From our President

Barbershopping – An Artform for All Ages

The thousands of hours of dedicated work by our fellow barbershoppers made the Hobart Convention a huge success. They deserve our heartfelt thanks for doing so much for all of us.

I have come away from that great experience with one overriding impression........ our beloved Artform is indeed perfect for all ages. The proof is in a few examples from our competition results, and the ages of our medallists. Still wet behind the ears we have our Youth Quartet Gold medallist, and Open Bronze medallist - 3 Men and a Tenor - 3 teenagers and a 20 year old!! Our outstanding Open Quartet Gold Medallists Alliance - 40-ish ...... and finishing with the Gold, and the highest score ever obtained by a Senior quartet, Benchmark - with an average age of over 60. Then there are our Gold and Silver medallist choruses Vocal Evolution and The Blenders with a great range of ages; the Festival Statesmen Youth Chorus, gathering the Bronze medal with mostly teenagers; and a certain unnamed chorus, finishing in the top half of the competition - with an average age of over 70! Superb performances by all, at every age, with the average scores for all our choruses and quartets continuing to climb.

So I would submit we have an exciting youth movement ....... but we also have a great senior movement ...... and a "middle age" movement too. From mid-teens to mid-eighties ...... we’re standing shoulder to shoulder on the risers, exuding great music in the barbershop style for our audiences. With the impetus we have all gained from our fellowship and musicianship at Convention and Harmony College, we’re just getting better and better! It’s a great time to be a barbershopper - Christmas gigs abound, new members are waiting to be found, Musical Island Boys will be passing through our cities in March / April, 2010.

Regional Competitions are only 7 months away ............ and more.

It's great to be a Barbershopper!

In Harmony,
Mike D

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From our Secretary

AGM – Club Secretaries: Proxy voting papers are on their way to you – Please complete these and return them to me by 4th December 2009.

Keeping up to date – I can’t believe that it is still happening but it is – Secretaries and members are not keeping AAMBS updated with changes to your contact details. I still have important emails sent to members of your Executive returned as the computer system does not acknowledge or accept the email address we have listed for you. Also, when recently creating a short list of members with their mobile phone numbers – 4 out of 12 got back to me to let me have their updated mobile numbers. And are you checking to ensure that your Club’s quartets are re-registered with AAMBS and covered by AAMBS Insurance. This is a MUST.

We try our hardest to keep all AAMBS members up to date with events and happenings but if you don’t keep us up to date with your contact information you (and your members if you are the Secretary) will miss out each time.

Are you interested in forming an AAMBS Southern Region? One of the suggestions made at the Convention Forum in Hobart was to form a Southern Region. This has been mooted in the past but always falls by the wayside as no-one in the South has been prepared to put up their hands to take it on. What would be needed is a Region Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and a representative from each Club in the Region to be on the Committee. What do you think? Is this something that Clubs in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia feel strongly enough about to get it going? Please let me have your comments so that the proposal can be discussed at a Council Teleconference or at our face-to-face Council meeting next February.

In Harmony,
Kevin White

From our VP Membership

“Light the Fire Within”

“I wish I had thought of this title first but I cannot claim credit for it. It was the slogan for the 2002 Winter Olympics held at Salt Lake City.” So says Brian O’Leary former SPEBSQSA Membership Development Committee Member. Brian was part of the team that worked at the Olympics and he came to know just how powerful this slogan was and can be if you want to make something happen. In his membership development capacity - Brian contemplated just how effective this slogan might be as a way to motivate Club Administrators to accomplish their goals, chief among which should be an increase in Club membership.

Brian continues, “Light the Fire Within!” What a joy it is to visit a Club that is really cooking. The club meeting starts with a cheery greeting, and a few moments to exchange all the hot news that’s been lingering in the members’ minds since they last met. How quickly the evening passes as well-planned club meeting activities are run seamlessly and involve everyone there. There’s never a dull moment as the evening progresses through music time, fun time, club business time, fun time, quartet-ting and tag singing time, fun time, guest introductions, fun time and, you guessed it, “fun time”. Many of us have experienced this at one time or another and perhaps wondered why this doesn’t happen consistently in our own clubs.

Now, if the members are having so much fun, think, just for a moment, about how wonderful it must be for a guest to savour this haven from his daily grind by being made a part of the evening. What a powerful experience we have at our fingertips to share with our future members. What a joy it is to be able to invite a guest to warm himself by our fire of excitement. And what an opportunity we have to light another fire within our future members that will grow and burn brightly as he returns week after week to find that what he experienced at his first visit gets better and better!

Guest nights are important but if the fire is not burning within your club and within the hearts of your membership, your future members will quickly become your past guests!

AAMBS 1000 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our last national membership drive was held in 2007. At that time, I shared with you that:

- Around 80% of AAMBS members are 55 years or older and of this group some 8% are 75 years or older; and
- AAMBS net membership is in a slight declining trend.

Our goal in 2007 was to recruit 100 new members – and we did it. And we have reversed the slight declining trend in membership.

Our current national membership, when a few laggard members renew, stands at 933 – tantalizingly close to the magic 1000 members milestone – which is the target for the 2010 national membership drive.

Is Target 1000 achievable by 30 June 2010? Absolutely! We showed that we could do it in 2007 and we can do it again in 2010!!

Issue 113 Barbershop Notes – November/December 2009
Every Club needs to recruit three new members each but, as I said in 2007, to reach this goal, we’re going to need the co-operation of every member in every Club. Membership is not someone else’s job; it is a privilege given to every member of the barbershop family. Membership begins with ME and with Mike Donnelly, and with your Club President and with YOU!

Again, a significant milestone of the campaign is the **Guest Night** in the week of 8 – 12 March 2010. The aim is to have all AAMBS affiliated Clubs hold their first guest night of the year in this week (we are working on this aspect as a ‘hook’ for media exposure). Use the period between now until March to find the men in your respective areas including friends, work colleagues, church mates, club mates, etc who absolutely love singing four part acappella harmony – but haven’t realised it yet – and plan your guest night so that these potential new members are given a warm welcome to a fun night of singing.

