Greetings, fellow Barbershoppers,

Welcome to the 2009 AAMBS Annual General Meeting. Tonight we meet to acknowledge the achievements of 2009, and to reflect on our goals. This was just a tremendous year for AAMBS. Our choruses and quartets participated in shows and sing-outs around the country, and attended workshops, retreats, and regional qualifying competitions. This all led up to the fantastic 10th AAMBS national convention, Heritage Harmony, hosted by the Hobart Men's Barbershop Harmony Club.

Our congratulations and deepest thanks are in order to Trevor Rootes, the Convention Convenor and his dedicated Committee, to AAMBS VP Conventions Richard Gardam for tireless work, to Contest Administrator David Brown and his team, and all the volunteers and supporters, for a world class event. And our congratulations to the medallists, and to every chorus and quartet that competed as you were all winners just by being there. It was a year of the emergence of a strong and inspiring youth movement, matched by improved performances by members of all ages. Indeed, a remarkable Convention that showed us all what can happen, with great organization, leadership, innovation, and thousands of hours of dedicated work by the organizers, and the attendance and active participation of so many of our members.

The Convention was followed by a Harmony College that had everything for a great barbershopping experience-------- humour, emotion, camaraderie, good food, great music, and a beautiful setting. With superb coaching and teaching by our Convention Judges and Australian musical leaders, it was an invaluable learning experience for all. And our immensely talented and friendly world class quartet State Line Grocery sang virtually continuously for us through the three days of the College. This was all organized, and implemented, through hundreds of personal hours, by our VP Music, and Dean of the School, Ian Miller, and his assistants. And we had an invaluable bonus in Hobart this year with the excellent Judges and Contest Administrator's schools, organized and conducted by Dean of Judges, Ian Mulholland, who deserves special congratulations for being installed as just the 7th AAMBS Life Member.

As I said two years ago, if I could make just one recommendation to the AAMBS membership, it would be to never, ever miss a Convention or Harmony College. If you haven't been, it's a real eye opener as you realize that the weekly rehearsals you attend in your neighbourhood really are a part of a much bigger national and worldwide barbershopping experience.

This year AAMBS has been guided by the leadership and hard work of your national Council, consisting of Secretary Kevin White; Treasurer Barry Joy; and Vice Presidents; for Conventions, Richard Gardam; Music, Ian Miller; Marketing and Development, Derek Churchill; Membership, Tom Smith; and Youth Development, Steve Griffin. In addition AAMBS just wouldn’t function if it weren't for the dedicated and talented services of Nerida White who has assisted in all things administrative, and published our Barbershop Notes which is a remarkable publication of news and views of our association.

Inside this issue:

- Council Reports
  * President’s Report to the 2009 AGM ..........1-2
  * Secretary, VP Marketing ........................4
- How well do you know your AAMBS Website? ..........2
- Vital questions about what you can do!
  by Ed Watson, BHS Executive Director ..............3
- Oceans of Harmony Tour – March/April 2010 ..........5
- AAMBS Eastern Region Greenhills Workshop ............6-7
- Our Song to You by Vaughan Sage ....................8

- Club Reports
  Miner Chords, Men in Harmony, Vocal Evolution........8-9
  Novatones – Wanted Musical Director 
  Singfest 2010 – Gold Coast ........................10
  New Arrivals in the AAMBS Library
  Letter to the Editor
  A New Sound on the Musical Scene ..................11
  Coming Events
  AAMBS’ Contact Information / BSN Deadlines ..........12
Regional Co-ordination has been superbly provided by Kim Sebbage in Western Region, John Gerber in Eastern Region, and Trevor Remphrey in Sunshine Region. These gentlemen have organized our Regional Conventions and so many other barbershop activities involving not only the region’s clubs, but schools, and our talented Sweet Adeline counterparts. All the AAMBS leaders are dynamic people, giving of their time and energies to make AAMBS a national organization of which we can all be proud. We owe them a huge vote of thanks.

