New Kid on the Block

G’day! Let me begin by saying how excited I am to have been elected to the AAMBS Board, to be in a position to help shape the future of a truly great organisation. By way of introduction, I have been singing barbershop for over twenty years. I currently sing bass with the dual Australian champion quartet, Alliance, and sing with the current Australian champion chorus, Vocal Evolution. I have won three national AAMBS quartet gold medals and three silver medals. I am also certified as a Singing Category Judge (and Category Specialist).

What does this mean to you? Well, I’m glad you asked! It means that as an experienced barbershopper, I excitedly enter my new role as VP Music with an excellent understanding of the joy that barbershop can bring, but more specifically, a good understanding of the need for high-quality education, training, development and musical leadership that we all need and deserve.

So, as the “new kid on the block”, one of my first goals has been to ensure that we have the best possible education and training opportunities available for YOU. Part of this ongoing process will involve direct contact with each and every chorus and quartet within AAMBS, to identify and discuss what sort of training and education you would like to see for your group.

However, one of the first things that you should all be aware of is that this year’s Harmony College, being run directly after our Pan Pacific Convention in Brisbane, will give you the ultimate opportunity to be exposed to some of the finest educators in the world. For the first time, we are offering a faculty consisting completely of international experts in their own areas. This event should be on every AAMBS member’s “bucket list”!

The faculty not only consists of Storm Front, our current International Champions, excellent educators and great blokes with some mighty impressive qualifications and experience, but also contains Jim deBusman, Russ Young, David Leeder and Rick Spencer, all absolutely top-shelf in their fields.

This year we will be running many more classes at Harmony College – designed to allow everyone, no matter what level you are at, to have targeted, appropriate, useful, and most of all, FUN courses to choose from. There will be classes available in beginner, intermediate and (seriously!) advanced levels, to suit everyone’s requirements. You are not tied to a specific curriculum and have the freedom to enjoy whatever sessions you like, depending on your needs and wants!

Are you a Director or Assistant Director? Sessions are available for all front line directors, to help you return to your chorus with renewed energy and new concepts on how to lead and inspire! Learn practical methods to take your skills to another level! This is your opportunity to add to your bag of tricks - from basic sound production to rehearsal planning, motivational techniques and improving your chorus culture.

Are you in a quartet or do you want to form a quartet? You’ll receive specialised one-on-one coaching from one of the best in the world!

Do you view yourself as ‘just a regular guy on the risers’? There’s plenty for you! Are you a coach? We have coach-the-coach sessions! Are you an aspiring arranger or choreographer? Do you want to learn about comedy? Do you have a leadership role in your club? Are you a Section Leader or Marketing man? Then trust me, we have the sessions for you!!

Nobody really has a good excuse for not attending this year’s Harmony College – unless of course you don’t want to give yourself, your club, your quartet, your MD or your Leadership Team the opportunity to grow, to learn, to enjoy each other’s company, and to learn from the wealth of experience and knowledge contained in the awesome faculty. Plus, there’s all the ice cream you can eat!

Dan Hillgate  VP Music

Harmony College runs from Sunday 2 October 2011, commencing after dinner on Sunday evening and continue through Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday morning. All accommodation, meals and events are covered in your registration fee. Bus transport is available for those who need it. Harmony College concludes after lunch on Wednesday 5 October 2011.
Where did the last two months disappear to?

We of the River Harmony committee are still busily preparing to host what we hope will be a truly memorable convention.

News to report:

1. Closing date for early bird registration is 31st May 2011, a late fee will be payable after this date.

2. Chorus rehearsal rooms have been booked at St. Laurence’s College (SLC) on Tuesday 27th Thursday 29th & Friday 30th of September. It may be possible to book rooms on Wednesday 28th September at SLC, providing that doing so does not interfere with the Young Singers In Harmony (YSIH) competitions taking place on the same day at SLC.

3. There will also be two rooms available at the BCEC (Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre) on Friday 30th September from 7.00am until 5.00pm. Choruses performing on the afternoon of Friday 30th will have booking priority for the morning of that day. All rooms booked are large enough to accommodate the larger choruses.

4. Non-delegate tickets to the River Harmony Concert of Champions will be available through Ticketek from 16th May 2011.

5. Non-delegate tickets to competition sessions will be available at the BCEC reception desks throughout the week of the event.

6. Information and Entry forms for the YSIH component have now been posted on the convention website.

7. A pre-paid car parking fee (indications are $14.00. per day) will be available to delegates at the BCEC facility.

    Full details for all of the above items can be obtained from the convention website.
    
