From our President...

Membership – with a smile 😊

The topic of membership may not seem very exciting, but it is literally the life-blood of our organization. Actually it’s not one topic – but two: recruitment and retention. We would do well to consider that the art form we treasure – singing in the Barbershop Style – could be an “endangered species” if we take either of these two aspects of membership for granted. But we can fix this, personally.

I recently told my chorus “You guys look almost ten years older than you did a decade ago!” The point being that while our recruitment efforts had resulted in many new and valuable members, the vast majority were the same gents that have been on the risers for the last 13 years. And try as we might, we haven’t gotten any younger. So it’s really absolutely essential that each of us, individually, takes responsibility in finding a new member. Maybe your golf buddy is a closet singer, or someone in another of your social or work groups. Another good source is family members or relatives – no matter how distant. Or steal someone from your church choir! Or anyone you chat with at a concert – if men like music in any form they’ll love Barbershopping. Don’t wait for a membership drive or a new member’s night. Let’s all take this challenge, individually, and personally bring in that valuable new member.

The other half of membership is retention. We’re pretty good at this overall, but again we can do more. The obvious “bottom line” to retention is to make every rehearsal such an uplifting and rewarding experience that no one will ever want to miss a night. We can do this with a big dose of the wonderful traits that characterize Barbershoppers - like empathy, consideration, enthusiasm, helpfulness and teamwork. These are personal things that we probably excel at on most nights, but miss the mark on our off-days. Just thinking about how our mates feel, or how they’re enjoying the night, may move us to do that little something extra to make the night special. A few tiny extra efforts, by a lot of people, can be a real mood changer.

Recruit – retain – have fun – “Gee, it’s great to be a Barbershopper!”

In Harmony,
Mike D

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Issue 110 Barbershop Notes – May/June 2009
From our Secretary

Membership fees for NEW MEMBERS ONLY who join after 1 April is $22.50 or $11.25 for Youth Members. Members, whether youth or full, pay for a full year if they join prior to 1st April - after that they pay 1/2 rate which registers them up to 30 September, the end of the AAMBS financial year.

Emails to secretary@aambs.org.au have not been getting through but this has now been fixed by our Webmaster (after which I received 2054 emails!! Of these 250 are AAMBS related many of which came in during my 5 weeks overseas holiday (did you forget that I told you that I would be away !!) – so if you haven’t had a reply to your email(s) please be patient – I am getting through them as quickly as I can. (And the other 1804, did I hear you ask? Well, I hadn’t realised how healthy I could be one way or another, with Russian women running after me, or would they be chasing all that money that had been left to me by an unknown contact in Africa? And I could have saved a fortune on replica watches and cuff links too, had I but known.)

Back to business - let me say it again – Quartets need to register (or re-register) with AAMBS, not just with their Clubs. Quartets not registered with AAMBS are not covered by any AAMBS Insurance or eligible to enter AAMBS National or Regional competitions.

Kevin White

From our National Treasure(r)

AAMBS insurance for registered clubs and members

AAMBS has renewed the public liability insurance cover for the twelve months 1st June 2009 to 1st June 2010. The new Certificate of Insurance Currency is expected to be issued at the end of May. A copy will be sent to all Club Secretaries as soon as it is available. In the meantime, the current certificate is proof of the cover.

Evidence of a current Public Liability Insurance Policy is often required by organisations before hiring their facilities. The Public Liability Policy is to protect Clubs and Members in the event of legal action by a third party for damages suffered as a result of mishap at a rehearsal or performance.

In addition, AAMBS provides accident insurance cover for registered members. It covers medical expenses arising from an accident at a rehearsal or performance or travelling to or from it. This policy was renewed on 1st March and is current until 1st March 2010.

Barry Joy

From our VP Marketing

SUNSHINERS SUPER CHORUS IN IPSWICH MAY30

The first rehearsal and performance will take place at the Sunshine region competitions. This combination of Sunshine region choruses will be singing “Sound Celebration” “My Country” and “I Still Call Australia Home” in preparation for Brisbane’s 150th Birthday celebrations on September 6th. They have been selected to wind up what is shaping up to be Brisbane's biggest day since the end of Expo.

This singular honour and trust to perform at South Banks Piazza presents a unique opportunity for Barbershopping in Australia to perform in front of a huge expected crowd and highlight what this genre does and is capable of when presented to the public at this type of event.

The media coverage will be invaluable to encourage new singers to join one of the choruses and production meetings are already underway whilst the choruses individually have started to dust off these popular numbers in preparation for the first get together in Ipswich. Brisbane’s Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman, (both his parents Kevin and Jocelyn were Tasmanian Senators) has taken the initiative to promote our craft. [How appropriate when Hobart presents our National Titles for the first time this year.]

If this experiment of 150 to180 singers as a Super Chorus comes off other Regions may well choose to promote AAMBS in a similar manner.

Derek Churchill
From our VP Conventions

The Heritage Harmonizers

If you have visited the convention website (and I recommend that you do soon and often) you might have noticed the entry for the Heritage Harmonizers Chorus.

What is this Chorus and who will be in it?

