Our Gold Medal Quartet

Alliance has accepted the opportunity to represent Australia in the 2011 BHS International Quartet Competition, held in Kansas City, Missouri. An exciting factor for us is the fact that our chorus, Vocal Evolution, will also be there, competing in the International Chorus Competition, so it will great to see lots of Aussie flags in the audience!

This year, we have been thrilled to share our love of barbershop by travelling to various events, both locally and in far-off exotic places like Hobart, the Gold Coast and even New Zealand!

Alliance was thrilled to be invited to beautiful Hobart to work and perform with the Deep South Chorus, the youth chorus, Tag Team, and quartets A’cappellago and Uncalled For. We were very impressed with the clean sound, energy and attentiveness of these guys – barbershop is alive and well in Hobart! Big thanks to Trevor Rootes, Ric Finlay, Drew Carolan, Russell Bailey, Tim Begbie and Rhett Knight for making our trip so enjoyable!

Alliance was also invited to the Gold Coast to perform in the Blenders’ annual show. Congratulations to the Blenders for demonstrating their leadership and support of national barbershop by inviting their national champion quartet to their show from all the way across the other side of country. We were particularly chuffed to be able to scratch-sing with so many Blenders, and we all agreed that this is among the most enjoyable and rewarding part of being the national champion quartet; being able to drop into any city in the country and sing along with local barbershoppers. Special thanks to all the Blenders who made us feel so welcome, in particular our hosts Steve and Annette Griffin, and the wonderful Jen Howson.

Alliance also performed recently in a concert with Perth quartet, iCapella, who, as current Australian Sweet Adelines silver medallists are about to make their way to the SAI Convention in Seattle. We wish the girls the best of luck!

We were excited too by a visit from our favourite Texan, our coach Eddie Martinez, who came to Perth for a weekend coaching retreat with both Alliance and Vocal Evolution. As always, Eddie’s barbershop knowledge, coaching skills and patience were unbelievable and we are lucky to have him to help us on our journey.

Adrian and Dan recently went to the NZABS National Convention in Hamilton NZ, where we were humbled to judge their annual contest along with Alan Gordon (GOTCHA!, Masterpiece), Mark Hale (Michigan Jake, Masters of Harmony) and David Brooks (NZABS). We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and heard so much good barbershop – we can hardly wait for the Pan Pacific Convention next year!

A big part of why we love singing is to travel to different parts of Australia, help our fellow barbershoppers improve their skills, enjoy their performances and share their passion for singing good four-part harmony. We thank everyone for their support and good wishes and look forward to singing with you all soon! Oh, and, of course, happy birthday, Derek!

Adrian, Dan, Richard and Ian
Barbershopping - what good is it anyway?

Well, there must be something in it, or it wouldn't hold the interest of 60,000 men and women around the World.

It gives us an opportunity to create something that is far bigger and better than what we can create individually. Solos are nice, but a quartet or chorus is even greater than just the sum of its parts.

It gives us an opportunity to experience emotions that might otherwise be on the wane. An uplifting up-tune, a sentimental ballad that might remind us of a great memory of yesteryear, or a jazzy rhythm tune that gets our pulses pumping.

It keeps the mind active, with the challenges of doing our repertoire with perfection, and learning brand new music at the same time.

It's teamwork – as much as any sports team. Doing your bit to help others, making a serious contribution to the chorus or quartet goals, getting your "gameday" face on for performances and scoring a personal best.

It's camaraderie, and humour, and jesting, and a way to experience that famous mateship.

Most of all, it's the chance to share a great artform with friends and family, and with perfect strangers in our audiences. A chance to do our bit to make our corner of the World a bit happier, and thoughtful, and inspired.

Keep the whole World singing, one rehearsal and one performance at a time.....

Cheers,

Mike Donnelly
AAMBS' President

Notice Board ...

