

Sweet Adelines Australia

2009-2019



A decade in the history of Region 34

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Introduction

"We are women, hear us roar – we are Sweet Adelines Australia!" What exciting words these are. Who would have known back in our region's humble beginnings in 1989 when the first seeds were sown, albeit with so much hard work by a dedicated group of women, that we would be celebrating our 30th Anniversary Year and beyond?

Who would have thought in 1989 we would have a membership of around 1300, 33 choruses (including two prospective) and 47 registered quartets (as at June 2020)? As with the first 20 years of Region 34's existence, the period 2009 to 2019 has seen growth at so many levels.

EDUCATION

We have continued to hunger to be educated in our region and as a result, our Regional Management Team continues to place a great emphasis on education at many levels.

Directors' School

Directors' School continues to be an annual event and is a great way for directors and assistant directors to come together across our geographically vast region to exchange ideas, to teach each other on their individual experiences and expertise and be exposed to guest faculty, both local and international. Some of these guest educators have included Molly Huffman, Jan Carley, Judy Pozsgay and Katerina Moraitis.

Directors and assistant directors can then, in turn, return to their chorus and share their valuable learnings.

In recent years the RMT also opened up the Directors' School to include chapter visual leaders and also chapter team coordinators/presidents, thus giving them the opportunity to share the unique educational opportunities on offer.

Regional Education Faculty (REF)

Our region continues to have an outstanding team of educators: a member of the REF travels to each of our choruses annually to support each chorus' musical and visual growth as well as providing administration support. The REF also teaches classes at our regional education events. Three of our Regional Faculty are also members of the International Faculty of Sweet Adelines International: Lea Baker, Glenda Lloyd and Rebecca Hewitt.

Southern Cross Region Arrangers' Program (SCRAP)

SCRAP has continued to enable members of Region 34 to learn about barbershop arranging. It is a self-paced home study course that takes participants logically and progressively through the technical aspects of arranging music in the barbershop style. While completing the course doesn't make the participant a "certified arranger", it is an excellent grounding in the principles of arranging and barbershop music theory and fosters the development of creativity and expertise in barbershop arranging.

It is fantastic to see so many of our members enthusiastically commencing and completing this course!



Directors' Certification Program (DCP)

The DCP is an educational home-study program designed to develop skills for Sweet Adelines International directors, potential directors, and musical leaders. Whilst much of the information contained within the DCP Resource Modules is useful for ALL chorus members, only Front line or Assistant Directors get a qualification (Certified Director) by successfully completing the program. Members who fit into this category continue to be encouraged to complete this important course.

Music Leaders Program (MLP)

Lindsey Dyer (Directors' Coordinator) brought the idea of a section leader training program to the RMT. This became the MLP, which provides specific training for section leaders, assistant and associate directors, quartets and any singers wanting to further their knowledge of the barbershop genre. The online program was developed by Joanne Oosterhoff and launched in 2016 with a very enthusiastic response. It takes approximately six months to complete. This exciting initiative is open to all members and, upon completion of the course, participants should be confident in basic conducting, music theory, listening skills and giving Personal Vocal Instruction (PVI). In addition, they will have gained a sound knowledge of Region 34, communication skills, judging categories and section rehearsals. After completion, graduates may wish to progress to the Directors' Certification Program.

Convention Masterclasses

A fabulous 'by product' of each convention continues to be the master classes. Members who attend convention have a unique opportunity to watch selected choruses and quartets be coached by two of the judges from the preceding contest. The generosity of the judges in giving their time to lead these classes allows those who are coached the opportunity to take away improvements which could be made by attending to specific feedback from their competition performances. The audience also has the opportunity to note and learn from this feedback. Some of the judges who have provided this coaching and feedback include Kim Vaughn, Dale Syverson, Sue Beck, Sharon Babb, Linda Keever, and Mary Rhea to name but a few.

Other Educational Opportunities

There has been a plethora of opportunities whereby members can have the opportunity to be exposed to educational opportunities. Some of these include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 2010 - "Where Would They Be Without Us?" Management Teams Workshops - various locations
- 2011 - The Buzz Downunder Workshops and Performance Tour (NSW and WA)
- 2011 - "SALAD Days" workshops (Sweet Adelines Leadership and Development Days) - many locations.
- 2012 - Harmony College in Canberra following convention. Faculty included Jean Barford, Dale Syverson, Lynnell Diamond and Peggy Gram.
- 2013 - Harmony College in Perth WA (AHA Downunder) - Peggy Gram, Betty Clipman and Lynne Smith as Faculty
- 2013 - MAXX Factor Workshop and show Tour (VIC and QLD)
- 2014 - Dede Nibler Downunder Workshops for August A Cappella
- 2015 - Queen It Up for August A Cappella with Mary Rhea and Darlene Rogers
- 2015 - Quartet Schools in WA, Vic and Qld
- 2016 - A Cappella Harmony held in Auckland, New Zealand
- 2016 - Quartet School Masterclasses in Qld, WA, NSW, SA and Vic
- 2017 - The REF are Coming! August A Cappella in SA, NSW, WA, Vic and Qld
- 2018 - Frenzy Workshops (QLD and WA)
- 2019 - *I Am Woman* Video Project - all Region 34 choruses invited to submit a video.
- Making A Difference Program including Director Mentor and Music Improvement Steps
- Program for Prospective Choruses
- Individual training, advice and materials for chapter admin leaders
- Facebook discussion groups for Marketing, Groupanizer Users,
- Chapter Leaders, Directors, Quartets, and Finance
- Regional Marketing Award Evaluations.
- August A Cappella
- Numerous topic specific webinars
- Quartet Days - each year at various locations



Young Women in Harmony

Region 34 believes a well-rounded education for young people should include music. Without the opportunity to participate in music programs, young people are deprived of unique opportunities to develop their creativity, to learn self-discipline and teamwork, to increase their sense of self-worth, and to learn to live in a global society. YWIH choruses around the world compete every year by video to win over US\$2000 in prize money.

South Australia and Western Australia have strong youth barbershop programs which are supported and driven by local barbershop groups and organisations such as YIBDI in WA (Youth in Barbershop Development Initiative) and members of SAI Australia and BHA (Barbershop Harmony Australia) in Adelaide. Region 34 continues to support these initiatives as we know how important developing interest in barbershop is for our region.

NSW launched barbershop singing for youth via a project called the 'Young Women In Harmony 2014 Showcase Chorus'. A grant application was submitted to the Young Singers Foundation in the USA and this was successful. Young women were brought together to sing four-part harmony barbershop style, learn two songs and then perform these songs on Showcase 2014 at the Convention which was held in Sydney.

In 2015, the following YWIH events were held:

SA - Big Barbershop Day Out

NSW - Big Barbershop Day Out

TAS - YWIH Chorus at Sweet Adelines Convention

VIC - Big Barbershop Day Out

Young women are always welcome to join Sweet Adelines and many chapters actively encourage and target young women to become members during their recruitment programs. <http://ywih.org.au> is the link for more information.



Above: YWIH chorus at the Sydney Convention 2014



Left: Local girls joined the YWIH Chorus at the Hobart Convention 2015

Technology

Over recent years, we have embraced new forms of technology in a way that has assisted us in breaking down the distance between ourselves and other regions. We have utilised webinars in a way not thought of too long ago to assist with education and spreading important information. We have used Facetime, Zoom and other forms of social media tools to bring us closer to each other and to our coaches. How could we have imagined ten years ago, never mind 30 years ago how this technology would revolutionise the way in which we communicate with each other?

We have moved from paper editions of our magazine and newsletter *OzChords* and *Short&Sweet* to electronic editions. This gives us the benefit of receiving these must-reads more quickly and the side benefits of being environmentally more friendly and cost effective.

Region 34's 25th Anniversary Celebrations

Region 34 had just cause to celebrate during 2014 as we achieved our 25-year milestone since becoming a Sweet Adelines region. An anniversary pin was produced by Western Australian chorus, A Cappella West

Our 25th Anniversary convention logo was proudly projected on the giant screens at ANZ Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park as the music directors in our region led a Mass Sing on the Thursday of the Sydney Convention. Straight after the close of the Chorus contest, more than 900 Sweet Adelines let their hair down at a 25th Anniversary party, complete with special anniversary cupcakes, a fun photo booth and of course, singing! Judging by the energy in the room, it was a wonderful celebration.

We were honoured to receive video messages from special Sweet Adelines - International President, Marcia Pinvidic and Executive Director, Kelly Bailey, as well as Ann Gooch, who was instrumental in establishing worldwide areas and regions of Sweet Adelines. Ann helped get Region 34 up and running and is a much-loved figure in our history.

Region 34 Firsts

Since 2009, Region 34 has experienced a number of significant "firsts"-

2010 - BlackJaQ quartet broke the elusive score of 600 in the regional contest

2011 - Lea Baker was the first member of Region 34 to be invited onto International Faculty of Sweet Adelines International

2014 - a regional record score of 625 for champions Hi-Jinx and a regional record score of 662 for the chorus competition champions, Endeavour Harmony Chorus. In another regional first, two quartets achieved over 600 points - Hi-Jinx and BroadBand, with BroadBand qualifying as a Wildcard entry to the International Quartet Competition and Hi-Jinx equalling their previous history-making placing of 19th in the International Quartet Competition.

2015 - Bathurst Panorama Chorus achieved the year's top Division A qualifying score to compete in the Harmony Classic in Las Vegas; Redland Rhapsody became the inaugural winners of the Audience Choice Award in our first Open Division; in the International Contest held in Las Vegas, Endeavour Harmony Chorus with 68 members on stage achieved a top 10 placement. Their semi-final score was 1301 and finals score was 1288.

In **2017** in Las Vegas, Brindabella achieved first place in the Harmony Classic Contest and A Cappella West scored the highest International Semi-Finals contest score for Region 34 of 1129.

In **2019** in Hobart, Enchant Quartet achieved a record-breaking score of 656. Two quartets, Debacle and Obsession were invited to compete in the International Contest as WildCards in New Orleans.



Above: Sweet Adelines on the big screen



Above: Party time! 2014 Sydney Convention

In another first, Sharon Cartwright of Northern Beaches Chorus and the 2016-2017 Regional Team Coordinator was placed on the slate of nominees for the International Board of Directors (IBOD) election.

In December, Sharon became the first Region 34 member to become a member of the IBOD after being granted a one-year appointment starting 1 May, 2017. Another page in history saw Sharon travel to International Headquarters in Tulsa, Oklahoma in March 2017 for her induction, including observing the IBOD Meeting.



Regional First Place Results and International Results 2009 – 2019

We are most proud of the achievements of our Regional Champion Choruses and Quartets and our representatives at International Conventions for the period 2009 to 2019.

Year	Where	First Place Chorus & Score	First Place Quartet & Score	Where	Chorus, Placement & Score	Quartet, Placement & Semi- Finals Score
2009	Hobart	Endeavour Harmony 652	BlackJaQ 599	Nashville	Circular Keys 30 / 1110	BlackJaQ 42 / 1050
2010	Mandurah	Perth Harmony 616	BlackJaQ 600	Seattle	Endeavour Harmony 15 / 1221	iCappella 31 / 1118
2011	Newcastle	Circular Keys 610	iCappella 601	Houston	Perth Harmony 24 / 1162	iCappella Withdrawn
2012	Canberra	Endeavour Harmony 638	Hi-Jinx 624	Denver	Circular Keys 30 / 1091	Hi-Jinx 28 / 1117
2013	Perth	Perth Harmony 622	Hi-Jinx 610	Honolulu	Endeavour Harmony 13 / 1244	Hi-Jinx 19 / 1178
2014	Sydney	Endeavour Harmony 662	Hi-Jinx 625	Baltimore	Perth Harmony 27 / 1151	Hi-Jinx 19/1163
2015	Hobart	A Cappella West 626	Hi-Jinx 628	Las Vegas	Endeavour Harmony 10 / 1301 (Finals 1288) Bathurst Panorama 5/1091 Harmony Classic	Hi-Jinx 22 / 1198
2016	Wollongong	Perth Harmony 616	Hi-Jinx 623	Las Vegas	Melbourne 30 / 1095 A Cappella West 27 / 1142	Hi-Jinx 19 / 1172
2017	Perth	Endeavour Harmony 655	Hi-Jinx 635	Las Vegas	Perth Harmony 27 / 1129 Brindabella 1/1267 Harmony Classic	Debacle 32 / 1072
2018	Hobart	A Cappella West 632	Debacle 596	St Louis	Endeavour Harmony 17 / 1238	Debacle 21 / 1178
2019	Hobart	Endeavour Harmony 643	Enchant 656	New Orleans	A Cappella West 30/1139	Debacle 28/1144 Obsession 38/1115

Regional Management Team

As with previous years, we have been so lucky to have many of our members willing to put their hand up to be part of Region 34's Management Team (RMT).

The RMT works on behalf of the members of Sweet Adelines Australia to ensure the region is financially secure and that appropriate rules and decisions are made for the best interests of all members. The RMT provides musical and administrative leadership within the region, and its members are singers or directors of regional choruses.

To accomplish the work of the region, the RMT has the Regional Resource Team (RRT), a support team of steering groups and volunteers, who are the arms and the legs of the regional body. They give life to the ideas developed by the RMT, and are critical for the success of the region.

Following is a table of past and present members of our Regional Management Team:

Term	Team Coordinator	Communications Coordinator	Education Coordinator	Membership Coordinator	Marketing Coordinator	Finance Coordinator	Events Coordinator	Directors' Coordinator
2008-2009	Sandy O'Neill	Linda Watt Smith	Linda Wareham	Elidia Rymer	Anita Cleaver	Annette Connolly	Rae Knight	Lindsey Dyer
2009-2010			Jennifer Grauer					
2010-2011								
2011-2012	Kali Caramia	Sharon Cartwright	Lea Baker	Val Norris	Susan Grigson	Jan Mahoney	Debra Griffiths	Catherine Bechaz
2012-2013								
2013-2014								Engelina de Jong
2014-2015	Sharon Cartwright	Diane Jenkins	Linda Wareham	Val Norris	Anna-Marie Shew	Annet Wezenbeek	Kate Hawkins	Lindsey Dyer
2015-2016		Debbie Scott	Traci Voss/ Lindsey Dyer					
2016-2017	Kate Hawkins	Sue Gilkes	Lindsey Dyer	Kate Hawkins	Anna-Marie Shew	Annet Wezenbeek	Annette Connolly-Dyer	Kali Caramia
2017-2018	Annet Wezenbeek		Lindsey Dyer/ Lea Baker				Annette Connolly-Dyer/ Kate Hawkins	
2018-2019	Michelle Neller		Lea Baker				Tracey Ezy	
2019-2020								



Left: RMT 2013-14



Right: RMT 2014-15



Left: RMT 2017-18



Right: RMT 2019-20

Choruses

INTRODUCTION

Over the ten years from 2009 to 2019, Region 34 maintained its place as the largest Sweet Adelines International (SAI) region, both geographically and in membership. The number of choruses continued to grow, as can be seen by this table...

2009	
2010	VOCAL VIBES, VOCALESCENCE, ONKAPARINGA HARMONY
2011	
2012	
2013	INDIAN BLUE CHORUS
2014	CANBERRA HARMONY, COASTAL CHARISMA
2015	HUNTER WOMEN OF NOTE <i>PROSPECTIVE</i>
2016	VOCAL EDGE BLUE MOUNTAINS
2017	SOUNDWAVES A CAPPELLA (DISSOLVED 2018)
2018	
2019	BLUE SKY HARMONY <i>PROSPECTIVE</i>

As at 2019, Region 34 had a total of 31 chartered choruses and two prospective choruses - a very healthy situation indeed!

Chorus Contests

REGIONAL

Region 34 continued to see excellent representation from choruses at each convention during the period from 2009 to 2019. There was a very positive increase generally in chorus contest scores during this period, with the 2014 Sydney Convention seeing Endeavour Harmony Chorus achieve a Regional record score of 662. Further information on regional chorus contests, including scores, placements, awards, and trends, is available on the Sweet Adelines Australia website.

INTERNATIONAL

Region 34 was proudly represented at international conventions during the period from 2009 to 2019 by our Regional Champion Choruses. We were also proudly represented at the Harmony Classic contests during this period.

In 2015, Region 34 saw its first chorus to achieve a placement in the Las Vegas International Convention finals, with Endeavour Harmony Chorus being awarded tenth place.

In 2017, Brindabella Chorus achieved first place in the Harmony Classic contest, also held in Las Vegas.

Further information on international conventions, such as chorus contest scores, placements, awards, and trends, can be found on the Region 34 website.



Top: Endeavour Harmony Choruses in Perth in 2017
Centre: Brindabella in New Orleans in 2018
Left: Perth Harmony in Hobart 2015

 SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL



The real history of our choruses is about the membership - it is about those on the risers, the musical directors, the teams - which gives each chorus its own identity and colour, while maintaining the common threads that reflect what Sweet Adelines means to us all.



On the following pages is a snapshot of our wonderful and varied chorus stories for the period from 2009 to 2019 - each told in their own unique way.



A Cappella Bay Singers



Above: SeaBelles, 2014 Sydney Convention



Above: A Cappella Bay Singers, 2019 Hobart Convention



Above: Soundwaves A Cappella, 2017 Perth Convention

Once upon a time, there were two Sweet Adelines choruses in a small regional town in Queensland - Seabelles and Soundwaves A Cappella. Although estranged, they were somewhat related.

Seabelles competed nationally for the last time in Sydney in 2014, and went into revitalisation in 2015. That same year, Soundwaves entered the national competition in Hobart for evaluation, and went on to compete for the last time in Perth in 2017.

I was invited to Directors' School in January 2018 as a section leader - what an experience, on many levels. I met and mingled with wonderful women from all around the country, put faces to names I had heard and read about for years, and learned so much more than four-part harmony. I finally met the musical director and assistant musical director of the 'other' chorus from my town.

Fast forward ... Soundwaves dissolved in early 2018. What was meant to be a trickle of the remaining members of Soundwaves merging with the renamed A Cappella Bay Singers turned into a flood on a rehearsal night in February 2018 when everyone turned up. Musical Director Helena must have felt overwhelmed, but she faced with aplomb a chorus which had doubled in numbers.

We experienced a few merging problems in that first combined year, and banned words beginning with 'S', but we got to know each other much better while sharing accommodation in Hobart during national competition in 2019. Since then, any residual "us and them" has disappeared without our noticing.



A Cappella West

A Cappella West (ACW) has just celebrated its eleventh year as a chartered Sweet Adelines chorus. ACW's creation came from a dream of Lindsey Dyer and Annette Connolly-Dyer, which was later shared with Jennifer Bullen.

As our founding director, Lindsey had several goals in mind:

- To first compete as a mid-sized chorus
- To win a medal at contest
- To grow chorus numbers to compete in the International division
- To win our first gold medal within ten years of chartering
- To represent Australia at our first international competition within ten years.

Included in these goals were celebrating diversity, being a caring chorus family and to ALWAYS have fun.



Right: ACW celebrating Christmas - any combination of white, red and green will do, with lots of bling!

Jo Oosterhoff became Lindsey's co-director in late 2008, soon after chartering. They were a formidable team and the relationship they had as our chorus directors was one that constantly developed, educated and nurtured our chorus. They had a special friendship that worked for our chorus. Together they, along with our members' commitment and dedication, achieved all of these goals. ACW has continued to grow, with a membership sitting between 95 and 100; the sense of fun and a nurturing culture along with education and development of members is still forefront.



In 2009 we had our first big show in a fictitious West Australian country town, "Upper Dandareup". We found many of our ladies had unique gifts and skills that created such a fun event. As a result of the huge success, we created its sequel a couple of years later.

The chorus first competed at the convention in Mandurah in 2010. We had decided we were a "non-dancing" chorus, then we debuted with an Irish package, and our dancing skills were born! On stage we had more than 90% of members who were not only first timers in a barbershop contest - they were first timers in barbershop singing. We never did compete as a mid-size chorus. Having chartered with a record-breaking 58 members, we had over 60 on stage for our first contest. Empowering our members to share that contest experience has always been important to our directors. We were ecstatic, taking out fourth place in our first competition.

We next competed in Canberra in 2012, placing sixth, then Perth in 2013, placing second and achieving the Most Improved Chorus Award. Another huge high for ACW and proof of Lindsey and Jo's commitment to musical excellence.

Roll on 2015 and convention was held in the beautiful city of Hobart. We placed first, for the first time, with an amazing score of 626, meaning Lindsey and Jo officially became master directors.

This qualified us to represent Region 34 at the Sweet Adelines International Convention in Las Vegas in 2016. This achievement of our ten-year goal - in 7 years - was cause for huge celebration. Were we still having fun? Yes, we were!