I am standing here in the cosy rehearsal hall of Australia’s first chorus, the inaugural Gold medal winning Men in Harmony, with Councillors listening around the country. This may not seem like such a formal event. But it is the Annual General Meeting of an association of almost 1000 men, with a budget of over $100,000.00. And so as I prepared my remarks I thought long and hard about what it is we are really doing as an Association. We have weekly rehearsals, and shows and performances, and education workshops, coaching sessions, Conventions, classes, and colleges. But why? What is our real goal, and reason for being? I would suggest that all of the above actions are really our way to accomplish one thing, the preservation of our art form of singing in the barbershop style. This is not a new idea. In fact, the very name of the original organization is anchored in that premise. The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing.

Other great forms of music have blossomed, and sadly receded, like ragtime piano music of the 1920’s and folk music of the 1960’s. Standing here on the brink of 2010, we all know how precious is the style of music we enjoy. But where will it be 10 or 20 years from now? Every member in AAMBS has a responsibility, and a golden opportunity, to do whatever they can to make sure barbershopping continues to grow and flourish through this century. How? By ensuring every rehearsal is something no member would consider missing. By personally and collectively improving our barbershop skills. By sharing our music with the public in every venue, from schools to retirement villages, from city malls, to concert halls. By actively and aggressively seeking new members to whom we can pass on the passion. If every one of us makes a commitment to personally work, not just to save our artform, but to grow, and build, and embellish it, then I know our chords will ring, our friendships will deepen, our audiences will smile, and cry, and singing in the barbershop style will be there for our future generations.

I thank all of the members of AAMBS for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of this outstanding organisation. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2010.

In Harmony
Mike Donnelly, President, AAMBS

How well do you know your AAMBS Website??

Have you checked it lately?
Do you research material through the AAMBS Website on a regular basis?

If your answers to either of these questions is “Yes” then pat yourself on the back. You must be one of the very few.

Your Secretary is often surprised at some of the queries he receives –

Where do I get a quartet registration form?
When is the next Regional Competition?
When is the next Council meeting?
Who were the Hobart Convention Medal winners?
Can you send me a copy of Barbershop Notes?

A lot of time and effort is put into keeping the Website up to date so that you, as a member of AAMBS, can have all this information at your fingertips.

How about you check it out right now - www.aambs.org.au - so that next time you have a query you will know exactly where to look for the answer and if you still have a query, on the Contacts page of each issue of Barbershop Notes you will see which Councillor to contact for an answer to your particular question.
Greetings Fellow Barbershoppers.

For this issue of BSN we have a guest article, condensed from the Harmonizer, from none other than the Executive Director, and CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Ed Watson. He has a challenge for someone, and I’ll bet you can figure out who it is!

Mike Donnelly

Vital questions about what you can do!

With all due respect to the men and women who have transformed their lives and others’ lives through barbershop harmony, remember that at its basic level, barbershop is a hobby. Not a religion, not a lifestyle, not even a profession. (At least for most.) The definition of a hobby is: an activity or interest pursued for pleasure or relaxation and not as a main occupation. For pleasure or relaxation. Another word for pleasure is fun, right? If a member, new or veteran, is having fun each week on meeting night, then he’ll come back next week if he’s able. So fun, or pleasure, is a large component in each chapter’s membership numbers. O.C. Cash nailed the relaxation aspect of the hobby when he invited the original group of singers to the rooftop in Tulsa in 1938:

“The writers of this letter have for a long time thought that something should be done to encourage the enjoyment of this last remaining source of human liberty. Therefore, we have decided to hold a songfest on the Roof Garden of the Tulsa Club... What could be sweeter than ten or twelve perfectly synchronized male voices singing “Dear Old Girl!” Just thinking about it brought back to your Committee fond memories of a moonlight night, a hay ride and the soft young blonde visitor from Kansas City we dated on that occasion years ago."