Registration time is here again –

By now all Club Secretaries will have received notices for the re-registration of their Club. This is a formality which needs to be completed prior to the start of each AAMBS Financial Year – on 1st October. Membership renewal details were also included – it is most important to register each of your members and pay their Membership fees prior to 1st October each year. This includes fees for any members who are Life Members of your Club but not Life Members of AAMBS. Remember, your members are only covered by AAMBS Insurance policies when they are current, fully paid up members of AAMBS.

Urgent Message to Quartets – Old and New

It is of utmost importance that all Quartets re-register each year if they want to compete at AAMBS Regional and / or National competitions. If they do not re-register each year and then decide to do so later on they should be aware that their original name may no longer be available for them to use. This happens if another quartet has registered in the meantime with a similar name – in cases of requests for similar names the system will not allow them to be registered.

If you are forming a new quartet you MUST register it with AAMBS on the appropriate form which gives you a choice of three names in case your first choice is not available. Forms are available on the Website, www.aambs.org.au – Forms – Quartet Registration Application. Important: where it asks for your affiliation this must be your Club name (not your Chorus name).

It should also be noted that if a quartet has been a medal winner at any AAMBS National Competition then that Quartet name is reserved so that name and/or a similar name, cannot be used by anyone else.

Kevin White
Secretary - AAMBS Inc
Really? Then you will be delighted by Brisbane in September. Yes it really is just one year away. Has your chorus started its plans for the big one?

The PAN PACS? Have you personally yet thought that maybe is now the time to get three singing chums together and form a quartet to qualify at your Regional Competition to strut your stuff on the big stage just one year this month? Are you making plans to get time off or take time off to be part of this huge event? Let’s think outside the square and tempt you with some indication of what goes on in Brisbane at this time of the year!

Brisbane is not quite the City you may have visited in 1999 when the last Convention was held there. Yes we still have the great South Bank venue in the centre of the City which contributed so much to the popularity of that event. The extensive South Bank Parklands with its palms and sandy beach is right on the doorstep of the Convention Hotel, Rydges. Booked yet? Best rooms go early! I’ve lost count of the number of eateries and restaurants that now surround the area. Sort of like Lygon Street in Melbourne except the umbrella is used to shade you from the sun.

The number of sky scraping apartment blocks developed in 12 years is an indication of Brisbanites love affair with the River and Central City as they sell up in the suburbs and get in close the more to enjoy. Two weeks ago a reported 600,000 people welcomed in September and the F111,s fuel dump fly past and huge fireworks display on a balmy Saturday evening. With 1000 new arrivals from other States into South east Queensland every week for the last ten years the numbers are not surprising. New initiatives, new motorways, tunnels, park areas have become standard and are just waiting for your visit. There are no less than four new cross river bridges for you to stroll over within a kilometre of the Convention Hotel.

You can take the one hour ride on the large modern blue and yellow City catamarans from one end of the City to the other and admire the beautiful homes developed right along the river for less than the price of a cup of coffee. {$3 off peak concession}. 300 metres away is the magnificent Gallery of Modern Art {Free} which continually attracts large attendances. Valentino’s Gowns are currently on show{Fee}. Want to pop over the bridges to the main shopping mall? Ten minutes! Too far? Well at the end of the month the new hire cycle system works from 150 stopping stations. If you use the bike for less than half an hour to reach your destination; it’s free. If you want to hire one all day it is $12 as a casual rate. Other trips are variant.

And if at the end of all this you think you may undertake a sea change and move up here we’ll welcome you and the River City Clippers can always absorb more good singers.

WEST AUSTRALIAN BARBERSHOP TRAVELLERS...

