

Barbershop Notes

Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (Inc.)

ABN 54 083 784 810

July/August 2004 - Issue 80



You're never too old (or too young) to Sing

HELLO FELLOW BARBERSHOPPERS! The issue of age seems to surface frequently at our chorus rehearsals..... sometimes as an excuse for not performing as well as someone else, other times as a matter of pride for how well we DO perform. With age should come maturity, dedication, resolve, experience, and focus..... all things that should lead to a better musical product for our audiences. So, are we collectively too old to reach the standards of International competition choruses? No way!! I just returned from the SPEBSQSA International Convention and want to share a few observations with you. I made a point of doing a "scientific" survey of the age of competing choruses in Louisville... the "hair" survey. By counting bald heads, grey heads, and the precious few with real coloured hair, I obtained the following results: In the average of the top 20 choruses in the World, there are 50 members: 33 of the members have **grey hair**, 9 of the members have **no hair**, and the remaining 8 have **real hair of some colour**. How does that compare with your chorus? So much for the "we're to old" excuse!

At the other end of the spectrum, the "younger generation" was well represented too. One of the

finalist choruses was the Westminster Chorus from California. They had 29 members, and I confirmed that none were older than 29!! Several College and University students attended a regional barbershop show, got inspired, formed a chorus, and proceeded rapidly to finish 9th at Internationals.

As we **each** strive to take on the personal responsibility for recruiting new members to our special "artform" let's remember that age is no limit. Work hard to recruit those enthusiastic young singers, but don't overlook valuable men of any age. Each of our musicals "teams" can have players literally from 9 to 90.

I have it on very good authority that the "average" Australian Men's barbershop chorus performs "at least as well, and maybe better" than the average North American chorus. This report is from renowned educators who have been everywhere and have "seen it all." Regardless of age the choruses and quartets of AAMBS have the potential to be amongst the best performers of music, barbershop style, in the World. Let's do it!

In Harmony,
Mike Donnelly
President, AAMBS

A TEMPORARY CHORUS

NONE OF THE SYDNEY CHORUSES intended travelling to Christchurch in October. AAMBS Secretary, David Brown thought this a shame & wondered if a temporary chorus could be organised to compete in the Pan Pacs. David said he would organise it & at time of writing has 22 participants. They are calling themselves "Kaleidoscope". They come from the Central Coast, Sydney Harmony, Sydney Siders Express and the Riverland Ramblers (Penrith). They each received a teach CD & music & it was decided to have three pre convention practices. This has now been increased to five (No it wasn't the Baris who didn't know their notes!!). They know they won't win a medal but just want to compete. Ian Miller from Central Coast is directing the group. No fancy uniforms are to be worn – just black pants & coloured shirt. So this is what can be done with Barbershopping. New friendships are being formed & old ones renewed & strengthened – all for the love of singing, friendship & the fun of competing when the result isn't the most important thing.

– Editor.

AAMBS HAS A REMODELLED WEBSITE

MARK VIRTUE (Sydney Harmony) is the new Website Administrator for the AAMBS website. Mark runs his own IT business and brings to the job a substantial amount of expertise and experience. The remodelled website is his initiative and is the foundation for future changes to improve the communication between AAMBS, our Regions and you, the members. The website will also have an important role in promoting vocal harmony in general and the barbershop style in particular, in a local communities. Mark will be able to help you with general website technical queries and corrections. For website content and content strategy, that's part of my portfolio and I'd love you to share your creative ideas with me.

Our original website has been managed by Dave

Brown (currently AAMBS Secretary) for several years. Many long hours went into maintaining the website, keeping us informed of events, providing important information on choruses and quartets affiliated to AAMBS and providing a means of accessing your AAMBS Councillors. Dave is stepping down from his position as AAMBS Secretary at the end of the year and is in the process of handing over the tasks he has undertaken to new people. The next time you get the opportunity to meet Dave in person, say in Christchurch or at the Gold Coast Convention, don't hesitate to shake his hand for a job well done.

