FROM OUR
PRESIDENT –
Mike Donnelly

Shows of the Decade
It's really time for Realtime! In just a few weeks the 2005 International Champion Gold Medal quartet will arrive in Australia for a series of shows. AAMBS has coordinated an intensive schedule which provides shows in three of our Capital cities; Perth, Brisbane, and Sydney. We have had some great International quartets Down Under in the past ten years, but this is the Best of the Best. And not only are Realtime the Gold Medallists, they are led by the only non-American lead singer to win Gold, Australia’s own John Newell. So please share this opportunity with your family, friends, neighbors, workmates, golfing buddies, and anyone else that should have a chance to hear what the best barbershop quartet music in the world sounds like.

There are a lot of great things happening around Australia as you will read inside this edition of Barbershop Notes. But I wanted to especially congratulate and thank Rose McGee for her initiative in organizing and implementing the Chorus Directors Certification program. With training provided by two of the top Chorus Director trainers from the Barbershop Harmony Society, this terrific program has provided a core of Directors that will take their newly honed skills to other Directors around Australia.

Another great initiative saw a dedicated team of Sweet Adeline and AAMBS barbershop singers in Perth organize over 250 youth to participate in workshops, coaching, and a big show. This was all led by the 2006 International Champion Collegiate quartet Musical Island Boys. They not only provided an amazing musical sound, but were gentlemen who were the best role models for life in general that any of us had ever seen. Our thanks to our fellow association, the New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers for loaning us four inspirational and motivational lads for a week we’ll never forget.

There is a lot happening, so please read on to discover the great barbershopping near you. And please share our wonderful art form by contacting someone personally, and encouraging them to join the Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers. If you can each get one new member before Christmas, we could start the new year with over sixteen hundred barbershop singers. Keep singing, have fun, and improve your sound at rehearsal so we can all share even more beautiful music sung in the barbershop style.

In Harmony,
Mike Donnelly
From The Desk of the Vice President, Conventions

It's hard to believe, but by the time you read this, it will be less than a year to go before our convention in Sydney. So if you haven't already marked your calendar, do so immediately. The Convention dates are 27-30 Sept. and Harmony College dates are 30 Sept. to 3 Oct. Of course, you will probably want to spend an extra week or so visiting the sights of Sydney so it's not too early to start making your plans.

The Sydney Convention Committee has been hard at work (and believe me, that's an understatement) to ensure that your experience at the next Convention will be a memorable one. Some interesting challenges have been encountered but, with the dedication and talent that this committee has, I know that all challenges will be met and that your time in Sydney will be one to remember.

I hope that you will permit me to digress a moment to relate an experience that my wife Sue and I recently had. We've just returned from a holiday in the Kingdom of Tonga and while there, took the opportunity to visit a local church for their regular Sunday service. Now I don't know how many of you have ever had the chance to visit a Pacific Island church service but if you haven't and you ever get the opportunity, please do so. It wasn't the spiritual aspect of the service that was so captivating (although I'm sure it was very uplifting but since it was all in Tongan, we didn't have a clue as to what was going on). No, it was the incredible sound of the entire Tongan congregation singing that absolutely blew us away. In fact, when I tried to whisper to Sue how fabulous the sound was, I could scarcely speak with the emotional lump in my throat that these beautiful voices produced. The wonderful lyrical voices of the women were enhanced by the rich and full harmony produced by the men. And this wasn't a selected choir, it was the entire congregation producing this magical sound. Needless to say, it was an experience we will long remember.

Now, while we won't have the First Methodist Church of Tonga's congregation at our next Convention, we will have two very exciting headline acts. First of all we'll have the fabulous International Champions, Gotcha, who will be with us throughout the convention and Harmony College and as a special added attraction for the Saturday Spectacular Concert, the wonderful a-cappella sound of Idea of North.

As always, your comments, suggestions and observations about anything Convention, are much appreciated.

Yours in Harmony,
Bob Fritz

From our Secretary

Just a follow-up alert for all you Club Treasurers – Re-registration Fees and Members’ annual contributions fall due on 1 October. A formal Notice will be sent to all Club Secretaries, also requesting them for a full update of their members’ names and their residential particulars, as required under the Corporations Law.

Arrangements are being made for the renewal of the AAMBS Public Liability Insurance Policy which covers Performance by its registered members, choruses and quartets. A copy of the latest Certificate of Currency will be sent to all Secretaries when received after renewal in November.

The AGM of AAMBS is coming up in early December, and you should give some thought as to the nomination of possible members of the Council – this will be the subject of a formal notice for the attention of all registered members.

We must applaud the Blenders who are about to contribute a performance of new material live on TV specially for the Steve Irwin Memorial Service, ably assisted by members from the rapidly-expanding River City Clippers and from the Miner Chords.

Lastly, look at the AAMBS Website when you have the opportunity – the list of Video Tapes, Books, CDs and DVDs in our Library, available for short term loan to members is listed there and also in this edition of Barbershop Notes. You just have to ask – and all that you pay is the return postage.

