Inside this Issue

President’s Message 2
BHA AGM 2
Coming Events 2
2016 BHA Convention 3
Youth Development 3
Administration requests 4
CLUB NEWS 4
QUARTET NEWS 10
New BHA Members 10
Barbershop Events 11
A Successful Year

As we approach the end of the year please let me thank all members for their involvement in barbershop this year, whether you are one of our leaders (National or Regional Board member), Club leader, quartet singer or chorus singer. Without our members and our collective camaraderie and good will, we would not be a successful organisation.

I don’t know about you, but my chorus is flat out with Christmas sing-outs again this year. It’s a great way to raise much needed revenue for the Club, so I hope you are supporting the activities in your Club. We also often celebrate Christmas together with a party and a recognition of all of the contributors to our Club, so congratulations to those so recognised.

The year comes to a close after a very successful Convention Melbourne, and of course the recent AGM. All Motions were carried and advice has gone out to members. I congratulate my fellow Councillors on their re-election, Trevor Bruger, Dan Millgate and Keith Thornton. Please give them your continued support.

We look forward to great progress of our organisation next year, with our very first Annual Convention in Newcastle. Our headline quartet will be Forefront, and I am excited to have them visit us. From the reports I have received this is going to be another great Convention, with a beautiful venue in a beautiful city by the sea, with continued excellent barbershop and camaraderie.

Planning further ahead will see our next Pan Pac Convention in Sydney in 2017.

Have a joyous and wonderful holiday season.

Sing-cerely,

Ian Mutholland President

The following documents relating to this AGM can be found in the BHA Website under the Download/Minutes Etc tab.

To read these documents you can either click on the links below or go directly to the Website at www.barbershop.org.au

1. President’s report to the meeting
2. 2015 AGM Results
3. Secretary’s report to the meeting
4. Treasurer’s report
5. Financial report

Kieran Hutton Secretary, BHA

Dates for BHA’s Contests and Conventions have been locked in for next year. They are:

**Sunshine Region (QLD)**  
Friday 22 April - Sunday 24 April

**Central Region (South Australia/NT)**  
Friday 29 April - Sunday 1 May

**Victorian Region (VIC)**  
Friday 29 April - Sunday 1 May

**Eastern Region (NSW/ACT)**  
Friday 5 May - Sunday 8 May

**Tasmanian Region (TAS)**  
Friday 5 May - Sunday 8 May

**Western Region (WA)**  
Friday 13 May - Sunday 15 May

These events are fully inclusive of male, female and mixed groups, and are designed to allow barbershoppers lots of opportunity for competition, education and friendship.
Each event in your area will be run over two days to allow us time to get as much as possible out of our time together.

Of course, quartets will need to achieve a qualifying score at a regional event to be eligible to compete at the National Contest in Newcastle in September 2016.

The basic structure will be:

**Friday night**
master classes/other educational activities

**Saturday AM**
contests – including male, female and mixed groups

**Saturday PM**
critique sessions, coaching sessions

**Saturday night**
public concert and afterglow

**Sunday AM**
Mini-Harmony-College-style events

Make sure you sign up to be a part of BHA’s regional contests by keeping an eye on the BHA website [www.barbershop.org.au](http://www.barbershop.org.au) or drop an email to your Regional Chairman for more information.

The next BHA National Contest and Convention is being held in Newcastle, NSW, (see details in the following article)

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Just down the road, Newcastle’s newly refurbished Wests City Club (Formerly Panthers) will provide its auditorium for our Thursday night’s Welcome Dinner followed by the Chorus Contest on the Saturday and the Convention Showcase on Saturday evening. On Sunday, Wests City will host the Farewell lunch, BHA Forums and a series of special Master Classes run by our visiting International Quartet Forefront.

Take time out to visit Newcastle’s historic sites, the Hunter Valley Vineyards, the magnificent Hunter Valley Gardens, or perhaps visit one of the numerous top quality restaurants, maybe ballooning, at surfing at Newcastle's spectacular beaches.

Centrally located with good air services from Australia’s major cities and with reasonable top quality accommodation, this Convention won’t break your budget!

**Put the dates in your diary now!**

**Dan Millgate**
Vice President, Events
[events@barbershop.org.au](mailto:events@barbershop.org.au)

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**Harmony On The Hunter**
**Newcastle 28 September – 2 October 2016**

Your first BHA Annual Convention will be held in Newcastle next year. The beautiful Hunter Valley in NSW will welcome delegates to magnificent venues specifically presented to make our first Annual Convention very special. The Newcastle City Hall will be the venue for our Youth activities on Wednesday, registration, official welcome and rehearsals on Thursday then our Quartet Contests on the Friday.

