Benchmark on Tour

Benchmark Quartet has been keeping themselves busy since winning the Seniors Gold medal in Perth last year. This included representing Australia and coming 6th (in the world), at the Midwinter International convention in Long Beach. Here is their report on what sounds like a fantastic gig on the Famous Ghan train.

It was a great thrill for Benchmark to be invited to entertain the guests, putting on 6 shows along the journey. We were also invited by the Alice Springs RSL to sing "God Bless Australia" at the Dawn Service on ANZAC morning. God Bless Australia was, at one stage, proposed as a National Anthem, but was beaten by Advance Australia Fair. It has very appropriate words for ANZAC, and because it's sung to Waltzing Matilda we had a ready-made barbershop arrangement!

The journey started in Darwin on 23 April, and we boarded the train mid-morning. At nearly 1Km long (924 metres, to be exact) with 36 cars and two locomotives, The Ghan is an amazing sight, especially when it's winding through the hills. The restaurant cars and the standard of food are amazing, and we were treated royally by staff who can only be described as fantastic. It was one heck of a walk, though to get from one end of the train to the other to do our performances.
Apart from the night before ANZAC Day, we were rocked to sleep as the train covered vast distances through the red centre. During the day, we had some great side trips to Katherine Gorge, and had a fantastic barbeque and entertainment in a former sandstone quarry in Alice Springs. Benchmark can highly recommend the journey on The Ghan, and it’s definitely one of the great “bucket list” train journeys of the world!

At a stop in Port Augusta, Benchmark also got to ride on the Pichi Pichi Railway. This heritage train operates regular heritage train journeys on the oldest remaining 39km section of the famous narrow-gauge old Ghan railway between Port Augusta and the base museum in Quorn.

That’s it from us!
Benchmark Rides A-Ghan

A message from our President

These past two months have seen a lot of hard work by your elected Councillors who are working diligently on a number of initiatives designed to improve your enjoyment of our hobby. If you have a chance to personally thank a BHA Councillor please do, because these gentlemen put in an enormous amount of additional hours that most members are not aware of. Some examples of these initiatives are:

**Youth Development:** Trevor Rootes has been working with regional youth representatives to start building a youth recruitment project to form new youth choruses, and to promote BHA membership to youth. There is now a BHA Youth Facebook page (in addition to the regular BHA Facebook page) and Trevor regularly posts articles and other information of interest.

**Marketing:** Keith Thornton has designed and implemented a trial Club membership recruitment campaign, based on marketing Clubs and barbershop to the community. The program is in full swing in Eastern Region at present, and should be reaching its peak and final outcomes in August.

**Membership:** In addition to setting up the BHA Facebook page, Richard Reeve has been busy working with Trevor Rootes on the youth recruitment campaign as well as working with Keith Thornton on the Club membership recruitment project. Richard is also now working on a COTS program (Chapter Officer Training Seminar) to roll out to Clubs and Regions soon.

**Music:** While chorus director training is our prime focus for the next 2 years, Alex Morris has also been working hard assigning judging panels for our regional contests, and designing and planning our triennial Judge Training School to be held in Wellington this year in conjunction with the Pan Pac Convention. Stay tuned for a roll out of chorus director training information soon.

**Events:** Melbourne 17/20 September, 2015. Mark your diaries. Dan Millgate has been working ceaselessly with our Melbournaires...
Host Club Committee chaired by John Howell to make our next Convention one that you do not want to miss. Harmony College follows 20-23 September 2015.

**Treasurer:** Although often not heralded, our Treasurer, Trevor Bruger has done a lot of work researching a viable and affordable Chapter Officers Liability Insurance scheme for BHA. Details will be made available soon, but it is recommended that every Club should have some sort of Liability insurance. The idea is to have a cover in place for all Clubs, just as we have a blanket APRA licence and Third Party Insurance policy.

**Secretary:** Despite some enduring major health challenges, Kevin White continues to drive a number of initiatives, ably assisted by our Assistant Secretary, Nerida White, who handles most of the day to day enquiries from members. Kevin has put a lot of work into researching and keeping abreast of developing copyright law issues as well as registering BHA as a Charitable organisation so that we can receive donations and gifts in a tax effective way. Nerida has been working closely with Mark Virtue, one of our BHA members, who has completely re-built the back end of our website and membership database, to facilitate the easy retrieval and use of membership data. We owe Mark a huge debt of gratitude.

