Don’t be left singing in the Shower!

The new year is off and running, with a lot of great things happening. Make sure you check out all the articles inside to get the details.

Two years ago your BHA Council responded to requests from members like you, and established two news Regions - Tasmanian, led by Trevor Rootes, and Victorian, led by Doug Moody. They were established to have an official Board closer to the action, for membership initiatives, and to co-ordinate the activities of all the barbershoppers in the area. This has worked extremely well!

AND NOW.......... Central Region is born!! Based in Adelaide, the new Region will support all barbershoppers in South Australia and the Northern Territory (we plan ahead 😊). See the photo of the new Board at its inaugural meeting, led by Chairman Gordon Tomlinson. A judging panel will come to Adelaide to conduct the Central Region qualifying competitions for the great Convention in Perth this October.

And speaking of Conventions, you owe it to yourself to look at the BHA website, barbershop.org.au, and review the 13 tabs of information about the big event. The venue is one of the newest Convention Centres in Australia and there will indeed be something for everyone - barbershoppers and partners - with great singing and competitions, informal concerts, world class tourist spots, and two of the best quartets in the World - Musical islands Boys and Lunch Break, and our own Gold medallists Alliance singing away their Gold. Your barbershop brothers from Perth have been travelling across Australia to attend and support Conventions in "the East" since 2003. They "chordially" invite every one of you to Perth for the best convention ever!!

Last, and certainly not least, our Australian Gold Medal quartet Alliance announces their retirement. I can’t imagine how they could have done any more to support and promote our artform, in every corner of Australia, and on the International stage. As the singing fades, they remain personally at the core of leadership in Australian barbershopping. Come to Perth and give them the resounding thanks, and send-off they deserve.

In Harmony,
Mike Donnelly
President - BHA
president@barbershop.org.au
Events

There are several issues which I am addressing as VP Events that I want to talk to you about.

1. **Attendance at Conventions**

   How do we encourage all of our members to attend our biennial Conventions? If you need an answer to the question “what’s in it for me?” then here are a few ideas:

   a) If you like performing, but not necessarily contests, and you would like more non-contest performance opportunities then Perth 2013 has them! We have scheduled three new non-competitive events, The John Little Show (for quartets to perform), The Chorus Corral (for choruses to perform) and the Mixed Harmony Showcase (for mixed groups) – all in a non-competitive format.

   b) If you like camaraderie and meeting with your barbershop friends from around Australia, then Perth 2013 is for you! There will be 4 days of barbershop activities to enjoy with your friends, while enjoying the magnificent October Perth weather.

   c) If you want to see and hear world class barbershop, then go no further than Perth 2013. We have booked two top-line International quartets, *Musical Island Boys* (International silver medallists for the last two years) and *Lunch Break* (International top 10 comedy quartet in the mould of *Storm Front*).

   d) If you want to improve your barbershop skills then Harmony College, being held immediately after the Convention is for you. There will be 8 top barbershop educators there as faculty, and you couldn’t do better!

   e) If you like contests, this will be one almighty contest. It always is. This is the pinnacle of barbershop held every two years in Australia, and an event not to be missed.

   f) You will be supporting your association (BHA) because any profit that our Convention produces is then used to fund BHA activities (such as visiting coaches, regional workshops etc.) for the next 2 years. No profit = no activities.

   g) You will be supporting your BHA brothers, especially those who live in the Western Region, who travel to the Eastern States for four out of every five Conventions. This will be their one in five Conventions where they don’t have that expense. Isn’t that only fair?

2. **Annual Conventions**

   The result from the recent membership questionnaire was a tentative “yes” to holding Annual Conventions, so your Council has convened a working group (BHA Conventions Working Group) to look at all angles of this and report back. Not only will we be looking at what sort of events should be held at future Conventions, but also what the financial implications might be.
3. **What other sorts of events should we plan?**

The recent membership survey suggested that more Regional workshops would be well received, as well as coaching tours by skilled and expert barbershop practitioners. I’d like to hear your ideas. Let me know – send me an email (imulholland@roxresources.com.au).

4. **Expressions of interest to host the 2015 Convention**

Please consider whether your Club is in a position to bid.

