Australia has had contests for many years, biennial up until now and annual from next year. This is to celebrate performance excellence and improvement. It has been, and will continue to be, central to Australia’s barbershop calendar.

However, recognising that there’s another 51 weeks of the year, at the Perth convention in 2013, BHA National Council introduced a new concept of Club of the Year. This was independent of contest success to recognise those clubs doing a great job week-in-week-out. The criteria, equally weighted, are as follows:

- Communication with BHA and support for BHA initiatives
- Participation and involvement at recent BHA Contests & Conventions.
- Club Member communication and support.
- Membership retention & growth.
- Website appraisal
- Performances & Concert presentations.
- Promotion of Barbershop Singing to the community.
- Community Service from entertainment & charitable perspectives.
- Quartet development and promotion within membership.
- Youth development & programs.
This year, five submissions were received, from Sydney Harmony, Vocal Evolution, Hills Harmony, the Blenders and Penrith Harmony. While all were strong submissions, the unanimous vote of the committee was for the Blenders. Sydney Harmony and Vocal Evolution received special commendations. It was membership growth and engagement with youth that set the Blenders apart.

The sub-committee was Rob Walley (former AAMBS President), Alex Morris (BHA gold medal director and certified BHS Music judge, and BHA Music VP) and Trevor Rootes (chair of the 2009 national convention organising committee, and BHA Youth VP)

**Club Member of the Year**

In every club there tend to be many members who contribute tirelessly to running things. As such, clubs were invited to send in their Club member of the year, recognised for unfailingly being “that guy” who helps out at every turn.

BHA would like to acknowledge

- Philip Powell - Penrith Harmony
- Dennis Ho and Warren Lewis – Sydney Harmony
- Phil Montgomery – Hills Harmony
- Michael Webber - the Blenders
- Bill Nicol - Vocal Evolution
- Merv Hardcourt - the Clippers
- John Khammash – Festival Statesmen

And if you didn’t manage to get your club member to us in time for this newsletter, feel free to send to membership@barbershop.org.au and we’ll be pleased to recognise them in our next edition.

**A message from our President**

**Exciting Times Ahead**

This year presents a number of opportunities for members of BHA. I’m excited, and I hope you are too!

First of all we will be holding our Regional quartet qualifying and education/workshop events. The dates for these appear on page 3 of this newsletter. Make sure you don’t miss yours!

A new feature will be the official introduction of a Mixed quartet and ensemble contest category.

Secondly, BHA will have three quartets representing us at International this year. A HUGE first! How exciting to have one open quartet and two Collegiate (Youth) quartets competing on the big stage. You can watch a webcast of the International Contest by going to the BHS website, www.barbershop.org.org, and following the instructions. There is a small charge levied by BHS to cover production costs, so maybe you’d like to organise a webcast party? These are great fun. The only thing better is to be there yourself! I know there will be 20-30 BHA members at International this year, and you’d be very welcome. Just log onto the BHS website and follow the instructions about registering.

Thirdly, but certainly not last, will be our 13th National Convention to be held in Melbourne from 16-20 September, followed by Harmony College 20-23 September. As detailed on Page 4 of this Newsletter, online registrations will soon be open. Please register early because this makes it so much easier for the organisers. Our special guests will be none other than Vocal Spectrum, the 2006 International Champion quartet. If you haven’t heard these guys then you haven’t heard some of the best barbershop singing you’ll ever hear. There is a special feature item on the quartet on page 5 of this newsletter.

Soon your Council will be holding its annual Face to Face meeting, where we will discuss our strategy for the next 2-3 years for our organisation. If you have any ideas of things we should be doing, or directions we should be going in, please drop me, or one of the other Councillors a line. We want your ideas and feedback.

In the last newsletter, I reminded you that I’d posed a couple of ideas that the National Council wanted your feedback on. These included introducing Mixed Harmony into our contests and a second idea about minimum performance standards before our groups sing out in public. Thank you to those who responded.

And in some exciting news just in, BHA has just commenced planning a number of concerts with The Musical Island Boys, our current International Champion Quartet. These concerts will happen in the first part of the year so stay tuned for more information.
Finally, congratulations to the Clubs who submitted entries for Club of the Year. The winner is revealed on Page one together with the names of Club Members of the Year. Congratulations to all!

With all of these exciting things happening, who wouldn’t want to get involved in barbershop?

Sing-cerely,

Ian Muhlolland President

Regional Contest Time

Hello happy harmonisers! Well, it’s that time of year when we begin getting ready for our series of qualifying and educational events – our Regional Convention weekends!

