What your Council is doing to help your Club grow

As mentioned last month, your BHA Council is committed to providing the support your Club needs to maximize the development of both our music skills and the MEMBERSHIP of BHA. Whilst we’re already addressing youth development, overall membership development of BHA is also a priority! For BHA to grow, our Clubs have to grow, so we’re focussing on helping you grow your membership!

New Membership, what's happening at your Chorus?

Recent discussions with a number of Clubs and communication received from the Regions and Club Executives during the Perth Convention confirmed that new memberships were one of the top priorities for just about every Club.

Many of our Clubs have already commenced their own membership drives for 2014, and will receive varying degrees of benefits dependent on a number of variables. To assist Clubs with this process, and ensure a higher level of success, your Council has worked on a plan to provide a template for success combined with the marketing and promotional support you need to maximize results. What does all this mean?

It means we’ve pooled experience gained from a number of highly successful membership drives, we’ve also highlighted problems and missed opportunities so that we can be sure these don’t depreciate your efforts in the future. The result is a programme that “should” succeed. Yes, should succeed, and better than anything you’ve tried before, but to make sure we’re running a couple of trials. The trial of the program with a couple of selected clubs in Eastern Region will commence shortly, culminating with “Sing in Harmony”, or “Learn To Sing” courses in early July, the results will be in by the end of August and we’ll report the results to you. If the Project goes as well as we expect, we’ll make the program available to your Club either later this year or through 2015.

This is how it works:

The scheme is based on a co-operation between a specific BHA Club and BHA for the promotion of men’s barbershop in the community and for the generation of new Club members for the selected BHA Club. The program will provide a promotion of men’s barbershop singing, and the individual Club, over a period of two (2) weeks leading up to a weekend sing out over two to three days at a local major Shopping Centre or Mall where the public will be encouraged to listen to, participate and get involved with barbershop singing. During the weekend the participating Club will actively promote membership of its
chorus and provide both a membership welcome and “learn to sing” opportunities for interested participants.

In a nutshell BHA will provide and pay for:

Guidance, hands on marketing support, a PR Consultant working specifically for your Club, a detailed plan and monitored timeline, an approved BHA barbershop training course (if you don’t already have one), regular and on-going communication, help and assistance right through all phases of the program. Then follow-up support, and results performance evaluation for your team, etc., etc.

In Return BHA needs your Club to Provide:

A commitment to the Program by the Committee and Music Team and the Club’s appointment of an Event Manager to work closely with the Club’s operational team, BHA Marketing and our PR Consultant. The Club will also need to procure any promotional or publicity material not already used by the Club, ie. business cards, a banner, etc. The Club will need to liaise with a major local shopping centre or mall and be prepared to provide several short sing out performances, spread over a couple of days. The Club will also need to provide a media support team, eg. a quartet and a representative prepared to speak with the media, either press or radio.

We can only do so much, your Club also needs to be committed, so, are you looking for new members…? Yes? Then follow our report on this new initiative and get involved, YOUR CLUB CAN BENEFIT…!

If we can help, or you want more information regarding any of the above, then please contact me anytime at:

marketing@barbershop.org.au

Best wishes,

Keith Thornton
V.P. Marketing & Development

Keith’s ideas pay off big time for his Club – Sydney Harmony

"Male Singers Wanted” boldly proclaims the banner which hangs on bridges and overpasses around Sydney. For years our banner has proved to be one of the most successful ways of attracting new members to the chorus. The banner’s latest success story involves a high-profile radio personality, who spotted our sign and contacted us with an unusual request. Fitzy (Ryan Fitzgerald), who co-hosts the popular Fitzy & Wippa Breakfast Show on Nova FM, asked if we could collaborate on his upcoming wedding anniversary surprise, which was to be recorded and filmed for his show. In exchange for the work a quartet of our guys put in arranging and performing a song with Fitzy (and a beatboxer!), Sydney Harmony was promoted on-air in Sydney and on Nova national radio – plus our website was linked from the Nova website. The story (including mention of us) has since been featured on the website of UK newspaper, The Daily Mail!

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-2582331/Fitzy-shocks-tearful-wife-BJ-surprise-anniversary-song-home.html

Our lead article in this edition of In Harmony concerns a Membership Drive that BHA is implementing under the leadership of VP Marketing, Keith Thornton. I highly recommend the plan to you. Initially we’re rolling this out for a number of Eastern Region Clubs, on the basis of their proximity to where Keith resides, so that he can have maximum personal input into the process. If successful this plan can be rolled out by Clubs around Australia. In Perth right now Vocal Evolution is also doing something similar, independent to BHA, so we’ll see how effective and successful these programs are. Congratulations to all involved for their initiative.

Our VP Youth Development, Trevor Rootes, has also developed an exciting youth development program which I highly recommend your support. Youth members are our future. Ignore them at our peril.

