FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Best of Barbershop

For most of us barbershopping revolves around the enjoyment we experience at our weekly rehearsals. For those still at full time jobs it's a chance to unwind and forget the pressures of the day. For retirees, it's a highlight of the day........ an event that provides enjoyment, education, camaraderie, and satisfaction. But I would ask all of you to look beyond your local events and consider the barbershop events outside your local Chapter, which may provide an experience of a lifetime........ at least in terms of our artform.

The Barbershop Harmony Society has an annual Convention and competition, known informally as "Internationals." It's held at various cities in the US or Canada, and always over the 4th of July weekend. If you are contemplating a vacation anywhere.... as a tourist......I heartily recommend incorporating the 6 days of Internationals as a featured event in your trip. You can hear the top 50 quartets in the World, and the top 24 choruses, including our Australian representatives. For shoppers there are over 100 stalls at the Harmony Marketplace. Sing with the Champs, special education classes, Gold Medal Hour with the reigning champion chorus and quartet, master classes, and last but not least, the Association of Champions show, and the World Harmony Jamboree. All of this is packed into Wednesday morning through Saturday midnight, with a few optional events on the Tuesday before and Sunday after. Tours of the host city and surroundings are always available.

Another terrific "off-shore" event, which many of you have attended, is the Pan Pacific Convention. Started by Sounds of Aloha, the Convention is again in beautiful Hawaii next October. Barbershoppers from the US, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia will join for a festival of fellowship, friendly competition, performances, and all things barbershop. Again, the opportunity to visit one of the most scenic places in the World comes as a bonus. And...... our "sister singers", Sweet Adelines International, have their Convention at the same location, on the weekend following Pan Pac.

Last, but certainly not least, I would hope that 100% of our Australian choruses and members experience the joys of our next AAMBS Convention and Harmony College in Hobart in 2009. The Convention is where we all present our best effort........showing off how much we've improved as performers and presenters of our beloved artform.....where we renew friendships, and watch the world champion barbershoppers perform. Then at the College we come together for laughs, fun, a wealth of education, and great informal performances and afterglows.

The bottom line is........... Most of us can't take advantage of these wonderful events at the drop of a hat. Plan now to be able to experience these treasures. I've never met a single person that regretted going!

In Harmony,
Mike Donnelly
President, AAMBS

---

Inside this issue:

Council Reports
- Mike Donnelly, President ......................... 1
- Kevin White, Secretary .......................... 2
- Bob Fritz, VP Conventions ........................ 3
- Ian Miller, VP Music ............................. 4

Congratulations to our Esteemed President ............... 2

"Happy Snaps" – 2007 Convention ......................... 5-6

Judging Comments from Derek Cosburn ................. 7

A Question of Handicap from David Brown, CA .......... 8

Barbershop Harmony Society – Music Rules ............ 9

Club Reports
- Broadwater Connection, Miner Chords, 
- River City Clippers, Sunshine Statesmen, .......... 10-12
- Men in Harmony

Coming Events ............................................. 12

University College 2007 – report from Richard Lugg
AAMBS – The First 20 Years by Andy Aberle ........... 13

Pan Pacific Harmony 
Aussie Song Book ..................................... 14

AAMBS Calendar 2008-2011 ................................ 15
AAMBS Council details / BSN Deadlines ................. 16
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ESTEEMED PRESIDENT

The World Harmony Council (WHC)

The World Harmony Council, established by the late Ed Waesche through the renamed Barbershop Harmony Society, (now headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee), is tasked with bringing together the international barbershop close harmony organisations. Its mission is to encourage and facilitate singing in the Barbershop style throughout the world, and each year it sponsors several exchange visits by touring quartets and choruses, whose members have performed in countries such as Ireland, Israel, Germany, Poland, Russia, China and Japan.

As members of an organization that has as its motto “Keep the Whole World Singing”, we can be proud of what is taking place within the world harmony community. There are now 13 barbershop associations worldwide, which are all organized in the World Harmony Council of which our own Michael (Mike) Donnelly is the current and very pro-active President, having previously acted in that role following the sad passing last year of Ed Waesche, the renowned Arranger, Music Judge and then President.

The World Harmony Council stages an International “World Harmony Jamboree” show each year, held in conjunction with the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) organized International Convention held in the USA or Canada. All Jamboree performers give their time and effort free of charge. The proceeds resulting from this event are used by WHC to fund annual grants to each of the 13 WHC member associations for training and education in the barbershop style of harmony singing.

And we can each be proud, as we lift our voices in song with our brothers, that we can join hands in this enjoyable and rewarding musical hobby of impressive international scope, for national boundaries are non-existent as our barbershoppers unite in harmony extending across the globe

So, Big Mike, we thank you for your inspirational leadership.

From our Secretary

When is an Honorary Member not an Honorary Member of AAMBS?

Answer: When he is an Honorary Member of a Club but not appointed an Honorary Members of AAMBS.

It seems that some clubs are under the misapprehension that they don’t have to pay AAMBS Membership Fees for their own Club’s Honorary Members. The only Club members for whom fees are not payable are those appointed as Life Members or Honorary Members of AAMBS.