Yes, we know that you are thinking about your travelling arrangements to Brisbane next September but here is one for real thought. The “Sun Princess” sails from Fremantle to Brisbane on Sept 5th 2011, $3069 including flight home from Brisbane. 15 nights including all the food and entertainment you could expect. If the chorus comes think of the practice time you can fit in and if you turn the screw you could even get on board credits for performing, quartets or otherwise. Then you have a week to really enjoy the myriad holiday opportunities of S.E. Qld prior to the Convention. Up to the Sunshine Coast, down to the Gold Coast, or based in Brisbane to cover everything including the amusement parks of Seaworld, Dreamworld, Movieworld, Waterworld or Steve Irwin’s Australia Zoo. We might even be able to arrange for The Sunshine Statesmen, The River City Clippers or the Blenders to meet up with you for a BBQ or whatever to make you feel even more at home. And after all this you can stay on for the Harmony College and round off that month long holiday you have been promising yourselves. Who said that he was driving a caravan across the Nullabor?

Derek Churchill
Director of Marketing
Only 12 months to go !!

2011 AAMBS/PANPAC CONVENTION 28 SEPT - 02 OCT

Twelve months to go before we are hopefully all congregating in the beautiful city of Brisbane, Queensland, to enjoy 5 days of singing and camaraderie at our bi-annual convention which, on this occasion, will also be hosting the PAN PAC event with choruses and quartets from Pacific rim countries taking part.

The most important item to mention here is the fact that, after consultation with the AAMBS Council, it has been decided to extend the event by one day. River Harmony will commence on Wednesday 28th September 2011 and finish on 2nd October 2011. More details will be available on the Convention web site (AAMBS-Pan Pacific Convention 2011) once the planning process has been concluded.

Basically, due to the expected participation of large numbers of singers in the Young Singers in Harmony competition, together with an expected increase in numbers for the main event, we thought it prudent to seek permission from AAMBS Council to extend the event by the one day in an effort to eliminate the possibility of a congested competition schedule.

A delegation of AAMBS representatives – Bill Purdue (Contest administrator) - Richard Gardam (AAMBS' VP Conventions) and Trevor Rootes (Chairman of the 2009 Hobart Convention committee & consultant to River Harmony) visited Brisbane to familiarise themselves with the facilities and to meet the River Harmony committee. A few days of productive dialogue ensued from which a clear understanding of what was required to achieve a successful outcome was concluded.

On behalf of The Clippers and the River Harmony Committee I extend a warm invitation for you all to join us here in 2011 when the weather will be perfect and the welcome sincere.

John Shelton
Chairman – River Harmony Committee
Well, it’s that time again. We are now just 12 months out from what is already building to be a great AAMBS and Pan Pacific Convention - River Harmony - conducted jointly on your behalf by AAMBS and the Brisbane River City Clippers.

The team in Brisbane is already well advanced in their planning and if my recent visit to the Clippers is any indicator, we are all ensured a warm welcome and most successful convention.

Before that event is “run and won” it’s also the time to start thinking about AAMBS Convention 12! To that end, Council is calling for expressions of interest in hosting the 2013 convention.

**What do you need?**

If the last convention, “normal” is any guide, there will probably be around 750 delegates made up from 15 – 20 choruses and 35 quartets along with their accompanying supporters. A Youth Chorus and Quartet day is now a feature of the event.

There needs to be a suitable venue to host a Welcome Dinner for that number, a suitable auditorium to run the Quartet contest, the Chorus contest and the Parade of Champions Concert - and don’t forget the Closing Dinner as well. Prior to the event there will probably be a Judges and CA School and post the convention, there will be a Harmony College.

You will need a small, dedicated, hard working management team to pull the whole thing together.

**What will you get from it?**

The convention provides a showcase for barbershop in your local area. It will certainly raise the profile of your chorus and quartets. It will inspire your members simply to be involved with a group of similar enthusiasts from all over the country. Oh, and AAMBS shares the profits coming from the event 60-40% so your club’s bank account will look a lot healthier at the end of a successful event.

Expressions of interest from AAMBS Clubs around the country are now invited. It has been the practice, to date, to offer the convention to a specific club in a region. There is, however, nothing which would prevent a number of Clubs coming together to put in a joint bid and thus share the workload and the spoils.

Have a talk to other members of your Club/Chorus about the possibility of bringing the convention to your area.