**Financial Rewards!**

It could also financially benefit your Club as well. AAMBS will award **$1,000** to the Club who registers the highest percentage of new members with AAMBS in the period 1 December 2009 to COB 30 Jun 2010. Similarly, a runner up award of **$750** will be paid to the Club with the next highest percentage of registered new members. Our esteemed AAMBS Secretary will determine the baseline membership of all Clubs as at 1 December 2009 and the winning clubs will be those that have registered the highest percentage of new members with AAMBS in the recruitment period.

*And Clubs can ‘sweeten the pot’ by offering a financial incentive to their individual ‘master’ recruiter in the same recruitment period.*

**AAMBS Resources**

Posters for internal and external use, checklists and scripts for radio advertising will be provided to every club to assist in their individual recruitment campaigns. Other resources will be made available as they come to hand.

Singing four part unaccompanied harmony singing is **FUN, Satisfying and Rewarding** – and there are 100 men waiting for you to let them in on the secret.

Good luck and see you at the end!

**Tom Smith**

**VP Membership**

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**From your VP Conventions**

So, Convention 10 has been run and won. Phew! Wow!

Thank you to all those members who have taken the trouble to write or phone passing on their congratulations for a job well done on all fronts.

From me, special thanks to Trevor Rootes and his hard working Committee and to the team of volunteer workers who staffed the desk during the Convention. Special thanks also to the team of Hobart Harmony members who conducted quartets and choruses through the Convention pathway from warm-up to stage.

Where would we have been without the steadying hand of Chris Bailey as stage manger and Ian Wollstein as audio and lighting director along with the team from Scene Change who supplied all the equipment for the dinners and the concert hall.

In the end, the Convention is not the support staff but the attending members. At last count, delegates, judges and visiting quartet added up to 748 participants. Delegates showed again what a delightful bunch of members we have. Their co-operative and enthusiastic approach to all the Convention events made everyone’s experience all the better.

Congratulations to all those who met or exceeded their performance goals, not least, those who took home items of hardware in the form of medals, trophies and shields. Most importantly, thank you for the positive light in which you all showed off our wonderful art form to the city of Hobart and beyond.

The standards have all been raised again and every one of us will have to put in that extra effort for the next Convention in Brisbane, 2011.

I received a message this week that the Brisbane committee is now hard at work, meeting and preparing for the next event which will be an AAMBS & Pan Pacific combined Convention. We are looking forward to something like double the numbers for this event as delegates come from right around the Pacific rim representing exotic locations like Alaska, Hawaii, US and Canada west coast districts, Japan and New Zealand to join all the locals. This will be an event “not to be missed”.

The Convention web site has been updated to reflect what happened in Hobart. Here is an opportunity for you to share your Convention experience with others.

I know that the cameras were out and about. There must have been 1000s of images collected. If you would like your favourite image placed in a gallery on the site, please email me a digital version of your photo. As they are to be displayed on the website they do not need to be large. If you have the facility to do so, could you first scale them to no bigger than 640 x 480. This will help my mailbox from overflow problems. Please add a caption or comment in your email so I know who to acknowledge.
While the memories are still fresh, now is the time to tell us of your highlights and also your wish list for future events. If you get them in now, then the Brisbane committee will have plenty of time to consider what changes might be put in place for Convention # 11.

Speaking of websites, the Brisbane committee has started work on the 2011 River Harmony Convention website. As it is early days, there is only a hint of what is to come. In particular, you can register your interest via the site and have bulletins directed to your email as and when something new happens. I have, and already the first item has come through.

By the way, it is still possible to order Convention photos and DVDs. Go to the Convention website (address below) and follow the links to the supplier’s web sites.

Once again, thanks and congratulations for a fantastic Heritage Harmony Convention. I just can’t wait for River Harmony in 2011.

EMAIL: Conventions@aambs.org.au

Richard Gardam

From your VP Music

HARMONY COLLEGE WRAP-UP

The exit survey, which covered 73 of the 98 attendees, indicated that the vast majority of classes averaged a 4 or 5 (out of 5) rating. This is an incredibly good result and shows that AAMBS is able to put together a college that satisfies nearly all of our members that attended. There are, however, indications that it is impossible to please everyone.

The most highly rated sessions were CHORDS AND ALL THAT STUFF, QUARTET COACHING and SIGHT SINGING FOR BEGINNERS. The most popular sessions, by attendance, were ADVANCED VOCAL TECHNIQUES and THE POWER OF PRESENTATION; indications that our singers are still wanting to improve in areas that build their ability to have a positive individual effect on their chorus or quartet.

In the areas of accommodation and food there were 23 that rated only 1-2 for accommodation and 14 for food. 22 of these were attending their first HC (some seconds): they may just have changed their opinions if they had attended some of our previous HCs!!!

Attendance statistics show that 44% were their for the first time, 51% from Eastern Region, 31% from Western Region, 18% from Sunshine Region; plus one from NZ. Vocal Evolution won the flag for keenness with 17 of their members there: a significant percentage of their chorus. Other choruses could, perhaps, take some note of this.

HARMONY COLLEGE – THE FUTURE

The HC exit survey had a column asking for an opinion (Y/N) regarding HC being moved to the off year from our Convention. The overall results indicate that 47% are for it with the regional breakup showing ER - 45%, SR - 65% and WR - 25%. It could appear that the cost of travel from WR has a large influence on their vote. This preliminary survey only represents 10% of AAMBS membership but is probably a much larger percentage of those who would attend HC in the future; after all, 90% didn’t attend. Changing the way we do things could attract more to come.

All HCs held in Australia, to date, have to use for the faculty, the overseas judges and guest quartet that are available for the Convention: along with local educators. This means that we have to tailor the courses to their abilities and willingness to teach various subjects. As an example, this year we had no top line, BHS Certified director to satisfy some in the Advanced Directing stream and this caused a degree of angst from some of our “leading” directors. Being able to independently select / request faculty should help to avoid this type of problem as we can get experts that regularly teach at the BHS Harmony University. To find people that can judge the NZ competition, teach a category at judge’s school, judge our competition then work at Harmony College, all in a continuous 2 week period, somewhat limits our faculty options.

I would like to hear from individuals or groups as to your thoughts on what could be done. Some ideas include:

- Run only a quartet college after the Convention.
- Run smaller HCs in each region using Aust / NZ faculty and a keynote educator from BHS.
- Always run the HC in Adelaide, where the travel costs are about equal for all. This is done in the USA (not Adelaide)
- Have HC every alternate year or every year.
- Run a college for Directors and Section Leaders.
- Develop an AAMBS Educational “faculty” that could develop a formal structure of training that would see the development of a series of sequential courses that required evaluation before moving to the next level.

