Greetings fellow barbershoppers!

The big gathering of Australia's Barbershoppers is now just a few weeks away. As a result of hundreds of hours of volunteer work on your behalf, the Perth Convention is ready to roll. If you or your partner still haven't registered, don't be left out. Registration is still open, but just barely ☹️... until close of business Tuesday 24 September!

There is so much good stuff in this edition of In Harmony. For instance: Convention Chairman Dan Millgate has provided a stack of info about the Perth Convention, and Harmony College in the attached Perth Convention Update – September 2013, and VP Membership Richard Reeve has other important Convention information for you. These are "must read" material for you before you come. VP Music Dan Millgate (he's been busy 😊) has a fascinating view on how to prepare yourself to give your personal best performance at competition, or at any performance. Marketing VP Keith Thornton has provided some superb philosophy and tips on effective marketing which is tailored for your club. And VP Youth Jonathan Bligh has details of Youth activity at the Convention, and also national Youth news. That's just for starters.

In this final article before we meet at the Convention I want to express my appreciation to all the musical and management leaders of the greatest barbershop organization in the World - Barbershop Harmony Australia. As President I have the privilege of seeing the great accomplishments, the membership growth, and the generosity and fellowship that happens every day - all across Australia. We are the envy of other barbershop groups around the World - for our musical successes, for our performance proficiency, for our professional and grand Conventions, and for our caring and support of each and every one of our chorus mates.

See you soon,

In Harmony,
Mike Donnelly
President – BHA

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In this issue:

**Council Reports**: from the President, VP Membership, VP Youth Development, VP Events, Secretary, VP Marketing & Development, VP Music + Perth Convention Update information

**Feature stories**: What it means to take to the risers from Terry Hughes (The Melbournaires), Club news, Welcome to new members of BHA, Sydney Harmony & High Altitude Harmony events, plus lots more including requirements & details for Website, Newsletter Articles & Barbershop Events
National Convention is just around the corner and the excitement is building. All of the Perth barbershoppers can’t wait to welcome you to town! For those of you who can’t make it, we’re going to miss you and hope you can join us in 2015.

Promo video

If you know anyone in Perth who might like to come along, draw their attention to this promo video on the BHA conventions page: barbershopconvention.com.au/promo.

As part of ongoing plans by your National Council to introduce barbershop to more blokes around Australia, we will be doing some behind the scenes videoing at convention. If you’re happy to say a few words about how you became involved in barbershop and why you love it, come and let me know and we’ll get you in front of the camera. Naturally, I will be approaching many of you anyway! ☺

Club of the year

As a way of recognising the amazing organisational leadership being shown by Clubs across BHA, for the first time this year, National Council is introducing a ‘Club of the Year’ award. Winning trophies and medals at national competition for on-stage performances has always been a jewel-in-the-crown of the barbershop calendar in Australia, and will remain so. But there is so much that goes into running a Club, we thought it’s about time this was recognised independently. Being given roughly equal weighting, the criteria are:

1) Promotion of Barbershop Singing to the community
2) Membership retention & growth
3) Performances & Concerts
4) Participation and involvement at recent BHA Conventions
5) Website appraisal
6) Communication with BHA and support for BHA initiatives
7) Community Service from entertainment & charitable perspectives
8) Club Member communication and support
9) Quartet development and promotion within membership
10) Youth development

This is also an opportunity for all Clubs and Council to ask what our key priorities are. Why do we do what we do?

So who decides? Council has appointed an independent panel to provide advice. We are proud to announce the following distinguished members:
• Rob Walley – former AAMBS President
• Trevor Rootes – Tasmanian Region Chair and Chair of the 2009 National Convention organising committee
• Alex Morris – National Champion MD, Music judge (category specialist), gentleman about town

Being the first year of this award, both Council and the independent committee will find this an interesting process asking itself “what is the ideal club”. But we are very confident barbershop in Australia will be richer for this initiative.

Recognition for Club Members of the year

Given that successful Clubs are always a collection of individuals, this year each Club has been invited to submit the name of its “barbershopper of the year”. This is not a competition, but rather an opportunity for the great people, the life-blood of their Clubs, and therefore barbershop in Australia, to be deservedly publically recognised. So make sure your club has submitted your Club Member of the Year. This will be done during the welcome dinner on the Thursday night of Convention.

Club leadership forum at convention

Now, I’m the first to appreciate that so much of our attention and excitement at Convention is around competition, the showcase and then the afterglow. And fair enough. BUT … on the Sunday morning I will be holding a forum on Club Leadership for people to share ideas.

What this will NOT be is a lecture by me on perfect Club leadership; complete information about which I do not hold.

What this WILL be is an opportunity for barbershoppers from around the country to get into the same room once every two years and share experiences. As an introduction to the resources BHA offers clubs, I will be referring to

• The new BHA web site
• The BHA Handbook – your first port of call for any question about barbershop in Australia
• Club Officer Training (COTS)

This is designed specifically for Club Leadership/ Membership VPs but I reckon on the Sunday morning, an open invitation isn’t going to see us flooded with participants. So if you’re interested and have something to contribute, you’re welcome to join us! See your convention program for details.

Richard Reeve
VP Membership
membership@barbershop.org.au
Phone : 0411 519 852
**YOUTH CONVENTION NEWS**

**The Youth Revolution is here!**
Perth will see the largest Youth Quartet Competition yet!
Congratulations to all the youth quartets out there who qualified for the National Competition!

**Combined Convention Youth Chorus**
All BHA youth members (30 years and under) are invited to participate in a combined youth chorus for the duration of the Convention. The chorus will be directed by Alex Morris as Australia’s current Gold Medallist Director and the international silver medallist quartet *The Musical Island Boys*.

The repertoire is *Just Haven’t Met You Yet, Some Nights* and *Advance Australia Fair*. A drop box link has been created with sheet music and learning tracks. If you haven’t received these materials already, then please contact your local Youth Rep or VP Youth Development as quickly as possible.

You are expected to know your music before the Youth Workshop.