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For 2016, BHA is encouraging every club and every region to step up the youth development program another notch.

**Every club has a chance to do something.**
It doesn’t have to be grand. Here are some straightforward ideas:

- Provide funds for some choral music for a local school choir.
- Present a music prize at your local
school.
- Sponsor an a cappella section at your local eisteddfod.

There can be no strings attached. The payoff is in getting the name of barbershop out into the community and building good will at the grass roots.

**How can we step up youth development at the regional level?**

Here is one example planned for 2016.

- In February, a teacher professional development session will be held to introduce teachers to directing a cappella and the barbershop songs for the Barbershop Big Day Out.
- Teachers have time to prepare their students before the BBDO in early May.
- An A Cappella Festival in July. It will include workshops, combined chorus, and a concert, bringing together the school groups and other youth a cappella groups.
- Perhaps one outcome is that the region may be able to involve some of the youth ensembles in the national convention in September.

**Also see the Youth Development Flyer on the last page of this Newsletter**

**Trevor Rootes**
VP Youth Development

**Administration Requests**

1) I really appreciate and thank those of you who remember to include your name and/or the name of your Club in the subject line of your emails – this makes it much easier to follow them up and to file them in the appropriate email file. Please can you all do this for me in future.

2) At the end of November we received a deposit into the BHA bank account which was made in Dural NSW with no note as to who it is from or what it is for. As a result I had to spend time emailing queries to two Clubs near Dural and to Eastern Region but unfortunately it wasn’t from any of them. If you made this deposit can you please let me have the relevant details so it can be allocated correctly. I don’t want to spend more time chasing it up and we want to allocate it to the right Club/Member to bring your/our records up to date.

3) On the BHA Website under Contacts you will find all the appropriate contact details for members of your National Council, Regional Boards, Youth Reps and Others (which includes Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Administration, Librarian and Merchandise rep.) It would be a great help to us all if you would send you enquiries/comments to the appropriate person rather than to the Secretary who then has to forward them on for you.

_Nerida White_
BHA Administration
admin@barbershop.org.au

**Club News**

It has been an eventful year for Hills Harmony.

- We performed in public thirteen times throughout the year (this is a lot for us)
- Had a large contingent attend the East Coast Harmony College in February
- We competed In the ER competition in May and the Melbourne Convention in September
- Our membership grew to thirty one members following the return of three past members
- Our long time MD, Ian Fraser resigned in June
- We gained a new MD, Peter Donald in October. Peter is settling in well with the
future for the Chorus looking good.

Congratulations go to our Barbershopper of the Year, Tony Vink who was awarded this honor at our annual Christmas gathering in December this year. Tony stepped up to the role of AMD in the months when we were without an MD helping us through a difficult time. He has since proven himself to be a wonderful new asset to our Club and to our new MD.

Special thanks must also go to our Vocal Coach Janet Fuller who coached us in the lead up to the Melbourne Convention and conducted us on stage during the competition.

Dick Bushell - President

Christmas is for the kids

At SydneySiders Express we do a lot of singouts through the year. But our favourite, by far, is our annual Christmas visit to The Children’s Hospital at Westmead. And last night, Thursday 10th, was it.

Here you see us squeezed into one of the nursing stations doing a few Christmas carols for patients, staff and families. We sing in the foyer, the wards and even on the hospital’s own TV channel. There are many stories around a big hospital like this. Some will bring a tear to the eye but there are plenty more which bring cheer and happiness.

At the close of our evening, we were happy to present a cheque to the Hospital’s Oncology Research Unit. We raise the funds from those singouts we do through the year. Year by year our contributions have built up to quite a tidy sum. Just three weeks ago, our President, Max Ward, proudly attended a special dinner and award ceremony for the Hospital’s Lifetime Partners; those organizations and individuals who have donated over $150,000.

As we well know, Barbershopping brings us many rewards but that was something special.

John Pettett

A memorable year came to a close with the hosting of the River City Clippers and friends variety concert. And what a concert it was with special guest appearance of BHA bronze medal quartet Catalyst, made up of Jonathon Bligh and Rob Sequeira from interstate, our MD Richard Reeve, and David Reid from Sound Connection. Also local gals Betty and the Betties were a great hit, giving their harmonies and sweet style, making this a concert not to forget.