The following dates are set for regional events:

**Saturday, 18 April 2015**
Victorian Region Convention (Melbourne)

**Saturday, 2 May 2015**
Central Region Convention (Adelaide)

**Saturday, 2 May 2015**
Eastern Region Convention (Sydney)

**Saturday, 9 May 2015**
Western Region Convention (Perth)

**Saturday, 13 June 2015**
Tasmanian Region Convention (Hobart)
**Sat, 13 Jun 2015**
Sunshine Region Convention (Buderim)

As most of you would know, these Regional Convention weekends are held annually to provide a focus for improved performance of quartets and choruses through competition and education.

These events will of course also contain the mandatory quartet qualifying contest preceding the BHA National Convention competition. This means that if your quartet wants to compete in the BHA National Convention competition in September you will need to qualify first.

But remember, you need to do a few things first:

1. Are you registered as a quartet with BHA?
   - Registration application forms for NEW quartets may be obtained from the BHA Secretary, or may be downloaded directly from “Forms” page on the BHA website (www.barbershop.org.au).

   - Registration for EXISTING quartets also needs to be current, including quartet competitors desiring to make any updates or personnel changes to their quartets. Again, use the form provided on the website or contact the BHA Secretary if you need further information.

2. Contestants should be familiar with the rules and regulations that apply to contests. You can see all of these rules in full for quartets and choruses in Standing Orders 4, 5, 6 & 7 on the BHA website. New categories of Mixed quartets and ensembles are now included.

3. Your Region will have a Contest Administrator appointed to run the contest. You will need to keep an eye out for notification from your Region that registrations for contest have opened and then you’ll need to fill out an entry form. Remember though, that submitting the contest entry form does not constitute – in any way – registration with BHA as a quartet. It relates only to entering the contest.

4. Once your entry is accepted, then the Contest Administrator will send all registered quartets competition information by email.

Good luck and have fun competing!

Dan Millgate Vice President Events

Copyright reminder

Quartets and Choruses must have appropriate copyright licenses in place for music they perform in competition (as well as any music you perform everywhere else, of course!).

There is plenty of information available about Copyright and Performing Rights in the BHA Handbook for Clubs and Quartets, available on the BHA website.
The New Year has certainly brought forth a mine of information for us to share with you all—some real nuggets of news that we know our fellow Harmony prospectors will be happy to discover. I encourage you to dig deep into the attached newsletter which is distributed along with this Edition of In Harmony. You will find some 24-carat details on:

- Registration
- Program
- Venues
- Convention contact in your Chorus
- Transport options
- Non-contest singing events
- Rehearsal spaces
- Harmony College
- Convention Committee

If you find this Convention Newsletter somehow disappears under the overburden of incoming mail during the coming weeks, then just remember this web address to access all the included details or to print another copy of the newsletter.


You should be aware that we have a record number of BHA choruses indicating they will be attending this final biennial convention. There will also be a number of events in which you can participate which will provide a relaxed forum for performances that need not be BHA-contestable songs or by BHA contestable groups.

The Harmony College following Convention (20 to 23 Sept) seems to be building to a big event as well. Even though the venue can accommodate up to 400, there is interest being shown by our Sweet Adeline sisters, so you may need to book early. Look out for the Earlybird Combo (Convention plus Harmony College) pricing on the Registration site and make overall savings of around $100.

We do hope you’ve got these dates (16 - 23 Sept) in your diary and we just can’t wait to welcome you all to golden times in our most liveable city.

We have been working hard to provide BHA members with a new, custom-built Convention Registration Website for use at this and future conventions. We have been through the testing stage and believe the website software design will give you an easy, secure and simple way to register for Conventions and for Harmony College.

We are now populating the website pages with the necessary information that delegates will need as they make their way through the step-by-step registration process, and we expect it to be ready to launch in the next few weeks.

Why should I register early?

Simple! You’ll save money! Registrations received before 30 June 2015 will attract an “Early Bird” discount. There will also be special “combo” rates where you can save over 10% when registering for both Convention and Harmony College.

You won’t have to select all of your courses for Harmony College straight away – that will be done a little later on but we want to make sure that people who register for both get a great deal.

You will still be able to register after 30 June 2015, of course, but the price will increase by around $20 per registration.

We will let you know as soon as the Convention Registration Website “goes live” so watch your inbox and go ahead and arrange time off work now....

16-20 September for Convention

20-23 September for Harmony College!

Yours in Lustrous Harmony

John Howell
Convention Committee Chair
As you will read in this newsletter, things are really cookin’ with the preparations for the Melbourne National Convention, well under way! One of the most exciting things about this Convention, being held from 16-20 September 2015, is that BHA has managed to secure Vocal Spectrum as the headline act. What is a Vocal Spectrum, I hear you say? Well, I’m glad you asked!