    Good luck to all choruses and quartets taking part in the various regional competitions in order to qualify for River Harmony.
Nothing on after River Harmony ??

You need .....

Harmony College

Great faculty ~ Great company
Great time ~ Great ice cream !

Courses in all sizes

Exclusive member offer :
Buy the T-Shirt – get the knowledge

Visit the Harmony College website now
Register and set up your own account

Pay via the Convention website
Page 4

Member Recruitment

What if we discovered a membership recruitment technique that worked virtually every time, but we failed to use it? Sad day for barbershop, while we're working to do everything in our power to keep our art form alive. But the good news is there is still time to get those new members, and just maybe see AAMBS induct its 1,000th member.

From my vantage point as President of the World Harmony Council – an association of all barbershoppers worldwide – I have seen a technique that has worked around the world - in Britain, Germany, Holland, North America – and yes, here in Australia. And it works for the guys and for the ladies, for older choruses and younger ones, and is successful virtually every time.

So what is it?? Simply, offering music lessons, usually one night a week, for 6 weeks. The music team of a chorus conducts the classes, often with help from other local barbershoppers. After teaching basic music techniques the instruction morphs into something sounding strangely like barbershop. The songs that are practiced near the end of the course are in the barbershop style. Often, a "graduation" ceremony is held where the class members perform for the existing chorus, and then do a song with the chorus – just to see what it feels like to stand on the risers and be engulfed with the great barbershop sound.

The real advantage of this technique is that you start with men that have at least a basic interest in vocal music... unlike some of our other drives where we twist the arm of our golfing buddy to come to "new members night", and he does... for a while... just to be nice.

In just two examples close to home, the A Cappella West chorus started with 6 dedicated individuals wanting to form a new chorus. They advertised their music classes and had over 100 replies. The chorus now numbers about 80, and has already finished high in the Sweet Adelines competition - (came 4th place in their first ever competition). Men in Harmony offered classes and had almost as many respondents as they had members. They already have 10 new registered AAMBS' members to add to the 30 they had on the risers.

As they say in lotto, "you've got to be in it, to win it".

If your chorus wants new members, and you want to be a part of preserving our precious art-form – why not give it a try. There are packaged course materials and plans available all over our barbershop fraternity, just waiting for you to put the classes on your chorus schedule. Let's get that 1000th member sooner, rather than later.

See you at the Convention and Harmony College.

Mike Donnelly
AAMBS President

Blenders’ Blitz Boosts Bank Balance. BRAVO!

Just days before the Sunshine Regionals the Blenders put on a Show by way of a public dress rehearsal at their practice hall. And what a show it was. Hundreds crammed into every space - such is their following on the Gold Coast. Young Singers, Sweet Adelines and heaps of the Club's Quartets showcased their honed and battle hardened abilities to vociferous and adoring fans with performances that continue to fly the flag for Barbershopping in Australia.

Yes, it was a template for good club administration combined with months of hard work that even our smallest choruses would do well to study and aspire to achieve. And just to put the icing on the cake, the audience happily paid the $5 entry to assist the Club to subsidise members' costs at Pan Pac in September.

There is nothing, absolutely nothing that beats a live performance after adequate preparation that not only spreads the word of Barbershopping but boosts the ingredient so often missing for many of us, and that is the confidence to entertain with every exposure to our public.

When you are ready, you are ready and wow doesn’t it show? The entertaining ingredient flows out to the audience and flows back on stage two fold to be felt and encourage performers to strive and concentrate even harder in their few minutes in the spotlight.

As we approach September there are ample opportunities out there for choruses to perform to their public when the rehearsed numbers are reaching their peak. Do it and reap the benefits both in confidence and financial boosts.

Well done Blenders! They don’t have to prove anything but they did, AGAIN, anyway.

Derek Churchill
VP Marketing

Our thanks to Mike Wells

AAMBS' members would like to extend a big 'Thank You' to Mike Wells for the work he did for us all as VP Music. We were very sorry to hear that he found it necessary to resign from Council due to pressure of work. It is sad when work comes in the way of our favourite hobby!

We welcome his replacement, Dan Millgate, who stepped into the VP Music portfolio at short notice—thanks Dan for putting your hand up so willingly.

Mike Wells
AAMBS President
Holding office in our great organisation is a real privilege because it offers opportunities and experiences which are not available to the membership as a whole.

