Greetings, and Farewell, Fellow Barbershoppers

Accolades are pouring in from all over extolling the great success of the Perth Convention. This is a "Special Edition" of In Harmony, packed with scores of photos, and filled with details of the close camaraderie and great and inspirational performances.

Our thanks to Convention Chair Dan Millgate for putting the remarkable photo essay together.

VP Events Ian Mulholland has a detailed report of the Convention successes, with some sobering comments which everyone needs to read.

VP Membership Richard Reeve has a look at the Convention highlighting the inaugural John Little Show, the Chorus Corral, the Club of the Year, and recognition of the Chorus Member of the Year.

VP Youth Development, Jonathan Bligh, sings the praises of all the young singers who worked so well at their special workshop and inspired us all with their performances. And especially rewarding is an article from the members of Lunch Break which is highly complimentary of our Convention, and of your place in worldwide barbershopping.

There’s thought-provoking information from VP Marketing Keith Thornton. And that’s just the tip of the iceberg, so don’t miss a single page.

In just a few days I will preside over my 12th Annual General Meeting as your BHA President, which will be my last. I am retiring at the end of my final term, on 31 December. It’s been a challenging and rewarding journey.

I have consistently maintained two goals - to lead, manage, and inspire the membership toward perfecting our artform, enjoying our artform, and sharing our artform. The second equally important goal was to function as your steward, to listen intently, and to then gather, husband, and judiciously use all the resources available, to make the barbershop experience, around the country, exactly what you wanted it to be. By fulfilling these two goals, together, we can meet the overarching goal of keeping barbershop alive for generations of our successors.

I thank each and every one of you for the stunning volume of dedicated work you have accomplished throughout the last dozen years.

At the AGM our esteemed member Ian Mulholland is running unopposed for the position of President, and will be my successor. In all of BHA I absolutely cannot think of a man more qualified to take the helm of our great organization. He has been literally everywhere in our national barbershop movement - Club President and Gold Medal quartet member, repeatedly; Gold Medal chorus member, repeatedly; Originator and Chairman of our highly respected Australasian Guild of Judges, Regional Chairman, BHA Council member, repeatedly; and Life Member.

To keep with tradition, as a 32 year Navy Veteran, on 31 December I will salute Ian, and say "I stand relieved."

In Harmony,
Mike Donnelly
Perth Convention Wrap – what a show!

Well, we certainly experienced an awesome event here in Perth, didn’t we? Vocal Evolution was honoured to host BHA’s 12th National Convention and was absolutely thrilled to offer all of our brothers in harmony the chance to make some special memories and share some great experiences and even more thrilled to see so many of you enjoying such a special time here in our beautiful city.

We thought we’d take this opportunity to thank our special overseas guests, our Judges, and our two fantastic international quartets, the Musical Island Boys and Lunch Break, and a big thanks to all of our Aussie mates who made the effort to travel to Perth – thanks for making this Convention so much fun! For those of you who didn’t make it – boy, you really missed out!

Here are a few highlights we’d like to share with you.

Above: Lunch Break….before the great Drop Bear attack of 2013...

Right: the sensational Musical Island Boys
Musical Island Boys helped host the Youth Workshop with Jonathan Bligh and Alex Morris. With an inspiring act like the MIBs on board we knew this event would be popular, but we were blown away by the energy, enthusiasm and vibrancy of these young guys and loved seeing them enjoy their barbershop so much.
Above: The winners of Thursday’s fantastic Youth Chorus Contest, the Festival State’s-men Youth Chorus.

The inaugural John Little Show was designed as an informal forum for competing quartets to "strut their stuff" before the main competition started, and we had hoped that people would be interested in coming along for some pre-contest entertainment.

As it turned out, the event was a full house, and we were very excited to see hundreds of happy faces enjoying the show. This is definitely an event we’ll keep going at future conventions!
The Civic Welcome and Massed Sing officially welcomed everyone to the convention.

Patron of the convention, His Excellency Malcolm McCusker, AC CVO QC, Governor of Western Australia, even directed a few of our songs, much to the delight of the large gathered crowd.
Our second new event – the Chorus Corral was designed to give choruses an extra chance to blow the cobwebs out of their tonsils before the main competition started – and was really well attended by just about everyone! This is another event we’d love to see back at the next convention.

Following the Presidents' Reception we moved on to the Welcome Dinner, a uniquely Australian way to start off our Conventions – they don’t have this sort of function elsewhere and we are very proud of the way we all get together at the beginning and end of our big event once every two years.

Below: The Combined Youth Chorus entertaining us during the Welcome Dinner

Right: Retiring President Mike Donnelly (top) and Secretary Kevin White (bottom) being inducted as Life Members of BHA.

Below: The Festival State’s-men being awarded the BHA Club of the Year Award (well done!)
During the Welcome Dinner we also awarded 25 year membership pins to 21 members.

Right: Some of the 25-year membership pin recipients

Below: BHA’s Life Members (left to right) Kevin White, Bruce Okeley, Andy Aberle, Steve Griffin, Ian Mulholland and Mike Donnelly (not present – Linc Abbott, Mell McMichael and of course John Little – dec.)

The following day, Friday, saw the quartet contests begin.

And what a field we had this convention! No less than four of our quartets qualified for International with a score of over 76% - a first for BHA!

Well done to our Youth champion quartet, The Fishbowl Boys (right) who once again beat the field to win the youth gold medal with a 77.4%.

Nice photo, boys!
One of Australia’s best-known quartets, **Benchmark**, once again took out the Seniors gold medal, and will be representing Australia at the next BHS Mid-Winter Convention in January 2014 – we wish them luck!

Benchmark really exemplified the ‘spirit of barbershop’ and touched us all with their kindness when they gave up their place in the quartet finals to allow a young quartet the opportunity to experience the big finals audience. Thanks, guys.

Hailing from Adelaide, and finishing in third place, were **The Fishbowl Boys** (left)….who still couldn’t take a proper photo…

From **Vocal Evolution**, in Perth WA, and scoring 77.1%, the 2013 quartet runner up (with unarguably one of the funniest sets ever performed on the BHA contest stage) was **Lockout** (pictured right and below….with a very dubious looking stand-in lead….?)
Scoring a solid 78.4%, first place was won by another *Vocal Evolution* quartet, **TLA**.