The next 16 months involved all chorus members contributing to fundraising efforts to get as many members to Las Vegas as possible. We sizzled sausages at Bunnings, had a car rally, quiz night, Christmas in July dinner, sold chocolates, wine and held many more events with a lot of fun to boot.

Las Vegas 2016 saw 82 of our chorus members compete, most for the first time attending an international convention, let alone singing on the international stage. We were pleased that Melbourne Chorus achieved a wildcard entry to compete as well and that we were able to tap into their experience. We formed strong bonds with Gail Jencik's Coastline Show Chorus. Gail has made many trips to Perth to coach ACW. We were proud to place 27th in the world at our international debut.

We couldn't pass up the opportunity to compete in Perth in 2017, placing second. We headed back to Hobart in 2018, winning gold for the second time! This time the international competition was in New Orleans during September 2019, and 61 of our members made the commitment to travel to the US to compete. Lindsey was not well enough to make the trip, and the members not able to come to New Orleans had a 'webcast party to end all webcast parties' and were with us all the way. Jo led the way in New Orleans and did us so very proud.

Competing at regional and international conventions is just one part of chorus life for our members. We have held regular new member vocal courses, educating not just new members but existing members as well. We love to perform, and have done regular Australia Day performances, Christmas carols at shopping centres, retirement villages, residential aged care facilities, and hospitals.



*Above: Hobart Convention 2015
- Lindsey Dyer, Jo Oosterhoff and the chorus celebrating our first place*

We have performed shows in Northam, Fremantle and Kalamunda. We have also sung at the Dunsborough Songfest, Denmark Festival of Voice, and Guildford and Nannup Song Festivals. We celebrated our tenth anniversary year in style in 2018 with a formal Gala Dinner - who knew we scrubbed up so well?

We have many coaches to thank for providing education to our members - Gail Jencik, Judy Pozsgay, Nikki Blackmer, Kim Vaughn, Joey Minshall, Jenny Fay, Cathy Rainey, Donna Markovic, Lea Baker, Mo Field and Viveka Boettge.

A Cappella West is also very proud of our three gold-medal-winning quartets which we have had in our midst. iCappella (Lindsey, Kirsten, Bec and Jen), Hi-Jinx (Lindsey, Jo, Kirsten and Bec) and Enchant (Lindsey, Jo, Kirsten and Avril). All have been awesome quartets and as a result of their inspiration, ACW has a strong and vibrant quartet culture; many of our quartets have also competed, with two of them achieving the regional Novice Quartet Award (South Street in 2018) and third place medals (Eureka in 2015).

As we move forward under the direction of Jo Oosterhoff after losing our beloved Lindsey to metastatic breast cancer, we are excited to see what our future holds. Another set of goals will be created, and another set of goals will be accomplished.

The strong culture of nurturing and support for our chorus family that is Lindsey's legacy will continue in our hearts into the decades to come.



Left: Annette Connolly-Dyer, Lindsey Dyer and Jo Oosterhoff cutting our tenth anniversary cake, made by one of our members, in September 2018.

Adelaide Sound Connection

The most significant change in this decade has been the change of directors, when Debbie Tsagatos and Engelina de Jong took over this responsibility from Laura Cram in late 2010. In 2011, Debbie won a scholarship from Region 34 to attend a barbershop education seminar in Pennsylvania, USA. Debbie's passion for music extends to her work outside of chorus duties, as an accompanist for the South Australian Public Primary Schools Festival of Music. Engelina was on the Regional Management Team in the role of Directors' Coordinator for a term of two years. She also sings tenor in several competing quartets. Our new directors were thrilled to receive the Novice Director Award in 2012.

In 2013, Adelaide Sound Connection (ASC) adopted a new logo.



Not everyone can see the image of a singer in full voice; some see a glass of wine with an olive! However, the change in logo heralded a fresh new era for ASC.

With this renewed enthusiasm, the chorus was motivated to grow its membership and to work on improving the chorus' performance. ASC took advantage of vocal coaches from Region 34 and also from any international coaches who visited South Australia. These have been invaluable opportunities for growth in understanding the art of barbershop, and the ongoing challenge to apply what we have learned. ASC has supported our directors to attend many coaching events in Australia and overseas. We feel our directors benefit enormously from the chance to observe highly talented and experienced coaches. Coaching by Skype is a more recent method used. Our annual retreats are excellent weekends to get to know each other better and to discover hidden talents among members.

In 2016, ASC celebrated 25 years' membership of Sweet Adelines.



Above: ASC at the 2019 Barbershop Harmony Australia Convention in Adelaide

With this renewed enthusiasm, the chorus was motivated to grow its membership and to work on improving the chorus' performance. ASC took advantage of vocal coaches from Region 34 and also from any international coaches who visited South Australia. These have been invaluable opportunities for growth in understanding the art of barbershop, and the ongoing challenge to apply what we have learned. ASC has supported our directors to attend many coaching events in Australia and overseas. We feel our directors benefit enormously from the chance to observe highly talented and experienced coaches. Coaching by Skype is a more recent method used. Our annual retreats are excellent weekends to get to know each other better and to discover hidden talents among members.

In 2016, ASC celebrated 25 years' membership of Sweet Adelines.

ASC has sung at a variety of significant events in the community, bringing delight and a high standard of performance to citizenship ceremonies, eisteddfod competitions (receiving first prize), private functions, film afternoons, community Christmas carol evenings (especially the most prestigious at the Carols by Candlelight held along the banks of the River Torrens in the centre of Adelaide), quiz nights and "Adelaide Sings" performances, which showcase many of the community choirs in Adelaide.

ASC has held several variety shows, inviting other musicians (ukuleles, jazz groups, other cultural performers e.g. The Adelaide Balalaikas), dancers, magicians, a contortionist (!) and small vocal ensembles to join us. Singing at the Adelaide Airport to welcome travellers home for Christmas was a heart-warming gig as we brought smiles to travellers from many cultures. Needless to say, these have been extremely well received and add so much to community wellbeing.

Like all choruses, ASC regularly offers to sing to support hospitals, the homeless and other charities. We sang to raise funds to support disadvantaged families in Ghana, with the focus to build the first women's shelter there. Singing Christmas carols at the Hutt Street Centre for the homeless was another performance occasion. We also sang at the very new and controversial Royal Adelaide Hospital, marvelling at its five-star quality. All these opportunities open our hearts and minds to others in our community. We, as singers, love the joy that singing brings to the many and varied audiences.

One of the standout performances was in September 2018. Our chorus was thrilled to be invited to perform with the Victoria Welsh Choir in "CANU: A Vocal Celebration", held in the chapel of Concordia College in Highgate, South Australia. In this beautiful venue, we sang our hearts out with nine repertoire songs and then joined with the men in singing *Senzenina* and *Dry Your Tears Afrika*, two songs so different from our regular repertoire. The evening was completed with an energetic rendition of *When the Saints Go Marching In*.

Adelaide Sound Connection is fortunate to have Australia's top male chorus The Festival Statesmen reside in South Australia. Over the last decade, we have supported this brilliant male chorus to raise funds to compete at international competitions, attended many concerts by the "Festies", and really appreciate sharing the stage with them at joint gigs. We also enjoy occasional coaching by their wonderful Director, Jonathan Bligh.



Above: Chorus rehearsal in October 2019 to celebrate Denise, our assistant director, becoming an Aussie!

There are so many reasons for joining a Sweet Adelines chorus. Apart from all the regular singing activities, we also have the bonus of celebrating significant events in the lives of our members. We sang at the wedding of one of our members, and now have the joy of seeing her with her baby at team meetings. And each week, anyone who is celebrating a birthday has the chance to direct the chorus in Happy Birthday!

While our numbers seem to stay around the 30 mark, we do have regular guests at chorus rehearsals, who are amazed at the friendliness and the camaraderie of ASC. Each year, we welcome new women to this superb organisation, and we also say farewell to others.

ASC competed at the Region 34 Conventions in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016 and 2018. While that medal still eludes us, our focus in the past two years has been to consolidate breathing, resonance, storytelling, lifted faces, alignment, matching vowels, coning and showmanship to be the best we can possibly be in our next convention.

And as Ella Fitzgerald said: "The only thing better than singing, is more singing".



Left: Lesley's wedding in April 2017

Aurora Australis Chorus



The past ten years for Aurora Australis have been a period that has brought about some significant changes, including two changes of director, along with consolidation of the familiar elements that define who we are as a chorus.

At the beginning of 2011, we moved from rehearsing on the dusty steps of a high school hall to a bigger and better (and air conditioned!) rehearsal venue in Concord, which has been our permanent home ever since. In May that year we competed in the Newcastle convention, which saw us awarded second place in Division A (small chorus division) with a improvement of 30 points. This was a definite highlight in our history. Our quartet, Concordia, also represented us well in their debut contest.

Off the back of a successful regional competition in 2011 we took to the stage again the following year in Canberra and this time achieved third place in Division A. Each experience of competing at such a high level against so many talented choruses allows us to develop and refine our skills to become better barbershoppers!



Along with performing in competitions, since 2015 Aurora has been privileged to sing for new Australian citizens at the monthly City of Canada Bay citizenship ceremonies, including the annual Australia Day Ceremony.

This has become a regular and special event on the Aurora calendar. We have also continued to compete in the City of Sydney and City of Ryde eisteddfods (winning prizes!) and in community and Christmas events where we appreciate sharing the magic of four-part a cappella harmony.

Left: Aurora Australis regularly sings at the local monthly citizenship ceremonies

Two more memorable conventions followed, with Aurora donning black bobbed wigs to perform in our hometown of Sydney in 2014 and in Wollongong in 2016 (with our own hair!) where we received another third-place award. Those cute little medals are greatly treasured after the hard work and dedication put in by each and every member.

2016 and 2017 were both sweet and sad for our chorus. May 2016 marked Aurora's ten-year anniversary with Sweet Adelines and we celebrated (with bubbles) being a tight-knit small chorus with wonderful friendships, incredible talents and a shared love of music and singing. 2017 was a time of transition with the resignation of our much-adored director, Kerani Francis, who had given Aurora nine years of heart and soul. Her megawatt smile would be greatly missed and her chorus shoes were going to be very hard to fill.

After a four-month period with our fabulous assistant director, Sue Ohlin, holding Aurora steady we were very fortunate to have Trish Tuffin, assistant director of Northern Beaches Chorus, accept the role of musical director in April 2017. Trish brought with her a wealth of musical experience including singing with both Northern Beaches and Coastal a Cappella choruses as well as previously holding the positions of bass section leader and performance manager within those choruses.

Trish also brought fresh ideas to Aurora, which we took with us into the 2018 convention in Hobart. Trish led us on stage in her first convention as director and did an outstanding job. Also, under Trish's directorship, Aurora was thrilled to be able to join Northern Beaches and Coastal a Cappella choruses in their combined concert where we felt the support and camaraderie from our fellow Sweet Adelines. It was a lot of fun!



Left: Aurora Australis with musical director Trish Tuffin competing in Hobart in 2018

Despite Trish being an excellent fit for Aurora, the weekly late-evening commute home from Concord in the inner west of Sydney to the beautiful Central Coast (over 80 km one way!) on top of work and personal commitments meant that it was difficult for Trish to continue so, in June of 2018 we reluctantly, but with much understanding, bid her farewell. We loved having her with us for just over 12 months and knew that it wouldn't be goodbye for ever in the world of Sweet Adelines.

As we settled in for another period of searching for a new director, the spirit of friendship, resilience and positivity kept Aurora moving onward and upwards. We were once again very grateful to Sue Ohlin, who stepped in - firstly as acting director for the remainder of 2018 and then as interim director in 2019 with Sue Gilkes as interim assistant director. We are lucky to have such capable and talented women in our ranks!

In September 2019, Aurora was delighted to secure not one, but two co-directors! In addition to the amazing Sue Ohlin (who celebrated 20 years with Sweet Adelines in 2019) we welcomed the very talented Karen Ramirez to the Aurora family. Karen is a long-time member and assistant director of Endeavour Harmony Chorus, a role with which she will continue. With our new leaders, Aurora Australis prepares to enter the next decade with great anticipation and excitement for the future. Can't wait to see how it unfolds!



Right: Aurora Australis, with musical co-director Karen Ramirez, singing and videoing "I Am Woman" on Sydney Harbour

Bathurst Panorama Chorus



The 2009 - 2019 decade saw many more exciting adventures for Bathurst Panorama Chorus - and we were proud to mark 30 Years Strong in 2019 as Region 34 also celebrated its 30th Anniversary.

2009 marked the end of the decade-long co-directorship between Tracey Cam and Sharon Stanley, with Tracey continuing as musical director. We returned to regional competition in Mandurah in 2010, winning the mid-size chorus division and placing second overall. This convention debuted our new blue velvet costumes, which have remained a constant through the decade (with a small upcycle to refresh them in 2019!) In Newcastle in 2011, we were thrilled to achieve our goal of scoring 600, rewarding Tracey with her master director's pin. At the end of 2011, we held a membership program and performed a major concert "The BX Factor", celebrating 20 years since the chorus was chartered. Taking a break from competition in 2012, chorus members were still in Canberra in force, and provided catering to Endeavour Harmony Chorus as a fundraiser.

Food and fundraising have continued to go hand-in-hand for our chorus, with our annual luncheon becoming a permanent fixture, along with pie drives, sausage sizzles and chocolate fundraising. One-off occasions have also seen us hosting high teas, garden Devonshire teas, cake stalls and catering for other groups and events. We have continued holding an annual Girls Night In cancer fundraiser and in more recent years, a charity Knit In with soup and slice lunch has joined our annual calendar. The year-round knitting efforts of chorus members and supporters have seen over 80 colourful striped blankets donated to local charities since this community service project began in 2014.

The chorus competed successfully in Perth 2013 and then found ourselves on top of the world in Sydney 2014, ranking highest of all small choruses competing internationally that year. This success led to a second Harmony Classic invitation and kicked off another year of major fundraising and preparation to travel to Las Vegas in 2015.

Some of the highlights of our fundraising year were the launch of a second edition of our cookbook, recording a second CD and hosting a black-tie dinner with Gold Logie winner Scott Cam as special guest (yes, he's Tracey's brother-in-law).

Thirty-three chorus members (including three dual members from Murrumbidgee Magic) took to the stage at the MGM Grand on 7 October 2015 in the first session of the International Convention, and in the first year of the new Harmony Classic format. We brought home a fifth-place medal, making us the first Australian chorus to have two international medals.



Above: BPC at the 2014 Sydney Convention

Post Las Vegas, Tracey Cam announced her retirement as musical director after a very successful 23 years. After a period of caretaking by the music team, Beth Pratley stepped down from the risers to take up the role in June 2016.

In 2017, we held another successful membership drive and began preparing to return to competition in 2018, after a break of four years from the regional stage. We were thrilled to achieve third place small chorus in 2018, and to follow that up with a second place in 2019, when we performed with minimal direction for the first time.

Closer to home, we continue to be heavily involved in our local community - performing at citizenship ceremonies, the farmers markets, open gardens and at local aged care facilities. We have been a feature performer at the Bathurst Winter Festival and travelled to Wellington to perform for the Quota Art Festival. In 2017 we put on our best ABBA outfits and travelled by coach to Trundle to be guest performers at the annual ABBA Festival.



Above: Our trip to Trundle for the Abba Festival in 2017

In 2018, we won the inaugural Everywhere Venues Australian Christmas Song Competition, and in 2019, in collaboration with the family of Mrs Hazel Hughes and to mark our 30th anniversary, we commissioned barbershop arrangements of three of the Christmas songs, which were also gifted to all Region 34 choruses and quartets. In 2019, we were again winners in the competition, with our video filmed in three separate locations, including the top of a bell tower!

As we embark on our next decade, we look forward to continuing our journey to becoming a singer-directed chorus, to introducing more of the women of our community to the joy and friendship we share in harmony singing, and to making and eating lots more delicious slices!



Above: BPC at the annual Central West Choral Festival

We're looking forward to participating again soon and singing our new song *Thank You for the Music!* When there's no official events to take part in, we're also known for taking "random acts of music" to shops and eateries - we never need an excuse to sing!

We have continued our success in the Bathurst and Orange Eisteddfods and, since 2016, have also challenged ourselves to compete in the language other than English and small group sections, to considerable success. Since 2013, one of the highlights of our chorus year is joining with other local choirs in the annual "Bathurst Sings" day, which has subsequently extended to include choirs from Orange in a Central West Sings event.



Blue Sky Harmony (Prospective)

In mid-2019, a small group of Sweet Adelines got together for a cup of tea and a chat about an exciting idea – starting a new chorus! We shared our individual stories of the amazing things that barbershop singing had brought to our lives so far, what our goals were for the future, and what we believed we could each contribute to this project.

Although we were nameless that day, the concept of blue skies was touched on. Blue skies. Joy. Opportunity. Sunny Queensland. So many positive themes. The name “Blue Sky Harmony” was soon chosen by our chorus, and approved by Sweet Adelines International.

Blue Sky
HARMONY



Above: Blue Sky Harmony's promotional photo for their first Christmas a cappella singing workshop, November 2019

We've received wonderful coaching so far from Glenda Lloyd, Rose McGee, Lea Baker, Jill Harris and Bec Hewitt, and our members have taken advantage of Region 34 workshops – August A Cappella and the Queensland Quartet Day.

In the coming months, we are looking forward to a chorus retreat and our first performance on the regional convention stage, evaluating as a prospective chorus of Sweet Adelines International. We plan to charter soon after convention, and then... the sky is the limit!

Since our first meeting, it has been full steam ahead for our motivated members. If there's one thing we know how to do, it's to create and execute a darned good plan! We filled our leadership positions, set up our accounts, found a beautiful heritage-listed rehearsal space (Toombul Shire Hall), printed business cards, launched our website and social media pages, and decided on our vision statement, guiding principles, and chorus goals.

During our first few months as a chorus, we've welcomed several talented new members and have run a successful community a cappella singing workshop. In October 2019, Musical Director Julie Edwards led us in our first public performance – as guests at the annual concert of local men's chorus The Brisbane River City Clippers. More recently, we've completed an exciting carolling season, which included our inaugural “Blue Sky Harmony Christmas Concert”.



Above: Blue Sky Harmony on the beach at Shorncliffe, Queensland in July 2019

Brindabella Chorus

Brindabella Chorus began its life in early 1991, but it's been the last decade that has seen exciting and deliberate changes. In 2011, we competed in Newcastle with our "doll" package. We received a great response from the audience and it dawned on us that we could not only compete, we could entertain as well. We were inspired.

In 2012, convention was in Canberra. As hosts, we led a flash mob in the city's largest shopping mall and performed a medley of songs at the opening of convention arranged by our musical director, Glenda Lloyd. The medley included *The Muppet Show Theme*, *Canberra in the Autumn* (a parody of *Candle on the Water*) and *I've Been Everywhere Man* with the names of every chorus in the region.

We were so energised by the waves of laughter and applause coming from the audience. Being entertaining was fun! So, we began to seek more opportunities to do that again. It was around this time that Glenda's arranging skills – and output – really took off. This meant we were able to explore other styles of a cappella singing. Soon Glenda was writing original songs as well. This gave us the flexibility to tailor a package for any performance. The chorus likes to think of her as our not-so-secret weapon.

Convention showcase soon became our chance to show the diversity of styles we were now enjoying. We delighted in singing *On My Own* from "Les Misérables" in the showcase in Sydney in 2014, *Let It Go* from "Frozen" in Hobart in 2015, and Enja's *Book of Days* in Wollongong in 2016.

In the lead-up to the 2016 convention, we decided that we were going to actively work towards being the best chorus we could be. We deliberately created a positive chorus culture, inspired by the teachings of Jan Carley. We spent time talking about our self-limiting beliefs that were holding us back, and creating new ways of thinking about our individual selves and our contribution to the chorus as a whole. We set ourselves some serious goals, including qualifying for international convention within three years.



Above: Brindabella in the 2012 Convention, Canberra

In May that year, all the hard work of our culture change really came to fruition. We broke 600 points for the first time, making Glenda a master director, and we qualified for international contest for the first time, earning a spot in Harmony Classic in Las Vegas the next year. The pride in that achievement gave us a real sense of purpose and a new belief in ourselves as singers and as a chorus.

As we began our preparations, Glenda and our two assistant directors, Jennifer Lloyd and Tanya Kavanagh, took up the opportunity to compete with Christchurch City Chorus at international contest later in 2016. In the process, they learned a lot about how to help Brindabella make the leap to the next level. This experience also led to Brindabella inviting singers from other choruses to come with us to Las Vegas. We had ten applicants and we took them all. They really added to the sound and culture of the chorus.