Oh, baby, I’m right there! That’s something most men would strive for with gusto. Is that what your chapter meeting night is like? No? Why not? If not, whose fault do you think that is? No, I’m not trying to blame anybody, nor am I trying to tell you what is fun for you. I’m trying to illustrate a point, and do so in a way all of us will understand.

Some motivations are nearly universal—such as French fries or a frosty mug of something. I have also yet to find three other faces react with less than a laugh or a smile after ringing a four-part barbershop tag, and then say, “One more time!” Money is also a pretty universal motivator, as are love, friendship, security. These things, or the promise of them, motivate men to do it again, whatever “it” is.

Surveying former members

Four or five thousand of you subscribe to the Harmonet, an Internet group on Yahoo! where barbershoppers of all genders, locations and level of activity post issues, rumors, requests, opinions (lots of those) and occasional surveys and advertisements. The Harmonet can be fun, frustrating, boring, penetrating, stupid, happy, sad—all the things that this hobby can be, without the singing.

Recently, Montana Jack Fitzpatrick (who has appeared before in this column) conducted a couple of surveys via the Harmonet. Like many of us, Jack is concerned about the decline in membership, so in one survey he asked former Society members what had demotivated them. He got 562 responses! The results were very interesting, even if unscientific, and many pertain to unfulfilled universal motivators. We’ll discuss these results in a future issue.

After presenting his findings, Montana Jack asked three questions of all Harmonetters regarding member loss, fun, responsibility—the point of this whole column. Here they are, including his own caveats:

* Do not criticize or respond to another person’s opinion. Just give us yours and let everyone else give theirs.
* Keep your answers in the first person, i.e. about you.

Now the questions:

1. You have read the results of the surveys. What do you think we, as individuals and all of us together as a Society, have done or not done to cause this situation?
2. Let’s assume for a moment that Nashville has taken a direct hit and that all the administrators above the chapter level have been taken out by hostile fire. What can you REALISTICALLY do, all by yourself, to help correct and/or solve the situations you suggested in your answer to question #1?
3. Starting today, what do you propose to do about your answer to question #2?

That’s it. I would ask you to consider these questions yourself, and to consider what they say as much as what they ask. Who is most responsible for your chapter’s fun, your meeting, your rehearsals, your words and notes? Your camaraderie, your fellowship, your forward motion, your enrichment? Your future, your success, your failure, your attitude, your preparation, your growth, your demise? You, you, you. It’s all about you. I’m not saying Society leaders have no responsibility to help you, I’m just pointing out an obvious fact. And that’s all I have to say about that!
From your Secretary

What I need from every Club Secretary is prompt advice of the current particulars of their Club President, Secretary, Treasurer and Musical Director immediately following their Club’s Annual General Meeting and Election, as well as any changes to their details which occur throughout the year.

This is extremely important to ensure that messages, including these Notes, are correctly forwarded and delivered to the right addresses for the benefit of all your members.

In Harmony,
Kevin White

From your VP Marketing

As we recommence our rehearsal nights for 2010 and Chorus Committees consider plans, schedules and concert inputs this is the opportunity for newly elected and reappointed Chorus Marketing Councillors to make their mark with their contribution. Where are we going? If we are after more members (remember their is a financial AAMBS Competition boost shortly), how many do we need and how do we get them? Do I know who to contact locally in the media to assist in enhancing our local Community's awareness of our existence? MAKE OUT A LIST THIS WEEK. Does my committee know that face to face contact and promotion within our community far outweighs the effectiveness and cost of paid ads in the papers. List and contact community groups who might attend your chorus concerts to fill up those last few seats. Retirement Villages, Rostrum, Rotary, Lions, Sports clubs and even Doctors surgeries giving times dates and programs. How about a couple of free singing lesson nights? How about each chorus member endeavours to recruit just one friend, neighbour, workmate to come along to a rehearsal night? So many ways, so many ideas. It can only be done by YOU and each of your Chorus members to show some resolution and achieve the achievable tiny positive result that added up will transform not only your numbers, but also your bankability and enjoyment.