Vocal Spectrum is a barbershop quartet from St. Charles, Missouri. In 2004, Vocal Spectrum won the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Collegiate Quartet Contest, and on July 8, 2006, they became International Champions, winning the society's International Quartet Contest. They are arguably one of the best barbershop quartets of all time.

Vocal Spectrum has been singing together since 2003. The members of the quartet come from various musical backgrounds, from classical vocal training to jammin’ in rock-n-roll bands. These 4 young men, who graduated from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, all majored in different fields of study. V.S was originally formed as a one-time educational quartet to sing for a local high school and has never stopped singing since!

V.S. has traveled to Germany, Holland, Sweden, Russia, England, Japan, New Zealand and throughout the United States singing for various shows and conventions as well as teaching high school students about barbershop harmony. This will be the quartet’s first ever visit Down Under!

All members of the quartet sing with the Ambassadors of Harmony (2004 + 2009 + 2012 International Chorus Champions). In July of 2004, Vocal Spectrum won the 2004 International Collegiate Quartet Contest held in Louisville, KY.

On July 8th, 2006 won the coveted International Barbershop Quartet Contest – becoming the first quartet in history to win all 3 possible medals (Collegiate Quartet, Men’s Quartet, and Chorus Medal). The only championship that remains for Vocal Spectrum to win is the Barbershop Harmony Society’s Senior quartet contest for which they will not become eligible for at least three decades (no member of a competing Senior Quartet can be younger than 55 years old, and the aggregate age of the quartet must equal or exceed 240 years [average age 60 or greater]).

Meet Vocal Spectrum

Tim Waurick – tenor

A distinctive factor of the quartet is the Tim’s incredibly high note range, featured in many of the group's recordings and live shows. Music has been a big part of Tim’s life since the age of 4. He started singing barbershop music in 1993. In addition to singing sing tenor in Vocal Spectrum, Tim serves as the tenor section leader for the 2004, 2009 and 2012 International Chorus Champions, the Ambassadors Of Harmony. In May of 2007, Tim graduated from Lindenwood University with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education. Tim currently owns his own music production company, which specialises in creating learning tracks for choruses and quartets. Tim has produced nearly 1,000 recordings for groups throughout the world and has also released two a cappella solo albums which are available at his website: www.timtracks.com

Eric Dalbey – lead

Eric has been singing barbershop since 1999. Eric’s first barbershop experience was when a fellow member of his high school ensemble (Jonny) heard him sing, he walked right up to Eric and asked him to sing a barbershop tag. Once he found out that Eric could hold his part, they formed the first barbershop quartet at Westminster Christian Academy High School. Eric has sung in many quartets throughout his high school career and eventually joined Vocal Spectrum in 2003 while in college. Eric double majored in Vocal Performance and Biology from Lindenwood University. He graduated from Covenant Theological Seminary, where he completed his
Masters Degree in music and church worship. Eric currently professor at Missouri Baptist College, and he was also a finalist for Chanticleer auditions. Eric is married to Elizabeth and they are anticipating their first child in March 2015.

Chris Hallam – bass

Chris currently resides in a suburb of St. Louis with his lovely wife, Megan, and two daughters Abby and Zoey. Chris is an elementary school music teacher. His wife is also a teacher in the same district. He has been singing barbershop since 2003. A phone call from a fellow friend and classmate named, Jonny Moroni, was all it took to get him hooked on barbershop and has been doing it ever since. Chris sang in select ensembles throughout high school and continued to do so during his studies at Lindenwood University. Vocal Spectrum is the first and only quartet Chris has ever sung with. Outside of barbershop Chris enjoys spending time with his family, playing guitar and going to Disney World!

Jonny Moroni – baritone

Jonny was born in St. Louis, MO. He discovered barbershop through a local public access channel which piqued his curiosity. His next barbershop experience was attending the Ambassadors of Harmony Annual Christmas show in 1997 with his grandparents; and from that point on, Jonny was hooked, and since has gone on to win a total of 9 International Medals with the Ambassadors of Harmony. Jonny sang in a number of quartets throughout high school and into college, where he was once again reunited with Eric in what has now become Vocal Spectrum. Jonny is currently employed with YP Advertising and is married to his beautiful wife, Lexi…. who also happens to be a Sweet Adeline International Gold Medalist as well – singing baritone! Jonny and Lexi have 2 beautiful children.

Do yourself a favour and make sure you book time off work now – this is a quartet you won’t want to miss! Remember those dates – 16-20 September 2015.

You can also get a sneak preview at http://www.vocalspectrum.com/media/#video

I recently found an excellent resource for your Club’s Marketing Team, this is a comprehensive document and well worth printing and using as a reference tool. It comes to us from the BHS Mid Atlantic District...