We were so proud to present our package for the international convention audience in October 2017. Our set was about realising our dream of going to international, so it was something we were all able to buy into.





Above: "Time to Fly" package, Las Vegas 2017

Being announced as audience favourites and winning gold medals for the best mid-size chorus was the realisation of something we could only have dreamed about just a few years before.

Following convention in Hobart in 2019, we were thrilled to qualify again for Harmony Classic in Louisville in 2020. We were also offered a wildcard place for the main competition, but chose Harmony Classic as we really wanted to give our all to another full 15-minute package in Harmony Classic.

In July 2019, Glenda lost her wife, Jennifer, to a long battle with cancer. As well as the overwhelming personal loss, Jennifer's passing was a great loss to the chorus. She was a lynchpin for us. She was creative and practical and contributed so much to the skills and culture of our chorus, and the administration of Region 34. Her gentle presence is missed as we get ready to head off to international for the second time.

Our preparations are well underway. All but one of the songs in our "sequel" package have been arranged by Glenda, including an original show opener. We've invited the same group of out-of-towners to join us again for Louisville because they are so much part of Brindabella and we value all that they bring to our chorus. We've also included three directors of other Sweet Adelines choruses to join us, so that we can pay forward the great education our members received in singing with other choruses. We've already had another great weekend of coaching with Gail and the package is starting to take shape.



Above: Jennifer Lloyd

At the time of writing, our plans have been put on hold as we entered social isolation for the COVID-19 virus. It's not certain if international convention will go ahead in October, or if we'll be moved forward to a future year. We're continuing to meet online and stay connected, even though we can't be together in person. Whatever happens, all of us will look back at the last decade with accomplishment and pride in the chorus we have become.



Brisbane City Sounds

It is said that nothing stays the same forever, and this is certainly true for Brisbane City Sounds.

In 2009, we said a fond farewell to Vicki Hurley as director, and two talented members stepped up to act as co-directors. Maree Connors and Leanne Shannon did a sterling job taking us to convention in Newcastle in 2011. We also received consistent and valuable coaching from Rose McGee, and we were delighted when she decided to take on the job of director in 2011.



Above: Brisbane City Sounds with Rose McGee, backstage at "Zing A Cappella" in 2012

Rose brought so much to our chorus, improving our technical skills and consistency, creating an atmosphere of hard work and fun, increasing our membership, and setting seemingly unattainable goals. And the hard work paid off! At the 2012 convention in Canberra we had our first taste of medals, placing second in the mid-sized chorus contest and fifth overall, and winning Most Improved Chorus with an increase of 115 points. Three years later at the 2015 Hobart convention, we were thrilled to win the small chorus section!

Rose oversaw our continual improvement over her five-year tenure, and we put on many memorable concerts during this time - "Zing A Cappella" in 2012, "Light Up Your Imagination" in 2013, "Sauce on the Side" in 2014, and "Sauce on the Side: Reminiscing" in 2016. Rose also began a tradition of an annual Christmas concert in the beautiful Sacred Heart Church, just opposite our rehearsal space (2015-2018).

Other highlights over the years have included singing for the Prime Minister and Queensland Premier at a reception at the Gabba, taking to the magnificent Queensland Performing Arts Centre stage as featured performers in the "Brisbane Sings" massed choir event, roving around South Bank singing for International Women's Day, receiving coaching from an array of wonderful Australian and international educators, sizzling many sausages at Bunnings, and attending annual retreats where we worked hard and played just as hard.

We were saddened by the deaths of two beloved members (Jill Wardrop and Trish Richardson) during this time, but we have also been blessed by the birth of an astonishing number of babies - eight at last count, and another on the way!

In October 2016 Rose retired, and our music team, led by Julie Edwards, did a wonderful job in keeping the chorus progressing and engaged as we went through the ups and downs of finding a new permanent director. In addition to a number of short-term directors, we enjoyed an entire year under the direction of Kelly Shepard - a man! - who brought many exciting techniques to the chorus and took us to convention in Hobart in 2018. In 2019, a group of our members branched off to form a new chorus in Brisbane, so with our smaller numbers, we are enthusiastically searching for new talent. Our wonderful new director, Hayley Marsh, joined us in October 2019, and (being young!) has brought a youthful, fresh approach and many and varied skills. We are energised, excited, and ready for the next chapter!



Above: Brisbane City Sounds with Hayley Marsh

Canberra Harmony Chorus

Canberra Harmony Chorus (CHC) just celebrated our fifth anniversary of being chartered. The first practice was on 25 May 2012. Three women started Canberra Harmony Chorus. Anita Cleaver, Sue Diamond and Pam Foley met at a café to catch up for coffee. "Let's start a chorus!" said someone. "Excellent idea," said someone else. "I agree," chimed in another. "It will be a nice little hobby that won't take up too much of our time and energy!" SAID NOBODY! And Canberra Harmony was born! Crazy women.

Sue, our first team coordinator, and Anita, who at the time was on the Regional Management Team, helped shore up all the administrative processes. Pam and Anita decided to co-direct. They worked very closely - they even shared the same birthday... Halloween!

CHC originally brought together a group of friends who loved to sing. They have since been joined by new members and now we have a healthy 24-member chorus. We only have one director now - Pam. She is always saying, "Just ten more members!"

We love singing for our community. We love meeting our friends at conventions and workshops. We love our chorus.



Above: Festival of the Voices, Merimbula 2017



Above: Canberra Harmony celebrating Halloween 2018

Circular Keys Chorus

A "brief recap" of the last ten wonderful years with Circular Keys Chorus (CKC) seems akin to Hawking's A Brief History of Time, when looking back and trying to summarise the myriad activities we've shared.

A decade ago, CKC was rehearsing every Wednesday evening at Dover Hall in the grounds of the Anglican Aged Care Village in Sydney's Castle Hill. When availability ceased at that venue, we moved to our current home, St Joseph's Centre in Baulkham Hills. We've been very lucky to have enjoyed and benefitted from the fantastic SAI teaching program, which sees many talented coaches landing on Australian shores, to be shared amongst our keen choruses.



Above: Coaching with Di Huber

Regional convention in Hobart, 2008, saw us winning second place and after a frantic fund-raising year, we were heading off to the USA. for our first appearance as Australian representative in the international convention in Nashville in 2009. We were thrilled to be hosted by our very generous sister chorus, the River Blenders of St Louis, under the directorship of our beloved Di Huber. We performed in concert with the River Blenders before bussing down to Nashville, where we had a simply fabulous time, exploring the city as well as seeing and hearing first-hand all the other chorus and quartet competitors. Truly mind-blowing!

Circular Keys
chorus

After pipping Melbourne Chorus by one nail-biting point to gain first place in Newcastle in 2011, our next SAI representation in 2012 saw us winging it to Denver, a beautiful and interesting city, with the intriguing university town of Boulder a short bus ride away. Denver was such fun and we were delighted to improve our convention score. As a chorus, we've been very lucky to visit such interesting cities in the process of attending international convention - cities that we otherwise might never have had the chance to visit.

Last, but not least, winning first place in the small chorus division at regional convention 2017 in Perth earned us the chance to represent Australia in the 2018 Harmony Classic Division A at international convention in St Louis, happily returning with a bronze medal! Complete with our life-size creations of both a crocodile and a kangaroo with its joey, we were ready to sing the praises, or more honestly, dangers of the Australian fauna. The package was well received, and special thanks go to our Doris Ward, who spent countless hours making these amazing props.

We hope you'll forgive us for focusing on our overseas representations - they've been something that we have worked extremely hard for, as individuals and as a chorus under the leadership of our dedicated and inspiring director, Vicki Dwyer. All chorus members would agree, though, that it's the camaraderie and ongoing education in this amazing craft at each Wednesday rehearsal that keeps us returning to St Joseph's, keen to keep performing, to keep improving and to always "dare to be different".



Coastal a Cappella

Coastal a Cappella is a vibrant Sweet Adelines chorus currently with 43 members, having grown from 30 singers in 2009. We have been situated at Gosford TAFE for two years, but in 2020 we will move (temporarily) to a well-appointed church hall in Lisarow. With many exciting highlights over the last decade, the foundation of our group is a passionate, shared joy of singing, which in turn has forged enduring friendships through all the highs and lows of life. We pride ourselves on fostering a welcoming, inclusive attitude to our “newbies” and an enthusiasm for improving our craft.

Huge credit goes to our exuberant director, Linda Wareham, who balances directing us and our sister chorus, Northern Beaches. Her leadership qualities abound: great musical talent, efficient organisation, humour and generous diplomacy. She joined Sweet Adelines 27+ years ago (starting singing in 1991), directs two choruses and has sung in several successful quartets. Most recently, Linda has been the tenor in Sista! Quartet, who have been consistent medal winners since their debut in 2009. Linda coached them until she joined them in 2015. Our director has also been a long-standing member of the SAA Regional Management Team and Regional Education Faculty.

In 2010, Linda won the prestigious Ann Gooch Award for her contribution to international barbershop harmony.

Linda leads our diverse group, whose ages range from 18 to 70 plus. Our members are retired or working full or part-time; some hail from England, Sweden, Canada and Denmark, as well as Australia, of course. Three mother/daughter combinations have been members during the past ten years – Gayle and Jessie Hartley, Jennie and Melissa Harrison, and Julie and Emma Donald (see quartets below).

Chorus Highlights

2009 – Second place, Division A, Hobart convention
 2009 – Nine chorus members attended the Nashville international convention. Jigsaw Quartet competed as dual members with Greater Richmond Chorus.
 2010 – First place, Division A, Mandurah convention
 2010 – Linda Wareham wins the Ann Gooch Award
 2010 – Tracey Connors and Candy Hoddinott become certified directors
 2013 – 12 chorus members attend Hawaii convention and sing in the World Harmony Chorus
 2014 – third place, Division AA, Sydney convention
 2015 – Winner, Short+Sweet Voices, Sydney
 2015 – Performing at the Royal Easter Show, Sydney
 2016 – Entice win Novice Quartet Award
 2016 – 12 chorus members attend the A Cappella Harmony Academy in NZ
 2016 – Chorus appears on The Morning Show, being invited after being consistent finalists in the Sydney Eisteddfod Choral Championship
 2017 – Coastal a Cappella turns 25
 2017 – Chorus show “Live” at Laycock Theatre, with guest artist Gina Jeffreys
 2017 – Val Norris 30-year member
 2018 – Second place, Division A, Hobart convention



Above: From left, Anne Gooch, Linda Wareham and Cami Mackinlay (then SAI president) in Seattle receiving the Ann Gooch Award, 2010

2019 – Most Improved Chorus, Hobart convention
 2019 – Tracey Connors wins Novice Director Award, Hobart convention
 2019 – Lynette Smith becomes a certified director

Quartets

Coastal a Cappella develops and encourages quartets, which are a cornerstone of a thriving chorus. We have an excellent record in this regard, certainly "punching above our weight," considering the size of our chorus. Our quartets, nearly all of whom enter competition, are listed below:

KIZMET- Wende Feeney, Lynda Greenwood, Paula Adams, Linda Wareham

Ripples- Janice Murray, Val Norris, Shirley Moffat, Joan Schultz

Topaz- Leonie Connally, Sharyn Ford, Stephanie Seddon, Ruth Jackson

JIGSAW- Valerie Seyer, Glenn Ussher, Lindsey Dyer, Linda Wareham

Accelerando- Peter Donald, Julie Donald, Emma Donald, Charlotte Donald

Entice- Michelle Robertson, Toni Hutchinson, Anna Walker, Tracey Connors

As Is- Natasha Whitwell, Trish Tuffin, Sue Taylor, Lyn Smith

MiXiT- Valerie Seyer, Di Tanner, Paula Adams, Michelle Clarke

Rise- Bec Smiley, Sandi Harvey, Corina Hassett, Cath Maguire

GinSing- Natasha Whitwell, Di Tanner, Paula Adams, Michelle Clarke

Linda Wareham is the Tenor in Sista! and Lyn Smith sang tenor with Something Else in 2019. Something Else have been consistent top ten placegetters over many years.

Coastal a Cappella



Right: Coastal a Cappella as 2015 winners of "Short+Sweet Voices", Sydney

We are renowned for maintaining a melodious and balanced sound as a complete chorus or as a small ensemble for our many popular sing-outs. Regular gigs include Central Coast Council Citizenship ceremonies, Australia Day ceremonies, Hunter Valley Gardens, Mingara Recreation Club, International Women's Day Expo and we are regular Competitors in the Sydney Eisteddfod where we regularly reach the finals.

Education is an intrinsic part of Sweet Adelines. Our coaches have come from the USA, Sweden and Australia through this decade, and we have learned so much. Some return to us each year. As exciting singing techniques change and develop, we are constantly updated and our performances improve. Our teachers leading us to excellence (in their area of expertise in one of the four categories) are: Kim Kraut, Eddie Martinez, Carol Macintyre, Melanie Wroe, Carol Kirkpatrick, Lynell Diamond, Mary Rhea, Viveka Boettge, Karen Breidert, Liz Hardcastle and Dixie Dahlke, Lynne Smith, Dede Nibler, Bec Hewitt, Mo Field, Lynda Kever, Jan Carley, Jo Oosterhoff, Debra Griffiths and Glenda Lloyd.

Finally, a successful initiative, the Associate Members club led by Liz Bennazzi, has become a marvellous addition to our chorus. Every six weeks or so these past members visit, sing with us and socialise. Liz organises social gatherings for Associates and full members, and some Associates enjoy joining us at Christmas sing outs too. The last decade has been a rollercoaster ride of singing our hearts out, learning and supporting each other through the ups and downs of life. We've said hello to many new friends, said sad goodbyes to some older ones, but our chorus is so important to us all, and our lives are immeasurably enriched by being a part of it.

Coastal Charisma

In October 2013, nine Gold Coast women with a common interest in four-part a cappella singing decided to form a singing group at a level that was more than just a community choir. When that number grew to thirteen members by December, we arranged a coaching session with Jonathan Albertini, the director of the very successful male chorus, The Blenders. By the end of the evening Jono's agreement to also be our musical director was accepted with great jubilation and we still consider ourselves very fortunate to have him as our Director.

Rehearsals began as a 30-member chorus on 21st January 2014. Soon the name of "Coastal Charisma" was chosen and the group began working towards becoming a chartered Sweet Adelines Chorus. Under Jono's direction, the chorus fulfilled all the requirements, both musically and administratively, and we were thrilled to receive our charter on 27th August, 2014.

Since then, Coastal Charisma has grown to a membership average of 46 singers and has competed at several annual Sweet Adelines Conventions at venues including Wollongong, Perth and Hobart. In fact, it was one of our members, Nicole Williams who, in her first year of membership, was inspired to use her graphic artistry talents to design the Sweet Adelines 2018 Convention logo; the memorable "Hobart In Harmony - Good for You" slogan with iconic red apples and love hearts.



Above: Perth Convention 2017 Pyjama Party Afterglow

Based at Griffith University campus on Queensland's Gold Coast, Coastal Charisma partners with The Blenders to host "SingGC", four free weekly singing classes that promote the benefits of personal development and community engagement through chorus vocal performance.

Coastal Charisma also supports "Voices in Paradise", an annual a cappella singing workshop for young people. While not every attendee of SingGC or VIP goes on to become a full member of our chorus, we are always proud to grow our network of supporters and to see familiar faces in the audience when we sing at various events including the Mayor's Christmas Carols, ANZAC Day concerts and citizenship ceremonies.



Above: Bunnings Christmas singout 2019



Coastal Charisma has many experienced barbershop singers, some with several decades of prior involvement in other Sweet Adelines choruses. We are welcoming and encouraging of new talent and will support every member to take on new challenges, with the outcome that our music team and our committee is now composed mainly of women in their third year of membership. The freshness of their input is well-supported by a foundation group of mature members who generously share their knowledge and love of barbershop harmony singing. Our Director, Jono, also brings new techniques and technology to our rehearsals and the fruits of his qualifications of Master in Vocal Pedagogy and Sweet Adelines Certified Director.

Our chorus not only feels like a family environment, it actually is! We have had several mothers and daughters in our membership and Jono's wife was previously a member. Jono's mum, Vicki Albertini, is a current member and will happily regale listeners with stories of how she tricked him into his first barbershop experience when he was a very shy young man by sending him to free singing lessons hosted by The Blenders. We are so glad that she did, because it wasn't long before he was hooked on the harmonies and was compelled to pursue barbershop performance mastery.

For many of our members, they too feel that chorus singing has unleashed or rebirthed an aspect of their personality that leads to social fulfilment and personal growth. For us at Coastal Charisma, as it is with many Sweet Adelines choruses, our members may have initially come for the singing but stay for the friendships.

Right: Coastal Charisma at the Perth Convention 2017



East City Sound

The decade of 2009 to 2019 has been one of consolidation and growth for East City Sound. The chorus has regrouped and grown into a cohesive, inclusive, supportive and fun-loving group of women who have a passion for singing together in harmony.

Our wonderful music director, Robyn Westwood, has inspired the chorus to strive for and achieve new heights in musical development. Her training, encouragement and sense of humour make rehearsal nights purposeful and enjoyable. Now having Daphne Cheah (2013) and Sarah Glass (2019) as assistant music directors, Robyn's load is lightened and we gain some different perspectives on songs. The introduction of regular sectional practices before rehearsals has improved the quality and confidence of our singing.

We have also been considerably assisted by members of the Regional Education Faculty. Linda Wareham, Jen Squires, Lea Baker, Bec Hewitt, Alex Morris and recently Nicki Blackmer from Seattle have inspired us and introduced new ideas.

In recent years we have seen huge growth in the organisation of the chorus. Since Sarah Glass set up our website in 2013, our chorus can be readily seen and contacted via the internet. This has led to an increase in bookings and some membership enquiries. It has also enabled better communication for chorus members and a great resource for learning tracks. Sarah and her husband, Ian, update photos and organise photos shoots to keep the website up to date. Kim Paleg, as membership chair, organised a successful recruitment drive in 2017.



During the past decade, East City Sound has performed at the following conventions-

- 2011 Newcastle
- 2012 Canberra
- 2014 Sydney
- 2016 Wollongong
- 2019 Hobart

We have taken part in the following concerts and eisteddfods and judged events -

- 2011 Waverley Eisteddfod
- 2012 Waverley Eisteddfod (first place)
- 2013 Melbourne Eisteddfod, Wesley Church
- 2014 Melbourne Eisteddfod, Deakin Edge
- 2014 Victorian Barbershop Extravaganza, Wesley College, Prahran
- 2015 Thank You for the Music - ECS at Knox Community Arts Centre
- 2016 Musical Memories - ECS at Knox Community Arts Centre
- 2018 Legends of Brass Concert, Doncaster
- 2018 Sunday night at the Salvos - ECS performing with Box Hill Salvation Army Band at Greensborough
- 2018 A Big Fancy Concert with Croydon Brass Band.
- 2019 Barbershop Harmony Day
- 2019 Berwick Waters Lifestyle/East City Sound concert for cancer research.

Sing outs

We all enjoy sing outs, where we can bring joy and entertainment to others, whether they be in aged care homes, at Probus lunches or at citizenship ceremonies. One of our most popular and well-attended sing-outs each year is at the Box Hill Salvos. We have enjoyed singing Christmas carols at Werribee Zoo and at shopping centres. The opening of Guy Turner Reserve was a highlight. Taking part in the Olivia Newton-John fundraiser for breast cancer research and singing for cancer patients undergoing treatment was a very special experience.



Above:: Fun Run Day at Latrobe University September 2017

The *I Am Woman* video project performance day at Sarah's daughter's beautiful property at Ferny Creek was another memorable occasion.

Members' special musical memories-

- It was a very proud and emotional experience when Robyn Westwood conducted *Shelter* under sparkling skies for the mass sing at Wollongong in 2016.
- It was a moving experience singing *Waltzing Matilda*, with Robyn conducting, outside Wrest Point Casino on the lawn, overlooking the Derwent River in Hobart, 2019.
- Celebrating at our charter parties in 2012 (15th anniversary) and our 2017 (our 20th anniversary) brought family, friends and members of other choruses together to celebrate the proud history of East City Sound
- Singing in the freezing cold at 8:00 am in 2017 to celebrate the opening of the new Bayswater Station.
- Members had a memorable night singing on a Melbourne tram, whilst travelling home from a performance at Deakin Edge. As a request from a visiting Frenchman, we sang the French national anthem.
- Other members recalled singing on a bus driven by Marg Cornell's son-in-law on the way home from the Melbourne Eisteddfod.
- Keeping up the tradition of singing at McDonalds after sing outs and funerals!
- Having fun at our fundraising Trivia Nights.