The annual event showcases the clippers and becomes our focus after competing at local and national level. Special thanks to new MD Richard Reeve who joined us in March, VP Music Laurie Vogler, Merv Harcourt and the concert committee, Laurel Connolly and her team who provided supporting roles to make the concert a great success.
The New Year is an exciting one and our evolving journey will include coaching from Mo Field in January, and local gurus Jonathon Bligh, and Rob Sequeira a number of times through the year.

Recruitment initiatives through Mates for Mates and Brisbane City Council come and try events will add to our efforts to build our chorus. Other initiatives include learn to sing programme in February a singing camp in July and of course participation in Regional and National conventions.

We wish everybody a happy charismas and a happy new year and see many of you in Newcastle!

David Spillane VP marketing

The last few years have been tough going for the Miner Chords but we have managed to finish off 2015 hoping that we have turned the corner.

The highlight of the year without a doubt was the hosting of our Barbershop for Blokes Concert in aid of the Prostate Cancer Foundation. With the generous support of Benchmark, Blindside, Brisbane River City Clippers and Sound Connection we put on a concert of excellence with all patrons absolutely amazed at the standard or all performances including our own. They assured us that they want to know about the next one planned for November 19 next year.

Though, not as well patronized as we had hoped, given that we only had five weeks to bring it all together, we are very happy with the result.

We have already had some contact from perspective new members and are hopeful that we can increase our membership while retaining all our very resilient current members. We wish all our brother choruses a safe happy and prosperous festive season.

Howard Kennedy

Sound Connection has topped off an extremely rewarding 2015 in style. In one very busy weekend the chorus managed to win the BreaKaLeg talent quest (run each year by the Gold Coast Theatre Alliance) on the Saturday and then team up with our sisters in Vocalescence to host our Christmas show on the Sunday. Perhaps the most rewarding part of the whole weekend was performing to a full house at our new home, Helensvale Cultural Centre.

Rehearsals have finished for 2015 and we now head into the new year after a series of
community Christmas gigs and a well-earned rest. Our entire chorus family wishes everyone associated with BHA a very Merry Christmas and we hope the new year brings you many more opportunities to discover yourself through music.

David Reid

Penrith Harmony’s Punishing Schedule!

It has been a very hectic few months for Penrith Harmony since the Melbourne Convention. In recent weeks, because of Christmas engagements, we have been doing up to four sing-outs a week including our regular Monday evening practice.

We have performed at the Leura Garden Festival, a regular event for us, the Big W Disability Shoppers Night sponsored by Rotary, then Thursday night and Saturday morning performances for the Homemakers Shopping Centre at Penrith, as well as four Saturday evenings at Penrith Panthers in the foyer where we had an audience of hundreds each performance. In truth, most were just passing by on their way to dinner, a show or the pokies, but it was great exposure nevertheless and a great sponsorship opportunity from the region’s largest entertainment centre. Credit to two of our members Richard Wadick and Richard Barakat, for achieving this Panthers association.

Still, our performance climax came with our Christmas in Harmony concert. This also was our way to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our chorus. Life member Peter Fragar has been here from the start, and David Auld, Richard Wadick, Barrie Burns and John Livingstone were members last century! The big Christmas Concert was our way to celebrate the past as well as the future by inviting our “sister chorus” Riverland Harmony, a chorus of about forty ladies, to share top billing with us. It also gave us the opportunity to present the visiting youth chorus Vox Canvas, led by Rod Sequeira and Ricky Allan, to sing on stage, as well as quartets such as Silver Fox, Mismatch, Top Deck, Forty Shades of Grey, and the duo Tailgate. Many of these singers were from the ranks of Penrith Harmony, and for some, notably Phil Powell and Graeme Lees, it was their first quartet exposure.

Although it turned out to be a long night, the concert attracted an audience of about 130, and most stayed till the end! Credit goes to all those involved in the organisation, especially to Richard Barakat and Ricky Allan who had the energy, drive and expertise to create a professional production.

Paul Ryan - Secretary

We're currently in the middle of a very busy period singing Christmas carols in and around the city of Perth. Christmas shoppers are always friendly and it's nice to get smiles and thumbs up from passers-by, many of whom stop to watch and listen.

