Following a very successful concert on St Valentine’s Day at which all of the choruses and quartets (including mixed and female) in the Central Region performed, the region’s finances allowed us to proceed with the second event on its program for 2015.

The Barbershop Big Day Out for secondary students was held on Friday 27th March at St Peters College in Hackney, Adelaide. Over 100 students from 5 secondary schools attended, with a special mention to Loxton High School for their long day leaving at 5am and getting home at 9pm. The students had a great time, workshopping the songs they had been working on during the first term and finding out how the Barbershop harmony style works.
Thanks to the sponsorship of Sweet Adelines Australia, Jen Squires, SAI Regional Educational Faculty Member assisted with the girl’s program with great support from Tenacity, a female quartet from SA with Sarah Bradley, Engelina DeJong, Denise Boyland and Linda Vinall. The girl’s song this year was We Go Together from Grease which gave the girls plenty of scope to explore song presentation skills while having a lot of fun.

The boy’s faculty consisted of Matthew Lykos of Fishbowl Boys and Festival Statesmen fame with excellent support from BHA Youth Silver medallist, Now in Stereo consisting of Mitch Bartel, John Khammash, Ryan O’Dea and Sama Aghili who worked with the boys on Driving Me Crazy.

It was a real plus to have these two excellent quartets to demonstrate the barbershop style and we have some very enthused students who can’t wait to have another try. Follow up school visits are currently being discussed.

The day was full of fun and laughter as the students came to grips with this (for them) unfamiliar art form and teachers from the schools were very appreciative of the way in which the topics were presented during the day. Many thanks to our support crew – Yvonne Twining, Gordon and Val Tomlinson, Pam Good and Region Chairman Andrew Bradley.

Central Region is now busily planning its first two day mini-convention and contest on 2/3 May to give our talented choruses and quartets the chance to perform on the way to Sweet Adelines competitions and the BHA National Convention in September. We wish them every success!

Wayne Good – Secretary – Central Region

Youth is Our Future

As we head into our Regional contest season, I recall that in 2013 we had 10 Youth quartets who all qualified as part of the top 30 quartets for the Open contest. This year we have a similar number of Youth quartets, but not more.

Our Youth membership currently stands at 85, out of a total of 816 members (so 10.4%). That’s about what it was in 2013. So in two years we haven’t grown our Youth membership (or adult membership for that matter).

We need to encourage more Youth to join our organisation. Without them we will become an aging organisation and eventually die if we do not constantly refresh.

How can you help?

1. Support all of the Youth Development activities being run by your Region. These include Big Barbershop Days Out (BBDO), quartet visits to schools, and teacher professional development programs.

2. Volunteer to assist in the organisation of one of the above events (contact your Regional Chairman).

3. Start, or assist with, your Club’s current Youth Development initiatives that might include the above, and also might involve inviting a local school group to perform on your Clubs next show.

4. Attend the Youth contests to be held at the Melbourne Convention this year (on the Wednesday) – plan to arrive a day early. They’d love to be performing to a full house at the contest.

5. Make a donation to your Club or BHA ear-marked specifically to be used for the support of Youth development activities.
Youth takes the “big stage” in Pittsburgh this year, and we are proud to have two of our Youth quartets competing in the International Collegiate Quartet contest, Blindside (QLD) and The Grand Angus (WA). In addition, our Open quartet competitor will be Lockout from WA. We wish these quartets every success. You can watch a webcast of the International Contest by going to the BHS website, www.barbershop.org, and following the instructions.

At our annual Face to Face meeting the National Council decided to trial mixed harmony contests (quartet and ensemble/chorus) this year. This was due to the strong support for the concept shown by most respondents to my recent request for opinions. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the debate.

Eastern Region has a special treat coming up in May at their Regional contest weekend with guest artist, Musical Island Boys, the current International champion quartet, appearing. If you get a chance, drop in and catch the concert on Saturday 2 May. Further concerts featuring MIB are planned in Central and Western Regions later this year.

Sing-cerely,

Ian Mulholland  President

With understandable focus placed on musical training (of both MDs and choruses/ quartets), it’s easy to forget that clubs don’t just run themselves. As such, I am in the process of surveying club executive structures, with a view to then holding workshops to provide templates to clubs that choose to implement them, and helping clubs learn from each other.

The bottom line is, clubs choose how they run themselves but part of Council’s role is to provide best-practice options and help fast-track learning by sharing success stories and lessons learned. This will be based on existing BHS material, which is currently being reviewed and tailored to Australia. More announcements to come soon but these workshops will likely be regionally based, half-day sessions over the next few months. All part of Council’s efforts to help improve every aspect of barbershop.