This Chorus will be on stage for the massed sing and civic welcome at the Theatre Royal (starting at noon on Thursday September 24th) and will lead the singing of the Polecats.

The Chorus is designed, in the first place, for those delegates who are not attending Convention with their own chorus. This is an opportunity to be on-stage in a chorus like everyone else and, of course, provides another opportunity to sing.

The core of the Chorus will be a group of local singers.

Any other delegate who would like to join this ensemble is welcome to come along to either, or better still, both of the rehearsal sessions which will be held on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning.

So that I know how big the Chorus will be, please email me your details. I need your first and last name, your chorus and voice part.

Q&A

While you are at the web site, please also look at the Q&A page. I’m sure that you have many questions about the Convention process and experience. Remember, the only dumb question is the one you didn’t ask. There is probably someone else who wants the same information anyway.

Email: conventions@aambs.org.au

btw, if you do not receive a reply to an email which you have sent me, it will be that I simply did not receive it. It just disappeared into cyberspace. A snail-mail message to Kevin at musicians@bigpond.com to alert me will be most appreciated.

Richard Gardam

From our VP Music

WHY SHOULD I GO TO HARMONY COLLEGE?

As a new singer:
I can learn more in 3 days than I will learn in a year at weekly rehearsals.
I can find that voice that I thought I had through some intensive coaching.
I can transform that second left foot into the more useful right variety.
I can sing great harmony with many new barbershop friends from all over Australia.
I can start to unscramble that mess of dots that I see on sheet music and turn it into harmony.
I can learn to sing tags with only three other guys and not even have to see the music.
I can experience what it is like to sing in a quartet.
I can learn how to bring the song that I am singing to life just through the use of my face.

As an “experienced” barbershopper:
I can reinforce all the above that I have forgotten from past workshops.
I can improve my vocal and presentation abilities even further.
I can find out more about the basics of barbershop arranging.

As a musical leader:
I may (will) need some of the “above” stuff.
I can discuss and learn more about what makes up a good musical team.
I can learn to improve or develop my directing style to make it simpler and easy to follow.
I can learn what is required to be a good coach: and, boy, do we need them!
I can learn how to analyse voices and make them work together more effectively.

As a student:
I can eat, drink and be merry and make a lot of new friends: and greet some old ones.
Simply go to www.barbershopconvention.co.au, click on “What’s Happening”, click on HARMONY COLLEGE then have a look at the HC Newsletter1.pdf. All the information you need will be there.

DIRECTOR TRAINING
This has been progressing slowly with directors from Mareeba (Qld), Canberra and Geelong having taken part. Next month I will be working with directors in South Australia and Queensland.

If you wish to take part in this free coaching please contact me as soon as possible as time is running short: the convention is only four months away.

Finally, I would like to thank my friends, David Ojerholm, Rob Fritz, Wayne Retallick, Mark O’Neill, Don Forrest, Bob Haynes, Rob Walley, Bill Purdue, John Unsworth and Lex Tonnet for giving their time to sing. This enabled me to make a video which formed my final requirement for BHS Director Certification.

Ian Miller

From our VP Youth Development

Young Singers in Harmony

The Hobart convention will once again include a Youth and Schools quartet competition and for the first time a schools chorus competition. The success of these events depends on the support and encouragement that Barbershoppers around Australia give to young people within their choruses and schools in their areas to form quartets and choruses.

The information for nominating for these events and supporting material is on the official AAMBS website for young Barbershoppers www.youngsingers.com.au .

The competitions are the first of the convention with the youth and schools competition being run as one event. Remember the age cut off for youth in 25 years old at time of competition for all members of a quartet so school based quartets may also enter themselves in this event by simply ticking two boxes on the nomination forms.

The young singers in harmony team stand ready to assist any chorus or group of individuals who wish to run a BBDO workshop as a mechanism to encourage youth barbershop singing in their area.

Below is a sample of a brochure (minus the venue) that is being used to promote one of these days and an email being sent to local schools for this event? Please feel free to use this format or contact me and I’ll forward an electronic copy to you.

You never know what a schools reaction will be until you send out information for this terrific event so let’s get our local schools and youth involved.

Big Barbershop Day Out

Calling all young singers

at this full day workshop you will...

• be provided with all necessary music and learning materials
• learn and perform two songs in four part harmony
• experience professional coaching in all aspects of a cappella singing
• sing with a massed voice choir
To register for this event and receive your copy of the music and
learning materials please contact Stephen Griffin by email
stephen.griffin@apexdental.com.au
or ring him
(mob) 0411 951 259
For developing information visit the website
http://www.youngsingers.com.au

20th April 2009

Dear Choral Co-ordinator,

Young Singers in Harmony are proud to announce the staging of the second National Schools Quartet and Choir/Chorus competition. This year the event will be held in Hobart 24 September and will be in conjunction with Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers’ biennial convention.

The competition will be judged by accredited International and Australian judges and will include assessment and coaching sessions for every entrant in the competition. In addition there will be cash prizes and trophies for all medallists.

To assist schools in preparation for this event a series of Big Barbershop Days Out will be staged by the Young Singers in Harmony team around Australia where coaches and young singers can refine their skills in the art of acappella singing.