**TLA** has won the right to represent BHA at the next International Quartet Contest, which will be held in July 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada. We wish **TLA** all the best!

In the Chorus Contest, **Novatones (below)** won the **Most Improved Chorus Award**
Deep South takes out the Small Chorus Award

Left: One of only three lady Chorus Directors, Bec Mutton, with Men In Harmony

Below: The Blenders took out the Large Chorus Award
Left: Chorus Directors and Presidents on stage just before the *medal announcements*—Keep The Whole World Singing!

In their debut Convention performance, **third place bronze medal chorus** was won by **Sound Connection** with a score of 76.4%! Well done, guys! (below)

An impressive set from the **Festival State’s-men** saw them take out the **silver medal chorus** with a score of 79.7% - that’s some awesome singing! (below)
Setting an Australian record and securing their position as Australia’s A-level chorus, Vocal Evolution ‘gangnam-styled’ their way into first place with an impressive 82.7%.

Below: Chorus Evaluations with Marty Lovick, Presentation Category (left) and Steve Delehanty, Music Category (right)
The Saturday evening “Champions of Harmony” gala saw a large audience enjoy one of the best shows barbershop has ever seen – all of the medallists from the last three days of contests, as well as some world-class performances from Lunch Break and Musical Island Boys.

Sunday’s Church Service, hosted by Vic Richards and the lads from Men in Harmony, was an inspirational affair and contained some great performances by the Blenders, Musical Island Boys, Men in Harmony and more.

Thanks Vic!

After all of the normal Club Leadership Meetings, Quartet Evaluations, Chorus Evaluations and the BHA Forum we wrapped things up with a great Farewell Lunch before many of us headed off to Harmony College for three days of inspirational coaching, education and singing – something which every barbershopper should do regularly!
Convention Feedback
We would really like to hear any comments or feedback about your convention experience that you’d like us to know about. Drop us a line at music@barbershop.org.au or events@barbershop.org.au – we’d love to hear from you.

Remember too that there is still a limited amount of merchandise left if you didn’t get a chance to visit our Harmony Marketplace! You can place your order through the BHA Store at www.barbershop.org.au.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

All the official convention quartet and chorus photographs are now available online for ordering here:

http://www.3p.net.au/events/your-photos/
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BHA Polo $35, BHA Cap $20, BHA Stubby Cooler $7

2013 Convention Polo $35, Convention Cap $20, Convention Stubby Cooler $7
BHA Madrid style sunhat $25
(there’s also a 2013 Convention version)
20 October 2013

Dear Dan,

On behalf of the entire membership of BHA, I want to express our sincerest appreciation, and congratulations, on the resounding success of the 2013 Perth Convention. As Convention Chairman you inspired and motivated your committee members, the entire Vocal Evolution membership and their partners, and the ladies of Sweet Adelines, to work the thousands of hours required to produce such a remarkable event. It is difficult to convey the depth of gratitude we feel for the dedicated work they invested, but in an attempt to acknowledge this effort I ask you to share this letter with them.

The Perth Convention was a truly unique event, incorporating many initiatives which you personally originated. The concept of having these new events to provide for additional, non-competitive, quartet and chorus singing was masterful, and fulfilled a need which has existed for many years. The *John Little Show* and Chorus Corral were unanimously acclaimed as "keepers" for the future.

The patronage of the Western Australia Governor Malcolm McCusker, and the conduct of the Massed Sing were impressive. From the Welcome Dinner, to merchandising to publicity, to the Showcase, and all the many other Convention elements, there is nothing but praise.

I also applaud your foresight and timeliness in identifying and resolving the challenges that inevitably emerge in a production of this magnitude. The entire event was structured and conducted to provide the highest level of fellowship, camaraderie, and good will that are at the core of barbershopping.

Your personal leadership and remarkable organizational abilities ensured the total success of the Perth Convention. The benefits of your work will carry on in the smiles, memories, and enhanced spirit of all barbershoppers that were in attendance at the memorable 2013 BHA Perth Convention.

Sincerely, and in Harmony,

Mike Donnelly

President, BHA
Congratulation to our longest standing members who were awarded their
**25 Year Membership Certificates and Pins**
at the Welcome Dinner at this year’s BHA Convention in Perth……

Linc Abbot - Andy Aberle - Tim Begbie
Graham Bishop - David Brown - John Christie
Derek Cosburn - Ray Foster - Mike Ivess
Eddie Klimowicz - Pat Knight - Ian Mulholland
Bruce Okely - Harry Owen - Vic Richards
Roy Tomkinson - John Unsworth - Peter Van Noort
Rob Walley - Andrew Wright

We are honoured to know you and look forward to singing with each and every
one of you over the next 25 years
Thank you Mike and Kevin for the many hours of volunteer time you have spent and continue to spend to promote and increase the name of Barbershop Harmony Australia both at home and overseas.

As our 8th and 9th BHA Life Members you join an exceptional group of men.

The True Spirit of Harmony

Another Convention and some wonderful memories of renewed friendships and exceptional harmonies. Despite personal challenges, I attended Perth Convention with 4 guys from Miner Chords, 4 guys from River City Clippers and 4 from Sunshine Statesmen.

On Friday we had our first full rehearsal together and then the next day we performed as Miner Chords before the judges. Our score was 57, best Miner Chords have ever achieved but to me that wasn’t important. What was important was sharing harmonies with 11 other barbershoppers who just wanted to ‘perform’ before our peers. We weren’t here to win, but to do the best we could musically, entertain and share some harmonies. We achieved our challenge and for me, that is what is important about our hobby. Thank you fellow ‘shoppers for the journey.

On a personal note, I got to sing ‘lead’ with Musical Island Boys at the farewell lunch. Just after singing with them I received a phone call from St Vincent’s Hospital in Brisbane advising me that my 62 year old sister had just lost her battle with cancer. What happened next will live with me forever and etched to others, the true harmony within our craft. MIB placed their arms around me and eased my pain with a heart wrenching It Is Well With My Soul. Through my tear filled eyes I could see the compassion and support in the guys from Lunch Break and fellow barbershoppers.