I have just completed a whistle-stop tour of Canberra and Perth to examine the merits of two convention bids for our 2013 convention.

Of course the visit entailed visiting potential venues, viewing a range of accommodation styles and obtaining an appreciation of the facilities of the locality, but in each case the best part was the interaction with the locals.

In Canberra I was honoured to be asked to conduct a workshop for the evening in place of the normal chorus rehearsal. Standing in front of a group of singers with ‘Welcome’ written all over their faces is an experience to be treasured, as is the feeling at the end of the night that we had all achieved something together.

The Perth experience was as equally compelling and stimulating as it was individual and different, but, the common thread continues to be that we are sharing a journey along unique but parallel paths, all heading for the same goals and ready and willing to take along anyone who cares to come.

Saturday night was the Western Region Qualifying contest. We were treated to a magnificent array of talent, but best of all a supportive audience, as only barbershop events can provide. Some of the performers showed great courage in standing up on stage and giving the performance their best shot. The audience was thrilled by the excellence of some and the dedication of all in giving their absolute best on the night and showed their appreciation for a job well done. Of course, the learned and expert panel of judges were enthroned there right in front of the stage, a quite daunting view, let me assure you, but even they entered into the spirit of the event and engaged with the audience and the MC to our mutual delight.

At the end there was the usual presentation of medals and congratulations all ‘round and we all left feeling we had had a great time but best of all were the meetings of old and new friends, Andy and Andrew, Richard and Richard … So it was back on the ‘red eye’ and all those long hours to get home to Hobart but the memories and experiences are priceless and I can’t wait to do it all again.

Maybe you aren’t VP Conventions (but at the next election you should consider standing) but such an experience is available to you this very year. I’ll be going to Brisbane in September, I’ll be singing in a chorus and quartet (if we qualify) but best of all, as the tag goes, “I’ll be seeing you”

Richard Gardam
VP Conventions

We are proud to announce that the Young Singers In Harmony Festival will be held in conjunction with the Pan Pacific River Harmony A Cappella competition with contest and workshops specifically for singers under the age of 30.

There will be special awards for barbershop including the AAMBS Youth Quartet competition and School based groups within the major a cappella competition

The competition will take place on Wednesday 28th September, 2011 at St Laurence’s College, Southbank, Brisbane.

Master and Coaching Workshops will be held on the following day.

All details/rules/registration forms can be found on the web site www.youngsingers.com.au

Quartet/Ensemble entry fee is $20
Chorus/Choir entry fee is $40

Each delegate is required to pay only $5 and receives entry to all workshops/master classes and a ticket to the Grand Gala Youth Concert on Wednesday evening featuring Storm Front from Denver, USA

Extra tickets for the concert can be purchased via the website.

Delegates will also receive free entry to all Pan Pac open competition sessions on Thursday 29th September which will enable them to see some of the a cappella ensembles competing.

Delegates to the AAMBS’ Convention will need to purchase tickets to the Gala Youth Concert and will need to get in early to book their tickets which can only be purchases through the YSIH website or going directly to the link http://www.trybooking.com/KIW

It would be a terrific exercise in membership growth if each Club could pass on this information to all school groups in their area to assist in the growth of barbershop singing in your area.

Alternatively if I am supplied with the direct (NOT Music teacher @etc) email and name of the choral co-ordinator at a school I am happy to make the contact.

Don’t miss the Gala Youth Concert book now http://www.trybooking.com/KIW

Stephen Griffin
VP Youth Development
Western Region Quartet Contest and Concert

We are pleased to report on a very successful Western Region Quartet Contest and Concert, which was held on 14 May at St Stephen’s School in Duncraig, Perth.

Proceedings were kicked off by the West Coast Chordsmen, directed by Kim Sebbage, who very ably warmed up the crowd and then it was onto the quartet contest with 18 competing groups including male, female and mixed quartets.

Congratulations to all the entrants, especially those who were competing in a quartet for the first time, of which, we are pleased to report, there were quite a few.

Medals were awarded in the following categories:

- **Open Men’s**
  1st Alliance  
  2nd Nexus  
  3rd The Fishbowl Boys

- **Seniors**
  1st Back to Bassics

- **Youth**:
  1st The Fishbowl Boys,  
  2nd RefriDgerator

- **Schools**
  1st Now In Stereo

- **Ladies**
  1st iCappella

- **Mixed**
  1st Bound to Happen

The Western Region encompasses Western Australia and South Australia and it was great to see four entries from SA, three via video (The Fishbowl Boys, Now In Stereo and YouTube.com) and one group, mixed quartet 3 Tarts & a Diva, travelling to Perth to compete.

