Early Bird Registrations Closing 30 June 2015
There is less than a week remaining to qualify for the Early Bird registration benefit.

Why should I register early?
Simple! You’ll save money!
Registrations received before 30 June 2015 will attract an “Early Bird” discount. There are special "combo" rates where you can save $100 when registering for both Convention and Harmony College.

You won’t have to select all of your courses for Harmony College straight away – that will be done a little later on but we want to make sure that people who register for both get a great deal. You will still be able to register after 30 June 2015, of course, but the price will increase.

Registration includes entry to:

- Youth Events (extra tickets—donation)
- Official Welcome Dinner (only registered delegates are entitled to attend)
- All Quartet Contest Sessions (extra tickets can be purchased)
- All Chorus Contest Sessions (extra tickets can be purchased)
- Saturday Evening Showcase of Champions (extra tickets can be purchased)

NOTE: Registrations do NOT include entry to the Farewell Lunch on Sunday 20 September 2015. These tickets are sold separately. You can purchase these later in this registration process.

Public Tickets: Tickets will be available for purchase by the public (including non-delegates travelling with delegates), for the following events at Hamer Hall:
All Quartet contest sessions
All Chorus contest sessions
Saturday Evening Showcase of Champions concert

Tickets are now able to be purchased online at the Arts Centre Box Office or by phone. The Arts Centre Melbourne ticketing website is the place to purchase those extra tickets. Please note that these extra tickets will be for numbered seats in the Hamer Hall Circle or Balcony. Registered delegates will be seated in the Stalls.

**Convention News #3 is now available**

A separate file including this latest Convention Newsletter will be distributed along with this Edition of *In Harmony* Alternatively, you may like to click on the following link to take you straight to the full Newsletter located on the BHA Website.

**Convention News #3**

This Newsletter includes valuable information about

- Registration
- Ticketing
- Accommodation
- Travel
- Transport
- Convention arrangements
- Chorus rehearsal space
- Chorus Convention Conveners
- Showcase of Champions
- Merchandise
- Young Singers
- Harmony College
- Non Contest Singing Events
- Convention Program

It has also been announced in this Newsletter that, in addition to featuring the headline quartet Vocal Spectrum in the Showcase

This Concert will be presented by Melbourne’s very own favourite singer, star of stage, television and radio 3AW personality, Denis Walter, OAM.

An evening not to be missed.

**John Howell**
Convention 2015 Committee Chairman

**Barbershop Around Australia**

Our season of regional quartet qualifying contests is over for this year, and we now look forward to Melbourne as a festival of the best barbershop singing in Australia.

I was lucky enough to be selected as a judge for the Sunshine Region contest recently, and what a weekend it was! It all started with the contest (sound checks at 8am), with the first competitor hitting the stage at 9am. They did a great job considering the early hour! 18 quartets and 8 choruses attended during the day and were judged and then had evaluation and coaching sessions with the judges. Following that a concert was put on in the evening for two and a half hours followed by a great afterglow.

On the Sunday I attended a workshop run by Jill Rodgers (BHNZ) and Don Campbell (BHS). Jill is the director of music education for BHNZ and Don is a distinguished professor and doctor of music and choral conducting in the USA, and we were extremely lucky to have them visit Australia. Don is in great demand back home and runs the Director’s College at BHS Harmony University. The feedback we’ve received from these workshops has been overwhelmingly positive both from singers and directors alike.

But back to our regional contests. Over our six regions we had 59 quartets compete. This included Open, Senior, Youth and Mixed quartets. Many of these will qualify for Melbourne and you’ll see them there. The
scores are still being tallied and we’ll know very soon which quartets have made it. To those quartets, congratulations. To the quartets who missed out, commiserations. I know everyone wants to be able to sing at our National contest, but due to time and other constraints it's just not possible. It means that our Regional contests become all that more important as you hone your skills to present your best barbershop to our audiences and earn your place on our national stage.

And the standard of our quartets and choruses is going up all the time. From this round of regional contests we’ve had two quartets score International qualifying level scores (>76%), ten quartets score more than 70%, and 24 quartets score more than 65%. For comparison, the winning open quartet in 1995, some 20 years ago, scored 68.7%. Now we have 16 quartets above that level.

Our choruses too, continue to improve the standard. In 1995 the winning chorus scored 70.8. In Perth in 2013 we had five choruses above this level, including one into the 80’s. I’m really looking forward to the chorus contest in Melbourne. It’s going to be a cracker!

That means our education, directing and coaching activities (including having our own judges) have been effective in raising the standard of performance of barbershop around Australia (contest is just another performance) which means we can take a more prominent place in our world of music down under and proudly sing barbershop knowing that we are a thriving and relevant musical art form.

Sing-cerely,

Ian Mulholland  President

BARBERSHOP BIG DAY OUT ACTIVITY
Since the last issue, there’s been a lot of youth activity; Voices in Paradise on the Gold Coast, and Barbershop Big Day Out sessions in each of Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart.

Voices in Paradise attracted over 160 young people. It was an outstanding day with guest quartets Musical Island Boys and Ginger and Tonic. This is the third year for VIP which has grown from small beginnings.

For Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart, 2015 was the first year for BHA involvement in Barbershop Big Day Out programs. Sydney attracted over 165 students, Melbourne around 70, and Hobart 25 students.

The three latter programs were conducted collaboratively with Sweet Adelines, as has been the ongoing practice with the now well-established Big Day Out program in Adelaide.

