

INTERNATIONAL
SWEET ADELINES
• NEW ZEALAND AREA •

TEN YEARS PLUS

INTRODUCTION

In 1982 Patti Cooke wrote to Sweet Adelines International asking for help in starting a chorus in Wairoa, New Zealand. Little did she know I would soon be on her doorstep helping her to organize the first chartered chorus in the country! At the very same time a group of energetic women in Auckland were starting to sing barbershop.

Who would have guessed that twelve years later the women of New Zealand would have created a whole Sweet Adeline Worldwide Area, encompassing both the North and the South Islands!

A special thanks is due to some of the early pioneers in New Zealand. Bridget Byrne, Jan Smith, Patti Cooke, Chris McIntyre, Sue Perry and Beverley-Anne Nobbs. Their energy and persistence has paid rich dividends for the singers of New Zealand.

Now is a time to honour the history of the development of Sweet Adelines in New Zealand and also to celebrate the success of the present achievement of all of our quartets and choruses. I am proud to be a part of your country's Sweet Adeline history and I look ahead with pride to your shining future.

Best Wishes to you all.

Ann Gooch
International President (1975 - 1977)

As one of the early members of Sweet Adelines in our area, I have been witness to the many changes that have taken place over the past decade. It is fitting that this history has been completed just ten years after our first convention at Freyberg School, Auckland in 1984.

The steps from National Board to Steering Committee and Area Status, the appointment of Regent, Director of Musical Activities, Membership Development Representative and local faculty have been taken at a gradual pace enabling our area to consolidate each step and build on it.

Teamwork is right to the fore with many members moving into leadership roles, extending their skills and talents then reaching out to share this expertise with other members.

It is with much pride and love that this book has been compiled so that all our members will have a knowledge of our New Zealand history.

Beverley-Anne Nobbs
NZ Area Regent
April 1994

1981 - IN THE BEGINNING

The unlikely birth place of women's barbershop in New Zealand was a small rural farming town in Hawkes Bay called Wairoa. Patti Cooke was brought to Wairoa from the USA by her New Zealand teacher husband Ron. Coming from a musical background in Minnesota, Patti felt a need to put music back in her life. She had sung with a Sweet Adeline chorus in Minnesota so decided to see if she could generate some interest in the barbershop style of harmony. She wrote to the International Headquarters of Sweet Adelines Incorporated in Tulsa, Oklahoma inquiring about music to start a quartet. She received, of course, a huge pile of information on starting a chorus, the first of regular piles of paper going back and forth to the States ever since.

Having taken every opportunity to recruit potential members - "Hello, I'm Patti. Do you sing?" - the inaugural meeting of the first women's barbershop chorus in New Zealand was held on 20 September 1981. Twelve women attended and agreed to "give it a go". Rehearsals were held in the local college staffroom with each member taking a turn to bake a cake for supper. This group was destined to "grow"! Patti took on the musical leadership of the group and they worked towards their first public performance for the Wairoa Rose Society.

Further north in Auckland, unaware of developments in Wairoa, Jan Smith, a talented performer and organiser of West Auckland musical performances was asked to form a women's barbershop quartet for a local Music Hall show. She teamed up with Audrey Ansell, Pat Haskell and Jean Dennis and sang "My Wild Irish Rose" and "Heart of My Heart."

1982 - A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

Interest in barbershop was growing aided by an active men's barbershop chorus in the Auckland area. An advertisement for this chorus rekindled Jan Smith's interest and prompted her to make contact with one of their members, namely Ken Redwood, who told her of the existence of Sweet Adelines Incorporated. Jan wrote to Janell Mason at Tulsa and received the same wonderful package of information that Patti had received the year before.

As fate would have it, Jan's contact with International Headquarters was made after July, the month when Ann Gooch, International Faculty Member, made her first biennial visit to New Zealand. Ann had written to the Wairoa chorus asking if she could visit and fortunately was undeterred by Patti's reply of "No, don't bother. We're only small and very inexperienced". It takes more than that to stop a Sweet Adeline of Ann's calibre! Ann has proved herself over the years to be a real trooper, but never so much as on this first visit. Wairoa is not exactly the easiest place to get to on public transport being somewhat off the main trunk line so to speak, and Ann chose to fly from Auckland to Rotorua and then travel by bus so she could see some of the country. This turned out to be an experience she would not forget as the road was long and winding and she was accompanied in the bus by some chickens! Her reaction to it all: "I was most impressed with the scenery, but I don't want to do it again!"

Once Patti and her chorus met Ann, it did not take them long to realise that she was a very special person, one who would in time be loved and respected by all New Zealand Sweet Adelines privileged enough to have met her. "Guru Gooch" as she is affectionately known throughout New Zealand is an indication of the high esteem in which she is held.

The Wairoa chorus now had eighteen members and after performing at a fashion show, managed to "hook" a new member who would play a significant part in the development of Sweet Adelines in New Zealand. Sue Perry's first contribution came as President of the Wairoa chorus.

1983 - THE NEWS SPREADS

An advertisement in the local West Auckland paper placed by Jan Smith in January 1983 led to the formation of the second New Zealand chorus. Evelyn Hadfield, a well known choral conductor and music teacher took on the musical leadership. The group chose the name 'Harmony Belles' and by mid 1983 thirteen members performed regularly at functions around Auckland. Unbeknown to them at the time, they were singing arrangements voiced for men and this combined with an imbalance of parts (3 tenors, 5 leads, 3 baritones and 2 basses) must have created a rather unusual interpretation of barbershop harmony!

Evelyn resigned in September leaving Jan to take over the musical leadership of the chorus. Having come to the realisation that as a chorus they didn't quite have a handle on the basic barbershop techniques, they turned to the men's chorus for help. The director, Gary Taylor, agreed to share his knowledge and set them off on the right path.

Bridget Byrne, a founding member of this group became their first President.

Meanwhile, a change was in store for Wairoa. Patti's husband gained a teaching position in the Bay of Islands and the family moved north in August. Christine McIntyre took over as Wairoa's director and the group continued to develop.

1984 - OUR PATHS CONVERGE

Wairoa's loss was Bay of Islands' gain and the 23rd of February saw the beginning of New Zealand's northernmost chorus. It took just a few 'tags' to help Patti convert the members of a local musical group to barbershop harmony.

A chance meeting one weekend had a significant effect on the development of barbershop in New Zealand. Joy Plom, a member of the Bay of Islands chorus, on a visit to Auckland, took the opportunity to visit the Museum of Transport and Technology. It just happened that the men's chorus was performing there that day and she stopped to listen to a bracket of their songs. She stood beside two other women who were obviously listening intently to the music and to her astonishment, one turned to the other and said, "Do you think our chorus will ever sound that good?" She immediately made contact with Jan Smith and Bridget Byrne of the Harmony Belles, and told them of the existence of both Wairoa and Bay of Islands choruses. From this chance meeting the idea of a national convention was born.

To make an initial contact, the Harmony Belles invited Patti down to Auckland one weekend and this was the beginning of the sharing of knowledge and support between our choruses.

Despite her first experience of travel within New Zealand, Ann Gooch ventured back in June of 1984. Obviously deciding it was a good idea to have company on these long trips she brought Bron Dixon, Queen of Harmony and Faculty Member, with her to check on the 'fledgling' choruses 'down under'.

Up to this point the Harmony Belles had not made a firm commitment to join Sweet Adelines Incorporated (it seemed an awful lot of money, you know) but by the end of their first session with Ann and Bron they were convinced that it was the right thing to do.

Having a chorus set up in Auckland made coordination of the travel arrangements to visit the other two choruses easier, though not without incident. The bus trip to Wairoa was turned down in favour of a flight in a very small plane, but they did pick the foggiest week of our winter to be here, and delays were inevitable. Christine McIntyre flew to Auckland to spend the weekend gleaning more knowledge from Ann and Bron before they returned to the States. This formed a link between our three choruses which would be strongly reinforced at the forthcoming convention.

Ann was impressed at our plans to hold a national convention and this was one of several instances where we were one step ahead of International's plans for us. During her visit, Ann was to check out the feasibility of one of the top American choruses visiting New Zealand the following year. When she asked the Auckland Chorus if they thought they could coordinate another convention based around this fifty strong chorus, the answer was of course, "No problem!". Little did they know the magnitude of what they were taking on!

The first New Zealand convention was held in Auckland at the Freyberg School in Te Atatu on 5 -7 September (although originally planned for earlier in August it had to be delayed due to farming commitments of some members of the Wairoa chorus!) and could only be called a resounding success. The three groups worked together to put on a combined concert which 'wowed' the residents of West Auckland. A firm tradition of great 'afterglows' was established and over the space of the weekend lots of new friends were made. The theme for the weekend was very appropriate as everyone certainly went home on a "Harmony High".

During this first convention the three chorus presidents, Sue Perry - Wairoa, Bridget Byrne - Auckland and Marjorie Plowright - Bay of Islands had the opportunity to sit in the sun and discuss the progress of the three choruses. This led to the realisation that all the choruses went through the same sort of problems and achievements and that it would be of benefit if these experiences could be shared on a regular basis. A Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from each chorus, had been set up to coordinate the visit by the Greater Dallas Chorus. The three presidents could see the need for a permanent committee to keep the channels of communication open, so at the first meeting of this Steering Committee during that convention weekend, a National Committee was formed with Sue Perry as the first National President.

There was no doubt in anyone's mind that an annual get together was of benefit to everyone and the idea of a national magazine was agreed upon to foster friendship between our members and to share the good and bad times as we struggled to learn to sing barbershop. These decisions immediately removed the feeling of isolation the choruses were experiencing and set a strong foundation for our future development.

Taking its name from the convention theme, the "Harmony Hi" was originally produced by Bobbie Bryce, and was issued on a quarterly basis with each chapter contributing information. After the first year the task of producing the magazine was rotated around the choruses, but as we began to grow this became impractical and led to the appointment of Hilary Bedggood from the Bay of Islands as the Harmony Hi's permanent editor. Hilary has done a sterling job, revamping the basic concept to cope with our changing needs.

The beginning of New Zealand's fifth chorus meant another change in director for Wairoa. Christine McIntyre and two other members of the Wairoa Chorus lived in a small farming settlement called Nuhaka, about half an hour's drive from Wairoa, and late in 1984 they decided to see if they could start a chorus in their own area. Chris, assisted by Dina Ebbett and Beth Hurrey set about building a new chorus. Judy Galvan became Wairoa's new director.

1985 - A YEAR OF FIRSTS

This was a year of significant events in New Zealand's development in the world of Sweet Adelines. Our very first chapter became a Chartered member of Sweet Adelines Inc., for the first time we were treated to a live barbershop show by a top American chorus, the first official meeting of our National Committee and the first chorus in the South Island was founded.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force deserves a vote of thanks at this point as transferring Bridget Byrne's husband to Christchurch in December of 1984 led to the formation of the first South Island chorus. Bridget contacted her local newspaper early in the new year to ask if they would run an article for her to see if there was anybody interested in learning to sing barbershop harmony. They suggested she should write an article herself and submit it to them. This she did, but the article was edited and the emphasis that it was a group for ladies was removed. Three men were interested in joining which would have made an interesting quartet, but not exactly what she had in mind! She was about to try a different approach when she did finally receive a call from a woman, namely Virginia Humphrey-Taylor. Although she lived right over the other side of town, Virginia had been given a copy of the article by her mother. During a year's study leave in Canada, she had sung with the Assiniboine Chorus and was excited to think there was an organisation in New Zealand. Obviously the time was right for the organisation to grow! They set a date for the first meeting and were expecting eight prospective members to attend. Unfortunately two got lost on the way, and an hour was wasted looking for them. Still the six that attended had a good evening and each week there would be one or two more people attending. Having thirteen regular members, the next priority was to find a director. John Harker, a respected singer in the Christchurch musical circles took on the task and the group began to grow.

With Gary Taylor's involvement with both the men's and women's barbershop choruses in Auckland, a strong association formed between the two groups. This was to prove beneficial over the years when logistic support was needed by either group. Both groups were keen to spread the barbershop word, so a combined trip was planned to Taupo in the centre of the North Island for a workshop and promotional show. This was open to all barbershoppers from around the North Island. A contingent from Wairoa was intending to join in the fun, but a severe rain storm caused the rivers to rise so much that one member was stranded on her farm. While the others waited patiently for the river level to fall, the normal highway they would travel on became blocked and was closed. Not to be deterred, they devised an alternative route which would get them to Taupo in time for the afternoon workshops. Still they waited for the river to fall to uplift their stranded member, but to no avail. By this time they faced the fact that their enthusiasm had been literally washed away, and had no choice but to stay at home.

With two new choruses underway since the last visit by Ann Gooch, International realised we were growing fast and would be needing constant encouragement and guidance. A programme of annual visits by International Faculty was instigated, so July brought back our special friend Ann Gooch, this time accompanied by one of her chorus members, Donna Patterson.

The Harmony Belles organised a Mid-Winter Seminar, open to all choruses, to coincide with Ann's visit. Dorothy Hopkins, well known in Auckland music circles and Mary Anne Ward also provided education over this weekend. This weekend was also significant as the first official National Committee meeting was held. The need for funding at a national level was realised and it was suggested by the Nuhaka representatives that a cook book be produced. Nuhaka agreed to compile this book after approaching all the choruses for recipes. The idea of a National badge was also suggested.

Ann and Donna also travelled to the five choruses now on the map, encouraging everyone to attend the convention in Auckland with the Greater Dallas Chorus, and also planting the seed about the possibility of a New Zealand contingent attending the International Convention in Hawaii in 1987.

On the 29th August 1985 the New Zealand flag was raised at International Headquarters in Tulsa. Wairoa had completed their Steps to Chartering and became the first New Zealand Chorus to be fully chartered members of Sweet Adelines Inc. This moment was recognised during the New Zealand convention in September when Shirley Kout, the director of the Greater Dallas Chorus presented Wairoa with their Charter.

Originally Wairoa was to host the second annual convention, but due to transport and other logistical problems, the Prospective Greater Auckland Chorus agreed to play host for a second time. It was a major effort for the President, Beverley-Anne Nobbs and her team, as billets had to be arranged, not only for the fifty one Americans, but also for visiting Sweet Adelines from around the country. An invitation had also been sent to Australian choruses and five women from Perth attended the weekend. Without the assistance of friends and families and the men's barbershop chorus, it would have been an impossible task dealing with the mountains of luggage and providing the large number of mirrors and coathangers required for a 'large' American chorus!

The Americans and their showy barbershop style, not to mention 'all-in-ones', false nails and eyelashes, wigs and fishnet stockings revitalised the NZ choruses in terms of sound and attitude. Joining with them for the massed sing was a real experience for us all. We were overwhelmed. Shirley Kout's dynamic style helped us lift our performance to a new level.

The assistance from the men's chorus was invaluable and it was satisfying for all those concerned to see that they were quite overawed by this showy American chorus. In fact one member of the men's chorus was so overcome by the experience he leapt up on the stage and directed the combined choruses for "Po Ata Rau" or "Now Is The Hour". Not exactly "the thing to do" at a Sweet Adelines convention, but he was forgiven as it was purely a spontaneous reaction to what he had seen and heard!

A few lessons were learnt about organisation during that weekend. All the tenors had been billeted together and on the way to their accommodation they were involved in a car accident. Fortunately no one was badly injured but there were a few red faces in the Auckland camp as this poem illustrates.

ODE TO GREATER DALLAS

Oh what a rush! Oh what a fuss!
The Dallas chapter was coming to US!
We polished up our songs to make sure they'd pass
(Some of us polished the silver and brass!)
We got rid of the junk piled up in the corners
"You'd better have iced water", Ann Gooch did warn us.
At last we were there to welcome the plane
And sing "Harmonise" as they came down the lane.
"What shall we do with the clothes and the baggage?"
Some anxious New Zealand girls' legs got the staggers.
At last we were into it out at the college
With singing and dancing and all kinds of knowledge.
Posture and vowel sounds we learnt all about,
Under the eye of the famed Shirley Kout.

All our quartets tore their hair in distraction
When they heard the pure sounds from the great "Star Attraction"
On the night of the concert - Wow! What a 'to do'
Just where could we find enough mirrors or loos!
Make up and glitter were plastered on faces
False eyebrows and nails were glued in their places.
We New Zealand girls wondered just what was real
But all was made clear when the curtains revealed -
That wonderful chorus all dancing and singing
Uplifting the audience, setting chords ringing.
We were all just so proud to be part of that show
To experience for once the fabulous glow
Of being called for one night a true "Sweet Adeline"
(Mind you, it was nice when it finished and we sampled the wine)

Now that it's over I'd just like to say
That we're heartbroken to see our new friends go away.
We've had tears and smiles, our ups and downs
(Oh how did we manage to hang all those gowns!)
There's one thing we've learned if anyone asks it
"NEVER put TENORS all in one basket"

By Barbara Letcher

This second convention was an exciting time for the Wairoa chorus. On 29 August 1985 the New Zealand flag was raised for the first time at International Headquarters in Tulsa Oklahoma, signifying the official chartering of the first New Zealand chorus - the Wairoa chorus. During the convention, Shirley Kout presented the director, Judy Galvan and President, Sue Perry with their Charter. The chartering members, some of whom were present at that weekend were:

Dorothy Bisley	Lynne Cox	Alison Curtis
Claire Dickie	Helen Dredge	Betty Duley
Judy Galvan	Chris Giddens	Leah Hemopo
Fleur Hickey	Ann McAllister	Billy McCorkindale
Lorraine McCorkindale	Fauna McNair	Sue Perry
Pam Perty	Lesley Standring	Lil Taylor
Leoto Te Ngaio	Kathy Tipoki	

Wairoa's charter party was held on 29 November and this barbecue evening was attended by four Sweet Adelines from the Auckland chorus.