I hope to be overwhelmed with suggestions a music@aambs.org.au

Ian Miller
From your VP Marketing

May we urge each chorus to specifically appoint a "Marketing Director" to serve on Club committees. This will have important ramifications for AAMBS at many levels and will grow each chorus to achieve the numbers on the risers that each club aspires to. In March there is a drive to achieve 1000 Members. We currently have about 800 - down from over 900 prior to the National Convention in Hobart, Those numbers are mostly due to the "sleepy" time which invariably follows Conventions after a "Rest" from all the hard work. If you have not paid your subs, do it!

How often have you heard outside associates (of Barbershopping that say that they have NEVER HEARD OF the chorus from which you get so much pleasure each week?

Amazing? Astounding? Yes, but true! Whose fault is that. You sing in malls, Retirement Homes, at Corporate functions. All sorts of places. No. No one's fault yet we should be concerned. If we are having fun then maybe those who listen to us may be enthused to have fun too. Don't accept "I can't sing" from your pals. Tell them that "if you can talk, you can sing" or "oh that's okay half our blokes can't either" Just joking but you get the point.

So how will appointing a Club representative to the role of Marketing change anything and what would he do anyway?

1. Get recognition for your achievements at a local level.
2. Be the trumpet for the Chorus and his Club's aspirations or very next gig.
3. If membership is an immediate Committee goal think of ways publicity can achieve that.
4. Diligently set out to be aware of Contact points and mark them down. Local newspaper(s) even alternate ones in the bigger Cities. Radio DJs. Local librarians, Schools ("Don't just ring. Visit them " says Brisbane Convention 2011 Chairman John Shelton, who is doing just this as we write) - RSLs, CWAs, Rotary, Lions - the list is endless and occasionally they all would love a Quartet or Chorus to visit or attend one of their functions.
5. It's a LOCAL thing which can only be done effectively at a local level.
6. Local Councils put on Festivals and Community days. Don't accept you are all too busy to take part. It is your life blood and will quickly raise your RECOGNITION factor. Establish with your Committee how many you can manage a year, mark it and go for it.
7. Newspapers are expensive to "Let's chuck an ad in the paper" and can only get more expensive. But they do let the public know what is coming up next week-end. And it's free if you bother to put an entry in.
8. If you are going for the print media recognise we are in the 21st century, so ensure your "WWW" address is included in everything you do.
9. If you don't have a web site for your Chorus, get one.
10. Probably a retiree amongst you is the best appointment in order to be constantly aware of the possibilities. Read all the papers each day. Listen and answer talk back radio. DJs will ask you to come on their show or provide a CD. When you get the hang of it "The Current Affairs" TV programs are your next aim. They MUST be looking for something NEW to improve the almighty ratings battle. The paucity and regularity of what they currently show is mind blowingly boring and predictable.

Well there are a few things. Maybe next Barbershop Notes we can think of more!!! In two years of this column I have never received any feedback. Should we include "Letters to the Editor"?

Derek Churchill
Director of Marketing

From your Contest Administration

- the Hobart Convention

A few thank-yous and thoughts:-
Firstly, my thanks to Trevor Rootes and his people for providing us with a fantastically well organised and run Convention, in a first-rate venue. Their support and co-operation with Contest Administration was fantastic.

Secondly, my thanks to all the contestants; for their co-operation and forbearance with all my requests, their punctuality, their good humour and by no means least, their performances.

And let us not forget the marshals – that bunch of great people who tirelessly made sure that everyone was in the right place at the right time, and never got to see a performance!

Two things regarding the contestants stand out, in the view of this old veteran of every AAMBS Convention bar one:
• The general increase in skill,
• The unprecedented influx of young people.

Both indicate to me that Barbershop in Oz is going great guns.

Leaving you all in peace (at last)

David Brown
National Contest Administrator
Heritage Harmony Convention
Hobart 2009

NOTES FROM HOBART

No doubt everyone will remember the 2009 Convention for the emergence of youth: nine quartets and five choruses. What an impression they made! And that’s not to mention the outstanding contests in the open and seniors competitions.

But there is so much more to remember from Hobart.

Friendly Convention

We hope, Hobart will be remembered as a friendly Convention. No doubt, the Wednesday evening meal at the Shipwright’s Arms, the Heritage Harmonisers Chorus, the First Timers Welcome, the Massed Sing indoors, and the Saturday evening Afterglow all helped contribute to the great spirit that pervaded the Convention.

Volunteers

Local volunteers also greatly contributed to the friendliness and overall success of the Convention. We needed more than 400 hours of volunteer time. Members of the Silvertones, our senior chorus, were stalwarts. So too were the Friends of the Theatre Royal. We also relied on members of the local SAI Chorus, Hobart Harmony, as marshals for the competition cycle. And there were many family and friends who assisted in a myriad of other tasks including registration, ticket sales, staffing the doors, merchandising and providing information for delegates. Volunteers were characterised by helpfulness, friendliness and patience.

The Club conducted a Convention Celebration and Volunteers Thank You Evening early in November when we were able to express our appreciation. Over 60 people attended.

Convention Donation

Some Club members attended a recent rehearsal of the Hobart Choir of High Hopes to present a cheque of $1,702.75. The Choir of High Hopes supports people disadvantaged by homelessness, unemployment, drug and alcohol issues, mental and physical disabilities, injustice and social and economic isolation. The donation came from the open plate offering at the Sunday Service at Scots-Memorial Church and from funds contributed through Sing with the Champs.

DVDs and Photographs

DVD sales and distribution are being handled by Sydney Harmony. We understand that DVDs will be distributed by the end of November.

Photographs are still available for order online until the end of November: http://www.tonymckendrick.com/photomakers/events.htm

Finally, I am sure all barbershoppers will join with me in offering a mighty thank you to the Heritage Harmony Planning Committee who worked consistently for over two years to conduct the Convention.

Hobart is over. Now we look forward with anticipation to River Harmony 2011 Pan Pacific Convention.

Trevor Rootes
Chairman
Planning Committee
Heritage Harmony Convention 2009
When Alliance formed over five years ago, we never dreamed we would now be celebrating our second National Quartet Championship Gold Medal!

