



Barbershop Notes

Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (Inc.)

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2005



From The President

CONVENTIONS -

The pinnacle of barbershopping

The Barbershop Harmony Society has just concluded perhaps its best annual Convention ever, this time in beautiful Salt Lake City. Barbershoppers from around the world gathered to participate, watch and listen, to probably the best a capella music in the world. I carried the flag of Australia from Perth to the Convention, and the Australian flag was displayed during the Opening Ceremony, a first for the Barbershop Harmony Society. Hearty congratulations are in order for our Australian Gold Medallist Quartet FREEFALL, as they participated as part of the world's best. The audience was "wowed" by their performance and the applause was among the loudest of the week. Several AAMBS members were there waving flags and cheering them on to their outstanding performance. There were other highlights from "Down Under" too, as the City of Sails Chorus from Auckland presented a superb package, and the Musical Island Boys Quartet was a definite audience favourite, with both receiving standing ovations!

The week concluded with a hotly contested Quartet contest, with names like Saturday Evening Post, Riptide, Metropolis, Gotcha, Max Q..... but when the **Gold Medallist** was announced, it was "Realtime," with none other than **our very own Australian John Newell, as lead**. John took his experience as lead of our AAMBS Gold Medallist Quartet Southern Cross, and built it into the world championship.

And speaking of our own, I hope each and every one of you will participate in the pinnacle of singing in the barbershop style in Australia. The Convention in Gold Coast will be an absolute feast of barbershop music, fellowship, renewing old friends, and having the once in a lifetime opportunity to hear not one but two of the best Quartets in the world: *Saturday Evening Post*, and *Riptide*. I spoke at length with members of both Quartets and they are absolutely set to show us their best stuff, and sing with us all week long.

Just 12 weeks left until we join forces at the AAMBS Convention. See you there!

Mike Donnelly
President - AAMBS

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A MUSICAL NOTE FROM YOUR MUSIC VP

Once every two years we hold our AAMBS Convention in Australia, and I really look forward to these biennial gatherings to meet old friends, lock and ring some chords and meet new people who have discovered the joy of singing barbershop style. But we also get the opportunity once a year to enjoy the very best in the barbershop world when the International Convention comes around in July. I have been lucky enough to go to two Internationals, and believe me the experience is unforgettable. Now with the advent of modern technology we can witness the International from the comfort of our very own computer screens via the live webcast. I hope many of you tuned in and enjoyed a wonderful experience.

Of the 10,000 attendees at the International Convention there were about 170 Quartet singers, and about 2,000 Chorus singers. So why did the other 8,000 people go? To enjoy the great singing, meet up with friends, have a family holiday, and to witness history in the making. The same applies to our AAMBS Conventions. If you don't feel like competing, why not go just to watch and savour the efforts of those Quartets and Choruses who have practised hard? Make a holiday of it. Meet old friends and just enjoy the atmosphere!

There's an old saying "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink". Are you the horse or the leader?

Have you enrolled for Harmony College? If not, here are 10 reasons why you should change your mind. It's not too late – just download the registration form from the AAMBS Convention website at <http://www.theblenders.com.au/convention/htm/harmony.htm>.

1. Become the best barbershopper you can be!
2. Sing better, have more fun.
3. Learn more about the hobby you love.
4. Develop as a musician and leader.
5. Rip chords and break the rules to make weird, great new sounds.
6. Learn enough to go back to your Chorus and make a contribution to the Music Team.
7. Experience the greatest Quartet week of your life.

8. Rub shoulders with some of the world's best music educators.
9. Take classes you haven't taken before, such as vocal production, music theory and arranging, performance.
10. Be there or be square!

Is your Chorus director going to Harmony College? Has he/she applied for an AAMBS scholarship to go? If not, you and your director are missing out on a great opportunity! Don't delay. Contact me now for details (see below for details).

Congratulations to those Quartets who qualified for Gold Coast, and commiserations to those who tried, but didn't quite make it. If you didn't make it this time, don't give up. Did you really put enough effort in? Were you prepared? Did you have a plan? Did you seek outside coaching? All these things will make the difference next time. Thanks to our judges, Harry Owen (Singing), David Brooks (Music) and Eddie Klimowicz (Presentation). They did a great job didn't they?



