

## Our Twentieth Anniversary Year

### BHA National Convention

-from Pender Pedler & Kim Sebbage



The recent 16th BHA National Convention was held in Adelaide, 12 to 16 September. The 13 main events were the seven chorus competitions (mixed, school, youth, small, medium, large, open) and the five quartet competitions (mixed, school, youth, senior, open). All these events, together with the Saturday night *Showcase of Champions*, were held in the Adelaide Town Hall Auditorium. The convention was followed by the Harmony Academy, 16 to 19 September, at Victor Harbour. Barbershop Harmony Society's 2015 International Quartet Champions, *Instant Classic*, was the headline quartet at the convention, whose members were the educators at the Harmony Academy.

There were 14 choruses competing in the open competition, with medallists; gold, *Festival Statesmen Chorus*, Adelaide SA, 85.2%; silver, *Vocal Evolution*, Perth WA, 80.5%; and bronze, *The Blenders*, Gold Coast Qld, 78.4%. It was a great pleasure to be a member of the audience, appreciating the *Festival Statesmen's* high performance standard under the direction of Jonathan Bligh. *The Baden Street Singers*, Perth WA, won gold in the mixed chorus competition with a score of 79.7%. There were 26 quartets competing in the open competition, with medallists; gold, *Blindside*, Gold Coast Qld, 79.0%; silver, *The Electric Barbercats*, Perth WA, 76.6%; and bronze, *Poster Boys*, Adelaide SA, 74.8%. *Mouth Sounds*, Central Region SA, won gold in the mixed quartet competition with a score of 71.3%. We note here that Kaitlin Sebbage, a member of both *Mouth Sounds* and *The Baden Street Singers* is now a BHA dual gold medallist

The John Little Show, for quartet performances, and the Chorus Corral, for chorus performances, provided a welcome addition to the non-competitive life of the convention, supplementing the tag and Barberpole Cat singing that filled and overflowed the venue foyers and stairwells, and finally, the Thursday evening Convention Dinner, in the nearby Adelaide Oval, was an opportunity

for delegates to relax, socialise and catch up with friends from previous conventions.



*The Baden Street Singers*

### Singing in the Perth Concert Hall

Thanks go to all who participated in our contribution to the Primary Schools Massed Choirs Festival on Friday 21 September in the Perth Concert Hall.

Our Music Director Kim Sebbage returned safely from the BHA National Convention in Adelaide just in time to direct us in our very warmly received songs. Unfortunately, time restrictions meant we had to adjust our program to just the entry number and the two up-tunes. However, these were well received, and reports have it that the kids on stage were especially delighted when our back row turned around and faced them for the finale!

### Singing at St Peter and Emmaus Church

Fourteen singers (in this case, including our FMD) managed to overcome seasonal and other frailties on Fathers Day, Sunday 2 September, to sing at morning service at the St Peter and Emmaus Church, Joondanna.

To overcome the sudden shortage of leads Kim gave himself the dual role of 'singing/conductor', while the temporary scarcity of baritones was met by drafting in Yours Truly.

Notwithstanding these last-minute adjustments our contribution went surprisingly well and was very sincerely appreciated by the clergy and congregation.

For the record, our arrangement of *Balm in Gilead* received its initial public performance in the most appropriate and appreciative circumstances. Sincere thanks go to all participants

## Citizenship Ceremonies

**O**ur contribution to the ceremony on Wednesday 26 September was certainly well received – going by the enthusiastic involvement of the audience in *I Am Australian*.

The next ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday 24 October, 5.30 for 6 p.m., and the program for this occasion will be: *City of Stirling (entering)*; *Alexander's Ragtime Band*; *Waltzing Matilda*; *Harvest Moon*; *My Country*.

*Wonderful Day*; *Home Among the Gum Trees*; *I Still Call Australia Home*; *I Am Australian*; *Advance Australia Fair*.

## Aegis Lifestyle Village

**W**e had a most enjoyable afternoon with the residents and friends at Aegis St Michaels Village, North Perth on Friday 28 September. Thanks go to all participants.

To overcome space restrictions, we experimented with singing in two rows, using just one row of risers. In the opinion of this writer the experiment was a success and could lead to us doing this more often in future, particularly where space is an issue.

## Spring Social

**T**hose receiving this newsletter on line are reminded that the Spring Social commences at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 2 October. (Don't come at 5.30 p.m.)

The members, partners and friends of the *Men in Harmony* are our special guests on this occasion and a great night of music and fellowship is assured.

## Subscriptions

**O**ur Treasurer, Doug Routley reminds us that our quarterly subscriptions of \$80 are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month.

## 'Save the Children' Concert Cancelled

**R**egrettably, the concert, planned for Sunday 21 October in aid of Save the Children Australia has been cancelled. This is unfortunate, and it is hoped there will be another opportunity for us to show support for this worthy charity.