AAMBS President Mike Donnelly’s initiative to foster relations with other Barbershop Associations around the world is soon to take the next logical step. I will attend the Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers (SABS) Convention in Madrid at the end of February to represent AAMBS. SABS President Nicolas de las Penas is in continual contact prior to this, their second event, and the outline offers a great three days; a combination of both Competition and Seminars (read Harmony College). I have a role alongside visiting Guest Quartet, headliners O C Times, to participate at the seminars.

The following week O C Times are guests at the Barbershop in Germany (BinG) Convention in Dortmund and I will also be attending as their Guest with my wife, representing AAMBS. Final leg of the trip will be a chance to contact the Brits (BABS) with a possible visit to Windsor's "Royal Harmonics". Who knows? We may be able to enthuse the first European Chorus(es), Quartet(s) to start saving their Euros to be the first to attend the Pan Pacific Championships in Brisbane in 2011. Exciting times! Possible outcomes! Talk about putting your foot in it. When I get back I am having my right ankle replaced.

Derek Churchill

Quote from State Line Grocery at 2009 Heritage Harmony Convention in Hobart:

What is the difference between a Pizza and a Professional Musician?

A Pizza can feed a family of four.

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

It's official – the 2009 Pan Pacific and International Youth Quartet Champions, *Musical Island Boys* (MIB) are coming on a Workshopping 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 coordinators 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/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cty</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 March 2010</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Workshop, Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 March 2010</td>
<td>Geelong</td>
<td>Afternoon Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>Evening Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/25 March</td>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>Evening Social, Morning Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/27 March</td>
<td>Perth</td>
<td>2 day workshops/free day in Melbourne, evening social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/29 March</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>Morning workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/30 March</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>2 day workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Venues & Contact Details

1. Melbourne – Venue TBA - Doug Moody - dougmoody@optusnet.com.au
2. Geelong – Venue TBA - Lucy Jones - lucyjones1@bigpond.com
3. Hobart – The Hutchins School Sandy Bay, Tasmania – Richard Gardam rrgardam@bigpond.com
4. Adelaide - St Peter’s College - Jonathon Bligh - jonathan.bligh@gmail.com
5. Perth – Friday Wanneroo SHS, Saturday Nollamara Tennis Club - Ashley Schofield - asheschofield@fivesenses.com.au
6. Canberra – Venue TBA - Roy Sanders - RSanders@csu.edu.au
7. Sydney – Shore (Sydney Church of England Grammar School) - Tim Wilson - timothyawilson@optusnet.com.au
8. Gold Coast – Nerang Community Centre - Sue Taylor - susanne@clarityconsulting.com.au
AAMBS Eastern Region Greenhills Workshop
Program Information
“Sing Y’ Heart Out”
Friday Feb 26 to Sunday Feb 28

The annual Eastern Region “Harmony College” is on again at the end of February. We will be using the Greenhills Conference Centre in the Canberra countryside. Registration commences at 5:00pm on Friday evening and the workshop concludes after lunch on Sunday. We’ve put together an exciting program of barbershop craft and singing.

Participants are assigned to one of the three mini-choruses and learn their part for their assigned song before arriving at Greenhills. Our panel of experts then takes this raw talent and turns it into a fine barbershop performance for the Saturday Night concert.

The teaching team for the workshop is: Rose McGee (Harmony in Paradise, ex-Blenders), Vicki Dwyer (Circular Keys and Sydney Harmony Choruses, 4-time Australian Champion SA quartet Accolade), Ian Fraser (Hills Harmony), Ian Lushey (Melbournaires, Six Foot Four), and our Australian Gold Medal Quartet Alliance (Ian Mulholland, Adrian Gimpel, Richard Reeve, Dan Millgate). The team includes a music judge, a singing judge and three presentation judges and plenty of MD and quartet expertise.