**President:** I am pleased to report that I have been holding quarterly teleconferences with your Regional Chairmen, and this has enabled all regions to communicate more directly with one another, learn from each other, and share in the decision making by Council. Again, if you get a chance, please say “thank you” to your regional chairman (and his regional team) for the extra effort they put in on your behalf.

I will shortly depart for the USA to attend the Las Vegas International Convention, and I will be attending meetings with the Barbershop Harmony Society (our parent organisation), World Harmony Council (the 15 member organisations worldwide), NZABS (our brothers “across the ditch”) and other Affiliate organisations (such as BABS and SNOBS). This opportunity to share ideas and information is vital to our organisation staying abreast of developments in barbershop and staying relevant to all of our members. I’ll report back in the next newsletter, until then…..

Sing-cerely,

**Ian Mutholland** President

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### Youth Development Grants

Nothing could be more important to the future of BHA than encouraging youth. We now have around 80 youth members and counting. That's close on ten percent of our membership.

This year, BHA is offering, for the first time, Youth Development Grants. These are to support the emergence of new youth choruses, and also to support activities that introduce young people to the barbershop style.

This is the plan:

**Category A – Youth Chorus Development Grants.** Clubs/regions applying for these grants will need to outline a twelve month plan. The application doesn’t need to be too sophisticated, just show that there is a plan in place. We have available an overall total of $2,000 to make available among successful applicants. Applicants could typically expect around $700 support.

**Category B – Specific Youth events/activities.** These are available to support specific events to promote barbershop to young people. Activities like a Barbershop Big Day Out, School visits, tag evenings etc. It’s up to your imagination! Typically, a grant would be around $250 to offer some support to the event. We are able to offer this category of grant as we have recently received $1,000 from the World Harmony Council that was requested specifically for youth development.

You can of course apply for a grant in either or both categories.

Details regarding the application process are available at the BHA website under Youth. Or if you would like to discuss your application contact me on youth@barbershop.org.au

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**Trevor Rootes –** VP Youth

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### Marketing Harmony

Our Membership Project, as outlined in the last issue, has been launched. The pilot scheme for the new National Membership Drive is underway, focussed on three Clubs in separate demographics within Eastern Region. We’ll be reporting results over the next couple of
months and when this proves as successful as we expect, the programme will become available to all Clubs – KEEP TUNED…!

HOW GOOD ARE YOUR MARKETING TOOLS…?

In this issue let’s focus on a couple of prime marketing tools, so important for your Club if you wish to get your message across, whatever that might be from time to time.

Business Cards : We’ve all participated in sing outs, performances, concerts and the like and our chorus has typically generated interest from those members of the public impacted by your performance. Does your Chorus have cards to hand out to those interested, if not, you should have, you’re missing an opportunity! A card should be attractive and colourful, it should show basic details about your Chorus, where you hold your rehearsals, what day and time? Including a photo always helps and the card should also have your website address and a contact name and phone number. Ideally, there should also be space where you can write more information or perhaps your own contact details? Some Clubs are using a larger format card very effectively, about postcard size rather than business card size, this works well and is only marginally more expensive. Don’t order a couple of hundred, order 1,000 the extra cost won’t break the bank and you’ll have plenty to distribute to all Club Members.

Leaflets : Most Clubs also use leaflets from time to time, to either promote the Chorus, or a particular event. What’s your message, keep it brief and to the point, don’t clutter the leaflet with useless or irrelevant information, stick to the purpose. Always include your website address, always include contact details and also always include information about your rehearsals, do this whatever the main message you’re trying to get across…! A5 format works just as well as A4, if not better, plus you get twice as many leaflets for your money. If you can afford art gloss or satin stock, then spend the extra money, it presents so much better than matt bond stock. Include a photo if possible and use colour wherever makes sense to highlight important items and attract attention.

Banners : Many Clubs have at least one banner, does yours…? A banner can attract a huge amount of interest for your Chorus, or for an event you wish to promote. They can usually be displayed on prominent roadside positions, preferably in high, slow traffic locations. Approval will usually need to be obtained from your local traffic authority or local Council, but this often is not too onerous, and the results are well worthwhile! A good size for a banner is 10m x 1m, only go smaller if you have to, the cost is not ridiculous, and banners can be used on an on-going basis or recycled, so they’re a good investment. Keep the message simple, no clutter or unnecessary information, traffic doesn’t have long to absorb your message, so a couple of words and a website address are often the best way to communicate using this promotional item. You need to maximize impact, so use high contrast colours, you don’t need to make it tasteful, or blend in with the surroundings! Highest contrast is Black copy on a Yellow background, the next best is Black copy on a White background, or the reverse. Don’t worry about images or logo’s, just make the message as large and simple as possible.

