FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Conventions Season

Hi fellow barbershoppers,

Convention season is upon us as the 9th AAMBS National Convention is only 10 weeks away! I hope every barbershopper in Australia is finalizing plans and looking forward to the fellowship, fun and great harmonies that will mark our days at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Darling Harbour, 27 - 30 September.

I just had the privilege of cheering on Australia's Gold Medal Chorus, the Blenders, as they competed on stage at Internationals with the best of the best. They are a talented and dedicated team of men, with an equally hard working and dedicated support team and coaches. They are great ambassadors and did Australia proud. And our congratulations to Fast Forward as they scored in the top 10 at the International Collegiate Competition, again against the best barbershoppers in the World. This competition has recently produced 4 Voices and Vocal Spectrum, both International Champions in the open Competition.

Internationals in Denver was a showcase of talent, wit, humour, high emotion, and drama. The youth movement in barbershopping is perhaps best represented by the Westminster Chorus from California, with its 60 members having no one over 30 years of age, and an average age of 22. Their sound is pure, and their teamwork and work ethic are an example for all. This year they were up against the veteran Ambassador's of Harmony, an established chorus of 160 that has won every time they have competed, seemingly forever.

They both delivered incredible moving and inspirational performances, and when the 15 judges tallied the votes, the result was......... a tie! At over 3000 total points, the two choruses tied. Then with the "countback," comparing singing scores, Westminster won by 11 points. The best word to describe the Convention Center when the result was announced was a gasp, and then, pandemonium.

The new blood have shown that they can perform in the barbershop style, and the veterans know we have a rising force that will indeed help us to keep our cherished artform alive.

I challenge every barbershopper in Australia to do everything possible to share their experience, skills, motivation, and general love of our artform with fellow barbershoppers of every age. Let's take this spirit into Sydney for a fantastic Convention of our own!

In Harmony,
Mike Donnelly

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From The Desk of the Vice President, Conventions

Hi Everyone  Well, as promised here are the profiles of the final two judges on the panel for our Convention.

First is Derek Cosburn, Singing Judge. Derek’s singing career started in the late 1970s while he was living in Greece, some 3 years later on his return to the Gold Coast he kept his joy of singing and entertaining by being the Gold Coast’s first singing telegram, the “Film Flam Man”. It was during this time that he was invited to sing in the first “Dream World Quartet” called the Dream World Four – he enjoyed this for a few years and became totally “hooked” on developing the harmony of Barbershop singing.

Later when his “real” employment took him to New Zealand he was instrumental in starting the first men’s chorus in the South Island, this is now known as “The Canterbury Plainsmen”. On being relocated to Queenstown the following year, he was able to gather a small enthusiastic group together and teach the barbershop craft for them to entertain in and around the area.

On his return back to the Gold Coast in 1989 his singing life took on new meaning and he now includes adjudicating into his full barbershop life.

Here is an rough out-line of his journey –

1989 – Attended Harmony College in Missouri USA
1991 – Gained a Quartet Gold Medal in Australia’s first National Competition – Chorus Silver
1992 – Represented Australia at New Orleans International Competition in “The Sentimentals” Quartet
1992 – Attended the Directors College at Kenosha USA

Over the years he has gained a number of Medals in the Sunshine Regional, National and Pan Pac competitions in the Open Quartet section, plus 3 National Senior Gold Medals which took him to Represent Australia at the International Mid Winter Competitions in – California 6th place – Albuquerque 10th place and Biloxi Mississippi, 7th place.

For 3 years he worked alongside Mel McMichael in the formation of Australia’s first barbershop Regional Competition, which is known as the “Sunshine Region”. Derek has coached many male and female quartets and choruses. As quartet co-ordinator for the “Blenders” he organises up to three quartets from the chorus each and every Monday night, to encourage the process of learning and singing in a quartet.

As a long standing lead in The “Blenders” Chorus his passion for Quartet singing continues as he sings, co-ordinates and coaches Quartet singing within his chorus and beyond.

Our final judge profile is Fiona Johnson, Presentation Judge,  Fiona has been involved in the music scene for many years including 5 years professionally on stage in Musical Theatre and has staged and choreographed both musicals and theatre productions. For many years she taught Speech and Drama and Dance both classical and modern / jazz and has completed exams in Speech and Drama qualifying her to teach. Fiona has been involved in the Barbershop field for over 12 years and has attended two Harmony Colleges as well as having been coached by many overseas coaches. She’s been a member of a number of quartets over the years, among them Pitch Black.

