FROM OUR
PRESIDENT

Work hard.....or have fun......what's it 'gonna be???

Please ponder this: Is it possible to work hard as a barbershopper, and still have fun? Is it possible to concentrate and focus at rehearsal, and still have fun? Or is it possible to work for months on perfecting all your barbershop skills, and apply everything you've learned on two songs, which you sing in Competition, and still have fun? I submit the answer is an emphatic YES! I pose these questions because too often I hear comments, and descriptions of choruses as "we're a serious competition chorus"......... or "we're just a "have fun" chorus." Is there really any reason that these are mutually exclusive? If we bring the right "mind set" can't we have both?

When your chorus or quartet sings a ballad, and you feel the audience go totally quiet, and you know the dramatic tag is still to come........ is that work, or fun......or could it be both? When your personal dedication at rehearsal has produced a vocal and presentation ability for you, and for your "team", that reaches and moves an audience........ haven't you combined hard work with the great high and satisfaction that comes from giving an emotional performance? Or how about the really big up tune, with a rousing tag that reverberates off the back wall of the auditorium when you all cut off........together..........isn't that the fun that goes with the hard work you did to reach that level?

If our Music Directors go over a phrase time and again, until we have it just right, that just might be the "hard work" that we need to transform an "OK" song into one that absolutely captures our audience. But isn't there a joy and fun in finally "nailing it?" Or how about "riser tapes"? Are they fun? They can be, if you just give it your best shot, and then you get feedback from your section leader or MD that builds on all the things you've done right, and points out the personal improvements you can make to help the team.

Remember that Barbershopping is the ultimate team sport, and like any team we only get as good as we practise. It all leads up to "game day", when we share our special art form with the public. Let's have some fun...... and work hard......and let everyone know that barbershoppers are clever enough to do both!!

In Harmony,
Mike Donnelly

Inside this issue:

From our President ...........................................1
Council Reports
- Kevin White, Secretary .................................2
- Bob Fritz, VP Conventions ............................3
2007 Convention Sydney ..................................4
Club Reports
- Soundwaves ...........................................5-6
- Westcoast Chordsmen .................................6-7
- Fleurieu Harmony Chorus ............................7-8
- Festival States-men ....................................8
- The Blenders ............................................9
Voices @ The Con (Sydney Harmony) ....................9
Extras:
* Letters to the Editor ..................................2
* On Music Critics / SydneySiders new venue ........9
* Coming Events / AAMBS Library / Congratulations ....10
Aussie Songbook Order Form ..........................11
AAMBS Contact Information / AAMBS Website / Issue 92
Deadline ..................................................12
FROM OUR SECRETARY

To All Quartets and Club Executive members:

1. I have received a few emails asking for the closing date for this issue of Barbershop Notes. To make things easier for you we list the closing date for contributions on the back page of each edition – so just check your last copy to save you having to contact me.

2. The AAMBS Council has approved that membership fees for the remainder of this financial year will be reduced by 50% to $17.50 per member. This is to encourage new membership throughout Australia.

3. When sending membership fees for new members it is essential that you include the new member’s address, phone and fax numbers and email address. We need to have a complete record of each member to ensure that they are covered by the AAMBS Insurance policy. It is also good if you can let us have their wife’s/partner’s first name.

4. Remember to keep me informed of your upcoming events so we can promote them on the website and in Barbershop Notes which, hopefully, will help you increase your audience numbers. You are sure to attract AAMBS members who may be visiting your area to come along to hear you.

5. Barbershop Notes – It would be a great help if you would send articles in WordPerfect format, Arial 9 pt.

Yours, in Continuing Harmony,
Kevin White, Secretary

Letters to the Editor

Following suggestions from the Membership, Council has agreed to allow short letters from Members to be published in Barbershop Notes, provided that they are not inappropriate or defamatory (and subject to censorship, if necessary, or possible editing for length), reserving the opportunity for the writer to amend where deemed advisable.

It was noted that anyone who writes to the Council is answered, and that when a topic is deemed to have been adequately addressed an Editorial Note should state that “Correspondence on this Topic is now closed”.

