

BHA SURVEY OCTOBER 2015 RESULTS

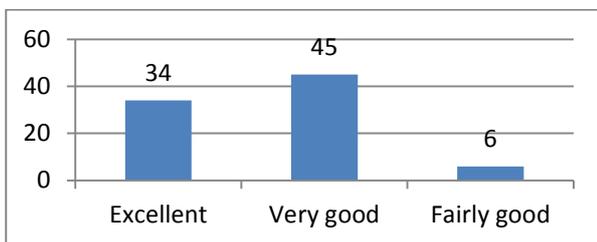
Please find below the responses to the survey recently conducted by BHA, which was circulated to all registered delegates to the Melbourne Convention.

The results are displayed in two ways.

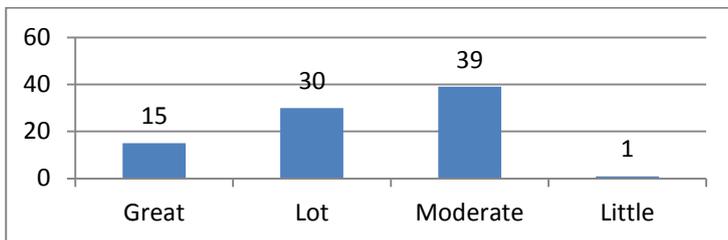
1. Graphically where a selection was offered, and
2. In prose where comments were offered (blank lines have been deleted).

There were 85 responses received by the cut-off date. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey.

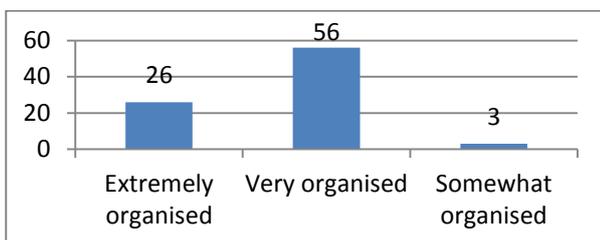
Question 1. Overall, how would you personally rate BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention?



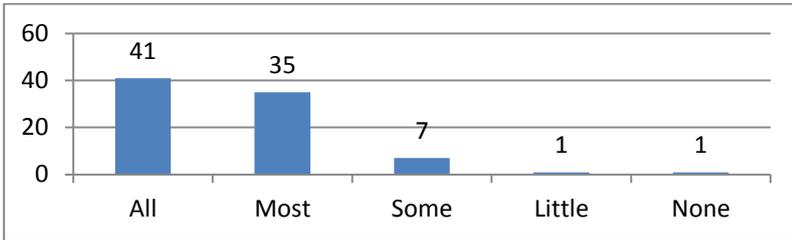
Question 4. How much value for the money was BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention?



Question 5. How organised was BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention?

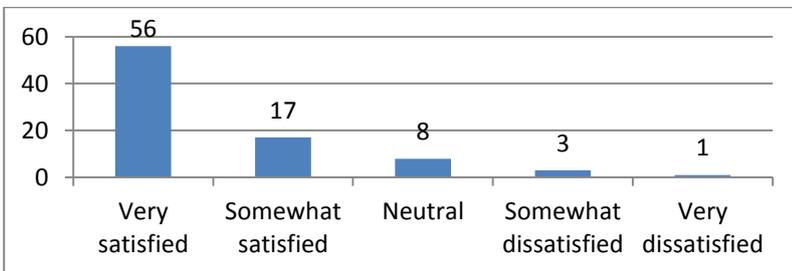


Question 6. Prior to BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention, how much of the information that you needed did you get?

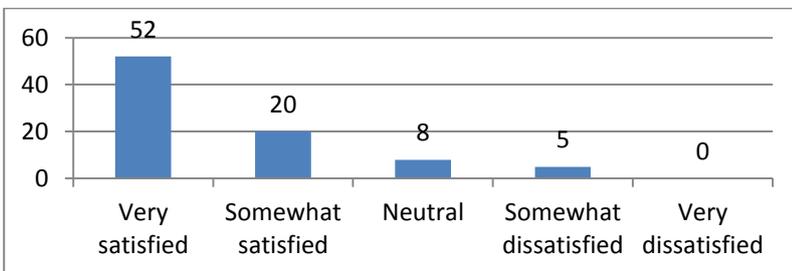


Question 7. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the following aspects of BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention.

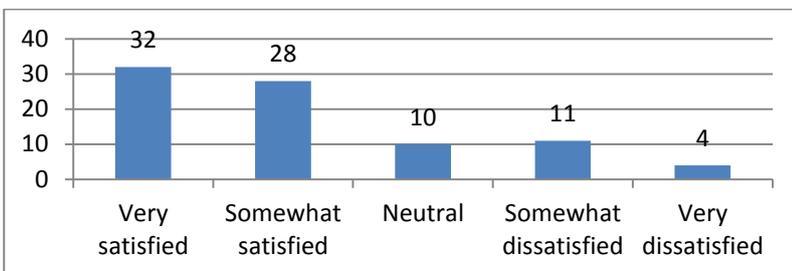
[Registration Process]



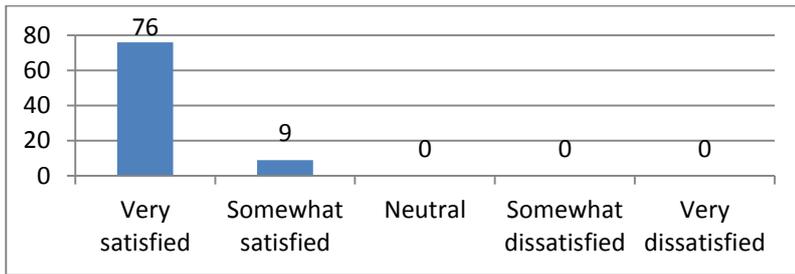
[Venue – Federation Square]



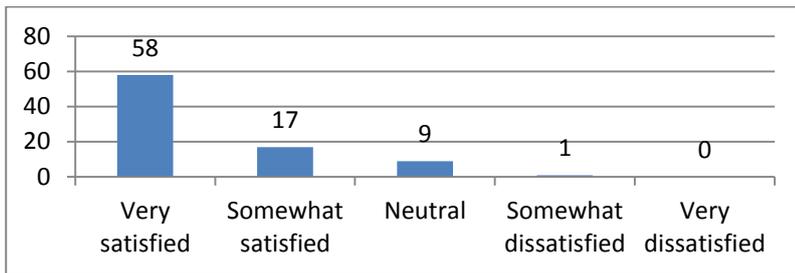
[Venue – Etihad Stadium]



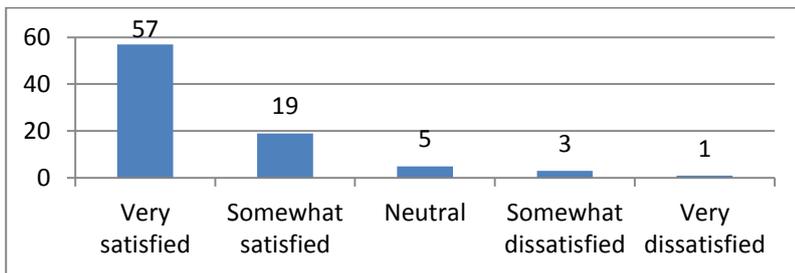
[Venue – Hamer Hall]



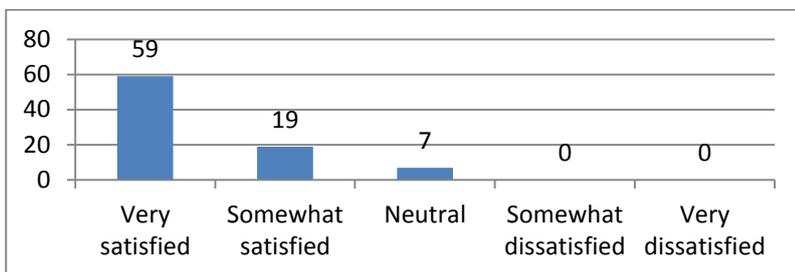
[Contest – Traffic pattern]



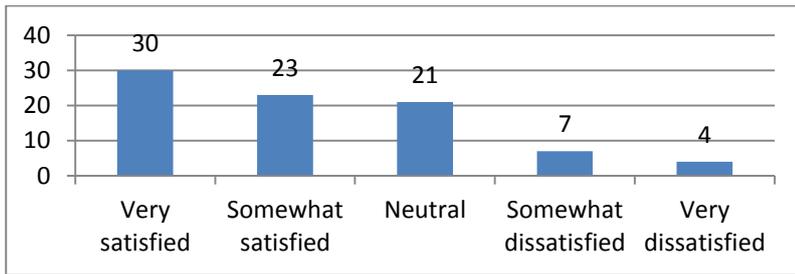
[Contest – Staging]



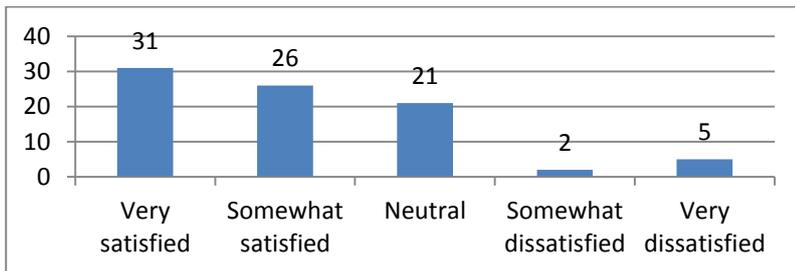
[Showcase of Champions]



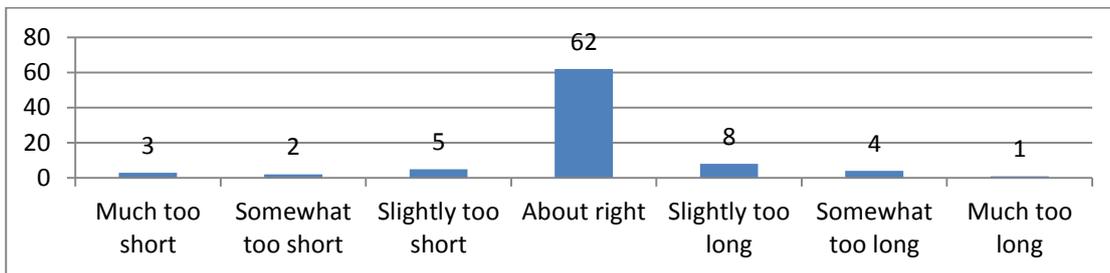
[Evaluation process]



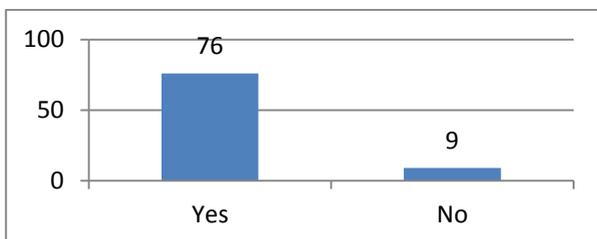
[Food & Beverage availability]



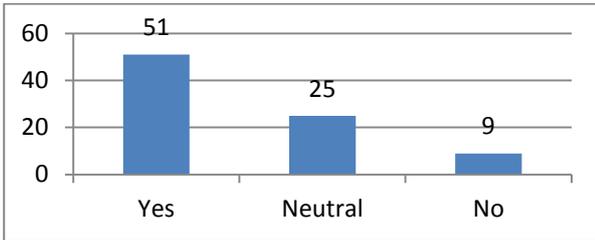
Question 8. Was BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention length too long, too short, or about right?



Question 9. Did you observe any of BHA's mixed harmony contests at any time during the 2015 convention?

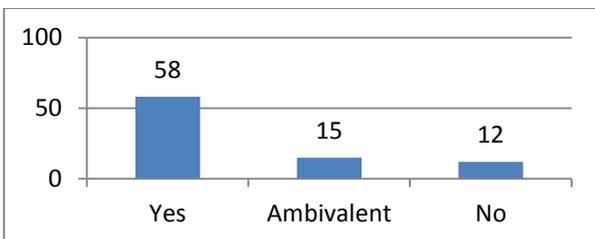


Question 10. If you answered “yes” to question 9, did the mixed harmony contests add to your enjoyment of the 2015 convention?

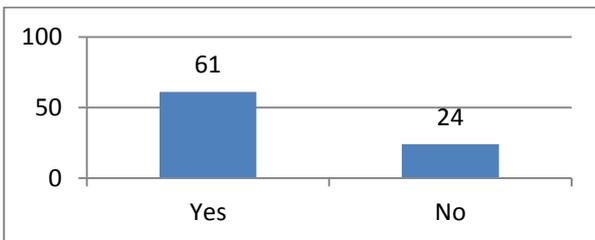


NB. Clearly the 9 respondents who answered “No” to question 9, also answered “No” to this question.

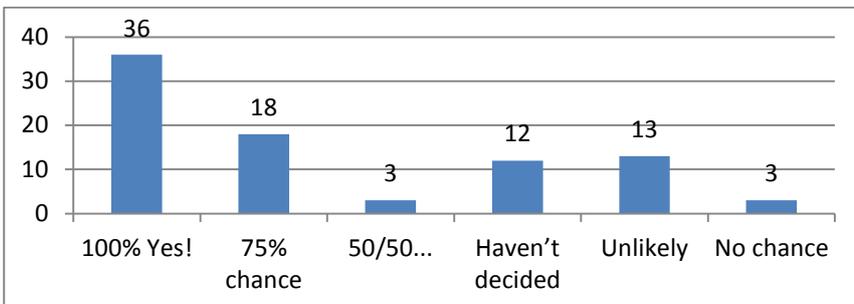
Question 11. Overall, would you support the ongoing inclusion of mixed harmony contests in future BHA national conventions?



Question 12. On the absolute understanding that BHA will NOT now, or in the future, be requiring or asking any chorus or club to become a mixed group, would you vote for a change to the BHA Constitution that simply allows for the inclusion of mixed harmony contests at BHA contests ONLY?



