SEVERAL EVENTS over the last few weeks have reinforced in my mind the realization that our hobby is the very epitome of teamwork. I was privileged to participate in the Voices Down Under cultural exchange in Perth, where 350 barbershoppers from around the globe met for a week of camaraderie, education, and barbershop music, both as listeners and performers. We were treated to the Sweet Adelines Gold Medalist quartet Fanatix, the personable and talented SPEBSQSA medalists Saturday Evening Post, 80 singers from New Zealand, a chorus from the US, and several hundred barbershoppers, male and female, from Down Under. My hats off to the VDU committee of Perth Harmony Chorus for their vision, dedication, determination, and organization. It was an inspirational week which is receiving international acclaim. And it reminded me of the importance of teamwork in every facet of our avocation.

At the core of what we do, every barbershop quartet and chorus must function as a closely knit team to achieve success in our performances. If only a few team members fail to learn their words and notes it can spell disaster for the team effort. The hard work, and hundreds of hours of preparation by most of the team members can all be in vain if a teammate or two lacks the commitment to meet the team standard. And anyone who has every played “team” sports knows that there are sacrifices to be made on behalf of the team if success is to be achieved. The “team” goal or mission may vary from our own personal agenda, but for the privilege of being on the team we need to direct all our personal energy on the wants and needs of our team. A song may not be our personal favorite, but if the music team and/or director has decided that it’s what we’re going to sing, then we have to support it 100%. We may prefer up-tunes to ballads, daytime gigs to nighttime ones, singing bass to being a baritone, or wearing the “number one rig” instead of that tacky informal gear. But, after we have had our say, and the “team” has made it’s decision, it is our job to support it to the absolute best of our availability…… in words as well as in our actions. This is the heart of what makes a team successful.

Similarly, when an annual show, Convention, or cultural exchange like Voices Down Under is planned, they become a success only when everyone on the team joins in to fully support the event. There is plenty of time at meetings to play Devil’s Advocate, and to question existing ideas and propose new ones, but when the decision is made, the event becomes, as we used to say in the Navy, an “all hands evolution.” I had the privilege of working with the Voices Down Under committee to organize the “male barbershopper” component of the event, including working with the fabulous guys of Saturday Evening Post. It was extremely rewarding and enlightening to see how well the committee worked as a team. It was there that I witnessed the togetherness, organizational skills, and most of all a dedication to a common mission that produced the barbershop week of a lifetime for the 350 delegates and their families that attended Voices Down Under.

Throughout the AAMBS organization we also have a great track record of teamwork, whether in a quartet, chorus, music team, club management team, regional team, or the AAMBS Council itself. But sometimes we may be tempted to put our own motives, concerns, or personal agenda ahead of the team goal and spirit. If that happens, I ask you to look at the examples all around you of how much more joy and fun we have when we function as a focused, dedicated team, with every single member contributing their best as a teammate, to excel and achieve our highest goals together.

In Harmony, Mike Donnelly
The coaching visit by Presentation guru Gary Wulf went off without a hitch, under the expert organisation of Eastern Region Chairman, Bill Purdue. By all reports Gary was well received and had plenty to offer our members in Eastern Region.

The visit by Saturday Evening Post to the Voices Down Under Convention held recently in Perth under the auspices of the Perth Harmony Chapter of Sweet Adelines was a huge success. This quartet consists of four seriously talented individuals who gladly gave of their time, expertise and entertainment talents whenever asked. They held a number of education sessions, and the most lasting is probably the “straw breathing” exercise of Allen Gaspar, and the amazing ability of Brian Beck to hear chord intonation imperfections.

The next education activity will be identifying and securing a “Singing” coach to come out in the March-May time slot next year prior to our Regional Conventions and Quartet Qualifying competitions.

The Aussie Songbook is now in its final stage of production. It is planned to distribute this before Christmas.