In Continuing Harmony,
Kevin White
PRESENTS

REALTIME

2005 WORLD CHAMPION QUARTET

ALSO FEATURING THE BEST LOCAL BARBERSHOP CHORUSES AND QUARTETS

ONE SHOW ONLY!

WINTHROP BAPTIST COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

7.30pm

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2006

A Reserve: $30 (Adults), $25 (Concession)
B Reserve: $25 (Adults), $20 (Concession)

CONTACT: Mike Donnelly
(08) 9300 5430
REALTIME’S VISIT TO THE SUNSHINE REGION

- **Monday evening 30 October 2006** –
  open rehearsal with Realtime coaching at The Blenders venue at 7:15pm.

- **Tuesday 31 October 2006** -
  at Logan Entertainment Centre. The entry fee to any of the events below is a Concert Ticket.
  - 9.00am - 12.00 noon - quartet coaching session (three Regional Quartets)
  - 1.00pm - 5.00pm - schools coaching session
  - 7.00pm - 9.30pm - Harmony in Realtime Concert
  - 9.30pm - 11.30pm – Afterglow

- **Wednesday 1 November 2006** –
  open rehearsal with Realtime coaching at the River City Clippers venue at 7:30pm.

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HARMONY IN REALTIME!

Join some of the best Acappella groups from around the globe for “Harmony in Realtime” Truly a once in a lifetime opportunity!

**Tickets selling fast!**

Logan Entertainment Centre
Tuesday, 31st Oct 7:00 PM
170 Wembley Rd, Logan Central, QLD
Cost: Adults $24.50
School Children $14.50

THE BEST SHOW YOU’LL SEE ALL YEAR!!!

With “Fast Forward”, Australian Collegiate Quartet Champions, “The Blenders” Australia’s Premier Entertainment Chorus and “Who’s Counting” Australia’s extremely popular Senior Quartet Champions as well as many fine choral acts from around Australia.

For ticketing inquiries phone: (07) 3412 5626

Presented by the Sunshine Region of the Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers.
Featuring …

**REALTIME**

BHS (USA) International Gold Medal Quartet 2005-2006

- **Sydney Harmony** AAMBS Open Bronze Medal Chorus
- **Accolade** Sweet Adelines Australian Gold Medal Quartet
- **Alliance** AAMBS Gold Medal Quartet Champions
- **Hills Harmony** AAMBS Convention “Audience Favourite” Chorus
- **Circular Keys** Sweet Adelines Mid Size Chorus Gold Medal Champions

The York is the largest theatre in the Seymour Centre, with a seating capacity of 788 in a semi-circular, amphitheatre configuration, featuring a thrust stage. With only twelve rows of seating from the back of the auditorium to the stage, the theatre offers an exceptional rapport between performers and audience.

**Reserved seating at $30 per Ticket** (no concessions) went on sale in **August**. Seating will be allocated strictly in order of receipt of Order Forms and full Payment, by email or post.

Special reserved seating will be available for **Show Performers** at a reduced cost of $15.00 per ticket.

Don’t miss out on Sydney’s once-only opportunity to experience this remarkable International Champion Quartet, supported by current Australian Championship choruses and quartets.
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEN BARBERSHOP SINGERS – EASTERN REGION

“A CAPPELLA PARADE OF CHAMPIONS”

York Theatre, Seymour Centre, Sydney

TICKET ORDER FORM

Note that reserved seating will apply and requests will be processed in order of receipt.

Ticket Booking requests and full payment MUST be received by Monday 30th October. After this date, tickets may be available from the Seymour Centre Box Office, where a Booking Fee of $2.60 will be added to the ticket price.

From: (print name) …………………………………………………………………………………………….

Chorus Name (if applicable).………………………………………………………………………………………….

Telephone Contact: ………………… Email: ……………………………………………………………………….

Postal Address: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Please book the following tickets (No Concessions apply, except for members of groups performing on the show)

<table>
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<th>Ticket Type</th>
<th>Price per Seat</th>
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* Holders of “Performer” tickets will be allocated seats in the rear of the Auditorium to enable them to see the other acts on the show. These tickets can only be purchased through the Concert Co-ordinator.

FULL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS REQUEST FOR TICKETS

A. Payment by Cheque: Make cheque payable to "AAMBS Eastern Region". Attach your cheque to this form and mail to the address shown below.

B. Payment by Credit Card: Complete the details below if you wish to pay by VISA or MasterCard.

Sign where indicated and send the form to the mailing address shown below or via email.

Credit Card (circle one): Visa MasterCard

Card Number:

Expiry Date on Card ………/………

Name Shown on Card: …………………………………………………… Amount: $……………………

Signature : …………………………………………………………… Date: ……………………………

Mail your request form and payment to:

Tony Rathbone, Concert Coordinator, 2 Dalpura Street, Cromer NSW 2099

If paying by credit card you may email the completed form to rathbone@tpg.com.au
**CHORUS DIRECTORS ON THE MARCH**

**Intensive** – that’s what the last two weekends have been for ten AAMBS chorus directors and six AAMBS candidate trainers.

