How Lucky Are We??!!

You just have to smile when you think of all the magic moments that occur at a barbershop convention. Last week I had the privilege of experiencing the amazing things that happen at the Barbershop Harmony Society’s International Convention. In this edition of In Harmony you can read all about "Internationals" from the perspective of our own Australian champions, Ian, Dan, Richard, and Adrian, of Alliance.

Barbershopping is worldwide, with 15 organizations in the World Harmony Council. And this year affiliate organizations, like our own Barbershop Harmony Australia, stole the show. In the chorus contest the Swedish chorus Zero 8 won a Bronze medal with a 4th place finish. Our Down Under mates from New Zealand, Musical Island Boys quartet again grabbed the Silver Medal. And for the first time in barbershop history, a non-North American quartet is the new Gold Medallist - Ringmasters, from Sweden. I was so proud to have Alliance competing on stage with them, with a truly moving and exciting performance.

We are lucky because the four gentlemen that make up Alliance are incredibly involved in so many things that make BHA a "rising star" in worldwide barbershopping. Just consider that besides being in our Gold Medallist quartet, Ian, Richard, and Dan are certified judges. In fact, Ian established, and is the Chair, of our Australasian Guild of Judges, and Dan is Chairman of our next Convention in Perth, barely a year away! These three are also hard-working members of the BHA Council, as VPs for Events, Membership, and Music. And Adrian is the designer and webmaster of our new BHA website - check it out at www.barbershop.org.au They all work tirelessly to coach, educate, and motivate our choruses and quartets. We can't thank them enough for all they do for us. But perhaps the best way to try would be for each of us to vow to be the best barbershoppers we possibly can, individually, and as quartets and choruses, so audiences will clamour to see us perform, and our art form will be secure for generations to come.
BHA (AAMBS) Standing Order 6, which can be viewed and downloaded from the BHA website, contains our Contest Rules. While many people won’t have read these, recently the BHA National Council made some changes, the most significant of which are summarised below.

1. Senior Quartets must qualify for the Senior Quartet National Contest by competing at the preceding Regional contest. In some cases a quartet may not meet the age requirements at the time of the Regional contest to be classified as a Senior quartet, even though by the time of the National contest they will meet the age requirement. The rules have been changed to allow a quartet to qualify as a Senior quartet for the National contest under this scenario by competing in the Open section of the Regional contest, but qualifying for the Senior Quartet National Contest (and the Open section if applicable).

2. A signed “hard copy” of the Contest Entry Form must be received by the Contest Administrator before the commencement of any contest to satisfy copyright regulations.

3. The previously termed “Handicap” contest will be renamed as “Most Improved”, and a revised formula that measures the absolute improvement in score (expressed as a percentage) will be used. To be eligible for the Most Improved Award, a quartet or chorus must have competed in the immediately preceding contest.

4. New guidelines now apply relating to nomination of BHA quartets and choruses to International contests and the subsidies that are offered by BHA to the nominees.

The most significant changes are #2 and #3. We did require a signed hard copy of the entry form from every competitor for the 2011 contest, but that has now been enshrined in the rules and will be the “norm” from now on.

From 1997 to 2003 AAMBS used to award a Most Improved Chorus Award based on a percentage or relative improvement formula. That was changed in 2005 to a Handicap Award, to signify that a new calculation method was being used, which was more a measure of absolute improvement, and allowed all groups to be eligible whether they had competed previously or not (there were some penalties if a group hadn’t competed before).

The aim of a Most Improved Contest is to highlight the contestant that has made the largest improvement in performance since the last contest in the sequence of similar contests. The aim of the Handicap Contest was to provide a contest in which all contestants had an equal chance of winning. In practice the results of the two different formulae produced similar, but not identical results.

It seems that there remains in many people’s minds the misapprehension that the Handicap Contest was the old Most Improved Contest under another name. That is not correct; however the BHA National Council has determined that the term “Most Improved” is more easily understood than the term “Handicap”. A new formula which measures the absolute improvement from one contest to another will be used, and its application to results from previous contests shows that it produces identical results to the Handicap formula. So really the only difference will be that a group must now have competed in the immediately preceding contest to be eligible for the Most Improved Award.

Please address any questions directly to the writer, who would like to acknowledge the work of David Brown and Mike Donnelly with regard to the analysis of the various Most Improved and Handicap contest types, and of Mike Donnelly with regard to the re-drafting of Standing Order 6.

Ian Mulholland
VP Events - events@barbershop.org.au
Every now and then you read an article that’s really relevant to what we’re trying to achieve for Barbershop Harmony Australia, the following article, reprinted with kind permission from the publishers come from the U.A. Probemotor Newsletter, April/June edition. Club Executives might find it useful…

“Energizing, Motivating and Expanding Your Chapter

Whether you are a PR veteran or someone who is trying this sometimes daunting public relations game for the first time, one thing is certain.... everyone needs to know where they’re going in order to get there! Even though we’re halfway through the year, it’s still not too late to evaluate or re-evaluate your chapter goals and objectives and get a game plan in motion. We all know it’s often too easy to get caught up in putting out daily fires and trying to keep our heads above water. But, with just a little extra effort devoted to prioritizing your goals and developing a solid PR strategy, you may just pick up on some otherwise missed opportunities.

