



20th Anniversary Album





President's Message

G'day!

... and welcome to the 20th Anniversary celebrations of Region 34! You have a lot to celebrate when it comes to the musical excellence that we've seen emerge from Region 34 since you started - is it really twenty years ago? That's an amazing thing! The musical achievements are definitely there to be celebrated! You should also remember to celebrate the fantastic camaraderie that we see each and every year as you get together for your wonderful Regional Competition and the art form that we all love so much.

Warmest wishes

Peggy Gram

*International President
Sweet Adelines International*

Celebrating our first two decades as a Region...

The 2009 Regional Management Team is proud to present this Album that fittingly marks our Region's emerald milestone.

Over the past 20 years our Region has experienced many changes and met many challenges. As you will read throughout these pages we have many women to thank for getting us to this point, both those courageous founding members and also those who have contributed their passion and energy through the years. As we celebrate this 20-year landmark we recognise that we also celebrate what we as women have achieved in building the vital, growing and healthy organisation that we all enjoy today.

Our organisation has gone from success to success since Barbara Beeler first sowed the seed for our growth in 1981 by contacting Sweet Adelines International. In that time we have seen the chartering of choruses in every state, welcomed International Faculty who inspire and develop us and have benefited from some of the best music education available in Australia today. The fruit of our well cultivated Region shows in the 1300 wonderful members in more than 30 choruses and prospective choruses all over the country. To apply the analogy used throughout this book, indeed we have grown from mere seeds into a beautiful garden of flowers.

This album celebrates our history through the recollections and reflections of some of those who have helped Sweet Adelines to fulfil its mandate. It also includes many photographs from personal and official archives. We would like to express our gratitude to the many members who made a contribution. In particular, we would like to thank two people who have not only been a big part of our history but who have worked tirelessly to coordinate, edit and publish this book - Mary Leonard and Jo Oosterhoff.

In the spirit of our anniversary, the incoming 2009-2010 Team will not only look at where we have been but we will set a course for the future of Sweet Adelines in Australia. We are pleased to be providing our members with fresh ideas, new opportunities, better education, new competition venues and even a fresh new logo and colour scheme. These positive changes were a result of direct membership feedback. You spoke and we listened. With a new era comes new energy and new perspectives. We all have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to over the next two decades.



The Regional Management Team

PRE-HISTORY TO 1989 - THE SEEDS...



PHC prepare for Australia's International debut in Hawaii, 1987

PHC & MC in Hawaii

In October of 1987, Melbourne and Perth Harmony Choruses headed to Hawaii to represent Australia for the first time at an International Convention. Needless to say they were absolutely amazed by the sights and sounds!! Of course, they'd watched the videos, but how exciting was this to hear all those chords ringing in person! ..and are there really that many sequins in the world???

In those days, choruses from the World Wide Area, who of course were not competing, were invited to perform on the Showcase. Both of the choruses 'strutted their Aussie stuff' and in turn 'brought the house down' because the Americans were in the same boat in that they'd never heard anyone from 'Down Under' .. (not even on video!)

All of these gals came home inspired to emulate the wonderful performances they had seen and determined to see the continued growth of Sweet Adelines in Oz. And of course both these choruses have since competed on the International stage.

Sweet Adelines in Australia began in Perth, Western Australia in 1981 when Barbara Beeler gathered some interested ladies, contacted the International Organisation in Tulsa and received the 'Steps Towards Chartering'. The Barbarettes with President Margaret King and director Bev Adams were granted prospective status in October 1982 by Past International President and International Faculty Member Ann Gooch.

In April 1982, ex-American Sweet Adeline Lynn Hagar contacted Tulsa, expressing interest in starting a chorus in Melbourne, Victoria. Ann Gooch visited in July, introducing fifteen interested members directed by Marian Reinsch to the joy of barbershop harmony. The Yarra Valley Chorus held their official Board elections in February 1983 and Lynn became President, becoming the second Prospective Chorus in Australia.

Ann Gooch visited both Perth and Melbourne choruses, and the Yarra Valley Chorus were delighted to receive a visit from some members of the Perth chorus in March 1983. In May 1983 The Barbarettes officially became Perth Harmony Chorus.

On 6th October 1983 the Yarra Valley Chorus became the first officially chartered Australian chorus, and on 29th October the Australian flag proudly flew alongside the other International flags outside the office of Sweet Adelines Incorporated in Tulsa, USA.

In 1984 Cathy Rainey became the Musical Director of PHC and in July of the same year Ann Gooch and Bron Dixon visited both choruses.

It was during this visit that Ann and Bron were interviewed on Channel 9 in Sydney by Mike Walsh and a videotape of the Valley Forge chorus was played. As a result, Ruth Williams contacted Lynn and agreed to help form a chorus in Sydney, New South Wales. She was joined by Chad Fydler, and through their efforts, found enough interested parties to hold their first meeting in October 1984. These women were so keen that they sang without a director for eight weeks. A member of the Philharmonic Choir directed them for eleven weeks until she moved interstate, then a member of the chorus, Sue Stevens took on the task for Sydneytown Chorus.

October 1984 brought two very exciting events, Perth Harmony Chorus was chartered and the Greater Dallas Chorus, directed by Shirley Kout, visited Australia. They were guest performers during the Australian Aria Awards with Shirley as soloist. For the first time, Australians had the opportunity to enjoy the excitement of 'real barbershop' live!

Timeline →

1981

SAI contacted by Barbara Beeler, Perth.

Oct 1982

Perth Harmony granted Prospective Status.

Oct 1983

Melbourne Chorus charter as Yarra Valley Chorus.

Oct 1984

Perth Harmony granted their Charter.

The following year we found Carolyn and Bill Butler on our doorstep, and they too were very generous with their time and expertise. This was the first of many visits when Carolyn helped guide the Australian Area in so many ways as coach, judge and mentor.

Apart from International visitors, there was some cross-pollination occurring through travel by individual chorus members within Australia. Marian Reinsch, Cathy Rainey and Ruth Williams were all very interested in getting new choruses started, and were instrumental in the growth of prospective choruses in their areas. Marian, being on the Eastern seaboard, was often called upon to assist new Directors between Melbourne and the Gold Coast, and Cathy, also very much in demand, travelled in the West. In the late 80's Carol Wright from Sydney Town Chorus, Link Abbott, Director of the Gold Coast Harmony Chorus, and Carole Macintyre from Perth Harmony joined this group of volunteers.



Ann Gooch, Sue Stevens (STC),
Marian Reinsch (MC).

During the 86/87 Sweet Adeline year the Yarra Valley Chorus changed its name to the Melbourne Chorus in order to identify Victoria.

It wasn't until 1988, when Jenny Frohlich was appointed Area Administrative Co-ordinator and Marian Reinsch was appointed the Area Music Co-ordinator, that education became a planned part of growth.

In May 1987 Ann Gooch visited us again, whipping up excitement for our first International Convention in Hawaii. Choruses from New Zealand, Japan, Sweden, Perth and Melbourne came together for the first time, performing their own packages on Showcase for an International audience... a momentous occasion which brought tears to many an eye!

Chad Fydler and Ruth Williams from Sydney Town Chorus accepted their Charter from Ann Gooch at this event.

FORMATION & CONTINUING GROWTH OF THE AUSTRALIAN AREA

During Ann Gooch's visit in May 1987, she suggested working towards establishing a Region. In June Jenny Frohlich suggested we set up the Area along the lines of a Region in order to make the transition from Area to Region easier in the future. We also indicated an interest in working with New Zealand.

In July 1987 we were advised by International that the rest of the World had formed their own autonomous units with International appointees as Musical and Administrative Co-ordinators and New Zealand had already organised themselves with their own leaders and titles. In Hawaii, a meeting was convened to discuss the possibility of an Australian and New Zealand Area, but by 1988 New Zealand decided to continue alone with their own national organisation.

However, the choruses in Australia seemed more interested in competing than in forming an Area, so Ann Gooch suggested we should begin planning a convention / competition. By November 1988 a Convention Steering Committee was set up with Jocelyn Gray of Melbourne Chorus as Chairman.

Correspondence passed between Australia and International concerning setting up an Area including rules and regulations for competition and the ability for the winning chorus to compete in the USA. Some Areas had been internationally approved - what did we need to do? In November we were informed that the Brit/Netherlands and Scandinavian Area Champions would be competing in Miami in 1989 and this spurred us on.

In March 1989 Australia and New Zealand became separate entities as they had previously been designated by International as one Area.

During May 1989 Marian visited choruses all over Australia, including Perth, Northam and

1987

PHC + MC represent
Australia in Hawaii on the
International Showcase.
STC receive their Charter

Nov 1988

Convention Steering
Committee set up to
work on first contest.

Mar 1989

Australia and New
Zealand became
separate entities.

Aug 1989

The first Australian Area
committee was appointed.

Albany. This was her first visit on behalf of the Area. Marion, Cathy Rainey and Carole Macintyre also travelled to Tulsa for a Musical Directors' workshop, but were not funded by the Area.

At this stage Marian perceived the need for an Australia-wide newsletter so she and husband Don published the first Oz Chords.

International restructured the Worldwide Areas in July 1989 and advised they would select Area leaders, who in turn would select their own committee members. These Worldwide Areas were England/Scotland, Scandinavia, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Satellite covering the rest, with Ann Gooch looking after the latter.

In August 1989 Jenny Frohlich and Marian Reinsch were appointed as Vice Regent and Assistant Director of Musical Activities respectively (the terms 'Vice' and 'Assistant' were later dropped). Others on the first Area Committee were Cathy Rainey, Ruth Williams (Extension Coordinator), Chad Fydler (Treasurer) and Jocelyn Gray. Jenny (as chair) reported to Nancy Coates, the Worldwide Chairman.

The Committee met twice a year, endeavouring to coordinate meetings with Area events to keep costs down. Musical, administration, national and international events were to be organised and there would be regular goal setting sessions. Encouragement of new choruses was a priority.

Marian, Cathy and Jenny were already carrying out the musical and administrative visits to prospective choruses as required by International. These prospectives were Northam, Albany and Mandurah in WA, Gold Coast in Queensland, Bathurst, Gosford (Central Coast) and Wollongong in New South Wales, Canberra in the ACT, Sale in Victoria, and Adelaide in South Australia.



Chris Noteware & sister, Sue at PHC, 1989
Also pictured, Rae Knight & Cathy Rainey.

On 4 July 1984 Ann Gooch and Bron Dixon, Board members of Sweet Adelines International, appeared on the 'Mike Walsh Show' and introduced barbershop harmony to Australian television audiences. Interested women were advised to contact the station and as a result, 8 prospective members met in Pat Manthly's home in Ryde in October 1984 and Sydney Town Chorus was born.



Sydney Town Chorus

One year later there were 19 members. With the work, enthusiasm and commitment of these founding members, especially Ruth Williams and Chad Fydler, Sydney Town Chorus thrived. Ruth and Chad sang with the chorus for many years and still encourage and support all chorus activities.



The first Director, Donna Watson, was a graduate of the Conservatorium of Music and a professional singer. She taught the members their first song 'Harmonise the World' but after one week directing the chorus, was offered a professional engagement and had to leave. In June 1987 the chorus chartered and Ruth and Chad travelled to the International Convention in Hawaii to be presented with the Chartering certificate. Their Music Director at this time was Sue Stevens, who was with them almost from the beginning. Her efforts and devotion saw the chorus through to chartering - a wonderful achievement with a group of amateur singers - then retired as Director in February 1988 to await the birth of her third child.

Following Sue's resignation, Carol Wright was appointed as Music Director and a new era began. She accepted her appointment with great enthusiasm and confidence. Carol, born in Seattle USA, was married to an Australian seaman from the HMAS Adelaide. Her mother was also a Sweet Adeline and a member of Seattle Shores Chapter. Carol directed Sydney Town Chorus until her husband was transferred to Perth, WA.

Two STC members, founder and first President Ruth Williams and Chad Fydler, played an integral part as members of the first Australian Area Steering Committee, laying the foundation for what was to become Region 34 of Sweet

Adelines International. Ruth also arranged for copyright of the first group of Australian Songs for the Mass Sing.

Sydney Town Chorus owes much to their dedicated directors over the years (too many to mention). Some who completed the Directors Certification Program at Sydney Town Chorus and went on to direct other choruses are: Doris Ward, "Circular Keys". Lindsey Dyer, "Aurora Australis" & "A Cappella West", Jan McCarthy, "Wollongong Harmony", Kerani Francis, "Aurora Australis".

A special person in STC memory is Marion Clarke, much loved and very talented Musical Director in 1994 when we hosted the Sydney Convention, placing 3rd and winning Most Improved Chorus. Sadly, Marion died of cancer in 1999, and the chorus shared a very emotional time when they sang at her funeral. Marion is still spoken of and remembered with love. Following Marion's death, STC organised a fundraising concert for breast cancer research. The concert, compered by Nancye Hayes, was held at the Sydney Town Hall with women from all choruses within New South Wales on stage. The sum of \$15,000 was raised and donated in Marion's name to Breast Cancer Research at St Vincent's Hospital.

Perhaps our greatest achievement was winning the City Bank Open Choral Award in 1995 with a fabulous prize of \$10,000. Our most prestigious performance was at the Sydney Opera House in 1998 when we shared the stage with visiting American Director David Cockburn, and enjoyed the atmosphere of Green Room and stage in this well known building.

Over the years the Chorus has been coached by many excellent teachers. In early years, coaches were mostly from America, but from 1994 we were lucky to meet Virginia Humphrey-Taylor from Christchurch, New Zealand. "Virg" has been a wonderful friend to STC and has been instrumental in assisting both directors and individual singers.

Being a chorus member involves many social activities including the fun of Afterglows following performances, retreats and weekend



Dixie Dahlke & Marion, 1998

workshops where great team building exercises form the basis for many firm friendships. It's pleasing to see so many former members attending our 'Family and Friends' concerts and giving their support. The most treasured memories however, are some of our most long standing members such as Esme Morton who sang with Sydney Town Chorus 1987 - 2004 . Aged 90, she had her birthday celebration and farewell in 2005. Adrienne Richardson joined in 1989, attended Australia's first convention in Geelong and is still competing today. Many past members of Sydney Town Chorus are

now directors, assistant directors or members of other choruses in New South Wales. In fact some of them left to establish new choruses. Their attendance at Sweet Adelines educational programs have helped barbershop harmony to grow and prosper all around Australia.

'I don't know anything about music, In my line you don't have to.'
- Elvis Presley

'Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except the best.'
- Henry Van Dyke



'My grandmother always said You can't have a praying knee and a dancing foot on the same leg.'

'Sing wet, pee pale.'
(i.e. drink lots of water)
- Carolyn Butler, SAI Judge



Las Vegas, 2006



Melbourne Chorus

The Melbourne Chorus owes a debt of gratitude to our founder Lynn Hagar, former member of the Somerset Valley Chapter, USA, who came to Melbourne with her family and set in motion the steps to form a Chapter in Australia.

Newspaper articles led to the initial meeting of four ladies (plus Lynn) in her lounge room in June 1982. The eventual outcome was the arrival of Ann Gooch and Carolyn Chappell from Headquarters to meet with the group, by then numbering fifteen, on 12th July. Marian Reinsch, having visited Lynn only one week earlier, was one of these ladies and she was prepared to be the Director. The group grew to twenty five by August, and then began rehearsing at a local Primary School. By December, the name Yarra Valley Chapter was chosen and approved by International in the following January.

Radio interviews and television appearances helped in promotion. A great chorus was forming; new members and friendships, new harmonies, a costume, performances, quartetting, fund raising and partying! Everything was falling into place and in October '83 with Lynn Hagar as President, The Yarra Valley Chapter of Sweet Adelines was officially chartered with 27 members. A name change to the Melbourne Chapter took place in 1986.

In the early years of our chorus, past International presidents, faculty members, coaches and/or judges offered their time and expertise, often becoming mentors. They included Carolyn and Bill Butler, Nancy Coates, Dixie Dahlke, Bron Dixon, Ann Gooch, Shirley Kout, Bev Miller, Chris Noteware, the late Bev Sellers, Betty Tracy (Clipman). These people have been followed by many others over the years.

A major highlight in 1987 was the trip to Hawaii, when together with Perth Harmony Chorus, we took up the invitation to perform in the Showcase at the International Convention. A taste of 'true barbershop' was experienced by all and we were now set up for a great future together.

Many great shows were regularly staged by our Chorus over the years, including memorable joint shows with visiting American choruses Greater Dallas, Scottsdale, Lakeside, Great Lakes and quartets La Fiesta and Showtime. Performances at the Melbourne Concert Hall, Government House, Raheen, Dallas Brooks Hall, plus festivals and fun runs, are amongst our great memories.

Our Chorus has benefited by the talented, willing people who have been our Directors, Choreographers, Section Leaders and Board and Committee members throughout all the years.

Marian Reinsch so ably led us to become the first Australian Championship Chorus when Melbourne hosted the first Regional Convention at Geelong in 1990. We repeated that success in Perth in 1992 and with that win, we set off to Indianapolis to be the first Australian competitors at the International Competition in '93. We were not highly placed, but so proud to be there.

Prior to this competition, we visited Salt Lake City where we were billeted by members of the Mountain Jubilee Chorus. (Their director, Tori Postma, had coached us prior to competition.) We joined them in their Show and also had the opportunity to perform at the Mormon Tabernacle on the Sunday morning.

The Sydney Convention and Competition followed in '94 and we were 'pipped at the post' by our friends, Perth Harmony.

Marian retired from her role as Director in September '95, but fortunately, she still maintains her chorus membership. We were very lucky to welcome from America, Kathleen Albrecht as our new Director. Kathleen

was a young, experienced Sweet Adeline, just married to a fellow barbershopper Bill, who was now director of the relatively new Melbournaires Chorus, taking over from our Mandy Johnson. We competed under their joint direction at the Gold Coast Competition and were elated to win, once more, that great title of Australian Champions! The Albrecht's had to return back to their home later that year, so the Search Committee had a major job on their hands.

Assistant Director Mandy Johnson, stepped into the role of Temporary Director. She ably led us until eventually, after a massive search literally worldwide, and persuasion of the Immigration Department, Bernie Cureton arrived from England to become our Director. We worked hard and went to competition in Adelaide in '98. Once again, Perth gained the prized title, but this time by only three points. We had reached 600! We were so proud of ourselves and Bernie.

Towards the end of '99 Bernie suddenly and unexpectedly left Melbourne to direct in Queensland. During this year we had lost quite a few members including experienced longer term key members. Assistant Director Sue Camier stepped in and became our fourth Director since Marian's retirement. The Chorus made the decision to persevere and go to competition in Perth in 2000 and keep Melbourne Chorus alive! We placed fifth in the competition and were inspired to keep growing and working harder than ever.

Unfortunately, for health and family reasons, Sue had to relinquish her role as Director. Jeanette Whitmore picked up this role for a short period, and in September 2001, Maureen Neenan took up the Directorship. Maureen took us to 4th place at the Wollongong Convention, and remained our director until February '03 when once more the Search Committee had to re-form!

After considering many applicants, we found that what we needed was an experienced barbershopper, and Jeanette Whitmore's application seemed by far the best for our Chorus. Jeanette has taken us to 1st Place AA Chorus at the 2004 competition, where she herself received the Novice Director Award, and then to Australian Champions once more in the 2005 competition. This win gave us the opportunity to compete at International in Las Vegas in October 2006. Another great experience to add to our life within Sweet Adelines!

We were so excited to place first in Hobart in 2008 with 614 points, finally giving Jeanette her well deserved Master Directorship. Jeanette is still growing in her own experiences and taking advantage of any help she can get from the 'experts'. Virginia Humphrey-Taylor has coached us over this decade's competitions and with a recent visit from Gail Jensic, we are highly motivated. Our membership is steadily increasing, with new members taking various roles within our Chorus.

Melbourne's initial experiences have paid dividends. Gwynneth Powell, Lauris Clota, Mandy Johnson, Robyn Nayler, Marian Reinsch, Lorraine Stackpoole and Catherine Bechaz have all directed other choruses and our original Choreographer, Brenda Smith, is on the Regional and International Education Faculty.



Geelong, 1990

The Melbourne Chorus is a high achieving Chorus and have either won or been a place-getter at every Australian competition we have entered. We are committed to good harmony singing, good fun and good friendships as we go together into the future.

*Little by little time goes by, short if you sing, long if you sigh.
Note by note, life's music plays on, songs ever changing but never gone.*



Perth Convention, 1992

Perth Harmony Chorus

20+ years with Perth Harmony - What an incredible journey!! In February 1980, Barbara Beeler, wife of an American working in the oil industry, returned to Western Australia from England where she had been singing with the Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers. Full of enthusiasm, a small nucleus of 4 women soon became 10 - the gestation of Perth Harmony Chorus had begun.

The group began to receive invitations to sing, and despite the untimely death of a Nursing Home resident sitting in the front row of the audience, and the misadventures of a runaway set of false teeth chattering across the pavement at a venue in central Perth, the group began to develop a personality and sense of fun, for which it gained a significant reputation both at home and abroad! Afternoons in the homes of members became Wednesday evening rehearsals in the first of many venues - a purpose built rehearsal space in Melville. This was made possible by the sponsorship of Christine Wendt, who assumed the role of President of Perth Harmony Chorus from Foundation President Dorothy Corica when the Chorus chartered in 1984. Christine had a strong sense of purpose and fun, and a great love of the art form of Barbershop Harmony. The chorus has been greatly influenced by her understanding of the culture of Sweet Adelines International, and today they maintain a reputation for encouraging others by being approachable and sharing their knowledge in a spirit of generosity and fun. As a tribute to that education process, the Chorus has always been well represented at Regional level, both musically and administratively.

Although uninitiated in the art form, Cathy Rainey, as Charter Director, brought an enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge and excellence which continued unabated through her 23 years as Director and Master Director of the chorus. Her drive, energy, initiative and intelligence have been recognised by Sweet Adelines International where she now serves as a member of the International Faculty. The enthusiastic, fun loving party animals were in good hands!! The positive affirmation of this came in early 1987 when Perth Harmony Chorus entered and won their first Eisteddfod, only to find that they would not be awarded the Trophy because 'they were too professional'! After pleading their amateur status, said trophy was re-presented!

In October 1987, 20 members of the chorus travelled to Hawaii for the International Convention. The chorus had been advised that it was not in their best interest to try to 'out glam' the Americans, so they chose khaki!!! Fantastic actually, with akubra hats and a splash of red sequined kangaroo paw epaulettes and red satin petticoats to satisfy the overwhelming urge to sparkle. Add a professionally created choreography to the mix, and they were a hit! For the majority, it was their first exposure to the enthusiasm of Sweet Adelines en masse, Queens of Harmony resplendent in glittering crowns, shorts and Hawaiian tees, and most importantly the art form at its best! Learning experiences too, after an embarrassing moment with Betty Tracy (Clipman), when they realised that they really should have learned at least one of the Mass Sing songs! Also finally understanding that if they relented and focused on those 'American' vowels, they would be a lot closer to producing those spine tingling close harmonies...." Ahhhh - is that how they do it?"