Hope this helps….!

If you want more information regarding any of the above, then please contact me anytime at:

marketing@barbershop.org.au

Keith Thornton - V.P. Marketing & Development

Best wishes, Keith

Have you ever wished you had a single page flyer that summarises the benefits of joining our great organisation, a Flyer that you can hand to prospective new members.

Well wish no more!!!

Such a document now exists and is available for download from the BHA website under the News Tab or via this direct link.


Here is a sample of what it contains:

Barbershop Harmony Australia is a non-profit organisation that links men of all ages throughout Australia who like to sing four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style.

With nearly 1,000 individuals making up over
27 clubs and over 50 quartets nationwide, membership in Australia’s leading all-male singing organisation provides many benefits:

- A dynamic website
- Professional Development and Educational Offerings
- Publications
- National Conventions
- Regional Conventions
- Assistance from National Council

And much much more!

Why not download it now and run off some copies to for your members to hand out.

Voices in Paradise a huge success

On Saturday the 24th May at 9.30pm 125 young singers, all under 30, from South East Queensland stood on the risers with Ginger and Tonic and the Musical Island Boys for the finale of this year’s Voices in Paradise annual concert. The young singers experienced for the first time, the thrill of performing to a packed out audience of over 700 people with not even standing room left!

Voices in Paradise is an initiative of The Blenders to offer young men and women, professional a cappella education by top singers in the a cappella world. The official arranger for VIP is the internationally acclaimed a cappella arranger Deke Sharon, whose credits include the movies Pitch Perfect and The Sing-Off.

The young singers gathered earlier in the day at Griffith University on the Gold Coast for a series of workshops conducted by Ginger and Tonic and the Musical Island Boys. They only had the day to polish their songs before the night concert. Both groups came together during the day for combined workshops to put the polishing touches to the finale.

The evening concert was a feel good, high energy event with the highest of a cappella entertainment featuring the Musical Island Boys and Ginger and Tonic who wowed the audience with their sublime vocal skills. They were supported by the host chorus, The Blenders, along with The Blenders Youth Chorus, Coastal Charisma (Sweet Adeline’s prospective Chorus), and Serotonin (Griffith University mixed chorus), and the Blenders quartet Blindside. All choruses were under the direction of The Blenders MD, Jonathan Albertini.

The finale was an all in extravaganza of new a cappella converts fronted by MIB and G&T. What a way to round off a fantastic day of VIP. A Cappella singing is in good hands and the world is in ‘great harmony’.

Stay tuned to the VIP Facebook page to see video releases which will be out soon.

Ian Mackey  Secretary

A note from the BHA Secretary

As you will have seen from recent newsletter articles and emails your BHA Council has been working hard to keep members better informed about the decisions we make and the reasons for these decisions. We are pleased to have received positive feedback from a number of members and Club executives.
Mark Virtue continues to work on the update of the more user-friendly Website and we encourage you to access as much information as you can from the Website rather than sending enquiries to the members of Council. If you cannot find the information you want on the Website let me know and I will point you in the right direction.

Membership renewals continue to be one of my functions as BHA Secretary, so all changes to current financial members’ details, information on new and returning members and registrations/renewals of Quartets and Clubs should be sent to me at secretary@barbershop.org.au. These will be actioned and recorded quickly and, if the members’ details have been correctly reported, they will be available for all to see on the Website.

It is important to realise that the names of new quartets seeking registration need the BHA Secretary’s approval to ensure that they are available and to ensure that they do not conflict with existing quartet names or the “protected” names of past medal winners.

and, remember that entries for Regional Contests are to be sent to the designated Region representative whose details are noted on the various entry forms.