Thanks Dave

Tom Smith

VP Marketing & Development

FROM THE MUSIC VP

BARBERSHOP singing has a well structured educational system, mainly serviced out of The Barbershop Society headquarters in Kenosha, WI, USA. There are many educational resources available to AAMBS members which can either be purchased or downloaded from their website (www.spebsqsa.org).

You can purchase sheet music, CD recordings, videos, DVD's, manuals - any number of things, so please visit soon to find out how you can become a better singer in your quartet or chorus.

AAMBS is also trying to produce some music resources for members, and the long awaited Aussie Songbook is not that far away from publication. The price will be very competitive and the book will contain lots of useful Aussie song arrangements for your next chorus or quartet performance. Watch BS Notes or the AAMBS website for further information!

The area of competitions seem to vex certain AAMBS members. Perhaps some don't like being told they could sing better "if only you did it this way". No matter what your level of performance, we can all improve. You may not appreciate that improved performance is good for you, and good for AAMBS. Used as a marketing tool, good performances can attract new members, introduce you to new friends, and give greater pleasure to our audiences. I've never heard anyone say they wished their last performance was worse than before!

Competitions serve to give us a goal to strive towards, to better our understanding of barbershop singing, and to improve our performance. No judge wishes to tell you how "bad" you were, rather, the

judges whole-heartedly want you to be the best you can be, and are willing to devote hours and hours to training, listening and education towards attaining that goal - for YOU! Competitions can be a negative experience for some, but if you view them as a learning experience, and are open to that concept, then there is nothing to be afraid of. I have not met a SPEBSQSA judge who hasn't wanted every group he's judged to be the absolute best!

We are now formally training some of our AAMBS people to be judges. Many of you know one of these people, who actively coach, encourage, and promote our art form. Now, not everybody is cut out to be a judge, but judging is a great way of giving something back to our hobby that has given us all so much joy, for the benefit of others. AAMBS is striving to increase the number of competitions, for the benefit of all members. If you are interested in judging please contact me.

Barbershop singing is a musical art form which is continually evolving and improving. Don't hide your head in the sand and say you don't want to compete, because if you do you are saying that you don't want to improve, and you don't want AAMBS to prosper. Treat competitions as learning experiences (or just another opportunity to please an audience), listen to what the judges say, and soon your performance and enjoyment of barbershop singing will improve, as will your audience's!

Sing-cereely,

Ian Mulholland, VP Music

AAMBS 2005 CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT

THE 2005 AAMBS National Convention has been confirmed for 6-9 October, 2005. At a recent National Council Meeting, lengthy discussion preceded this decision. The Convention Committee, in good faith, had previously entered into contracts with the venues listed below on the only weekend available prior to May 2006.

A difficulty has arisen whereby three ladies currently directing three separate AAMBS Choruses also find themselves committed to the 2005 Sweet Adelines International Convention on the same dates. This conflict has caused significant concern to National Council and numerous options to avoid this clash of dates were explored. Put simply, it is impossible to reschedule a date, which either aligns both venues or provides us with the facilities required to provide the best convention yet.

National Council's final decision is to remain with the dates as recommended by the Convention Committee.

As Convenor of the 2005 Convention Committee I offer my sincere apology to Rose, Carol and Gina and to the choruses impacted by this decision, for any inconvenience caused. National Council remains hopeful that the effected choruses will still compete in the convention and share in the myriad of other activities planned throughout.

It is to be hoped that the forthcoming Agreement /Memorandum of Understanding between AAMBS and Sweet Adelines Australia will ensure greater communication and planning in the future.