The Judge Training School is full steam ahead for New Zealand in October. AAMBS will have 13 candidates (4 SNG, 3 MUS and 6 PRE), while NZABS will have 12 candidates. In addition we have 3 people registered for the Contest Administrator’s course (plus 6 NZABS). There will also be shadow judging assignments undertaken during the competition sessions. The Society judging panel (which includes the Barbershop Society Chairman of Judges) are assisting us greatly with the planning and format of the school, so I am sure the outcomes will be positive for all concerned.

A big thank you to David Brown who took on the task of identifying all the issues involved with Copyright of printed music, and has produced a document explaining the legal position of AAMBS members. Everyone should make themselves aware of these issues. There are no excuses for breaking the law on Copyright, and the penalties can be great. You have been warned!! Copies of the document are available from your club secretary and sections of the document will appear in Barbershop Notes from time to time.

Sing-cerely,
Ian Mulholland
AAMBS VP Music

OOPS...

In the last issue I said that none of the Sydney choruses intended travelling to Christchurch in October. My sincere apologies to Hills Harmony who are definitely going. My only excuse is that this is what comes from writing a last minute piece to fill a hole. Once again - I’m sorry guys.
Editor Margaret.
Hitting the Airwaves

MELBOURNAIRE’S PRESIDENT Roger Archman helps to promote barbershop singing in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne through two regular monthly radio broadcasts.

Roger first gained exposure to the airwaves by ringing up radio stations to promote upcoming Melbournaire events and was always surprised that his requests were readily accepted. He has been interviewed on numerous occasions and promoted concerts, conventions, charity gigs and visits of distinguished barbershop visitors to Melbourne. These occasional forays into the media have always been strongly welcomed by the radio stations as well as their listeners, prompting invitations to return with segments including songs and interviews.

Two regular programs have since been established with local community radio stations. The first is a monthly one hour program on the third Monday of the month from 11 am to 12 noon on 98.1 Eastern FM. Roger includes a selection of barbershop music from his extensive personal collection, interviews, news about Melbournaire’s events and occasionally talkback. The program forms a highlighted segment of a weekly program by John Hutchinson called ‘The Melody Lingers On’. John and Roger chat about barbershop music in between tracks. The second program is a monthly half hour program on the second Friday of the month from 10.30 to 11.00 am on 94.1 Whitehorse-Boroondara FM. Roger runs this half hour himself with the same format of conversation, interviews with guests and a range of good barbershop music.

Roger suggests that local radio (as well as state radio networks) are very keen to find out about community groups and happenings. ‘I have never had a knock back from a radio station. They are very interested to promote local music and musical events. Sometimes we offer free tickets to our next concert. We’ve had our quartet “Six Foot Four” perform live for the ABC and even crowded the whole chorus into a tiny studio for an impromptu song for a drive time program, again on the ABC.’

Selection of music is vital. ‘I choose well known songs like show tunes or popular songs. I try to vary the source of songs - from the US, Canada and the UK. Australian choruses and quartets are always popular. I avoid patriotic or corny songs from the US. They don’t fit into our cultural scene. I also vary the music to include choruses, quartets and sweet adeline groups.’

Radio is a way of reaching many people at one time with the barbershop message. Our aim is to enjoy music that is well sung and well interpreted.

These programs help to promote barbershop singing in the Australian community and help to publicise our chorus as well as other choruses in Victoria. Each program results in inquiries from listeners and a significant number of new members has joined our chorus as a result of hearing these programs. ‘The key is enthusiasm for barbershop music,’ says Roger. And enthusiasm is infectious.

Peter Waterworth
The Melbournaires

Roger Archman’s FM Broadcasts

98.1 Eastern FM: 11-12 on the third Monday of each month
94.1 Whitehorse-Boroondara FM: 10.30 - 11.00 am on the second Friday of each month
95.7 Golden Days Caulfield FM: occasional programs
GREETINGS FROM THE GOLD COAST

THE BLENDERS ARE NOW at full throttle and going headlong to Christchurch. We have our new choreo up and running so to speak and most members have a very good grasp of it. Rose is extremely happy with our progress after such a short time.