Thursday 16 April, I recorded the first two episodes of "Bringing Back Barbershop" (working title), a regular barbershop segment on Brisbane radio 4MBS. It’s starting with half hour segments (probably fortnightly or weekly depending on logistics) on a niche program called Silver Memories: songs from the 20s to the 50s. Luckily there’s no shortage of popular songs from that time that have been arranged in the barbershop style!

While this show isn’t on the dial, there will be a live stream on the radio station web site and the station has agreed to make the podcast available, which I’ll post on the BHA web site. With an existing regular barbershop radio spot run by the Melbournaires’, this means there are now two regular radio spots in the country and we’d encourage you to see if this could work in your area.

Council is looking for a volunteer from the membership to manage the BHA Facebook site. This will include monitoring related sites, ensuring that there is at least one BHA post per week, and generally increasing the presence of BHA on facebook for the benefit of existing members, new members and the interested public. For a list of duties or to discuss please contact me. membership@barbershop.org.au.

Richard Reeve  VP Membership
Coaching with Justin Miller, and visits to rehearsals of Westminster Chorus and Masters of Harmony. These are just three of the highlights of the Southern Cross Youth Chorus visit to the US next January.

In January 2016, the Chorus meets for a residential coaching weekend in Sydney (Friday January 22 to Sunday 24 January led by Chorus MD, Jonathan Albertini. Then on Sunday, the Chorus travels to California for three days of coaching, performing and recreational activities.

In California, we will be staying near the rehearsal venue for Westminster Chorus and are looking forward to spending time with them. And theme parks etc. are nearby.

On Thursday, the Chorus travels to Reno Nevada to participate in the BHS Mid-Winter Convention. Southern Cross will be one of 20 youth choruses competing, singing three contest songs. And, of course, there are plenty of other chances for singing over the weekend including three massed songs.

For more information about the Youth Festival go to http://www.youthchorusfestival.com/

The anticipated cost of transport and accommodation is $2500.

Expressions of Interest are still being called. This is not a firm commitment, just a way of keeping you up to date with developments.

Please forward your expression of interest to BHA VP Youth Trevor at youth@bha.org.au

Please indicate:
Name:
Club:
Quartet:
Singing Part(s):
Mobile:

When you are planning for Melbourne, try and be there for the Young Singers In Harmony Festival on the Wednesday.

No doubt, we all agree that youth are the future of BHA. And of course, a great way to show this is by supporting the Wednesday Festival.

From 1.00pm, at Deakin Edge Theatre, youth and school contests. Then in the early evening, a Youth Concert to showcase the winners from the day, along with some special guests.

**Trevor Rootes – VP Youth**
Barbershop Harmony Australia is committed to the development of our musical leaders to continue to inspire and educate. In collaboration with Barbershop Harmony New Zealand, BHA has been able to secure an educational tour to 3 of our 6 regions by Don Campbell.

Don is currently Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, South Carolina and senior educator at the Barbershop Harmony Society’s Directors College at Harmony University each year. Don’s experience, skill and inspirational approach to education have him in high demand.

Joining Don on this tour is Jill Rodgers, currently Director of Education for BHNZ who will facilitate sessions for singers at each of the 3 workshops as well as join Don in working with our pool of very talented directors.

These workshops will provide our directors with the opportunity to refine their conducting, communication and teaching skills through classes and master classes. Singers will also be invited to attend these workshops to work with Jill on developing vocal and performance skills as well as forming a chorus for directors to work with throughout the workshop.

Times and venues are still being finalised but please add the appropriate dates into your calendar and watch this space for further information.

These workshops are not to be missed!

Sydney
Friday 6 June (evening) – Day 1
Saturday 7 June (all-day) – Day 2

Adelaide
Sunday 8 June (evening) – Day 1
Monday 9 June (all-day) – Day 2

Brisbane

Saturday 13 June – Sunshine Region Contest
Sunday 14 June (all-day) – ONE DAY ONLY

To register for these events, please contact Alex Morris, Music VP at music@barbershop.org.au.

The Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges provides panels to BHA regional contests and contests at a national level in both Australia and New Zealand each year. The AGBJ School was last held in August 2015 in Wellington where a number of developments to the judge training program were discussed. To better align itself with the BHS, a candidate school will now also be held the year following each AGBJ School. This candidate school will be an introduction to the judging program and an opportunity for candidates to develop their skills. Successful school attendees will become a Candidate member of the AGBJ for two years and may be invited to attend the next AGBJ School in 2017. Any Provisional Judges will be invited to attend this school in an effort to certify as a judge in their chosen category. Preference will be given to Provisional Judges, however, new candidates are welcome.

