Greetings, fellow Barbershoppers,

Another year has disappeared, and we meet again to reflect on the achievements of the year, and the goals for the future of AAMBS. This was an “in between” year as choruses and quartets focus on employing all the skills and techniques they learned in the lead up to the last Convention. And we’re already closer in time to the big event in Sydney than to our last Convention.

Rather than being a “down” year, this was a year of many milestones in the AAMBS Association. One of the highlights of this year was obviously the tour of the International Gold Medal quartet Realtime. This was an extraordinary artistic and inspirational success which was made possible by a host of gentlemen in leadership positions in AAMBS. I can’t mention them all, but Bob Fritz did the almost impossible job of coordinating their schedule to be compatible with the barbershop events in two countries, and 6 cities. My Outlook folder with 277 Realtime emails attests to the complexity of this endeavour. The net financial cost of this extensive tour to AAMBS members was zero, thanks to the planning of Bob, our Regional chairmen and specific chorus Board members, and the ticket sales done by many of our members. If we could have just doubled our sale of tickets to the three Australian performances we would have netted over $30,000 profit. I would ask all members to reflect on that if we are able to arrange such a tour in the future.

Bob Fritz has been closely working with the Sydney Convention committee finalizing the arrangements for the 9th Biennial AAMBS National Convention at the Sydney Convention Centre 27 – 30 September, 2007. And based on the enthusiastic responses of virtually every single barbershopper that attended Harmony College last year, I hope every delegate that attends the Convention will also stay a couple of extra days for the Harmony College. If you’ve paid for the trip to Sydney, it’s very cost effective to stay a couple of extra days for the fellowship and learning experience with a world class faculty, and a quartet like Gotcha.

If I could raise just one issue to the attention of every member of our Association it would be that of membership – retention, and recruitment. We have to work really hard just to replace the number of our members that retire each year. And if we don’t reverse the decline in membership around the world, it doesn’t take a genius to figure out that our art-form could become just a distant memory. This is a real possibility, and it’s a lot more immediate than global warming! To focus our energies, and provide some great incentives, our Membership VP Tom Smith has launched a membership drive on steroids. No less that a thousand dollars awaits the club that has the largest increase in membership, based on percentage, between 1 Dec, and June 30th. With almost that much for 2nd place, and other prizes are being added too. Of course, we will all be winners when we reach the goal of 100 new members by the end of the drive. If you missed it, check out the info in the latest barbershop notes on the AAMBS website, which is rather cleverly named aambs.org.au.

The emphasis on youth in the barbershop movement continues to be spearheaded by VP Youth Development Steve Griffin. He has produced a DVD which can bring the joy of barbershopping to music teachers and to a younger audience. His relentless work with schools has brought our art-form to a new generation.

As AAMBS Secretary, Kevin White maintains our records, our registrations, our insurance, and our correspondence. And Nerida White continues to be our editor and publisher of the informative Barbershop Notes. With webmaster Mark Virtue we have an outstanding AAMBS website with all our relevant information, downloads, a comprehensive calendar, and links to other barbershop sites.
I've saved the work of our Music VP for last, because his achievements and service to AAMBS have been just remarkable. He is retiring from the AAMBS Council after completing his 2nd two year term, and returning his full attention to family and to his flourishing, full-on business.

Ian Mulholland has given us his time, his talents, and his amazing work ethic, in furthering a multitude of AAMBS programs. He established our Judges Guild, which is in great shape, with a core of qualified judges in Australia and New Zealand to assess our competitions Down Under. We have our new Aussie Songbook. Throughout his current four year tour of duty as Music VP Ian has been that rare combination of “big picture” man, and exacting detail monitor. On behalf of every member of AAMBS I extend to Ian our deepest thanks and a hearty “well done.

And speaking of Ians...... we are extremely fortunate to be able to welcome Ian Miller onboard tonight as Ian Mulholland’s successor as Music VP. I know he will advance the current initiatives and bring new ideas to Council.

In her role as Chorus Development Officer our renowned Director Rose McGee brought the excellent BHS program, Chorus Director Workshop Intensive to Australia with superb results.