1986 A GLIMPSE TO THE FUTURE

Up until this point, we had really only rubbed shoulders with "top brass" (apart from Donna Patterson who was introduced as an Average Chorus Member ACM) and our exposure to barbershop choruses had been through Greater Dallas and seeing other top choruses perform on the International Competition videos. Although we had been told again and again that we were "just like the choruses back home", we really had our doubts!

Due to the publicity gained by the presence of the NZ flag in Tulsa, and probably the tour by Greater Dallas, New Zealand had been put on the barbershop map. In January 1986 several members of the Vale of Harmony Chorus on holiday in our country made contact with the Auckland Chorus. This was the first of many casual visitors, particularly to the Auckland chorus (Auckland is the main arrival and departure point for overseas visitors), and through this contact we began to realise we were just like some of the folks back home!

Despite the visits we had had to date and the flow of correspondence from International Headquarters, our thirst for knowledge was never satisfied. We were totally reliant on resources outside our country, so were delighted when Patti Cooke took the opportunity to attend a Sweet Adelines seminar while visiting her family in the States. The seminar was 'Planning Your Standing Ovation' and on her return, Patti shared her knowledge and experiences at a national workshop weekend hosted by the Bay of Islands in March. The 'Shine On Show' weekend was a great success, and highlighted to us the benefits that could be gained by attending these seminars if the opportunity arose. A milestone too, as we had not been reliant on International Faculty to directly provide the education for the weekend. From the lighter side of the weekend, some of those attending were lucky enough to have an experience of a lifetime. Marjorie Plowright's husband just happened to own a Gypsy Major, 4 seater aeroplane, and offered to take anyone interested on a flight over the Bay. For those who took the opportunity it was a breathtaking experience. Maurice was a wonderful guide and was quite used to having his thigh grabbed by nervous passengers when turbulence was struck!

Our realisation of the benefits of attending these seminars did not eliminate our biggest obstacle - finance. It cost an awful lot of money to get to the United States, so it was a big financial burden on choruses to send their leaders to the seminars that were offered. International understood our situation and continued to send us a steady stream of "experts" to monitor and encourage our progress.

The members of the National Committee were beginning to realise that the time allowed for meetings at convention/workshop weekends was just not enough and it was suggested that a weekend be set aside for an "unpressured" meeting. The first meeting of this kind was held at Wairoa on 20 July 1986. The main topic for discussion was the planned trip to Hawaii for the International Convention in 1987. Positive response had been received from choruses which indicated that the New Zealand contingent would be strong enough to accept the invitation to sing on Showcase! Wheels were set in motion regarding travel, costumes and a suitable performance package. Ideas were to be submitted by choruses for costumes and music and these would be discussed at the next meeting.

Another significant step in this country's development occurred with the proposal to establish a position called Regional Musical Director. Although the name was amended to National Musical Coordinator, the position was established for the purpose of:

1. Establishing a liaison between directors
2. Coordinating music for specific purposes
3. Supporting new choruses

This position would not supersede a director in his or her own chorus, and would be reviewed annually and appointed by the National Committee at the November meeting. Jan Smith was appointed as the first National Musical Coordinator.

Standing Rules for the National organisation were also set in place as required.

An exciting event occurred in August when a quartet from Auckland "A Taste of Honey" was accepted as an entrant for "Telequest". (This was the first national television exposure the Sweet Adelines had had in this country.)

Carolyn and Bill Butler visited our choruses in September and for Wairoa, Bay of Islands and Auckland, this was their introduction to 'voice placement'. It was an amazing experience to hear the new sound and to realise that it did make a difference where someone stood.

All our choruses were progressing well, and as far as membership goes, Christchurch showed a dramatic growth. Having ended the previous year with a membership of 18, a recruiting drive was instigated, and on the new members' night there were a lot of red faces as the new members outnumbered the old! This became quite a problem for them as we all know it takes new members a while to come up to performance standard. This meant that less than half the chorus were available to perform, and it was difficult to bring the group together as one. The leaders came to the conclusion that the only way to do it was to work towards something together as a group. What better goal than a show! Six months later these new members had learned 25 new songs and performed them in the show! It was a mammoth undertaking, but they all stuck with it and the group ended the year with a membership of 40+. 'A Taste Of Honey' were guest artistes on their "Barbershop Harmony Premiere Show".

The Harmony Belles were the second chorus to struggle through Steps to Chartering and Standing Rules and achieved their Charter in September. Their November Charter Party saw several members from other choruses joining in the celebrations. As tenors were renowned for becoming pregnant - especially in the Greater Auckland Chorus - their gifts were silver sprayed dummies. Each section was duly acknowledged. Evelyn Hadfield, the first director of the chorus presented the Charter and finished her speech with "Goodbye Harmony Belles, and welcome Greater Auckland Chapter of Sweet Adelines Inc." Later that night, delighted members of New Zealand's newest chartered chorus rang up Ann Gooch, Shirley Kout and the Butlers, completely forgetting about the time difference between NZ and the USA. Unable to raise Ann from her slumbers, Shirley got the benefit of a rendition of "We Sing Our Hearts Out" at 3.00am her time. She later wrote and said she was delighted. So were the Butlers whose sleep was also interrupted. The last laugh was on the callers though, as someone forgot to hang up one of the extension phones when they finished, and the phone bill that came in was horrific!!!

The New Zealand National Committee, now made up of two representatives from each chorus, met at Auckland in November (Auckland- Beverley-Anne Nobbs & Jan Smith, Wairoa - Sue Perry & Claire Dickie, Christchurch - Bridget Byrne & Pat Dodds-Scarf, Bay of Islands - Marguerite Simmonds & Marjorie Plowright, Nuhaka - Dina Ebbett & Beth Hurrey). Plans for Hawaii were well underway and travel and costume options were decided upon. It was proposed that the National Committee be renamed NZ National Board to work in with the administrative system of the choruses. Bridget Byrne was elected President, Dina Ebbett Secretary/Treasurer, and Jan Smith continued as National Musical Coordinator.

A return visit by Shirley Kout accompanied by JoAnn Willis encouraged choruses in Nuhaka, Bay of Islands, Wairoa and Christchurch. A rather rough plane trip for JoAnn highlighted the fact once again that travel in New Zealand was not quite as comfortable as in the States! Christchurch was introduced to the joys of voice placement by Shirley so now they too were amazed at the new sound they could produce by moving people around. A social evening with the Greater Auckland Chorus finished off their tour nicely.

1987 - OUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

1987 proved to be a year of trials and tribulations as we planned for our "debut" in Hawaii, but all this was soon forgotten when we received our standing ovation.

Our National President of the time, Bridget Byrne, returned to the Greater Auckland Chorus when her husband was posted back to Auckland with the Air Force. From the National Board's point of view this made things easier for the coordination of the Hawaii plans as the President, Musical Coordinator and assigned travel consultant were all now in the same place.

There was obviously a need for the musical leaders of the country to have an input into the package for Hawaii, so a meeting for directors and assistants, with the National President in attendance, was organised for Sunday 25 January 1987. This was the first opportunity for this group of people to get together and pool ideas and knowledge to help the development of barbershop in this country. All five choruses were represented at this meeting and decisions on Hawaii were made. The four directors attending the Hawaii Convention (Jan Smith - Auckland, Patti Cooke - Bay of Islands, John Harker - Christchurch and Judy Galvan - Wairoa) would direct two songs each, and a member from each of their choruses would introduce their bracket. It was agreed that a Maori song should be included in the package, and also that a song written for the occasion by Barbara Letcher be included. Some members of the Bay of Islands Chorus (namely Norma Lonsdale - well known for her inimitable way with words, Patti Cooke and Colleen Troup, ably assisted by other members of their chorus) had produced a package themselves incorporating poems and parody lyrics to well known tunes, depicting the development of barbershop in New Zealand. Everyone was very much in favour of using this package if it could be adapted to include Barbara's song and the Maori bracket. The songs decided on were:

Kiwi Melody - Auckland
If I Could Write A Song - Auckland

Click Go The Shears - Christchurch
High, Middle & Low - Christchurch

Maori Songs - Wairoa

Consider Yourself - Bay of Islands
Sweet Adeline - Bay of Islands

New Zealand was certainly getting a reputation as a nice place to visit and in April, Auckland and Christchurch were treated to a visit by the Champion SPEBQSA quartet, The Side Street Ramblers. Seeing these international performers was an inspiration to everyone.

A workshop weekend had been planned in Auckland to coincide with a visit by Ann Gooch (in addition to her many other talents Ann is the organiser of the Showcase) where we were to perform in Hawaii), so all those going to Hawaii were to attend to run through our package. Ann was accompanied by Kathe Kirkman, who was to offer any advice on the administrative side of things, and Donna Patterson.

As previously mentioned, for our Hawaii package each of the four Directors attending was to direct two songs, so their choruses were responsible for the interpretation and choreography that would be adopted. Although the plan had been made to get tapes and videos of each song from the chorus responsible to all the other choruses, for various reasons it just didn't happen that way. By the time everyone got together for the "Chordbusters" workshop, only a very small number knew each song well enough to sing it, and hardly lived up to the sentiments in the "Wonders From Down Under" package. It was nothing short of disastrous!! Ann was not amused, there were lots of red faces, and all that could be done was to assure her it would "be right on the night". With only four months left before Hawaii and no other time to get the country together for a practice, Ann had a right to be concerned, but everyone sprang into action determined not to let her down.