To assist with conducting BBDO programs, BHA now has available a small music library, also learning tracks. A broad plan for conducting a Big Day Out is also being put together.

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT
An important element of youth development is contact with schools and teachers. Two key strategies are recommended, a) quartet visits, and b) teacher professional development.

Quartet Visits
Over the last 18 months, The Mellow Diners quartet has made a large number of school visits in Melbourne, Sydney, and Hobart. This has required great personal commitment by the quartet members who have taken time out from work to spread the barbershop word. Quartets in other regions have also led school sessions.

It is apparent that relying on a small number of youthful quartets is not sustainable. We need to encourage other quartets in the regions to lead school sessions. For quartets to present to schools it is reasonable to expect they will be scoring around 60 or better. Quartets will also need to be able to communicate effectively with young people. To assist, a lesson plan developed by The Mellow Diners is available at: [http://www.barbershop.org.au/files/Mellow_Diners_Lesson_Plan.pdf](http://www.barbershop.org.au/files/Mellow_Diners_Lesson_Plan.pdf).

Teacher Professional Development
Formal Teacher PD is increasingly being offered in the regions. Earlier this year, Voices in Paradise offered a Directors’ Workshop using the Blenders Youth Chorus as the demonstration chorus. Charlotte Murray (NZ) and Jonathan Albertini ran the day. A similar PD was conducted in Hobart, led by Alex Morris. It attracted 6 teachers, allowing it to be a viable program.

Tasmania also took the opportunity in May of offering a Teacher PD, “An Introduction to Barbershop”, led by The Establishment quartet that was visiting Hobart for the Sweet Adelines
Convention. The Tasmanian Region also recently offered a music educators class to observe Prof. Don Campbell at work with Deep South. All Regions/Clubs are encouraged to seek serendipitous opportunities such as these to help spread the word to music educators.

**Teacher Resource**


**Young Singers in Harmony Festival**

The Festival is on Wednesday of Convention. As well as school contests, the Youth Chorus Contest will be held. And this year the BHA Youth Quartet Contest will be part of the Wednesday Festival. See attached poster. Full details at [barbershop.org.au/YSIH](http://barbershop.org.au/YSIH).

**BHA Youth Quartet Contest**

All BHA youth quartets will have the opportunity to sing in the BHA Youth Contest on the Wednesday afternoon at the Deakin Edge Theatre. Cash prizes will be presented, along with medals. See the details at [barbershop.org.au/YSIH](http://barbershop.org.au/YSIH).

**Combined Convention Youth Chorus**

The combined chorus will rehearse on Thursday of Convention between 9.00am and 12.20pm at Deakin Edge. In line with past practice, we have invited the MDs of the leading choruses at the previous convention to be MDs. Lionel Pierson and Jonathan Bligh have accepted the invitation.

**Southern Cross Youth Chorus**

Unfortunately, Jonathan Albertini and I had to decide to cancel this year’s attempt to take the first ever Australian Youth Chorus to the international mid-winter convention next January. Recently, BHS required a commitment. With only eight or nine young men having put up their hand, we were well off the 20 we set as our goal. Perhaps we should aim to go in another couple of years? What do you think?

**Comments/Questions**

Please check in with me if you have any comments and/or questions.
Don is shown running one of his Master Classes in Hobart

Alex Morris  BHA Vice President - Music

**How do I Find My BHA Member ID?**

There's a new facility on the BHA website to make it easy for any member to find their BHA member ID. Simply visit the BHA website (www.barbershop.org.au), and in the "Members" menu in the top-right corner, select "What's My Member ID?" All you need to do is enter your surname and the email address we have on file for you in our member database, and your member ID will be displayed, along with your current BHA financial status.

Mark Virtue  – BHA Webmaster

**Executive Workshops**

Soon the dates and venues for a series of executive workshops around the country will be set. Your Region Chair has been coordinating with each club on this in recent weeks. The workshops will be run during July and August in each region. Watch this space for photos, good news stories and lessons learned as we start ramping up sharing best-practice ideas on how to run clubs, attract new members, gigs and sponsorship, support our music teams and many more topics.

This first year will be running through some fundamental templates of club structure and role descriptions that clubs can take away and use as best suits their individual circumstances (this is not a one-size-fits-all). Importantly though, the workshops will be just as much about identifying some key issues that may be the focus for sessions next year and beyond. The workshops are designed for current and aspiring club leaders; so if you’re a current or aspiring leader, we’d love to see you there.

All Regional competitions are now done and the qualifiers for Melbourne will soon be announced. Also in Melbourne we will be continuing with our Club of the Year competition and Club Man of the Year recognition, as well as longevity certificates to acknowledge those who have contributed so much to barbershop in Australia. See you there!

Richard Reeve  BHA Vice President - Membership

**A Message about Mixed Harmony from your President**

Dear Members,

Elsewhere in this edition there is a letter from Ian Fraser, a member from Eastern Region, on the issue of mixed quartets and ensembles in BHA contests. This began, as many of you will have seen, as an email to all members on 15 April 2015. Note that this newsletter is the proper forum for such a letter rather than using the member email list without authorisation to distribute personal opinion.

In Ian’s letter he cites some inconsistencies between our Constitution and our Handbook. Both are available for download from the BHA website. As Ian notes, the Handbook is a “living document” and designed to be updated from time to time as things change (and an update is overdue). The Constitution on the other hand can only be changed by members by a 75% majority vote at a General Meeting. In matters where there is a conflict, the Constitution over-rules the Handbook.

The assertion by Ian that Associate members cannot be involved in BHA competition is incorrect. There is nothing in the Constitution that prevents this. The only restriction on Associate members is that they are not allowed to participate in the management of the Association – which still stands.
Ian’s letter contains other inaccurate and exaggerated statements, such as his reference to a “Note” in the Standing Orders that BHA National Council can change the Standing Orders being of secondary predominance (implication that it is “hidden in the small print”). However, clause 10 of the Constitution clearly gives the National Council the power to amend the Standing Orders for a number of matters, including clause 10(a)(ii) for conduct of National and Regional singing contests. Our Founding Fathers (as Ian likes to call them) clearly knew that changes to our Standing Orders would be necessary and made provision for that.

There is also a reference to “30 years of common practice and usage”, but Ian Fraser either has limited knowledge of these years, or perhaps is ignorant of some facts. AAMBS was actually constituted 29 years ago (26 July 1986 to be exact), not 30 years, and we didn't have any contests with any official rules until the early 2000’s. Before then we used either adopted BHS rules or we just used “common sense”.

In fact in 1995, only four years after our first national contest, we actually held a mixed quartet contest at the Canberra Convention in 1995 and a gold medal was awarded. Some regions picked up the idea, and although the records of the early regional contests are not digitised or contained on the BHA website, there is anecdotal evidence that mixed quartet contests have been unofficially held in at least the Sunshine and Western Region for many years, and more recently (since its inception in 2012) in the Central Region.

There has been enormous change to our judging categories over the years, especially the music category, which has caused quite a bit of outcry in the USA. We have the “progressives” and the “kibbers” (Keep It Barbershop). The BHS Board, in its wisdom, has allowed the expansion of the definition of barbershop (in favour therefore of the “progressives”) because they know that barbershop must stay relevant to modern times otherwise it will wither and die as an old person’s singing style with no interest to modern youth.

The same principle applies to mixed harmony. Several affiliate organisations around the world are already “mixed” and have been for some time. They represent the total spectrum of barbershop (male, female and mixed) and have thrived. There have been World Mixed Harmony championships for a number of years now. At the BHS International Convention in 2014 the most recent world champion mixed quartet was a special guest on the program. There are mixed quartet contests now being held as part of BHS contests in the USA.

There is a growing interest in mixed barbershop in Australia, and the BHA National Council decided that we should embrace this growing interest, not shun it. We have taken particular care to work within the Constitution, and the changes to the Standing Rules do not contravene it. We still maintain the male dominance in BHA as per the Constitution where only male members may participate in the management of the association.

Who knows, in time the mixed harmony movement may have grown strong enough to stand on its own feet, form its own association and hold its own contests, and as BHA members we can stand proud and say that we provided the early stage nursery for it. On the other hand, mixed harmony may become an important ingredient in our “world of harmony”.

In my call for submissions on this topic some months ago, I received several replies in favour of the change, but only one against (Ian’s). And since publishing and circulating the rule changes we have only received further positive comments and feedback (except for Ian’s unauthorised email). If you support Ian Fraser’s view, then please let us know; if you don’t, then please let us know that too.

Our National contests for 2015 are now locked in and there will be a mixed harmony contest in Melbourne. However, if members indicate they do not wish this to continue, then the BHA National Council needs to be told, not by one dissenting member, but by a majority of members. In that case we can put it to a vote. However, I don’t think that will be necessary because the majority of our members want to think progressively and inclusively.

Sing-cerely Yours,

Ian Mutholland  BHA President
The first weekend in May saw Barbershop leaving a huge harmony footprint in Eastern Region with three major events.

**Big Barbershop Weekend Out**
The weekend started early on Friday morning when the Big Barbershop Day Out was held at Santa Sabina College, Strathfield. Over 160 students from 5 high schools registered for the workshop. This event was a collaboration between Young Women in Harmony Australia (an initiative of Sweet Adelines Australia) and BHA Eastern Region. Lea Baker, Co-ordinator and Educator for YWIHA lead the young women and Alex Morris and the Mellow Diners facilitated the male students in the learning of two songs. All of the students embraced the learning experience enthusiastically.

There is now a follow-up program in place to ensure that the participants and their school music faculty receive the appropriate level of support. Hopefully, this will encourage them to continue to develop in the barbershop genre.

**ER Competition**
On the Saturday, members travelled distances of up to 300km to converge on Barker College in Hornsby for the Eastern Region Competition. Five male Choruses, twelve male, two mixed and four female quartets competed in the various categories. The competition was a quartet qualifier for the National Competition in September. The majority of the Choruses and quartets did themselves proud by improving on their 2014 contest scores. This is a testament to the hard work and tenacity of the choruses and quartets involved.

The members from Canberra were the most improved and really cleaned up on the day with two quartets, Chordsmiths (pictured) and The Crunch winning the Open Quartet Gold and Silver medals respectively, The Crunch achieving Gold in the Youth Quartet Contest, Shiraz achieving Gold in the Mixed Quartet contest and Canberra Chordsmen achieving Silver in the Open Chorus contest.

The Contest Administrators, Bob Charters and Keith Thornton ably assisted by Alison Stevens, provided unfazed dedication to making the whole event as seamless as possible for the contestants and the audience. Bob Charters and the contest volunteers from Penrith, Newcastle and Central Coast, also did a great job in monitoring the flow of the evaluations – never an easy task to keep to schedule, especially with 23 contestant groups to evaluate in just 4 hours!

The volunteers, lead by Martin Zoglmeyer from Penrith Harmony, made a significant contribution to making the contest such a great success. Many thanks also to Bob Fritz who played such a critical role as MC, remaining on his feet to introduce all of the 23 contestants and keeping the contest flowing.

The marvellous Judges worked so tirelessly throughout the day with minimal breaks - we are all grateful for their encouragement and support of this great hobby of ours and appreciate their dedication to giving the contestants as much valuable feedback as possible within the tight time constraints.

The day culminated with a fantastic Harmony Showcase of Champions concert featuring the Musical Island Boys, Endeavour Harmony Chorus (the current SAA Champion Chorus directed by Lea Baker), the Mellow Diners, plus the Gold medallists from the competition. Such a superb musical and visual package!

As expected, MIB put their heart and soul into every song they performed – some early arrivers also enjoyed a pre-concert performance with MIB doing the mic test!

At least one potential young barbershop recruit attended the concert (and, in turn, also invited his parents) and was thoroughly moved and entertained! Many thanks to Ian McKenzie from Sydney Harmony for compering and Mike Matthew and his team from Canberra for managing the event.

Of course, although the concert was the end of the official events for the weekend, as is usual...
for these type of events, harmonious activities continued well into the Sunday morning with the afterglow and post-afterglow being hot topics in social media.

**Director’s Workshop**

The first leg of Don Campbell’s educational tour of three of BHA’s Regions commenced on 5 June in Sydney. Don is currently Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, South Carolina and senior educator at the Barbershop Harmony Society’s Directors College at Harmony University each year. Don, accompanied by his wife, Karen, who participated with the singers on the risers, brought a wealth of experience, skill and inspiration, not only to the 10 MDs and AMDs registered, but also to the 30+ singers that also participated.

Don was also joined on the tour by Jill Rodgers, currently Director of Education for BHNZ who did a superb job in facilitating sessions for the singers covering the development of vocal and performance skills. Don also led a very engaging session on vocal formants and demonstrated “straw technique” advocated by vocal scientist, Ingo Titze.

The workshop provided directors with the opportunity to refine their conducting, communication and teaching methods. The singers, in turn, also benefitted from being directed by a diverse range of MDs as they practiced their various newly-formed skills.

Although most of the Eastern Region choruses were represented at this workshop, the participants mainly comprised members of Sydney Harmony. Thank you Sydney for your overwhelming support of this event!

**The Blenders**

It’s been a busy year for the Blenders. We’ve just come off the Sunshine Region Convention where we placed second in the Open Chorus competition. Congratulations to Sound Connection for taking out first place. The Blenders had eleven new members on the risers for their first experience performing in competition. It was a fantastic Convention and congratulations to The Sunshine Statesmen for organising such a great day and thanks to all those who worked so hard behind the scenes to make the day a huge success.

**The Blenders in Carnegie Hall, New York.**

Since our last musings some 42 members and some of their partners travelled to New York to perform at Carnegie Hall after an invitation from Deke Sharon of Glee, Pitch Perfect and The Sing Off fame. Deke has an association with The Blenders through our Voices in Paradise youth program. After a very long plane trip we all arrived in New York very weary but excited about the idea of performing on the stage in Carnegie Hall where so many famous people have performed. After receiving the music around Christmas we were all a little phased by the enormity of the challenge ahead of us. Several practices prior to leaving left us with a sense of trepidation and doubt as to whether we would be up to the challenge. However, we needn’t have worried as the other choirs/choruses said that they were in the same ‘boat’.

Prior to commencing rehearsals we visited the many tourist attractions in and around NY. We also had the opportunity to sing in a Harlem Gospel Church service, The Apple store at Grand Central Station and at the Stardust Diner in Times Square. To sing at just one of these venues would have been amazing but to do all three was something that we will never forget and we hadn’t even started rehearsals for the main event. We also enjoyed the hospitality of the Big Apple Chorus and the Voices of Gotham when we visited their rehearsals.

At our first rehearsal for Carnegie Hall, we joined all the other participants including
Seratonin (Griffith University), newChoir from Toronto, and several choirs from the USA. All together there would be about 300 performers on stage in Carnegie Hall. Rehearsals were held at a venue away from Carnegie Hall. Our first look at Carnegie Hall was a quick run through on the morning of the concert - practicing the drill for getting so many people on and off the risers.

Standing on the stage and looking out to the packed Carnegie Hall (all 5 levels – over 2,800 people) was breathtaking. We performed in the second half of the show, with younger performers singing in the first half. Our part of the show kicked off with ‘Wanna be Starting Something’, and finished with ‘Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For’ and many songs in between. The Pitch Perfect stars joined in for various songs. After a standing ovation, the concert finished with a rousing rendition of ‘The Lion Sleeps Tonight’ which included the younger performers from the first half filing in down the aisles joining in the singing.

Altogether, it was an amazing and memorable experience and one that we will all never forget. After the concert all the performers gathered at Rosies Bar in New York for dinner and lots of singing with our new friends.

Voices in Paradise
Voices in Paradise is an initiative for youth on the Gold Coast and surrounding areas by Jonathan Albertini, MD of The Blenders and supported by The Blenders. VIP continues to get bigger and better every year. From its small beginnings in a 300 seat theatre at Griffith University, this year it was moved to The Gold Coast Arts Centre to cater for the larger number of registrants and audience.

178 registrants came together for a day’s workshop under the guidance of The Musical Island Boys and female a cappella quartet, Ginger and Tonic. During the day workshops were held at Griffith University where the registrants were put through their paces under the direction of Jono Albertini, MIB and G&T. After a day of intense workshops, all the youth were bused to the Gold Coast Arts Centre for the evening concert. To an almost full Arts Centre, the registrants performed the songs they had been workshops during the day. The concert also featured the Blenders Youth Chorus, The Blenders, Seratonin, Coastal Charisma (all conducted by Jono Albertini) and Blindside. To top it all off, MIB and G&T did sets leaving the audience wanting for nothing.

For the finale G&T and MIB joined forces with all 178 youths on stage for a fantastic rendition of ‘Happy’ by Pharrel Williams. What a great way to finish another Voices in Paradise.

Ian Mackey
Secretary

Hills Harmony has not been seen on these illustrious pages for some time but we can assure you we are alive and well and keeping busy on a range of activities.

We are also in the midst of recruiting a new MD following the retirement of our long standing MD, Ian Fraser (See Positions Vacant at the end of this newsletter).

We recently performed at two major sing outs.
One at Castle Towers which is the major shopping centre in NW Sydney and the other at Rowland Retirement Village at Galston.

At our recent Sing Out at Castle Towers where we received three encores after our 45 minute performance

We are now well into our preparation for the forthcoming Convention later this year in Melbourne.

Dick Bushell - President

As the new (and returning) president of Festival Statesmen Chorus, it is my pleasure to represent FSC in addressing our fellow BHA members with our latest news. I would like to take this opportunity to thank past president, Ben Branford for his dedicated service to the chorus.

The chorus is in one of the most exciting periods in our history and welcomes all BHA members and supporters to follow us on our exciting journey. In the coming weeks, we will be releasing our début single. An upbeat and energetic a cappella track, destined to be Adelaide's very own pitch perfect. We are incredibly proud of the product and invite you all to keep an eye on our Facebook page and sign up to our mailing list for all of the details.

Next month, we will be traveling to Hobart to participate in Hobart Festival of Voices. This is a large festival focusing on the human voice and featuring many different styles of music. We are especially excited to premiere original compositions by Assistant Directors Josh Belperio and Mitchell Bartel as well as more new repertoire and perhaps a collaboration or two.

As will many of our choruses and quartets, FSC is hard at work preparing for convention and look forward to seeing you all in Melbourne, for the biggest event on our national barbershop calendar. We love seeing you all and sharing our passion for music.

As part of our fundraising efforts, we are again participating in the People’s Choice Credit Union Community Lottery. This year, an online purchase option has been created which means all of our supporters can take part, support us and win some awesome prizes! All the money goes directly to us, so head over to www.peopleschoicecu.com.au/festival-statesmen-youth-chorus.

Until we meet again,

Trevor Anderson - President

It’s cold, dark and everyone is asleep. Well, almost everyone. One man, amongst the warming hum of whirring hard drives, watches. Hours of footage, over and over, that most of us only have to endure once. Men in pink jackets, disgustingly talented youngsters and even barbershop singing girls are edited, mixed, cut and rendered to perfection. Then there are the uploads.

“…I’ve just started rendering Lockout’s package from Saturday. 30 minutes rendering plus 2.5 hours to upload, so it will be ready in about 3 hours”

This was one of 21 videos. Everyone who competed at the Western Region Quartet Competition received a message similar to this and saw their performance within just a few days of the event.
This one man, is Stephen Le Page of Vocal Evolution. Stephen has been behind the camera at almost every performance I can remember, even ones that he was in! The always high quality recordings (video and audio) have been an amazing tool and resource for Vocal Evolution over the years but this year’s Western Region saw this guy outshine even himself with the pace that everyone received the best kind of feedback possible.

I’m assuming everyone thanked him individually and wholeheartedly for his effort but I thought it would be a great opportunity to recognise him here, in front of the rest of the country.

Maybe there are other great video guys around the organisation, and if so, well done, it’s one of the best ways to learn about your own performance.

But Stephen Le Page is our guy over here and we are stinkin’ proud of him and want him to know it. Thank you Stephen.

Ali Jamison – President

We farewelled one of our young mates, Vincent McGovern last week who is travelling overseas to gain some life experience and we are positive that he will have a great time and comes back to us enriched. He leaves a big hole in one of our quartets, Vocal Fire, as he was their resident Bass.

Sadly it has seen the demise of the quartet but, it has been revived with a new Bass and name. HAT HATTA. Don’t ask me what it means. I don’t know if the quartet even knows.

Vocal Fire and the bloke in the pink tie is Vincent McGovern the one who is travelling overseas

Meanwhile in the land of cold nights and brisk winter winds life goes on as usual. The chorus has been working hard with an extension activity that is so popular that nearly every member is part of it. The quality of our singing is definitely improving and we finish each night totally stuffed but, satisfied that we are doing our best to keep up the quality of barbershop in Toowoomba.

