



KEYS CIRCULAR

www.circularkeys.org

Circular Keys
Chorus -
Online
Newsletter

Issue 2, 2004



EDITOR'S NOTE:

By now all our friends & supporters have been regaled with tales from Adelaide—so although our successes may not be news by now, at least our readers can share some of the emotions experienced by the chorus, & especially the 'newbies' - 17 of whom were new to competition, and quite unsure of what to expect. Of course they performed above expectation & had a ball—as did we all—and can hardly wait for next May to do it all again!! Keep up the energy everyone, and keep learning and growing—so we can reach greater heights in 2005! (*Keep singing, Steph.*)

CKC Scores Triple Success at National Convention, Adelaide—June 2004!

FUNDRAISING GALORE!

In order to help send our amazing quartet to the US in October, CKC is madly trying to raise the necessary funds via a whole host of activities & hopefully sponsorships!

We ask all our friends to support this quest—by coming to our Fashion Parade & our special benefit concert—details as follows!

FASHION PARADE

Friday 20th August at 7:30pm in Dover Hall (where CKC rehearses) Anglican Villages, Castle Hill. There will be a wide

range of clothing from such well-known labels as

Stitches, Black Pepper & City Limits, in sizes ranging from 8-20! Only \$5 admission, which includes supper—what a bargain!!

SHOW:

Flying High on Harmony

Sunday 12th September at 2pm—Hills Centre, Castle Hill. This will be a wonderful afternoon of entertainment, with stars *Accolade* supported by the exciting National Champion Men's Quartet, *FREEFALL*, our good friend Larry Stellar, and hosted by the talented,



Amazing Accolade—National Champion Female Barbershop Quartet—now heading for

energetic Glenn T, (who you will no doubt remember from our show last November), and of course the Chorus! For information please see our website link below, & for bookings phone The Hills Centre Box Office, 9899 3433. See you there!

www.circularkeys.org/show



*Section fun
while awaiting
Showcase on
Sunday night!*



A Little Free Verse

On Qantas Flight 759

A bunch of women – *Sweet Adelines*

Boarded the plane bound for
Adelaide,

The Hotel Riviera is where we
stayed.

We arrived about four & picked up by
bus-

Onto the Convention Centre, without
a fuss.

We registered & received our bags
Containing brochures & our
identifying tags.

Our 'new girls' stayed on to listen to
reviews, of what will happen & what
'virgins do'!!

Onto the Motel we picked up the
keys

To our room – I locked myself out –
all too soon!

Back to the Centre in our fleecy
jackets of red, for the Mass Sing;

Dinner of lasagne & chicken we were
fed.

On Saturday morning – cloudy was
the weather

Secret Friends were revealed as we
had breakfast together.

We met for some practice to go over
our songs, to remember the
dynamics & all those diphthongs!

Soon it was time to start changing
our appearance –

Eyelashes, make-up, hairspray –
what an experience!

We met in the foyer, all dolled up –
ready to go – to the Convention
Centre by bus to 'jazz up' the show!

We arrived & soon our traffic pattern
commences – trying to stay calm but
feeling a little tense!



Our bari free-verse poet, Jo.

We warmed up our vocals in the
warm-up room (as you do), and then
I decided on a quick dash to the loo!

I tried to come out & got quite a
shock – the loo door was stuck –
totally locked!

That would be right, I thought with
dismay – I've come this far and I'll
miss our Big Day!

But I calmed myself down & took a
deep breath – finally opened the door
& went to find Steph!

*'Quick' I said, 'I'm not feeling steady,
I need some of your Rescue
Remedy!'*

Focussed now & ready to shine, we
found our buddies & formed a
straight line.

For it's our turn now to say *'enough's
enough – let's go on stage & strut our
stuff!'*

It was over it seemed in a flash – we
were off that stage in a dash!

A fantastic result – 4th overall – we
should all feel proud, and 10 feet tall!

Our 'virgins' did us proud – and us
oldies too – a fantastic result from all
of you!

Saturday night we had our Gala
Dinner.. our medals we displayed like
a Grand Winner.

We were entertained by *'FREEFALL'*
and had lots to eat – back to the
Hotel to rest our weary feet!

The next day was the Quartet Comp
– Quartet No. 6 –

ACCOLADE – we began to stomp.

They came on & blew the crowd right
away – Champions – we began to
say.

The scores all tallied – they
announced the places... a look of
excitement on all of our faces!

Our hands held tight – my fingers
were numb – they then announced it:
NUMBER ONE!!

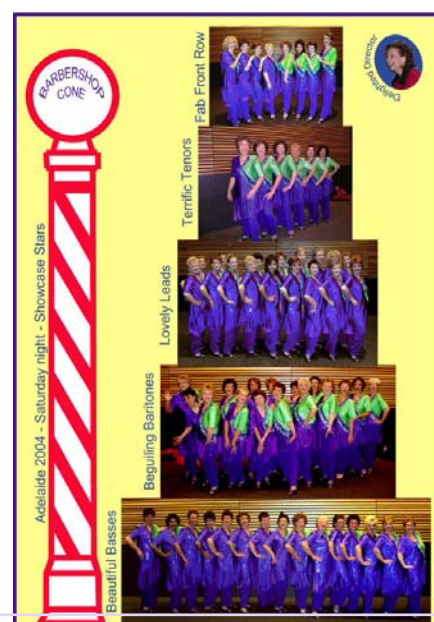
Accolade – our Champion Quartet –
and four finer singers on the day you
couldn't get!

