Previously, under an informal understanding between BHA, BHNZ and Hawaii, PanPac Conventions have been run every 3 or 4 years since 1994 rotating between New Zealand, Hawaii and Australia. Hawaii has been a difficult location for Australians to get to, and Hawaii has struggled to get numbers to Australian PanPacs. Recently Hawaii indicated that they may be unable to meet their anticipated rotation for 2017.

BHA and BHNZ wish to continue to run PanPacs, and with Hawaii’s understanding, have entered into an MOU to operate future PanPacs.

The goals of PanPac Conventions are to:

- Foster and encourage barbershop singing, providing contest opportunities together with educational, social and recreational activities, including Harmony College/University.
- Provide contestants the opportunity to compete in a contest with more than one country.
- Provide the opportunity for BHA and BHNZ contestants to achieve International Qualification from their respective Association.

PanPac Conventions will alternate in future, between Australia and New Zealand, with participation from all countries bordering the Pacific and/or Australia invited (i.e. Japan, West Coast USA, Asia etc.). Each Association may run its own National contest (with associated medals and awards) within the combined PanPac contest.

The 2017 PanPac Convention will be held in Sydney, Australia, with subsequent locations to be agreed, typically three years in advance (the 2020 PanPac is likely to be held in Auckland, New Zealand). When agreed between BHA and BHNZ, a PanPac could be held outside of Australasia.

We look forward to continuing our barbershop brotherhood across the ditch!

Ian Mutholland  President
Your Busy Council

Over the last two months, since our face-to-face and goal setting meeting, your BHA National Council has been getting down to the various tasks that we set ourselves. Some of the most important outcomes that affect members are outlined below.

Music scholarships are available to both BHS Harmony University (up to $3,000 available) and BHA Harmony College (this year termed “Masterclasses” due to the shorter duration) (up to $500 available). Please contact our Music VP, Andrew Howson (music@barbershop.org.au) for an application form if you are interested.

We are also making available scholarships to assist with the re-training of BHA judges in the Presentation category to the new Performance category (to a maximum of $1,500), and funding of BHA Judges to attain International accreditation (to a maximum of $1,500) upon application to the Chairman of AGBJ, Alex Morris (contest@barbershop.org.au).

A special Youth Harmony College will be incorporated into the 2016 Convention Masterclass programme, with the second half to be run afterwards, utilising members of the National Education Faculty (NEF), subject to there being sufficient numbers. Youth Development VP, Trevor Rootes has more details (youth@barbershop.org.au).

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with BHNZ for the future running of PanPac Conventions (see separate news item).

Your Council has been trialling new technology to conduct its meetings to save the costs of across the monthly country teleconferences. We still have some way to go, but our goal is to save money for members.

A new policy manual (containing policies on membership, scholarships and subsidies and a number of other relevant issues) is being assembled. In due course, when completed, this will be a valuable resource for all members to consult on the website.

A review of our Regional structure is also underway to ensure that we are operating with maximum efficiency and non-duplication. At present the preliminary outline of this is being worked on by a subcommittee of Councillors, with Regional Chairmen to be involved in the next stage.

Training for Club Secretaries in using our website (especially for updating membership details) is available upon request. Please contact our Executive Assistant, Jeannie Hattendorf (admin@barbershop.org.au) if you would like this arranged.

A new Charter document for the continued operation of our Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges (AGBJ) (shared with BHNZ) is being drawn up by the Chairman of AGBJ, Alex Morris. This will ensure that our judging standards are maintained and improved into the future, and that our judges are utilised to full effect and efficiency.

Owing to recent changes in copyright law in the USA, some of our Clubs and quartets have been experiencing difficulties in securing song arrangements. After an extensive investigation, the Council has drawn up some guidelines that we hope will help. These are referred to elsewhere in this newsletter, and have been posted to the BHA website. Please note that while every effort has been taken to make these guidelines as complete as possible, BHA does not take any responsibility or accept any liability for them. If you are in doubt about a copyright issue, you should contact the relevant authority for advice. BHA does require all of its members, quartets and choruses to follow copyright laws.