Paddy Boxall - Secretary

Melbournaires rock Bunnings

One of the more important responsibilities for any chorus is to maintain a positive cash flow, and the most obvious, indeed, joyous ways of doing this is to go out and sing. Gigs aside however, alternate ideas and opportunities arise from time to time, and on Sunday May 31st the Melbournaires entertained at Bunnings store in Nunawading.

Several members donned aprons and rubber
gloves and became cooks for a day to satisfy the needs of a host of DIY addicts on a cold winter day in Melbourne. Mind you, hot dogs do not exactly qualify as a gourmet meal, but everyone seemed to get a thrill from those “male singers” handling their treasures albeit with protective gloves.

Melbourne’s fickle weather could also have played a part in the success or not of the operation, but we were fortunate it only threw the occasional shower overhead. Fortunate because nobody likes a cold and wet sausage precariously balanced on a piece of soggy bread. Even lavish amounts of tomato sauce would not embellish such a combination. During one such shower, our man in charge of the cash tin had to retreat to the warmth and dry of the tent in order to quickly dry out a few wet bank notes before he could be accused of money laundering.

Thanks to those members who were rostered on throughout the day in helping to raise the profile of Barbershop singing and in excess of $1400 which will assist our running costs.

**Terry Phillips - Reporter**

**Quartet News**

**From your national champs**

We headed down to Southern WA during May for the Denmark Festival of Voice. We ran a workshop and performed a number of sets in various venues through the weekend and as in previous years had a great time.

See our facebook page for photos and video. What was an added pleasure this year, though, was to share the experience with Vocal Evolution, Hi-Jinx (Sweet Adelines Australia national champ quartet) and Lockout, all of whom made a real splash.

And the big news to come out of the weekend for TLA is that we’ve been invited to perform at the Fairbridge Festival next April. This is a huge event in the middle of Perth attracting many thousands of patrons. So this will be a blast and we have therefore decided to record a CD! We’re hoping to have this ready for Nationals in Melbourne, where we’ll be singing away our gold between the quartet final and the awarding of medals. See you there!

**Richard Reeve**

I joined The Canberra Chordsmen as a full member in December 2014 and with only six weeks to go to ER, we formed a scratch quartet including three members with eight months or less experience in the barbershop style and enrolled to compete in the open division.
Things we learnt about quartets: it is bloody hard to find four people who can sing each part, have complementary voices, like the same songs, have similar levels of motivation, and have lifestyles that allow for compatible rehearsal times. Our quartet "fun size" ended up scoring 53.5 which we were very happy with considering we only managed a few full rehearsals and a couple of three part rehearsals!

Some of the key things we learnt:

1. performing is nerve wracking before hand and exhilarating afterwards,
2. practice in front of people including family, friends and people walking down the street,
3. work out some basic choreo and practice on your own and as a group in front of a mirror or video it,
4. make sure your choice of songs are long enough for the judges to have time to observe and make notes (one of our songs was only 70 seconds and one of the judges commented that he thought he’d passed out for a couple of minutes!),
5. it is better to sing a simple song well than try and sing something complicated and make mistakes (we chose a polecat for one of our songs for that reason),
6. make sure your tune up is solid (it isn't scored and could save you from singing a whole song out of tune - that didn’t happen to us btw 😊),
6. if your quartet is very new you can perform just for feedback.

The most valuable thing about the day was the judges evaluation sessions as that is what makes you grow as a barbershopper. We only got eight minutes with each judge which was a shame as it allowed very little time to get the feedback, comprehend it, ask questions, and try some of the suggestions out. The judges were interesting and friendly people who love barbershop as much or more than you do and are keen to see people improve so there is nothing to fear!

Between our quartet and chorus I had a great time performing and socialising, with the highlight being after the Showcase singing tags with MIB walking down the road at 2am! Our quartet won't make it to Melbourne but our chorus will with bells on and I can't wait! (okay maybe no bells but certainly lots of ringing chords!)

Peter Enzerink

We were thrilled to win the Eastern Region Senior Quartet competition recently for the third successive year. We are now anxiously waiting to see if our score will make the cut for the open quartet competition in Melbourne later this year.

We have been busy with a number of gigs recently including to Charity fund-raising event where we were delighted to offer our services to aid some very worthy causes.

We are now looking forward to the Melbourne Convention and, in particular, seeing (and possibly even meeting) the fabulous Vocal Spectrum.

Dick Bushell

On stage at the recent Inner Wheel Charity Concert
Canberra’s premier youth barbershop quartet has been busy on and off the stage in the past few months. On May 2 the quartet competed in the Eastern Region Youth and Open Quartet competitions in Sydney and with a score of 69.5 walked away with the gold medals in the Youth category and the silver medals in the open category (coming second only to Chordsmiths, another Canberra quartet with a dual member). Not one to rest on their laurels, the quartet ran two workshops on barbershop harmony at Radford College, Canberra which were very well received.

Dan Bennett (lead of The Crunch), who directs a boys choir at Radford, has started a barbershop chorus as a result of the workshop’s success. Stay tuned for more exciting news from The Crunch and the youth barbershop movement in Canberra!

Cheers!

Dan Bennett

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**Introducing Catalyst Quartet**

Hi all, as a new quartet going to appear at Nationals in Melbourne, we wanted to quickly introduce ourselves. Catalyst is made up of Jonathan Bligh (tenor), Rob Sequeira (lead), Richard Reeve (Baritone) and Dave Reid (bass). Many of you will already know these guys individually. Jono (previously iQ Quartet) is MD of the Festival Statesmen in Adelaide (but is living in Sydney); Rob (previously Zoom Quartet) is MD of a youth chorus in Sydney; Richard (Alliance, TLA and Vocal Evolution) has recently been appointed MD of the Brisbane River City Clippers; and Dave (also Connect4 Quartet) is President of Sound Connection on the Gold Coast.