In two weekends of non-stop training every AAMBS Director achieved certification. Our congratulations to Rose for this remarkable achievement, and to Gina D’Souza, Ian Fraser, Gary Kirk, Ian Miller, Bruce Okely, and Andrew Howson for giving Australia an unprecedented 100% success rate in this certification program.

Regional Co-ordination this year has been provided by Harry Owen in Western Region, Bill Purdue in Eastern Region, and Chris Mountier in Sunshine Region. These gentlemen have organized our Regional Conventions and many other barbershop activities to enhance our singing and performing abilities and keep the fun in barbershopping.

As you know the Barbershop Harmony Society, formerly know as SPEBSQSA, has by far the largest number of barbershoppers, at around 32,000. AAMBS is an affiliate of that organization, along with NZABS, BABBBS, BinG!, SPATS, SNOBS, and DABS. Our current yearly membership dues of $3.75 per member entitles us to a spot for our Medallist choruses and quartets to compete at Internationals every year, access to their vast music library, and access to the judges, educators, and quartets at the pinnacle of barbershop abilities and skills. We also get 85 copies of Harmonizer magazine which is distributed to AAMBS clubs around Australia.

However, In October we received notification that the dues of all affiliates were being raised again, to $5.00 per man. I immediately challenged this and got a commitment from BHS CEO Ed Watson to defer any increase, and to engage in a full discussion during Internationals week.

Before I close I want to acknowledge the outstanding profile maintained by our current Gold Medallists, the Blenders, and Alliance. As Australia’s champions they have shared their abilities and have maintained a goal of excellence for which we can all strive.

In closing I want to remind all of you that the International Convention this year is taking place in my home town of Denver in the beautiful Colorado Rockies. AAMBS will be represented by The Blenders in competition on the International stage, and by Fast Forward in the International Collegiate competition for men 25 years and under. Both will also perform in the prestigious World Harmony Jamboree in Denver.

If you have ever contemplated a vacation to one of the most scenic spots in the world, come to Denver for the 4th of July weekend, and support your fellow Australian barbershoppers. And mark your calendars for the Pan Pac Convention in Honolulu Hawaii, 30 October 2008. We hope to have a dozen or so of our Australian choruses competing against choruses from New Zealand, Japan, Hawaii, and the West Coast of the US. And the weekend after our Convention, the Sweet Adeline International Convention will be held at the same venue. How’s that for a vacation to contemplate?

And finally, there are those that say they want to work to sing really well, and those that say they just want to have fun. I submit that singing really, really well is a heck of a lot of fun. My thanks to all the members of AAMBS for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of this outstanding organisation. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2007.

In Harmony

Mike Donnelly,
President, AAMBS

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From our Secretary

Can you help me with your emails by noting which Club, Chorus or Quartet you hail from? I know I should know each and everyone of our members and where they come from, however with close to 800 AAMBS members and receiving several emails each day, I find that sometimes I have to double check who you are by accessing the AAMBS Database to ensure that I am replying to the right person. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated and should result in quicker responses to your queries.

As Secretary, I am responsible for keeping the AAMBS records up to date, which is why all correspondence should be directed to me. When I receive particulars of your payments and membership details I am able to immediately update your Club's details on the AAMBS Database, bank your payments and notify our Treasurer of all amounts received and banked. So, to ensure the system works, can you please make sure that you address all correspondence to me, including your registration and membership updates. If, in the case of necessity, payment is not made directly to me, you are required to give me written notice of the payment and its particulars and the full details of any member concerned. This will ensure that your records are correct and that the known member's rights are protected.

In Continuing Harmony,
Kevin White
From our VP Membership

I’m encouraged by the correspondence I’ve received from members on the recruitment drive – it’s clear to me that the potential for success is quite high given the enthusiasm expressed.

Re-visit the membership articles from last issue of BSN to keep the importance of increasing our membership in the forefront of everyone’s mind when it comes to planning your Club program for 2007. First and foremost, every Club should have a guest night planned in the week of February 19 to 23, 2007 (anyone spot the deliberate mistake in the last issue of BSN?) but let’s not just settle for one guest night, plan another in June/July as well.