Mike Ludwig
2005 AAMBS Convention Convenor

From the desk of the Vice President Conventions

AS SOMEONE once said, "The best laid plans of mice and men..." My announcement in the last issue of Barbershop Notes that the guest quartet for the 2005 Convention was certain to be, "Power Play" the 2003 International Champs was premature, to say the least. The quartet had advised me that they were very interested in coming to Australia but had certain work related matters to clear up before giving us the final ok. Unfortunately, those matters didn't clear up and they regrettably had to decline our invitation. However, as soon as I learned of their decision, I was on the email circuit to another very well known, highly thought of, exciting International Medalist Quartet and as this goes to print, I am awaiting their reply. This time, however, I will not reveal their name until I have received positive confirmation of their acceptance. So keep tuned to these pages and all will be revealed in our next issue.

While the 2005 Convention is still over 15 months away, The Blender's Convention Committee has been hard at work. They are doing everything possible to make sure that your time on the Gold Coast next year will be long remembered and while the Perth Convention last year will be a hard act to follow, they assure me that their's will be the "best one ever" and

if enthusiasm and hard work are any indication, they may be right.

As you know, the AAMBS Secretary sent out invitations to all clubs to submit bids for our 2007 Convention and requested that these bids be submitted by Sept 1. As of this date, I have only heard from one club that intends to submit a bid. If there are any others out there that for one reason or the other have put off making a decision, I would urge you to reconsider and if some additional time is needed to complete your bid then a reasonable extension would be considered. The newly revised AAMBS Convention Manual is available upon request to assist you in this regard.

Finally, if you have any suggestions, thoughts, ideas or proposals on how to make our conventions better, please send them to me via whatever means you have available. I assure you that all of them will be given careful and diligent consideration.

Yours in harmony,
Bob Fritz

Broadwater Connection

BROADWATER CONNECTION, The Sunshine Regions 2003 best Small Chorus Winners have been actively performing for many retirement villages and nursing homes throughout the South side of Brisbane since our last submission to Barber Shop Notes, giving enjoyment to those that need a little sunshine in their days. This has been a key focus of the Committee of Broadwater Connection, to continue our community care component of the Chorus.

Recently on the 9th July 2004 Broadwater Connection were asked to perform for the Annual Mount Gravatt Show Dinner by their Committee, entertaining over one hundred guests on the night. This is to be followed up by attending their Regional Show as part of their roaming entertainment on the weekend of 24th July 2004.

Broadwater Connection take much pride in supporting Community events such as these and intend on increasing the number of these types of events in the future.

In 2004, we moved towards a new look for our Chorus, moving from our casual red polo shirts, to a more formal Cobalt Blue dress shirt. These were worn for the first time this year at the Sunshine Regions 2004 Barbershop Competition where we performed against a standard of competitors that had really risen to the challenge this year.

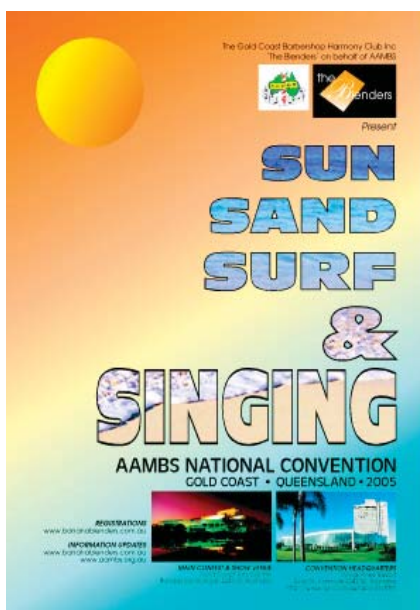


It was really inspirational to see the standard of all Choruses, Quartets and Sweet Adeline's attending the competition improving from 2003, obviously Barbershop is alive and well and truly on the move in 2004.

Broadwater look forward to bigger and better opportunities for both the remainder of 2004 and looking forward to the challenge of 2005 with the Nationals being held on the Gold Coast, we look forward to seeing you all there!

Yours in Harmony
Paul C Keasey, Secretary
Broadwater Connection

The 2005 AAMBS National Convention is locked in!