Our VP Membership, Richard Reeve, is also working hard on a number of initiatives including COTS and social media. We have received positive feedback about the revised BHA Budget for this year. It would appear, just like our national government, that everyone appreciates that sometimes you have to rein your spending in, particularly when your income is not as high as you hoped it might be. Hopefully in 2015 we’ll get a big roll up to our National Convention in Melbourne and BHA will be back on its feet financially again.

And speaking of Conventions, we’ve only received positive feedback about our plan to go to Annual Conventions. It seems that many of our members welcome the opportunity to strut their stuff on the national stage on a more frequent basis than currently. Of course we don’t expect that every Club or member will be able to attend every year, but attend when you can, and soak up the camaraderie from your fellow barbershoppers and enjoy the experience. It’s not just about competition.

As I mentioned last time, there are a number of Conventions on this year if you wish to attend any of them. For me, the opportunity to attend the International Convention (this year in Las Vegas in July) is a “bucket list” item, like going to the Boxing Day Test or the AFL Grand Final. Something you should do at least once in your lifetime!

And then of course there’s the Pan Pac Convention in New Zealand in August. Another “must attend event”. What a surfeit of barbershop this year! Add to these the various Regional Conventions being run and you’ve got no excuse not to be motivated about your barbershop singing experience! For a full list of events check out pages 21-22.

Finally, our success as an organisation, and your success at your Club totally depends on your commitment and involvement. Find things that inspire you about your singing – that “ringing” chord, or a great audience reaction at a singout, or a fun rehearsal. It’s like that good shot that brings you back to the golf course the next week. If we have an organisation of inspired members we will have an inspired organisation. How cool would that be?

As a famous American president once said, and I paraphrase, “Ask not what BHA can do for you, ask what YOU can do for BHA”. If we all had that attitude, imagine how powerful our organisation would be?
THE CHALLENGE

Jonathan Bligh’s challenge at Perth Convention, to promote more youth choruses across the country, no doubt still resonates with many members. At the moment we have 78 registered youth, a little less than 10 per cent of membership. By Melbourne 2015, let’s set a goal of 125 youth members. That’s a pretty realistic stretch goal.

STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

A. Students

1. The Barbershop Big Day Out is a tried and true method of introducing young people to the barbershop style. A very successful BBDO was held in Adelaide in March with around 130 young people. TLA were guests. And Voices in Paradise is coming up on the Gold Coast in May with 100+ students expected. Their guests are Musical Island Boys.

2. A different model was successfully trialled in Hobart over three days prior to Easter. Quartet, Mellow Diners, worked with individual year 11/12 classes using demonstration, some theory and student experience, to answer the question ‘What is Barbershop?’ Alex Morris led the expedition and will be helping put together materials that can be used across the country.

B. Music Educators

We are putting together a set of materials that will assist teachers to include some barbershop music in the curriculum. The materials will be developed to match the relevant objectives of the new national curriculum.

Of course, strategies A & B can only ever be on a “No Strings Attached” basis. They are an important part of BHA’s responsibility to reach as many young people as possible.

C. Youth Chorus Development

To grow BHA youth membership, the development of discrete youth choruses is a key strategy. Already, the Sydney Youth Chorus is underway and has held its first performance. As well, Tag Team is getting started in Hobart with 8 initial members. There is also a possibility of forming a youth chorus in Geelong as well as some possible development in Queensland.

BHA has set aside some funds to assist Clubs/Regions willing to prepare a two-year development plan for establishing new discrete choruses. Details will be available soon.

FACE BOOK PAGE

A facebook page, BHA YOUTH, has been established to keep members up to date with youth developments across the country. Please, go there now and join up!

Trevor Rootes
VP Youth Development
Don’t let this happen to you 😊

After we notified all members by email, on the BHA Website and in recent publications of In Harmony that we had cancelled the BHA post office box last year (because in this technological age we are receiving fewer and fewer hard copies of information and cheques from members and Clubs), we heard that one of our Club Secretaries had documents he had posted in January returned to him by Australia Post this month. The reason – he had sent it to our old post office box. So please check that you have updated your records for the BHA postal address so this doesn’t happen to you:

BHA Secretary
39 Panorama Terrace
Green Point NSW 2251

Connect with your Council members

The people you elected to represent you on the BHA Council are here to help you and appreciate hearing from you and helping whenever you need their assistance. They are:

President – Ian Mulholland
Secretary – Kevin White
Treasurer – Trevor Bruger
VP Events – Dan Millgate
VP Marketing & Development – Keith Thornton
VP Membership – Richard Reeve
VP Music – Alex Morris
VP Youth Development – Trevor Rootes

All you have to do is send them an email or give them a call with any queries or suggestions you may have regarding their portfolios. Contact details are on the BHA Website (www.barbershop.org.au) under Contact – National Council. You will also find contact details for your Regional Boards, Youth Representatives, so use your Website and Councillors - they are here to help you.

Kevin White
Secretary

If you have missed a copy of In Harmony you can read it on the BHA Website – www.barbershop.org.au
Downloads – In Harmony Newsletter
“What have you done for me lately?”