Our chorus has a clear direction for growth with greater support for individual members. Our aim is to give each member training and support to reach her full potential. We stand as a united and strong group of women as we face the next decade of our journey.



Above: *Tasman Steps, Wrest Point, Hobart May 2019*



Endeavour Harmony Chorus

Endeavour Harmony Chorus would like to sing out a huge congratulations to Southern Cross Region 34 on the celebration of its 30th Anniversary!

We are so proud to have been a part of this vibrant region for 23 years and look forward to the continuing support, education, growth and fun afforded us.

We enjoy, embrace and celebrate the amazing and extraordinary collective talents from everyone within the region. We are truly fortunate.

When researching the activities and events of EHC over the past decade it became very obvious that we have worked toward and participated in such a variety of educational opportunities and performances and experienced exceptional growth.

Performances opportunities have seen us sing from primary school playgrounds to Pitt Street Mall in the CBD, aged-care facilities to major shopping malls, citizenship ceremonies and Australia Day celebrations to corporate events at five-star hotels, from humble community halls to the stage of the Sydney Opera House, local church functions to the steps of the magnificent St Mary's Cathedral, open-air parks to Verbrugghen Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and many more unique venues.

Throughout this decade we have been most fortunate to have had consistent high level musical leadership within the chorus. Lea Baker, Master Director of EHC, has maintained her quest for excellence and brings us a contingent of expert and skilful educators, coaches and mentors who contribute to our education and growth as performers.

We thank the Regional Education Faculty for the talented, home-grown education provided. EHC has also benefited from visits by Dede Nibler, Dale Syverson, Lynne Smith, Peggy Gram, Gail Jencik, Karen Breidert, Darlene Rogers, Becky Bartlett, Char Gurney, Jan Carley (via web), Joan Boutilier, Betty Clipman, Molly Huffman, Ryan Heller, Judy Pozgay, Lori Lyford, Jana Guttenson, Lilliana Macarone, Cy Wood and our beloved, the late Carole Persinger.



Above: The late Carole Persinger with Lea Baker

Following are just a few highlights listed by year.

2009

Competition took us to the stage at Wrest Point Casino, Hobart. We sang *How Many Hearts Have You Broken?* and *Sing Me that Song* and were thrilled to receive a standing ovation from the audience. A score of 652, first place and a fantastic experience for all on stage!

"We really delivered it and the audience went wild... how much fun was that!" Lea Baker, EHC's director said after our competition performance.

As well as a major show and eisteddfods we sang at the very glittering and prestigious McGrath Gala Dinner at the Hordern Pavilion.

2010

Another major show saw us share the stage with Kirrawee Jazz Band, an exceptionally talented group of young musicians mentored by James Morrison. We also sang at a local school fete.

From playground we parlayed to Parliament, in fact the NSW Premier's Office. We had successfully received a financial grant of \$5000 from the NSW Government to help support our international competition journey to Seattle, USA.

We sang for then-NSW Premier Kristina Keneally who was presenting the cheque. Imagine our excitement when she doubled that to \$10,000 following our performance for her! In Seattle we sang *Sweet Georgia Brown* and *At Last* and received a 15th place and a score of 1221.



Above: Receiving a cheque for \$10,000 from then-Premier of NSW Kristina Keneally 2010

2011

This year gave us a break from competition but afforded us the opportunity to perform at a BUZZ concert at University of New South Wales, Sydney!

We also spent time on establishing goals and outcomes, a few listed below and an indication of whether they were achieved or not!

"What we want to have achieved in five years' time (in no particular order)"

Perform in the Opera House...Tick

Win regional contest/ improve score...Tick

Top 10 at International...Tick

More members / more younger members... Tick

Perform to wider audience demographic...Tick

Stunning / professionally-made costume / great shoes...Tick but...

Well, we're still searching for great shoes!

2012

We took our Seattle songs to Canberra for the regional competition and placed first with a score of 638 which meant we were eligible to compete in the international competition in Hawaii!

Our major show was titled "Sing and Swing" and was a fabulous success.

Singing at the Ringmasters Sydney show at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music was another highlight. We also performed for the first time on the steps of the magnificent St Mary's Cathedral for the beautiful Lights of Christmas display.

2013

What an action-packed year we had. We travelled to Singleton to sing at "Sacred Spaces", an annual celebration within the beautiful chapel at St Catherine's, now a heritage-listed site.

We had our most memorable "Share the Dream" show with our featured guests, The Idea of North. What a privilege it was to share a song with these superstars of a cappella!

We received a very generous grant from our national carrier, Qantas, and had the opportunity to sing at a promotional corporate function.

Hawaii called and we responded. Our performance of *How Many Hearts Have You Broken* and *At Last* (immediately after Rönninge Show Chorus left the stage) placed us at 13th with a score of 1244!

We also won three categories in the Vocal Australia video contest. One of the prizes was having a song of our choice, *My Island Home*, arranged for us by Christopher Diaz.

And we recorded a CD, "As Long as We're Singing!"

2014

Our hometown Sydney, hosted the Regional Convention and we performed the songs we took to Hawaii.

We placed first with 662 points and were thrilled to have achieved the highest score ever recorded in our region!

This year saw lots of fundraising, a YWIH workshop and concert and a variety of performances.

2015

This year focused on preparing for our show "And All That Jazz" and our International journey to Las Vegas.

With 68 on stage in Las Vegas, we sang *Ain't He Sweet* and *Love Letters Straight from Your Heart*. Words can't describe the euphoria when EHC earned a place in the finals with a score of 1301. We scored 1288 in the finals singing *All the Way*, *My Island Home*, *Don't Let the Rain Come Down* and *Inanay*.

What a jubilant and exhilarating achievement for EHC. Top ten in the world, one of our goals!

2016

Another huge year saw us enter the Open Division at the regional convention in Wollongong where we won the Audience Choice Award.

We celebrated our 20th Anniversary with a Platinum Dinner and Celebration Show, featuring guest vocalist, Chris E Thomas.

Our Sydney Eisteddfod event wins saw us go on to win the prestigious John Lamble Foundation Australasian Choral Championship as well being the overall winners of the Australian Choral Grand Prix!

Another goal was achieved when we sang on the stage of the iconic Sydney Opera House as guests of the Confluence of India.

We also had the thrill of performing on live television, not once but twice, on Channel 7's Morning Show.

2017

Across the country to the Perth Regional Convention, where we sang *Love Letters* and *Ain't He Sweet*, scoring 655 and first place.

We also won the John Lamble Australasian Choral Championship for a second time.

A super highlight was being open-coached by Deke Sharon during his Sydney visit!

"WOW! Getting coached by Deke was phenomenal! He said 'Working with a group this good is like driving a Lamborghini!' " Lea Baker, Director.

2018

We packed this year with building individual skills, and with many and varied performances from farmers' markets to ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation).

A surprise visit from Frenzy Quartet was an added bonus and such boost for EHC. We also had a major show aptly named "On with the Show".

That led us on to the International Convention in St Louis where we sang *My Honey's Lovin' Arms* and *Love Letters* for a score of 1238 and 17th place.

2019

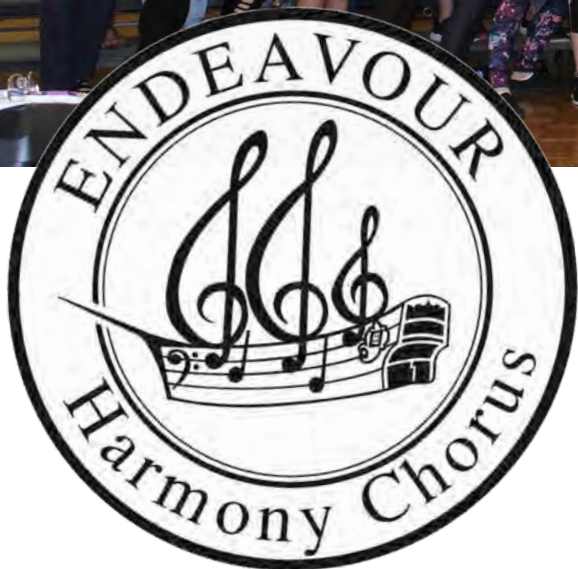
Regional competition took us to Hobart where we performed the songs we took to St Louis. We placed first with a score of 643 points. We focused heavily on characterisation and body energies to expand our personal performance potential.

A smaller group travelled to Canberra for the Australian National Eisteddfod achieving two second place trophies as well as a third.

A flash mob and performance at the NSW School Principals' Conference Cocktail Party was a fabulous opportunity to showcase our skills for over 600 guests.

This year we had the honour of being the featured artist at "Sing Out Sydney", ABC Radio's annual event at Sydney's City Recital Hall to celebrate Ausmusic Month and broadcast on ABC Radio.

We are always reviewing, refreshing and re-establishing our goals, core values and ourselves but needless to say we look forward to the next decade and the joy, happiness and harmony we all share.



Above: EHC and Cy Wood 2019

Geelong Harmony Chorus

It's a bit ironic that the inaugural Sweet Adelines Convention was held in Geelong way back in 1990. Who knew this would be the birthplace of Sweet Adelines Australia! This first convention caught the eyes and ears of a small group of women who, under the direction of their founding director, Gwyneth Powell, became Geelong Harmony Chorus. 1994 saw GHC blossom as a chartered chorus just in time to sing for evaluation at the Sydney Convention. Hard to believe that that was 25 years ago this year, and what a ride it's been.

When Gwyneth retired after eight wonderful years as director and barbershop mentor, Mary Johnston took over the reins and led GHC to their very first medal - third place in the small chorus section at the 2004 Adelaide Convention. Mary left shortly after this convention but chorus was very ably led by assistant director, Joan Humphrey, whilst the search was on for a new director. Joan holds a very special place in GHC's heart and is our one and only life member. She kept us working hard for two years until in March 2007 when Lucy Jones came on board.



Above: Putting our hearts into our performance in Newcastle 2011



Above: Welcome to Wollongong! says Jenny Rafter

Under the direction of Lucy, GHC went on to win third place mid-size section and fifth overall at convention. After Lucy moved on to other musical pastures, GHC heard intel of a very talented, young man who was moving to Melbourne from Perth. This young man had been a barbershopper since his teenage years and had been directing a men's chorus in Perth, helping them win not one, not two, but three gold medals at Barbershop Harmony Australia conventions. This young man was, of course, Alex Morris who, in 2012, became our director. With Alex at the helm, GHC has reached greater achievements - we were placed fourth overall at the 2018 Hobart Convention.

But, of course, it's not all about convention and medals and directors. Since those early days, GHC has been a warm, welcoming and supportive fellowship of singers. We've had our ups and downs; we've gained members and have lost members. We've entertained many, many people in our community and we've aided and assisted our community too. And while we have certainly shed many tears of sadness over the years, it's the tears of laughter and joy that make this chorus what it is. We like to party, we're a bit, ahem, rude sometimes (oh how we'd love to share some of the naughtier quotes of the night, but we just can't), we're a bit kooky, and yes, we're fabulous!

Congratulations Sweet Adelines Australia on 30 wonderful years of music and love. We're so proud that we've been, and will remain, part of the journey.

Right: Spring Concert 2020



Headliners Chorus

Maintaining a high community profile is always a priority for Headliners Chorus. They have dedicated many hours of their time and talent to raise funds for local charities and volunteer groups, and to entertain the community.

"A Girls' Night In" was hosted by the Headliners on a rehearsal night in October 2013 to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness. Lynn MacDonald (one of the chorus's foundation members) surprised the rest of the chorus, sitting bravely as another singer, Suzy Reiman, a hairdresser, brandished the scissors to relieve her of 18 inches of untreated hair. \$1000 was raised by Headliners and proudly presented to the Cancer Council, while Lynn's hair was donated to become a wig for a chemotherapy patient.



Above: Lynn Macdonald has her long hair cut by Suzy Reiman at the Girls' Night In

The Headliners' biggest production to date was the "ABBAolutely Fabulous" show in November 2015 which ABBAolutely blew the Ballina audience away! A variety of songs from their extensive repertoire was performed in the first half, with the audience joyfully participating in some of the singing and answering music trivia questions. The second part of the show was devoted exclusively to ABBA repertoire, with costumes and songs capturing the enthusiasm of the crowd.



As a result of 16 chorus members singing at a local Kindergarten Union (KU) Children's Services Conference in March 2018, Headliners were asked to perform at the KU National Conference in Sydney in November 2018. What a thrill for a chorus of 20 voices to have airfares and accommodation paid for. At the culmination of the structured meetings, the 500+ delegates were entertained by Headliners Chorus performing in the beautiful auditorium at the new Sydney Convention Centre. The cocktail hour following was a "wandering minstrel" show, with the group performing favourite songs at individual tables.

High Altitude Harmony, a Toowoomba-based male barbershop chorus, joined the Headliners Chorus in 2017 in a heavily-promoted "Battle of the Barbershop" event hosted by Robert Channon Winery in Stanthorpe. The premise of "men originated barbershop harmony... women perfected it!" provided much laughter and entertainment throughout an afternoon of song. The audience vote was 50/50 leaving both groups happy to continue the challenge in the future.



Above: The Headliners, Kindergarten Union National Conference, Sydney Convention Centre

A rehearsal night in September 2018 was set aside for the public to enjoy and to fundraise for drought relief. The original aim was to raise enough money for one bale of hay but more than \$1000 was raised from donations and a raffle. 10 bags of staples, little luxuries, pet food and other items were also collected to be distributed to drought-stricken farmers.

A "Come and Try Day" held in September 2017, promoted with the tag A Cappella with Attitude, resulted in Director Cathy Gordon conducting a five-week workshop. Twelve participants successfully auditioned to swell the Headliners ranks!

Headliners Chorus proudly continues to give to the community, performing when and where they can possibly impact an audience, big or small, with their joy of singing.



Above: In the mood for a dance in our colourful ABBA costumes



Hobart Harmony Chorus

Hobart Harmony Chorus, under the direction of Musical Director Jenni Pyefinch, is Tasmania's only Sweet Adelines Chorus and is a chorus on the move. Our aim to grow our numbers to 50 was officially achieved in March 2018 and we were very excited to have 55 members competing on stage in the 2019 Convention in our hometown. This growth came from moving to a bigger and brighter venue, and was our second move during these ten years.

With Hobart having the good fortune of a great convention centre, and being a beautiful and accessible city, we've felt privileged for Hobart to be the hosting city for Region 34 National Convention in 2009, 2015, 2018, 2019 and again in 2020. A big highlight for Hobart Harmony was receiving the "Most Improved Chorus" award in both 2015 and 2018.

A significant milestone in the past 10 years was the realisation in 2015, of the Young Women in Harmony group. The highlight of this project was for the amazing young women to perform at the beginning of the 2015 Convention to a very enthusiastic crowd.

Hobart Harmony Chorus is strong and focused on enjoying our artform, working hard as we learn new ways to improve. Our chorus is known locally for our annual International Women's Day Celebration concert "Hand in Hand" where in 2019 we proudly worked together with some of Hobart's outstanding musical talents, and included the Young Women in Harmony, with proceeds raised going to the Hobart Women's Shelter.

Our chorus has a busy schedule of performance opportunities and social activities. The chorus has enjoyed putting together some major shows including "What's Love" in May 2012, "Jazz and Pizzazz" in April 2016, both performed in Hobart's beautiful Playhouse Theatre.



Above: Hobart Harmony celebrating the end of a coaching session with Lynda Keever - April 2019

Coming up very soon is our "Feel the Beat Showcase of Song and Dance" at the Farrell Centre Theatre. For the first time Hobart Harmony is very excited to be performing at the 2019 Taste of Tasmania - another big step forward in this ten-year timeframe. The past few years has also seen a greater presence by the chorus at the annual Festival of Voices. Over the ten years, the chorus has remained a regular competitor at local Eisteddfods, and participated in many and varied community events.

After many years of fundraising and saving, another significant event occurred in 2017 when we were very excited to secure a grant which assisted with the purchase of new risers to accommodate our increasing numbers. These fabulous risers have been used at the 2018 and 2019 Convention and will again be used at the 2020 event.

Social activities and fundraising are ongoing within our chorus family with social activities including winery tours, river cruises and dining together. Our fundraising activities have included Bunnings BBQ's, a variety of food and merchandise stalls, bulb sales, trade tables, Cadbury chocolates, quiz nights and a barn dance to name just a few.



Above: Hobart Harmony Celebrating 50 members - March 2018

We love the opportunity to work with coaches, with one of the big changes over this past 10 years being more international coaches travelling to Australia. Many of our members travel to experience coaching and learning opportunities both interstate and overseas. Four of our chorus members, including our musical director, experienced firsthand competing on the International stage in Las Vegas in 2016 as Ooters (Out-of-Towners) with Melbourne Chorus. Our director and chorus members have attended quartet workshops in Melbourne and Brisbane and attended IES in Auckland in 2016. Recently, our director Jenni Pyefinch and two chorus members attended the International Convention in New Orleans in 2019. All these amazing learning opportunities are then excitedly shared within our chorus, helping us to be inspired to be our very best.

2019 has seen the start of our own Quartet Club with an enthusiastic number of chorus members already working within a quartet or planning on starting one in the near future.

These are exciting times for us, and while some things have grown and changed over the 10 years, the sense of belonging and shared passion remains a strong and key factor at Hobart Harmony.



Above: Hobart Convention 2019



Hot Ginger Chorus

2009 was a watershed year for Hot Ginger Chorus. This was the year when the fifteen-year-old Sunshine Coast Harmony Chorus launched its new name, Hot Ginger Chorus, at the Yandina Ginger factory. Chorus members chose this name to better reflect our vibrant personality, whilst retaining the essence of our beautiful Sunshine Coast location, well-known for its ginger growing and processing industry. At this time, the chorus was under the music direction of Carole Locke, recently arrived from England and Europe where she had gained extensive experience over many years of directing barbershop choruses. We were fortunate to secure a grant which allowed us to purchase risers to accommodate our growing chorus. These risers are used at every rehearsal, for our many performances and are well appreciated when loaned out to other choirs and choruses and for combined choral festivals on the Sunshine Coast. Carole, who had been MD since 2006, returned to England at the end of 2011.



Left: MD Carole Locke directing Red Hot Mamma in our "Too Hot to Handle" concert 2011

In 2012 Paul Coppens took over as music director and we went to convention in Canberra.

During 2012 Hot Ginger also participated in a specially-commissioned Buderim Cantata to celebrate the sesquicentenary of Buderim. The cantata was composed by Paul and included additional singers from other choirs as well as the Brisbane Classic Clarinets.

In 2013 we were delighted to welcome our current MD, Mr Kim Kirkman, to the chorus. Although new to the barbershop genre, Kim has an extensive background across diverse styles of music and voice production and with enthusiasm quickly embraced the barbershop art form. He has since completed the SAI Directors' Certification Program.



Our last ten years have been very busy. The many willing management team members have guided the chorus through the numerous demands placed on a small community-based organisation. Occasional weekend retreats and many workshops have been invaluable, not only in developing our vocal and presentation skills, but also in cementing the depth of fun and friendship and the team building. This is the essence of, and so necessary to, our organisation. We have been fortunate to welcome many coaches, both national and international, to give us the benefit of their knowledge.

There has been much fun and frivolity, with Melbourne Cup parties and big morning teas, and the retreats have not been without their 'moments', but the whole chorus has worked hard in preparing for recruitment drives, annual concerts, collaborative performances with other choirs and choruses, notably The Sunshine Statesmen Barbershop Chorus and Brisbane City Sounds. Community events have included the annual Choral Fest, eisteddfods, Australia Day presentations, Christmas carols at various venues, and the multicultural Festuri, as well as conventions.



Above: Hot Ginger Chorus with MD Carole Locke, (centre back,) Maroochy Botanical Gardens 2010

Hunter Women of Note Chorus (Prospective)

In 2015, a group of ladies had an afternoon tea together that turned into an impromptu singalong. Who would have thought that from that little gathering, a budding barbershop chorus would emerge! Well of course if one of those ladies is Sandy O'Neill, then anything could happen.

This is how Hunter Women of Note Chorus (or Fern Bay Women of Note Chorus as it was called then) came to be. Sandy, who formerly sang with Endeavour Harmony Chorus, had recently moved to Fern Bay (north of Newcastle, NSW) and invited a bunch of women to discuss the possibility of starting a singing group. When the conversation turned to what type of music they should sing, it transpired that the only one with experience in a musical group was Sandy.