The Greater Auckland Chorus had organised to stage a show on the Saturday night called "Everything's Coming up Roses". Each of the visiting choruses provided an item for the audition scene in the show. An enjoyable evening after a hard day!

The National Board also met that weekend. (Beverley-Anne Nobbs, Melva Ironside - Auckland, Rosalie Lang, Heather Mayell - Christchurch, Marjorie Plowright, Marguerite Simmonds - Bay of Islands, Sue Perry, Claire Dickie - Wairoa, Beth Hurrey, Dina Ebbett - Nuhaka, Bridget Byrne - National President, Jan Smith - National Musical Coordinator, Chris Reynolds - Publicity, Kathe Kirkman - International Faculty). The meeting did not run smoothly as decisions had to be made for the good of all that did not suit all the choruses. The Christchurch Chorus felt very isolated way down on their own in the South Island and were not convinced that the National Board was doing anything for them. They would prefer to go it alone. Their initiative was admired, but it did make things very difficult from the National Board point of view. The need for a National Board was reiterated, supported by Kathe Kirkman and the majority of those present.

Fundraising was a constant agenda item for these meetings. The Cook Book, researched and edited by the Nuhaka ladies had been a success raising over \$1000, but it was time for something new. Selling chocolate bars was the next venture. At 70c profit per bar, it was agreed to purchase 50 cartons (1,500 bars) and split the profit between chorus and National Board.

Devising a costume for Hawaii was always going to be a contentious issue and remained so right the way through the build up to Hawaii. The system was still very much democratic with everyone having a right to say what they thought, so things kept changing. From the initial idea of black skirt, and black and white top, a coloured scarf was added to depict the different choruses, then the black skirt was changed to white (black for directors) and the scarf became one small distinctive feature in the colour chosen by the chorus. Someone designed a treble clef out of sequins so this was circulated as a possibility for everyone to use in their elected colours. As this circulated the single treble clef became double, one silver, one in the colour chosen, so those who had agreed to the single, had to rethink once again. Then one chorus was going to wear headgear. Everyone would need to be the same so it was headgear for everyone. Then instead of plain stockings, white fishnets looked really good, so everyone had to find those. Not easy for those who didn't fit standard sizes. To finally have everyone wearing the same top and skirt, same fishnet stockings, same sequin decoration and same headgear was a major undertaking that took its toll on harmonious relationships. Stress levels were very high!!

Amongst the turmoil, the love of barbershop was still spreading and 1987 saw the birth of four new choruses. The Nuhaka Prospective, despite encouragement from International visitors, could not sustain a high enough membership, so the three founding members, Chris McIntyre, Dina Ebbett and Beth Hurrey joined forces with Christine Giddens (ex Wairoa now based in Gisborne) to see if they could organise a chorus in Gisborne. They approached the local Polytechnic and convinced them to run an evening class on 'Barbershop Harmony for Women'. Coinciding with the visit by Ann Gooch, accompanied this time by Donna Patterson and Kathe Kirkman, the inaugural meeting in May was a great success and led to the formation of the Eastland chorus. Chris McIntyre took on the musical leadership of the chorus and Christine Giddens filled the role of President.

Our International travellers also travelled to the Hutt Valley in Wellington where the National Board had encouraged three Sweet Adelines who had moved there from other choruses to look at starting a group. Mary Hazelwood became the first director and the group began to grow. A visit by the National Musical Coordinator in August ensured their continued progress and the chorus had grown to thirty by the end of the year.

Further south, after a visit to the Christchurch Chorus, Ann and Kathe travelled with several members to Timaru to meet with local women in the hope of starting yet another chorus. Ten ladies were keen to make a start. New Zealand was living up to its reputation as one of the fastest growing areas in women's barbershop in the world and would be reinforced once again when Joan McGeorge of the Hutt Valley chorus set up a second chorus in Wellington later in the year in October.

The momentum was building as Hawaii loomed closer and closer. The Greater Auckland Chorus managed to organise some television time on the programme "SUNDAY" with Gordon McLaughlin promoting their impending trip of a lifetime.

Despite efforts to coordinate travel, not all the choruses had opted for the same flight, but arrangements were made so everyone could meet together at the airport for a final run through. Normally this would have been something to look forward to, but there was an air of dread about bringing these choruses that had been pulling in different directions together.

There was still a lot of tension evident, but everyone had the same aim to make the most of our opportunities and not let personal differences spoil anything, so everything went according to plan.

At last we were on our way to Hawaii!! A few minor hiccups with transport, rooms and luggage on our arrival didn't ease the tension between choruses, but number one priority was rehearsals for the Showcase! This was the opening event of the Convention, so once it was over we would be able to relax and enjoy the following days. Rehearsals went well under the watchful eye of Ann Gooch and Shirley Kout, (much to Ann's relief, of course, as she really had her doubts that we'd make it), and finally our big night arrived.

Our opening number "Kiwi Melody" with its frivolous antics by male kiwis and a kiwifruit, not to mention an erupting volcano on stage hooked the audience right from the beginning and we had them in our hands for the entire performance. The beautiful Poi Dance performed by Kathy Tipoki to the Maori song 'Pokarekare Ana' was a highlight and the sixty seven women of our first national chorus received a standing ovation from the 2000 strong audience.

A special moment came for the Christchurch and Bay of Islands Choruses when Ann presented them with their Charters. A proud moment for New Zealand to know they now had four chartered chapters and another four prospectives underway.

Christchurch came well prepared for their chartering celebrations as those members who had stayed behind in New Zealand had insisted that they take a carton of sparkling wine with them to toast the Charter. This created a bit of a problem at Customs on their arrival, but in the end it was worth it just knowing that they were sharing the moment with those left at home.

The trials and tribulations of the previous months had taken their toll, and although temporarily forgotten as the standing ovation was enjoyed, the following months would be critical as to the country's development. The National President, Bridget Byrne, had been at the centre of all the controversy and found a moment to confess to Ann Gooch that she had completely destroyed the country and would never get all the choruses back on side. Ann in her typical quiet and calm manner told her that what they'd been through was totally normal and the important thing was that they had achieved the goal. Wasn't it worth ruffling a few feathers to get 67 women on stage performing as a nation? Apparently one chorus that was supposed to be competing that year didn't make it because they couldn't decide on a costume! It was worth it, and with this thought in mind, the bridges were slowly rebuilt.

The International competitions were a mind-blowing experience for everyone. Seeing those top choruses and quartets perform live made us realise just how far we had to go. Little did we know that just three years later our first NZ Area Champion quartet would be competing on that International stage.

While in Hawaii, a meeting was held with representatives of the Australian choruses (at their request), to discuss the possibility of combining the two countries into an Australasian region. Ann Gooch advised against it at this stage as the administration of such a widespread region would create problems and not be to anyone's advantage.

On their return from Hawaii, both the Bay of Islands and Christchurch choruses planned their Charter Party. The National Musical Coordinator, Jan Smith and National President, Bridget Byrne attended the Christchurch Chorus Charter Party accompanied by the President of the Greater Auckland Chapter, Beverley-Anne Nobbs who also attended the Bay of Islands friends and family dinner at the RSA to celebrate their Charter.

With the membership growth that some of our choruses were experiencing, risers became a priority. Cost precluded shipping the popular Wenger risers out from the States, so individual choruses designed and manufactured their own risers to suit their particular needs. Greater Auckland was the first chorus to have their own risers built for a cost of \$1200.

Up until this point, the national Board had consisted of two representatives from each chorus. As the number of choruses was growing rapidly, this system was no longer viable. At the Board's November meeting a new system was agreed upon whereby the National Board would consist of 10 members made up from one representative from each chorus and the balance elected by the membership. There were to be no more than two representatives from each chorus. Directors would not be eligible for a position on the Board, and Assistant/Associate directors at the discretion of the individual choruses. The National Music Coordinator would not be a member of the Board, but was required to attend the meetings. The official positions on the Board were decided upon. President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Standing Rules Chairman, Election Officer, Ways & Means Chairman.

Bridget Byrne was on her travels again, this time to Singapore, so was forced to resign as National President. Sue Perry was elected to this position once again, with Beverley-Anne Nobbs elected Vice-President. Other members on the National Board at this time were : Marjorie Plowright, Melva Ironside, Dina Ebbett, Dorothy Bisley, Margeurite Simmonds, Rosalie Lang.

1988 - A YEAR OF INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

Late in 1987 we were informed that Marilyn Weekes, a Sweet Adeline from North Metro Chorus in Canada would begin a two year teaching exchange in Pio Pio in the new year, and that she'd be keen to start up a chorus in the nearest town. Contact was made, and with assistance from Joy Trimmer, a colleague at the Pio Pio College, a date was set to demonstrate barbershop harmony to the local community. The Greater Auckland Chapter travelled to Te Kuiti on the Sunday afternoon chosen to help Marilyn by giving a live demonstration of what barbershop was all about. As a result of the interest shown, the King Country Chorus was born on 2 May 1988, with Marilyn Weekes as their director.