Our Secretary, Kieran Hutton, is working on securing DGR status for BHA, which allows tax deductible gifts to be made to BHA, and allows us to more effectively raise funds for such things as Youth Development.

We continue to trial our Mixed Harmony contests in the same format as last year, with the intention of then putting the issue to a vote by members at the next AGM.

We eagerly look forward to our first Annual Convention in Newcastle this year, with the
PanPac Convention to follow in Sydney in 2017. The Council is currently calling for Expressions of Interest for Clubs or Regions to assist in hosting a Convention in their home town in either 2018 or 2019 (the Convention in 2020 will be the next PanPac in Auckland, NZ). If your Club or Region is interested, please contact our Events VP, Keith Thornton (events@barbershop.org.au).

So, you can see your Council is working very hard for members behind the scenes, and the above activities are just a snapshot of what is going on.

I will have the pleasure of attending both the Sunshine Region and Western Region contests this year, and I look forward to catching up with those members then. Otherwise, see you in Newcastle!

Sing-cerely,

Ian Mutholland President

Points to note:
- Early Bird registrations close on 31st May and the savings are substantial, so don’t leave it too late, get in early and save!
- Accommodation close to the venues will be in short supply, at the moment there is plenty available at all price points, so once again, don’t leave it too late.
- Quartet results and qualification levels will be finalised by mid-May, so you’ll still have time to access early bird registrations.
- Forefront is our visiting quartet, check out the website for more information on these four brilliant singers and listen to selected tracks.
- New this year, a series of Master Classes replacing Harmony College. A more compact format for the Sunday afternoon, evening and Monday morning.
- Pricing options apply this year, buy exactly the package you need for partners and friends, we’ve made it easier and less expensive, don’t miss out!

Now is the time to be making your plans for Newcastle, whether a Chorus or Quartet...

Regards,

Keith Thornton VP Events
events@barbershop.org.au

Obtaining the appropriate Copyright approvals for new songs has become a most vexing issue for many Choruses and Quartets. Gone are the days when we could just order what we wanted from BHS then just wait for the required number of copies to turn up in the mail.

After much discussion with BHS and copyright authorities, BHA have now updated the guidelines covering the process to obtain copyright approval by BHA members. These guidelines can be found by clicking the following link
The East Coast Harmony College was held again in February at the picturesque Myuna Bay Conference facility by the shores of Lake Macquarie on the NSW Central Coast.

This annual event attracted around 60 singers mostly from NSW Clubs but also several representatives from Queensland and Victoria.

The first class faculty was made up of Andrew and Jen Howson, Lea Baker, Jonathon Bligh and Rob Sequeira.

The interesting and enjoyable program was ably arranged by Jen Howson which kept us all engaged for the whole weekend. I am sure we are all now better singers as a result of the weekend.

The College ran from Friday evening until after lunch on the Sunday. The many highlights included the fantastic interaction and fellowship (and just a “little” communal singing complete with essential “lubrication”) between all the members of the nine choruses who attended and the great Saturday night show which was held at the nearby Wangi Wangi Workers Club and was attended by all delegates as well as a number of paying members of the public.

Congratulations and thanks must go to the host Chorus SOUNDWAVES and in particular Stuart Adey and his long suffering wife Beth who organised and provided virtually the entire catering for the whole weekend at an unbelievably low cost.

THANK YOU STUART AND BETH.

Planning is already underway for next year’s event and is eagerly looked forward to by all us Eastern Regionites.

Brian Bleakley – Chairman
Eastern Region

A new barbershop chorus has been formed at Wangi Workers Club. They sing Thursdays from 7pm and are tentatively called Southlakes Chorus. It has been operating now for four weeks and has 8 new members with singing interest attending.