When she explained her musical background was in barbershop, they all agreed they would like to "give it a try" - and that's how it all began. The name later changed to Hunter Women of Note when they moved to a new rehearsal space in Mayfield, a suburb of Newcastle. This turned out to be the right move as it opened up the whole Hunter region as a catchment area in which to seek members.

The chorus currently has 21 very enthusiastic members and after a recent successful recruitment drive, 13 prospective members.

Over the last five years the chorus has regularly performed for many clubs, women's organisations and community events around the Newcastle area. We have also produced a very successful show each year, often with support from other Sweet Adelines choruses and the local men's barbershop chorus.

As we continue to learn and grow, coaches and chorus directors are regular visitors to our rehearsals and many of our members attend Sweet Adelines workshops, as well as the Region 34 convention each year.

Our goal is to charter this year and Hunter Women of Note Chorus looks forward to singing together for many more years to come.



Above: Hunter Women of Note Chorus performance-ready at their annual show in 2019



Above: Hunter Women of Note Chorus

Indian Blue Chorus

Indian Blue Chorus' logo depicts the blue moon setting over the Indian Ocean. The significance of this is a part of our chorus history told by Kali to all new members. She woke on the morning of 31 August 2012, to a full blue moon (second full moon of a calendar month), streaming in her window before it set over the Indian Ocean. After a period of questioning where her love of singing would lead, this moon seemed to tell her that she needed to share her gift with others, start her own chorus and give other women the same opportunities that Sweet Adelines had given her! And so, with the support of the Western Australian barbershop community, Indian Blue Chorus evolved!



Highlights of our journey so far ...

2013

February – 6-week “Real Women, Real Harmony, Real Fun” singing course attracted over 80 participants
 October – Indian Blue Chorus charters with Sweet Adelines International.

2014

May – first regional convention in Sydney, scoring 508!
 October – established “Birthday Gift Recipient” tradition, celebrating our birthday each year by members bringing gifts for a local community organisation; joined choruses from around the world in “Global Open House”
 December – inaugural annual Christmas bus sing out in the Cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo. This event is now sponsored by the City of Joondalup.

2015

February – performed at the City of Joondalup’s Valentine’s Day concert to an audience of over 8000!
 April – first ANZAC Day performance. Now an annual event at Ocean Reef Dawn Service or City of Joondalup.
 May – “Indian Blue TAKE TWO” – our catchcry before heading to the Hobart Convention.
 August – Joint WA Chorus Retreat with our Western Australian “sisters-in-harmony”.

2016

February – Another community singing course with 43 participants!
 March – Move to our new home at the Bramston Park Community Centre in Burns Beach with our own, brand new risers!
 June – Bus trip to the “Denmark Festival of Voice”, performing and presenting a workshop.
 November – “Barbershopping Disney (and Christmas)”, our first chorus show!
 December – Christmas events culminating with a performance at the Hillary’s Boat Harbour.



Above: ANZAC Day 2015 at the Ocean Reef RSL memorial



Above: On the steps of Burns Beach with the background of the Indian Ocean during the 2019 Bus Sing Out, supported by the City of Joondalup

2018

May - "If You Can Dream It ..." we challenged our chorus members to "walk to Hobart" as part of their physical preparation for convention. Another IBC quartet performs - Abstract

May - Another first! Management Team Installation Dinner event held at a local restaurant.

August - Many chorus members attended August A Cappella with international quartet champions Frenzy!

September - Massed Choir Festival performance to students and their families at Perth Concert Hall.

September - "Star of the Month" established to award chorus members for their contribution and commitment to the chorus.

November- Armistice Centenary performance for the Joondalup RSL.

December - "Burns Beach Carols by Floodlight" - singing in the park at our rehearsal venue and "Carols at the Quay" at Sorrento Boardwalk.

2019

February- "Everyone Can Sing! You Can Too!" singing course saw ten new members join Indian Blue Chorus.

May - September - IBC's Music Team, supported by coaches, led the chorus while Kali and Helen moved to Vancouver to sing with Lions Gate Chorus.

October - "World Singing Day" at Yagan Square, Perth ... sixth time we have participated in this event!

December - Joondalup Hospital Christmas singing - this year dedicating a whole morning to the staff and patients at the hospital. Another citizenship ceremony, welcoming 93 new citizens to the City of Joondalup!

We have had some of the most amazing coaches (some who have come on several occasions) who have taught, encouraged and guided Indian Blue: Peggy Gram, Kate Sadler, Joey Minshall, Rose McGee, Alex Morris, Mo Field, Glenda Lloyd, Dede Nibler, Dan Millgate, Bec Hewitt, Carol Macintyre, Lynne Smith, Bonnie Fedyski, Darlene Rogers, Jen Howson, Andrew Howson, Jan Carley, Judy Pozsgay, Lynda Keever, Jo Oosterhoff and Lindsey Dyer.

Our members have had the opportunity to grow in many ways, including those that have stepped up to our music and management teams. We thank every member for everything she does to make IBC the inspiring and wonderful chorus that it is.

Where to from here? 2020 will see Indian Blue embark on yet another new opportunity, competing in the Open Division at the Sweet Adelines Australia convention in Hobart! We can't wait to share our package with the Region and continue to look forward to many more wonderful opportunities in the years to come!



Above: Celebrating our 3rd place mid-sized chorus medal in the Sweet Adelines Australia 2017 Convention at the Perth Convention Centre

Melbourne Chorus



Directors

- February 2003 to May 2013 - Jeanette Whitmore (Master Director)
- October 2013 to Current - Traci Voss (Master Director)

Contests

- 2010 - 14th Convention in Mandurah. Placed second with a score of 571 and second Midsize (AA)
- 2011 - 15th Convention in Newcastle. Placed second with a score of 609, first Midsize (AA) and Most Improved
- 2012 - Competed internationally in Denver at Harmony Classic
- 2014 - 18th Convention Sydney. Placed second with a score of 597 and first Midsize (AA)
- 2015 - 19th Convention Hobart. Placed second with a score of 614 and first Midsize (AA)
- 2016 - Competed internationally in Las Vegas (joined by 24 Ooters)
- 2017 - 21st Convention Perth. Placed third with a score of 603 and first Midsize (AA).
- 2019 - 23rd Convention Hobart. Placed third with a score of 608 and second midsize (AA)

Key Events

- March 2009 - Quartet Club (one of many)
- May 2009 - Motivational talk with Ray Shaw of football fame
- June 2010 - Competed in "Eisteddfod by the Bay", Moorabbin
- December 2010 - Christmas Carols in Federation Square
- December 2010 - Performance at Rippon Lea Estate
- December 2010 - Performance at RACV Club
- November 2011 - Regional Management Team (RMT) Education Workshop with Peggy Gram
- March 2012 - Performance at Kew Music Festival
- 2013 - Melbourne Chorus wins inaugural Melbourne A Cappella Eisteddfod
- August 2013 - Regional Management Team Barbershop Concert with MAXX FACTOR, International Quartet
- October 2013 - 30th Birthday Dinner for Melbourne Chorus
- November 2013 - Performance at Cherry Tree Retirement Village, one of many
- May 2014 - Performance at Victorian Barbershop Showcase



Above: Melbourne Chorus wins at the inaugural Melbourne A Cappella Eisteddfod - 2013



Above: Chorus members with MAXX Factor - 2013

- May 2014 – Melbourne Chorus joins other competing choruses for the Mass Sing in the ANZ Stadium at Sydney Olympic Park
- May 2015 – Big Barbershop Day Out concert
- May 2015 – Melbourne Chorus sings *Ave Maria* at the Hobart Convention, (a break from tradition) and receives enthusiastic accolades
- August 2015 – Performances for Alzheimer’s Australia
- December 2015 – Christmas Carols at the Pines Shopping Centre, Doncaster East
- 2015 – First performance at the Ringwood Garden Club, one of many
- April 2015 – Victorian Barbershop Extravaganza
- February 2016 – Performance at *I Am Woman* theme party at the Trades Hall
- March 2016 – Performance at Kew Festival
- May 2016 – Performance at “Legends of Brass” concert, Doncaster Secondary College
- September 2016 – Annual Show at Kew High School, Renaissance Theatre. Program includes barbershop interpretations of popular songs, including, *Born to Be Wild*, *All About The Bass* and *What Doesn’t Kill You Makes You Stronger*
- September 2016 – First of Maree Phillips’ Open Garden events, Park Orchards
- October 2016 – Melbourne Chorus competes in Las Vegas
- December 2016 – Melbourne Chorus sings with Dami Im from *The X Factor* (known for achieving the highest Eurovision score for Australia) at the Cadbury promotional event
- May 2017 – Performance at the wake for Marian Reinsch, the much-loved original Director of the chorus
- August 2017 – Performance at the “Legends of Brass” concert in Ivanhoe with many new songs added to the repertoire
- September 2017 – Melbourne Chorus makes a professional audio recording for publicity and marketing purposes. Songs include *The Parting Glass*, *Bring Me little Water Sylvie*, *Anthem*, *Ave Maria*, *Bridge over Troubled Water*, *Sway*, *Danny Boy*, *Candle on the Water*, *One Fine Day*, *All About the Bass*, *Stronger*, *Let Yourself Go*, *Happy* and intro and tag of *Alexander’s Ragtime Band*
- October 2017 – Settler’s Run Golf & Country Club, Botanic Ridge Fundraiser. The chorus staffs stalls and stands at holes, etc. for the Club’s golfing fun day
- November 2017 – “Paint the Town Red” concert with the Melbournaires, Doncaster Secondary College



Above: Sydney Convention 2014



Above: Melbourne Chorus at the Royal South Street Eisteddfod, Ballarat – 2018

- December 2017 – Christmas carols with Boroondara Brass at Grace Park, Hawthorn
- March 2018 – Performance at Boroondara Cultural Plan Event. Performance at St Joseph’s Church, Chelsea for a member’s wedding (Emma Plunkett – nee Spencer). Performance at Kew Festival Choral Night
- August 2018 – Melbourne Chorus competes in the Royal South Street Eisteddfod in Ballarat. Fifteen chorus members placed first in the small choral section and Gliss quartet placed second in the A Cappella small choirs’ section.

Murrumbidgee Magic

The past ten years have seen many changes in the growth and development of our chorus. As for all choruses, the annual convention in May is a focus for our efforts each year. We have been rewarded for our hard work by achieving good results in Division A of the competition - including first place in 2009, 2011, 2016, 2018 and 2019. 2018 was an especially significant win, as we achieved our highest ever score in that year.

The chorus has undoubtedly benefited from opportunities to learn from experienced coaches over the past ten years. These have included Rose McGee, Gail Jencik, Lea Baker, Lynne Smith and gifted REF coaches as well. While visiting coaches bring their boost of enthusiasm and new ways of looking at things, the week-by-week progress is always in the hands of the local director.

Murrumbidgee Magic was indeed fortunate to have Jill Harris as its director from its inception until November 2016. It was then that Jill retired after 25 years at the helm, to be closer to family on the Gold Coast. We farewelled Jill with a special dinner at a restaurant and a surprise (secretly rehearsed) rendition of *The Parting Glass*.

Following Jill's retirement, Judy Ferguson stepped into the director role. Judy had been deputy director for many years. In 2017, after Judy had been director for less than six months, Murrumbidgee Magic was awarded third place in Division A at the Regional Convention in Perth. Judy also received the Novice Director Award. At the same Convention, we were also thrilled to congratulate our member Joy McGregor when she received her graduate certificate from the Southern Cross Region Arranger's Program.

The past ten years have given us numerous occasions to learn from, and even share the stage with, some of Australia's best-known music identities. These have included Eric Bogle, John Paul Young, The Idea of North, Jonathan Welch, Darren Coggan, HARAMBEE and SUADE. Being in Wagga Wagga, we have also been privileged to perform several times with the renowned Australian Army Band which is based at Kapooka, on the outskirts of Wagga.



Above: Under the direction of Jill Harris, Murrumbidgee Magic Performing at Region 34 Convention in 2004



Above: Members of Murrumbidgee Magic with Wagga Wagga Mayor Greg Conkey after a citizenship ceremony, 2017



Like most choruses, we love to be able to support local events and special events in the lives of our members. We see this as a way of 'giving back' to our community, as well as raising our profile in the hope of attracting new members. These local events have included fundraising concerts for causes including Country Hope, osteoporosis, Legacy and breast cancer; a hospital fete, school fairs, a church conference, a wedding, a funeral..... We've performed in nursing homes, school halls, church halls, the local park, a liquorice factory, cathedrals. Not content to confine ourselves to Wagga, we have also travelled to surrounding towns to sing at concerts or community events. In the past two years, we have travelled to Tumbarumba, Barellan, Henty, Lockhart and Junee.

We sing at citizenship ceremonies throughout each year at the invitation of the Wagga Wagga City Council. As a number of our members are employed at the local hospital, carol singing in the wards at Christmas is a regular event on the calendar. Also, in the lead up to Christmas, the chorus has joined with other local choirs to present choral and community carols. We enjoy a particularly friendly bond with the Wagga Wagga Men's Rugby Choir as Judy directs this choir also.

The Wagga Eisteddfod in September each year sees us competing in a number of sections - hymn singing, a cappella, small group and open. In 2019 a new section for an Australian composition was introduced, so it was a good chance to showcase Under Southern Skies. Murrumbidgee Magic won the Open Section (and the big silver mug!) in 2017 and 2019.

The past ten years have been busy, but so much fun! We have said goodbye to some old friends but we have welcomed new friends to take their place. From a chorus of 26 in 2010, we now have 41 members on our books. We hope the next ten years will find Murrumbidgee Magic going from strength to strength and song to song.



Above: Director Judy Ferguson with Murrumbidgee Magic after winning the Open Section of the Wagga Wagga Eisteddfod, September 2019.

Northern Beaches Chorus



**NORTHERN
BEACHES
CHORUS**

Northern Beaches Chorus has enjoyed a stable membership over the past ten years and reached some impressive milestones. With countless celebrations, performances and fabulous friendships made, it has been a very memorable decade.

We began 2010 with 62 members - at the time, our largest number due to seven former members of Sydney Town Chorus joining in 2009. Under Linda Wareham's direction we, along with a new quartet, Sista!, were keenly working towards the convention in Mandurah, WA. NBC was awarded the fifth place medal and Most Improved, and Sista! debuted on the regional stage. The following year, Sista! won their first of six regional medals this decade, placing fourth at the 2011 Newcastle Convention.

During this decade Linda Wareham, Val Norris and Sharon Cartwright each served on the RMT. NBC has competed in nine regional conventions since 2010, achieving two fifth place medals, four fourth place medals, two third place medals and three mid-size placements. We're very proud of our competition history and continually work at maintaining our goal of singing at a B+ level.

We love performing and each year look forward to the Sydney Eisteddfod, often singing in the finals with other highly-respected groups from NSW. We've also produced shows at Dee Why RSL, Glen Street Theatre and the Concourse Theatre. There were also performances for ABC Radio Sydney and with Sydneysiders Express, Anzac Day Dawn Services and much Christmas carolling at shopping centres, clubs, Sydney City and St Mary's Cathedral. We have been the in-house carollers at Dee Why RSL Club for over ten years!

2012 was a milestone year with the euphoria of reaching a B+ level contest score for the first time, in Canberra. During 2013 we gained three new certified directors, Kylie Shanley, Trish Tuffin and Geesje Van de Linde, who are integral members of the music team and regularly lead activities at rehearsals, retreats, workshops and performances. What an enviable situation, four directors!



Above: Certified Directors (L to R)

Trish Tuffin, Linda Wareham, Geesje van de Linde, Kylie Shanley

We also have a graduate of the Southern Cross Regional Arrangers' Program, Barbara Venables, how lucky are we? At the 2013 Perth competition, Sista! won the silver medal and performed for the first time in the Showcase.

2014 proved to be a busy year, celebrating ten years of Linda's directorship, a concert, convention and several new members. We stepped out on the contest stage as 69 Barbie dolls with long blonde hair, pink tunics and super characters, achieving fourth place overall. Sista! won a fifth place medal and were also the NSW State Champions of the AusAca competition, travelling to Melbourne for the finals where they won the Best Jazz Song award - what an achievement!

At the 2015 convention in Hobart, we achieved our highest score to date - 597! We celebrated as Treblemakers won the Most Improved award and started on their road to becoming one of the region's highly-respected quartets. Linda joined Sista! as their new tenor and they performed as mic testers. Sista! and Treblemakers have both gone on to be regular competitors and the chorus is very proud of their representation.



Above: "Barbies" at the 2014 Convention in Sydney

In 2016, in response to farewelling some long-standing members, we launched our Platinum Club - a form of associate membership that allows past members the opportunity to be involved in chorus activities and keep in touch. They help with fundraising, volunteer at shows, have organised social events, and some sing with us at Christmas. Also, that year, our former Team Coordinator Sharon Cartwright was appointed to the Sweet Adelines International Board of Directors (IBOD) for the 2017-2018 year. The following year, she was elected to a three-year term from 2018-2021.

In 2017 we celebrated 20 years of NBC! We had a fabulous anniversary dinner and a fun night reminiscing, recognising our milestones and those who contributed to them. Emily Edwards put together an impressive marketing campaign titled "20 Women, 20 Years", gaining recognition in the Regional Marketing Awards. We capped off the year with a very successful show, "The A Cappella Factor" for a capacity crowd at the Concourse Theatre.

2018 saw both the chorus and Sista! take home fifth place medals from their contest performances in Hobart and Treblemakers were again awarded Most Improved!



Above: Treble Makers and Sista! quartets

In 2019, we again reached the B+ level with a fourth place medal in Hobart and Treblemakers achieved their first regional quartet medal, placing fifth and performing in the Showcase. We are so proud of their hard work and success. We closed the decade with 74 members - 59 singers and 15 in the Platinum Club.

We couldn't review our past 10 years without saying thanks to our many coaches. They have become firm friends and we value their part in our journey. In particular Kim Kraut, Melanie Wroe, Carole Persinger, Mary Rhea, Lynne Smith, Betty Clipman and Lynda Kever, along with our local Regional Education Faculty members who have visited on many occasions.

Chorus life has been run efficiently by our amazing management, music, fund raising teams and volunteers. Our success in securing community grants this decade has funded new risers, costumes, coaching retreats and performances. Monday night news break covers all sorts of news, plaudits, thanks and birthdays. We love our birthday fairy complete with tutu and wand!

It's never dull being part of NBC, we've had four changes of rehearsal venues, babies, weddings, dual members and new members. Some who moved interstate joined other choruses and of course we've had some sad losses due to ill health. Our beautiful friendship star instigated by Linda in honour of her mother Carol Richmond, a charter member of NBC, continues its journey from member to member. Weaving wonderful memories wherever it goes, all recorded by our history makers.

We've had many memorable and fun times and enjoy much camaraderie and friendship. The talent, effort and planning that Linda and our assistant directors contribute tirelessly, keeps us all on our toes. We love our "family of singers", welcome our new members and look forward to the next ten years with anticipation and enthusiasm!

Onkaparinga Harmony Chorus

Onkaparinga Harmony Chorus was started in 2008 by Margaret Wong with the support of Adelaide Sound Connection members. A second chorus, based in the southern suburbs of Adelaide, was the aim with rehearsal venues moving as we outgrew the space or the need for storage increased. Merrill Lamont, who was assistant director, took over when Margaret stepped away in 2009.

While preparing to Charter, the chorus attended and sang for evaluation at the 2010 Convention in Mandurah WA. We were excited to pre-book our accommodation in a hotel that was still being constructed and just finished in time for our stay across the boardwalk from the main venue. Our official charter date of November 2010 propelled us to prepare for our first official competition entry in 2011 in Newcastle. Resplendent in our newly-acquired pink glitter tops we put our best on the stage for a beginning chorus. Our first quartet from the chorus, *Already Taken*, also competed for the first time. We had managed to gain a set of very heavy risers - I'm sure we all felt we'd been to a gym workout when assembling them each week! We lovingly passed them on to our brother chorus when we were offered a set of folding wooden steps, which were much easier for our weekly rehearsals.

The baton of MD changed in 2012, so Sarah Bradley, supported by Linda Vinall and Janet Caldwell took to leading the chorus until, in June 2013, Sarah was officially appointed as the Musical Director. Subsequently Linda and Janet were appointed as Assistant Directors.

In 2014 we took to the competition stage again in Sydney. We watched with interest the first of the open chorus contest entries and decided that we would like to work towards that style of competing. In the following years, the chorus re-established itself, redesigned its logo and culture. We now proudly wear our chorus colours with embroidered vest jackets and short sleeve logo'd tops.



Above: 2017 Perth Package

2017 was label the "Best Party ever" year. It started with a Mystery Tour day out, which even for the planners held some surprises. After singing at our first stop (coffee) we were approached by a radio presenter who asked us to sing on his show that evening!