Members pay $65 annual fees for a range of benefits (insurance, judging for regions, copyright, etc). However, there is also a plethora of initiatives that Council is rolling out at any one time that don’t necessarily cost money, but they just take organising. Here are some key projects from a membership perspective.

Social media/ BHA Online presence

More and more people are accessing social media to communicate and promote. And BHA is the same. Your Council is working to streamline and co-ordinate its key online presence, which include

- Web site
- Facebook account
- Youtube channel (soon to be)

Watch this space for details and if you’d like to contribute, for example with videos of your local performances that you’d like to share, we’d love to hear from you.

Club Officer Training

Week-to-week management of Clubs and Choruses can take up more time than we care to calculate. We are a national organisation of volunteers and its very common that men of good-will volunteer for positions and THEN ask themselves how best to approach things. That’s where Club Officer Training (COTS) comes in. This is a thorough yet concise mini-course that Council is in the process of rolling out across the country. I want to stress that, while the material offered will be consistent across the country, the specific modules or components of the material will be tailored to the specific needs of each Club. We believe there is some really low-hanging fruit and this is an opportunity to help you out with a raft of commonly asked questions. Details to come during April and May.

Marketing/ Recruitment campaign

As you can see from our lead article from Keith Thornton, Council is in the process of rolling out a detailed set of learn-to-sing-harmony courses, starting with Eastern Region. If these are successful, the initiative will be offered to all other regions.

There is detailed discussion within Council of a range of ways to promote barbershop in the community, from these courses for beginners, to “extreme quartetting” for experienced harmony singers new to barbershop, as well as additional ways to attract musically trained and literate members of the public. As always, I welcome your input about what type of initiatives have worked to attract blokes from all musical backgrounds.

Pan Pacs

The Pan Pacific barbershop contest is held every three years involving barbershoppers from Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the West Coast of the US. For those of you who were members at the time you’ll recall that our 2011 BHA/ AAMBS national convention in Brisbane doubled as a Pan Pacs. So the next one is this August and is being held in Wellington, New Zealand. Many of you will already be planning to go with your choruses, which is great. It’s going to be a fantastic occasion and NZ is a beautiful place to visit, so I’d encourage you to head along if you can. And by the way, 2007 and 2010 International champs and 2013 International silver medallists Westminster Chorus will be there! An absolute treat.

Richard Reeve
VP Membership

In Harmony Issue 141 April-May 2014
Hi there from the Melournaires and the Convention 2015 Committee!

We are well down the path of preparing for your visit to the Harmony Goldrush! Convention in Melbourne, 17th to 20th September, 2015.

The beautiful Hamer Hall will be familiar to some of you who came to the 2001 Convention, but prepare to be amazed - a recent two-year closure saw significant changes to the venue, including improvements to the foyers and foyer bars, ticketing and merchandise facilities, increased auditorium comfort and better acoustics.
The redevelopment, which resulted from Victorian Government allocation of $135.8m, also made several changes to the external parts of the site, including adding a new entrance at river level and the addition of a dining precinct, overlooking the Yarra River.

This will be the last biennial BHA Convention, so please start your planning now and help to make this a great event which will excite the thousands of Victorian a cappella fans in their pre-eminent performance venue and provide you all with a memorable experience.

The 2015 Convention website www.barbershopconvention.com.au will soon be up and running and will be a great source of information for all of you wanting to be a part of this fantastic event.

So, start planning your trip to Melbourne now – book out 17th to 20th September, 2015 as the dates you mustn't miss!

John Howell
2015 Convention Chairman

Over three days in April, the Mellow Diners quartet visited Hobart to promote the barbershop style to secondary students as well as students at the conservatorium. The other purpose of their mission was to promote the redeveloped Hobart youth chorus, Tag Team.

Members of Melbourne based Mellow Diners, Alex Morris, Andrew Bird, Luke Stevenson and Lindsay Ondracek, worked with four year 11/12 classes to answer the question “what is barbershop?” As well, they conducted two classes at the con, one with the composition class and the other with contemporary voice students. They also conducted an on air performance and interview with ABC local radio.

A key part of the visit was a very successful workshop with Tag Team. The Mellow Diners also performed at a wine bar in Huonville to entertain the sponsors of their trip, members of the board of the Huon branches of the Bendigo Community Bank.

The Tasmanian Region greatly appreciates the willingness of the quartet to visit Tasmania. One of the things that stands out in our organisation is the great generosity and goodwill of members who are so willing to give of their time and talents.

Trevor Rootes
BHA Tasmanian Region
The Central Region Big Barbershop Day Out was held on Friday 21 March at St Peter’s College in Adelaide with 68 girls and 60 boys attending from 8 secondary schools. Prior to the day participating schools were sent the scores and learning tracks for the chosen songs: One Fine Day for the girls and Some Nights for the boys, so that they could learn the songs and work on singing and presentation skills on the day. Most of the schools were from the Adelaide Metro area but we were very pleased that Loxton High School from the Riverland made the long journey to be involved, with 16 girls and 12 boys.