Kevin White  BHA Secretary

Harmony University. With expert tuition you’ll be able to hone your skills or embark on new dimensions in barbershop – it’s up to you. Choose from four options:

- Harmony College – for all barbershop singers
- Quartet College – for complete, pre-existing quartets (spaces will be limited)
- Directors College – for existing MDs and AMDs
- Outstanding in Front – for up and coming MDs and AMDs

The cost varies across $350 (live in, all meals); $240 (live out, with meals); $120 (live out, no meals), and takes place at El Rancho in Waikanae just north of Wellington between 17–20 August (following the Pan-Pac contest). Our world class Faculty includes the very best barbershop educators that the United States has to offer. Take classes with masters including David Wright, Rob Campbell, Chris Peterson, Brandon Guyton, Sean Devine, and Mike Loque.

Registrations so far:

**Choruses**

New Zealand……………….10
Australia………………………..6
Japan…………………………….1

**Quartets**

New Zealand……………..10
Australia……………………….12
Japan…………………………2

**Featured Artists – Westminster Chorus**

IT’S GOING TO BE A FANTASTIC COMPETITION
DON’T MISS OUT!!!

Early Bird Registrations have now closed but there is still plenty of time to register for this fantastic competition. Go to: [http://www.nzabs.org.nz/events/conventions/panpacific-2014/registerattendee](http://www.nzabs.org.nz/events/conventions/panpacific-2014/registerattendee).

It’s a simple process of filling in a form with some details about yourself, and then, on the second page, filling in payment details. Also book your transport and accommodation now – you will get better choices and better prices by getting in quickly, so get on to it now.

Register for Harmony University

Add value to your trip to Wellington, register for
As featured in our last Newsletter, planning and organisation is now well underway for our next BHA Convention which is being held in Melbourne. The Melbournaires Convention team is working hard to pull the multitude of elements together that are involved with staging such a major event. With the venue now secured at the recently renovated Hamer Hall, the convention is really starting to take shape.

The 2015 Convention website www.barbershopconvention.com.au will soon be up and running and will be a great source of information for all of you wanting to be a part of this fantastic event. If you haven’t already done so, put these dates in your diary and get in early for those great travel and accommodation deals.

CONVENTION  
17th to 20th September, 2015

HARMONY COLLEGE  
20th to 23rd September 2015

Dan
Dan Millgate – VP Events

Ian Lushey, MD of the Melbournaires, is now in the UK pedalling his bike from one end of the country to the other. Ian is a keen cyclist and has decided to ride his bike from the famous Land’s End to John O’Groats trek. The distance is around 1800K and along the way Ian will be raising funds for the Peter Mac Foundation for Cancer Research.

If you could spare a few dollars, or a whole lot of dollars, it will all be going to an important cause.

You can donate by going to: www.everydayhero.com.au/ian_lushey_5

Ian will be keeping a blog http://lusheysride.blogspot.com.au/

And along the way Ian will probably be doing some Facebook updates as well.

There is a veritable smorgasbord of existing membership resources available from the BHS. Currently I’m working on a comprehensive Club survey and management training initiative to identify specifically where each club stands and what help/ training BHA can provide to help each club make the improvements they want in club operations. While this is coming through the system, I want to again draw your attention to the raft of ready-to-use resources on-line
from the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), the worldwide organisation of which we are an affiliate. I will be highlighting these over time and they will also soon be available through links on the BHA website.

As an example, here is an excellent article about taking charge of your group to make sure you get the most out of it. If you’re “just an ordinary member”, you are always welcome to ask questions or take suggestions to your music team or management committee.

Richard Reeve

BHA Membership VP

A Business Approach to Membership
Presented by Todd Wilson, Director of Marketing

Consider this scenario: Your business has an employee attrition rate of 40 percent. For the past month, two of your best employees haven’t shown up for work and haven’t returned your calls. And now, your biggest revenue stream is posting losses.

As successful business people or retired professionals, Barbershoppers would immediately recognize these warning signs and take action to address them ..............................To read more click on this LINK and it will take you to the full article on the BHS website.

New Editor and New Formats

I am delighted to have been selected to take over from the great work done by Nerida and look forward to taking on this important role.

I am aware that some of our members still prefer to print their newsletter for reading at their leisure. Others, however prefer to read it, on the run so to speak, often on their Smart Phone or Tablet.

For my first edition, I have experimented with two new layouts. One is a printer friendly version and the other is more amenable for reading on Smart Phones and Tablets.

I welcome feedback on these new trial layouts.