One of the issues that the BHA Conventions Working Group will be discussing is the model for holding Conventions. The current model involves the host club taking a lead role in planning and running the Convention. Sometimes this leads to “re-inventing the wheel”, and one of the options we’re looking at is the Sweet Adelines model, where the National Executive plans and runs the Convention, with assistance from a local club, but the local club does not assume the responsibly of running the Convention. This way we retain a higher level of “corporate knowledge” about running Conventions, and host clubs are not under the same stress and strain.

5. **Regional Contests 2013**

Dates for Regional contests have been confirmed as follows. Judging panels have been appointed, and entry forms will be out very soon.

These are going to be qualifying contests for our Open, Youth and Senior Quartet contests at the National Contest in Perth in October 2013. To qualify your quartet needs to score >50% average. The top 30 quartets qualify for the Open contest. There is no quota on Youth or Senior quartets who qualify, but all must score >50%.

Sunshine Region 27-28 April 2013, Toowoomba QLD  
Eastern Region 4 May 2013, Sydney NSW  
Tasmanian Region 4 May 2013, Hobart TAS  
Western Region 11 May 2013, Perth WA  
Victorian Region 25 May 2013, Geelong VIC  
Central Region 1 June 2013, Adelaide SA

Happy harmonizing!

*Ian Mulholland*  
VP Events - BHA  
[events@barbershop.org.au](mailto:events@barbershop.org.au)
The Membership Survey results are in and have been analysed, as you know the response was great and at our recent Face-to-Face Council meeting in Perth it was decided that the Clubs who actively participated (i.e. five or more of their members responded) should be able to derive some valid feedback from the Survey. Accordingly, if one of your Executive Team applies for these survey results, we’ll send out details of the responses from your members. We’ve collected a huge amount of really valuable information and already received a couple of requests for dissemination of this information, so it’s there for you if you want it. If it’s important to you, let me know!

A Marketing Reminder…
Who is responsible for your Club’s Marketing?

A couple of helpful hints for your marketing guy to ask himself…

- Do I know where I need to focus my attention and my efforts?
- What are our Club’s short term and longer term goals?
- Do we have a plan for attaining those goals?
- Have I put into place the proper mechanisms for keeping a well-oiled public relations machine going, and can I keep feeding it?
- Have I engaged a partner? In other words, do I have someone inside or outside our Club who can help me stay focused, provide support and offer feedback as I work our plan?
- Have I taken the time to reflect upon the members of our Club, as individuals and as contributors to our Chorus efforts as a whole?
- Remember, you may need to improve the interpersonal dynamics of the Club and also to build a consensus about your game plan in order to get everyone on board and to do their best work.
- Have I set a plan for developing and building upon key relationships both inside and outside our Club?
- You need to focus on key people you'll need to influence, engage and motivate. So how well do you know them and how well do they know you?

Other points to ponder —

1) Do you have the right people in place to accomplish your goals for not just this year but beyond?
2) Who needs to be coached, mentored, trained or given new developmental opportunities?
3) Who is ready for the next level of responsibility?
4) What promotional challenges will you face in the coming months and beyond?

In general, always try to think about ways of enhancing credibility and trust, developing effective channels of communication and working towards mutually rewarding goals and objectives. Through it all, remember that relationships are always the key to getting things done.

Whether your focus is on maintaining your current membership, attracting new members or creating a buzz in the community about who you are and the contributions you can make, get your plan in place and use it as a daily reminder of where you’re going and how you intend to get there.

Hope this helps, but if you need more assistance, let me know…!

Please contact me anytime at: marketing@barbershop.org.au

Keith Thornton
VP Marketing & Development – BHA
marketing@barbershop.org.au
Survey results sent to every club

Since the previous issue of *In Harmony*, I have completed the task of sending the national survey results to every club in BHA. Every club executive got a copy of the full national results, and each club that had 10 or more responses got an additional separate chorus results.

It was important for us to feed the information back to clubs so they can use it “at the coal face”. There is a great deal of valuable information in there that is going to inform National Council in our deliberations for quite some time.

Ask your club executive to brief you on the survey content.

One of the key things we tried to uncover in the survey was what impacts your enjoyment of the hobby / your chorus. One thing is to be sure, there is a clear purpose of your chorus. Make sure you're on the same page about why you exist and what you want to achieve.

Following on from this, make sure each one of you regularly provides (constructive, respectful) feedback to your management committee about how your enjoyment could be improved. They are often so busy that some well-meaning input can be very helpful. They can't read your mind, you know. Oh, and also try to offer to help with the solution!