Silver medal performances in 1990 and 1992, and finally Gold in Sydney in 1994 and the opportunity to compete in New Orleans at the 50th Anniversary Sweet Adeline Convention. What an exciting event!! This was definitely the 'Big Time', with an audience of 15,000 delegates who generously stood to applaud them from the venue, down the road and on to the buses after they won the coveted Small Chorus Award!

The euphoria felt by the chorus as they returned from New Orleans was soon shattered by news of the tragic death of a beloved member and chorus leader, Wendy Middleton. The following year her daughter Louise instigated the Wendy Middleton Award in the form of a perpetual trophy presented each year to the Most Improved Quartet in competition.

From strength to strength and a membership of 100 singers, PHC has gone on to win Region 34 competitions in 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2007. They have represented Australia on the International stage on six occasions, including most memorably the convention which took place in Portland Oregon days after the tragedy of September 11. American Sweet Adelines were overwhelmingly grateful that the overseas choruses supported them by attending, however many will remember with a chill, the moment when a helicopter flew over the venue – too close, too loud and terrifying!! What a coincidence then, that the PHC show package that year included the song 'You're the Voice' with the words "we're not gonna sit in silence - we're not gonna live with fear"....there was not a dry eye in the house!!



Cathy & Marion Reinch (MC) enjoy the camaraderie at the Perth convention, 1992.

As well as the outstanding musical leadership of Cathy Rainey over the years, the chorus has enjoyed the talents of assistant directors Carole Macintyre, Jenny Fay, Jo Oosterhoff, Jessica Bullen and most recently, Gina D'Souza, as well as a number of excellent choreographers and section leaders.

In 2008 Cathy decided to 'step back up on the risers' and Carole Macintyre became the director. Carole has been on the journey with Perth Harmony Chorus since the beginning, and is an outstanding example of the education and personal growth that can be achieved through the organisation. With such a great Succession Plan in place, it was reassuring that Cathy could leave the chorus in Carole's capable hands.

November 2008 saw the chorus travel to Hawaii under Carole's direction and were ecstatic to place 16th with a score of 1192!! The chorus looks forward to many more happy and successful times in the future under her direction.

20+ Year Members

Years of membership go from October 1st. Anniversaries are recognised at Convention where they fall before Convention that year.

Nov	72	Lilian Harrison	HIP
May	82	Brenda Smith	EC\$
May	82	Marion Webb	MC
May	82	Robyn Naylor	EC\$
May	82	Jenny Frolich	MC
May	83	Faye McCraith	EC\$
May	83	Louise Eubank	CAL
May	83	Marian Reinsch	MC
May	83	Valerie Sharkey	MC
May	83	Lois Stanton	MC
May	84	Lynette Gibson	MC
Dec	84	Judy Robertson	PHC
Dec	84	Cathy Rainey	PHC
Dec	84	Roseanne Millmore	PHC
Dec	84	Sue Long	PHC
Dec	84	Michelle Todd	PHC
Dec	84	Chris Kirk	PHC
June	85	Gwenda McDonald	MC
June	85	Joan Wotton	MC
Aug	85	Tina Buell	OOTB\$
June	85	Carole Macintyre	PHC
Dec	85	Jan Butterworth	CAL
May	86	Averil Walsh	PHC
Dec	86	Laura Cram	ASC
June	86	Marie Gutteridge	MC
June	86	Margaret Luxmore	MC
June	86	Jill Scobie	MC
June	87	Val Norris	CCHC
June	87	Carol Wright	PHC
Feb	88	June Paul	EC\$
Mar	88	Doris Ward	CKC
May	88	Lauris Ciota	CAL
May	88	Nancy Williams	MC
May	88	Lorraine Stackpoole	\$S
June	88	Rae Knight	CAL
June	88	Mary Leonard	CAL
Aug	88	Rosemary Wartnerly	MC
Jan	89	Maxine Brown	PHC
Jan	89	Gina D'Souza	PHC
Jan	89	Anne Smith	PHC
Jan	89	Geraldine McDonald	PHC
June	89	Adreinne Richardson	STC
Jan	89	Rose Conley	AA
June	89	Stephanie Cohen	AA
July	89	Patricia Woodford	CAL



1990 THIS COULD BE THE START OF SOMETHING BIG...



All the Convention attendees sing at the closing ceremony.

In March 1990 Nancy Coates (Past International President) and Gail Shields from North Metro Chorus visited Melbourne and the first Area Steering Committee meeting was held after a weekend's education on administration, goal-setting, and finance matters. The three chartered choruses, Perth Harmony, Melbourne and Sydney Town had all contributed towards an Area Fund to enable this meeting and planning for the first Convention. After expenses were deducted, the Area funds consisted of the grand sum of \$367! Shortly after, Wendy Middleton from Perth Harmony compiled the Area Standing Rules which were approved by International.

The Area Committee also decided to set up a library for video and audio tapes and Jocelyn Gray took charge of these. Thus began our comprehensive Regional Library.

Meanwhile planning continued for our first Convention to be held at the Ambassador Hotel in Geelong. Being an Area and not yet designated a Region allowed us the freedom to 'bend some rules' and International were cooperative in helping us with our specific problems.

The Judges were Sylvia Alsbury and Betty Tracy (Clipman), both International Music Specialists, Championship Chorus Directors, and both qualified in two categories. Sylvia covered Music and Showmanship and Betty judged Sound and Expression. Although initially advised that the judges should be used solely for judging, permission was granted to include educational classes as well.

The very apt Convention theme, 'This Could be the Start of Something Big', included the symbolic distribution of sunflower seeds to all delegates, so that succeeding conventions could sport the offspring of the original seeds and sunflowers would be burgeoning all over Australia!

Melbourne, Perth and Sydney Town choruses competed, placing first to third in that order, and Gold Coast Harmony and Prospective Adelaide Sunshine sang for evaluation. A number of Prospective chorus members also attended from Northam and Albany in WA, Brisbane Bellbirds from Qld, Bathurst, Wollongong and Central Coast from NSW and Sale from Victoria. Five New Zealanders made the trip, including Virginia Humphrey-Taylor who was to become a regular visitor to our Region over the years.

Margaret Richards, President of the Gold Coast Harmony Chorus, was presented their Charter by Betty Tracy (Clipman).

"Geelong was chosen for the first Convention because the organisers worried that some of the singers might try to nip home to make their husbands tea if Melbourne was selected!"

- Brenda Smith

Timeline →

March 1990

First Area Steering Committee meeting is held and Area Standing Rules are approved.

May 1990

Harmony In Paradise charter as Gold Coast Harmony.

June 1990

First convention and contest held in Geelong.

Oct 1990

Mischief Down Under compete on the International stage.



Opening ceremony, Geelong.

As well as choruses there were eight quartets competing and one being evaluated. Mischief Down Under from Perth won their first of many gold medals, Blue Rhythm placed second and Alliage placed third.

The Showcase was a great hit and included some hilarious (definitely non-barbershop!) acts such as the 'Suffragettes' and 'The Lighthouse-keeper's Daughter'.

During the closing ceremony ALL delegates were invited on stage to sing Harmonise the World... an exciting, emotional, not-to-be repeated experience!

As Perth Harmony had indicated their willingness to host the next Convention in Perth in 1992, Jocelyn Gray presented the Competition File to Rae Knight, President of PHC.



Judges: Sylvia Alsbury & Betty Tracy (Clipman)

This was to be the first of many Conventions and other Regional Events Rae would be involved with in her future roles as Regional Events Coordinator and CRC (Chair of Regional Convention).

"At the Cabaret-style Afterglow there were at least 3 smokers' tables. I joined one and guess what, they were all basses! We had all run out of our repertoire songs (about 3) so providing you put your name down, you could sing any solo, duet or group song you knew. All were in unison and we finished by everyone being on stage singing numbers from the musicals... 'Phantom of the Opera' and 'Oklahoma' were favourites." - Brenda Smith

October 1990 found our champion quartet Mischief Down Under in Salt Lake City representing Australia for the first time as they competed at International. Their performance was enthusiastically cheered on by 15 Australians and a number of Kiwis in the audience.

In November 1990 Bobbie Dollins, Worldwide DMA, toured Australia with Marian Reinsch and was very well received.

The Australian Area was well on its way to becoming a force in the International Sweet Adeline world!!



Gold Coast Harmony, 1990

Harmony In Paradise

When members of a local theatre company, Val Moran, Pat Schilling, and Bobby Steer met Linc Abbot in February 1988 in Pat's home, they had never heard of Sweet Adelines. Linc sang in a quartet at Dreamworld and was keen to form a group of people interested in singing barbershop. The three agreed to approach other Gold Coast theatre groups for members and this was the beginning of the Gold Coast Harmonettes.

Although we didn't know it then, we were like typical Sweet Adelines everywhere, discussing what we were going to wear, and quickly designed a T-shirt with logo as we worked on our first two songs, 'Tell Me Why' and 'Have You Ever Been Lonely'.

Meantime Lilian Harrison, a Sweet Adeline from Canada, had started a prospective chorus in Brisbane in 1989 to participate in a workshop that was being held by Chris Noteware, a visiting Sweet Adeline from the USA. The following Monday Chris visited our chorus and encouraged us to consider aligning ourselves with Sweet Adelines International. After much discussion, a vote was taken and although we lost a few members, we regrouped to meet the criteria of becoming Sweet Adelines. Alexa became Linc's assistant MD and Margaret Richards bravely volunteered to step in as president and go through the process for us to become

chartered. Lilian joined our chorus, travelling down from Brisbane each week for rehearsal and in 1990 we were joined by another experienced Sweet Adeline from NZ, the late Rosalie Lang. Our goal was becoming a strong reality!

During this time the first regional convention was being planned to be held in Geelong and that was a huge incentive for us to fulfil all the requirements to charter at this convention.

While Margaret was going through the final stages of our charter papers with some advice from Rosalie, the rest of us were fundraising and practising our songs. We revamped our existing costume, which to date had been a long black skirt and white blouse, by adding a simple red rose at the neck, and with 18 ladies prepared to make the trip, we also had a quartet entering the competition ... We were ready.

We were blown away in Geelong by the competing choruses from Melbourne, Perth and Sydney who alerted us to the possibilities of this wonderful organisation. We sang 'Side by Side' and 'This Little Piggy' and proudly received our charter to the applause of nearly 200 Sweet Adeline sisters.

It is interesting to note that Sweet Adelines in America were also attempting change at this time and we were actually chartered under their new name of Harmony International. When they reverted back to their original name we received another certificate making us a Sweet Adeline chapter.

So many ladies who have contributed to our Chorus along the way are still with us today. One of these is Alexa Blonner (now CAL) who stepped in as our director for many years and led us to new levels with her dedication and zest for learning.

Many years have passed since those early days and many wonderful times have been shared. Like all choruses, our journey has sometimes been bumpy with changes of directors, members leaving and more joining as we have continued to evolve and grow to the Chorus we are today. We are grateful to all the ladies who have sung with us, our current members and our past directors who worked tirelessly over the years to keep the dream alive.

We have reached out to our fellow Sweet Adeline sisters over the years, encouraging and supporting Brisbane, Hervey Bay and Lennox Head choruses, but one memory which stands out is our performance with the Redlands Men's Chorus. The hall was packed and when we called for interested ladies to sign up, we were overjoyed to have over 30 names and a Director come out of the audience - a marvellous, unforgettable experience which resulted in the formation of Redland Rhapsody Chorus!

We have enjoyed many successes along the way, from winning or placing in many Eisteddfods, singing at local Civic Ceremonies and carolling around the Coast at Christmas, but our most recent success was coming 3rd at the 2007 Regional Competition in Brisbane with our past director Andrew Howson, who won the Novice Director Award.

When Andrew moved to America, we welcomed Rose McGee, a name well known and respected not just in Australia but in the whole organisation, as our new director in 2008.

We look forward to a bright and happy future singing, honing our skills and making beautiful music together.



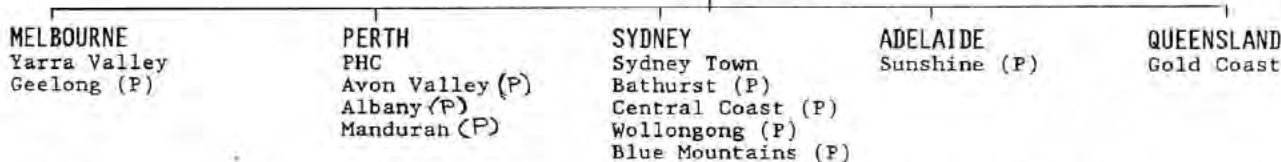
Harmony In Paradise, with new director, Rose McGee.

1991 EDUCATION & QUALITY CONTROL IN OUR OWN HANDS...

This extract from an International publication shows the blossoming of the Australian Area by 1991...

Right: The Worldwide Management Committee has their work cut out, considering the growth of the Worldwide Region. Shown during a break at their August meeting, they are (standing, from left) Dixie Dahlke, special projects coordinator; Gail Shields, Worldwide Regent; Ann Gooch, Satellite Chairman; (seated) Bobbie Dollins, Worldwide DMA; Nancy Coates, Chairman.

Worldwide
Management
Committee



In June 1991 an Area fee per member was introduced as previously determined, so the Area would have means of funding educational opportunities as well as general operational expenses. The Area Steering Committee met once again and decided that one musical faculty person would visit every chartered chorus each year. Prospective choruses were already being visited as an International requisite.

Another decision was to initiate an Area Small Chorus Award for the Perth competition in order to encourage smaller choruses. However, we were informed by International that our criteria contravened the Small Chorus Award rules for the rest of the world, which we felt were not applicable to us at the time. In later years a small chorus award was reinstated.

In June 1991 a Travelling School commenced in Perth, Sydney, and Melbourne, with a shortened version in Adelaide and on the Gold Coast. Ann Gooch took the school in W.A. and Shirley Kout, accompanied by Carolyn Marelick, was the visiting International faculty person for Eastern Australia. Although our music and administrative specialists had been teaching throughout Australia, it was at the school at Namaroo that our own faculty, Cathy Rainey, Marian Reinsch, Carol Wright and Brenda Smith worked for the first time alongside International educators.

Only if you come off stage totally spent and exhausted have you given it everything you have - Betty Miller

It was at this school that Bathurst Panorama Chorus were delighted to receive their Charter from Shirley Kout, dated 7th June. July 25th was the chartering date for Adelaide Sunshine Chorus, and Wollongong Harmony Chorus chartered next on 19th November. Thanks to the efforts of enthusiastic Area Steering Committee members, there were also 14 prospective choruses by this stage.

Since central administration was now established, choruses were no longer required to send their audition tapes to International and they were approved locally. Similarly, standing rules were also approved locally and Bathurst Panorama, having produced an excellent set, gave their permission to share them as a basis for other prospective choruses. It was recommended that choruses become incorporated and help was given to achieve this result. We were now in charge of our own quality control for choruses and quartets.

Timeline →

June 1991

Bathurst Panorama receive their charter.

June 1991

Ann Gooch and Shirley Kout teach at Travelling Schools across Australia.

July 1991

Adelaide Sound Connection chartered as Adelaide Sunshine Chorus.

Nov 1991

Wollongong Harmony receive their charter.

Bathurst Panorama Chorus



*Harmony Classic,
San Antonio 2007*

In late 1988, David Russell, Secretary of the Bathurst Men's Barbershop Chorus, became interested in forming a women's Chorus. With wife Joan, he became the Chorus's first director. Through his efforts and those of the Prospective Chorus Steering Committee, Helen Wyld, Fay Baker and Jean Humphrey, the Chorus auditioned in April 1990, with 20 members and Marie Lowe as Music Director.

The Chorus Charter was presented by Shirley Kout in June 1991 at a Sydney workshop, making Bathurst the 5th chartered chorus in Australia and the 2nd in NSW. The Charter Music Director was Julia Romano, followed by Helen Goninon, who took the Chorus to its first Convention in Perth in 1992. In September 1992, Tracey Cam became the Director, and was joined in a co-directorship by Sharon Stanley in 1999.

The Chorus has been assisted by many talented coaches from Australia and the wider Sweet Adelines world, including Cathy Rainey and Carole Macintyre from Perth, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and Barbara Smith from New Zealand and Lori Lyford, Jan Gervais, Dixie Dahlke, Diane Porsche, Sharon Babb and Ann Gooch from the USA.

Pre-convention retreats have been great learning and bonding experiences, but have also presented an opportunity for chorus members to perform creative skits and play crazy games. Memorable occasions include when a member of the lead section demonstrated singing without her false teeth, the bass section outdoing Priscilla Queen of the Desert in their costuming, and trying to teach Ann Gooch how to play the 'Substitute' game from Spicks and Specks.

In 1996 at Gold Coast, the Chorus placed 3rd overall. This achievement was repeated in Brisbane in 2006 when the Chorus was again placed 3rd overall and 1st place Small Chorus. The joy of this achievement was only eclipsed when news arrived shortly after that we had qualified for Harmony Classic in San Antonio in July 2007.

Being the first Australian Chorus to compete at Harmony Classic and to win an International Medal was an outstanding achievement. Preparation and fundraising for the trip to San Antonio was a mammoth undertaking. Performing our final 'dress rehearsal' to a packed house at All Saints Cathedral before our departure was a very special occasion, as was the reception we received from our RMT members in San Antonio. Adding to the drama were our missing props, lost by the airline in San Francisco. Aussie ingenuity reigned supreme and replacements were made in the spare minutes between classes at IES. Saturday, 14 July 2007 arrived and our 15 minutes of International fame were over before we knew it. Being announced as 4th place in the Small Chorus division was fantastic and to put the icing on the cake, we were awarded the most bonus points for entertainment value of all the Small Chorus competitors.

In Hobart 2008, the Chorus placed 3rd with a first place medal in the Mid-Size Chorus division. It was a very proud moment, celebrating our new medals and sharing our Harmony Classic package with members of our own region in the Showcase Concert.

BPC has also been a successful competitor in local Eisteddfods. The chorus has been Choral Champion five times in Orange and seven times in Bathurst, making BPC the most successful Choral competitor in the 60 year history of the Bathurst Eisteddfod.

Our most successful fundraisers have included pie drives, a 'Voices Only' concert in September 2006, a 'Starring in Texas' Golf Day in 2007 and our annual Luncheon and Craft Display begun in 2007. The Chorus

Bathurst Panorama Cont.

also won a cash prize from Sweet Adelines International for being the fastest growing Midsize Chorus in 2001.

BPC has twice performed on national television, at historic homes in Bathurst, wineries at Mudgee, Australia Day festivities in Orange and Bathurst, annual dinners and awards functions around Central West NSW and as the support act for 'The Idea of North' in Wagga Wagga. They perform Christmas Carols in local shopping centres (with the directors successfully dodging passing shopping trolleys!) but the chorus' most unusual performance venue to date was underground, inside the limestone Lucas Cave at Jenolan Caves, in December 2007. Hearing 'Silent Night' in these unique surroundings was very moving.

Over the last 20 years, the Chorus has lost four dear members, Patti White, Michele Berry, Sue Wickson and Juliet Tilston to stroke, cancers and a tragic accident. The Chorus has held two 'Girls Night In' craft days for cancer fundraising in memory of Michele. Ironically, Sue Wickson's diagnosis came only weeks before the Brisbane 2006 Convention. Her late withdrawal was part of the reason the Chorus was within the cut-off for the Small Chorus division, leading to our Harmony Classic qualification. Sue passed away in September 2007, and our many successes over the past 3 years have all been accompanied by thoughts of Sue.

Future aspirations for our Chorus include a visit to New Zealand, adding to our membership and taking our contest score to 600 and beyond. Our experiences of the past few years have taught us that nothing within our imagination is beyond our reach so watch out for big things from Bathurst Panorama Chorus!



ASC Open the Adelaide Convention, 1998

In November 1987

Nancy Rounsefell

Adelaide Sound Connection

attended a Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the American Women's Association and met another expatriate, Nancy Sickles. Nancy had been a member of Baton Rouge Chorus in Louisiana and wanted to establish a chorus in her new city. The result was a first rehearsal in Nancy's rumpus room in January 1988 attended by 6 women.

Nancy was not only the founder, but acted as musical director, business administrator and source of inspiration. She was greatly missed when she returned to the USA in 1989. However Laura Cram, also a Sweet Adeline (Wilderness Road Chapter in Virginia), came to the rescue and led the chorus to evaluation in Geelong in 1990. Laura continued as Director, and since 1999 has been co-director with Glenys Heinrich and assistant directors Margaret Wong and Engelina de Jong.

In May 1991, the chorus finally reached the magic 20 members, applied for and received our Charter as Adelaide Sunshine Chorus. Ten years later our name was changed to Adelaide Sound Connection. Membership slowly increased to 42 singers by 2008.

The chorus continues to improve, placing 3rd in the Region in 1998 and winning the Most Improved Chorus Award in 2008.

We sing at many Community events such as the Adelaide Eisteddfod, Voices in Harmony, Ladies Choral Festival, and Carols in the Park each Christmas. We also perform at the Festival of 1000 Voices which features a cappella music over a 4 day period in the Adelaide Hills. Film nights, quiz nights, taking a cappella singing to parks, museums, citizenship ceremonies, in boats along the River Torrens and even in the departure lounge at Adelaide airport before our Hobart Convention are among the many events enjoyed by ASC.

So What makes Adelaide Sound Connection Unique?

The camaraderie, positive feeling and great singing are what make it wonderful to be an ASC member. - Debbie

Amazing women with wide ranging life experiences who come together to share a passion for singing - and the quest for Lock & Ring.' - Diane

For me it was open, friendly acceptance and lots of fun that have kept me coming to ASC.' - Kay H

When I joined the Chorus I was hugely impressed by the positive energy and the friendliness of each of the members... More so than competition scores, I feel it is our ability as a chorus to include and embrace new members with a fullness of heart which makes ASC unique.' - Raija



WHC compete in Brisbane, 2006



Wollongong Harmony Chorus

Thrilled by hearing Sydney Town perform at a concert in February 1990, 18 very enthusiastic ladies, led by Betty Parsons, formed a Prospective Chorus under the direction of Diana Russell, a local music teacher. Unfortunately Diana had to resign, so we struggled on, with great support and encouragement from Ruth Williams and STC until October, when the vivacious & dynamic Chris Baratinni from STC became our director. We attended our first coaching weekend all wearing black T-shirts with a vivid green motto WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE WORLD? - we were convinced 4-part harmony could!

Jill Vickery joined the chorus in 1991 and with her physical education and dance background was quickly persuaded to become our choreographer. So now with a Director and Choreographer we were on our way!

We Chartered in November 1991 and in June 1992, 25 members travelled 'Up, Up and Away' to compete in Perth and gained 7th place. It was a true 'Oh Wow' experience! How enthusiastic but green we were!



Early days with Diana Russell

However 'life wasn't meant to be easy' and in September, Chris Baratinni had to leave due to family commitments. When our next Director, Yvonne McColl, was forced to resign due to ill health, one of the foundation members, Betty Nicol, was persuaded to take up the challenge with the proviso that we keep looking for a more experienced director.