Also, when your Club does not pay AAMBS membership fees for a member who takes Leave of Absence from your Club, that member is not then covered under the AAMBS Insurance Policy or the AAMBS Australian Performing Rights Association cover if he attends any of your events or performs as a member of a Chorus or Quartet during this period of leave of absence.

Annual General Meeting 2007

The AAMBS Annual General Meeting is being held on Tuesday 11 December 2007 in Perth.

Please pay careful attention to completion of the proxies which are being sent to each Club Secretary, with the Notice and Meeting and Annual Reports.

Completed proxies by Financial Members not intending to be there in personal attendance at the AGM must be forwarded to me as Secretary, to be received by not later than 10 December 2007.

Sin(g)cerely,
Kevin White
From The Desk of the Vice President – Conventions

It’s hard to believe that another AAMBS Convention has come and gone and we’re well on our way with preparations for the AAMBS 10th National Convention to be held 24-27 September, 2009 in Hobart. But more about that later.

The 9th AAMBS Convention in Sydney was, by all accounts, a tremendous success, while there were the minor glitches that seem to somehow, in spite of all the preparations, be unavoidable. However, be that as it may, every effort will be made to ensure that those areas that were of concern will be corrected at future conventions. Specifically, and probably the area that caused the most complaints was the operation of the quartet and chorus evaluations. This is of vital concern to the National Council and it will be given serious attention over the next few months in an effort to come up with a solution that will not only satisfy all of those who were felt “hard done by” with what occurred in Sydney, but will also accomplish what is seen as the role that evaluations should have following our National Competitions. We have already received a number of suggestions in this regard but I invite any of you who would like to be heard on this issue, to write to me with your views. Suggestions thus far, range in view, from holding “generic” evaluations for all quartets scoring below a certain number with higher quartets receiving their evaluations at the Harmony College, all the way to adding another day to the convention in order to provide enough time for in depth evaluations for all competitors.

The idea of adding another day to the convention has other merits as well since there have also been suggestions that the Senior and Junior Quartet competitions be again separated from the Open Quartet Competition as we have done in the past. With the addition of a National Schools’ Quartet Competition it is difficult to fit all of these activities into a 4-day convention and do justice to an evaluation program. Your comments are most welcome.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Sydney Harmony Convention Committee and all of the members of Sydney Harmony who volunteered their time and effort for the incredible job that they did in hosting this convention. The Sydney Convention Centre venue was absolutely first class and from the Welcome Dinner to the Farewell Lunch, each and every event was produced with every effort being made to make each and every delegate’s experience the best one possible. I must especially commend the host chorus for the magnificent job they did in the promotion and selling of tickets to the Harmony Spectacular Concert, which was not only an artistic success but a financial one as well, much to the delight of the AAMBS National Council and the whole of the AAMBS organization which depends, very greatly, on the convention proceeds to sustain it’s yearly programs.

So what’s happening between now and Hobart? Well, there is the Pan Pacific Barbershop Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii the end of October next year. For those of you who attended the last Pan Pac Convention in Christchurch, I need not remind you of the wonderful time that these “greater” Pacific Rim conventions provide and for you who have yet to experience this exciting event, now is the time to mark your calendar and start preparing your chorus or quartet for a very special experience. For all the details, go the AAMBS website and follow the clearly marked Pan Pac logo.

In the meantime, it’s full steam ahead for preparations for Heritage Harmony in Hobart 2009. Many venues are already in place and much work has already been done by Trevor Rootes and his very hard working and able committee and you’ll be hearing a lot more about many of the new and exciting innovations they have planned for this, our very first, Tasmanian convention. It’s not too early to mark your calendars, not only for the convention but also for the Harmony College to follow.

As always, your comments, ideas, suggestions and whatever else you would like to share with me are always welcome.

Yours in harmony,
Bob Fritz
From our VP Music

Harmony College 2007 Wrap Up

Now that the college is over and I am able to become re-acquainted with many of the other aspects of my life, I realise that the time spent at Myuna Bay was very enjoyable; after the first morning, that is.

The student survey showed that, generally, the program, faculty and facilities were considered well up to standard (whatever you may consider that to be) and all returned home knowing more about our complex craft.

Some of the comments, I leave to others:

“I enjoyed the Harmony College. Thank you (and your team) for the extraordinary effort involved. I felt that there was not as much camaraderie as there has sometimes been - it didn't seem that attendees got together and sang tags, etc after the day was over. But maybe I wasn't in the right spot! I met one new attendee at the end of the first day who was not going to attend again as he felt isolated - fortunately after a couple of days he was looking at coming again. It could be worth while "recognising" people attending for the first time”.

“The whole setup was very good and most enjoyable. I could recommend it to all Barbershoppers”.

“Overall, I was very impressed with the sense of enjoyment and brotherhood amongst all the participants. For my first HC, I found some aspects of the timetabling a little confusing but the warmth and encouragement I received from everyone, more than made up for this short-fall. I was still ‘on a high’ for about a week after I arrived home. Congratulations”.

“It wasn't clear that some of the sessions were intended to be double sessions. As a result I attended fewer courses than I expected to. I thought that all the presenters I had seemed to have prepared well for the event. I particularly enjoyed Alan Gordon's sessions on How to be a Better Baritone but the skill sessions were very useful too. I hope to attend Harmony College in Hobart”.