In the first instance, send an email message to me at conventions@aambs.org.au expressing your interest and I will then engage your Club in a dialogue where we can flesh out the details together. In order to get the “show on the road” as quickly as possible, please contact me by October 15th, 2010

Richard Gardam
VP Conventions
New look Music Team for AAMBS

It has been agreed by the AAMBS executive that the music team be expanded as the workload has increased dramatically over the past few years and more bodies are required to do an effective job without anyone suffering from “burnout”. The new structure will be:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>VP Music</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman Guild of Judges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Education</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Due to my increasing workload as director of NOVATONES I will not be nominating for re-election to the Council as VP Music at the AGM in December, so there is now a need for an energetic and enthusiastic member to step up and fill this position.

Ian Mulholland holds the position of Chairman of the Judges Guild, Alan Bishop (Emeritus Professor of Education) has agreed to accept the responsibility for Music Education and I am prepared to put my hand up for Director Education. So there is almost nothing to do except keep us under control. Although a reasonable knowledge of barbershop is an advantage, the major quality needed for this position is in organisation.

We are about 1/3 the size of BABS who have 30 positions in Education and Music Services and run a very well structured music education system which is based on the BHS methods used at their Harmony University. Our intention is to develop a similar structure where certain pre-defined subjects will be available at both regional workshops and at our own Harmony College. There will be an assessment required to move on to the next level. In this way we can ensure that our singers and music leaders (those who wish to) are progressing and learning our craft and not just simply taking the subject because they believe they are knowledgeable enough to do it. We have too many taking advanced subjects when they do not have many of the basic abilities. This is not to criticise anyone in particular but simply human nature for many to believe that, because they have been in barbershop for a number of years, they are better that the actually are. I strongly believe that this approach will make it easier for chorus music teams to bring their choruses/quartets “up to scratch”.

Give this some serious thought as we need to start running with this new initiative now so that regional workshops in early 2011 will provide the opportunity for those wishing to take advanced courses at HC to qualify.

Please feel free to “Dob in” anyone that you think would be able to take on this important position and I will talk to them.

Ian Miller
VP Music
Men In Harmony

Men in Harmony is a Western Australian Barbershop Chorus of male singers comprising approximately 40 in number. We were the first such chorus to be established in Australia in 1985 and have been among the leading competition choruses for most of the last 25 years.

We rehearse every Tuesday evening from 7-00pm until 10-00pm at a very comfortable air-conditioned venue in Wembley Downs – a west coast suburb about 10kms. from the Perth CBD.

The chorus sings a wide range of popular songs including ballads, songs from popular musicals, inspirational songs and lively up-tempo items. We have performed at various prestigious venues in Perth including the Burswood Theatre, His Majesty’s Theatre, University of WA - Winthrop Hall, Perth Concert Hall and the Perth Convention Centre.

We require the services of a Music Director to coach and direct the chorus for 2011 and into the future.

Applicants may be either male or female and must have a reasonable amount of music and singing experience although formal qualifications are not required. Ideally some experience with singing in the barbershop style would be desirable but this would not be mandatory as we could arrange for some tuition to bring the applicant up to speed in this area.

Further enquiries may be made to either of the following:

President : Rod Eagleton
7 Nailsworth Street
COTTESLOE WA 6011
Phone: 08 9384 829
Email: regale@iinet.net.au

Vocal and Performance Coach to individuals and groups in UK and Europe.

Conductor of male singing chorus.

Experienced [three times British Gold Medalist] A Capella quartet performer both in UK and USA.

If you can assist an experienced Barbershopper / MD to move Down Under contact Jim Catt at browncatt@gmail.com

Music Director wants to immigrate to Australia

Jim Catt has details of a English Barbershopper who would like to immigrate to Australia with his family in the very near future. He is an energetic, motivated manager with strong inter-personal skills and 20+ years management experience in engineering, manufacturing and training and would be looking for a job in Oz.

He lists his other interests and hobbies as:

- Governor of a Secondary School giving specific support to the Science faculty.

