FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The 'Big Event' has arrived

As you read this it's almost time to pack your bags and head off to Sydney to join hundreds of your fellow barbershoppers in the AAMBS 9th National Convention, "Sydney Sings." Time to check your "costumes", finish up the final rehearsals, check the schedule for all the exciting events, and prepare yourself for the highlight of our national calendar.

I can't do better than to copy straight from the Convention website:

The "Sydney Sings" National Convention will be a joyous celebration of the love of music, friendship, competition and fun. Be part of it!

Featuring 2004 International Champions GOTCHA! and Australian and world champion a Cappella quartet the Idea of North, as well as Australia's own seven times national champions, the Blenders.

And as I noted back in March the “Sydney Sings” Convention is where it all comes together..... the “Grand Final” of Australian barbershopping, where we can compete to see how we match up, and how much we’ve improved, and where we can just relax and enjoy the artistry of our fellow barbershoppers from around the country.

And it's where we get to hear the quartet that has been literally judged the “Best in the World”....... out of 60,000 barbershoppers..... GOTCHA!, the 2004 International Gold Medallist quartet....... and be entertained by the renowned a Cappella group The Idea of North.

And speaking of the Saturday night show........, every barbershopper in Australia can help repay the hard work of the Sydney organizing committee, and share your love of barbershopping, by inviting friends, relatives, and anyone you know in the greater Sydney area to the Harmony Spectacular Concert.

Conventions are very expensive to stage, and a full house means we can share our great artform with a wider audience. It also means lower registration fees 😊

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you in a few days!

In Harmony,
Mike Donnelly, AAMBS President

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**From The Desk of the Vice President – Convention**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, it was necessary for one of our convention judges, Fiona Johnson, to withdraw. We were sadly disappointed that she will be unable to fulfil her judging duties. However, we are most fortunate that her Presentation Judging duties will be assumed by another of our cross-Tasman fellow barbershopper, Neville Kennedy. We are very grateful to Neville for stepping in at the last minute and I’m sure you will make him feel most welcome during the Convention. As we have done with the rest of our judging panel, here is a photo and some brief background information on our newest panel member.

Born in Dunedin (the home of Brass Bands in New Zealand in the 1950s) Neville started out on tenor horn while at school and then with the St. Kilda Band. While training to be a teacher he was encouraged to switch to French Horn and was soon playing semi-professionally in symphony orchestras and teaching music at High School.

He joined the Harbour Capital Chorus in Wellington in 1996 and soon after started another chorus where he lives in Palmerston North, two hours away. This is called Manawatunes so he gets to sing in one chorus and direct the other. He has sung bass in the quartets RD 4, Express, and currently Silver Freds. He has been asked to lead numerous workshops on aspects of barbershop craft, especially for young singers in harmony groups.

In sport he has spent most time in cycling and surf lifesaving, was a SCUBA diving instructor and enjoys squash, orienteering, tramping, skiing and kayaking.

Recently retired from teaching about the structure and function of the human body at Massey University, he now helps individuals with weight loss and body alignment.

Neville was accredited as a member of the Australasian Judges’ Guild in 2005 in the Presentation category

By the time many of you read this, we will only be days away from our Sydney Convention. For all of you who will be competing, my very best wishes for a successful outcome for all of the hard work I know you’ve been putting into your preparations.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks and deep admiration to the Sydney Harmony Convention Committee for the incredible amount of hard work and imagination that has gone into the preparations for this Convention. They are a wonderfully dedicated group of guys, and it has been my privilege to work with them over the past two years.

I would hope also that all of the delegates will make an effort, sometime during the 4 days of the Convention, to thank a Sydney Harmony member for their effort in putting this great event together.

Yours in harmony,
Bob Fritz

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### 2007 Convention Chorus and Quartet Awards

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Greetings from the 2007 Convention Committee

Dear Fellow Harmonisers,

We trust that your preparations and practice are proceeding with precision and pleasure. It sure is going to be a big few days and we are looking forward to having you with us.