**Workshop** – we held a Chorus Director Workshop Intensive in the Eastern Region (hosted by SOUNDWAVES Central Coast) and another in the Sunshine Region (hosted by The Blenders on the Gold Coast). We also held a Director of the Future workshop in the Sunshine Region. Western Region, we’re coming to you soon!

**Chorus Directors** – ten directors gave up their time and put themselves on the line to better themselves and their choruses.

**Music Teams** – learned about conducting skills, leadership skills, teaching techniques, and communication. “Sleepy Time Down South” will never be the same!

**Trainees** – six AAMBS candidate trainers put in a total of 61 hours over two weekends to learn how to deliver effective training in both programs to directors and music teams.

**Experts** – AAMBS imported the best: Paul Tamblyn of Ontario Canada and Byron Myers Sr of Missouri USA, both members of the Society’s Chorus Director Development Committee.

Ian Fraser (Hills Harmony), Rod Stow (Bay City Conchords) with Byron Myers Sr from Missouri USA

The result is many tired but happy and excited people who are inspired to be better leaders for our organization and to spread the word across Australia: Music leaders are our most important asset!

When I was invited to take on the position of Chorus Director Development for AAMBS last year I began investigating possible educational programs. The one with the most potential was Chorus Director Workshop Intensive, a BHS program that’s been running over ten years. This is one of the most successful Society programs ever, with very high ratings from Directors and Choruses who have participated.

But how to make it viable for AAMBS? Each CDWI workshop deals with five directors only. It seemed to me the only way was to train some of our own people to deliver the program. That way we can provide ongoing education and support for our musical leaders without importing overseas experts every time. We can bring the program to every Director, we can build a network of communication and comradeship among Directors, we can give every AAMBS Chorus Member a better experience at rehearsal every week.

With the encouragement and financial support of AAMBS, and the encouragement and flexibility of the BHS, it has become a reality!

The Directors who experienced the CDWI workshops these past two weekends came away with not only new conducting and teaching skills, but also a new philosophy and attitude about fixing chorus problems and a new inspiration to learn, grow and develop. Their evaluations of the workshops were overwhelmingly positive.

The Leaders who experienced the Director of the Future workshop came away with some amazing new ideas and skills to create better sounds, make rehearsals fun and rewarding, and support their Music Directors. Again, evaluations of the workshop were extremely positive.

For me, the most exciting result is that we now have one Certified CDWI Trainer, five qualified Apprentice CDWI Trainers, two DoF lead trainers, and three DoF co-trainers. These people answered the invitation to become trainers with a resounding YES, and they worked unstintingly for five days over two weekends (ten hours was our shortest day!). According to Paul and Byron, this is the first time ever that every single candidate has passed the CDWI training weekend course and become a qualified Apprentice Trainer. What a credit to us! I am delighted to announce the AAMBS Director Education Staff:

Rose McGee, The Blenders, Certified CDWI Trainer, DoF Lead Trainer
Gina D’Souza, Vocal Evolution, Apprentice CDWI Trainer, DoF Lead Trainer
Ian Fraser, Hills Harmony, Apprentice CDWI Trainer, DoF Co-Trainer
Gary Kirk, SOUNDWAVES, Apprentice CDWI Trainer, DoF Co-Trainer
Ian Miller, SOUNDWAVES, Apprentice CDWI Trainer, DoF Co-Trainer
Bruce Okley, Westcoast Chordsmen, Apprentice CDWI Trainer
Andrew Howson The Blenders, DoF Co-Trainer

If you see any of them, give them a pat on the back!
Their Choruses also deserve our thanks for helping to support their travel expenses; SOUNDWAVES and The Blenders did a
wonderful job of hosting the two workshops; and Hills Harmony, SOUNDWAVES and The Blenders billeted the many
participants from all over Australia.

Does all this sound like something you want for your Chorus and your Director? We will be putting together a plan to bring
the CDWI and DoF workshops to every Region. The vision and financial support AAMBS is showing in supporting this
program will lead to growth, greater satisfaction for every member, and more of the joy of singing barbershop for all of us.

Onward!

Rose McGee
Chorus Director Development Coordinator, AAMBS

Pictures of Concentration ...... Central Coast, Sunday 10 September 2006

Carmel Jones & Vicki
in deep discussion

Carmel learning from Byron

Paul, Gina, Rose, Carmel & Vicki

Trainees - Peter Fragar (Riverside Ramblers) Ian Luskey
(Melbourners) Carmel Jones (Illawarra Chordiality) Vicki
Dwyer (Sydney Harmony) Rod Stow, (Bay City Conchords)
Paul Tamblyn & Byron Myers Sr

Gold Coast participants

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"Music - The one incorporeal entrance into the higher world of knowledge which
comprehends mankind but which mankind cannot comprehend."

"Music can change the world."

