Planning and arrangements for your first Annual BHA Convention are now well advanced. All Venues have been secured, the program has been finalised with our feature quartet, Forefront, booked. The Annual face-to-face meeting of the BHA Council was also recently held in Newcastle to give the Executive members the opportunity to view, first hand, all the venues and facilities to be used later this year for this Convention.

From Wednesday 28 September to Sunday 2 October 2016, the 14th National Convention will be held in Newcastle NSW. The competition venues will be the wonderful Newcastle City Town Hall and the newly
The renovated auditorium of Wests City Club both located in the heart of downtown Newcastle. The catered events will also be held in the Wests City Club Auditorium.

**WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?**

- **✓ Wednesday evening:** The John Little Show will be staged in the banquet room of the Newcastle City Hall. This informal event, has become very popular since its launch at the Perth Convention in 2013. It gives all competing Quartets the opportunity to perform in front of their peers in a non-competitive environment.

- **✓ Thursday afternoon:** Chorus Corral which is another initiative from the Perth Convention where all choruses get the opportunity to entertain their peers in a non-competitive environment.

- **✓ A Welcome Dinner and Farewell Lunch at Wests City Club Auditorium.**

- **✓ Competing against Quartets and Choruses from all around Australia in first class venues.**

- **✓ Being part of a massed barbershop sing in the heart of Newcastle in Wheeler Place.**

**INFORMATION FOR CHORUSES**

Each Chorus is asked to appoint a Chorus Convention Coordinator. This person will keep their Chorus up to date with the Convention and will communicate with the Convention Committee over the next few months. We’ll be in touch shortly.

**GUEST INTERNATIONAL QUARTET - FOREFRONT**

Forefront Quartet formed in August of 2009. Since then, they were named the 2010 and 2013 Cardinal District Quartet of the Year and won the 2010 Cardinal District Quartet Championship. The quartet has also enjoyed success at international barbershop competitions earning a 5th place bronze medal in 2013 and 2nd place silver medals in 2014 and 2015. Who knows, 2016 could be their year! As one of the Barbershop Harmony Society's most sought-after quartets, they pride themselves in providing their audiences with great music, artistry, and performance energy! Visit their website @ http://forefrontquartet.weebly.com/
CONVENTION WEBSITE and REGISTRATION

FIRST TIME IN NEWCASTLE
Newcastle was initially established in 1804 as a place of secondary punishment for unruly convicts. Things have come a long way since those days. It has emerged from its grim colonial beginnings to become a large and modern city comprising around 430,000 people making it the largest city in NSW outside of Sydney and the 7th largest city in Australia. It has a huge array of restaurants and historic sites with the Hunter Valley wine region just a short drive away. Undoubtedly a great place to visit and an even better place to stage our 14th National Convention.

YOUTH COMPETITION AND EDUCATION SESSIONS
Wednesday will focus on the Youth Contest with the Schools and Youth during the day set in the Magnificent Newcastle City Hall.

HARMONY MASTER CLASSES
This Convention will feature, for the first time, a series of Master Classes immediately following the Convention. Classes will be run on Sunday afternoon immediately following the conclusion of the Convention and will continue through the Monday concluding around 12 noon. The venue will be the Newcastle City Hall which is one of the venues used during the Conference. It is hoped this new format will bring the fantastic array of coaching talent assembled for the Convention within reach to a larger number of Conference Delegates without the need to commit to a Retreat style Harmony College as at past Conventions. You need only retain your conference accommodation for one additional day to be able to participate, and at a much lower cost.

HUNTER HARMONY CHORUS
We will be offering delegates an opportunity to sing in a Combined Hunter Harmony Chorus. The chorus is open to all delegates not already competing in the Chorus Contest. Music will be distributed to those who register for the Hunter Harmony Chorus and the Chorus will hold several rehearsals, plus perform several times during the Convention. Gold Medallists, Sound Connection will be part of the Hunter Harmony Chorus and the HH Chorus will be directed by Andrew Howson.

MORE INFORMATION
Over the coming months information will be added to our website [www.barbershopconvention.com.au](http://www.barbershopconvention.com.au)
Your National Council had its annual face to face meeting last weekend in Newcastle. We picked that location so that we could inspect the venues selected for our next National Convention, our first annual event.