Please check out the details and register your participation by going to our website www.youngsingers.com.au

For further information contact me on 0411 951 259 or stephen.griffin@apexdental.com.au

Steve Griffin
VP Youth Development
Australian Association Of Men Barbershop Singers Inc.
ABN 54 083 784 810
Letter to the Editor

Hello,

I’m Graham Morrow, the newly appointed music director for the Misty Mountain Moonshiners in Far North Queensland.

Our chorus (and I) have just had the pleasure of meeting Ian Miller who has shared his Knowledge and expertise with us these last two days. What a pleasant (exhausting) experience it has been. Ian left no stone unturned in his efforts to assist us.

We are very remote up here and starved of chances to see and hear other Barbershop groups, so we really appreciate the effort that Ian has put in and we would like to thank AAMBS for their assistance with airfares etc to get Ian here.

We took a couple of hours out to show Ian a fraction of the local area. After the chorus training, we shared a barbecue and “light refreshments” with all the wives getting involved too. It was marvellous weather and good company, so everybody had a terrific time.

Thank you again,

Graham Morrow.

Editor’s Note:

**What goes into producing your Newsletter?**

A great deal of time and effort – from the wonderful people who continue to send in articles, from the Members of Council who keep you up to date through their reports, and from me, your Editor, collating material, proof reading, formatting, and sending it to you then downloading it onto the AAMBS Website.

So, it is very disappointing when your AAMBS Secretary receives requests for various things which we have covered in a previous issue, such as a recent request as to How do we register for the Hobart Convention? when this has been outlined in detail in Barbershop Notes by your VP Conventions and the Convention Committee and also appears on the Hobart Convention website.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that you read Barbershop Notes from cover to cover as there is so much important information for all AAMBS members in each edition.

All issues of Barbershop Notes are downloaded onto your AAMBS website, [www.aambs.org.au](http://www.aambs.org.au), so are there for you to refer to at anytime you are looking for information on this, your organisation.

So, Gentlemen - please, Please, PLEASE – read each edition from cover to cover and either keep a copy of the Newsletter handy on your computer or as a hard copy or check it out on the website.

This will make life much easier for us all.

Yours, in anticipation

Ed.
HOBART CONVENTION NOW ONLY FOUR MONTHS AWAY

Destination Tasmania! A great visiting quartet, State Line Grocery!
Great venues and a great social program.

Now, how can you help make Hobart the best Convention experience ever?

Here are a few ideas.

- Get to Hobart early and take part in the Wednesday Activities – the Mount Wellington and City Sights Tour, the Brewery Tour and Tasting Quiz, also the Evening Meal and Sing. **Buy your tickets on the Convention website now.**
- Join the Heritage Harmonisers Chorus and be on stage at the Civic Welcome and Massed Sing. **Sign up on the Convention website now.**
- Purchase Convention merchandise. There’s a Convention cap, a short sleeve polo top and a sleeveless reversible vest. All products are black with the red and grey Heritage Harmony logo. See details on the website. **Your Club representative will distribute a flyer/internal order forms and take orders until mid July.**


It really is worth a look. **Click the link above to go to the site.**

VENUES

On Thursday the Civic Welcome and Massed Sing, followed by the Schools and Youth Competitions, is in the Theatre Royal. This is just over the intersection from Convention HQ, Hotel Grand Chancellor.

Hotel Grand Chancellor is co-located with the Federation Concert Hall where we will enjoy the Friday and Saturday competitions and the Saturday night Harmony Spectacular.

Here are a few details of the stage at the Federation Concert Hall for the Chorus Competition:
- There will be 7 x 4 step Sico risers in a semi-circular formation in front of an acoustic shell.
- There are NO front curtains but lighting will be subdued for your entry. Be prepared!
- Disabled access to the stage is straightforward.
- Performers will enter stage right and exit stage left.

ACCOMMODATION

Some hotels on the convention website have recently lowered prices to be more attractive to delegates. Close accommodation is going fast.

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES JULY 15th** for both Convention and Harmony College.
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

1) HEAVY BRUSHED COTTON CAP - $14.00

EMBROIDERED ‘HERITAGE HARMONY’ ON FRONT
AAMBS 10TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
HOBART 2009 AROUND BACK ARCH

ONE SIZE FITS ALL

2) MEN’S SHORT SLEEVE POLO TOP - $48.00

EMBROIDERED ‘HERITAGE HARMONY’
AAMBS 10TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
HOBART 2009 ON LB BREAST

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3) MEN’S POLY FLEECE VEST - $45.00

EMBROIDERED ‘HERITAGE HARMONY’
AAMBS 10TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
HOBART 2009 ON LB CHEST

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NOTE: ALL PRODUCTS ARE BLACK WITH A RED AND BLUE LOGO

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT TO YOUR CLUB MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR BY WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY 2009.
*** AAMBS NEEDS CONTEST ADMINISTRATORS ***

Every Barbershop contest requires planning and control by a … CONTEST ADMINISTRATOR.

That could be YOU, a MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY, or SOMEONE YOU KNOW!

We are recruiting NOW, so get busy thinking and / or talking to your relations and friends.