The combined Youth Chorus will be performing at the Gala Dinner and at the end of the Open Chorus Competition before the Judges present their results.

**Youth Face-to-Face**
If you are interested in the future of Youth Development in Australia then please shoot me an email. I will be hosting a ‘face-to-face’ meeting of all the Youth Reps in Australia in addition to anyone else who is interested in supporting a youth program in their own region. Please email me directly if you would like to attend.

**IN OTHER NEWS**

**South Aussies take to the World!**

**The Fishbowl Boys** have recently returned home after representing Australia in the 75th Barbershop Harmony Society Convention in Toronto. The lads performed extremely well being placed 9th in the Collegiate Competition and have done Australia proud! Well done Matt, Kieran, Cam and Robin!

**No Borders Youth Chorus – New York**
Calling all men 30 years and under!

Under the direction of Master Director Joe Cerutti and with special guests *Lunch Break* and Tim Waurick, the *No Borders Youth Chorus* is returning to Carnegie Hall to participate in the 2013 US/Japan Goodwill Concert on December 26, 2013. Applications are open – just follow this link: [www.nbmconsort.org/FB_NBYC2012](http://www.nbmconsort.org/FB_NBYC2012). Jonathan Albertini from *The Blenders* and Kieran O’Dea and Ryan O’Dea from the *Festival Statesmen* attended last year.

*Jonathan Bligh*
VP Youth Development
youth@barbershop.org.au
Hi Everyone!

What are you doing next month? Coming to the Perth Convention I hope. It runs from 10-13 October and offers all you could want in barbershop entertainment and participation.

Two of the world's top quartets, including 4 times silver medallist *Musical Island Boys*, plus the funniest quartet around at the moment, *Lunch Break*.

Add to that quartet and chorus concerts in a non-contest format (i.e. "just for fun"), and the usual National contests and top it all off with a whizz bang show. What more could you ask for?

And if you're not coming to Perth, why not? Why miss out on the major BHA event that's only held every second year? We want YOU!!!!

It's not too late! Registrations will still be accepted. Just logon to the BHA website and follow the prompts to Convention Registration, and as a special offer, if you're not comfortable with using the internet, give me a call on 0418-956-492, and I'll do your registration for you! And bring your partner. There's lots to do in Perth at this time of year, and the weather is just great.

After the Convention there's Harmony College. Held in a beautiful rural setting in the Swan Valley just north of Perth. An educational event not to be missed. Again, registrations are still open using the same method as for the Convention.

Come on, get involved, it's your barbershop association!

Sing-cerely,

*Ian Mulholland*

VP Events

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**Important** – see the Perth Convention Update (sent to you with this newsletter) for the very latest news on this year’s Convention - now only 2½ weeks away!!

It has information for everyone to take advantage of the great specials on offer!

If you haven’t registered for the Convention or Harmony College yet there is still time, and we encourage you to do so as THESE ARE DEFINITELY EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED.
FROM THE SECRETARY

It’s that time of year again

1. Annual General Meeting – 6 December 2013

Time to think about the BHA Annual General Meeting which, as usual, will be held in early December. The positions which will become vacant are President, Treasurer, VP Events and VP Marketing and Developments. Mike Donnelly, after 8 years at the helm, is not standing for re-election this year, but Trevor Bruger (Treasurer) Ian Mulholland (VP Events) and Keith Thorton (VP Marketing and Development) and prepared to put their hands up for re-election to Council. Nominations from other BHA members will be accepted with the deadline for nominations being 31 October 2013. If you want to find out about any of the portfolios and their responsibilities, check the Website under Dowloads - Standing Orders - Standing Order 1 : Election of Officers to National Council. If you are interested in nominating a member or in being nominated a form is available on the Website: Downloads – Forms, or speak to your Club Secretary who has a copy of the current Nomination Form.

2. Incorporation of Clubs and Regions

Incorporating Non-Profit or Charitable Organizations”

The associations incorporation legislation in each state and territory provides a simple and more affordable means of creating a separate legal entity for small, community-based groups with limited resources. This legislation impose less onerous conditions than the Corporations Act governing the activities of companies. The benefits of incorporation, at a modest cost, are described in the article.

http://www.asic.gov.au/asic/asic.nsf/byheadline/Registering+not-for-profit+or+charitable+organisations

3. BHA Library

Did you know there are many items available for you to borrow for just the cost of return postage? Check out the details on the Website where you can view the list of items available including DVDs of past national and international conventions winners including Top 20 from each BHS convention; CDs of individual quartets; books on successful performance planning, improving vocal techniques and much more.

Simply visit the BHA Website - www.barbershop.org.au either under Downloads – Music Education Resources or under Store – Library then all you have to do is contact Kevin White, BHA Secretary, and he will send them to you for a month – all you have to do at the end of the month is pay the postage to return them to the Library.

Please return items on time and note that lost items will be charged at replacement cost.

Kevin White
BHA Secretary
secretary@barbershop.org.au
Ever struggled with ideas to promote your barbershop Club?

Try online news releases. They put your name where customers look—search engines. They can get your name to the very top of a Google page so potential customers and new members find you faster. They have a broader reach than email marketing and they reach people way beyond your email list, like prospects, journalists and bloggers. Don’t think you have any news? No matter where you’re Club is, or how many members you have, your Club makes news regularly. And you can turn any piece of news into an online asset that helps you increase awareness, attract more customers and win more business. Just think of everything you do. Perhaps you recently started working toward a new show or a service like free voice lessons, or are offering a great chance to sing in a festival. Maybe you hired a new director, created a website for your business or moved to a new rehearsal location. They’re all opportunities to make news. So spread the word, and get your story out there with an online news release.

You’re not alone. Here are some things you can do to get your chorus’s name out there for all to see. (Taken from PROBE President, John Elving’s article; “Always be Marketing your Chapter”)

Try some of these ideas to get you started spreading the word.

1: Tell everyone about your latest accomplishment or award.