The first night was attended by members of Soundwaves Gosford who have offered their support to the new guys. Gary Kirk and Stuart Adey are teaching polecats and new songs including Don't Blame Me from the Myuna Bay workshop.

Five of the new members attended the day activities on Saturday 27th February at Myuna.
Bay and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Stuart Adey

Valé – Laurie Russell
The death occurred in Perth last month of Laurie Russell, following a long illness. The funeral was attended by many lovers of singing and admirers of Laurie’s many skills – including John Christie, David Macgill and Bruce Okely.

Very few in the Australian barbershop movement would be aware that, had it not been for Laurie’s initial enthusiasm, there might not have been such a movement in Australia.

Laurie, as the founder and leader of a quartet called The Four Notes, was largely responsible for the fact that the quartet, and their wives, attended the 1984 Convention of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (Inc), held in St Louis, Missouri.

The Four Notes (from left): Laurie Russell, Bruce Okely, David Macgill, John Little

The other quartet members were John Little, David Macgill and Bruce Okely. When they returned to Perth the latter three, full of enthusiasm (and only a limited amount of knowledge of barbershop) set about forming firstly, a barbershop quartet, then a barbershop chorus, which led to a State barbershop association, which led to the National barbershop association – currently known as Barbershop Harmony Australia.

Laurie Russell chose to continue performing and teaching traditional and classical vocal performance. However he never lost interest in his old friends and the progress of the barbershop movement.

John Brigatti President

NOVATONES ENJOY AN INFORMAL NIGHT OUT

NOVATONES puts aside a rehearsal night whenever there are 5 Thursdays in a month, to do what can only be described as a pub crawl, down the main street of a Newcastle shopping precinct, Hamilton. We take a bucket, and harangue the patrons for their loose change, which goes towards the chorus’ expenses, but a proportion goes to Newcastle Ronald McDonald House – we have donated over $10,000 in the past 7 years or so.

After the latest venture, one of our very new members submitted his thoughts to us, and I thought it might be worth repeating for all the other choruses. I am sure the sentiments he shows are the same as you would find in your own chorus.

“I enjoyed my first 'Pub Crawl' with the NOVATONES Barbershop Harmony Chorus last night. We started at the Wickham Park Hotel Islington, where we gathered, warmed up and then then sang some old numbers for the patrons there, before walking as a group down the main street of Hamilton. We were well received and the crowds were generous in both donations and applause. Most popular songs that we did were "It was only a Paper Moon", "Barbara Ann", and "Happy Birthday" to a few who were out celebrating a birthday.

Tiring but fun to be out and get the 'feel' of singing in front of people who are not that critical and who just love some live entertainment. The vibe was good and had the group singing as we walked along the footpath, between pubs! The photos were taken at The
Exchange Hotel, where they had a convenient staircase on which we could gather to sing.”

We raised over $600 for our efforts, and we managed to score the odd free beer! May it long continue.

Rod Woodhouse

High Altitude Harmony

It’s official. We’re moving out of our rented home after about four years or so and relocating to the other side of town to the Toowoomba Philharmonic Society’s headquarters.

We have enjoyed our time at the Choral Society but, the new venue offers a bigger, kinder rehearsal venue, four good break-out rooms and enhanced storage for all the stuff that a chorus seems to accumulate without even trying.

This Anzac Day an ensemble from HAH will be leading the singing at the Toowoomba Dawn Service. Last year saw a crowd of at least 10,000 citizens attending, and it is anticipated that 2016 will be nearly as large. Rehearsals are going well and we will be joining the local Harlaxton RSL Brass Band next week to put the finishing touches on the repertoire.

Our much smaller chorus than usual (due to life commitments, etc) is busy rehearsing for Sunshine Regionals to be held on the Gold Coast over the Anzac Day weekend, plus we are working on a lot of new material.

We will be singing at the Cathedral Centre for Mothers Day. A gig we are really looking forward to. Plus, planning is well in hand for our Singing Restaurant in October. Keep an eye on our web-site for details soon.