- Ludwig Van Beethoven
There was some ignorance on my part at first as to what was expected of me and what I should expect. The Friday and Saturday sessions were very long and I found them rather draining. However, by Saturday evening I was able to put it all together and felt really delighted to be informed that I had passed the course at the level, Apprentice Trainer.

It turned out that all of the trainees had achieved this level - a first! Paul Tamblyn and Byron Myers said that it was the first time, in more than 40 workshops, that all trainees at a workshop had achieved a pass in their first attempt!

I would not be at all surprised if Rose completes the accreditation to CDWI Trainer next weekend. She has an excellent grasp of the course and the techniques involved - as well as being the most successful director in AAMBS.

Assuming this eventuates we will be able to repeat the course in Australia without the need to import Society trainers. If Rose is available to lead a course, theoretically any one of the other Apprentices could be her assistant.

We talked about this a bit. It could mean that virtually all the remaining AAMBS directors could, if they wished, take the course within the space of a year or two. (That is, the normal one-day course for directors - not the 'train the trainers' course which we underwent on the Friday and Saturday.) It is quite feasible that not only the AAMBS directors, but others, such as Assistant Directors and people who are working with school student groups, could be offered the course. This is really exciting stuff.

I found the directors’ training to be the best yet. There were several reasons for this: the fact that two trainers worked with only five directors, the emphasis on helping the directors to find their own solutions, and the concentration on just a few practical matters that had been nominated by the directors themselves. All of us agreed that previous directors’ training courses that we had attended had, of necessity, been too general and not aimed at the specific problems nominated by, and at the level desired by, the directors.

It would be of tremendous value to our Association if we could really take this program forward to as many choruses and chorus directors as possible. It would raise the standard of chorus directing and the enthusiasm of our singers - for sure. It is not unlikely that some directors would line up for more than one course, but that could be sorted out later. I just think that it would be great if AAMBS could embrace, support and promote the CDWI concept - it would be so good for our members.

Once again, my sincere thanks to you and the Executive for giving me the opportunity to participate.

Response from Ian Mulholland, VP Music - Bruce - Fantastic feedback, thank you. AAMBS has invested a lot in this, and I am really glad that Rose was able to make it happen. Your comments provide the encouragement we need to keep investing in our most valuable asset - our directors (and of course our singers who will get a carry over benefit)

In Hobart we have formed a new Club with three choruses and almost 40 men now enjoying barbershop singing.

- **TAG TEAM**

Exciting news is Tag Team, the new youth chorus. Tag Team has been rehearsing for just over two months now and are already sounding great.

The foundation chorus has 14 members registered with AAMBS including MD Adam Purton, lead with quartet incognito, supported by Jimmy Hoggett, bass with incognito.

Tag Team rehearses every Tuesday evening at the Education Faculty at UTAS. They already have their first gig lined up in the 2006 Southern Stars Community Concert on Sunday 8 October.

Look out for Tag Team, they promise to be a sensation.

- **The WELLINGTONES**

2006 has been an important year for the Wellingtones as the chorus has regrouped under new MD, Richard Gardam.

Richard, with support from the music team, has been working with the chorus to develop vocal production.

The chorus learning program has been supported by coaching visits from Rose McGee and Eddie Martinez. As well, the chorus has had regular coaching visits from Tim Begbie and members of incognito. Also, this year the chorus has continued working with Andrew Howson, Associate Director of the Blenders. Andrew has had two week long visits.

The Wellingtones have also recently moved into the Education Faculty at UTAS as their rehearsal venue.

- **The SILVERTONES**

This is another chorus formed by the Club this year. It has kept in the barbershop fold a number of older men, formerly members of the Wellingtones.

The Silvertones, led by their MD Fred Brown, and supported by some members of the Wellingtones rehearse during the day and have been performing monthly at retirement home.
One of our priorities this year has been to provide quartetting opportunities. The format has been a one hour tag singing session before rehearsal. A number of members have gained good benefits in learning and confidence.

Trevor Rootes
Secretary

Hi there, - no Broadwater hasn't gone under water. I just missed the deadlines of Barbershop Notes. Presently we have only 12 members, four being away now for some time due to new babies, medical conditions and overseas holidays. But for the 12 staunch members we have had a number of sing-outs. In June we were fortunate to have a booking with the "Second Wind Community Band, Concert Band and Stage Band". It was a good sing-out and thoroughly enjoyed by all, and a nice interlude between classical and semi-classical music. The guys also sang at a Retirement Village in Cleveland. The chorus is very welcome there and they have been invited back for a concert now 3 years in a row. July has brought me my first grandson and the chorus had a sing-out for an 80th surprise birthday party. The guys were supposed to sing around the swimming pool, but all the best laid plans etc as it rained. We assembled in the garage and walked around the side passage to a crowd of around 60 people. The chorus sang six songs and the lady who was 80 was thrilled with the guys' performance.

Our chorus was honoured to have a visitor from the Torrevieja Harmonisers Barbershop chorus in Spain. Chas Smith MD just walked into rehearsal and it was great having him return the following week. We gave him a copy of our Australian Song Book which we all signed, and he has e-mailed me from Spain thanking us for the hospitality and to say that his chorus has already started on Waltzing Matilda.