A couple of hopefully helpful hints — **Ask yourself:**

- Do I know where I need to focus my attention and my efforts?
- Have I put into place the proper mechanisms for keeping a well oiled public relations machine going?
- Think about where and how you'll need to move that proverbial needle and create a plan for doing so.
- Engage a partner. In other words, look for someone inside or outside your chapter, who can help you stayed focused provide support and offer feedback as you work your plan.
- Take the time to reflect upon the members of your chapter, as individuals and as contributors to chapter efforts as a whole.
- Remember, you may need to improve the interpersonal dynamics of the chapter and build a consensus about your game plan in order to get everyone on board and to do their best work.
- Set a plan for developing and building upon key relationships both inside and outside your chapter.
- Zero in on key people you'll need to influence, engage and motivate? How well do you know them? How well do they know you?

Other points to ponder —

- Do you have the right people in place to accomplish your goals for 2012 and beyond? Who needs to be coached, mentored, trained or given new developmental opportunities?
- Who is ready for the next level of responsibility?
- What PR challenges will you face in the coming months and beyond?

In general, always try to think about ways of enhancing credibility and trust, developing effective channels of communication and working towards mutually rewarding goals and objectives. Through it all, remember that relationships are always the key to getting things done.
Whether your focus is on maintaining your current membership, attracting new members or creating a buzz in the community about who you are and the contributions you can make, get your plan in place and use it as a daily reminder of where you're going and how you intend to get there.

It's a sure-fire strategy for success!

Marketing & PR VP
Eric Herr

Please contact me anytime at: marketing@barbershop.org.au

Keith Thornton
V.P. Marketing & Development

BHA Lapel Badges available …
Our new Barbershop Harmony Australia lapel badges are now available and ready to be shipped to you at a bargain price of only $5.00 each

This is the best time for you and the members of your Club to buy them and wear them proudly for all your friends and colleagues to see. They are sure to arouse some curiosity and could attract new members to your Club

Send your orders to Kevin White, BHA Secretary
secretary@barbershop.org.au
MEMBERSHIP

Hello for the first time as Barbershop Harmony Australia! So much has happened in recent times relating to membership and there's so much more on the horizon.

While I was at International in Portland with Alliance, I took the opportunity to discuss all thing membership with colleagues from the USA and around the world, as well as from BHS head office. Closer ties with other choruses and head office will help us fast-track our membership development efforts here in Australia. So watch this space and if you have contacts or ideas of your own, please be in touch!

Alliance at Ranier National Park –
Ian Mulholland Dan Millgate, Richard Reeve & Adrian Gimpel

Speaking of international matters, the BHS has just announced Marty Manson as the new CEO. Marty is a 23-year society member and President of the Great Northern Union Chorus in Minnesota. We wish Marty well and look forward to a renewed energy in membership matters.

In matters closer to home, a big shout-out to Ben Jongisma of the Canberra Chordsmen who recently secured a substantial grant from the Department of Health. Congratulations to Ben on a great effort and this is a reminder that there are funding opportunities out there for barbershop choruses. If you find sources, please let me know and I will share this experience. There is great potential for us blokes in barbershop to link with various men's health programs, such as Beyond Blue, given how much of an emotional lift singing gives us.

The new BHA web site is up and running thanks to web guru Adrian Gimpel and we hope it becomes increasingly useful to you as we add more material. Membership documents and links will include things like "benefits of membership in BHA", templates for recruitment and visitor packs, etc. If you have any specific requests for items on the membership page of our web site please do let me know.

Finally, your trusty Music, Marketing and Membership VPs are in the process of putting together a national survey covering all things barbershop, from how you got involved to what you want out of the organization to things you'd like to see improved. We're excited by the information we're about to receive, however you are always welcome to call or drop me a line with questions or ideas.

Remember, mark 9-16 October 2013 in your calendar NOW for the best ever Australian barbershop convention, to be held in Perth.

Until next time, keep the whole world singing!

Richard Reeve
Membership VP
Membership@barbershop.org
0411 519 851

In Harmony Issue 131 — July-August 2012
Your BHA Music VP is in the process of forming a National Education Faculty.

While visiting educators from overseas are always excellent, the infrequency of their visits, and the high cost, often compromise the outcomes. Using our local band of educators, we can organise much more frequent local education visits at lower cost for better effect.

Any chorus that is struggling to attract members or performances can usually blame its predicament on the lack of a quality musical product, a lack of management knowledge, and an unskilled Director. A good Director creates good singing which attracts good singers. A good management team supports the Director to achieve good singing. There are choruses within our ranks that exist purely for the enjoyment of singing and the fellowship that this creates—they have no desire to compete. However, these choruses need to realise that they represent barbershop singing in Australia and that their standards of singing should be continuously improving so that they can do us proud and not give our craft a bad image.

Within BHA there are a number of very skilled coaches and judges for chorus and quartet coaching in singing, music, presentation, management and directing skills.