The program for the weekend is as follows:

**Curriculum**

Numerous topics will be on offer covering most of the areas of interest to barbershoppers. You are limited to **ONE** Discussion group and **FOUR** classes by the time available. Participants must indicate their choices when registering to permit a suitable timetable to be created.

**Discussion groups (Friday night)**

**D1.** Chorus Management and Growing the Chorus: Richard Reeve, Adrian Gimpel, and Dan Millgate.
**D2.** Director’s Secret Business: Rose McGee and other MDs from the teaching team.
**D3.** Copyright issues for Barbershoppers: Ian Mulholland.

**Classes**

**CL1.** Musical leadership: Starting Together, Finishing Together, and Staying Together in the Middle (Rose McGee)
**CL2.** Musical leadership – Teaching Skills for Musical leaders (Rose McGee)
**CL3.** Musical leadership: Having Fun and Singing Well – Rehearsal Planning for Success (Rose McGee)
**CV1.** Vocal Production and Physiology (Vicki Dwyer)
**CV2.** Improving Vocal Skills through Tag Singing (Ian Lushey)
**CV3.** Designing warm-ups (Vicki Dwyer)
**CV4.** Song Interpretation (Vicki Dwyer)
**CV5.** Being a Better Singer of Your Part (Alliance)
**CM1.** How to Read Music (Ian Lushey)
**CM2.** Know your Chords and How to Tune Them (Ian Mulholland)
**CM3.** But Is It Contestable: (Ian Mulholland)
**CP1.** Designing the Presentation Package (Ian Fraser)
**CP2.** A Serious Look at Comedy (Ian Fraser)
**CJ.** How Good was That? (Ian Mulholland & other judges)
**CQ1.** Common quartet problems and what to do about them (Dan Millgate)
**CQ2.** Presentation for Quartets (Richard Reeve)
**Q1.** Quartet coaching for attending established quartets (various members of Alliance)
**Q2.** Quartet coaching for scratch quartets (Ian Lushey and other available members of the teaching team)

Detailed information, including the topics covered in each subject, has been sent to all Eastern Region Choruses. Members from other regions who may be interested in participating in the program may request full information by emailing dougmoody@optusnet.com.au. Registration to members outside Eastern Region will be available after February 5 if vacancies remain.

Doug Moody
Program Director
Join us and

**SING Y’HEART OUT**

at

A.A.M.B.S EASTERN REGION

**CANBERRA WEEKEND WORKSHOP**

Friday 26\textsuperscript{th} February to Sunday 28\textsuperscript{th} February 2010

Greenhills Convention Centre

1437 Cotter Rd. WESTON ACT

Only $175 (accommodation and six meals included) **BOOK EARLY!**

**Four Great Educators**, plus

- Australian dual Gold medal Quartet “ALLIANCE”
- Classes for beginner to the experienced barbershopper
- **Quartet stream** for novice and established quartets
- **Saturday Night Concert**
- Also, exciting changes to previous Workshop formats

Arrive from 5pm Friday

Teaching Sessions commence at 7.30pm Friday

Sunday courses conclude at 12noon, Departure after Lunch

---

Enrolment Form

Return this form to  

bob.haynes@bigpond.com or Fax to (02) 9416 4312

or mail to Bob Haynes, 27 Bromborough Road, Roseville NSW 2069

Surname  

Given Name  

Chorus  

Part  

Telephone Number (  )  

Email Contact

Special diet? (We will try for you, but cannot guarantee)

---

Payment Arrangements for Enrolment Fee of $175 (Tick One)

A. Mail this form to Bob with a personal or Bank cheque made out to “AAMBS ER”

B. Email or fax this form to Bob & make an Internet Bank Transfer to AAMBS ER Account at Westpac BSB 032-094 Account No. 16-4140 (Include your NAME)

---

Do you wish to take a quartet singing session?  

Yes/no

Will you attend with an established quartet?  