Fiona has worked with many quartets and choruses in a coaching capacity and has choreographed and coached presentation packages for the River City Clippers for two of their National Competitions where they received a Bronze Medal for both. In addition, she has worked extensively with The Blenders for many of their National Competitions and they have been the Gold Medal winners for each of those competitions. She also coaches and prepares the presentation package for Harmony In Paradise, Sweet Adelines Chorus. Fiona has also coached SOUNDWAVES Chorus from the Central Coast.

You will be reading about preparations for the Sydney Convention elsewhere in Barbershop News but I want to emphasise here the importance of each of you doing all that you can to promote the Harmony Spectacular Concert on Saturday night. As I am sure you are aware, a substantial portion of the AAMBS budget is derived from Convention proceeds and the majority of these proceeds are derived from the Saturday night concert. If it were not for this bi-annual fund raiser, it would be necessary to raise AAMBS membership fees considerably in order to fund the various projects the National Council endeavours to present to the members each year. So please, not only distribute the Concert flyers that have been sent to you but make a concerted effort to actively promote this concert through all of your individual chorus connections. I know that some of you forgo your annual concerts in Convention years and I am sure that your supporters would be more than pleased to be offered the opportunity to hear some fabulous barbershop harmony while they wait for your next concert.

I’m again looking forward to seeing all of you in Sydney for what promises to be an outstanding Convention.

Yours in harmony,  Bob Fritz
From Our Vice President, Music

HARMONY COLLEGE UPDATE

Registration are coming in, albeit a little slowly. In order to get the program, buses and accommodation sorted out in an efficient manner, I need to get registrations in within the next two weeks.

The current registrants are from The Blenders, The Melbournaires, Men in Harmony, Vocal Evolution, SydneySiders Express, The Miner Chords and Deep South. This leaves eleven choruses yet to register. The total number of attendees at this stage is 76. We need to get to the 100-120 level to be financially secure.

There are 4 complete quartets currently registered and a further 33 who are quartet members or interested in quartetting. If you can get together with members from another quartet to fill your missing part (and practise) you will be able to take advantage of the GOTCHA! members in the quartet coaching stream. There will also be sessions aimed at providing a significant quartet experience for all quartet singers who are “incomplete”.

The streams include standard sessions plus a selection of optional sessions if you feel that you do not need a particular session. The individual streams are:

- **New Singer**: Music Theory, Basic Vocal Techniques and Music and Movement
- **Advanced Singer**: Music Theory, Advanced Vocal Techniques.
- **Section Leader**: Music Theory, Vocal Techniques and Music Leadership.
- **Assistant Directors**: Vocal Techniques, Music Leadership and Basic Hand Waving.
- **Directors**: Advanced Vocal Techniques, Arranging, Advanced Directing.

Other sessions will include:

- Sight Singing,
- Preparing for Contest
- How to be a Coach
- Voice Analysis
- Want to be a Judge?
- How to be a Coach
- Feel the Groove
- Judging from your Seat, etc.

There will also be the ever popular How to be a Great Tenor/Lead/Bari/Bass led by the members of GOTCHA!

The faculty includes the following luminaries:

- **Joe Hunter**: Presentation Category Specialist BHS, MD of the Big Apple Chorus.
- **Dale Comer**: Singing (Sound) Judge since 1984, MD of The Lincoln Continentals.
- **Tom Gentry**: Music Judge, Arranger, Copyright expert and Educator.
- **Alan Gordon**: Bari GOTCHA, has done everything with quartets and choruses.
- **Jim Kline**: Bass GOTCHA, 21 top 10 international quartet appearances.
- **Chris Vaughn**: Lead GOTCHA, MD Long Peak Chorus.
- **Garry Texeira**: Tenor GOTCHA, active quartet and chorus coach.
- **Jenny Vaughn**: Accomplished choreographer for both men and women both here and USA
- **Rose McGee**: MD of The Blenders, CDWI Trainer, Director of the Future Trainer.
- **Ian Mulholland**: Chairman Guild of Judges, Tenor Alliance (current Gold Medal Quartet)
- **Derek Cosburn**: Singing Judge, Lead of medal winning quartets since 1991.
- **David Brooks**: Australasian Category Music Specialist, Master Director of the Wellington City Sweet Adelines.