The New Zealand school will be held on Thursday 10 September in conjunction with the BHNZ National Contest. The Australian school
will be held on Monday 21 September in conjunction with the 2015 BHA Harmony College in Melbourne. Participants will receive a reduced rate for attendance at Harmony College. Some practical tasks will need to be completed prior to the schools.

The AGBJ is seeking expressions of interest anyone who thinks they might have what it takes to become a judge in the categories of Contest Administrator, Music, Presentation and Singing. Please contact Alex Morris, Chairman, AGBJ at music@barbershop.org.au for an application form or to find out more information!

Alex Morris VP Music

Welcome the beginning of our fourth decade of Barbershop Harmonising

That’s right, it’s thirty years since about thirty-five men, gathered from all over Perth metropolitan area, during January, February and March of 1985, in response to personal word-of-mouth invitations from friends, to come and join in the fun of this “new” style of unaccompanied harmony singing known as “barbershop”.

Under the leadership of Bruce Okely, we were producing an acceptable chorus sound in very quick time. Bruce was the visionary whose musical skill, enthusiasm and boundless energy, introduced barbershop singing to Australia as a national pastime and he surprised the group by featuring us in a free public concert at the Subiaco Arts facility, on Sunday April 14, 1985.

A committee met on Anzac Day afternoon, April 25, 1985, and quickly decided that barbershop singing was here to stay and confirmed Men in Harmony as the first ongoing male barbershop chorus formed in Australia. Concurrently, it was also decided to form a governing body to promote barbershop singing nationally in Australia, and the Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers also came into being.

As the saying goes, the rest is history – so much has happened since those exciting early days. Some choruses have disappeared others have adapted, survived, and take their place in today’s lineup alongside new clubs formed all over the country. And how about the growing...
number of young men adding their enthusiasm and fresh young voices to quartets and choruses in every state! Our modern BHA has well and truly earned a place as an affiliate of the world-wide barbershop singing family.

And the Men in Harmony chorus is preparing, like choruses and quartets around the country, for National Convention number 13, in Melbourne in September. Under Music Director, Adrian Gimpel, the chorus is enjoying working hard – as the veterans already know and new members learn, it’s a demanding time, but the satisfaction when it all comes together and the “boss” is smiling, takes some stacking!

Old timers are looking forward to catching up with Eastern State friends, first-timers are also anticipating a great experience mixing with the whole national crowd!

Singcerely,

Andy Aberle
Founding and Life Member BHA

Passing the baton
Richard Reeve, the three-time national gold medallist and Australian barbershop representative has returned to his home state after almost 15 years away and has been appointed musical director of the Brisbane River City Clippers chorus.

Richard takes over from Cathie Neil who is retiring after leading the group for four years. “Cathie is an experienced music teacher and choral director and has done great work with the group developing our fundamental singing skills,” Clippers president Trevor Remphrey said. “Now Richard’s come along, he’s a highly respected Barbershopper and judge, so can take us to the next level in this genre”.

“Barbershop is ‘music for the man in the street’, so while I have limited formal music training, it is a passion of mine and has presented me with so many amazing opportunities,” Richard said. “I’m thrilled and honoured to be taking on this role, and to have the opportunity to share what I have learnt. The guys are a delight to work with.”

Richard grew up in Queensland and went to school and university in Brisbane before moving interstate to pursue work and post-graduate study. Richard may not be able to read music, but that has not stopped him embracing a passion for barbershop that has seen him sing on a world stage.

He discovered barbershop singing in Sydney, before spending a decade with the three-time national champion chorus, Vocal Evolution, in Perth. It was during this time that he won three national quartet gold medals and represented Australia at international competitions in the US, singing in front of thousands of people.

The Clippers began in the early 1990’s as a quartet, but now have more than 30 members, and a national silver medal to their credit. They come from all works of life and all age groups and are currently working towards a performance on ANZAC Day and the annual state competition in June.

Howard Haddrell
David Spillane VP marketing
After a few months off following our success at the Pan-Pacific contest in Wellington, the Establishment Quartet has now kicked off on our preparations for Melbourne 2015.

Being a long-distance quartet, one of the challenges of being based so far apart is that we don't get to rehearse quite as frequently as we'd sometimes like to. This can mean that some of our bigger goals occasionally need to get pushed back due to our reduced rehearsal time. Because of this (and not, as some particular quartet members would have you believe, because our beards need further development...), we've decided that we won't be able to represent Australia at the International Convention in Pittsburgh this year.

This isn't a decision that we have taken lightly, but we felt that it was the right one to make. This will give us the preparation time we think is necessary to represent you, the members of BHA, to our full potential in Nashville in 2016.