Our chorus is learning Kiwi speak and should just about be word perfect on the night.

The trip to Louisville, Kentucky was a great experience for Fast Forward and although they didn’t medal came away much enthused for the next International in Salt Lake City. Needless to say they will be competing along with Crossroads at the Pan Pacific competition.

Doug Buckland our beloved Life member is very unwell and is waiting to have an operation. Michael Hocking has had a heart attack and is recovering slowly. It isn’t nice to have your mates missing from rehearsals but we are keeping their places warm for their return.

Beenleigh Senior Citizens had a 20th anniversary party with the Governor of Queensland attending and by all accounts it was very well received. 41 of our members sang and did a great job.

August 28th was the date of our concert with Saturday Evening Post and what a cracker it was. You knew just why they were 5th in the world. What a brilliant quartet they are and the workshops and rehearsal night with them was an absolute treat.

A BBQ was organised for them and it coincided with the 21st birthday of our assistant M. D. Andrew Howson. He thought that SEP were hired as the entertainment for the birthday bash. To have one of the world’s best quartets sing for you is beyond belief.

They certainly made the night. Thanks to Steve and Fiona Johnson, you are both legends.

The next few weeks will just disappear with a planned concert and camp at Boonah in a couple of weeks and our farewell concert at Albert Waterways Hall on October 17th. Then it will be over to the Land of The Long White Cloud. We now have 84 members and 67 will be going at last count.

Until next time.
Harold Howson, secretary.

Vice-President Membership Report

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION of members are issues which pervade most organisations and the same is true for SPEBSQSA, AAMBS, and our individual choruses.

Our Marketing VP, Tom Smith has provided access to significant information being generated in SPEBSQSA which analyses and interprets marketing and membership trends. Tom is using this background in the development of a comprehensive membership survey and a marketing strategy.

Aligned with this my work on the development of a AAMBS Membership Strategy which was tabled at the most recent meeting of the AAMBS National Council. This strategy is not a fix-it kit with all the answers for ensuring strong, healthy membership in each club in the Association. Rather, it focuses on background issues and trends, a national strategy and a resource bank of ideas for earnest consideration at the club level. Watch this space for further developments.

Mike Ludwig
FREEFALL – What is your current quartet champs up to?

TONY, GUY, JIM AND SAM would like to thank everyone who has purchased a copy of our new CD (see advert). We have the pleasure of considering another pressing by then end of next month. So don’t forget to purchase your musical Christmas present for that special person, get in quick before they all go.

The Sweet Adelines (SA) surpassed themselves at their recent convention and many congratulations to Perth Harmony and Accolade both worthy champions. FREEFALL were invited back as guest performers for the SA welcome dinner. During this fantastic weekend of high quality harmony (where we were wonderfully looked after!) we sold an amazing 200 CD’s. We were flabbergasted by this wonderful show of support. We are very grateful to The River City Clippers, Sydney Siders Express, The Central Coast Ladies Chorus and the Central Coast Men’s Chorus who all brought 10 copies each.

We have had some wonderful feedback about the CD and look forward to our next offering, which is likely to be a joint CD with Accolade the recently crowned 2004 Sweet Adeline Australian Gold Medal quartet. Look out for some wonderful mixed barbershop harmony.

FREEFALL have been busy performing on many shows lately. In September we sang on a very entertaining benefit show for Accolade to help raise much needed funds to assist the girls get to the U.S. and represent themselves and their SA region at the International Convention. We also performed on the Sydney Town Chorus show, which was great fun; we hammed up a couple of polecats as part of our presentation for the “Music Hall” theme. In late October we perform for the Baptist Church sharing the bill with Sydney Harmony, Ignition and the wonderful Idea of North and just before Christmas is upon us we have been invited back to perform at the legendary Basement jazz club, November 7th.