Issue 91 Barbershop Notes – May/June 2006
FROM THE DESK OF OUR VP CONVENTIONS

REALTIME IN AUSTRALIA!

Yes, the current International Champions, "Realtime", are coming to Australia and will be here before the end of the year. Your AAMBS Council have been working diligently to secure this fabulous quartet's first visit to Australia and New Zealand and the first opportunity for many of the AAMBS members to experience first hand this incredible championship quartet. And, as many of you know, it will mark the triumphant return of our own John Newell, who is the Realtime lead and the first Aussie barsbersherapper to win an International Medal, of any kind, let alone Gold! John was the lead singer in our own, two time national champions, "Southern Cross".

I was fortunate enough to be in Salt Lake City last year when they won the Gold and I can tell you from first hand experience that they are something just a little bit special from previous champions and you will be extremely disappointed if you don't mark your calendars now for when they will be performing here.

We've arranged for them to not only appear in concerts in each of our regions, but also to be available for a number of coaching and master class sessions in each region. As well so that you will be able to hear from them first hand and up close and personal as they share with you their knowledge and expertise.

So everyone, get out your calendars and mark the following dates when they will be in your area.

- **Western Region**, Perth, workshops and Concert 28 Oct. 2006
- **Eastern Region**, Sydney, evening coaching 2 Nov. 2006, workshops and Concert 4 Nov. 2006

I'm sure that as these dates approach your Regional committees will provide you with specific details as to time and places for the various workshops and coaching sessions as well as the Concert venues and specific Concert details.

To some of our more distant members, our sincere apology that we were unable to arrange a concert or session with Realtime closer to your area but these guys have only a limited time to cover, not only Australia but New Zealand as well, and we did the best we could under the time and distance constraints that we had to work under. However, we hope that you might be able to arrange a couple of days' travel when they are appearing at your nearest location. I guarantee that you will not regret making the effort to see them.

As for Convention news, I assure you that everything is moving along in preparation for the Sydney 2007 Convention and in the coming issues of Barbershop Notes I will be letting you know of each and every decision of the National Council towards improving and enriching your national convention experience.

Yours in harmony,
Bob Fritz
Greetings to our BBS friends and colleagues

Planning and preparation is gearing up for the big event in Sydney in 2007. Please make sure you mark the dates of September 27 to 30, 2007 in your calendar, we are setting out to make sure you have another memorable convention. We hereby invite every eligible chorus and quartet to set the date and get ready for an event to remember.

It will be hard to match the wonderful warmth and hospitality we all received from The Blenders at the Gold Coast last October (was it really only October?), as well as the professional organisation of the event. However that is what we plan to do, and I’m delighted to say that The Blenders’ organising committee is giving us a lot of assistance and benefits from their hard work. Surely this enduring and inclusive side of the Barbershop community is what makes being a part of it so rewarding.

If you are not already aware, the entire event will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre (SCEC), right on Darling Harbour, with every facility you can wish for right at the doorstep. Most accommodation will be within walking distance of SCEC and Darling Harbour, and our team is working on getting you the best range and the best deals to cover all requirements. SCEC has recently undergone a major refurbishment and is looking resplendent. There would be few Convention Centres in the world that could match the backdrop that exists here. Why not check out their updated website at: www.scec.com.au.

Remember that the visiting quartet will be the 2004 International Champions, GOTCHA. These guys are a remarkable quartet and will add a special dimension to our Convention. I am also very excited to report that the second headline act for the concert on Saturday night will be THE IDEA OF NORTH, our own World Champion a’cappella ensemble. THE IDEA OF NORTH have drawn packed houses to concerts around the world, and are really looking forward to adding their amazing brand of harmony to our concert. With GOTCHA and THE IDEA OF NORTH performing in tandem, our expectation is to make the concert and event that you will all be proud to be a part of, and if you are fortunate, to actually sing in.