I was talking to friend and coach Eddie Martinez recently and asked him what’s the most important thing when putting together a quartet. He said: "you have to like each other.” Wise words and something for y'all to remember in this competition year.

Facebook site

National Council has relaunched its Facebook page and progress is good. While no single form of communication is all we need, the Facebook site combines well with the web site, *In Harmony* newsletter, emails and personal contacts to keep in contact with members. Naturally, this is going to suit a younger demographic than our average. The focus of the Facebook site is a combination of official BHA announcements and low-key social networking chat, such as pop-quizzes. I anticipate the site will gradually attract more and more attention and be a valuable tool to stay engaged with (slightly younger) members and give BHA an increased sense of community.

Very exciting year and plenty of initiatives in the pipe-line, so watch this space (and Facebook)!

Richard Reeve
VP Membership - BHA
membership@barbershop.org - 0411 519 852
We continue our series of articles on basic music theory with **Scales**

**Major scale**
A scale is a progression of notes using all seven musical letters. For example, a C major scale begins on C and ascends in pitch to the next C. There are eight steps in this scale (the seven letters with C being repeated).

**Minor scale**
A minor scale also uses eight notes and seven letters, but the sound of the scale is different because the order of the notes and the starting note (something discussed in later lessons in more detail). Using A as the beginning note, an A minor scale would look like this.

Note the difference in sound between the two scales. Much of the time minor scales chromatically raise the seventh step of the scale, creating a greater push for the key note, or the first degree of the scale. This is referred to as the harmonic minor scale.

**Scale degree**
There are many ways to analyse each note of the scale. Although letter names and numbers have been briefly discussed, the formal names for each step are

Although these names are used more in classical music theory, they are also used from time to time in barbershop theory. For instance, dominant sevenths stem from the fifth degree of the scale classically called the dominant.

**Solfége**
Scale degrees can also be identified by solfége, a practice of putting a short word to each scale degree. Do, re, mi, fa, sol (usually "so"), la, and ti are used, as shown in this next example, with "do" repeated as the tonic.

The solfége technique was popularized by the song Do-Re-Mi from the musical The Sound of Music written by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Notice "do" is used twice, repeating the tonic and showing the cyclical pattern of the musical alphabet. This system of words can be used in any key, a practice called movable “do”.

*Many thanks to Adam Scott, Member Services, Music. Adam is Music Educator and Editor of Music Publications for the Barbershop Harmony Society - [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org)*

Dan Millgate
VP Music - BHA

In Harmony Issue 135— March-April 2013
BHA survey

First of all, it was great to see the large number of BHA members under the age of 30 who responded to the survey!

So in terms of Youth Development in Australia it looks like the majority of the survey participants think that it’s pretty important to get Barbershop (a cappella) style singing out into our educational institutions.

Of a total of two hundred and nineteen people who answered the question about “would you be willing to lead a youth development program in your club/region,” thirty-five responded with ‘Yes’! One-hundred and forty-four said they’d help assist with a program. With this in mind – I would suggest that if you are one of these guys who replied ‘yes that’s me’ then can I suggest you contact your local youth development representative and ask how you can help! If you’re one of the 35 who want to lead a program, then please shoot me an email!

Many hands make light work - Even if you don’t feel like you have to tools to approach a school or run a workshop, shoot me a line and council will provide you with everything you need.

Voices in Paradise – QLD **

This excellent initiative headed up by The Blenders is a fantastic opportunity for the youth in Qld! The Musical Island Boys will be there – so it’s definitely worth checking out!

April 20th from 10am - Griffith University, International Building
http://voicesinparadise.groupanizer.com/

Voices in Paradise is an annual youth workshop with professional education and training by internationally renowned a cappella groups and local coaches. Participants will also experience the thrill of performing live in front of a large audiences alongside a cappella champions and local Gold Coast groups.

Big Barbershop Day Out – WA **

Tuesday 19th March from 9:00am – 2:30pm

The successful BBDO intensive workshop strikes again – this fantastic program is once again being held in WA – hosted by YIBDI.

This year’s workshop day will once again be inclusive of both boys and girls at the Secondary School level. It is a great opportunity for groups to be coached by our outstanding teaching faculty!

The venue is St Stephen’s College, Duncraig.

For more information contact Vicki Donnelly at ve_donnelly@bigpond.com or 0432 802 296 or login to www.yibdi.info

Feel free to contact me regarding any youth matters at youth@barbershop.org.au.