In Harmony : September-October 2010
Our next big musical event is our third Singing Restaurant. All 250 tickets were sold by mid-August—such is the reputation of High Altitude Harmony in Toowoomba! After the Singing Restaurant, a number of gigs are scheduled to the end of the year, including at the Queen’s Park Christmas Lights annual event. Then, of course, we have our end of year party!

The Chorus continues to prosper under the leadership of Mike Ludwig, our Musical Director. Members now number 48, and 5 men have joined us since mid-July. Our objectives for this and next year include recruiting more young men to the Chorus, continuing to work on our vocal and performance standards, preparing for the 2011 Convention, and growing our reputation as “Toowoomba’s Premier Entertainment Chorus!”.

We may live off the beaten track but welcome with great warmth any visitors who happen to walk through the door. It would be great to see some of our very busy AAMBS Executive if they are up this way.

Sincerely

Greg Lewis – Secretary
Miner Chords - Spring has sprung and the Chordsmen are busy rehearsing for a Remembrance Dinner Dance in Laidley on 5th November. Laidley is a rural town about 30 minutes outside Ipswich and singing with the Ipswich City Big Band is a big challenge.

Closer to home, spring has brought out the flowers, afternoon tea and of course, dare I say, the Sounds of Music. One of our members, Jim Flanigan, lives in the rural hamlet of Mt Crosby, an outer acreage suburb of Ipswich. Here, along with his wife Jan, they spend many hours cultivating and maintaining “Coucals”, an ever growing garden spread over two acres. Jim has built a hilltop gazebo which offers great views over the olive grove slope. The slope has also been planted with natives, frangipanis, crepe myrtles and palms to add more interest. A fairy garden has stimulated a lot of interest with the younger generation and adds a bit of fantasy to the garden beds. A new orchid house has been added to the bush-house area to house the many orchid genera growing in smaller pots before they are added to the garden or to the orchid courtyard. The gardens also feature raised garden beds bordered by sandstone rocks which retain the imported soil and mulch. In amongst all of this, you will find tables arranged for morning tea to accommodate the many visitors to the “Open Garden”. As they sip their tea, taste the home-made scones or slices, Miner Chords walks amongst them, adding our music to the sounds and sites of nature. Saturday, September 10 will be well remembered and we sincerely thank Jim and Jan for their kind hospitality.

As you read this article Pan Pacs 2011 will be just under 12 months away. Miner Chords is looking forward, not only to the competition, but to gathering and renewing friendships with fellow AAMBS members. Brisbane is just down the highway and a second home to many of us who work there. We feel some ownership of this Convention and like our brothers in Toowoomba, extend a hand to ease the load.

Harbourside Harmony is still trying hard to attract more members, we gain some and lose some, all for genuine reasons that are beyond our control, but at least we have all parts between the six of us regulars.

We have been joining in with the Fleurieu Harmony for quite a few singouts and joined with them for the recent Magic of Harmony concert, which was good experience for our fellas, we will also be joining them in a fundraising concert for the Barbershop Big Day Out youth day organised by the Adelaide Sound Connection and held every year to promote Barbershop to the youth through Schools. 

Fleurieu Harmony Chorus

Last month was a big month for the Chorus, we held a Concert The Magic of Harmony at the Hopgood Theatre, Noarlunga, which was very nearly a sellout with over 300 attending.

The show was made up of all local acapella groups - us, Fleurieu Harmony Chorus, The Festival State-Men, ladies groups Onkaparinga Harmony and The Rainbow Connection, plus the Hobart award winning youth quartet The Fishbowl Boys, and local mixed quartet Three Tarts and a Diva and our own Nostalgia Four, and to add a bit of variety The Amazing Philippe an illusionist/Juggler.

The show was primarily to showcase four part harmony, in particular Barbershop, with all the groups displaying their groups’ recruitment material in the foyer and personnel on hand to answer questions. We know of at least three people who were recruited, every one is a bonus. The show also returned a handsome profit which will boost our funds as we are looking towards the next year’s convention. It was a lot of work but well worth the effort with all the participating groups being given a sizeable donation to help them along.