The next time you win an award or have a major breakthrough – or win an award for your latest major breakthrough, then let the world know about it. An online news release can take the story beyond your Club in all sorts of ways and connect you with all sorts of people, including journalists looking for a story, and customers looking for a well-reviewed, credible product or service. Why not publicize an award that one of your members has won? You’re selling award-winning performances; you should shout about it and that person is a vital part of your Club.

2: Share an inspirational story.

For inspiration for your next release, look no further than… inspiration. Readers love to hear about people going the extra mile, overcoming adversity, and becoming successful, and the publicity, can generate even more success.

3: Offer useful, free educational resources.

Educate the public about your latest initiative, event or service. No one likes to be lectured, but you can present helpful, useful information by telling a story. This sort of news can build your credibility with readers and provides a resource they might share.

4: Your recent event was a hit.

You’re organizing an event, well that’s a neat story. But why only get one news release out of it? Recapping its success once you’re all done gives you a brand new story angle for no extra legwork. Who attended? Which quartets, either Club or guest, soloists or VLQs stood out? What was the highlight? Let the world know. Details. Details. Details. Not only do they make your story interesting; they also help make an impression that sticks in readers’ minds.

5: Debunk a myth.

Don’t go outside without a coat; don’t crack your knuckles; and whatever you do, don’t swallow your gum. There are tons of myths that relate to singing Barbershop, and an online...
news release is a great platform to debunk them. It’s the kind of “told you so” link that people love to send to their friends. Learn to debunk and brand at the same time.

6: Announce a charitable contribution.
A news release about your latest charitable contribution can help generate awareness and credibility for the cause you believe in. But it can really help you drive business, too. It can win you positive media coverage and connect your business (Club) with the many consumers that believe in your cause. Use keywords to promote your charity linked with your organization.

7: Broadcast your upcoming holiday event.
There are tons of holiday events every year and for every type of company, organization and industry. There are also tons of people searching the Web for events, shows, gifts and more. The competition is fierce but the rewards are well worth it, so complement your existing publicity with a news release focused on the next “Holiday Event”. Make your announcement sooner rather than later to gain maximum benefit.

8: Hook your story to a technology trend.
A CEO making an announcement – that’s nothing new. But it is when they do it on YouTube, or Twitter. Tech is one of the most talked about industries today, and you don’t need to have a high-tech product to get in on the action. Seriously, you can capitalize on the buzz out there with just a notepad. Don’t just talk tech, use it as part of your story, link it to your Club and its activities.

9: Provide helpful tips.
Publishing a few helpful tips can turn a search engine user into a potential customer or a new member, so get your singing knowledge out there. You have the tips and people are out there searching for them. Get publishing and get connected. Remember though: just one or two brilliant tips is much better than a long list of useless ones. ABM: Always Be Marketing. If your chorus’s singing relates to the tips you provide, promote it.

10: Promote your event or team sponsorship.
A great way to reach local customers is to sponsor a local team or event, and then publish a news release promoting your involvement. It’s added publicity for them, and it’s great publicity for you – especially when it connects you to customers and journalists looking for the team/event. Announce ongoing sponsorships, too. A 25th anniversary of a sponsorship is as newsworthy (if not more so) as a first-year sponsorship.

If you think that your Club can’t do this, give me a call and let’s discuss it, we’re here to help wherever we can...!

Quick Question: Is your Club becoming involved with “Movember” this year?
If so, we’d like to hear what you’re doing and how you’re managing your involvement? Please let me know if your Chorus is getting involved with this charitable event this year...

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

Keith Thornton
V.P. Marketing & Development
With the Perth Convention looming, perhaps now is a good time to prepare yourself for that moment when the lights go up and it’s your turn to wow the audience with your contest set! So, here are a few of my favourite tips and tricks to remember on the big day:

**Have fun!**

If you’re not having fun, the audience and the judges won’t have fun either.

**Your Audience and Judges are Your Friends!**

We are most relaxed when in front of our friends and family, so apply this theory to the judges and the audience during the contest. Treat your audience and your judges as your friends, and interact with them in that way! You will find that this takes a lot of pressure off your shoulders, and makes it easier for you to leave an impression on them too.

An important point here is for you to adopt a ‘Sharing Attitude’. You are performing because you want to share your singing and your song with the audience and the judges. Once you are able to keep this sharing attitude in mind, you will find that the anxiety and the stress leaves you, and you will feel more relaxed and able to do your best onstage!

Don’t think of the judges as people who hate you. This is far from the case. They really want you to do well and are rooting for you, not against you! Treat them with respect but remember, they are audience members too, and they are people just like you …. they just want to be entertained. Accept and enjoy those facts, and let it show in your performance.

**Always Do Your Vocal Warm-ups Before You Sing!**

Be sure to practise your vocal warm-ups before you sing – it is extremely important for you to warm up your breathing and your voice, as well as to sing through your song and build up your confidence before you step onto the stage to compete!

**Stage-fright?**

We all get it!! It is a perfectly normal feeling to have whenever singing onstage or in front of a listening audience! Perhaps you have experienced this in the form of ‘freezing’ on stage, not being able to sing at all? Maybe you have had mental blackouts on stage and were unable to remember your song lyrics or choreography? Or perhaps you have felt a slight ‘squeezing’ sensation in your stomach, maybe your legs were trembling or your voice was shaking, or even more common, you had trouble breathing properly and found yourself running out of breath when you were singing?

This feeling of nervousness gets more intense when we are performing in front of judges, which is the case during singing contests, so what is the best way to deal with it? Well, here are a few of the most effective tips I know for overcoming your stage-fright:

**Practise, Practise, Practise!**

Sometimes, our performance anxiety comes about because we have not practised our song enough, and we are still not 100% sure of our lyrics or the song we chose to sing. When we step on stage without having made all the possible preparations, we are more prone to feeling anxious and that makes us more nervous and certainly unable to perform to the best of our ability!
Being well-practised before competition day will help us to reduce this feeling of nervousness and make us more confident onstage! It will also reduce the possibility of making mistakes because we are so familiar with the lyrics and the song that we are singing.