Following the contest we were treated to performances from Men in Harmony directed by Bec Mutton, Perth Harmony Chorus directed by Carole Macintyre, BlackJaQ with a wonderful swansong performance in front of their home crowd, and then Vocal Evolution directed by Alex Morris. We certainly are fortunate to have some of the very best barbershop groups in Australia residing in the Western Region. We finished the night with Ian Miller directing the competing quartets and the crowd in a rendition of *I Still Call Australia Home*.

Our thanks go out to the judging panel consisting of Ian Miller (AAMBS - Singing), Ross Fletcher (NZABS – Music), Eddie Klimowicz (AAMBS – Presentation) and Vicki Donnelly (AAMBS – Contest Administrator).

There are many other people to thank but we want to single out Lynell Gimpel who assisted Vicki on the night and who coordinated logistics for the judges, Ken and Chris Jones who managed the backstage and Marion Jamison who organised the venue and who was there to make sure everything we needed was at hand on the night.

Congratulations to everyone involved for making it a very successful event.

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Adrian Gimpel  
Western Region Board

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Is your AAMBS’ membership up to date?

Recently we have sent reminders to all Club Secretaries - in the last edition of *In Harmony*, via snail mail and email - that if any member of their Club who is not currently registered as a financial Member of AAMBS sings at any AAMBS’ Regional or National Quartet or Chorus Competition, then they will cause that Quartet or Chorus to be the subject of immediate disqualification.

I strongly suggest that you all check with your Club Secretary to ensure that your AAMBS’ membership is up to date before you take to the stage.

After all your hours of learning your songs I am sure that you do not want to be the cause of your Quartet or Chorus being disqualified because you didn’t double check your eligibility to appear on the risers in competition.
Eastern Region is pleased to announce the make up of their new Committee, following the formation of the Tasmanian and Victorian Regions -

Chairman:         Mike Barlow (Sydney Harmony)
Vice Chairman: Malcolm Woods (Hills Harmony)
Secretary:         Keith Thornton (Sydney Harmony)
Treasurer:         Bill Purdue (Club-at-Large)

In the Convention year time seems to be moving really fast, as the excitement and enthusiasm builds for Brisbane 2011!

Since the reorganization of the AAMBS Regions, earlier this year, the new Eastern Region Committee, along with those in Victoria and Tasmania, have been working hard to ensure that the quartets in their respective States have the best possible opportunity to compete in the semi-final of the National Convention Quartet Competition.

The members of the ER Committee, with great assistance from the Contest Organising Committee, have all the arrangements in place for the Quartet Contest, to be held on 29 May at the Music Department of Barker College, 91 Pacific Highway, Hornsby, with the first quartet on stage at 10.00 am. We hope the high standard of this venue will bring out the best performances from all competitors.

This year 14 quartets have registered to compete, which is an outstanding number, and we wish them all well. Members families and guests are of course very welcome to come and support their favorites.

With so many quartets, the program is very tight, but there is an opportunity for choruses to participate, to perhaps present their contest package to a supportive and encouraging audience. Unfortunately, the limited time available does not allow time for judging of the choruses.

To date two choruses have registered their intention to perform, and we would welcome others wishing to do so to let us know as soon as possible.

**INTERNATIONAL COACHING**

We are looking forward to Eddie Martinez and Matt Gifford (Musical Island Boys) being here in July and August for workshops with several choruses and quartets. I am sure their expertise and infectious enthusiasm will be of great benefit to all.

Mike Barlow
Chairman

Every Barbershop contest requires planning and control by a

**CONTEST ADMINISTRATOR.**

That could be **YOU,** a **MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY,** or **SOMEONE YOU KNOW!**

We are recruiting **NOW,** so get busy thinking and/or talking to your relations and friends.

No music skills are needed. If you or your ‘target’ enjoy administration, can get along with people, and are willing to learn a few rules, this could be for you or yours.

Contest Administrators in AAMBS are members of the Australasian Guild of Judges and Contest Administrators. As such, they enjoy the same privileges as judges, whilst accepting some similar obligations.

To become a Contest Administrator in AAMBS, you need to qualify by attending a Contest Administration course run by AAMBS.

The next course will be held in Brisbane from 25-27 September 2011, at the 2011 AAMBS Contest and Judging School. That’s immediately prior to our 2011 Pan Pac Convention, so it can be easily swept up in the same trip!

