



CELEBRATING ANNUAL EVENTS

By Geoff Serpell

Celebrating annual events has been difficult this year owing to lockdowns particularly in Victoria, due to the pandemic. Invitations for hordes of family and friends to come and party in the home is just not on.

Attendance at weddings and funerals has been severely restricted so I guess that wedding receptions are on hold and funeral services are either not conducted or recorded on video instead of personal attendance.

Reminiscing about our church life made me recall the era, long ago when our Sunday Schools conducted up to six services of singing spread over two weeks, to celebrate an anniversary. Special songs were learned, and several musicians were called in to support the children, dressed in their finest. The highlight would be the gifting of a book to each child for the year's attendance. These books were precious, as they were scarce in our

and many other homes.

Back in the late 1940's, my mother played the violin in the musical support group at Sandringham Methodist Sunday School Anniversaries. My sister and I were usually among the earliest to arrive on each occasion to sing with much gusto.

My wife Janice can recall Sunday School anniversaries in the same era at Sunshine Methodist Church. She looked forward to this incredibly special time as she and her sisters were given a new dress for the occasion. Their mother would curl their long hair which was normally worn in plaits.

At Moorabbin (Wickham Road) Methodist church I happened to conduct several Sunday School Anniversaries with similar music where in the 60's, in excess of 150 children would belt out their well learned songs to adoring parents and friends. Those were the days!

Reflection:

What better way to praise God than to lustily sing songs together? When the pandemic is well and truly over may we once again join each other in song whilst in the foreseeable future, we may need to restrict ourselves to humming.