A surprise discovery was that there was a second Canadian Sweet Adeline living in New Zealand - one Sheryl Brook. Sheryl made herself known to the Eastland chorus and the word of her existence soon travelled. Both Sheryl and Marilyn attended the Greater Auckland Chorus retreat weekend in March and shared their expertise.

More international visitors were on their way. Bev Sellers, talented judge, faculty member, arranger and experienced director planned to visit New Zealand en route home from a tour and international music convention in Australia. Some of her Scottsdale, Arizona chorus, second place medalists in Hawaii accompanied her, as well as Bev Miller, International President of Sweet Adelines. Bev Sellers and her Scottsdale group performed in a show organised by the Christchurch City Chorus, before heading north to Auckland where the Greater Auckland chorus also benefitted from a welcome visit.

Always a welcome visitor, Ann Gooch visited our prospective choruses to offer her own special brand of encouragement and guidance.

Since first offering to host the National Convention back in 1985, the opportunity to do so had not come Wairoa's way. Finally 1988 was to be their year. The third National Convention was scheduled for June in Wairoa. Unfortunately, Cyclone Bola had other ideas. The whole area was severely damaged by high winds, landslips and flooding which took out the bridge connecting the town with the outside world. The Convention was delayed until October, and even then the aftermath of the storm could still be seen. However, Wairoa did us proud and an added bonus was the presence of Marilyn Weekes who helped with convention classes.

The National Board's planned elections were delayed to bring New Zealand in line with the Sweet Adeline calendar. The current Board (Sue Perry, Beverley-Anne Nobbs, Melva Ironside, Dorothy Bisley, Pauline Fyall, Dina Ebbett, Chris Reynolds, Hilary Bedgood, Norma Lonsdale and Lyn Corr) would remain in office until May 1989.

Bev Miller's visit in July shed new direction on the New Zealand organisation in several ways. Firstly, New Zealand had been designated an Area, specifically due to the rapid growth of the prospective choruses. The National Board would now be known as the NZ Area Board, the President as the NZ Area Administration Co-ordinator (NZAAC) and the National Music Coordinator as the NZ Area Music Coordinator (NZAMC). These roles would be similar to those found in the Regions in the States.

Secondly, a Worldwide Committee had been set up under the control of the International Board, and policies were being formulated to guide worldwide areas. New Zealand had been seen as "paving the way", having established our own form of national organisation prior to international policy being formulated, and our Rules and Election Procedure would be looked at closely with a view to using them to base worldwide procedures on. (International had previously asked us to share our organisational structure with both Australia and Sweden).

Thirdly, due to the musical, administrative and financial support being provided by Sweet Adelines Inc the position of NZAMC would be appointed by International following recommendation from the NZAB.

1989 THE TIME TO TAKE SOME INIATIVE

1989 was off to a high powered start with a planned month long coaching visit by Shirley Kout to the Christchurch City Chorus. Shirley was accompanied by Nancy Thompson whose skill was in administration and publicity packaging, and these two experienced Sweet Adelines gave a great boost to the sound and style of the Christchurch Chorus. The opportunity of having real barbershop experts readily available for a such a long period of time was something that no other New Zealand chorus had ever experienced. Christchurch utilised the presence of these international visitors to set up yet another new chorus. Interest had been aroused in the Queenstown area over the previous years as some quartets from Christchurch, both men and women, had been attending the annual Arrowtown Autumn Festival Barbershop Quartet Competition. Contacts had been made and the time seemed right to set up the new group. Although this group flourished initially, the lack of a strong administrative leader prevented them from ever joining our organisation.

Our chartered choruses were not entitled to the same international visits that the prospectives received, and with the constant growth that NZ was experiencing, the chartered choruses realised the need to arrange their own coaching sessions. This started a new round of intense fundraising to make these coaching sessions possible. Our trip to Hawaii had hit it home to us just how fortunate we had been with the calibre of International Faculty that had been sent to our country. The Average Chorus Member we met in Hawaii was very impressed that we actually personally knew the great Ann Gooch, Shirley Kout, Carolyn Butler etc. They were the "top brass" of the organisation that noone actually got to meet personally. From this time on we really appreciated the fact that we were only ever sent the cream of the crop, but now it was time to take some initiative ourselves.

International funded a return visit by Shirley Kout, this time accompanied by Debbie Stromquist, bass of 'Star Attraction' for the NZ Area workshop held in Christchurch in June. An invitation was extended to the Australian choruses and four Australian Sweet Adelines joined the New Zealand choruses for the weekend. The classes were excellent and a wonderful show was produced in the Teachers College Auditorium, followed of course, by a great afterglow.

During this visit to New Zealand, Shirley's skills were utilised to assist in converting an established harmony group in Dunedin to barbershop. An open night was held on 8th June and ably assisted by Jan Smith, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and Ruth Densom from the Christchurch chorus, Shirley introduced the Dunedin women to Sweet Adelines. The new chorus was established with Mona Semke as Director and Anne Limburg as their President. Shirley also squeezed in visits to three prospective choruses, Eastland, Wellington and King Country.

The New Zealand Area Board met during the Workshop weekend and Beverley-Anne Nobbs became the NZAAC (New Zealand Area Administrative Coordinator). Jan Smith retained the role of NZAMC (New Zealand Area Musical Coordinator). Later this year in August, these two roles were brought even more into line with the Regions in the States and both saw a name change. The NZAAC became the Vice-Regent, and the NZAMC became the Assistant Director of Musical Activities. A Regent and DMA had been appointed from the Worldwide Committee and these two positions would become a direct link to the International organisation for the Worldwide Area. These changes opened doors for our leaders as the Vice-Regent was now invited to attend the Regents' Roundtable at the International Convention. This was the time when as a country we began to feel we were becoming a legitimate and contributing member of the Sweet Adelines organisation, or at least the Harmony International organisation as we were now called. Having been given such top class help and guidance in the past we were ready to pool ideas and suggestions with other regions and areas and appreciated greatly International recognising that we were ready for this. In addition to the new titles for our leaders, all the Areas in the Worldwide Region were to set up the same administrative system. This was to be a six member "Steering Committee" made up of the Vice-Regent, ADMA and four other members. Although the official change would not occur until the following March, the members of New Zealand's first Steering Committee were appointed in November: Beverley-Anne Nobbs, Jan Smith, Pauline Fyall, Lyn Corr, Hilary Bedggood and Sue Perry. Chris Reynolds and Melva Ironside were retained as co-optable members. The focus for the Area Board Steering Committee this year was organising the first New Zealand Area Competitions.

Chris Noteware also paid a visit to New Zealand this year, bringing fun and encouragement to the choruses she visited.

The first Directors' Workshop was held in October in Wellington and proved a valuable forum for sharing information, ideas, problems and giving encouragement to newer chorus directors and assistants. Eighteen Sweet Adelines attended. Jan Smith had attended the International Directors' Seminar in Tulsa in July, and willingly shared some of the knowledge she had gained with those attending the workshop.

News came through of the proposed name change for the organisation from Sweet Adelines Inc. to Harmony International. This was to take place in May 1990.

1990 - A YEAR OF SUCCESSES

1990 was an exciting year and challenging year with our first NZ Area Competitions. The beginning of the year saw four chartered choruses and five active prospectives, but these numbers were to increase before the year was out.

The two Wellington choruses had joined together from time to time for performances, and with the competitions looming up, it seemed a logical idea to amalgamate to form one large chorus. Nothing like leaving things till the last minute though! It was not until February that this decision was made. Less than four months before competition! Prue Blythe took on the daunting task of bringing this newly merged chorus up to competition standard musically, and Ellie Salla worked with her as their President. By May they had completed their Steps to Chartering thus making them eligible to compete for the honour of being the first NZ Area Champion Chorus.

Both the Eastland and Dunedin Choruses were progressing well, the Dunedin Chorus having reached the standard required for public performance in just seven months.

Having altered the structure of the organisation for the countries outside America, it was important that the International Board send its representatives to discuss the new structure and explain in detail how the system should work. Nancy Coates, Chairman of the Worldwide Committee and Gail Shields, Worldwide Regent travelled to New Zealand in March to meet with the newly appointed Steering Committee to discuss these matters and explain the roles of the individual members. Nancy and Gail were really enthusiastic about sharing their skills and knowledge of the Sweet Adeline organisation and most gracious in answering the tricky questions. These two ladies became very good and reliable friends of our Area and petitioned the International Board on many issues we raised with them. As a result of a weekend meeting the following positions were appointed or confirmed. Vice Regent - Beverley-Anne Nobbs, ADMA - Jan Smith, Financial Manager - Pauline Fyall, Meeting Coordinator - Lyn Corr, Secretary - Hilary Bedggood, Extension - Sue Perry. The New Zealand Area Board officially became the New Zealand Area Steering Committee during this meeting. The other major topic of conversation was the forthcoming competitions.

While in New Zealand, Gail and Nancy took the opportunity to learn more about our Area by visiting some of our choruses.