Our Judges:

Eddie Klimowicz, Harry Owen & David Brooks

Are you interested in judging? If so, there is a judging school coming up in October just before the Convention. Contact me for details and how you can get involved.

Have you ordered your new Aussie Songbook, a bargain at just \$10 for 84 pages of great Australian barbershop music? (See Order Form on Page 11)

Is there something else you're interested in that I haven't mentioned, or something you think AAMBS should be doing? If there is, please contact me at music@aambs.org.au, or on 0418-956-492.

Sing-cerely yours,
Ian Mulholland
AAMBS Music VP



FROM THE DESK OF OUR VICE PRESIDENT, CONVENTIONS

In my previous two Barbershop Notes articles, I profiled three of the judges who will be adjudicating our competitions on the Gold Coast. I would like to introduce you now to the remaining three judges.

First is Allan Gasper, who along with Brian Beck and Bobby Grey is a member (lead singer) of Saturday Evening Post. Allan who is a practising Attorney with a Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree, Barbershopping experience includes three prior Quartets before SEP that have been Rocky Mountain District Champs in 1982 and 1986 as well as a 17th finish in International Competition in 1979. Allan has also been Chorus Director of two Sweet Adelines Choruses as well as the St. Louis, Boulder and Denver Tech Chapters. He is a Certified Singing Judge, a former member of the Singing Board of Review, Certified Judge of Harmony Inc. as well as having coached and judged Choruses and Quartets worldwide. And as if this barbershop background isn't enough, Allan has performed on the professional opera stage as soloist across the United States and is a former professor of vocal studies and pedagogy – NBC University, Colorado.

Next is Dwain Brobst, one of our presentation judges, who will also assume the role of Director of Judges for our competitions.

A Barbershopper since 1972, Dwain has been involved in every aspect of Barbershopping. He has served in almost every chapter office, and served two terms as District President of the Southwestern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. In addition he has served on the Southwestern District Board of Directors as Executive Vice President, Music & Performance Vice President, Division Vice President, and Dean of the Southwestern District Harmony Ranch and Top Gun Schools. Dwain was named Barbershopper of the Year in the Greater East Texas Chapter in 1995 and nominated as Southwestern District Barbershopper of the Year in 1997 and 1998.

Dwain became a member of his first Quartet just 10 days after his first meeting with the Northwest Louisiana Chapter and has been active in Quarteting and Chorus activities since that time. He served as Music Director of the Northwest Louisiana Chapter for approximately twenty years, and as Music Director of the Greater East Texas, Sound Connection Chorus for two years.

Dwain is a Certified Judge in the Barbershop Harmony Society. He is presently certified in the Presentation Category, he was certified previously in the Stage Presence Category and has served on the Presentation Category Board of Review.

As a retired self employed businessman, Dwain currently travels and coaches full time, working with Quartets and Choruses in the Barbershop Harmony Society, Sweet Adelines International, and Harmony, Inc as well as BHS affiliates. He has been a member of the BHS Harmony College/Directors College Faculty for the past 10 years and serves on many District HEP Schools and Top Gun Faculties throughout the Society each year.

When not Barbershopping, Dwain and his wife Kitty reside in Shreveport, Louisiana where they enjoy boating, fishing and spending time with their three sons, seven grandsons and one grand-daughter.

Our final judge is Ron Black. We are extraordinarily privileged to have someone of Ron's musical and Society stature.. Not only is he an amazing coach,, he's an accomplished director, a two-time FWD Quartet champion, a certified Music judge, a past Singing judge, a long-time District and Society officeholder!

Ron went to college in Los Angeles and got his degree in Music from Immaculate Heart College. He's been a member of SPEBSQSA since 1976, and has served as Director or Assistant Director for the Fresno, Bay Area Metro, Phoenix, and most recently the San Diego chapters. He led Fresno to two Far Western District championships and they finished seventh at International twice. He sang with **Great Western Timbre Company** for ten years. They won the FWD Quartet Championship in 1986 and finished 16th at International in 1988. More recently, **Rhythm & Rhyme** won the FWD Quartet Championship and finished 14th at International in 1995. He is still a Quartet guy now singing with three other Barbershoppers from HOT in a Quartet called **HOT Pursuit**. He's on the faculty at Harmony College and Directors College, where he teaches directing. He's a past Chairman of the Society Contest & Judging Committee and he's been a certified judge since 1985.