Several small water colour paintings by Alice Okely had been created and framed for this occasion. They are priced at \$15 and \$20 and now available through the undersigned.

**The cancellation of this concert means that the chorus will meet as usual on Tuesday 23 October.**

## Rosters for October

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

### Quartets and VLQs

#### 9 October

Okely (ten), Richens, Tay, Friebe

#### 16 October

Aarnoudse, Merrells, Verbrugge, Durham, Blackmore

#### 23 October

McGuire, Clayton, Cook, Brigatti

#### 30 October

(a) McGuire, Commerford, Pedler, Verbrugge, Lehmann, Nelson

(b) Sebbage, Okely, Tay, Brigatti

#### 6 November

Aarnoudse, Lugg, Richens, Cook, Mitchell, Routley

### Kitchen Assistants

2 October: Richens, Cook, Verbrugge, Lugg

9 October: Merrells, Verbrugge, Durham

16 October: Tay, Friebe, Clayton

23 October: Commerford, Pedler, Lehmann

30 October: Richards, Routley, Mitchell

6 November: Blackmore, Nelson, Tay

- Barberpole Cat for October: *You Tell Me Your Dream*

## Engagements and Activities

*(Additions and alterations are shown in bold.)*

- Tuesday 2 October - Club Spring Social Evening.
- **Sunday 21 October, 2.15 for 3.00 p.m. — Concert at North Beach Anglican Church. CANCELLED**
- **Tuesday 23 October – Chorus will now meet at 5.30 p.m. as usual.**
- Wednesday 24 October, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- **Thursday 1 November, 1.15 for 2 p.m. – Regis Aged Care, 10 Sabina St., Woodlands.**
- Wednesday 14 November, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – Citizenship Ceremony at City of Stirling.
- Monday 19 November, 12.15 for 1 p.m. – Harold Hawthorn Centre, Victoria Park.
- Friday 7 December, 1.45 for 2.30 p.m. Juniper Riverslea, 100 Guildford Rd, Mt Lawley.
- 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 (10)

## 2012

- Only one Australia Day Citizenship performance this year!
- First night back brings six visitors (but only three, Jack Hondros, 'Sak' Punyanitya and George Perreau, make it into membership.)
- Planning proceeds for Voices in Harmony 2012, in Adelaide. New songs for this – *Dear Hearts and Gentle People, Whispering, Thank You Dear Lord for Music*. A party of 57 is listed for travel.
- The year's motto is 'T.G.I.F.' (Hint: the chorus met on Friday evening.)
- David Macgill, founding member our chorus and of Australia's first barbershop chorus the *Men in Harmony* and quartet singer, retires.
- Jim DeBusman, coach from USA, provides two stimulating coaching sessions.
- President Pender Pedler leads a successful Voices in Harmony visit to South Australia in May.
- Chorus Director Kim Sebbage introduces a program for learning (and regularly singing) a set of 12 'barberpole cats'.
- On 21 May John Little passes away. John was the founding President of the Australian Association and sang in the Men in Harmony, Southside Harmony and West-coast Chordsmen – as well as the quartet Vocal Connection (with David Macgill, John Christie and Yours Truly).

## 2013

- New music this year: *I Believe in Music, Autumn Leaves, Play a Simple Melody*.
- 'The Harmonisers' (Len Aarnoudse, Ken Richens, Francis Tay and Peter McGuire) take out the Gold Medal in the Seniors Quartet contest, Western Region.
- BHA Convention is held in Perth. Principal venue is the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Program includes an opportunity for non-competing quartets and choruses, so our chorus decides to perform. We also take part in the 'massed sing' in Central Park, Hay Street, Perth, and the Sunday church service in Trinity Church.
- In October we conduct a special (and highly successful) evening of music written or arranged by Joe Liles, one of the legendary figures of the barbershop music world.
- New member welcomed in 2013 – Terry Bruce.

## 2014

- Early in the New Year, very sadly, our chorus shares in the funeral service of Jacquie, Kim's lovely wife. Tributes flow with the tears at the farewell to this simply outstanding young wife, mother, musician and all-round awesome person.
- New repertoire for this year: *The Girl from Ipanema, If I Had My Way*.
- A different venue is added to our list in February – the Don Russell Performing Arts Centre, Thornlie.
- 21 Citizenship Ceremonies listed for 2014. To ease the pressure on space on stage we divide the chorus into three 'pods'.
- The chorus participates in the funeral service of Ida Bishop in May. Ida's husband, Graham was a former member of Men in Harmony and founding President of the Westcoast Barbershop Harmony Club.
- Our national association presents a certificate to David Macgill, recognising his 25 years of service to Australian barbershop.
- John Brigatti is elected President at the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

- Bruce Okely