Jonathan Bligh
VP Youth Development - BHA
youth@barbershop.org.au

** see larger size posters – next page

In Harmony Issue 135— March-April 2013
Information:

www.yibdi.info

Vicki Donnelly 0432 802 296
Alliance announces its Retirement...

After almost a decade and many amazing experiences, Alliance would like to announce we are retiring as a quartet.

Little did we know that when Adrian, Ian, Les (original baritone) and Dan got together as a demonstration quartet after the Perth 2003 Convention that it would lead to what it has. We are so grateful for so many things.

We thought for a while that it might be short lived when Les decided to move on to pursue other interests in 2006, but then Richard joined us in 2007 and we didn't miss a beat (pun intended).

Having won the national quartet contest in 2005, 2009 and 2011 and silver in 2007, it has been the realisation of a dream to represent Australia at Internationals three times: in Anaheim in 2009, Kansas City in 2011 and Portland 2012. All such an honour but Anaheim was a particular buzz as it was our first International as a quartet (Ian had been with Bad Habits in 1995). Then there was Kansas city in 2011 where we were joined by our chorus, Vocal Evolution. What an eye-watering moment it was to be standing back stage hearing our very own cheer squad. Thanks guys. You don't know how much that meant to us! These trips have also included unforgettable coaching retreats and road trips, including the privilege of a number of visits to Estes Park in the Rocky Mountains.

We've also had such wonderful times travelling around Australia judging and coaching others. This is the true bread and butter of being the AAMBS/ BHA champ quartet and we have thoroughly enjoyed every trip. We have been to every capital city and met the people who make up the heart of BHA. Thank you to all for your wonderful hospitality.

We have enjoyed singing with Vocal Evolution all this time and have been so proud to be featured as a quartet in chorus songs such as Higher and Higher, Circle of Life and Waltzing Matilda. Such a thrill. We've also joined forces in octets with BlackJaQ, Hi-Jinx, Benchmark and our New Zealand cousins, and current International Silver Medallists no less, the Musical Island Boys, the latter of which was an arrangement by our good friend and former Vocal Evolution MD, Alex Morris. And who could forget sharing the stage with 2012 BHS champ quartet Ringmasters in Perth in December!

Along the way there have been any number of media opportunities, all of which we have jumped at to promote barbershop in Australia. We have also enjoyed producing two CDs, Anthem and Circle of life.

With all four of us being BHA/ NZABS judges, we have also been fortunate enough to travel as a quartet to judge regionals; this often being paired with a show that night.
Thanks to our coaches. You have been an inspiration to us! There are many but we must personally thank Eddie Martinez, Jo Oosterhoff, John Newell, Cindy Hansen and Cathy Rainey. You have all taught us so much, shared your love of the art-form and inspired us to become better performers.

Thanks to all our supporters, well-wishers and barbershop mates from Australia and around the world. This is truly a special art-form to bring together so many people from different backgrounds and of different ages. We shall always treasure your friendship.

Of course, a big thanks to our families. We could not have done this without your unyielding love and support. We thank you sincerely.

But don't worry folks, we're not leaving barbershop completely! Ian (Events VP), Dan (Music VP) and Richard (Membership VP) are all busily beavering away as BHA Councillors and look forward to doing so for the foreseeable future. Ian is still the Chairman of Judges. Dan will continue as President of Vocal Evolution and Chairman of the Perth 2013 Convention. Adrian will keep providing IT/video support to VE and BHA.

And we haven't quite sung for the last time; we've still got a few engagements. We will be judging and performing at the Sunshine Region Comp in April, special guests at the Sweet Adelines national convention in Perth in May and, of course, we'll be singing away our gold at the BHA Convention in Perth in October.

So once again, thank you to all who have made this a stunningly memorable and enriching experience for us all.

Keep the whole world singing.

Ian, Adrian, Richard & Dan

Alliance

Ed’s Note –

Thank you, Alliance, for being such wonderful representatives of Barbershop Harmony Australia, both Internationally, Nationally and throughout the Pan Pacific Region, and such an inspiration to every Barbershopper throughout Australia.

We love you guys!!
I am pleased to advise that the new Central Region of BHA held its inaugural meeting on Wednesday 13th March and a Board was formed to establish the region with the members holding the positions up to the 30th September.