After winning Gold in 2005 and silver in 2007, here we are again, feeling extremely honoured to be representing AAMBS as Gold Medallist National Quartet Champions for the next two years.

We are also very proud to be a part of Vocal Evolution, now the National Gold Medal Chorus. It is great to be aligned with such a supportive group and to be sharing the chorus journey with these guys.

We had a blast in Hobart, and it was fantastic to receive congratulations from so many people, and to make a whole bunch of new friends in the process. We take this opportunity to thank and congratulate every performer who took part in the Heritage Harmony Convention, as well as the organisers, officials and volunteers who made everyone’s experience such a positive one. This is truly a fortunate hobby to have so many people with the good-will to make such an event happen.

We also thank all of our coaches who have patiently worked with us over the last few years and “kept us honest”. Especially Jo Oosterhoff, whom we thank for her hard work, honesty and willingness to share her knowledge of the craft of barbershop with us. Our other special coach was Eddie Martinez whom we thank for not only coaching us, but for being a great friend. Sharing his time during our recent journey to the Barbershop Harmony Society’s International Convention in Anaheim, California meant a great deal to us. Eddie arranged our stay in Colorado before Convention, walked us through the traffic pattern, opened doors and introduced us to “the people we should know”, and shared his experience and expertise with us, which was absolutely invaluable.

Last, but never least, we again thank our families for their unwavering support and for allowing us to indulge in this time consuming ‘hobby’ of ours. We certainly could not have achieved our goals without you.

Alliance will now be spending the next short while putting together plans around fundraising, new repertoire, coaching, teaching and making a second CD, leading up to representing AAMBS at the 2011 International Convention in Kansas City.

Being the first quartet to have all four members as qualified AAMBS/ NZABS judges, we would love to visit your chorus or quartet for coaching or to appear in your show. We’re excited and grateful to already have received invitations from around Australia, so please get in touch with us through our website, www.alliancequartet.com to discuss what we can do for you!

All the very best, and keep on singing,
Ian, Adrian, Dan and Richard

I hope everyone is still talking about the great AAMBS Convention in Hobart because there were so many highlights. And like me, I trust you reached many of your goals across the 4-5 days of excitement.

HAH was thrilled to debut on the national stage with 28 men, excited to have placed 8th in our very first outing, stoked at having received the Audience Favourite Award, and blown away by the level of support and camaraderie shown towards us. Thank you to the organizers, AAMBS Council, our supporters and our brothers in harmony across this great country.

There is however, no rest for the wicked and by the time this goes to print we will have conducted another very successful Singing Restaurant – a concept we have put our stamp on locally. Why not try it as a fundraiser and as a vehicle for membership recruitment, I’d be happy to share our planning. Also completed on December 10 will be our second HAH Break Up and Awards night, a gala occasion where we can celebrate an enormous year of membership and repertoire growth and singing and performance improvement. We are also into a number of Christmas Carols Charity gigs.

HAH has also conducted a review of our Hobart experience and held our AGM. Exit one very hard working team and enter another equally skilled and committed team. Our Music team is the constant in all of this and we are gradually building our collective capacity. It’s lookin’ good for the new year.

2010 will bring a renewed focus on membership – especially on engaging youth. If anything else needed to come out of Hobart it was the emergence of youth, not just a force in singing but as a clear indication that this hobby we hold dear is in very good hands into the future. HAH is also committed to this and we look forward to linking with more great young men from our local university, TAFE and secondary schools. The Musical Island Boys initiative will also help us to bring a sharper focus and profile to this growth.

Our other priorities for 2010 include riser acquisition, chasing own a new venue and establishing several more quartets in the chorus to enhance our core sound. All in all we’re sure it will be another quiet year. Please help to break the monotony. HAH welcomes visitors to Toowoomba so please give me a call first to check on the venue and timing. Merry Christmas to ya’all!

Mike Ludwig, MD
Wanted – 3 Musical Directors
To replace 3 MDs who are returning to the Risers!

You will see below that 3 AAMBS Musical Directors (1 from Eastern Region and 2 from Sunshine Region) have decided to put down their batons and return to the risers. This is an opportunity for all you aspiring MDs to step out front to accept the challenge.

The Central Coast Barbershop Chorus Inc (SOUNDWAVES) has been an active AAMBS Club for over 20 years achieving bronze and silver medals in competition in that time. Our Music Director of 13 years has chosen to retire and we are now seeking to appoint a new Music Director.

SOUNDWAVES has 42 members who sing and perform to a diverse range of audiences throughout the year. Our Club has attended the bi-annual AAMBS National Convention since the Club's inception.

We require a committed Music Director who is able to lead and work with Section Leaders, Music Committee, elected Board members and Chorus members to achieve continued improvement in vocal presentation and performance standards.

We are based at Gosford on the NSW Central Coast and are an internal club of Central Coast Leagues Club where we rehearse weekly. Our Club's focus is the enjoyment of singing in four-part harmony and the continued development of members, quartets and the encouragement of youth in our local community.

Initial enquiries should be directed to David Goodman, President on (02) 4362-3924 (mobile 0437 061845) or by email to goodiesontour@bigpond.com

Written applications, including a detailed CV, should be emailed directly to:

David Goodman at goodiesontour@bigpond.com or sent via post to him at
33 Pleasant Valley Road, Fountaindale, NSW 2258 by Friday 27th November 2009.

The successful applicant may be appointed on a three-month trial basis. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

So you think YOU Could be an MD?
If so, contact Bruce Laming,
Sunshine Statesmen
38 Adaluma Ave, Buddina Qld, 4575 Ph. 07 54442098. E. adaluma@dodo.com.au
Applications Close: 4th December 2009

Brisbane River City Clippers
is a medium size chorus of about 65 members who meet on Wednesday nights (Tuesdays in the short term) in Brisbane at a near-city venue and who sing at events and competitions, and who do charitable work.

Those wishing to apply for the position of Musical Director of the Clippers should do so in writing to
The Secretary
River City Clippers,
90 Stanmere Street,
Carindale, Queensland, 4152,
or by E-mail to frank.tate@bigpond.com

Applications should be accompanied by a CV outlining the applicant’s experience
• in the Barbershop genre,
• in musical direction of a chorus,
• the establishing and training of quartets and in
• the organization and management of parts leaders and other sectional responsibilities.