Question 13. Will you be attending BHA's 2016 Convention in Newcastle?



Question 1: Overall, how would you personally rate BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention? Can you tell us why you chose that response?

- The convention felt like it was on track and the organisation was not visible to the attendants.
- Well organised, with plenty of communication about timetables, events and locations.
- Great organisation and great quality of venue.
- We won (Sound Connection)
- It was my first national convention
- Because i had a great time, however i still feel there could be some improvements
- no
- good singing, good friends.
- The scattered venues (Etihad) and farewell luncheon were not the best.
Also if we are going to be stuck with mixed Harmony competitions in future these should be held on a separate day so as not to clutter up the main Quartet and Chorus Competitions and, more particularly, the following evaluations
- My first convention. Very exciting. Great bunch of guys.
- I chose that result as it was a very nice venue, had a good array of food and places to visit while I was there.
- Only criticism I had was that having the afterglow at the venue meant we got chucked out quite early.
- I competed in both chorus and quartet and the loops went like clockwork.
The rehearsal space was well organised and supervised.
The dinner was well planned and executed with speeches kept to a minimum
The venue was excellent as was the venue at Fed Square
The eval process was the best I have encountered so far at a BHA event
The mixed harmony comp was a revelation
- I thought more delegates could be involved in more events, such as the Massed Sing, Youth events etc. It's a shame to see people not attend because they have a chorus rehearsal scheduled at these times or just don't know what it's all about.
- good venue, well organised, close to accommodation
- It was all very well run, excellent volunteers and I loved the stage - particularly for the quartets.
- Venue locations for performances and rehearsal arrangements excellent
- It was well organised and venues were great.
- I think the most important things about the convention (venues, contest, welcome dinner, concert etc) worked well whilst there could be some improvements around some of the minor organisational bits.
- Excellent range of events, good organisation
- Very well run convention. Great venues.
- The venue for the mass sing just didn't work as nobody could hear properly - much too spread out and was not conducive to entertaining the public and therefore publishing our cause of promotion of Bartbershopping.
- I had no hiccups anywhere and things were well organised
- The whole event was well run and for a first time attendee I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience
- Great friendly atmosphere, great venues and generally no Melbourne weather!
- Loved the venues, the rehearsal venues were convenient and the schedule was very workable. The volunteers were all lovely and everyone was helpful.
- The quality of Australian barbershop is getting better. The event seemed to run smoothly with timings kept and clear communication.
- Great guest quartet, Great venue, great organisation. Excellent welcome dinner
- being heavily involved beforehand and aware of the level of organisation involved - it all happened!!!
- Events and competition seemed to run smoothly and on time.

- Ran smoothly.
Excellent venues
- Overall well organised and I had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Good numbers there which makes for a good atmosphere.
- Very well-run, great venue, and close accommodation
- Most events ran according to schedule and seemed well organized.
- My first convention ever, was very well run and organized, everyone was extremely friendly, the guest quartet were incredible, not just to listen to but to learn so much from, and the venues were great!
- Conventions are always good fun!
- Melbourne was one of the best conventions that I have attended during my 15 years.
- All quality venues
- as it was my first convention i was unsure of what to expect but it was the most amazing experience and it has been one of this years high lights.
- Accomodation and rehearsal venues too spread.
- Loved the venue. Still a bit disappointed in the afterglows that didn't really go anywhere.
- Vocal Spectrum
Well organised
Great Panel
A great 'festival' feel as well as competition
Fantastic venues
Location - Melbourne is Central and the location of the actual venue was close to transport, accomodation and food.
- Venues were good, organisation was good, Marshall's were excellent.
- singing venues were really good.
The welcome dinner was well organised but what happened to the 2 bottles of wine per table.
The farewell lunch was a significant disappointment. \$40 for a few sandwiches and no quartets singing
- John Howells and his Team did a superb job. Experienced some great singing/eating/drinking/laughs in some of Melbourne's best venues. One of the best Barbershop Conventions I've been to and Melbourne was my lucky 13th!
- Every convention is different. Since this one was in my hometown, there were other pressures involved and I wasn't able to "get away" and just enjoy it as I have in the past at other venues.
- Having competed in International, I found this one very busy and very spread out for venues and hotels. It would be better with a centralized convention hotel which would allow for afterglow rooms and more camaraderie. The banquet is nice, but it was so far from everything and there wasn't a lot of getting together after that. Chorus practices scheduled during quartet contest didn't allow choruses to support their singers. Basically, too much in too short a time means less gets done. Spread it out over day or two more.
- The singing was great the venues were great the city was a perfect setting and the weather was kind to us.
- Good facility, good sound, close to everything.
- Not in 100 words
- Well organised. Smooth flowing. Excellent venues and facilities. Great Showcase Concert (see below). Very helpful volunteers.
- It all happened
- Very well organised.
- Vocal Spectrum were excellent. I loved every second of it. Excellent choice. Hamer hall was also an outstanding venue. Melb is also a great city to visit so I liked that.
- It was a very well managed and executed event.
- Good number of participants
- Overall the convention itself was enjoyable but I found the individual communication to delegates once you had registered online to be quite disappointing. It was reliant on visiting the website when I am used to direct communication for other conventions.

- Very enjoyable, excellent venues.
- Because it was Dan. The venue, great - the social events, double tick - the judges, alright I guess (just joking), and Melbourne I love anyway.
- I think it was extremely well organised. The convention structure was a familiar one but it worked well. Venues were really good. Fellowship good as always. Afterglow might not have worked as well in Hamer Hall. Guest quartet was brilliant.
- Very good facilities and organisation. Volunteers did a great job at Registration, during the competition etc.
- No.
- It ran very smoothly and the venues were very close to each other and in the heart of Melbourne.
- Well run, good events. Information a bit lacking at times.
- Large walking distance between venues.

Expensive farewell lunch that was not worth said expense.

Unhelpful lack of information around YSIH events (Possibly not contained in the convention but I thought I'd include the feedback).

- Because the convention was reasonably well run and well organised
- A well structured event that ran smoothly, but had some compromises around logistics of the venues and programming.
- everything ran smooth
- It was my first convention. Accommodation recommended by BHA was within walking distance of the venues and gave us a look at the city we have not been in for 25+ years. Venues were fantastic and most of the singing enjoyable.
- It was in Melbourne, which is an easy bonus, plus there was Vocal Spectrum and a big turnout of the BHA membership base.
- 1. Well organised with a great team headed by John Howell.
2. Well run traffic pattern for quartets and chorus.
3. The fact that BHS managed to get the best Quartet in the world to be the guest quartet.
4. Location and walking distance to good accommodation and food.
5. Hamer Hall probably the best facility we have ever had.
- Venues were great, getting around was easy, level of competition was fantastic.
- Excellent venues; excellent attendances; excellent judges; excellent quartets; excellent merchandise (at excellent prices); excellent photography; excellent webcast; excellent guest quartet; excellent Showcase; very good afterglows

Only a "fairly good" Harmony College (but this is not part of the Convention and not attended by most delegates so not covered by this survey)

So overall, Convention has to rate as excellent

- The venues were excellent and in good locations except the Etihad stadium which was unnecessarily difficult to access
- It was very good
- The convention was smoothly run.
- Everything ran smoothly, the venues were very high quality and in close proximity to each other, or a short (free) tram ride away. The guest entertainment was world class, and they even worked with the youth ensemble on Thursday, which was absolutely great.
- Not as good as Perth
- Got to catchup with my friends and acquaintances that I rarely get the chance to do. Also enjoyed the singing in general
- Everything just worked! The location was central. The staff were helpful. It felt well planned out. The mixed barbershop contest was a nice change to the all male contest!
- Happy about almost everything
- I had a fantastic time at convention. It was my first at a national level and I'm excited to be able to come back next year.

Question 2. What did you like MOST about BHA's 2015 Convention in Melbourne?

- Vocal Spectrum. Coming fourth :P
- Mixed Harmony was a welcome addition that helped to bring appeal to our convention for those who were not familiar with the intricacies of strict barbershop. Highly commended.
- Showcase and Vocal Spectrum!
- Venue and back stage areas great, great city to be close to with good hotel choices.
- Chilling with my favourite quartets.
- The welcome dinner is always a highlight for me, it gives me a chance to catch up with old friends.
- Hammer Hall
- see above
- Great fellowship. Enjoyed the performances, the showcase and the Feature quartet.
- All of it
- VS, Apartments were near venue, great competition layout. Youth contest was also good.

THE WEBCAST WAS AMAZING, this was one of the best webcasts ive seen to date, and it was made free.

- Tag singing we don't get that much with Sweet Ads.

Competing with my quartet.

Meeting lots of new people and catching up with others that I hadn't seen in a while.

- My chorus won the open Division!
Seriously though it was well organised logistics of the comp.
- The number of youth involved
The mixed quartet contest
- Good seating at venue
- Venue - Hamer Hall was excellent. Central, convenient and fantastic acoustics.
- Chorus Corral and Singout in Fed Square
- The high level of singing from the top choruses and quartets.
- The venues were excellent for performers and audience alike.
- Youth program
- Hamer Hall as a venue was excellent. The convenience of the venues (Deakin Edge) to accommodation, restaurants and the resultant camaraderie.
- The theater was a terrific venue in every way.
- Ease to get to venues
- Central Melbourne a great locale.
Great feature quartet
- The excitement generated by the participants
- The standard of singing, easy access to venues, quality of venues. Format of all the events kept us busy for the whole time. Loved the introduction of the Chorus Choral and the John Little show...I missed the youth session as we got to Melbourne a little late ... poor planning on my behalf! All good.
- The venues - Deakin Edge and Hamer Hall.
- Vocal Spectrum
- Reconnecting friendships
- The quartet and chorus competitions ran smoothly.
- The venues

- VS. Despite it being late, the audience went absolutely nuts for VS. A spectacular show! Venues were top shelf. Really helped give the convention a cool feel. comps were run smoothly and efficiently
Mass sing in Fed square was very well attended and great fun.
- Venue
- The competitions and shows.
- Hamer Hall was one of the most incredible venues I have ever performed in, and to sing to such a receptive audience was excellent.
- Venue was amazing.
Both for the quartets and the youth. The webcast was a fantastic addition.
- The variety of events including the sing out and following concert and mixed quartets and choruses.
- Location & good will
- the showcases
- The visiting American quartet
- Quality of the talent.
- Vocal Spectrum
- Melbourne City and venues.
- Vocal Spectrum
- The Concert
- The Chorus Corral
I think we had a fine collection of judges this year that brought a wealth and breadth of experience to the contest.
Hamer Hall was an excellent venue and really good to sing in.
- Singing
- The social gatherings dinners and breakfast which were traditional Blenders events were most enjoyable. The church service that the Blenders sang at was particularly great.
- Vocal spectrum
- Ran smoothly and all concerned helpful and pleasant with which to deal, facilities great, international quartet the best we've had and showcase excellent.
- Fellowship.
- Everything was well planned and happened as planned
- Typical convention...mostly good. I have attended every convention since the first one on the Gold Coast.
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- Vocal spectrum!
- The venues
- Smooth unobtrusive organisation
- The chorus singing and competition.
- Final concert
- I liked it all Dan.
- The Chorus Corral.
- Great venues, efficient transport system, friendly, helpful staff and volunteers.
- Smooth running.
- The venues
The nearby places to eat.
- Welcome Dinner, concert.
- The opportunity to be a part of mixed groups in contest and performance.

The ability to catch-up with and form new relationships with people from interstate.

- The competition
- The Saturday Showcase and Vocal Evolution was a highlight. The Chorus Chorale is excellent.
- vocal spectrum & Lockout
- The feeling of being part of something this big.
- The venues were good and we had Vocal Spectrum.
- Best ever Saturday night showcase and Vocal Spectrum
- Friendliness of organising committee and volunteers
- Listening to Vocal Spectrum in the Showcase of Champions
- Central location meant we were part of the Melbourne vibe. Compare this with Perth 2013 which was in rather a dreary location
- The singing, duh!!
- The main contest venue was stunning to sing in.
- The growing size and impressive level of competition in the youth festival on Wednesday. The presence of mixed harmony, high school and established BHA ensembles in the youth contest made for a very inclusive event.
- Hamer Hall
- Always love the chorus completion the most
- Vocal Spectrum!!!

The mixed barbershop contest.

YSIH contest.

- awesome camaraderie with friends from around Australia. Nice venues, and really enjoyed having so many ladies present too.
- The contest was organised well, with breaks splitting up sessions nicely, and quartets being spaced well. Also having Vocal Spectrum there was incredible.

Question 3. What did you like LEAST about BHA's 2015 Convention in Melbourne

- There were some issues with communication for quartet's muster times, and if you were not in the room at the time when they were announced it would be difficult to know when you were required to be somewhere. Perhaps an online/printed list of times would have been useful.
- Nothing less than stellar springs to mind.
- Harmony market place was disappointing. There was so much opportunity to sell more music related merchandise such as t-shirts and no-one approached the local hattery to sell boaters etc.
- Harmony College venue and facilities and food and accommodation was terrible.
- allocated seating for show of champions.
- The afterglow after the big Saturday night show. the bar that was open was on one floor, VS on another floor, splitting the party up. next time having it all in one place would be much better!
- MC's singing
- n/a
- See above
- Singing OLD polecats in Federation square. Not a good way to attract fresh blood.
- Didn't like that on the Sunday; we had to hike ourselves to Etihad stadium at 8, didn't get time to have breakfast.
The afterglow was shocking, having it spread across three floors killed the mood and there was no area that was good for singing tags.
Harmony market place looked nice but was hidden.
- Short afterglow.