Our coaches for the day were the current BHA Gold Medal quartet TLA from Perth supported by Fleurieu Harmony Chorus MD Andrew Bradley and SAA members Sarah Bradley, Trish Francis and Yvonne Twining. The students participated in a number of sessions through the day including an entertaining workshop entitled “What is unique about Barbershop?” run by TLA.

The day concluded with a concert which featured the massed Girls’ Chorus, the massed Boys’ Chorus and concert items from the repertoires of several schools. TLA then entertained the audience of students, family and friends with two outstanding songs from their repertoire which were warmly received.

The day was judged to be an outstanding success and follow up visits are being planned to the schools involved in Term 3 this year.

A Saturday night concert was held at Blackwood High School which gave the BHA (TLA, Now in Stereo, Festival Statesmen) and SAA (Onkaparinga Harmony, Adelaide Sound Connection, Make Believe, Esprit) choruses and quartets a chance to perform for the public and help to defray the expenses of the weekend. We must also mention Adelaide Allsorts which is a mixed chorus in Adelaide and has members from both SAA and BHA.

On behalf of the organising committee I would like to thank SAA and the local Adelaide choruses – Festival Statesmen Senior Chorus, Festival Statesmen Chorus, Adelaide Sound Connection, Onkaparinga Harmony Chorus, Fleurieu Harmony Chorus, Adelaide Allsorts and Harborside Harmony Chorus for their generous support for the BBDO this year. All of the adults involved with the day were impressed by the enthusiasm and ability displayed by the students and we look forward to the establishment of youth sections within our present choruses to provide an avenue for the students to explore further the wonderful world of Barbershop harmony.

A huge thank you to all the local coaches and choruses who supported the day and to TLA for their work teaching and enthusing the students. We wish them every success in Las Vegas in July this year.

Wayne Good
Secretary BHA Central Region
For this edition of *In Harmony* Clubs and Quartets were asked to report on one thing of note which they have done recently. Thank you to the 17 Clubs who sent items which all make very interesting reading - here they are, in alphabetical order.....

In March the Canberra Chordsmen had the great pleasure of taking part in the colorful annual National Multicultural Festival. This festival is an iconic Canberra event that unites the community in a celebration and sharing of culturally diverse traditions, dance, food, performances, exhibitions, concerts and information. Canberra is home to more than 100 embassies and high commissions and is a community comprised of individuals who hail from over 170 countries from across the globe. During the 2014 festival, more than 250,000 people flocked to the heart of the city to revel in Canberra’s three-day love affair with its cultural diversity. The Chordsmen entertained an excited crowd with chorus and quartet singing on one of the many stages, followed by some chorus and quartet singing.

This year, Festival States-men Chorus is focussing on new repertoire and new performance opportunities as a way of sharing our passion for singing. To this end in less than two months we have learnt three new charts: *Misty Mountains* (arranged by one of our own singers, Josh Belperio) quickly became an audience favourite, and performance highlights include a workshop with TLA before the Barbershop Big Day Out and spending time with our former bass and president, Trevor Anderson, plus singing in Rundle Mall to the delight of passengers from the Queen Mary II and our fundraiser screening *Captain America* (a fellow barbershopper) at Adelaide’s Regal Theatre. In the near future we look forward to performing new charts at the Central Region competition and public performances at local shopping centres.

The Fleurieu Harmony Chorus was privileged to be included in a ‘one-on-one’ Workshop with the members of TLA on Saturday 22nd March. All members enjoyed two hours of fun, friendship and excellent tuition, which culminated in members attending a concert on the Saturday night with the headline act being the TLA quartet.
Geelong Bay City Conchords has seen a steady increase in membership under the leadership of new MD Tony Hughes - the sounds emanating from the throats of the members are reaching new heights. There is a buzz around the Club as evidenced by our first public appearance in nearly twelve months. The occasion was the Blokes Day Out Festival, held each year on the waterfront at Eastern Beach in Geelong, dedicated to raising awareness of men’s health issues. The Conchords part in the day was to promote men’s health through song. We did this in two ways - through the setting up of a tent from which we were able to speak to members of the public and pass out flyers to potential members and by presenting a half hour of song and information as part of the program of entertainment on the main stage. It was a great day. The weather was fine, the singing was in tune and a great day was had by all.

A while ago we really needed to update our web-site and so a decision was made to buy Groupanizer and see what we could make of it. It has been a slow process but, worthwhile and we now have all our learning tracks in one place. A member can now chart his progress, organise a tutorial with his Section Leader, etc. at the click of a button. Our MD and President are using it to communicate with all members and each section is now creating posts and letting each other know of their progress. Our gigs are now up and the Gig Master can see at a glance who, and more importantly what voice parts, are available for a proposed gig. We are only scratching the surface of all that Groupanizer can do for us but, as they say “it’s the journey that is the most fun”.