Finally, FREEFALL have recently been involved in some extremely exciting TV work. If the network Execs. like it, all the hard work should come to fruition next year with us appearing in a brand new LIVE show. As soon as we have something in concrete, we will let everyone know when & where to tune in.
VOCAL EVOLUTION’S Annual Show in July was a huge success. Titled “A Pirate’s Tale”, it told the story of a motley crew of pirates who trawl the seas looking for treasure. They also capture anyone they can find and hold them to ransom. The hitch is that if the captured parties say “Barbershop” (instead of the usual “parlez”), and sing a barbershop song, the pirates have to let them go free. It was a swashbuckling adventure in four part harmony, written by Ian Mulholland and based loosely on a cross between The Pirates of Penzance and The Pirates of the Caribbean.

The show featured starring roles for a number of VE members. Dennis Westwood was hilarious as the Pirate Captain, Michael Day (all six foot six of him) played the Captain’s wife with great femininity, Harry Owen was a suitably snarling Bosun, David Tout a dashing First Mate, and Shane Crosby was the pure and simple Cabin Boy.

The show was designed in such a way to also feature a number of guest acts, including 4th placed Australian Sweet Adelines quartet Intuition (featuring our own Chorus Director, Gina D’Souza as Lead), the St Stephens male vocal ensemble (a school group that VE proudly support), new Western Region quartet champions Alliance, 2nd placed WR quartet Blue Chip Stock, and local professional baritone Andrew Foote. VE looks forward to taking the show “on the road” early next year to a number of country centres in WA.

WE’VE recently performed in a concert at the Burswood Theatre as part of the Voices Down Under Convention held recently in Perth under the auspices of the Perth Harmony Chapter of the Sweet Adelines. Feature quartets were Fanatix (2002 Sweet Adeline International Quartet Champions) and Saturday Evening Post (5th placed 2004 bronze medal International quartet). Both groups were wonderful entertainers and educators and gave gladly of their time and expertise.

The chorus is also really looking forward to attending the Pan Pacific Convention in New Zealand in October. We have been preparing our competition songs and are grateful for some excellent coaching from our leadership team, Gina D’Souza and Lesley Barnes, and also outside coaches, Jenny Fay, Cathy Rainey and recently Saturday Evening Post.
WELL WETRIED!! At the end of last year we decided to plan the year ahead, we booked four local halls for Sunday afternoon concerts. We set up a programme of press releases and promotions to herald each of the events, such as naturalization ceremonies, Lord Mayor’s concert etc. This to-gether with the activities of our two quartets and the web page year planner, we hoped to garner our share of the community interest and ticket dollar. Was it Robby Burns who said the best laid plans….. boy, was he spot on.

The first concert held in February a sweltering 42 degrees, second in April across the road from the main cultural centres mammoth production of choral and military band music. Hey, they obviously didn’t look at our web site!! Third concert a beautiful day at Coolum, the beach bbq won out, then came our annual concert in August, at last, two full houses, matinee and evening, and lots of happy customers. The two constants that made it all worth while, was the enthusiasm of the chorus members throughout, and the pleasure the audiences showed whether it was the twenty at the smaller venues or two hundred and fifty at our annual affair, some even went as far as to write to the local papers to sing our praises.

Our final fling for the year, New Zealand and the Pan Pacific, though we want to impress the judges, our main objective is going to be to entertain our fellow Barbershoppers and make some more friends.