I have been in touch with Doug Moody from the Melbournaires, what a great write-up he gave in the last issue of Barbershop Notes on their Sing In Harmony course. The chorus is indeed lucky to have him. Broadwater chorus has now been booked for three more concerts. There is a church of Barbershop Notes on their Sing In Harmony course. The I have been in touch with Doug Moody from the already started on Waltzing Matilda.

Thanking us for the hospitality and to say that his chorus has booked which we all signed, and he has e-mailed me from Spain thanking us for the hospitality and to say that his chorus has already started on Waltzing Matilda.

Important the performance of the Clippers at the Rugby was not lost on sponsors and the chorus now has an appointment to entertain the "sold-out" crowds as they enter the grounds at the Gabba for the Ashes Cricket Test Match in Brisbane in November. On this occasion the members know we will be challenged by the discordant but bold sounds of the "Barmy Army" who will turn up ready to blow the Clippers away with their raucous sounds. The "B -- Army" will inevitably be disappointed as the pure barbershop harmonies of the Clippers will win the crowd and the day for the Australians in their quest to regain the Ashes trophy and return it to the country in which it belongs -- right here in the Great South Land!

Our wonderful support from Bunnings continued with two more sausage sizzles in the Brisbane metropolitan area. A strong turn out by members ensured the chorus cooked and sang their way throughout the day spreading the good news of four part a capella harmony served with a delicious sausage and onions on a fresh bread roll.

In August the Clippers went into serious performance with a Bronze performance at the Brisbane Eisteddfod.

A membership target for the chorus set just eighteen months ago of 65 members has been achieved. This has been a great achievement by the current committee and a cause for considerable pride by all involved at the Clippers. We are now a strong, happy, medium sized chorus who enjoy every minute of our time together making music in the barbershop tradition.

Planning for our most important gig of the year is in full swing. Our own concert at the Old Museum Concert Hall in late October and all eyes are firmly focussed on the finer points of working together to produce the best harmonies we can for our loyal supporters on our own special night.

Late news from the Clippers is the appointment of a new Musical Director for the chorus. John McMillan who has been controlling the ship for the past eighteen months is standing down as MD. John is returning to the risers as the lead Tenor in the chorus and we welcome to the role Rosalie Lang. The next edition of Barbershop notes will carry more news of our new Director and her work with the Clippers.

- Keith Druery - Vice President Publicity
WHAT AN EXPERIENCE ……

SOUNDWAVES had the pleasure of hosting the first weekend of the ‘Chorus Director Workshop Intensive’.

The vision of Rose McGee to bring a CDWI to Australia was a great initiative.

The trainers from North America, Paul Tamblyn and Byron Myers were not only great educators but also two wonderful people.

It was great to have Rose McGee from Sunshine region, Gina D’Souza & Bruce Okely from Western Region, Ian Frazer, Ian Miller and Gary Kirk from Eastern Region gather together for two and a half days to learn to become CDWI trainers. Also Peter Fragar from Penrith, Carmel Jones from Woollongong, Vicki Dwyer from Sydney and Ian Lushey and Rod Stow from Victoria who travelled all those distances to do the one day CDWI on the Sunday.

25 members of SOUNDWAVES spent Sunday afternoon singing for the five directors doing the course and by the end of the day ‘Wild Irish Rose’ and ‘I still Call Australia Home’ were sounding pretty good.

The members of SOUNDWAVES had a great time and would encourage any other chorus that gets the opportunity to support a CDWI to grab it with both hands. The following Monday night Paul and Byron joined us at rehearsal and we were both entertained and educated. Three hours just seemed to go by in a flash.

We look forward to having more educators of the caliber of those two guys.

STEVE IRWIN MEMORIAL…. The Crikey Chorus

On Thursday 14 September The Blenders received a call from John Stainton, Managing Director of The Best Picture Show, Steve Irwin’s management company. He asked if we could supply 100 men as a chorus to back soloists in Steve’s memorial service to be held less than a week away at Australia Zoo. So began the most exciting and emotional journey in the life of The Blenders.

To be fair this was not the first time The Blenders had been involved with The Best Picture Show Group. Eighteen months before we had learned and recorded Outback to Hollywood and Man of Action with John Stainton personally visiting the chorus to film and record the songs. He was impressed with the speed of learning (approximately one week) and the energy the chorus produced and vowed that we would work together at some stage in the future. Neither John nor The Blenders would have wished for the circumstances that eventually brought us together again.

The second call from John was to inform the chorus that we would be performing three songs in the Memorial – Hey, True Blue and Give Me a Home Among the Gum Trees with John Williamson, and a new song still being composed and to be sung with a yet to be named soloist.