How did we get together? Well during last year, Jono and Richard independently got in touch with Rob to ask about forming a quartet for Melbourne. Independent of this again, Dave got in touch with Richard as he was returning home to Queensland from WA. Hey presto, four members.

We rehearse duets with the 2-and-2 in each state, and then get together for a rehearsal weekend about once a month, alternating between Sydney and Brisbane/Gold Coast. So it’s all a bit crazy, but it just might work! Nah, we’re having a great time, were pleased with our first hit-out at Sunshine Regionals on June 13 and are now excited about singing for you all in Melbourne.

Richard Reeve

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Your Council would like to extend a BIG welcome on behalf of all BHA members to the following members who have joined us in recent months.

**Newcastle Harmony Club**
- Grant Mckeand
- David Smith
- Clifford Hosking
- Ian West
- Dean Everleigh
- Greg Hall
- Paul Britton

**Pivotal Point Harmony**
- Darren Miller
- Will Wright

**Adelaide Allsorts**
- John Baker
- Lorraine Benson (Associate)
- Jess Patterson
- Laura Singleton (Associate)
- Chris Meegan
- Asha Perry
- Haydon Richards
- Celia Scott (Associate)
- Margaret Snowdon (Associate)
- Alexia Vernon
- Susan Whitbread (Associate)
Hills Harmony membership currently stands at 30 enthusiastic and experienced singers. Our current repertoire includes over twenty popular songs. In addition, we have a repertoire of sixteen Christmas songs.

We rehearse from 7.30pm until 10pm at Kellyville on Thursday nights.

We have competed with distinction at every BHA (AAMBS) Convention since forming in 1994 and plan to compete in the forthcoming Convention in Melbourne later this year.

Our Chorus has two established Quartets including the current Eastern Region Senior Champions, HighJacked.

For further information about our Chorus refer to our Website www.hillsharmony.com.au or to express interest in this exciting position please email our Club President Dick Bushell at president@hillsharmony.com.au or phone on 0423 343 565

Dear Sir,
I have concerns about the scope of the amendments made by the National Council recently, particularly in relation to Mixed Quartets and Mixed Choruses.

The Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (AAMBS) was established in 1985 for the benefit and enjoyment of male singers. In our various documents, the role of Associate members, including females, was clearly defined. Then it was, and still is now, a very welcome and very valued support role. Musical involvement was limited to Musical Directorship. In our Constitution, Clause 5 states, amongst other things, that:-

(a) Full Membership of the Association is open to all men who are in sympathy with the objects of the Association. All full members are entitled to participate in the management of the Association.

(b) Associate Membership of the Association is open to any person who is in sympathy with the objects of the Association. Associate Members...
are not entitled to participate in the management of the Association's affairs. Also, in the latest BHA HANDBOOK as Revised February 2014, the availability to, and rights of Membership are defined as follows:

**FULL MEMBERSHIP**

Full membership is open to any male, of any age, who has barbershop singing at heart, subject to such qualification as may be required by an individual Club or, in the case of a proposing Member-at-Large, to approval by the BHA Secretary. There are two levels of Full Membership, Adult and Youth (aged up to 25 years), and

**Associate Membership**

Associate membership is open to any female, of any age, who has barbershop singing at heart. An Associate Member cannot vote in a BHA election and cannot occupy an organisational position within BHA, but may be a Music Director of a Chorus. This is the only role in which an Associate member may take part in a BHA competition. Although these definitions may be a little inconsistent, the intentions of our founding fathers was very clear, and by our Constitution and various Standing Orders and other Directives, our status as a male based organisation has been nurtured and preserved for 30 years.

That is until March this year, when the National Council announced sweeping changes to the rules, and thereby altered our status from a Male Vocal Organisation to a Mixed Vocal Organisation. This is an enormous change to our culture and rules, and I believe them to be, if not in direct violation of our Constitution, then certainly a real departure from our 30 years of tradition and common usage.

In each of our Standing Orders, and the various other documents we rely on for running our Contests etc, there is a Note, not a Clause, but just a Note, which declares that changes to these documents may be made by BHA Council from time to time. This, in itself, is not unreasonable.

However, when these documents were first drawn up, I’m sure the inclusion of the Note was intended to allow for MINOR PROCEDURAL MATTERS, matters not deemed important enough to need formal ratification by a general meeting of the membership, to be handled easily and efficiently.

I’m convinced, however, it was certainly NOT the intention to allow for the entire culture, character and reason for being of AAMBS, now known, of course, as BARBERSHOP HARMONY AUSTRALIA (BHA), to be changed simply by Executive decree.

Sadly, by introducing the recent changes which allow mix choruses and quartets into our contests, this is what has now happened. Nothing has been said so far of the whole series of other changes which will need to be made down to individual club level in order to support these moves. This is not a document arguing against change. It is not denigrating or demeaning mixed quartets or choruses. It's about who should decide if such a huge changes should be made.

If BHA is to move away from our heritage, traditions and 30 years of common practice and usage, such a move should be approved by the whole membership, and only after a full, open and frank debate where every voice has equal opportunity to be heard. Only if the required majority support for the changes is present, does the National Council have a mandate to introduce them.