1995 proved to be a momentous year as Rose Philipson from Central Coast Chorus became our Director. Thus began a period when, under the skilful guidance of Rose and Jill, we worked hard and reaped the rewards by way of ever-increasing musical standards and membership. In fact, in 1999 our treasurer Betty Thomas was ecstatic to receive a cheque from International President Kathy Carmody for \$4,899.22 as 1st prize for Membership Growth & Retention in the organisation.

Unfortunately, in 2001 we lost Rose and our president Therese Cooney due to personal reasons. We sincerely regretted her resignation, but just had to 'pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off...' Then serendipity! Peter Nugus, a talented musician and teacher, became our new Director and we did start all over again!

WHC have competed in 9 Regional Competitions in our 18 years. We won the Most Improved Chorus Award in 1998, coming 3rd place overall, then twice won the Mid-Size Chorus Division and 2nd overall.

The most exciting and exhausting convention was in 2002 when we hosted the 7th Regional Convention in Wollongong. It was our Dare to Dream year... Jill Vickery was the very capable CRC, with her assistant, Jann McNeill and a very enthusiastic committee. As hosts, we were exhausted by the time we filed onto the stage, but it's amazing what a tails suit and adrenaline will do. We won 1st place mid-size chorus, 2nd place overall & our director Peter won the Novice Director's Award - you're never too tired to celebrate!

Over the next few years, for many reasons, the chorus worked under the leadership of several Directors, each bringing their own style and expertise to the education of the chorus. We are grateful to have learned from Karen Wilmott, Gay Curran, Rob Smith, and as of March 2006 our current Director Jan McCarthy.

Area Steering Committees – 1989 to 1999

R: Regent VR: Vice Regent DMA: Director of Musical Activities FM: Financial Manager MDR: Membership Development Representative MAL: Member At Large

REGIONAL LEADERS

Regional Management Teams: 1999-2007

CTC: Communications & Technology Coordinator DC: Directors' Coordinator EdC: Education Coordinator EvC: Events Coordinator FC: Finance Coordinator MMC: Marketing & Membership Coordinator ChC: Chapter Coordinator TC: Team Coordinator

Regional Management Teams: 2007- 2010

CoC: Communications Coordinator DC: Directors' Coordinator EdC: Education Coordinator EvC: Events Coordinator FC: Finance Coordinator MkC: Marketing Coordinator MeC: Membership Coordinator TC: Team Coordinator

Wollongong Harmony cont.

We've had Virginia Humphrey-Taylor as coach and mentor over the years, inspiring members of the chorus to 'cross the pond' on several occasions. 28 members travelled to Wellington in 1999 to sing for Assessment in their Regional Competition. In 2004 and again in 2007, some WHC singers had the awesome experience of singing with Christchurch Chorus on the International competition stage, with the bonus being their 9th Place finish in Calgary!

In 2007 the Turkish Friendship Society in Wollongong asked us to participate in their Anzac Day Friendship for Life Celebrations by singing the Turkish and Australian National Anthems. The Turkish National Anthem is very stirring and we had no trouble with the melody but there followed many weeks of coaching in Turkish pronunciation! We received a wonderfully warm and appreciative reception from the Turkish people and it was very moving to be part of an event where two former enemies could unite in harmony.

Looking back over 18 years, as with most choruses, we've had our share of highs and lows. We've had a number of Directors, and continuity now would be a really wonderful thing for us, but we have a warm and friendly, fun-loving chorus, always striving for musical excellence, with a never-say-die attitude in this hobby which for many has become, if not an obsession, at least 'a way of life' So ---- Carpe Diem!

Jenny Frohlich	VR 1989-1994
Marian Reinsch	DMA 1989-1990, R 1990-1992
Chad Fydler	FM 1989-1991
Ruth Williams	MDR (Extension Coordinator) 1989-1991, MAL 1994-1995, R 1992-1994
Cathy Rainey	MAL (Special Projects) 1989-1990, DMA 1990-1995, DC 1999-2001
Jocelyn Gray	MAL 1989-1990, FM 1991-1992
Margaret Richards	MDR 1991-1996, EvC 2000-2002, ChC 2002-2004
Robyn Nayler	FM 1992-1994, R 1994-1996, MDR 1996-1997, DC 2001-2003
Doris Ward	MAL 1992-1993
Rose Philipson	MAL 1993-1995, DMA 1995-1998
Rae Knight	MAL 1993-1994, FM 1995-1996, R 1996-1999, EvC 2006-2010
Sarnie Hay	MAL 1995-1996, MDR 1997-1999, MMC 1999-2000
Lauris Clota	MAL 1995-1996
Fay Baker	FM 1996-1999
Linda Wareham	MAL 1996-1997, VR 1997-1999, CTC 1999-2003, TC 2005-2006, EdC 2006-2010
Brenda Smith	MAL 1997-1999, ChC 1999-2000
Jill Harris	DMA 1998-1999, EdC 1999-2002
Jan Butterworth	EvC 1999-2000
Betty Thomas	FC 1999-2001
Lorraine Clark	TC 1999-2003
Lorraine Stackpoole	MMC 2000-2002, EdC 2002-2004
Val Norris	ChC 2000-2002
Margaret Muller	FC 2001-2003, CTC 2003-2005
Vicki Donnelly	EvC 2002-2006
Jennifer Bullen	MMC 2002-2004
Lea Baker	DC 2003-2005
Di Godwin	FC 2003-2005
Kris Dodd	TC 2003-2005
Jo Oosterhoff	EdC 2004-2005
Jill Wardrop	MMC 2004-2007, MkC 2007-2008
Mary Leonard	ChC 2004-2007
Karen Beaton	CTC 2005-2007
Susan Lansdown	EdC 2005-2006
Lindsey Dyer	DC 2005-2010
Annette Connolly	FC 2005-2009
Sandy O'Neill	TC 2006-2010
Linda Watt Smith	CoC 2007-2010
Elidia Rymer	MeC 2007-2010
Anita Cleaver	MkC 2008-2010
Jennifer Grauer	FC 2009-2011

Thanks to all our Regional Leaders, past and present, for a wonderful 20 years!

1992 UP, UP AND AWAY!

The year got off to an excellent start when Central Coast Harmony (a.k.a. Coastal A Cappella), received their Charter on 4th February.

In 1988 Perth Harmony Chorus had organised the first in a series of visits to 3 WA regional centres. Over several years, Northam, Albany and Geraldton hosted a concert featuring PHC and its quartets followed the next day by a workshop for interested singers. In each case, a Prospective Chorus was formed and 2 of these WA choruses chartered this year: on 1st May Avon Valley Harmony chartered and on 5th June Rainbow Harmony, later to become Albany City, received their charter. Sadly, both choruses have since dissolved, but not before many happy years of singing and participating in conventions and other Sweet Adeline events.

May also brought changes to the Area Steering Committee (ASC). Ruth Williams and Cathy Rainey came in as Regent and DMA after attending a training course in Tulsa, as International now felt it was necessary to bring personnel from all the Worldwide Areas and train them in Tulsa prior to taking up their positions. This was the first time travel costs were covered for international travel. Robyn Naylor and Doris Ward also joined the committee.

The ASC decided that the winning quartet and chorus would receive 50% of the area profit from the Convention in the ratio of 25% to the quartet and 75% to the chorus to enable them to compete at International in 1993.

In June, after many months of preparation by the Perth Convention Committee, and in particular Competition Coordinator Jan Butterworth and Rae Knight, almost 400 delegates headed 'Up, Up and Away' at the 2nd Australian Convention at Observation City, overlooking the Indian Ocean.



Judges, Carolyn Butler & Bev Sellers (in her Akubra).

To follow the theme, decorations included a room full of balloons as well as large paper sunflowers, having 'bloomed' from the Geelong Convention. Marge Bailey's arrangement of Up, Up and Away was a feature of the weekend.

There were 12 quartets and 10 choruses competing with 2 or 3 quartets being evaluated. What enormous growth there had been in the Area since 1990! The value of regular musical and administrative visits was amply demonstrated.

Melbourne Chorus again won the chorus competition, followed by Perth Harmony 2nd and Sydney Town 3rd. In the quartet competition, Mischief Down Under, looking stunning in their tuxedos and gold bow ties and cummerbunds, won their 2nd gold medal, Hot Gossip won silver and Fascinatin' Rhythm, the bronze.

Our judges were Bev Sellers and Carolyn Butler. Fond memories of Bev wearing the Akubra she was given have remained with us as just 3 weeks later she died in a tragic accident.

Later that year we were treated to another visit by Ann Gooch, but this time as an added bonus, she brought along her quartet, La Fiesta. The group performed in shows and ran workshops in Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.



Mischief win their 2nd Gold

Timeline →

Feb 1992
Coastal A Cappella chartered as Central Coast Harmony Chorus

May 1992
Avon Valley Harmony receive their charter.

June 1992
Albany City chartered as Rainbow Harmony.
Convention held in Perth.

Aug 1992
La Fiesta perform and teach in Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.



We originally formed when a small group of ladies went to hear Sydney Town Chorus at a concert in Gosford in 1989. After contacting Sweet Adelines to find out how we could be part of this wonderful art form, we began rehearsing in one of the girl's lounge rooms with Director Rene Findlay.

Coastal A Cappella

We were excited to become a Prospective Chorus in 1990 and chose the name of Central Coast Harmony Chorus. We now had 18 ladies and had graduated to a local church hall in Gosford.

In 1992, we chartered with 33 members. Our first President was Wilma Walsh and with Rene as our Director, we decided to 'jump right in' and compete in our first contest in Perth later that same year.

In April 1995 our founding Music Director Rene stepped aside to take on some new challenges. She had been a wonderful stalwart for our chorus. Meantime Thayer Donaldson, a fabulous Bass, had joined our chorus. Thayer has great musical ability and before she knew it, she was taking up the directing reins and leading us into the next phase of our Sweet Adeline lives. We have now had the pleasure of competing in 9 contests and are looking forward to number 10 in Hobart, 2009.

In 2007 our Chorus branched out, forming two choruses. We who remained Central Coast Harmony Chorus decided to also take on a name change to Coastal a Cappella, and Linda Wareham became our Director.

Wow, what a great journey we are having! We have a group of 29 very committed singers, and feel the sky is the limit. The future can only be great for Coastal a Cappella.

Judging In Australia

With many thanks to these ladies, many of whom sat through the longest quartet and chorus contests in the world! Your words of encouragement and advice have helped us grow...

- 1990 Sylvia Alsbury, Betty Tracey
- 1992 Carolyn Butler, Bev Sellers
- 1994 Ann Gooch, Dixie Dahlke, Carole Kirkpatrick, Kathy Conley
- 1996 Carolyn Butler, Dixie Dahlke, Nancy Field, Diane Porsch
- 1998 Sharon Babb, June Berg, Marcia Massey, Mary Ellen Florence
- 2000 Lynnell Diamond, Judy Ashmore, Nancy Field, Sue Beck
- 2002 Pat LeVezu, Joni Bescos, Vickie Maybury, Ida Bilodeau
- 2004 Carolyn Healy, Jackie Hall, Char Gurney, Carolyn Davis
- 2005 Marsha Fulton, Sandy Robinson, Jo Lund, Barb Neilson
- 2006 Beth Smith, Renee Porzel, Lynnell Diamond, Joan Levitin
- 2007 June Berg, Ruth Ann Parker, Karen Sweeters, Gina Hodges-Kaiser
- 2008 Dale Syverson, Susan Kegley, Peggy Gram, Dixie Dahlke
- 2009 Melanie Wroe, Bobbette Gantz, Carole Kirkpatrick, Lynnell Diamond

Lea Baker

Candidate Judge, Expression Category

Ever wondered what the judges are REALLY looking for? Lea Baker, Director of Endeavour Harmony, decided to find out. In 2004 she embarked on what is, on average, a 12 year program to become a Certified Judge. Her first step was to pass a series of exams just to be accepted into the program and she was approved as a Candidate in the Expression Category. Her 'job' in training is now to sit behind 'the' judges and trial score in as many competitions as possible. She then receives feedback on her scoring and comments.

Of course, travel and attendance at conventions is at her own expense, and needless to say there are added challenges when living so far from most competitions. However, Lea feels it has been a wonderful learning experience and she now feels she has a much better idea of 'what the judges are REALLY looking for.'



Lea assists Sharon Babb, Spring Into Action '05

1993 AUSSIES IN INDIANAPOLIS

Southern Sounds Chorus

Mornington Bay Chorus began after a local quartet named 'Seagals' attended the Perth Convention and were inspired to form a Chorus. Nine women attended the original rehearsal at the home of Musical Director Lauris Clota.

As numbers increased, rehearsals continued at the Mornington Secondary College, where singers serenaded basketballers, children, mosquitoes and flies in summer and in winter were deluged by waterfalls from leaking windows.

Members of the Melbourne Chorus advised us on chartering; directing tips came from Robyn Naylor and administrative advice from Marian Reinsch. With a healthy membership of 24 we formed a Prospective Chorus and Chartered on 10th May 1993.

With continued inspiration from Melbourne Chorus, we began performing locally and headed for convention in Sydney in 1994. The

Chorus came away from their first competition inspired and excited. There were others just like us all over Australia! A workshop on Phillip Island later that year with Cathy Rainey at the helm was helpful in controlling the 'Von Crapp Singers' (a skit with a dose of reality!)

In 1996, a name change to Southern Sounds Chorus reflected a wider membership and audience, and Marian Reinsch offered to direct - short term. She stayed for four years! Marian took the chorus to national competitions in Adelaide and Perth.

1997 saw the Chorus practising in earnest for the 1998 convention in Adelaide, with a workshop at Glenmaggie, but we were very saddened at the sudden death of Marian's husband Don. He was

During this year Rose Philipson and Rae Knight joined the Area Steering Committee (ASC) and Regent Ruth, DMA Cathy and MDR Robyn traveled to International Headquarters in Tulsa for meetings and training.

The Mornington Bay Chorus, later to become Southern Sounds, was presented their Charter in May by International Faculty member Marykaye Morgan. Lauris Clota was the Director and her sister Bet Shingler the President.

In June a Directors' and Administrators' Seminar was held at Naamaroo in NSW. Choruses were invited to send their Director and President along for this leaders' weekend to work with and learn from International Faculty members Marge Zimmerman, Karen Briedert and Dede Nibbler.

For the first time, Australia had a representative competing at the International Chorus Competition! Our Area Champions, the Melbourne Chorus, had worked very hard, both musically and fundraising and travelled to Indianapolis via Salt Lake City. Mischief Down Under were also there to make their second appearance on the International stage. The American Convention audiences were beginning to recognize the unique Oz cheers and many joined in.



Karen Briedert



Lauris Clota directs the chorus in the early years...

Timeline →

May 1993

Southern Sounds chartered as Mornington Bay Chorus.

June 1993

Directors' & Administrators' Seminar held in NSW.

Oct 1993

Melbourne Chorus and Mischief Down Under represent Australia in Indianapolis, USA.

Southern Sounds Cont.

a much-loved supporter and the only man at this workshop, giving his gentle advice as a member of The Melbournaires whilst lighting the fire for a barbeque.

Despite the Director's absence, the Chorus found that fill-in directors and ultimately our assistant Director Doreen Watson led them admirably. This gave them confidence through difficult times, and Marian began to train section leaders in earnest, helping the Chorus grow stronger and become more competent. Burnie Cureton also coached the Chorus on its competition songs in the lead up to Convention. An improved score and ranking seemed to justify the busy lead-up.

In 1999 Southern Sounds Chorus entered the Waverly Eisteddfod, gaining an 'Honourable Mention'. The judge noted the sound was 'rich, fluid, soft and warm'. The rationale was to create competition-type performances - it was hoped that this would help competition nerves!

Our beloved Marian resigned in 2000, and Lorraine Stackpoole took over in 2001, taking the chorus to competitions in Wollongong, Adelaide and Brisbane. Lorraine was very committed, travelling over an hour each Tuesday for seven years.

The Chorus has kept busy with many memorable performances and annual weekend retreats with guest coach. These coaches include Rose Magee, Cathy Rainey and Vicki Dwyer.

In October 2007, Southern Sounds welcomed a new director, Catherine Bechaz. A website was also launched which has been a fantastic learning tool for members, including sign-up sheets, learning recordings and educational tools. It is also a resource for prospective members and for those looking to book performances.

A Diva's Vocal skills program in 2008 attracted over 30 participants. Vocal lessons were undertaken by Catherine, and a good number of participants have stayed on. A new repertoire is being learnt, and a new venue found where risers can be left up. Southern Sounds Chorus looks forward to a continuing rosy future within the local community of Frankston and surrounds.



Catherine Bechaz directs the chorus at a workshop in May 2008

Déjà vu: A Cautionary Tale

Have you heard the one about the quartet who never sang?

Four splendid women committed to the concept of a fun quartet! No auditions - just fun and the occasional song for family parties. The alarm bells should have rung when the first costume was purchased (a beautiful bejewelled collar from Harmony Bazaar) before the first note had been sung!

The music had enough moments of greatness for others to begin to promote the idea of auditioning so they could be a 'proper' quartet, but the real fun was in the matching 'jammies, toothbrushes, tees (casual & dress), shoes, drinking glasses, picnic chairs and yes... reading glasses! Oh to be a fly on the wall, when one of the Déjà's bartered for four matching gold sequined G-strings from a poor little man in Phuket!!



Rehearsal nights were spent working and laughing hysterically, frequently dashing to the Mazda where the acoustics and sound system made them sound really, REALLY good!

Convinced that they should audition, Déjà vu sounded superb in the change rooms as they warmed up and polished their patter and image to an inch of its life!

The audition was VERY entertaining, they loved us AND we looked fabulous DARLING, but otherwise it was rubbish!

And that's the end of the story! Those women never sang together in a quartet again - they still seek fours of things when buying cards - but the spotlights went out on the dream.

The moral of the tale is - just enjoy what you do the best way you can!

1994 THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!



Opening Ceremony - Judges in the front, STC in costume, Jeanie Little on the right.

Two more choruses received their charters this year as the area continued to grow, spreading both north and south. The sunflower seeds sown in Geelong in 1990 fell on fertile ground and blossomed into the Geelong Harmony Chorus, chartering on the 1st of May. They were followed in September by Sunshine Coast Chorus who have recently changed their name to Hot Ginger. As well as new choruses being formed, three established choruses, Gold Coast, Mornington Bay and Wollongong, each won \$1000 in the International Membership Incentive Scheme.



SWEET ADELINES
INTERNATIONAL
3rd AUSTRALIAN AREA CONVENTION
10 - 13 JUNE 1994
SYDNEY

In June, Sydney Town Chorus welcomed us all to the Hilton in true Broadway style for our 3rd convention, themed 'That's Entertainment'. The spectacular Opening Ceremony had STC dressed in glittery tuxedo costumes with bowler hats coming onto the stage decorated with huge glittering stars and featured none other than the sparkling 'Dahling' of Australian entertainment, Jeanie Little, as MC.

Although eleven choruses sang for the judges, the top three places were once again Perth Harmony, Melbourne and Sydney Town. However this time Perth won the gold, with Melbourne awarded silver. Sydney Town not only won a bronze medal but was also named the Most Improved Chorus. The Small Chorus Award was inaugurated and presented to Avon Valley Chorus (just 2 years after their chartering). The number of quartets had grown to the point that medals were awarded for the first time to the top five, with Mischief Down Under adding to their collection of gold medals.

It was a good year for WA, taking out 1st place chorus, 1st place small chorus, and the top 4 quartets: Mischief Down Under, Hot Gossip, Spellbound and Fascinat' Rhythm.

The Mass Sing created quite a stir on the waterfront at the recently re-developed Darling Harbour, before everyone headed home.

Several workshops were held during the year, including 'What is this thing called barbershop' in NSW in March, an August Admin School in NSW, and a workshop in Victoria in October. In November, International Faculty member Betty Tracey (Clipman) returned to do a 15 day tour of Australia and managed to visit every chartered chorus during her time here.



Carole, Cathy, Barb and Sue:
Mischief Down Under outshine us all... again!

Timeline →

May 1994

Geelong Harmony Chorus chartered.

June 1994

Convention in Sydney: 'That's Entertainment'

Sep 1994

Hot Ginger chartered as Sunshine Coast Chorus.

Nov 1994

Betty Tracey (Clipman) visits every chartered chorus in Australia.



When the inaugural Sweet Adelines Convention was held in Geelong in June 1990, it caught the eyes (and ears) of a small group of women. With Gwyneth Powell as director, the group of 12 gradually increased their numbers and began performing the barbershop style of singing in and around Geelong. They received their charter in May of 1994 just in time to sing for evaluation at the Sydney Convention.

Geelong Harmony Chorus

Eisteddfods became regular events for us as we usually scored well and came home with trophies and money. We have also performed in a number of wonderful venues, outdoors as well as inside, and had some unique experiences. Among these, the Queenscliff Ferry promotion - singing as the ferry arrived and the motor bikes alighted, and singing in the pre Commonwealth Games program at Geelong in 2005. An emotional experience was to sing a collection of songs for the 'Andrew Love Centre' in 2007, on a balmy evening at Eastern Park beach for cancer survivors, friends and families who have been touched by cancer.

Many and varied fundraisers, together with donations and grants from the Geelong Council, have all helped to keep the chorus functioning as well as entertaining and promoting Chorus in the community.

Geelong Harmony has been fortunate that the membership has stayed around 40. This is due to the friendly atmosphere created by its members and directors. Gwyneth stayed with the chorus for eight years despite having to travel from Melbourne for practice nights and sing-outs. With the support of her husband, Cliff, she encouraged the development of quartets, and directed the Chorus at the Gold Coast and Adelaide Conventions.

We were sad when Gwyneth retired but she left us in good hands. Mary Johnston, a chorus member, took on the job in early 1999. Mary was a busy doctor with a young family, and we appreciated all her time and efforts. As well as singing in a quartet, Mary directed us in competitions in Perth, Wollongong and lastly at the Adelaide Convention in 2004 where we came 3rd in the small chorus section.

Prior to the convention, Mary had informed us she intended retiring. We were disappointed but understood her reasons. Joan Humphrey our assistant director kept us working hard during the search for a new Director and in March 2007 we gained the expertise of Lucy Jones. Lucy went through a sharp learning curve but was assisted by Joan in the transition phase.

Lucy directed us at conventions in Brisbane and Hobart where we came 3rd in the midsize section and 5th nationally. Two of our quartets also did very well.

The Chorus recognises that we have a multi talented director, willing to try new things and take us in different directions. We look forward to the coming year and next Convention. However, the main aim is friendship, singing together and creating the most wonderful sound. This is the best reward of all.



On a retreat, 2007



*Current director,
Carole Locke*

Hot Ginger

The Chorus started rehearsals on 23rd November 1991 in the home of our Musical Director Mike Ivess, who at that time was also Director of the Sunshine Statesmen Men's Chorus. In 1992 three Area Committee Members, Marian Reinsch, Margaret Richards and Jenny Frohlich visited our chorus to offer assistance with the steps to becoming Sweet Adelines.

In June of 1994 we attended our first convention in Sydney and sang for evaluation. Then on 26th September of that year we were chartered with 21 singers and celebrated on board a cruise boat on the Mooloolah River with a representative of the Gold Coast Chorus joining us for the occasion.