Practising with a listening audience present, family, or even complete strangers, helps to build your confidence! You can start off with your best friend as your audience, and slowly increase the number of people to whom you sing. This allows you to build up confidence in your singing ability, and also makes performing in front of people a regular habit, so that it becomes less daunting for you as a performer!

Record your performance many times over and listen back to it. Often when we sing we don't realise things that are wrong until we hear them back. Critique yourself. Don't wait for the judges to do that for you. You can probably save a lot of time and get more out of your critique session if you've already identified and rectified a few of the simple things that distracted from your performance, and this will allow the judges to give more advice of a much higher level.

**Deep Breaths...**

Whenever we feel the onset of stage-fright or performance anxiety, it would do good for us to practise deep breathing to calm our nerves and stay relaxed and focussed. You can also learn about how to breathe properly for singing by using your diaphragm and this will allow you to take in deeper breaths to relax yourself!

Another way for you to relax is to tense up all the muscles in your body and clench your fists hard, and then relax all your muscles and let all the tension leave your body. This allows you to feel more relaxed and let the stress or nervousness leave your body before you go onstage to perform!

We ALL make mistakes. If you make a mistake, don't beat yourself up over it. Sometimes we paralyse ourselves thinking about a mistake we just made, and then make another mistake because we're not concentrating on our performance. Move on, and don't worry about it. THIS is what makes a great performer.

See you all in Perth, and best of luck!

*Dan Millgate*  
VP Music
WHAT IT MEANS TO TAKE THE RISERS

Taking to the risers to sing in a barbershop harmony chorus, or any chorus for that matter, holds various responsibilities. This article argues that responsibilities occur at three levels: individual, chorus and director.

**Individual responsibility** requires that a singer does whatever is necessary and reasonable to make their voice the best it can possibly be. We are all gifted with various levels of talent or training; a few with both.

Some singers have outstanding natural voices; they sing and it sounds great. Others are not as fortunate and need to work diligently to ensure that their singing voices are, at the very least, of reasonable quality. Singers may have musical training, whether in singing or otherwise and often use those abilities to enhance their voices.

It has been said that those with musical training have an advantage in that, for example, they can read music. The same may be said about singers with a naturally good voice. There are numerous resources available for singers to readily develop basic music-theoretical understanding; the irony is that many singers intuitively understand the music they sing, but choose not to consolidate their intuition with knowledge. Nevertheless, whatever our levels of talent or training, individual responsibility requires that every singer works on those areas that they need to address to make their voice the best it can possibly be.

A naturally pleasant and capable voice can be made even better with regular practice on breathing, to ensure that sounds are well generated with warm air, articulation, to enable accurate and effective onset and release of notes, tucked-lips humming to focus resonance, exercises on the primary vowels – i, eh, ah, oh, oo – to provide relaxed throat, jaw, facial muscles and tongue position, and so on.

Advice and exercises from directors are provided at warm-ups, but these are primarily to prepare the voice for rehearsal, not to enhance or improve vocal quality. Improvements in voice quality come from diligent and regular practice away from rehearsal and performance situations.

Whatever the quality of your voice, you can make it better by practicing singing *per se*, not of the repertoire, but of the fundamental aspects of voice production, so that your tone is resonant, the pitch is accurate, your breathing is relaxed and controlled, and the sound you bring to the risers is the best you can possibly make. It doesn’t matter if other chorus members have a lesser or better sound; it only matters that every singer produces the best sound of which they are capable.

In this way they can accept individual responsibility for taking the risers.

**Chorus responsibility** requires that a singer learns the repertoire. Every note and every lyric should be 100 per cent accurate. No ifs or buts! For several very clear reasons this should be a fundamental minimum for taking the risers.

Four-part harmony is precise, efficient and musically exposed! Barbershop harmony is even more so because of the fundamental harmonies used. There are few chords with doubled notes, even considering those where octaves are present. Any given pitch is usually provided in one part only so there is no place in the sound to ‘hide’ an inaccurate pitch, or to gain security for that specific pitch from another part, except in the usual way of interval relationships between the parts.

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Every note in four-part harmony is unique. Songwriters and arrangers write notes in particular registers and voicings to achieve the ultimate sound of every chord in the context of a given song and its arrangement. If the register, voicing or pitch is changed then the harmonic effect is different. Not necessarily unsatisfactory, but not the choice made by the arranger.

Barbershop harmony thrives on the amazingly rich and resonant sounds of ‘lock and ring’ chords. Arrangers voice chords to enhance this aspect of the harmony. Lock and ring is possible because every sound generates harmonics: a fundamental tone and a series of upper tones of varying strengths that create the particular timbre of the perceived tone. Lock and ring occurs when harmonics of one tone are enhanced by those of another simultaneously occurring tone, or tones, creating a highly resonant and extended range of heard tones – a ringing chord. Lock and ring chords only occur, however, when all of the simultaneously sung tones have perfectly balanced pitch, intonation and tonal qualities.

Incorrect or inaccurate notes are unacceptable. When everyone taking the risers sings accurately the music resonates. Inaccuracies disable the resonance of the sound. And of course, accuracy of notes must be accompanied by accuracy of lyrics, vowels, onset and release, dynamics and so on.

By taking responsibility for 100 per cent accuracy then each singer accepts their responsibility to the chorus.

By taking the risers, every singer also has a responsibility to the director.

Directors are amazing people. They have an abiding passion for music, and barbershop harmony in particular, coupled with enhanced musical and people skills, and a generous spirit that encourages them often to devote inordinate amounts of time to teaching and encouraging singers in their choruses. And they do this primarily to enable their choruses to experience the joy of singing barbershop harmony ... well!

As singers, our responsibility to the director is to be fully prepared to take the risers; to work diligently on our individual and chorus responsibilities in readiness for music, lyric and presentation development offered by the director.

I offer a word about confidence. Confidence is gained through security; of our own voices (our individual responsibility) and of our repertoire preparation (our responsibility to the chorus). When any aspect of these two responsibilities is lacking then insecurities develop. Thoughts such as “I can't quite make that note”, or “I drop off in pitch sometimes” or the old favourite “the lyrics get me every time” undermine our confidence and inhibit our ability to meet our responsibility to the director. When and only when we are fully secure in our responsibilities are we able to become fully confident and ready to take to the risers.