Thank you Richard. We have a wonderful craft, never let it fade.

Mark McCosker
MD Miner Chords
Hi Everyone!

I am pleased to report a hugely successful Convention in Perth last month. If you weren’t there you missed one of the best Conventions we’ve ever held!

There was a plethora of events that catered for every barbershopper no matter what your level of performance skill or interest (quartet or chorus).

There is a very good article elsewhere in this edition of In Harmony that describes the Convention with words and pictures, and I encourage you to read that.

Needless to say the new events that we held this year proved to be very popular. The John Little Show and the Chorus Corral were “standing room only”, and the quality and variety of performances were next to none. We also held a successful Mixed Harmony Showcase, and the National Council is considering ways of integrating mixed harmony even more into our association and future Conventions.

The standard of the contests was the highest ever, with four of our Open quartets reaching the International qualifying standard of 76% or greater – a first. Congratulations to the winners, TLA, closely followed by Lockout, The Fishbowl Boys and Adrenaline.

Our chorus contest produced the highest score ever by the winner, Vocal Evolution, with a solid A grade score of 82.7% that sees them seeded 14th in the world at International level. They were followed by Festival States-men and Sound Connection as silver and bronze.

Deep South won the small chorus award, while The Blenders won the large chorus award. Most Improved chorus award went to The Novatones, and Most Improved quartet was Now In Stereo.

Other great innovations were the webcast which was made available free to BHA members and friends to watch, and we had over 150 connections simultaneously watching the quartet final and the chorus contest. Another great innovation was the large screen erected above the stage which enable people, even in the very back rows, a bird’s eye view of the performers on stage.

The Convention DVDs are now available for pre-ordering via the BHA website. The pricing is competitive and the quality very high.

A huge vote of thanks must go to Convention Chairman, Dan Millgate, and his team from host club Vocal Evolution, who worked extremely hard to make this one of the most successful Conventions ever from an organisational and artistic perspective.

Regrettably there were a few logistical hiccups, one with the online booking form that seemed to confuse some people, resulting in confusion over seating at the Welcome Dinner and the Farewell Lunch. We’ll try to get this system working better for next Convention.
Apologies also to *Highjacked* quartet who were wrongly named as bronze medal Senior quartet only to lose it a few minutes later when an error was discovered with the score sheets. I have to say there were mitigating circumstances with our CAs under immense pressure at that time due to a number of unforeseen issues all occurring at the same time. Again, we’ll work to make our systems better and hopefully error-proof in the future.

Unfortunately I have to report that the Convention did not make the sort of profit we have come to expect. This was mainly because of the lack of support of the Convention from certain members and partners. Over the previous 5 Conventions (from 2003 to 2011) we have averaged 700 delegates (with a range of 680 to 720). This year we got just under 550, with only 42% of BHA members attending. Some notable choruses decided not to attend, partner delegate numbers were also significantly lower than normal, and this put a big hole in the finances. Budgets for Conventions, and expenditure commitments are made many months out from when the Convention is held, and although the Convention Committee prudently budgeted for attendance lower than 700, they didn’t expect the attendance to be as low as it was. No-one did.

The profit that goes to BHA and funds things like educator visits, regional workshops and contests, and general regional funding was significantly down, and the National Council will need to carefully review expenditures over the next few years until funds can be built up again. The Host Club worked very hard, yet will actually make a loss on the Convention, solely due to the low attendance. If you didn’t attend the Convention you should be asking yourself is this fair? I hope your reasons for not attending were really good ones! The financial repercussions will be with us for some considerable time.

If you would like to communicate with me privately or otherwise why you or your group did not attend the Convention, we’d really like to know. We need to design and run Conventions that everyone wants to attend, and if they don’t we need to fix it.

Sing-cerely,

*Ian Mulholland*

VP Events
We’re coming to the end of 2013, so, what’s the year been like for your Club…

- Have you made tangible progress?
- Has your membership increased?
- Are your finances in good shape?
- Did you attend the Convention?
  - If so, you know how good it was and are probably already thinking about Melbourne, and perhaps putting plans in place is on the agenda…
  - Didn’t come to Perth, WOW, a big call, you guys really missed out on so much, time to assess, is your Club on the slide…?

- Have your members had a great time this year?
- Has your Club achieved something different this year?
- Has your Committee reflected on the year coming to a close?
- Is your Committee already making plans for next year?
- Do you have plans to spread the word to the youth in your district and encourage them to join the great barbershop movement???

A couple of useful stats from Perth highlight the importance of youth participation to the future of what we do…

50% of the quartet finalists were Youth Quartets…

What about the Choruses, well, quantity doesn’t do it anymore:

Gold Medal – Vocal Evolution – 36 Singers – Average age: 40.3 years
Silver Medal – Festival Statesmen – 26 Singers – Av. age: 21.4 years
Bronze Medal – Sound Connection – 26 Singers – Av. age: 46.0 years
4th Place – The Blenders – 52 Singers – Av. age: 47.6 years
5th Place – Deep South – 19 Singers – Av. age: 49.0 years
6th Place – Sydney Harmony – 26 Singers – Av. age: 58.9 years
7th Place – Melbournaires - 38 Singers – Av. age: 65.7 years

Picked the trend yet…???

The next couple of months offer a time for reflection, a time for making plans for the future, a time for asking, can we do it better, can we have more fun doing what we love, can we bring more guys into the fold, can we bring more young guys into the fold…

Don’t waste the holiday break!

Best wishes and if we can help, then please contact me anytime at:

marketing@barbershop.org.au

Keith Thornton
V.P. Marketing & Development
Perth 2013

From a membership perspective, the convention was an overwhelming success. Congratulations to Dan Millgate (Convention Chair) Ian Mulholland (BHA Events VP) and Vocal Evolution team for putting on the best convention Australia has seen.

As always it was so great to see barbershoppers gather from all round the country to compete and share fraternity. As well as the electricity of competition venue, the sight of Tom Percy singing a song in the halls with three of the lads from Toowoomba’s Vocal Fire was truly heart-warming.

