

SCRAPBOOK

SOUTHERN CROSS REGION ARRANGER'S PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

May 2004

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Thanks is not enough...

Well, for the first time in our Southern Cross Region's arranging history, this newsletter hasn't been written by Alexa Blonner!

Many of you know that Alexa was the driving force and instigator of the arranger's program in our region. Along with Rose Philipson (now McGee), the seeds were sown in 1997 for the course that you are now pursuing.

Alexa liaised with Region 4 and adopted some of their format, but then had the foresight and the energy to revise the course into the three level program that we know today. She now feels the need to "pass the baton".

Like many others I am grateful to Alexa for the many long hours she has given to putting the program together. I admire immensely the enthusiasm she has shown towards getting Australian barbershoppers arranging! It is a lonely occupation and a time consuming one, but it can only help our region, as well as us personally, to have the knowledge passed on.

Grateful and appreciative thanks to Alexa then, from all of us.

Changes afoot...

There will be some changes in the mentors soon. Up until now many of you will have sent your tests in to Alexa, Doris Ward, Gwen Dunn or myself (Jenny Fay).

Doris has given terrific service and we are all grateful for her help in marking and assessing tests. Sadly, Doris feels a need to give this up – leading a busy life of course!

As the new coordinator, I will be approaching a few of you in Level 3 to ask if you would feel able to take on this role. It doesn't have to be time consuming, and I've found it helps me to be looking, thinking and listening – more is always better when it comes to arranging!

Give it some thought, and in the mean time I am happy to take all tests for assessment. Gwen will also continue with mentoring – thanks Gwen!



Voices Down Under

Hopefully many of you will have become aware of the wonderful educational opportunity coming up in Perth, Sept 2 – 6th this year. Well the good, no the GREAT news, is that two world class barbershop arrangers will be in attendance!

Suzy Lobaugh and **Brian Beck** will both be in Perth for VDU, along with Saturday Evening Post (men's BBS) and Fanatix (we all know them!). Wow!

Arrangers' classes are on the schedule – both are willing. BUT, this will work only if we can tell them who will be there and what level to aim classes at. Arranger's classes can be tricky to organise.

So, let me know if you plan to come, and what you'd like to see happen in any classes. It would be wonderful to take advantage of such talent.

More info, including the schedule, is at www.perthharmony.com.au/vdu

The early bird price applies until the end of July and fares are pretty good. Why not think about it?

More important arrangers due!

As if that's not enough, I have been made aware that **Jo Lund**, arranger extraordinaire will be the music judge for #34 in May 2005. She is very excited to be coming here, and is looking to extend her visit around Australia. She too is keen and willing to meet and help those of us who would like help. Basic or advanced classes are possible, and even individual sessions.

Again, what is it you would all like? It is possible a class could be tacked into the Convention schedule. It would be hard to get one class that suits all. Any thoughts and feedback would be welcome.

Feedback from marking

A few tips to avoid commonly repeated errors in tests...

1. Read the question carefully! It sometimes has two parts to it.
2. Take care where you write the bari/bass notes. Beginning arrangers are often playing or singing it, then forgetting to write it in down the octave.
3. Check the notes of ALL chords after you have finished. It's surprising what you will pick up!



Did you know that there is a discussion group for barbershop arrangers? Send a blank email to bbshoparranging-subscribe@yahoogroups.com It's a quiet list, but the men and women who subscribe are very knowledgeable and can answer just about any question! Try it!

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TO: