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Please find below, an article which appeared in this week's Aria Park News:

Aria Park News

“One of the Best Concerts in recent times”

Described as one of the best Concerts in the Aria Park Hall for some time, the Aria Park and district community came together on Sunday Afternoon to hear two of the best male Choirs in the Riverina - The Wagga City Rugby Male Choir and the Aria Park- Mirrool Bombers Old Boys Choir.

The Wagga City Rugby Male Choir were making their second visit to Aria Park, following up their fund raising concert for the Aria Park Community Café in October, 2023. On this occasion, 53 members of the Choir travelled to Aria Park to help raise funds for the Aria Park Community Hall, the Aria Park Memorial Swimming Pool Committee and the Aria Park Swimming Club. The invitation to come to Aria Park arises out of two Aria Park men, Tim Sanders and Bruce Weise, who travel to Wagga every Tuesday night for practice with the Choir.

MC for the evening, Noel “Buster” Fairman, thanked the Wagga Choir for coming to Aria Park to help raise funds for the local charities but then announced to the audience that this year they had an extra treat, with the formation of the Aria Park – Mirrool Bombers Old Boys Choir - Organiser and Choir Master, Bruce Weise, got the 23 members together, and they performed “Oh Lord, it is hard to be humble, when you are perfect in every way” plus the old Bombers Football Theme song.

Buster Fairman then introduced another treat for the audience with local girl, Olivia Mills (Cassidy) performing two well known songs, and Olivia is certainly showing the benefit of her vocal training in Wagga.

In a break in between the choirs, local Aria Park historian, Bill Speirs gave a history of the two Aria Park projects that the local community had done so much to achieve. The original School of Arts/ Aria Park Hall was devastated by fire after a birthday function at Easter in 1952. After two years of fundraising, the new Aria Park Memorial Hall was opened by Narraburra Shire President, Cr Dave Edis, in 1954. Mr Speirs said the building was constructed of crushed rock and concrete walls, with steel trusses and corrugated iron roof, with the Hall Committee making sure it wasn't going to burn down again!!

Similarly, the Aria Park War Memorial Swimming Pool was a huge community project with fund raising and many volunteer hours, being built in 1960, and officially opened for the start of the 1961 swimming season.

A small group of ladies comprising Dom Walker, Alice French and Kristen Davey organised all ladies in the district to bring a plate for afternoon tea which concert patrons enjoyed after the afternoon's entertainment. MC Buster then conducted an auction of a number of donated items and the raffle winners were drawn. He then announced that a figure of \$5,500 had been raised that afternoon. Hall Committee President, Terry Walker, and

Swimming Pool Committee President, Julian O'Shea both thanked the choirs for their support and the community for helping support two essential local committees.

The afternoon came to an exciting climax with both male choirs up the front and Olivia singing along with 76 male singers! That must be some sort of record.

Dave Mundy
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