As is noted elsewhere in this newsletter, attendance was down this year. So hopefully we’ll see a huge turn-out in Melbourne in two years’ time.

John Little Show and Chorus Corral

As Council strives to continue to make Convention ‘un-missable’, a number of new initiatives were introduced this year. Of particular note were the John Little Show (social concert for competing quartets) and the Chorus Corral (social concert for choruses). Both of these events were attended by pretty much all the delegates and were a run-away success. The members loved the opportunity for an extra sing in a non-competitive environment. Definitely a keeper.

Club of the Year and Chorus Member of the year

In addition, the membership initiatives of the Club of the Year, Chorus Member of the Year, Longevity Certificates and 25 Year Pins also seemed to be very well received. Sometimes it’s the little things like receiving a longevity pin, that people really cherish.

Club Development

A club leadership meeting was held at convention where numerous ideas were canvassed. Now that convention is over I will be working with other VPs to roll out raft of resources to help choruses streamline their operations and make the most of their members’ ideas and skills. This will include the Club Officer Training System (COTS), the BHA Handbook and the web site. Watch out for a workshop near you soon.

Any other ideas about how Council can improve your enjoyment of our hobby and attract new members, I'd love to hear from you.

Richard Reeve
VP Membership
membership@barbershop.org.au
Phone : 0411 519 852
Perth Convention

On behalf of all the Youth members of BHA, I would like to offer a MASSIVE thank you to our 2013 Convention Hosts – Vocal Evolution – for a tremendous event! *And what a spectacular week it was!!!*

My personal congratulations go to all the competitors who put in the effort and hours of rehearsal in preparation for this great event!

There was such a great showcase of talent amongst our young members in all the competition categories. A horde of young guys took to the stage at the Welcome Dinner and once again at the conclusion of the Open Chorus competition. Directed by Alex Morris and with the assistance of the *Musical Island Boys*, Australia’s young men made a resounding impact on the convention community.

The week began with a combined youth workshop run by Alex Morris, the *Music Island Boys* and yours truly. The lads spent the day workshopping two contemporary a cappella arrangements (courtesy of Deke Sharon and Arron Dale) and our National Anthem in preparation for the two performances later that week.

Thursday brought the first taste of competition for the Convention. Two long years these groups had waited to test their metal. The Schools and Youth Chorus competition proved to be of an extremely high standard with the *Festival Statesmen Youth Chorus* taking out first place with a score of 79.4.

A special acknowledgment must go to the lads of *The Wolfpack* from AB Paterson College who trekked all the way from Qld in order to compete as our only school based ensemble.

Thank you to our Contest Administrator David Brown for a well-run event and also to the Judges for their efforts. It was great to see a packed house!

The Youth Quartet competition again proved to be a powerhouse of talent. *The Fishbowl Boys* took out the Youth Gold, closely followed by their younger compatriots from South Australia *Now in Stereo* who incidentally, won most improved! One of Australia’s newest quartets out of Queensland, *Blindside*, presented their highly anticipated program and were awarded third place. A tremendous effort considering it was their first competition. These guys are ones to watch! A special mention must go to the audience favourite quartet – *Vocal Fire*. To see these young guys win the hearts of the audience was truly a special experience. Keep up the great work!

Jonathan Bligh
VP Youth Development
Wonderful words and praise from Lunch Break

In 2013 Lunch Break was blessed to participate in three conventions of BHS affiliates: BABS in May, and NZABS and BHA in October. Barbershop singing is certainly alive and well in Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia! There were many impressive aspects of these conventions, but here are some highlights:

- The quality of singing continues to improve in our affiliates. We were really impressed with the depth of quality singing in the chorus and quartet contests at all three conventions. In fact, the Australians qualified four quartets for international - a record! The trend in recent years at the international level (*Ringmasters*, *Musical Island Boys* and *Zero*) is a reflection of a much deeper trend of better vocal production and greater musicality all across the affiliate organizations.

- The number of young singers is exploding! We were blown away by how many young barbershoppers we met around the world. The college contests at each convention were vibrant and competitive, and the number of young guys in choruses was really astonishing.

- It is possible to grow in membership. Another thing that stood out to us was the number of new barbershoppers we met, particularly in the UK. BABS has been on a positive-growth trajectory for some time, primarily through offering community singing lessons. What is happening in BABS is tangible evidence that if our chapters will think about what we can offer our communities, growth will happen as a result.

Indeed, there is a lot we can learn from these affiliates. More than anything else, what stood out to us on our visits to these conventions is the sense of fraternity among the attendees. Sure, part of this is due to the smaller numbers and the greater intimacy that naturally occurs in a smaller setting - but there's more to it than that. There's a sense that while competition is important and fun, it is not the ultimate purpose of barbershop, only a means to an end. In New Zealand and Australia there were banquets at the start of each convention, where everyone got together to enjoy a nice meal and honour those receiving special awards. This helped to create a sense of brotherhood that was pervasive throughout the rest of the convention weekend.

All of these observations - improved singing, community service, a sense of brotherhood - reminded us that when barbershop becomes one dimensional and contest-driven, it saps itself of its most satisfying and enduring qualities. But when chapters and organizations see how deeply integrated all aspects of the full barbershop experience really are, a special synergy occurs.

A very special thanks to our friends in BABS, NZABS and BHA for reminding us of this important lesson.

*Lunch Break*
Well, by now the dust is settling from the big shindig in the West. I hope some of you found my last article on “How to Deal With Stagefright” useful when spending your time on “the big stage”!

Now, I know that competition isn’t everyone’s cup of tea, and that’s OK. We all have this hobby for different reasons, right?

I have always enjoyed barbershop contests very much, and so I found it interesting to chat to a few people here at Convention who said they were having trouble convincing their chorus or quartet to compete.

**Why should I compete?**

It seems some people hold the belief that we live in a world where everyone is equal and there is no such thing as competition or “losers”. Everyone’s a winner and nobody has to deal with the shame of coming in last or has to put up with any hardship. After all, we don’t want someone to feel like they are better at something than another person right? It’s caused parents to set up soccer matches where both teams win as long as they show up, yes the idea of pure equality and no competition has a lot of followers.