The BHA National Education Faculty will be designed to spread the expertise and enjoyment of Barbershop that we have been building up locally over the last few years for the good of all members, no matter where you are across this wide brown land. All Clubs are encouraged to take advantage of the amazing array of local talent in all of these fields.

How do I find a coach?

We will soon be making available on the BHA Website a list of local coaches and mentors, and we will include details such as where they are based, what their coaching specialties are, how much they will cost you, their contact details, and anything else that might help you to source a tailor-made coach for your specific situation. In the meantime, if you are looking for any sort of help with finding a coach, contact music@barbershop.org.au.

Are you a coach?

Importantly, if you are one of those talented people who are willing to give your time and energy to coach others within the organisation, make sure you take this opportunity to apply to become a member of the National Education Faculty. Send your details to music@barbershop.org.au now!

Dan Millgate
VP Music
Question 1: What's missing in the below picture?

Answer: YOU!!
This is a picture of the amazing new theatre at the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre, the venue for our 2013 BHA National Convention! Imagine how much better it would look full of 1000 happy barbershoppers, their wives, girlfriends, families and pets!! Well, maybe not too many pets…

Question 2: Are you coming to the Perth Convention? (multiple choice) ....
A. Yes, of course I am! I’ve already blocked out my calendar from 9-16 October 2013.
B. I wouldn’t miss it for the world! I’m already designing my new vest and bow-tie combo!
C. I was meant to have vital surgery that day, but tagging with 1000 of my mates sounds like a much better offer!!

Answer: GREAT!!

The sounds you hear will be harmonious. They will be plentiful. They will come from hundreds of people gathering to join in song in Perth from 9-16 October 2013!

Barbershop singers from across the country will meet in Perth for Barbershop Harmony Australia’s 12th National Convention and Competitions. Singers and their friends, families and fans will gather for shows, workshops, competitions and good old-fashioned sing-alongs. Make sure you don’t miss this incredible week of barbershop contests and convention activities!
Here are some of the very positive comments we have received on our new name and logo:

1. “Congratulations on your new name and great new logo. Also, here’s wishing you a hugely harmonious future of barbershop singing in Australia. From all in IABS.

   Trish Hannon, PRO. IABS
   Irish Association of Barbershop Singers”

2. “Great stuff :)

   Rob Sequeira, MD Central Coast
   Eastern Region”

3. “We have been looking at the new website and are so far quite impressed.

   Richard Gardam, MD Silvertones
   Tasmanian Region”

   (ED: Thank you, Richard, for the suggestions for the Website which we are looking into)

4. “Great new branding now apparent - well done to all.

   John Faris, Men in Harmony
   Western Region”

5. “Great to see the new web-site up and running and it’s also a beaut to have a name that is a bit easier to explain to all the non-believers out there.

   In Haharmacy
   PADDY BOXALL, SECRETARY
   HIGH ALTITUDE HARMONY INC.
   Sunshine Region”

6. “Good work, Nerida”

   Anita Cleaver, Marketing Co-ordinator,
   Sweet Adelines, Australia

   (Ed’s note: Thanks for the praise, Anita, which belongs to the BHA Council and Webmaster, Adrian Gimpel)

To those who have sent us your comments, thank you very much.

It is great to get such positive feedback from our members and fellow barbershoppers.

The members of your dedicated and hard-working Council –

   Mike Donnelly
   Kevin White
   Trevor Bruger
   Ian Mulholland
   Keith Thornton
   Richard Reeve
   Dan Milligate
   Jonathan Bligh

and our new Website designer
Adrian Gimpel

really appreciate a ‘pat on the back’ for the work they do for their beloved art-form and for Barbershoping in Australia and always like to hear from you with any suggestions you may have for them to consider.

In Harmony Issue 131 — July-August 2012
As many of you may know, *Alliance* recently travelled to compete in the Barbershop Harmony Society's 74th International Convention in Portland, Oregon.

We had a fantastic time mingling with barbershoppers from all over the world and seeing some very talented choruses and quartets strutting their stuff, in what is without doubt one of the best singing contests in the world.

We started our trip by heading to Vancouver, British Columbia, to stay at the home of our coach and good mate, John Newell (fellow Aussie and lead of 2005 International Champion Quartet, *Realtime*), and his lovely wife Corinne. This was a great way to kick start our travels and we very much enjoyed John and Corinne’s hospitality and coaching over the couple of days.

We then headed by train down to Seattle, Washington, as guests of the *Northwest Sound* Chorus, a great bunch of blokes. Led by our mate, Don Rose, *Northwest Sound* kindly invited us to perform in a couple of shows they were putting on as a final run before Portland.

We were also thrilled to hang out with the *Kentucky Vocal Union*, led by Aaron Dale, who gave us a glimpse of their thrilling third-place bronze medal winning package days before everyone else got to see it! What a show!

Once we hit Portland, *Alliance* performed at *The Annual Larry Ajer Show*, a party traditionally held on Tuesday nights at the Convention. The show is a fun, relaxing night for both the audience and the performers at International Competition, and is an exciting chance to see most of the Top Twenty quartets and past International Champions and a few of the top choruses, as well as many affiliate quartets and choruses from New Zealand, Sweden, Australia and Great Britain.