“I had a great time and enjoyed every minute. Learnings: please have more than one email or detail about what to bring to the college. The email that advised about sheets, etc was mislaid. Please have the details about what's on where in more than one place so there's not as much crowding”

For those fascinated by statistics, I offer the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total attendees</th>
<th>124</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Session attendees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music Theory</th>
<th>74</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Vocal</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Directing</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sight Singing</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arranging</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand Waving</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartets</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey responders  33
Average Session score  4.1 (rated 1 to 5)
Lowest individual Average 2.6
Highest individual Average 4.8 (I'm not going to attempt to please everyone)

All in all, it was a very successful college with 20 out of the 33 intending to go to the Harmony College in Tasmania in 2009.

Ian Miller
VP Music
SINGOUT

PRESIDENT’S COCKTAIL PARTY & WELCOME DINNER

Gotcha! @ President’s Cocktail Party  Judges in Harmony  Membership Drive Winners – Geelong & Ipswich

AROUND THE TABLES
SCHOOLS’ QUARTET COMPETITION

Schools Competition Judges & VP Conventions n- Bob Fritz

Fishbowl Boys - # 1

3 Men & a Tenor - # 2

AAMBS FORUM

AAMBS Council

Forum Participants

Happiness is singing in the choir!
Hi there to all y’all.

Since being involved with the judging system for the last couple of years, it has come to my attention over the last month or two that there has been a huge amount of time, consideration, worry, and concern put in by members, because they are continually comparing the score they got this year, with the score they got last year.

By way of helping in some regard, may I suggest that the following points have a huge bearing on why no-one but NO-ONE should compare this years results with last year or any other years to follow:

1. The venue could give off a different sound to the last one.
2. The judges may be different.
3. The judging system WILL have been upgraded during the last 12/24 months. [This may reflect a reduction in score, but that does not necessarily mean you have gone backwards.
4. A quartet member may have been replaced or you may have changed your actual line up.
5. Maybe there is carpet on the floors instead of timber.
6. Maybe there are vinyl seats instead of cloth.
7. The venue could be double the size or smaller than last time
8. A number of new chorus members have been replaced, therefore a different sound.
9. The fold back on stage could vary.
10. Inexperienced [as always] sound technicians who think they know better than us.
11. The stage could be smaller ie with less room for movement.
12. You need to avoid decisions being made from within the quartet as to your ability at this stage.[get an outsider to assist]
13. Understand that you are ALL being judged under the SAME conditions by the SAME judges at the SAME time, therefore,
14. You can then listen to the evaluation and act on it to improve YOUR chorus/quartet based on today’s decisions.

All the above comments are valid reasons as to why the sound will be effected and therefore changed, and that makes it totally impossible to compare two separate competition results.

So, having said all that, may I suggest to anyone who competes from now on to take at least some of the following into account.

15. If you concern yourself with what other quartets or choruses are doing, you will NEVER do YOUR best on stage.
16. Go on stage giving yourselves the best opportunity to achieve the best result.
17. Come off the stage KNOWING you have done the best you have ever done.[the results will take care of themselves]
18. If you are a chorus, have the chorus ALL there at the evaluation,[It’s part of the learning process]
19. Remember that your chorus is the only chorus that matters when it comes to what you do with the 2 year build up prior to the next competition.
20. If you don’t have at the very least, one comp every year, you are doing your members a disservice.

I sincerely Hope that this all helps to some degree, and I look forward to seeing you all next time around.

Sing-cerely

Derek Cosburn

---

**We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing,**

**while others judge us by what we have already done.**

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth
A Question of Handicap

The Handicap system introduced at the 2005 AAMBS Convention apparently has some members mystified. The initial error in the result of the 2007 Chorus Handicap contest added to that confusion, as it indicated that the 2005 gold medallist had won it. How could that possibly be, some asked. Well, that result did contain an error, which was later corrected, showing the true winner as Deep South.

Nevertheless, there is no reason why a previous Gold Medallist cannot win the Handicap contest. It is all a matter of relativities.

The Handicap formula is spelled out in AAMBS Standing Order 6 - Contest Rules - as follows:-

7.1.4.1 A Handicap contest may be conducted in conjunction with any other contest. The contestants shall be ranked according to their handicap scores, calculated as follows:-

a) Handicap points = (Gold medallist total points score – contestant’s total points score) in the last National contest entered, minus 5 points per judge per song for each National contest missed since the last National contest entered. Appropriate adjustments will be made for more than single judging panels.

b) The minimum value of handicap points shall be 0.

c) Handicap score = total points score in current contest + handicap points.

7.1.4.2 An entrant in a Handicap contest that has not previously competed shall be allocated zero handicap points.

The allowance in this rule for varying judging panel sizes may have confused some members.

The essence of the rule is that the adjustment for panel size normalises past and present results to one standard level. This is actually achieved in the calculation by reducing all scores to a percentage of maximum possible points, before the calculation of handicap is done. For instance, a total score of 300 points awarded by a 3-judge panel for two songs is 50%, and a total score of 600 points awarded by a 6-judge panel for two songs is also 50%, thus eliminating the need to further consider panel size. The handicap calculation is then performed by allocating each contestant handicap points equal to the difference between their percentage score and the percentage score of the Gold Medallist in the last contest entered. If the contestant has missed any contests since competing last, 5 points are subtracted for each miss. The resulting handicap points are then added to the contestant’s percentage score in the current handicap, to give their Handicap Score.