Since that time we have competed in four Conventions: Gold Coast in 1996, Perth in 2000, Adelaide in 2004 and Brisbane in 2006. As a result of a large influx of new members in 2007, the Chorus is focusing on competing at the 2009 Convention in Hobart.

One of our favourite convention memories is one many Sweet Adelines will relate to: Dawn McGregor removed her annoying false eyelashes after a performance, and for safe keeping, put them on the side of her dinner plate. When she realised their absence after restaurant staff had cleared our table, she raced out to the kitchen and retrieved them!

The Chorus has benefited greatly from the dedication and enthusiasm of all its past Musical Directors: Dawn McGregor, Elizabeth Rigby, Paula Banfield, Margaret Thomson and Gwen Dunn. In December 2005 Carole Locke moved to our district from the UK and was appointed our Musical Director. Her energetic and exciting directing style together with a new and varied repertoire, have contributed to our chorus's increase in membership and subsequent bigger and better sound.

Our chorus has always enjoyed performing and have had ample opportunities to entertain in all sorts of venues on all sorts of occasions!

Of course fundraising is another vital part of chorus life. Aside from many such activities, we are particularly grateful to our talented team of grant writers Pam, Vicki and Jayne, who successfully obtained a large grant from the Queensland Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund. This enabled us to purchase much needed new risers and sound equipment.

The greatest achievements of our chorus so far have been reaching almost 50 members in the past year which include seven members of 14 years standing on the risers! Our membership goal is to have a chorus of 60 committed members.

In line with our exciting growth and updated image, we have recently had a chorus name change approved by International and are now called HOT GINGER!

Our ultimate chorus goal is to be the immediate 'MUST HAVE' group of singers/entertainers any Events Coordinator thinks of when a significant event is being programmed on the Sunshine Coast.



Backstage before a show.

1995 SWEET ADELINES' 50TH



The International Mass Sing, outside the Super Bowl, New Orleans.

Once again the performance of an experienced chorus, in this case Melbourne, had captured the fancy of a group of women and led to the chartering of Wagga Wagga Harmony Chorus in May of this year. They would later change their name to Murrumbidgee Magic.

In the first half of the year, a variety of educational opportunities were available with separate visits from three International faculty. Jan Muck ran weekend workshops in NSW and WA in March; Marge Zimmerman did leadership and admin training in NSW and VIC in June; and Sharon Babb visited and coached choruses in July.

Mischief Down Under again represented Australia and Perth Harmony Chorus became the 2nd chorus in our Region to compete on the International stage when they traveled to New Orleans for the 50th Anniversary of SAI. As the chorus had drawn position #30 (of 30) in the competition, they wore t-shirts with the slogan 'It ain't over til Perth sings'. What a thrill for them to perform in front of more than 10 000 Sweet Adelines, including a large contingent from Down Under, in the infamous Super Bowl!!! (Many years later, they watched with interest when news reports after Hurricane Katrina showed this same Super Bowl with hundreds of evacuees.) 'But wait, there's more', as the saying goes, and PHC were ecstatic to win the 'Harmony Achievement Award'. This is awarded to the highest scoring 'small' chorus, where maximum numbers are calculated on the day based on the sizes of all competing choruses.

Another memorable moment during the weekend took place during the Worldwide Celebration Show when PHC were joined on stage by other Australian Sweet Adelines to form a chorus of 130 voices to sing I Am Australian. The first verse was sung as a solo by Robyn Nayler, Mischief Down Under sang the second, then the full chorus joining in for the rest of the song.



Perth Harmony on stage at the Super Bowl, in their 'fairy dresses'...

There were lumps in throats and goosebumps on arms both on and off the stage as a result of this very special performance.



Timeline →

Mar 1995
Jan Muck runs workshops in NSW and WA.

May 1995
Murrumbidgee Magic chartered as Wagga Wagga Harmony Chorus.

Jun/Jul 1995
Marge Zimmerman teaches in NSW & Vic. Sharon Babb visits choruses.

Oct 1995
Mischief & PHC compete in New Orleans; PHC wins Harmony Achievement Award.

Murrumbidgee Magic was founded in 1992 after Jill Harris saw the Melbourne Chorus' winning performance at the National Voices Festival held in Wagga Wagga. The chorus had 'something to sing about' in February 1992 at their first meeting to formally establish the chorus.

Chorus numbers grew and public performances began with a Soroptimists charity dinner. They

became recognised as part of the Wagga Wagga musical scene, singing to raise money for charities, at garden parties, weddings, Australia Day Ceremonies and Seniors Week Celebrations. They also competed in choral championships and eisteddfods. Membership steadily grew, and with coaching from Melbourne Chorus' director, Marian Reinsch, they worked toward charter, which was presented by Sweet Adelines faculty members, Sharon Babb and Marge Zimmerman, in Wagga Wagga in 1995.



Murrumbidgee Magic

Chapter At Large

Occasionally a Sweet Adeline finds that for whatever reason, she is unable or does not wish to continue her membership in a chorus but wants to remain a Sweet Adeline. It could be for reasons as varied as moving, going back to study, family illness or 'just too busy!' One option in these circumstances is to transfer her membership to Chapter At Large or CAL until such time as she may wish to transfer back to a chorus. She retains all the privileges of Regional and International membership so can access education and compete with a quartet.

In Region 34 we are lucky to have a number of CALs who expend their energy on behalf of the Region. Some (of many) examples which spring to mind are Fay Baker and Jenny Fay who coordinate the DCP and SCRAP programs respectively, Alexa Blonner, who originated the SCRAP and of course our Events Coordinator Rae Knight.



Rae Knight & Dale Syverson

At the National Voices Festival (1996), the chorus organised a 'Barbershop Bonanza' featuring quartet champions, Mischief Down Under from Perth, and ran a successful barbershop workshop at Charles Sturt University.

At the national Sweet Adelines Convention in Adelaide in 1998, Wagga Wagga Harmony Chorus won the Small Chorus award and the award for Most Improved Chorus.

In 2003 the chorus changed its name to Murrumbidgee Magic. The members of the chorus are, as Jill would say, 'Show Ponies'. They love an audience and that is when they do their best! An exciting out-of-town performance took place in 2006 when Murrumbidgee Magic and Bathurst Panorama choruses joined forces, performing with 'The Idea of North' as featured guests.

After winning Division A (Small Chorus) medals at convention in Hobart in 2008, the chorus appeared to a capacity audience in a 'Combined Choirs Spectacular Charity Concert' appearing with the Australian Rugby Male Choir, The Wagga Rugby Male Choir and Wagga's African Singers.

"In the early years we stood on wooden risers - a bit of a balancing act - if you left your spot too quickly, the girl on the other end toppled off (like a see-saw). When the Chorus purchased our first PROPER risers, we felt SO professional!" - Maureen

They have benefited from many wonderful international coaches, including Sharon Babb, Ann Gooch, Dixie Dahlke, Sandy Robinson, Jim Massey and Marge Bailey. Great regional coaches visiting include Cathy Rainey, Rose McGee, Tracey Cam, Lea Baker, Vicki Dwyer, Laurel Santry, Carole Macintyre, Brenda Smith and Robyn Nayler. In the early days, Marian Reinsch was a marvelous help in setting the chorus on the right musical path.

"I have never felt so welcomed, as I have from this extraordinary group of women who share the joy of singing and harmony and provide each other with mutual support, including sharing highs and lows of each other's personal journeys." - Sue

1996 HARMONY IN PARADISE

This was a very busy year with the chartering of no fewer than 5 choruses up and down the east coast as well as holding our 4th Regional Convention on the Gold Coast of Queensland.

Riverland Harmony started the regional year off by receiving their charter papers on the 3rd January. In March they were joined in their celebrations by Brindabella in the ACT, Circular Keys in NSW, and Sounds of the Surf in Queensland.

In June the scene was set at Conrad Jupiters for 'Harmony in Paradise'. The opening ceremony featured Gold Coast Harmony Chorus, resplendent in floral costumes, welcoming Sweet Adelines to Paradise. But what really 'brought the house down' was four barefoot surf lifesavers, complete with caps and speedos, flexing their muscles across the stage!

Six choruses competed for the first time and one performed for evaluation. The friendly rivalry between Melbourne and Perth Harmony continued with Melbourne winning gold this time and Perth coming second. Some new names appeared on

the Leader Board by way of Bathurst Panorama winning 3rd place and Wollongong Harmony named Most Improved. Avon Valley Harmony again showed that quality doesn't always require quantity by winning the Small Chorus Award for the 2nd time.

Quarteting in the region continued to grow, with 17 competitors in this category. Mischief Down Under once again demonstrated their considerable barbershop skills and were clear winners, and Fascinatn' Rhythm won the first of their silver medals, followed by Hi Gloss, Razor Sharp and Forecast Fine.

In August Queensland registered their 3rd chorus when Redland Rhapsody received their Charter.



Our judges find out what a 'pressie' is...

Affectionately known as 'The Wendy' this award is presented to the novice quartet scoring highest at Region 34's annual competition.

Wendy was the quintessential Sweet Adeline. Her love for the organisation, Perth Harmony and quarteting, was reflected in her unstinting enthusiasm and commitment. Twice President of PHC, she was ambitious in her goals for the chorus, many of which are still being realised years after her sudden tragic death in 1995. The last of these is for PHC to win at International!

Wendy drew up Standing Rules for PHC and was also closely involved in developing the Standing Rules for the original Area Management Team.

Her contribution was recognised by the Team who accepted the offer of a perpetual trophy from Wendy's daughter Louise. A new Novice Quartet Award was created in 1996 to reflect Wendy's passion for quarteting and has been presented each year by Michelle Todd, Lead singer in her quartet Spellbound who placed 3rd in Sydney in 1994.

The Wendy Middleton Award



Spellbound: Chris, Rose, Michelle & Wendy

Timeline →

Jan 1996
Riverland Harmony Chorus chartered.

Mar 1996
Brindabella Chorus, Sounds of the Surf Chorus and Circular Keys Chorus chartered.

Jun 1996
4th Convention at Conrad Jupiter's on the Gold Coast: 'Harmony in Paradise'

Aug 1996
Redland Rhapsody Chorus chartered.



Riverland Harmony Chorus

Riverland Harmony Chorus, originally Riverland Belles, began in Emu Plains NSW in November 1992. Gaylene Watkins from Sydney Town Chorus began directing a chorus of ten women at the Uniting Church in Penrith, where the ladies carefully constructed their risers from fruit boxes.

The Riverland Belles' first performance was July 1993 at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre when local men's chorus, The Riverland Ramblers, invited the Belles to be part of their concert. By July 1994 the chorus had been renamed Riverland Harmony, Gaylene had departed, and Neryll Liston had become our Musical Director. In January 1996, Riverland Harmony chartered with Sweet Adelines International with 21 members and one prospective, 14 of whom are still members today.

RHC first competed at Convention on the Gold Coast in June 1996 and we can boast that in four consecutive competitions we improved our score every time by a significant number of points. Another important achievement was winning the First Place Chapter Growth Award for mid-size choruses in 2002.

Many people, both locally and further afield, have been entertained by RHC. Amongst our most prestigious performances have been the Premier's Christmas Concert at the Sydney Entertainment Centre and An Evening of Entertainment for the Women's Christian Convention.

RHC has enjoyed working with a range of visiting coaches at rehearsals and retreats. We've had visits from Ann Gooch, Carol Kirkpatrick and Kim Kraut, but we love getting all the knowledge we can from our more local experts. Cathy Rainey, Vicky Dwyer, Lindsey Dyer, Carole Macintyre, Rose McGee and Jill Vickery have offered great support, wonderful ideas and amazing tuition that have allowed each of us to improve our skills.

Riverland Harmony prides itself on its penchant for socialising together. Celebration nights after Convention or a big performance are held at a local Irish Pub, favourite fundraisers include Trivia Nights and Winery Tours and chorus retreats and annual Christmas parties are famous for the hilarious acts that we put on. But without doubt, the most important event on our social calendar occurs upon conclusion of the Chorus Competition at Convention... *The Riverland Harmony Chorus Pyjama Party*. But... what goes on at that party, stays at that party!



The women in RHC come from a wide range of ages and backgrounds. Over the years we have formed close friendships and support networks through births, deaths and marriages. We have characters who make us laugh so hard we cry, those who get the choreography back to front, and those who organise everything from our weekly rehearsal suppers to fundraisers. We have a Music Team encouraging us to achieve our personal best and a hardworking Board ensuring the management of affairs runs smoothly. Without doubt all our members have had their lives enriched by simply being a part of the Riverland Harmony Chorus.



Brindabella Chorus is located in Canberra, the national capital of Australia. The chorus takes its name from the range of hills to the west of the Australian Capital Territory, and reflects the fact that members come from all around the region, not just the city of Canberra.

Brindabella Chorus

Barbershop in Canberra started with a mixed chorus (shock! horror!) under the guise of the Barbershop Harmony Club of Canberra. In 1990, it was decided that we should split into two separate choruses in order for the men to compete in the first AAMBS convention. Brindabella Chorus was established in 1991 with just two members, Leonie and Glenda. Having only two of us made it a little tough to sing four part harmony, but we were soon joined by other enthusiastic singers and we were on our way!

We sang for assessment at the Sydney convention in 1994, and we were chartered in 1996, just in time for the Gold Coast convention in June. We marked this occasion by coming resoundingly last! However, since that time, we have sung at seven more conventions, and have increased our score on each occasion. In 2007 at regional convention in Brisbane, we surprised ourselves enormously by improving by another 75 points, achieving a B score and being awarded first place midsize chorus and second place overall!

We are a relatively young chorus in a city with a transient population. Over the years we've worked with the triumphs and troubles that this brings. We had eleven babies born to chorus members between 1993 and 1999, including two to director Glenda. One of those 'babies', Aisha, is fifteen and now sings in our baritone section! Between 1999 and 2008 we sang at the weddings of eight chorus members. We have at least twelve former members singing in choruses in other cities and even other countries after leaving Canberra for work purposes – and have had only one Sweet Adeline move to Canberra and join us, which seems a bit unfair!

We are very proud of our achievements. We are the only chorus in Australia to have increased our score in six consecutive performances at convention - and we're hoping to maintain this tradition in Hobart in 2009. We have record levels of attendance at regional events; we're hungry to learn, and we know this is one of the things that will help us! Twenty three members, more than a third of our chorus, attended International Convention in Hawaii in November 2008, with five of us singing as dual members with Perth Harmony.

We're becoming more active in the region, as well. Our director Glenda Lloyd has been on the Regional Education Faculty since 1999. We're represented on the Regional Management Team by Marketing Coordinator Anita Cleaver, and this year's Chair of Regional Convention Jennifer Lloyd and Competition Coordinator Julia Woodruff are members of Brindabella.

We have delighted in introducing hundreds of women in the Canberra region to the barbershop art form through our highly successful Christmas Chorus program. We've held this event four times now, and each time we have between 120 and 250 registrants! Many of these women come back year after year to join us in singing carols.

We love being Sweet Adelines, and we're very proud to be members of the Australian Region as it celebrates its 20th birthday!

Circular Keys Chorus



Among the 78 beaming CKC members who strode on stage to 'Feel the Beat' in Hobart in 2008, there were 11 who had an extra special reason to feel proud. Those women competed at the chorus' very first convention at the Gold Coast in 1996 - and they've been singing with the chorus ever since.

One was Doris Ward, who had been involved in various choirs since childhood, and in 1995

saw the need for a local chorus in the Hills district of Sydney. Months later, a small, nervous group of women, wearing hot pink tops and more make-up than they'd ever imagined, made their 1st appearance under Doris' direction at the City of Ryde Eisteddfod Open Choral Section - and won!

Inspired by Doris' warmth and enthusiasm, Circular Keys Chorus was chartered in June 1996 and won 2nd place Small Chorus Award at that Gold Coast convention the same year - they were on their way!

Under Doris's direction and with dedicated music and management teams, the chorus grew and developed. There were vocal production, leadership, directing and choreography workshops, funds to be raised, membership drives, and more eisteddfods. There were 2 more 'wins' (at McDonald's City of Sydney Performing Arts Challenges in 1996 and 1997) and up to 25 public performances a year.



Vicki Dwyer & Doris Ward

CKC members were learning to enjoy performing, and to be very adaptable. They learned to sing among shopping trolleys and over PA systems, to brave freezing temperatures and hot winds, share lunch-box sized changing rooms (once with Santa and his elves) and to avoid passing out when they caught sight of themselves wearing full stage make-up. Like all Sweet Adelines, they were also learning the very challenging art of marrying chorus demands with those of family and working life.

Doris led the chorus to convention in Adelaide in 1998 where they increased their score by a huge 93 points, and the small chorus moved up to the B minus category.

When Doris realised she had come to a place in her life where she wanted to step back from being Director, her thoughts turned to a shining star in the front row, Vicki Dwyer. She had moved with her family to live in America for three years, but on a visit back home, Vicki's ability to impart to the chorus her singing and learning experiences in California convinced Doris that she had found her perfect successor. When invited to accept the position of Director on her return to Australia, Vicki agreed, and early in 2002, with her young daughter and a very new baby in tow, she took over the reins.



In June she led the chorus to Wollongong and to 1st place Small Chorus (Div A). The 'Shining Star' had met the challenge, had 'Dared to Dream', and was now leading CKC into a new and exciting phase.

Sharing her talent and ability as singer, dancer, pianist and teacher, Vicki raised the bar for CKC in many areas.

With specific goals each year, ongoing education programs, and backed by dedicated management and music teams, the chorus consistently broke new ground.

By 2004 the chorus was midsize, and at the Adelaide convention, they placed 4th overall and earned an award for highest percentage of membership growth in NSW. The chorus then went on to take First Place Midsize, Second Place Overall and Most Improved Chorus award at the Brisbane convention 2 years later. 'Divas Wanted' programs were run in 2006 and 2007, increasing their membership to 79 for the competition in Hobart in 2008.

Under Vicki's leadership, CKC began to develop a livelier and somewhat zany persona. Scripted shows were held at a professional theatre, including professional guest artists. These highly successful shows made demands on repertoire, comedic skills and the 'comfort zones' of all members, who rose to the challenges and loved every minute.

Public performances, including their part in the mass choir for the award-winning animated film Happy Feet (sung before Prime Minister Howard) continued. They supported the Children's Medical Research Institute and became Official Ambassadors for Baulkham Hills Shire Council. The chorus is also very proud to have had one of its members, Di Godwin, appointed as Finance Coordinator on the RMT for the years 2003-5.

In March 2006, CKC celebrated their 10th anniversary and instituted the Doris Ward Perpetual Trophy, to be presented annually to a member who has worked hard in all aspects of chorus life. In recognition of her foresight in starting and developing the chorus ten years previously and continuing contributions since, Doris became the award's 1st recipient.

Quarteting has always been encouraged at CKC, and the chorus is immensely proud of its four times champion quartet Accolade - Vicki Dwyer, Vicki Sutton, Amanda Andrews (all CKC members) and Wendy Scandurra (Chapter-At-large). Other current quartets include New Edition and, joining forces with singers from other choruses, Girl Friday and Jigsaw.

In 2008 CKC competed for the first time as a large-size chorus, placing 2nd overall and earning its highest score to date. Shortly after Convention the winning chorus, Melbourne, chose not to go to International competition. The invitation was issued to Circular Keys Chorus, and they have eagerly accepted the opportunity to represent Region 34 in Nashville in 2009!



A group of like minded women with a love of harmony (some married to male barbershoppers in the area) advertised in February 1995 and with help from Gold Coast Harmony Chorus held our first rehearsal in a tiny wooden hall on kindy seats. Our first Director was Melva Hobson and we were amazed with the 4 part harmony of our first song "How we sang Today".

Redland Rhapsody

Our first President was Sonia Peterson, and we were called the Cleveland Chorus, renamed Redland Rhapsody Chorus as we resided in Redland Shire, south-east of Brisbane.

We sang for evaluation at Gold Coast Convention 1996, and chartered as a Sweet Adeline Chorus in August of that year. In June 1998, we competed in Adelaide, winning the Novice Chorus section! We also had two quartets on stage: Forbidden

The Clementines



Helping out, front-of-house for PHC

"Oh My Darling Clementine, you are lost and gone forever".....the words whirled in my brain after my decision to retire after a wonderful 20 years with PHC. I learnt that a grieving period was common amongst those who had left the chorus, and I determined to direct my energies into maintaining the fantastic friendships made over so many years! With the generous support of Perth Harmony a social group for past members was created in 2005 - the name had to be Clementines. We maintain a loving interest and communication with PHC, supporting them when needed. PHC provides Clementines with the names of those who leave the chorus.

The group is free, all contacts being made via email. Many of the 51 members attend events such as concerts, picnics, lunches and the wonderful Winter Retreat at Northam. Others want simply to stay informed about news important to us all. The annual Clementines Day is a members only event, an opportunity to indulge in old chorus videos, reminisce, and SING! Other events such as The Christmas Lunch 2007 are open to others. The structure of Clementines is such that anyone can suggest an event and from this evolved the Star Craft Quilters. Importantly, the support and love of special friends is there through life's tough times, with links being established between those with common interests or health issues.

On Clementines Day this year we will think of you all and hope that your next 20 years are as happy and fulfilled as ours has been!
Jan Butterworth

competed and Baytones were assessed. A big milestone for RRC!

The following year Melva resigned and Assistant Director Susan Lansdown filled the position permanently when we realised that she really was the right person for the job! We bonded further as a chorus when we sang 'Can you Feel the Love Tonight' at the marriage of our youngest member.

Redland Rhapsody cont.

Perth Convention in 2000 was a big learning curve as our marks decreased.

We looked good though, or so we thought, in our purple satin dresses with a purple and gold sequin top.

On we continued with a special performance at Brisbane City hall as guests of the St. Lucia Orchestra.

At the Australian Education Symposium in Sydney in 2001, many of our members had a chance to perform in large symposium choruses, each dressed in red, yellow, green or blue. This was a great team building exercise, and after coaching throughout the year by Bill Staff of the champion Southern Cross Quartet, we headed off to Wollongong in 2002. All our hard work was rewarded as we won the Most Improved Chorus Award and placed 2nd Division A Chorus.

Following this, our success was mixed. We had coaching from Rose McGee and gained a great sponsorship from Smiths Chips, enabling us to have red corporate jackets made. Unfortunately, despite feeling beautiful, laryngitis affected many members of our chorus at the Adelaide convention in 2004 and we scored disappointingly. Celebrating our 10th birthday, we attracted new members and returned to convention in Brisbane in 2006 placing 10th in the competition.

We performed with the The Blenders at the Steve Irwin Memorial; Director Susan Lansdown was appointed International Faculty Associate 2006-07; and Laurel Santry was appointed to Regional Education Faculty for choreography 2006-2008. This was a precursor to more good things to come! In 2007, with an oriental theme costume, we competed in Brisbane and won 1st place Small Chorus Award. Our first medal, and how proud we were! This was the highlight of our history so far.

There were more tastes of success when three RRC members joined Christchurch City Chorus and performed at International in Calgary to place 9th in the competition.



1997 SEWING SEEDS OF SONG...

As word continued to spread, more and more women happily joined the Australian Sweet Adeline 'movement'. Most new choruses were formed as a direct result of mentoring by established choruses.