No music skills are needed.
If you or your ‘target’ enjoy administration,
can get along with people,
and are willing to learn a few rules, this could be for you or yours.

Contest Administrators in AAMBS are members of the AAMBS / NZABS Guild of Judges and Contest Administrators.
As such, they enjoy the same privileges as judges, whilst accepting some similar obligations.

To become a Contest Administrator in AAMBS, you need to qualify by attending a Contest Administration course run by AAMBS.

The next course will be held in Hobart from 21-23 September 2009, at the 2009 AAMBS Contest and Judging School - that’s immediately prior to our 2009 Convention, so it can be easily swept up in the same trip!

For details, contact David Brown
’phone (02) 4322 1167
email: dbrown@comcen.com.au
The chorus was led by guest director Harley Mead, a gifted musician from Moreton Bay. Some members of the GC Barbershop Harmony Club remarked that the Saturday Night Concert was the best that they had ever experienced. The champions from the GC were rewarded for their efforts by an appreciative audience’s lengthy applause. The Blenders performed a combination of Beatles songs, popular hits and Australiana pieces, together with solo and quartet interludes performed by Owen Buckley, “Escapade” and “8 Feet There”. The trip was concluded by a Sunday morning performance at the local St. Peter's Cathedral.

Harley Mead & The Blenders – Australiana in Armidale

After a great series of April concerts, the Gold Coast Barbershoppers have been busy preparing for the upcoming Sunshine Region Qualifying Competition. The Blenders as well as the ladies from Harmony in Paradise will participate in Ipswich this year.

There were some other concerts as well. The boys performed on ANZAC Day at the Coolangatta/Tweed early morning service in front of a crowd of about 4000 guests. Citizenship Ceremonies were enhanced with “Australiana” songs.

In May the Gold Coast's Male Barbershop Harmony Club was entertaining mothers on Mother's Day. A mini chorus and several quartets of The Blenders sponsored by Gold Coast's Rotary and Lions Clubs toured selected retirement homes to bring joy and pleasure to residents. "What A Wonderful Day Like Today" and "Heart of my Heart" were some of the favourite Mother's Day songs in the group’s repertoire.

And there is more good news – The Blenders welcome back Jennifer and Andrew Howson. Andrew, who spent more than a year in the United States and has gained a lot of Barbershop experience there is ready to direct The Blenders. You may recall that in co-operation with Aaron Griffin, Andrew directed the chorus during the 2007 Sydney Convention.

That is it from the Gold Coast for now.

In harmony, Gunther Illek

Central Coast Barbershop Chorus is very proud to report that one of our quartets “Four on the Floor” achieved a 3rd Place at the Eastern Region Hills Harmony Contest on Saturday 3rd May 2009. We congratulate all the members of the quartet for their achievement this year.

SOUNDWAVES held a Movie Night on Thursday 23rd April 2009 as a fundraising night for the Chorus, with 50% of the profits going to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. We are pleased to say that a contribution of $500 is being paid into the Red Cross Appeal.

One of our foundation members, Ron Walsh, had a bad fall at the Movie Night and sustained severe bruising to his left leg, chest and a cut to his left arm which required first aid. Since then he has been hospitalised with severe back pain from a fall at his home. He is currently in Gosford Hospital receiving the very best treatment and we are all hoping that he has a speedy recovery.

We held a fabulous Youth Program for Secondary School Students on 27th and 28th March this year. There were 45 male and female students who attended the launching of the schools program on Friday 27th March which was hosted by the Musical Island Boys, who visited our shores from New Zealand. A concert was held on Saturday 28th March with one of the local Sweet Adelines choruses, Spirit of the Coast Harmony Chorus, performing with our Chorus and featuring the wonderful voices of the Musical Island Boys.

As a result of this weekend SOUNDWAVES is now progressing towards the creation of a Youth Chorus on the Central Coast with boys between 12-18 years of age.

We also ran a six-week singing course for male singers in March/April this year. There were 18 men who attended the course and the Chorus is now confident of at least 8 new members qualifying to become full members of the Chorus. A great deal of thanks goes to Gary Kirk and Dick Coslin for their untiring work towards the Chorus gaining new members as well as spreading the word about singing in four-part harmony across the Central Coast through the development of a Youth Chorus.

Ray Bale
Secretary

Sydney Harmony 10th Birthday Celebrations
On May 24 Sydney Harmony turns 10 and we are planning to party! More than 100 foundation and current members have been invited to celebrate the event at the Balmain Rowing Club on Sunday 24 May. Foundation and current members will also be presented with a photo montage of the chorus and its directors in 1999 and 2009.
Sydney Harmony was formed in May 1999 from the merger of the then two most successful Sydney singing groups, Broadway and Harbour City Harmony. The first rehearsal of the new chorus, with a combined membership of around 70, took place on 24 May with Jim Catt as musical director and Steve Ferrick as coach. Shortly thereafter, at the Fifth AAMBS National Barbershop Convention in Brisbane, Sydney Harmony, with only eighteen weeks rehearsing as a new chorus, achieved 4th place out of the 17 competing choruses, and was the highest placed chorus in New South Wales. Sydney Harmony also had four quartets competing at the Brisbane Convention. 'Close Quarters' finished third in the Open category, while the 'Bi-Focal Minority' also won bronze in the Seniors’ section.