Be a part of all the action as we host the 8th AAMBS Convention at Broadbeach on the Gold Coast in sunny Queensland.

Dates: 6-9 October 2005

Convention HQ: Conrad Jupiters, Gold Coast Highway, Broadbeach

Additional Venue: Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre (adjacent to HQ)

Website: Online 01 September 2004

DATE CLAIMER

Greetings from the Gold Coast

THE BLENDERS have been very busy since the last newsletter. The Sunshine Region had it's Tenth Anniversary competition and we were fortunate enough to have the services of Ian Mulholland as head judge. The other judges were Bernie Cureton and Fiona Johnson, with Steve Johnson and Bill Staff as shadow judges

The competition is a great way to see old mates from other choruses and to sing with and against them. Luckily for us we won so our music team eased up on us at rehearsal for One night.

Fast Forward, Crossroads and Chordial Exchange won their sections and the most enjoyed quartet were without doubt, Mexican Jack, who had everyone in stitches with their unique brand of harmonising. Even the judges were smiling and judges normally are made of sterner stuff.

The competition this year was the highest standard it has ever been. The quality of performances were outstanding. Which augurs well for the future of the medium.

With new youth quartets from both male and female competitions, it was most enjoyable to watch.

Unfortunately since the competition, Bernie Cureton has been hospitalised and is still unwell. He currently is at home and if anyone has his web address please send him your best wishes.

June and July has been exciting for us with the preparations for Fast Forward a priority. They are a gifted group of singers and are revered by our chorus. They finished sixteenth in the toughest competition in the world and are now looking to Salt Lake City next year. Of course they will be in Christchurch in

October as well.

We did a gig at the Resort, which had the Lee brothers, Brett and Shane there. The sound was terrific and the audience appreciative of our efforts to entertain them. It makes you feel proud to know you have been enjoyed.

We also did a gig for our major sponsor RACQ at the Vintage and Veteran car rally which drew about 900 cars and bikes and trucks. The same weekend we had to sing at the large citizenship ceremony held at Royal Pines with the new Mayor, Ron Clarke.

Earle haven , August 8th and Seagulls on August 28th are our next performances. Seagulls will have Saturday Evening post as the star attraction and it promises to be a great night. If you are thinking of going to the Gold Coast around that time the tickets are \$20.00 per head. A good price for great entertainment.

So until next time happy singing and harmonising too.

Harold Howson. The Blenders.

P.S. I have been asked by Steve Sinclair for a Gold medal for our win in Perth. He did not receive one and would it be possible to rectify this oversight?

The AAMBS Website

We have a new WEBSITE!

Take a look at www.aambs.org.au
Mark Virtue (Sydney Harmony) has developed a new website for us, and it is terrific!
Each club and unaligned quartet can now nominate a member to post information about their group on the website.

Call our Vice President Marketing & Development, Tom Smith, for information.

You can still download from the website:
Barbershop Notes.

Club, Chorus and Quartet Rules.

The AAMBS Constitution.

AAMBS Standing Orders.

As always, the information in the website is only as good as the information we have at AAMBS. So please, if you see anything on it that is incorrect, or you know of changes that would impact upon information in the website, let us know, at webmaster@aambs.org.au

[org.au](http://www.aambs.org.au)

This is YOUR website.

Help us to keep it up to date.

NEW SECRETARY

In the last Barbershop Notes a call went out for anyone interested in becoming Secretary of AAMBS in 2005 & 2006 to get in touch with the present Secretary. David has been overwhelmed by the complete lack of applicants! Isn't there anyone out there who would like to help their organisation, meet more of the members & give something to this great pastime?
David and I like talking to all the chaps who ring, & I earn a little pocket money for doing something I enjoy. I must admit it is sometimes difficult taking minutes at telephone conference meetings, but all try to help.
Please all give the secretary's job some thought - it is quite a bit of work but the rewards are tremendous!

Editor & Executive Officer.