Of course, the next day we went on to compete on the big stage, and although our scores weren't as high as we have previously achieved, we felt that it was a pretty good hit and we got lots of good feedback from the audience and judges.
One of the highlights of the Convention for us was the opportunity to perform on stage at the World Harmony Jamboree with our ANZAC brothers, the Musical Island Boys.

Alliance and the Musical Island Boys

The World Harmony Jamboree is a separate concert allowing affiliates to showcase their own countries and cultures and always gets a great audience. We were excited and honoured to sing an eight-part arrangement of the 1980s Dave Dobbyn hit, Slice of Heaven, arranged by Alex Morris, with MIB. It was exciting to see “the Boys” go on to take out the International Silver Medal later in the proceedings. Well done, lads!

The International Convention is a time for people to come together and celebrate what they do on a regular basis, but on a much larger scale. Barbershoppers take that to the next level…and beyond! They gather each year for many reasons…to catch up with old friends, make new friends, tag into the wee small hours, compete with their chorus or quartet on the “big stage,” share the joy of barbershop singing with the younger generations of singers, take in a show or two (or three or four), visit beautiful cities…the list goes on and on. What ties us all together, however, is the opportunity to combine our voices in song to celebrate and share the gift of barbershop harmony with others.

We had many other awesome barbershop experiences during our two week trip, including the thrill of watching the Ringmasters and the Musical Island Boys going head-to-head to decide who would take out the International Gold, the privilege of being in the judging pit for the Chorus Contest and seeing some unbelievable performances, taking part in the MegaSing in the centre of Portland, watching the Association of International Champions Show (which included Max Q, Old School, Storm Front, Vocal Spectrum, Crossroads, OC Times and a 25-year reunion of the 1987 International Champs, the Interstate Rivals – what a line-up!).

That is why we feel so honoured to have attended this year representing Barbershop Harmony Australia. We thank the National Council for the opportunity to travel to the event, we thank all of our friends and fans who stayed up at ridiculous hours to watch the live webcast and send us messages from home, and most of all, we thanks our families for supporting us so generously in this crazy hobby of ours.

Next year’s International is being held in Toronto from June 30-July 7, so start thinking about booking your tickets now! More information is available at www.barbershop.org.

We head off to Tasmania at the end of August for workshops, coaching and a concert with the Hobart Men’s Harmony Club – last time we were there we had a great time, so we are looking forward to seeing the guys again. Until then, have fun and sing well!

Ian, Adrian, Dan and Richard
The Gold Coast is well known for many beautiful sights and events and now another can be added to the list. SingFest is Australia’s premiere a cappella festival and this year we have made a few enhancements.

The primary change involves the cost to the public. It is now FREE for our fans, loved ones and followers of a cappella style music to enjoy the many concerts and competitions. This should ensure we have as many fans as possible supporting and cheering as our highly skilled performers parade their vocal skills.

For performers there is a large range of categories, including the BHA Sunshine Region convention and a school choir competition. There are also workshops and performances from industry legends such as Mal Webb (vocal adventurer!), Brian Martin (vocal coach and mentor), Naomi Cremlin (composer and vocalist with *The Idea of North*) and Suade.

In another *SingFest* first, there will be a river cruise on Friday night to set the social tone for the weekend. *SingFest* is competitive but it is first and foremost a celebration of our fine craft and we encourage everyone to join the festivities on Friday night.

To register for the weekend, any workshops or the river cruise please visit [www.trybooking.com/YCU](http://www.trybooking.com/YCU)

For more information please visit the website at [www.singfest.com.au](http://www.singfest.com.au) or contact Brett Logan at info@brettlogan.com

**David Reid**

SingFest Promotions Manager
It has been a while since our Chorus has appeared in this illustrious publication so we thought it was time to let you know we are still out there singing our hearts out.

We held our annual Learn to Sing program over five weeks in May-June this year and, as a result, welcomed one new singer, Graham Campbell to our Lead ranks with two others in the wings hopefully to join in the near future.

Unfortunately we said goodbye to Chris Cummings, a previous Baritone with our Chorus who passed away recently after a long battle with cancer. Vale Chris.

In June we welcomed Mats MånHAV from the Helsingborg Barber Boys of Sweden who attended several of our rehearsals during a working visit to Sydney.

Hills Harmony achieved a “Highly Commended” equal fourth place in the 2012 Sydney Eisteddfod on 16 June 2012. We competed against twelve other excellent choirs and choruses in the Community Choir section of the Eisteddfod. The first three placegetters in this section went on to the final of the Open Choral Championship.

We were the smallest chorus competing with sixteen singers on the risers which was the minimum entry requirement. We were elated to be awarded a “Highly Commended” in equal fourth place ahead of all the other Barbershop/Sweet Adelines contestants. Needless to say, we were all chuffed.

MD Ian Fraser is unable to conceal his delight at receiving our Highly Commended Award

Dick Bushell
Secretary

In Harmony Issue 131 — July-August 2012
HAH has recently completed a huge build-up and completion of a concert supporting Benchmark and The Old Fella at Toowoomba’s famous Empire Theatre. Needless to say the evening was a huge success and has gone a long way towards cementing our name locally.