In his non-musical life, like many of us, he's a geek. He develops and provides technical support for a sophisticated line of accounting system software. He's been a private pilot for 20 years, although he's currently without a plane. He also can tune pianos and has even built a harpsichord!

So there you have them. I'm sure that you will agree, after digesting the backgrounds of all of our judges, that we will have with us an incredible array of musical and barbershopping talent and this talent will not only be on display through their judging and critiquing performance but will form the basis of the best faculty ever assembled for a Harmony College in the Southern Hemisphere.



FROM OUR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

In March the AAMBS National Council asked if I would be prepared to take on the position of youth development officer for our organization. I see youth development as a cornerstone to the future of barbershop singing and hence I felt it my duty to accept the position and attempt to develop a nationally coordinated youth barbershop program. The position will involve working very closely with the VP Music and Membership and where competition is involved the VP Conventions. For us to develop a successful program we need each region and indeed each chapter to understand the importance of developing the program and become involved. There is no doubt that the future of Barbershop singing can be assured by developing a successful program to introduce young men to our style of singing.

Resources

I'm in the process of assembling a youth development resource kit that will be available through the AAMBS secretary. This kit will contain two manuals for the music educator and various music resources including a selection of sheet music and learning CD's. The Australian Song Book and a workshop DVD exclusive to AAMBS will also be included in the pack as well as a letter from the coordinator of youth activities. The DVD "workshop" will be based on workshops conducted by myself and "Fast Forward" the current Australian Youth Champions in schools throughout the Sunshine Region. The kit will also contain information on up and coming youth competitions and events.

Educator Training

A program of youth educator training will be developed in conjunction with harmony colleges and regional workshops to improve the skills of people wishing to take on a role in youth development and support the youth program in each region.

"Harmony Explosion"

It is our intention to make available to chapters and regions "Harmony Explosion" workshops including youth educator training. The Wellingtons Chapter (Tasmania) is hosting the first of the "Harmony Explosion" workshops after a direct request from that chapter to assist in their program. In the case of the Hobart "Harmony Explosion" several workshops will be conducted over a period of three days (Fri.-Sun.) by myself with assistance from "Fast Forward". Schools from the surrounding district will be treated to

As I write this article, I am in the process of packing to travel to the International Convention in Salt Lake City where I will certainly let our very own Quartet, FREEFALL, know that they have the that they have the backing of every AAMBS member, as they compete on the International Stage for the first time.

Yours in harmony, Bob Fritz

high-energy workshops where they will be entertained and learn how to sing and perform Barbershop A Capella. Some level of funding support may be provided by AAMBS to chapters wishing to undertake this process if it can be established that the chapter has personnel ready to implement and support the ongoing program. The Wellingtons are assisting the funding of their venture by hosting an evening concert anchored by "Fast Forward". They have also included some Chorus sessions in the long weekend.

Competition

A schools' and youth Quartet competition will be conducted at every national convention and regional conventions once the program is fully developed. This may mean in some cases where the regions cover very large areas it may be necessary to have district competitions for schools. This year a schools Quartet competition will be held on the Thursday of convention. Nominating Quartets members will receive music and learning tapes for a song that the combined Chorus of all competitors will sing at the conclusion of the competition. The competitors will arrive in the morning and will be workshopped and coached on this song by music educators before they compete. In competition they will sing songs of their own choice in the Barbershop Style and be judged by AAMBS supplied judges. We are hopeful of having many of the local schools and Quartets from interstate involved in this competition. Chapters and regions may wish to consider assisting Quartets from their regions to attend. At a regional level a schools Chorus competition could be conducted to encourage greater participation; however it is impractical at this stage to expect schools to travel a full Chorus to our National Convention.