Westcoast Chordsmen

THE RECENT AAMBS Western Region's 6th Regional Convention and Quartet Competition was held on Saturday 26 June in the Music Auditorium of Churchlands Senior High School. Five quartets competed for medals in the two sections of the quartet competition. By agreement, there was no chorus competition this year. However, all four Perth mens choruses performed. Westcoast Chordsmen were joined by Men in Harmony, Southside Harmony and Vocal Evolution in providing additional entertainment for the audience. A new feature this year was provided by the ladies from the Perth Harmony Chorus. They entertained us with the bracket of songs with which they won gold at the recent 2004 Sweet Adelines National Convention in Adelaide.

Our final recording session is scheduled for Friday 16 July. During this two-hour session, we will be recording the last four of our songs. We are confident that the resulting CD will be a permanent record of which we can be truly proud.

Our next public performance is a joint concert with the Perth Accordion Club on Sunday 8 August in the Cottesloe Civic Centre. This will be the second occasion that we have joined the Accordion Club in a public concert. We are preparing a completely new program for this concert from the one we used with them last year.

Plans are gradually firming up for our visit to South Australia next year. We have been invited to Adelaide to share our craft of singing barbershop with the choruses there. A preliminary outline for the tour has already been circulated. The focus of the visit is concert planned for Sunday 1 May. This concert will feature, in addition to us, the two SA mens choruses, the Festival Statesmen and the Fleurieu Choristers, the Adelaide Sweet Adelines ladies chorus, Sound Connection. We have a busy year ahead of us.

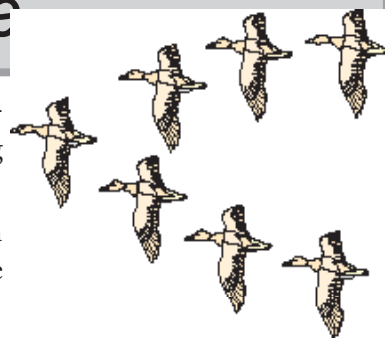
Pender Pedler

Westcoast Chordsmen

Lessons from Geese

Fact: As each bird flaps its wings it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in "V" formation, the flock has 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

Truth: People who share common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.



Fact: When a goose drifts from formation it feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and returns to formation to take advantage of the bird immediately in front.

Truth: There is strength, power and safety in numbers when travelling in the same direction.

Fact: When a lead goose tires, it rotates back on the wing and another goose flies point.

Truth: It pays to take turns on the hard jobs.

Fact: Geese honk from behind to encourage those up the front to keep up their speed.

Truth: We all need to be remembered with active support and praise.

Fact: When a sick or wounded goose falls out of formation, two geese follow him down to help and protect him, stay until the crisis is resolved, then launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with the group.

Truth: We must stand by each other in times of need.

We are fortunate-there are more geese than turkeys. Remember to uphold each other in friendship and give each other a big "honk" often.

With Love from Kay Podmore, Central Coast Harmony Chorus

(Reprinted from Sweet Adelines International – Australia, Southern Cross Regional Newsletter, OzChords Issue 34, with permission. – Ed.)

Chorus and Quartet Contact Information

The quartets listed here are not associated with any AAMBS chorus. Many other quartets may be contacted through the choruses.