Taking to the risers is not about obtaining a higher score; it’s about singing to the best of our abilities individually and collectively. When we do that the score will look after itself.

Tony Hughes

Tony is a professional musician, songwriter, arranger and retired university academic in harmony and instrumental music. He recently began singing and has become a barbershop tragic, singing bass with Melbournaires Harmony Chorus and its affiliate Between the Bays Harmony Chorus.
Thanks to both Brisbane River City Clippers and Central Coast Barbershop Chorus for letting us have details of your upcoming events. These are now posted on the website and at the end of this newsletter.

**NOVATONES at SOUNDWAVES concert 8 Sept 2013**

NOVATONES joined with SOUNDWAVES in a concert at Gosford, on the NSW Central Coast. A number of other performers were there, including a ladies’ chorus (Coastal A Capella), the Gosford High School Stage Band, and two quartets heading to the Nationals (Zoom and Strolling Tones). The goodly crowd that attended appreciated the talent on show, and the variety of music on offer.

Both choruses made the most of the opportunity to showcase their two competition pieces for the Convention in Perth. For Novatones, in particular, it was the chance to try out some new choreography moves, which worked out well considering it was the first time tried on stage. Look out World, here we come!

Our Musical Director, Ian Miller, is excited at the progress made over the past 12 months, with the growth in the size of the chorus as well as the quality of singing. The challenge will now be to repeat the performance with the diminished chorus size of 16 going to Perth. We all expect a solid workout over the next three weeks, and anything less than 100% effort will not be good enough.

We were thrilled to be involved, and thoroughly enjoyed all the performances – an extremely pleasant and rewarding afternoon. We are going to have to make a habit of it.

*Rod Woodhouse*
Secretary

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**BHA MEMBER ID NUMBERS - #?????**

We have received many emails asking for members’ ID numbers for registration for the 2013 Perth Convention. There are two easy ways to get this information –

1. Your Club Secretary has your Club’s membership confirmation list which includes ID numbers for all your financial members.

2. All members have been issued with their personal membership certificate which includes their ID number and the date they joined the association – so just ask them for their ID number.

These are the quickest ways for you to access the information you need.
**What’s Happening at Sydney Harmony**

The past couple of months have been pretty hectic for Sydney Harmony as preparations for the Perth Convention come together. SH is bringing its music to Perth and we’re planning on fielding a top level team for the Convention, with not just the Chorus but also five affiliated quartets competing!

Whilst work towards the Convention has been underway for most of 2013, we kicked off serious preparation with a Jim de Busman weekend workshop in May. Focus was then ramped up in mid-August with Matt Gifford also visiting us for a weekend workshop. As usual he was brilliant with Matt bringing his “something special” to our singing, dynamics and presentation.

Early September saw the Chorus performing with an illustrious cast at Manly’s *a Cappella by the Sea*. It was an excellent opportunity to hone our skills for October and also add songs in the barbershop style to this great music festival. The Club’s preparation for the Convention will be rounded off with a Concert we’re hosting in Barker College’s Rhodes Theatre on 29th September. The Chorus will perform together with our quartets and we’ve also invited along all Eastern Region quartets who’ve qualified for Perth. The Concert, which in effect will be a contest dress rehearsal, will be provided at no charge, so come along and see some great singing in contest like conditions. For more information on the Concert go to:


Sydney Harmony rehearsals are held in the Ron Dyer Centre, adjacent to St. Mary’s Church, North Sydney, each Monday evening from 7:30, visitors are welcome, so if you’re in town, come along and visit us and join the chorus on the risers...!

*Keith Thornton*
President

The past twelve months have been revolutionary for *Canberra Chordsmen*. They were the recipients of two ACT Government funding grants. The first from the ACT Health Promotion Sponsorship Funding Grants Program to promote the message “Tap into water everyday” and the second, a Seniors Grant from the Office of Ageing and Community Services to perform at Aged Care Centres around the ACT. With the advent of this funding Glenda Lloyd was engaged as Musical Director. Glenda brings with her over twenty years’ experience of directing and coaching the art form of Barbershop Harmony and her impact on the chorus has been significant. She has raised the standard of every aspect of their performance and she has also done much for the organisational development with her many years in running their sister chorus, Brindebella Chorus. A certain measure of the quality of work Glenda is doing is that membership is thriving and has risen to 22 active members.

*Canberra Chordsmen* has had a very active calendar of events over the past year and everything is culminating with barbershop’s main event for 2013, the Barbershop Harmony Australia National Convention from Oct 9 – 13 in Perth. *Canberra Chordsmen* is proud to represent their beautiful 100 year old City in what is set to be a showcase of incredible talent.
and quality a cappella Barbershop Harmony singing from choruses and quartets all over the country. X-Factor sing your heart out! This is the greatest Australian singing contest you’ve never heard! And it proudly supports and raises proceeds towards Beyond Blue.

Canberra Chordsmen recently got to test out its competition set for the BHA Convention at the National Eisteddfod’s Choirs Competition at Llwyelynn Hall on Saturday August 24

Recapping the calendar, Saturday September 29, 2012 was the launch of the Canberra Chordsmen campaign to promote the ACT Health message ‘Tap into water everyday’ at the National Floriade Festival. The launch featured a new Canberra Chordsmen logo and uniform, free water bottles for attendees and traditional songs including a shortened original piece called the “Tap into water everyday tag” specially written for the campaign by Glenda Lloyd. Tony Blattman, Senior, Director of the ACT Health Promotion Funding Grants Program, was thrilled to see them promoting ‘Tap into water everyday’ and said "We chose the Canberra Chordsmen for a funding grant this year because we thought singing was a unique way to present the ‘Tap into water everyday’ message."

Floriade is Australia’s biggest celebration of spring with over 400,000 attendees and in 2012 celebrated its 25th anniversary. This iconic Canberra event is set in Canberra’s Commonwealth Park and showcases one million flowers in bloom.