But it doesn’t work. Sure, there are reasons not to compare yourself with others. But if you do away with competition entirely you are really robbing yourself and all of mankind from growth and prosperity.

So, that got me to thinking….why DO I think competition is a good thing?

1. **It Promotes Growth**

Where would we be without rivals? I know I would have never taken as many chances and learned as much as I have if I didn’t want to win and compete against other people in this world. It’s only natural; if you want to compete with someone else you have to grow. There is no way around it. That is why whenever I want to get good at something I look for people who are better at it than me – and competing with them helps me to grow enormously (and can lead to a great friendship as well).

2. **It Advances Civilization**

If there was no competition Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin would have never landed on the moon. The main reason they even went to the moon was because of national pride. They simply had to beat the Russians and show their biggest competitors that the USA was number one. The Cold War in general (even though it is not something I want to see happen again) created some truly remarkable technologies and has brought mankind as a whole to a new high. Some of the things that resulted from the competition between the two superpowers were faster planes, technology like microwaves and GPS, and the Internet (you would not be reading this right now without competition). As a race we owe so much of our current advancements to competition between people, between companies, and between countries. As people compete, they create and the whole world grows as a result.

3. **It Forces Us To Be More Creative**

The great thing about having competitors is that you have to be more innovative. You have to think outside the box and go after new options in order to get ahead. If everybody gave up their competitive spirit this world would be a very different place. There just wouldn’t be the need to develop new songs, new moves and new skills if competition wasn’t a factor.
4. It Teaches Us

For someone to win, someone else has to lose, and that sucks. But, if you look at it with the right attitude this is actually a positive. We all lose at things here and there; the ones who learn from their losses actually turn their losses into a positive. They learn from their mistakes and take it as a positive experience which they can use to grow and win next time (and there’s always a next time). By taking competition out of the picture you are not only taking away the chance for people to win, but you also take away the chance for others to learn and grow.

5. It Promotes Taking Chances And Trying Something New

I am a big fan of taking chances in life. It is something you need to do in order to grow and live a life full of great experiences. I would say that one of the biggest things which promotes chance taking is competition. Healthy competition brings out a stronger you.

6. It Makes Us More Goal Oriented

Communism is a great example of what happens when you take the competition out of society. In communism everyone makes the same amount of money regardless whether they are performing brain surgery or sweeping the floors at McDonalds.

The result? Less people want to achieve great things. Who wants to go through all that schooling and become a doctor when you can get the same amount of money by working at a fast food restaurant?

Having competition makes us more goal oriented. We want to achieve more things and do more, simply because we can grow ourselves compared to other people. Take away competition and we become lazy, and it becomes harder to motivate us. Competition is one of the forces that drives us to achieve.

7. It is Natural

Monkeys do it, other animals do it, even little kids are in constant competition with each other.

Competition is natural; it is how the world works. Regardless of how much we try to tell ourselves that we don’t really want to compete with someone else the fact is we do. We all want to be the best at one thing or another. We want something to call our own and it is a drive that we inherit from millions of years of evolution brought about by competition.

8. It Makes Life More Entertaining

The great thing about having rivals and challenges in life is that it makes life more entertaining. It forces us to grow and to try to achieve great things.

Without competition, life becomes a lot less exciting and there are a lot less challenges. For a while it is nice, but as time moves forward we need something to occupy ourselves and get some meaning in life. Competition does just that.

Everyone needs to have some passion to live and some passion to win. So, put your heart and soul into whatever you are doing. It’ll teach you one of the basics of what it means to be human and put you on a path for greater things in life.

Dan Millgate
VP Music
Hello fellow barbershoppers! It is with slightly stunned jubilation that we address you for the first time as your BHA National Champion Quartet.

What a thrill it was to perform for you all in early October. Thank you so much for being an awesome audience. The electricity in the room you generated was something we’ll never forget.

To give you a little background, TLA formed temporarily for the Western Region contest in 2012, but the guys enjoyed the experience so much that they reformed for the 2013 Regional contest with a view to continuing to Nationals and beyond. Adrian Gimpel (lead) and Richard Reeve (baritone) have sung together before and are thrilled to get the opportunity to join forces with Ash Schofield (tenor) and Trevor Anderson (bass).

We have been assisted along the way so far by coaches Jo Oosterhoff, Rob Sequeira and Andrew Howson and we’d like to thank them for their fantastic input.

Prior to convention we were able to visit a bunch of local BHA and Sweet Adeline choruses and perform for them which really helped us to hone our contest package. We want to thank the Men In Harmony, Westcoast Chordsmen, A Cappella West and Indian Blue choruses for welcoming us into their rehearsals.

Preparations have begun for travelling to the USA to represent Australia in the Barbershop Harmony Society’s International Convention, with the 2014 contest being held in Las Vegas.

Since winning we have had the distinct pleasure of singing at the wedding of our good mate and VE member Han van der Donk, to his beautiful Fiona. We sang “Over the Rainbow” and were really chuffed to be able to help make the day special.
We’d love to visit choruses around Australia to coach and appear in shows, so please get in touch. Adrian and Richard are current BHA Presentation judges, with Ash having been a Judge previously and will be renewing his credentials in Wellington next year. Richard and Trevor also have strong backgrounds in musical theatre. All four of us have been on the PRS team of national champion chorus Vocal Evolution.

Specific coaching we can give include designing a choreo/presentation plan, living the lyrics, beginner / intermediate / advanced performance skills. We can coach anything about a performance, vocally or visually and would love to share our passion for barbershop with your group.

Ash, Adrian, Richard, Trevor

TLA at Men in Harmony rehearsal with MD Bec Mutton

To all Quartets from The Secretary

If your Quartet’s details are not currently listed on the BHA Website there is a simple reason - because you haven’t registered (or re-registered) for the current BHA Financial Year.

This could mean that you miss out on singing engagements in your area.