Oh! And I’m sure I’ve mentioned the cool $1,000 at the end of this membership drive rainbow for the most successful Club in terms of net membership increase.

Here’s a couple of promotional ideas that bring four part acappella harmony direct to the public.

Barbershop Busking

There are a few weekends between now and the guest night. Grab your quartets and get down to your nearest shopping malls. I’m not necessarily talking about the mega complexes (but don’t forget them) but those that have a courtyard arrangement. Make sure you have plenty of promotional material on hand about your chorus, barbershop harmony singing and particularly the guest night. And make sure you have permission from the shopping mall management.

Barbershop ‘Road Show’

My acknowledgement to Steve Shannon, Barbershop Harmony Society, for this idea.

Steve says,

“Each year we spend countless hours thinking, planning, writing and practicing just to produce an annual show. In most cases, we do all of this for just one or two performances... and for a relatively small group of camp followers; our fans. Often, our chapters still must find other sources of income to support their music program. And, you (directors) must find ways to keep that hard-learned repertoire alive. I submit that there is a much better way.

Instead of considering your annual show to be a "culminating activity", consider it to be the initial run of a year-long Road Show. EVERY other non-music organization in town, (churches, schools, service clubs, senior service groups, etc.), is looking for some way to raise money. YOU already have a proven "Package Show", THEY have an established customer / parishioner / patron base to whom they already sell things to raise money. Why not offer them a win / win deal? They do the promo, sell the tickets, print the programs and provide the venue, you put on a Great Family Rated Show. Split the gate... you get 1/3, they get 2/3 (out of which they pay any bills).

Yes, you may have to modify your staging to work in a church or gym... so what?
Yes, you may have to encourage your chapter quartets to sing better... so what?
Yes, you may have to improve your MC-ing... so what?
Yes, you may have to do a show every month... so what?
Aren’t we in this game to have fun singing?
Isn’t it more fun when we have an appreciative audience?

BONUS... your members do not have to sell tickets, or ads, or repeat the hassle of putting on your big show... just show up and entertain the crowd by doing what you already do best.

DOUBLE BONUS... your co-venture partners have access to audience (and potential singers) that you don't have.”

And this last point is the most important in terms of finding those new members

In harmony

Tom Smith
VP membership
If you sing every chance you get, and you know who you are, singing is in you and it’s gotta come out. Take it to the next level.

The Australian Association of Men’s Barbershop Singers—where it’s all about the music—and 800 other men to sing it with you

Try it yourself with the chorus in your area: Feb 19-23 2007
What’s in it for you?

1. More Members means more tenor singers
2. More members means more quartet singers
3. More members means more tag singers
4. More members means more people to sell show tickets, bigger show audiences and louder applause for your performance.
5. New members means new ideas and bigger networks of influence translating into more opportunities for your chorus to sing, perform, and serve your community
6. More members means dynamic and talented music and administrative leaders to grow existing clubs or start new clubs.
7. Any member recruiting another member will be eligible to receive cash prizes

The campaign runs from Feb 1 to Mar 31 2006

An Australian Chorus Guest Night Celebration will be held in the week of Feb 20 - 24, 2007

AAMBS will provide:
- Advertising Material
- Name Tag Masters
- Recruiting Helps
Greetings from the 2007 Convention Committee

Well, at last we can confirm that all events of the 2007 Convention will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre. It has taken several months of hard negotiation to secure a package that will provide all of us with world class facilities at rates that, by Sydney standards, will be reasonable. The Convention Committee has been conscious of the major advantages in having all events at the one location.

Nevertheless, after three Conventions over six years with little or no fee increase, AAMBS has agreed that the delegate fee must be increased just to cover costs for the 2007 Convention. Full delegate registration will be $275.00 and partner delegate registration will be $255.00. AAMBS has also decided that, apart from public ticket sales, individual ticket sales will not be available for separate Convention events.

Deposit of $100.00 per delegate must be paid by 1 June. Balance of payment must be paid by 20 August.

The Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre provides unique facilities that set it apart as one of the principal Convention locations in the world. SCEC has been extensively refurbished since the last National Convention in 1997, hosted by Sydneysiders Express. SCEC has a spectacular location right on Darling Harbour, and within walking distance of a wide range of dining facilities and accommodation.

Much of the available accommodation for the convention will be within walking distance of the venue, and will provide convenience as well as savings in transport costs.

Website

Please keep checking on the Convention website, www.barbershopconvention.com.au/. You will see there is a range of information on Accommodation, Harmony College, News updates, Music links and Sydney tourist information. There are maps and Sydney transport information to help you find your way around Darling Harbour and Sydney. Registration details and downloadable forms will be available soon.

The website will be populated with further information in the coming days and weeks, including the convention program and merchandise.

Please contact us via the website email link if there is anything you would like to see included on the website.

Guest Stars

As previously advised the special guests performing at the Harmony Spectacular Concert will be 2004 International Champions GOTCHA, Australian and the world renowned A-cappella group The Idea of North, as well as Australia’s own 7 times National Champions, the Blenders. The Blenders will be fresh back from the International Convention in Denver and we know they will do Australia proud. You will see information and website links to these groups on the Convention website.

Stop Press

Designated Rehearsal Venue

We all know that one of the most important elements of the chorus competition is finding suitable rehearsal venues prior to the competition. The Convention Committee is currently working on providing rehearsal rooms at the Convention Centre. We hope that this can be arranged for a minimal cost to all choruses. Watch this space for further information.

Contact us

Please feel free to contact the organising team at any time with any comments or suggestions; we really appreciate your input. Our email contact is now: sydneysings@sydneyharmony.com.au.

Best wishes to you all as you prepare to take part in the Convention in Sydney in 2007.

Christopher Miley
Convention Co-ordinator

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONALS

Our Best Wishes go to “Who’s Counting” who are competing in Albuquerque as our AAMBS Senior representatives. We hope it is a good omen that they are competing on Australia Day.

Our thoughts and best wishes for a speedy recovery are with John Shelton who was not able to fly out with them. Thankfully Charlie Voges was able to step in at the last minute to fill his spot under the special Barbershop Harmony Society rules and they left for the States on Sunday 21st January.

We will keep you up to date with their progress.
Through his dogged determination and persistence he is a person of special significance among Chorus members for Alister was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at the age of 40. Besides his bulky 125kg frame, he has another equally weighty problem in the shape of a 100kg electronically operated wheelchair in which he spends most hours of every day, seven days a week.

During the year the Festival Statesmen sing out at 35-40 venues in various city and country locations and Alister misses very few of these performances. He is a familiar sight arriving with his friendly driver, George, in his Access Cab and, if he can’t get on stage with his wheelchair, he is somewhere in the front few rows of the audience cheering the Chorus on.

Earlier last year when plans for the Voices in Harmony concert in Perth were first planned, Alister’s name was one of those on top of the list for airline tickets. In the following weeks it became increasingly clear to him, with the cost of a seat for his carer and two for himself and his wheelchair, coupled to the embarrassment of having to be hoisted on and off the plane by a forklift truck, the problems were insurmountable. Sadly Alister had to follow the Chorus’ progress across the Nullabor and back in spirit only, but he was on hand at the first rehearsal on the Statesmen’s return to be told all the highlights of the trip and concert.

So, in the future when you hear blokes in your Chorus or another talking of dedication to the “cause” spare a thought for the Festival Statesmen’s cheerful Scotsman, Alister Sampson.

John Fox, Scribe
Festival Statesmen Barbershop Chorus, Adelaide

THE JOY OF HARMONY SINGING

Our little Chorus completes the festive season (as I am sure many other Choruses do) by singing carols at various venues. We usually concentrate on a particular shopping centre where the manager asks us to return year after year. Last year, while performing at the centre, we attracted two new singers, and they have been wonderful stalwarts and a worthy addition to our ranks. This year, as we sang in various parts of this friendly resonating shopping centre, I realised, more than ever, how much our appreciated singing brought the Spirit of Christmas to shoppers and passers by. The smiles on adults and children alike were just incredible. And you can imagine what the acceptance did to our spirits as well.
Illawarra Chordiality has always been a small chorus. Whilst that puts us behind the 8 ball when it comes to convention competition, we, nevertheless, claim a wonderful sense of mobility. At nearly every convention we have been able to sing for our breakfast, lunch or tea in a restaurant somewhere, simply because of our size and the great rapport to stick together.