We are working hard at attending to the inevitable myriad of final details in order to make this as enjoyable and hassle free for you as we possibly can. Can I ask in turn that you help us by contacting me or any of the convention team if you have any problems or notice anything that needs attention?

Here is some up to date information to help you as we get close now to the big week. Remember that all the news and program details are also being included, and updated, on the convention website www.barbershopconvention.com.au. Make sure you check it out carefully between now and when you leave for convention.

Registration, Information and Box Office

- The desk is open from 8.00 am on Thursday morning at Convention Centre Bayside ground floor; there is no registration available on Wednesday.
- If you arrive before check in time you will need to leave your bags at your hotel as there is no facility at the Convention Centre.

Merchandise

- Merchandise ordered by chorus members will be handed to the president of each chorus to distribute.
- You can order extra merchandise during convention and it will be delivered to you after convention.

Massed Sing and Civic Reception

- Remember start time for the Massed Sing is 12.00 noon right outside the Convention Centre overlooking Darling Harbour.
- Looks like it’s shaping up to be a really big band of barbershoppers showing Sydneysiders just what makes what we do so great. – please make every effort to be part of it. We are relying on your wonderful singing to help promote the Harmony Spectacular Concert on Saturday night.
- Reminding you that the Polecats to be sung 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.
- Remember also that to help promote the Convention and the Concert The Blenders, our seven times National Champs and International reps, will be singing two special numbers to conclude the Massed Sing. Let’s be there to support them.

Harmony Spectacular Concert – Saturday 29 September

- Please help us fill the concert hall by promoting the concert to as many friends as you can. It will be a great event and whether we are singing in it or watching it, a great event is promised to conclude our competition.
- Take a look at the media release and please use it to promote ticket sales for the concert. You can still book tickets via the convention website www.barbershopconvention.com.au. Or if you order tickets through Sydney Harmony there is no booking fee - call 02 9638 9607.
Chorus Rehearsal Rooms

- There are still some slots available for rehearsal rooms at the SCEC. Please contact us at sydneysings@barbershopconvention.com.au for details.

Convention Program


Chorus and Quartet Competition

- Please note the 9.30 am start to both competitions.
- Quartet competitors will have their photos taken outside the auditorium. Choruses will have photos taken (2) in the auditorium immediately after each performance.
- Competition briefing for quartets and choruses is 4.30pm on Thursday.
- Remember there is no curtain for either competition.
- Individual tickets are available for the competitions at the following prices – enquire at Registration desk.
  - Quartet semi-finals @ $15.00.
  - Quartet final @ $20.00.
  - Chorus comp @ $25.00.

Welcome Dinner

- Please note dress code for the dinner is jacket and tie for men.

Weather

- Spring in Sydney can be a bit unpredictable, I advise you to get an up to date forecast before you leave – and pack something warm anyway!

Sydney Harmony Hospitality Evening

- If you are going to be here on Wednesday please join us for an open rehearsal and hospitality evening at our rehearsal venue, Norths Club at 12 Abbott Street Cammeray. The bar will be open and there are also ample dining areas. Location details at www.norths.com.au.

Convention Updates are all posted on the Convention website. Best wishes to you all as you prepare to join us for this festival of fellowship and harmony.

Christopher Miley
Convention Coordinator

MEDIA RELEASE 4 SEPTEMBER 2007

BARBERSHOP SINGERS DO IT IN FORCE (IN FOURS)!

It’s the biggest collection of Australian male voices raised in song when “Sydney Sings” at The Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (AAMBS) 9th National Convention 27-30 September 2007 at Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

Add the four day celebration of song climaxes on SAT NIGHT 29 SEPTEMBER with a public concert of epic proportions! The HARMONY SPECTACULAR at the Darling Harbour auditorium on Saturday evening 29 September will feature hundreds of harmonising hombres: 2004 international champions Gotcha! (US) and Australian and world champion a-cappella group The Idea of North, as well as Australia’s own seven times national champions, The Blenders. With MC JONATHON WELCH from ABC-TV’s cult reality hit “Choir of Hard Knocks”. Plus the best of the fest: medal winning a cappella quartets and choruses from the week’s AAMBS 9th National Convention.