So – complete a Quartet Registration Application form which is available on the BHA Website – Downloads–Forms Be sure all the particulars are current and e-mail it to me ASAP at secretary@barbershop.org.au

Kevin White
Proud winners at 2013 Perth Convention

Gold Medal Chorus Vocal Evolution – President Dan Millgate & MD Lionel Pierson

Large Chorus Award – The Blenders
MD Jono Albertini & President Barry Mallett

Senior Gold Medal Quartet
Benchmark

Senior Silver Medal Quartet
Commonwealth Connection

Senior Bronze Medal Quartet
Acappellago
Most Improved Chorus – Novatones
MD Ian Miller & President Brian Bleakley

Chorus Bronze Medal - Sound Connection
MD Andrew Howson & President David Reid

Gold Medal Youth Quartet
The Fishbowl Boys

Small Chorus Award – Deep South
MD Russell Bailey & President Richard Gardam

Chorus Silver Medal – Festival Statesmen - MD Jonathan Bligh & President Aaron Vinall

(Many thanks to Jim Catt for sending us some of the photos featured on these pages)
Happy Snaps from the 2013 Perth Convention

Keith & Anita Thornton with Bec Mutton & Aaron Hewitt

Enjoying the guest quartets at the Presidents’ Reception

Ian Mulholland after he surprised Kevin White & Mike Donnelly by announcing that they were BHA Life Members

Trevor Anderson singing with Musical Island Boys at the Farewell Lunch

2013 Combined Youth Chorus singing at the Welcome Dinner
Musical Island Boys entertaining guests at the BHA Presidents’ Reception

Dan Millgate (2013 Perth Chairman) happily hands the reigns to John Howell (2015 Melbourne Chairman)

BHA members enjoying catching up with old friends and making new friends

¾ of Vocal Fire—Richard Paynter, Cameron Ryle & James Ryle at Farewell Lunch

A very proud Trevor Anderson from TLA winners of the National Quartet Gold Medal
A big welcome to our newest BHA Members ......

We look forward to meeting you and seeing you all on the risers at our next BHA Convention in Melbourne in 2015 ......

Graeme Clarke & Patrick Garcia (Barbershop Harmony Club of Canberra)

Mark Kok (Bayside Barbershop Singers Inc)

Zane Webber (Brisbane River City Clippers)

Angus Birdseye (Festival States-men Inc)

Max Abery, Bill Collins, Allan Dempsey, Alf Jones, Rod Mackenzie

Ross Robinson, John Storey (Geelong (Bay City) Conchords Inc)

Matt Lyons (Gold Coast Barbershop Harmony Club Inc)

James Brown (High Altitude Harmony Inc)

Timothy Currie (SouthCoast Barbershop Singers)

Peter Howard (Sunshine Coast Barbershop Harmony Club Inc)

Daniel Malone & Reg Hamilton (Wollongong Men Barbershop Chorus Inc)
Following Benchmark’s win in the Senior Quartet contest in Perth, we have decided to compete again at the Midwinter International Seniors Quartet contest in Long Beach, California in Jan/Feb. BHA has nominated us for the contest, as its Australian representatives.

We are flying over on 26 Jan, and the contest is on Saturday 1 Feb (that afternoon, probably, which is unsociably early on Sunday 2 Feb in eastern Australia and worse in Perth time). This year, at least, it’s on the "correct" (closest) side of the US, so the jet lag implications and flight lengths are not as bad as they were for Tampa 2010 and Orlando 2013.

We are not sure whether there will be a webcast, but we are hoping so. We will know that our friends in Australia are cheering for us, anyway!

We don't know the draw for performance times yet, but will post these on Facebook (www.facebook.com/BenchmarkFour) and on Twitter (@BenchmarkFour) as soon as we know. We'll post any webcast details there too.

We will be working hard between now and the contest, with some additional coaching and lots of duetting! We hope to do Australia proud.

Regards,

Paul Roussell
for Benchmark

iQ says thanQ

It was a great honour for Dan Koopu, Alex Morris, Jono Bligh and Jim Catt to come together and create a truly Interstate Quartet (QLD, VIC, SA and NSW).

Putting this quartet together was the easy part, finding time to rehearse was the challenging bit! However we did manage 6 rehearsals before the competition and were thrilled to have come 6th.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all our supporters, wives and partners; Without you it is not really worth it!

Dan, Jim, Jonathan & Alex
So the Perth Convention has come and gone but memories will linger for many a long time. Beautiful memories of the city of Perth, its bustling arcades and malls, its friendly people, its magnificent Kings Park Gardens, its free bus service in the city, and its $1.70 train ride to Fremantle.

Also beautiful memories of the magnificent singing by the top choruses and quartets, giving us mere mortals something to aspire to. The luxurious setting of the Convention Centre made listening a treat, and it was a real pleasure to perform in such a theatre.

Our thanks to all those responsible for putting on a grand show and making, what was for some of us a first visit to the West, a delightful experience.

On Monday 28th October, as part of Seniors Week, The Melbournaires hosted a total of 96 visitors to its normal Monday night rehearsal. 41 members of the chorus entertained this enthusiastic audience for two hours, which our MD Ian Lushey also used to elucidate the nuances of good barbershop singing.

The evening was well moderated by MC Doug Moody, with explanations of the history of barbershop and the songs themselves. The amount of time, effort, and obvious knowledge that Doug puts in to promote barbershop singing does not go unrecognized.

Our quartet Boardwalk that performed admirably in Perth, sang a couple of numbers as did our small chorus Chordite.

The evening concluded with supper and conversation until 96 heartened and more knowledgeable seniors and friends departed for home.

As a recruitment exercise also, it remains to be seen whether The Melbournaires enjoy an increase in numbers. Time will tell.

To all Barbershoppers, our heartiest wishes for a bright and happy Christmas, and a successful and prosperous 2014.

Terry Phillips
We *the Blenders* were once again invited to be part of Steve Irwin day at Australia Zoo.

All the uniform sizes sent to the Zoo and uniforms delivered, then distributed to the members. All on the bus at 6am for the singing journey to the zoo where we assembled at the entry singing Australiana songs mixed with some of our current repertoire to the crowds of families enjoying the free sausage sizzle whilst eagerly awaiting for the gate to open. Once inside we were given instructions of the places they wanted us to sing but most of the time we were roving from one location to another. Outside the tiger enclosure, then the kangaroos and not to be missed the crocodiles. In the afternoon we sang in the Crocoseum to an enthusiastic crowd.

