2023 Pan Pacific Barbershop Convention
Auckland NZ

14 - 17 September 2023

Newsletter Number 5

dated: July 2023

PAN PAC 2023

Thursday 14 to Sunday 17 September 2023

KIA ORA / HI EVERYONE,

Plenty of small stuff in this Newsletter. Have a good read and we hope most of your questions will be answered. An idea suggested in a previous newsletter is you print these Newsletters off and keep them in a hard copy folder.

THE PAN PAC 2023 WEBSITE

Find it at BHNZ Convention Pan-Pacific 2023 (barbershopharmony.nz).

Previous Newsletters can be accessed under the **NEWS** tab on the main convention website.

The Convention Programme has been published and can be found under the **PROGRAMME** tab.

Additional articles included under the **EVENTS** tab are The John Buckley Show, the Harmony Spectacular! (otherwise known as the Saturday Night Gala Show) and Sing with the Champs.

REGISTRATION

Registrations have been rolling in, but we look forward to many more being recorded before the **Early Bird discount closes on July 14th**.

If you want to need to register your chorus or quartet, the details can be found on the convention website under either the REGISTER tab or the CONTESTS tab – the link on each takes you to the same place.

A question we have been asked is “what does Registration include?” Here is the answer:

Contestant Registration

- The ability to perform in a Convention Contest (assuming all other contest requirements, such as being a paid-up member of your local body, are in order).
- The issue of an ID Tag and Convention Booklet.
- Free entry to the auditorium while contests are in progress.
- A free ticket to the Heritage Spectacular on Saturday evening.
- Entry to the Saturday evening Afterglow.
- The ability to buy tickets to the Sunday Bruch and/or the Harbour Cruise.
- The ability to purchase memorabilia merchandise.

Non-Contestant Registration

- All the items included under the Contestant Registration except the ability to perform in a Convention Contest.

TICKET SALES

Contest sessions

Tickets will be sold at the venue on the day in question. A ticket will allow a person to enter the auditorium for any contest session on that day. A day ticket (not transferrable to the next day) will cost NZ$30. Cash or cards will be accepted. *(Of course registrants do not need to buy tickets, all they need to do is wear their ID Tag.)*

Harmony Spectacular!

Tickets will be sold at the venue on Saturday 16 September for NZ$40, cash or cards will be accepted.

Tickets can be booked online at BHNZ Convention Pan-Pacific 2023 - Harmony Spectacular (barbershopharmony.nz). While the tickets are valued at NZ$40, there will be a small additional handling/booking fee, as is usual in the circumstances.

(Of course registrants do not need to buy tickets, all they need to do is wear their ID Tag.)

PARKING AND TRANSPORT

Car Parking

PARKING AT THE VICTORY CONVENTION CENTRE

Parking on the Plaza level, i.e. in the open air immediately outside the Victory Convention Centre (VCC), is for service vehicles only and is **NOT** open for general parking.

There is a large basement car park under the VCC, but it is **NOT** available on Thursday 14th Sep until after 3:00pm and is **NOT** available on Friday 15th until after 1:00pm (because the spaces are hired out to local businesses). But from 3:00pm Thursday till midnight Thursday, and from 1:00pm Friday until midnight Friday, and all-day Saturday 16th until midnight, it is open and free of charge.

PARKING ELSEWHERE

All other car parks near to the VCC require payment. To see where they are you can peruse the following websites:

- https://www.wynyardcarpark.co.nz/ (commercial enterprise)
- https://heartofthecity.co.nz/article/guide-city-centre-car-parks (Auckland Council)

- https://www.wilsonparking.co.nz/parking-locations/auckland/auckland-cbd/?carParkFeature= (commercial enterprise)

Prices can vary considerably, so you may wish to check beforehand.

Payment options are usually by card only. (A tip for the unwary: If you are in an LPR (License Plate Recognition) car park and have a rental car, make a note of the License Plate number so you don't have to run back and forth between the car and the pay station! Been there, done that.)

Transport Around Auckland

Private Cars

Auckland is well known for traffic congestion and journeys often take longer than you expect.

Planning your route via Google Maps Driving Directions is very useful if you include the time of day and date you will be travelling.

Buses, Trains and Ferries

These are all run by Auckland Transport and fare payment is by a swipe card known as a HOP card. Once you have a HOP card, loaded with some dollars, all you need do when you get on is "Tag On" (i.e. swipe your HOP card across a Tag recorder) and "Tag Off" (i.e. swipe your HOP card across a Tag recorder) when you get off. Many of you will be very familiar with this system of paying for fares, but for those who are not, don't forget the "Tag Off" bit.

How do you get a HOP card? And how do you get dollars pre-loaded onto it? Go to https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/at-hop-card/where-to-buy-and-top-up/ to find out.

Note: While Auckland Transport (AT) intend to introduce easier payment options across all of Auckland's buses, trains, and ferries i.e. tagging on and off with other contactless payment options such debit/credit cards, Apple Pay and Google Pay, this is not scheduled until next year. For the time being, you will need a HOP card to travel on public transport in Auckland.

Taxi, Uber, Ola, etc.

These are plentiful and not outrageously expensive for short trips but getting from Auckland Airport to the CBD will be pricey if you decide to use one.

Shuttles from the Airport

This is a handy and reasonably priced way to get from the Airport to the door of your accommodation. You will need to book. Go to https://www.aucklandairport.co.nz/transport/taxis-and-shuttles for more information.

Buses from the Airport

Here is some info on buses from the airport to the CBD https://www.aucklandairport.co.nz/transport/public-transport.

Trains

There are no trains from the airport to the CBD, but there is a train-bus link as explained in the Buses From The Airport link.

Helicopters

Go for it!

THE WATERMARK IMAGE

No prizes for guessing what the watermark image is on this Newsletter. It is, of course, the Kiwi - the iconic New Zealand flightless bird. There are 5 different species of Kiwi found in the wild throughout New Zealand, but they are in danger from introduced predators (cats/dogs/stoats/etc.) and are protected. Kiwi has become a nickname for anyone who hails from New Zealand and we should explain for the benefit of our friends from the USA, that if you say "my mate is a Kiwi" you do not mean they are a small brown furry fruit! (If you want to know why Kiwi Fruit are called Kiwi Fruit, ask a Kiwi.)

Nga mihi mahana (Warm regards),

Richard



Richard Hedley
Chair, Host Management Committee for Pan Pac 2023
on behalf of Barbershop Harmony New Zealand
+64 (0) 27 451 3191
convention@barbershopharmony.nz