With all these resources and opportunities coupled with a fantastic venue, the could just be the

**BEST HARMONY COLLEGE EVER.**

I look forward to greeting you there.

Ian Miller
Dean – VP Music AAMBS.
Results of the Membership Drive

Bring ‘Em in or Bust I wrote in the first membership drive article back in November 2006. With a declining membership trend at the time when I wrote that it was sobering to contemplate AAMBS ‘going the way of the dinosaurs’ if the trend was not arrested.

Well! The results are in – and every club that participated in the Membership drive ‘ought to be congratulated’ as a well known ad of the past puts it. We set what I privately thought to be an ambitious target of a net increase in membership of 100 men from 1 December 2006 to 30 June 2007 but I under-estimated the zeal and determination that resulted in a net increase in AAMBS membership of 94. I’m so encouraged by your combined efforts that I sincerely believe that together we can crack the magic never-before-achieved membership of 1000 over the next 18 months; but more about that later.

In the meantime I would really appreciate your feedback on the membership drive, how you went about the process of finding new men for your chorus, any funny or inspirational anecdotes and what you would or wouldn’t do next time.

Now for the winners of the Membership Drive Incentive Award:

First Prize of $1,000 is awarded to the BAY CITY CONCHORDS with an 85% increase in membership

Second Prize of $750 is awarded to the IPSWICH A’CAPELLA with a 42.10% increase in membership

The full results of the 2007 membership drive is listed below:

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From our Secretary

As we get closer to our National Convention, you will be receiving important information from the members of Council and from the Convention Committee, mainly by email. So, it is absolutely essential that we have the current email addresses for members of your Executive Committee – President, Secretary, Treasurer and Musical Director. So please email these details to me at secretary@aambs.org.au so I can update the AAMBS Database.

QUARTETS –
A TIMELY ADVICE FOR QUARTET MEMBERS AND WOULD-BE MEMBERS

It is clear, following recent contests, that a number of misunderstandings need to be cleared up. Whether you are in an existing quartet, or would like to be in a quartet, the following advice has been written for your own and your fellow barbershoppers’ mutual benefit.

Forming a Quartet
- This is easy – just pick four voices – Tenor, Lead, Bass and Baritone - and you have a quartet. **WRONG**! You will have 4 Voices that may, or may not, blend. And as experienced quartetters have noted, the matching of the voices is an important Key.
- To be covered by the AAMBS Public Liability Insurance, each quartet must be registered with the AAMBS National Secretary (not just the local Club) and each member must be a current financial member of AAMBS.

Naming a Quartet
- The name of each quartet (and any change of name) has to be approved, in advance, by the AAMBS National Secretary.
- The names of National Medal-winning quartets remain protected, however each quartet has to renew its registration each year to remain registered. But otherwise, in the absence of renewal, the quartet name is up for grabs.

Registering a Quartet
- This is painless: just download the prescribed Quartet application form from the AAMBS Website; fill in the particulars including, in order of preference, a choice of up to 3 names, and send it to the AAMBS National Secretary, NOT your Regional Secretary or your Club Secretary.
- If not less than 3 members of the quartet are current members of an AAMBS Club, no registration fee is payable.
- If more than one of the quartet members are not current financial members of an AAMBS Club, an annual registration fee ($60.00) is payable for the quartet as an unaligned quartet, apart from the annual membership fee(s) of $45.00 each ($22.50 each for those under 25) payable for the quartet members who are not current financial AAMBS members.
- As proof of the quartet’s registration, the AAMBS National Secretary will issue, each year, a Certificate of Confirmation of the AAMBS registration.