I am not against the National Council. We need a strong band of committed men to administer our organisation and I am supportive of, and grateful for, their services to the barbershop movement in Australia. Neither am I condemning the principal of encouraging more participation in our wonderful art form. Quite the reverse but, by imposing these “new rules” without consultation, I believe our National Council has unfortunately, and unwittingly, far exceeded the authority and intent of the Note under which the changes are made, and as a result, the changes should be withdrawn until approval of the whole membership is gained.

If the whole membership agrees to change our basics structure, then so be it, but I’m of the opinion that this cannot occur without amending our Constitution, and there is a specific process to be followed for any change to our Constitution to be made.

I encourage all members to contact their local regional representatives, and/or our National Councillors and encourage them to withdraw the changes until the matter has been discussed by the only people with the power to approve such alterations to our organisation.

Yours sincerely,

**Ian Fraser**

Member # 307

In Harmony Issue 148  June – July 2015
**NATURALLY 7 SING-OFF CONTEST**

Win a 30 Minute Vocal Workshop and a Chance to Open for Naturally 7!

World Vision Australia is excited to bring internationally renowned group Naturally 7 to Australia this August and September. Naturally 7 combine elements of R&B, pop and beatboxing using only their voices as instruments coining their unique sound as ‘vocal play’.

To celebrate their return and to pay homage to the group, World Vision presents the

**Naturally 7 Sing-Off Contest!**

This is your chance to sing like Naturally 7 and show us your amazing vocal talents!

The contest will require participants to film themselves performing a song in the vocal style of Naturally 7. To enter this contest:

1. Grab your friends and create an ensemble (max. 10 people)
2. Pick your favourite song and make your own arrangement of it
3. Perform a song using Vocal Play (vocal harmonies, vocal instrumentation - singing as instruments). **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE ENTIRELY A CAPELLA**
4. Be sure to keep your song less than 5 minutes and keep it clean! This is an all ages contest
5. Get creative and have fun

6. Post your video from midnight 29 June 2015 and get as many people as you can to vote for your video by midnight 31 July 2015

To enter and read terms and conditions, visit:

[http://worldvisionpresents.com/naturally-7-contest](http://worldvisionpresents.com/naturally-7-contest)

Winners will receive:

**First prize**: First prize consists of one five minute live performance of the winning song entry at the start of the Naturally 7 performance in the city nearest to the winner's residence plus one ticket per group member (up to ten tickets) to that night’s performance. There is 1 prize per tour city.

**Grand prize**: This prize is for the top voted video out of the first prize winners and consists of an exclusive 30 minute vocal workshop with Naturally 7 on the afternoon of their performance in the city nearest to the winner's residence.

Submission can be made from midnight 29 June 2015 and voting on videos will begin 29 June 2015 closing at midnight 31 July 2015.

**Naturally 7 2015 Tour Dates:**

29 August – Sydney State Theatre
30 August – Civic Theatre Newcastle
31 August – Brisbane City Hall
2 September – Llewellyn Hall Canberra
4 September – Hamer Hall Melbourne
5 September – Thebarton Theatre Adelaide
6 September – Perth Town Hall

For more details about this contest please contact Raechel Whitchurch from World Vision Australia via email: wvontour@worldvision.com.au or phone: 0413 701 019
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>General Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat, 20 Jun</td>
<td>National Men’s Health Week Expo (Carina men's Shed) (Brisbane River City Clippers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 21 Jun</td>
<td>BHA Council Teleconference</td>
<td>Australia wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 28 Jun</td>
<td>BHS 2015 Pittsburgh International Convention</td>
<td>Pittsburg, Pennsylvania USA</td>
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<td>Sun, 19 Jul</td>
<td>BHA Council Teleconference</td>
<td>Australia wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 23 Aug</td>
<td>BHA Council Teleconference</td>
<td>Australia wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 16 Sep</td>
<td>13th BHA National Convention Harmony Goldrush</td>
<td>Melbourne Vic Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, 17 Sep</td>
<td>BHA Council Teleconference</td>
<td>Melbourne Vic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 20 Sep</td>
<td>2015 BHA Harmony College</td>
<td>Campaspe Downs Country resort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 18 Oct</td>
<td>BHA Council Teleconference</td>
<td>Australia wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, 22 Nov 2015</td>
<td>BHA Council Teleconference</td>
<td>Australia Wide</td>
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<td>Sat, 5 Dec</td>
<td>Goodies Annual Christmas BBQ (SOUNDWAVES)</td>
<td>Fountaindale, NSW</td>
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<td>Thu, 10 Dec</td>
<td>Christmas at Westmead (SydneySiders Express)</td>
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<td>Tue, 26 Jan 2015</td>
<td>BHS 2016 Mid-Winter International Convention</td>
<td>Reno Nevada USA</td>
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<td>Sat 12 Dec</td>
<td>Stockland Mall Christmas Sing Out (Hills Harmony)</td>
<td>Baulkham Hills NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 19 Dec</td>
<td>Stockland Mall Christmas Sing Out (Hills Harmony)</td>
<td>Baulkham Hills NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 5 Oct 2016</td>
<td>NZABS 2016 Convention</td>
<td>Marlborough NZ</td>
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For more details on the above events click on this LINK to visit the interactive page on the BHA website.