Don’t forget. We can be followed on Facebook, or on our web-site haharmony.com.au

Paddy Boxall Secretary

Festival Statesmen Chorus

It feels like it hasn’t been that long since the start of the year and yet so much has happened for the Festival Statesmen. As we flagged in the December/January issue of In Harmony the first quarter of the year was mostly taken up with our very first show in the Adelaide Fringe Festival.

We’re incredibly happy to report that Festival Statesmen-Homecoming was a massive success and was more than we had ever hoped for. Half of our eight show run was a sell-out and we won a prestigious Fringe Award for being the audience favourite in a festival with more than 1200 acts! Many go their entire Fringe careers without seeing one so to win one in our first year in the festival was a huge honour.
This was especially meaningful for us considering how much of Homecoming was sourced from the talent pool of our members. Homecoming included two original compositions from chorus members, an original script by Mitre Khammash, and five arrangements sourced from within the chorus, so to have it recognised like this is incredibly meaningful.

Not content with resting on our laurels though, we’ve launched right into our next project. Given the success of Homecoming and the number of new arrangements included we’re excited to announce we’re back in the studio recording our second album! At the moment we have plans to include our album launch in the Umbrella: Winter City Sounds festival in a few months, so keep an eye out for more news on that.

With Central Region competitions just around the corner, a video clip for our single Get Back to be filmed very soon, and Newcastle looming on the horizon, this is looking to be one of our most jam-packed years yet, but we can’t wait to see what it brings.

James Moffatt Committee member

We have settled in to the challenges of 2016 with enthusiasm and purpose under the guidance of our new MD Peter Donald. We have increased our membership and our weekly rehearsals are eagerly anticipated as a joyful event.

So far this year we have provided entertainment for an anniversary at a retirement village and staged a concert in a local Shopping Centre for Seniors Week.

We also recently held our annual Bunning’s Fund-Raising Sausage Sizzle which is always a fun day and a great recruitment opportunity.

Sausage and a song anyone?

We have set an objective to perform at least 10 singouts this year, not including Christmas, and so far, with a number of invitations received recently, we believe this goal will be easily achieved.

We are now putting all our efforts into doing the best we can at the Eastern Region qualifying contest on the 7th May (including choreography for 60 year olds!), to assess our strengths and weaknesses for the main event in Newcastle in October.

Malcolm Woods
Do you love singing?
Do you love the sound of vocal harmony?
Do you love a cappella music?
Hey, so do we!

This was the catch phrase for our recent rather successful membership drive and is now front and centre on our web site.

In previous years we had pitched it as a “Learn to Sing Barbershop” programme. The problem with this is that it potentially discouraged people who were already able to sing and also meant we had some people show up who had no singing experience so hit a steep learning curve with basic singing techniques. As a result we missed out on picking up some more experienced singers and had to disappoint some keen but unskilled singers.

From twelve new faces that showed up for our "Sing In Harmony!" programme, we have so far welcomed four new members who successfully passed audition with a couple more in progress at the time of writing this. This is a great result compared to previous programmes and can be attributed to a number of changes we made to how we advertised and ran the programme this year.

First of all, we didn't mention barbershop! The rationale for this was that we didn't want an inaccurate understanding of what barbershop singing is to put people off before they even had a chance to hear us sing.

Secondly, we had a guitar at the rehearsals and sang non barbershop a cappella! This allowed us to ease new members into the pleasure of singing in harmony without the added rigour of ringing barbershop chords from the outset. The focus was on fun, fun, fun and new and old members had a great time with outbursts of hilarity as we kept it light and lively.

We’ll be bringing some of our new members to ER and look forward to seeing all of you there!

Peter Enzerink  Performance Coordinator

The Blenders are looking forward to hosting the Sunshine Region competition on the 23rd April. Planning has been under way for some time now to make sure everyone has a fantastic day regardless of whether they are singing or are there to support their chorus. We are looking forward to a great weekend of singing and comradery with all our barbershop friends, families and their friends.