We are all quite excited by the prospect of things to come and aim to expand the interest in barbershop singing in our region.

Thanks go to Mike and the BHA Board for putting their faith in South Australia, I am sure that they will not regret it.

Inaugural Meeting of Central Region

Back - Aaron Vinall, Wayne Good (Secretary), Trevor Modystach, Gordon Tomlinson (Chairman/Treasurer),
         Rod Whyte, Andrew Bradley (Vice Chairman)

In Harmony

Gordon Tomlinson
Chairman
It is almost six months since Hills Harmony has contributed to “In Harmony”. We can assure our fellow Barbershoppers we are still alive and well and growing from strength to strength. The last few months have been very busy for us. Our long awaited Christmas Harmony show at the Glen Street Theatre in Belrose was staged on December 12 and proved a resounding success. The 75 minute show was a great opportunity for the Chorus to show off its great harmonies to the 300 or so non-barbershoppers in the audience. Our MD, Ian Fraser, put a huge effort into devising, preparing and staging the show. Hills Harmony was supported by the well-known Sweet Adelines quartet, Sista and soloist Leah Simmons. The Chorus performed a variety of Christmas and non-Christmas songs and revived its renowned “Nerd” comedy set as a feature between the two supporting acts. Immediately after the Glen Street show we all packed up and headed for the city to attend the memorable Ringmasters concert with many of us also performing in the combined ER Chorus which opened the show. All in all, a great day of barbershop singing for our Chorus.

Following the Glen Street Show Hills Harmony performed several two hour gigs at Stockland Mall, Baulkham Hills in the lead up to Christmas singing carols and Christmas songs to the appreciative shoppers.

We resumed following our Christmas recess in full recruitment mode with a very good response to our banner campaign. Our first Open Night for the year in late January saw ten prospective new members come along with most of them signing up for our Learn to Sing Harmony course commencing the following week.

This was followed by an excellent coaching session from Guru Gary Bolles then a fabulous Eastern Region weekend workshop at Greenhills which was attended by thirteen HHC members along with around eighty five other barbershoppers from across the Eastern Region. It was voted “best ever” by the HHC contingent.

All in all we are looking forward with high expectations to the 2013 Convention year.

Dick Bushell
President

PS – Why not “Like” our Facebook page Hills Harmony Chorus to keep up to date with Hills Harmony activities
SydneySiders enjoyed another great year in 2012. Three big highlights stand out.

**New members.** Our *Learn to Sing* programme continues to be a big hit. We added 10 new guys to our ranks for a net gain of six for the year. Our membership has just topped 50.

**Concert.** Over 700 family, friends and others attended our bi-annual concert in October. Half a dozen tip top acts supported us and helped make a good profit for our charity, The Oncology Research Unit at The Children's Hospital Westmead.

**Christmas at Westmead.** Early each December we visit the above mentioned Children's Hospital. We tour the wards and work stations singing Christmas carols for an hour or so. It's a joyous occasion but it also adds a perspective to what we do and why we do it. At the end of the evening we were delighted to hand over a nice cheque. It was the result of our efforts in singouts through the year and, of course, our concert which was the big one. We feel proud to say that our donations over the years have now passed the $140,000 mark.

About ten of us will be attending the Eastern Region Workshop at Greenhills this month and hope to catch up with many from other choruses.

The next significant event for 2013 will be our new member night on 2nd May.

*Bob Mackenzie*
VP Advertising/Recruitment

President Peter Canet says he is looking forward to another busy year. We have numerous bookings on hand including a Citizenship Ceremony for Manningham Council, and an appearance with the ladies group *Vocal Vibes*, at their major Ringwood concert.

In addition there is a membership drive planned for our associated chorus, *Between The Bays*, on the Mornington Peninsular.

The committee will also be putting together a bid to hold the 2015 National Convention in Melbourne. All this ahead of the Perth Convention in October. Not only busy Peter, hectic.

The Australia Day gig in Kings Domain Gardens as part of the RACV Transport Pageant was a memorable occasion for more reasons than expected. The sound from the inverted speaker system was incredible, it was first time on stage for new *Melbournaire*, Charles Dougal. There were scintillating performances from two of our quartets, *Boardwalk* and *NQR*, and Chris Hudnott was presented with his five-year medal. Chris didn't realise he'd been on the risers that long, enjoying his singing so much.