Our current MD is the highly esteemed Vicki Dwyer, who has been with us since 2006. Vicki is a professional singing coach very much in demand for her barbershop expertise. Vicki is also Musical Director of Circular Keys, one of Australia’s leading Sweet Adelines choruses. As well as her directing and coaching responsibilities Vicki has managed to find time to win four gold medals at Sweet Adelines Conventions, singing lead in the quartet, Accolade.

Third Annual Sing In Harmony Course
Sydney Harmony held its third annual six week ‘Sing In Harmony’ course that commenced on 16 February. 25 new singers turned up for the first night which sent us all scurrying to find those extra risers that had not been used for so long.

A concert was held for family and friends at the end of the course where the new and existing singers rang it out for a very appreciative audience. The concert also featured a moving performance by the (then current) Sweet Adelines gold medal quartet Accolade. Also performing on the night was Double Shot (two of Accolade and two of SH) to top off a great night. The concert was recorded on video and many of us now have a memorable memento of a night to remember.

Perhaps the best part of the whole course is the fact that we still have the majority of our new singers stepping on to the risers. We will try to bring some of them to Hobart with us so they will be hooked for life.

voices@norths2 Concert
The second “Voices@Norths” concert will be held on 2 August in the Celebrity Room at our regular rehearsal venue, Norths Leagues Club in Cammeray. Last year Sydney Harmony and special guests performed to a sell-out crowd, performers and audience all having the time of their lives. voices@norths2 will offer something radically different and exceptional for our audience this year; the Chatswood High School Stage Band will feature on the concert program. The Stage Band is an impressive unit and has a proud history. In 1996 the Stage Band was the first Australian High School Jazz band to perform in the Montreux (Switzerland) and North Sea (The Netherlands) Jazz Festivals. The band will be touring Europe this coming July, performing in Montreux, Vienna, Saltzburg and Paris, returning just in time to perform at the concert.

Hills Harmony Quartet and Chorus Contest
On 2 May Sydney Harmony took part in the second annual Hills Harmony Chorus and Quartet Contest. This contest has become a fixture as a great warm up event for choruses and quartets to show off the songs they are working on for the next convention.

While Sydney Harmony was again pipped on the day by Hills Harmony, it was a fabulous opportunity for some of our new singers to experience the thrill, and the fear, of performing in front of a panel of judges and an appreciative audience. It was also great to see that Australia’s gold medal quartet, Alliance, supplied three of the judges on the day, and were the stars of a concert held later that evening.

Chris Miley

Miner Chords has also become the first Australian choir or chorus to be invited to sing next year at the prestigious Festival Europeo Canto Corale di Citta Soave, Verona Y Garda Estate. We are pleased to extend an invitation to any Barbershopper who would like to come with us on this wonderful journey to make an expression of interest to deschriss@bigpond.net.au and we'll be happy to give you further information. Both of these events are in Northern Italy and take place from Friday 25 June to Sun 27 June 2010 (inclusive) and Wednesday 30 June to Saturday 3 July 2010 (inclusive).

They pay our accommodation and transport and we sing in a different cathedral or church in a different city/town each night. They pay for our meals and drinks including wine! They organise sightseeing during the day as well. This is a wonderful opportunity to sing in some very special and different venues and you are welcome to join us.

We pay our airfares, accommodation outside the festival dates and a registration fee for Soave of EU160 (EU260 for partners) and for Verona EU170 (EU 270 for partners).
Choirs this year come from The Ivory Coast, Cyprus, Spain and Denmark. Next year Miner Chords has been designated the "Chorus Of Honour" whatever that might mean. We can send you the itinerary for this year’s festivals if you are interested.

In amongst all this change we are now having to prepare for Regionals at the end of this month. They take place here again in Ipswich as the public really supported our concert last year and look like doing so again this year.

Chris Featherstone

SouthCoast Barbershop Singers.

Kim Sebbage, Chairman of the Western Region Board, came to Adelaide last week and found time to visit our small group last Monday, which was even smaller with three members away n winter holidays. He was afforded a warm welcome. Kim was invited to lead the evening’s proceedings and took us through valuable warm up exercises and coached us on a few of our songs, also giving me some tips on conducting, which were definitely not wasted.

The evening was a new experience for our singers and they really appreciated Kim’s valuable time with them and learned a lot from his wide knowledge of Barbershop and music in general.

We were pleased to welcome a few members of the Fleurieu Harmony who came along and joined in and a great evening was enjoyed by all. Kim was given a big thank you from all for his visit and the evening finished with a rousing Lets Get Together Again.

Our group is greatly indebted to the Fleurieu Harmony Chorus who kindly donated $200 to us to help with expenses for purchasing music and learning aids etc., this is the true barbershop spirit, thanks fellas.

Gordon Tomlinson

It was with great pleasure that Life Membership was bestowed on Alex Paul for his services to the chorus last month.