The convention venues are great. Newcastle Town Hall is a lovely old building, built when Newcastle was a very affluent industrial city (not to say that it’s not affluent now), and the acoustics in the concert hall are spectacular. There are lots of rehearsal and warm-up rooms and the venue has a lovely feel. We will also be using the auditorium in the West Panthers Club (seating up to 1,600), and this venue is currently undergoing some renovations and re-vamping. We will be amongst the first users of the new state of the art facilities.

Your Council took the opportunity to critically review the structure of the Council and who was in each role. As a result I am pleased to announce some changes.

After serving for 5 years on the National Council, Richard Reeve decided to relinquish his role as VP Membership due to other commitments (including becoming MD of the Brisbane River City Clippers). Richard’s resignation left a casual vacancy on the Council which has been filled until the next Council election by Paul Adams from Hobart. Paul has a strong background in human resources consulting and management.
Alex Morris has stepped aside as VP Music, a casual vacancy now being filled by Andrew Howson, again until the next Council election. Most members will know Andrew as the MD of our current champion chorus, Sound Connection, as well as being an accomplished and past champion quartet singer. Alex’s skills are not lost to the Council however, as Chairman of our Judges Guild Alex has been asked to continue serving in an ex-officio capacity as VP Contest & Judging.

Finally, two of our Councillors have effectively swapped roles (technically they resigned and then were re-appointed to the casual vacancies), with Keith Thornton moving from VP Marketing to VP Events due to his heavy involvement in the organisation of the 2016 and 2017 Conventions in Newcastle and Sydney respectively.

Dan Millgate has agreed to step into the VP Marketing role and is excited about the scope that our annual conventions now offer in terms of marketing our barbershop brand both internally and externally.

I welcome all Councillors to their new roles and sincerely thank Richard for his tremendous contribution to Council over the 5 years that he served. This included the inauguration of Membership Longevity Certificates and badges, Club of the Year and Club Member of the Year awards and recognition, and the recent Club Officer Training Seminars (COTS) for Club leadership teams.

I also thank Alex for his contribution in the VP Music role and look forward to his continued contribution in the Contest & Judging portfolio.

We also reviewed the job description of the Administration Officer, and have re-written that to now be called Executive Assistant to Council. After serving members for 11 years, Nerida White has stepped down from the role, and I am pleased to welcome Jeannie Hattendorf as our new primary point of contact for administrative enquiries. Jeannie’s email address will continue to be admin@barbershop.org.au.

The National Council would like to sincerely thank Nerida for the incredible service she has provided to members over the past 11 years. Nerida was certainly the “go-to” person for Clubs with regard to membership enquiries, and the “face” of BHA/AAMBS for so many years. She also edited our newsletter for many years, provided invaluable assistance to our Secretary of 10 years, Kevin White, and successfully managed the transition of our membership database from the old Access based system to the new system under Harmonysite.

We do encourage Clubs to take up the Harmonysite website application, because it will make your life a lot easier in maintaining your Club records. The other advantage is that your membership and events data are fed straight into the BHA data saving your Club Secretary double entry of this data. Contact Mark Virtue at mark@virtualcreations.com.au.

We also took the opportunity over the weekend to review and refresh the goals of the National Council over the next year and beyond. Each portfolio now has a new list of goals and targets that each Councillor will strive to achieve. The intent is that these will enable our organisation to grow, become sustainable and allow our members enhanced enjoyment of their barbershop hobby.

The meetings were intense, and over the weekend some 20 hours of work were put in by each Councillor. The list of goals is too long to detail here, but to summarise the key points are:

**Music**: Creation of national education faculty, scholarships to attend BHS Harmony University and BHA Harmony College, identification of talented musicians to contribute to the musical growth and depth of BHA.

**Membership**: Continue running Club Leadership workshops, review and analyse membership trends.

**Events**: Successful Newcastle (2016) and Sydney (2017) Conventions.

**Youth**: Support regions and their clubs to develop individual youth development plans.

**Marketing**: Successfully market and develop the BHA “brand”, internally and externally, develop Media Kit for use by Clubs, assist Clubs in identifying sources of grant funding.

**Contest & Judging**: Plan judge selection and training, provide cost-efficient judging services to regional contests/workshops.

**Secretary**: Provide an efficient and speedy answering service to member enquiries, investigate copyright issues.
Treasurer: Maintain a healthy surplus of funds in the BHA account (to allow seed capital for Conventions to be available).