The Australian Barbershop community is vibrant collection of male singers from all over Australia, who gather together to sing tight, exciting four-part harmonies in quartets and choruses. The Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (AAMBS) organises a national convention and competition
every two years to find the best choruses and quartets in the country. This year’s 9th convention – “Sydney Sings” takes place at Darling Harbour from 27-30 September. The gigantic harmony festival will see 37 quartets and 13 full-scale male choruses, featuring more than 700 delegates from every state in Australia, all gathering to enjoy a celebration of the love of music, friendship and fun… and to compete (in front of international judges) for the glory of being crowned the sweetest harmonisers in Oz!

Other convention highlights include:
- The Big Sing – 500 massed voices Thur 27 Sept from 12noon Palm Grove Darling Harbour
- Sydney Schools quartet competition Thurs 27 Sept from 2.30 to 4pm – with $5000 in prizes!
- Quartet competition Friday 28 Sept
- Chorus competition Sat 28 Sept
- Master class with world champion quartet Gotcha! Sun 29 Sept

Attendance at day sessions is free to all school groups!

The Sydney Harmony Chorus (which is conducted by the brilliant Vicky Dwyer – that’s right… a feisty red-head keeping 45 harmonising hombres in line!) is hosting the conference. Says its president David Ojerholm: “Singing is life. The world would be a better place if more people took time out to sing in harmony, bring joy to others and improve wellbeing in this hectic world!”

Harmony Spectacular Concert
Sat 29 September 7.30pm
Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour
Tickets $40 Book online at www.ticketek.com.au or call 9638 9607.
Groups of 15 or more $36. School group concessions on application.


For all media enquiries, including interviews, images, CD and MP3 recordings or live in-studio performances, please contact Geoff Sirmai, Watchdog Communications: geoff@watchdog.com.au or (02) 9389 3907

(See full Convention Program on Page 13)
From our VP Music

Harmony College 2007

Planning for the college is coming together well with individual chorus controllers getting the necessary information back to me so that the sessions are programmed to run efficiently, without overcrowding.

The closing figures show a total of 133 attendees, including students, faculty and partners. We have had to find more accommodation on site from the rooms initially requested but it’s good to have a function such as this, which only occurs once every two years, overbooked.

There are 96 attendees travelling by bus from The Convention Centre and they will leave from Convention Place at 4.00 pm for the trip to Myuna Bay. There will be two buses to carry this number. A light meal will be provided on arrival and your College packs will also be provided.

The buses will leave Myuna Bay on the return journey at 1:30pm on the final day of the College for those people travelling to the airport via the City for connection to late flights, whilst those needing to connect to early flights will be travelling direct to the airport.

Fifty Five shirts, as shown, have been ordered and there are 16 extras available to be purchased at the college. So if you think you would look attractive in one of these, get in early as there are only limited sizes.

It appears that we have eight complete quartets for GOTCHA! to work with; the other incomplete quartet singers (no individual insult intended) will be working with Derek Cosburn and David Brooks in Quartet Experience sessions where they will aim to get the best out of everyone.

Most of you will have seen the program when you made your selections. This will basically remain as is but some minor changes may need to be made as 83 have selected the Advanced Singing stream and only 4 are interested in becoming a judge. You have up to 9 sessions (plus “How to be…” ) to attend over the three days. Many have not selected that many, so they have the opportunity to increase their range of musical education.

The arrangements to be used this time are “Lazy River” and “Australian Medley”, both arranged by Tom Gentry. We should be able to get the most out of these from The “horses mouth”, so to speak. The sheet music must only be used at the college and will be collected for destruction before you leave. This saves quite significant fees as we are using the music for educational purposes only.

I look forward to greeting you all at Myuna Bay, after what will have been a fantastic Convention.