Contestants are then ranked according to their Handicap Scores.

This procedure is a simple method aimed at placing every contestant on an even level, so that all have an equal chance of winning. It also contains an incentive to compete each time there is a contest!

Of course, if the contestant that last won the Gold Medal (and thus has now a handicap of 0) can score higher than everyone else by a sufficient margin, they can win the Handicap Contest. This just illustrates the aim of the contest - to give everyone an equal chance!

David Brown
AAMBS National Contest Administrator 2007
Hello Fellow Barbershoppers,

It is with great pain and regret to inform you all that we (Ignition! Quartet) were recently notified by the BHS board that we have been disqualified from the International contest in Denver. Apparently while trying to obtain the mechanical licenses for our quarter-final performance of "Truth About Men" to include on the International DVD and CD the board found that there was a fourth publisher for the song of which we were not aware.

This came as a total surprise as we had not only worked with the society’s Music Library Administrator, but had also directly contacted the publishers that were listed on the ASCAP site to make sure that we obtained the proper clearance to perform the song.

We understand that if there was in fact a publisher that we missed during the clearing process that the society could be at risk for a lawsuit if that song ended up on the DVD, but we are also very disappointed in the board's decision to disqualify since we did make every effort to properly clear the song.

Sadly, the biggest disappointment was how the board handled this issue. We initially heard about this discrepancy in early September via a two line email that included very little explanation. Then, as it turns out, we were never afforded the opportunity to address the board in our own defence. In fact, we were made to feel a bit like criminals, being found guilty until proven innocent and not the other way around. In a society that used to have the word "encouragement" in the name we would have expected to have more support from our leadership in this matter. We can only hope that if this were to happen to another quartet in the future that they will not be treated as poorly as we were.

We, the members of Ignition! Quartet, take the clearing of songs very seriously and would never deliberately perform a song we knew wasn’t cleared. As complicated as the clearing process can be in a case like this, with many publishers owning bits and pieces of the song license, one would hope that there would be some leniency in this situation. We were saddened to find out that this was not the case.

We want to take this opportunity to apologize to our family, fans, friends, and to the members of the Rocky Mountain District. You gave us so much love and support this last year and it appears we let you down. We worked very hard to climb our way from 21st to 12th to make you all proud. We will have to work twice as hard this year and double our improvement (wait, that would be 18 places which would put us in negative 6th place), ok, we will work 1 1/3 times as hard and hopefully bring another medal back to the RMD.

Since we will be the first quartet (that we know of) that has ever been left off the International CD/DVD, we hope that those of you out there who haven't seen us on stage will take this opportunity to hire us for your chapter show so we can show what "12th Place" looks like in person.

As Ignition! we love what we do and we will continue do everything in our power to bring entertaining music and performances to the public and the barbershop contest stage. This decision by the board will not keep us from pushing new limits and singing exciting songs for our fans and friends.

See you in Nashville!!!
Matt Swann
Ignition! Quartet
www.ignitionquartet.com

PS. Hold on to that recent Harmonizer, it may become a collectors edition.
Hi guys, I would like to talk about “bullying”—we’re not in a playground you say, but hey! when we meet each week, this is our playground and bullying does go on. Please remember that that innocent shove or that innocent remark can destroy the confidence of one of your members and lead to him resigning. There must be a respect for each other that is without question, as without this the chorus cannot be successful. I would suggest that if this happens to you, or has happened to you, that you can have a word with your President and sort it out.

I would also like to mention (not a kind word) but a word about “pitch pipes”. Why is it that just when you have the guys all ready, faces, body etc and you blow that pitch pipe, that it doesn’t work properly. Does anyone know of a battery pitch pipe with a clear sound that you can rely on?

Broadwater chorus has just finished a charity concert for “Youth Care” (where $2000 was donated to this charity) and I will tell you that we got a standing ovation—we opened the show and closed it. In the middle there were some wonderful acts from students from the Queensland Conservatorium. What a wonderful craft we have, it never ceases to amaze me how we bring such joy to audiences with barbershop singing. How important is Presentation, singing from the heart, telling the story, and having fun. Our next sing-out is a Probus birthday party at Springwood Hotel, then for the Lions night time Christmas carols, finishing up with a sing-out at Lennons Hotel in the city.

Janet Sippen MD
Broadwater Connection Chorus

MINER CHORDS
Firstly ... Happy Birthday to us. Miner Chords celebrated their second birthday on August 10 and what a two years it has been.

After achieving second place in our first regional competition in 2006 we managed to go one better in 2007 and win the small chorus competition in the Sunshine region. We also managed to come 3rd overall, just a little bit behind the Clippers and, of course, way behind the Blenders.

We have been supported very well both financially and emotionally by our recently “formally” formed Supporters Group. They have done a magnificent job fund raising to cover expenses for our Sydney trip and their support during our national convention was first class. We are so very grateful to have them on board.