The Blenders were asked to perform with the Brisbane City Salvation Army Band at their Brisbane City Temple on Easter Saturday. The MD of the band is none other than Tim Green (aka – Bass from Blindside). Tim set us the task of learning 3 songs in quick time to perform with the band. I am pleased to say that we rose to the task and enjoyed a large and very receptive audience. The highlight of the afternoon was, I believe, Sinner Saved by Grace, performed by The Blenders and backed by the amazing brass band. It involved solo and quartet performances with the chorus providing the support for the main choruses. It was spine tingling stuff. You know what I mean. We all experience it in barbershop.

Upcoming events for The Blenders include Voices in Paradise, which seems to get bigger and better every year. Registrations are rolling in so it should be a fantastic day for all involved. The day concludes with an evening concert where all the participants will get to strut their newly acquired skills to a very enthusiastic audience. Anyone interested can log onto the VIP website for information and registration.

One of the highlights of the year for The
Blenders is the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Tweed Heads. It is a very moving and emotional service for all of us and always helps us keep our feet on the ground when we remember the sacrifices made by so many all those years ago.

**Ian Mackey** Secretary

**Melbournaires**

**John Howell**

Apart from being a very hard working President, John Howell, has a somewhat glittering musical background, hence we are highlighting that career this month.

It seems that John did not take immediate advantage of his family background until much later. With a grandfather being a music teacher and the choir master / organist at Napier cathedral, an opera singing aunt, and both parents capable singers and musicians, he should have been a shoe-in for barbershop harmony.

It wasn't until much later, however, when he was in his early forties, that John was coerced into attending an Auckland City of Sails Chorus rehearsal in 1994. After that first ear-opening experience on the risers, he hasn't missed many chorus rehearsals since.

John became COSC VP Membership and subsequently President until 2005, during which year the chorus represented NZ for the first time in an International SPEBSQSA (now BHS) competition in Salt Lake City. It came a creditable 22nd under the inspirational musical direction of Jill Rogers.

That same year, (how he managed to find the time we'll never know), John married his Sweet Adeline Sharon, a match he says, made in barbershop heaven. As well as being Music Coach with the Sweet Adelines Melbourne Chorus, Sharon sings baritone with the Harmony Capers quartet, and John sings bass with the quartet Boardwalk. The tradition continues with youngest daughter Leanne, a professional singer in London.

John joined the Melbournaires in 2007 and as President, was a major mover in its hosting the 2015 Melbourne convention for which he was awarded Barbershopper of the Year. He has become a real asset to the chorus, and although his loyalty can be called into question whenever our two nations confront each other in the sporting arena, we hope this likable kiwi stays around for many years to come.

**Terry Phillips**

**Quartet News**

Coaching with Alex Morris

From the outside it may seem that things have been a little quiet for us lately.

We’ve been led to believe this since our lead’s mum sent a message to the quartet through our Facebook page asking what we’ve been up to, concerned we hadn’t been active on our social networking pipes.

It is funny how even though you’re chugging
along, learning new rep, getting coached, singing for marriage proposals in restaurants, but not posting on the socials, it can seem to everyone else that nothing is happening or maybe you’re not even a quartet anymore! But that is certainly not the case we can promise you!

Lockout is busy working on some special stuff for when we see you all in Newcastle.

Now, having said all that, you will still see us on the contest stage when we will be singing one set for a qualifying score, in an attempt to get us to the BHS International in Vegas 2017. You may also see Mark and Ash in a mixed quartet together, because how could either of those two ever be in only one quartet…?

We hope you all have a great time at the upcoming regional events, keep an eye on the judging panels for Ash (PRS) at Sunshine and Ali (SNG) at Eastern. Come say hi!

"Silver Fox"? How did we get that name? Well the little bit of hair we have left is silver and Barrie, our tenor, is as cunning as a fox.