With reference to the photograph, the occupants of this award winning 1958 Ford Thunderbird were completely engrossed in the *Melbournaires* performance, so it was only natural that the *Melbournaires* were attracted to the
luxury Hollywood-style 300 HP sports car. Enthusiasts would have salivated over the ingenious technology of the fold-away metal roof hidden in the boot, and there were plenty of other features to keep our members equally enthused.

A wonderful day for families and fun to be a part of.

More next time.

Terry Phillips

Vale John Lawson

It is with great sadness that I advise that our first President, John Lawson, who retired from our chorus last year due to ill health, passed away on January 24th.

John was born a singer, at a very early age he was a chorister at All Saints Church in London under Choirmaster William Lloyd Webber and went on to sing in many British choirs. After emigrating to Australia with his young family John still carried on singing and joined the Adelaide Male Voice Choir where he eventually became President. After retirement John moved from Adelaide to Goolwa and found traveling to Adelaide for practice too much and he noticed that a new Barbershop group had started in neighbouring Victor Harbor and decided to give it a try and never looked back.

When the group joined AAMBS he became our 1st President and he will always be remembered as it was his suggestion for the name Harborside Harmony that was adopted by the chorus. John really enjoyed barbershop harmony and he even sang his last song The Old Songs with us when we visited him in hospital a few days before the end. John was a true gentleman with a wry sense of humour and is greatly missed by the chorus.

We are all looking forward to becoming part of a new region after the BHA board resolved to add South Australia as a region in its own right, the inaugural meeting for the region is on 13th March, so by the time of print it will be up and running.

The BHA Councillors and Members send their condolences and best wishes to John’s family – he will be sadly missed by us all.

Gordon Tomlinson
Secretary

VOICES IN PARADISE
Gold Coast’s A Cappella Revolution

Voices In Paradise is a youth a cappella training day for all males and females 15-30 years of age. The event is run by The Blenders Chorus and sponsored by Griffith University. Singers will be trained by internationally renowned and silver medal quartet Musical Island Boys and in the evening the students will receive a special opportunity to perform their songs for a large appreciative audience. If young singers like the popular movie Pitch Perfect, they will absolutely love this event because Deke Sharon is the arranger of Pitch Perfect and is also the official arranger of Voices In Paradise.
The venue will be Griffith University’s new International Building and is coming up on Saturday 20th April however the registrations will most likely be closed by the time you read this! Registrations will re-open next year in preparation for another VIP. All registrations can be made individually by the singers at www.voicesinparadise.com.au

During the day the VIP singers will split into groups and will prepare songs featuring just the girls, just the boys, a mixed group, and a high level auditioned group. They will be trained by Musical Island Boys and The Blenders’ Music Team. The evening concert will include performances by The Blenders, Blenders Youth Chorus, Voices In Paradise Groups, Musical Island Boys and more!

To stay up to date on Voices In Paradise news please like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/voicesinparadise

In harmony,

Jonathan Albertini
0407 933 305
info@voicesinparadise.com.au

(See comments in VP Youth Development Report – Pages 7-8)

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FLEURIEU HARMONY CHORUS

As we all know, this year has started off disastrously, with severe bushfires and floods in several States. Our thoughts go out to the many families who have been affected.

To help in some small way, our Chorus decided to devote the month of February to raise funds for disaster relief on behalf of The Red Cross, and as such we performed at a Produce and Craft Market in the quaint town of Willunga, which is part of the beautiful Southern Vales wine district on the Fleurieu Peninsula. We also entertained in two shopping centres at Aldinga and Morphett Vale, and as a result of our efforts, we were able to forward a cheque for $1,000 to The Red Cross.

Our Events Calendar is filling rapidly, and we are looking forward to performing at a wide cross section of venues throughout the year.

Trevor Modistach
Secretary
An interesting item was provided by our Music Team last week. HAH has just celebrated its 5th birthday being formed in February 2008.

Going through our repertoire they discovered that we have learnt and performed 50 songs. That’s a song a month!

Now the task is to see what we will keep and what we will look for to replace some of the older material. To achieve this we are polling all our members to ascertain their preferences.

Having endured devastating rains and flooding over the Australia Day break in many parts of our membership coverage area, we are now sitting around with cabin fever having spent the last seven days with more rain. So far at my place I have emptied 398mm from the rain gauge. Welcome to Queensland - Beautiful One Day, Raining The Next.