A few conventions ago we decided to drive a minibus to Brisbane. On the way we stopped at Crescent Head where the writer’s sister was able to house most of our lot. My Dad lived at Nambucca Heads, and as he was keen to hear us sing, we made the hour long trip each way, knowing that we would have to return to my sister’s for a concert in the evening. My Dad was more than impressed - half-way through our performance at his home he commented: “It is wonderful to hear clear diction and harmony”. I was so thankful the guys went to entertain my aging Dad and his neighbours. On our return to Crescent my sister, who was secretary at the local public school, asked if we could call at the school to sing for the children. Well, I assumed we would probably sing to one of the classes, but no! - the whole school of over 200 filed out on to the covered quadrangle! We sang upbeat songs and fun songs like ‘Mickey Mouse’, then sucked up to the teachers with traditional love songs. We had a great time, but what impressed us the most was the enthusiasm of the children. They applauded us with joy in their faces, with a spontaneity we did not expect, and we left there with our spirits on high. My sister’s home was a double storey job, and we were able to put a large “Illawarra Chordiality” banner on the verandah railing of the second storey. As the children filed home that afternoon and spotted the banner, we heard, in high pitched voices. “Good luck Illawarra Chordiality when you go to Brisbane!” That night we entertained 40 or so visitors.

The next day our journey continued on to the Brisbane convention. If we pulled into a garage, or shop, or cafe, they would all ‘suffer’ a song. Of course we didn’t do any good in Brisbane, despite enjoying every moment of the convention. Upon reflection though, we considered that our ‘convention’ was right there in Crescent and Nambucca Heads, where the people showed their JOY in hearing what our craft has to offer.

All in all a very successful year. We now look forward in anticipation to 2007 with a large part of it already booked.

(Ladies and) Gentlemen, I hope you too have had a similar experience to that of Illawarra Chordiality. We hope to share with you in Sydney this year.

Rick Beale
President

Fleurieu Harmony Chorus....

had a very busy Christmas season entertaining eight times at clubs, nursing homes, and private Christmas functions all over the Fleurieu Peninsula, as well as taking part in the local Pageant and performing at a Christmas Variety Show for two performances. Our Quartet, The Nostalgia Four, also were guest artists at another Variety Show.

The committee has offered the chorus a challenging programme for the coming year with new songs to add to our repertoire, recording a CD and a possible visit to Sydney in September as well as the usual sing-outs.

We started the year of with a Cancer Research fundraiser at the Willunga Farmers Market last Saturday from 9.30 - 11.30 and raised $280 for the cause.

Wishing all fellow Barbershoppers a Happy, Healthy and Harmonious New Year.

In Harmony
Gordon Tomlinson
Secretary

HOBART MEN’S BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

The Club was busy with appearances over Christmas and New Year.

The Wellingtones made a successful guest appearance at the Clarence Carols on Hobart’s eastern shore. They also performed Christmas Carols at one of Hobart’s major shopping centres.

On New Year’s eve, the Chorus performed on the Parliament House lawns as part of the Taste of Tasmania.

Rehearsals were on hold during January although a Barbershop Basics workshop was held in the middle of the month. It was led by Club members Tim Begbie and Adam Purton. Over half our members participated with members of Tag Team, our new youth chorus, being very well represented.

Tag Team is highlighted in an ABC2 Australia-wide segment that went to air on 5 December 2006. The 4 minute segment presents a positive image of barbershopping for youth. It’s worth a look. A Google search, “Australia-wide Tag Team” will take you there. It is likely to be on the web until the end of February.

The Club has developed a comprehensive annual plan to support our 2006 to 2009 Development Plan. This year were aiming at sending Deep South to represent us at convention; also learning from even more coaching; “re-branding” the Club with new logos and advertising; consolidating Tag Team as a great young men’s Chorus; encouraging quarteting; starting a new recruitment drive; having more ‘whole Club’ social events; encouraging barbershop in schools through coaching and a Youth Sing Out later in the year; and generally having a bit of fun and ‘good fellership’.