Competing in a Quartet Contest
- There is a prescribed Contest Entry Form for each Region. Entry is open to any quartet in the Region, currently registered with AAMBS, subject to any relevant age restrictions. This form is available from the Region Secretary or Contest Administrator.
- There is a prescribed National Contest Entry Form for National contests. Where qualification is required, the form will be forwarded to all qualifiers in order of qualification. For contests not requiring qualification, the form will be available for download from the AAMBS website.
- The Quartet name will appear in the list of Quartets on the AAMBS Website, only where all positions in a quartet are held by current financial members of AAMBS.
- As a matter of record, any change in the quartet membership must be notified promptly to the AAMBS National Secretary, to avoid possible action by the Regional or National Contest Administrator to disqualify or penalise the quartet in question.
- Also, as a matter of record, members should be aware that the Contest Administrator may disqualify or penalise any quartet for a breach of the AAMBS Contest Rules, subject to a possible appeal in respect of such a decision to the National Contest Administrator. Appeal against a decision of the National Contest Administrator may be made to the panel nominated by the AAMBS National Council.

In Continuing Harmony,
Kevin White
9th National Convention  
- Update No. 6  
From the Convention Committee  

Dear Fellow Barbershoppers  

Please note the points below as we look forward to joining you to make this a special time in the musical life of Sydney.

Harmony Spectacular Concert –  
Saturday 29 September  

The flyer for the Harmony Spectacular Concert is available on the convention website.

We would greatly appreciate your help in publicising this concert to as many of the general public as possible. We will be doing as much public advertising as the convention budget allows. However, the main thrust for creating interest in this very special barbershop event will need to come from the personal approaches by all members of AAMBS.

We think you will agree that this is such a wonderful opportunity to promote ourselves with an all-star supporting cast in a convenient, beautiful and world-class Darling Harbour setting.

Thank you all in advance for distributing this flyer to your members, family, friends, business associates, fellow club members, community centres & bulletin boards, etc.

Additional concert tickets at $40.00 each are now available to be purchased. There are two ways that you can order extra concert tickets:

1. Tickets are available online on the Ticketek website, www.ticketek.com.au. There is a link to Ticketek on the Convention website, www.barbershopconvention.com.au that will take you directly to the purchase page. In addition to the ticket price Ticketek will charge a booking fee of $4.95 PER ORDER up to a maximum of 10 tickets per order- so the more you buy the more you save.

2. On the Convention Registration form. Chorus representatives please note that registration forms have been updated on the website to include a section for delegates to order additional Harmony Spectacular concert tickets. When you buy tickets through the Convention Registration form you avoid paying the booking fee.

Chorus Rehearsal Rooms

Remember to follow the points below if you would like to book any of the rehearsal rooms on the Friday prior to Chorus competition. Please contact me or any of the team if you have any questions. Details are:

- Booking requests must be made on the Convention email sydneysings@barbershopconvention.com.au.
- There will be three rooms available and they will be allocated on a first come basis in the order that requests are received.
- Rooms will be available from 0800 hrs to 1800 hrs Friday 28 September and allocations will be in two hour time slots.
- One large rehearsal room with risers @ $150.00 per hour up to two hours maximum. Two smaller rehearsal rooms without risers @ $100.00 per hour up to two hours maximum.
- Choruses may apply for additional time slots subject to availability.

Registration

1. Please note that all Accompanying Delegates registered by 20 August will enter the draw for a truly magnificent prize – more details soon!

2. Contact us if you have any questions.

Merchandise

- There is a special range of convention merchandise consisting of a stylish polo shirt, baseball cap and a sleeveless reversible vest. All items sport the convention logo and the theme colour is ‘warm stone’.

- If you still need to order your samples you need to contact Richard Kaan on the email below. Photos and further details are available on the convention website.

- Along with the samples you will receive an order form. Orders need to be made well before convention and will reflect a discount on prices for orders made at convention time. Your convention representative should complete the order form on behalf of chorus members and mail it back with a cheque for the entire order.

- Non chorus members can contact Richard Kaan on the convention email address sydneysings@barbershopconvention.com.au, or 0419 497 171.

Please encourage you supporters and friends to come to the concert because it’s shaping to be a showcase of World Class a cappella music.

Massed Sing and Civic Reception

The Massed Sing and Civic Reception will be strongly promoted around Sydney and we will be looking to attract a large crowd. The Massed Singout will be held in a new amphitheatre on Darling Harbour virtually in front of the door to the Convention Centre.
Please note in your diary, the Massed Sing will start at 12.00 midday on Thursday 27 September.

We hope this will be a real showcase of Barbershop singing at its best to promote our art form and encourage people to come to the Harmony Spectacular Concert.