Financially, we have been supported magnificently by the Ipswich City Council since our inception and we continue to be. Our number one supporter arguably is our Mayor, Paul Pisasale, and we appreciate his support and that of the Council.

This year we have been fortunate to secure a grant from the Community Benefit Gaming Fund of Queensland to the amount of $20,000. This has enabled us to purchase five sets of collapsible risers. They are just magnificent and it would seem that we have the only set of these in our area. We have been able to offer them to a local group who have a Christmas Concert planned in which we will be featured.

This year saw us compete in our first national convention. Wow! What an experience it was—certainly one that will remain with us forever and a valuable learning tool for the chorus. We are very grateful to have such a fantastic Musical Director in Mark McCann. We are very lucky as he is able to draw on the experience he brings from the benefit of international competition both in chorus and in a quartet. We have come a long way in a short period of time as a chorus because of Mark’s ability and dedication to this wonderful craft that we indulge in every week.

The Sydney Convention was full of highlights but one that may have caused the barbershop community to notice Miner Chords was left until the farewell lunch. I think our “miners” outfits and the serenade of Shine On Me complete with Miner’s Head Lamps were a great way to not only say goodbye to the convention, but a way of letting you all know that we are here and on the national stage.

We thank you all for the warm and generous applause and the wonderful comments we received afterwards. We made loads of friendships, enjoyed the experience of competition, were blown away by our first experience of Barbershop Camaraderie on a grand scale and are now looking forward eagerly to Hobart in 2009.

As usual once Convention is over we look towards our Christmas program and this year is no exception. We are thrilled to have been chosen as the Headliners for the Brassall Carols on 30 November. Here in Ipswich it is a big deal as we will sing to 8,000 people and end up leading all the other choirs and performers in the Hallelujah Chorus finale complete with a major fireworks display. Quite a paradigm shift from the quiet leafy bring your own chairs country calm atmospheres of Marburg where we have become a regular feature at the Marburg Community Carols.

Our quartet, 5’s a Crowd, are also very bus supporting us as well as doing the rounds and are so chuffed to have had a top twenty finish at their first National Convention.

We wish all our Barbershop friends, old and new, a wonderful Christmas and a safe, happy and harmonious New Year.

Chris Featherstone
President
Mr Don Godfrey, the Musical Director of the Brisbane River City Clippers captured the feelings of the entire party who made the journey to the National Convention in October, when he addressed the members at their first rehearsal on return from the Harbour City.

“There could not have been a chorus who had a better time at the Convention than the Clippers,” said the MD. Such a short and simple statement summarised a string of valuable milestones, which the Clippers achieved through their preparation and involvement in the Convention, as they continue to maintain momentum in their drive to be an excellent performance chorus: A chorus able to entertain and engage audiences wherever and whenever the performance may take place.

The overall result of being placed fifth of the thirteen participating choruses from around Australia was a source of pride for all involved in the experience. Of greater significance was the sense of satisfaction felt by the members in the personal and team effort, which produced the best performance the chorus was capable of presenting at this stage in its development.

In the handicap event for Choruses (which takes into account improvement in the performance of each chorus since the previous convention), The Clippers took out second place.

Three Clippers quartets faced the judges with “Who’s Counting” retaining their National Seniors Crown, which they won two years ago at the Gold Coast.

An e-mail sent to all fellow members of the Clippers on their return from the Sydney Convention by long time Barbershopper, Mike Ivess, probably best summarised the Sydney experience. Mike wrote:

“I wish to tell you all that in all my years singing / competing in Barbershop events, I have never enjoyed myself more than over the past weekend.

We can all be very proud of the performance we gave. The points scored, possibly some will claim, could have been a little higher but certainly that is no cause for regret as the chorus has bonded so well as a unit. I am sure that every man on stage gave his best. Don (Godfrey), our MD, out front certainly gave us the required level of leadership with his directing.

The audience was unanimous in appreciating the improvements in all areas of our performance. The Clippers Chorus can only go forward from this event knowing that we have the greatest bunch of guys (and ladies) in Australian Barbershop.”

Mike Ivess

The Clippers now look forward to:
- HAWAII Oct 2008— the Pan Pacific Convention
- Hobart 2009 — The AAMBS National Convention
- And above all sharing the company and talent of their fellow members and supporters every Wednesday night throughout the year.

Keith Druery - Publications
For The Brisbane River City Clippers

Hello to all our friends in AAMBS, from what we hope will be a greatly rejuvenated Sunshine Statesmen Chorus in 2008. Our AGM in September saw an almost complete change in the committee, and our heartfelt thanks go to those many previous officers of the club who have put so much time and effort into making the club a success over many years.

It certainly seems to be a moment of transition in the Chorus’s history. A number of stalwart older members have found it necessary to hang up their pitch pipes, mainly for health reasons, and we thank them for their unstinting loyalty over the years, and look forward to seeing them whenever they care to visit. On the plus side, we are still very fortunate that we retain the skill and dedication of Brian Fordham as musical director.

Following the example of our sister Sweet Adelines Chorus on the Coast, we are over half way through a series of free singing lessons that we are providing in order to attract younger members. The ladies were phenomenally successful in doing this, in that they more than doubled the size of their chorus over a period of about eight weeks. While we won’t quite emulate that, of the initial fifteen attendees when the classes started, we are still retaining eleven after four weeks, and we are hoping to convert the majority of that group into new members.