- The little fluffy toy in the welcome pack
- The BHA Forum
- rehearsal venues too far away from main activity
Welcome dinner too far away from main activity
- Nothing specific about Melbourne, but I dislike the Thursday evening dinner. Well, I like and dislike it at the same time. I think it is a cool, unique event which BHA does - however, I feel that it must be a HUGE percentage of my registration fee. I am sure that, per head, the dinner must cost \$80-150...out of a \$350 registration (or thereabouts), if we were to not have such an opulent dinner on the Thursday, registration would be much less.
- Dinner venue out of area
- The inability of non delegate partners to sit with delegate partners at the Saturday concert.
- Online registration process, website.
- the massed sing
- when it ended.
- For whatever reason, it did not seem to be "friendly" - there was not much intermixing of the various choruses.
- the initial decision to not have the ability of family to sit with delegates at performances
- catering venue too far from performance venues
- Nothing
- Ticketing for the Showcase of Champions...made my own arrangements to sit with my friends as it was clear from the beginning of registration that it was going to be a challenge...the late change for ticket swaps came too late for me and I have no idea if it really worked.
It would also be my preference for the convention pin to be included in the registrants bags...
Convention schedule date alignment with AFL finals fixtures....
- Massed sing. Couldn't hear the announcements, couldn't see the directors.
- Costs a lot to go and sing two songs as a hobby ... just sayin'...
- Midnight quartet evaluations
- .. not enough sleep :)
- The farewell lunch was poor value for money. No entertainment but worst of all was the food. For a \$40 lunch the food had as much value as a \$5 Subway meal....extremely disappointing and unlikely to attend future lunches unless the menu is advertised prior to committing to outlay \$40...!!!
- Compare for the showcase
- Unfortunately the chemistry for the John Little show was a bit flat. It felt like the venue was a bit big and impersonal. The chorus choral was great in the same venue though. Hard to know.

Attihad was a long way away. The closer the venues the better.

It was disappointing that VS wasn't more visible throughout convention. They were pretty much just there for the showcase and afterglow.

- Extended family who travelled a long way to see us, could not see us compete unless they paid, so they chose not to, but to go to the showcase instead, as money was tight, and they couldn't afford to be "delegates". I believe we are turning people away who may be Barbershop "converts" by making them pay to see the competition. I feel the Comp sessions should be free. Also, having to be at certain places for things like "briefings" etc. Most delegates come from far away and time is precious, particularly if you are in quartets and choruses. Also, it may be difficult for some to get to these things due to flight times etc. Also, having things like the dinner at a different venue proved to be a problem.
- Having to travel back and forth to etihad stadium.
The seats in Deakin Edge :o)
- I think a but more emphasis on the Saturday night afterglow, in terms of making it an "event". Rather than just being a "hang-out" session in the foyer after the concert, which not many people attended, a set venue and event would be great.
- The welcome dinner is becoming tired and in need of a change! Either an informal event with

food trucks etc and an open bar (people won't mind spending some of the money they'll save not having it as part of the rego...)

- The distances between various venues and the cold Melbourne weather!
 - Hard to find a genuine criticism, so won't try
 - the amount of time it took for the acts to come on stage
 - Welcome dinner was crap, wouldn't give my dog the beef.
Farewell lunch was a farce, some people got nothing at all to eat, the \$40 charge was a complete rip off
 - Lack of afterglow.
 - The distance between venues and timing of evals (Sunday morning??? Yikes!)
 - Evaluations for us were too late and singing for the judges was discouraged because of adjacent private hotel rooms.
 - Farewell lunch - they had to go and make mine
 - The farewell lunch
 - That we were more spread out this year. Long commutes between Hamer Hall- Etidad stadium- Deakin Edge Theatre. In the past all the activities were under one roof.
 - Compacted schedule.
 - Sorry can't think of much. The final lunch at \$40 per head was a catering failure.
 - MC who sang a song with the accompanying track.
 - Four separate venues for the various events.
 - Lack of daily newsletter or electronic advices to delegates (TV's at venues).
 - Not long enough!
 - The closing lunch was very disappointing. People paid a lot of money per head to attend and some didn't even get fed! Those who did manage to get food were disappointed in their meal. When our table was sent to the 'smorgasbord' we were warned that that there was not much food and to 'go easy' on the amount we took! We were seated behind a pillar and couldn't see the stage. There was no wine on the tables at the dinner either.
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 - The high convention fee. I couldn't care less about the pre convention dinner (any announcements can easily be emailed), the youth events, the large combined chorus thing that happened on the Thursday, or anything that happened before Thursday. I have bills to pay! I would like to be able to pick and choose what to go to, like in the States. Maybe if you can't do that because it otherwise wouldn't be possible to finance some of the events, consider that it suggests maybe some events should be dropped?
I was infuriated by incessant coughers during some performances. Seriously I don't care why someone is coughing or that they can't help it, if they need to do so they should stay out as it selfishly ruins the quieter performances for the rest of us.
 - The afterglow areas being spread across a number of levels
 - Three venues widely spread
 - Splitting the venues was a little off putting at first.
 - Too short judges debrief time to chorus, didn't get half the value available.
 - The only thing that could be improved on, and this would only affect a big chorus like The Blenders, was the rehearsal facility. Not once could we get the whole chorus on the risers and the guys on the back riser mostly had their heads through the ceiling.
- I won't apologise or our ability to recruit so don't ask me to field a smaller chorus.
- The Afterglow.
 - The overall cost. It's a big expense for retired people on pensions. My chorus consists 100% of retirees and it will probably only attend every two years.

- Farewell Lunch.
- Nothing
- Mixed quartets and chorus.
- The issues around the mixed involvement, it soured my involvement a lot because there were so many people, on both sides of the argument, being so tense about it. This spilled into youth events as well and continues to be an issue that is lingering and souring my memory of the convention.

The time involved and distance of travel between event venues.

The waste of time and money on the farewell lunch.

- Trying to get to the venue for Welcome Dinner and Farewell Lunch
- 1. The mass sing. 2. It was difficult to coordinate with partners who don't wish to be a delegate especially due to seating restrictions. 3. Lack of opportunities for non-competing quartets to perform and develop. 4. Too many of the same faces singing in multiple quartets, particularly now that mixed quartets are participating. 5. I'm not sure that the revised chorus size limits made sense.
- - scores not being reviled for the youth contest (the hard work is put in before the event, at least give out the scores! no evaluations make sense, but scores.. they does not give an advantage!)
- no BHA youth male ensemble award
- Our performance. (Average age, quartet 76 chorus 72) but then we didn't come to compete.

The loud quartets.

- The afterglow after the showcase was a bit crappy. It began quite late and was then split over too many levels because of the venue.
- Bloody Melbourne weather
The fact that we were not allowed to enter Hamer Hall until the day of the quartet contest. Mostly we have at least a chance to see the location and sometimes a chance to walk on and off stage with the lights on before the contest.
Sunday lunch was poor and wont do that again
- Too many things happening and unable to enjoy them all. Disappointed in the church service as to me it was just an 'add on', rather than treated with the same intensity to detail given to all the other aspects.
- Harmony College aside, the lack of public (and cooler weather) at the Massed Sing
- Not being allowed to take bags into auditorium for competition. This was probably due to overzealous staff and changed later. Note for future!!

Farewell lunch (see below)

- The inclusion of Mixed Harmony, which has been fraudulently forced into the Convention by a small group of our leaders with obvious personal agendas. Mixed (e.g. female singing is directly the reverse of what AAMBS is all about, and by blindly following misguided Political Correctness, National Council are effectively emasculating the largest male singing group in the country.
- Youth competitors not being given scores.
- The youth contest scores were withheld for a very long time after the contest (overly so), and there were some scheduling problems with the youth contest which could have been organised better.
- 1. Convention Dinner Meal.
- 2. Unable to book seat at Saturday night concert for my wife at time of registration. It was too late and inconvenient to change by the time we were advised that a swap may be possible.
- Do not enjoy the max signet as I find that it rarely works with the different MD's taking over for every song
- The order of contests. By Saturday we are totally exhausted. Bringing forward choruses to the Thursday or Friday might increase scores as energy levels would be higher earlier in the week.
- Very sad that the sound technicians just decided to notch out very important vocal frequencies from the amplified sound in Hamer Hall. I suspected that the EQ was dodgy, so I took this

photo of the sound desk right after the quartet semi finals:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/go5mogsockrq4xd/HamerHallGraphicEqualizerQuartetComp.JPG?dl=0>

Having vital vocal frequencies suppressed in the amplified sound ruined my enjoyment of the quartet performances. The worst part is that I raised the issue right afterwards, thinking that it would still be time to fix, and a fair competition if this was done before the microphone testers of the finals, but it was considered 'too hard' to fix, even hours beforehand. BHA really needs to give the sound engineers some guidelines about how much they are allowed to mess with the graphic equalizer. Sure, the room needs to be tuned, but I'd rather less amplification with a clean sound than more amplification with damaged sound.

- The youth contest felt like a bit of a throwaway. There were elements that were quite frustrating, for example the scores not being revealed until at least a week after the contest, and some groups not being allowed evaluations. I know that evaluations weren't allowed so as to not give an unfair advantage later in the week, but when singing with a group that was not competing later in the week I would have expected an evaluation considering I have to sing completely differently between that group and groups that were performing later in the week.

Question 4. How much value for the money was BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention? Can you tell us why you chose that response?

- It was good value
- Reasonable price, excellent events.
- For me it was very affordable for the quality of the event.
- We won (Sound Connection)
- Youth is cheap and affordable.
- I felt that the convention was well worth the expenses
- no
- na
- By the time you pay for your accommodation, meals, transport and registration it makes for a very expensive convention particularly when you bring your wife.
- ?
- Was good trains were free, although it was hard to find a woollies or coles in the city.
- Included welcome dinner.
- I was there to sing barbershop and I got a lot of singing done!
- Compared to professional events, this price is cheap.
- it would be SOOOOOO good if as a partner I could just go to selected events AND the welcome dinner. as opposed to having to pay as a delegate just to go to the Dinner. All events including the Welcome dinner SHOULD be included as optional for partner delegates.
- Mainly as above - Thursday dinner needs to be changed. I would welcome a cocktail/canape style night where we can still mingle and do speeches, but a sit-down dinner is very expensive and I think could be substituted.
- Partner costs high
- Taking into consideration travel and accommodation costs, it becomes an expensive proposition, particularly if on a yearly basis. The welcome dinner should be on a less grand scale. The registration fee for non competing partners should be reduced to make it more economically attractive.
- I think it was a fair price for what we received.
- top venues
- When I compare our convention to a number equivalent get togethers of a sporting nature, our Convention represented good value.

- The cost was pitched about right
- value in terms of what -happiness? contentment? No complaints from me
- Large increase in costs over previous Conventions
Food quality at dinner and lunch just average
- I feel that I was exposed to fantastic and world class events and at the same time learned a lot
- Travelling from Perth at this time of the year is always a cost issue.
- I think the dinner was really good this year. The luncheon still seems to be a rip-off. Seems like a lot of money for a sandwich.
- Hamer Hall was a beautiful, central venue. I heard it cost about \$40,000+per day to hire. As good as it was, I wonder if that's a good investment. When most people have to travel, and book accommodation to be there, then pay a whopping \$300+ to sing in the competition - it becomes a pretty expensive exercise. Some have no trouble with it, but a man with a young family can find it a lot. Making the choice to prioritise this over a full family activity is a really hard sell at home.
An expensive venue forces you to make session tickets expensive. My partner and others I know just didn't bother going to see the contest sessions because it wasn't worth the cost. They definitely weren't interested in a partner delegate registration. That seems very low value for money.
- Getting too expensive for me to attend regularly with travel, accomodation, food etc. including convention costs
- no
- Food was poor at the farewell lunch.
- It's a few hundred dollars on top of flights and accomm, so a fair bit of money, but it was a professionally run event in top shelf venues. So I thought it was good value.
- As a delegate, we got to do most things. A bit peeved at not having wine and beer on the tables at the welcome dinner, and it was very costly for drinks.
- Most things/events I expected, were included as usual and were of a good standard. Most of the venues were excellent.
- Obviously, I can imagine getting Vocal Spectrum here was far from cheap, the venues were great, and the judges and other competition staff were excellent. All worth the money.
- The dinner. No booze (which is ok however there was also no time to get a drink) and the food was average. This has been the case the last three conventions really - not a whinge just not great value for money...
- Great venues cost money and this was well chosen.
- Truthful
- it cost a lot of money and i think it should be cheaper in future
- No
- I couldn't attend all days but had to pay full price anyhow.
- It was the most complete experiece for a BHA convention so far.
The fact that the competition standard is improving makes it for a musically satisfying experience.
- Cost is on par with previous conventions.
- poor meals
- Even though my Club paid my registration costs it was a great package at a very reasonable price.
- Even though we were spread out- each venu was excellent and suited the purpose of the events well.
- Not everyone has the money for conventions.
- The money is well used.
- Considering the quality of the venues, it was a good amount of value
- Cost analysis
- Delegates registration fee quite high and included costly Welcome Dinner, which delegates may otherwise choose not to attend.