Yes/no
The following poem was written for the Festival States-men’s 2009 Christmas Party and sent to us by their secretary, Gordon Tomlinson. Thanks, Gordon and well done, Vaughan.....

“Our Song To You”

With song is where we love to be,
Our spirits fly with long lost glee,
To breath in deep, with head held back,
The pitch pipe calls, let’s have A-flat.

We answer with four voice-parts call,
Director watch, yes one and all,
We watch him for our motion cue,
It’s then we sing to all of you.

It’s not by chance that it comes out sweet,
We’ve worked on it for week on week,
We’ve memorised the words & tune,
The changing shape like a blown sand dune.

Each phrase it’s meaning captured in,
We postulate past trembling chin,
Our lips all pursed or puckered firm,
Our aim, expression, every line & term.

We might start off slow, with a quiet breath,
As we sing of love, or life, or death,
We could slowly build with a song’s slow dream,
To ascend the highs, without a scream.

We are watching you our audience there,
We see you smile, we see you stare,
Have we captured you with memories dim,
With along lost song to resound your grin?

A melody to make you dance
For the fingers sway, for the toes tap dance,
Does the joy from deep within you dwell,
Will you tell your friends of our songs sweet swell?

Will you ask us back to sing again,
Have you breathed in deep with a sigh and then,
You know…. has the joy let loose,
Feelings held so tight, through thick & thin.

‘Tis this you see, ‘tis this our aim,
Not just for us the joy to gain,
For YOU to sing, is what we pray,
That you will sing each single day.

COPYRIGHT … Vaughan Sage 27 Sept 2009
Well, it’s all over for another two years and what an excellent time we had “Down South”!

Belated congratulations to our Tassie hosts for a really great Tenth Anniversary Convention – from the initial greetings, complete with apples, to that delightful church service and farewell luncheon, we were made welcome and felt so “at home”, with the genuine warmth and friendly hospitality far out-weighting the “raindrops falling on our heads” and that lazy arctic breeze that didn’t bother to go around us!

But, our hosts were prepared for the weather with the novel, indoor Mass Sing held in the delightful Theatre Royal which also proved so appropriate for the Schools and Youth competitions. And I suppose it was that exciting emergence of a new, strong wave of young people from all over the country, with their joy and energy, wrapped in really good singing, that so thrilled all of us veterans. Well done to the directors and coaches whose mentoring, sharing of skills and enthusiasm for our brand of a cappella singing, brought the lads to the very entertaining levels we thoroughly enjoyed – in some cases taking medals in the open contests! The prospects for the future of the Australian barbershop singing movement are limitless!

*Men in Harmony* members had a very demanding schedule for the end of ’09 with our usual heavy festive season commitments, dominated by the City of Perth street-singing. The weather was warm but then, so was our reception, especially in the busy malls where people quickly gather and many stay for the whole session in a particular spot. Of course, we meet all sorts, including tourists, but comments are always positive and enthusiastic and the joy is apparent, not only on the faces but also in the unsolicited commendations, especially about the “real live presentation of the Christmas Message”. It is sometimes hard work, competing with traffic noise but, for that sort of contract, we comply to the letter with the customer’s designated locations.

While enjoying a well earned break for a few weeks we are mindful of the need to be ready for the annual Citizenship Ceremonies for various municipalities as soon as we crank up for 2010. These are prestigious occasions and we all share a special pride in adding a “dinky-di” touch to the proceedings with our range of popular Aussie songs - *I Am Australian* is always a winner!

But this month also ushers in the twenty sixth year in the life of the *Men in Harmony* chorus and, in April, we will celebrate twenty six years since it was also decided to form an overall administrative body for promote and foster barbershop singing, firstly in Western Australia (the Western Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers) and within twelve months, the whole of Australia (the Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers). So our management will be giving some thought to the best way of commemorating a quarter century of our sharing four-part, unaccompanied, close harmony with the public of Western Australia while at the same time, enjoying a wide range of wonderful musical experiences and having the time of our lives along the way! Only four “founders” are still active in the ranks but we’ve welcomed many great “musical mates” and wonderful club workers over the years.