The Old Fella, Benchmark & High Altitude Harmony

But, and it’s a big but. We have had a drop-off in the number of blokes attending rehearsals that you wouldn’t believe. It’s almost as though the rehearsal rooms have a big sign out front saying “Whatever you do, don’t come here tonight!”

However, we are persevering and no doubt when the weather starts to warm up, colds and flu depart and the exams half the chorus seem to be taking are completed, plus of course the lack of our grey nomad chorus members, we will start to look like a chorus that is healthy, not one in its death throes. Needless to say, even though numbers are down our overall singing is proving to be resilient and Mike Ludwig, MD, is more than happy with our progress.

We hosted a number of the Miner Chords from Ipswich a couple of weeks ago and we enjoyed having them with us but it’s quite distracting having another chorus on the risers with you. A couple of visitors are OK but, lots of them really make you work to put in your best. We are hoping to visit them in the future and it will be interesting to see if they find it’s the same for them when we are on their risers.

Work is starting to ramp up towards Singfest 2012 and the Sunshine Regionals at the Gold Coast in August and we can all feel that competitive edginess coming back into our attitude. Some of our younger lads will hopefully make their competition debut there and receive the coveted signature HAH orange bow-tie to wear in their lapels.

Also, our Singing Restaurant is looming on the horizon and we are planning to make it even better than before. Seating is limited to 300 I have heard; and usually we sell out within a couple of weeks of tickets going on sale. Date: Saturday October 6 at the Graham Centre, Downlands College. If you would like to book contact us via our web-site haharmony.com and follow the link to our Famous Singing Restaurant.

Follow us on Facebook to see what and who we are. Be a friend, or simply keep up with the happenings at High Altitude Harmony

Paddy Boxall
Secretary
The recent Voices in Harmony tour to Adelaide of the Westcoast Chordsmen, augmented by members from the Southside Harmony Chorus, was an outstanding success. The WA touring party of 52 comprised 32 singers and 20 partners. The six-day tour, from Tuesday 22 May to Sunday 27 May, was hosted by three SA choruses, Festival States-men, Fleurieu Harmony Chorus and Harborside Harmony.

This was the fifth Voices in Harmony tour and our third to Adelaide, following the 2005 and 2008 tours. The Voices in Harmony idea was developed:

- To conduct educational workshops raising the enthusiasm and improving the knowledge and skills of all singers.
- To rehearse and present a major public concert.
- To foster the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie among singers and partners through a variety of social activities.

This event enables us, a predominantly ‘seniors’ aged chorus, to improve our musical skills and artistry in a broad friendly social environment.

The public concert, in Adelaide’s Royalty Theatre on the Saturday night, was the highlight of the tour. A near capacity audience was thrilled with the evening of a cappella harmonies, music, magic and fun. The concert opened with the combined WA and SA choruses singing *Whispering*, *Shenandoah* and *Darkness on the Delta*. A little later in the program we presented our own chorus items, *Georgy Girl*, *Eriskay Love Lilt* and *Sh-Boom*. Items from the Festival Statesmen Youth Chorus and their two quartets thrilled the audience and showed that barbershop in SA, under the direction of BHA VP Youth Development, Jonathon Bligh, is thriving with the younger generation. A magician added some magic to the mix and the concert concluded with a final group of songs from the combined choruses and all participants on stage singing *I Still Call Australia Home*.

The Tuesday evening Welcome Dinner at the Silks Brasserie enabled us to create and renew bonds of friendship with our SA counterparts. The location of our accommodation was ideal, within close walking distance of the Glenelg shopping precinct and St Andrews Uniting Church, the venue for rehearsals and the church service. The rehearsals, conducted by Western Region Chairman, Kim Sebbage, and chorus music directors, were well planned and ran smoothly, with all singers grouped into their sections.

The Friday all-day coach trip to the Victor Harbour — Goolwa coast, with lunch at the Goolwa Hotel, enabled us to relax for a day. Following the Sunday morning church service, the Farewell Luncheon gave everyone the opportunity to celebrate with new and old friends in the harmony of song. We now look forward to the SA choruses joining us in two years’ time for Voices in Harmony 2014.

*Rehearsal for the Church Service*

**Pender Pedler**
President, Westcoast Chordsmen
Australia’s newest Barbershop harmony chorus began operations in June this year. The chorus was formed by a small group of singers that wanted to do something different. We wanted to take some risks, set some challenges and goals and to encourage people to step out of their comfort zones. So we formed a new Club, **Pivotal Point Harmony Inc.**

The response to the call for singers has been simply amazing. From a small nucleus of dedicated singers, we have now incorporated and registered a chorus with 30 members. Most of our singers live on the Gold Coast but we have a dedicated group from Brisbane and some travel from as far as Toowoomba and Mullumbimby each week.

Our goal from day one has been to engage our audiences at an emotional level. Most of us have experienced the full range of emotions inspired by quality music and we have put that connection with our audience at the forefront of our goals – hence the name of our Chorus, **Sound Connection.** We all share a desire to sing to our fullest potential and a belief that good preparation and attention to musical detail will make for a more satisfying performance both for ourselves as singers and for our audiences.