The current members of the organising committee are:

- Chair: Christopher Miley
- Deputy Chair: Richard Kaan
- AAMBS Vice President, Conventions: Bob Fritz
- Committee: Geoff Millard, Rob Walley, Ladd Wheeler, John Forrest, David Ojerholm, Paul Stevens

If you have any comments or suggestions please feel free to contact the team on our email address - Team2007@sydneyharmony.com.au

For the 2007 convention, there is a dedicated website that will provide all the information, regular updates, and registration details to keep you abreast of happenings as they occur. The 2007 website address is www.barbershopconvention.com.au. Keep an eye on this as it becomes populated over the coming months.

Best wishes to you all for 2006, and as you prepare to take part in the Convention in Sydney in 2007.

Christopher Miley
Convention Coordinator
The reverberations are in large measure due to the camaraderie engendered in the Chorus by our great Musical Director Gary Kirk with whom we have just celebrated 10 years of his leadership - with hopefully many more to come.

The reason we get so much pleasure being a Barbershopper arises because Gary contrives to ensure that our weekly rehearsals are always fun and enjoyable and where new songs are regularly introduced to increase our repertoire.

We now have over 40 Chorus members and currently have 5 Quartets improving their skills whilst we keep encouraging more to form. We know that a good chorus is all the better with a number of strong Quartets in their midst.

All our members love to “Sing-Out” which makes our aim to perform somewhere at least 2 or 3 times a month and at the festive times of the year even more so.

We recently “Sang-Out” twice in one day (afternoon and night) - that is uncommon but we had good roll-ups at both Charity Events.

I mentioned fun earlier, that is so important when introducing potential new members to the Chorus. We have recently run an intensive new membership drive by all means at our disposal be that local newspapers, radio stations, shop windows, direct door-to-door handbill drops and personal contacts. The drive paid off as 7 new faces appeared on the night, 6 of whom have attended each rehearsal since.

Gary manages to maximize our improvement with the invaluable and very capable assistance of our Voice and Technicalities Leader of the Music Team, Ian Miller. They make a formidable duo in any language.

We, like all of us at AAMBS, are waiting to receive the “Youth Package” as we are keen to implement what we see as being a vital tool in our planned attempt to spread our art form into the younger generation.

Fortunately we have the great benefit of very strong backing from our wives and partners, that, in turn creates a real warm and family feel to our enjoyment of Barbershop.

After rehearsals each Monday we have a short and sharp 15min. meeting, keeping members up to date, celebrating Birthdays, drawing our $ Raffle then singing ourselves out with “Let’s Sing a Song” and “Keep the Whole World Singing”, all of which seems to us merrily on our way.

I think I’ve just coined a phrase, (some of it may have been stolen) “If you feel like singing sing” - but make sure it’s BARBERSHOP.

Bill Butterfield
President

[Editor’s Note: Wives and ex-members also attended the special celebration night for Gary Kirk on 3rd April, when there was lots of chat and memories ignited over supper after the event. One of SOUNDWAVES’ newest members honoured Gary and Barbershopping with the following poem]:

ODE TO GARY AND THE BARBERSHOP CHORUS

By Paul Fawcett

Each Monday night we meet for the chorus,
We sing with great passion,
So please don’t ignore us.
We’re fit and energetic – not just old geysers,
We start when Gary yells ‘All on the risers’

Gary says
‘Tighten your buttocks; just like toothpaste’.
We all squeeze together, painfully, in haste,
With enormous reaction we all strain our bowels;
Gary thinks this will add strength to our vowels.

Ian manoeuvres to the piano,
There’s a chord on his mind,
We observe enthusiastically,
Never resigned,

We’re ready for singing Gary adds ‘Please look happy’
We do as instructed ‘Cause Garry’s a great Chappy’
The members drift in, The Club is well manned,
Gary says “Let’s tune up for MacNamara’s Band,”
We all stand foot forward, ready in glee,
Gary searches for Don : ‘Please give me a B.’

In no time we’re singing in harmonious song;
Ian suggests ‘Let me hear a diphthong’.
 ‘The leads can’t be heard’, Gary implied,
Ian jumps in in ‘You Barries - don’t slide!’

We finish the song, we’re well above par -
Tackata tackata tackata ta.
We’re motivated by Gary and Ian,
These men we revere,
They work tirelessly,  
We should buy them a beer.