Harborside Harmony was asked to support the local Relay for Life by entertaining the participants and spectators. “Relay for Life” is a charity fundraising organisation supporting The Cancer Council which is something close to our hearts, as last year Harborside Harmony lost our President to cancer along with others in the barbershop fraternity. Seven teams started walking from 2pm and continued through the night for 19 hours while being entertained by Bands, Choirs, Folk Group, Ukulele Group and us, the event which raised a staggering $31,000 was not just a fundraiser but almost a talent show of which we were proud to be a part. A candle lit ceremony was held in the evening to remember those who had lost their lives to cancer. Harborside Harmony has a proud tradition of supporting local charity groups as well as our general entertaining.
Hills Harmony Big Double Header Singout Weekend in March - we set out to perform at a number of gigs in 2014 as we want to hone our public performance skills. As a follow up to a series of successful Christmas carol performances we arranged to sing at some retirement villages in the New Year. The first was at St Mary’s on Friday March 28th. The second was at on March 29th at Lutanda Manor, Marsfield. Some 16 members participated in each with a programme of 11 numbers. Ian Fraser, our director, introduced each number inviting the audience to guess by whom the upcoming song was written – being in a retirement village many of the attendees had a good idea of their provenance. They enjoyed the songs much more when they were identified as being of their vintage! Hills Harmony intends to continue their performance programme throughout the year particularly as following local banner advertising our membership has risen to 29.

Men In Harmony Men in Harmony Barbershop Chorus (WA) during the first quarter of 2014 experienced considerable transition. During our Christmas break we had a few members who either discontinued barbershop or migrated to another chorus. Our chorus demographic comprises predominantly seniors, many of whom are long term barbershop participants. A new Management Committee was elected early March to continue the good work of their predecessors and plan our future development. A recruiting campaign was implemented that culminated in a successful course of six weeks singing lessons conducted by our talented MD Bec Mutton. We all recognise the challenges and importance of attracting and retaining new participants. We continue to focus on consolidating our future direction by striving for continuous improvement of our chorus and product, so that we meet and exceed both our members and audience expectations (and have fun on the journey!)

Novatones concert “Lyrics on the Lake”
Novatones combined with a fledgling Newcastle-based A Cappella ladies’ chorus (Honeysuckle Suite Chorus) and a local high school big band for a concert on 5th April 2014, with an audience of over 300. We also invited a local women’s A Cappella quartet, Bella Voce, their highlight being the Muppet’s “Rainbow Connection”, including a clever vocal bell chord simulation of its banjo accompaniment. Sirius Business, the club’s new quartet, sang a set, and one of the members of the chorus (Greg Markham) played a bracket of piano music. All in all, it proved to be an enjoyable and worthwhile evening, one that allowed us to earn a bit of money to buy the equipment we need to make the club a more successful and “professional” outfit. As we always do, some of this income will go to our charity – Ronald McDonald House, Newcastle.
Penrith Harmony Membership Increase

We are pleased to report that Penrith Harmony continues to build its membership. Numbers have increased from fifteen to twenty-two in a little over twelve months. We now have a solid core of leads and basses, four baritones and three precious tenors! The reasons for our membership increase include the broad exposure we are getting from sing-outs, notably our regular monthly performance at Homemakers, Penrith, who are our generous sponsors. As well, we have our banner display over the M4 motorway, our simple website, and word of mouth recommendations. We also have plans for a Learn to Sing program, a community concert in September, and a recruitment program involving help from BHA advisor Keith Thornton. We are very grateful to our young music director Rick Allen for his inspirational and energetic coaching, for treasurer and audio visual manager Bill Lovett who has put nearly ninety songs from our repertoire onto learning tracks with all four parts to assist our learning, and to president Richard Wadick who has been driving all the chorus initiatives. This all contributes to our growth.

During February the chorus conducted a program Ready Set Sing with the sole purpose of attracting new singers to join the chorus. Over the period of 4 weeks about 10 men presented to the course to get their first taste of Barbershop. Each night they went through the warm up exercise with the whole chorus and then they were given 1 hour of instruction while the main chorus carried on rehearsal in another room. The course ended with a concert where they could perform for family and friends. The concert was supported by our Sweet Adeline friends Brisbane City Sounds and a youth choir from Malaysia. The task now is to convert them to full time members.

Central Coast Barbershop Chorus was very pleased to welcome BHA VP Marketing & Development, Keith Thornton, to its April committee meeting to give us points on the best way to market our Chorus and attract local singers to our coming Learn to Sing 4 Part A Cappella Harmony 6 week free course. Keith came up with a number of new ideas for us, all of which we will be implementing straight away. We thank Keith for making the trip north from Sydney to the beautiful NSW Central Coast and strongly recommend that all BHA Clubs and members contact the members of the BHA Council for guidance in the smooth running and growth of their Clubs and assistance with their particular portfolios – they are the experts and are always willing to help members of BHA to spread the word and encourage more men and youth onto the risers.