The successful applicant will have good leadership and communication skills, and be capable of developing a culture of excellence in singing and performing, and in instilling a co-operative culture among members of the chorus.

The Musical Director will report to the President, River City Clippers and be invited to attend monthly executive meetings as an Ex-officio, and will work closely with the VP Music in all aspects of the role related to music.

Remuneration is negotiable and will be discussed with those who make the short list.

Frank Tate, Hon. Secretary

The Judges strut their stuff at Heritage Harmony Convention Welcome Dinner
MUSIC DIRECTOR RETIRES

After more than 13 years at the helm of the Central Coast Barbershop Chorus Inc (SOUNDWAVES), our esteemed Music Director, Gary Kirk has decided to retire from the very active and demanding role of Music Director of SOUNDWAVES.

Gary has directed and guided the Chorus and built a special bond with a fine team of singers. He has developed the skills of many chorus members with the help of his Assistant Directors and Section Leaders.

There are many wonderful things that can be said of Gary's kindness and generosity to teaching the art of barbershop singing and the development of quartets. He has given of his time over the 13 years without seeking financial gain and has directed the Chorus at as many sing-outs and events as he could, whilst still working in a full time capacity.

Gary relocated to the Lake Macquarie area quite some time ago, and willingly travelled down to Gosford every Monday night to direct the Chorus, not arriving home until very late in the night.

As President, I wish to express on behalf of the Chorus a heartfelt thank you to Gary for all the time and effort he has dedicated to the art of barbershop singing and his personal achievements over those years both as a Director and a singer.

I would like to thank his wife Sue for all her support to our Chorus and friendship over many years.

Gary has indicated that he wishes to remain an active member of the Chorus, which all the members will be extremely pleased to hear. As a Life Member and a recipient of an OAM, I am sure that Gary leaves the role of Music Director with many fond memories. Thank you and good luck to Gary and Sue for the many happy years we have shared.

We also are very sad to say Cherri to Ken Gardner & Bill Butterfield, both Past Presidents of 6 and 5 years respectively, as they are moving away to Dorrigo and New Zealand respectively. They will be sorely missed and we thank them for everything they have done for our Club.

David Goodman
President

The Statesmen sent a small chorus to the Hobart Convention which included several new barbershoppers. Not only did we all enjoy the Convention (well done Hobart!), but we were excited by the number and caliber of younger singers. Guess what we'll be concentrating on next year!

However, it’s not all good news for us on the Sunshine Coast, as Brian Fordham has announced his intention to step down as MD, and merge back amongst the baritones – or maybe the tenors...

Brian’s been our leader for over ten years and has, as many of you would know, been involved in barbershop since the early eighties. Brian took upon himself many extra functions that are not usually the responsibility of the MD – organizing coaching and new member nights, looking after our costume wardrobe, preparing for concerts, serving on committees at chorus and regional level and much more. Yet he still found time to sing with his quartet, the Barbertones. All of this would not have been possible without the stalwart assistance of his wife, Anne.

Brian, from all of the Statesmen, past and present – a big thank you!

Now, as you can see, there’s a pretty big pair of boots to fill on the Sunshine Coast. So if there are some potential MDs reading this, who may have been considering moving north to sunshine and a relaxed lifestyle, please indicate your interest and forward details through to us as soon as possible. We’ll try to look at it promptly, but if the surf’s up...

Bruce Laming
Publicity Officer

The Fleurieu Harmony Chorus

It is with deep sorrow that we advise the passing of long time member Patrick (Pat) Cannon, aged 79, who passed away late last month after battling with cancer for several months. Although moving north of Adelaide two years ago Pat continued with the chorus, traveling south, on a good day, 1-1/2 hour each way. Such was his love of singing and the fellowship he enjoyed with our group.

A memory that sticks in our minds is when visiting Perth for Voices in Harmony 2006, a group of us went to Fremantle and visited the old barbershop, Pat sat in the old chair with the sheet round his neck and we gave the barber and customers a couple of Polecats. We will also miss his rich broad Scottish bass voice especially when he sang “Gonni tek a sentimental joorney”. The full chorus attended the funeral and at the end of the service sang The Irish Blessing, which was well received and much appreciated by his family.

On a lighter note the Chorus performed on stage at a couple of local agricultural shows and also did some busking around the grounds, raising over $500 for the Tsunami and Earthquake appeals.

This coming weekend we are performing for three nights in a local Variety Show, so life never gets boring. We would like to congratulate the The Festival Statesmens’ Youth Chorus and the Quartets for their successes in Hobart, especially...
Jonathan Bligh who has put so much work into Youth Barbershop in South Australia.

Andrew Bradley, our Assistant MD, attended the Convention and our chorus sponsored him to attend Harmony College, which he thoroughly enjoyed, coming back with plenty of enthusiasm and good stuff to pass on to the chorus.

It’s time now to start learning new songs for Voices in Harmony in Perth next May, it takes us oldies a little longer than it used to but we get there in the end.

We wish all our fellow Barbershoppers a Safe, Happy and Healthy Festive Season and good things in the New Year.

Gordon Tomlinson and The Fleurieu Harmony Chorus

Harbourside Harmony Chorus

It has been an up and down year in regard to our membership as fast as we recruit a new member we seem to lose one, not that they don’t like it, but for other personal reasons like health, employment and just not being able to fit everything in, especially those with young families, but we still have, I think, nine paid up AAMBS members, so we are holding steady and hope to join up another couple in the next few weeks when we are sure they are staying.

Some of the group have joined in a few fundraising singouts with the Fleurieu Harmony Chorus and gained valuable experience. Our group has a close relationship with the Fleurieu Harmony. Tony King (MD), Andrew Bradley (Asst MD) and some of the chorus come every 4-6 weeks to our practice night to give our lads the benefit of their experience. This is a great help to me and greatly appreciated, Barbershop fellowship at its best.

With the festive season drawing ever closer we would like to appreciate, Barbershop fellowship at its best.