Alex, who recently celebrated his 85th birthday, was a past President of the Chorus as well as being one of the three remaining members of the Nostalgia Four quartet that was the foundation of the chorus in year 2000.

South Australia’s Schools’ Big Barbershop Day out on 3rd April was a great success & many thanks go to all who organised the event. It was a feast of young people singing in the Barbershop Style. Under Jonathon Bligh’s leadership in the boy’s section, an enthusiastic group of about 40 boys worked on a song they had been learning at their own schools. At the closing concert, with the assistance of The Fishbowl Boys and Flashback! they sang with a brilliance that would make many senior choruses sit up & take notice. A great job by all involved.

The Youth Quartets, Flashback! & The Fishbowl Boys are now members of the Festival State’smen. Also a new Schoolboy quartet, Penguins & Salsa are about to join us as members. Together these 3 quartets are the foundation of a NEW YOUTH CHORUS, who have had their inaugural meeting to form under the F/S umbrella. They hope to perform in Hobart.

May 12th, we held a workshop at Ashford with Kim Sebbage & were joined by, Fleurieu Harmony & the 3 quartets. Flashback! & The Fishbowl Boys recorded their entries for the Western Region convention & later in the evening The Fishbowl Boys and Penguins & Salsa gave our old guys a taste of “Sound Celebration”. Our guys & other visitors could not help but be impressed.

At a recent event, F/S performed a longer than usual program as part of a charity show at Brighton. Digging for some extra ‘padding’, we found within our own group some untired talent. Eddie Gonzales with a couple of friends became Tres Amigos and wowed all with their rendition of a Spanish song and Dance. Our new Secretary, Tony Nicholson, also did a ‘character’ song, (Murphy’s Letter). Great going guys; a successful night all round.

Sad to say that after last issue welcoming back Rod Whyte, he now has to retire as Secretary due to health problems. We say ‘Thank You’ for the great work he has done for F/S.

His position has been filled by Anthony (Tony) Nicholson, who we believe will give his best effort.
At the end of May, our Musical Director, Ken Withers, will pass the leadership to Graham Whetter. We also thank Ken for his dedication to the position, & we will still enjoy his enthusiasm within the chorus as a singer & as Assistant Director.

We will be performing at the Adelaide Eisteddfod next month & our main aim is to do our best to try to beat our score from last year.

WATCH THIS SPACE NEXT ISSUE FOR MORE DETAILED INFO ON OUR YOUTH SECTION.

Yours in Harmony.
Graham Whetter : Asst. to Sec.

As High Altitude Harmony Chorus reviews its Goings On for the Barbershop Notes every two months, it never ceases to amaze our members just how busy we have been and how many activities we have crammed into the previous eight weeks.

It has been an extremely busy time especially for our quartet, Left Field, of whom we are very proud. The quartet of Mike Wells (Tenor), Shane Krog (Lead), Reeve Waugh (Bass) and Tony Hynes (Bari), has not only continued to play an important role at rehearsals as our Teaching Quartet, but has in many instances been at the forefront of our numerous activities with their various radio time-slots and public appearances.

At our major fundraiser, aptly named a Singing Restaurant, patrons were treated to a four-course meal while being entertained musically during the evening by HAH and guest vocalists. This popular musical experience on the risers that entertained musically during the evening by HAH and guest vocalists. This popular musical experience on the risers that continued to travel to HAH rehearsals, sharing his expertise and dedication to the position, & we will still enjoy his enthusiasm within the chorus as a singer & as Assistant Director.

Memorable moments for members continue to be the camaraderie at the social functions and after rehearsal tags. After Ross Fulloon had the thrill of accompanying Mike Ludwig to various rehearsals and ultimately an Armidale gig with The Blenders, the two returned with plenty of constructive advice for HAH. Sunshine Regional President, Trevor Rempfrey and his wife Carmel were welcome guests at a recent rehearsal as was Roy Tomkinson, President of The Blenders. Derek Cosburn has continued to travel to HAH rehearsals, sharing his expertise and experience with the chorus and the quartets. The personal messages of support by these individuals, from their choruses and their executives (in the case of Trevor) are necessary and valued. Locally, our developing Website www.haharmony.com (thanks to our talented webmaster, Tony Hynes) and our weekly Newsletter, produced by our tireless MD, Mike Ludwig, the same degree of encouragement circulates within HAH.

A brief social time on a Sunday evening was a fitting way to conclude a busy musical Mothers’ Day weekend. This involved gigs by HAH Quartets, Octets and Escapade from The Blenders (Thank you Chris, Steve, Mike and Owen). HAH ensured that barbershop music echoed throughout the district for mothers in their homes, the Crows Nest Show, at Nursing Homes, a Nurse of the Year Fund Raiser and a Rose Garden gathering. The icing on the cake was the Sunday performances at the local Toowoomba Eisteddfod for HAH quartets and chorus.

HAH looks forward to catching up with all our Sunshine Region family at the Regional Convention in Ipswich on 30th May. Ivan Nugus (Secretary)

I wonder how many Barbershoppers out there have ever performed ON a bowling green. The Clippers did just that when they sang the national anthem to launch the Australia V New Zealand Bowls test at Nundah Bowls Club in March. The chorus returned to the scene the following Saturday night to perform, not on the green again but on stage in the club.