Kieran Hutton – new member 2012, Club Secretary 2013!!
For we Barbershoppers, it is a given that we maintain the marvellous tradition of our unique way of singing; as such we need new members. As a result of an intense recruitment drive, we have 8 new members! How did we do it? Using the talents of professional singing teacher, Sarah Laws, the SSBC offered free weekly singing lessons over a period of 7 weeks. It doesn’t take long to establish the love of Barbershop singing. Not only were the “new blokes” on the block exposed to the superb teaching techniques of Sarah but they were also treated to the mateship and hospitality of our Chorus. President Eric Simpson welcomed and encouraged the newbies and Musical Director Ray Sofio was on hand with answers to their questions. The final lesson was for the President’s Concert where the graduates and the members mounted the risers for family and friends. Fun times for all!

Our big event to kick-off 2014 was our Totally Vocal Course, which ran over six weeks from early March. Following on from last year’s Real Men Sing program, we set about reinventing the concept this time. Rather than using the more typical “learn to sing” approach, we promoted Totally Vocal by inviting singers to learn more about vocal harmony through the experience of being part of an established a cappella ensemble. Although having fewer starters, we ultimately attracted better quality singers with a higher level of musicianship among the participants than previously. As a result, there’s been more interest from these men to continue with us as chorus members. One participant passed our audition by Week 3 and we now potentially have over a third of the Totally Vocal guys as prospective chorus members! Special thanks to our MD Vicki Dwyer and to our Music Team and hard-working Excom for contributing to the success of the course.

MD Vicki Dwyer with new barbershoppers from Totally Vocal Course
On the 1st March, the Blenders, young and old, past and present, came together at Twins Towns Services Club at Tweed Heads to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Gold Coast Barbershop Harmony Club Inc. aka the Blenders. People travelled locally and from interstate to celebrate this historic 25 year milestone. New friendships were made and old friends re-acquainted. The night celebrated all that was good about the barbershop family. Many stories were shared and laughs were had. We remembered those that were no longer with us but had been part of the wonderful journey. The night also included the Blenders Annual Awards and what a thrill it was for those recipients to receive their awards on this special night in front of so many guests. The night culminated in a performance by the current chorus and, of course, in true barbershop style singing went on until the early hours of the morning!

On Saturday April 5th, The Melbournaires Harmony Chorus was delighted to be part of a two hour concert, featuring male and female choruses and quartets from around Victoria. Held at the Adamson Hall of Wesley College in St Kilda Road, Melbourne, and initiated by Traci Voss and Alex Morris, participating choruses were Southern Sounds, Geelong Bay City Conchords, East City Sound, Geelong Harmony Chorus, Melbournaires, Vocal Vibes and Melbourne Chorus. Also included were quartets Platinum, Ching, Beckitt Brothers, Something Else, and NQR. The evening culminated in a grand finale of all quartets and choruses singing a hastily learned song “Celebration”. This Barbershop Showcase was, in effect, a feasibility test case, and only partners of participants were able to attend due to limited space. However, because of its success and the enthusiasm of barbershoppers to be involved, it is hoped a similar event will be held next year at a larger venue where members of the general public will be able to attend.
Vocal Evolution has started a recruitment drive called “Join the Journey” to ramp up the membership numbers for Melbourne 2015. There are several parts to the drive. On Facebook we do a weekly member profile and the occasional “what do you do on a Monday night” showing how much fun we have at rehearsal each Monday with the time and location. Both of these weekly items are liked, commented on and shared by the membership. In the Real World we have a city sing twice a month. Wearing our distinctive “Join the Journey” tee shirts and our “ask me about singing Barbershop!” conversation starter badges, we unfurl our banner and treat Perth to a blast of Barbershop. We then circulate distributing our bio and, for April, a promotion for our Learn to Sing Harmony course.

The promotion of quartet and VLQ (very large quartet ensemble) singing at our rehearsals has been our most significant innovation this year. The schedule is prepared in advance by our Music Team and listed in the Club’s monthly newsletter, enabling singers from each quartet and VLQ to get together and rehearse their item. The accompanying photo shows The Four Chordsmen - John Brigatti, Peter Mcguire, Ken Richens & Francis Tay presenting I’ll Be A Song and Dance Man Again. The positive effect of this program within the Club was reported by our Music Director, Bruce Okely, as follows: “It is pleasing to note the continued enthusiasm for quartet and ensemble singing. Singing in quartets and small groups can be lots of fun for those involved – and beneficial for the chorus as a whole. Speaking personally, I get a special buzz as I move about the building on a Friday evening between 7.1 and 7.30 pm and hear up to three separate quartets and ensembles practising for their spot on the evening’s (or the next week’s) program.”