The ultimate aim of the youth program is to have a youth cell attached to each chapter where students who are inspired by their contact through the schools program can continue to enjoy barbershop singing. To this end, it would be ideal if each chapter could identify an appropriate person to be their youth coordinator and, if those people could be registered with the AAMBS secretary on a database, to become part of the youth educators network. I look forward to assisting in the development of **your** youth program.

Regards Stephen Griffin



FROM OUR SECRETARY

The AAMBS Council is encouraging the formation and registration of Barbershop Quartets. All Choruses and their members should be encouraging and supporting their Quartets in performing the many wonderful songs that have been arranged in barbershop harmony style. Remember that the unity of sound developed by the Quartets will affect and improve your whole Chorus sound as well as it communicates pleasure wherever the Quartets perform both in-house and out-house!

Results from Regionals

- Hearty congratulations are offered to all Choruses and Quartets who qualified for the forthcoming Gold Coast Convention. The results can be seen on our AAMBS Website – region by region.

Quartet Registration

- The Council has been concerned at the failure on the part of many Quartets either to re-register or to register for the first time. Members should be aware of the importance of registration of their Quartets which will benefit from the protection of the AAMBS Public Liability Insurance package which covers Choruses and Quartets when performing in public.
- So far as late registration for competition is concerned, no penalty is being imposed this Convention year. However in respect of all future competitions, members should be aware that each of those Quartets which fail to register in the prescribed form by the set date for registration will be charged a late registration fee of \$100.00. The logistical demands on the Contest Administrator and members of the Council require co-operation by intending competitors within the set time limits. In extreme cases failure may result in a Quartet disqualifying itself from the intended competition.

Convention Entry Forms & Fees

- **URGENT REMINDER:** Time is running out -- I must receive Chorus and Quartet Entry Forms and Fees **NO LATER THAN 1ST AUGUST**. Late entries will not be accepted as the Convention Committee will be finalising the program after that date.

Change of name

- The principal body, SPEBSQSA Inc. has now been renamed as the **Barbershop Harmony Society** and has a new logo. However the Society's website remains www.spebsqsa.org - The Harmony Marketplace website is www.harmonymarketplace.com through which the best in Barbershop Harmony Music, CDs, DVDs, Tapes, Arrangements and Apparel are readily available.

Kevin White, Secretary

URGENT MESSAGE **FOR CLUB SECRETARIES**

Because of recent interrupted service by Telstra in New South Wales,
(understood to have resulted from an infection of the Telstra web server),
Club Secretaries are requested to check their Club's information on the

AAMBS Website
and to notify the AAMBS Secretary URGENTLY
of any irregularities.



8th AAMBS National Biennial Convention

The Blenders are looking forward with great excitement to hosting the 2005 National Convention.

Delegates can be sure they'll leave this one with fond memories of surf, sun, sand, singing and serendipities that only the Gold Coast can offer.

Some reminders -

Merchandise - Have you checked out the items available on the convention website? All merchandise is of outstanding quality. Don't miss out on your chance to purchase that great convention memory and maybe do some early Christmas shopping.

Harmony Spectacular Show Tickets - Riptide and Saturday Evening Post will headline the show featuring national medal winners. An event not to be missed. The deadline within the delegate registration process has passed but from 1st August tickets will be available through Ticketek on 132 849 at \$45 for adults and \$35 for group concessions.

Strut Your Stuff Session - Registered delegates who, at either Chorus or Quartet level have decided not to compete but would still like an opportunity to 'sing a set' on stage on Thursday 6th October immediately following the Schools' competition, should email Sue at bsconven@bigpond.net.au

Ladies Breakfast - Rapidly becoming one of the feature events of the convention with entertainment by **Riptide** and professional emceeing, this Friday morning activity is not to be missed. Ladies registered as delegates pay only \$25 for a sumptuous hot and cold breakfast buffet while non-registered delegates will pay \$35. Tickets can be paid for directly through your Chorus and then mailed to: AAMBS Convention, PO Box 623, Pacific Fair 4218, Qld.

Harmony College - The venue will be the Gatton campus of University of Queensland. Gatton is seventy km west of Brisbane on the way to Toowoomba. It is a comfortable 1 hour 45 minutes drive from the Gold Coast. Those travelling by bus will enjoy a scenic 2 hour sojourn and arrangements will be made for those delegates with connecting flights to return home at the end of the event.