- Reasonable pricing
- The lunch was a disappointment.
- See previous text response.
- initially the cost did seem high however on reflection, it was worth it.
- Too expensive. We know BHA earns its funding through the Convention but it's only Convention participants that contribute to that - not the BHA membership as a whole.
- I thought it was quite expensive to register but I can appreciate the cost of hiring venues.
- Final concert exceeded the value
- Meals were good, venue great - these things cost.
- Hard to say as I don't have access to the budget. However, I believe many people heard barbershop for the first time and were very impressed. I spoke to a few who hadn't heard our style of singing before and they were excited by it!
- Partner registration is too expensive for what is offered to them but it's the only way they can attend the welcome dinner. It should be much less. I didn't attend it personally but several of our members reported that the Farewell Lunch was not good value for money and the food service was tardy.
- Yep.
- Because there were good shows
- Price seemed about right.
- Contest sessions and shows were worth the cost. Welcome dinner was well worth it. Harmony College was worth it. The farewell lunch was not.
I think it would have been better to have a better quality meal in a cheaper, less high-profile venue, and possibly not had set seating, given that it was the last chance for many to see people before leaving.
There was also a lot of time spent walking between venues which could have been spent with people or preparing for or winding down from events.
- Because there was a lot included in the price of your registration
- As enjoyable as the overall event is, due to lack of quartet opportunities chorus only members get to perform for a total of 15 minutes in three days. Participation is more than just spectating. Total cost with travel and accommodation around \$1,000.
- still do not understand why our rego fees are so much!!
- I paid full registration for my wife. I thought this could have been more reasonably priced.
- It could be that it was my first convention in 6 years, but I thought the \$400 registration fee was rather steep.
- Need to consider how associates fee is made more affordable by perhaps making the contestants pay more and associates pay less.
- I felt it was all great except the farewell lunch which I think turned out to be \$40 for a sandwich
- Premium (and expensive) venues which added to the quality (value for money) of each presentation
- Okay, considering the venues, except for the farewell lunch which was expensive for a couple of dry sandwiches. At this event there was insufficient food and many people didn't get fed (similar thing happened at Perth 2013). Nothing much happened at this lunch so I shall give it a miss next time unless there is an effort to improve it.
- I enjoyed myself, and the cost was commensurate with the product presented
- After the uproar of the price of the perth convention, it was interesting to note great numbers and higher prices than in perth.
- As a youth member, money is very difficult to raise for these events. And even though a discount was applied to youth members, it still represents a very prohibitive cost for a lot of my friends who just can't afford to attend the convention because of it.
- Obviously Hamer Hall was an exceptional venue and wouldn't come cheap. To be part of the convention using this facility and to be able to have performed there was good value.
- As a chorus member I think for the amount of singing we get to do it is an expensive exercise for a chorus to undertake for very little reward for the majority of choruses. I think the majority of us are there to make up the numbers

- We came over from Perth. Flights were expensive because of Grandfinal etc. accom was cheap and we ate cheaply. Registration fee + flights + accom. + living when not from that state is expensive.
- Most everything was great. Didn't think the sandwiches at the closing lunch was worth \$40 though.
- The contest was fairly reasonably priced. And we got to see Vocal Spectrum for that price too. Awesome.

Question 5. How organised was BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention? Can you tell us why you chose that response?

- The organisation was pretty good.
- Well communicated plans, locations and changes. Highly commended.
- Amazing how well it ran to time overall.
- NO issues
- pretty good.
- I feel it would be better if all quartet or chorus members would receive the information for traffic patterns, arrival times ect.
- no
- na
- The organisation was pretty good and the organisers should be complimented
- !
- Mostly ran on time, however it did get weird on the Youth Contest
- sss
- I've said it all above
- Because I organised it and I said so
- Whenever I needed to know something there was always someone available to ask - and if they couldn't help they found someone who could.
- All ran like a swiss watch. I felt that competitors could have been given a bit more notice of schedule and when we were performing, but otherwise fantastic.
- Good communication prior to event
- Most sessions ran to timetable.
- Did not seem to be any major issues that affected me personally.
- Booklet, website etc
- There were no problems, I am not aware of even a minor hiccup.
- Things seemed to go to plan without any apparent hitches - not out front anyway!
- see previous comments
- From prior experience of other events, not BHA, that I have attended
- Generally well organised and very responsive to minor issues. Some minor bits of information which either were provided late or not provided prior were:
Event registration desk times.
BHA shop times.
- It ran smoothly, everything seemed to be thought of and covered.
- My own experience in both the quartet and chorus contest was pretty smooth. We know where to be and when. We turned up at the right times and things went as expected. I heard a lot of stories about kerfuffle behind the scenes, but I didn't see it or experience much of a problem. The chorus mic test was one occasion things seemed disorganised. We were told to turn up a different times. When we did get a final time, and we turned up - we had to stand around for ages as no-one seemed to know what was happening. We were told it should take 15mins. We were there over an hour and missed most of our chorus breakfast organised for that morning.
- Well coordinated and ran on time, very friendly and helpful volunteers too!

- Predominately on the work and efforts of Sue who picked up the missing pieces many times.
- All events seemed to be well organised and on time. The Showcase of Saturday night finished a bit late though!
- While the contest sessions etc seemed seamlessly run, there did seem to be confusion about who was in the showcase (a few people asking in the foyer) and where and when eval sessions were.
- It was very organised.
- Most events seemed to run according to plan.
- No real reason, I didn't take much notice of the "organisation" as such, but noticed no real hiccups throughout the week, which is a good sign!
- The organization was adequate. An app might improve things though this is a lot of work and for not a lot of benefit...
- Help was available to answer queries and the whole weekend we'll run and timely.
- again, the truth
- just because
- Fairly well organised
- Everything seemed to go smoothly.
- Good newsletter
Good website
Good communication
Great ushers (except one who was a bit rude)
Clear instructions at briefing etc
- Amount of organisation is appreciated but there was a lot to squeeze into the allotted days.
- Everything ran like clockwork for me.
Only serious drop off was the farewell lunch running out.
- Pretty much went to schedule. Lots of information beforehand and during with constant reminders from the lectern of what was going on. Only confusion was the directions for the evaluations were unclear.
- The convention was well run- I would have liked more bulletins and earlier on the website which seemed to lag. Information about Harmony College wasn't available until the week of the convention. The last bulletin was in June! Made it hard to plan.
- Too much in too short a time.
- Everything worked well
- Things ran on time
- No
- Events flowed seamlessly.
- No hitches
- Things mostly ran to time.
- Everything seemed to run pretty smoothly, but I missed out on a chorus performance I wanted to see and support because you were running early and I showed up on time. It would be nice if the timing were consistent, as one day you are running 20 minutes late and the next 3 minutes early! That kind of inconsistency is too hard to plan around.
- as per above comments
- Good management
- There was a bit of a mix up with what I had ordered when I went to the registration desk. There was an item missing and I had ordered a cap not realising you got a free one. I was asked do I really want the second cap as they were running short and answered no but no offer was made to reimburse me. A donation was made!
- Maps and locations of events relative to accom location & booking was late coming forward
- I saw very little if any SNAFUS. If they were there, and I'm sure there were some, you attended to them or they were kept well hidden.
- Material sent beforehand was clear, helpful and timely. Events kept to schedule. Venues were

generally excellent. Traffic patterns for the contests went smoothly. Feedback from judges was excellent.

- All aspects of the organisation were efficient and smooth.
- Yes.
- It ran very smoothly
- A general impression. However, as usual, my quartet evaluations experience indicated less than optimum planning and execution of that planning. Whilst the use of judges' hotel rooms was a great move, the rooms were not in a solid block. We were told by a marshal not to sing, because of complaints by an adjacent resident.
- The convention itself was mostly well-organised, the YSIH festival events were not nearly as well looked after and left a lot of the participants expecting more.
- Things ran reasonably smoothly
- Media coverage seemed good. Overall logistics and helpfulness of volunteers was excellent. Given the dispersed venues it probably could only have been improved by it all being in the one spot.
- everything ran smoothly
- What can I say? It was very well run.
- I couldn't give the maximum positive response because I didn't attend every event, so I couldn't accurately say. Everything I did attend seemed very well organised.
- Great organising team who went out of their way to being helpful
- Communication of what was happening where and when was excellent, however the events primarily organised by BHA were poor.
- Must figure out how to "organise" the public such that we get a full house at the Showcase. I believe we need to organise a significant TV presence of top quartets/choruses on major channels in the 2 weeks leading up to Convention. Also the material on (the extensive) Radio coverage needs to be better organised so that only top quality items are presented. We allowed Channel 7 to say they wanted the human interest value of a local chorus rather than the sensational impact of say Vocal Spectrum, on their breakfast show.
- Only minor glitches such as the bags fiasco (see 3) and no direction to room location at Etihad Stadium.
- I thought it seemed very organised
- The convention team did an excellent job sending updates to members throughout the process. On the ground, it was fairly smooth although some details were missing. Unsure at this stage if it was communication to chorus liaison or CI to chorus but it felt a little fly by the seat of your pants at times.
- The youth contest scores were withheld for a very long time after the contest (overly so), and there were some scheduling problems with the youth contest which could have been organised better.

The show of champion invitation process from BHA president was great, however the backstage timing for the show of champions was very difficult to work with, and nowhere near as good as for the competition itself, which was a bit disappointing.

Everything else ran smoothly

- no
- Apart from the Chorus coral everything seemed to go ahead on time and also the chorus feedback organisation and identification for the feedback was woeful, Most of our chorus could not locate the area defined!
- Ebb and flow was noticeable. Contests ran to schedule mostly. Well done!
- Kudos to those who organised the convention. Major feat well done.
- It just felt organised.

Question 6. Prior to BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention, how much of the information that you needed did you get? Can you tell us why you chose that response?

- I received most of the information
- Everything was either communicated to the chorus coordinators, or to individual members on request.
- Everything required was provided via web site and email.
- was great
- just a few things with comps.
- I feel it would be better if all quartet or chorus members would receive the information for traffic patterns, arrival times ect.
- no
- na
- Information came through ok.
- !
- I get my stuff through quartet/chorus.
- Received all the information that I needed.
- The team let us know venue details, where to go to book for the show (for friends and family) accommodation details etc
- Did not receive adequate communication relating to judges and other VIPs due to third party involvement and so on and so forth
- I got all that I needed.
- As above.
- Communications not excessive but useful
- Good website
- Would have liked to be able to access more competitor info on the website. One central point to gather all the info previously sent out by the CA.
- I relied on club contact for information -
- N/A
- The website worked fine with all the necessary info.
- transport info was a bit light on
- Because I was not left in any doubt about what, where, when and how
- Refer Q5
- Read the emails, checked in with the website and followed up when I had a question.
- I felt I had all the information I needed.
Really - I probably felt I had a lot more than I needed. I started not even reading notices near the end because it was the same information over and over ... and over and over.
Overcommunication can be a problem. Just put the information up on the website or somewhere, organise it properly so I can find what I want when I want it.
- Na
- that's dependant on whom was distributing the information. Contest info was fantastic. There was other information that I garnered purely because I was privy to the organising committee conversations.
- No issues.
- I got most of my info through my chorus and quartet
- I got everything I needed
- No
- I think communication between BHA and delegates was great.
- The evals could have been organized better. Also the quartet/chorus regos NEED to be 100%

electronic next year - no one uses the post/printers anymore!

- The more detail provided the easier to sell chorus members on coming ans to plan for personal preferences.
- as before
- i got most of my info though my choirs director
- Got most of the information by email
- Everything came through ok.
- Just personally - I left a few details to the last minute...
The booklet was great.
- N/A
- I've been to enough conventions that I don't need too much information. Everything I needed - where to go and when was provided
- Same as previous answer. Got the information for the evals but it was somewhat confusing.
- Harmony College seemed to be an after thought. It came out in the wash but it was very stressful waiting for the information.
- Chorus didn't do a very good job of telling us what was going on and a lot of our members were at their first convention.
- Got it all.
- Information arrived last minute
- It was correct
- BHA Newsletters and info from The Melbournaires covered all bases.
- Did not need any more info
- Email makes information sharing easy.
- All of the information needs to be distributed electronically with optional printouts available. I mean all of it. This is the 21st century and a base model mobile phone can hold all the text ever written several times over. Why can I not carry the schedule and score results around with me. I don't have a handbag to carry bits of paper around in!
- Etihad Stadium was a little tricky to navigate
- Reasonable publicity
Video was v good
- As stated the communication to delegates prior to the convention could have been better.
- Had to ask for maps.
- xxx
- because I can't think of anything I didn't get.
- Good communication through emails and website.
- Yes.
- Came through our contact in the chorus
- Contest Appearance Lists were not available.
- I kept having to ask people for information that I hadn't received via email, some of which was participant/competitor info that just didn't get passed on but there was other delegate and member info that I didn't receive until I asked for it.

Not prior to, but at the beginning, there was a lack of information I'd like to give feedback on. I had registered to be a delegate. I was part of the YSIH festival. I found it inconvenient that I was unable to collect my delegate pack and information until after the events had already started. It would have been good, with the events starting at 10 (or something like that) to have the registration desk open from 8 or 9 on the Wednesday, or for there to have been somewhere to collect it from on the Tuesday evening.

- Because I didnt get anything
- Information to help the chorus book accommodation would help and a central repository of all documents for coordination rather than multiple emails would be useful. Web site and social

was good.

- it was fine
- Our committee kept us up to date with anything we were unsure about.
- I think I found out everything I needed from the website, and my chorus/quartet was fairly well organised. Not sure how relevant that is...
- In comparison to Perth we were informed very well.
- What I didn't know, I asked and received an instant response. I also phoned the committee to express my good wishes to them and this was well received and I believe had a positive feedback when I asked a question. I also continually thanked the committee/members whenever I could after participating in an event. Having help organise a number of conventions, I respect how a simple thank you can raise the spirits of the guys when things are stressful
- Nobody knows everything
- Didn't really need much (our club arranged everything)
- I was able to get what I wanted
- The newsletters were comprehensive.
- Thanks
- No Feedback Form for mixed harmony comments which were to be compiled and discussed at Sunday morning Forum as noted in In Harmony Issue 149. I was unable to go to the Forum (Flights booked) and could not have my thoughts presented. Not Good!!!!
- I didn't have any problems with knowing what was going on but a lot of that was because I lived in the Melbourne CBD for 6 months last year.
- We were prepared and had all the information before hand.
- Individuals who were registered by their chorus didn't get the same paperwork confirming registration as those who registered themselves online. I would have liked to be able to login to delegate registration to check my details.
- I just did.

Question 7. Please indicate your overall satisfaction with the following aspects of BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention. Can you tell us why you chose that response?

- My answers reflect my satisfaction
- Everything was excellent.
- Evaluations were too short and it was apparent many of the judges were frustrated with the time allocated which no doubt lead to this being the only area that went way outside of schedule.

Etihad was okay although the final lunch was relatively disappointing for \$30.

- smooth
- Very Good
- as a competitor, i would prefer in the future to only get evaluations from BHS judges, as they are here rarely, rather than AGBJ judges, who come around each regional, and whose evaluations i have had before.
- no
- na
- The venues were fine it was just the distance between the Etihad and the other venues particularly when multiple visits were required for evaluations. The evaluation venues was very difficult to find and we missed some of our feedback whilst we roamed around the stadium looking where to go.
- No. There are too many 'can you tell us why's ' on this survey :-)
- Lighting was bad on stage.
Evals too far away

Choice of afterglow drinks were expensive

- I thought some of the evaluation sessions were quite late, especially for our quartet.
- All said above
- I'm amazed how many people can f*ck up their own registrations...still.
Etihad Stadium was kinda cool but needed transport options more available.
Traffic Pattern volunteers (Elidia and co.) were awesome
*Judges have to allow competitors some foldback - they killed a great stage
Despite protests of it going too long, containing too many acts, not enough acts, and such rubbish
Farewell lunch was crappy for \$40, bummer.
- too many things too explain. see previous answers
- I felt we should have had prior notice (more than we did) on the Evals - I know it is EXTREMELY difficult to do this, given all there is to coordinate, but that is fine. Everything else was awesome.
- Showcase rather long
- No further comments.
- Dissatisfied with the online registration process as I felt it was clunky compared to other online registration experiences I have had.
- I thought Etihad was too far from the city, easy to get lost, a lot of walking required. A central city hotel with a major ballroom etc would have been my preference. Further, I didn't like having to get back there on the Sunday lumbering my luggage etc.
- the whole thing was excellent
- See above responses
- no complaints response obvious
- Etihad too far away
Traffic pattern attendants didn't know if stage curtain would be used or not
Difficult to hear evaluator against other noise in the auditorium
- Based on my personal assessment
- Fed Square for mass sing didn't feel like the centre of the city, so missed the feel of singing to the public...more just to those who could come along...I prefer the city square or malls as it is an opportunity to sing to the 'unwashed'.
Showcase of Champions ticketing. Refer Q3
- Thought the MC for the Showcase of Champions was an amateurish hack who had quite a nerve thinking he could possibly be of a calibre to sing on the same stage as our Champions. Should have broken his backing track. A cappella or bust :-)
- Generally happy.
Hamer hall was a great venue - just very expensive.
Never bought any food or beverages.
I tried to avoid things at Fed Square because I don't like massed sing events.
- Na
- I'm trying to answer this as a competitor and not one who was involved in the organisation. The biggest challenge was the traffic pattern when it got changed a week out and also the Evaluation process when despite promises of, the rooms allocations where not on the same floor.
- I had pre-ordered a shirt and cap but they didn't come with my registration package so I had to ask for them separately! The person on the registration desk didn't have a list to check my name off but I got a shirt and cap anyway...!!
Distance to Etihad Stadium too far.
8:30am evaluation session on Sunday morning was tough but understand the time constraints and the judges did a great job to be on time a give quality evaluations.
Food quality at farewell lunch and harmony college was poor!
- Etihad great venue just a long way away
There seemed a fair bit of food and beverage available near by. Ideally have some more in the venue but not a big deal. The bar was a very nice area for the afterglow.
- Registration was too early for some flights. I didn't make it to Fed Square due to flights. Etihad

was good, but we chose the accom to be close to Hamer, and it cost a small fortune to taxi to Etihad. Showcase of champions was great, but maybe a bit long.

- I realise it's easier to circulate the judges between groups in a big room during eval sessions but you lose quality and focus due to all the background noise. Etihad stadium was well away from the main area of the rest of the convention.
- Most of the venues were great! Deakin Edge was a little less appealing to sing in than Hamer Hall but was still excellent. Etihad was the perfect choice for the welcome dinner in my opinion, especially with the view over docklands.
- Rego for the convention was done through the chorus though this process needs to be streamlined and 100% online. The evals were a little disorganised. Could the judges not record a 5min eval on video after the contest for each group and email it? Then only quarters with questions need bother them...
- Good show!
- federation square good as a venue, but singing directed towards the stage meant very little was heard by those at the back. heard it suggested it would have been better had singers stood with backs to stage, facing passing & seated public
- because i found the venue and everything very satisfactory
- Extortionate drink and snack prices
- Evaluations were too late. I couldn't go.
- Just the timing of the evals and distance between venues.
- Not able to have a walk through prior to competition. No lay backs or feed from mikes during chorus competition left a lot of our edge singers in limbo. Audio chorus recording picked up individual voices. Mics maybe too sensitive or direct.
- Etihad stadium is not very homely but given the numbers at the Welcome Dinner there probably wasn't much choice. The food was good though. Farewell lunch would have been better off somewhere smaller. The lunch in NZ was much more cosy. Farewell lunch food was a disaster. All singing venues were great. Vocal Spectrum really made the convention special.
- Just easy to please I guess. No, that's not true! Had a great time.
- We sort of got lost in the soup on Federation Square. The massed sing in Perth seemed to go a lot smoother. The luncheon Sunday-or should I say the almost luncheon- when you ran out of food.
- I had no information on how to get around on the tram and didn't know where to enter Etihad. My quartet needed a little more depth on the stage. Evaluations that late at night? People were already gone to bed. It really made it difficult.
- No
- No, not every item above in 100 words!
- Etihad Stadium difficult to find entrance - clearer maps req'd. Showcase of Champions contained TOO MUCH technically correct barbershop singing, and TOO LITTLE of entertainment value.
- Evaluation rushed as usual
- I particularly enjoyed the Youth competition although mixing it with the choral comp was confusing.
- I didn't do anything at fed square.
- Registration - easy to do online. I feel the team giving out the registration packs weren't prepared on the day.

Fed Square - great venue. Audience was a bit far away for quartets.

Etihad - great choice. unique venue.

Hamer Hall - couldn't have done it better

Traffic Pattern - its normally pretty well done.

Contest Staging - Chorus was ok, not amazing. Quartet was sub par.
Please consider microphones that are intended for what we want.
In a room that size with foldback speakers there, why weren't they on?
They should be!

(perhaps a national standard can be made to ensure all regional contests and shows are using the same setup?)

Showcase - excellent

Evals - The judges are great

F&B - no dramas

- Food and beverage at Hamer Hall could have been better. Areas near both venues were quite busy.
- Etihad: there was no direction as to where to go in this vast structure, signage would have been v helpful.

Hamer Hall: fantastic venue, couldn't be bettered.

Evaluation: insufficient time allowed for judges to debrief performers.

Staging: OK

Traffic: ran behind time

- I wasn't involved in the registration process but heard there were quite some difficulties. The Stadium was fine, just not very close by. The F&B opening times seemed a bit hit and miss.
- I was very satisfied overall with the whole convention. Federation Square is clearly an important location in Melbourne but I thought our whole convention delegates' singing of Pole Cats did not reach as many commuters/office workers etc as in Perth, which seemed more suited to attracting passers-by.
- All venues excellent and travel was easy. Lots of eating options nearby.
- Sort of.
- i was disappointed with evaluation for chorus groups. Very rushed and not that useful.
- Somewhat annoyed during contest that the MCs reverted to the old 'windup' of audience clapping, cheering etc. prior to and during the announcement of each contestant. Result - usually impossible to hear who the next contestant was.
- Federation Square and Deakin Edge were great venues, although, it would've been great for the massed sing, to have everyone around the edges, the director in the center, to encourage civilian interest.

Etihad was a waste. The size was good for the welcome dinner.

Hamer Hall was good although the multiple levels made socialising and afterglows more difficult.

The traffic pattern was good, adequate time in the warm up room, although, we had to miss a lot of other competitors while in the pattern.

Only one member of my quartet was able to make our evaluation time because of scheduling.

- Evaluations and traffic patterns are the harder part of the weekend but ran quite smoothly. Food and Beverages might have been made available but were not cheap. Etihad Stadium was not a good choice of venue due to location in relation to Melbourne CBD.
 - The process prior to performance was clunky. We were short changed on warm up room, had the volunteer in the room during the warm up and were on stage for several minutes prior to curtain being raised. Photo arrangements were not as per briefing instructions. Maybe it was sorted out by the afternoon. Etihad was hard to navigate. More specifics in evaluation to standards rather than individual perceptions and preferences would assist in development planning.
 - welcome dinner - STILL NO FREE SOFT DRINK?
 - As above.
 - As I said earlier, I thought rego was a bit steep.
- Hamer Hall was a great performance venue but not for an afterglow.
The traffic pattern was rather long (my quartet happened to be delayed for a little while, as well)

- as previously indicated
- Thoroughly enjoyed the convention but as I was very unwell, missed the evaluation process.
- Registration process was new - can only get better. Better output formats needed.

Fed Square would have been much better on a warmer day - but beyond our control.

Etihad benefits probably didn't justify its distance from other venues but we would have been hard pressed to find better at price.

Evals in hotel were a bit disorganised. Timings and rooms changing at last minute. Needed a clear schedule with Volunteer in reception at all times.

F&B in Hamer limited but proximity of South Bank compensated.

- I believe it was made difficult for our organisers to complete this process
- I was satisfied with what I saw
- Registration was smooth and volunteers were very friendly, the traffic pattern at FS was very strange, coming from the audience to the stage area before going downstairs. SoC was great but a little too long. With a stellar act such as VS on the show, so many performers was overkill. Evals were ok, but Sunday morning evals are a bit odd. I don't have the answer but very tough for groups.
- Thanks
- 1. Registration - Could not get ticket for wife for Showcase of Champions.

2. Etihad Stadium Meal 2/10

3. Showcase not as good as Perth. Also no mixed harmony at AAMBS Showcase. We go to see men's harmony singing.

4. Evaluation - bit dis-organised and feedback poorly presented.

5. Food & Beverage availability - not much to choose from at Hamer Hall.

- See previous answers for explanations of the dissatisfied scores
- We had evaluation at midnight or something daft, post drinking, without much notice. Rather bizarre. But all recorded regardless.
- Federation Square was very nice - when there weren't trains going underneath.

Etihad Stadium was hard to get to with luggage, even by taxi.

Hamer Hall was awesome. Great live sound for performers. Best ever webcast. minor quibble about sound desk settings.

I don't remember the showcase of champions.

Evaluations were informative, although I'd like to see all judges' scores published, not just the sum of each category, especially when individual judges score way lower than the others.

Food at Hamer hall was expensive, but alternatives were close by.

- Etihad was a bit far away, but was superb for its catering and venue. The traffic pattern felt a bit on its head, in that I felt choruses didn't get enough time and quartets were given too much. When going through with a chorus it felt rushed, but singing with a quartet we ended up sitting around waiting for our chance to sing. Despite my gripes regarding youth evaluations, evaluations for the convention proper were superb. My quartet was lucky enough to get a coaching session after the evaluations with the judges. It would have been better to hear about the evaluation schedule earlier than we did, however.

Question 8. Was BHA's 2015 Melbourne Convention length too long, too short, or about right? Can you tell us why you chose that response?

- I want more barbershop in my life
- My only complaint is that there was perhaps not enough time between the evaluations and the beginning of the Showcase of Champions to allow those who needed to return to hotel rooms elsewhere in the city to do so.
- loved it so much wish it had one more day (of shows for the competitors), i.e. other acts to watch that may not have necessarily been competing
- just right.
- I felt it was well paced
- Time was ok
- !
- Felt too compressed, had no time to relax.
- I like arriving on Wednesdays
- Needs to go for a week.
- good...
- I like our length of convention.
- Enough time for casual singouts.
- No further comments.
- Happy with duration of convention. Just right IMO.
- I think a lot of people miss the youth program by arriving on the Wednesday or the Thursday. That's a pity because it is great. i would like to see BHA sell the youth program more
- no comment
- OK if you are retired. Not so good perhaps if still working
- Final luncheon unnecessary
- It's a busy 4 days, any shorter and it would be hard to justify the trip from Perth, any longer and I'd be barbershopped out!
- I really wished I could have attended the youth festival on Wednesday but could only get in on the Wednesday evening. I would try to get to the whole event next time.
- I enjoyed it, but my partner was not interested in attending many events. I can enjoy a couple of days of straight barbershop,
- Na
- Once things started it was all go. Mind you if I was just a competitor or an attendee I would probably say it was just right
- All good.
- I'd go for a full week if stuff was on but I think we've stretched it about as far as most members will come.
- All good.
- If I had no commitments back home, I'd stay forever! But the 5-6 days was perfect in my opinion.
- that's my opinion
- because i didnt get there till friday
- Not enough events on the Wed to justify paying to attend.
- With the youth stuff included - it wouldn't want to be any longer.
- Evaluations placed too late.
- The Convention achieved the Goldilocks Principle
- It was long if you tried to catch all the events, but you had the youth choruses and all the quartets and then the choruses to hear and evaluate. It was a lot crammed in- but that was because the attendance was better than in past years. You really had to pick and choose what

events you went to or you would burn out over the week.

- Didn't give time for sightseeing if you didn't get there early. Forced choruses to practice during quartet events. Didn't leave a lot of time for meeting new folk.
- Scrap the welcome dinner. It's costly and unnecessary.
- For many of us, there is life outside barbershop. And many have limited incomes. To reduce length of future conventions would enable many to attend for the entire convention, and would reduce costs. [The youth contest MUST be retained.]
- It was about right for me as I only arrived on the Thursday and only had to take two days leave from work.
- It is what it is Dan. You can't make it much shorter and still do justice to all participants.
- Just right. We had opportunities to do some non convention activities as well.
- That's what I felt about it!
- Evenly paced.
- Whilst all the planned events were good to have, Friday's marathon quartet contest and some evaluations was far too much to cram into one day, and I pity the judges.
- The scheduling required to fit everything in meant that I had to miss things to attend others. This was especially inconvenient for quartet evaluations. It was made even worse by the amount of time it took to get from venue to venue.

There wasn't any time allowed for socialising outside of convention events, which, when with people from other states who we don't get to see often, is a bit annoying.