To assist us in our quest for entertaining excellence we have been very lucky to secure the services of Andrew Howson, whom we believe to be the finest Musical Director in the country. Andrew’s experience and passion will be put to good use over the next couple of months as we prepare a repertoire from scratch. With plans for Regionals and SingFest in August followed by a Christmas concert in November, it’s a good thing we’ve assembled a very committed and passionate bunch.

There are far too many people to thank for all the work that has gone into getting our fledgling chorus up and running. We are very keen for our first convention and hope to mingle, celebrate and sing with all in our barbershop community in coming months.

We welcome all visitors to come along to our rehearsals and will encourage them to sing with us. We meet at 7pm on Tuesday evenings at the Livingstone Christian College, 62 Reedmans Road, Ormeau Qld 4208.

*David Reid*  
President
The *Sunshine Statesmen Barbershop Chorus* will soon be presenting their annual concert, *Buderim 150 on Song*, to celebrate 150 years since the first settlement of Buderim. The Concert, commencing at 7 pm on Saturday 25 August, will be held at the BWMCA hall on the corner of Main and Gloucester Roads, Buderim.

In addition to the ever-popular barbershop music there will be guest artists such as the talented *Karina Gough*, a trained singer, conductor and arranger who was a member of the Melbourne Chorale for twelve years, the *New World Rhythm*, who love to entertain with a variety of music styles from around the world and *Jazz Coogan*, a local fifteen year-old singer/guitarist who has just returned, with several awards, from competing in America at the World Championships of Performing Arts.

![Karina directs the Sunshine Statesmen](image)

There will, of course, be refreshments and a complimentary wine. Tickets for the Concert are $20 each and $10 for those under 15 years.

In addition to the Concert on the Saturday there will be a special Barbershop-only Matinee on the Sunday. This commences at 2 pm Sunday 26 August, also at the BWMCA hall and is presented especially for those who prefer not to go out at night. The tickets for the matinee are $10 each.

We welcome visitors from other choruses!

Tickets for both performances will be available at the Old Buderim Post Office from 6 August. Enquiries: Ring Paul on 54456497.

*Bruce Laming*
Publicity Officer
Greetings from Adelaide and The Festival Statesmen Youth Chorus. Our boys have been very busy over the past couple of months. They entered in 3 categories of The Adelaide Eisteddfod choral competition and placed first in each section. Three scores in the high 90s were capped off with the Choral Excellence award which sees them perform in September at the annual winner’s concert. Our 2nd quartet, Now in Stereo! competed in the open a cappella and were awarded 2nd prize. They competed against well-established groups of up to 12 voices ….. well done boys!

As I type most of the lads are together on a cold Adelaide Saturday night to watch to delayed webcast of the recent quartet and chorus competition from Portland…..many of them stayed up very late last week to watch their friends Alliance compete, then cheer on our other friends the Musical Island Boys.

While the boys are home in Adelaide, our MD, Jonathan Bligh, travelled to the USA to attend the Portland International Convention. Jonathan (also the BHA VP Youth Development) will also attend The World Choir Games Competition in Cincinnati, Ohio, finishing up in St Joseph Missouri for the Directors Stream of Harmony University……we are looking forward to lots of news and new ideas from Jonathan on his return in August.

During Jonathan’s absence we’re fortunate to have a couple of local conductors/directors work with us as well as a specialist in the field of Voice and acting from Flinders University. She will be working on Vocal anatomy (Thick folds, thin folds, Soft Palate. Larynx, Diaphragm etc.), Vocal technique, Diaphragmatic Breathing and Vowel placement.

The Fishbowl Boys have also been very busy recently having completed an almost sell out season at the Adelaide Cabaret Fringe Festival. This week they have done a mini tour to many of Adelaide’s regional and suburban theatres in a concert series called ‘Out of The Square’…lots of new audiences to spread the word (and sell CDs!) to! They are travelling to Sydney to perform in a concert with the Circular Keys Women’s Chorus on Saturday 1st September.

Anne O’Dea
Our focus for this year is to increase our membership by increasing performance opportunities and telling everyone we meet (within reason) about our fantastic hobby. Recent Open Nights have brought in a few recruits and we are working to make their “barbershop experience” as positive and exciting as it can be. We are hoping to keep our attrition rate lower than the average 80% claimed for American choruses.

A few of our senior members have been using the northern summer travelling for family heritage research, Portland barber shopping or just a jaunt around the world visiting family. A few younger members keep being posted around the country and overseas by their employers. This often generates conundrums for Vicki Dwyer, our MD, when she wants to balance the chorus sound for performances and maintain the highest standards possible. You have to admire the way she keeps us all on track. Our recent Highly Commended in the Sydney Eisteddfod (McDonalds performing Arts Challenge) was promising and “Singing for Joy of It” at a local club with other local choirs was positive.