The seed for another South Island chorus had been planted over a year before. At the top of the South Island in Picton, Noelene Blackler listened to a Sweet Adelines' broadcast and interview on National Radio and thought she might like to have a go at making that sound. Time drifted by, and it wasn't until a chance meeting occurred, that the seed was watered and began to grow. Noelene was a contestant on a TV game show, and one of her opponents just happened to be Petra Markham from the Wellington chorus. Being a well trained Sweet Adeline, Petra took the opportunity to put a plug in for barbershop, and this caught Noelene's interest once again. She spoke to Petra afterwards and as destiny would have it, one of the members of the Wellington chorus had just moved to Picton. On her return Noelene contacted Edna Cummings to find out how she should go about starting a group, and Edna put her in touch with the Vice Regent. Noelene advertised to see if anyone else shared her interest. The second part destiny played in this story is that just a few months before, Bridget Byrne had returned from her two year stint in Singapore, and the Air Force had sent her family to Woodbourne, a base not half an hour from Picton. The Vice Regent contacted Bridget who agreed to attend the inaugural meeting Noelene had set up on 5 April. Nine interested ladies attended this first meeting. Bridget had not been idle during her time in Singapore, establishing a chorus (unfortunately this could not be sustained due to a very transient population) and taking on the role of assistant director under a Sweet Adeline of twenty years' experience.

This was a wonderful learning experience for Bridget and she felt ready to take on the musical leadership of this new chorus. Noelene Blackler slipped easily into the role of President.

The tension was mounting throughout the country as the competitions loomed closer. For months choruses had been poring over judging category manuals, deciding on costumes, practising choreography and having weekend retreats to beat the notes into chorus members' heads. The Christchurch Chorus was no exception. Good work had been done at their retreat in Methven with moves flowing freely under the watchful eye of Caroline Prendergast, choreographer. Most of the chorus would be travelling to Auckland for the competition so they had numbers on their side, but had their preparation been sufficient?

As well as competition preparation under a new director, Loro Shandler, the Greater Auckland chorus had to host this momentous event. Under the Steering Committee's guidance, the President, Joy Leonard and her team worked tirelessly to take care of every necessary detail to ensure the weekend was a success for everyone, while the Vice Regent and ADMA took responsibility for organising the actual competition. This was not an easy task, being the inaugural event, but things ran pretty smoothly.

International had sent two wonderful people to be the first judges. Sylvia Alsbury and Betty Tracy each judged two categories during the competitions and provided very entertaining educational classes over the weekend. Sylvia's antics will be long remembered.

The competition weekend finally arrived. Four choruses were competing for the honour of being New Zealand's first Champion Chorus. Christchurch City, Greater Auckland, the amalgamated Wellington Chorus and the newly chartered Eastland Chorus were to battle it out. Due to the small size of their choruses, Wairoa, and Bay of Islands joined the King Country Chorus for evaluation only on their performances. Seven quartets competed and one evaluated. Bridget Byrne emceed the Chorus Competitions at the invitation of the Vice-Regent.

No one knew what the standard would be like. What would the other choruses wear? Everyone was psyched up into 'winning mode', drinking water, getting reassuring smiles from the director. It was Christchurch City's turn. The lights were bright, they sang their hearts out, they struck their final pose. The applause was thunderous. They stood there as the applause died, in frozen smiling silence waiting, and waiting, and waiting, for the lights to go out. The last minute lighting cues had not got through to the lighting man. Finally, Virginia could wait no longer and led her chorus off, no doubt wanting to throttle someone!! Now the waiting really began. Had Wellington outshone them with their jazzy choreography, or had Auckland's sound impressed the judges? The waiting was finally over. The Christchurch City chorus were our first Area Champions!

These little hiccups on stage didn't seem to affect the judging too much as our winning quartet had an incident of their own. On leaving the stage at the end of their performance, the tenor in Export Quality smiling all the while, somehow walked through the wrong 'gap' in the curtains. The rest of the quartet chose the correct exit and she was left scrabbling at the curtains, trapped between two. Once released, she had a very serious attack of the giggles! Beverley-Anne Nobbs, Vice Regent, emceed the Quartet Competitions.

The Eastland Chorus had been sorry to farewell Christine Giddens and Chris McIntyre who both moved away from the area in 1989. The Assistant Director, Dina Ebbett took over the musical leadership and fifteen singers lined up on stage for the competitions. They received a creditable C+ score, but the proudest moment came when their Charter was presented to them by Betty Tracy. Four members of the Dunedin Chorus attended the weekend and were awed and thrilled by the overall standard of the other New Zealand groups.

The official results of the competitions were as follows:

Chorus Competition

- 1st - Christchurch City
- 2nd - Greater Auckland
- 3rd - Wellington

Quartet Competition

- 1st - Export Quality - Patti Cooke (BoI), Chris Reynolds (Greater Auckland), Jan Smith (Greater Auckland), Barbara Letcher (Greater Auckland)
- 2nd - Positive Image - Betty Image, Jo Ellis, Sue Davis, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor (all Christchurch City)
- 3rd - Velvet Touch - Valerie Hoy, Dianne Bennett, Dorrie Cowan, Robin Frew (all Christchurch City)

Prior to our competitions, it had not been established if our winning quartet and chorus would be eligible to compete at the International Competitions. New Zealand was rather an unknown quantity, but following our competitions it was "Salt Lake City, here we come" for our Quartet Champions, Export Quality. Christchurch City Chorus would head for San Antonio the following year.

A contingent of five or six "Kiwi's" attended the International Convention and supported Export Quality through their International Competition experience. It was a proud moment for all New Zealand Sweet Adelines to know that this country was now worthy of representation at the International Competitions. Unable to get publicity in New Zealand before their trip, ironically they attracted attention in Salt Lake City and appeared on a national TV news programme in the States where most people probably didn't know where NZ was let alone that we sang barbershop! Shirley Kout and the Mission Valley Chorus deserve a vote of thanks for taking 'Export Quality' under their wings for the week prior to the competition. Last minute changes were made to songs and choreography, to improve their performance package, and Shirley saw them through every step of the way.

The Steering Committee had met during the NZ competition weekend to deal with all the routine business and plan some future events. A Workshop weekend would be held in Gisborne in June 1991, hosted by the Eastland Chorus, the 1992 Competitions would be hosted by the Wellington Chorus, and the Directors' Retreat scheduled for November would be hosted by the new Picton Chorus.

With the new Worldwide structure in place, the role of the Vice Regent and ADMA had changed dramatically from the simple structure that had been set up in earlier years. The ADMA's role in particular required a lot more administration and communication between all the choruses, and a fresh approach was needed. In August of this year Bridget Byrne was appointed as ADMA. This was a rather daunting task for Bridget as a very new director, but it was the beginning of a pooling of skills and resources. Bridget dealt with the administration side of the position and called on Patti Cooke and Virginia Humphrey- Taylor to provide musical assistance when required.

Ever conscious of our growing number of prospective choruses, International sent us Char Gurney. Char arrived in early November accompanied by Kathy and Terry Holloway. A whirlwind tour of the prospectives began, accompanied by the ADMA and Vice-Regent. As finance was always a consideration, a Steering Committee meeting had been scheduled in Auckland just prior to Char's arrival. Several pertinent issues were discussed.

The Vice-Regent had travelled to Salt Lake City for the International Convention and attended meetings with the Worldwide Management Committee and the Regents' Round Table. It became very apparent that whoever was travelling to International in this capacity should be funded from our national organisation. No one should be required to pay all their own expenses as this was a requirement of the position. Budgeting became a priority. The Vice-Regent has brought back news that Kathy Carmody would travel to New Zealand the following year to train our potential leaders. The first step in setting up a NZ Faculty. The possibility of a 1992 Quartet Workshop was discussed and the itinerary for the visit by the "Canadian Ambassadors of Harmony" was handed out.

Two new choruses had emerged. Jan Smith had seen the potential for a second chorus in Auckland and had established a prospective in South Auckland. and Dorothy Bisley, a Sweet Adeline originally from Wairoa, had moved to Havelock North and set up a prospective in Hastings. Several other seeds had been planted (Whangarei, Orewa, Invercargill, Clinton) but no results to date. The Timaru prospective was in recess, but Char Gurney would visit there to see if interest could be rekindled.

Char's visits were well received everywhere, the highlight being the Directors' Seminar held in Picton. This was a wonderful learning experience for everyone concerned. The Directors and Assistants were able to have some hands on experience with the new Picton prospective and the weekend of singing and sharing showed this new chorus a little of what this organisation has to offer. The Sounds of Picton Chorus were delighted too when Char told them they had reached the standard required to perform in public. Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and Patti Cooke also assisted with classes at this weekend.

The message had been coming through loud and clear from International that it was time to start building our own resources in New Zealand and so become more self-reliant. Instead of all funding going through International (often causing problems with exchange rates etc) a budget was to be submitted for approval and funds as appropriate would be sent to the Steering Committee. Now there were funds available to enable appropriate people to travel within New Zealand for the purpose of education. The first benefits came with Char Gurney's visit. The Vice Regent and ADMA were able to travel to the prospective choruses with Char and having the opportunity to discuss anything and everything while travelling together, learning every time she coached a chorus and meeting the chorus members and leaders around the country proved to be of great benefit.