For details, contact David Brown phone (02) 4322 1167
email: dbrown@comcen.com.au
What AAMBS’ Council is doing for you

Here are details of a number of critical matters which all AAMBS’ members should be aware:

1. At the Face-to-Face Council meeting held in Brisbane in February this year a resolution was passed that: **AAMBS Commits to funding one group from each National Competition Category to represent Australia at International Competition.**

2. Registration forms for Clubs and Quartets can be found on the AAMBS Website—www.aambs.org.au and should be completed and forwarded to the AAMBS Secretary either by mail or by email to secretary@aambs.org.au

3. When registering new members remember that their membership is attached to your Club (not your Chorus). As a member of your Club they sing with one of your Choruses.

4. AAMBS is in the process of updating the website with a special page on Membership—this will give full details of all membership matters including current membership fees. The current fee structure is currently listed on the Home page as the first item under NEWS.

5. It is very important that you keep AAMBS up to date with any changes in your contact details, not only so you can receive important information but also to ensure that you are fully covered under the AAMBS’ Insurance Policies.

6. Council would also like to hear from you about what you think they are doing well and what else you would like them to do for you. You can always contact the appropriate Council member (their details are on the Website under Contacts) or write to me as AAMBS’ Secretary and I will refer your comments to Council—we meet via teleconference on the 1st Sunday of each month.

Remember, the members of the Council are here as your representatives and to work in your interest. There are a number of new initiatives in the pipeline which you will hear of very soon.

Kevin White
Secretary

Barbershop Arranging

Barbershop harmony is a style of unaccompanied vocal music characterized by consonant four-part chords for every melody note in a predominantly homophonic texture. Each of the four parts has its own role: the lead sings the melody, with the tenor harmonizing above the melody, the bass singing the lowest harmonizing notes, and the baritone completing the chord. The melody is not sung by the tenor or bass, except for an infrequent note or two to avoid awkward voice leading, in tags or codas, or when some appropriate embellishing effect can be created. Occasional brief passages may be sung by fewer than four voice parts.

Barbershop music features songs with understandable lyrics and easily singable melodies, whose tones clearly define a tonal centre and imply major and minor chords and barbershop (dominant and secondary dominant) seventh chords that resolve primarily around the circle of fifths, while making frequent use of other resolutions. What sets barbershop apart from other musical styles is the predominant use of the dominant-type seventh chords. Barbershop music also features a balanced, symmetrical form and a standard meter. The basic song and its harmonization are embellished by the arranger to provide appropriate support of the song’s theme and to close the song effectively.

So-called barbershop seventh chords should represent at least one third of the song’s duration. As an example of circle-of-fifths resolution, a tonic triad - subdominant progression will often use the tonic 7th instead, if it advances the forward motion of the song.

The quality of musical choices are vital to the success of a barbershop arrangement. A skilful arrangement, well executed, will provide the audience with an emotionally satisfying and entertaining experience.

Anyone with a knowledge of music theory who can arrange should be able to write a barbershop arrangement. However, an understanding of the art form as it is practised and judged in competition is undoubtedly an advantage. A music category judge can assess an arrangement by ear or eye to test whether it is 'barbershop', and hence valid for use in competition. The BHS and its affiliated associations run courses in arranging at 'Harmony University' (formerly 'Harmony College'), which are open to members.

Relevant manuals: “Theory of Barbershop Harmony”, "Barbershop Arranging Manual" and "Contest and Judging Manual" are published by the BHS.

As described on Wikipedia
An invitation to next year’s
BinG! Convention in Dortmund, Germany

On behalf of BinG!, Barbershop in Germany, we would be delighted if AAMBS would be able to send one of its choruses to represent AAMBS at our next Convention, 02-04 March, 2012 in Dortmund, Germany.

The BinG! Barbershop Music Festival takes place every two years. Our next convention will again be held in the concert hall named "Konzerthaus" in the centre of Dortmund. It was built as a modern version of the famous concert hall of the Viennese "Musikverein" and already has a great reputation for wonderful acoustics and atmosphere. There are plenty of good restaurants and shops right nearby. If you are interested in further information about the hall, please visit www.konzerthaus-dortmund.de

The program for the weekend is set up as follows:

**Friday** – at 6:00 pm we start with our national quartet competition.

In the evening, at 10:00 pm we have a “Stern Show.” This is a show for all those night owls who just love to hear barbershop and a-cappella music.