Congratulations! to all BHA Clubs for your great work and dedication ☺
VoicesLive @ the Independent

WHAT
AN UNMISSABLE SHOWCASE OF QUALITY A CAPPELLA SINGING

WHERE
INDEPENDENT THEATRE,
269 MILLER ST, NORTH SYDNEY

WHEN
3pm - 5pm, 22 JUNE 2014

TICKETS
$30 Contact John Gleeson
0424 349 243 or
secretary@sydneyharmony.com.au

sydneyharmony.com.au
To all lovers of a cappella and harmony singing--

You have a rare chance to experience the Gold Coast's A Cappella Revolution and see the groups listed below in action on the 24th May 2014. Not only will you be blown away by the quality entertainment but you'll be supporting a good cause by being audience to 100+ young males and The Blenders - 8 time national gold medallists

- Blenders Youth Chorus - Current National Youth Silver Medallists
- Serotonin - Griffith University a cappella mixed choir
- Coastal Charisma - New prospective female chorus
- Blindside - Current National Bronze Medallist Quartet
- Ginger and Tonic - Current SingFest Champion Quartet
- Musical Island Boys - Current International Silver Medallist Quartet
- VIP Male Ensemble
- VIP Female Ensemble
- VIP Mixed Ensemble of 100+ singers

The Concert bookings are now open for this year's Voices In Paradise event to be held on the 24th May 2014! For those of you who caught last year's VIP event you'll know it was a sell out so please get in quickly as this year we will attempt to fill a brand new bigger and better theatre in the new Griffith University G40 building.

Bookings can be made via the website www.voicesinparadise.com.au. Please note, tickets are available at the door on the night for $25 (pending availability) however if you purchase online you will receive the discounted rate of only $20 for Adults, $15 for Children and $50 for Family.

Book early and please share this with your friends to continue to support youth a cappella singing on the Gold Coast.

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Support from our VP Youth Development....

The Voices in Paradise A Cappella Revolution concert on May 24th will be the finale of the youth program being conducted on the Gold Coast. Musical Director and organiser Jono Albertini expects 100+ young people will participate in the workshops being held during the day. The young men involved will learn two pieces, so too the young women.

There will also be a combined piece. The participants have had access to online learning tracks and it is anticipated they will all arrive well prepared for the day. During the day, workshop leaders will include the Musical Island Boys and Ginger and Tonic. The students' concert performances promise to be a highlight, along with performances from the guest quartets as well as other regular Gold Coast performers.

It would be great if you could make it to the concert.

Ticket sales are now open.

Trevor Rootes
ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Ian Lushey, MD of the *Melbournaires*, is off to the UK in June for a break (if you could call it that) with a difference.

Ian is a keen cyclist and has decided to ride his bike from one end of the UK to the other on the famous Land’s End to John O’Groats trek. The distance is around 1800K and along the way Ian will be raising funds for the Peter Mac Foundation for Cancer Research.

If you could spare a few dollars, or a whole lot of dollars, it will all be going to an important cause.

You can donate by going to:

Ian will be keeping a blog

And along the way Ian will probably be doing some Facebook updates as well.

*(Ed’s Note: Have fun, Ian, BHA Council and all the members of BHA wish you well, and, in the words of an old song – “Sing as you go and let the World go by” ☺)*

Music Quote of the month –

“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.”

(Plato)

This is the response I would like to get from my computer....
FOR SALE

Song Book - The Great Australian Barbershop .... $ 10.00 each
Song Book - Australian Barbershop Polecat .......... $ 5.00 each
BHA Lapel Pins ....................................................... $ 6.00 each
Polo Shirts - BHA & Perth Convention ................. $ 35.00 each
Stubby Holders - BHA & Perth Convention .......... $ 7.00 each
Drink Bottles – Perth Convention ....................... $ 16.00 each
Pitch Pipes - The Master Key Chromatic F to F .... $ 30.00 each
Pitch Pipe Holders – Leather (Black or Brown) ..... $ 20.00 each
Bumper sticker – Barbershop Harmony .......... $ 2.00 each
AAMBS Material Patches ........................................... FREE

Plus postage & handling

Contact secretary@barbershop.org.au

A big welcome to our new and returning BHA Members ......

Michael Carantinos (Central Coast)
Jan Geursen, Craig Goddard, Richard Hill, Michael Hocking,
Kees Kruysmulder, Charles Starks (Gold Coast)
Bobby Eschevarria (Hills Harmony)
Peter Davies (Riverland Ramblers)
Anton Carlton, Jason Antenucci & Adam Jasko (Vocal Evolution)

We look forward to meeting you and seeing you all on the risers at our next BHA Convention in Melbourne in 2015
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 even numbered month – February, April, June, August, October, December.
- Length: Submitted Articles to be 150–500 words maximum – Verdana 10 pitch, 1.5 line spacing (submissions that do not comply will be returned for tweaking).
- Articles will be edited for spelling and grammar.
- Please remember to send high quality jpg formatted logos and photos as attachments - do not embed them in your article.

Contributions which do not follow the correct style, font and spacing will be returned for correction. All articles will be edited for size, sense, grammar and spelling.