With our new organisational system, first competitions, first quartet competing at International and three new choruses established, this could only be called a very successful year in New Zealand's Sweet Adeline growth.

1991 - ON THE ROAD AGAIN

A visit in February from Queens of Harmony 'Growing Girls' along with SPEBSQA champions 'Second Edition' meant preparation for shows with these expert quartets in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. The Growing Girls visited chorus rehearsals and gave advice and encouragement. Both these quartets were hosted in Auckland by members of the Greater Auckland Chapter and due to the length of stay there were many social outings and firm friendships were made.

Another round of shows in March with the arrival of the 'Canadian Ambassadors of Harmony' meant a hectic schedule for most choruses in the beginning of 1991. This group, led by Marilyn Weekes represented several Canadian choruses. Their first stop was Auckland where they performed with the Greater Auckland Chorus and our NZ Area Quartet Champions, 'Export Quality'. Then they headed south.

When the King Country Chorus heard that Marilyn was returning briefly to New Zealand, they decided to hurry their chartering steps and standing rules through in the hope that they could charter while Marilyn was with them. Their goal was realised when Marilyn presented them with their Charter during her short visit. A great occasion for her as well as Joy Trimmer the co-founder of the chorus. The King Country Chorus joined the 'Canadian Ambassadors of Harmony' in their very successful combined chorus show aptly entitled 'On The Road Again'. This show went on to Wellington and Christchurch with similar success.

Over the previous years several dedicated Sweet Adelines from New Zealand had taken advantage of opportunities to travel overseas to various seminars and International Conventions and with the addition of education received from visiting International Faculty members it was clear that a pool of knowledgeable educators were emerging from within our own membership. This group was not restricted to chorus directors or presidents, so with the impending visit by Kathy Carmody, it was felt that the time was right to identify this group of potential educators and give them the benefit of Kathy's experience. Applications to become part of a NZ Faculty were called for, and 11 members were selected to attend a weekend of leadership training in Wellington at the end of June. The successful applicants were: Patti

Cooke and Colleen Troup (Bay of Islands), Jan Hart, Barbara Letcher, Joy Leonard, Fiona King (Greater Auckland), Rosemary Laskey (Eastland), Prue Blythe (Wellington), Mary Furness, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and Dianne Bennett (Christchurch City). The Steering Committee would also be included for this weekend.

Our NZ Faculty were first introduced to the general membership at a wonderful workshop weekend held in Gisborne at the beginning of June, ably hosted by the Eastland Chorus, led by their president Norma Schollum. Once again, without the assistance of International Faculty we had to look to our own members to provide classes, and this was done very successfully. Our Vice-Regent Beverley-Anne Nobbs had made good use of her trips to International events and with her team produced an informative and practical class on choreography. 'Export Quality' kept us entertained with stories from their 'Overseas Experience' and we had a parade of 10 years of NZ costumes! These and other classes combined with a public show and great fellowship made for a great weekend. A special part of the weekend was dedicated to the first established chorus in New Zealand. It had been ten years since Patti Cooke called that initial meeting in Wairoa and this momentous occasion was marked with a presentation and the singing of 'That's What Friends Are For'. Members from our newest prospective choruses Sounds of Picton, SouthCity Harmony and Twin Cities (Hastings) had their first taste of a national get together and thoroughly enjoyed this experience.

The Steering Committee met during the workshop weekend and a new member was welcomed. Prue Billings from the Christchurch City Chorus replaced Hilary Bedggood as secretary. For a while there had been talk of having an annual Presidents' Seminar and a decision was made to hold this in conjunction with the Directors' Seminar in November. This would be hosted by the prospective Twin Cities Chorus in Hastings. Initial plans for the Wellington Convention in 1992 were discussed. The Dunedin Chorus would be asked to host the 1993 Workshop.

Kathy Carmody's visit to New Zealand was well worth waiting for, and for those who were fortunate to spend time travelling with Kathy it was a week never to be forgotten. Putting aside the fact that she is a very experienced Sweet Adeline who has become a top administrator and Faculty educator, Kathy's philosophy on life and attitudes to personal growth and development have a profound effect on those she meets. Her desire to help people realise their goals and take control of situations that were perhaps a source of worry or frustration made her a lot of special friends in this country. Her combination of skill and experience make her a very special person who is a very valuable asset to our organisation.

The training weekend in Wellington was really valuable and gave a starting point from which to build our Faculty. Probably, from Kathy's point of view though, the most memorable thing would probably be the cold!! Coming from Anchorage in Alaska you would think she would be used to the cold, but apparently she found New Zealand even colder (lack of central heating in the houses is our problem!). We hope the hospitality, friendship and respect made up for the temperature! Another thing Kathy will probably remember about Wellington is the little blue penguins. She was not convinced that you do need to look out for them crossing the roads.

Following the training weekend Kathy travelled with the Vice Regent and ADMA to several other choruses. Christchurch City were preparing for their trip to the International Competition in San Antonio in October so Kathy met with the chorus to help them mentally prepare for this event. She also met with chorus leaders in Dunedin, coached the prospective Twin Cities Chorus, met with chorus leaders from Bay of Islands, King Country, SouthCity and Greater Auckland in a combined session in Auckland, and visited the prospective SouthCity Harmony Chorus. She had also visited the prospective Sounds of Picton Chorus prior to the weekend in Wellington. This power packed trip showed us just how hard these dedicated International Faculty members are prepared to work and we are ever appreciative of this dedication.

Chris Giddens, another of our mobile Sweet Adelines was now living in Tauranga. She had spoken with Jackie Napier, past member of Lion's Gate Chapter in Vancouver, by phone and they had discussed forming a chorus. Around this time, the mens organisation were trying to establish a male chorus in Tauranga, so Ken Tipper, member of a men's quartet advertised for men interested in singing barbershop. Because quite a number of ladies telephoned in reply to this advertisement, the evening before the event the Vice Regent was contacted and asked to attend with her husband and speak about Sweet Adelines with the women. This she did with Joy Leonard accompanying her. Ken tipper was generous enough to show a video of the Greater Auckland Chorus, City of Sails Chorus, The Growing Girls and Second Edition in concert. From there, the Tauranga Chorus was born under the direction of Jackie Napier.

The 1991 International Competitions in San Antonio saw our first chorus compete on the International stage. It was a huge undertaking to get a chorus to the States, but 38 women said YES! when the final decision had to be made. The months of preparation, fundraising, rehearsals etc etc were a big commitment, but worth it to stand on that stage and represent all the Sweet Adelines back in New Zealand. This chorus small in numbers but big in attitude scored a 'B' rating which really showed how far our country has come in the barbershop world. Once again Shirley Kout, regular visitor to the Christchurch City Chorus, and her Mission Valley Chorus took them under her wing and prepared them for their contest experience.

Beverley-Anne Nobbs and Bridget Byrne, in their capacities as Vice-Regent and ADMA respectively, also travelled to San Antonio and were enthusiastic supporters. Just prior to the convention they travelled together to Columbus, Ohio at the invitation of Char Gurney and Kathy Holloway. Firm friendships had been formed during Char's coaching trip to New Zealand the previous year and the opportunity to renew these was not going to be missed. This was a wonderful week full of fun, laughter, sightseeing, shopping and Sweet Adeline experiences second to none. They were fortunate enough to attend the dress rehearsal of the Gem City Chorus (picked to be the 1991 Champion chorus) and were delighted to be introduced to Jean Barford and Judy St John, names that were very familiar to Sweet Adelines all over the world. What they didn't expect though, was that they would be introduced to and welcomed by the two hundred strong audience of Gem City supporters! It was a wonderful experience to see the preparation that went into hiding "tambourines" and whipping off skirts in a split second, made even more special when the perfected final winning performance was experienced in San Antonio.

Char and her Scioto Valley Chorus were preparing for a show called "Friends" which was to be staged while Beverley-Anne and Bridget were in Columbus. Unbeknown to them, Char had been given a copy of a Maori song called Hine E Hine when she had been in New Zealand and the chorus had learnt it as a surprise for their New Zealand friends who were to be invited up on stage during the show to sing it with them. Another surprise for the New Zealand pair was the news that the Growing Girls were to be the guest quartet for the show. An opportunity for Beverley-Anne to meet old friends and Bridget to make new ones. These girls are wonderful ambassadors for Sweet Adelines International and their performances were enjoyed by all. Bridget and Beverley-Anne did not just get to sit and watch the show though. In typical Kiwi style they got involved being ushers on the day and manning sales tables when required, and Beverley-Anne was up half the night before fastening rhinestones onto dresses for a definitely up and coming quartet Success Express. This quartet has Char's daughter, Kathy's two daughters and one of their friends all in late teens/early twenties. The night the New Zealand travellers arrived, exhausted from their seemingly endless flights, they were greeted by these four smiling faces, fresh from a coaching session and eager to demonstrate their sound. All feelings of tiredness soon disappeared as these girls produced this HUGE sound. They were the darlings of the show and certainly a quartet to look out for in the future.