Ian Miller – Dean
**From our Secretary**

**Membership Drive Winners Update** - After reading the results of the Membership Drive as initially published in our last issue, #98, we received a ‘thank you’ from Alan Weatherilt, President of Bayside Barbershop Singers, in which he pointed out that, unfortunately for them, they actually did not qualify for a prize as they actually had 26 members at 1.12.06 (not 18) so their membership increase was 7 new members. Thank you, Alan, for setting the records straight, and Congratulations to Ipswich A’Cappella Harmony Club for being correctly elevated to 2nd prize winner. The prize winning cheques will be presented to Geelong (Bay City) Conchords ($1,000) and Ipswich A’Cappella Harmony Club ($750) during the Welcome Dinner at this month’s Convention in Sydney.

**AAMBS Membership Fees** – Notices have been sent out to all Clubs for the renewal of their Club Registrations and their membership fees, which fall due on 1 October.

**Annual General Meeting** – Notices will be going out shortly to all Clubs inviting nominations for the Positions on the AAMBS National Council which are up for election at the AAMBS Annual General Meeting in December:

- President
- Vice President Conventions
- Vice President Marketing
- Treasurer

**Pitch Pipes** – Just a gentle note – For any members interested – there will be a limited number of Pitch Pipes available for sale at the Convention in Sydney. These are the latest ones in from the US – F to F – White and Silver – they cost $30 each. Also available will be copies of The Great Australian Barbershop Song Book ($10 each), AAMBS Lapel Pins ($5 each) and AAMBS Material Patches ($3 each).

I look forward to meeting you in Sydney.  

In Continuing Harmony,  
Kevin White

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**Frequent Flyer Exclusive Offer**

**Valid for 2007 AAMBS 10th Annual Convention, Sydney**

**Airport Link - Free Sydney Airport to City Transfer**

Be in the know. Catch the train link to the heart of Sydney City. Sydney's Airport Link is the fastest and easiest way to get from the airport to the city centre.

- Train stations are conveniently located directly below airport terminals, just follow trains signs from arrivals.
- On average trains leave every 10 to 15 minutes, the trip takes 15 minutes to the city.

Enjoy a free transfer with AirportLink between 13 September and 15 October 2007.*

Simply present your Qantas Boarding pass and Frequent Flyer or Qantas Club card to staff at the Airport Link ticket windows in the airport train stations.

Information on Airport Link.

* Valid for one-way travel from Sydney's Domestic or International Airport to City Circle stations (Central, Museum, St James, Circular Quay, Wynyard and Town Hall). Valid only on the day of Qantas Frequent Flyer's flight into Sydney between 13 September and 15 October 2007. Offer is limited to the first 3,000 travellers and cannot be redeemed for cash.

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HOT OFF THE PRESS --
A HISTORY OF
AAMBS

Life Member Andy Aberle, has recorded the first two decades in the life of our association and has produced a book which will be on sale at the Sydney convention. Over two years in the writing, the story outlines in narrative form, the story of the Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers from “day one” and traces its growth from an isolated fledgling group in Western Australia to the nation-wide body we know today.

Veteran members of the Association will enjoy some reminiscing about the “old days” and newer barbershoppers will gain an appreciation of the pioneering and developmental efforts contributed by many people to our organization over the years.

Hopefully, it will also serve as an interesting reference of significant events in that twenty year span and provide some bench marks to compare future achievements against. More importantly, the author trusts you will find it an enjoyable read and useful addition to your library.

The book will be available at a convenient location at the convention and Andy will be on hand to catch up with old friends and greet new ones.

THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF
MEN BARBERSHOP SINGERS (Inc)
(AAMBS)

A HISTORY – THE FIRST
TWENTY YEARS

By Life Member - Andy Aberle
$15.00

Hi there, by the time you are reading this the AAMBS’ Sydney Convention will upon us and we look forward to seeing some great talent performing and thank Sydney Harmony for all their work in putting on this Convention.

Broadwater Connection chorus is still up and running and has been very busy with concerts and still has six to go before Christmas. These include retirement villages, Probus, U3A, church concerts for “Young Care” and a night concert singing Christmas Carols for the Lions Club.