Go to: http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/

Scroll down the page then “Open the Tool Box”... Print it, keep it and refer to it when you need some additional marketing input, and adapt the advice to your Club’s specific requirements...!

We’re going to start another membership Drive programme in a month or two, so if your Club wants to be a part of it, please let me know!!!

Guys, I hope this helps, and please remember, if your Club has a great new marketing initiative, or finds a particular method of promotion really works well for your Club, then please let me know, maybe all of us can benefit....!

If you want more information regarding any of the above, then please contact me anytime at: marketing@barbershop.org.au

Best wishes,

Keith

Keith Thornton - V.P. Marketing & Development
**Expressions of Interest by March 31**

Wanted! Twenty youth singers, 18 to 25 years, to join Southern Cross Youth Chorus to compete in the International Youth Chorus Festival in Reno Nevada in January 2016.

Southern Cross Youth Chorus will work with MD Jonathan Albertini. The first rehearsal is in Melbourne on the Wednesday of convention. Then in January 2016 a chorus retreat will be held in Sydney over the weekend Friday 22 to Sunday 24 at the Naamaroo Centre near Lane Cove before departing for the US.

In California, (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday), we are looking forward to high level coaching, along with recreational/tourist activities.

The chorus will arrive in Reno on Thursday afternoon and participate in the festival on Friday and other events on Saturday and depart Sunday morning. Each chorus will perform 3 songs during the festival (2 of which have to be contestable barbershop). We will also be expected to learn 3 mass chorus songs to be sung throughout the weekend.

The anticipated cost of transport & accommodation is $2500.

**Expressions of Interest are now being called from interested singers by 31 March. This is not a firm commitment. Firm commitments will be required by 30 September.**

Please forward your expression of interest to Trevor Rootes, youth@barbershop.org.au.

Please indicate:

Name:

Club:

Quartet:

Singing Part(s):

DOB:

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**BHA Youth Report**

Currently The Mellow Diners are undertaking school visits in both Melbourne and Sydney.

The visits are to introduce secondary students to the barbershop style, as well as attract schools to participate in the upcoming Big Barbershop Day Out events in both cities. The BBDOs events are both a model of cooperation between BHA and Sweet Adelines. Peter Waterworth in Melbourne, and Keith Thornton in Sydney, are the catalysts behind these events.

Big Barbershop Day Out events are also planned for Hobart and Adelaide later in the year.

Working with teachers is central to our new Youth Development Policy. In response to this policy initiative, the Tasmanian Region recently conducted a workshop with 12 participants. Alex Morris led the workshop. A similar workshop is planned for the Gold Coast in March. Jonathan Albertini and Charlotte Murray will lead this workshop.

**Trevor Rootes** Vice President Youth

**Eddie Martinez 2015**

http://eddiemartinezcoach.com/

A heads-up for all Choruses and Quartets who are interested in being coached by Eddie in 2015.

For the many of us who have previously experienced coaching by Eddie Martinez, and who would like to do so again, I will shortly be requesting Expressions of Interest for coaching with Eddie in 2015. On the off-chance that your group is left out of the email broadcast, please
feel free to let me know of your interest to david@farley.id.au

The broadcast email will set out approximated costs and when Eddie could be in your state. In order to reduce the workload for timetabling Eddie's movement around the Country, it would be helpful if one chorus in each state would volunteer to be the central point and timetable scheduler for that state.

NSW will be looked after by Hills Harmony and V.E. has already volunteered to look after W.A. Eddie’s tentative timetable will see him in Australia on Aug 12th 2015, or a little earlier if needed. Thank you.

David Farley Hills Harmony Chorus

On the Wednesday of Convention, the 2015 Young Singers In Harmony Festival will bring together young men and women from across Australia to enjoy the pleasures of “a cappella” and barbershop harmony singing.

They will be performing in the fabulous Deakin Edge Theatre in Federation Square.

The Festival extends an invitation to youth male, female, or mixed choruses of 12 or more singers, including the director, singing in the a cappella style. Choruses are invited to perform two songs in the barbershop style and one other a cappella piece.

The Festival also conducts a schools quartet/ensemble contest for male, female or mixed groups, comprising 4 or more singers. This category is open to boys and girls who are still attending a high or primary school. Again, students perform three songs, two in the barbershop style.

The Contest Rules for Young Singers In Harmony are at the BHA website under Standing Order 6A – Contest Rules for Young Singers in Harmony.

Trevor Rootes – Vice President – Youth

The role of BHA Merchandise and Librarian has now been transferred from Nerida White, who was located on the Central Coast of NSW, to Linda Vinall who is located in South Australia. All the current stock of merchandise and the library contents have now been transferred to Linda. All future contact regarding either the BHA Library or Merchandise should be directed to Linda.