Thanks
Dick Bushell – Editor – In Harmony
editor@barbershop.com.au

Region News

Central Region

2014 Central Region Convention Results
The Central Region Contest held at Marion Uniting Church in Adelaide SA on Saturday 26th April provided for competitions in a number of sections including Open Chorus and Female, Mixed, BHA Open, BHA Youth and BHA Senior Quartets. This year we were pleased to have six choruses and eight quartets competing and were fortunate to have Ian Mulholland (Music), Dan Millgate (Singing), Adrian Gimpel (Presentation) and David Brown as the CA to help us run a very smooth and enjoyable contest.

For the second year in a row, Festival Statesmen Chorus with 77.2% won the Open Chorus competition improving on its 2013 score by almost 2%.

Adelaide Allsorts made a similar improvement

Thanks Nerida

After more than ten years producing this Newsletter, Nerida White has finally decided to hang up her pen/keyboard. At six editions a year that’s a lot of Newsletters. The BHA Newsletter is an important communication link between the Council, choruses, quartets and members at large. Nerida has done a fantastic job in maintaining such a high standard. I am sure we all congratulate her on her contribution over the past ten years.

If you wanted to convey your thanks in a more direct way to Nerida her new email address is

admin@barbershop.org.au

2014 Central Region Convention Results

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For the second year in a row, Festival Statesmen Chorus with 77.2% won the Open Chorus competition improving on its 2013 score by almost 2%.

Adelaide Allsorts made a similar improvement
to move into second place with 66.3%, narrowly ahead of Adelaide Sound Connection in third place with 65.5%.

In the BHA Open Quartet competition, The Fishbowl Boys came out of retirement to take Gold comfortably with 75.3%, ahead of Now In Stereo (71.2%) and newbies Skyline with a very creditable 67.8% in its first competition. In the Female Quartet section Esprit retained its title with 62.5% from Offspring and Friday Lunch. The Youth Quartet competition was also taken out by The Fishbowl Boys, the Senior Quartet was once again won by 293 Not Out and the Mixed Quartet was won by 3 Tarts and a Diva!, also for the second year running.

Congratulations to all the competitors and a very big thank you to our Judges and CA for giving up their time to assist us to run the competition and provide valuable feedback during the Evaluation sessions. Thank you also to the Central Region committee, marshals and members who billeted our visitors and looked after them for the weekend.

**ER Composite Chorus – First rehearsal**

A composite Chorus drawn from a number of Choruses in the Eastern Region has been formed to compete in the PanPac Convention in Wellington in August this year. The composite Chorus will be known as the **East Coast Coalition** and will be led by the inimitable Alex Morris.

This is the second time such a composite chorus has been fielded by ER the first being at the PanPac Convention in Christchurch in 2004 with a creditable outcome.

A number of rehearsals are planned with the first all-day session held at North Sydney on 27 April.

**Western Region**

**Western Region Contest 2014**

The Western Region Contest was held this year on the 10th May at St Marks Anglican Community School's new PAC – a very new and suitable venue.

We had 18 quartets including open men's, invite ladies, youth, seniors and mixed. The contest ably judged by Eddie Klimowicz, Kieran O'Dea and Dan Millgate.

The contest ran extremely smoothly due in the main to CA Vicky Donnelly and her crew. Whilst judging was finalised, Acapella West and Indian Blue choruses sang in front of an appreciative audience; the ladies from Indian Blue grabbing a performance opportunity before heading off to the Sweet Adeline's convention in Sydney. Chorus Vocal Evolution and quartet TLA joined in the performance.

It was great to see some new members winning medals. Happy to say the quartet movement is alive and well in the West!

**Bill Nicol** Chairman, Western Region.

**Club News**

**Sound Connection**

Sound Connection is looking forward to catching up with the barbershop fraternity in the Sunshine Region at the upcoming SingFest/BHA Regional Convention later in June, and more broadly our Pacific Rim brothers at the Pan Pacific Convention in Wellington, New Zealand in August. The lead up to these events has been and will continue to be busy for us.

Earlier in this year we held recruitment activities which so far have yielded two new members. The chorus has performed at a number of gigs including a paid corporate event. And we've had a change of rehearsal venue to Ormeau Woods State High School. Two of our more enterprising members have even taken it upon themselves to construct our own risers.
However it hasn't been all plain sailing, our much anticipated Mid-Year Show with Vocalescence has had to be deferred to later in the year due to a last minute problem with the Show venue.