Great excitement as our Perth 2017 contest package, formed with the great support of guest coach Rose McGee, revealed the story of a misunderstood Pirate Queen and her desire to be accepted. Alas the other toys weren't as enamoured when the Pirate Queen souvenired some of their possessions!

The Chorus was honoured to receive the Bravo award which capped off the thrill of performing with 10 first timers (17 on stage).



Ideas bubbled to the surface for the next contest package for 2019. But first the Chorus had a 10th birthday to celebrate, so efforts and planning commenced for our 'Penguins on Parade' which included support acts for both the matinee and evening performances. This enabled us to trial some ideas and songs for our contest package. We also started to wonder if a trip to Penguin Tasmania before contest was possible. Ten of the Chorus jumped on the idea, so contact was made with the local tourist office, the primary school and aged-care residential facility to offer the opportunity to sing for them. We spent a wonderful day, adorned in our penguin outfits and entertaining the community - we even scored a radio interview and video post with the ABC. Joining the rest of the chorus members in Hobart bolstered our intent to yet again enter the open contest. The region's Brava award was bestowed upon us again.

While we have been busy singing, our Music Director and other music leaders have been taking opportunities to soak up educational opportunities. Attendance at the yearly Directors' School starts the year off well. Sarah, Linda and Janet attended AHA in Auckland in 2016 and Janet travelled to England 2019 for IES. Learnings from Barbershop Harmony Australia events are also beneficial. Both Sarah and Linda have attained their Directors' Certification.

In 2013 a third of our membership attended their first international Sweet Adeline Convention in Hawaii. Not bad for a chorus of 18 with six attendees! Singing with other choruses has also provided great learnings. Linda was invited to sing with Perth Harmony for the 2013 competition and then to join them in Baltimore in 2014. Sarah sang with Adelaide Sound Connection in 2016 Wollongong.

Another competing quartet "Tenacity", which included two members from each of Adelaide Sound and Onkaparinga Harmony, represented South Australia well at the two competitions they participated in. They also had a stint on TV singing contest, "All Together Now" .

Every year we have held a retreat in February. We are grateful for those who have assisted us along the way. Alex Morris, in particular, was our initial retreat coach and returned for many years. Jen Howson, Rose McGee, Vicki Dwyer and Jo Oosterhoff have also shared their skills and talents with us.

2019 closes with another Christmas season of singing. The chorus has partnered with the Woodcroft Neighbourhood Watch group to host the community carols for the last 8 years. Our membership is currently 24 with a prospective in the wings. We love spending time together, even for the regular BBQ Sausage Sizzle fundraising Saturdays or just to laugh and sing together. Funds raised over the last couple of years have been used to purchase manageable folding risers.

We are looking forward to the coming year to celebrate our 10-year anniversary of Chartering and continuing to grow our artform with welcoming new members into this wonderful sisterhood.

Below: Photo taken on the Suspension Bridge, over the Onkaparinga River as we recorded "I am Woman"



Perth Harmony Chorus

THE LAST TEN YEARS have seen Perth Harmony grow in many ways, and we are still only young!

There have been some amazing shows as well as a multitude of performances in a wide variety of venues for our ever-growing and appreciative audiences.

We began the decade with several major shows including 'Barbershop Blitz', 'Bling it on!' and 'Too Darn Hot'.



'Above: 'Too Darn Hot' at the Perth Concert Hall

'Too Darn Hot' was a super special event and needed an A level venue, so we used the Perth Concert Hall, the premier concert venue in Perth. Sharing the stage with us were the Perth Army Band and The Idea of North. What an amazing night!

This was also the launch of our new logo – our pink lips. Every Perth Harmony member wears them with so much pride.

Other shows throughout this decade have included one written by our young stars, Ashleigh and Emma, that we performed at the John Inverarity Performing Arts Centre. 'Say Yes to the Stress' was an 'open the shower curtain' show and did we wow the audience!

It was a break from our traditional concert format as there was a storyline complete with some members showing off their acting skills and the chorus dressing in a huge variety of costumes throughout the show. This was really a venture into barbershop musical theatre!



The journey to perfect our sound and performance levels has taken us to more than one convention throughout the decade.

Much to our joy, three of them were in our home state – 2010 in Mandurah, 2013 and 2017 in Perth. We just love having our interstate singing sisters join us.

Travelling is also in our blood and we love the fun and excitement of preparing for, and going to, convention in the eastern states or the USA.

However, there were times when we wondered what we had done to deserve having luggage disappear en route to Houston, no power in Baltimore on convention day, no hot water in Wollongong on convention day and a fire emergency at 10:00pm on our first night in Hobart!

Singing 'Holding Out for a Hero' for the firemen helped the song take on new meaning.

The journey to Hobart in 2018 was special in another way.

Our director extraordinaire was on duty awaiting the birth of her third grandbaby and unable to join us.

From our Kickstart in February Carole took on the role of coach and Jen stepped up from Assistant Director to take the directing baton (with an appropriate ceremony and sparkly baton to mark the occasion) and 'Jen's Hobart Heroes' were born.

For the whole chorus, it was enlightening to see the depth of talent we have in our directing team, so much so that we have now had two Kickstarts with in-house faculty only.

Overseas and interstate coaches are welcomed at Perth Harmony and taking advantage of the ongoing education they offer is something we all enjoy.

Over the decade we have participated in the Joint WA Chorus Retreat, and numerous A Cappella August events with the other choruses in WA. Barbershop is alive and well here in the West.

Where would any chorus be without its membership? The last decade has seen members move to create and join new choruses and so spread the joy of singing barbershop. We have run various membership drives, including Real Women and Taster programs.

The new members that we have attracted have brought a new dimension to Perth Harmony. It is a pleasure to arrive each week and feel the positive culture that is blossoming.

For the past ten years Perth Harmony has been fortunate enough to have sole use of our rehearsal venue and we certainly do appreciate not having to pack up risers each week. With our savings and a grant from Lotterywest, we were able to purchase new risers that don't squeak and are easy to transport to performances – so much better than dismantling our old set each time we needed to move them, suffering pinched fingers and often a stubbed toe or two in the process!

It is with joy, that we wish Sweet Adelines Australia Happy 30th Anniversary. Thank you for your support and vision over the years and we look forward to continuing being members of such a progressive and vibrant region.



Above: Passing the Baton - Jen Squires and Carole Macintyre with the 'Kitchen Cabinet' in the background!



Above: "Say Yes to the Stress!" - finale

Redland Rhapsody Chorus

How to summarise the last 10 years in just a few words - it's a challenge!

Back in 2009, Susan Lansdown was our director. Having successfully achieved Champion Small Chorus in our home town of Brisbane 2007, we achieved fourth place in Perth and then went on to win the audience vote in the first Open Division Competition in 2014.

In 2016 health issues forced Susan to step down as director, and Louise Brannon stepped off the risers and took on the challenge. Louise has been part of the chorus since our very beginning in 1996, has sung both baritone and lead, and has performed in several quartets.

This was a huge time of transition both for Louise and the chorus, and the transition was managed very well. Susan joined the chorus on the risers in the tenor section, and we were very glad to have her there. We did not compete that year, and performed for the first time at Brisbane Sings.

2017 was a big year for us, kicking off with a six-week vocal workshop. The workshop was marketed extremely well on social media, and we had 50 attendees on the first night. By the end of the workshop we had around 30 still there, and 17 went on to become members.

2017 was also the year we celebrated our 21st birthday - our "coming of age". We produced our first CD and a photobook, and we performed at various community events to give our new members as much performance experience as possible. We featured live on the ABC radio twice and raised our voices with John Farnham at the Queensland Music Festival's event against family violence as part of a mass choir of two and a half thousand voices - a "coming of age" indeed.

We finished the year with a concert featuring lots of local performance groups as well as lots of songs from us.

In 2018 we went to competition in Hobart under the direction of Louise for the first time.



Above: Welcoming new member Maree on Melbourne Cup Night 2019



Right: Louise and the late Lindsey Dyer, March Retreat 2018

We had 45 members on stage, and almost half of those were first time competitors. We did Louise proud, and Louise won the Novice Director award. We performed again at Brisbane Sings, where we joined the 500-voice choir in medleys of songs from 'The Greatest Showman' and participated in the Brisbane City Christmas Parade (as we do every year), eleven nights of singing and dancing through the city mall.

And here we are in 2019. So far, we've had another fun trip to competition in Hobart, another vocal workshop resulting in seven new members, launched a new website, and performed *Help is on its Way* with Glen Shorrock at Queensland Music Festival's event raising awareness about men's mental health.

We've had, and will continue to have, some amazing coaches over the years, too many to name as I don't want to offend anyone by leaving them out! Just this year we have had the privilege of coaching with Lea Baker, Glenda Lloyd, Lynda Keever, Lynne Smith, and Linda Wareham.

Having competed for the last 2 years in Hobart, we decided to have a break in 2020 and plan to compete in Adelaide in 2021.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the vision and leadership of our amazing director Louise, who is adored by us all. As Louise grows as a director, we grow as a chorus - it's a beautiful partnership.



*Right: Coaching with
Lea Baker*



Riverland Harmony Chorus

Welcome to Riverland Harmony's journey through the past decade. Our chorus family continues to be a close-knit, supportive group of friends under the leadership of our wonderful director, Nerryl Liston.

There have been a number of landmark anniversaries for our chorus over the past ten years; we celebrated 20 years of RHC in 2012, 25 years in 2017 and just this year (2019) Nerryl's 25th anniversary as MD. Chorus members have shared and celebrated the high points in our members' lives and shared with and supported each other in difficult times. The chorus now has members who have been Sweet Adelines for over 20 years.

RHC has a hard-working team of chorus members to keep chorus clicking along nicely with many members taking on roles. We have innovators in our ranks so things like our costumes have now evolved from the early 'frocks' we wore to much more contemporary styles.

Fund-raising is a really important factor which contributes to keeping costs for members reasonable and providing us with the tools we need to function well. Our chorus was one of those choruses involved in reviewing, on behalf of Region 34, the requirements of the Department of Fair Trading.

The chorus has embraced new technology and in 2019 upgraded our old problematic website and joined many other choruses using HarmonySite - a steep learning curve but very worthwhile. Many of our members have the know-how now to record a riser at rehearsal and immediately upload it to the website. Our repertoire has moved on and become more contemporary, which pleases both us and our audiences.

What about convention? We did not compete in 2009 but competed in Newcastle in 2011, the ACT in 2012, (hey, we won a medal!) Sydney in 2014 for the big 25th anniversary celebration, Wollongong in 2016 and Hobart in 2018. Oh boy, the pyjama parties after competition. What happens at the pyjama party, stays at the pyjama party!



Above: Perfect Pitch Show 2013



Above: 'I Am Woman' video project by the Nepean River

Our chorus has formed enduring friendships with those who have come to coach us from our region, as well as from overseas. We take the opportunity before convention each time we compete to go on retreat - an opportunity to work with our coaches and to consolidate the strong bonds our members have with each other. We wrap up our preparation for competition with a Family and Friends concert.



Above: Celebrating Nerryll's 25th Anniversary, 2019

RHC also enjoys putting on productions - in 2010 we wrote and produced 'A Cut Above the Rest' a comedy set in a hair-dressing studio, and in 2013 'Perfect Pitch' which also was a comedy - no discernible plot for either but lots of opportunities for dressing up, laughter and singing. We have shared concerts with the local men's group and performed at events such as World Voice Day and eisteddfods which provide opportunities to showcase our chorus in the local community.

We're always out and about coming up to Christmas, and 2019 was no different with numerous performances. We always have the BEST Christmas parties which highlight some of the talents (overt and covert) our members possess. Rather than exchanging a Secret Santa gift, we make anonymous cash donations at the party to support worthy causes chosen by the chorus each year.

We are now in a really great rehearsal venue which is also a perfect vehicle for concerts. A big PLUS is that the venue supplies storage for our risers. That has been a major challenge in the past.

So those are some of the highlights for RHC over the past decade. If you really want to know absolutely EVERYTHING that RHC has done in the last ten years, we have a little list!



2018 Hobart Riverland Harmony Chorus

Above: Hobart Convention 2018

Southern Sounds Chorus

Early in 2009 the chorus welcomed new Australians at the citizenship ceremony at The Frankston Arts Centre with performances on and off the stage.

Later that year, attending competition in Hobart, they increased their overall score by 130 points from the previous score. This was a fantastic achievement by all.

Eight new members were added after an 'Introduction to Harmony' four-week educational program was offered.

2010 saw the chorus putting on a major show called 'Chase the Dream'. The dream-themed show swelled the George Jenkins Theatre, Frankston to almost 500 people.

A practice venue move was undertaken as a result of growing numbers and the purchase of a larger set of risers meant a bigger space was needed. The move to St Jude's Parish Primary School Hall provided just that.

Attending convention in 2011 in Newcastle was this year's highlight. They loved the retro theatre and balmy weather including the outdoor Afterglow in the Forecourt with Police presence....

A special performance at member, Liz Sabel's wedding to Tony was magic. The chorus told their love story in song.

2012 saw the chorus attending competition in Canberra. Many members joined in with a huge flash mob in the local shopping centre along with hundreds of other Sweet Adelines, singing *I am Australian*.

President, Lyn Weight was instrumental in setting up the use of Groupanizer, a one-stop internet shop for members to manage all aspects of learning, auditioning and performing tasks.

A recording session at 3RPP studios with interviews and performances was a great success and the chorus received copies of their performance on CD.



2013 began with an intensive year of coaching from Virginia Humphrey-Taylor at a weekend workshop. As well as consolidating future competition songs, a 'Red Faces' concert was held where members set out to entertain each other, with much hilarity and silliness.

Performances included the Frankston Waterfront Festival, the Mornington Peninsula Choral Festival and the Eisteddfod by the Bay at Mordialloc.



Above: 2009 Mornington Festival

Six new members were added with numbers now being 34. Many new songs were learnt with Abba-themed songs being a highlight.

Another highlight was performing in a combined choirs Christmas concert with the Australian Welsh Male Choir and the Frankston Ladies Choir.

The chorus celebrated its twentieth year of charter with a wonderful high tea celebration. The celebration was attended by founding Director, Lauris Clota and many ex-members.

In 2014 a combined showcase concert of Victorian Choruses was held as a pre-event to competition. The Chorus also entered the Waverly Eisteddfod and found this to be good practice for competition nerves. Coaches included Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and Dede Nibler.

The chorus presented 'A Springtime Musicale' with a wartime love story theme. With multiple costume changes and fast-moving scene changes the chorus became the troopers they were always known as!

2015 was competition year and the chorus strutted out in band costumes and black wigs. This unified them so much, many members couldn't recognise each other in the warmup rooms.

A membership drive, using the 'Divas Wanted' logo was undertaken. A fundraiser for the historic 145-year-old St John's Anglican Church Sorrento was another highlight. Later invitations were to ensue.

The chorus performed at the Mornington Jazz and Blues Festival in June 2016. A very successful concert and High Tea was undertaken to celebrate the addition of new members. Some of the feedback given included this comment about those guests attending. '...everyone was fabulously happy and amazed as they expected the usual choral singing, but loved the barbershop style and were keen to attend again'.

In 2017, eight Chorus Members attended the World Convention on Public Health to join with other Sweet Adelines from Victoria and interstate to present a package through the lunchtime for the delegates. The choruses celebrated and demonstrated the effect of music on health. The chorus farewelled long-time Director Catherine Bechaz who moved interstate shortly after. Catherine's time as Director was acknowledged as a remarkable time of improvement at competition, visionary shows, learning of well-loved songs and of great enjoyment and growth for the chorus. New Director, Karen Dawson and Assistant Director, Lorraine Bulwyn took over the directing reigns.

October was 'Bring a Friend' month where interested women could attend for free, then join the chorus for November and December Christmas performances.

Coaching was held with Virginia Humphrey-Taylor on competition songs in 2018. A fund-raising shopping trip was lots of fun with the mandatory singing of favourite songs on the return bus trip. Chorus members again excelled themselves with presentations at the Christmas break up where creativity and silliness reign.

The chorus entered the BHA (men's society) competitions and benefited greatly from the four judge's comments which were given individually and presented to all chorus members. This doubled as good preparation for convention in Hobart in May. The chorus entered with a number of OOTERS assisting. A High Tea and Concert with an Art Deco theme was held in November.

2019 started with a vocal course and a large number of local women attended. Two songs were learnt by all attendees, *Go the Distance* and *It's Your Song*.



*Above: 2014 DFO Shopping Centre, Moorabin.
Catherine Bechaz, Director is on the left)*

A quartet (Lorraine Bulwyn, Christine Howe, Sonja Williams and Sharelle Volmer) appeared at the Frankston Music Festival.

On a freezing cold wintery night in July the Chorus travelled to Upwey to perform live on Radio 3MDR. A special a cappella show is presented each Sunday night and the chorus excelled as live radio stars!



*Above: 2019 3MDR Radio, Upwey performing live to air.
Karen Dawson, Director is out the front*

The chorus had great fun in taping their contribution to the *I am Woman* regional video by performing on the shores of Mills Beach at Mornington. Using "strong woman" props and lots of expression they again showing their acting chops.

Coaching from Virginia Humphrey-Taylor ensued in September where the chorus worked on 2020 competition songs. Then, in November, the chorus celebrated its 25-year anniversary with a party and concert.

Vocal Edge Chorus



Vocal Edge Chorus came into being in 2012 when Amanda Nelson and Sharon Stanley, both experienced barbershoppers, decided to start a Sweet Adelines Chorus in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney. For the first two years, Alison Tapuska directed the chorus with Amanda and Sharon as Assistant Directors. When Alison later left to pursue other interests, Amanda and Sharon became co-directors.

In 2014 the chorus attended convention in Sydney as a prospective chorus for evaluation. We were delighted with the judges' report on our first attempt, especially as we performed with the minimum requirement of 16 singers on stage. We chartered as a Sweet Adeline Chorus in January 2016 and started preparing for our first full competition.

Along the way we performed at the Blackheath Choir Festival three times, the Winter Magic Festival in Katoomba twice, various community markets, and in nursing homes. We have also joined other choirs in three combined fundraising concerts.

In 2018 we travelled to Hobart to compete for the first time. We entered the Open Section that allows greater variety in performance whilst also aiming for top quality singing. We were not part of the competition as we were the only entrants in the Open Section. However, we were delighted with the judges' comments which gave us both positive feedback and plenty of areas for improvement.



Above: Blackheath Choir Festival 2018

In January 2019, Amanda formally took on the role of Musical Director with Sharon moving to the role of Associate Musical Director. We have also recently appointed section leaders to assist the directors.

As a small and relatively young chorus we have plenty of room to grow in both size and expertise. Our Pearl Event for 2019 is the launch of a membership drive to continue the growth of the chorus. We have a clear vision and high hopes for the future.



Left: Vocal Edge at Hobart Convention 2018

Vocal Vibes Chorus



Vocal Vibes Chorus was formed in 2008. We are based in Ringwood North, Victoria and became a chartered member of Sweet Adelines International on 14th July 2010.

Our founding musical director was Lorraine Stackpole. We had a team of nine experienced Sweet Adelines. Our focus was to build a strong foundation of barbershop-style singing.

We are very thankful for the amazing coaches we have experienced -

Lea Baker, Nikki Blackmer, Lindsey Dwyer, Vicki Dwyer, Mo Fields, Peggy Gram, Bec Hewitt, Gail Jencik, Lynda Keever, Donna Markovic, Carole Macintyre, Rose McGee, Joey Minshall, Alex Morris, Dede Nibler, Judy Pozgay, Jenni Pyefinch, Cathy Rainey, Mary Rhea, Lynne Smith, Linda Wareham.

Listed below are the highlights of our chorus events...

2009 Fashion Parade

This was our first sing out for our members to their family and friends. It was a sell-out performance and a huge success,

2010 Charter

Our membership was very excited to be welcomed into the Sweet Adeline International fellowship with 33 members.

2010 Holy Spirit Fete

A complimentary performance as a thank you to the Holy Spirit Church for their support.

2011 Peggy Gram

Peggy was our first International coach. Peggy was very encouraging and complimentary about our sound.

2011 Newcastle Convention

The chorus travelled to Newcastle to sing in the STAR chorus. The purpose of this trip was to experience stage presentation and convention without the pressure of competing.

2011 Retreat with Cathy Rainey and Donna Markovic

Our first retreat at Lyrebird Park in Yellingbo in preparation for the 2012 Convention.