We’re great Barbershop singers,   
The best on the Coast,   
We’ve improved out of sight,  
But we never boast,   
When we perform publicly  
The critics give raves,  
We’re proudly known as  
CENTRAL COAST BARBERSHOP SOUNDWAVES

We sing with great gusto,  
We never do muddle,   
When we’re deserving   
Gary offers a cuddle.

The members are thankful   
For your blood sweat and tears   
We all thank you sincerely and   
Wish you GOOD CHEERS.

Three rehearsals sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, conducted by Bruce Okely and Kim Sebbage, focussed on our preparation for the Sunday public concert. Part of Thursday’s rehearsal was recorded by the producer of the local ABC breakfast radio program. This recording was then used in a five-minute on air promotion of the barbershop movement and the Sunday concert the following morning.

On Sunday morning, we attended the 9.30 am service in the Ross Memorial (Uniting) Church, West Perth. We contributed to the service through two scripture readings by chorus members and musically with the anthem, Be Still My Soul, The Lord’s Prayer and The Irish Blessing.

For The Great Big Barbershop Show on Sunday afternoon, the three men’s choruses were joined by Alliance, Australia’s current Gold Medal quartet, the ladies Perth Harmony Chorus and BlackJaQ, a Perth
Harmony Chorus quartet. The finale to the concert was the eight-part song Perhaps Love, presented by the quartet BlackJaQ and the combined men’s choruses.

**The Westcoast Chordsmen**

**The Great Big Barbershop Show**
**Perth Town Hall**
**Sunday 7 May 2006; 3:00 – 5:00 pm**

Combined Men’s Choruses
- I Have a Song to Sing
- Let the Rest of the World Go By

Len Gluvers – The Button Accordion Wizard

Fleurieu Harmony Chorus
- Hello Mary Lou (Goodbye Heart)
- Georgia on my Mind
- Danny Boy
- Irish Blessing

BlackJaQ – a Perth Harmony Chorus quartet
- It Don’t Mean a Thing
- That Old Feeling
- Please Don’t Talk About Me When I’m Gone

Nostalgia – a Fleurieu quartet
- Where Did Robinson Crusoe Go

Festival State’smen
- If You Knew Suzie (Like I Know Suzie)
- When There’s Love at Home
- Let’s Get Away From It All

Perth Harmony Chorus
- Another Opening, Another Show
- You Can Do the Sandman
- Never Never
- It Is Well With My Soul
- Smile
- Oh You Beautiful Doll

Westcoast Chordsmen
- I’ll be a Song And Dance Man Again
- Give Me a Home Among the Gum Trees
- Daddy Sang Bass

Alliance – Australia’s current Gold Medal quartet
- When It Comes To Lovin’ the Girls Medley
- You Make Me Feel So Young
- Unchained Melody
- What’ll I Do?
- Love Eyes Medley
- It’s the Girl
- Combined Men’s Choruses
- My Country

Finally, the farewell dinner at Miss Maud’s, a nearby restaurant, enabled members and partners to relax and celebrate the success of not only the concert that afternoon but also the experiences of the whole week. With the second successful *Voices in Harmony* tour, the question now must be ‘When and how can we best build on *Voices in Harmony 2005 and 2006*?’

**A Song at the Farewell Dinner**
- - Pender Pedler
- Westcoast Chordsmen

**THE GREAT BIG BARBERSHOP SHOW VISIT**

Wow!!! What a week our visit to Perth was. The Festival State’smen and us, The Fleurieu Harmony Chorus, and our partners, were invited as guests of The Westcoast Chordsmen on a reciprocal visit. We knew we were in for a good time when we were greeted, at the airport by the Chordsmen holding a huge banner and, of course, there was a mandatory song or two, then, after checking in to the Hotel we were whisked off for a Welcome Dinner and, of course, a few more songs.
The next day was a free day and most of us went to Fremantle where we came across an old time Barbershop Saloon and a scratch quintet entertained with a few standards.