Showcase on Sunday night – we all
got to *STAR*! It was a fantastic week-
end – the best by far.

So congratulations to *Circular Keys*
& *Accolade* – for your outstanding
results down south in Adelaide!



The Barbershop 'cone':



Our girls speak out! Sue Gourdie's thoughts on Adelaide:

They say winners are grinners, and that was certainly the case after the Adelaide Convention for the ladies of Circular Keys Chorus!

We were placed 3rd in the mid sized chorus section and 4th overall. *Accolade* who comprise Wendy Scandurra, Tenor, Amanda Andrews, Bari, Lead Vicki Dwyer and Bass Vicki Sutton, completed the triple by achieving 1st place in the quartet competition, which now entitles them to compete internationally in America in October! All these achievements were made possible by the enthusiasm and skill of our Director Vicki Dwyer, who inspired and educated the Chorus, which included more than 17 new members. I was a 'virgin' convention girl, and can only say that the weekend was, for me, one of the best times I've ever had! Not only were there fantastic musical talents on show, but the friendship & warmth was overwhelming. People I had never met before spoke to me as if we had known each other for ages, and it was yet again a testament to the fact that ordinary people given the opportunity & guidance can do extraordinary things.

I took advantage of one of the master classes on 'Vocal Production', which helped to cement the education already given to us by Vicki. I am finding myself reliving the weekend and our performance over & over, and a smile appears on my face - I keep picking up my medal and I smile again - I am so proud to be part of *Sweet Adelines*, and cannot wait for the next convention!



Bass, Sue Gourdie, writes about her first competition experience with CKC!

Thoughts on Adelaide—by Donna Thomas



Donna Thomas, baritone, also reviews the lead-up & experience of her first competition:

Little did I know what I was in for when I began to attend Wednesday night rehearsals! I thought I was just coming to sing and have a bit of fun...but the reality of it all has been a life-changing experience. I have learnt so much during the past 6 months, not only about the art of singing barbershop, but also how to have lots of fun and be part of a caring & supportive community of fabulous women. Learning the comp songs was a challenge & the learning curve was steep, but I finally managed to pass them - on the deadline night - not without a few tears & some angst. I had mixed feelings of relief and a sense of achievement that maybe I CAN do this after all.

Donna Thomas cont.

The excitement & anticipation was building as we counted down the number of weeks until Convention, with many people telling me what a wonderful time we would have. The weekend finally arrived & it all began! On Saturday we had a lovely group breakfast followed by our final

rehearsal. *Oooh, there is so much to remember, will I be able to rise to the challenge?* Then it was time to transform ourselves with our costumes, makeup and hair. As I glanced in the mirror I wondered '*can this really be me?*' After a final makeup check we headed for the Convention Centre & entered into the traffic pattern. I was trying to focus only on what I had to do, hoping like hell that I wouldn't stuff anything up for Vicki or the rest of the Chorus! That would be all they needed - the new girl doing it all wrong & losing precious marks!

We entered the final room & someone had a great idea to give all the newbies a hug. Bad move! I was OK & still fairly focussed until Steph (my Section Leader) came over & gave me a hug... oh dear - I found myself uncontrollably overcome by emotion. Suddenly my mind gave way to a flood of emotional flashbacks from the past couple of years, and in particular an email Steph had written when I thought I would never pass those riser tapes. Why is my mind doing this to me now?? I struggled to get myself under control, grateful that we were now in the dark backstage area & no-one could see me, but wondering how the loads of eye shadow, liner, false eye lashes & mascara would look all over my face if I didn't pull myself together fast. Oh well, I guess I'd be in the right emotional mood for the ballad - one less thing to think about! A last minute comment from Rosie helped me get myself together & I was able to refocus. We went on stage & performed! Boy, was I grateful for all those practices! It was all over in, well, 6 minutes and then we were walking off! Phew - I don't think I made any big bloopers & everyone else was critiquing their own performances anyway. Now we could all relax & watch other choruses - which I was really looking forward to. It was wonderful to come 4th overall & to be part of *Accolade's* 1st place performance. However the most precious memory for me is that I had the privilege of being part of an amazing Chorus, with members who work together, give generously, and believe in each other.

Circular Keys Chorus -
Online Newsletter

We're on the web!
www.circularkeys.org

Email: info@circularkeys.org

Will I be
able to
rise to the
challenge?!



Dates for your diary:

Fri 20th August – Fashion Parade (Dover Hall, Castle Hill) – 7:30pm

12th September – Show (Accolade) 2pm (see website)
www.circularkeys.org/show