- Good length
- It's a hobby
- We could choose our own length, depending on how much youth (Wed.) or previews (Thurs.) we wanted to watch.
- I feel the quartet competition should be split over 2 days, but that's not a length issue.
- all good
- There was so much happening and very exhausting trying to be involved with all the events. No down time to share with family if I had decided to bring them.
- The extra day (Wed) added costs (delegates' expenses and Convention costs) without adding income. Compressing into 4 days (Thu to Sun) is desirable to keep all costs down.
- Increasing the number of quartets by 15% to accommodate the Forced Mixed quartets, pushed an already strained administrative cycle to the limit. The evaluations were a farce.
- 5 days feels too long for the number of events we hold. Given we are moving to annual conventions, it might be a good idea to move to a 3 day version without a farewell lunch running Fri, Sat & Sunday to reduce time off for students and workers.
- Being involved in so many things I didn't get a chance to sit down and take a break (or sleep). I would love for it to be longer, but couldn't sustain a much longer event!
- Was a nice break from home, any longer and I would have left early or arrived later
- Every session was worthwhile.
- It was.

Question 10. If you answered "yes" to question 9, did the mixed harmony contests add to your enjoyment of the 2015 convention? Can you explain your answer to question 10?

- I love the idea of mixed quartets and I think the overlap of sweet adelines and barbershop is fantastic.
- None of my family are involved in BHA activities, however all of them thoroughly enjoyed travelling to come to the convention. Mixed harmony is very modern and helps to show our artform as modern and progressive. I enjoyed it because it was fresh and interesting.
- The human voice is an amazing instrument. To expand the possibilities by adding the female voice was wonderful!
- They were all amazing

- was good.
- Mixed quartets are only going to help strengthen our organisation.
- no
- na
- I don't agree with the inclusion of mixed Harmony in the Convention and did not enjoy the experience.
- !
- When its performed well its good to listen to.
- Provided variety.
- It showcased a different sound and I plan to explore this for the next convention
- Well I won a medal which is always enjoyable, and got to hang out with some great chicks, so it was fun. I think some of the mixed groups were a bit shit and the qual score should be lifted to 60+ minimum
- Added another dimension to the competition...
- Mixed harmony is great for BHA. More attendance, more interest, and more enjoyment for all. Anyone who believes otherwise has an outdated view on barbershop, and shouldn't be allowed to create petitions.
- It's all barbershop!
- No further comments.
- As an audience member it was nice to see the mixed but i would not miss it if it was not present in the future.
- It provided a great variation from screaming male barbershop - sweet, pleasant to listen to
- I think mens Barbershop is progressing towards a more mixed experience. It gives those that have partners a chance to strut their stuff as well.
- I am totally against mixed choruses as part of BHA. Their introduction was done by stealth by those individuals who all have a vested interest and I am absolutely certain that the majority of the membership feel the same way. I have nothing against mixed choirs at all and for many years have belonged to one myself, however I believe that BHA IS a men's club and was constituted that way. For folks that enjoy singing "mixed" - fine - start another club there is NO place for mixed choirs in our club in my view!
- I like the all male situation
- No further comment
- The ladies add a new vocal dimension!
- The higher quality quartets and groups were wonderful to watch.
- I enjoyed the different sound. Was funny to see Ash sing ... let's call them lower notes. Not sure if we should call it bass or not really.
But it was great to see guys with an opportunity to try something different.
- Fully support this, and hope to be involved in a mixed quartet one day...
- that is the way I was a competitor!
- I answered NO to question 9 but was forced to answer question 10...!!!
As I was in the quartet traffic pattern I unfortunately didn't get to see any of the mixed quartets!!
- Great to see more variety in the art form and the quality of the mixed ensembles was fantastic.
- I was happy for these barbershoppes to get a chance to have a sing and thought it was cute for brother-sister groups etc, but it didn't affect my overall enjoyment of convention either way.
- I liked the mixed sound.
- I support variety.
- I don't sing in any mixed groups, and I am not super interested in them to be perfectly honest. But I watched some of the mixed groups on the webcast and they were all great!
- The more the merrier... It's a no-brainer
- Variety is the spice of life!
- Happy with either

- im in one and the sound they make is great
- Not interested in mixed groups
- I didn't feel that the mixed harmony had a place in the barbershop convention. Maybe they should have had a separate competition - like for the youth.
- The standard of the mixed chorus wasn't brilliant but it was great to see high quality quartets get up there and do their thing.

It will grow and the standard will get better.

A great gesture though. All the way.

- I competed in quartet and chorus and did not get a chance to see any mixed performances. I did see mixed chorus and quartet in the junior competition and enjoyed them.
- Didn't see them
- Just adds an interesting dimension to the whole event.
- I'm a little old school I guess. While I have sung in mixed choruses before, I find it hard to integrate them into the BHS/BHA model.
- I like the way they mix to meet their strengths.
- No
- Variety
- A positive move forward, nice variety.
- Added variety, colour, interest, women.
- Subjective
- I quite like mixed harmony.
- Mixed harmony adds more vocal variety which is surely needed in a harmony event this long. It gives great female singers the opportunity to sing in an event like this and I like good singing no matter who sings it. By far the greatest benefit to me though is that there are some songs that can only be done properly well if there are both males and females - I loved the mixed chorus performance of That Lonesome Road, I really love that song when sung by a mixed group and it was a highlight for me. I would even support the addition of female only quartets and choruses as long as they are judged in a separate category (at least for now). I know the all female groups have their own contest but it really isn't comparable if we're being honest.
- It was great to see and hear something a little different.
- Enjoyed the mixed harmony and think its OK but didn't necessarily increase my enjoyment.
- Provided some variety.
- Mixed quartets/choruses added a sound quality unavailable to men-only groups. Broadens the appeal of our music style.
- Some great performances, entertaining and enjoyable
- I liked the different sound that a mixed quartet produced in a barbershop style.
- It's more inclusive and will no doubt encourage more participation in the long run. Many members have partners who are also involved with barbershop singing so it's good that they can participate together for some of the events.
- A very poorly-worded question. It did not require an answer unless I answered "yes" to question 9. In order to have my submission accepted, I have answered this question in the most neutral way possible.
- It is not an issue for me.
- 1. The mixed harmony quartets consumed time that could have been allocated to male contestants that had higher qualifying scores than some of the mixed harmony quartets, but were not given qualification to the National Open contest.
2. I joined an organisation dedicated to male barbershop singing. One of the major delights of being a member of that organisation is the fraternity and ambience generated by a males-only environment.
3. The presence of mixed harmony quartets and a chorus added absolutely nothing to the Convention, and I consider their presence in contest an intrusion.

- I was only able to participate because of the inclusion of mixed harmony. I wouldn't have enjoyed the convention nearly as much if it hadn't been a part of the events. I wouldn't have actually paid to be a full delegate and I likely would not have flown to Melbourne just to come and watch.
- Because it is good to see women involved in BHA
- It was interesting but not value-adding and compromises opportunities for male only quartets.
- it was a good change
- The mixed chorus was ordinary. the winning quartet was exceptionally good.
- The Baden Street Singers' first performance at the Federation Square venue was excellent. Probably the best performance next to Vocal Spectrum, who were of course almost flawless.
- No problem having mixed quartets but should have a tougher cut off standard to make the finals
- Something different as I find an over saturation of our genre. The mixed groups gave us something different but the same.
- I would probably have enjoyed seeing a magician and a comedian as well - doesn't mean BHA should change to include these things.

I enjoy singing in mixed groups as much as anybody else, probably more than most (I am in a 4 men / 4 women octet) so my response below is in no way driven by any conception that mixed harmony singing is any less enjoyable than men-only.

If a majority of our members decide it is best/easiest to answer 'Yes' to question 11, then I will support that decision to the full.

- I came to a Male Based Vocal event. Several of the Mixed Groups were of poor quality, and the two quartets where the males were impersonating females by singing the octaves higher were an embarrassment
- While i support mixed harmony having a place to be involved, i disagree that it is in the mens contest. I would support a seperate contest involving mixed groups but feel that it doesn't belong mixed in with the mens contest.
- It was great to see a variety of ensembles on stage, and the mixed harmony gave an outlet - in a recognized environment- for some of the most enthusiastic and avid supporters of barbershop (both men and women) to combine to create some great harmonies. This opportunity is a great addition to the BHA contest.
- This was a waste of convention time which could have been utilised on additional men's activities. We would have sooner enjoyed hearing more men's harmony singing.
- I have sung in mixed quartets all my life and I do not think the barbershop arrangements suit the voice mix anywhere as well as the normal SATB arrangements.
- It's refreshing to hear how the quartet/chorus sounds. If it's done well it sounds great. If it isn't it's terrible....that quartet Double something...oh they won apparently :-)
- Mixed voice harmony has a different sound to it. Some like the sound less, so no male ensemble should be forced to take in women. But new mixed ensembles are a welcome addition to the organisation. From a social perspective, the absence of ensembles with women has made it less fun to be in, and seeing some mixed harmony is a welcome change. Baden Street Singers demonstrated well the new choreo opportunities that mixed ensembles brings.
- Mixed harmony is a really fantastic and important addition to BHS. I really enjoyed it being a part of the convention.

Question 11. Overall, would you support the ongoing inclusion of mixed harmony contests in future BHA national conventions? Can you explain your answer to question 11?

- See above.
- The art form is moving towards mixed harmony. We should embrace that change.
- Yes, it adds variety and provides an opportunity for couples to sing together.
- Great way to move into the future and of course uphold gender equality, anything less is just crazy ?!

- I have many friends in mixed quartets, and i'd hate to see them not included in the festivities
- no
- we are in 2015. does not interfere with all mens concept as I see it
- I don't agree with the inclusion of mixed Harmony in the Convention and did not enjoy the experience.
- Great idea
- I think I would require a certain score floor for them to meet before they can be brought to nationals, I wouldn't want the public getting a distorted view about our society.
- Gives variety, and an extra challenge for those involved.
- See answer to Q.10
- I would like to attend the International Mixed Contest so keep 'em coming.
- good opportunity to spread the word of barbershop...
- There is literally no downside to it. It is not making us into a mixed harmony organisation, but it is great to increase involvement from others.
- Can harness the different strengths, especially organizational of both men & women.
- No further comments.
- Good to have the option there as a competitor but I would definitely not want to see all-male quartets lose the opportunity to qualify because we include mixed groups.
- As above comments question 10
- However we need to be careful with the amount of mixed allowed in a convention, otherwise it could take over from what should predominantly be a mens convention. The mixed should never be allowed to take up more than a third of the competition in time, otherwise the whole experience would be too long. Only mixed quartets should be allowed, not mixed choruses. Those competing in the mixed quartets should equally find the women's Sweet Adelines conventions as an additional stage for their performances.
- I am totally against mixed choruses as part of BHA. Their introduction was done by stealth by those individuals who all have a vested interest and I am absolutely certain that the majority of the membership feel the same way. I have nothing against mixed choirs at all and for many years have belonged to one myself, however I believe that BHA IS a men's club and was constituted that way. For folks that enjoy singing "mixed" - fine - start another club there is NO place for mixed choirs in our club in my view!
- see previous
- Because I believe it would add to the enjoyment of the participants and the audience
- Anything that grows the sport and relationship between the singers is good.
- I think it adds to the interest of the contest. But, just like the other quartets have to qualify to be at National Contest, I think the mixed groups should also have to meet a minimum score at regional contest. Having said that, I also think that the standard for Senior Quartets to qualify also needs to be higher.
- I do support the ongoing inclusion of mixed harmony contests in future BHA national conventions.
- Adds a new dimension to the convention. Fully support!
- It adds another dimension to great harmony.
- Adds variety to an otherwise male dominated event.
- Doesn't add anything to convention for me personally (until I form a mixed quartet I guess). Happy for it to continue if we have enough participants.

As long as the event is predominantly a men's event, we already have a bunch of women there as partners and supporters etc, so a few more as competitors just gets more people there overall.

- I like the genre
- I support variety.
- Not fussed at all about the continuation of a mixed competition in the future. Doesn't affect me much, but very happy for it to continue.

- Like I said, the more the merrier
- This gives those partners of wives who wish to sing an opportunity to do so.
- May appeal to prospective new members and showcases barbershop for everyone
- im in one
- Not really interested
- I just didn't feel they were the same genre.
- SAI won't have them.
ANCA and Vocal Australia don't really focus on BBS - so I guess it falls to us.
- Mixed comp could be run on a desperate day, like junior comps.
- I think they'll take a while to catch on. Probably there are choruses who could combine together and do something less serious than our normal all male chorus
- Just adds an interesting dimension to the whole event.
- see above
- Adds a different dimension.
- No
- Variety and inclusivity
- No serious reasons why not and a positive way forward for BHA, new members, new interest.
- I repeat, added variety, colour, interest, women.
- Adds colour
- As above.
- See the previous text answer, but all I really need to say is that this is a harmony singing event and more good harmonic singing is only a good thing.
- Yes, Mixed harmony should be a thing.

I think it should be part of the quartet semifinals but be a whole section of just mixed quartets.

worst case scenario - everyone who is opposed to it can leave the hall.

best case - we hear them all together. it is easier for the judges and audience.

- Happy for it to continue.
- It's progressive, broadens the market.
- I see no reason for them not to be there.
- I think it is inevitable that mixed harmony quartets and choruses will increase in number and quality from this point of time. it seems like an international trend and I hope BHA supports their inclusion.
- I would like to see the rules relaxed to make it easier for a male chorus to combine with a female chorus and enter the mixed section. I think singing mixed harmony is a valid art form and it should have a place in our competition.
- Yes.
- It is not an issue for me.
- 1. I believe such a move would be contrary to the spirit of our organisation, developed and nurtured over almost three decades.
2. Such a move will lead to more significant loss of contest time for our male members, and the development of argument, ill-feeling and other undesirable occurrences within the organisation.
3. There is absolutely no need for this intrusion into our operations. There are organisations around the world that separately cater for male, female and mixed barbershop groups. There are also some organisations that cater for various combinations of these three groups. Ours is not, by design, one of them.
4. Council changed a Standing Order to enable the Mixed group contests to take place at the last convention. This was a questionable action in law, as it may be found that the Constitution, by defining the name of our organisation 'Association of Men Barbershop Singers', determines that the organisation operate on behalf of male singers. Nothing in the Constitution gives

Council power to operate on behalf of female singers.