And life goes on at National level. For a dwindling number of us, Hobart Heritage was our tenth appearance at Convention but, whether it was your first or you’ve been many times, there is always excitement and fun in being part of the whole organization in action, meeting new people and, for the veterans, catching up with long term friends who share this special harmony fellowship - on all those scores the “Taswegions” didn’t disappoint. And there’s always another to look forward to, in this case Brisbane in 2011 – a Pan Pacific gathering!

Clippers are already well advanced in the big task, working hard to top their great effort hosting the fifth in ’99.

All the best from the West!

*Andy Aberle*

Christmas has come and gone and with it a whole bunch of activity, mainly revolving around carol singing. The chorus and quartets did a whole bunch of Christmas performances around Perth this year and apart from the fundraising opportunities it was a great time to get out into the community and showcase barbershop harmony.

We held our annual Christmas Party & Awards Night at the home of our President Peter Dyball. Many thanks to Peter and also to his wonderful wife Fern for being such great hosts. Among the highlights was a classical guitar performance by 16 year-old wunderkind Stephanie Jones who we had met at an eisteddfod earlier in the year. An exceptional talent.

There were a bunch of light-hearted awards handed out including the best trophy of the night, a vulcanised sausage skewered atop a fork and mounted on a block of local timber. This handheld masterpiece was awarded to sausage sizzle ‘hero’ Malcolm Smeal who was recognised and applauded as the man who put in the most hours around this part of our fundraising efforts. Our sincere thanks to Malcolm and also the sausage sizzle coordinator Harry Owen. It’s blokes like these who are part of the backbone of any chorus.

The Music Director’s award, judged by our MD Alex Morris went to Richard Reeve in recognition for his valued support in 2009. For the first time ever an MVP (Most Valuable Performer) Award was made, voted on by members of the chorus, and this went to Adrian Gimpel.

VE’s most prestigious award is the for the ‘Man of the Year’, judged by the Management Committee and this year was awarded to Gordon Jamison. Young Gordon has been with VE since our first AAMBS convention in Perth and for all this time has been a solid and consistent contributor, especially as part of the Music Team. He has been a Lead Section Leader and currently serves as the VP Music Team. Last but not least he has been the chorus pitch-piper for quite a while now. Gordon is a valued member of the VE team and a very worthy recipient. It was great to see him receive this recognition.

The leadership team has been hard at work behind the scenes putting together the plans for what the chorus will be doing over the next couple of years which is highly likely to include heading to the BHS International Convention in Kansas in 2011. It will definitely include attending the Pan Pacific Convention in Brisbane as well as recording at least one CD. Obviously funding is going to be a huge part of any international campaign and the team is currently focussed on putting together a package that will hopefully help us achieve some level of corporate sponsorship and is also delving deeper into securing grant funding.

Our Music Directors Alex Morris and Adam Brockway along with the Music Team put in a stellar effort in 2009. We can’t say enough how fortunate we feel to have such a talented young team at the musical helm who work very hard on behalf of the chorus. The excitement level is definitely high amongst the guys as we anticipate the musical package they have in store for this year.
Wanted –
Music Director…

HARMONY CHORUS
……..Prepared to take over the music directing of an established but fledgling men’s barbershop chorus in Newcastle NSW.

Whilst having only 17 members, Novatones is the only barbershop chorus (choir) in Newcastle, and thus has fantastic potential for development (a further recruitment drive is scheduled for February 2010). This is a unique opportunity to grow with the chorus with the support of an enthusiastic and energetic Music Team, including several highly experienced members of the barbershop fraternity

Qualifications:
• Energy and enthusiasm, with the ability to motivate and develop a rapport with members.

• Sound knowledge of music fundamentals, including chord analysis.