President: Provide leadership to Council and members, maintain effective relationships with outside organisations (such as BHS, Sweet Adelines and Affiliate organisations).

The Council adopted a budget that will see a small surplus of $2,000 produced. Anticipated income is ~$70,000 and anticipated expenses are ~$68,000. Funds at bank will be ~$40,000.

A number of policy decisions were also made, most of an administrative nature, with the most significant being:

- Re-subscription to the Grants Newsletter, so that Clubs can get a monthly list of which grants are available. If your Club is struggling for funds then this is a good way of finding out what is available and how to go about applying.

- Provision of music scholarships to Harmony University in the USA and to our own trimmed down Harmony College in Newcastle this year.

I look forward to another successful year of BHA activities and look forward to every member’s support. As always, if there is anything you would like to suggest to Council, or any question you would like to ask, please contact the relevant member of Council (or if unsure who that is, contact the Secretary at secretary@barbershop.org.au).

Harmoniously,

Ian Mutholland BHA President

I firmly believe that everyone has the qualities to be a good leader, although not everyone thinks they can be one. Have a think about the list above and rate yourself. I bet you can put a tick against at least 7 or 8 of the qualities, and you can probably easily do something positive about the ones you think need work.

Now think about your weekly barbershop activities. Would they be enhanced if you became a leader in this area? Perhaps you already are, and that’s great, but if your answer is “no” to that question, maybe becoming a barbershop leader would improve your enjoyment of your hobby, and also the joy of the others around you that share it.

For example, if you showed leadership by always learning your part and going to rehearsals fully prepared, then you would be showing leadership to other members of your chorus that they could do the same, and positively contribute to the development and achievements of your chorus, and at the same time be really helping your MD in making learning and progress of the chorus a lot quicker.

Another example of leadership might be volunteering for a job when asked (or not asked) and making life for the “do-ers” in your chorus a little less stressful. Busy people tend to be the “do-ers” and others are happy to sit back and let them do everything, but a little more pro-activity on your part would help everyone out wouldn’t it?

There are so many ways you can positively contribute by adopting the attitude of a leader. You don’t necessarily have to become one of the leadership team of your chorus, but you can become a personal leader and take that positive attitude into everything you do. Are you prepared to give it a try?

Sing-cerely,

Ian Mutholland President
As Musical Director of The Blenders and many other groups on the Gold Coast, I wanted to design an event that attracts the largest numbers of young singers whilst maintaining a professional image and product. The Blenders sent me over to New York to perform with the No Borders Youth Chorus at Carnegie Hall and upon my return the idea of Voices In Paradise came about. When marketing to the public, I found that they always respond better to a professionally designed product. We have done countless youth workshops but none have had better traction than Voices In Paradise. It is a very expensive project as we fly out two renowned quartets each year, Musical Island Boys and Ginger and Tonic but through generous donors and sponsors the event has become a huge success and is continually growing each year.

I have been asked by the BHA council to share some techniques that we use when marketing to our mailing list. A mailing list is an essential marketing tool for any chorus. It ensures a continuing means of contact with fans and the promotion of shows. Here are some tips that I have put together. I am no expert but it is what I have learned as I have trialed my way through the marketing world. It is also an essential part of my life as I run a tennis coaching business. Many of these are obvious but you might find some good tips if you haven't explored email marketing yet. I have attached my latest promotional email below so you can relate the tips to the email for examples. Here are a few quick tips:

- Use a mailing list software: There is mailing list functionality within Harmony Site or Groupanizer however, for Voices In Paradise, I personally like to use Mail Chimp to add design to the emails (there are limitations for free accounts however).
- Integration with Facebook, YouTube etc and the infamous unsubscribe feature. At the least make sure you offer the choice to unsubscribe through reply email.
- Use a catchy email subject and title just like if you were browsing on YouTube. You usually click on videos because of their catchy picture and to-the-point title.
- Keep introduction of your email interesting so they keep reading.
- Stay true to your message don't get side tracked about putting all of your eggs into one basket. In order to build a mailing list and retain interested readers you need solid content each and every time.
- Make it visual with the use of high quality pics and videos.
- Use direct links to web sites such as a direct link to purchase concert tickets or CD's on your website etc.
- Use hyperlinks, don't just copy the whole web URL as it can get messy.
- Make pictures or text boxes symmetrically pleasing so it's easier to look at and read from one to another.
- Get professionally designed artwork. It's handy to have a large collection of high definition pics, logos and art work to choose from. That way you can mix it up every now and then with new pics. It pays to spend money. Get a few professional shots done of your chorus and make sure your logo is fresh or pay to have a promotional video clip made. Good professional media content is key.
- Take note of the smaller details such as not placing a logo with a white background on top of a black backdrop. A white background is usually the easiest and most eye pleasing.
- Consistency: Find a way to tie in all of your emails such as placing your organisation logo at the top or the use of a recurring colour scheme. Don't over use bold, italics or underline or different coloured fonts etc. Know what should be centred in the middle of the page or not. Try to find the right balance between simplicity and eye candy.
- Use bullet points to get large amounts of information across. It forces you to cut out a lot of unnecessary wording and is straight to the point. Bullet points are very powerful.
- End with a call to action with the pressure of a time limit. For example, offer something to your readers like a free T-shirt or CD for the first 10 people to buy tickets to your concert etc.

Below is my most recent promotional email.
Good luck and happy marketing!

Jonathan Albertini MD - The Blenders

VOICES IN PARADISE

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE THROUGH SINGING!
WHERE YOU ARE PERFORMING:

Here's to hoping you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Before 2016 flies by quicker than the last, I'd like to encourage you all to make this the most exhilarating year yet by taking up singing. Among the countless scientific studies that prove singing to have profound effects on the body and soul, here are some direct benefits you will receive by joining a group:

- Be a part of an amazing community of singers
- Learn a new hobby with professional vocal coaches
- Smile more and have fun with new friends
- Boost your confidence
- Learn to entertain or be a presenter in shows
- Get healthy through singing and develop your lungs
- Perform at prestigious venues all over Australia and even the world
- You can even start your own quartet and become an expert singer
- Come along and give it a go (there are no obligations)
- Invite a friend or loved one and they'll thank you

It is difficult to explain how valuable singing is, therefore I challenge you to experience it for yourself! Find a group that suits you below and come along to one of our first rehearsals of the year.
For All Males

**THE BLENDERS**
Contact Phone: 0429 332 783
Website: www.theblenders.com.au
Rehearsals: Commencing 7:00pm
Monday 18th January 2016
Venue: Griffith University, G40 Building, Level 4 Auditorium

For All Females

**COASTAL CHARISMA**
Contact Phone: 0414 802 609
Website: www.coastalcharisma.com
Rehearsals: Commencing 7:00pm
Tuesday 19th January 2016
Venue: Mudgeeraba Music Centre, Cnr Franklin Dr & Somerset Dr

For Males Under 25

**BLENDERS YOUTH**
Contact Phone: 0407 933 305
Website: Find on Facebook
Rehearsals: Commencing 5:30pm
Monday 18th January 2016
Venue: Griffith University, G40 Building, Level 4 Auditorium

For All Griffith Students

**SEROTONIN**
Contact Phone: 0421 836 925
Website: serotonin.groupaizer.com
Rehearsals: Commencing 7:00pm
Wednesday 3rd February 2016
Venue: Griffith University, G40 Building, Level 4 Auditorium

For All Griffith Alumni

**SERENDIPITY**
Contact Phone: 0407 933 305
Website: voicesinparadise.com.au
Rehearsals: Commencing 7:00pm
Wednesday 13th January 2016
Venue: Griffith University, G40 Building, Level 5 Lecture Theatre 1

For Males & Females 15-30

**VOICES IN PARADISE**
Contact Phone: 0407 933 305
Website: voicesinparadise.com.au
Rehearsals: Workshop and concert one day event on 28th May 2016
Venue: Griffith University, G40 Building, Level 5 Lecture Theatre 1

http://www.voicesinparadise.com.au
Greetings from across the ditch!

Barbershop and a cappella singing brings so much value to our lives—joy, excitement, confidence, friendships. We want to share this value with youth across the Pacific.

In July this year, New Zealand is hosting the inaugural — Pan Pacific Youth Harmony Festival 2016. Youth aged 25 and under from across the Pacific are invited to meet and sing together in Auckland.

It will be two days jam-packed with activities and competitions for a cappella and barbershop groups and quartets.

So if you know of any young people out there who enjoy singing, love the spotlight, or are keen to join in and make new friends, then please spread the word!