I send music to the guys via the computer, so the guys have their particular part that can be played as an MP3 and they can learn by watching the music. Of course, there is the small problem that some of them cannot use the computer, or don't have one. One of our members has taken on the responsibility of holding a rehearsal during the week which any member of the chorus can attend to learn their notes - this is a great help to me as Director as I do not have time on rehearsal night to go through all the notes. We have fourteen members at present.

We advertised for new members and did attract about 5 - some stayed and some left for various reasons so we are back to fourteen. We have three quartets that are encouraged and their sound is getting better each week. One of our quartets performed in our Regionals for the first time and was encouraged by our judges with positive feedback. I am sure next year Broadwater will have two quartets performing and hopefully the chorus.

Two years ago Broadwater entered the Regionals but, due to the small number that attended, were marked down significantly and it is taking time for the guys to get over their disappointment and to get up and have another go. The members work as hard as they can, we have fun, the sound is slowly improving and our audiences really enjoy their singing. We break our concert programme up with jokes, poems, one of our guys plays the accordion, and audience participation, so all in all an enjoyable time is had by all. We would love to have any member of other choruses join us, especially for our last concert in the city.

Last year we asked the Clippers for help and managed to boost our numbers to 20 which really improved our sound. We will ask the Clippers if any members can help out again this year and we certainly appreciate their help.

Janet Sippen
Director, Broadwater Connection Chorus

Over recent weeks your AAMBS Secretary has had to re-mail correspondence and copies of The Harmonizer to AAMBS Secretaries and AAMBS members who have not notified him of their new addresses.

Would you please ensure that Kevin White, your current AAMBS Secretary, is kept up to date with any and all changes to your contact details to avoid the additional cost of reposting items.

This also applies to information on changes to your Club’s office bearers.

Janet Sippen
Director, Broadwater Connection Chorus

Issue 99 Barbershop Notes – September / October 2007
Brisbane River City Clippers

Despite 2007 being a Convention year the Clippers have not taken their foot off the accelerator when it came to public performances. It has been a very busy July and August for the Brisbane chorus.

Besides our 14th annual appearance in succession at the Zonta Fair, two concerts at retirement villages, two sausage sizzles for our great supporters Bunnings, and our annual appearance at the Gap State High School for the Xmas in July concert, the Clippers have managed to stay focussed on the main game which has been preparation for the National Convention in Sydney.

Phil Blandy, Frank Tate, Mike Ivess and Mel McMichael about to burst into a rendition of “Food Glorious Food” during lunch break at the Clippers weekend retreat.

A weekend retreat early this month at beautiful Springbrook overlooking the Gold Coast, gave the chorus the opportunity to work up their program for the Sydney Convention. Once again our coach was Virginia Humphrey-Taylor who made the journey from New Zealand to help the Clippers to their goal of being as good as they can be for the big day in Sydney.

MD of the Clippers Don Godfrey taking a break during the Clippers recent weekend retreat

A major boost to the chorus membership and our hard working committee has been the renewal of sponsorships from some of our generous sponsors. Radio 4BH and 4BC and Australian Diversified Engineering, have very recently re-committed themselves to the Clippers for the coming year. It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to thank both these companies in this edition of the AAMBS Barbershop Notes for their on-going support.

Keith Druery Promotions
For Brisbane River City Clippers

Life has been busy within the Blenders with our trip to Denver providing the main focus for the first half of 2007. We had an intense lead up with overseas educators and two camps in the first half of the year. In the end we had 50 men on the risers in Denver and a touring party of 103 in total. At a cost of approx $5,000 per head this was no easy undertaking and a lot of time was spent fundraising, don't we love those sausage sizzles. Denver was a wonderful experience for all who attended. There is no place like an International Convention to have the “Total Barbershop Experience”. Every youth member in our chorus made the trip to Denver and it was great watching them soak up the atmosphere and the experience they gained was invaluable.

Denver is a lovely city and we all enjoyed many meals and drinks at a great variety of restaurants and cafes, always meeting other barbershoppers and of course singing the night away.