The Clippers Octet entertained at a sixtieth birthday party early in the year. The quartet Four B Two plus one was a great success at the happy event. After the quartet had performed their repertoire for the day, the guests, who gained courage as time passed, tried their skills as lead singers with the quartet woodshedding their way through what became a long afternoon. The venue happened to be a cozy little wine outlet, which probably influenced the quality of performance by the stand-in lead singers and the late finish for the quartet.

Throughout February the committee conducted a survey of all members, taking the opportunity to give members a voice on a wide range of issues. The questionnaire was a resounding success and the participation rate was exceedingly high. The findings certainly revealed that the Clippers are a happy lot – Forty eight out of the fifty respondents indicated ‘love of singing’ as a key reason for belonging to the Chorus. The survey also gathered members’ opinions on the change of rehearsal venue from the old Queensland Museum, which the Chorus has called home for more than a decade. The decision has now been made to make the move from the first week in June to the new venue in Fortitude Valley - just half a kilometre down the road.

March 21st saw the Clippers present their first ever Variety Concert at the Bramble Bay Lawn Bowls Club. Throughout the two hour program chorus members showed off their talents in quartets, jazz and guitar ensembles to support an excellent program by the chorus. The concert was such a success, the club want the Clippers back again before Christmas.

Issue 110 Barbershop Notes –May/June 2009
The Biggest News from the Brisbane River City Clippers remains the selection of Brisbane as the location for the 11th National AAMBS Convention and the 6th Pan Pacific Convention in 2011. The Clippers are looking forward to welcoming national and international visitors to what will be two events in the one package.

World-class facilities (The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre situated almost on the Brisbane River) are already booked as host venue for competition and other functions. Convention-related organisations are keen to assist with providing advice on travel and a wide range of accommodation to all prospective delegates. The weather at that time of the year will be perfect. The city will be alive. The opportunity to explore Brisbane and the exciting State of Queensland, post- or pre-convention, will be made available via Queensland Tourism, Brisbane Marketing and similar organizations.

Now for the most important ingredient to make this convention successful: YOU!

Start your planning now to join us here in Brisbane in 2011, Give “The Clippers” the opportunity to welcome you to their city as we strive to host the best convention possible.

The Sunshine Statesmen

The guys are all prepared for Hobart in September and are champing at the bit to be there in the “Apple Isle” in harmony with fellow Barbershoppers. Most of us are taking the opportunity to see a little more of Tassie while down there, so southern tourism will get a boost from the Sunshine Coast.

To that end, we are still busy putting funds in the kitty from southern tourism will get a boost from the Sunshine Coast. That time of the year will be perfect. The city will be alive. The opportunity to explore Brisbane and the exciting State of Queensland, post- or pre-convention, will be made available via Queensland Tourism, Brisbane Marketing and similar organizations.

At the rather flash resort called “Living Choice” at Twin Waters on April 15th, the residents filled their grand theatre to be entertained by the chorus and quartets. A good audience helped us raise more money for the Hobart trip. We will be doing more of these mini concerts at other various retirement or lifestyle resorts in the months leading up to Hobart. They sure know how to live at these retirement resorts with indoor pools (great acoustics for warm ups!) and indoor movie theatres with comfy leather seats to sink into!

So all is on track and lots of fun is had along the way to the Nationals.

By the way, Barbershoppers...keep your eyes out for this next issue of the National magazine “Take 5". A great pictorial and story feature is planned to publicise our forthcoming “Mother’s Day” singouts. “Take 5" loved this idea and phoned up our MD, Brian Fordham, for an extensive interview which will appear in the May issue. Don’t miss reading all about it.

Men In Harmony

They say change is as good as a holiday but it can also be fairly unsettling and that's been the experience of the Men in Harmony chorus over the last few years with difficulties in finding a Music Director who could stay with us for a reasonable time. We've had fun and enjoyed some new music and ideas with our young friend, Richard Davies, during the past twelve months but unfortunately, family commitments have called him back to “Kiwiland” and we reluctantly farewelled him last month.

However, we are thrilled with the great good news that long time friend and supporter of Men in Harmony, Rae Knight, has been appointed Musical Director and takes up the task next week. Rae is a very experienced and respected Sweet Adeline singer, coach and administrator, former veteran member of the award winning Perth Harmony Chorus, and an accomplished quartet too. Her husband, Pat, has sung with us for over twenty years. So, there are busy, demanding and exciting times ahead as Rae places her stamp on the chorus and leads us to our tenth national convention in September.

Even though there have been some worrying and stressful times for our leaders, the Men in Harmony chorus has continued to function at an amazing level of efficiency with talented people from within the ranks stepping forward to keep the chorus on track during these periods of uncertainty. An enterprising team of “warmer uppers” has emerged, demonstrating really effective and fun ways of varying what can be a dull start to an evening’s work. The Music Team has produced several assistant directors who have filled the gap “out front” very well for singouts, and rehearsals have run to disciplined, well planned programs under the guidance of Section Leaders and Music Committee Convenor, Vic Richards – mind you, we’ve been in the business now for nearly a quarter century!