Brisbane River City Clippers

The world brotherhood of barbershop

During July this year, long time clipper Dave Veitch and his wife Mave travelled back to England to visit family. While there Dave was privileged to visit The Kentones Barbershop Chorus in Orpington Kent. “Unfortunately,” said Dave, “I could only spend an hour with them but the guys made me very welcome. I went through their warm up session then sat for a while as they practised their competition song South Rampart Street Parade and a great rendition it was. I could not believe my luck when I joined the ranks and they broke into Coney Island which is a particular favourite of mine. We also sang Heart of My Heart and I was given the opportunity to pick a song so Sweet and Lovely came straight to mind. It was a great night, and a good experience to know that you can travel to the other side of the world and sing with guys that you have never met. If you get the opportunity I highly recommend it.”

In September, The Clippers were delighted to welcome at rehearsal, Todd Wilson, USA coach and highly accomplished Barbershopper from Memphis. Todd is currently MD of a new chorus in formation, The Memphis Singers.

September was a very busy time for The Clippers with two Sausage Sizzles to present for our great supporters Bunnings. It was then off to Hobart to enjoy the hospitality and great spirit of the Hobart Convention, where the Clippers were selected as the target chorus for a Masterclass conducted by the boys from State Line Grocery. A record number of Clippers wound up the Convention with attendance at Harmony College.

Always emotional but deeply rewarding was the opportunity the Clippers enjoy annually in October to assist at the Firefighters Memorial Service. The Clippers’ renditions of I’ll Walk With God and The Irish Blessing were much appreciated by the assembled families and friends of deceased fire fighters.

MD retires from position.

November is always Annual General Meeting time at the Clippers and it was here that the news of Don Godfrey’s retirement from the position of Musical Director was made official. Don assumed the role of Director after the sudden death of former MD Rosalie Lang. Rosalie had only held the office for a few months prior to her death. Don brought stability, leadership, encouragement and support to the chorus at a very difficult time. Don quickly developed his skills as a Director and he will be sorely missed by all of the Clippers as they look out towards their audience. Thankfully Don will not be going far. He will be moving back to the risers to resume doing what he loves best.

Winding up for PANPAC AND AAMBS Conventions in 2011

The Clippers are moving into preparation mode for the staging of the joint Pan Pacific and the 11th Annual AAMBS Conventions in 2011. The task will not be an easy one, but one the Clippers look forward to with great expectation. Brisbane has much to offer as the host city for what will be the largest and most prominent exposé of the barbershop craft on Australian soil. The Clippers will get the task done in fine style. What we need is for as many as possible Australian choruses to take up the invitation to be involved in what will be a great event.

2009 to finish in a flurry of activity

A major concert at the Brandle Bay Bowls Club in late November will keep the Clippers focussed for the remainder of the year. Add a few Bunnings Sausage Sizzles, the annual Clippers Xmas party, the annual Mater Hospital sing-out, a performance at Parliament House in December for the Royal Commonwealth Society and a fair slice of work for the Quartets and Octet around Christmas time and the chorus will be looking forward to just a few weeks break before 2010 winds around.

Keith Drury Publications
Issue 113 Barbershop Notes – November/December 2009

**Miner Chords**

It was late in the morning of the 23rd September and I remember looking out the window of the plane and thinking Christmas had come early. My head was spinning with the Aussie Carol – *The Red Dust Is Over The Town* - but I was jolted back to reality as the seriousness of the weather set in. Landing in Melbourne thoughts were of other choristers who were at the mercy of the storm. A thought struck me and I blew a Bb and men swarmed from all corners. Within minutes we had men from Sydney, Canberra, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Ipswich, Adelaide, Gold Coast and even Freemantle. The terminal rang with the chords of many a Pole Cat and to me that is a highlight of any Convention. We tried the same thing on the way home. I won’t print the response. Arriving in Hobart, the warm welcome at the airport set the scene for the next few days. What a great Convention and one filled with emotion. Can’t wait for Brisbane!

One of the many highlights was away from the Convention as we made a visit to an elderly Citizens Home and entertained the residents. As in the previous newsletter, I had mentioned the elderly Aunt of our President. It was so uplifting to sing some of the ‘old songs’ and bring some joy and happiness to our senior citizens. It was great to see the buzz from our newer members.

Things have settled down in the chorus as like most choruses we get into the swing of Christmas. Two weeks back we held a prospective members evening and had a packed hall. We even had to dredge seating from the storeroom to accommodate our visitors. I think we had 40 in total, not all men but with partners. We seem to have held on to about 8 prospective members and things are looking up. Thursday 19th November is International Men’s Day and Ipswich Council is holding a breakfast which gives us a captive hunting ground. Fingers are crossed that we can lure a few more members.

Rehearsal nights highlight the many personalities that make up a chorus. As with other choruses, we often break into section practice and I thought I would eavesdrop on the tenors. They were doing a scale warm-up like in Sound of Music. Funny how the words weren’t familiar. “Doh, Ray, Me, My ME, not, you, ME”. Next time I will talk a little about the ‘salt of the earth’.

All members of the Miner Chords would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our host chorus at the Convention as you made us all feel most welcome. I would also like to thank publicly our supporters group who give us so much emotional and performance support.

We would like to wish each and everyone a most joyous Christmas and health, happiness and prosperity in 2010.

Cheers

The Penne

(aka Mark McCosker)

**Vocal Evolution**

It’s hard to find the words to adequately describe what it was like for Vocal Evolution to win a national chorus gold medal. For some who have been with the chorus since the start it was the realisation of a long-held dream. For our newer members it’s been an absolute whirlwind experience. Everyone was elated of course and after coming back down to earth there remains a deep satisfaction that comes from the understanding of how much the whole chorus has grown as a result of participating in this journey. It sounds a bit corny but it’s true - the experience has left each one of us with so much more than a trophy and a gold medal.

We have had the privilege of working with many very talented people along the way, but in particular we owe a debt of gratitude to Eddie Martinez who has been a great coach, mentor and friend to us for many years and without whom we would not be where we are today. Cindy Hansen provided invaluable input into our presentation plan for the Hobart Convention and we are very thankful that she was willing and able to share her considerable expertise with us. Of course it would be remiss of us to not mention the hard work and dedication of Gina D’Souza, our first Music Director, who played such a major role in getting the chorus on the way to where it is now.

We would like to congratulate our 2009 Open Quartet Champions, *Alliance*. It’s been a big couple of years for this quartet as they have travelled around the country and to the USA as performers, educators and sometimes as judges. Busy, certainly, but they would not have it any other way.