They can connect with us on Facebook or check out our website for more information about the festival.

**Jocosa Bruce** Event Coordinator
Central Region started off the year with a grand concert last week “Voices in Harmony 2016” showcasing all South Australian barbershop choruses and quartets, male, female and mixed at the Hopgood Theatre Noarlunga for its second year. The concert was well accepted by a near capacity audience with plenty of good feedback.

Holding the concert has a double edge, promoting barbershop and providing much needed funds for the choruses and to support the regions programme for the year. The next event on our calendar is the regions annual convention at the end of April followed by the Barbershop Big Day Out for schools in May.

Next we are very excited to have a first for South Australia, a Barbershop section in the Adelaide Eisteddfod. After having several barbershop choruses compete in the Eisteddfod over the past few years with some considerable degree of success, the region approached the Adelaide Eisteddfod with a suggestion that they include a barbershop section sponsored by the region which they enthusiastically accepted and will take place in mid June, so you can see that our new board will be fairly busy for the first half of the year. Thanks go out to the board members who retired at the end of last year for their tireless work for the region.

Gordon Tomlinson Treasurer

The Annual Eastern Region Harmony College is again being held from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 February. The venue is again at the picturesque Myuna Bay on the NSW Central Coast. The fantastic faculty includes Andrew and Jen Howson, Lea Baker, Jonathon Bligh and Rob Sequeira. Another great weekend is eagerly anticipated by the eighty or so Barbershoppers who are planning to attend.

After an inspiring session at the Stirling naturalisation ceremony, approximately 26 Chordmen and Chordettes descended on our gracious hosts Terry and Jan Bruce’s home.

The attentive service of our hosts and the BBQ provided was a delight, with Jan’s culinary skills aptly displayed with some top notch desserts, just ask Kevin C for an appraisal.

Spontaneity was the theme of the soiree with random acts of singing emanating from all and the appreciation of Barbershop and other musical forms debated. The highlights included Kevin C with Jan at the keyboards, with Kevin displaying his many talents along with Terry’s skills on his didgeridoo. Maybe Terry can be co-opted with his didgeridoo along with ‘the sticks’ for our future presentations of ‘I Am Australian’?
A splendid time was had by all Many Thanks to Terry and Jan for a memorable Australia Day

Jack Hondros

THE POWER OF THE CONVENTION SHIRT

Most choruses who are given the privilege of organising a national convention will design and manufacture a special convention shirt for their members. The Melbournaires was no exception, having provided dynamic-looking shirts for its members to wear when not performing. These same members are now learning the benefits and the power that such an obvious piece of apparel can generate.

At the convention itself, for example, they directed, and sometimes misdirected, visitors and guests to their required locations, and to the most interesting attractions in the city of Melbourne. They became a mark of authority and a comfort in distress. After all, it is better to be lost with a companion than be lost alone, and in a foreign environment.

These days the shirts take responsibility for creating camaraderie between members and providing strength in numbers. Being a mans’ shirt, they are wrinkle-free, require no ironing, and are busy enough and of suitable colour, they can be worn far longer than the ordinary, every day variety.

These shirts can cover most shapes and sizes, although sometimes this benefit can be pushed to the limit, but when seen in public in numbers, they command great respect. The various logos and insignias are a pleasant reminder of the reason for their being, and continue to promote our trade. “See shirt: think barbershop” is another example of their power to influence the thinking of the masses and act as part of a recruitment strategy.

“I’d love a shirt like that, where do I get one?”
“Come and sing with the Melbournaires and I’ll get you one!”

The advertising logos continue to benefit those companies who were shrewd enough to come to the party early, and this fact should always be used to support the seeking of sponsors. The power of the convention shirt must never be under-estimated.

The Melbournaires are still getting plenty of use out of their stylish Convention shirts and it seems other recent visitors to Melbourne have adopted something similar!!

The Melbournaires are currently rehearsing a number of Australian songs amongst others, in preparation for up-coming New Australian Citizenship ceremonies. They wish all Barbershoppers a tuneful and successful 2016.

Terry Phillips
SOUNDWAVES is excited to be hosting a youth workshop on Sunday 17th April on the Central Coast.

With the enthusiastic support of Gosford City Council and 'The Hub' Youth Centre at Erina Fair, we will have a great day of a cappella singing, commencing at 9.30 a.m. and finishing at 4.00 p.m.

