with Opera Australia and has since performed operas such as Aida, La Boheme, Turandot and Carmen. He has been violin/viola music tutor at St. Ignatius College Riverview since 2018 and casual classroom music teacher there since 2019. Arne successfully combines his performance and teaching 'lives' – graduating in March 2020 with his second Bachelor of Music Degree – this time in Music Education. Regarding studying for and achieving this degree Arne says "I fondly consider this the best decision I have made, academically, personally and professionally." *Courtesy Arne 01/02/20.*

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