However, we did manage to get a couple of gigs under our belt between downpours. Last Sunday, before the rain started in earnest we participated in the local Council’s Summer Tunes in beautiful Queen’s Park. A small but, appreciative audience was treated to a lot of our 50 repertoire songs as the gig was for two hours. One bonus was the recruitment of a young bloke who looks like he could have a very nice bass voice.

Then this Saturday we sang at the TAFE Graduation Ceremony. Some warm-up songs as the audience got settled and then the National Anthem for the commencement. This is a regular gig for us and one we look forward to each year.

At rehearsal we are working overtime on our two competition songs as Sunshine Regionals are fast approaching. Our planning team is beavering hard to get all aspects of the event ticking over smoothly. A bit like the swan … serene on the surface but going like hell underneath the water.

We are confident that it will be a great weekend for all barbershoppers and their supporters and look forward to meeting up with old friends and making a lot of new ones.

Details of the weekend will be appearing soon on the BHA web-site and of course at haharmony.com

Paddy Boxall
Secretary

In Harmony Issue 135—March-April 2013
We have just returned from the Eastern Region weekend workshop at Greenhills, ACT. With close to one hundred attendees this was probably the most successful ER workshop in recent years. We enjoyed ourselves hugely as it was a very well run event with a stellar cast of music educators.

Our current big project is a six week “Real Men Sing” campaign. We are now using the Souths on Chalmers Club in Redfern, an inner city suburb, as our rehearsal home. The City Council has given us a grant to initiate and run a program wherein our musical director, Vicki Dwyer, and team can teach the joy of harmony singing to men of the inner city. Thanks to tireless and inspired work by our VP Membership, Paul Meller, and his supporters we have had great publicity in local press and on ABC and commercial radio.

As a result over fifty men have turned up to give it a try. We have the full gamut of singers from very raw first-timers, to very good but inexperienced voices, to some semi-professionals with years of experience behind them. All are very enthusiastic and it’s great to see initial nervousness gradually growing into confidence and enjoyment.

We are eagerly anticipating the return of Jim DeBusman. A big Thank You to Vocal Evolution for bringing this great coach back to Oz.

In early May we have to defend our titles at the Eastern Region contest. Sydney Harmony won the inaugural chorus trophy last year and our quartets did very well also. But, as you are all aware, competition brings out the best performances and it’s a whole new ball game each year.

In harmony

John Gleeson
Secretary
I would really appreciate your help on a couple of things –

1. When you send in your articles for this, your Association’s Newsletter, it would be great if you would format it as requested in the article below, ie. **Verdana 10 pitch font with 1.15 spacing.**

2. On occasions in the past I have extended the deadline for receipt of your contributions but so that our newsletters can go out to members in a timely manner, this will not be the case in future. The deadline is clearly stated in each newsletter and gives you plenty of notice, and will continue to be 5.30pm EST on the 15th day of each odd numbered month.

3. Members of Council find each time we send group emails to Clubs, Quartets and some of the other group email lists I have created some of them bounce back. Please can you let me, with my hat on as Assistant Secretary, have updates on contact details for your Club Executive and members whenever there is a change. This will ensure that you and they receive all information at the time it goes out and that you don’t miss receiving any important communications.

**Nerida White**

BHA Newsletter Editor & Assistant Secretary

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**Decades of international research proves that singing is good for your mental and physical well-being because it ......**

A program on TV last week “Alzheimers - the Musical” showing how the only way people with Dementia and Alzheimers were able to communicate with their carers was through music, as they remembered the words of all their favourite songs.

It ended by saying that singing helps ward off Dementia and Alzheimers.

**So, barbershoppers, the more practice you do the healthier you will be !!**
Part 1- The First Taste

Now when I first heard those ringing chords
“Thought, could I be one of those singing lords?”
They asked me to join them, right up on the risers.
That’s when I thought, that they must like surprises!
I found myself singing those faithful “Old Songs”
Wasn’t quite sure they were for me.
I sang a few notes but they held them so long!
While my voice wasn’t quite in harmony!
They asked me to sing there” naked”, alone.
They told me they’d help find my part!
I wondered how they knew I was missing a stone,
But didn’t find voice, nor the heart!
They told me there were voices of tenor or bass.
Of lead, or a rich baritone.
I was frightened my singing would bring me disgrace.
And my wish was to leave and postpone!
Still I knew I loved singing and had once played a part.
In a school musical play
I knew I could do it, if I just made a start.
But that start, just wasn’t that day!