Canberra Chordsmen at Floriade with new logo and uniform

On Friday 30 November 2012 Canberra Chordsmen performed the National Anthem at the Canberra Capitals vs Logan Thunder game for the Women’s National Basketball League (WNBL) in front of a loud AIS Arena filled crowd and ABC Television cameras, with dual Olympic gold medallist Australian Malcolm Page as the flag bearer. This opportunity arose due to the Canberra Capitals also promoting the ‘Tap into water everyday’ message. A great partnership has since formed between Canberra Chordsmen and the Capitals and future performances are on the horizon.

With residents at Goodwin Homes Farrer

On October 2 2012 Canberra Chordsmen was presented the Deed Of Grant by the Office of Ageing and on October 15 launched its “Seniors in Harmony” project with the first performance at the aged care centre Villagio Sant’ Antonio in Holt. The Activities Officer, Betty Szuromi, went above and beyond her duties to ensure Canberra Chordsmen performed to a hall packed full of the residents. It was clear to see how close the staff are to the residents and the importance they
place on their entertainment and wellbeing. Afterwards Betty explained how much they would have appreciated the performance and indeed many of them came and spoke to the *Canberra Chordsmen* members expressing their gratitude. A number of chorus members commented that it was one of the most rewarding performances they had done to date. The stories and feedback have been the same for every aged care centre they have performed at since on a monthly basis.

April was a very active month for *Canberra Chordsmen*, all to do with the ‘Glorious Days: Australia in 1913 exhibition’ at the National Museum of Australia. *Canberra Chordsmen* opened the 1913 Country Fair on Saturday April 13 and were the main act used for promotion of the event with media spots in The Canberra Times, ABC666 and on WIN Television. The Country Fair was a success with approx. 6000 attendees on the day. *Canberra Chordsmen* was chosen for the event as Barbershop Quartet singing was very popular in the early 1900s due to the demand for shaving and the long line ups at barbershops before the invention of the safety razor. We sang songs from that era and conducted singing workshops.

Here is a link to a promotional radio spot on ABC Canberra regarding the event [http://canberrachordsmen.org.au/radio/2013-4-12_ABC666.mp3](http://canberrachordsmen.org.au/radio/2013-4-12_ABC666.mp3)

*Canberra Chordsmen* is Canberra’s premier male a cappella chorus, performing as a group since 1991. Its vision is to “Enrich the lives of people in the Australian Capital Territory through the benefits of close four part harmony a cappella singing”. As all Barbershoppers know, something very special happens when you sing together in harmony and we want to share the experience.

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**Ben Jongsm**
President

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>Hello from Festival Statesmen Youth Chorus and The Festival States-men!

The inaugural Central Region competition was a great success. Thanks to all who were involved in bringing it to life. *The Festival States-men* came first out of the BHA and Sweet Adeline choruses from SA as well as stellar performances from *Hold On I’ll Be Right Back*, *The Short Back & Sides, Now in Stereo* and *The Fishbowl Boys*.

At the end of August we had the privilege of being involved in two combined concerts with one of Adelaide’s top female a cappella groups: Aurora. We thank them for having the opportunity to work with them and look forward to our next potential collaboration.

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In Harmony Issue 138 – September-October 2013

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The Fishbowl Boys have been keeping busy beginning with their own successful show in the Adelaide Cabaret Fringe Festival, trying out their competition set (amongst other outstanding repertoire), much to the audiences approval! At the end of June they traveled to Toronto for the International BHS convention where they placed in the top ten of the Collegiate Quartet contest. They were also privileged to participate in the World Harmony Jamboree and AIC show alongside Musical Island Boys and Ringmasters. They are glad to be back in Adelaide and sharing their experiences with the chorus in its journey to Perth.

Congratulations to Vocal Evolution and their performance in the BHS Chorus competition. 81.8% is a fantastic result and we are looking forward to seeing them (and everyone else of course) in October. Our MD Jonathan Bligh had time away to sing in international competitions with the Adelaide Chamber Singers. They are now winners of Choir of the World at Ilargollen International Eisteddfod, winners of the Grand Prix at the International Sacred Music Festival in Rome and winners of the Mixed Chamber Choirs and Music of the Religions sections at the European Choir Games. We are all incredibly proud of this result and are incredibly glad to have this experience within our club.

We've been focusing quite a bit on our competition set with fantastic work all round from Presentation and Music teams and we are almost ready for our Power Up For Perth send-off concert on the 22nd of this month. If you are interested in attending then please check out the event on Facebook or get in contact with a chorus member.

I know we've said this already, but we are very much looking forward to seeing all of Australia's outstanding talent in Perth!

Yours in Harmony,

Aaron Vinall
President

“Look darling, the GPS says this is the way to go”.

“Yes, I know but, why is the road getting so narrow?”

“Well, we’re in the country. What do you expect?”

So commences the saga of our president and his wife Kay and their caravan trying to get to our annual music camp at Maroon Outdoor Education Camp.

They finally arrived well into the evening and who is to clean all the cow poo off the van is still up for debate in the Devey household.

The camp convened by The Blenders who gracefully allowed HAH members to attend was a beaut weekend. We had two American Judges - Bobby Gray Jnr. and his mate Alan Gasper - and they really gave us a lift in all that we did.

The basics of breath control, performance set-up, etc was demonstrated and passed on to us and by the end of the weekend it really showed. Many of us are now trying to master the technique of the “yawn breath” demonstrated by Alan.

Unfortunately due to various circumstances HAH will not be going to Perth for the Convention and we are truly sorry that we can’t make it. However, we will have two quartets competing and two of our lads will be singing with The Blenders, so we are not going to miss out on representation completely.
As with a lot of other choruses HAH is now looking towards the end of the year and the Christmas round of engagements with churches, service clubs and the like.

HAH is also gearing up for our annual Singing Restaurant to be held on December 7 (see details on page 23)

As usual it will be a great night of food fun and outstanding singing. If anyone wishes to attend go to our web-site at www.haharmony.com and follow the prompts to the table bookings. We hope to see many of our friends there.