The music team immediately flew into action with Andrew Howson arranging the harmonics for the first two songs and Johnny Mahon putting them on learning CDs. Meanwhile the committee was madly counting the responses from the chorus as to who could take a break from work for Tuesday and Wednesday and join the travelling party. By Friday we knew that The Blenders could muster about 72 men and the call went out to the members of the River City Clippers and Miner Chords to
assist in make up the numbers. Their response was magnificent with The Clippers eventually providing 20 men and Miner Chords 9 men.

The first rehearsal was scheduled for Saturday evening after the CDWI workshop at St Kevin’s School. The two overseas coaches, Paul Tamblyn and Bryon Myers, immediately put their hands up to be part of the journey, as did several of the potential new members of The Blenders who were in the last week of their sing with the champions membership recruitment program. We had our 100 singers. The rehearsal went well and we managed to get through the first two songs and listen to the first release of the new piece To Change This World which had been emailed through just before the rehearsal. We knew then that we would be singing with the magnificent voice of Daniel McGahn as soloist.

The next rehearsal was to be at The Blenders’ venue on Monday evening (our scheduled rehearsal night). The learning material for the new song was released with all participants sworn to secrecy as the general public were to hear this for the first time at the Memorial Ceremony. The rehearsal was beyond expectations with over 90 men on the risers and the visiting presenters commenting that the atmosphere was similar to being at a Vocal Majority rehearsal.

The two coaches were picked up from the Gold Coast the next day at 12 noon and Brisbane 1pm and the third rehearsal started on the coaches with Music Team members using the bus sound system to play the soloists from the chorus to sing along with. We arrived at Australia Zoo and straight into a full run-through with the other performers. As usual there were some difficulties with microphones for the group that had to be solved and the members carrying the wreaths had to practise the placement. Then it was on to the coaches and off to Caloundra for dinner and rehearsal through to 11 pm before a brief sleep and onto the coaches at 5 am and back to the Zoo for a full dress rehearsal with us all dressed in Steve Irwin’s trademark khaki shirt and shorts.

The show was broadcast live to over 600,000,000 people at 9 am with 5,000 in the Crocoseum, and those of you who were lucky enough to have watched the event will understand how emotionally effected the participants were. The Crikey Chorus (as we were affectionately known) was no different. There were many tears in the rehearsal so you can imagine how it was for the group in the main event.

The event and the journey was one that the participants will never forget and shows how this great Barbershop organization is more than just individual choruses interested in their own achievements. No other singing organisation could have pulled together such a talented group of men on such short notice, to perform so skilfully and with such emotion and passion.

The Blenders are eternally grateful to the members of The Clippers and Miner Chords who rallied to the call and for the support from Barbershoppers around Australia and internationally. We are so proud to be part of this great organization.

Steve Griffin
SOUNDWAVES HELPS OUT

In true Barbershop style and in response to a request from Col Williams (Bass, ex Central Coast Barbershop Chorus & Sydney Harmony), 10 Members of SOUNDWAVES travelled in the Central Coast Leagues Club bus to Tea Gardens on the beautiful Myall Lakes on Sunday 20th August, to help Col form a Barbershop Chorus in his new stomping ground. It turned out to be a very successful New Members’ Day. The following article appeared in the local newspaper the next week:

SWEET SOUND: The Myall Coast Barbershop Chorus at their first rehearsal.

Barbershop harmony has arrived

ON Sunday, August 20, the Myall Coast Barbershop Chorus was established with a highly successful singing workshop at The Grange Country Clubhouse in Tea Gardens.

The day began at 10am with the arrival of 10 barbershop singers from the Central Coast Chorus, with some ladies in support.

Representing the Gosford Chorus were two superb quartets, “Four on the Floor” and “The Strolling Tones”, who literally made the rafters ring with their harmony.

Add to this the secretary of the Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (AAMBS), Kevin White (bass) and coach driver Geoff Lehner (bass), plus the wonderful singing and directing of Garry Kirk and the day was a raging success, even before the locals got to sing a note.

Close to 20 local men enjoyed a day of listening and learning from these experienced singers, learning two songs and tags by the end of the day.

Midway through we adjourned for lunch provided by some very supportive local wives, and enjoyed the beautiful clubhouse setting by the lake.

By 2.30pm we were ready for a mini concert, singing all we had learned and being entertained again by the men from Gosford.

It was a fun day packed full of learning, laughter and fellowship, ending with afternoon tea and a farewell in harmony.

Having heard the sound that 10 men can make, we realise that we already have a head start with more than 20 enthusiastic singers ready to participate.

The first practice night was on Tuesday at the home of Mike Danks (4997 0559).