Her contact details are as follows:
Linda Vinall
Home Phone: 08 8296 5632
Mobile Phone: 0412 195 110
Email: merchandise@barbershop.org.au librarian@barbershop.org.au

Linda is currently conducting a stocktake and will update the library listing on the BHA website shortly.

We still have plenty of "The Great Australian Song Books" for sale. If you would like to purchase more than two copies please email directly for postage costs.

There is an amnesty till Easter on any outstanding library loans - especially recent DVD’s of BHS chorus and quartet finals. Could members please have a look in their DVD collections and see if they have discs that are BHA property.

Mailing address for return stock is 21 James Street Darlington SA 5047.
The *Our Hearts in Harmony* concert organised by Central Region on St Valentine’s Day to showcase all of the male, female and mixed choruses and quartets in South Australia was a huge success. We received a great reception from the 300+ audience, many of whom were experiencing barbershop harmony for the first time.

We selected the Hopgood Theatre in the southern Adelaide suburb of Noarlunga, a quick 15 min drive from Adelaide on the new dual Southern Expressway. The theatre is well equipped and just the right size for our performance.

After months of organisation and preparation by the groups for their performance, it all came together on a hot St Valentine’s Night and the weather wasn’t the only thing that sizzled.

Performers in the first half introduced the audience to the theme of the night with the best love songs from their repertoire with our regional female champions Esprit Quartet leading the way with *You’ve Got a Friend in Me* and *When I Fall in Love*.

They were well supported by Fleurieu Harmony Chorus, 3 Tarts and a Diva, Onkaparinga Harmony Chorus, Adelaide Allsorts, Adelaide Sound Connection, Tenacity, pop up quartet Impromptu who did a great tag session with the audience, and our newest chorus in the region High Spirits Harmony directed by Matthew Lykos.

The second half of the show was performed by our BHA 2013 Open Silver Medallists The Festival Statesmen Chorus (pictured) and BHA Youth Silver medallist quartet Now in Stereo. These young men, under director Jonathan Bligh gained further distinction last year, winning the 2014 AUS-ACA Australian National A Cappella championship in Melbourne. We are indeed fortunate to have these men in SA and they won the hearts of everyone in the audience with their harmonies and presentation.

Thanks to the efforts of the performers the night was a resounding success both in audience participation and satisfaction, allowing the groups to distribute leaflets for recruitment and even boost the sales of their CDs.

The healthy profit made from the night will be used to support the choruses to grow and develop and to fund the activities of the region as it seeks to take our style of music to the younger generation of students with the BBDO on Friday March 27.

*Wayne Good*

*Secretary*

The early morning sun highlighted the side-shows and vintage cars parked along the narrow roadways criss-crossing the expansive Domain Gardens along Melbourne’s St Kilda Road. This was going to be another wonderful display and concert organized by the RACV to complement the annual Australia Day parade. But this is Melbourne. As the Melbournaires began to assemble on the outdoor stage, the sun disappeared only to be replaced by an ominous encroachment of light rain.

Now it is not in the Melbournaires psyche to refuse a performance to 200 sad-looking, empty plastic chairs, so, encouraged by a handful of loyal barbershop lovers and hoards of enthusiastic would-be converts huddled
together under the trees, the forty minute session, orchestrated by MD Ian Lushey, successfully outlasted the rain and brought obvious enjoyment to the growing crowd.

Several encores and some audience participation concluded this prestigious gig and paved the way for following acts.

As the Melbournaires dispersed, they were engulfed by the crowds of families out to enjoy another fantastic Australia Day. What a great day for cosmopolitan Melbourne.

Now it was time for some of us to go salivate over the 1964 Aston Martin DB5 on display, owned by Melbournaire Mike Bindon.

The Veneto Club in Bulleen was the venue for the Melbournaires Christmas party last year, a quite large establishment with wonderful facilities, and also a fitting environment to honour one of barbershops most notable and well loved personalities.

Tom Smiths’ interest in barbershop was aroused in 1995 following the AAMBS Canberra Convention, and he soon discovered and joined the Melbournaires Chorus. It wasn’t long before he became Vice President, and after a necessary change of Musical Directors and the resignation of the President of the chorus, Tom became Club President.

It was in this capacity that his administration skills came to the fore, and the club gained the right to host the 2001 Pan Pacific Convention. Despite the demolition of the twin towers in New York and Ansett Airlines going into receivership during this time, the convention was attended by over 1000 delegates. AAMBS President Mike Donnelly noted: “With his leadership, and the contributions of his fellow Melbourne barbershoppers, that convention became the benchmark for successful conventions; artistically, financially, and inspirationally.”