The next couple of days were a mixture of sightseeing, workshops, rehearsals, and a bit of pub singing. The next day, Saturday, we were taken out on a coach trip to Mandurah, where we had a boat trip round the canals looking at all the mansions, boy how the other half live!. We partook of a delicious barbecue prepared by our hosts and their partners, there was so much food you could have fed an army.

Naturally a few ales followed to wash it down, and lubricate the vocals for some more singing. To finish the day there was, a visit to a miniature village with lovely cream tea and, yes, more singing.

Sunday was the big day starting with a church service at Ross Memorial Church where a combined chorus of about 50 sang “Be Still My Soul”, “The Lords Prayer” and the “Irish Blessing”, what a wonderful sound. After a quick lunch it was off to The Town Hall for the sell out concert. The show opened with over 70 singers comprising of our two groups plus Men in Harmony, Southside Harmony and The Westcoast Chordsmen, walking from the rear of the hall onto the risers singing ‘Wait till the Sun Shines Nellie’ under the direction of the Maestro himself, Bruce Okely. What a buzz that was as most of our Chorus had never experienced singing with such a big chorus. Each chorus also sang individual brackets, included in the show were Ladies Australian Champions Perth Harmony Chorus, Ladies Quartet Champions BlackJaQ and Australian Men’s Quartet Champions Alliance.

The show finished with the combined chorus and BlackJaQ singing ‘ Perhaps Love’ followed by The Chorus with ‘My Country’ and ‘I’m Proud To Call Australia Home’

This show was something that will always be remembered by us and remain a cherished memory.

Although the highlight, that was not the end of the visit we still had a farewell dinner and a few more songs and sad farewells to go before flying home in the morning .

We would like to thank everyone in Perth for such an enjoyable visit, no names in case we miss one out, as we said in our parting song – “Lets get together again” and “Keep the whole………”

IN HARMONY
Gordon Tomlinson Secretary
We have been in training for our stint at the Sunshine Regional competition. There were considerably less men on the risers this year but they performed satisfactorily only to be pipped by the Harmony in Paradise chorus in the open to all format successfully operated for the past three years. As a small attended competition it was decided to invite the Ladies along to compete for an overall winner. The male competition was won by the Blenders with the Brisbane Clippers and Bayside Barbershop Singers behind. Miner Chords a new chorus from Ipswich came a creditable fourth.

The quartet competition was won by Pitch Black, who were third in the last Sweet Adelines convention. Metafour won the Male section from Who’s Counting and Spike.

Thank you to Bob Charters, contest administrator, and Derek Cosburn and Eddie Klimowicz as judges for this contest.

The Blenders then auditioned for the ABC competition in Brisbane and were impressive in their performance as they received a standing ovation from the audience and judges.

Hopefully we will be invited to perform in the state final and then on to Sydney for the final on 30th September.

By the time you read this you will have had time with your mothers. Look after them because they are the only ones you have.

Harold Howson

ON MUSIC CRITICS….

"A music critic couldn’t get up on stage and do it if he had to. A music critic nine times out of ten is a frustrated performer...Music is too precious to me, I do not want to be distracted from it by the trashiness of music reviews." - Soprano Sylvia McNair

Christopher Hampton says:
"Asking a working musician what he thinks about critics is like asking a lamp-post what it thinks about dogs."

Finnish composer Jean Sibelius observes:
"Pay no attention to what the critics say. No good songs were ever written by a critic..."

"Critics are like eunuchs in a harem; they know how it’s done, they’ve seen it done everyday, but they’re unable to do it themselves." - Brendan Behan

"Songs are so much more than lyrics, but your normal rock critic can’t really deal with anything more than the lyrics. He can’t address the other issues because he doesn’t understand them. Most guys who review records don’t know anything about tunings, drum beats, notes, measures, all that stuff, so it’s just lost on them." - John Mellencamp

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VOICES @ THE CON

Congratulations to all at Sydney Harmony for a great afternoon’s entertainment at the Sydney Conservatorium on Sunday 28th May – and what a varied program you gave us.

It was certainly interesting to see Sydney Harmony singing under their new Musical Director, Vicki Dwyer, and to hear them render some of the new songs they have mastered with her. Well done one and all.