Sydney Town had inspired a group of ladies in the northern suburbs who became Northern Beaches Chorus and chartered on 16th May. Perth Harmony had traveled to Mandurah, where Kanyana Chorus was formed and chartered under the direction of ex-Sydney Town Director Carole Wright on 25th September. Members of the Melbourne chorus had actively pursued the formation of a new chorus in their southern suburbs, resulting in the charter on 11th December of Yarra Ranges Chorus (later to become East City Sound). With 21 choruses now chartered in the Area, we were approaching the magic 900 member mark!

While all this activity was happening in the south and west, the two Queensland choruses, Sounds of the Surf and Gold Coast Harmony, decided to join forces. They amalgamated to form Harmony in Paradise, resulting in the dissolution of the newer chorus, Sounds of the Surf.

Education continued to be a priority with visits from 2 International Faculty, Ida Bilodeau and Vickie Maybury, and Queens of Harmony, Showtime. In March, Ida did workshops in NSW, Qld and WA called 'Showmanship and Stuff'; leaders from all choruses were invited to Maroubra NSW in June to attend a 'Presidents Seminar' facilitated by Vickie; Showtime provided entertaining quartet education through July with their Quartet Festival workshops and shows in WA, Vic and NSW.

The Northern Beaches Chorus began in February 1995, when members of Sydney Town Chorus issued an invitation through the local press to ladies who loved to sing; 23 women arrived at the Thomas Vickers Hall in Curl Curl to hear about Sweet Adelines, ably demonstrated

Northern Beaches

by a group of Sydney Town singers.



Early days with David Coburn.

The Chorus chartered in May 1997 with 32 members, and members of STC joined us for a celebratory dinner at the Long Reef Golf Club. Eight charter members still sing with us, and our current Music Director Linda Wareham's late mother, Carol Richmond, was a member at this time.

In June 1996 David Coburn, who had taken the chorus to Prospective status, invited Wilma Folmer, chorus member and former principal with the Australian Opera Company, to become Music Director. Wilma guided us

until an accident prevented her directing in the Adelaide Convention in 2004. We are very grateful for her eight years of hard work and dedication. We were thrilled when Linda Wareham then agreed to be our Director.

In June 1997, we had our first experience of weekend workshops at Kurrajong. To the tune of I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside, eleven beach belles dressed in 1930's swimming outfits presented the star attraction, 'The Beach Bags'. Since then we have attended a number of educational events, including the unforgettable Rumors workshop in November 2006. We still have goose bumps from that one! Regular recruitment drives have resulted in the chorus growth to 62 members in 2008.

We competed in the Warringah Eisteddfod in 2000, winning the Senior Vocal Entertainment Section, and in 2006 we reached the finals of the Sydney Eisteddfod's McDonald's Performing Arts Challenge held in the Sydney Town Hall. What a wonderful place to sing!!

Our first convention was Adelaide 1998. As scarlet women in new sparkling red dresses, 26 on stage, we made the most of this wonderful experience. The judges commented on our pretty feet!!!

Timeline →

Mar/Apr/May 1997

Ida Bilodeau Workshops
Vickie Maybury Seminar.
Showtime Quartet
Festivals

May 1997

Northern Beaches chartered. Sounds of the Surf & Gold Coast Harmony merged into Harmony in Paradise.

Sep 1997

Kanyana Chorus chartered.

Dec 1997

East City Sound chartered as Yarra Ranges Chorus.

Proudly, we held our beautiful turquoise banner created by Bev Stowe. We decided that turquoise was 'our colour' and still wear turquoise scarves.

Northern Beaches continued...

At Brisbane 2007 Convention, we were thrilled to win the Most Improved Chorus Award with an additional 123 points - sweet success and an AQUA ribbon for us all! We were overjoyed! Then Hobart 2008, we came 2nd in the mid-sized choruses and 4th overall in the competition. We won our FIRST medal - many of us are still wearing it daily!

This improvement has been brought about by chorus commitment and the inspired effort of our talented Director. Linda has arranged visits from wonderful coaches from the region and beyond. Kim Kraut has made a huge impact with her visits in the past two years.

In 2001 our quartet Eloquence was formed and competed at Adelaide convention in 2004, 2005, and with four other Northern Beaches quartets competed in Hobart in 2008. We are SO proud of them!!!

Sadly we lost Nola Davidson, Charter President, who died in September 2007. We miss her greatly. She was chorus historian and her wonderful history books have made this summary possible. At convention 1998, Nola was thrilled to receive a certificate of achievement for 'Highly Commended for Compilation and Presentation of Chorus History'.

Our future goal is to sing at progressively improved standards. We want to achieve a unified, energetic and confident stage presence at every performance and while we are working hard, have LOTS OF FUN!!! We want to continue to help each other through the ups and downs of life and to foster the spirit of cooperation and friendship which we so enjoy.

We are very happy to belong to this worldwide sisterhood and proud to be part of our vibrant growing region.



Yarra Ranges Harmony Chorus held its first rehearsal in December 1994, when Melbourne chorus members Bev McAlister and Lauris Clota created interest in the Dandenong Ranges area in starting up a Sweet Adeline Chorus.

East City Sound

Founded on strong support from the Melbourne Chorus, they prospered. Sandra Waldron, daughter of MC member Betty Brown, directed the prospective chorus until 1996, followed by Mandy Johnson, also a MC member, who resigned in December to become Director of the Melbourne Chorus. Yet another MC member, Robyn Nayler, became director in February 1997, leading the chorus to charter in December 1997 and to their first convention in Adelaide in 1998.

Robyn came to YRHC with an abundance of enthusiasm. Rehearsals were full of laughs, funny jokes and amusing stories told with her amazing animation. Jody Banks joined the chorus in 1998,



Yarra Ranges, 1998

East City Sound continued...

and with her great musical talents, had become Robyn's assistant director within 6 months. Under Robyn's direction, the chorus constantly improved, and she continued leading them with amazing energy until she retired in 2007. Although she transferred her membership to CAL, Robyn was made a life member of East City Sound.

As well as having wonderful musical direction, YRHC has been privileged to have Brenda Smith (founding member Melbourne Chorus) as a valued member and choreographer with a remarkable teaching method that always puts a smile on your face. Brenda was appointed to the International Faculty as Associate in 2003 and has recently been appointed a full fledged International Faculty member.

In October 2007 Robyn Westwood, a foundation member of YRHC, became co-director with Lorraine Stackpoole, a former member of MC and director of Southern Sounds Chorus. Lorraine's experience in



directing and leadership skills and Robyn's talent and energy augured well for the future of ECS. Robyn received the Novice Director Award at the 2008 Hobart convention, also singing bass in Four on the Floor quartet. We are so proud of all our awesome leaders.

Special competition memories include: our first convention in Adelaide in 1998 with only 24 members; winning 3rd place Div A in Wollongong 2002, being accidentally given the 2nd place ribbons and having to swap them back; winning 1st place Div A in Adelaide 2005 with Cathy Rainey joining us as an OOTER; placing 4th overall in Brisbane 2007 in Robyn Nayler's final competition with us.

The chorus enjoys the annual Christmas party, karaoke nights, dinners with coach Virginia Humphrey-Taylor, and the special dinner celebrating our 10 year anniversary. The love and friendship in the chorus are treasured, and laughter is heard at every rehearsal. The last rehearsal night of every month is party night! After a shortened rehearsal, we socialise, sing happy birthday to the birthday girls and impromptu quartets take the opportunity to sing. We have also had many memorable sing outs, including joining other Victorian choruses to sing at the Centenary of Federation concert and also in 2001 a Mayoral dinner at the historic farm, Gulf Station, where the heads of those in the back row touched the roof of the tent, we sank into the mud on the risers, and the waiters cleared tables as we sang!

Losing Catriona Scott, a member for 8 years and 3 year member Avril Regan in 2005, devastated the chorus. President Lauris Marsh donated 2 perpetual trophies in memory of these two special women. They are presented to members who reflect what Catriona and Avril stood for during their chorus lives.

The change of name to East City Sound in 2007 was initiated to modernise our image and create broader marketing opportunities.

We have proudly cheered on two competing quartets. Four On The Floor won Most Improved Quartet at Wollongong in 2002, and won three Lyrebird awards for Most Entertaining and Best Ensemble in variety concerts over a period of 3 years. Dynaminx, formed in 2001, have a special memory of their first competition performance: "The support of our chorus was amazing; we will never forget those motherly smiles".

What a wonderful journey so far! However, in 2008 there emerged some differences in directions members wished to take and it was decided that some members would leave ECS to form a new prospective chorus, Vocal Vibes. As this book goes to press, both choruses are attracting new members and looking forward to many more years of wonderful harmonising ... for themselves and for each other.

1998 ON WITH THE SHOW!

When Endeavour Harmony chartered in February, they brought the number of chartered choruses in Australia up to 22 ... an impressive growth rate from 3 to 22 choruses in just 10 years!! As well as this, there were a number of Prospective Choruses working toward chartering at this stage.

Our 5th Convention in June at the Convention Centre in Adelaide was themed 'On With the Show'. The opening ceremony was yet another 'showstopper'. After the Adelaide Sunshine Chorus welcomed us in song, all were delighted to have a wonderful German 'Oompah Band' come



marching in down the centre aisle, followed by a representative of each chorus carrying their new banners! The band continued to play down front while the 22 banners were carried up to be displayed on stage. It was a very festive sight indeed!

This was to be a convention of milestones: there were 20 choruses and 24 quartets competing, and for the first time, a chorus scored over 600 points, producing Australia's first Master Director.

Yes, Perth Harmony Chorus scored 603 points, achieving Master Director status for Cathy Rainey. Melbourne Chorus, directed by Bernie Cureton, were oh! so close behind on 600 points, and Wollongong Harmony, having improved their score by over 100 points from 1996, were

delighted to place 3rd. Wagga Wagga Harmony made an even greater leap in scores and won the Most Improved Chorus award.

Excitement levels were maintained through the quartet competition, and first time competitors, Audacious! won the gold. They were very closely followed by Fascinatin' Rhythm and Designer Chords, then Touché and Forecast Fine.

Later in the year Anita Larsen, a staff member from Sweet Adelines International headquarters, and Karen Briedert, International Faculty member, ran workshops in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne covering musical leadership, quarteting, public relations and marketing.



*Audacious!
Chris, Rae, Michelle & Megan*

Timeline →

Feb 1998

Endeavour Harmony Chorus chartered.

June 1998

Convention in Adelaide. Theme: 'On With The Show'

Dec 1998

Anita Larsen and Karen Briedert present workshops on the east coast.



Endeavour's Musical Director Lea Baker fulfilled a dream when she founded the Chorus in August 1996 with 25 singers. Under her skilful direction, the group quickly worked their way through the steps and received their charter on 25th February 1998.



Endeavour Harmony Chorus

Lea grew up in a musical family where harmony singing was common, developing an ear and passion for barbershop. She joined Sydney Town Chorus in 1988 and spent six years with them, eventually becoming Assistant Director. She is now a Master Director and skilled vocal coach and shares her knowledge and enthusiasm throughout Australia as a member of the Regional Education Faculty. An avid quartet singer, she competed on the regional competition stage for the 4th time in 2006.

Her passion for expressive singing led her to enquire about becoming a judge in the organisation and in 2002, Lea became the first person in Australia to be accepted into the Sweet Adelines International judging program as an approved candidate judge in the Expression category.

While dedicated to the wonderful art form of barbershop harmony, Endeavour's 80 members are proud to be recognised in the non-barbershop singing community in Sydney. To achieve awards against very good Bach and chamber choirs, many of which are made up of professional musicians, is a testimony to all of Endeavour's skills as singers. Their repertoire includes modern ballads, old jazz standards, musical hits, 60s favourites, gospel, traditional, swing, blues and comedy.

EHC has had many quartets. Cadenza won gold in 2002; Diamond G placed 5th in their first competition in 2006; and Swing Shift took out the Novice Quartet Award in 2008. With many more quartets singing and growing in the chorus, we look forward to more quartet successes in future!

EHC has had the privilege of being trained and inspired by many talented and experienced coaches over the years. They have come via the Region's Education Faculty and from overseas, including the United States, Sweden and New Zealand. Every one of these coaches has left their mark and made a major impact on what the chorus is today. Coaches have included: Carole Kirkpatrick, Barbara Letcher, Cindy Hanson, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor, Lynne Smith, Jan Gervais, Ase Hagerman, Dale Syverson, and Sandy Robinson.

EHC has performed at many and varied events over the years including citizenship ceremonies, contests, Chorus shows, charity events and Christmas functions to name a few. While every performance opportunity is important to the Chorus, there are of course some that stand out, both as high points in Chorus life and some that have been...challenging! Some of Endeavour's high points include: auditioning and beating 90 other choirs in NSW to become one of five finalists in the Australian Choir of the Year competition in 2006, held by ABC Classic FM radio, and having the performance played live on ABC national radio. And most importantly, winning the Regional 2006 competition and competing in Calgary in 2007.

Of course, there have been some more "interesting" performances such as singing on a barge one Australia Day. The chorus stood on risers on a moving barge out in Botany Bay and the performance was amplified over large speakers to those on the shore. Luckily only a few songs were required as sea sickness was setting in by the last song!



Endeavour continues to set and achieve their competition targets, exceeding the goal set for the International Competition in Calgary (to achieve top 30 ranking) by coming in at a respectable 27th. Endeavour also scored the highest debut score at International for an Australian competitor, something of which we are immensely proud.

1999 BECOMING A REGION

A truly significant year in our history! The International Board had been working to a five year plan to change all the World Wide (outside USA) Areas into Regions. So, after 10 years of being an Area, Australia became the Southern Cross Region #34 of Sweet Adelines International!

The official changeover day was 1st May, and as well as many financial implications (one being that International per capita fees of an Area were only half those of a Region), there were significant changes to the management structure. As an Area, there was a six member team with the Regent, DMA (Director of Musical Activities) and MDR (Membership Development Representative) being appointed by International. These 3 members were the decision makers, with the Regent having the deciding vote. As a Region, an eight member management team, some appointed by International, some by the Region and some elected by members of the region, would manage by consensus.



With these and so many other changes to be managed, a special note of thanks must go to the Pre-1999 team, Rae Knight, Linda Wareham, Jill Harris, Fay Baker, Sarnie Hay and Brenda Smith who made a considerable effort planning, negotiating and setting up the new Regional structure. Equally focused were the new team, Lorraine Clark, Jill Harris, Linda Wareham, Cathy Rainey, Jan Butterworth, Betty Thomas, Brenda Smith and Sarnie Hay who executed the plan and ensured a smooth transition.



Sarnie & Rose at IES

As part of their training, the new Regional Management Team (RMT) was funded to attend the first International Education Symposium in July. Several other Australians, either self-funded or assisted by their choruses, also participated in this wonderful educational opportunity, so the Aussies were well represented in San Antonio!

Meanwhile back home, the regional educational program was well and truly catered for as Suzy Lobaugh and Dede Nibler took 'Music on the Move' around the country in June. The Region rang to the sounds of Carolina In The Morning - our first symposium song. It was the first of many roving schools of this kind in Australia.



Perth Harmony in Atlanta

Timeline →

May 1999

The Australian Area becomes The Southern Cross Region #34 of SAI.

June 1999

Music on the Move with Suzy Lobaugh and Dede Nibler.

July 1999

First IES is held and the RMT are funded to attend.

Nov/Dec 1999

Manning River Harmonies & Ballarat Sovereign receive their charters.

The Aussie contingent at IES



On the membership scene, Wollongong Harmony was again recognised by International for their membership growth and retention, and two new choruses, Manning River Harmonies in Taree, NSW and Ballarat Sovereign In Victoria both chartered.

Perth Harmony set off for Atlanta to once again compete at International. After the 'It Ain't Over Till Perth Sings' campaign of 1995, this time they requested to be Contestant #1 so that the chorus could watch all other chorus contestants. Of course the shirts had to read 'Can't Start Without Us!' Wearing corporate green costumes, they presented their 'Biological Clock' package.



"We've only given so many notes to sing in this life. So many people go to their grave with their music still in them. That is why you must embrace the gift of music you've been given."

Eyelash Moments...

As a Sweet Adeline member of many years one could be expected to have developed expertise in the false eyelash department - not me! Prior to convention and admittedly in a fit of high anxiety and pique, I determined to MANAGE ON MY OWN, proudly presenting myself for inspection with both sets of eyelashes firmly attached (oh yes!) and (oh NO!) both sets curving beautifully downwards in a doleful upside down curve! The make up guru has adopted this as her first favourite 'get a laugh' story, the second of which also involves me post-competition, when both sets fell into the toilet bowl, swirling and fluttering away to visit a... little alligator who goes by the name of Albert....I love him!

Jan Butterworth, CAL (ex PHC)

The first Convention for me (1994 Gold Coast) I decided I wouldn't follow instructions, and put the glue onto my eyelids (in the Jupiters bathroom) then pressed the eyelashes on.

Lo and behold - all of my eye wrinkles (about 2 cms worth) for each eye were hidden in the fold that was holding on the eyelashes! I had an instant facelift - painless and non surgical. The eyelashes did not fall off for the performance either...

When my granddaughter was 4 years old, she asked her Mum "Why does Nana keep her eyebrows in a box on the dressing table?"

Heather Douglas, Brindabella

Marion Clarke

Marion Clarke was a much loved and talented Director of Sydney Town Chorus. Before losing her battle with cancer in 1999, she had medalled three times with her quartets Hi Gloss and Designer Chords, and her smile and musical knowledge had been shared with many others in the region.



Designer Chords, 1998
Denise Wykes, Marian Clarke, Iris Bennell, Fay Bevis

A Memorial Concert was organised by Sydney Town Chorus at the wonderful Sydney Town Hall. Sweet Adelines from 4 NSW choruses shared the stage with compere, Nancy Hayes. \$15 000 was raised and donated to the Breast Cancer Research Programme at St Vincent's Hospital in Marion's memory.

Sydney Town also donated a trophy in her honour, presented to the highest scoring Novice Director in regional competition each year.

2000 LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Up until now, International Faculty who taught in the Region had concentrated on music, sound, vocal production, a bit of choreography, and some leadership and administration skills. Then in February came the inimitable, 'larger than life' Lynne Smith to put the 'Show' in the Showmanship Category. Her mantra to 'rip open the shower curtains' is still fondly remembered and practised as a means of personally being more openly expressive. Lynne travelled to WA, NSW and Victoria, always light on her toes!

Our 6th Convention was held in June at the Burswood Resort in Perth. The theme 'Let the Good Times Roll' was indicative of the fun and education in store for the weekend. The Opening Ceremony again featured the wonderful 'Parade of Chorus Banners' (something unique to Australia!), but this time to the rhythms of the Sambanistas, a wonderfully colourful percussion group.

To celebrate 10 years of Australian conventions, a HUGE replica had been made of each convention T shirt since



1990 to be hung on the walls for decorations. There was also a

PowerPoint presentation of scenes from past conventions showing in the auditorium before sessions and during intervals.

Although a lot of travel was involved, we again had 21 choruses and 24 quartets competing! Perth Harmony were overwhelmed when they heard their winning A- score of 640 points! Wollongong Harmony scored 596, coming oh! so near to the 'magic' 600 points with their talented leader, Rose Philipson. This score did however win them a silver medal overall and Division AA Championship. Sydney Town won bronze and Circular Keys took out Division A.

In the quartet competition, Mischief Down Under reformed to win their 5th gold medal and Fascinat'n' Rhythm gained their 3rd silver medal. 'Up-and-coming' quartet Cadenza came 3rd, followed by Hot Option and Sea Change.

During the Closing Ceremony, the Wollongong gals did a spectacular job of promoting the next convention, using the theme 'Something's Comin', Something good'. We all left the Burswood 'daring to dream' of what we might achieve in 2 years' time in Wollongong!

Late in the year, two new choruses chartered in NSW. Southern Belles, located in the highlands just south of Sydney, and Spirit of Sydney became the 25th and 26th choruses in Region 34.



Lynne Smith used all her space & took the long way round...

The traffic pattern in the lobby at Burswood Convention Centre.



Timeline →

Feb 2000

Lynne Smith Showmanship Workshops in WA, Vic & NSW.

June 2000

Convention at Burswood Resort in Perth 'Let the Good Times Roll'

Nov/Dec 2000

Southern Belles & Spirit of Sydney chartered.

2001 TRULY INTERNATIONAL

The year started out on a high with Kickstarts in Victoria and Queensland and the chartering in February of our first chorus in Tasmania, Hobart Harmony. Membership in established choruses was also quite healthy as evidenced by Bathurst Panorama winning an International Award for fastest growing Mid-Size Chorus.

With the huge success / popularity of IES in America and the financial challenges of Australian Sweet Adelines to access this smorgasbord of education, plans were made to have an Australian Education Symposium (AES) in Sydney in June. International were to provide some faculty and the Region would fund additional ones. In addition to this, West Australian choruses (there were four chartered plus one prospective at the time), with yet another level of isolation, decided to fund two of the International Faculty to come across for a WAES.



Tori's Chorus at AES

Thus came to be one of the most auspicious months of education in our region's history!

Carole Kirkpatrick and Lori Lyford traveled to Mandurah in WA and Sweet Adelines from Geraldton to Albany gathered to soak up all the wonderful education these very knowledgeable ladies had to offer. As well as teaching classes, Lori and Carole each directed a symposium chorus. This gave members from the smaller choruses an opportunity to sing and perform with a much larger group than they had ever experienced previously.



Carole's Chorus at WAES

The following weekend, Carole and Lori were joined in Sydney by Tori Postma, Kathy Carmody, Marge Bailey and Mary Ellen Stepanich, along with hundreds of eager Sweet Adelines from around the country (including more than 20 from WA who were thirsty for 'even more' education!). Again, the plethora of classes on offer by these six International Faculty members made decisions about choosing which to attend very difficult. Most choruses ensured that at least one member attended each class so as to be able to 'report back'.



Jigsaw Quartet at AES

Of the four symposium choruses, Tori directed the Yellow Chorus, Kathy the Green, Lori the Blue and Carole the Red. Singing the same two symposium songs, the diverse interpretation and fun choreography which had been developed on the weekend allowed each chorus to seem totally unique - and all of them were totally entertaining!!

The Symposium also afforded a wonderful opportunity for quartets, in a non-competition year, to perform for evaluation by accredited judges. Each received written feedback which could assist them to improve. And of course non-quartetters were treated to watching their performances.

In October, just weeks after the horrors of '9/11' in the USA, Perth Harmony and Mischief Down Under flew out to Portland to once again compete at International

Timeline →

Jan 2001
Kickstarts in Victoria & Queensland.

Feb 2001
Hobart Harmony chartered.

Jun 2001
WAES in WA with Carole Kirkpatrick and Lori Lyford.

Convention. They were accompanied by a large contingent from all around Australia. Overall Convention numbers were significantly down as so many Americans, understandably, were frightened to travel. As word spread that there were over 100 Aussies in attendance, they were often stopped and thanked with words of admiration for their 'bravery' in being there!