We also want to congratulate our 2009 Open Quartet Champions, *Alliance*. It’s been a big couple of years for this quartet as they have travelled around the country and to the USA as performers, educators and sometimes as judges. Busy, certainly, but they would not have it any other way.

It must be said that we are especially proud of our Music Directors Alex Morris and Adam Brockway. They bring a wealth of talent with them and we are extremely fortunate to have these young men on the Vocal Evolution team. Filling the directorial shoes of someone as well respected as Gina D’Souza was always going to be a challenge but Alex has
proven himself to be more than equal to the task. It’s very exciting to think about what we will be able to achieve in the future with this calibre of musical leadership.

Many of us who have been attending AAMBS Conventions over the years have always counted catching up with old friends as a highlight and we certainly don’t take this fantastic fellowship for granted. It was great to see our newer members also enjoying this unique brand of musical maiteship which for many extended to Harmony College and getting to interact with our overseas guests including the marvellous State Line Grocery quartet and judges Marty Lovick, James Estes and Rob Campbell. Vocal Evolution had just under half of our chorus at Harmony College and everyone loved the experience.

We must also make mention of the fantastic job the organising committee did with this Convention. From early on even in the registration process it was clear that this team was really on the ball. This followed through to every part of the Convention and our guys were unanimous in their praise for the event. From Vocal Evolution – a huge thank-you for all your effort!

Like most choruses we are looking forward to a busy Christmas season with lots of performances around town including a gig supporting none other than Aussie rock legend Jimmy Barnes at a concert in country WA. This came about partly from a chance meeting our new President, Peter Dyball, had with Jimmy when he happened to be seated next to him on the way home to Perth from Convention. A big Barnesy fan, Peter is still pinching himself.

Speaking of the Presidency, VE held its AGM just recently and has a new Management Team on board consisting of the aforementioned Peter, Bill Nichol – Secretary, Ian Mulholland – Treasurer, Gordon Jamison – VP Music, Mark Gummer – VP Membership and Adrian Gimpel – VP Marketing. Richard Reeve will act as Immediate Past President.

2010 will be a big year as we continue to revamp our repertoire and continue on the journey to get our singing and everything else up to A-level. We are aiming to record a CD next year and we are currently considering the implications of accepting the invitation from AAMBS to represent Australia at the BHS International Convention either in 2010 or 2011. We will certainly have a heap on our plates if we take on this challenge!

Adrian Gimpel
VP Marketing

**Western Region Report October 2009**

What a great result for Western Region in the Hobart Convention. We are extremely proud of our guys in delivering the stunning results achieved. The surge in performance from SA is particularly noteworthy. The following makes impressive reading indeed.

**Youth Chorus**
1st - Off-Campus (WA)
2nd - Festival State’smen Youth Chorus SA

**Youth Quartet**
1st - 3 Men & A Tenor (WA)
2nd - Fishbowl Boys (SA)
3rd - Flashback! (SA)

**Schools Quartet**
2nd - Penguins & Salsa (SA)

**Open Quartet**
1st - Alliance (WA)
3rd - 3 Men & A Tenor (WA)

**Open Chorus**
1st - Vocal Evolution (WA)
3rd - Festival State’smen Youth Chorus (SA)

**Small Chorus (<20) Award**
1st - Festival State’smen Youth Chorus (SA)

**Medium Chorus**
1st – Vocal Evolution

**Quartets Handicap**
1st – 3 Men & A Tenor
2nd – Alliance
3rd – Nexus

And particularly brilliant is the obvious interest and growth on the part of the younger male singers of our Region. Their mentors and supporters must be delighted. (Not to mention the lads themselves!)

**Voices in Harmony 2010**

A great deal of effort has already gone into planning next year’s visit to Perth of the barbershoppers from South Australia. The party will arrive on Tuesday 4 May and depart on Sunday 9 May (yes, that’s Mothers Day!). The welcome dinner is planned for the Tuesday evening and the farewell luncheon on the Sunday. Accommodation has been booked at the City Stay Apartment Hotel in Wellington Street, Perth.

A program of musical and social events is being organised and the **Voices in Harmony** visit is being planned so as to take in aspects of the annual Western Region Convention. This will be the first time in AAMBS history that the South Australian quartets will be able to participate, in person, in a Western Region quartet contest!

Peter McGuire
Western Region Chairman

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**Life Membership of AAMBS**

Ian Mulholland was welcomed into the ranks of Life Membership of AAMBS in recognition of his dedication and many years of hard work for the organisation.

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**Report October 2009**

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Silverfox shows the way

Their publicity blurb starts off with –

“Silver Fox is made up of four old blokes who just enjoy singing. We average about 40 performances a year at a wide variety of functions, locally and Statewide”.

Well, that is only the beginning of this amazing story.

The quartet’s not-so-covert operation began when the 4 traveled to Leeton to sing at events in the town. They got such a warm reception from their audience that they decided to do the same elsewhere.

Members of the Riverland Ramblers, Mel Castledine, Barrie Burns, David Auld and Colin Collett hail from Penrith and met in the Penrith City Harmony Group.

They have taken Barbershop Singing to all parts of New South Wales entertaining in their local Panthers Football Club, at the Mayors Concert, Weddings, Shopping Centres, Clubs, Theatre Restaurants, Hospitals, Schools, live on Radio, at Community Events, on trains, practically anywhere there’s a crowd wanting to hear four part harmony.

They have glowing Thank You letters from Leeton (with an Australia Day Award for their contribution to Australia Day in Leeton), and from Glen Innes, Mt Pleasant, Junee, Wellington, Coffs Harbour, Grenfell, Tullibigegal, Lake Cargelligo Eurongilly, Junee, Forbes, Burcher and Corinella, to name just a few. In fact “They’ve been everywhere, man”.

In fact, Silver Fox loves what they do so much that they are prepared to (and do) travel hundreds of kilometers every year to bring joy to people all over Australia, some of them in country areas that are doing it hard.

Good on you, Guys – you are a true inspiration and are really spreading Barbershop Harmony to many areas where otherwise it would not be heard.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed,

When is the closing date for items for Barbershop Notes?