Trevor Rootes
Secretary

Issue 95 Barbershop Notes – January / February 2007
The SUNSHINE STATEMEN
Barbershop Chorus

Firstly, we wish everyone a Happy New Year from the all the lads in the Sunshine Statesmen in sunny Queensland.

Loads of sing-outs kept us very busy up to Christmas… thanks in the main to our newly elected events/sing-outs co-ordinator, Eric Simpson, who seems to pull the engagements magically out of a hat.

Last year was all systems go and the guys just loved it. That’s why we rehearse so hard every Wednesday night…and are now ready for yet another year of even harder work.

With appearances on Thursday late night shopping plus daytime Saturdays at the beautiful “Sunshine Plaza Shopping Centre”, the lads were ringing out the Christmas cheer for all, including a crowd of interestingly dressed and unusually behaved gothic/emoh’s, what an experience that was for us.

At the Nambour Chamber of Commerce sponsored day, “Christmas in Nambour” celebrations, the chorus thrilled the crowds with true barbershop style. This was a really successful day for all.

Then came the Mooloolaba Lions Club Carols Night where we were squeezed onto the back of a semi trailer for a stage and shared the bill with other local talents. We showed them how carols, sung in four-part harmony sounded as opposed to unison. Judging by the swaying candles, the crowd loved the barbershop renditions of the seasonal favourites.

Every year we learn another carol from the Yuletide Songbook, last year “Away In a Manger” joined our expanding repertoire. We are now ready to embark on a whole new group of songs and later lead up to learning some more carols, along with all our other plans in store for action throughout 2007.

CHRIS BURCHER
Sunshine Statesmen
Membership VP

Support your Supporters

At a recent Barbershop Christmas get-together I was surprised (and disappointed) to hear from the supporters and partners that a number of them do not get to see Barbershop Notes anymore.

Gentlemen, it is important for you to keep your supporters up to date with what is going on and what events are in the pipeline. Your supporters are very important and play an integral part in the camaraderie within your Club. They are often an untapped resource in promoting your events and in creating fellowship throughout our organisation.

Don’t keep them in the dark – make sure they see our Newsletter, either by printing a copy to show them or giving them access to Barbershop Notes on the Website.

It’s up to you now………Ed.

An Upscale Bar

C, E-flat and G entered a bar.

The bartender said, “Sorry, I don't serve minors.”

The E-flat left and the C and G had an open fifth between them. After a few drinks, the fifth was diminished and the G was out flat.

An F entered and tried to augment the situation but was not sharp enough.

A D entered and excused himself to the bathroom, saying, "I'll just be a second.”

An A entered but the bartender wasn't convinced that this relative of C was not a minor.

Then the bartender noticed a B-flat hiding at the end of the bar. “Get out, right now!” he exclaimed.

“You're the seventh minor I've found in this bar tonight.”

The next night the E-flat returned to the bar in a 3-piece suit.

The bartender said, “You're looking sharp tonight. This could be a major development.”

This was the case, when the E-flat took off the suit and everything else to stand there au natural.

Eventually, the C sobered up and realized in horror that he was under a rest.

He was brought to trial, found guilty of contributing to the diminution of a minor, and was sentenced to ten years of D.S. without the possibility of a Coda.

On appeal, he was found innocent of any wrong doing, even accidental, because the accusation was bassless.

The bartender decided he needed a rest -- and closed the bar.
**COMING EVENTS**

2007

Feb 18 – AAMBS Council Teleconference, 7pm

Feb 19-23 – AAMBS Guest Night Week. All Clubs to have their 1st Guest Night for 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.