What a journey it’s been. We have been singing together since 1999 and as a quartet since 2006. In that time we have been invited and stayed at 35 country towns. During droughts we have been able to bring cheer to a large number of people. Some towns we have visited, 2-3 times and we’ve been to Junee 7 times for their “Rhythm & Rail Festival in March. The country people like us and we love them. We don’t charge, they put us up for a few nights (with our wives) and we entertain the whole town.

We average 40 performances a year both in the city and the country. These include churches, shopping centres, hospitals, nursing homes, service clubs, schools, live theatre, local radio and television, Sky News at Darling Harbour, Correctional Centres, on trains, weddings and many other venues.

Are we any good?? Maybe not by competition standards but we have a big fan base because we entertain our audiences. We are a package deal …the quartet sings, Mal’s wife, Barb, is a story teller, and Mal recites his original poems. No matter how good you are people don’t really enjoy hearing ten barbershop songs in a row. They like variety; something in between songs.

Now, here is a “Silver Fox” challenge…… Is there, in Australia, any quartet who’ve been performing continually for over ten years? Are there any quartets that are older?

David Auld 82
Barrie Burns 80
Michael Collett 78
Mal Castledine 75
Total Years 315

In 2008 “silver Fox” received an award for their services to the rural community from MP Phillip Costa & MP Tony Kelly.

Our thoughts..... Sing for yourself, sing for your mates but more importantly....sing for the community.

Barrie and David are still members of The Penrith City Harmony. Mal and Barb are members of Glenbrook Community choir and all of us our respective church choirs.

It’s good to sing!

Michael Collett
Application forms to register members, quartets and clubs with BHA have undergone a makeover and are now available through the BHA website. If you have any of the older forms included on your Club website please delete them in favour of the new documents. Better still, just include the following links on your website to make sure you always have the latest form available without the need to upload new documents each time there is a change. Also, please check the BHA website for the latest information regarding membership fees.

**Membership Application Form**

**Membership Application Form - Club at Large**

**Quartet Registration Application Form**

**Club Registration Application Form**

Thankyou

**Jeannie Hattendorff**
BHA Council - Executive Assistant

**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.

- Praveen Saggurthi, Sydney Harmony
- Harry Harris, Sydney Harmony
- Hugo Wilesmith, Sydney Harmony
- Matt Harris, Sydney Harmony
- Jerry Harris, Sydney Harmony
- Ethan Acott, Vocal Evolution Inc
- Ryan Gonsalves, Vocal Evolution Inc
- Engelina de Jong, Adelaide Allsorts Harmony
- David Perry, Adelaide Allsorts Harmony
- Julie Tynan, Adelaide Allsorts Harmony
- John Neldner, South Central Harmony
- Alexander Stewart, South Central Harmony
- Rick Mason, South Central Harmony
- James Jennings, South Central Harmony
- Noel Richardson, Fleurieu Harmony
- Scott Phillip, Fleurieu Harmony
- Michael Colliver, Fleurieu Harmony
- Michael Sne, Gold Coast Harmony
- Simon Yellend, Gold Coast Harmony
- Daniel Pohlmann, Gold Coast Harmony
- Julie Donald, Club at Large
- Emma Donald, Club at Large
- Charlotte Donald, Club at Large
- Damian Jones, Brisbane River City Clippers
- Andi Alphonso, Brisbane River City Clippers
- Daniel Tomarchio, Western Melbourne
- Alexander Dang, Western Melbourne

**BARBERSHOP EVENTS**

Promote upcoming Events – If your Club uses HarmonySite for your Chorus website platform your upcoming events can automatically be listed on the events calendar of the BHA Website by checking the appropriate box in the event file in your website. If your Club does not use the HarmonySite platform send full details for inclusion in the BHA on the BHA Website to admin@barbershop.org.au

To view full and current list of events please click on the following link [Events LINK](http://www.barbershop.org.au/) or visit the BHA website at: [http://www.barbershop.org.au/](http://www.barbershop.org.au/) then Click on the Events Tab.

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