• Willingness to work co-operatively with the management team and develop a strong music team.

• Proven ability as a Music Director in the barbershop style would be a distinct advantage. However, experienced choral directors with little or no exposure to barbershop singing are encouraged to apply, providing they are prepared to quickly learn and adapt.

A three month trial period will apply.

Remuneration will be limited initially to compensation for travelling expenses, with flexibility to expand on this as the chorus grows.

Initial enquiries should be directed to Mike Danks, Secretary, on 02 4997 0559, (Mobile, 0408 257 863), or by email to danksmike@hotmail.com

Written applications should include a detailed CV and be emailed as above or sent via post to:
20 Windward Circuit, Tea Gardens, NSW 2324.

Applications close 14th February 2010.

All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Singfest 2010
Gold Coast
Australia’s a Cappella Choral Festival & Competition

The Blenders chorus from the Gold Coast has initiated a Singing Festival that promises to be an exciting permanent addition to the Australian Choral and cultural event calendar.

The Festival will consist of a series of concerts, competitions & workshops to be held over three days with the inaugural festival to be staged this year 30th April–2nd May & bi-annually after this.

This year the Festival will incorporate the Sunshine Region Championship but is open to all choral groups and there is no compulsion to sing barbershop if you do not wish to enter the barbershop section.

For details of this exciting and innovative festival go to http://www.singfest.com.au/ info@theblenders.com.au

Program Draft:
Friday 30th April 2010
This day is dedicated to the School Choir competition and the Young Singers in Harmony program

Saturday 1st May 2010
This day consists of concerts by the Choral groups

Sunday 2nd May 2010
The final day has concerts by Ensemble groups, Quartets and Vocal Bands

Throughout the festival there will be workshops in
• Conducting
• Vocal Production
• Arranging
• Choir Management

There will also be:
• a coaching Master Class with the Blenders
• a quartet “under glass coaching” session

Location: Nairn Auditorium, All Saints Anglican School, Gold Coast

Registration includes competition entry as well as access to the workshops and the opportunity to perform at the concerts.

New Arrivals in the AAMBS Library

We have now received five (5) DVDs from the wonderful Heritage Harmony Convention in Hobart :
• Quartet Semi Finals 2009
• Quartet Finals 2009
• Schools & Youth Quartet & Chorus 2009
• Chorus Competition 2009
• Harmony Spectacular Concert 2009

We have also received the extended DVDs and the CDs from last year’s International Convention at Anaheim USA.
COMING EVENTS

2010

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

Feb 5-7 – AAMBS Council Face-to-Face Meeting – Melbourne VIC.

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 (see Page 5 for details)

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

May 7-8 – Western Region Competition – Time and Venue TBA. Schools competition during the day of Friday 7th. Details: Kim Sebbage, Chairman, AAMBS Western Region Board, sebbages@bigpond.net.au, Phone 08 9312 6404; Mobile: 0421 373 371

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

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


Oct 22-24 - NZABS Convention, followed by Harmony College, Hamilton NZ

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

Sept 28-Oct 2 – AAMBS 11th Annual Convention and Pan Pacific Convention, Brisbane QLD – Hosted by The Brisbane River City Clippers

2012

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

Oct 7-9 – Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’ International Convention. Dublin, Ireland
AAMBS' CONTACT INFORMATION

All correspondence to AAMBS should be sent to The Secretary at:

Postal address: AAMBS Inc.
P O Box 6026
WEST GOSFORD NSW  2250
Phone: (02) 4368 8369
Fax: (02) 4369 8379
Email: secretary@aambs.org.au

Website: www.aambs.org.au

President
Mike Donnelly
12 Jutland Rise
OCEAN REEF WA 6027
Phone/fax: 08 9300 5430
Mobile: 0430 795 858
Email: president@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 Membership
Tom Smith
50 Hinkler Drive
MILL PARK VIC 3082
Phone: 03 9404 1216
Fax: 03 9437 7847
Email: membership@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