The Western Region Convention will keep us busy over the next two weekends and the revitalised local administration has put together a very interesting program which should be fun. Some newly formed quartets will be trying their hands (and voices) in the contests, hoping for local honours and, of course, also seeking to qualify for a place in
the national line up. It’s also a great opportunity to witness the results of the fine work that has been carried out in WA in recent years (spearheaded by the lady Barbershoppers) in local schools. It’s a delight to see the young folk in action – a lot of seeds are being sown, the fruits of which we hope to see in the future.

As always, the “old hands” are looking forward to the Hobart gathering and renewing friendships, some stretching back to that inaugural wonderful event on the Gold Coast eighteen years ago, and also saying hello to new harmonizers in this happy fellowship we share. In that respect some of our own will be experiencing the thrill of a “national” for the first time, seeing and hearing some great chorus and quartet performances, being blown away by a top international quartet in action and receiving instruction from some of the best exponents of our art form in the world. They’ll also gain some idea of how far-flung the Australian movement really is.

Best wishes to everyone in your preparations for the big one – meantime we’ll keep singing about those “showers in May” – it’s actually only a memory to this point, haven’t seen a drop yet – just tiresomely beautiful weather!

Andy Aberle

From Ash Schofield, Music Team Leader, Vocal Evolution

BarberTube

If you’re anything like me you’ve watched as many International Convention Videos and DVDs that you could get your hands on, then watched them again. You’re always eagerly anticipating the latest DVDs and after you wear out the remote watching those you’re at a loss.….

Since joining Vocal Evolution in 2003 I’ve become more and more a fan of anything in the ever widening world of barbershop. A bit of time surfing the web and I came across my own “little patch of heaven” as the song goes. There wasn’t a lot to start with, a quartet here and there at a local show or singing the Star Spangled Banner. But as time has gone by it’s become a feeding trough of just about anything you want to see. From a guy in his house making multitrack tags to the ’99 Masters of Harmony in their incredible contest set with Gotcha!, Metropolis and a young bleach haired Shawn York of OC Times, all in the front row or even the awesome quartet Crossroads singing for the Dapper Dans at Disneyland.

Some are official videos, most are just from people’s personal cameras which I love because it puts you right in the action. So do yourself a favour and check out some of the videos, you’ll be in awe and inspired.

Here are some links of a few of my favourites but there’s plenty more, trust me!

Max Q – Put your arms around me
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYJflwxtCrA
Crossroads – Little Patch of Heaven
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8SEVKjloXk&feature=related

Simon Rylander from Sweden, Multitrack tag
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSrCADZirlb&feature=channelpage
Masters of Harmony ’99 with The Ox directing.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Wjp-rSMBSc

COMING EVENTS

2009
May 17 – Miner Chords at Ipswich Heritage Fair at Woodlands in Marburg.
May 23 – Western Region Qualifying Competition
Information: Harry Owen, 08 9524 2351 or 0489 367 600 or ausloc@bigpond.com
May 30 – Sunshine Region Qualifying Competition
Information: Trevor Remphrey, 07 3353 4556 or 0438 127 059 or marinett@bigpond.net.au
May 30 – Eastern Region Qualifying Competition
Information: Bob Haynes at 02 9416 2615 or 0411 266 602 or Bob.Haynes@bigpond.com

June 7 - AAMBS Council Meeting – Teleconference

July 4 – Variety of Voices - Festival Statesmen and Fleurieu Harmony at the Royalty Theatre. The program includes Adelaide Sound Connection, Sisters of Abundance and several other acts. Music for a big finale has been supplied to all performers – it will have the full cast together on stage. The Royalty Theatre, Angas Street, Adelaide.

July 5 -
Aug 2 -
AAMBS Council Meetings – Teleconferences
Sept 6 -

Sept 18-20 – SOUNDS CAPITA – NZABS Convention
– Wellington NZ Details: www.nzabs.org.nz

Sept 21-23 – AAMBS / NZABS Contest & Judging School,
Old Woolstore Hotel, Hobart TAS. Entry by application only.
Information: Ian Mulholland -- IMulholland@roxresources.com.au or 08 9384 9292 or 0418 956 492


Sept 27-30 – AAMBS Harmony College, Hobart, Eastcoaster Resort on Tasmania’s Holiday Coast. Cost - $295 (+ $10 got bus transport to and from venue)

Oct 2-4 – Irish Association of Barbershop Singers, 21st Annual Convention. Venue: The Helix, Dublin Cost: €60.00 Registration closing date is 30th June 2009. Accommodation: Crowne Plaza, Santry, Dublin www.eventelephant.com/igbsannualconvention09

Oct 4 -
Nov 1 -
AAMBS Council Meetings – Teleconferences
Dec 6 -

2010
Feb 26-28 – Eastern Region Weekend Workshop. Greenhills Conference Centre, Canberra ACT

2011
Sept 28-2 Oct – AAMBS 11th Annual Convention and Pan Pacific Convention, Brisbane Qld – Hosted by The Brisbane River City Clippers
Send your items for Barbershop Notes in 9 pt Arial font to: secretary@aambs.org.au

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