March 9-11 – AAMBS Council Meeting in Sydney

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

May 3 – Western Region “Barbershop Big Day Out” Details TBA

May-June - Quartet Qualifying Contests: These are the qualifying events for the Sydney Convention in September 2007. As usual, distant quartets will be able to submit a video taped entry for assessment by the AAMBS Judging Panel. 26 May – Sunshine Region Qualifying Contest 2 June – Eastern Region Qualifying Contest. 9 June – Western Region Qualifying Contest (Details of each Contest TBA)

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

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

Sept 30–Oct 3 – AAMBS Harmony College, Myuna Bay Sport & Recreation Centre, Lake Macquarie NSW (1-1/2 hours north of Sydney)

October 5-7 – Irish Association of Barbershop Singers Convention – Cork, Ireland.

Details www.irishbarbershop.org .

2008

Oct 30-Nov 2 - 5th Pan Pacific Convention – Renaissance Ilikai Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii presented by The Sounds of Aloha. (For further event details go to www.aambs.org.au)

**LIBRARY NOTES**

We are waiting delivery of last year’s International Convention DVDs and CDs from BHS Harmony Marketplace and will let you know when they available from the Library.

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**The True Brotherhood of Barbershopping**

At this week’s Council meeting all Councillors expressed their disappointment at the disappearance of some of the camaraderie that is a true part of Barbershopping by some Clubs when it comes to billeting visiting quartets, judges, educators, etc.

Whilst we appreciate that not all members have the facilities to host fellow Barbershoppers, when AAMBS has to pay hotel / motel expenses it means that there is less money in the coffers for our other programs, and our visitors are left without the full warmth of barbershopping.

If you can provide accommodation for these wonderful people you will be the one who benefits most – and AAMBS will refund any out-of-pocket expenses you may incur. You will also benefit by the Welcome Mat being out for you when you visit their home towns.

So, especially with our Convention coming up in September, please put your hand up if you can host any of our visitors.

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Letter No 1**

We were able to hand a cheque for $17,000 to our charity, The Oncology Unit at Westmead Children’s Hospital. During the year we were notified that SydneySiders Express has been included in the honour roll of major sponsors to the Hospital. We were shown our name on the Honour Roll.

The Chorus was proud to receive this honour. However, the honour to assist the Hospital and its wonderful people is even greater

Best Wishes for Christmas and the holidays

John Donnelly

**Editor’s Note:** Well done, SydneySiders – you make us proud. Maybe other Clubs can follow your lead – do let us know what you did to raise this fantastic donation so we can pass details on to other Clubs.

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**Letter No 2**

Dear fellow barbershoppers,

On behalf of the Irish Association of Barbershop Singers and its members I wish you and your members a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

We hope to see some of you at the IABS Convention in Cork, in October 2007.

Detailed information regarding the Convention will be available on the IABS website early next year.

In harmony,

Gunnar Karlsson
Chairman, IABS

**Editor’s Note:** Check their website - www.irishbarbershop.org
REALTIME
2005 International Champions

"Realtime is one of the most artistic quartets I have ever heard. True excellence is where passion and precision meet. Realtime captures that excellence in the CD."
— Tony De Rosa, Mar Q

"Realtime has a unique sound and blend, unlike any I've heard. This may be what The Hi-Lo's would have sounded like if they had chosen to sing great barbershop. You're going to love this CD."
— Jim Clancy - Musical Director
The Vocal Majority Chorus

Bring home a copy of Realtime's critically acclaimed new album — "Ain't That A Kick"

Use the order form below or visit our website to order online, check out performance dates, view photos, sign the guest blog and more. Find us online at www.realtimequartet.com

Realtime CD Order Form

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Mail order form to:
Realtime CD Orders
827 Vine Street
Lynden, WA 98264

Send check or money order in US funds along with your completed order form. Please make checks payable to "Realtime" and allow two to four weeks for delivery.
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<td>2010</td>
<td>BHS International Mid-Winter Convention</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
<td>BinG! Dortmund Germany</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
<td>NZABS Quartet Regionals BHS International Convention 27 Jun-4 Jul Philadelphia PA USA</td>
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<td>Harmony University Missouri TN USA July 25-Aug 1</td>
<td>NZABS 22nd Convention TBA</td>
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<td>SAI International TBA</td>
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AAMBS’ CONTACT INFORMATION

Please make contact with AAMBS through the Secretary at our permanent addresses and Phone number:-

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Website: www.aambs.org.au

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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 16 March 2007