We are fortunate to have Youth Quartet Champions, "Blindside", providing coaching for the event as well as headlining a concert on Sunday evening at the Central Coast Leagues Club commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Sweet Adelines chorus 'Coastal Acapella' will be assisting us as well and we thank them for their support.

Our aim is to try and start a youth Chorus on the Central Coast with the view of competing in Newcastle.

We thank again Gosford City Council, 'The Hub' Youth Centre, and the Central Coast Leagues Club for their generous support and also Dick Costin who is the driving force behind this event.

Gary Kirk – MD

Back to the grind after the holiday season and HAH have discovered that quite a few of our stalwarts are leaving, or left us. We have appointed a new Membership VP and he is easy to spot. He’s the one sitting about with a long and mournful face while he tries to work out where we can find a heap of new faces to join us here up on the mountain.

Had a recruiting evening a couple of weeks ago. Very low key. And lo and behold five newbies turned up and hopefully they will be back for their third week of vocal gymnastics tomorrow evening.

HAH has a busy year mapped out with performances in the local Council’s Summer Tunes program. A mooted road trip to Roma to bring a bit of enjoyment to people in the far west and also a performance later in the year at the USQ in their Artworx program. It’s an interesting concept. A performance is given and then the artistes, (that’s us) get to mingle with the patrons and pontificate about all things barbershop.

Apart from these highlights there is always preparation for competition and the old chestnuts like Mothers Day and other community events.

We have had a big think about our repertoire and are to revisit some oldies but, goodies that seemed to have fallen by the wayside and also of course new songs to test our brain cells and voices.
We also recently celebrated our 8th Birthday. Pictured is our youngest member cutting our cake.

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

Paddy Boxall Secretary

These are 2 reasons why we do this barbershop thing: Carols for the community, and singing for family - two sides of the barbershop coin.

Last November and December, NOVATONES wandered the local shopping centres, entertaining appreciative crowds with 4-part harmony renditions of carols, predominantly. It is clear that people enjoy our art form, and it is also the case that we get a huge buzz out of doing it. We managed nine sing-outs, quite a feat for a relatively-small chorus.

This year, we were so lucky to bump into Santa and his good lady, and he insisted that we do a selfie. We tried to get poor Rudolph out of shot, but you know how he enjoys his reindeer games!

The chorus was also invited back to sing in a Multicultural carols event at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newcastle, mixing it with a variety of styles – a Tongan choir, a Dutch quartet of ladies, and a Philippino choir were among those performing. For us, the acoustics of a cathedral were a joy, and we managed to ring more than a few chords that day!!

And then, for something different (but equally rewarding), we trooped off to a local Nursing Home after 2 hours of singing at a shopping centre, to sing some songs for the 100th birthday of the father of one of our chorus members. He was joined by his family and many of the other residents, who thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

We are now looking forward to providing a really good National Convention in September. See you then!

Rod Woodhouse

The clippers new year’s resolution was to attract new members, Clippers MD Richard Reeve posted a new site on the internet under the meet up singing group banner, it read, “If you’re a bloke who loves singing (harmony), this is the group for you! Whether you have music training or not, have a background in choir or musical theatre, or just know you love to sing, come join us. This is singing in 4-part a cappella male harmony mostly in the barbershop style but also doo-wop, Australiana, etc. We sing songs from the past and the present, arranged with 3 harmony parts supporting the melody. In this group you will get the opportunity to gain confidence, learn singing techniques and meet new people”.

“This is a chorus (of about 30 guys), but there are always opportunities to form new quartets from within the group, if you’re keen to experience the purity of the quartet sound. “We are also part of a national organisation, Barbershop Harmony Australia, which holds annual conventions. 2016 is in Newcastle in September and we’ll be going along. These events are competitions, but they’re so much more, with concerts, social singing and generally enjoying our hobby with around 500 blokes from around the country”.

In Harmony Issue 152 February – March 2016
To date we have had 28 young men sign up on the site and visits from 8 prospective new members aged between 20 and 50 years old.

The chorus had wonderful experiences over the Christmas period and entertained audiences at several community events pictured with the clippers and covering all levels of government, are Federal member for Lilly Terri Butler MP state member for Bulimba Di Farmer MP and local councillor for Morningside Shayne Sutton.