Despite all the successes already mentioned, the Chorus breakfast, which included spouses and friends of the Clippers held on the morning of the competition, was hailed as probably the best community building experience the Clippers have ever enjoyed. Every member was valued and the occasion gave the chorus the opportunity to involve and thank all those who support the members throughout the years as they pursue their disciplined hobby of acapella singing.

With the retiring President as the MC of the gathering awards were freely distributed for all sorts of achievements by members. Indeed Mr Andrew rewarded almost everyone present: from the tallest, to the shortest, from the youngest, to the oldest. He also recognised all those who had made special contributions in the effort to have the Chorus and all their supporters at the Convention and performing at their best.

Issue 100 Barbershop Notes – November / December 2007
members when the classes finish at the end of November. Our grateful thanks go to noted local voice coach and a cappella aficionado, Carole Locke, for her knowledge and dedication in preparing and delivering the weekly two hours of coaching.

However many new members we generate from this exercise, it will naturally take some while to integrate them into the Chorus, but it is nevertheless a time of great optimism and excitement for the Chorus, and we look forward to meeting many of you in 2008.

Alan Tucker,
Secretary

GREETINGS FROM

Men In Harmony

Well, back to “normal” after convention number 9 eh? As usual it was great to meet up in Sydney with musical mates from all round the country and that’s one of the best aspects of our national biennial gatherings isn’t it? – whether you’ve been to a few before or it’s your first experience, it’s the good fellowship that permeates everything.

And congratulations to Sydney Harmony and Chris Miley and his convention team for the smooth operation and very efficient use of the Convention Centre. We enjoyed some great presentations throughout, from quartets and choruses, culminating with the grand show on Saturday – a really good “show case” to the public of our art form.

Unfortunately, quite a few of our people arrived back home with unwanted “passengers” in the form of some really nasty bugs that have laid several low for lengthy periods – even one member in hospital with pneumonia for a spell. This hasn’t helped in preparations for our traditional busy end-of-year program and this year the festive season engagement slate seems heavier than usual – not that we really mind, it’s always a fun time.

We especially enjoy taking our music to the streets, singing on street corners or malls in the heart of the city - it really is satisfying to have a small crowd pause in their normal frantic seasonal rush, to listen to some traditional carols and Christmas songs. A highlight is the annual concert, with our good friends, the brilliant Perth Harmony ladies chorus, which is staged in the hub, Forrest Place, where the City Council sets up audio and seating in a real show situation – it’s very popular with the public.

Our Management Committee is busy with planning ahead and involving the whole chorus in setting aims and objectives for the future. We are still seeking a new Music Director but meantime, appreciate very much the great job two of our members from the ranks, Mike Donnelly and Merrill Claessen, are doing in “minding the shop” for the time being.

Best wishes to all at this special time – I’m sure every one of us appreciates the good fortune and privilege we enjoy in sharing greetings in song in the best part of the “whole world”.

Andy Aberle

COMING EVENTS

2007

Dec 10 – Eastern Region AGM, Kameraigal Room (1st Floor, Norths Leagues Club, Abbot Street, Cammeray, 7.00 pm
Dec 11 – AAMBS Annual General Meeting, Perth WA

2008

April 18-19 – Bangor International Choral Festival, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Details: www.bicf.co.uk
April 30 – May 3 – Sweet Adelines’ Convention – Wrest Point Hotel, Hobart, Tasmania


2009

Sept 27-30 – AAMBS Harmony College, Hobart, Tasmania

(For further event details go to www.aambs.org.au)
Hundreds of North American barbershoppers look forward to the last Sunday in July each year, when they foregather at the semi-rustic campus of Missouri Western State University, on the outskirts of the little town of St. Joseph, Missouri, for the annual Harmony University, a week-long fest of camaraderie, good food, excellent tuition and glorious four-part singing.

There are four streams to the tuition - Harmony College (for chorus members), Quartet College, Directors College and Weekend College for those who can only make it on the last two days. Through a combination of serendipity and propitious circumstances, I had the enormous good fortune to get to Weekend College this year - and it was an experience I will never forget!

When I arrived on the Thursday, everyone was still talking about the inspirational opening address on the Sunday evening by Dr Jim Henry, Director of Choral Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Musical Director of the Ambassadors of Harmony Chorus, composer and barbershopper extraordinaire.

I found out what the fuss was about after watching the video replay, including the two-minute standing ovation he had received, on Thursday night. As the HU Daily Bulletin had put it on Monday:

"Barbershop is not a hobby" was his theme. It is a calling, a ministry in music that touches countless lives. It is a gift of gold medals given to one another; not those won on the stage, but won in daily lives and relationships bound by barbershop harmony.

You can read the full text or watch the video of this remarkable speech at http://harmonyuniversity.blogspot.com/2007/08/gold-medal-moments-by-dr.html

Every morning started with warm-up songs that would be familiar to all Australian barbershoppers, and a new song or tag was taught each day. To hear the big hall ring to the voices of hundreds of us belting out wonderful chords was a sound I had not actually heard before.

As a newbie, I took courses in vocal production, sight singing and barbershop history. But over the full week there was a great range of courses to suit every taste and interest.