And of course we continue to enhance our repertoire and to refine our craft under the persistent instruction of our MD Andrew Howson, Assistant MD Drew Carolan and Presentation Team Leader Jen Howson.

**Quartet News**

**TLA ready for Las Vegas**

Current National Quartet Champions, TLA head off on the 2nd of July to represent Australia at the BHS Convention which is being held in Las Vegas. They have been setting a cracking pace in the lead up to this important event. Performances, fund raising, Skype coaching from the renowned Eddie Martinez and the occasional rehearsal when time permitted!!

They have also been invited by barbershop legends and 11-time International Champions The Vocal Majority Chorus to join them on their show The Vocal Majority -"Road to Vegas" Dress Rehearsal with Special Guests "Zero8". This will mean a special trip for them to Dallas in the lead up to the 2014 Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention.

We all wish you the very best guys and will be watching your performance with great interest.

**GOOD LUCK TLA!!**

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Chordsmiths quartet have had a busy 6 months, with performances all around Canberra. One particular highlight was busking outside Mo's Barbershop to raise funds for the Movember charity. Chordsmiths also sang Christmas Carols at a number of farmers' markets in exchange for fresh local produce!

The quartet has also been involved in lots of youth development, singing with the Sydney Youth Chorus under the direction of Rob Sequiera at the Big Barbershop Day Out in Sydney. They have also been working on a proposal to sing at a number of high schools around Canberra.

Chordsmiths also ran a photoshope competition on their Facebook page. This entry from Nicole Salinas was a pretty popular choice.

More recently, Chordsmiths were asked to headline a local arts night at BeyondQ second-hand bookstore. The half-hour set was very well received by the audience of young artists and poets. Chordsmiths are currently preparing to sing for their supper (more food!) at the George Harcourt Inn.
Welcome to our newest BHA members

Your Council would like to extend a BIG welcome on behalf of all BHA members to the following members who have joined us in recent months.

Fleurieu Harmony Inc
Morris Matthias, Bill Shwenker, Julian Di Bez

High Altitude Harmony Inc
Andrew Weppner, David Totenhoffer, Andrew Grigg, Lachlan Mears

Sydney Harmony Inc
John Gibson

Vocal Evolution Inc
Phil Williamson

Festival States-Men Inc
Jacob Whitelock

Hills Harmony Chorus Inc
Adrian Lee, Michael Simms

We look forward to meeting you and seeing you all on the risers at our next BHA Convention in Melbourne in 2015

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

As well as attending three Pan Pacific Conventions, I have also attended and competed in every National Convention AAMBS, now BHA, have conducted and have become increasingly concerned about the lack of actual competition amongst the choruses at these events.

It seems that, after our seven minutes on stage, we spend the rest of our time waiting and watching whilst the same group of three or four excellent choruses wage a fierce battle for the overall top three positions. Furthermore, I’ve actually been advised that this is, in fact, the only contest we have, because, although awards are presented for small, medium and large choruses, there aren’t actually any formal, recognised contests in these categories.

Since 2005, I have made three separate submissions to our National Council suggesting that our chorus community be graded into three divisions based on the quality of their singing, rather than simply number of men of the risers. This is how just about every competition in this country is conducted where lots of different teams are involved.

My suggestion is that after each Convention, the top third of choruses become known as 1st Division, or “A Grade”, or something similar, the second third become “2nd Division”, the final third become “3rd Division”. This opens up a fair competition between groups of similar ability, not just numbers, and allows for well earned acclaim, recognition and reward for improved performances with automatic promotion to a higher division. There is extra incentive to do well when we know actually against whom we’re competing and this competitive urge can only be a positive influence to all concerned. At the moment, there’s no great incentive to attend and compete when there’s no true contest for your level of ability, and no chance of recognition for effort unless you sing with one of the “big three”.

Of great interest is the fact that this year, for the first time, BABS, the British Association of Barbershop Singers, introduced into their National Convention, a grading system for their choruses, and they now have recognised Divisional Champions who can use the title in promotional and other activities likely to enhance their own profile and marketing opportunities, as well as the public profile of barbershop singing.

I urge our National Council to once again look at this issue as a way of increasing the involvement of our ordinary choruses in the excitement of our National Conventions and giving us cause to celebrate our achievements, even when we’re not competing against the “big guys”.

There are of course some fine details to be addressed, but this concept opens up a fair contest to ALL competing choruses, not just the top three, I would be delighted to engage in correspondence and discussion with any interested members.