- Obviously. I would like to continue to be able to participate and I love to see others enjoying the presence of mixed harmony whether participating in it personally or being an audience member and seeing mixed groups perform.
- Because it is important for the future to have women involved in BHA and possibly integration with SAA
- If it is a direction that the world is going towards and it is demonstrably going to improve barbershop participation rates then it's worth it, however I'm not sure that it adds as much value for the "rank and file" member as it does for the top 10% who often get multiple performance opportunities.
- i believe it should be done at national contests.
- Barbershop is 4 part men's harmony, and the arrangements are made for male voices.

When word gets around that mixed harmony is excepted, we could be swamped with it , then it would cease to be a barbershop convention.

- I personally have no issue with mixed harmony, as long as they are judged in separate categories, which I believe is exactly what is happening. Particularly if the Baden Street Singers keep improving lol!
- As long as there is a separate section for mixed quartets and choruses that do not have any influence on the mens singing groups I have no issue with them being included
- I think it is a necessary step to grow our organisation and a tool to attract another audience to our genre. Artists love to perform and this brings new blood and interest
- I suspect the inclusion of mixed groups in men's Barbershop groups is not driven (insisted upon) by our members, but rather by some of their female acquaintances.

Sweet Adelines will probably continue to be women-only but many women do not like the idea that men should be able to exclude them. Many barbershoppers feel obliged to follow this illogical and unfair rationale because it is seen as politically correct. We should both stand up for our right to have a "men-only cave" and a "ladies-only circle". There are plenty of other mixed ensemble clubs/competitions.

- Please see answers above
- I am happy for mixed harmony to have a voice but i feel it should be seperate from the main contest. I feel it is unfair that the youth are separated out, and especially the youth quartets when mixed harmony, which doesn't fit into our Constitution gets to present on the main stage.
- I would love for this segment of the competition to grow and become much more competitive and prestigious!
- I am not in favour of mixed harmony in AAMBS. The Association is presently a men's form of art and I'd like it to stay that way. Will reconsider my Membership if there is a change.
- See above
- Mixed barbershop isn't like women's barbershop (shouldn't happen). If it's the right combination with the right singing parts it works wonderfully. It's an extremely good addition to our society. It's an extra contest for you to chose to be part of. It bring women to our conventions. It boosts numbers. It's promoting barbershop in a very good way. Please don't invite Sweet Adelines. They can continue their own way. Thank you.
- Mixed voice harmony has a different sound to it. Some like the sound less, so no male ensemble should be forced to take in women. But new mixed ensembles are a welcome addition to the organisation. From a social perspective, the absence of ensembles with women has made it less fun to be in, and seeing some mixed harmony is a welcome change. Baden Street Singers demonstrated well the new choreo opportunities that mixed ensembles brings.
- It's really important in my mind to allow and support this inclusion. Why should we be so stubborn and backwards minded to suggest that men and women can't sing together? It's a great thing!

Question 12. On the absolute understanding that BHA will NOT now, or in the future, be requiring or asking any chorus or club to become a mixed group, would you vote for a change to the BHA Constitution that simply allows for the inclusion of mixed harmony contests at BHA contests ONLY? Can you explain your answer to question 12?

- I would be delighted to see this happen.
- It's time. Mixed harmony will only help to grow and support our art form into the future.
- i would also be happy to b come a mixed chorus in the future too, don't see a problem either way
- I say yes, as long as there is a qualification process. i would like to see a max of 10 mixed groups at the national, that qualify from the regional competitions. Being a BHS affiliate, we still need to focus on the men's quartets/choruses
- I believe we should stay an all male organisation.
- I think that its good to include the mixed contest, but I think it takes up a lot of time and can make what is a long contest even longer.
- As long as it doesn't turn us all gay.
- good opportunity to spread the word of barbershop...
- I can't believe we have to have this spelt out so much. Thank you I.F, for your influence in this regard. Sigh.

Yes, let's move forward out of the dark ages and embrace mixed harmony.

- Still gives Clubs a choice
- No further comments.
- I would want to see more information about this, specifically re my answer to Q.11, but in principle, I would support it.
- As long as the integrity of clubs is protected then I'm OK with a change.
- Mens and womens barbershop have been separated for good reason. So that they can identify as one or the other. However that should not stop a limited number mixed quartets.
- We barely have enough time to stage the men's choruses at a convention, and the inclusion of other mixed groups can only be done by the non-inclusion of some of our men competitors.
- I have seen from personal experience in Rotary the benefits gained from having female members.
- But it comes with a proviso that they enter and compete as a separate category.
- It's an area of growth for the promotion of barbershop and therefore should be promoted, but not forced
- Given that all that will change is the opportunity for mixed to participate, on balance I am in favour.
- I don't mind, as long as men's choruses are not penalised
- I support variety.
- Same as above, completely happy for mixed groups to be a part of BHA competitions. More the merrier!
- I'm not sure why we would need a constitutional change. Having an "auxiliary" contest has always worked in the past - call it what you will. If we allow female members then will we not annoy the SAI?
- I think that quartets in particular should be encouraged and that those areas where current choruses are finding difficulty in sustaining their existence mayfind an answer by including women singers.
- it's progressive
- im in a mixed harmony choirs
- Why should'nt they be able to hold their own contest and conventions
- It's a different genre so needs a different platform.
- Sure - at comp - it's the only place they can have the barbershop experiece ie international judges etc.

Don't half the other societies include mixed? Just get on with it! If it grows to be bigger than ben hur then sure they can a separate comp - but in the meantime let's support the movement.

- I don't think there is enough time to include the mixed comp into the bha open/senior comp. Bha can still encourage mixed at regional comps and prior to open/senior.
- If it catches on then maybe we should look at it more seriously. Until then I'd leave it as is - kind of like an exhibition sport in the olympics
- Don't think it's necessary to change the Constitution, is it? It would just cause to much unnecessary controversy and tiresome debates. Can't we just vote on the permanent change to the Standing Orders without a constitutional amendment? If we make an amendment to the Constitution to include mixed harmony, can we also make an amendment granting the right to bear arms?
- I'm afraid it won't be up to BHA. Once the floodgates are opened, anyone who wants in can cry "discrimination" if they are not allowed into a chorus whether the group wants to go mixed or not. I think we are setting ourselves up for a terrible legal row but time will tell.
- I find the wording of your question somewhat convoluted.
- I'm happy as it is.
- As above
- Men's barbershop must remain distinct and separate from women's or mixes choruses, but I'm happy to provide mixed harmony variety at BHA contests. Perhaps consider a maximum number or percentage of mixed quartets.
- broadens appeal of the craft
- Again I reiterate that the mixed groups offer increased potential for enjoyable singing and adds variety so I am strongly for it.
- Sure. if that's what people want, why not.

I know my chorus/club wont ever become mixed but if that is what the group wants, why not?

- See my responses above
- Geez, it's 2015!!!!
- I support this concept. I'm not sure why you add the last word 'ONLY' to this possible change to the constitution - why restrict other possible options?
- Yes.
- It is not an issue for me.
- See my answers to Questions 10 & 11.
- I will continue to say the same thing if you keep asking the same question.

Obviously. I would like to continue to be able to participate and I love to see others enjoying the presence of mixed harmony whether participating in it personally or being an audience member and seeing mixed groups perform.

- Because everyone should be included in BHA
- PROVIDED It absolutely must not reduce male member opportunity to participate, compete, perform and develop at conventions. If it grew, I'd suggest you need to split the contests to male and mixed, as the females are well catered for by Sweet Adelines.
- yes
- No.
- As I said in my answer to question 11, I have no objection to mixed groups. What I do object to is the BHA Council not calling a referendum before such changes occurred. The discussion and a vote from the membership base should have happened before the inclusion of mixed groups.
- It is another dimension of our craft and adds quality variety rather than hearing the same old thing.
- See above
- There is no need for a change to the Constitution. What we need is for the National Council to respect and comply with the Constituion we have in place.
- While our trading name is 'Barbershop Harmony Australia', we are legally the 'Australian Association of Mens Barbershop Singers'. It does not fit with our ethos or our 'safe space'

environment. SAI are not budging and nor should we constitutionally. Adding mixed contests to the constitution is really adding mixed harmony to the constitution which makes us no longer a mens singing organization.

- This would increase diversity and make for a stronger organization, opening opportunities for ensembles to form where they otherwise wouldn't have been able to. This is in addition to allowing clubs to do as they wish, and in no way is forcing them to do anything different!
- I am not in favour of mixed harmony in AAMBS. The Association is presently a men's form of art and I'd like it to stay that way. Will reconsider my Membership if there is a change.
- See above
- Yes bring on mixed contest and mixed choruses.
- New mixed ensembles are a welcome addition to the organisation. From a social perspective, the absence of ensembles with women has made it less fun to be in, and seeing some mixed harmony is a welcome change. Baden Street Singers demonstrated well the new choreo opportunities that mixed ensembles brings.

Question 13. Will you be attending BHA's 2016 Convention in Newcastle? What do you base your decision upon when deciding to attend Newcastle 2016?

- I will have moved overseas
- My chorus will be performing as the Champion chorus!
- I love singing
- Gotta try and win.
- The fact that i'm more or less an addict for barbershop
- If there is a chorus to sing with and I am available at the time.
- I like going to Conventions
- I love Barbershop and travel :-)
- It will be a good convention as its the first annual and also people will be more pumped for it.
- Out of the country. Yearly conventions will mean I miss on a lot of off years
- Bacon
- Melbourne was great.. want to have anther great experience.
- Barbershop!! Who doesn't want more of it?
- Finances
- Many factors
- That it will be within my budget and because they are fun to attend. Get to catch up with friends and opportunity to perform/compete.
- Personal interest

I'm not sure my chorus will participate

- Family commitments
- We live on the Central Coast and could not possibly fail to support our Newcastle "mates" as many of them started their barbershopping with us (Soundwaves)
- we would always be in competition mode. the fun could disappear
- Whether my Chorus attends or not may have some bearing - if they went, then 100% yes. If not, still a good possibility.
- I will not be recommending the chorus attends, as this limits the chorus enjoyment, community singing, singer and repertoire development in the 'off year'. Competition is important and evaluation of our performance as a group is critical, but so to is the engagement of the local community, developing participation and repertoire. Interstate flight and accommodation is an expense which impacts on lifestyle and available time.
- It's close to home. I don't ask my spouse for permission.
- Finances.

Work leave (I have to take two weeks minimum at Christmas time. In the last few years I've done Melbourne, New Zealand and Perth. That's a lot of time I indulge myself that takes me away from family. Taking one or two weeks (if I do HC) for my hobby, that takes me away from my family and chews up a bulk of discretionary spending money.

I'm all for having convention every year - it just means I can't go every time.

- Financial
- In one role or another I expect to be there.
- As part of the the gold medal chorus Sound Connection and the Seniors Quartet gold medal quartet Benchmark.
- Cost

Time away from family.

- I will attend any convention I can; but in this case my chorus and quartet are attending.
- Unlikely our chorus will be available to compete. If my quartet attends, I will be there.
- Possible clash with planned holiday in Europe
- Competing in my quartet and chorus is so much fun for me; I wouldn't miss this convention for anything.
- Quartet qualification and cost as well as work/home factors
- Affordability both money and time wise.
- Won't be attending. Limited income - budget restrictions. The cashed up will go, but out of reach for others. It may work for eastern states choruses but prohibitive for a lot of us in WA. Simple as that.
- my experience in Melbourne and the fact that i want to support my choirs
- Too expensive with air fares and accomodation on top of convention fees.
- Whether my quartet qualifies.
- I want my groups to qualify for international and actually then go to international.
- Vote from our members to attend as chorus. If our chorus does not compete I will compete in quartet.
- Its not far from Sydney. I think a lot of people won't though since the year after is a Pan Pacs in Sydney
- Having fun.
- Preparing for National competition is a lot of work. I enjoy singing in the off year, improving my chorus and expanding our repertoire. Too much effort is expended on too few songs in contest years. Plus there is no way we could afford to go every year.
- I love BBS, after 37 years of singing it and Newcastle allows my wife to visit her mum near Sydney.
- I Love the Blenders comradery.
- Want to go!
- Location
- I try my best to be fiscally responsible. I have a home loan to pay off. I will consider the event the year after.
- this year was lots of fun
- It's too expensive to go every year, leave as every two years.
- Proximity, appeal, interest.
- singing in quartet.
- Canberra is in the Eastern Region and Newcastle can be reached by air or by car. Now that conventions are being held annually, BHA may find that some choruses may struggle to attend every year. All the more reason to make them as exciting as Melbourne!
- Not sure if my chorus will be able to get enough members to attend.
- ??
- I enjoy conventions

- Inclusion of contests for mixed quartets and/or choruses would be a large factor in my arriving at a decision not to go.
 - The mixed youth chorus that I am a part of is hoping to head towards competing in the youth events and I would like to find a way of participating in the rest of the convention as well. But I really enjoy the style and the culture and like to try and participate in any event as much as I can.
 - Expensive to attend yearly conventions
 - Opportunities to compete and have greater participation than presented in Melbourne. Chorus appetite for participation. There may be a desire for sub groups of larger choruses to participate so the rules of these chorus make-up should facilitate this.
 - if my chorus goes I will go, if not no.
 - Finance and age, I'm 77.
 - Wanting to improve and maximise the enjoyment I get from this unique art form. Never know when you're going to die, so you might as well do as much as you can.... Also, don't the champions have to sit out for a year or two??
 - Because I can
 - First of the Annual events and I am hoping to have seniors quartet compete.
 - No mandate was given to National Council to conduct annual events. With Conventions occurring so regularly, groups will no longer have the time, nor the inclination to prepare anything special for the Contest and it will deteriorate into a procession of groups just singing 2 songs from their normal club repertoire. How boring is that? National Council has predicted a participation rate of < 60%, and they are happy to accept that. That is simply not satisfactory
 - Chorus has decided to attend.
 - It's barbershop. Of course I'll be there
 - May not be around
 - As I am based in Sydney the cost is not excessive but the final decision will depend on a few other variables which are personal.
 - Choruses plan.
- Quartet plan.
- Overall cost. Not sure if members ever got consulted over the change to annual conventions.