Last Saturday we ran a sausage sizzle at Bunnings and this proved to be an excellent fundraiser and we recommend it to any other group. I don’t know of any better way to raise funds. Of course we couldn’t let the opportunity go pass and entertained for half an hour inside while our wives, love ‘em, looked after the barbecue. We also had a tin for donations to Prostrate Cancer Research
**Thanks from The Sunshine Statesmen**

Mr T Smith  
VP Membership  
AAMBS (Inc)  
P.O. Box 6026  
West Gosford NSW 2250

July 22nd 2010

Dear Tom,

**AAMBS 2010 Membership Drive**

Please find our Receipt / Docket for your generous cheque of $1,000.00 just received.

This reward was told to the members at our rehearsal last night, and it went down extremely well, and on behalf of all our members we wish to thank AAMBS for giving us the opportunity to partake in the drive, and then to win your most rewarding prize, you can be assured that it will be used to continue to bring our Barbershop Melodies to the Public’s attention.

Kindest Regards  
Ted Parry

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**AAMBS Library**

Your Library has a wide variety of material available for you to borrow.

Check out the list on the AAMBS’ Website and let our Secretary, Kevin White, know if there is something there you would like to borrow.

The only cost related to loans from the Library is the cost of postage when you return the items you have borrowed to Kevin.

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**Music quote:**

“Music speaks what cannot be expressed  
Soothes the mind and gives it rest,  
Heals the heart and makes it whole,  
Flows from heaven to the soul”
Your Website -
Council, Regional and International Barbershop information and contact details as well as
application forms, competition results, calendars and much, much more is available on the AAMBS
Website—www.aambs.org.au

Your Newsletter Articles -
Deadline:
5.30pm EST on 15th day of each odd numbered
month

Length:
Articles to be 150—500 words maximum and in
Georgia 10 pitch font. All articles will be edited for
spelling, grammar and length.

Photos:
Please remember to send photos as attachments - not
embedded in your article

Your Events:
Promote your Coming Events - send full details for
inclusion in the AAMBS Calendar below and on the
AAMBS Website

2010
Limerick, Ireland.
Details: www.eventelephant.com/iabsannualconvention2010

Oct 3 - AAMBS Council Teleconference

Nov 6 - SydneySiders Express Biennial Fund
Raising Concert for the Children’s Hospital,
Westmead. 7.45 pm Abbotsleigh School
Auditorium, 1666 Pacific Highway,
Wahroonga. Tickets: $25 each ($20 for
school children and pensioners).
Contact Tony 02 9913 2473 or
www.sydneysiders.org

Dec 14 - AAMBS AGM, Men In Harmony rehearsal
venue, Perth WA - 7.30pm EST

2011
Jan 25-30 – BHS Midwinter Convention,
Las Vegas, Nevada USA

Feb or March - AAMBS Council Face to Face Meeting
in Brisbane

May - AAMBS Regional Qualifying Competitions
Eastern Region -28th May
Sunshine Region - 21st May
Western Region - 14th May

Jun 27-Jul 4 – BHS International Convention,
Kansas City MO USA

Oct 7-9 – Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’
International Convention. Belfast, Ireland

Sept 28–Oct 2 - AAMBS 11th Annual Convention
and Pan Pacific Convention, Brisbane
Qld – Hosted by The Brisbane River
City Clippers, followed by Harmony
College
Contact: info@panpac2011.org.au

2012
Jul 1-8 – BHS International Convention, Portland,
Oregon USA

Oct 7-9 – Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’
International Convention. Dublin, Ireland

2013
Jun 27-Jul 4 – BHS International Convention,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Oct 4-6 – Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’
International Convention. Galway, Ireland

2014
Jun 29-Jul 6 – BHS International Convention,
Minneapolis MN USA

2016
Jul 3-10 – BHS International Convention, Nashville, TN USA