Brian Fordham.
Report of the Vice President Conventions

RIPTIDE! That fabulous International Medal winning quartet has accepted our invitation to be the guest quartet at our 2005 Convention on The Gold Coast. I’m sure that most of you will be familiar with this outstanding quartet as their unique sound has captured the international barbershop community over the past few years. We are most fortunate that our AAMBS membership, will have the opportunity to hear this highly acclaimed quartet and to meet them during our convention. Not only will Riptide entertain us during the convention but will also take part as quartet coaches during Harmony College immediately following the convention. Those of you who had the opportunity to experience Nightlife and Wheelhouse during our previous two Harmony Colleges, know just how great it is to spend some time with these top barbershoppers, up close and personal and to ring some chords with some of the world’s best. If you haven’t already marked your calendars for Oct 6-9 and Oct. 9-12 of next year, I suggest you do it right now as it will be one incredible week of barbershopping and just to wet your appetites a bit more, in the next edition of Barbershop Notes, I expect to be able to announce a special, extra added attraction at next years convention that will make 2005 on The Gold Coast the biggest bonanza of barbershop talent ever to grace these shores, so stay tuned.

Just a reminder that 28-31 Oct. is the Pan Pacific Barbershop Convention in Christchurch, NZ. Our fellow Kiwi barbershoppers turned out in force when we hosted the Pac Pac Convention in Melbourne in 2001 and even though there’s not long to go before this convention gets underway, it wouldn’t take much planning to arrange for a long weekend away and what better way to spend the weekend than with a few hundred barbershoppers in New Zealand and with the added attraction of last years bronze medal winning and very funny quartet, Metropolis.

As always, we start planning future conventions before our next one has even taken place and I’m please to say that we’ve received a very impressive bid from one of our clubs to host the 2007 Convention. The National Council will now review the bid document and will be making an announcement shortly.

Finally, I would again urge any member to contact me in regard to Convention matters. Over the years, I’ve received many suggestions as to how we might improve our conventions, many of which have been put into place. So if you have any ideas about how we might improve things in upcoming conventions or if there are any areas of our conventions that are of concern to you or you just wish to voice your opinion about anything to do with our conventions, please contact me by e-mail, post or phone at the numbers indicated on the back page.

Yours in harmony,
Bob Fritz

AAMBS 2005 Convention Update

PLANNING IS IN FULL SWING for this event which was highlighted in the last edition of Barbershop Notes. We are close to launching our first webpage and a comprehensive website will be developed prior to the Pan Pac Convention in Christchurch in October. Details about accommodation packages, registration, tours etc. are still being finalised and will be circulated prior to the end of 2004.

Our team was thrilled with the news from our Conventions VP, Bob Fitz, that the guest quartet for the convention will be Riptide.

The Convention Program is in initial draft phase and, along with the convention budget will be presented to National Council by Bob Fritz in due course. The program will seek to provide a range of elective activities in a 2 or 3 stream schedule which promises something for everyone.

Don’t forget those dates 6-9 October 2005 at Conrad Jupiters on the Gold Coast in Sunny Queensland.

Mike Ludwig
2005 Convention Convenor
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE NEXT Annual General Meeting of AAMBS Inc. will be held on 7th December 2004, at 10:00PM Eastern Summer Time, 7:00PM Western Standard Time. The venue will be Riverview Cinema, Waratah Avenue, Dalkeith, W.A.

As usual, the vast majority of our members will participate by postal vote and assignment of proxies. A Notice of Meeting will be circulated in a few weeks’ time.

Three positions on our National Council must be filled at this year’s AGM. We therefore need all nominations for those position to be with the Executive Officer before the end of October, so that information on the nominees can be promulgated with the Notice of Meeting. The positions that will be declared vacant, and for which nominations are requested, are:

Vice President Membership;
Vice President Music, and
Secretary.

Nomination forms are available from club secretaries, from our Executive Officer, or may be downloaded from our website (www.aambs.org.au). Please note that a nomination must carry the authorisation of two Full or Life members of AAMBS, and must be signed by the nominee. A brief resumé of the nominee, suitable for publishing, should be included with the nomination.

Return completed nomination forms and resumés to
The Executive Officer
AAMBS Inc.
PO Box 6026
West Gosford NSW 2250
BEFORE 1 November 2004.