The Polecats for the Massed Singout have been selected by AAMBS and they are:
- THE OLD SONGS
- NELLIE CHORUS
- SWEET AND LOVELY
- HEART OF MY HEART
- MY WILD IRISH ROSE
- HONEY / LIL LIZE
- LET ME CALL YOU SWEETHEART
- DOWN OUR WAY
- SHINE ON ME
- I STILL CALL AUSTRALIA HOME.

Please take a little time to refresh these; we would like you to show off your talents to a big Sydney crowd.

To help promote the Convention and the Concert the Blenders, Australia’s premier Barbershop chorus and International representatives, have kindly accepted AAMBS invitation to sing two songs at the Massed Singout.

**Convention Program**


**Contact us**

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the big event from 27 September. Please encourage your members to keep looking at the convention website, [www.barbershopconvention.com.au](http://www.barbershopconvention.com.au). The website is being updated regularly so please use it as a resource.

Please consider the items in this newsletter and contact us at any time on the convention email address, sydneysings@barbershopconvention.com.au.

Please feel free to contact the organising team at any time with any comments, requests or suggestions; we really appreciate your input. Our email contact is sydneysings@barbershopconvention.com.au; there is an email link on the convention website, [www.barbershopconvention.com.au](http://www.barbershopconvention.com.au), under the ‘Contact Us’ heading.

Convention Updates are all posted on the Convention website. Best wishes to you all as you prepare to take part in the Convention in Sydney in September.

Christopher Miley
Convention Coordinator

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**Editor’s Note:**

To date we have received Entry Forms for the Convention from

- 4 Choruses
- 16 Quartets

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**Letters to the Editor**

G’day Kevin,

Thanks for the quick reply. We are going along well, competing in the local Eisteddfod recently and singing at a number of functions (Lions hand-over dinners etc.).

We practice weekly and have a keen bunch.

Cheers,

Peter Arnall
Grafton Barbershop Singers
Schedule Your Trip Now to the 5th Pan Pacific Convention in Honolulu

Great Pacific Harmony - 5th Pan Pacific Convention

The 5th Pan Pacific Convention for barbershoppers in October 2008 is just around the corner - really. Be ready to sign up as soon as event registration forms are available because seating at the competition site will be limited. Your hosts, the Sounds of Aloha Chorus and its members, are nearing completion of the convention arrangements and expect to have registration materials out soon.

In the meantime, you can make your room reservations at the Ala Moana Hotel, your convention headquarters. The hotel is located next to Ala Moana Center, one of the largest shopping malls in the US, and Ala Moana Beach Park, with family friendly beaches and picnic areas. Go to www.panpacificharmony.org to download the hotel registration form.

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

As in prior conventions, the convention will feature barbershop singers from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Alaska, Hawaii, and other parts of the Far Western and Evergreen Districts.

It’s not too early to get out the pitch pipes, warm up the chords and start rehearsing your competition songs because October 30, 2008 just isn’t that far off. And if you are fans of barbershop singing, then it’s time to pull out the suitcases.

Contact: Rick Klemm, Publicity
publicity@panpacificharmony.org
www.panpacificharmony.org

A promising start to 2007 for The Brisbane River City Clippers

After a shattering start to 2007 with the sudden loss of Rosalie Lang, who was the Clippers’ Director for the short time of six months, the chorus has had to look forward and attack the challenges that waited throughout the year. To the credit of the committee and all members, 2007 will surely be recorded as a year of significant forward movement for the Brisbane River City Clippers.

After a membership boom some eighteen months ago, time had to pass to allow the acquisition of many barbershop skills by these men. That time has now passed and the resulting consolidation has lifted the quality of sound and the enthusiasm of the entire chorus. The Clippers now with a current membership fairly stable at 63 have been delighted to embrace, in more recent times, the arrival of five or six very talented young men of university age to their ranks. The Clippers annual concert in April, which was in many ways a tribute to recently deceased Director Rosalie Lang, allowed the Clippers to display their developing techniques.

FLEURIEU HARMONY CHORUS

Our Chorus has been very lucky over the past couple of months as well as gaining two prospective members we have gained the services of an Assistant Musical Director. She came to a weekly rehearsal with her husband, a new member just out from the UK, and we found that she was an experienced MD and would be glad to be involved in our Chorus so Sarah and Andrew Bradley are now Registered members.