Silent Night and O Holy Night are perennial favourites with audiences though the more upbeat carols (Jingle Bell Rock, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Christmas is Coming, and others) also go over a treat. This is not to forget Joy to the World and the several other carols in our repertoire. We enjoy singing them all.

Carol singing is always a fun time and a great way to end off the year. Apart from the singing itself, getting together for the carolling provides us with opportunities to socialise and get to know one another even better (often over a follow-up cuppa at the nearest café).
All at Men in Harmony extend our fellow barbershoppers warm wishes for a happy and safe Christmas/New Year leading into an enjoyable and successful 2016.

Ron Shaw

2015 – what a great and very busy year for The Blenders. It kicked off with the trip to New York to sing at Carnegie Hall, an experience that none of us will forget. Following that we participated in two ANZAC Day services. In May we held our third Voices in Paradise for youth with over 170 participants; closely followed by the regional competition, annual camp and the Story Bridge 75th Anniversary celebrations. This was followed by the fantastic Melbourne Convention where we shared the risers with 31 of our new members competing for the first time, achieving our highest score ever.

Recently we performed at the Griffith University School of Anatomy memorial service for people who had donated their body to science – a very moving event. Voices in Paradise Christmas.

Following this the registrants got to sing with the Blenders at an evening concert and then the following evening at the Movie World’s Community carols to 5000 people. All this coupled with Citizenship ceremonies, Steve Irwin Day at Australia Zoo, and to top off the year – carolling in the streets of the Gold Coast made for a very busy year. In the middle of all this we moved from our long time rehearsal venue to our new home at Griffith University. We are now looking forward to a well-earned break for a few weeks – but you guessed it, there are songs to be learnt over the break so that we hit the ground running in the New Year.

From all at the Blenders we would like to wish all our fellow Barbershoppers, and their families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2016 to be enjoyed with lots of singing.

Merry Christmas

Ian Mackey Secretary

What a way to cap off a great year! The last weeks of 2015 were a busy, productive time for the chorus – jam-packed with memorable performances, musical challenges and (of course) loads of fun.

The pinnacle of our performance year was the “Holiday Voices @ the Independent” shows on 5th December. For these two performances at Sydney's historic Independent Theatre we were joined by some great barbershop friends - the ladies of Circular Keys Chorus, the 2015 Sweet Adelines Australia Silver medallist quartet, Alouette and our very special guests, the 2015 BHA Youth champion and 2015 BHS International Collegiate Bronze medallist quartet, Blindside. The concerts were extremely well received by our audiences and were such a blast for all involved. A highlight of the shows and a real thrill for us was the performance of the mixed chorus, made up of the combined voices of Circular Keys and Sydney Harmony. We prepared four new challenging songs to perform together, ranging from 4 to 8-part arrangements. The hauntingly beautiful tribute to Martin Luther King Jr, “MLK” - with a solo by one of our newer members, Harry Harris - had us in tears during rehearsal and in performance, left the audience spellbound.

On a slightly sad note, we bid a fond farewell to long time member extraordinaire, Bob Fritz, who is retiring from singing with the chorus and moving up the coast with his wife Sue. He was
inducted as a chorus Life Member at our final rehearsal for the year.

Our Annual Dinner & Awards Night gave us the opportunity to acknowledge members of the team who helped make this another successful year for the chorus. The VIP (Vocally Improved Performer) award went to our youngest member, 14 year-old Lead and front-row star, Liam Dwyer. The 2015 “Steve Ferrick Barbershopper of the Year” award went to our ever-deserving outgoing President, David Ojerholm. We’d especially like to publicly thank our inspirational and hard-working MD, Vicki Dwyer, for all she has done for us again this year. Bring on 2016!

Tony Sykes VP Music

This year has seen the Statesmen tackle one of our most challenging years of operation since our inception. This year Jonathan Bligh, our director, took up a position at Scots College in Sydney, returning periodically and for major tours such as this year’s convention. This created major opportunities for growth and leadership from within the chorus under his remote direction.

Headed by our two assistant directors Mitchell Bartel and Josh Belperio, the directorial responsibilities for the chorus were split amongst a highly talented team who individually took responsibility for areas such as presentation, conducting, vocal coaching, and rehearsal direction. This could only have worked because of the talent and effort of the entire music team who deserve our utmost gratitude.

During this time we toured to the Festival of Voices, premiered two original pieces, and released a single, Get Back, with an international label which was also chosen for inclusion in Vocal Australia’s recently released Get Vocal! 2015 compilation album.