Anon

Reply:

It is as noted on the final page of each edition of Barbershop Notes - the 15th day of each odd month -- unless specifically notified of an earlier deadline such as for the pre Convention issue. … Ed

A friendly reminder:

You can read back issues of Barbershop Notes on your AAMBS Website: www.aambs.org.au

Please note that the deadline for articles is always listed on the back page of each issue 5pm on 15th of each odd numbered month –

Risers 4 Sale

The Blenders from the Gold Coast, Queensland, are getting a new set of risers and have their used set for sale –

6 units are still available

For details, please contact:

Gunther Illek: illek.gunther@gmail.com

AAMBS Library

The AAMBS Library is here for you – it has CDs, DVDs and Videos of both International and National Conventions as well as instruction manuals to help you and your Club in your goal to better singing and management.

Check out the list of items available on the AAMBS Website under News and let our Secretary, Kevin White, know what you would like to borrow and he will send it to you by return mail. This is a free service to all AAMBS members – the only amount you will have to pay is the postage when you return the items to the Library.

President Mike Donnelly’s first gig at The Hobart Town Hall the Reception for AAMBS

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Memories of Hobart Heritage Harmony 2009
The Theatre Royal Experience

Government House & Town Hall Receptions

Welcome Dinner
State Line Grocery – our Guest Quartet
At the Town Hall Reception

The Forum

The Masterclass

The Youth Singers at The Farewell Lunch
John Shelton, Chairman of the Brisbane River City Clippers’ Organising Committee for the 11th AAMBS Convention and Pan Pacific Convention to be held in Brisbane from 28 September to 2nd October, 2011, proudly shows off the Convention Organisers ‘Pitch Pipe presented to him at the Farewell Lunch.

And the Winners are........

~ Alliance ~
Open Quartet Gold Medal Champions

~ Vocal Evolution ~
Open Chorus Gold Medal Chorus Champions

~ Benchmark ~
Senior Gold Medal Champions

~ 3 Men and a Tenor ~
Youth Gold Medal Champions

And then - off on the bus to Harmony College
COMING EVENTS

2009

Dec 6 - **AAMBS Council Meetings** – Teleconferences

Dec 8 – **AAMBS AGM** – 6.00pm Western Standard Time – Wembley Downs Uniting Church, Calais Road, Wembley Downs, WA

2010

Jan 26-31 – **BHS Midwinter Convention**, Tampa, Florida USA

Feb 6-7 – **AAMBS Council Face-to-Face Meeting** – Melbourne Vic. Details TBA

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

Mar/Apr - **Oceans of Harmony Tour** – AAMBS in conjunction with Sweet Adelines is holding Youth Workshops throughout Australia. Details: [www.youngsingersinharmony.org.au](http://www.youngsingersinharmony.org.au) (see details this page)

May 4–9 – **Voices in Harmony 2010** – Perth WA. Western Region event including the Western Region Convention

May 29 – **Sunshine Region Competition** – 9.30 am – 7.30 pm Details TBA

Jun 27-Jul 4 – **BHS International Convention**, Philadelphia PA USA

Oct 1-3 – **Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’ International Convention**, Limerick, Ireland

Dec 6 - **AAMBS Council Meetings** – Teleconferences

Dec 8 – **AAMBS AGM** – 6.00pm Western Standard Time – Wembley Downs Uniting Church, Calais Road, Wembley Downs, WA

2011

Jan 18-23 – **BHS Midwinter Convention**, Tucson, Arizona USA

Jun 27-Jul 4 – **BHS International Convention**, Kansas City MO USA

Oct 7-9 – **Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’ International Convention**, Belfast, Ireland

Oct 1-3 – **Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’ International Convention**, Limerick, Ireland

2012

Jul 1-8 – **BHS International Convention**, Portland, Oregon USA

Oct 7-9 – **Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’ International Convention**. Dublin, Ireland

2013

Jun 27-Jul 4 – **BHS International Convention**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Oct 4-6 – **Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’ International Convention**. Galway, Ireland

2014

Jun 29-Jul 6 – **BHS International Convention**, Minneapolis MN USA

2015

Jun 28-Jul 5 – **BHS International Convention**, Pittsburgh PA USA

2016

Jul 3-10 – **BHS International Convention**, Nashville, TN USA

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**Oceans of Harmony Tour - March/April 2010**

It’s official – the 2009 Pan Pacific and International Youth Quartet Champions, **Musical Island Boys** is coming on a workshoping tour of Australia in late March 2010. MIB is the only Australasian quartet to have won an international competition, and they rock! This fantastic event is open to both young male and female singers under 25 and the workshop will include tuition and tips to master a chosen song. This is a great opportunity to hear a top young quartet doing their thing and learn the secrets of fantastic harmony singing. Venue details will follow soon, in the meantime if you are interested view the draft tour schedule below. Youth choir co-ordinators are invited to contact Steve Griffin for more details.

Click on this link for more information about the Musical Island Boys: [http://www.musicalislandboys.wellington.net.nz/](http://www.musicalislandboys.wellington.net.nz/)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>21 March 2010</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Workshop, Social</td>
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<td>22 March 2010</td>
<td>Geelong</td>
<td>Afternoon Workshop</td>
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<td>Hobart</td>
<td>Evening Workshop</td>
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<td>24/25 March</td>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>Evening Social, Morning Workshop</td>
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<td>Perth</td>
<td>2 day workshops/free day in Melbourne, evening social</td>
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<td>28/29 March</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
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<td>29/30 March</td>
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<td>31 March</td>
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<td>1 April</td>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
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AAMBS' CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Postal address: AAMBS Inc.
P O Box 6026
WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250
Website: www.aambs.org.au

Secretary
Kevin White
P O Box 6026
WEST GOSFORD NSW 2250

Phone: 02 4369 8369
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

VP Conventions
Richard Gardam
P O Box 88
SNUG Tas  7054

Phone: 03 6267 9265
Mobile: 0403 396 515
Email: Conventions@aambs.org.au

VP Music
Ian Miller
20 Mimosa Road
BUDGEWOI NSW 2261

Phone: 02 4390 3893
Mobile: 0408 620 921
Email: music@aambs.org.au

VP Youth Development
Steve Griffin
P O Box 1427
SOUTHPORT BC 4215

Phone: 0411 951 259
Fax: 07 5572 3659
Email: youth@aambs.org.au

Send your items for Barbershop Notes in 9 pt Arial font to: secretary@aambs.org.au
Deadline for receipt of material is 5pm EST on 15th of each odd numbered month
January
March
May
July
September
November