The other good thing was that our quartet ‘Nostalgia’ won 2nd prize in the Adelaide Eisteddfod, this was the first time we had entered the competition.

Our MD, Tony King, is on holiday in the UK for two months and will no doubt be catching up with old barbershop friends and singing with them if he gets half a chance.

In Harmony
Gordon Tomlinson, Secretary
The Fleurieu Harmony Chorus

The Clippers in concert at their annual concert in May
Preparations for the National Convention in Sydney have provided a focus for the chorus. A weekend workshop in May led by visiting coach Virginia Humphrey-Taylor provided a magnificent dose of vocal technique, which will surely enhance the progress already made by the chorus in recent times. Virginia will administer a follow-up dose of her magic at another weekend workshop in September before the chorus heads off to Sydney.

**It’s always busy at the Clippers**

Typically busy has been the case for the Clippers in recent months. May and June saw the chorus:

- Do two outside broadcasts for sponsors Radio 4BC including one on the morning of the first State of Origin game
- Sing for a critically ill patient at the Mater Hospital
- Perform at the Regional Convention
- Provide a one hour concert for the Meals on Wheels organisation
- Cook and sing through two Sausage Sizzles for our good supporters, Bunnings Warehouse
- Present a one hour concert at a retirement village
- Enjoy a chorus picnic by the Brisbane River with much hearty singing
- Hold a weekend workshop in preparation for the National Convention

Keith Druery, Publications

Brisbane River City Clippers

**Hobart Men’s Barbershop Harmony Club**

Our Club is continuing to grow and develop. Our new logo indicates that we are now far more than a single chorus.

One of our most interesting developments over the last year or so has been the formation of The Silvertones. This chorus consists largely of men retired from active singing with The Wellingtones. The Silvertones rehearse fortnightly during the day and perform once a month, most often for retirement homes and retired people’s functions.

The Silvertones has a repertoire of chorus pieces. At performances they also lead community singing and some members sing accompanied solos, duets and trios. One of the greatest benefits of the chorus is that it has provided an avenue for men to keep on singing, perhaps for another decade.

Tag Team, our youth chorus continues to grow. A quartet, Locksmiths, has also emerged from this chorus. The chorus and quartet made their first public appearance to rave reviews at our mid July Tasmania Men’s Harmony Concert.

The Concert, our major fund raiser for the year, attracted a good crowd. Along with our Club performances we invited other local ensembles to perform. Also, our resident magician. The finale was a combined performance by The Wellingtones and Tag Team. Exhilarating!

We continue to introduce more men to barbershop. We now have two strategies on the go. One is an Adult Education ten week course, ‘Men’s A’Cappella Singing’. The cost to participants is low as the Club provides tutors at no cost. And in return we receive free promotion for the class and possibly new recruits to the Club. The other strategy is our youth promotion, providing a school taster program. The sessions are led by our Club coach Andrew Howson on his visits to the state.

Hobart is humming. Trevor Rootes, Secretary

Hobart Men’s Barbershop Harmony Club

**THE FESTIVAL STATESMEN**

The Chorus sends heartfelt sympathy and prayers to fellow barbershop members in States badly affected by the recent devastating storms and floods throughout Australia.

The first half of 2007 has been a more relaxed and leisurely start to the year than last year with new fronts opening up for the chorus. A young teenage college quartet calling themselves The Fish Bowl Boys has captured the imagination of the Statesmen. With the future in mind, the chorus has registered them as members and also members of AAMBS. A concerted drive in high schools and colleges is opening up new vistas. Over recent months, through several advertorials in newspapers, the chorus has gained five new members with possibility of a further three.

The Statesmen recently did a gig at Loxton, a country town, 200kms south-east of Adelaide, celebrating its centenary. An enthusiastic dinner crowd of 350 guests gave the chorus a right-royal welcome with well-known Adelaide radio personality, Peter Goers, hosting the evening. After staying the night, the Chorus serenaded breakfast guests at the Loxton Hotel/Motel before returning home to Adelaide.

Among recent sing-outs at retirement villages and nursing homes, the chorus, by demand, sang again on stage at the Capri Theatre supporting SA’s Sweet Adelines, the Adelaide Sound Connection.