Despite the organisational shake-up, we refused to play it safe and took big risks with our sets at Harmony Goldrush Convention this year, fielding an original composition in the youth competition, singing a ballad without a director out the front, and performing an uptune with major choreographic involvement throughout the whole chorus. These choices, while risky, paid off grandly with our chorus taking the silver medal in the open chorus competition, an achievement we’re immensely proud of and eager to capitalise on into the future.

We’re incredibly excited to welcome Jonathan home as he resumes full-time direction of the chorus leading into our first ever show in the Adelaide Fringe Festival titled Festival Statesmen: Homecoming, along with many other exciting projects. We hope to see you there!

James Moffatt – Committee member

On 5 December the Canberra Chordsmen raised the metaphorical curtain at their first ever Christmas concert.

Wind back to September. The Chordsmen return glowing from Convention with their 7th place finish and the Most Improved chorus award – a result of two years of inspired work and chorus growth. However, our momentum had abruptly slowed down and we needed a new carrot to dangle in front of the men. The solution? Staging our biggest ever show (and first ever Christmas concert)!

The men quickly got on board and agreed that we would make our ‘Very Merry Concert’ a special event. The Wesley Uniting Church was selected for its great acoustics as the venue, and the music team got to work selecting a crowd-pleasing smorgasbord of barbershop and traditional carols for the programme. Two quartets within the chorus – The Crunch and The Corduroys – would feature in the concert.

The concert was advertised in print, social media and the club website in the weeks leading up to the big day. A scratch quartet rang some chords on local radio to promote the event.

The Chordsmen were thrilled to sing for an enthusiastic audience (just shy of 200 people packed into the seats). MCs ensured the smooth flow of the concert while family members handled ticket sales and the sumptuous afternoon tea. Concert stand-outs included Do You Hear The People Sing (directed by Geordie Cullen), the theatrical opener for the second half; Silent Night (directed by Ben
Jongsma) featuring The Crunch quartet singing the first verse; the Corduroys quartet invoking some Billy Joel (For The Longest Time); and the finale: the chorus hamming up We Wish You A Merry Christmas with MD Dan Bennett facing the audience pretending to be oblivious.

The Chordsmen are very encouraged by the success of the concert and look forward to continuing the success of 2015 into next year and beyond.

The Crunch Quartet performing a guest spot to a packed house during the Canberra Chordsmen’s very Merry Concert

Dan Bennett Musical Director

Benchmark recently visited NSW and sang in the Opera House!!!.

The joke is that it was the Gulgong Opera House - established in 1872 and the second-oldest still-working venue in Australia. We did that early in the morning after being the entertainment at the annual Gulgong Business Awards (our second time doing that, and our 3rd visit to the Gulgong RSL).

Gulgong’s Prince of Wales Opera House
Gulgong was famous as the "Ten Dollar Town" - it was pictured on the original $10 note. We stayed in the Ten Dollar Town Motel (nice - they also won the Best Business" award this year)

Paul Roussell

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.

Central Coast Barbership Chorus
Phil Clements

Adelaide Allsorts
Dr Junia Vaz de Melo

High Altitude Harmony
Joe Guiso

Gold Coast Barbershop Harmony
Bob Cleversley
Jono Parker
Peter Rowland

Vocal Evolution
Adrian Chia

Westcoast Barbershop Harmony Club
Raymond Clee

We look forward to meeting you and seeing you all on the risers sometime soon.

Gulgong’s Prince of Wales Opera House
Gulgong was famous as the "Ten Dollar Town" - it was pictured on the original $10 note. We stayed in the Ten Dollar Town Motel (nice - they also won the Best Business" award this year)

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Westcoast Barbershop Harmony Club
Raymond Clee

We look forward to meeting you and seeing you all on the risers sometime soon.
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

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.

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

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FLYER

Our youth development policy is built on the foundation that music educators are our best allies in introducing barbershop to young people.

To support you in approaching music educators we now have a flyer outlining the support we can offer.

It provides brief details of:
- Quartet visits to schools
- Professional Learning
- Big Barbershop Day Out/Voices In Paradise
- Resources for Music Educators
- Resources for Choral directors

Take a look. It is a very useful document at both club and regional level.

All enquiries to: The Secretary, Barbershop Harmony Australia
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An Affiliate of Barbershop Harmony Society

Please send all your contributions for In Harmony to Richard Bushell editor@barbershop.org.au