To all barbershoppers attending the Perth Convention, we trust you have a great time and so keep our artform alive and kicking.

Paddy Boxall
Secretary

Sound Connection is eagerly looking forward to performing and catching up with our fellow barbershoppers in Perth in early October.

To that end, our build up continues, with a successful Camp retreat and coaching with Darin Drown in early August and various public performances including the Gold Coast Eisteddfod and the ANCA concert in Cleveland. The Dream and our Quest continues.

But our quest has suffered a small setback. Our MD Andrew Howson recently suffered a significant workplace injury resulting in the total loss of his left index finger. I can report that he is recovering well and that he is in good spirits. We trust his recovery will be uneventful and that he will be back in action soon. Andrew and Jen would like to thank barbershoppers all over for their concern and their kind words and prayers.

A tragic accident involving a key person can often leave a team feeling bewildered and even despondent. Andrew and Jen however have been determined not to allow this incident to cloud their lives and their positive approach has seen the chorus come quickly to terms with the new reality as well. In seemingly no time at all, the jokes have come out thick and fast and while they help to normalise the situation, the best tonic for the chorus is to see Andrew continuing to come to chorus rehearsal and straighten us out when we mess up.

In the meantime, our Music Team and Assistant MD Drew Carolan have stepped up to the plate with Drew taking on directing duties during Andrew's convalescence. The challenge for us all now is to take ownership of our individual performances so we can continue to lift the standard.

See you in Perth!

Lloyd Wong
Secretary
to all our new Members who joined BHA over recent months and
increased our current membership Australia wide to 915 happy singers!!

Mike Matthews, Glenda Lloyd, Joshua Worth, Vito Butardo Jnr,
Peter Lane, Geoffrey Whitfield (Canberra)

Craig Bailey, Thomas Fleming, Michael Sparrow (Central Coast)

Jim Dangarfield, Trent Lewis, Kevin Allan, Stefano Moralli, Alexander Beckitt,
Christopher Beckitt, Elijah Beckitt, Xavier Beckitt (Club-at-Large)

Aaron Vinall, Jacob Ambach, Chris Butler, David Dibley, Alex Hanna,
Dina Renedeer, Ben Catt, Jack Parker, Aiden Foyel, Josh Belperio,
Nicholas Munday, Clarke Trezise, Luke Nielsen (Festival States-men)

Donald Ebsary, Lyal Brown, Gregory Spencer (Fleurieu)

Ryan Chislett, Gareth Clarke, Timothy Green, Michael Webber,
Bob Millen, Rodrigo Noel, Alesander Warr, Gerard Wilson, Justin Tan,
Liam Daly-Manocchio, John Baker, Jade Enright (Gold Coast)

Scott McConnell, David Bain (High Altitude Harmony)

Peter Cendana, Rex Corrigan, Nigel Davies, Stephen Aquino,
Bernabe Soriano, Paul Carter, Robert Plumbe, Phil Montgomery,
Tony Vink, Matthew Salas (Hills Harmony)

Alan Sutherland (Hobart)

Jim Dangarfield, Derek Davelaar, Simeon Davidson, Brad Kershaw,
Troy Bull, Greg Markham, Greg Outteridge, Chris Syme, John Woolford,
Michael Armitt, Stephen Campbell-Jones, Richard Kearney,
Terry Fitzsummons (Newcastle)

Nathan Terry (Pivotal Point)

Geoff Paulsen, Benjamin Reid (River City Clippers)

Malcolm Geeves, Kim White, Geoffrey Simpson (Riverland Ramblers)

John Cotton, Tom Vaughan (SouthCoast)

Bob Caldwell (Sunshine Coast)

Alan Begg, Peter Leeming, John Osborn, James Willson (Sydney Harmony)

David Snaith, Brian Levitan, Doris Ward (Sydney Siders)

Tony Bentley, Charles Dougall, Rick Williams, Clive Horton,
Matthew Salas (The Melbournaires)

Edward Holland, Tom Bednall (Vocal Evolution)
The Melbournaires

Letter to The Melbournaires from the Premier of Victoria

Mr Roger Archman
33 Evelina Street
MONT ALBERT NORTH VIC 3129

Dear Roger

I am writing to extend my support to the Melbournaires Harmony Chorus in your bid to host the 13th biennial Australian Barbershop Convention in Melbourne in 2015.

Melbourne is the arts capital of Australia and a destination of choice for visitors. Hosting the Convention here would deliver a truly special experience for all delegates attending.

Melbourne’s iconic Hamer Hall provides a perfect venue to perform and enjoy vocal music. Following its $138.5 million redevelopment, completed in 2012, the refurbished Hall features improved acoustics, new seating and cutting edge theatre technology.

As one of the top ranked men’s choruses in Australia, the Melbournaires has made a wonderful contribution to Victoria’s thriving arts and cultural scene over the last 22 years, including hosting the 3rd Pan Pacific Barbershop Convention in 2001.

I commend you, and your group, for your ongoing efforts to preserve and promote vocal music in our community and wish you every success in your bid to bring the Convention to Melbourne.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP
Premier

26/7/2013
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

During a period of “non-directing”, I decided that I needed a chorus of my own so, I bought one. Not all at once but over a number of years by visiting antique shops all over Australia and also in New Zealand. The results can be seen above: not the prettiest group of singers but they never give me any trouble, always have good, perhaps interesting, mouth shapes and never, ever sing out of tune. Unfortunately, twelve only know “Sweet Adeline”, four, “By the Light of the Silvery Moon”, four, “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”, one, “Down By the Old Mill Stream” and the remaining four, can’t remember anything. The Musical Director, apart from being very snazzy in his top hat, has no arms to direct with. All in all rehearsals are a bit of a mess: just like many that I have been to.

The mind boggles……..
Sydney Harmony invites
Family and Friends to
an afternoon of a’ Cappella Harmony
On Sunday the 29th of September 2013
2:30 pm at
The Rhodes Theatre, Kurrajong Building, Barker College
(Enter The School from The Avenue, Waitara.)