Plans for the Voices In Harmony concert in May next year are well in hand with the Royalty Theatre selected as venue for the big night of barbershop. These concerts...
It would be almost 12 months after the initial meeting with the Melbournaires before we were ready to take on our something that was not guaranteed to be successful.

Choruses from WA will once again join the Festival Statesmen and the Fleurieu Harmony Chorus for five days of barbershop harmony and fun in a relaxed and happy atmosphere. A day trip and local sightseeing will be arranged with welcoming and farewell dinners hosted by the two local choruses. Accommodation for interstate visitors is still available at reasonable prices at the prestigious beachside suburb of Glenelg.

The Voices In Harmony concert 2008 will be the third of such concerts and is now the bi-yearly interstate concert originally envisaged by the Festival Statesmen with the concept of “You’re as welcome as the flowers in May”

Kym Sebbage, Deputy-Director of the West Coast Chordsmen will conduct a barbershop workshop in Adelaide on Saturday October 13 and Sunday October 14 from 10-12 and 2-4, both days.

John Fox, Festival Statesmen

GEELONG (BAY CITY) CONCHORDS

Like many Barbershop Choruses in recent times, the Geelong (Bay City) Conchords have suffered a drop in membership. We have existed for the majority of 10 years with a consistent number of around 25 guys on the riser’s week in week out. However the past 18 months had seen us drop to just 16 on a regular basis. So obviously it was time to do something about it!

After considering a number of options we decided to set up a meeting with our close neighbours and friends the Melbournaires. These guys had recently conducted a Sing in Harmony course and we were keen to find out the successes and pitfalls of operating a similar course here in Geelong.

The Melbournaires were brilliant and were willing to assist us with materials and knowledge to get our course off the ground but we were still fairly hesitant to commit what would be for us a large amount of money and time to something that was not guaranteed to be successful.

It would be almost 12 months after the initial meeting with the Melbournaires before we were ready to take on our own Sing in Harmony course!

The majority of this time was taken up researching the methods and results of other choruses from all over the world who had conducted similar workshops and also raising the funds to pay for advertising and course materials.

Very early on it was decided that the course would take place on our normal rehearsal nights, for one and a half hours, over a 6-week period. The idea was that it would be equally divided into music theory and practice.

So goes the great laid plans of mice and men!

What in fact happened was that virtually all of our 2.5 hours of rehearsal time was taken up with the course! This was simply because the participants (all 40 of them) were having a ball!

Surprisingly they were very keen on the music theory program, which was so ably written and presented by our own Chris Daria and, of course, once our MD Rod Stow started them singing they just didn’t want to stop.

The 6 weeks flew by and culminated on the 7th week when we staged a mini concert for all participants. They brilliantly sang the three songs they had learned over the length of the course as well as a few tags. The Conchords added a few songs of their own and we had a guest quartet from the Adeline’s for some sweet flavour.

All in all a memorable event, which was fun for everyone concerned and helped spread the barbershop message just a little further.

So what was the bottom line?

Well it is now 6 weeks since the mini concert and we currently have 12 new guys who are undergoing our audition process to gain membership of the Conchords. Yes, 12 guys which doubles the size of the chorus. Unfortunately the extra costs involved and the strain placed on our new guys and our musical team has made us decide not to compete in the 2007 Sydney Convention. However, plans are already in place to start raising funds to carry out the same exercise again next year in an effort to have sufficient numbers and quality for the Hobart Convention in 2009.

We look forward to meeting you there. Gordon Guy … …President

HOW TO KEEP YOUNG

I hope you saw Catalyst on the ABC on Thursday 14th June. This was the 2nd in a 6 week program on How to Stay Young.

On the 14th the program was on the Lungs and gave some good pointers on how to keep them healthy:

1. Stop smoking - showed a smoker’s massive cancer being removed from her lung
2. Exercise - cycling, etc.
3. Healthy diet - red beans, apples, etc. etc.
   And, wait for it ……
4. Singing - as demonstrated by an English Barbershop Chorus and Quartet (oh! those sustained notes)

It was a very interesting episode – maybe we should all be prepared for a stampede of new members coming through our doors!!

..Ed
Vale - Peter Dustin

With deep sorrow, the members of Sydney’siders Express Chorus would like to note the recent passing away of Peter Dustin. We understand that Peter died suddenly from a blood clot to the brain, which was all the more unfair and unexpected because he was undergoing treatment for cancer. He was 57.

