

Our Twentieth Anniversary Year

Kim Sebbage

A very hearty 'welcome back' to our Chorus Director, Kim Sebbage. We all trust that he is now fully restored following his business with the medical profession. We also hope that he does not find the singing of our chorus too far below his expectations.

For those unaware: Kim has made successful application to become the new Chorus Director for the Men in Harmony Barbershop Chorus. He is confident he can handle the demands of both choruses, in fact he looks forward to the wider, perhaps combined, opportunities that his new appointment might offer.

Well done! Sincere congratulations and best wishes, Kim.

Citizenship Ceremony

Our next appointment with the City of Stirling is on Wednesday 16 May. We'll begin our warm-up at 5.30 p.m, as usual, and the song list is:

City of Stirling, Waltzing Matilda, Alexander's Ragtime Band, My Country,

Home Among the Gum Trees, Georgy Girl, I Still Call Australia Home, I Am Australian,

Advance Australia Fair

Western Region Quartet Contest

This year's Western Region open quartet contest was won by *The Electric Barbercats*, comprising Ian Mulholland, Dan Millgate, Ashley Schofield and Andrew Milner, with a remarkably high 76.9% of possible marks. It will be interesting to see how they fare in Adelaide.

Ken Richens writes:

I was lucky enough to see the Choruses perform at the "Western Region Showcase" on Saturday 21st, in the afternoon. We have come to expect very professional performances over the years and, once again, they did not disappoint.

Those singing were ...Baden Street Singers...Vocal Evolution...Men in Harmony...Perth Harmony Chorus...and Indian Blue. A Cappella West did not appear but I hear that they are contesting in Hobart on May 8th.

My niece Cheryl, on holiday from Basingstoke UK, was impressed by the spectacle of the ladies' choruses. Cheryl will be at our Social on May 22nd, so she will expect 'wonderful four-part-harmony' from us.

BHA Convention

Our National Convention is to be held in Adelaide this year, for the first time. The convention is the annual gathering of Australian barbershoppers and their families and friends. As well as the quartet and chorus contests there is a range of events, musical and otherwise.

The main venue for the convention is to be the historic Adelaide Town Hall and the overall dates are from 12th to 19th September. These dates include the Harmony Academy, three days of wonderful learning and singing, at a venue in Victor Harbour.

Further information can be found via the Barbershop Harmony Australia website.

Adelaide Allsorts

(Credit for report material: David Perry, President, Adelaide Allsorts.)

Sixteen members of *The Adelaide Allsorts Harmony Chorus*, competed at the first Barbershop World Mixed Chorus Competition hosted by Barbershop in Germany! (BinG!) in **Munich** over the weekend of 6th – 8th April 2018. The World Mixed Chorus Competition was run in parallel with the German Barbershop Musikfestival 2018. The venue was the outstanding Philharmonie Hall at 'The Gasteig', Munich. There were seven mixed choruses from Germany, UK, Ireland, Canada, Sweden, and Australia. There was general incredulity that the group had travelled so far to compete, along with genuine appreciation that it did. Members of the chorus report being moved by the rapturous reception received from the audience when the Allsorts were introduced to the various session audiences. The chorus scored 63.5 average over their two competition songs, finishing sixth overall in the world contest. Sharing the stage with the likes of *The Ronninge Show Chorus, Heavy Medal, and The Newfangled Four* among others during the Matinee Show on the Sunday was also a highlight of the trip. After

being introduced during this show, mention was made that it was the birthday of one of the group's members and so the audience sang "Happy Birthday" to her, which moved her to tears, thus taking out their entire tenor section!

Autumn Social

When it was first formed our club had semi-seriously considered holding regular (monthly?) restaurant nights, when we would take ourselves and our partners to a suitable eating place and enjoy a night of feasting and music. This idea never really got off the ground – but what replaced it has become an established tradition: the 'Autumn Social' and the 'Spring Social'.

These in-house nights fit very nicely into both our social and musical ambitions. We meet and mingle, enjoy one another's company and also enjoy songs, old and new.

And there is also another important aspect to our social night – the opportunity to introduce a potential new singer to 'the best hobby in the world'. So, once again, here is the chance. Look around for someone who has yet to learn about the magic of four-part male voice harmony. Invite him and his partner to come to our Autumn Social on Tuesday 22 May – he'll be ever so grateful!

Terry Bruce - Progress

-from Derek Cook

On my latest visit Terry was looking a lot better than he was a week ago. Although having lost 7kg since having the stroke, he's now able to walk every day for about 10 minutes, and talking for extended periods, also every day. He's had intensive physiotherapy and speech therapy, and the doctors have now decided to remove the tracheostomy, and, if all's well, he'll be off to Osborne Park Hospital for rehab, so, fingers X y'all !. Good luck Terry, and don't take too long, the 'leads' need ya !.