Then there were the competitions. Between the Red, Blue and Green choruses from Harmony College after the Big Bash Dinner on Thursday night. Between the quartets from Quartet College on Friday night. Wonderful singing, a touch of competitive tension, but with a spirit of fun and good will pervading all.

I shouldn’t forget Harmony Marketplace, the on-site store where you could buy books, sheet music, CDs, DVDs, apparel, trinkets and merchandise of every description. Oh, and pitch pipes! I even came away with a roll-up keyboard you can carry in one hand.

Harmony University winds up each year with a gala concert at the lovingly restored art deco Missouri Theatre in downtown St Joseph, just a stone’s throw from the banks of the Missouri River. Long-time concert goers voted this year’s the best ever. Several knock-out numbers from the recently concluded international championships in Denver, Colorado, were brought to the stage, to the wild enthusiasm of the audience.

Among the dazzling array of performances, the stand-outs for me were the amazing choreography of Ambassadors of Harmony, this year’s international silver medal chorus champions, and the bravura vocalisations of Vocal Spectrum, last year’s international gold medal quartet champions. But really, the whole evening was an uplifting tribute to the barbershopper’s art. I doubt that I shall hear its like again.

I can only repeat the advice I received in Perth about Harmony University - if you can possibly get there, GO! And if you can go for a week - DO IT! The website to keep an eye on for 2008 is www.barbershop.org.

-- Richard Lugg

My story of the first two decades in the life of AAMBS was well received at the Sydney convention and I trust those that acquired a copy have enjoyed the read - thank you for your support. Others who may wish to add the book to their library can order it by mail as set out below.

Cost: $15.00, plus postage, $1.00
(Cheque or Money Order)

To order, please forward with name and delivery address to:

Andy Aberle, 94 Stock Road, ATTADALE. WA 6156

Enquiries: Ph. (08) 9330 4159 or Email: aberles@internetexpress.net.au

Reminder:
The Great Australian Barbershop Song Book
is available at only $10.00 a copy – order forms are on the AAMBS Website – www.aambs.org.au
Whether you are barbershopper, or a friend or supporter of barbershop music, we want you to know that we are looking forward to seeing you in Honolulu in October 2008 for a whole lot of singin’ and harmonizin’! See more below.

Please share this news with your friends and colleagues!
Great Pacific Harmony
5th Pan Pacific Convention
October 30 - November 2, 2008
Honolulu, Hawaii

Contact:
Don Raymond, Convention Chairman
info@panpacificharmony.org

Rick Klemm, Publicity
publicity@panpacificharmony.org

Registration Is Now Open for The Pan Pacific Convention!

The fees are set and the hotel rooms are ready for the premiere barbershop music venue in the Pacific -- the 5th Pan Pacific Convention, to be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, October 30 - November 2, 2008. The best way to start warming up for the competitions is to register early.

Early Registration fees are set at $US175 for individuals, $US35 for chorus base fee and $US40 for quartets. After March 31 2008, Regular Registration fees will be $US190 for individuals, $US40 for chorus base fee and $US50 for quartets. Go to website www.panpacificharmony.org for convenient, online registration.

While at www.panpacificharmony.org, registrants can download the room reservation form for the Ala Moana Hotel, convention headquarters. The hotel is located next to Ala Moana Center, one of the largest shopping malls in the US, and Ala Moana Beach Park, with family friendly beaches and picnic areas.

"We are delighted that we have been able to keep registration costs low," said Convention Chairman, Don Raymond, "And we hope this encourages every Pan Pacific barbershopper to plan on attending."

"The members of the Sounds of Aloha Chorus have been and will continue to work hard to ensure that each attendee has a memorable barbershop experience," said Raymond.

The competition will take place at the historic Hawaii Theatre (www.hawaiitheatre.com), rich in history with barbershop singing. The Sounds of Aloha was the first act to re-open the restored theater in May 1996 and has held its annual show there ever since. All the seats in the house are good ones.

The convention will feature barbershop singers from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Alaska, Hawai'i, and other parts of the Far Western and Evergreen Districts.

LATE, FINAL EXTRA

Just received – hot off the press:

Aloha Barbershoppers Down Under (or is it Up Over?),

Here's the latest news from Pan Pacific Convention headquarters in Honolulu. Please share with your colleagues and especially the communications folks in your chapters and districts.

Mahalo nui loa. We look forward to fellowshipping with you soon in Honolulu.

News Advisory - November 12, 2007

**Register Now While Seats Still Available**

Seating for the 2008 Pan Pacific Convention is comfortable but available seating is getting tight. Therefore, we suggest that you begin to think “urgency” and register now. The historic Hawaii Theatre, where all the major events will take place, has less seating compared with that at our conventions in Christchurch and Melbourne. Seating capacity is only 1,300, which means -- we are limited to the first 1,300 registrations. Also, room availability is currently adequate at the headquarters Ala Moana Hotel, but fewer and fewer rooms will be available as time passes.

Our advice is that choruses and quartets register as soon as possible.