Peter joined Harmony Express Chorus nearly ten years ago before the amalgamation of that chorus with Sydney’siders. Singing lead, he became an avid barbershopper, attending conventions and workshops whenever he was able. He was a keen and energetic singer, and was always ready with a suggestion for improvement.

In 2003 Peter was appointed treasurer of the chorus, and fulfilled these duties with vigour and diligence.

The camaraderie of barbershopping was warmly embraced by Peter, who was an enthusiastic exponent of our craft. Our sympathies are with his wife Chris and family. We shall greatly miss his warmth and sincerity, his broad and ready smile and quick wit.

Farewell Peter

Vale - Col Chapman

Clippers farewell Col Chapman - Foundation Member of the Clippers.

July 6th saw a strong attendance of chorus members pay their respects at the funeral to celebrate the life of Col Chapman, the much loved foundation member of the Clippers in 1991.

Col Chapman, foundation member of the Clippers, at the first National Convention in 1991

Speakers from Col’s world of music, especially from the barbershop movement, along with good mates from his golf club expressed not only their deep sorrow at his parting but also genuine gratitude for the good times shared through the years.

John Shelton and David Spillane recognised Col’s contribution to the Brisbane River City Clippers as a foundation member of the chorus and as a member who never side-stepped the responsibilities of taking on leadership roles to guide the chorus into the future. Col held numerous executive roles for the chorus throughout the years and when not holding one of those key positions remained involved on the committee as a representative of the membership.

The Clippers opened Col’s funeral ceremony with “Amazing Grace” and as the coffin was moved from the church concluded with a deeply felt rendition of “The Irish Blessing”.

Music Quote No 2

An artist, in giving a concert, should not demand an entrance fee but should ask the public to pay, just before leaving, as much as they like. From the sum he would be able to judge what the world thinks of him - and we would have fewer mediocre concerts.

~Kit Coleman, Kit Coleman: Queen of Hearts
**2007**

Sept 1 – **SOUNDWAVES** Concert, Central Coast
Leagues Club, Dane Drive, Gosford - 7.30 pm.
Tickets: $12 each. Contact Bill Clarke, 02 4384 1253 or billjude@bigpond.net.au


Sept 27-30 – **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](http://www.irishbarbershop.org).

**2008**


**2009**

Sept – **AAMBS 10th Annual Convention** – Hobart, Tasmania, hosted by The Wellimentos

*(For further event details go to [www.aambs.org.au](http://www.aambs.org.au)*)

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**Out of the Mouths of Babes**

Some quotes from Grade School Essays on Classical Music:

- Anyone who can read all the instrument notes at the same time gets to be the Conductor (ie. MD)
- My favourite composer is Opus
- Agnus Dei was a woman composer famous for her church music
- Music sung by two people at the same time is called a duel
- I know what a sextet is but I’d rather not say
- A virtuoso is a musician with real high morals
- Henry Purcell is a well-known composer few people have heard of
- When a singer sings he stirs up the air and makes it hit any passing eardrums. But if he is good he knows how to keep it from hurting
- A harp is a nude piano
- When electric currents go through them, guitars start making sounds. So would anybody
- You should always say celli when you mean there are two or more cellos
- A tuba is much larger than its name
- The concertmaster of an orchestra is always the person who sits in the first chair of the first violins. This means that when a person is elected concertmaster, he has to hurry up and learn how to play a violin real good

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**Music Quote No 3**

“Take a music bath once or twice a week for a few seasons. You will find it is to the soul what a water bath is to the body.”

~Oliver Wendell Holmes
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<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
<td>AAMBS Face-to-Face Council Meeting TBA</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting TBA</td>
<td>NZABS Quartet Regionals BHS International Convention 28 Jun-5 Jul Anaheim CA USA</td>
<td>AAMBS Council Meeting Harmony University Missouri USA July 26-Aug 2 AAMBS 10th National Convention - Hobart, Tas NZABS 21st Convention TBA</td>
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<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
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<td>AAMBS Council Meeting</td>
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<td>AAMBS 22nd Convention TBA SAI International TBA</td>
<td>AAMBS Annual General Meeting</td>
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The deadline for receipt of material is 15th of each odd numbered month –
January
March
May
July
September
November