2012 Canberra Convention

How excited we all were to be competing for the first time and very thrilled to place 12th out of 19 choruses with a score of 486 points. The competition songs we sang were: *The Moment I Saw Your Eyes* and *The Bandstand in Central Park*.

2013 Concert - Good Vibrations

Our first public show at Karralyka Theatre. Singing a variety of barbershop and a cappella songs from the Beach Boys to The Wizard of Oz. The wonderful Rose McGee was our Master of Ceremonies.

2013 Retreat with Lea Baker

Lea worked extensively on our vocal production in preparation for convention in Sydney.

2013 Showmanship Coaching with Lynne Smith

We learnt "The Dome of Discovery" and "Ripping the Shower Curtain Open".

2014 Vic Extravaganza

A wonderful night of singing with our Victorian barbershop friends in preparation for the Sydney convention.



Above: 2014 Sydney Convention

2014 Sydney Convention

Another successful competition performance. The competition songs we sang were: *At Last* and *Stepping Out with My Baby/I Can't Give You Anything but Love Medley*. We scored an amazing 517 points which placed us 10th out of 18 competing choruses.

2014 Lorraine's farewell

It was time to say goodbye to our inaugural director Lorraine. We celebrated her send off with a fabulous night of eating, drinking, crying and singing at Rosebank Restaurant in North Ringwood.

2014 Jeanette Whitmore

We were thrilled to welcome our new Master Director Jeanette Whitmore. Jeanette is a very skilled and experienced director and we were excited to welcome her to our chorus family.

2015 Vibes in the Valley Concert with The Idea of North

Another wonderful and successful concert at George Wood Performing Arts Centre in Ringwood. We shared the stage with the very talented Idea of North and the fabulous Alex Morris as the Master of Ceremonies.

2015 Retreat Dede Nibler

Another fabulous retreat with the little "Pocket Rocket" Dede Nibler. Raising our vocal skills to another level.

2016 Wollongong Convention

Our first competition with Jeanette whose superb skills and experience with preparing and delivering at competition helped us put out a stronger and more skilled performance. We scored 512 points and placed 10th out of 18 choruses. Our competition songs were: *If I Loved You* and *Jazz Me Blues*. We were selected by the judging panel to be coached in the Master Class on Sunday morning by Dale Syverson and Sharon Babb.

2017 Retreat with Gail Jencik

Another fabulous coaching experience with Gail Jencik. Gail also created the choreography for our uptune.

2017 International Women's Day

We were very honoured to be asked to perform at the local International Women's Day dinner.

2017 Maroondah City Council Carols

We sang backup to the soloists and sung two a cappella Christmas Carols. Then watched the AMAZING fireworks display.

2018 Hobart Convention

Competing with the same two competition songs, *If I Loved You* and *Jazz Me Blues*. We increased our score to 550!! We placed 10th out of 22 choruses.

2018 Henrietta Farr

In a few short years, having demonstrated her abilities, dedication and resourcefulness, Henrietta leapt from youth member to tenor section leader, to assistant director, then musical director. This year she was our nominee for Sweet Ad of the Year and completed her DCP with the special honour of the prestigious Marian Reinsch award.

2018 Christmas Performances

Henrietta lead us in: Maroondah Carols, local shopping centres and Citizenship ceremonies.



Above: Hobart Convention 2018



Above: Barbershop Harmony Society Contest 2019

2019 BHA contest

The Melbournaires invited us to compete in their annual regional contest. We sang one of our contest songs and *Orange Coloured Sky* and we WON the competition!!!

2019 Concert - Back to the Future with the Melbournaires

A fun afternoon with the Melbournaires and their time machine.

2019 Retreat - Vicki Dwyer

We were excited to work with Master Director Vicki Dwyer in preparation for competition in Hobart 2020.

2019 RSACBB CONCERT FOR CANCER

Vocal Vibes were delighted to be once more invited to join Ringwood Salvation Army's Annual Concert for Cancer. The beautiful closing candle lighting ceremony brings special significance to audience and performers alike.

2019 IES Manchester, UK

The Marian Reinsch award enabled Henrietta to attend the IES in Manchester. A wonderful opportunity for networking and sharing her knowledge and experience with Vocal Vibes.

2019 Directors' and Visual Leaders' Workshop

San Antonio, Texas

Faye Putt, our Visual Team Leader, won a scholarship from Sweet Adelines Australia to attend this workshop. This experience gave Faye a fabulous knowledge of choreography and showmanship to share with VV. We are very proud of Henrietta and Faye for their achievements.

2019 I am Woman Film Project

The chorus spent a lovely sunny afternoon at Chum Creek, Victoria, filming us singing outdoors as part of the *I am Woman* Project for the Regional promotion video.

2019 Nikki Blackmer Coaching

Another wonderful learning opportunity for members with dynamo coach Nikki Blackmer.

Vocalescence

In 2009, Jen and Andrew Howson relocated their family to the Gold Coast Queensland. They had already decided that they would look at the prospect of starting a new Sweet Adelines chorus on the Gold Coast with the intent to be highly creative and competitive.

In June there was a gathering of eight women and one brave man who decided they would have a crack, and the journey began. We met monthly at the homes of our members until January of 2010 when we hired our first venue - a tiny room in a very small community centre. We were on the map.

We officially chartered in February 2011 and competed in our first competition that May in Newcastle with 15 singers and our illustrious director. We came third in Division A (small chorus) with a score of 504 points and were so proud we could hide our entire chorus behind the director in one line on stage when the lyrics called for a disappearing act!

We have competed every year, except in 2015.

2011 - Newcastle

10th Overall - Third Small 504 with 15 on stage

2012 - Canberra

7th Overall - 1st Small 534 with 19 on stage

2013 - Perth

6th Overall - 1st Small 525 with 22 on stage

2014 - Sydney

8th Overall - 3rd Small 547 with 19 on stage

2015 - Hobart - Sat Out

2016 - Wollongong

11th Overall - 2nd Small 481 with 22 on stage

2017 - Perth

5th Overall - 2nd Small 558 with 19 on stage - Most Improved

2018 - Hobart

6th Overall - 584 with 42 on stage

2019 - Hobart

6th Overall - 573 with 39 on stage



We have been small, midsize and back to small, but always, mighty. We have vanished on stage, flipped our director, self-directed with no director and transported our audience to the merry old land of Oz to name a few. We will always be proud of our trail of green glitter.



We are an avid supporter of chapter quartets and have been very proud to have a quartet represent us in every competition, except that weird 2015 when our quartet had to pull out due to illness. We have gone from one quartet representing us through 2015; to two from 2016 - 2018; to three in 2019 and a forecast of FOUR in 2020. We sent our wonderful Obsession quartet to international in New Orleans in 2019 and were so proud of their first international performance.

We have put on some of the most creative and well-regarded shows in Queensland and are known around our community as an exciting, energetic and entertaining ensemble. We are proud to have members in our chorus involved at the regional and international levels for our organisation and look forward to a bright future of more of the above.



Above: Hobart Convention 2018



Voices of the Vasse Chorus

As the smallest and last remaining country chorus in the West, our last ten years started with an almost fatal low and ended this year at Hobart in a wonderful high.

In 2010 we competed at our second convention at Mandurah, South of Perth, afterwards returning to our usual activities performing for Bunbury Eisteddfod, local festivals, shire events and singing at retirement homes. But in September, as we prepared for our annual appearance at Dunsborough Songfest, we learned that our standard was such we should not perform under the Sweet Adelines banner.

Following a survey by our management team, the members were strongly in favour of staying with S.A and benefitting from the education and support offered. We also wished to retain our name, Vasse, being our town river and a historic area within the growing city of Busselton, situated beside Geographe Bay, a three-hour drive south of Perth. The names reflect the visit to the South West by Baudin's scientific French expedition in 1803. After much discussion and Regional input, we did perform at Dunsborough, a weekend of workshops and concerts by choruses from all around the South-West. Tracie Whiteside, our director, resigned to move to family in Queensland and was replaced by our current Director, Stephanie Bruce.

In 2011 we were further unified by an important and effective visit by Sandy O'Neill. Jenny and John Patton hosted Sandy, who was inspirational and positive for the future of VOV. Sandy worked with the management and music teams to produce a plan.



Our Mission Statement was: "To make Harmony happen" and our main goal was to work hard towards achieving a competition score over 400. Practical measures for Director and chorus were listed. Our goal was first achieved at Hobart in 2015 and our comp. score has improved each convention since, culminating in our best score ever and a rise to C Grade this year, in Hobart AGAIN! VOV loves you Hobart!

Our first quartet, Work in Progress, competed in 2013 and again in 2015, and this year, our second quartet, KOSMIC, with two novice members did well in Hobart.

Over the years we have been mentored and educated by many S.A. leaders including Cathy Rainey, Donna Marcovic, the late Lindsey Dyer, Jo Oosterhoff, Bec Hewitt, Glenda Lloyd, Jen Squires, and more recently Carole Macintyre and Kali Caramia. We have also welcomed many top U.S./Canadian educators. Members participate in August a Capella and any other workshops presented in Perth. In addition to our local performances and music festivals, members have attended most eastern States conventions as visitors.



Right:
Voices of
the Vasse
2019

We have sung for the passengers of the "Queen Mary" when the famous liner anchored by our jetty in our huge Geographe Bay and we have even sung the Dutch national anthem (in Dutch, thanks to Stephanie!) at an International Hockey match. Our chorus joined Vocal Evolution in a concert which was a lot of fun. Being part of the Busselton Hospice annual Service for many years has been a very gratifying experience. The City of Busselton has invited us a number of times to perform at their citizenship ceremony where we sing our Australian numbers. We are honoured to have been asked to sing at the Dunsborough Song Fest since its inception and this year, 2019, helped celebrate its 10th anniversary.



Right: Work in Progress Quartet

Though our numbers roller coaster, we find that we gain new members from performing, word of mouth and advertising. Singing while sizzling sausages helps too! Being small in number means we're big in friendship! We love getting together for food and drinks, whether for our 10th Charter Anniversary party with foundation director, Lisa Stelter and long-time members, or a triple 70th celebration which inspired a new member to sign up as it was so much fun, or our end of year Christmas party with skits and singing, lots of laughter and a most generous Santa!

Singing together means different things to different members, but we are all unified in the fact that we love having Sweet Adelines in our life. We look forward with anticipation to the next decade and beyond.



Above: VOV 2019

Wollongong Harmony Chorus

At Wollongong Harmony Chorus we enjoy the exhilarating roller coaster ride that is 'barbershop chorus life' and the past decade has been significant for our wonderful chorus. Following the fine tradition of education in Sweet Adelines, in the last ten years Wollongong has been educated, uplifted, and motivated by some of the finest Australian and International coaches, including Ryan Heller, Lynne Smith, Molly Huffman, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor, Darlene Rogers, Lea Beverly and Cy Wood.

Chorus culture at Wollongong is always a highlight! We are a tight-knit, friendly chorus who value friendship and the joy that singing together truly brings. We love our weekend retreats and have been lucky to have highly organised and creative members in our management and music teams. Together with our director's and coach's skills our members have enjoyed superlative educational opportunities, plenty of antics, team building, games, jokes, skits, stunts and yes . . . you guessed it, more singing after a long day on the risers. Our retreats and other coaching events help our chorus reinvigorate; physically, vocally and emotionally.

We sing a variety of repertoire songs including classic barbershop arrangements and many fantastic modern arrangements for 3 and 4 parts. Keeping our skills honed and our performance repertoire ready for a final polish is a key part of our rehearsals.



Above: Coaching with Lea Baker

WHC loves to perform regularly for audiences, appearing in the last ten years at events such as Australia Day Celebrations, Viva La Gong, Citizenship Ceremonies, Kiama Choral Festival, corporate events, ABC radio, Family and Friends, shopping centre performances, Carols by Candlelight and many more.

An innovative concert was performed at the then new Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre with the Men's Sydney Male Choir. We delighted our audiences with a "Fair Dinkum" Aussie Package complemented with powerful imagery projected onto the screen behind the performers.



Above: Christmas at Westfield Miranda 2018

The chorus's hard work has meant achievements such as Hobart Convention (2009): 1st Place AA and 2nd place overall, featuring dual members on stage from Sydney Town Chorus; Perth Convention (2013): 3rd place AA, 5th overall; Sydney Convention (2014): organising and co-ordinating the volunteers in a challenging venue; Wollongong Convention (2016): 3rd place AA, 5th place overall. Battle of the Choirs Kiama: 2nd place and voted most popular choir. Wollongong Regional Eisteddfod (2012): 1st place Open Choral Division.

Wollongong loves to encourage quartets, and are proud of those who have competed at Regional Conventions: the long-running Jan and Tonic (2004-2013) 5th Place in 2012; Vivace (2011); Bazinga (2011-2014) Novice Quartet in 2011 and Most Improved in 2012. We also have quartets that have been a collaboration with Endeavour Harmony and Chapter at Large: Cinnamon (2017-2019); Vox, Novice Quartet in 2019 and Catwalk in their competition evaluation debut in 2019.

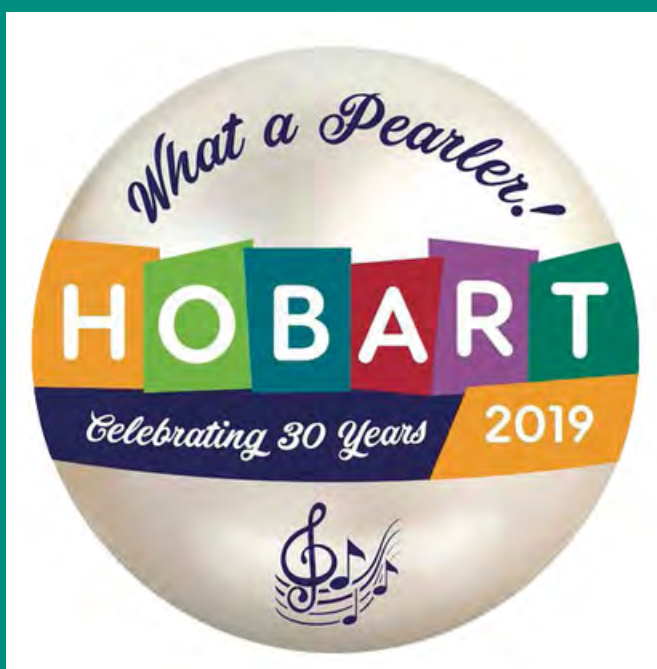
After rehearsing most of the past 10 years in a primary school hall on Wednesday nights, in 2017 we switched to Thursdays and moved into a fabulous space at The Dapto Ribbonwood Centre.

Wollongong has been in safe hands with Directors Jan McCarthy (Director 500) and Ellyse Turner (Novice Director, 2016), Co-director Karen Wilmott and Assistant Directors Alison Charlton and Liz Hah. In Aug 2018 Liz became our newest director and she has enthusiastically taken on this leadership role at Wollongong Harmony Chorus.

We're looking forward to seeing what the next 10 years brings!



Above: Shellharbour Music Festival June 2019



Logo for the 2019 30th Anniversary convention in Hobart.

Through the year, every chorus held a 'Pearl' event to celebrate the anniversary.

Chorus Champions

		2009 Hobart TAS	Score
		1 st Endeavour Harmony	652
		2 nd Wollongong Harmony (1 st AA)	591
		3 rd Brindabella	573
		4 th Geelong Harmony	542
		5 th Redland Rhapsody	518
		7 th Murrumbidgee Magic (1 st A)	506
2010 Mandurah WA	Score	2011 Newcastle NSW	
1 st Perth Harmony	616	1 st Circular Keys	610
2 nd Bathurst Panorama (1 st AA)	595	2 nd Melbourne Chorus (1 st AA, MI)	609
3 rd Melbourne Chorus	571	3 rd Bathurst Panorama	600
4 th A Cappella West	553	4 th Brindabella	567
5 th Northern Beaches (MI)	537	5 th Redland Rhapsody	566
6 th Coastal a Cappella (1 st A)	531	7 th Murrumbidgee Magic (1 st A)	544
2012 Canberra ACT		2013 Perth WA	
1 st Endeavour Harmony	638	1 st Perth Harmony	622
2 nd Perth Harmony	604	2 nd A Cappella West (MI)	582
3 rd Northern Beaches	592	3 rd Bathurst Panorama (1 st AA)	580
4 th Brindabella (1 st AA)	577	4 th Redland Rhapsody	553
5 th Brisbane City Sounds (MI)	566	5 th Wollongong Harmony	540
7 th Vocalescence (1 st A)	534	6 th Vocalescence (1 st A)	525
2014 Sydney NSW		2015 Hobart TAS	
1 st Endeavour Harmony	662	1 st A Cappella West	626
2 nd Bathurst Panorama (1 st A)	598	2 nd Melbourne Chorus (1 st AA)	614
3 rd Melbourne Chorus (1 st AA)	597	3 rd Northern Beaches	597
4 th Northern Beaches	577	4 th Brindabella	595
5 th Brindabella (MI)	575	5 th Circular Keys	592
		9 th Brisbane City Sounds (1 st A)	555
		12 th Hobart Harmony (MI)	525
2016 Wollongong NSW		2017 Perth WA	
1 st Perth Harmony	613	1 st Endeavour Harmony	655
2 nd Brindabella (1 st AA, MI)	605	2 nd A Cappella West	614
3 rd Circular Keys	581	3 rd Melbourne Chorus (1 st AA)	603
4 th Northern Beaches	563	4 th Circular Keys (1 st A)	595
5 th Wollongong Harmony	541	5 th Vocalescence (MI)	558
8 th Murrumbidgee Magic (1 st A)	520		
2018 Hobart TAS		2019 Hobart TAS	
1 st A Cappella West	632	1 st Endeavour Harmony	643
2 nd Brindabella (1 st AA)	622	2 nd Brindabella (1 st AA)	628
3 rd Perth Harmony	610	3 rd Melbourne Chorus	608
4 th Geelong Harmony	592	4 th Northern Beaches	595



OUR QUARTETS

Region 34 has continued to see a phenomenal growth in quartetting at many levels over the period 2009 to 2019.

While the number of quartets in the Region tends to ebb and flow throughout a year with a tendency to have an increase in quartet numbers prior to convention, it is safe to say that the number of registered quartets is a healthy average of 40.

The Quartet Page on the regional website provides a wealth of information for budding and established quartets including forming a quartet, performance criteria, "local" coach contacts etc. The link to this page is as follows: <https://www.sweetadelines.org.au/members/education/quartets/>

The benefits of being in a quartet are immeasurable, as it is well known that the more quartets that sing in a chorus, the better the chorus becomes. Skills learned and enhanced by individuals in their quartet assist in not only their personal development as singers but also have a positive flow-on effect for the chorus and each other.

Quartets have been supported through regular education workshops offered by the region over the past years, with our local REF and guest Queens of Harmony The Buzz, Maxx Factor and Frenzy giving our quartetters, and other interested members, fabulous exposure to the highest level of quartet singing.

Many choruses also run local workshops, audition programs, scratch quartet programs and social events to encourage quartetting within their chapters. There is also a thriving quartet club operating in Victoria.

Quartet Contests

REGIONAL

The Region has had fantastic quartet champions over the last ten years, with Hi-Jinx winning an amazing six times. We have also seen a general increase in quartet contest scores over the period 2009 to 2019. The magical "600" score was achieved in 2010 by Regional Champions BlackJaQ. Scores for first place have continued to rise over the years, culminating in our most recent Region 34 record-breaking score of 656 achieved by Enchant Quartet in 2019.

For further information on regional quartet contest scores, placements, awards, trends etc, you can find some excellent information on the Region 34 website by clicking on this link:

<https://www.sweetadelines.org.au/convention2017/contest-results/>

INTERNATIONAL

Region 34 continued to be proudly represented at the International conventions during the period 2009 to 2019 by our Regional Champion quartets. These quartets included BlackJaQ, iCappella, Hi-Jinx and Debacle.

In 2019, in a first for Region 34, two quartets, Debacle and Obsession, competed on the International Convention stage as wildcard entries.