I applaud the ongoing efforts of our National Executive to increase membership and encourage the formation of new choruses, and I assume it is hoped that the change to Annual conventions will also result in greater attendance at our major events. Making these events more appealing and inclusive is a worthy
goal.

On another issue, I commend the Executive for adopting my suggestion to recognise our older singers with the Mature Age Chorus Award, to be based on the best score achieved by the chorus with the greatest average on the date of competition.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Fraser

Reply from BHA President,

Over the years AAMBS and BHA have made efforts to make our Conventions and Contests more inclusive, and in recent years for example we have introduced new events such as the John Little Show (for competing quartets to sing extra non-contest songs) and the Chorus Corral (for choruses to present extra non-contest material), designed to make our Conventions more participatory and collegiate, rather than just about competition. We are always open to new ideas that encourage our members and Clubs to attend Conventions because every member is valued as much as every other, no matter what their level of singing ability.

Ian Fraser’s suggestion for a “grading” of choruses has been considered before by the Council, and although not taken up previously, we are always open to revisiting ideas and suggestions from our members as our needs and requirements change as an organisation. Currently we have three divisions based on size, and it is not clear whether Ian Fraser is suggesting we keep those as well, or replace them with the divisions based on previous contest score. What is not clear also, is what division new choruses would be placed into if it was their first contest. A concern expressed by previous Councils was that creation of divisions based on contest scores would create perceptions of the ability of a chorus that might be detrimental to its development and motivation. At present the size divisions don’t really do that. Another idea, if we are looking at rewarding more choruses that are not in the running to win medals, might be to create more awards for improvement – e.g. perhaps 1st, 2nd and 3rd most improved. There are lots of different scenarios.

Council would welcome submissions on this subject and members can be assured that full and transparent consideration will be given to every idea presented so as to create maximum motivation and enjoyment that members wish to receive from Conventions and Contests.

Ian Mulholland, BHA President”

A ladies a capella (barbershop) chorus located off the new Peninsula Link at Langwarrin is seeking an Assistant Director (male or female) to work with our current Director.

The successful applicant must have strong musical skills, commitment to the barbershop art form, and demonstrate a willingness to learn. Education in the Barbershop art form will be given to the successful applicant. Rehearsals are on a Tuesday evening 7.00pm – 10.00pm.

Please send your resume and letter of interest to: Southern Sounds Chorus
38 Granya Grove
Mt.Eliza 3930

or call Nola 9 775-2575
Christine 0421 229878

Closing Date: Sunday 31 July 2014
This is what running BHA costs, and shows where your $65 (or $32.50) goes for the 2014 budget.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BHS Affiliation Fee</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$4.44</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BHA Administration (i.e. Certificates, Printing, Postage, website, bank fees, subscriptions etc.)</td>
<td>$6,050</td>
<td>$6.72</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRA Performing Rights Licence</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2.22</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Education (Coaches, Director Training)</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Party Insurance</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$11.11</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing of BHA</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$4.44</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Scholarships (Director Scholarship to BHS)</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$1.67</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretarial Expenses (e.g. membership services, newsletter etc.)</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$7.78</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges to Regional Events</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>$9.44</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council running costs (e.g. teleconferences etc.)</td>
<td>$2,552</td>
<td>$2.84</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants to attend International</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2.22</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Development</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$3.89</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$60,102</td>
<td>$66.78</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based on 900 members

The Secretarial expenses are primarily due to the employment of the Assistant Secretary at a cost of $20/hour for about 7 hours per week. However, this is controlled by the amount of work that members require, so cannot be as closely controlled as we would like. This could be reduced if we could find a volunteer member to undertake the myriad of administrative tasks that are necessary to run the organisation.

For example, we are now going to have the newsletter produced by BHA member volunteer, Dick Bushell, that will reduce the work load (and cost) of the Assistant Secretary.

In addition, a new membership database has been constructed for the BHA website which will allow Clubs and individuals to update their membership details, thus saving Assistant Secretary time. Many thanks to BHA member volunteer Mark Virtue for his work on this.
Expenses that are non-discretionary include BHS affiliation, APRA performing rights licence, Third Party insurance, which amount to approximately 50% of the membership fee.