**Saturday** – at 2:00 pm is our national chorus competition.

In the evening, at 7:30 pm, is the “Show of the Champions”. In this show we present the 1st – 3rd quartet & chorus winners, and our headliners. This year the headliners who will be joining us are the “Westminster Chorus” (Barbershop Harmony Society) and “Martini” (Sweet Adelines).

**Sunday** – We have a very special event in store for all of those who attend.

BinG will be hosting the very first international mixed barbershop quartet competition.

As you can see we have quite a weekend in store for all those who attend.

Although we would not be able to cover your costs, we can offer you price worthy hotel accommodation in close walking distance to the Concert House where the Convention will take place. Convention Registration costs per person is 95€ which includes tickets to all events. We also would provide an assistant for your chorus.

We especially would like to see your groups perform on stage, if we are not fully booked. This would be in the chorus / quartet competition, Stern Show or in the Show of the Champions (only if your chorus or quartet has come out first to third place in your national convention in the years 2010 and/or 2011). We can guarantee one performance but as in the past we will try to make another performance available to you. Once we know how many international groups want to take part we will be able to plan your placements for the weekend.

Please let me know which of your choruses will be able to join us.

At this time we are busy in setting up the schedule and hope that we will be able to put your chorus names in. If you need any further information, please don’t hesitate to ask me.

I look forward hearing from you soon.

Warmest regards,

Roberta

Roberta Damm
International Affairs

BinG! Barbershop in Germany e.V.
Saarlandstrasse 124a
44139 Dortmund, Germany
Telephone: +49 231 47 91 29
E-Mail: roberta.damm@barbershop.de
Homepage: http://www.barbershop.de
Letters to the Editor

Appointment of New VP Music—Dan Millgate

What a great choice! The South Australian barbershoppers were lucky to have a workshop with Alliance last Thursday afternoon (Ed. 31 March) and Dan was so inspirational and such a nice guy as were they all. We learnt so much in a short time.

Gordon Tomlinson
Secretary - Fleurieu & Harbourside Harmony

Dear World Harmony College Representatives,

Thank you for your responses concerning our invitation to your organisations sending a chorus to our Barbershop Music Festival 2012 to represent you.

A possible misunderstanding has arisen which I would like to clarify.

The chorus that you send would be invited to sing as either a mike warmer, mike cooler (in which case they would have the advantage of being unofficially judged) and / or sing in our Stern (Ed. Star) Show on Friday night. Once we know how many international groups want to take part we will be able to plan your placements for the weekend.

A chorus that is not a member of BinG can naturally not be in the official scoring for the national contest but as a mike warmer / cooler the unofficial scores which the mike warmers/ coolers receive and the input from the judges is valuable for the chorus.

Invitations to sing in our Show of the Champions were not included in this invitation. Invitations to sing in this show, outside of our national groups and our invited headlines from the USA, will be made at a later date.

We look forward to the Barbershop Music Festival 2012 and hope to be able to experience your national your chorus on stage.

It will be an exciting time for all of us.

Lots of greetings,
Robert Damm
International Affairs
BinG! Barbershop in Germany e.V.

From Rae Knight — past MD of Men in Harmony

Dear Editor,

In 2009, I was thinking that I had taken on most of the challenges that this barbershop art-form could throw at me, when I was asked to consider taking on the Musical Director position with Men in Harmony. This was something right out of my comfort zone, so for the next few months the chorus and I embarked on a joint learning program, culminating in an enjoyable and rewarding experience on the contest stage, where we improved our scores considerably.

All in all, we spent 18 months working together and at the end of that period we mounted a sell-out show that included 15 songs that needed to be re-learned for the event, not to mention presentation moves and costume changes. The guys took all these challenges in their stride with aplomb.

My history with Men in Harmony goes back to 1986 when Pat started singing with them, and I have always had the utmost affection and respect for this wonderful group of men. There are members on the risers each week who have had major health issues - accidents and illnesses that would level lesser men. However, if they are able to drive, or cadge a lift, they will not miss a rehearsal, and their material is learned in a timely manner. The absolute joy of what they are doing is so obvious and no matter whether they are founding members of 25 plus years, or they came for the first time last week, the attitude is the same. They are here to learn to be better singers and to share the joy of barbershopping.

It's never been about medals with these guys, but that doesn't mean they wouldn't like one, so watch out AAMBS choruses in Brisbane! With their new Director Bec the sky's the limit.

Rae Knight
Past MD—Men in Harmony

“A painter paints pictures on canvas.
But musicians paint their pictures on silence.”