Interested men who can sing in tune are welcome at any rehearsal. Phone Col (4997 3438), Graham (4997 2700) or Mike (4997 0559).
COMING EVENTS

2006

Oct 8 – Eastern Region Board Meeting

Oct 13-15 – Eastern Region Quarteting Workshop, Mangrove Mountain Retreat, Mangrove Mountain NSW. Arrive after 6 pm Friday 13th, Depart before 3.00 pm Sunday afternoon. Faculty Alliance (AAMBS Gold Medal Quartet) (See application form Page 13)

Oct 21 – Brisbane River City Clippers – Annual Concert at the Old Museum, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane

Oct 28 – REALTIME Concert, Winthrop Baptist College Auditorium, Perth at 7.30 pm. (See details Page 8)


Nov 4 – REALTIME Concert 8.00 pm York Theatre at the Seymour Centre Complex. Cnr City Road and Cleveland Street, Chippendale, Sydney (See details Page 9)

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

Nov 18 – SydneySiders Express – 7.45pm Concert at Abbotsleigh Girls School,1666 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 Tickets $20 and $15 for school children and pensioners. Contact: Bob Mackenzie – 02 9489 1900

2007

March – Eastern Region Jamboree. A day of fellowship and fun where choruses and quartets will perform just for the pleasure of hearing each other.

April-May – Eastern Region: Quartet coaching workshops in Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart to assist quartets to prepare for the convention qualifying competition

June – Eastern Region: Quartet Qualifying competition in Sydney, which is the qualifying event for the Sydney Convention in September. As usual, distant quartets will be able to submit a videotaped entry for assessment by the AAMBS Judging Panel.

July 1 – 8 – Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention, Denver, Colorado

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

2008


(for more details on these events go to www.aambs.org.au)

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There is always a Barbershopper there when you need a hand.

When your Editor was stuck in Sydney with a flat tyre recently, around the corner came the wonderful Mario Belizzi from Sydney Harmony, whom I hadn’t seen for a long time. He gave me a kiss on the check and then (foolishly as it turned out) asked me “How are you going?” I said I wasn’t going anywhere and pointed to my flat tyre.

Being the true gentleman that he is he came to the rescue of this damsel in distress, changed my tyre (even though I told him that I had called the NRMA for roadside assistance) and had me back on the road long before the NRMA appeared on the scene.

Thank you, Mario, you are my hero!

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"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

-- Berthold Auerbach
AAMBS Eastern Region

Interested in quartet singing?
Come to our Live-in
QUARTETTING WORKSHOP
13-15 October 2006

Faculty - "Alliance" (Current AAMBS Champion Quartet- all experienced quartet coaches and three members are AAMBS-qualified judges)

- Fully catered, from supper Friday to lunch Sunday
- 8-bunk cottage accommodation, with A/C, heating, balcony, bathroom (bring your own sheets, soap and towels)
- Wonderful bushland setting
- Within 1 hour's drive from Hornsby

This workshop has been set up specifically to encourage and develop the art of singing in quartets. It will not be aimed solely at coaching existing quartets (but they are very welcome!). ANYONE INTERESTED IN QUARTETTING SHOULD COME - YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE IN AN EXISTING QUARTET. The program, to be detailed by the Dean of the program, Ian Miller, in conjunction with Alliance, will include 'mix and match' exercises for voice matching. You can try quartet singing with expert coaching and support. Maybe you will find three people you don't already know, and create a new quartet!

Where: Mangrove Mountain Retreat, Mangrove Mountain, NSW. Take the Calga exit from the F3, head for Central Mangrove. Turn left towards Mangrove Mountain. The Retreat is 3.8 KM on Wisemans Ferry side of Central Mangrove, at 250 Wisemans Ferry Road.

Arrival: After 6.00 PM Friday. A light supper will be provided during the evening.

Departure: Before 3.00 PM Sunday.

Cost: $110.00 per person, all inclusive (no tuition fees)
SEND MONEY (cheque only) and registration form below, to
Bill Purdue (AAMBS Eastern Region President)
PO Box 708.
St Ives NSW 2075

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AAMBS Eastern Region Quarteting Workshop
Registration Form

Surname: _______________________________________ Given Name: _______________________________________

Estimated time of arrival: __________________________

Contact Phone number: ( ) ______________________ Email Address: _________________________________

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The AAMBS Library (at 16 December 2006)

CDs, videos, DVDs, tapes and books available for loan.
You pay only the return postage. Loan Time – One Month.
Just call Kevin on 0500 547 111 or email secretary@aambs.org.au

AUDIO TAPES
A Road to Better Singing (Tape & booklet) by Paul Mayo

BOOKS
An Information Manual for Barbershop Quartets - SPEBSQSA
An Introduction to Barbershop Singing for Youth - SPEBSQSA
Bulletin Editor's Manual - SPEBSQSA
Chapter Management Guide - SPEBSQSA
Chapter Marketing Ideas - SPEBSQSA
Directing a Barbershop Chorus - SPEBSQSA
Improving Vocal Techniques through the Warm Up - SPEBSQSA
Men In Harmony - A History - Andy Aberle
Music Fundamentals for Barbershoppers - SPEBSQSA
Songs of Inspiration - SPEBSQSA
Sound for Ensemble Singing - SPEBSQSA
SPEBSQSA Music Catalog 2000
SPEBSQSA Show Production Manual
Successful Performance for the Quartet and Chorus - SPEBSQSA
The Inner Game of Music Workbook - SPEBSQSA
The Master of Ceremonies Manual - SPEBSQSA
The Music Leadership Team - SPEBSQSA
Theory of Barbershop Harmony - SPEBSQSA
The Physics of Barbershop Sound - SPEBSQSA
Wants to Sing Barbershop? - AAMBS
Young Men in Harmony Resource Guide - SPEBSQSA

Educational CDs:
The Barbershop Quartet (CD-ROM) – software, music and sound.
Harmony Hits – 4 parts learning CD of 6 songs.