Sydney Harmony Chorus sings a capella four part harmony arrangements of mainstream popular songs mostly, but not exclusively, in a barbershop style.

Sydney Harmony is your chorus and we’ll be travelling to Perth in October to compete in the Australian National Championships. Prior to competition we’d like to present our "competition package" to a live audience. This is our Dress Rehearsal and you are cordially invited to be in that audience, our Concert for you, and a gift from Sydney Harmony...! (Of course donations are v acceptable ☺)

On the Sunday afternoon you’ll see the Sydney Harmony Chorus, Plus our competing quartets and our friends at the mighty Circular Keys ladies chorus who competed amongst the best in the world as Australia’s representative at the Sweet Adelines International Convention in Nashville, USA

www.sydneyharmony.com.au
High Altitude Harmony's Singing Restaurant 2013

High Altitude Harmony present an evening of a cappella singing, supported by local artists and complemented by a lovely three course meal. This year we present a Christmas themed event.

Venue: The Graham Centre - Downlands College
Ruthven St (cnr Kate St) Toowoomba
(We are sorry to advise that this venue does not have disabled facilities.)

Date: Saturday 7 December 2013
Time: 6.15pm hors d'oeuvres for 6.45pm start

Tickets $55 pp or $500 per table of 10
(+30c per ticket booking fee)

please have ready -
the names of all guests, their dietary requirements
and of course your credit card details

CONTACT DETAILS: Mark Phythian 0416 359 340
Barbershop Salesmen

(From our prolific BHA poet - Howard Kennedy)

We must each become barbershop salesmen and sell well our style.
And bring in new singers by example... and with positive guile.
Yet we must not harangue! That will drive them away!
With quiet encouragement, we can convince them to stay.

Give them a lift, a few nights to the door.
Tell them the reasons, you keep coming for!
Sing on the way there, maybe teach them a tag.
Praise all their attempts but don’t be a nag!

Talk to them with courtesy and if they’re initially shy
Give them the space so they’ll work out why..
They’ll soon want to join, listen, then too, want to sing.
When they see all the benefits that barbershop brings!

Make money no object! Don’t even mention the fees!
But tell them they can come and go, as long as they please.
To take free singing lessons, make some new pals.
And to hear all those chords soon ringing like bells.

Send them an invite by snail or special email
But soon follow that up, or else you’ll fail!
To gain a new member you must bring them along to,
Your next chorus rehearsal to say, “Our chors needs u!”

Don’t expect all those you’ve brought through the door,
To catch on so quick, cause they mayn’t have sung e’er before.
Especially not in our barbershop style.
And let’s be quite honest! It can take quite a while!

Some may not be ready, to join you just yet
But keep in contact, try not to forget,
That they had showed some interest, that they did like to sing
At the very least they may support you if you only just ring!
YOUR WEBSITE
Council, Regional and International Barbershop information and contact details as well as application forms, competition results, BHA Standing Orders, 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: No later than 5.30pm EST on 15th day of each odd numbered month – January, March, May, July, September, November
• Length: Submitted Articles to be 150—500 words maximum – Verdana 10 pitch, Single spacing (submissions that do not comply will be returned for tweaking).
• Articles may be edited for spelling and grammar
• Please remember to send high quality logos or photos as attachments - not embedded in your article.
• Email your material to secretary@barbershop.org.au

BARBERSHOP EVENTS
Promote upcoming 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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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 29</td>
<td><strong>Sydney Harmony Concert</strong> – see article Page 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 4-6</td>
<td><strong>IABS Convention 2013</strong> – Theatre Royal, Waterford, Ireland will include a mixed National Quartet Competition. Registration €50 - <a href="http://www.iabsconvention.com">www.iabsconvention.com</a></td>
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<td>Oct 4-16</td>
<td><strong>Southern Sou’NZ Convention</strong> – Invercargill NZ <a href="http://www.nzabs.org.nz">www.nzabs.org.nz</a></td>
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<td>Oct 13-16</td>
<td><strong>Harmony College</strong>, Swanleigh Camp and Conference Centre, 58 Yule Ave, Middle Swan WA <a href="http://www.swanleigh.org.au">www.swanleigh.org.au</a></td>
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<td>Oct 27</td>
<td><strong>BHA Council Meeting</strong> – Australia-wide Teleconference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 4-9</td>
<td><strong>Sweet Adelines 2013 International Convention</strong>, Honolulu, Hawaii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td><strong>High Altitude Harmony’s Singing Restaurant</strong> – see details Page 22</td>
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### 2014

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 21-23</td>
<td><strong>Eastern Region Workshop</strong> – Myuna Bay, NSW (1½ hours north of Sydney)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16-18</td>
<td><strong>Sweet Adelines 25th Anniversary Regional Convention</strong>, Sydney NSW</td>
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<td>Jun 29-Jul 1</td>
<td><strong>2014 International Barbershop Convention</strong>, Las Vegas, Nevada</td>
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<td>Aug 10-17</td>
<td><strong>2014 PanPacific Barbershop Convention,</strong> Wellington, New Zealand</td>
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<td>10-12 – Australasian Judges’ School</td>
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<td>12-13 – Young Singers In Harmony, National Finals</td>
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<td>14-17 – PanPacific Convention, Michael Fowler Centre, downtown Wellington.</td>
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<td>Guest Chorus – <strong>The Westminster Chorus</strong> from California,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 17-20</td>
<td><strong>Harmony College</strong> at Waikanae NZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 3-8</td>
<td><strong>Sweet Adelines 2014 International Convention</strong>, Baltimore</td>
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**CHECK THE BHA WEBSITE FOR OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BARBERSHOP EVENTS**

All enquiries to:

The Secretary  
Barbershop Harmony Australia  
**39 Panorama Terrace,**  
Green Point NSW 2251  
Phone: 02 4369 8369  
Fax: 02 4369 8379  
E-mail: secretary@barbershop.org.au

**(Please note change of postal address)**

**BARBERSHOP HARMONY AUSTRALIA**  
(A Division of Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers Inc.)  
ABN 54 083 784 810

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