People were overwhelmed when PHC, having had Brian Beck arrange the 'Voice Down Under' Medley which is now part of our 20th Celebrations, sang the very poignant words of 'You're the Voice', especially 'We're not gonna sit in silence; we're not gonna live with fear!'

In addition to the 'butterfly nerves' of competition, PHC members were given an added challenge to get them 'flying in formation' when they were told IN ABSOLUTE



CONFIDENCE that their Director, Cathy Rainey, was to receive the Inaugural Ann Gooch Award. This Award, in recognition of Ann's commitment to the growth of the organisation internationally, is given to a member of a worldwide region or satellite area for her outstanding contributions to her chapter, region, or area.

Cathy was such a deserving candidate for this honour! The Aussies in the audience were so proud of her! And of themselves for managing to keep the secret all day long!!

The Peoplescape

In February 2001 the National Council for the Centenary of Federation called on all Australians to nominate someone who had significantly affected their lives, their community or the nation. A selection panel chose more than four thousand people. The nominators then made life size cut out figures of their 'hero' and these were assembled as a massive outdoor art installation covering the slopes of Parliament House and Federation Mall.

Peoplescape featured Australians from every walk of life, with unknown Australians standing next to national icons and every figure telling a story. Perth Harmony Chorus nominated Cathy Rainey for this project, saying...

"Cathy Rainey has given me and hundreds of other 'ordinary' women an opportunity to participate in an art form that has brought us great joy and personal satisfaction, allowing a healthy form of self-expression in a friendly and supportive network. For the last 16 years, Cathy Rainey has devoted her own time, effort and energy to providing an opportunity for women who have a love of singing to experience the joy of singing together in a group. She has trained choruses, not only throughout Western Australia, but in the eastern states and overseas."

The Peoplescape Concert celebrated the last national event for the Centenary year and was broadcast live on ABC Television and Local Radio from Parliament House in Canberra. Cathy's story was not only featured in this broadcast, but she and a representative from PHC were interviewed and footage of the chorus was shown during the concert.



Timeline →

June 2001

AES in Sydney with Carole Kirkpatrick, Lori Lyford, Tori Postma, Cathy Carmody, Marge Bailey & Mary Ellen Stepanich.

Oct 2001

Perth Harmony and Mischief Down Under compete in Portland. Cathy Rainey Inaugural recipient of 'Ann Gooch Award'

Hobart Harmony Chorus

The genesis of HHC in 1995 was due to Rochana Waterworth's desire to sing 'unaccompanied type singing within a group situation.' She was referred to the local men's barbershop chorus, the Wellingtons, became hooked on the sound and found a few other women interested in this unique style of singing. Thus began the evolution of a small group singing male barbershop arrangements adapted for women's voices to a Prospective Chorus in 1997, and eventually the Chartering of HHC in 2001.

Initially, we were directed by the Wellingtons' Co-Director, Beth Rankin until she moved away and was replaced by Robert Young, a member of the men's chorus. When Robert moved to Adelaide early in 1997, Jenni Pyefinch stepped into the role of Director 'on a temporary basis until someone else could be found.' And



aren't we glad that never happened...!!

Because there were no other Sweet Adelines in close proximity, we were keen to attend educational opportunities whenever possible. Five members went along to the Adelaide Convention in 1998, returning full of enthusiasm and excitement, resolved to build the chorus and charter in time to compete at the next convention - Perth 2000.

Meantime, some members managed to attend regional workshops held in Victoria and were inspired

by the likes of Karen Briedert, Anita Larsen, Suzy Lobaugh, Dede Nibler and Lynne Smith! There were also very informative and encouraging visits from Lauris Clota and DMA Robyn Nayler.

Because of Jenni's concerns about availability during and following her pregnancy, Sandra Rosan trained as a director and over the following years we were privileged to benefit from the talents of both these musical leaders. Although there were only 14 able to travel to Perth for Convention 2000, we paraded our banner proudly and Sandra directed us as we sang for evaluation. We were wrapt by the whole Perth experience! All the glitz and glamour and the tremendous support from all the other choruses truly made us feel special.

Achieving a regular 20 members was our biggest challenge toward chartering, but after several recruitment drives, visits by Glenda Millgate and Sarnie Hay to approve our levels of singing and administration, and finalisation of our Standing Rules, we were finally chartered on 7th February 2001 becoming the first Tasmanian Sweet Adelines Chapter. We had finally made it!!

In June of that year, our charter was presented at AES in Sydney. Our members have continued traveling across Bass Strait to attend educational workshops, symposiums and Kickstarts, as well as welcoming educators to Hobart to work toward bettering our chorus. We competed in Wollongong in 2002, Adelaide in 2004 and Brisbane in 2006, where we were placed 3rd in Division A.

Of course, hosting 'Feel the Beat' in Hobart in 2008 was a wonderful experience and we look forward to repeating the experience in 2009. Whereas we had the fantastic Rumors here as faculty in '08, we have the exciting 20th Anniversary celebrations to look forward to in '09.

We have been blessed with some invaluable individuals in our chorus and on our management teams over the years, members with extraordinary skills in administration, costuming, graphic design, marketing, fundraising and finance who have all contributed greatly to the development of our chorus.



In 2007 our Director Jenni received a Regional Scholarship to attend IES in San Antonio and Hobart Harmony were able to supplement those funds to enable her to attend. Jenni's return will mark the beginning of the next chapter in the Hobart Harmony history.

With the increase in our chorus to 31 members we are now classed as a AA Division chorus which presents a bigger challenge for us, however, our goal is to achieve most improved chorus in 2009.

Ready for Opening Ceremony, 2008

2002 DARE TO DREAM...

Regional membership continued to grow this year with both Riverland Harmony and Brisbane City Sounds winning awards from International for membership growth and retention. We also welcomed two new choruses as Brisbane City Sounds and Batavia Coast Harmony, from WA, received their charters.

Convention this year, 'Dare to Dream', was held at the Convention Centre in Wollongong. The preview given by Wollongong Harmony in Perth two years previously had built expectations for an exciting convention, and they were not to disappoint. Interestingly, at the first convention in Geelong, virtually everyone stayed in the same hotel where the event was held, The Ambassador. In following years, most delegates stayed in accommodation in or very near the convention site. This time, some choruses were staying much further afield, but buses were provided and these delegates had a bonus as they rode past beautiful beaches and scenery on the way to the Centre.



Afterglow smiles...

Yet again, the number of competitors increased. There were 22 choruses competing with 2 chartered and 5 Prospective Choruses singing for Evaluation Only .. a whopping 21 choruses singing!! Perth Harmony again won the competition, scoring 625 points. Wollongong Harmony not only won 2nd place overall, but were 1st place Mid-Size (Division AA) Chorus and their director, Peter Nugus, won the Novice Director Award. Only one point behind was Endeavour Harmony, achieving 3rd place overall and 2nd place Div AA, closely followed by Melbourne Chorus, 4th overall and 3rd place Div AA. Circular Keys came 1st in Div A (Small Chorus) followed by Redland Rhapsody 2nd place Div A and Most Improved with a 100 point increase on their previous score.



And the winner is...

The number of quartet competitors also exceeded anything previously experienced with 28 competing and 1 singing for Evaluation Only. Cadenza, who had placed 3rd in Perth were delighted to win the gold medal! Following by only 2 points in 2nd place were Fascinating Rhythm, then Intuition, Indigo Blues and Backbeat.Au ... a very close competition with only 23 points difference between 1st and 5th place. (Who would want to be a judge under these conditions?) Four on the Floor won the Wendy Middleton Award with a 102 point improvement, and Opalescent were the best Novice Quartet.

Later in the year, Cadenza had a wonderful adventure as they travelled to Nashville to compete at International!

Sadly, in December, Manning River Harmonies and the twice Small Chorus Champions, Avon Valley Harmony, made the difficult decision to dissolve. Avon Valley Harmony specifically requested that their resources and remaining funds after dissolution be set aside for small struggling choruses. As a result, the Regional Small Chorus Fund was initiated for this purpose and eligible choruses invited to apply for grants.



Cadenza win Gold

Timeline →

Mar/May 2002

Kickstarts in Vic & NSW.
Batavia Coast Harmony chartered.

June 2002

7th Convention in Wollongong: 'Dare to Dream'.

Oct/Nov 2002

Cadenza compete at International in Nashville.
Brisbane City Sounds chartered.

Dec 2002

Avon Valley Harmony & Manning River Harmonies dissolve.

Brisbane City Sounds

In 1999, 12 fun-loving Brisbane women met at the Italo-Australian Centre. They soon became prospective Sweet Adelines with the name Brisbane City Sounds. The Centre was a cost-effective space (it was free!) but its use was conditional upon the chorus becoming social members, which encouraged members to meet before rehearsal for dinner. One night they arrived to find a brass band competition in full swing! It became obvious that the combination of band and a cappella singing was not complementary, so the rehearsal finished early - indeed a historic day, as rehearsals have never finished early since!

The Centre was also the site of an amusing performance for BCS. Invited to sing at the Italian Day Festival, the chorus' one song, *At the Hop*, was sung repeatedly at various locations, hopefully reaching different audiences. Funnily, that song is no longer in the chorus repertoire!

BCS chartered in 2002 with 22 members under Director Debbie Wenzel. They moved to the Grange Bowls Club, which remained their rehearsal space until 2008, when they moved to the Crusher's Leagues Club. During 2002-2004 the chorus was proud to win two awards for highest percentage membership retention in Queensland.

The saddest performance for the chorus was at the funeral of member Judy Yarrow in 2008. It was fitting tribute to someone so revered and loved by the chorus and the wider Sweet Adelines Community, who presented her with the Regional Quiet Achiever Award at Convention in 2006. The chorus misses her terribly, but feels that she is always with them on the risers.

BCS have benefited from the expertise of several coaches including Lindsey Dyer in 2006 and Rose McGee in 2008, who seemed to perform miracles with the contest performance packages in those years. They inspired, re-voiced, and motivated, giving the chorus confidence to believe in themselves.

Convention time is always intense. Months of preparation, rehearsal, fund-raising, excitement, and - nerves! Memories range from the pure joy of mass singing with SA sisters, to the adrenaline rush of performing to capacity crowds. The worst experience occurred at the 2006 Convention, when a much loved chorus member had an altercation with a car after a chorus dinner. It is a testimony to her true Sweet Adeline spirit that she was in the audience the next day to watch her chorus perform.



There are many fun-loving, interesting characters in BCS. One member left to live in the Antarctic and another brought her pet flying fox to rehearsals! The cause of much mirth was their fabulous former Director, whose application of the English language was completely baffling (though they always knew what she meant). Most rehearsals involve at least one instance of belly-aching, rolling-around-the-floor laughter!

The year 2008 was a time of change. Beloved founding Director Debbie Wenzel resigned early in the year, causing much disappointment. The chorus acknowledges the enormity of her impact on the development of BCS and is eternally grateful for her dedication and directorship.

New Director, Vicki Hurley, is creative and dedicated. One of her dreams is to educate the chorus so that they can realise their dreams within this wonderful organisation. She energises and inspires them to go and sing and learn more than they thought possible!

2003 MUSIC ON THE MOVE

Quartets featured well in the regional education plan this year. Sound Company and Backbeat quartets had attended the A Capella Gold workshops in New Zealand; Cadenza

and Accolade had competed at International. Early in the year, they all generously shared what they had learned in workshops for other quartets. In November the very popular Quartet Network Days were held in WA, Queensland and NSW.



Ann Gooch



Dede Nibler



Where Have My Old Friends Gone?

The dissolution of Spirit of Sydney and Kanyana

choruses in May was disappointing, but the chartering of Lennox Headliners in June provided a more positive membership note. Meantime Wagga Wagga Harmony Chorus changed their name to Murrumbidgee Magic.

on the Move' with Marcia Pinvidic and Dede Nibler. On the weekend of June 6-8, Marcia went to WA, Dede to Queensland and Ann to Victoria for workshops in each of these states. Then the following weekend, June 13-15, all three faculty plus most of our regional faculty and Sweet Adelines

As a non-convention year, another outstanding educational event was planned for 2003 called 'Music

"I think that the education is so valuable that I will take 10 singers to International if they want to go!"

- Cathy Rainey PHC

three International Faculty members, Ann Gooch, Marcia Pinvidic and Dede Nibler. On the weekend of June 6-8, Marcia went to WA, Dede to Queensland and Ann to Victoria for workshops in each of these states. Then the following weekend, June 13-15, all three faculty plus most of our regional faculty and Sweet Adelines from all over Australia went to beautiful Meroo in NSW. As well as the classes and the chance for everyone to sing in one of the three symposium choruses, quartets were given the opportunity to sing for assessment. Twenty-one quartets

took advantage of this performance opportunity on the Saturday night show, and learned from the written feedback provided.

With a long term goal of using talents of people within the region, Australia and New Zealand were chosen for a new International program, 'The Art & Process of Teaching - Skills & Strategies'. 13 members were selected to be trained as potential International Faculty.

Kathy Carmody and Sharon Babb provided the training and as a result Cathy Rainey, Rose McGee, Jill Harris, Brenda Smith and Susan Lansdown were appointed as International Faculty Associates (IFA) in July of this year.

Another educational initiative by International was to fund all members of RMTs in all regions to attend IES in July. General leadership classes as well as those aimed at specific roles on the team



Backbeat entertain at the afterglow...

Timeline →

Feb/Mar 2003

Quartet Workshops in Victoria, NSW & Queensland.

May 2003

Spirit of Sydney and Kanyana Chorus dissolve.

June 2003

Headliners chartered as Lennox Headliners. Music On The Move.

Sep 2003

Perth Harmony compete at the International Convention in Phoenix.



Headliners Director and founder Jen Squires became hooked on the barbershop art form and the fellowship of Sweet Adelines while singing with the Bathurst Panorama Chorus. She moved in 1998 and soon discovered that despite the myriad of a cappella groups on the north coast, nothing compared to the enjoyment and educational possibilities that she had come to know. There was only one solution - to start her own chorus!

The group started small with six enthusiastic women from Lennox Head answering a newspaper ad. The word spread, numbers grew and they elected their first Management Team later that year. With Gwen Taylor as their first Team Coordinator they became the prospective Lennox Headliners Chorus.

Big sister Gold Coast chorus and their director Alexa Blonner supported their early efforts and soon they were performing locally. One of their performance highlights was singing for the Ballina leg of the Olympic Torch Relay in 2000.

By 2002 they 'Dared to Dream' with 16 members singing for evaluation at the Wollongong Convention and their first chapter quartet Collusion competing as well.

On 15th June 2003 the Lennox Headliners Chorus received their Charter with Sweet Adelines International and celebrated with a joint concert with friends Brisbane City Sounds.

They competed for the first time as a chartered chorus in 2004 in Adelaide with just 15 members on stage, then again in 2006 - this time closer to home in Brisbane. Cruise quartet also competed, debuting as the highest scoring Novice Quartet for that year. The chorus are proud to have raised their score to a new level at every contest they have attended. This steady improvement led to their first ribbon, 3rd place small chorus, in 2007.

The Chorus is not all about competition though. They also love to put on a show and have entertained audiences with their original productions 'Girl's Night Out' and 'All Aboard.'

In 2008 the Chorus voted to change their name to Headliners Chorus to better reflect the wide area their membership now covers. Their numbers have grown steadily to over 30 members, under Jen's enthusiastic direction and

were enhanced by opportunities to network with members from other regions.

In September, Perth Harmony Chorus represented Region 34 for the 5th time in the International Chorus Competition. Things were different this time, as for various reasons, many members of the chorus were unable to go to International. But as Cathy had always said that, given the opportunity, she would take a group of any size, one third of the chorus prepared and made their way to Phoenix.

Many strategies were put in place for both competing and non-competing sections of the chorus so that both groups continued to work on their musical skills and felt supported in their decision.

with assistance from great music and management teams.

The chorus is currently still led by original director Jen Squires, her assistant director Justine Cox and TC (Top Cat!) Lynn Macdonald.

Although Jen is the only member from that original rehearsal in February 1999, there are several current members that joined that year and many more that have been with them since chartering. 2009 will be their 10th birthday!

Cruise quartet has now been joined by Blue Velvet quartet and double quartet Sometimes Seven with rumours of more on the way.

While happy to sink their teeth into a good barbershop ballad or uptune, the chorus would also like to be seen as trend setters in the region, singing a number of original arrangements and music with modern appeal.

The Headliners enjoy being a small chorus. They know that every member counts and this carries over socially as well as musically.



2004 HIGH ON HARMONY

The year started out with education for all! Directors had a Training Workshop in January, there were Kickstarts in all states in February and Quartet Network Days in March. A group of young Wollongong women aged 16-25 formed a small chorus called 'A Cappella Accord' under the guidance and direction of Jan McCarthy of Wollongong Harmony Chorus. They were the first non-school based YWIH chorus in the Region, and sang together for several years before life became too hectic and complex to continue... for the time being.

On the 1st of March, Out of the Blue Singers were chartered, becoming the second chorus in Wollongong and making a total of twenty-seven choruses in the Region. Southern Cross Region were proud to win the Regional Membership Growth Contest with an overall membership increase of 21.4%, receiving \$US2000 as our reward. Circular Keys Chorus were also recognised for their membership growth to the tune of \$US750. In an organisation where membership is mainly on the decline, we were thrilled to be leading the way with strong and steady growth.

In June everyone headed toward the Convention Centre in Adelaide to get 'High on Harmony' at our 7th National Convention. An amazing 26 of the 27 chartered choruses competed as well as 25 quartets. Judges were learning that a trip to Australia would mean 2 long days of competition, generally followed by education of some sort.

In the chorus competition, Perth Harmony once again led the field, winning their 5th gold medal with a score of 634 points. Melbourne Chorus came 2nd overall and first place Mid-Size Chorus, with their Director Jeanette Whitmore earning the Marion Clarke Novice Director Award. Only two points behind them were Endeavour Harmony and six points further down, Circular Keys, followed by Wollongong Harmony in 5th place. Sydney Town were named Most Improved with an increase of 84 points, and Out of the Blue Singers, only 3 months after receiving their charter, won 1st place amongst the small choruses!

The quartet competition was particularly exciting with Accolade achieving a score of 580, a 99 point improvement on their previous score. This meant they not only became the Champion Quartet and would travel to Indianapolis in October to compete, but won the Wendy Middleton Award as well for Most Improved quartet. They were followed in the placings by Cadenza, Sound Company, Intuition and Backbeat. The Novice Quartet Award went to a lovely group of young ladies called Orphic West, who also were placed 6th overall.

Had there been an award for bravery (or sheer determination!) it would have had to go to another young quartet called Miss Defy. When they appeared fairly early in the competition, everyone was horrified to witness one of the young ladies actually faint on stage during the performance. However, after a trip to hospital and some time to recuperate, the quartet was given permission by the judges and reappeared in the afternoon to completely re-do their package! What troopers!!

Another special feature of Convention this year was the presentation of the Inaugural Quiet



Accolade compete at International

Timeline →

Jan/Feb 2004

Directors Training & Kickstart Workshops.

March 2004

Quartet Network Days.
Out of the Blue Singers chartered.

June 2004

Convention (last biennial) at Adelaide Convention Centre: 'High on Harmony'

Sep/Oct 2004

Voices Down Under in Perth.
Accolade compete in Indianapolis

Achiever Award. This award, an initiative of Margaret Richards, a long-standing member of the Southern Cross Region, is to recognise and thank our members who work tirelessly, usually 'behind the scenes', to ensure the success of our choruses and of our region. Each chorus had been invited to nominate one person and a selection committee agonised over making a decision about 'The' Quiet Achiever for the region. In later years, the presentation was modified to recognise ALL nominees as 'winners', each being given a small QA badge.

Quiet Achiever Award

Convention was followed by Chorus Leader training and a two-day retreat and training seminar for Directors.

In July, Cathy Rainey was appointed to the 4-member International Director Education Committee which oversees the ongoing education of Directors in our organisation.



Orphic West - Novice Quartet

"After a hard day's work, I must say my natural inclination would be to curl up in front of the fire with a good book. But come 7pm on a Thursday evening, my little car happily chugs along to The Basin where I engage in one of the passions of my life – being a member of Yarra Ranges Harmony Chorus. As I sing and dance my heart out, all weariness just evaporates, and my whole being is filled with wellbeing, energy and joy. Shortly before I joined this wonderful group of women, I was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness; I can honestly say that I always go home on a Thursday night feeling there is totally no room for sickness in my body – it is too busy enjoying itself! And after all, this is about the only organisation I know where a little 'fatty' in her fifties, like me, would have the opportunity to be part of the fun of the choreography in the front row!"

Avril Regan - Yarra Valley Harmony Chorus 2003-2005

After travelling overseas for many years to attend Sweet Adeline and SPEBSQSA events, PHC member Helen Schofield had a dream of having the rest of the barbershop world 'come play at our house' for a change. Her ideas were infectious and soon PHC was planning 'Voices Down Under - A Cultural Exchange.' Two years of dreaming and scheming, ups and downs, and a lot of stress and hard work culminated in the biggest, most exciting barbershop event ever to be held in the southern hemisphere!

Two International 'Top Ten' quartets, Fanatix and Saturday Evening Post entertained and educated, the 80 member Kiwi He Tangata Chorus directed by Barbara Letcher brought a taste of New Zealand culture, the STAR chorus from the US was directed by Suzy Lobaugh, who also taught classes, the Big Aussie Chorus brought together Sweet Adelines from all around Oz and the Voices Of Perth Chorus gave an opportunity for singers to join in with PHC and the Men in Harmony to experience singing barbershop. A truly amazing week of unique experiences!!



Barb Letcher

More! More!! Oh what a blast. Who will forget moments like the sun setting by the Burswood pool, the slow motion pitch taking lesson, the New Zealanders poi, conga lines to the fabulous swing band, performing on stage with Perth chorus, singing with Fanatix, seeing the crowns and so much more. And what's better than a superb international medal winning quartet? TWO superb international medal winning quartets!! With a ton of talent, knowledge and warmth between them. Jen Squires - MD Headliners

How can one comment on the most amazing five days of education, musical excellence and commitment I have experienced since becoming a member of Brindabella chorus and a Sweet Adeline? I have never experienced such generosity and sharing of our Craft between both men and women at every stage of barbershop skill level. We had so much fun! It was JUST FABULOUS!!



Welcome BBQ, Burswood



Saturday Evening Post & Fanatix, octet



2-7 SEPTEMBER 2004 - PERTH, AUSTRALIA

Heather Douglas - Brindabella



Everything begins with an idea! In 2001, Rose McGee had an idea to form a performance group. She contacted various interested women and within four months the group grew to 25 members. We toyed with the idea of having a mixed group made up of female and male members, but this idea disappeared, and we became an all female performance group, and perform we did!

Our name, Out of the Blue, reflects our connection with the Pacific Ocean, as well as

Out Of The Blue Singers

the almost spontaneous nature of the creation of our chorus.

In April 2003 we had our first foray into something different with The Choir of Judges for the local production of Jesus Christ Superstar at the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre. This was one of our most prestigious performances to date.