Terry, being entertained by The Four Chordsmen – Derek Cook, Peter McGuire, Ken Richens and John Friebel

Rosters for May

(Please make alternative arrangements if you are going to be unavailable. Please speak to John Friebel, if you feel you have been overlooked.)

Quartets and VLQs

1 May

McGuire, Richens, Tay, Friebel
Richards, Lugg, Merrells, Clee, Durham

8 May

Aarnoudse, Lam, Verbrugge, K Mitchell, Nelson

15 May

McGuire, Geiles, Pedler, Cook, Lehmann, Routley

22 May

Autumn Social

29 May

Aarnoudse, Clayton, Clee, Friebel

5 June

Sebbage, Okely, Tay, Brigatti

Kitchen Assistants

1 May: Lehmann, Nelson, Blackmore

8 May: Routley, Geiles, Richards

15 May: Mitchell, Clee, Durham,

22 May: Richens, Commerford, Merrells, Lugg

29 May: Tay, Cook, Routley

5 June: McGuire, Friebel, Lam

- Barberpole Cat for May: *Sweet Adeline (refrain)*

Engagements and Activities

(Additions and alterations are shown in bold.)

- Wednesday 16 May, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- Tuesday 22 May, 7.00 to 9.30 p.m. - Club Autumn Social Evening.
- Tuesday 24 July - "Christmas in July" Club Night.
- Wednesday 25 July, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- Sunday 5 August – Participation in morning Church Service at St Peter and Emmaus Church.
- Wednesday 22 August, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- **Wednesday 12 to Wednesday 19 September – BHA Convention & Harmony Academy, Adelaide.**
- Friday 14 September (afternoon) – Aegis Lifestyle Village, North Perth.
- Tuesday 2 October - Club Spring Social Evening.
- Wednesday 10 October, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- Sunday 21 October, 2.15 for 3.00 p.m. – Concert at North Beach Anglican Church.
- Wednesday 14 November, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- Tuesday 11 December Annual Dinner & Awards Evening.

The above list should be regarded as 'subject to alteration.'

This newsletter is published monthly. Contributions and comments will be welcome. These should go to Bruce Okely, 60/7 Harman Road, Sorrento 6020. Phone: 9447 0719 Email also available.

Our chorus website is: <http://westcoastchordsmen.org.au>

From the Archives (5)

After serving three years as President Graham Bishop chose not to continue in office and Jack Loneragan was elected (or persuaded) to take his place. Of course, this meant that Jack's first year in office was at the time when the Club was so busy with the Federation show. However Graham was supporting Jack whenever and wherever necessary – particularly with matters concerning the show.

Jack Loneragan, President, 2001-2003

Although the main program of performances of *Federation: The Century in Song* had concluded in 2001 the opportunity was taken to present a concert version of the show in the Churchlands Senior High School during 2002. For this performance the chorus was assisted by young singers from the Woodlands Primary School, dancers from the Rhythmic Dancing School, plus John Little, Jeff Carroll and a small orchestra. This show wrapped up the whole effort - with considerable satisfaction and no little sense of relief.

Several of the musical arrangements that were made for the show remain in the chorus repertoire and/or library and, as mentioned earlier, the white jackets that were purchased from the grant have become our No 1 chorus costume ever since.



The terrorist bombing in Bali that took place in October 2002 vividly brought home to most Australians that not everybody loved us. Among the Australian lives that were lost in the bombing were several members of the Kingsley amateur football team and a special memorial service was held on the home ground of the team, in Kingsley. Our chorus was invited to join with the Men in Harmony in singing *The Lord's My Shepherd*. The contribution was warmly received by the huge crowd that had assembled.

In the year 2003 the chorus decided to participate in the Western Region Convention and to seek a critique from the contest judges. The songs we sang were not strictly 'contest' songs under the existing rules and this may have contributed to the judges' comments being rather unflattering. The decision was then made not to compete in the 2003 National Convention, held in Perth and the chorus has declined to take part in any contests since that time.

It was during the time of his presidential service to our Club that Professor Jack Loneragan was awarded the Centenary of Federation Medal for his service to Agricultural Science – justly deserved!

Squeezed into this busy year was a visit and special performance at Parliament House, Perth. This quote from *A Decade of Song* describes the scene:

..... we were now in possession of our new and marvellous risers, designed and built for us by our own Kevin Mitchell! We were able to take our audience by complete surprise. As we marched on, singing as usual, each second man in the back row was carrying, by its handle, one unit of the riser set. Taking his allotted place in the chorus the 'riser man' plonked down his riser - then he and his partner promptly both stood on it! Lo and behold, we suddenly had three rows (the tallest men being in the second row) in 'serried ranks assembled'.

To say the audience was impressed would be a gross understatement. They loved us and our songs and we left to cries of 'more'. - The sandwiches, tea and coffee afterward rounded out a really fun evening..

- Bruce Okely