On our return to the Gold Coast our Director Rose McGee announced her retirement from her position as Music Director having achieved one of her many goals with The Blenders, that of directing the chorus on the international stage. Rose's time with the chorus has seen The Blenders win two National chorus competitions and a second Pan Pacific chorus championship. In addition she has been instrumental in developing a very active music team particularly encouraging the youth members of the chorus. Rose leaves the directing position of The Blenders but will always be considered a member of The Blenders extended family. We wish her well in the future.

We are of course again in full rehearsal mode with Convention only two weeks away at time of writing. We have held another retreat and are so lucky to have two very talented young men, Andrew Howson and Aaron Griffin who are leading us in our preparation for Sydney. We have two farewell concerts lined up and are all in competition mode and ready for another wonderful AAMBS Convention.

Take time to read our advertisement for a new Musical Director in this publication.

Sue Beardsley, Secretary

The Logo for AAMBS 10th National Convention in Hobart 2009
POSTCARD FROM THE WEST

This is the first postcard from Vocal Evolution, and hopefully it will be the first of many. The last six months have been a busy time for the chorus members. In March the chorus organised and ran a Barbershop evening course with the aid of the University of WA. 18 men attended the course with a variety of singing skills. The attendees were amazed that after six weeks they were able to perform and sing two songs in harmony at the ‘end of course concert’, which was attended by friends and relatives. The course resulted in four new members (I was one of them) joining Vocal Evolution. Altruism was on show throughout the course – with members of the other Perth choruses attending the concert and talking to prospective new members. Vocal Evolution members are to be commended for giving their time and energy in promoting Barbershop singing in this way.

There is a strong youth section in VE, and this is the result of a great deal of effort from a couple of VE members, particularly Harry Owen, working with the local music schools to coach quartets. A strong youth section brings another dimension to the chorus.

The end result of these activities resulted in nine new members joining the chorus since March. The challenge for the chorus was to hold auditions, help the new members learn the songs, whilst thinking about the preparations for the coming convention in Sydney during September.

VE now has a broad range of quartets in the chorus, something to be encouraged, and the quartets provide a challenge for the more experienced singers.

A retreat weekend was held in July, which the majority of the members attended. Eddie Martinez and Cindy Hansen, travelled from the USA to provide the singing and choreography coaching respectively, and also provide some knock about comedy with their own unique set of banter between the two of them. Everyone had a great time, and we began to see the foundation of the competition package. I personally found the whole experience very uplifting.

So here we are at the beginning of September, practising for the competition later in the month, three more rehearsals and three more gigs to go, and then we get to perform in Sydney, and see the fruits of all our labours – I can’t wait for it to happen.

This postcard from the West was written by a VE member who has only been singing barbershop for six months, and I have found the whole experience both rewarding and absolutely fascinating, maybe in a later postcard I will reveal some of the things I have discovered.

Signed: Malcolm Smeal

MUSIC LEADERS WORKSHOP IN SYDNEY

In an all too infrequent display of togetherness, singers from both AAMBS and the Sweet Adelines movement recently attended a Music Leaders development workshop in Sydney.

Arranged by the Regional Education Team of Sweet Adelines International Region 34, the all-day workshop attracted over 40 attendees of whom, unfortunately, only three were of the male variety.

Award-winning AAMBS directors Rose McGee and Ian Fraser, both Barbershop Harmony Society certified instructors, presented the Director of the Future program to an audience comprising current directors and assistant directors, section leaders and assistant section leaders, as well as singers of varying experience wanting to learn about that next step in the craft.

Topics covered in depth included:
- the elements of the warm-up
- how to create a blended sound
- on being a vocal coach
- the psychology of leadership
- as well as the components of the directing role.

The main objective, however, was to instruct and provide opportunities to actually get up there and “wave your arms” in front of a chorus. Much hilarity was the result as folk discovered just how different it is standing up the front and directing.

In fact, a fair bit of hilarity was evident throughout the whole day as the topics were presented in a light hearted but very informative manner by two of AAMBS’ most experienced educators and directors.