Social 9hole Golf Competition - Tee-off time for this shotgun start 9 hole stableford competition at the picturesque Emerald Lakes course at Carrara (8 minutes drive from convention headquarters at Conrad Jupiters) is 3.00pm on Wednesday 5th October. Payments will be collected upon arrival and shared transport will be organised by our Golfing Convenor, Steve Sinclair. For further details contact Steve at bsconven@bigpond.net.au



Max Rose

Public Relations Manager

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY....



The Blenders are happy to announce the holding of a special raffle, to be drawn at the coming Convention.

The Special Package Prize:

**An autographed
VOCAL MAJORITY POLO SHIRT
and
9 VOCAL MAJORITY CDs**



1. ***Twelve Days of Christmas***
2. ***How Sweet the Sound***
3. ***The Music Never Ends***
4. ***Love Songs***
5. ***White Christmas***
6. ***Freedom's Song***
7. ***I'll Be Seeing You***
8. ***The Vocal Majority - The Best of the Early Years***
9. ***The Secret of Christmas***

Tickets at \$5.00 each
may be pre-purchased through Club Secretaries
(to whom full particulars and application forms are being forwarded by email)
or at the Blenders' table at the Convention.

This is indeed a Golden Opportunity !

WELLINGTONES YOUTH PROGRAM

We have commenced very promising negotiations in the development of a youth program. We already have the nucleus of a youth Chorus and a very talented musical director, Sarah Atkinson. They come as a package.

Sarah is a school teacher who until this year has been working at an all-boys school and has been very successful with young men's ensembles. Her existing group, Blue Triangle, spawned both the lead and the bass of the current AAMBS Quartet Incognito aka locally as Close Shave.

Sarah has met with our sub-committee and our initial agreements are to include: Blue Triangle and the Wellingtones rehearsing at the same venue on the same evening with opportunities for informal and formal contacts including singing together as things progress.

An initial activity, to help generate interest from more young men, is a schools workshop in July led by 'Idea of North'. This activity is being promoted by The Festival of Voices, an Events Tasmania initiative. Sarah is on the organising committee for this activity.

As a follow-up, we have tentatively discussed conducting a barbershop coaching workshop in August.

This is where we hope we may be able to gain support from AAMBS.

Specifically, our idea is to bring Fast Forward to the State to conduct the workshop. We expect this could tie in with the proposal mooted by Ian and Steve in recent correspondence with ER. A possible itinerary may be school shows/workshops on the Friday, a Youth Development day on the Saturday and Quartet coaching on the Sunday with the 4 Hobart Quartets.

We are very enthusiastic about the emerging idea and believe we have the personnel and experience to bring the whole thing together.

Trevor Rootes
Wellingtones

Brisbane's premier barbershop group, are undergoing a spectacular renaissance after the loss of a number of key members in the latter months of 2004.

A wonderful visit to the Mater Hospital for Christmas 2004 set the tone for our enthusiastic approach to 2005, and a most successful sausage sizzle / singout at a Bunnings store in February saw us raise \$3400 for Tsunami relief, \$1000 of which went to the Barbershop-supported orphanage in Southern India.

Bunnings have continued to provide further venues for fundraising barbecues and have supported us with prizes for raffles. Our regular sponsors, Coates Hire, Australian Diversified Engineering, Q-Print and Clipsal have continued their generous contributions.



Some of our recent new members at rehearsal.

A membership drive in March and April with valuable assistance from Quest Newspapers and Channel Nine, resulted in an influx of more than 25 new members, many of whom participated in the Sunshine Region Convention at the end of May. Our membership currently stands at 54.



The Clippers in performance dress

At our annual variety concert on July 9, 18 of our latest recruits were confident and skilled enough to sing in all nine of the Barbershop songs the Chorus presented. Many of them have registered for the National Convention. Judging by the obvious enthusiasm the recent events have engendered in the entire membership, it is obvious the Barbershop movement can still provide a powerful attraction for men of all ages.