A great deal of fun was had by all especially all of our newer members that had never been to Australia Zoo with us, to say they were blown away is an understatement.

The audiences’ clapped and cheered as we sang *Home Among the Gum Trees* and *True Blue* and they also liked *Surfer Girl* along with everything else.

It is a great bonding day for our members with newer members being made to feel part of our wonderful Blenders Family, especially as our Ladies’ support team took orders for preferred sandwich fillings as they made up 2 sandwiches for each of us along with fruit and drinks.

One special moment was when, in the snake area which is cave-like and very live, we sang *Nearer My God To Thee* and *The Irish Blessing* for our much loved long standing member Derek Hoult who was sadly taken from us the day before on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November after a short battle with cancer. it was very fast as Derek sang next to me on the risers in Perth just a few weeks ago. Our thoughts and prayer go to Cynthia and the rest of the family.
We had 35 of our members, 3 support team and many family members attend not - bad for a working day.

Normally people are tired on the way going to sleep in the bus but not this year as there was much chatter and still more singing; we arrived back at the hall at 6pm exactly 12 hours after our departure.

Doug Goetze
Membership VP

**NOVATONES wins ‘Most Improved Chorus’ trophy at Perth Nationals**

Hard work over the past year has paid off for Novatones, achieving the first of a series of goals set by Musical Director Ian Miller. The club and chorus is a relatively inexperienced one, only setting up in 2008.

Ian had a plan which had Perth as its first aim, but obviously also covers the next few years. The initial step was to get a decent size chorus to Perth, and to improve on our first Nationals entry which was in Brisbane 2011. The chorus has grown in strength and skill over the past year, and we all noticed an increase in the enjoyment that comes with both those things. There was a desire to improve greatly on our Brisbane result, which we did by improving our overall score by over 7 points.

A concerted effort into the scary world of choreography was the major change in the way the chorus performed, and we think we managed to pull it off in a halfway decent fashion in the renditions of our two competition songs, particularly *You’re Sixty*. For those who wonder why we changed the words, it was as a result of a comment by some audience members at a past concert, that old men shouldn’t be singing about 16 year old girls. We don’t actually believe there is anything wrong in it but we took the opportunity to be a little light-hearted about it.
The choreography success has made us hungry to improve on our presentation score over the next two years, the plan being for as many as possible to go to Pan Pacs in 2014, and hopefully the whole chorus to Melbourne in 2015. This is not to say we don’t plan to score better in the singing category as well!!

While on the matter of attendance at Nationals, those of us who could go to Perth had a magnificent time, and congratulate the organisers for the special nature of this National Convention, which featured such a large number of young singers, who definitely added a certain something to the enjoyment of it all. The Club has been planning, over the past year, to reach out to young men to join the chorus, and Perth has stiffened our resolve to get on with it. The future of Barbershop looks bright.

We also would like to especially mention the buzz we had in being able to sing some extra songs in the John Little Show, in the more relaxed atmosphere in which it was held. It made the trip even more worthwhile, and we hope it continues at future Nationals.

As I have said before – look out world, here we come.

Rod Woodhouse
Secretary

Greetings from Penrith Harmony

Congratulations to the National Council Committee of Barbershop Australia for hosting such a successful Convention. Special thanks also to Vocal Evolution and their team of volunteers for their great work as hosts. Congratulations as well for continuing their run as the BHA Champion chorus.

Penrith Harmony achieved a personal best score and we were all individually happy with our efforts. Our music director, Rick Allen, did a wonderful job working with the raw material he had, in bringing out our best performance. It was an enjoyable journey over many months of practice.

We had a feature story about us in a local newspaper that celebrated our performance in Perth. That publicity, along with occasional contacts as a result of our website and banner display, has seen a trickle of interest that is converting into new members. Our recent new members have made a great contribution to our chorus and are highly valued.

Penrith Harmony are sponsored by Penrith Homemakers Centre, and we are performing there on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings leading up to Christmas. As well, we have Carols By Candlelight bookings, hopefully before large crowds, which should also assist with our broader exposure to the community and the possible recruitment of new singers.

Paul Ryan
Secretary
The past months for the Clippers have been busy and very rewarding for all our members.

In July we hosted Darin Drown from Storm Front to lead us in some intensive coaching. Darin spent two full days plus three other sessions, which all members found extremely beneficial.

Our annual concert was conducted on November 3rd with two shows - a matinee at 2pm followed by a twilight show at 5pm. We were supported by Redland Rhapsody and the youth quartet Blindside, as well as students from All Hallows School.

As we approach the Christmas period the chorus has been booked to sing in a number of retirement homes. We will also be singing at the Mater Hospital which has been traditional for the Clippers over a number of years.

The culmination of our year will be on the 21st and 22nd December when we will perform in the Queen Street Mall a number of Christmas songs for Brisbane Marketing.

We wish all members of the Barbershop fraternity a very Happy Christmas and a tuneful New Year.

Howard Hadrell

Ed’s Note – I like your new logo ☺
A babble of voices and clinking coffee cups. A scene that is repeated all over Australia in shopping centre food courts on a Saturday morning.

Suddenly an amplified, lone voice starts singing, rapidly joined by three more voices, then a growing number until all 30 of us were harmonizing on *I Am Australian*.

This was the scene at Clifford Gardens Shopping Centre in late October and HAH was holding its first *Flash Mob* sponsored by the local Telstra shop. We were all decked out in their polo shirts and the delight and surprise on peoples faces was evident. And to add to the experience, because of the unique design of the centre the sound carried throughout via the large public walkways.

Three minutes later we are all walking away leaving an enthusiastic crowd applauding. Hopefully a couple more *Flash Mobs* will occur leading up to Christmas.

We have been having a downturn in numbers as I have written about earlier in these articles. So having sat down with a firm policy in mind, some advertising via radio, newspaper and, of course, word of mouth we held a New Faces night recently.

The goal? To have new guys learn three Christmas Carols with us and if judged sufficiently competent, to join us at our Singing Restaurant and wow the crowds.

Last week it was heartening to see six or seven of them, plus a couple who missed the actual night, return to have a voice check, get their music and join us on the risers to get in the groove for the big night.