The need to be “off paper” with a couple of new songs for an upcoming intensive training weekend with Matt Gifford and the lure of a combined concert with Circular Keys featuring a beautiful 8 part a cappella combined voices melody will keep us focused and goal oriented for the next few months

We are still trying to get used to our new rehearsal venue “South’s on Chalmers”. It is such a great space Vicki can hear us individually and you can’t hide. We can hear the risers creaking even more now. Does anyone have a tried and true method for reducing it other than all stand on the floor and not use them).

We welcome any Members of Barbershop Harmony Australia who happen to be in Sydney on a Monday night to join us for a tag or two.

Paul Meller
VP Membership

(Ed’s note – I like your new logo, it brings back great memories of the Sydney Convention!!)

In Harmony Issue 131 — July-August 2012
On 27th May, The Melbournaires performed at the Eley Road Community Centre in Blackburn South. This gig was significant for two reasons, firstly the audience were entertained for two hours, (and most of the Melbournaires held up extremely well), but more importantly it was the debut public performance of the newly formed youth barbershoppers, The Southern Lights Chorus.

Ably led by MD Tim Carolan, this small chorus were very impressive, more so their quartet, and kept the audience enthralled throughout.

Watch The Southern Lights Chorus, they will go far.

On another, rather sad note, one of our founding members, Kingie Teagle, has retired from the Melbournaires due to poor health. A farewell lunch was held at the Altona Sports Club, with suitable serenades from Cordite, a small group from The Melbournaires. Apart from being a founding member (May 1991), Kingie was a life member, an active committee person in past years, a willing participant in all things Melbournaires, an excellent lead/tenor, and an all-round nice guy. Kingie is 84 years of age and will be missed by all.

Terry Phillips
for Melbournaires.
26th June 2012 was a big day for Youth Barbershop in WA.

Big Barbershop Day Out (BBDO) was held at St Stephens College and had a record attendance of 177 students, both boys and girls. Students were given the option this year of three educational strands - boys chorus, girls chorus, and Introduction to Barbershop. Students who chose the chorus strands were sent the music and learning tracks at the beginning of the school term and in a new addition to the chorus strand - teachers received an instructional booklet with lesson plans for teaching these songs.

The big day featured the wonderful faculty of Cathy Rainey, Lindsey Dyer, Donna Markovic and Lionel Pierson. These amazing teachers worked with the students throughout the day and the two choruses performed in a concert at the end of the day to showcase their work. We were also fortunate enough to have a visit from Alliance Quartet at this concert who performed for the students before heading off to the airport for the trip to Portland!

A big thank you to our faculty for their fantastic work with the students and to our volunteers on the day. Also a special thank you to Vicki Donnelly for all her work promoting and canvassing schools in the lead up to the event. It takes a great deal of behind the scenes work to make a day like this happen and does not happen without the tireless support of our many volunteers. Thank you to you all.

YIBDI has begun planning for our next BBDO 2013 and with an exciting year in Perth next year with the 2 regional contests here, we are looking forward to big year for Youth Barbershop in WA.

Bec Mutton
Chair YIBDI on behalf of YIBDI Committee
It is with great sadness that we at Hills Harmony advise of the passing of our Bass Section Leader, Chorus member extrodinaire, and friend Neil Maitland. To say he will be missed is a gross understatement.

Having joined the chorus in July 2000, Neil’s abilities made him the obvious choice for Bass Section Leader, a role he performed with accuracy and passion. A quiet, intelligent man, he contributed so much to the chorus in so many ways, always without fuss or bother. He was the “go to” man. If there was anything needing to be done, we could always rely on Neil.

His infrequent lame one-liners would leave us all looking quizzically at each other while Neil grinned happily and/or rolled with mirth.

Always singing with joy in his heart and a beaming smile on his face, his passing has left a big space in the chorus front line and a big space in our hearts. Our lives are the sadder for his passing, but richer for having known him.

Ian Fraser
Musical Director – Hills Harmony

From Ian Mulholland – VP Events ….

“That’s sad. Neil was a great bloke.”

“Live so that when the final summons comes you will leave something more behind you than an epitaph on a tombstone or an obituary in a newspaper.”

Billy Sunday
Workshop for both Male and Female Barbershoppers

This will be an enriching day of education and inspiration with Viveka Boettge Field of Stockholm City Voices and Master Director, Lea Baker of Endeavour Harmony Chorus.

Suitable for all quartetters - experienced, beginner or still thinking about it!

Classes include:

• There's nothing simple about basic vocal production
• Exploring the potential of your quartet Part 1 and Part 2
• Singlish - vowels, consonants, diphthongs - how to match 'em and ring 'em!

Put energy, joy and passion into your quartet performance (open coaching).

$25 for the day, including morning tea.
Pre-ordered lunch option available when you book, or BYO lunch.
Bookings and more information: www.trybooking.com/14164
Dear Fellow Singers,

We took the liberty over the past few months of contacting you about the new venture of a National Men's Chorus. As we didn't hear back from you, we don't wish to bother you further after this e-mail, so this will be the last contact unless you request us to keep you informed. For now, we'd like to update you as we are aware of your interest in Barbershop and you might not want to miss out! Our second event is on 1st September at the West County Hotel Dublin and we hope you'll consider attending.