The Clippers have established good relationships with a number of secondary schools, and on August 26 a concert involving us and choirs from four boys' schools will allow a number of Choruses and small groups to strut their stuff. The night will conclude with a combined presentation by well over 100 voices of two Barbershop arrangements.

Much of our new enthusiasm and success is due to our MD, John McMillan, and the efforts of our enterprising and visionary committee totally supported by the membership and not least, our new ladies auxiliary, which provides invaluable impetus to the progress of the Clippers. We're beginning to make our mark on the Brisbane music scene giving barbershopping its rightful place in the sun. We've recently received invitations to sing at the Queensland Shanty Festival, the Jondaryan Woolshed Heritage Week and the Sing for Water concert at Brisbane's River Festival.

The Clippers are proud to congratulate John Newell, lead of the Quartet Realtime, gold medalists at Salt Lake City and former member and Assistant MD of the Clippers. John has always been a dedicated and committed Barbershopper, and we're thrilled he's reached the pinnacle. He's an inspiration to all of us Barbershoppers here in the River City.

Visiting Barbershoppers are welcome to drop in on Wednesday night practices at the Old Museum, Gregory Terrace.

We're looking forward to a great time of fellowship at the Gold Coast in October at the Barbershop Convention. See you there.

Ralph Andrew
President



Yes, we now have a new logo. - The Chorus has been busy in the past month - I think the most exciting thing that some of the Chorus members did was to sing at the "State of Origin" game. Because my Chorus missed out on singing at the "Lions" game some time ago, I was determined to get them involved this time round. Now we can say, "Wow", what an experience to be part of a choir that sang the National Anthem to over 50,000 people. Standing in the middle of Suncorp Stadium just seeing all those faces, then hearing the tremendous roar of the crowd, certainly was a great experience. The Chorus also sang at Sunnybank Hotel for the Red Cross, Forest Lake Retirement Village, and we have a couple of Garden Clubs, plus the Mt Gravatt Show coming up - our bank account is now growing.

Disappointment abounds regarding our Chorus performing at the Nationals. Unfortunately it was voted not to participate this time. These competitions are enormously helpful in keeping the Chorus focused.

Our Chorus spent a great deal of time researching for the Regionals on how convicts, "Working on the Railroad" - "Carry Me Back to Old Virginie", would behave, what they would be wearing etc. All the tools (shovels, banjo, picks) were all made by one of our Chorus members out of wood.

What with the time spent going over notes, dynamics, etc I'm sure the guys don't ever want to sing those two songs again, but the focus and dedication was fantastic.

I feel the Chorus is gradually stepping out of its 'comfort zone' as we are trying new things. A small Chorus can get 'eaten up' by the bigger Choruses, so we have to come up with something different to be noticed. Last month I was invited to a dinner for past members of Redlands Sweet Adelines. It was a great night meeting Chorus members that I used to sing with now many years ago. A booklet was made up of the Chorus from its meagre beginnings, in a small church hall, up to the present. It has been over 10 years since I first stepped into the world of barbershop and have never regretted it. Good luck to all participating in the Nationals, see you there.

Janet Sippen
Musical Director



BARBERSHOPPERS WIN OUT AGAIN !!

When announcing the finalists of the Community Chorus Section of the recent McDonald's Performing Arts Challenge 2005 in Sydney the judge said that -

"the best Choruses are the ones that sing from the heart and engage their whole body in the singing to tell the story - that is why the human voice is the best musical instrument of all".

We certainly agree with him. So, it was not surprising that three of the four finalists were Barbershop Choruses -

- Sydney Harmony (Men)
- Central Coast Harmony Chorus (Ladies)
- Endeavour Harmony Chorus (Ladies)

(The fourth finalist was a Gospel Choir)

Congratulations to Endeavour Harmony Chorus for winning on the night and to all three Choruses for showing everyone what can be done when you sing Barbershop style harmonies. We are proud of you all.



The Darling Downsmen

Those of you who listened to "Australia All Over" with 'Macca' on Sunday morning will have heard our Chorus giving Barbershop an airing for the 71,000,000 listeners who tune in each week.

We received a surprise invitation late on Saturday afternoon, 16 July, to sing at 9.00 am the next morning !!