All other expenses are discretionary but, support our mission of music education and training, regional events, youth development, a Council to run things, marketing of our organisation and the secretarial & administrative support. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with the myriad of tasks undertaken by Council. Please contact admin@barbershop.org.au to express your interest.

### BARBERSHOP EVENTS

Promote upcoming Events - send full details for inclusion in the BHA Calendar below and on the BHA Website. This helps other Clubs and Council plan events to ensure that they do not clash with other events in your Region, and allows the opportunity to support your local fellow barbershoppers. Send all your details to secretary@barbershop.org.au

For more details on the above events click on this [LINK](#) to visit the interactive page on the BHA website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start date</th>
<th>Start time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 20 Jun 2014</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>TLA Quiz Night</td>
<td>South Perth WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 22 Jun 2014</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>East Coast Coalition rehearsal for Wellington Pan Pac</td>
<td>Waitara NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 22 Jul 2014</td>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>DecoLive @ Melbodisco (Sydney Harmones)</td>
<td>North Sydney NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 22 Jun 2014</td>
<td>7.30 pm EST</td>
<td>BHA Council Meeting</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 27 Jun 2014</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>The Little KINGS Movement for disabled (The River City Clippers)</td>
<td>BURANDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, 28 Jun 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Sunshine Region Contest</td>
<td>Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 29 Jun 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>2014 International Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada</td>
<td>Las Vegas, Nevada, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 25 Jul 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>A Capella Harmony Academy 2014 - Sweet Adelines</td>
<td>Tulsa, Oklahoma USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 27 Jul 2014</td>
<td>9.00 am</td>
<td>East Coast Chorus Rehearsal for Wellington Pan Pac</td>
<td>Sydney NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 27 Jul 2014</td>
<td>7.30 pm EST</td>
<td>BHA Council Meeting</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 1 Aug 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Diddie Downunder - Sweet Adelines</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 10 Aug 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Australian Judges’ School</td>
<td>Wellington, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue, 12 Aug 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>NZABS Young Singers In Harmony National Finals</td>
<td>Wellington, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed, 13 Aug 2014</td>
<td>8.40pm</td>
<td>Pan Pacific Convention - Wellington NZ</td>
<td>Wellington, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu, 14 Aug 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Pan-Pacific Convention</td>
<td>Wellington, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu, 14 Aug 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Pan-Pacific Championships (Minor Chords)</td>
<td>Wellington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 15 Aug 2014</td>
<td>5.30pm EST</td>
<td>Deadline for contributions for In Harmony</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 17 Aug 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Pan-Pacific Harmony College</td>
<td>Wakanias, NZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 31 Aug 2014</td>
<td>6.30 pm EST</td>
<td>Regional Chairman’s Teleconference</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 31 Aug 2014</td>
<td>7.30 pm EST</td>
<td>BHA Council Meeting</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 10 Sep 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>SOUNDWAVES 25th Anniversary Concert (SOUNDWAVES)</td>
<td>Central Coast NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 28 Sep 2014</td>
<td>7.30 pm EST</td>
<td>BHA Council Meeting</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 3 Oct 2014</td>
<td>2.00 pm</td>
<td>IABS 25th Barbershop Convention</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, 11 Oct 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Eastern Region Contest</td>
<td>Horrsony NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed, 15 Oct 2014</td>
<td>5.30pm EST</td>
<td>Deadline for contributions for In Harmony</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu, 21 Oct 2014</td>
<td>10.30 pm</td>
<td>SOUNDWAVES sg Matthew John Barlow Pop (SOUNDWAVES)</td>
<td>Central Coast NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 26 Oct 2014</td>
<td>7.30 pm EST</td>
<td>BHA Council Meeting</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 31 Oct 2014</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Tasmanian Region Contest</td>
<td>Hobart Tas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, 29 Nov 2014</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Sydney Siders Express Oncology Concert – BHA Website (Sydney Siders Express)</td>
<td>Cnr of Ada Avenue &amp; Pacific Highway, Wahroonga, NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 30 Nov 2014</td>
<td>6.30 pm EST</td>
<td>Regional Chairman’s Teleconference</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 30 Nov 2014</td>
<td>7.30 pm EST</td>
<td>BHA Council Meeting</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon, 15 Dec 2014</td>
<td>5.30pm EST</td>
<td>Deadline for contributions for In Harmony</td>
<td>Australia-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, 29 Jun 2015</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>BHS International Convention</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>