Under Rose's direction we became a Chartered Chorus in 2004, competed for the first time in Adelaide later that same year and achieved first place in Division A. We were very happy - it had been a big three years to reach this point. The support from Endeavour Chorus through this phase is greatly appreciated.

Our close relationship with Pacific Empire Chorus grew from the rapport we had developed with their Director, International coach Jan Gervais, who mentored OOTB from its embryonic state. This connection resulted from the friendship between Jan, Rose and Therese Cooney, and although Rose and Therese have moved on, we maintain a close connection with Jan and Pacific Empire Chorus.

Rose resigned as Musical Director in June 2005. With lots of help from Directors Lea Baker and Jan Gervais, we prepared for Brisbane Convention 2006. Jan agreed to direct us for this performance - a first for Out of the Blue and a first for Jan - and we gained 5th place!

We share outstanding memories of the women who contribute to chorus life. Laughter, hugs, tears, phone calls, wine, lunches, retreats, singing, performing in smaller groups, dressed up (ladies of the night), dressed down (pyjamas), are all integral to being together. One member does the best rendition of 'Bad to the Bone'; others stay up til the wee hours, keeping a friend company while she finishes her wine. Another stayed focused on the contest stage (2006) when the strands from the wig she was wearing got stuck on her false eyelashes, until the appropriate time to dislodge them. Jan was stunned when she caught sight of the wayward strands but kept her composure. Troopers!



We now have two Directors, Janette Green and Vonny Winning, who took us to Convention in Hobart 2008. We were very pleased to achieve our goals as a chorus and as individuals.

We have a wonderful entourage of husbands, partners, family and friends who travel in support of our quests. Their encouragement and support is greatly acknowledged, appreciated, honoured and welcomed.

What does the future hold? Out of the Blue is a metamorphic chorus. We create possibilities, with the support of many people. Ultimately, lots more of the same, the unusual and different, and always, the best of possible outcomes.

2005 GOING ANNUAL

Starting the year with education seemed to work well, so the 'routine' was continued this year. The Directors' Summer School was held in January. Kickstart Workshops were held in four states in February using our own Regional Education Faculty (REF): Cathy Rainey, Carole MacIntyre, Rose McGee and Jo Oosterhoff in NSW; Brenda Smith and Rose in Victoria, Jo and Laurel Santry in Queensland and Susan Lansdown and Jenny Fay in WA. All but the NSW group had a quartet workshop the following day. Our champion quartet Accolade, along with well known New Zealand coach, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor ran a Quartet Workshop in NSW in March.



Sharon Babb directs, this time in NSW.

After years of struggling to meet all the criteria, Voices of the Vasse finally and joyously were chartered on 24th March. Alas, May saw the dissolution of three of our choruses: Batavia Coast and Albany City in WA and Ballarat Sovereign in Victoria. Once again, unique problems of maintaining a chorus in a regional area were evident.

Meantime, our 8th (and first annual) Convention was held once again at the Convention Centre in Adelaide. Having always had biennial conventions, the time had arrived for Region 34 to fall in line with other regions throughout the world who have annual conventions and competitions. The timing was also to change as our traditional June date meant we were always the last region in the world to compete. As a result, our 2004 and 2005 Conventions were 11 months apart rather than two years. This could have been extremely 'tricky' had it not been for careful forward planning by the RMT who had decided to use the same venue for two consecutive years.

Another consequence of changing over to annual conventions was the fact that many choruses chose not to compete two years in a row. The five choruses who did choose to compete, however, performed very well and the average chorus score was actually significantly higher than in the previous year.

Melbourne Chorus won by increasing their previous score to the 'magical' 603. Excitement and congratulations for a job very well done were only slightly dampened with the realisation that, as their director Jeanette Whitmore had not yet completed her final lesson in the DCP, she did not qualify as a Master Director. Circular Keys came second, followed by Yarra Ranges Harmony. Adelaide Sound Connection was awarded the Most Improved Chorus title.

Quartets showed no hesitation in competing two years running, however, and new champions emerged from a field of 20 quartets. BlackJaQ took the Gold, followed by Accolade, Pitch Black (who won Most Improved), Cadenza and Backbeat. The Novice Quartet Award went to Synchronicity.



BlackJaQ celebrate

Come September, and it's time to 'Spring Into Action' at a workshop near you! In Sydney, Sharon Babb, Tola Oberlies and Barbara Letcher presented a wide range of classes and Sharon and Barbara each directed a 'workshop chorus' with a great deal of skill and

Timeline →

Jan/Feb 2005
Directors' Summer School
Kickstarts in all states.

Mar 2005
Voices of the Vasse chartered.

May 2005
Batavia Coast, Albany City & Ballarat Sovereign dissolve.
Convention in Adelaide.

Sep/Oct 2005
Spring Into Action workshops, all states.
Perth Harmony in Detroit.

humour! The following  weekend, Toulia and Sharon taught in Queensland and Victoria, and the weekend after that, Sharon was 'doing another encore' of her classes in WA.

Later in the year, Perth Harmony were off again to America to compete. They were looking forward to revisiting New Orleans exactly ten years after their first appearance there. However, with the devastation of Hurricane Katrina less than a month before, there was concern about whether the Convention might be postponed or even cancelled. Amazingly, International Headquarters did manage to reorganise and 'save the day' by moving it to Detroit.



Straight off the quartet stage

Determined to find means of sharing our passion for barbershop with the younger generation, a group of men and women representing 3 Chorus and CAL met in Perth and formed YIBDI (Youth In Barbershop Development Initiative). With the support of Southern Cross Region and AAMBS, they organised BBDO '05 (Big Barbershop Day Out) as a lead up to having the Musical Island Boys from New Zealand out in 2006. This was the start of a growing and much anticipated annual event on the Perth schools' calendar, and as this book goes to press, a similar event is about to take place in Adelaide.

collapsing at the airport and being unable to travel with the Chorus. This dampened all spirits until Jenny was able to join us a day later. Great convention memories for our novice chorus include the room sharing, the late night Brisbane meals, participating in the wonderful STAR Chorus, 'freezing' in our rehearsal, and Tracie making us smile by wearing 'L' plates. What a learning experience for all the members AND Tracie won the Novice Director's Award. In 2008, enthusiastic members were off to the Hobart Convention to relive the camaraderie and outstanding education of Harmony College.

The Chorus now has its first registered quartet, the 'Comeos'. We thank the mentors, friends and coaches who have helped us through our struggles to get to this stage as the Voices of the Vasse have become a close family in true harmony!



Voices Of The Vasse

In April 1997 Lisa Stelter attended a concert given in Dunsborough by Perth Harmony Chorus. As a result of the workshop that followed, Lisa gathered a group of 4 singers, but by year's end all had fallen apart.

In 1998, Lisa attended a small chorus weekend at Baldivis. Energised and enthused, Lisa re-formed the group and obtained a rehearsal venue. By January 1999, the group had acquired Prospective status.

The chorus built up a repertoire of songs and performed at a variety of community occasions. Some members attended Convention in Perth in 2000 and were 'blown away' by the experience.

In 2001 Sally Hammond became Director while Lisa took a deserved break. Though quite young, Sally did an excellent job of learning, teaching and directing until she moved to Perth to pursue her university studies. In 2003 Lesley Davis stepped down from the risers to direct the chorus.

In 2004 Voices continued to work towards chartering, struggling to maintain the required number of singers. Risers were purchased and Mary Leonard was invited to travel down regularly to assist with developing musical skills via coaching and PVs.

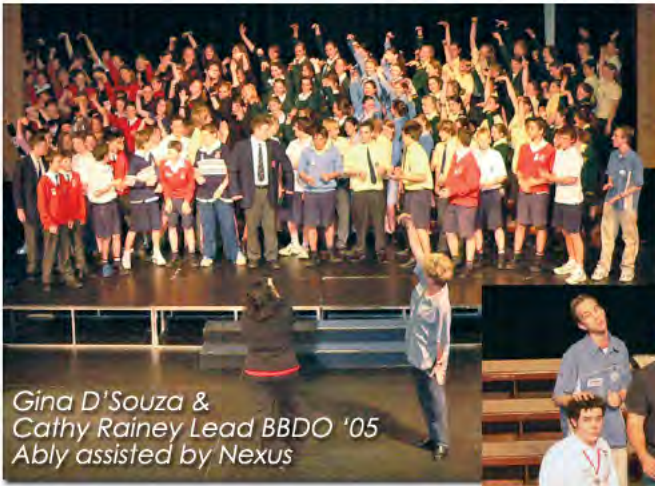
In March 2005 Voices of the Vasse were finally chartered and celebrated with a party attended by a group from 'Big Sister' Perth Harmony. Because of membership issues, our hopes of competing in Adelaide were not to be, so a recording was made to enable us to be evaluated by video.

A major 6-week membership drive in 2006 with assistance from Jo Oosterhoff and others, resulted in several new members including Tracie Whiteside, who became our Director. A large group travelled to the Rumours Workshop in Perth. Aside from fun, our chorus also began to really appreciate the hard work and rewards coming from participation in Sweet Adelines. Further support came when REF Sandy O'Neill visited to discuss setting and meeting goals.

Leading up to Convention 2007, the Chorus was swept along in a blur of preparations. Support from all our Perth mentors buoyed us up and planning by our admin team was meticulous but exhausting, contributing to our Team Coordinator, Jenny Patton,



With Jess Bullen, Director Mentor



Gina D'Souza & Cathy Rainey Lead BBDO '05
Ablly assisted by Nexus

"This Monday it was my distinct pleasure to be an onlooker at the fourth Big Barbershop Day Out (2008) held in Perth. Almost 250 kids from primary to high school took part, over 50 boys (!) and an enormous chorus of girls singing up a storm.

This model developed by YIBDI and guided by Mary Leonard and Jo Oosterhoff over these past years is such an excellent opportunity to show the youth of the country that barbershop music is certainly not just for boring old people! Mary and Jo deserve the highest accolades for having gathered a great team together to get the days organised.

There were so many people involved in helping and teaching, both Sweet Adelines and AAMBS members. Sincere thanks to you all.

The kids absolutely love it, and it is amazing to see how quickly they pick it up and start harmonising and making wonderful sounds.

Congratulations to all. Region 34 is proud to assist this most worthwhile project as positive growth for the future of our organisations."

Rae Knight - Events Coordinator Region #34

While attending the Pan Pacific men's convention in New Zealand in 2005, Perth Sweet Adelines and AAMBS members were knocked out by the number of Kiwi youth involved in barbershop, and in particular the Musical Island Boys Quartet (MIB). CAL member Helen Verhoeff had a chat to the 'boys' and confirmed they would be delighted to come to Perth if it could be arranged.

Youth In Barbershop

Thus was the seed of an idea planted, which sprouted into the formation of YIBDI (Youth In Barbershop Development Initiative), which in turn has grown to the annual BBDO (Big Barbershop Day Out) involving hundreds of kids in Perth, and which is now spreading to other states involving YSIH (Young Singers In Harmony) in similar festivals.

The format for BBDO is to furnish music and learning CDs to schools who wish to participate with a view to have them arrive on the day knowing words and notes and spending the day 'making it barbershop' and adding a bit of choreo. The object is to have both kids and teachers learn more about the art



Musical Island Boys, 2006



form and hopefully 'get hooked'... objectives which appear to have been successful. Evidence of this success includes two groups of students who have started small choruses after leaving high school, one school with two quartets planning to enter the SAA regional contest in Perth next year and on a larger scale, the fact that BBDO '08 had about 200 participating kids from 13 schools.

Although each big day out has been special, BBDO '06 was outstanding! MIB were in Perth for a full week (during their Uni break) along with their coach Charlotte Murray, just weeks before they won the International SPEBSQSA Collegiate Competition! Not only were the guys outstanding musicians and Charlotte an excellent teacher, they were also amazing role models for all. During the week their workshop audiences included primary, secondary and tertiary students, and evenings were spent visiting adult choruses .. and attending a reception in the home of the US Consul. At the

BBDO Concert on Saturday night, the sell-out audience demanded so many (willingly provided) encores that there was a mad dash to the airport to catch their flight back to New Zealand.



Girls Chorus 2008, Jo Oosterhoff directing



Boys Chorus 2008, Alex Morris directing

2006 TAKING THE PLUNGE

Once again the year got off to an excellent start with the Directors' Summer School. Educating the educators! In a bid to spur chorus members to take responsibility for increasing their own general musical knowledge, the RMT initiated a promotion to have members sit the AMEB exam. The 'carrot' provided was a prize for the chorus having the largest percentage of their membership pass the exam. 13 members of The Melbourne Chorus, even though they were preparing to compete at International, found the time to study and successfully sit the exam!! No doubt the prize money assisted in their quest to get to Las Vegas in October.

Membership was continuing to increase with the chartering of 2 new choruses, Hinkler Harmony in Bundaberg and Aurora Australis in Sydney.

Come May, everyone headed for sunny Brisbane to Sing 'n' Shine at the beautiful old Brisbane City Hall. The RMT call for tenders from choruses to handle Convention registrations had been won by Sydney Town Chorus and this innovation seemed to work well.

After the 'small' chorus competition the previous year, we were back up to 18 choruses competing and 2 singing for Evaluation Only. Endeavour Harmony wowed the audience and the judges, winning the competition with a whopping 613 points and earning Lea Baker the title of Master Director - the 2nd in the Region! Circular Keys were also extremely happy coming 2nd place overall, 1st place Mid-Size AND Most Improved Chorus. Bathurst Panorama were next and also were 1st Place Small Chorus, then came Harmony in Paradise (with Andrew Howson as best Novice Director) and Out of the Blue Singers with only 1 point separating them. Bathurst were to later learn that their score of 567 points earned them an invitation to compete at Harmony Classic in July 2007, an opportunity they were eager to embrace!



Karen Beaton... transformed!

In the Quartet Competition, 30 foursomes strutted their stuff, with 3 of last year's top 5 medalling for the 2nd year running. Accolade won Gold and, stoked as they were for winning with 599 points, Vicky drew a laugh and round of applause when she couldn't resist asking the judges what the audience was thinking: couldn't they have found just ONE more point? BlackJaQ came 2nd, followed by Audacious!, Pitch Black and Diamond G. The Wendy Middleton Award went to Jan and Tonic and the Novice Quartet award was not presented.

A highlight of the Show Glow after competition was as a result of an

RMT initiative to encourage members to 'Take the Plunge' and put their hand up to assist at Regional Level. During the show, a frumpy bag lady appeared on stage. As she spoke and appeared to gain confidence, she did an outrageous strip, to reveal Karen Beaton, the regional Communications and Technology Coordinator, in swimsuit and a large sash reading 'Take the Plunge'. With her generous curves, beaming smile and very evident sense of fun, Karen was someone every audience member could relate to! Karen reappeared numerous times throughout the show, performing with various groups and stealing the limelight every time. In October, Melbourne Chorus and Accolade Quartet were off to 'Vegas, Baby'



Accolade win the battle for Gold a 2nd time

Timeline →

Jan 2006

Directors' Summer School at The Tops NSW

Mar/Apr 2006

Hinkler Harmony & Aurora Australis chartered.

May 2006

Convention at Brisbane City Hall 'Sing and Shine'.

Oct/Nov 2006

Accolade & Melbourne compete in Las Vegas.

Rumors Fly Across Australia.

This is a hobby! A wonderful hobby, but it can't be the be all and end all... we have to keep our feet on the ground... be mindful of others... be compassionate with each other. Family always comes first!

- Doris Ward CKC

to compete at International. A number of other Aussies as well as 7 members of the RMT were there to 'Oi, Oi, Oi' for them.

The decision had been made to fund as many of the RMT as could attend in light of a number of proposals which had been made by International which would negatively impact on the membership of Region 34. Through communications with the International Board of Directors, our team had expressed our concerns, but felt it important to be physically present for discussions which would take place during a meeting of RMTs from all regions the day before Convention. As well as the general meetings, several members of IBOD agreed to meet with the 7 members of our team who were present, and it was felt this was a very worthwhile exercise in representing our point of view. When IBOD eventually informed all regions of their final decisions on these matters, there seemed to be a reasonable compromise.

What a treat was in store for us all when the long-awaited Rumors arrived to 'Fly Across Australia'! NSW and Victoria had a full weekend of classes and an in-house show. During the week between, Dale and Charla went to Perth while Peggy and Judy spent 2 days in Brisbane. The membership was abuzz throughout Australia about the extraordinary education provided by these extremely talented and knowledgeable women.



Aurora Australis

Aurora Australis was formed in October 2005

under the directorship of Lindsey Dyer. Lindsey has since moved to WA and we have been directed by Kerani Francis since September 2007 with Sue Ohlin assisting.

In 2007 the chorus competed for the first time in the Sweet Adelines Australian Regional competition in Brisbane, against choruses from around Australia.

Aurora Australis was placed second in the Small Chorus category. "We were delighted with our placing," said team co-ordinator Jude Clarke. "Our motto is 'we strive for excellence' and this was a fantastic achievement."

We have had a variety of sing outs including the Hunters Hill Mooloolooloo festival, St Vincent's and Concord hospitals, various charity functions and Christmas performances.

Although not competing, 16 members of the chorus travelled to Hobart in 2008 for Convention and Harmony College. We were very proud when our Director Kerani received the Inaugural Marian Reinsch Award.

Our most recent competition was at the Sydney Eisteddfod in June 2008 which was both challenging and a great educational experience for us. Under Kerani's guidance we are concentrating on building and diversifying our repertoire and are welcoming new members each week.



Members of Aurora were invited to tour our namesake, the RSV Aurora Australis at Princess Wharf, Hobart, Tasmania during the 2008 Convention and in return we treated the captain to a performance on the helicopter deck.

It's good to have butterflies. They let you know you're alive. You just need to get them flying in formation. - Carolyn Butler, IPP2 Judge



Hinkler Harmony Chorus

Hinkler Harmony Chorus formed in Bundaberg, Queensland when Judy Taggart, who had sung with Geelong Harmony Chorus for 10 years, joined a mixed classical choir 'Orpheus' and met Lois who had heard Sweet Adelines sing 10 years previously on the Gold Coast.

Lois was keen to sing in a quartet with Judy, so Marg and Cecily travelled from Childers to Judy's home each week for the first month. Meantime more members were recruited from other choirs. That first quartet gathering was in June 2001 and by February 2003 we had 13 members, and had out-grown Judy's lounge room. We moved to our first home base at the famous Queenslander Homestead, in the grounds of the Botanical Gardens and sang in the drawing room for 2 happy years.

Like all choruses, numbers were up and down, but we applied for Prospective Step 1 in May. Once over that magic figure of 15 committed women came Step 2 and we moved to the Baptist Hall in April '05. Our Charter was granted March 7th 2006 with Judy Taggart as Musical Director and Desley Dwyer as Team Leader. The Charter was presented when 18 members sang for evaluation at the Brisbane Convention.

Our name 'Hinkler' commemorates Bundaberg's famous aviator 'Bert Hinkler'. We now proudly wear our new logo, featuring Bert's name and plane, designed by Mark Duckworth, our chorus computer genius and Judy, who also designed our banner.

In 2008 we blossomed. We have a wonderful large new venue, our very own risers (by courtesy of a generous offer from Sunshine Coast Chorus) installed 4 days before a special visit from Jen Squires. Jen and our dedicated music team inspired and changed the character of the Chorus in 24 hours. In July, 5 promising new members joined us by way of our media search to swell our membership to 30 and the Chorus sections are now defined by their own coloured shirts and logos.

Sadly, the Chorus lost our Choreographer, Josephine, to her family business prior to Convention. Thanks to Laurel Santry and Diane James who came to our rescue with a special workshop weekend.

A significant performance was our first big concert at 'Annie's' in the Botanical Gardens in July 2005 to celebrate Sweet Adelines' 60th year. Our audience overflowed outside under the verandahs. Our funniest moments happen sometimes in performance when our member Lois 'relates' to a man in the audience and acts out her part while we sing When I Fall In Love. Our favourite Convention moment was impromptu singing at the 'Explorer Inn' Brisbane, to family, supporters and staff; the worst was when Bass Meg appeared in the foyer with NO VOICE morning of contest, so down to 18 on stage for our first contest with Meg as our 'Bag Lady'!

Our most achievable goal is to have 25 on stage for the Hobart 2009 Convention, achieve a score of C+ and Most Improved Chorus.

2007 INTERNATIONAL MEDALS

This year's faculty for the January Directors' Summer School were Barbara Letcher, Master Director from New Zealand, as well as our own International Faculty Associates Cathy Rainey and Rose McGee. All the Regional Education Faculty had enjoyed training with Cathy and Rose the previous day. Later in the year, workshops for music leaders were held in Victoria by Rose McGee and Sandy O'Neill, in Queensland by Rose, and in NSW by Rose and Ian Fraser, the latter one including quartets.

In February, the Hervey Bay Seabelle Singers received their Charter and later in the year, Yarra Ranges Chorus had a name change approved and were now called East City Sounds. Unfortunately, Southern Belles Chorus, struggling to maintain numbers, decided to dissolve.

Another example of International's recognition of talent in our Region came when Jill Harris, because of her interest and expertise in this area, was invited to join Peggy Gram and Judy Widener on the International Distance Learning Task Force. They will explore ways to help far-flung members like us use technology to get best value from SAI education opportunities.

Changes to the Regional Management Team structure by IBOD (International Board of Directors) came into effect this year. Although there remained eight members on the team, there was some rearrangement of responsibilities as well as corresponding name changes. Briefly, the Marketing and Membership Coordinator passed on parts of her portfolio relating to membership to what was the Chapter Coordinator position in order to concentrate solely on Marketing. Thus the two positions became known as Marketing Coordinator and Membership Coordinator to better reflect their roles. The words 'and Technology' were dropped from the title of Communications and Technology Coordinator.

On the Convention scene, everyone seemed to be settling into the yearly routine as we once again headed off to 'Sing and Shine' in Brisbane. Easy for us, but Events Coordinator Rae Knight and her team had sorted through



Friendly Faces: The Rego Team



Gerri, Mary & Kim Kraut at the afterglow

an absolute nightmare as a change of venue was necessitated only 2 months out! Instead of the Brisbane City Hall (where a nearby major construction project threatened to have jackhammers NOT keeping time with our music!), we were in the beautiful, spacious Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

With 14 choruses competing, Perth Harmony won with 624 points, followed by Brindabella, who also won the Midsize Chorus section. Then came Harmony in Paradise, East City Sounds and Wollongong Harmony. Redland Rhapsody topped the Small Choruses and Northern

Beaches were the Most Improved with a huge increase of 123 points. In the very 1st competition for both Voices of the Vasse Chorus and their Director, Tracie Whiteside, Tracie won the Marion Clarke Novice Director Award.

The healthy state of quartetting in Australia was yet again demonstrated with 27 quartets competing! The level of singing and showmanship, as well as number of competitors made for a very exciting 5½ hours of entertainment. Accolade and BlackJaQ once again deservedly took out the first two spots, followed by Espionage, Pitch Black and Girl Friday (formerly known as Cadenza), with only 4 points separating 3rd from 5th place. The Wendy Middleton Award went to Cadenza and Love That! won Novice Quartet.

Timeline →

Jan 2007

Directors' Summer School with Barbara Letcher from NZ.