So, we trust we have hit on a way to recruit new members. Here’s hoping !

If anyone wishes to come to our Singing Restaurant go to our website [haharmonygroupanizer.com](http://haharmonygroupanizer.com) and follow the links. Cost? $55.00 a seat, or $500.00 for a table of ten. It is on at the Graham Centre, Downlands College on Saturday December 7, commencing at 6:15pm.

Want to see us at Clifford Gardens? Check us out on Facebook or on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2_OzEq6cM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u2_OzEq6cM)

Finally. Congratulations to all of our competitors in Perth and congratulations to all the winners across Australia.

A Happy and Holy Christmas to all barbershoppers

*Paddy Boxall*

Secretary
Over a month later the Festival Statesmen Youth Chorus is still buzzing from our adventures at the 12th National Barbershop Convention. We would like to congratulate Vocal Evolution for securing the Gold Medal as well as hosting such a great event. The highlight for many was to witness the guest quartets, Lunch Break and Musical Island Boys, and join in the youth workshop lead by Alex Morris and Musical Island Boys. We are proud to uphold our title of national youth champions as well as earning silver in the Open. This convention also saw the largest number of affiliated quartets with FSYC; youth gold and open silver quartet The Fishbowl Boys, most improved quartet Now in Stereo as well as three new quartets, Short Back and Sides, Hold On I’ll Be Right Back and our MD’s quartet, iQ. We are delighted to share in the inaugural Club of the Year award with our senior chorus, Festival States-Men.

At our last AGM, Aaron Vinall stood down as youth chorus president along with our membership officer, Kieran O’Dea. Aaron has now been voted in as the club president while Kieran will dedicate more time to his new career. We thank these gentlemen for their efforts and wish them the best for their new endeavours. At this time, I would like to introduce myself as youth chorus president and welcome John Khammash as membership officer. Also joining the committee for 2014 are Angus Birdseye, Janette McKinnon and Karina Jay. New and existing committee members are already hard at work with our sights set on Pemulwuy Music Festival, July 2014. Here we have the opportunity to work with Paul Holly and to première a new composition.

Our most recent gig was with St Peters Boys School choir at their cabaret fundraising night. We performed the always-popular Ben Fold’s Army upon audience request as well as combining with the Boys School choir to sing a traditional Georgian toasting song. St Peters Boys School are great supporters of the Barbershop Big Day Out in Adelaide and it was wonderful to sing with them once again.

Upcoming gigs include Christmas carols at the Charles Sturt Council Christmas Festival and the Oadken Baptist Carols night. Another highly anticipated concert is Nina Tschernykov’s 30 Years of Concerts on December 14th. Nina has been a strong supporter of FSYC since its inception and we are excited to share the stage with her for an afternoon of vocal and instrumental music.
Heading into the New Year we are putting the call out for fresh faces to come join us on the risers. If you know of anyone looking for a new musical venture, send them to our website, www.festivalstatesmen.com.au where you will also find our upcoming events and videos of FSYC in action.

Until next time, have a wonderful festive period filled with merriment and harmony.

Benjamin Bamford
President

World Tag Singing Championships

Want to compete Internationally with the big boys (and girls) and become a World Champ? Read on....

Sydney Vocal Project is hosting the first worldwide tag/coda singing contest. Be quick, entries close 14/12/13.

More details see http://sydneyvocalproject.com/world-tagcoda-singing-championship-2014

It would be fantastic if you would share this event on your Facebook page.

Have fun, we look forward to seeing your favourite tag.

Jim Catt and the SVP

OUR 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 or EDST 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 with 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.
- E-mail 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>
<td>Nov 19</td>
<td><strong>Tasmanian Region AGM</strong> – Hobart Tas. 7.15pm Hobart City Church of Christ, 8 Goulburn Street, Hobart, followed by the AGM for Hobart Men’s Barbershop Club In.</td>
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<td>Nov 24</td>
<td><strong>BHA Council Meeting</strong> – Australia-wide teleconference</td>
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<td>Nov 27</td>
<td><strong>Central Region AGM</strong> – Adelaide SA</td>
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| Nov 28 | **BHA Annual General Meeting** – 6.30 pm WST, Wembley Downs Uniting Church, Cnr Minibah St. and Calais Rd, Wembley Downs WA 6019  
To present President’s, Secretary’s, Treasurer’s & Auditors’ reports and to elect President, Treasurer, VP Events & VP Marketing & Development for two years – 2014 and 2015, and to confirm BHA Membership fees for the 2013-2014 BHA Financial Year. |
| Nov 28 | **Western Region AGM** – following the BHA Annual General Meeting |
| Dec 7  | **High Altitude Harmony’s Singing Restaurant** – Details – Issue 138 of *In Harmony* and at www.haharmony.com |
| Dec 9  | **Eastern Region AGM** – 6.30 pm The Ron Dyer Centre, Cnr Miller & Ridge Streets, North Sydney (just behind St Mary’s Catholic Church) to present reports and elect office bearers, to be followed by a social get-together. |

### 2014

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| Jan 28 – Feb 2 | **BHS Midwinter International Barbershop Convention** – Long Beach, California  
Details on BHS website - www.barbershop.org |
| Feb 21-23  | **East Coast College** – Myuna Bay, NSW  
(1½ hours north of Sydney) |
| May 16-18  | **Sweet Adelines 25th Anniversary Regional Convention**, Sydney NSW |
| Aug 9-17   | **2014 PanPacific Barbershop Convention**, Wellington, New Zealand  
9-11 – Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges Certification School  
12-13 – Young Singers In Harmony, National Finals  
14-17 – PanPacific Convention, Michael Fowler Centre, downtown Wellington.  
Guest Chorus – The Westminster Chorus from California,  
| Aug 17-20  | **Harmony College** at Waikanae NZ |
| Nov 3-8    | **Sweet Adelines 2014 International Convention**, Baltimore |
2015

| Sept-October | Barbershop Harmony Australia 13th National Convention – Melbourne Victoria – Dates and details to be advised |

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

“Keep the Whole World Singing!”

In Harmony Issue 139 – November-December 2013