A lot of hurried 'phone calls were made and the appointment confirmed. No rehearsals possible, and we were crammed into the corner of a tiny studio the size of a small kitchen with **one** microphone – not suitable for the Chorus sound at all !!

I say all this in explanation of the resulting harmony we made, which was not up to our usual standard and quite out of balance. My apologies to all Barbershoppers.

However, Macca was very impressed and wanted more. He is looking out for local musical groups (he is an excellent singer himself) and his touring concert is well worth a visit when it comes your way !

We were *dobbed* in by a friend of mine – but it occurred to me that the Barbershop movement would get some wonderful **free** publicity from appearing on Macca's show.

Just a phone call to Lee Kelly at ABC Sydney to let her know about your Quartet or Chorus, and when they are in your area you may get an invitation. Be prepared – the call comes with no chance of preparation.

And I hope you all make allowances for our performance. It was under tough conditions!!

Peter Pearson
Secretary

*(Editor's note:
Check the ABC Website
www.abc.net.au/australiaallover
for details of the current Macca Concert Tour
to see if it is heading your way.)*

~ Ave et Vale ~



Beres McKeown

4th April 1929 - 17th April 2005

The Melody Lingers On

Beres Ralph 'Mac' McKeown, a Barbershopper since 1998 and a long time Secretary/Treasurer and stalwart of the Cairns Coral Coasters, has passed on to greener pastures.

His passing, on 17 April 2005, has grieved and greatly saddened his fellow barbershoppers and his extended family. Mac was a gentle, truly lovely, man, greatly admired by all for his leadership, fellowship, friendship and camaraderie.

As a Celt, he was always moved by his favourite, the memorable "Irish Blessing":

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*Mac, may flights of Angels guard you
in your peaceful rest.*



AAMBS 2005 CONVENTION

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT

Additional enquiries to Sue at
bsconven@bigpond.net.au

Have YOU checked out the latest Convention Website Updates? DO IT NOW!!
www.aambs.org.au or
www.theblenders.com.au

WELCOME DINNER EXTRAVAGANZA

Unsure if your partner will attend the dinner?

Got non-delegate friends who might like to attend the Convention Welcoming Dinner?

Delegates get all of this with registration.

- a sumptuous 3 course meal
- performances from *Riptide*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and **FREEFALL**
- world class Compere
- special presentations
- a special surprise and
- camaraderie not to be missed.

Additional tickets can be paid for directly through your Chorus and then mailed to:

AAMBS Convention
PO Box 623
Pacific Fair, Q 4218

**NUMBERS
STRICTLY
LIMITED**

LADIES BREAKFAST Friday 07 October

Outstanding Value

- Interstate Female MC
- Full hot and cold buffet breakfast
- Entertainment by Riptide
- Presentation by Australia's most eminent female neurosurgeon
- Special surprise

Come on ladies – leave the men behind for the morning!

**Delegates only \$25
Non-Delegates only \$35**

Additional tickets can be paid for directly through your Chorus and then mailed to:

AAMBS Convention
PO Box 623
Pacific Fair, Q 4218

More details coming soon

(Check the website for the latest news)

- **Strut Your Stuff Session**
- **Sing With The Champs**
- **Church Service**
- **Chorus Master Class**
- **Harmony College**

HARMONY SPECTACULAR CONCERT

Hopefully, all registered delegates took the opportunity to pre-order additional Show Tickets when they registered by 30 June.

As advertised from the very start, pre-ticket sales at the discounted rate of \$35 closed off on June 30 but you can still get extra tickets for this night of nights.

**Additional tickets at \$45 can now only be
purchased from August 01 through TICKETEK on
132 849**



THE AAMBS WEBSITE

www.aambs.org.au

If you are planning a concert or other event for which you would like some publicity, please forward the details - a brief description, where and when, contact person and phone number, to the Secretary, who will see that it gets loaded on the website.

You can download from the website:

- *Barbershop Notes.*
- *Club, Chorus and Quartet Rules.*
- *The AAMBS Constitution.*
- *AAMBS Standing Orders.*

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Deadline for the next edition is
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