Question 14. What changes would most improve BHA's 2016 Convention in Newcastle?

- NA
 - More presence of local guides before the convention who could recommend places to eat, stay, rehearse etc. That would satisfy a lot of the confusion of those who have never been to the city.
 - Somewhere better for Harmony College would be great, the Victorian version was pretty bad both in terms of accommodation, facilities, water & food (although we had great time and people were lovely)
 - more time with youth chorus
 - a unified afterglow, availability of information to quartet and chorus competitors. and an official sing with the champs
 - All functions in the same area and either no mixed Harmony or at least held on a separate day.
 - I wasn't happy sitting with new guys at the welcome dinner. Would have preferred to be with my chorus mates - on the first night, at least.
- Sunday Lunch way too expensive
- Good venue, good webcast and a prepack information on Newcastle and how to get around and where to eat, etc.
 - Cannot think of any
 - Slight rescheduling of events to allow more youth involvement/interaction and to allow quartets a break between heats/finals

- See No. 4
- It may be nice to have a little more free time at convention - sometimes feel like we are rushing from one event to the next, to rehearsal in between, to something else....

I love the variety, and the camaraderie, but maybe one or two less things to do would be nice!

- Closely co located venue locations
- Replace the opening dinner with a less expensive cocktail gathering.
Reduce the registration fee for full delegates and partner delegates.
- Online registration to be improved.
More competitor information on the website earlier.
Downloadable pdf (or app) of the programme so I don't have carry around paper version or have internet access to view website.
Less formal farewell lunch.
- If Newcastle is run the same as Melbourne was it will be great.
- No Mixed teams and an "appropriate" venue for the mass sing.
- Stop self-congratulatory speeches at the opening dinner - save them for the farewell lunch.
Scrap the farewell lunch!
Don't have a "celebrity" MC for Saturday night show. Waste of money.
Scrap the formal welcome and public singout.
- Schedule it for 2017 and outside the AFL finals times.
- Not sure on this one ...
- KISS - keep it simple and provide opportunities for not only listening to the contest but for time for socialising. Keep the dinner and lunch costs to good basic food.
- Reduction in registration fee to match the smaller attendance and cheaper venues. I expect BHA to pass on these savings to it's members through a reduced registration fee.
Improved food quality particularly for the farewell lunch and harmony college.
- Venues closer
eval schedule told during traffic pattern/ posted on wallls
- All things (comp, dinner, registration, briefings etc) in the same venue.
- 1. No (or changed) dinner format
2. Online everything
3. Great quartet visitor
4. Maintain webcast
- Smaller more affordable venue for lesser attendees.
- move it to 2017
- don't know
- Ability to pay for the days I can go.
- Hmm... Not sure - dealing with lower attendance?
- More encouragement and emphasis on youth/school events and prizes.
Maybe we could speed up quartet evaluations by holding group sessions of similarly scored quartets.
- Don't try to cram so much in- but what could you leave out?
- Extend it a day or two to allow choruses time to make final preparations and people to enjoy the cities they visit.
- More peripheral performances around the city, like the one in Church.
- No welcome dinner, or make it optional
- Lower costs, more compact venue spread..
- Biennial BHA conventions. That is, hold it in 2017!
- None
- No comment as I probably won't attend.
- Venues and the bulk of hotels close together.

A well thought out afterglow

- Downsize it.
- Close location of venues
- This is the first annual one - can't make changes yet.
- Consider some day trips or half-day tours for partners of delegates to help get the numbers up for the contests and concerts. Consider where to hold the afterglow on the final night so that delegates will enjoy the camaraderie and fun of singing tags together in the one venue. Consider giving a helpful early bird discount for registration that ties in with the timing of discounted air fares - to get choruses moving and get the numbers of registrations up quickly.
- Look carefully at costs particularly for partners. I don't think a President's reception is absolutely necessary. Make sure that the Farewell Lunch is better value for money.
- Nothing to add
- Removal of contests for mixed quartets and choruses.
- Venue choices are important, it wouldn't be a change, but it is something to keep in mind. Less travel between venues to save time for other valuable things. Less contest of the inclusion of mixed harmony would make it a lot more comfortable but that is not really a change that can be controlled. Better scheduling that allows for as much participation as possible and better choices of times for quartet evaluations.
- All events in one location. Non-competing quartet opportunities for perform. Less dominance of the same faces in multiple quartets essentially competing against themselves for medals. Perhaps quartet members scoring greater than 70 qualification can only compete in one quartet? Perhaps only scarce parts can compete in more than one quartet? Consider running mixed as a separate competition perhaps on the Thursday evening. Consider running a seniors quartet competition separate from open.
- having the welcome dinner a little closer to the competition venue

releasing the scores for you YSIH contest - it does not by any means give an advantage to the open contest! the hard work is already put in in the lead up to the event! (Evaluations I understand)

Find a venue that allows us to take bags into auditorium!!

- Can't think of any.
- Give us a better afterglow and try not to charge us \$400 a head, if possible. That's really it.
- I would like BHA to consider October for future conventions to avoid clashing with footy finals
- Allow some time in the programme for both punters and contestants to take a breather. Sunday is an example with Forum, church service, evaluations etc. Can't do all of them and the comp in the first 2 days is very full.
- Short distances between all venues

Lower registration costs

Lower accommodation costs

Shorter duration

- Obviously the removal of Mixed Groups
- Youth participants should be given scores following contest (in BHS CBQC competitors have always received scores even if they are competing in open). Welcome dinner should be before the youth contest to encourage attendance by all delegates. Convention should be shorter to minimise time off now that we are annual. Only youth (or just aged out groups) should sing on the youth show. Keep the dinner, lunch, evals and meetings closer to the performance venue.
- Make it at least as good as Melbourne.
- Better Members Convention Dinner meal.

Wives seated with husband for Showcase

- Better co-ordination of the chorus coral.

- Bring forward chorus contest. Finish with quartet finals and then showcase and afterglow Saturday only. It's a very long day. Welcome dinner Wednesday. YSIH Tuesday. Quartet semis Friday.
- Don't make harmony college too short. I was happy with three days. It takes a lot of effort on our part simply to be present with luggage and to sort out accommodation etc, and these costs are fixed, however the benefits are fewer when the program is shorter.

Please take action to endorse the new polecat book soon as the material for the massed sing in Newcastle, giving the old polecats the heave-ho, and letting Australia's choruses have time to bulk order the new books and learn the repertoire.

Question 15. Thanks for taking part in the survey! Do you have any other comments, question, concerns or issues that you would like to add?

- NA
- I have nothing further to add.
- I know a lot of people were appalled by Dennis Walter singing but I thought it was hilarious and didn't detract from the showcase at all.
- Can we never do such a bad harmony college ever again, that retreat was terrible and even embarrassing to our overseas colleagues ! I am happy to pay more !
- cheers
- Who's the guest quartet going to be.... I hear Realtime are back together again?
- no
- keep up the good work
- No
- Harmony College was disorganised. I heard that the Dean of the College, hadn't even visited the campus beforehand.
Food was awful
Tuition was fantastic
- N/A
- ggg
- no
- Can we legislate that mixed groups have to contain good looking chicks only? If so, I also look forward to the introduction of wet-t-shirt-harmony
- See No. 4
- You guys rock. Thanks for all the hard work you do for BHA.
- Thank you to the organizers.
- No further comments.
- No.
- I would very much like to thank the organisers of the convention for the great experience I had
- no
- Well done to all the organizers of the Melbourne Convention
- no
- No
- Why such a long time to complete the survey???...30/10/2016!

I suggest it would be better if you knew the results before the next convention is held!!

- No
- It might be worth considering whether or not we can have a whole convention in just a Saturday and Sunday? Does every year have to be a "full contest" as we currently know it? Is there a way we could do a streamlined version every second year that was a quick and sharp, low cost

event?

Is there a long weekend we could do it over for a three day event.

We always seem to have it in the winter months when colds and flu are rampant. Have we tried early Autumn?

- My family loved the live stream, as we couldn't afford to all travel
- not via this method :)
- Not sure if there will be a similar questionnaire on the Harmony College so my comments on this are:
 - . extremely well run and organised from an education point of view and the faculty were of the highest standard and approachable.
 - . venue was good but the long cold walk to the dining room was a bit uncomfortable at times.
 - . the email prior to harmony college regarding the shirt sizes specifically stated that if you had already pre-ordered a convention shirt then you didn't need to reply with shirt size. As I had pre-ordered a convention I therefore didn't reply as instructed. However when I got to HC there wasn't a shirt reserved for me in my size and I had to eventually settle for a shirt which was not my size. This was not my fault but a fault of the organisation...!!!
 - . the BIG minus though was the POOR quality of the cooked food. It was basically low cost bulk non-nutritious all carbs rubbish...which put a dampener on a brilliant Harmony College. This is not just my opinion but the opinion of ALL my colleagues and became a running JOKE of "what garbage food will be served up at the next meal!!" The food quality needs to be closely investigated at future harmony colleges.
- none
- No, thank you.
- No
- No.
- What are the rules as far as champion groups and sitting out/recompeting? This has not made it to the average chorus member..
- No - just finalise the women thing!
- Nice that the Sunday Church service custom is retained - a fitting finale to the week and opportunity to chat to local residents who might not be barbershoppers. They seem to enjoy it, too.
- Thank you for the convention i appreciated and loved it!!!
- Reimbursing the members for the atrocious catering would be good
- Good jahb. Thank you for providing a feedback survey.
- No
- No
- No
- I found this year's harmony college a bit disappointing compared to the last two. I would have liked to have more technical and technique curriculum. This year was a lot of "watch this video and see what this other group did well" not enough of "Here is a worthwhile technique- now practice it and let's see how well you assimilate it."
- Nope
- No
- N/a
- No
- Annual BHA conventions achieved better outcomes.
- No
- No.
- No.
- None that I haven't already mentioned.
- Going back to the Staging of the contest, I would really like to see a national standard of microphones and speakers (foldback and FoH)

This will ensure everyone is familiar with the best case national setup and knows what to expect.

perhaps BHA can purchase the microphone and send it to the regions as required?

For a long time, BHS used a Schoeps CMXY 4V.

Its small and discreet, and gives an excellent pattern coverage

- This was my first convention and whilst finding it most enjoyable thought it was a little expensive and could be still enjoyable by downsizing and cost cutting or find some more major sponsorship.
- Final concert was a rave! I would definitely buy that on DVD. Live streaming of the competition was a huge plus
- Keep up the good work. A BIG Thank you to all involved from BHA and the organising committee.
- Thanks for the survey. A great idea. Cheers.
- I think a biennial national convention is more sustainable for our chorus.
- Yes.
- No
- I trust that this survey will not provide the only means of Council surveying members on the Mixed Harmony question. To include questions on this issue - probably the most controversial and important issue with which Council has ever had to deal - as a small part of a survey about the last convention is not to survey the whole membership. Past history indicates that by using this means alone, at least a third of the membership will not be covered. Those that did not go to the last convention cannot and will not even attempt to submit answers to this survey. Further, some members that did go to the convention but do not submit answers to this survey will not even know that it contains questions regarding mixed harmony unless someone tells them. Thus any analysis of the answers submitted to Questions 10, 11 & 12 will be pointless because a very large proportion of the membership has not been asked, or able, to provide such answers.
- No, thank you. I believe I have said something on all the points I wanted to address.
- No
- Great job in sending the survey and thank you for the time that you as volunteers commit to this organisation!
- harmony college was great, Alex is a champion!
- Congratulations Melbournaires.
- Nope! Keep making these things awesome! Also, who's going to be the marquee quartet next year?????
- As I will be part of the organising committee I will be hoping to provide BHA with all the best that ER can do to emulate Melbourne.
- Would love the church service to be part of the convention rather than an add on. When I have organised them in 1999 and 2011, I picked a large venue for 600, spoke with the minister involved, linked the liturgy of the day with the theme of our convention. I then organised readers and choruses to support the service. The minister then involved his congregation to be part of this section of the convention.
- No
- National Council do a good job in the main and we are fortunate to have them on board. Unfortunately, it is run as a personal power vehicle by President Ian M, as evidenced by the complete silence by other Council members on pretty much every other matter that comes up, and Ian's signature on on so much correspondence. Common practice is that communication to/from such organisation should be via the Secratry. Don't we have a Secretary?
- None
- Thank you
- How can Newcastle possibly stage a convention like we have had at the Capital Cities? The Facilities don't stack up and aren't big enough. Do not agree with this decision - who made it?

- No
- Can the people highly against mixed barbershop start their own organisation? Honestly, what does this change for them? are they sad that they have no mixed chorus/quartet to compete in. Are they incapable of making mixed harmony work. Is it their flaw. Is it just not working for them. Their choices. I'd hope mixed harmony gets more people saying yes. It's a great move!
- Being a barbershopper is fun, but the hobby becomes expensive when you have to attend so many conventions. Preparing for conventions takes a lot of chorus rehearsal time, so there is less time for the chorus' other pursuits, like learning other non-competition repertoire (usually more fun) and having more concerts. I was happier with conventions every second year and staying for a three-day harmony college.
- Yeah so asking me to explain my answer that I gave in the multiple choice question is fine, but making it compulsory is annoying because often they were pretty self-explanatory in my mind. Make it optional so that if someone wants to elaborate they can, and then make an 'improvements' box and 'positives' box (for example) compulsory so you can see what we liked and disliked if we haven't already said it. Also it would be really handy if this were emailed out to everyone (I didn't get the email link to this survey, and had to have it forwarded to me, which happened AFTER the submission due date).

END