~Leopold Stokowski
New MD for Sunshine Statesmen

Following an exhaustive three-month search Tony Eccles, President of the Sunshine Statesmen Barbershop Chorus, is delighted to announce the appointment of Karina Gough as the Chorus's new musical director.

Karina has been an active musician for over 40 years in several areas of music-making - performing, conducting and arranging. She is a past conductor of two former Melbourne choirs (the Old Grammarians Singers and Once More With Feeling), an arranger of popular songs into 4-6-8 part harmonies for vocal ensembles and, in recent years, an occasional performer of Celtic "sean-nos" singing. Karina is also the creator and ongoing editor of a popular website, A Guide to the Choirs of Melbourne, which has changed the face of choral singing in Melbourne since its launch in 2000.

At the end of 2008, Karina and her family fulfilled a long-held dream and relocated from Melbourne to the Sunshine Coast. Here, Karina has sung as soloist with both the Noosa Chorale and the Sunshine Coast Choral Society, and is a member of Noosa Chorale.

Karina is delighted to accept the invitation of The Sunshine Statesmen to become their Musical Director and Conductor in 2011.

'Barbershop singing is an exciting challenge,' she said. 'I look forward to assisting the Statesmen ring those wonderful four-part harmony chords.'

Bruce Laming

Open rehearsal 24th Feb 2011 with prospective new members joining HAH on the risers.

Toowoomba just gets on with it!

Hmm, Thursday. (24th Feb) What is it I have to do first? Oh that’s right. Get my skates on and arrive at the rehearsal rooms by no later than 6:00pm, or I’ll have members ringing me up wanting to know where I am. One last thing. Get my black High Altitude Harmony (HAH) T-shirt out of hiding. It’s an innovation to make everyone feel more like a group, and I think that it’s working. There is a real sense of camaraderie evident now that wasn’t there before with all of us (well most) wearing the T-shirt.

Traffic in a provincial town like Toowoomba is crazy.

Where is everybody going at this time of the evening?

Finally I get there and open up. A selection of early birds start setting up the risers, putting out the key-boards in the break-out rooms and getting chairs in place for the visitors and those whose constitution doesn’t allow them to stand on the risers for extended periods.

What next? Oh, I know. Open up the music cupboard and get spare music folders and sheet music out. Then it’s time to greet and chat with the lads as they all straggle in.

In no time it is 7:00pm and Andrew is blowing the pitch pipe. The chorus comes to life and the sound of The Old Songs rings out through the room.

If Mike Ludwig is with us he greets us and any visitors and one of the Section Leaders gets us working on vocal production. After thirty minutes we are really warmed up and take off for a section practice on one of our competition songs, as this is Pan-Pacs in Brisbane this year.

After we all get back, having stood around as usual waiting for the Bass section to roam in like Brown’s cows, the entire chorus gets stuck into this week’s selected review song. Over and over. Then back over another bit. Then that other bit we keep mucking up. Finally Ben, our Assistant MD takes over and we work it a bit more. At last, when none of us think it will happen, Ben lets us sing the entire song without pulling us up and says: "Nice". From Ben, that’s high praise and you can feel the smiles all over the risers.

Next Fireside Chat. Two birthdays this week and the birthday boys stand out front and we sing them Happy Birthday, plus three cheers. The minutiae of running a chorus is sorted out, gigs promoted, advice on personal matters affecting members and their families. And then the big one. A new member is inducted by his mentor and section leader, presented with his No: 1 uniform, walk-out kit and other bits and pieces and the entire chorus welcomes him and his partner into full membership of HAH.

Rehearsal rolls on. More songs are sung. Sometimes really well. Sometimes, not so well. But, hey. That’s why it’s called rehearsal.

At last we get to the end of the formal part of the night. The last two songs are sung and we all shake hands and thank our neighbour on the risers.

Supper has been organised by our Support Team. As usual, it is great. Lots of talk, cups of tea and coffee and then off sneak a few blokes to a corner to sing tags. Look. Over there is another four working out a scratch quartet routine and then the tags team gets bigger and bigger. Eventually half the chorus is singing tags and the chords are really ringing.

The latest we have continued on to is midnight, when Les has called a halt as he has a long drive home. Not to worry. Next week we will all be back and get stuck into barbershop again.

Why? Because we love it

Paddy Boxall

Secretary

A newly qualified member, Barry Hay, is welcomed into HAH and proudly receives his rehearsal and performance gear.
In Harmony Issue 122— May / June 2011

Club news (cont’d)

Fleurieu learns from the Masters

The chorus has been busy fundraising for the trip to Brisbane and we are eagerly looking forward to it.