It was a disappointing that so few AAMBS singers could take advantage of the workshop, but those who were able to attend reported a very worthwhile and uplifting experience.

We, as a movement, really need to develop and encourage our future leaders.

No matter what our level of expertise, we should all attend as many seminars, workshops and tutorials as we can.

There’s always something new to learn about barbershopping. How exciting!

Full marks to all involved.
The following item is taken from ABC702 Website after a pre-Convention Sunday morning interview this month

**Performer - The Barbershop Quartet Convention**

The Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers is holding their 9th National Convention and championships at Darling Harbour this spring.

The Harmony Spectacular runs from September 27th over a four-day period. Held every two years their aim is to find the best choruses and quartets in the country and with over 700 delegates it promises to be a tough competition.

For those unfamiliar with the music of a Barbershop quartet – it’s a unique style of a cappella. A four part harmony comprising of the Lead who carries the melody, the Bass who sings the lowest harmonising note, the Baritone who completes the Chord and the Tenor who harmonises above the melody.

With Ian (ed. Rpgerspm) this morning:

**Musical Director for the Harmony Spectacular**

**Vicki Dwyer**

**Two of the members for Freefall vocal Harmony** – Tony Sykes and Guy Gibson.

**David Ojerhelm (the President of Sydney Harmony)**

**Mike Tiemann - who’s on loan from the US Airforce.**

The Group:

**Tony Sykes: Tenor**

Works RTA - A keen bodyboard surfer and cartoon aficionado, Tony began singing 36 years ago as a young boy in Sydney's St. Mary's Cathedral Choir. Founding Member FREEFALL

**Guy Gibson: Baritone**

Guy Gibson, having originally taken up the guitar at the age of twelve, had no formal musical training until the age of seventeen when he commenced classical studies at Sydney's Academy of the Guitar. Guy went on to play and sing in a variety of styles, often with childhood friend and now FREEFALL tenor Tony Sykes, for a number of years. Now Guy lives with his wife Linda and two sons in Sydney's eastern suburbs and works in the hospitality industry by day, but by night Guy steps back into the footlights in his role as baritone of FREEFALL.

**Michael Tiemann: Lead**

Originally from Hawaii .. Michael is with the US Airforce... on loan to Australia

**David Ojerhelm: Bass**

Retired Businessman – President of Sydney Harmony

(For further event details go to [www.aambs.org.au](http://www.aambs.org.au))
The Blenders, Australia’s premier entertainment chorus, and seven time consecutive and current National Mens Barbershop Champion is seeking to appoint a Musical Director to replace its retiring MD, Rose McGee.

We seek a dedicated and experienced MD to take us to new heights in competition and singing for enjoyment.

The Blenders enjoy an active membership of 70 and sing and perform an energetic and diverse repertoire in the a cappella harmony style.

Affiliated with the Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (AAMBS), The Blenders have a clear focus on maintaining and progressing the A Grade status achieved in the 2005 National Convention. It is anticipated the new MD will share our focus on the development of committed Music and Presentation teams, the use of international coaches, quartet development, and the encouragement of youth.

We require an outstanding MD able to lead and work with positive and forward thinking teams to achieve vocal and presentation excellence.

Based on the Gold Coast in sunny Queensland, The Blenders’ MD and Music Team are supported by an experienced and hard-working Club Executive Committee and an outstanding Support Team.

Initial enquiries should be directed to Peter Gray, (President) on +61 7 5530 5239; (Mobile 0407107751) or by email on leadpeter@austarnet.com.au.

Additional detail is also available on our website www.theblenders.com.au.

Written applications including a detailed CV and contact details for two (2) referees close on 30 November 2007 and should be emailed directly to Mike Ludwig at:

mb_ludwig@bigpond.com

All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Men In Harmony

WANTED - MUSIC DIRECTOR FOR 2008

Men in Harmony is a Barbershop Chorus of male singers comprising approximately 40 in number. We were the first such chorus to be established in Australia in 1985 and have been among the leading competition choruses for most of the last 22 years.