Quartet Champions

2009 Hobart TAS			
1 st BlackJaq		599	
2 nd Accolade		585	
3 rd Andiamo		568	
4 th Spontaneous		532	
5 th Love That!		531	
10 th Alibi (MI)		466	
17 th Tessera (Novice Quartet)		376	
2010 Mandurah WA	Score	2011 Newcastle NSW	Score
1 st BlackJaQ	600	1 st iCappella	601
2 nd iCappella	589	2 nd Andiamo	581
3 rd Accolade	585	3 rd Verve (MI)	541
4 th Andiamo	579	4 th Sista!	512
5 th Harmony Capers (MI)	554	5 th Pandemonium	510
8 th Petit Fours (Novice Quartet)	485	13 th Bazinga! (Novice Quartet)	460
2012 Canberra ACT		2013 Perth WA	
1 st Hi-Jinx	624	1 st Hi-Jinx	610
2 nd Andiamo	598	2 nd Sista! (MI)	576
3 rd ChickChat	578	3 rd Bewitched	573
4 th Acoustic Drive	553	4 th Something Else	565
5 th Jan and Tonic	539	5 th Andiamo	553
7 th Bazinga! (MI)	538	6 th Genesis (Novice Quartet)	446
26 th Jazzaranda (Novice Quartet)	411		
2014 Sydney NSW		2015 Hobart TAS	
1 st Hi-Jinx	625	1 st Hi-Jinx	628
2 nd Broadband	606	2 nd Alouette	602
3 rd Alouette	589	3 rd Eureka	539
4 th Bewitched	564	4 th Something Else	531
5 th Sista!	548	5 th Cinnamon	528
13 th Genesis (MI)	462	9 th Treble Makers (MI)	471
		10 th Momentum (Novice Quartet)	450
2016 Wollongong NSW		2017 Perth WA	
1 st Hi-Jinx	623	1 st Hi-Jinx	635
2 nd Alouette	562	2 nd Debacle	588
3 rd BroadBand	557	3 rd Alouette	577
4 th Cinnamon	531	4 th BroadBand	551
5 th Sista!	531	5 th Sista!	535
12 th Entice (Novice Quartet)	458	9 th Cool Change (MI)	516
21 st Yours Truly (MI)	404	14 th True Blue (Novice Quartet)	442
2018 Hobart TAS		2019 Hobart TAS	
1 st Debacle	596	1 st Enchant	656
2 nd Alouette	590	2 nd Debacle	635
3 rd Short Cut	581	3 rd Obsession (MI)	615
4 th Obsession	563	4 th Alouette	607
5 th Sista!	555	5 th Treble Makers	577
7 th Treble Makers (MI)	540	7 th Vox (Novice Quartet)	554
14 th South Street (Novice Quartet)	469		

Champion Quartets

Following is some background information from our Champion Quartets for the period 2009 - 2019 - written in their own unique style!

BlackJaQ

Jessica Bullen, Tenor

Carole Macintyre, Lead

Linda Nuttridge, Baritone

Kali Caramia, Bass

It is almost impossible to explain the fun and fantastic memories BlackJaQ enjoyed within a limit of words as all four of us share special bonds and stories of many great BlackJaQ moments. Small things, random quotes, hilarious rehearsal moments, sad and even frustrating moments, life-changing moments, mishaps and such memorable moments both on and off stage. We sure did quite a lot in our years of singing together.

BlackJaQ quartet was blessed to have great support, in fact we were spoiled. Helen, affectionately known as "Baa", taking care of us and all our stuff (there was a lot of stuff!) Bill arranging incredible songs for us, coaching us and mastering our "Nearness of You" CD - we were indeed lucky to have them both! Our families thankfully understood our love for quartet and we also had Grampa John (Linda's dear dad) perhaps our biggest fan, always there for us, ensuring we were well fed and watered and listening to what often turned into many hours of song and silliness. Yes, our quartet was four on stage, but there were many of us in our little family.

We would often joke about having two baritones - Kali, in fact our bass, (affectionately known as 'Baggage') was always organised, not a piece of music left unturned and a magic bag of tricks and information always close at hand. Linda, (our Lindy Loo) who was actually our baritone, always had an amazing way of having just what we needed, when we needed it. Not only off stage, but thanks to her costume and shopping talents we always looked the part for any performance. So yes, you guessed it; Carole and Jess were usually the ones looking for that safety pin, piece of sheet music, tissues etc. Our beautiful lead, Carole (our Caz), was often the one who did her best to stay serious with us but was usually the first to dissolve into fits of giggles and/or tears, which made for interesting rehearsals. Jess (our Jess lol) was tenor and liked to play up to the traits when she could and was usually the unintentional instigator of the giggles and tears with her special tenor (or is it blonde?) moments.



Above: BlackJaQ breaking the 600 point barrier in Mandurah WA 2010



There are too many incredible highlights - loads of learning, sharing, teaching, amazing coaching sessions, friendships, fundraisers, travel adventures, exciting experiences, challenges - including facing fears, setting goals and reaching them - sharing and, above all, enjoying our music.

Our first exciting win at regional contest was in 2005, followed by silver placements in 2006 and 2007 then champions again 2009 and 2010. BlackJaQ mic tested in 2008 with Jill Harris stepping in for Jess and, in 2010, we were elated to be the inaugural Australian quartet to break that illusive 600 points at National Convention in Mandurah, WA. We soaked up incredible coaching from outstanding teachers and talented friends in Sweet Adelines and Barbershop Harmony - fondly reminiscing some hearty belly laughs on stage with Kim Vaughn during a live coaching session in 2010.

SAI Nashville Convention was another wonderful highlight for us as a quartet! Fundraising our way, pretending to be cowgirls, the support we received from our families, chorus and International sisters was just heart-warming. Each trip we took together a new journey, whether a quartet weekend (we had a few) conventions, rehearsals, sewing (yes it happened!) gigs, social gatherings, whatever the occasion we seemed to always have fun and harmony and built special bonds & traditions.

We are proud of what BlackJaQ achieved; it has been such a treat to remember so many awesome moments. Each of us is delighted to be a part of this 30th Anniversary History Book Chapter. It is super exciting to watch our Region's quartets improve every year! Raising that bar - living the dream.... We thank you for being a part of our BlackJaQ memories.



*Above: Linda Nuttridge, baritone; Jessica Bullen, tenor; Kali Caramia, bass and Carole Macintyre, lead
Regional Quartet Champions 2005*

iCappella

Jen Squires, Tenor

Bec Hewitt (nee Mutton), Lead

Kirsten Richardson, Baritone

Lindsey Dyer, Bass

Formed around May 2008, iCappella never actually met, with all four members present, until October 2008. With two members on the west coast of Australia, and two on the east coast (but still 20 hours' drive apart!), iCappella rehearsed via Skype and it was this rehearsal method that coined the quartet's name: iCappella.

In 2009, we were ready to compete for the first time. Three of the members had competed previously, but the baritone, Kirsten, was a brand new member of Sweet Adelines and had never competed on stage at all! We chose colourful tops (think Wiggles) and white jeans and low sandals as our first contest outfit which ticked the box for 'refreshing visual choice' but definitely failed in the 'wrinkle-free' department! We came in 6th, and the score was good for first time out, but we felt a little flat when we discovered we were only one point off our first medal and two points off 4th place! Should have ironed those jeans!

By contest time in 2010, we had worked our butts off and despite Kirsten's laryngitis, managed to get our first medal: second place! We were even more thrilled when the champion quartet, BlackJaQ, offered us the chance to represent Region 34 in Baltimore as they sadly had decided not to compete at International that year.

Competing at International was in our five-year plan but we certainly didn't expect it in just our second year of competing. The experience was, honestly, amazing. It was such a thrill to be singing on the same stage with the big names like MAXX Factor, Bling!, and LoveNotes.

We scored a very respectable 1118 for first time out, and yes, made sure our costumes were wrinkle-free!

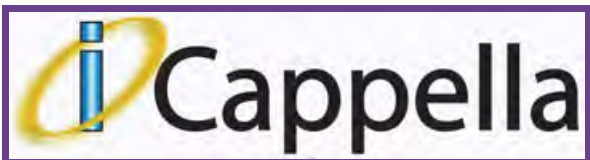


Above: First competition - and those white jeans!



In 2011, we achieved our quartet goal of becoming regional champions, two years early! Even better, we broke the 600 ceiling (JUST!) and scored 601, a new regional record. Winning first place meant we were eligible to compete in Houston that year. We experienced wonderful highs being coached by The BUZZ Queens when they came to Perth. But with every high, there is usually a low...sadly, in the run up to contest, iCappella split.

iCappella was definitely a brief, bright light and we are really proud that we made our mark on the Region and in Sweet Adelines International. The experience was invaluable.



*Above: Jen Squires, Tenor; Kirsten Richardson, Baritone; Bec Hewitt (nee Mutton), Lead; Lindsey Dyer, Bass
Quartet Champions Newcastle Convention 2011*

Sweet
Adelines
AUSTRALIA

Hi-Jinx

Jo Oosterhoff, Tenor

Bec Hewitt, Lead

Kirsten Richardson, Baritone

Lindsey Dyer, Bass

Hi-Jinx was formed with then-current Quartet champions from iCappella – Lindsey, Bec and Kirsten – and adding in multiple silver medallist Jo Oosterhoff on tenor.

Hi-Jinx formed in the January of 2012 after a long lunch where we went from our initial plan of fortnightly rehearsals and no expectations to competing within four months! We loved how it felt to sing together and couldn't help but get excited! We quickly chose contest music and were ready to compete in May that year. We knew we had a solid product and hoped going in that we would be able to beat iCappella's previous record score of 601. We were mentally in such a competitive place as we took to that stage that there was no other alternative. When the score of 624 was announced, we were literally gobsmacked. First time out, champions! It was particularly moving for Jo, who so deserved her first gold medal.

That became our modus operandi each year. We won every time we competed, and broke our record all but once. Our best (and final) score was 635, which was something we were very proud of. Internationally, we were well-known, and well-liked, but could never break into the top 15 which was frustrating for us at times, but definitely kept us hungry and determined. Our highest international placing was 18th, a record for our region.

Other things you may not have realised about Hi-Jinx are the more personal memories. We had a terrible history for costume disasters! In 99% of performances, at least one member had either the wrong earrings on, the wrong shoes...we could go on...In particular, we learned that our beloved bass, Lindsey, got very hangry when she couldn't eat to schedule, so we always had snacks on hand for her. She also had 'interesting' rituals in the traffic pattern that we couldn't possibly divulge but those quirks definitely brought the quartet to new levels of intimacy.

Other fun times include winning Best Barbershop Group at the AusAca contest and winning the opportunity to sing for the most amazing Straight No Chaser just prior to their show in Perth. When we competed in Las Vegas in 2015, we vowed to do the Slotzilla Zipline as a quartet and had the truly unique experience of whizzing over people's heads, 114 feet up in Fremont Street.



Left to right: Jo Oosterhoff, Tenor; Bec Hewitt, Lead; Lindsey Dyer, Bass; and Kirsten Richardson, Baritone



Above: Ready if you are! Ziplining in Las Vegas

We prided ourselves on being very approachable and fun-loving, and we hope that was very obvious! We would sing with anyone who asked, and especially loved tag-teaming in other members during the many educational sessions we ran throughout our quartet life. Being a teaching quartet was another special aspect of our quartet experience, from running workshops with disadvantaged kids from the Avon Youth Community and Family Services, to being part of Queen It Up with Mary Rhea in Melbourne in 2015.

Our last big workshop was teaching a streamed weekend session in Brisbane in 2017 which was terrific fun for us.

Hi-Jinx split in 2018, just a couple of months out from Regional Contest – it was an extremely emotional time for all members. We had shared so much together and it was an honoured but odd position to always be the champion quartet. It certainly brings its own pressures. However, the wonderful times definitely outweigh the not-so-wonderful.

We had some amazing memories as members of Hi-Jinx, from performing with Alliance (and smashing TLA in a competitive sing-off!), to singing in the same shows as Ringmasters, the Musical Island Boys, Lunch Break, Zing!, actually singing a song onstage with Queen Kim Vaughn for Region 34's 25th anniversary, walking first-time quartetters through their first traffic pattern at contest, singing *At Last* as our final acceptance song and getting a standing ovation IN THE MIDDLE of the song...wow that one certainly put a lump on our throats...to singing our final chords together, accompanied by a slideshow of our best moments, at our swan song in May 2018.



hi-jinx

Above: On the International Stage in Baltimore

Debacle

George Spencer, Tenor

Caitlin Launt, Lead

Tanya Kavanagh, Baritone

Glenda Lloyd, Bass

Debacle Quartet held our first rehearsal in July 2016, after acting as a scratch demonstration quartet for new members of Brindabella Chorus. George (tenor), Tanya (baritone) and Glenda (bass) had sung together before, and Caitlin (lead) had not long moved to Canberra from Perth. We thought we might be on to something after that first sing together so we decided to give this quartet thing a go. It took us quite a while to settle on a name, and after that chaotic process we knew Debacle was just right!

Our very first public performance was at the Australian National Eisteddfod in September 2016 where we came second in the open category for groups with less than 15 members. We were pleased we had scraped together enough songs to perform! Then the 'serious' work began with lots of rehearsing and coaching to get ready for Regional - not to mention choosing real repertoire.

In the lead up to Regional, George had a dream that we sang last at contest and did quite well, so we saw it as a good omen when we were drawn last. We surprised everyone including ourselves by coming second. It has become a quartet ritual to check in with George about contest dreams every year.

We had already surpassed our goals for the year when our friends Hi-Jinx Quartet contacted us. They were not going to go to International Convention in October, so would we like to consider going as the representative for the Region? Would we ever! It was an easy choice because we were all already going with Brindabella to compete in the Harmony Classic. It was a wonderful (if quite frantic) experience to go to International with both our chorus and quartet - a first for both groups. And it was such a confidence boost to head onto the quartet stage with our first place Harmony Classic medals hidden under our costumes.



Above: Performing at the Australian A Cappella Awards



Above: Debacle in Bourbon Street New Orleans

Back home in Australia, we did one of our strangest gigs ever, recording a parody version of the Twelve Days of Christmas for the Australian Federal Police. We became somewhat internet famous as that clip got watched and shared all over the world! We think we might be the only barbershop quartet ever to sing the line “drugs in someone’s bowels”. At the time of writing, the clip has had 180,000 hits, and we still sometimes run across it in unexpected places.

We had a first at Regional in 2018, singing one of Glenda’s contestable arrangements on the contest stage. Then we had another first - winning the contest! We were so excited we forgot to pose for our official photo. It didn’t take us very long to decide that we were going back to International contest in St Louis. Our lead up included some really great (but terrifying) coaching with the whole of Frenzy Quartet after August A Cappella. We learned heaps in a very short time, as you might expect with the input of four Queens at once!

In St Louis we made lots of new friends, and it was much more relaxed now we knew what to expect. In true Debauche fashion we bought new costumes in the US, the weekend before we competed. We also freaked people out by coming over to contest and watching before we were on. In fairness though, we were near the end of a 12-hour contest, there was plenty of time for us to put our make up on.

In 2019 we have continued having lots of fun, performing around Canberra and Australia at events like the Legacy ANZAC Concert, the Australian National Eisteddfod and the AusACA Australian A Cappella Awards. AusACA was particularly fun because we had no idea what to expect from a contest that was similar to ours in many ways but totally different in others. We really loved how much the a cappella crowd enjoyed our competition barbershop song. Our other favourite bit was the original song Glenda wrote for us called *Toxic*.

This year we also had our best Regional contest score ever with 635, coming second to the amazing Enchant Quartet. We were so proud to qualify for International for the third time with both Enchant and Obsession. New Orleans was a blast with so many of our friends there with us.



Left to right: Tanya Kavanagh, Baritone; Glenda Lloyd, Bass; George Spencer, Tenor; (Front) Caitlin Launt, Lead

Enchant

Jo Oosterhoff, Tenor

Avril Hughes, Lead

Kirsten Richardson, Baritone

Lindsey Dyer, Bass

Enchant Quartet was formed from the three remaining members of Hi-Jinx Quartet plus a relative newcomer to barbershop, Avril Hughes. Avril had already competed and won Nationals and Pan Pacific contests with her mixed quartet Twice on Sunday but had never sung in an all-female barbershop quartet before. To her absolute credit she was very eager to learn more and stepped up to the task beautifully.

Lindsey got sick almost immediately after Enchant formed, so the top three parts had a lot of time together trioling and working on our blend. We performed as a trio at the Dunsborough Festival of Voice which was a great experience, while still working on our quartet repertoire in the background and rehearsing as a quartet when Lindsey was able. As a result, there are very very few performances in Enchant's history as a quartet. One of the few that comes to mind is performing for our chorus A Cappella West for the very first time – always a nerve-wracking experience! We sang *Bye Bye Blues*, the first barbershop song we learned together as a new quartet, and *The Power of Love* (Huey Lewis version).

Other notable performances were at the Kalamunda Morning Melodies (our first public performance!) and just prior to contest, we sang for Baden Street Singers at their rehearsal. Whilst in Hobart, we tried to sing for as many groups as Lindsey could manage, given her health – two memorable performances for Melbourne Chorus and Headliners Chorus. We were very grateful to both choruses for allowing us to sing for you and putting us through the unavoidable 'night before' nervous performance!

On contest day, all four of us were very emotional and particularly in the traffic pattern we had some very private and moving moments. As a result, we spent the whole of our 10 minute warm-up in a group hug and very simply grateful for each other.



Above: Quartet Walk Through - Hobart 2019



Above: Record-breaking winners - Hobart 2019

Needless to say, none of us even dreamed that we would take the gold, given our circumstances. Probably our most fun moment (at least for three of us) was Avril's now-famous ugly crying on stage when she heard the announcement. None of us would change that for anything!!

We are so thankful we competed together in 2019 at regionals. Lindsey was already very sick and we simply hadn't been able to rehearse as a quartet more than a handful of times. But despite her illness, Lindsey was still competitive, and committed. She listened to recordings we sent her, singing along as best she could. We already had a wonderful prior tapestry of work from singing together for so many years and she simply wove it together and created new history. Enchant won in 2019 with a new regional record and it was testament to Lindsey's commitment and love for singing that made it happen. Our one regret is that she was too sick to compete with us in New Orleans in 2019. If she could have, she would have reached way beyond the stars.



Left to right: Jo Oosterhoff, Tenor; Lindsey Dyer, Bass; Avril Hughes, Lead; and Kirsten Richardson, Baritone



A U S T R A L I A

Chapter at Large



Mary Leonard was the Chapter at Large Coordinator for Region 34 in 2009, Margaret Richards held the position in 2010 and 2011. Jennie Harrison took over the position in 2012 and continues in the role.

Chapter at Large membership generally sits between 50 and 60 members. CAL membership provides an excellent platform for SAI members who can no longer be involved in chorus life due to work commitments, health issues, distance etc but who wish to keep in contact with the organisation.

CAL membership allows members to be involved in regional and international events. Melissa Harrison as a CAL member sang with the Young Women in Harmony Chorus in Seattle at the 2010 SAI convention and in the World Harmony Chorus in Hawaii in 2013.

Many of our CAL members sing in registered quartets and compete at the regional competition.

CAL members also hold positions on the Regional Management team. Fay Baker handled music copyright for the Region until 2019. Bec Hewitt is currently a member of the Regional Education Faculty.

Our CAL members are the first to volunteer at our regional conventions and many have held key positions at our conventions eg Stage Manager, Competition Coordinator, Panel Secretary, Panel Page, MC Coordinator, Panel Liaison.

We have honoured our CAL members who continue to contribute to the region with Sweet Adeline of the Year awards:

2012 - Fay Baker	2016 - Sandy O'Neill
2013 - Jenny Fay	2017 - Melissa Harrison
2014 - Eva Blanda	2018 - Michelle Todd
2015 - Therese Cooney	2019 - Amy Hawkins

Since 2014 we have held CAL get-togethers at the regional convention.

Jennie Harrison
CAL Coordinator



2015 Hobart (LtoR): Melissa Harrison, Paula Banfield, Robyn Naylor, Val Norris (Membership Coordinator), Jan Butterworth, Geraldine Roxburgh, Michelle Todd



Wollongong 2016 (LtoR): (not named), Cathy Rainey, Frances Mewett, Sandy O'Neill, Jennie Harrison (CAL Coordinator), Paula Banfield, Michelle Todd, Geraldine Roxburgh, Jan Butterworth, Donna Markovich

Ann Gooch Award

Ann Gooch has been a Sweet Adeline for over 50 years. She is a Certified Music Judge, an International Faculty Specialist, a former President of Sweet Adelines International as well as being director of Jacksonville Harmony Chorus in Florida.

Established in 2001, the Ann Gooch Award was created in recognition of Ann's lifelong dedication to Sweet Adelines International and the advancement of barbershop around the world.

Each year, the award is given to honour an SAI member from outside North America for outstanding contributions to her chorus or region in furthering and developing SAI and the barbershop style.



Region 34 Ann Gooch Award winners 2009 - 2019



2009 - Lea Baker
Endeavour Harmony Chorus



2010 - Linda Wareham
Northern Beaches Chorus,
Coastal a Cappella



2016 - Carole Macintyre
Perth Harmony Chorus with
SAI President Paula Davis

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Looking forward to the next ten years!