Part 2- Becoming a Member

Later returned, I was hooked by the chords
And they greeted me again, open arms
Was quite taken, being back, there on the” boards,”
While I sang with sweat pouring palms!
They gave me two songs, music to learn,
For membership I had applied
I sang the two songs with passion to burn.
Pretty soon I was thus qualified!
I had made arrangements to pay all my dues
And received my badge, “cert” and shirt.
There was sheet music plus tracks quite a few,
So much to learn that it hurt!
I learnt a few songs, as best that I could
Pretty soon I sang at a gig!
I sang a few notes that I thought sounded good,
But my head it was getting too big!

Part 3- The Learning Curve

I sang all four parts, in the tunes that I knew.
I sang them with gusto too loud.
No timing, no breathing, no singing on cue.
“Alone…. entertaining the crowd!”

Part 4- Ring those Chords

I learnt to open my mouth like a fish,
Out of water and gasping for air.
I learnt to take a deep breath with a whish,
So the wind in my lungs wasn’t bare!
I learnt to sing forward on top of each note,
And tried not to back-throat at all,
With breath support my notes didn’t float
And we rang more chords to recall!

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YOUR WEBSITE

Council, Regional and International Barbershop information and contact details as well as application forms, competition results, calendars and much, much more is available on the BHA Website, check it out regularly for any new information — www.barbershop.org.au

YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

- Deadline: 5.30pm EST on 15th day of each odd numbered month – January, March, May, July, September, November
- Length: Articles to be 150–500 words maximum – Verdana 10 pitch, 1.15 spacing.
- All articles will be edited for spelling, grammar and length.
- Please remember to send photos as attachments - not embedded in your article.
- Email your material to secretary@barbershop.org.au

BARBERSHOP EVENTS

Promote your Coming Events - send full details for inclusion in the BHA Calendar below and on the BHA Website. This helps other Clubs and Council plan events to ensure that they do not clash with other events in your Region, and allows the opportunity to support your local fellow barbershoppers. Send all your details to secretary@barbershop.org.au

2013

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- Apr 27-28 – Sunshne Region Contest – Details TBA
- May 4 – Eastern Region Contest – Barker College, Hornsby NSW
- May 4 – Tasmanian Region Contest – Details TBA
- May 5 – BHA Council Meeting – Australia Wide Teleconference, 7.30pm EST
- May 11 – Western Region Contest – Details TBA
- May 16-19 – Sweet Adelines Regional Competition, Perth WA
- May 19-20 – Sweet Adelines Harmony College, AHA Downunder, Perth WA
- May 25 – Victorian Region Contest – Details TBA
- June 1 – Central Region Contest, Adelaide SA – Details TBA
- Jun 30-Jul 7 – 75th BHS International Convention, Toronto Ontario, Canada 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Barbershop Harmony Society
- Aug 2 – Sweet Adelines Maxx Factor Show, Queensland
- Aug 3-4 – Sweet Adelines Maxx Factor Workshop, Queensland
- Aug 9 – Sweet Adelines Maxx Factor Show, Victoria

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• Aug 10-11 - **Sweet Adelines Maxx Factor Workshop**, Victoria

• Oct 9-13—**Perth 2013—BHA 12th National Barbershop Convention**, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, 21 Mounts Road, Perth WA, hosted by Vocal Evolution—followed by...

• Oct 13-16 - **Harmony College**, Swanleigh Camp and Conference Centre, 58 Yule Ave, Middle Swan WA [www.swanleigh.org.au](http://www.swanleigh.org.au)

• Nov 4-9 - **Sweet Adelines 2013 International Convention**, Honolulu, Hawaii

### 2014

• May 16-18 - **Sweet Adelines 25th Anniversary Regional Convention**, Sydney NSW

• Aug 10-17 – **2014 PanPacific Barbershop Convention**, Wellington, New Zealand
  10-12 – Australasian Judges’ School
  12-13 – Young Singers In Harmony, National Finals

• Aug 17-20 – **Harmony College** at Waikanae NZ

• Nov 3-8 - **Sweet Adelines 2014 International Convention**, Baltimore

**CHECK THE BHA WEBSITE FOR OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BARBERSHOP EVENTS**

All enquiries to:

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**BARBERSHOP HARMONY AUSTRALIA**
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