Recognition of Toms’ success and his managerial skills prompted AAMBS Council to ask him to stand for Council. This was duly accepted and Tom served on the council for 8 years with responsibilities for Marketing and Membership.

As Mike Donnelly commented, “Tom is the consummate barbershopper and always the gentleman.”

On the night of the Christmas party Tom Smith was made an honorary life member of the Melbournaires chorus.

We would like to wish all choruses a prosperous and successful 2015, and look forward to seeing you all in Melbourne for the 2015 convention.

Terry Phillips

No doubt your chorus like ours started 2015 with a bang. We have had great numbers at rehearsal and are embarking on a new program to have members sing in voice parts that are unfamiliar to them. The Music Team must be a lot braver than they appear because we had a Tenor transition to Bass! All fun aside, it will, we hope give greater depth to our sound and make the jobs of the Basses and Tenors a lot easier than it has been in the past.

On a completely different note. It comes to all choruses. The death of a well loved member. On Australia Day, our mate, Roger Oyston, Bass stalwart succumbed to cancer.
As he had been battling the disease for a few years he had all of his arrangements in place. He was that sort of a bloke. We were asked. No, I think it was more of a demand that we sing at his funeral. Twenty five of us drove out to the township of Crows Nest and joined many locals and a lot of his ex-Navy shipmates in farewelling Roger. We have it on good authority that Roger was dressed in his HAH outfit for his first performance at the Pearly Gates.

Paddy Boxall Secretary

“OK...so, a barbershop quartet singing to a lucky lady on Valentine’s Day is not unusual! It probably happens in many places around the world. But, when a Canadian barbershopper living in Santa Barbara California requests (via the internet) a greeting for his Aunt living 15,000 kms away across the Pacific, in Perth Western Australia, surely this is something special!

Michael Gaultois’ (who sings with the Pacific Sound Chorus in Santa Barbara) cyber space plea was ‘picked-up’ by the Westcoast Chordsmen in Perth.

The recipient, Kathy, was amazed when opening the door to the ‘suitably sequined ‘

Four Chordsmen and further amazed to hear them sing three barbershop polecats songs, just for her! In her words “the nicest surprise I have ever had!"

Kathy’s husband John was, of course, ‘in-on’ the surprise and he invited the Four Chordsmen to enjoy a coffee with the assembled family. More ‘barbershop’ conversation ensued, and the singers once again basked in the glory of this wonderful hobby and it's international fraternity.”

Ken Richens VP Administration

Our heartfelt congratulations go to our musical director, Jonathan Bligh- he has accepted a role at The Scots College in Sydney. As he takes on this exciting new role, he will continue his role as director with support from our assistant musical directors, Mitchell Bartel and Josh Belperio.

This year is already jam-packed with many exciting events, starting with the central region Our Hearts in Harmony concert. After so many performances interstate, it was wonderful to start the year in the company of our local barbershop and a cappella community.

Our next calendar date is a movie night, where we will be screening Pitch Perfect 2. Fund raised will help support our tour to Hobart, where we will perform at the Festival of Voices. Our appearance at the Festival was earned as a part of our win of the Vocal Australia's AUS-ACA A Cappella Competition last year. It will be exciting to represent barbershop at such a well-attended event and will be our dress rehearsal ready for Melbourne Convention!

So, as most of us do, we were looking at fundraising ideas. We decided to hold a raffle to be drawn at our annual concert. What would be an exciting and different first prize to get people to part with their hard earned cash? We came up with “An evening with Vocal Evolution".
This involved the preparation and service of a nine course degustation menu with wines for one lucky person and nine of their nearest and dearest in the comfort of their own home, with Vocal Evolution providing entertainment throughout the evening.

Now, a nine course degustation menu for ten people involves a considerable amount of time, planning, knowledge and skill. So we got someone else to do it. Our chorus president knows a chef and has experience in catering so they teamed up and looked after that side of things while the music director set the repertoire and planned what to sing where during the dinner.

The evening was a great success. The winner and his nine friends were amazed at both the food and the chorus performance and members got a meal and were given tasters of what the guests were enjoying.

We all had a great time and made a pretty penny too. Would we do it again? You bet!

Eamon Coughlan President

It is a time of great excitement as The Blenders prepare for the trip of a life time. We are off to sing in Carnegie Hall, New York. We have over 40 members making the trip, new members are coming on board as well as past members who have re-joined the chorus and are getting back into their favourite hobby with their mates. We will be appearing with contemporary a cappella music stars from the movie Pitch Perfect and about 400 other members of choruses from across the US and Canada.