We are looking forward to a busy six months ahead (and lots of Frequent Flyer points!) as we prepare for the National Convention in Melbourne in September. Along the way we have one of our first "quartet" judging assignments for the Central region. We are also visiting Hobart in May to perform at the Sweet Adelines Region 34 convention.

In the meantime, we still have some limited dates left available in our calendar, so if your chorus is planning a show or looking for coaching, get in touch!

See you all in Melbourne!

Cheers,

Dan, Anders, Drew and Dan

The Melbourne Convention is really starting to happen with all the many and varied elements needed to make a great Convention starting to come together. As a reminder, here is a summary of some of the information published in the last issue.

Information has now been published covering

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

If you have trouble locating this previously published material just remember this web address to access all the included details or to print another copy of the Convention 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 now set up the new, custom-built Convention Registration Website for use at this and future conventions. It has been fully tested and we believe the website software will give you an easy, secure and simple way to register for Conventions and for Harmony College.

The website is now populated with the necessary information that delegates will need as they make their way through the step-by-step registration process. **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

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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.

**Canberra**

Peter Enzerink
David Stewart

**Men in Harmony**

Clive Huxtable

**The Melbournaires**

Clive Metz
Joel Smith
Roger Adams
Ralph Dodson
Paul Goodear
Max Unwin

**The Gold Coast Barbershop Harmony Club**

William Crane
Glenn Getty
Ted Lewis
Geoff Edwards

**Western Melbourne Men’s Chorus**

Adrian Cloonan
Darrell Robinson

**Club-at-Large**

William Huxtable
Sharon Stewart
Jess Hendrix
Emily Edwards
Jen Squires

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>General Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu, 16 Apr</td>
<td><em>SABS En Armonia Convention 2015</em></td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
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<td>Sat, 18 Apr</td>
<td><em>Victorian Region Convention</em></td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, 20 Apr</td>
<td><em>Open Rehearsal (SOUNDWAVES)</em></td>
<td>Central Coast leagues Club in Gosford NSW</td>
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<td>Sun, 26 Apr</td>
<td><em>BHA Council Teleconference</em></td>
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<td>Sat, 2 May</td>
<td><em>Central Region Convention (Fleurieu Harmony Chorus)</em></td>
<td>The Corner Church 93 Oaklands Rd Warradale SA</td>
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<td>Sat, 2 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, 2 May</td>
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<td><em>Showcase of Champions - Eastern Region</em></td>
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<td>Australia wide</td>
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<td>Sun, 24 May</td>
<td><em>Inner Wheel Charity Concert (HighJacked)</em></td>
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<td>Fri, 29 May</td>
<td><em>Denmark Festival of Voice (Vocal Evolution)</em></td>
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<td><em>Milton Scarecrow Festival (SOUNDWAVES)</em></td>
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<td>Sat, 13 Jun</td>
<td><em>Tasmanian Region Convention</em></td>
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<td>Sat, 13 Jun</td>
<td><em>Sunshine Region Convention 2015</em></td>
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<td><em>Castle Towers Concert (Hills Harmony, HighJacked)</em></td>
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<td>Sun, 28 Jun</td>
<td><em>BHS International Convention</em></td>
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<td>Sun, 19 Jul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 23 Aug</td>
<td><em>BHA Council Teleconference</em></td>
<td>Australia wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 16 Sep</td>
<td><em>13th BHA National Convention - Harmony Goldrush</em></td>
<td>Melbourne Vic Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, 17 Sep</td>
<td><em>BHA Council Teleconference</em></td>
<td>Melbourne Vic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 20 Sep</td>
<td><em>2015 BHA Harmony College</em></td>
<td>Melbourne Vic Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 20 Sep</td>
<td><em>Harmony College (Melbournaires Harmony Chorus)</em></td>
<td>Campaspe Downs Country resort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 18 Oct</td>
<td><em>BHA Council Teleconference</em></td>
<td>Australia wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 22 Nov</td>
<td><em>BHA Council Teleconference</em></td>
<td>Australia Wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, 5 Dec</td>
<td><em>Goodies Annual Christmas BBQ (SOUNDWAVES)</em></td>
<td>Fountaingale, NSW</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.

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All enquiries to: The Secretary, Barbershop Harmony Australia  
16 Brentwood Avenue, Point Clare NSW 2250 Australia  
Phone: 02 4324 1977  
E-mail: secretary@barbershop.org.au  
Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers Inc trading as Barbershop Harmony Australia  
ABN 54 083 784 810  
An Affiliate of Barbershop Harmony Society  
Please send all your contributions for In Harmony to Richard Bushell editor@barbershop.org.au