Entertainment: CD:
Barbershopp's Best – A potpourri of top quartets.
International Chorus Champions 1990 – 2001 CDs:
1992: Southern Gateway Chorus – All the World And It's Gold
1995, '98: Alexandr Harmonizers – Photos. and Memories
2004: Ambassadors of Harmony - Applause
International Quartet Champions 1990 – 2001 CDs:
1990: Acoustix – New Science of Sound
1991: The Ritz – Swingin’ on a Star
1992: Keepsake – Without a Song
1993: Gas House Gang – A Little Night Music
1994: Jokers Wild – Right from the Start
1995: Marquis – In the Wee Small Hours
1996: Nightlife – Blues in the Night
1997: Yesteryear – Let the Rest of the World Go Buy!
1998: Revival – Revival
1999: Fred – Simply Fred
2000: Platinum – Be Our Guest
2001: Michigan Jake – For the Record
2002: The Four Voices – 4 Voices
2003: Power Play – Love at Home
2004: Gotcha! – Gotcha! Again!
International Conventions: Videos
1991 (Louisville)
1994 (Pittsburgh) - Top Twenty Quartets
1995 (Miami) - Top Twenty Quartets
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Attach Payment: $ 110.00

1999 (Anaheim) - Top Twenty Quartets
1995 (Miami) - Top Twenty Quartets
1999 (Anaheim) - Top Two Places Chorus
1999 (Anaheim) - Top Twenty Three Choruses
2000 (Kansas City) - Top Twenty Quartets
2000 (Kansas City) - Top Twenty Three Choruses
2001 (Nashville) - Top Twenty Quartets
2001 (Nashville) - Top Twenty One Choruses
2002 (Portland) - Top Twenty Quartets
2002 (Portland) - Top Twenty One Choruses
2003 (Montreal) - Top Twenty Quartets
2003 (Montreal) - Top Twenty One Choruses
2004 (Louisville) - Top Twenty Quartets
2004 (Louisville) - Top Twenty Two Choruses
2005 (Salt Lake) - Top Twenty Quartets
2005 (Salt Lake) - Top Twenty-Four Choruses

AAMBS Conventions – Videos
1991 (Gold Coast) - Everything in one video.
1997 (Sydney) - Chorus Competition
1997 (Sydney) - Quartet Final Competition
1997 (Sydney) - Quartet Prelim. Competition – 2 videos
1999 (Brisbane) - Chorus Competition
1999 (Brisbane) - Junior & Senior Quartet Finals
1999 (Brisbane) - Saturday Night Gala Concert
1999 (Brisbane) - Open Quartet Heats & Open Finals – 2 videos
2001 (Melbourne) - Chorus Competition
2001 (Melbourne) - Junior & Senior Quartet Competitions
2001 (Melbourne) - Grand Showcase Concert
2001 (Melbourne) - Open Quartet Heats – 2 videos
2001 (Melbourne) - Parade of Champions Concert
2003 (Perth) - Chorus Competition
2003 (Perth) - Youth Quartets & Choruses Competitions
2003 (Perth) - Quartet Final Competition
2003 (Perth) - Quartet Semi Final Competition – 2 videos
2003 (Perth) - Senior Quartets Competition
2003 (Perth) - Harmony Showcase Concert

AAMBS Conventions - DVDs
2005 (Gold Coast) - Schools Quartet Competition
2005 (Gold Coast) - Quartet Preliminary Final Session 1
2005 (Gold Coast) - Quartet Preliminary Final Session 2
2005 (Gold Coast) - Quartet Preliminary Final Session 3
2005 (Gold Coast) - Quartet Final
2005 (Gold Coast) - Chorus Competition Session 1
2005 (Gold Coast) - Chorus Competition Session 2

Educational:
8 Points of Fun
A Voice Building Program
Building a Better Chorus – Dr Greg Lyne
Earning the Standing Ovation – Lloyd Steinkamp
Entertainment According to Bub Thomas
Harmony Explosion
Jim Clancy & Vocal Majority Master Class July 2001
Lou Perry on Barbershop Singing
Presentation Class 1993
Singing is Life – an introduction to the Society (NTSC format)
Uniformity of Sound Through Vowel Targets
What Are We Trying to Preserve?
Brothers in Harmony – Banana Blenders go to Anaheim
Voices – A movie about modern barbershop.

Polecat CDs and tapes for sale @ $ 5.00 each
Note: postage is payable on these items.
Each Polecat Learning record is available on tape or CD.
THE AAMBS COUNCIL

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Travelling 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 10 November 2006