Our Pan Pacific '08 Committee met in October and the consensus is that The Sounds of Aloha Chorus is well prepared and is excited and optimistic about serving as convention hosts. We feel confident the event has all the earmarks of being the most well attended PPC to date. The reports we have received from New Zealand, Australia, and the US indicate a record registration is likely. Japan is planning on bringing three choruses and the Sweet Adeline International Convention the following weekend will probably swell our registration numbers beyond all previous Pan Pacific Conventions.

Go to website www.panpacificharmony.org for convenient, online registration. While at www.panpacificharmony.org, registrants can download the room reservation form for the Ala Moana Hotel, convention headquarters.

The Sounds of Aloha Chorus is eagerly awaiting the chance to lay a heavy dose of Aloha on you.

###

www.panpacificharmony.org/newsreleases/newsrelease1
1.12.07.pdf

Contact: Don Raymond, Convention Chairman
info@panpacificharmony.org
Rick Klemm, Publicity
publicity@panpacificharmony.org
## AAMBS CALENDAR – 2007-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUN</th>
<th>JUL</th>
<th>AUG</th>
<th>SEP</th>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>BHS International Mid-Winter Convention&lt;br&gt;San Antonio, Texas&lt;br&gt;22–27th</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
<td>BinG! Dortmund Germany</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;Sweet Adelines’ Convention&lt;br&gt;Wrest Point Hotel, Hobart&lt;br&gt;30–May 3</td>
<td>BABS Convention, Cheltenham&lt;br&gt;23–25</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;BHS International Convention&lt;br&gt;Nashville TN&lt;br&gt;29–6 July</td>
<td>NZABS Quartet Regionals&lt;br&gt;Harmony University&lt;br&gt;Missouri TN USA&lt;br&gt;28–4 Aug</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;NZABS Competition Only&lt;br&gt;Lower Hutt</td>
<td>Pan Pacific Convention&lt;br&gt;Honolulu, Hawaii USA&lt;br&gt;30–2 Nov</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;SAI International&lt;br&gt;Honolulu, Hawaii USA&lt;br&gt;4–8</td>
<td>AAMBS Annual General Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>BHS International Mid-Winter Convention</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
<td>AAMBS Face-to-Face Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;Sweet Adelines’ National Convention&lt;br&gt;30–3 May</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;BHS International Convention&lt;br&gt;Anaheim CA&lt;br&gt;28–5 July</td>
<td>NZABS Quartet Regionals&lt;br&gt;Harmony University&lt;br&gt;Missouri USA&lt;br&gt;26–Aug 2</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;AAMBS 10th National Convention&lt;br&gt;24–27</td>
<td>AAMBS Harmony College - Tasmania</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;SAI International&lt;br&gt;Nashville TN USA&lt;br&gt;3–7</td>
<td>AAMBS Annual General Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>BHS International Mid-Winter Convention</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;BHS International Convention&lt;br&gt;Philadelphia PA&lt;br&gt;27–4 July</td>
<td>NZABS Quartet Regionals&lt;br&gt;Harmony University&lt;br&gt;Missouri USA&lt;br&gt;25–1 Aug</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;NZABS 21st Convention&lt;br&gt;Hamilton</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;AAMBS Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>SAI International&lt;br&gt;TBA</td>
<td>AAMBS Annual General Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>BHS International Mid-Winter Convention</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;BHS International Convention&lt;br&gt;Kansas City&lt;br&gt;3–10 July</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;NZABS 22nd Convention&lt;br&gt;Christchurch</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;AAMBS Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>SAI International&lt;br&gt;TBA</td>
<td>AAMBS Annual General Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE AAMBS COUNCIL

President
Mike Donnelly
12 Jutland Rise
OCEAN REEF WA 6027
Phone/fax: 08 9300 5430
Mobile: 0432 802 296
Email: president@aambs.org.au

VP Conventions
Bob Fritz
8 / 125 Queenscliff Road
QUEENSCLIFF NSW 2096
Phone: 02 9905 3573
Fax: 02 9905 0128
Email: conventions@aambs.org.au

VP Marketing & Development
Tom Smith (temporary)
50 Hinkler Drive
MILL PARK VIC 3082
Phone: 03 9404 1216
Fax: 03 9437 7847
Email: marketing@aambs.org.au

VP Membership
Tom Smith
50 Hinkler Drive
MILL PARK VIC 3082
Phone: 03 9404 1216
Fax: 03 9437 7847
Email: membership@aambs.org.au

VP Music
Ian Miller
20 Mimosa Road
BUDGEWOI NSW 2261
Phone: 02 4390 3893
Mobile: 0408 620 921
Email: music@aambs.org.au

VP Youth Development
Steve Griffin
330 Rio Vista Boulevard
Mermaid Waters QLD 4218
Phone: 0411 951 259
Fax: 07 5572 3659
Email: youth@aambs.org.au

Secretary
Kevin White
P O Box 6026
WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250
Phone: 02 4369 8369
Fax: 02 4369 8379
Email: secretary@aambs.org.au

Treasurer
Barry Joy
1 / 23 Hooker Boulevard
Broadbeach Waters QLD 4218
Phone: 07 5572 0284
Mobile: 0403 979 643
Email: treasurer@aambs.org.au

Send your items for Barbershop Notes to:
secretary@aambs.org.au

The deadline for receipt of material is 15th of each odd numbered month –
January
March
May
July
September
November