We expect to have about 19 members in Sounds of A-Chord, the new chorus registered under the Fleurieu Harmony Club banner, made up of members from The Festival States Men, Harborside Harmony and Fleurieu Harmony. The new chorus is getting together as often as possible and working on several new and old songs before the competition songs are finally decided.

We also have our barbershop Variety show, The Magic of Harmony, coming up in July involving Male, Female and Mixed choruses and Quartets.

We were lucky to be invited by Alliance to a workshop last month, most of the members of the SA choruses attended and wow! what an enjoyable time we had and what a likeable bunch they are,. We learnt so much on all aspects of barbershopping and our chorus has been adopting as much as possible of what we learned from them.

Thanks, fellas, for giving us your time and knowledge - we really appreciated it.

Gordon Tomlinson

The Clippers go to Music Camp

INSOMNIAC RALPH ANDREW’S RUMINATIONS

I do enjoy my Barbershop,
I am a loyal Clipper.
So when I heard about this camp,
I thought, “You little ripper!”

I loved it there at Tambourine,
The nights were quiet and deep.
But when we reached the midnight hour,
I could not get to sleep!

I’d hoped for restful hours of peace,
And soothing calm and quiet.
But what I got was elephants
Indulging in a riot.

I heard the sound of ghastly snores,
Like diesel tractors starting.
Of camels fighting to the death
Of giant rhinos --------------!

And so the morning came, and I
Had barely had a blink.
I had to get some sleep and so,
I settled down to think.

I found an empty cabin, and
I moved my luggage in.
But fate moved in to punish me
For selfishness and sin

Two other Clippers came in late,
And moved in next to me.
After midnight I awoke
To a fresh cacophony.

“Oh Lord”, I cried, “what have I done?”
I heard an angel talk.
“This you must do my child,” it said,
“Take up thy bed and walk.”

I took my mattress up and walked
Up to the meeting hall,
And put it down and slept the night
And friends, that’s nearly all.

I got about an hour’s sleep
Upon the concrete floor.
With mossies, bugs and creeping things,
But at least they didn’t snore.

At dawn the sunshine woke me up,
So gently on my face.
And soon I’ll pack my luggage up
And leave this bloody place!

And next time someone mentions CAMP!,
I’ll say, “I THINK I’LL PASS”.
Just take your registration form
And stick it – “in the bin”.

See you in Brisbane soon!

Keith Drury

Keith Drury
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 AAMBS Website—www.aambs.org.au

Your Newsletter Articles
Deadline
5:30pm EDST on 15th day of each odd numbered month

Length
Articles to be 150—500 words maximum and in Georgia 10 pitch font. All articles will be edited for spelling, grammar and length.

Photos
Please remember to send photos as attachments - not embedded in your article

Your Events
Promote your Coming Events - send full details for inclusion in the AAMBS Calendar below and on the AAMBS Website

2011
May - Region Regional Qualifying Events
   28-29  - Tasmanian Region
   28    - Victorian Region
   29    - Eastern Region

Jun 27-Jul 4 – BHS International Convention, Kansas City MO USA

Oct 7-9 – Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’ International Convention. Belfast, Ireland

Sept 25-27—AAMBS’ Judges’ School—
   9 am Sun 25—5pm Tues 27, St Laurence’s College, 82 Stephens Road, South Brisbane Qld 4101 Australia
   Guild of Australasian Barbershop Judges by 31 May to mulholand@roxresources.com.au or phone 0418 956 492.

Sept 28—Young Singers in Harmony Festival at St Laurence’s College, Brisbane Qld.

2012
Mar 2–4 The BinG! Barbershop Music Festival
   Dortmund , Germany (see invitation on Page 5)
   www.konzerthaus-dortmund.de

Jul 1-8 – BHS International Convention, Portland, Oregon USA

Oct 7-9 – Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’ International Convention. Dublin, Ireland

Feb 23-24—European Barbershop Convention
   Harrogate, England

Jun 27-Jul 4 – BHS International Convention, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Oct 4-6 – Irish Association of Barbershop Singers’ International Convention. Galway, Ireland

2014
Jun 29-Jul 6 – BHS International Convention, Minneapolis MN USA

2016
Jul 3-10 – BHS International Convention, Nashville, TN USA

CHECK FOR EXTRA ITEMS ON THE AAMBS WEBSITE