The first day was a great success with 33 singers attending from 10 different groups and 7 counties. We made good progress with our first two songs, Moondance and Love Me. The idea is that we will have 6 full-day coaching sessions per year with our very accomplished Musical Director, Pete Nugent, learning the songs in advance of each event - to avoid "note-bashing" and get the most on the finer aspects of technique and presentation.

Our website is now updated with teach tracks for the three songs we have so far. The additional one is a beautiful arrangement of the Nat King Cole song Stardust. If you're interested in coming along on 1st September or just trying out the songs and deciding later, you can access the downloads by going to the website.

Please also have a look at Virtual Chorus — a fascinating project developed by our Musical Director, Pete Nugent, which we'll be using as a distance learning resource as things progress -www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkRaxy.CBJII&feature=relmfu

Due to voluntary effort, and our strong resolve to make a success of this project, the cost of the Day on 1st September is kept very low at €10, and the teaching resources are provided free of charge. We'd very much like it if you'd come along to try it out, without further obligation. If so, we would ask that in advance over the summer you would get as familiar as possible with your chosen line of the songs, especially the first two, Moondance and Love Me (all the better if you could get close to not needing the sheet music), and get familiar also with the third song Stardust and another song which will be available soon. We'll also be providing conducted video tracks for each individual line in due course.

Any queries, please give me a call, 08 6334 4670 or through the "comments" section of the registration form.

Brian Smith
Launch Team
Council, Regional and International Barbershop information and contact details as well as application forms, competition results, calendars and much, much more are available on the BHA Website, check it out —

www.barbershop.org.au

YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

- Deadline: 5.30pm EST on 15th day of each odd numbered month – January, March, May, July, September, November
- Late articles will **not** be accepted and will be held over until the following issue if not out-dated
- Length: Articles to be 150—500 words maximum
- Font: Arial 12 pitch, 1.15 line space
- All articles will be edited for spelling, grammar and length.
- Please remember to send photos as attachments - **not** embedded in your article
- Copy & photos to be sent to the Editor, Nerida White - assistantsecretary@barbershop.org.au

YOUR EVENTS

Promote your Coming Events - send full details for inclusion in the BHA Calendar below and on the BHA Website. This helps Council plan events in your area. Send all the details to secretary@barbershop.org.au

2012

- **Aug 4** – **Barbershop Quartet Workshop**, St Joseph’s Centre, 65 MacKillop Drive, Baulkham NSW - $25 including morning tea. Contact Mary-Anne Cosgrove, Quartet Co-Ordinator, Sweet Adelines Australia – saaquartets@gmail.com. More information www.sweetadelines.orga.au/events
- **Aug 12** – **Barbershop Harmony Australia (BHA) Council Meeting** – Australia wide, via Teleconference. Planning and discussion on future events for BHA and any items raised by the membership and reviewing Region Reports
- **Aug 23-26** – **Sunshine Region Contest**, SingFest (see article on Page 12) Details www.singfest.com.au
- **Aug 31** – **Tasmanian Region Contest and Barbershop Big Day Out**. Details **TBA**
- **Sept 1** – **Alliance Coaching Sessions** followed by an evening concert, Hobart, Tasmania
- **Sept 9** – **Central Coast Barbershop Chorus Concert** - 2.00 pm, Parkview Room, Central Coast Leagues Club, Dane Drive, Gosford NSW. Featuring their chorus, SOUNDWAVES and Quartets, Ain’t Ms Behavin’ Ladies A Cappella Chorus and students from Gosford High School

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• Sept 17–Oct 15 – **Central Coast Barbershop Chorus** - 5 week Learn to Sing A Capella 4-part Harmony, 5 week course, 7.00 pm Parkview Room, Central Coast Leagues Club, Dane Drive, Gosford NSW 2250

• Sept 28-30—**NZABS Convention**, Bruce Mason Centre, North Shore, Auckland NZ [www.nzabs.org.nz](http://www.nzabs.org.nz)

• Oct 13—**Eastern Region Contest**, Barker College, 91 Pacific Highway, Hornsby NSW, followed by an evening Concert. Details to be advised. Enquiries – Keith Thornton, ER Secretary president@sydneyharmony.com.au

• Oct 13 – **Harmony Concert, Barker College**, 91 Pacific Highway, Hornsby NSW. Details **TBA**

2013

• Jun 30-Jul 7 – **BHS International Convention**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

• Oct 9-13— **Go for the Gold—Barbershop Harmony Australia (AAMBS) 12th National Barbershop Convention**, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, 21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth WA, hosted by Vocal Evolution—followed by…

• Oct 13-15 - **Harmony College, Perth WA**

**CHECK THE AAMBS WEBSITE FOR OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BARBERSHOP EVENTS**

All enquiries to:

The Secretary
Barbershop Harmony Australia
P O Box 6026
West Gosford NSW 2250
Phone: 02 4369 8369
Fax: 02 4369 8379
E-mail: secretary@barbershop.org.au

Please help us by always ensuring that the subject heading on your emails relates to the content matter – don’t just hit reply to a received email and then talk about something that has nothing to do with the original Subject.

**KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING!**