State	Location	Chorus/Quartet Name	Practice Location	Day/Time	'Phone
ACT	Canberra	The Canberra Chordsmen	Baptist Church Lower Hall (room 5), Groom St, Hughes	Mon 7.45pm	02 6278 6093
NSW	Bowral	The Highlandaires	Salvation Army Hall, Bowral	Thurs 7.00pm	02 4871 1369
	Central Coast	Central Coast Barbershop Chorus	St Patrick's School Hall, Victoria St, East Gosford	Mon 7.30pm	02 4329 4455
	Grafton	Old Hat Harmony	South Grafton Aero Club, Vere St., Sth Grafton	Thurs 7.00pm	02 6642 2101
	Hunter Region	Four Crying Out Loud (quartet)	Call	Call	02 4950 1930
	Northern Sydney	Surfside Serenaders (quartet)	Call	Call	02 9451 9837
	Penrith	Riverland Ramblers	Uniting Church Hall , 15 Evan St , Penrith	Mon 7.00pm	02 4751 4778
	Rylstone	The Rylstoners (quartet)	Call	Call	02 6379 1020
	Sydney	Hills Harmony	19 Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills	Thur 7.45pm	02 9871 7715
		Sydney Harmony	Drummoyne RSL Club, 162 Victoria Rd, Drummoyne	Mon. 7.30pm	02 9719 1252
		Sydneysiders Express	Uniting Church, Lakeside Ave, Eastwood	Thurs 7.45pm	02 9988 3411
	Wollongong	Illawarra Chordiality	Baptist Church Hall, 69 Smith St, Wollongong	Thurs 7.30pm	02 4296 4597
QLD	Brisbane	Broadwater Connection	St John's Church, 10 Greenwood St, Wishart	Thurs 7:15pm	07 3843 2824
		The River City Clippers	Old Museum Concert Hall, cnr Bowen Bridge Rd & Gregory Tce, Berston	Wed 7.30pm	0418 188117
	Cairns	Coral Coasters Barbershop Singers	RSL Club, The Esplanade, Cairns	Thurs 7.30pm	07 4053 1971
	Gold Coast	The Blenders and The Smoothies	Youth Orchestra Building, Community Drive, Ashmore, And Cooparoo College, Cnr. Stanley St East & Cavendish Rd, Cooparoo	Mon 7.00pm	07 5527 7546
	Gympie	The Cooloola Chordbusters	Gympie Central State School, Lawrence St, Gympie	Mon 7.30pm	07 5482 9685
	Redlands	Bayside Barbershop Singers	Cleveland State High School, Russell St., Cleveland	Tues 7.00pm	07 3822 1317
	Sunshine Coast	The Sunshine Statesmen	Buderim Uniting Church Hall, Gloucester Rd., Buderim	Wed 7.30pm	07 5444 2098
	Toowoomba	Darling Downsmen	Art Society Rooms, 1 Godsall St, Toowoomba	Tues 7.30pm	07 4635 1392
	Townsville	The Quadrphonics	The Chapel, The Marian School, Corcoran St, Currajong, QLD	Wed 7.30pm	07 4773 6058
SA	Adelaide	Festival Statesmen	Ashford Special School, 87 Anzac Hwy, Ashford	Tue 7.30pm	08 8294 2151
	Christie's Beach	Fleurieu Choristers	66 Davis Ave, Christies Beach	Fri 10.00am	08 8386 3293
TAS	Hobart	Close Shave (quartet)	Call	Call	03 6227 9195
		The Wellingtones	Albuera St Primary School , Albuera St , Hobart	Tues 7.15pm	03 6231 0193
VIC	Geelong	Bay City Conchords	St Andrews Uniting Church, Sydney Pde., Geelong	Wed 7.15pm	03 5281 1771
	Melbourne	The Melbournaires and Mosaic	Uniting Church , 152 Andersons Creek Rd , East Doncaster	Mon 7.30pm	03 9898 6014
WA	Perth	Men In Harmony	Revue Cinema, Waratah Ave., Dalkeith	Tues 7.00pm	08 9296 7662
		Southside Harmony Chorus	Attadale Baptist Church Hall, 38 Swan Rd., Attadale	Thurs 1:30pm	08 9330 2630
		Vocal Evolution	Summerlakes Christian Church, 29 Action Rd., Malaga	Mon 7.00pm	08 9378 9772
		Westcoast Chordsmen	Churchlands Senior High School , 21 Lucca St , Churchland, WA	Fri 7.30pm	08 9385 7118

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**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE NEXT ISSUE OF BARBERSHOP NOTES IS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2004**