The concert is being organised by Distinguished Concerts International New York. We have also been advised this week that after a video audition The Blenders have a solo spot in the concert which will also include coaching from modern a cappella ‘guru’ Deke Sharon.

On another note The Blenders President, Doug Goetz suffered a very serious accident before Christmas and is very lucky to still be with us. But as they say you can’t keep a good man down and Doug in his inimitable fashion came along and conducted the last two songs in his wheelchair at our last rehearsal. It was fantastic to see Doug on the mend.

Prior to The Blenders rehearsal on Monday nights we get the privilege of listening to a fantastic group of young blokes aka The Blenders Youth Chorus do their stuff. These guys seem to get better every week, growing members and learning new songs. They will be the chorus that will be under instruction at the
Directors workshop with Charlotte Murray and Jono Albertini on the 22nd February. There are still a couple of places available, but you will need to be quick if you want to participate in this event.

Ian Mackey Secretary

It is with deep sadness that The Blenders announce the passing of its inaugural President, Eric Lee, who passed away on the 10th February.

Eric answered the first advertisement to form a chorus on the Gold Coast and became the inaugural President of the Banana Blenders as they were then known. Eric ran an accounting practice on the Gold Coast and then a very successful palm nursery. His wife Val describes herself as the first Blenders 'groupie'. Such was Eric's love and respect for The Blenders that he and his wife Val travelled to Western Australia to support the chorus at the Perth Convention.

During Eric’s stay in hospital he was visited and sung to by many barbershoppers where many stories were shared.

Eric was farewelled on the Gold Coast on the 13th February. The funeral was a joyous occasion with many happy memories being shared. Current and past Blenders were present to make sure that Eric had a fitting farewell. The Blenders sang the Lord’s Prayer, The Irish Blessing and farewelled the cortage with Eric’s favourite song I’ll Fly Away.

Rest in peace Eric - always a Blender.

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.

Western Melbourne Mens Chorus
Ian Boyd

Canberra Harmony Club
Anthony Penny, David Chun, Peter Thomas

Gold Coast Barbershop Harmony Club Inc
Christopher Cao, Kevin Green, Jordan Underwood, Jim Jones, Errol Anderson, Gavin Lysaght

Riverland Ramblers
Riley Callan, Liam Holt

Vocal Evolution
Kyle De Wet

We look forward to meeting you and seeing you all on the risers at our next BHA Convention in Melbourne in 2015
The River City Clippers are urgently in need of a new Musical Director.

Cathie Neil has resigned as MD for The Clippers because of increasing work load in her job at All Hallows College.

Cathie has greatly improved the chorus during her 4 years with us and we will miss her sorely. With 30+ members committed to continuing improvement we are now poised for a new MD to further develop our skills.

Will anyone interested in this opportunity please send an email to our secretary ASAP.

Best regards,

Trevor Remphrey
President, Brisbane River City Clippers
Ph 3353 4556 Mobile 0433 110 505

Choralfest 2015 gives choral conductors the opportunity to work with conductors of international standing as well as Australia’s finest. You will hear some of Australia’s best choirs and experience a rich program of workshops with sessions focussed for Primary and Secondary Aged Choirs, Community Choirs as well as special interest areas (ie Sacred)

The Australian National Choral Association’s Choralfest 2015 will be held from 9 - 12 April 2015 at Wesley College, St Kilda Campus in Melbourne, Victoria.

Keynote Presenter
GRAMMY® Award winning conductor Jerry Blackstone is Director of Choirs and Chair of the Conducting Department at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance where he conducts the Chamber Choir, teaches conducting at the graduate level, and administers a choral program of eleven choirs.

Visit choralfest.org.au for more information on Interest Session Presenters, Performing Choirs, Australian Youth Sings Concert, Independent Composer Opportunities and to register - Early Bird registration closes March 2!

In the recent article in IH Edition 145 regarding the various Regions gearing up for the Melbourne Convention, the Sunshine Region was nominated as covering Queensland and NT.

This is incorrect. The Sunshine Region covers Queensland and Northern NSW

The Northern Territory is attached to the Central Region.

Key Presenters
- Carl Crossin (Director of the Elder Conservatorium of Music at the University of Adelaide),
- Lyn Williams OAM (Founder and director of the Sydney Children's Choir and Gondwana Choirs),
- Mark O'Leary (Founder and director of Young Voices of Melbourne),
- Dr Ron Morris (Speech Therapist, Audiologist and specialist Accent Method Breathing with singers)
The, just completed, Eastern Region Harmony College was well attended by more than eighty singers drawn from all seven NSW Choruses together with some of the young members of the new fledgling NSW Chorus, Vox Canvas. This Harmony College has been an annual event now since its inception in 1997.

The action packed weekend kicked off on Friday evening, after a friendly meet and greet over dinner, with a solid two hour session on the risers in front of our top flight faculty comprising, Gary Bolles, Alex Morris and Rob Sequeira along with Jen and Andrew Howson. The faculty were also brilliantly supported by the Feature Quartet, Mellow Diners. After an interesting warmup session, the delegates were set the challenge to learn, from scratch, two completely new songs. These songs were to be performed at the Saturday Night Showcase at the nearby Wangi Wangi Workers Club.

Needless to say, with the expert assistance of the Demonstration Quartet drawn from the faculty, and their collective persuasive talents, the challenge was enthusiastically taken up with spectacular results.

The highly informative training sessions were amply supplemented by great inter-chorus fellowship, enjoyable communal and tag singing throughout the weekend with sleep seeming to be lowest priority amongst most of the delegates. The highlight of the weekend would have to be the Saturday night showcase where the combined delegates, along with all choruses and quartets, were given the opportunity to show off their talents in front of an appreciative audience around 200 people. All in all, a fantastic weekend which was a credit to the organisers and had everyone clamouring to sign up again for next year.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>General Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri, 20 Feb</td>
<td>Eastern Region Harmony College 2015</td>
<td>Myuna Bay NSW</td>
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<td>Sat, 21 Feb</td>
<td>East Coast Coalition @ Wangi</td>
<td>Wangi Wangi NSW</td>
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<td>Fri, 27 Feb</td>
<td>BHA Council Face-to-Face meeting</td>
<td>Sydney NSW</td>
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<td>Mon, 2 Mar</td>
<td>'Real Men Sing' - starts! (SOUNDWAVES)</td>
<td>Central Coast Leagues Club, Gosford</td>
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<td>Mon, 2 Mar</td>
<td>Coaching with Mo Field (Vocal Evolution)</td>
<td>Nollamara Tennis Club</td>
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<td>Thu, 5 Mar</td>
<td>Special Open Night (SydneySiders Express)</td>
<td>St Anne's Anglican Centre - Ryde</td>
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<td>Sat, 7 Mar</td>
<td>Sweet Adelines' Western Australia Quartet Workshop 2015</td>
<td>Western Australia</td>
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<td>Sat, 14 Mar</td>
<td>Champagne and Roses Concert by Northern Beaches Chorus (SOUNDWAVES)</td>
<td>Glen St Theatre, Belrose NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, 28 Mar</td>
<td>Sweet Adelines' Victorian Quartet Workshops 2015</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, 28 Mar</td>
<td>Sweet Adelines' Queensland Quartet Workshop</td>
<td>Queensland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, 30 Mar</td>
<td>'Real Men Sing' - finishes! (SOUNDWAVES)</td>
<td>Central Coast Leagues Club, Gosford</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-12 April</td>
<td>Choralfest (<a href="http://choralfest.org.au">http://choralfest.org.au</a>)</td>
<td>Wesley College - Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, 16 Apr</td>
<td>SABS En Armonia Convention 2015</td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
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<td>Sat, 18 Apr</td>
<td>Victorian Region Convention</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
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<td>Sat, 2 May</td>
<td>Central Region Convention (Fleurieu Harmony Chorus)</td>
<td>The Corner Church 93 Oaklands Rd Warradale SA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, 2 May</td>
<td>Eastern Region Convention</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
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<td>Sat, 9 May</td>
<td>Western Region Convention</td>
<td>Perth WA</td>
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<td>15-17 May</td>
<td>Sweet Adelines’ Convention</td>
<td>Hobart Tas</td>
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<td>Fri, 29 May</td>
<td>Denmark Festival of Voice (Vocal Evolution)</td>
<td>Denmark, WA</td>
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<td>Sat, 13 Jun</td>
<td>Tasmanian Region Convention</td>
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<td>Sat, 13 Jun</td>
<td>Sunshine Region Convention 2015</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Sun, 28 Jun</td>
<td>BHS International Convention</td>
<td>Pittsburg, Pennsylvania USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 16 Sep</td>
<td>13th BHA National Convention - Harmony Goldrush</td>
<td>Melbourne Vic Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 20 Sep</td>
<td>2015 BHA Harmony College</td>
<td>Melbourne Vic Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 20 Sep</td>
<td>Harmony College (Melbournaires Harmony Chorus)</td>
<td>Campaspe Downs Country resort</td>
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<td>Sat, 5 Dec</td>
<td>Goodies Annual Christmas BBQ (SOUNDWAVES)</td>
<td>Fountaingale, NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 5 Oct 2016</td>
<td>NZABS 2016 Convention</td>
<td>Marlborough NZ</td>
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For more details on the above events click on this [LINK](#) to visit the interactive page on the BHA website.