We rehearse every Tuesday evening from 7-00pm until 10-00pm at a very comfortable venue in Wembley Downs – a west coast suburb about 10kms from the CBD.

The chorus sings a wide range of popular songs including ballads, songs from popular musicals, inspirational songs and lively up-tempo items. We have performed at various prestigious venues in Perth including Burswood Theatre, His Majesty’s Theatre, University of WA - Winthrop Hall, Perth Concert Hall and the Convention Centre.

We require the services of a Music Director to coach and direct the chorus from January 2008.

Applicants may be either male or female and must have a reasonable degree of music and singing experience ideally coupled with experience with singing in the barbershop style.

Further enquiries may be made to either of the following:

President :  
John Hill  
98 Empire Avenue  
Wembley Downs  
WA 6019  
Tel : 08 9341 6454  
Email: vicrich@graduate.uwa.edu.au

Secretary :  
Vic Richards  
5 Luita Street  
Wembley Downs  
WA 6019  
Tel : 08 9245 2341  
Email: jdshill@bigpond.net.au

Applications for the position should be made in writing to the Secretary and will be received until December 31st.
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<td>1 Dec 06 – 30 June 07 - AAMBS National Recruitment Program</td>
<td>21-18th-BHS International Mid-Winter Convention</td>
<td>19-23rd - AAMBS “You Too Can Sing” Guest Night Week</td>
<td>15th - AAMBS Sunshine Regional Qualifying contest - 26</td>
<td>10th - BHS International Convention Denver, Colorado USA – AAMBS being represented by The Blenders &amp; Fast Forward</td>
<td>28th - AAMBS Eastern Regional Convention</td>
<td>Harmony University Missouri TN USA July 29-Aug 5</td>
<td>NZABS 19th Convention Dunedin NZ 21-23</td>
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<td>AAMBS Face-to-Face Council Meeting 30 – 3 May Sweet Adelines’ National Convention</td>
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**Wednesday 26 September**

- **0800-1900** Registrations, Market Place & BOX OFFICE
- **1000-1130** AAMBS Council meet room 108
- **1200-1330** Massed Sing & Civic Reception SLEC Amphitheatre
- **1430-1600** Schools Comp
- **1600-1700** Comp Briefing Judges chorus and 4ets

**Thursday 27 September**

- **1730-1900** Committee Dinner with Judges/GOTCHA! - Norths

**Friday 28 September**

- **0830-1900** Quartet Semi-Final Sessions for Open, Seniors & Youth (Includes 3 breaks)
- **0930-1300** Chorus Contest & Medal Presentation
- **1630-1900** Quartet non finalist evaluations (1)

**Saturday 29 September**

- **0800-0845** Rep chorus for Mecheck with judges - 4 from each
- **1000-1130** Master Class with Gotcha! Invited chorus
- **1300-1400** Break
- **1400-1730** Chorus Evaluations Quartet evaluations Show Briefing

**Sunday 30 September**

- **0830-0930** Church Service
- **1000-1130** Quartet balance Market Price
- **1230-1430** Closing Luncheon with GOTCHA!
- **1300-1400** Assembly & Transport to Harmony College

**Monday 31 October**

- **0930-1300** Quartet evaluations Show Briefing
- **1630-1830** Sing with the Champs GOTCHA!
- **1815-1900** Eastern Region Hospitality

**Tuesday 1 November**

- **1900 for 1930 start WELCOME DINNER (Parkside Ballroom) Official guests GOTCHA!
- **1930-2130** Quartet Final & Medal Presentation
- **2130-2300** Afterglow - Afterglow Bar (Bayside Lounge)

**Wednesday 2 November**

- **2200** Afterglow featuring special guests GOTCHA/TION (Bayside Lounge)
THE AAMBS COUNCIL

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

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Fax: 02 9905 0128
Email: conventions@aambs.org.au

VP Marketing & Development
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Fax: 03 9437 7847
Email: marketing@aambs.org.au

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Fax: 07 5572 3659
Email: youth@aambs.org.au

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Fax: 02 4369 8379
Email: secretary@aambs.org.au

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

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

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