Talking Vicki, maybe this concert could have been subtitled “The Vicki Dwyer Show”. Not only is she Sydney Harmony’s MD, but also MD for Circular Quays (the Sweet Adelines’ chorus also on the bill) who added a splash of colour to the show, as well as being lead singer for the Adelines new Gold Medal Quartet Accolade, who delighted us with their songs, including their Gold Medal set of Bandstand in Central Park and Oh! You Beautiful Doll.

FREEFALL sang up to its usual high standard. For me the stand out numbers were My Romance and How High the Moon.

And, as a contrast to Barbershop harmonies, the program included The Elementals and Jonah and the Wailers singing some toe tapping Gospel songs. (Did I see one of the Basses from Sydney Harmony also singing as a member of Jonah and the Wailers? – good on you Ladd!)

And, of course, the MC for the afternoon was none other than that funny man from the Gold Coast Convention, Ian Fraser, MD of Hills Harmony.

It was also great to see so many Barbershoppers in the audience supporting them.

All in all, a very enjoyable afternoon – thank you to everyone on stage and back stage for a very smooth running program.

As from 1 June SydneySiders has a new rehearsal venue:

St Anne’s Church Hall
Church Street
Ryde NSW 2112
(Near the Top Ryde Shopping Centre)

Do drop in and have a sing with them whenever you are in the area – Thursdays at 7.45 pm
**COMING EVENTS**

**2006**

July 2-9 – *International Convention, Indianapolis 2006*  
(further details [www.barbershop.org/indy](http://www.barbershop.org/indy))

July 14-16 – *Eastern Region Education Weekend Workshop*, Point Wolstoncroft

Aug 16-15 – 7th *International Russian Barbershop Harmony Festival* (further information [www.fineartstours.com](http://www.fineartstours.com))

Sept 23, 7.30 pm – *Sydney Harmony – Concert @ Manly*. Manly Village Church

(see Bob Fritz Report on Page 3)

Nov 4 – *Miner Chords & The Blenders* – Matinee and Evening Concert, Ipswich Civic Hall.

Nov 18 – *SydneySiders Express* – 7.45pm Concert at Abbotsleigh Girls School, Pacific Highway, Wahroonga. Guest artists FREEFALL, Nova Youth Orchestra plus other great acts. The concert is in aid of the Oncology Research at Westmead Hospital

**2007**

September 27 – *AAMBS 9th Annual Convention*, at Sydney Entertainment Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney followed by Harmony College, presented by Sydney Harmony

**2008**


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**AAMBS LIBRARY**

If you want to borrow some of the many Videos / CDs / DVDs of Barbershop events – National and International Conventions, etc., which AAMBS has in its extensive library, just contact the Secretary, Kevin White - he will be happy to send them out to you free of charge. All you pay is the return postage. How can you resist an offer like this.

It is always good for new members to see what happens at competition level, and to know what the top Choruses and Quartets that makes them the best.

Go to the AAMBS Website: aambs.org.au “News” to check out what is in the Library.

Please note: These items are available to **AAMBS MEMBERS ONLY**

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**KEEPING THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING .....**

Hearty Congratulations to Jim Garraway from SOUNDWAVES.

Not only has he just walked the Kokoda Trail (no mean feat in itself) but in the true spirit of the Barbershop fraternity he has just bought one of AAMBS Pitch Pipes to send to a group of “Fuzzy Wuzzies” in New Guinea who love to sing, to help them ‘find the right note’.

All Melanesians have a natural gift for harmony so we are sure that this will be greatly appreciated by the happy recipients.

Good on you, Jim !

---

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- 755 Members
- 31 Clubs
- 39 Choruses.
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Moving within Australia ???
Why not contact and/or visit the local AAMBS CHORUS and sing along with fellow Barbershoppers, wherever you are, check them out on our Website –
www.aambs.org.au
Travelling Overseas ???
Check out the local Barbershoppers on our International Choruses page

The point of contact for Barbershop Notes is
secretary@aambs.org.au

Deadline for the next edition is Friday 14 July 2006