VP Marketing David Spillane also introduced the chorus to The Mates 4 Mates Organisation supports current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members (and their families) who have physical or psychological wounds, injuries, or illnesses as a result of their service, a very successful presentation was conducted to a wonderful group of people our thanks to Robert Ikin for the opportunity.

Special thanks to the wonderful Mo Field who gave the most amazing two day workshop. Mo weaved her magic and the Clippers were under her spell our members all agreed it was an experience not to be missed.

Mo also gave up more of her time to talk with servicemen at the mate4mates function and underlined benefits of singing through her own experiences had members enthralled, and keen to experience A Capella signing.

The cast of the clippers Annual concert with guests Bettie and the Betties, Australian medal winners Catalyst

David Spillane – VP Marketing

The Singing Shed is an initiative of the Hobart Men’s Barbershop Harmony Club.

The Shed runs a series six week projects through the year with the intent of providing men with the necessary tools to express themselves in a cappella, four part harmony song.

A particular highlight has been the Christmas Project where we prepared four Christmas songs for performance at the City of Glenorchy Carols By Candlelight event at the sound shell at Tolosa Park, followed by an evening session wandering the corridors of Calvary Hospital singing for the patients.

Another outstanding event was the ANZAC Project where we developed four songs and a narrative for performance at the Lenah Valley RSL ANZAC Day dawn service followed by a second sing at the Hobart Legacy Widows Dinner later that day. This was a project that just kept on giving as we were able to participate in the touring ANZAC exhibition while it was on display in Hobart and also for the Tasmanian Lions State Conference, celebrating the 100th anniversary of ANZAC.

Our latest event is the “Be Happy” Project. This will conclude with a concert for family and friends on UN World Happiness Day, Sunday March 20th. This project began on Tuesday 9th of Feb. The repertoire for this event is “Happy Days Theme”, “Smile”, “I’m Sittin’ On Top Of The World” and “Zip-A-Dee_Doo_Dah”. We anticipate that our local sisters in harmony, Hobart Harmony Chorus and some of their club ensembles will also be part of this celebration.

For more information see: www.thesingingshed.com and find us on facebook

Richard Gardam

In Harmony Issue 152 February – March 2016
Happy New Year BHA community! Vocal Evolution is pleased to announce that this year has already started with a bang after a fantastic Kick-start weekend at the end of January and we are full speed ahead for contest in both Nashville and Newcastle. Yes, you heard right! Vocal Evolution is going to be storming in to Nashville for the 2016 International Barbershop Convention.

The next exciting announcement this year is Alex Morris has returned to the VE Music Team, teaming up with Lionel Pierson to shake up VE’s musical journey and push the boundaries as far as humanly possible! Alex will be our fly-in fly-out director throughout the year with Lionel taking the reins on the off weeks. We are excited for what’s to come and we look forward to seeing you in Newcastle in September!

Membership news: Since December last year we have had 5 new members join VE, taking us up to 39 active singers with 3 guys currently auditioning. Onwards and upwards with the promotion of barbershop singing on the western front!

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

I look forward to the conventions every TWO years and their various locations. It has given me a chance to enjoy the performances and see different parts of Australia.

I am concerned that what has worked so well as a biennial event risks being diluted in quality and commitment as a yearly event. As far as I know, no convincing argument has been put forward to justify the change. I would be happy to hear one.

The danger is that choruses will be now required to practise the same songs more often, just to be competitive. This will distract from our broader repertoire and make practice sessions more laborious and tedious. Oh no, another two songs to work on endlessly! The Olympics are held every four years. Who would expect athletes to peak every year?

Then there is the expense and inconvenience of the organising, travel and juggling of other commitments every year. The novelty factor will be diminished. Too much of a good thing? I fear that singers will vote with their feet, or voices rather, and not support the yearly conventions.

Paul Ryan (Penrith Harmony)

Hi Paul, The reasons for adopting ANNUAL Conventions were widely reported the previous In Harmony Edition No 142 (Pages 3-8)

I am sure, if you review this document, you will find answers to the points you raise. It should be noted that BHA is the only Barbershop Organisation in the world that has biennial conventions? Every other affiliate has always had annual contests.

Editor
To keep up with the times it is planned to convert our Bi-Monthly Newsletter to a more convenient Web-based format. It is planned that the next Issue will be published in the new format although a print version will still be available for Download.

Dick Bushell - Editor

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:
then Click on the Events Tab.

BHA National Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
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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