SOUTHSIDE HARMONY continues to enjoy a healthy membership, convivial and rewarding rehearsals as well as a busy schedule of public performances. Because we are all young retirees, we receive many invitations to sing at functions during the day when most other barbershoppers are at work!

We sing at a variety of venues most especially at retirement villages and church based social and recreational groups.

Recently we enjoyed a very pleasant Sunday trip to the old and historic town of York some 100 K’s from Perth. We assisted a ladies’ singing group to present an attractive and pleasant concert in the old Anglican church situated on the banks of the Avon River.

A recent highlight was the opportunity we joyed to benefit from valuable and entertaining tuition given us by the members of ‘Saturday Evening Post’, a distinguished and accomplished quartet from the USA. Not only did we profit from their expert tuition but we were able to enjoy their superb performances in a small but intimate venue.

Based in Colorado, the quartet were in Perth to take part in the Voices Down Under Convention, recently concluded. We were privileged to share a couple of hours with this talented, warm and friendly group.

We are looking forward to a busy period to the run up to Christmas when we will be called on to present a number of programs of popular carols.

Roy Browning
Secretary
Southside Harmony
e-mail mbrowning@smartchat.net.au
Copyright Guidelines

Your National Council has recently carried out an intensive study of copyright issues, as they relate to our activities. The document that resulted from this effort – ‘Copyright – How it Affects YOU’ – has been distributed to clubs, unaligned quartets and Regions. Here is part of the document. Other parts will appear in future issues of Barbershop Notes.

1. Introduction

1.1. Almost all the music used by members of AAMBS is copyrighted in some form. Copyright not only applies to music and lyrics. It also applies to the arrangement, the layout of sheet music, production of recordings, record labels, record container covers etc. etc. The copyright in each of these different works may be owned by different organisations or individuals.

1.2. Some sheet music available is termed ‘unpublished’. Note that this term makes no difference to copyright issues associated with the music involved.

1.3. The only time you can copy or use one of the above works, without consent, is where that work is in the ‘public domain’. That is, all copyright has expired. This happens in Australia when the author died 50 years or more ago, or in some cases 50 years after the material was first published.

1.4. The purpose of copyright legislation is to protect the owner of a work from loss of revenue or any other detrimental effect caused by the actions of other persons. Remember – the work is OWNED by someone, and they have a right to protect their property, and to make money from it. NO-ONE ELSE has a right to use that property without the owner’s permission.

2. Activities Affected

2.1. Acquisition of Sheet Music

2.1.1. The act of purchasing a copy of a piece of sheet music inherently provides the purchaser with the right to use THAT copy in order to be able to reproduce the music. It does NOT provide the purchaser with the right to perform the music, make other copies, or alter the music in any way. All these activities require the agreement of the owner of the copyright.

2.1.2. Australian copyright law does not provide an inherent right to purchase sheet music from an overseas source (as it does for recordings). However, it is unlikely that such a purchase would be the subject of proceedings if:-

- there is no source of the music within Australia, AND
- the purchaser does not act as a distributor of the music.

It is generally recognised that there is no ready supply of barbershop music in Australia – particularly for the music published by SPEBSQSA, so the first requirement is almost always going to be satisfied. If the purchaser simply restricts his activities in association with the music to our normal operations eg purchase by a club or quartet for distribution to its members, the second requirement should also be satisfied. What the purchaser should NOT do is anything equivalent to “I have this music – does anyone want a copy?” either for free or for a price.

2.1.3. Advice:

- ALWAYS purchase bona fide copies of sheet music, and buy the number of copies that you require. DO NOT make your own copies, unless you make specific arrangements with the owners of the copyright.
- Do NOT act as a general distributor.
- Where possible keep a record of the people for whom you are acquiring the sheet music so that it is clear you are not distributing, rather merely acting as a central point to facilitate the acquisition of the sheet music by those people.
THE AAMBS COUNCIL

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DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE NEXT ISSUE OF BARBERSHOP NOTES IS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12th, 2004