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

2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Central Region Contest – 9am Marion Uniting Church, Township Rd, Marion SA. Details Wayne Good - <a href="mailto:goods@internode.on.net">goods@internode.on.net</a></td>
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<td>April 27</td>
<td>ER Chorus Rehearsal for NZ Pan Pac – 9.00 am – 4.00 pm Ron Dyer Centre, 42 Ridge Street, North Sydney (behind St Mary’s Church)</td>
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<td>BHA Council Meeting via teleconference - Australia-wide</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td>TLA@FBN – BHA 2013 Open Gold Medal Quartet in concert at Fly by Night Music Club, Fremantle, WA. Tickets – <a href="http://www.flybynight.org">www.flybynight.org</a> - $30 presale from 7 February 2014, $35 door sales (including booking fee). Contact Adrian Gimpel 0409 084 491 – <a href="mailto:aydj@iinet.net.au">aydj@iinet.net.au</a></td>
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<td>May 16-18</td>
<td>Sweet Adelines 25th Anniversary Regional Convention -</td>
<td>Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre NSW <a href="http://www.sweetadelines.org.au">www.sweetadelines.org.au</a></td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td>TLA Quiz Night – 7.30-9.30pm, South Perth Community Centre, Cnr Sandgate St &amp; South Terrace, South Perth WA -$150 each or $100 for table of up to 10 people to raise money for their trip to Las Vegas to represent Australia at the BHA International Quartet Contest. Tickets available from <a href="mailto:trevor_and@hotmail.com">trevor_and@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>Voices In Paradise – 10am Workshop &amp; 7 pm Concert - G40 Health B Griffith University, Gold Coast, Qld. Registrations open 1 January 2014 – <a href="mailto:info@voicesinparadise.com.au">info@voicesinparadise.com.au</a> or 0407 933 305. <a href="http://www.facebook.com/VoicesInParadise">www.facebook.com/VoicesInParadise</a></td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>BHA Council Meeting via teleconference - Australia-wide</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Region Chairmen/BHA teleconference – Australia-Wide</td>
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<td>May 30-June 1</td>
<td>TLA @ Denmark Festival of Voice - In and around Denmark WA (4 hours South of Perth) TLA is one of the headline acts and will be performing</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td><strong>ER Chorus Rehearsal for NZ Pan Pac</strong> – 9.00 am – 4.00 pm, Sydney,</td>
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<td>Venue TBA</td>
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<td><strong>VoicesLive@theIndependent</strong> – Sydney Harmony fundraiser concert – Featuring Sydney</td>
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<td>Harmony Chorus, <strong>TLA</strong> (BHA Gold medal quartet) and <strong>Circular Keys</strong> Ladies’ Chorus</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Chorus Tickets</strong> $30 each including a $1 booking fee</td>
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<td>June 29–July 1</td>
<td><strong>2014 International Barbershop Convention</strong>, Las Vegas, Nevada</td>
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<td>July 27</td>
<td><strong>ER Chorus Rehearsal for NZ Pan Pac</strong> – 9.00 am – 4.00 pm, Sydney,</td>
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<td>Aug 9-17</td>
<td><strong>2014 Pan Pacific Barbershop Convention</strong>, Wellington, New Zealand</td>
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<td>8-11 – Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges Certification 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><strong>Guest Chorus – The Westminster Chorus</strong> from California, BHS</td>
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<td><strong>Gold Medal Chorus</strong> (2007) and Pavarotti Choir of the World (2009)</td>
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<td>Aug 17-20</td>
<td><strong>Harmony College at Waikanae NZ</strong></td>
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<td>Aug 31</td>
<td><strong>BHA Council Meeting via teleconference</strong> - Australia-wide</td>
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<td>Sept 14</td>
<td><strong>Central Coast Barbershop Chorus</strong> – 25th Anniversary Concert, 1pm</td>
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<td>Parkview Room, Central Coast Leagues Club, Dane Drive, Gosford NSW</td>
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<td>Sept 28</td>
<td><strong>BHA Council Meeting via teleconference</strong> - Australia-wide</td>
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<td>Oct 3-5</td>
<td><strong>IABS Convention</strong> – Ennis, County Claire, Ireland</td>
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<td>Oct 26</td>
<td><strong>BHA Council Meeting via teleconference</strong> - Australia-wide</td>
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<td>Nov 3-8</td>
<td><strong>Sweet Adelaines 2014 International Convention</strong>, Baltimore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td><strong>BHA Council Meeting via teleconference</strong> - Australia-wide</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>Jun 28</td>
<td><strong>BHS International Competition</strong></td>
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<td>Sept–October</td>
<td><strong>Barbershop Harmony Australia 13th National Convention</strong> –</td>
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<td>Melbourne Victoria – Dates and details to be advised</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 Australia
Phone: 02 4369 8369
Fax: 02 4369 8379
E-mail: secretary@barbershop.org.au

(A Division of Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers Inc.)
ABN 5083 784 810
An Affiliate of Barbershop Harmony Society

**In Harmony Issue 141 April-May 2014**