May 2007

Convention at Brisbane Convention Centre: 'Sing and Shine'.

Jul 2007

Bathurst Panorama compete in Harmony Classic at IES.

Oct 2007

Endeavour Harmony & Accolade compete in Calgary.

Arranging In Australia

The Southern Cross Region Arrangers Program (SCRAP) was launched in April 1997. The Program was the brainchild of DMA Rose Philipson. She enlisted the assistance of Alexa Blonner, who had some limited experience in arranging, who in turn liaised with Jan Meyer, Region 4's Arrangers Program Coordinator. The result was the adoption of Region 4's two-level Arranger's Home Study Course. This started some cross-fertilisation as Jan ended up borrowing Alexa's Newsletter initiative and, across the Tasman, New Zealand adopted fully our Arranger's Program format.

Alexa saw the necessity for expanding Course material into the current three levels and completed this task in 2000. Jenny Fay, a graduate of this course took over the administration of the Program in 2004, with Gwen Dunn assisting.

As of now, 67 people have at various times enrolled in SCRAP. Most don't finish. Some leave SAI, some are distracted by other pursuits (eg directing!); many have gained what they wanted to know when they leave. Most run out of time! Many return years later and want to do a bit more.

There have been 6 formal completions of the course: Gwen Dunn, Jenny Fay, Thayer Donaldson, Joan Humphrey, Cheryl Lim and Bev Walters. Doris Ward and of course, Alexa Blonner, were given gratis status.

With the last minute changes, the planned dinner had to be abandoned, but the afterglow had a great party atmosphere! Being the final act on the Showcase Saturday night, Champions PHC, in all their circus gear including a character on stilts, led the audience from the auditorium around to the afterglow area. On the way, people had to be on the alert as one clown roved around looking for a target for her cream pie!

In July, Bathurst Panorama Chorus headed to the USA as the first



Pat LeVezu presents a class with Bathurst Panorama as demonstrating chorus at IES.

Australian Chorus to compete in Harmony Classic. After months of intense fundraising and preparation and in spite of key props being lost by the airlines, the gals put on an outstanding performance, were awarded 4th place, the most bonus points for entertainment and accepted a standing ovation for their troubles.

Bec Mutton, with her long held interest in YWIH, had successfully applied for funding to organise a Choral Camp with a Barbershop Stream for students in the Riverina area. Sharon Stanley was the guest clinician, and this effective introduction to a smaller group of students soon sparked interest in the art form by other students.

Endeavour Harmony, having wowed the audience (and judges) at the '06 Convention with their solid sound, gorgeous costume and entertaining package, in the company of 3-time Champion Quartet Accolade, were off to compete for the first time at International in Calgary. In the words of their President, Janetta Gilbert, "Everything flowed exactly as we visualised it." And once again, our Aussie chorus and quartet 'did us proud.'

Cathy Rainey



Barbershop + the wide outdoors = Cathy Rainey!

After 23 years as Director of Perth Harmony Chorus, Cathy made the decision to step back onto the risers and concentrate on her extensive coaching commitments.

The Chorus created a unique event to honour and acknowledge Cathy's role as Charter Director, setting the scene with a 'This is Your Life' stage set, complete with lounge setting, lamps, carpet square and audio visual equipment. True to the genre, Cathy was completely taken by surprise! Mystery guests from Cathy's chorus past, including Rose McGee, who travelled interstate for the event, took their places in the well catered green room, waiting their turn as Mystery Voice behind the curtain.

Tributes poured in via video links and many were read from International Faculty members, esteemed Directors throughout the world and from friends and colleagues all over Australia. Tears and laughter when letters from her two daughters were read, and again when Life Memberships were awarded for both Perth Harmony and Sweet Adelines International. The After Party was a credit to this hospitable group!

Congratulations Perth Harmony on a fantastic event and to Cathy in her continuing role as Chorus member, quartet bass and International Educator. Her passion for barbershop and spirit of educational sharing has influenced us from the beginning and been a strong force for the good in our wonderful region.



Hervey Bay Seabelle Singers

Wow! 2004 - What a Year!! Gwen Dunn, Director of the Sunshine Coast Harmony Chorus suggested that three ladies from Hervey Bay join her chorus to kick start their knowledge of four part harmony. They auditioned and became members of the chorus. Love of barbershop singing and the determination to compete with SCHC in the 2004 Adelaide Convention was motivation for the ladies to travel regularly to the Sunshine Coast for rehearsals.

Meanwhile back home, advertising for ladies to join them to sing Christmas Carols brought in 18 members and thus 'Hervey Bay Seabelle Singers' was born. Our first meeting was held at Condy Park Kindergarten which became our home for the next three years. Rosalie Grauer was elected our Team Coordinator. After discovering a cut-out of a mermaid, we gathered around for a photo and our insignia and name Seabelles was definitely set. Jennifer Grauer became our Director, and what a great job she has done. We are very proud of her. Jennifer has attended several Directors' Schools and seminars to help develop her skills.

In 2005 our first taste of competition came in the form of the prestigious Maryborough Eisteddfod. We entered the Open Choral section and were ecstatic to win First Place. We stood on the steps of the Brolga Theatre feeling the smiles would never leave our faces.

With more singing at different events and venues, our chorus grew to 29 as we prepared to sing for evaluation at the 2006 Convention in Brisbane as a Prospective Chorus. What an excited group of ladies we were! We felt very glamorous in our microdot swing coats. Party Time!

The Seabelles worked extremely hard as they were 'in training' for the 2007 Brisbane Convention. A feather boa was added to our costume, and didn't we look sensational! We certainly learned a lot attending the Master Class and other interesting classes provided at Convention.

Our Charter was received in early 2007 and was presented to us by our local Mayor at a special function to share with our family and friends.

Once again we entered the Maryborough Eisteddfod. Our Octet 'The Sea Urchins' was placed First in their section singing I Am Australian. This beautiful piece sung barbershop style certainly tugs at the heartstrings and these girls got a standing ovation for their rendition.

The Chorus owes a debt of gratitude to a wonderful lady, Alexa Blonner, for her assistance in our Chorus development in the lead up to conventions.

We have not only become members of 'Seabelles', but also become great friends. Camaraderie is something that has grown in the chorus and lunching, movies and picnics are all a part of enjoying a wonderful fellowship. Our fundraising events are also fun as we have fantastic support from partners, family and friends.

'Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.'
-Berthold Auerbach

2008 FEEL THE BEAT WITH RUMORS

The REF training and Directors' Summer School were held at Merroo this year with Rose McGee and Cathy Rainey as faculty.

Wrest Point in Hobart proved to be a wonderful venue to 'Feel the Beat' of our 12th Regional Convention. The facilities were excellent, the views spectacular, and staff could not be more willing to assist. All this as well as 12 choruses, 34 quartets and the fabulous Rumors to teach at Harmony College! Serendipitously, the beginning of Convention on 1st May coincided with the first day of Peggy Gram's term as International President. In her honour, a reception was hosted by the Tasmanian Governor and his wife at the Governor's Residence.

In honour of Marian Reinsch, a true pioneer of Sweet Adelines in Australia, a new award was created to be given to someone who demonstrates extraordinary results in either the Director Certification Program (DCP) or Southern Cross Region Arranging Program (SCRAP). The Inaugural recipient of the Award this year was Kerani Francis, Director of Aurora Australis Chorus.

The chorus competition was of a high standard, prompting judges to comment on this fact, as all competitors scored over 400. Melbourne were again declared Champions and their score of 614 finally and deservedly earned their Director Jeanette Whitmore the title of Master Director. Circular Keys came 2nd, followed



Rumors at work during Harmony College



by Bathurst Panorama who

Traffic Pattern Trouble

Following Hobart Harmony's colourful, high energy performance in the Opening Ceremony, their Director Jenni, along with Glenis, Kerri and Mavis, had to make a rapid exit as their quartet, Chameleon, was due in the traffic pattern very shortly.

In their haste, Glenis and Mavis somehow found themselves locked in a stairwell on their way to the green room! After banging on the door for some time, they were finally rescued and, being the troopers they are, managed to be on stage on time with the audience (and judges) being none the wiser.

Talk about your relaxing pre-performance routine!!

also won the Midsize Chorus Division. Murrumbidgee Magic was 1st place Small Chorus, and Adelaide Sound Connection took out the Most Improved Chorus Award. Robyn Westwood of East City Sounds was given the Marion Clarke Novice Director's Award.

Post Convention, Melbourne Chorus made the decision not to compete in Nashville the following year, so the invitation was extended to and accepted by Circular Keys Chorus to represent Australia in Nashville in 2009.

In the quartet competition, Accolade again scored a marvellous 599 points to win their 4th gold medal. They were followed by The Latest News, formerly known as Audacious!, Spontaneous, Pitch Black and Love That! who also were Most Improved. Swing Shift were presented with the Novice Award.

While others were having a break between Convention and Harmony College, over 70 choreographers, visual leaders and directors participated in the inaugural 'Visual Ideas Workshop' led by Laurel Santry, Brenda Smith and Glenn Ussher.

Harmony College, with such a varied offering of classes taught by members of Rumors was an unqualified success. In

Timeline →

Jan 2008
Directors' Summer School at Merroo.

May 2008
Convention in Hobart: 'Feel The Beat'
Rumors Harmony College.

Aug-Nov 2008
Around Australia in 80 Days: Darlene Rogers, Pat LeVezeu & Dede Nibler visit every chorus.

Nov 2008
Accolade & Perth Harmony compete in Hawaii.

Spirit of the Coast Harmony was founded in February 2007 and we are proud to have Thayer Donaldson as our Music Director. We received our charter in July 2008, having started with thirty former members of Central Coast Harmony Chorus. We have since grown to forty members.



Spirit Of The Coast



Spirit's first rehearsal was held in the lounge room of longstanding Sweet Adeline and valued chorus member Dottie Skinner. Another wonderful hardworking chorus member, Olwyn Harvey, has done a magnificent job updating our costumes with some very clever ideas. She is currently working on costumes in readiness for our first convention as Spirit of the Coast Harmony in Hobart in 2009.

Amongst our favourite performances would be our first exciting outing as Spirit of the Coast Harmony at Tarragal Manor, Terrigal in June 2007. Another was singing to a packed house at the Central Coast Leagues Club in August 2008 with our show 'The Magic of Music' held jointly with the Sydney Male Choir. We had a very fun evening at Wyong Council Citizenship Ceremony held on Nov 4th, Melbourne Cup night. We sang in the best Australian tradition wearing our best finery, hats and high heels, as if we had just walked off the Flemington race track.

fact, evaluations indicated that this was one of our all time best educational events.

And on top of that, we got 3 exceptional educators in Darlene Rogers (Aug/Sept), Pat LeVeze (Sept/Oct) and Dede Nibler (Nov-Feb) to travel 'Around Australia in 80 Days'. Each chorus had a visit from one of these faculty, and an opportunity to attend additional training and weekend workshops. Dede also ran youth workshops in Hobart and Perth.

Two new choruses, Spirit of the Coast Harmony and A Cappella West received their charters, with ACW creating a problem for International to fit the names of all their charter members on the one certificate.

Being 'so close to home,' Perth Harmony and Accolade were delighted to have a large contingent of Australian supporters as they competed in Hawaii in November. Both were justifiably proud of their results, with Perth placing 16th out of 33 choruses and Accolade coming 29th of 50 quartets competing.

The support Central Coast Leagues Club has given our chorus has been phenomenal. We were recently accepted and welcomed as an Internal Club member.

Virginia Humphrey-Taylor, who is truly amazing, has visited our chorus many times and we look forward to seeing her again in 2009. Virginia has taught us some valuable skills to build upon, and her enthusiasm for our art form is second to none. Some of our members traveled to New Zealand in June 2008 to sing in concert with Christchurch City Chorus and attend "The Buzz" workshop. It was an amazing experience singing with CCC and learning from a quartet of such a high standard. The very personable members of The Buzz were totally engaging and generous with their knowledge.

We also had a visit from Pat LeVeze in October 2008. We found Pat to be one of the most delightful Directors we have had to visit us. With her easy flowing style, Pat was able to pass on a wealth of information gained over her many years in barbershop. We also include our own Director, Thayer, as one of our favourite coaches. Her techniques, knowledge and enthusiasm continue to encourage us to improve our singing. Due to the diligence of our management team and all chorus members, we continue to improve our sound and ensure our chorus is a happy fun place to be.

In February 2009, six chorus members, Thayer Donaldson, Lyn Howells, Jane Darby, Cheryl Benson, Karen Tucker and Barb Morris sang on stage in New York at Carnegie Hall with the Christchurch City Chorus and other members of the Sweet Adeline family. They had lots of exciting experiences to share and add to our Chorus History Book.

We thank everyone involved for their efforts in organising the special celebrations for our region. Spirit of the Coast Harmony wishes all Southern Cross Region 34 members fun, happiness and a successful 20th Anniversary Convention.





ACW members join with Vocal Course participants in early 2009.

A Cappella West

How far we've come since Lindsey Dyer and Annette Connolly first discussed starting a chorus in the southern suburbs of Perth. A group of like-minded people got together to share their vision, and plans were soon in place. Potential members would be introduced to barbershop with a 6 week vocal course at Murdoch University during February/March 2008. With 130 enquiries about the course, they knew they 'struck a chord' with local women. Over 90 women graduated from the vocal course which culminated in a very successful concert for family and friends.



We are indebted to our local Chapter at Large and Perth Harmony Chorus members who attended regularly throughout the course to offer encouragement and assistance. Jo Oosterhoff committed to the 6 week course to assist Lindsey and loved it so much that she decided to stay on as Co-Director. How lucky are we to have two such wonderfully talented and committed women at the helm!

Some 60 women have remained to form the foundation members of A Cappella West. The rehearsals are fun with innovative teaching ideas and above all, there is an overwhelming desire to stay together to build on the friendships and education that we are already experiencing. We hope to be sharing this joy with some new members at the completion of another Vocal Course in early 2009.

A Cappella West's first performance was to compete in the Open Choir section of the Fremantle Eisteddfod in May 2008. Imagine our surprise when we came home with the winner's trophy! The Chorus gave a polished yet relaxed performance which rated well with both the audience and judges. What a celebration we had that evening in a local Fremantle restaurant with our women taking to 'afterglows' like ducks to water.

Our official charter came through in September 2008 when we were very excited to be told by SAI that they had never had a Chorus charter with so many members before. It seems that we posed quite a problem in getting all of our members' names on the charter certificate. ACW continued to uphold their reputation as master caterers and revellers with a marvellous celebration of this major milestone in our short history. The rendition by our basses of "Basses did a bad, bad thing" was not to be missed. It has been such a fun-filled first year and having packed a cinema with ABBA look-alikes for our 'Mamma Mia' fundraiser and dressed as characters from our favourite musicals for our sing-a-long Christmas party, the mind boggles with possibilities for the future!

We have quite a few members travelling to Hobart in 2009 to learn about the Convention experience in readiness for our first taste of competition in Perth in 2010. We will be in Hobart to celebrate our charter, the Region's 20 year anniversary and to get to know more about our organisation and other Sweet Adelines in our Region. We look forward to seeing you there and joining in the celebrations.

2009 CELEBRATIONS!

The educational year again started in January with the Directors' Summer School, including music leaders, with Dede Nibler as faculty in conjunction with our REF. Dede also did a quartet school in Dee Why NSW. In March, Cathy Rainey presented a 'Quartet Strategies for Success' School in Wollongong and in early April, Jo Oosterhoff was faculty for the first Big Barbershop Day Out in Adelaide, followed by a general quartet workshop.



Dede Nibler at the Directors' Summer School

This is the year we commemorate our first 20 years as 'official' members of Sweet Adelines International, first as an Area, then as a Region. Our Convention in Hobart will be full of celebrations and reminiscences with many formal and informal opportunities to reflect on our achievements, plan for our future, and oh yes! ... to PARTY!

As of April 2009 there are 3 Prospective Choruses in the Region working their way through the 'Steps to Chartering'.

Birds of Paradise in Cairns came to be as the result of the Cold Start Program developed by the then Membership and Marketing Coordinator Jill Wardrop. Through media advertising, a group of interested singers was found and sent music. They attended a one day workshop, a potential director, Sue Jones, was identified, and they were off and running.



Onkaparinga Harmony was started last year by Margaret Wong and a team from Adelaide Sound Connection who also successfully used the Cold Start model. Margaret had felt that Adelaide could support a second chorus and is using her years of Sweet Adelines experience to direct and guide them toward chartering.

Vocal Vibes, under the direction of Lorraine Stackpoole, has come to be as the result of a not uncommon circumstance where some members of an established chorus feel they want to 'head in a different direction'. Thus a number of experienced members of East City Sound decided to form a new chorus. Both choruses are progressing well, all members seem happy, and soon Region 34 will have another chartered chorus of like-minded people.

In 20 short years we have grown from 3 Choruses and 10 Prospectives in 1989 to 29 Chartered Choruses and 3 Prospectives in 2009. With 1262 members, we have the third largest regional membership in the organisation as well as one of the largest geographically.

The 8 members of the Regional Management Team combine modern communications technology and innovative thinking to efficiently go about the business of running such a large, far-flung organisation. Our ongoing education plan provides opportunities for leaders, quartets and chorus members to enhance their knowledge of music, showmanship, administration and personal growth. To deliver this education, we have 12 Regional Education Faculty, 2 of whom are International Faculty Associates (Jill Harris and Susan Landsown) and 3 International Faculty (Rose McGee, Cathy Rainey and Brenda Smith). We have 8 graduates of SCRAP, a much larger number who have completed the DCP, and 1 Approved Candidate Judge (Lea Baker).

When Circular Keys Chorus competes in Nashville in late 2009, it will be the 20th time Region 34 has been represented on the International Competition stage by 5 different choruses and 3 quartets.

The future of Sweet Adelines Australia is being addressed by an expanding Young Singers programme, with festivals and workshops taking place this year in West Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania.

This impressive progress of Region 34 in spite of unique challenges of size and distance is due in no small part to strong and visionary leadership, an ongoing emphasis on education, and an inherent Aussie spirit of 'mateship'. This augurs well for continued growth and success in the future.

Timeline →

Jan/Feb 2009
Directors' Summer School with Dede Nibler.
NSW Quartet Workshop.

Mar/Apr 2009
Quartet Workshops in Wollongong & Adelaide.

May 2009
20th Anniversary celebrations at Convention in Hobart.

Oct 2009
Circular Keys Chorus & Accolade compete in Nashville.

CHORUS CHAMPIONS

1990	1st Melbourne 2nd Perth Harmony 3rd Sydney Town	2004	1st Perth Harmony 2nd Melbourne (Div. AA) 3rd Endeavour Harmony 4th Circular Keys 5th Wollongong Harmony Div. A Out of the Blue Singers MI Sydney Town
1992	1st Melbourne 2nd Perth Harmony 3rd Sydney Town	2005	1st Melbourne 2nd Circular Keys 3rd Yarra Ranges Harmony 4th Sydney Town 5th Adelaide Sound Connection (MI)
1994	1st Perth Harmony 2nd Melbourne 3rd Sydney Town (MI) Small Avon Valley Harmony	2006	1st Endeavour Harmony 2nd Circular Keys (MI) (Div. AA) 3rd Bathurst Panorama (Div. A) 4th Harmony in Paradise 5th Out of the Blue Singers
1996	1st Melbourne 2nd Perth Harmony 3rd Bathurst Panorama SC Avon Valley Harmony MI Wollongong Harmony	2007	1st Perth Harmony 2nd Brindabella (Div. AA) 3rd Harmony In Paradise 4th East City Sounds 5th Wollongong Harmony Div. A Redland Rhapsody MI Northern Beaches
1998	1st Perth Harmony Chorus 2nd Melbourne 3rd Wollongong Harmony SC Wagga Wagga (MI)	2008	1st Melbourne 2nd Circular Keys 3rd Bathurst Panorama (Div. AA) 4th Northern Beaches 5th Geelong Harmony Div. A Murrumbidgee Magic MI Adelaide Sound Connection
2000	1st Perth Harmony 2nd Wollongong Harmony (Div. AA) 3rd Sydney Town Div. A Circular Keys		
2002	1st Perth Harmony 2nd Wollongong Harmony (Div. AA) 3rd Endeavour Harmony Div. A Circular Keys MI Redland Rhapsody		

STAR & Quartet Chorus

As well as enjoying the performances of competing choruses at Convention, we have 'bonus' entertainment at the end of each competition by way of the Quartet and STAR Choruses.

The Quartet Chorus, made up of all competing quartets, sings as the judges are tallying their scores. It originated to give women who have devoted so much time and effort, in addition to their chorus commitments, an opportunity to sing more than the '6 minutes' of competition. The result is spectacular with around 100 women in various costumes with perhaps above average vocal skills singing together. This is a uniquely Australian tradition!

The STAR (Singing Together At Regionals) Chorus idea originated in the US. Having been supplied with music beforehand, and usually with very little rehearsal time at Convention before performing, non-competing delegates have an opportunity to perform on stage.



1990	1st Mischief Down Under 2nd Blue Rhythm 3rd Alliage	2004	1st Accolade (MI) 2nd Cadenza 3rd Sound Company 4th Intuition 5th Backbeat Novice Orphic West
1992	1st Mischief Down Under 2nd Hot Gossip 3rd Fascinat' Rhythm	2005	1st BlackJaq 2nd Accolade 3rd Pitch Black (MI) 4th Cadenza 5th Backbeat Novice Synchronicity
1994	1st Mischief Down Under 2nd Hot Gossip 3rd Simply Spellbound 4th Fascinat' Rhythm 5th Hi Gloss	2006	1st Accolade 2nd BlackJaq 3rd Audacious! 4th Pitch Black 5th Diamond G MI Jan & Tonic
1996	1st Mischief Down Under 2nd Fascinat' Rhythm 3rd Hi Gloss 4th Razor Sharp 5th Forecast Fine	2007	1st Accolade 2nd BlackJaq 3rd Espionage 4th Pitch Black 5th Girl Friday (MI) Novice Love That!
1998	1st Audacious! 2nd Fascinat' Rhythm 3rd Designer Chords 4th Touché 5th Forecast Fine	2008	1st Accolade 2nd The Latest News 3rd Spontaneous 4th Pitch Black 5th Love That! (MI) Novice Swing Shift
2000	1st Mischief Down Under 2nd Fascinat' Rhythm 3rd Cadenza (MI) 4th Hot Option 5th Sea Change		
2002	1st Cadenza 2nd Fascinat' Rhythm 3rd Intuition 4th Indigo Blues 5th Backbeat.au Novice Opalescent MI Four on the Floor		

Director Education

The Directors Certification Program (DCP) is an educational home-study program available from International. It is designed to develop skills for Sweet Adelines International directors, potential directors, and musical leaders, but much of the information contained within the DCP resource modules is useful for ALL chorus members interested in learning about the organisation, vocal production, teaching and directing.

One of the goals of the region is for every Director and Assistant Director to complete the eleven-module program.

The Directors Mentoring Scheme is a regional initiative wherein a less experienced Director is assigned a mentor. Some funds are made available to enable the pair to communicate via phone, email and/or occasional personal visits.

QUARTET CHAMPIONS