Following this visit a link was established between the Scioto Valley Chorus and the Sounds of Picton Chorus with several penpals keeping in regular contact with one another.

The week was over all too quickly, but now it was on to San Antonio and the opportunity for our leaders to meet with others from the Worldwide Area. The news of the celebrations planned for 1995 in New Orleans was a hot topic of conversation and the mission was to encourage as many of our members as possible to attend.

On her return from San Antonio, the ADMA, Bridget Byrne, took the opportunity to visit the new prospective chorus in Tauranga. Unfortunately Jackie Napier was away, but Chris Giddens was filling her shoes admirably. It was obvious that this enthusiastic group of women would form the foundation for another Sweet Adeline chorus. As an added bonus, 20 members from the Greater Auckland Chorus travelled to Tauranga on the 16 November for an afternoon of barbershop aimed at encouraging and developing the Tauranga group. This proved to be a worthwhile day, reinforcing the fact that joining together with other members of our organisation always proves to be beneficial. Both Chris and Jackie had plans to attend the first combined Directors'/Presidents' Seminar in November. The Vice Regent had proposed this after attending the Regents' Roundtable and discussing ways of getting the needed information to each President. It was at this time the Team Management concept was discussed by the Vice Regent as the value of teamwork could already be seen.

This seminar, hosted by the Twin Cities prospective was a great success. Prue Blythe, Director of the Wellington Chorus had attended the Directors' Seminar in Tulsa in July and willingly shared her experiences and knowledge gained. This was particularly relevant to the forthcoming competitions and much appreciated by all concerned. Beverley-Anne brought the Presidents up to date with happenings in the organisation and everyone agreed that they all benefitted greatly from the opportunity to share and discuss problems and ideas. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that this was to become an annual event.

At the end of November the Steering Committee met at Picton. Correspondence had been received earlier in the year from Virginia Humphrey-Taylor suggesting a combined competition between Australia and New Zealand. This idea had been mulled over and the choruses canvassed for their opinions. Six replies were received all rejecting the idea, as did the presidents when asked at the seminar earlier in the month. Australia was not in favour either, so the idea was not pursued further.

Beverley-Anne had brought back information on a Revitalisation Programme which proved timely as it was brought to the Steering Committee's attention that the Wairoa Chorus was struggling to maintain membership. A copy would be given to them and the ADMA and Vice Regent would explain the conditions, commitment required and support available for the struggling chorus..

Members of the Faculty were eager to get out and share their knowledge with choruses, so the ADMA came up with a plan for approval by the Steering Committee. The Faculty was divided into groups of three or four, a leader appointed and a chorus allocated for a visit. The leader was to liaise with the chorus concerned to set up a convenient time, and then the members of each team would choose their own topics. This would be coordinated by the leader. During the visit, each team member would be assessed by the other members, as well as the chorus they were visiting. Reports would go back to the ADMA for collation and then results forwarded to the person concerned. This suggestion was applauded by the committee and set into motion.

Pauline Fyall suggested the idea of having a New Zealand song competition. It would be wonderful to have a New Zealand song written in barbershop style that any of our choruses could sing anywhere around the world with pride. A deadline was set for June 1993.

Due to pressure of work and family commitments, Bridget announced that she would not be continuing with the ADMA's role the following year.

Marlene Batten, Chairman of the Convention Committee from Wellington attended this meeting to discuss plans for the 1992 Competitions.

1991 will also be fondly remembered as the year we became Sweet Adelines again. After choosing the name Harmony International in 1989, a long legal battle was initiated by another women's barbershop organisation called Harmony Incorporated. Although the name Harmony International seemed more appropriate for the Organisation now that it encompassed countries all around the world, the name Sweet Adelines was looked on fondly by many. The decision to combine the two names to become Sweet Adelines International was welcomed by most.

The Young Women in Harmony Programme was at this time in its infancy and New Zealand first launched it with schools in the Christchurch and Wellington areas.

1992 COMPETITION AND QUARTETS

1992 was to be a busy year for a lot of our members. The Faculty began the task of preparing classes for the choruses they were to visit, and everyone had the forthcoming competitions on their minds. Both Dunedin and SouthCity Harmony had set their sights on competing and chartered ready for the competitions.

Most of the Faculty members managed to fit in a visit to a chorus and those who did found it a worthwhile learning experience. Our pool of experience was growing constantly and certainly there was no question that we had the skills required right here in New Zealand to assist our newer choruses. More and more coaching visits were taking place both on an official and unofficial basis and this was of benefit to all those concerned. The standard of New Zealand quartets and choruses was improving rapidly as exposure to International level quartets and choruses heightened the thirst for knowledge. With competitions looming, both Greater Auckland and Wellington arranged for international coaches to travel to New Zealand. Dixie Dahlke coached the Greater Auckland Chorus and Char Gurney was brought out by the Wellington Chorus. Christchurch City Chorus again invited their good friend Shirley Kout to coach them.

Robin Frew, Assistant Director of the Christchurch City Chorus, was appointed to the role of Assistant DMA, a demanding role to take on in our competition year.

For the first time, our Vice Regent and ADMA were invited to attend the Leadership Training seminar in Tulsa from 13-17 May with accommodation and airfares being covered by International Headquarters. A wonderful opportunity for our leaders to meet and share with other Sweet Adelines in similar positions. Like all the other Worldwide Leaders, the Vice Regent and ADMA were amazed at the level of training given at these sessions and by the very professional approach of the international faculty. It put them both in a much better position to plan with the Steering Committee the Area needs and requirements.

A new chorus started in Levin on 12 April 1992. Lucy Kelly, originally from Christchurch, returned with her husband to Levin where he joined the men's barbershop group. Lucy persuaded them to encourage the formation of a women's group and a group of seventeen began barbershop under the direction of Jan Edgar ably assisted by her president Sharon Brizzle. This group meets at the same venue as the men, on the same night, but in a different room. The sound from that hall must be amazing! This group has been nurtured by their Wellington Sweet Adeline neighbours who encouraged some of them to travel to Wellington for the competitions in June.

The Wellington Chorus, renamed 'Faultline Chorus' hosted the June Competitions. (Was it just coincidence that an earthquake hit the city just after the name change was finalised??) Planning for this event had been going on for some time and now the big weekend was drawing near. The two International Judges for the weekend were to be Bev Sellers and Carolyn Butler, both well known to many of our membership. The numbers had grown since the last competition. There were eight out of our nine chartered choruses competing and two out of three prospectives evaluating. Twice the number of quartets as in 1990 were competing and competition was keen. It was a very long competition session for two judges to handle, and although they saw it through, it became apparent that things would need to be reorganised for 1994.

With their international experience, hard work and energetic director, Christchurch City managed to edge out the other competitors to retain the honour of being New Zealand's Champion Chorus. Greater Auckland retained second place with Faultline just edging out Dunedin for third.

A newly formed quartet 'Perfect Timing' consisting of experienced singers from Greater Auckland and Eastland Choruses took the top quartet prize with Export Quality second and Sneak Preview from Greater Auckland third. It was obvious to all how far we had progressed in two years but with the judges' helpful comments, we also know there is lots more room for improvement! The new quartet champions Perfect Timing had to start planning for their international debut in Baltimore, Maryland and so continued with their halfway house rehearsals in Tauranga and fundraised extensively. Taking with them the best wishes from their choruses, families and all NZ Sweet Adelines they competed in Baltimore in October achieving a high placing of 25th and thus reinforcing New Zealand's position in the barbershop world. As there was only one lone New Zealander at this convention, Beverley-Anne got all the other Regents to help her cheer them on. A coaching session with Dixie Dahlke and visits to other choruses added to the experience gained from this trip.

The New Zealand membership was in for another educational treat this year with a visit by Nancy Coates, Chairman of the Worldwide Committee accompanied by the "Party of Four" quartet, Connie Dwyer (Tenor), Maggie Hawlicheck (Lead), Barbara Gerstner (Bari) and Lorraine Rochefort (Bass) all from the Farmington Valley Chorus. Planning for this visit had begun two years earlier and now it became a reality. In thirteen days in July these willing educators travelled from the Bay of Islands to Christchurch taking quartet workshops and chorus rehearsals as they went. They only had one free evening! The timing for this visit was well planned as this quartet brought the message that you don't have to be one of the top competing quartets to be great entertainers. Hearing this message so soon after our competitions was music to a lot of ears!

By the end of August Levin had been added to our list of Prospectives and a new chorus, planned by the Steering Committee had begun in Whangarei. Patti Cooke and Lyn Corr from the Bay of Islands chorus were asked to set this up. Our membership including chapters, prospectives and CAL was now 416 and destined to grow as plans were a foot to start a chorus in Hamilton.

The Bay of Islands had been asked to host the Directors/Presidents' Seminar in September. This was held on a marae and was a real experience for everyone. The communal sleeping arrangements were fun but noisy with a serenade of snoring entertaining those who couldn't sleep. Once again our NZ Faculty rose to the occasion and provided inspirational and educational classes for us all. This willingness to share had become more and more obvious since our first competitions in 1990. The winning and losing appeared to be the focus for awhile, and any advantage you could get over your rivals was hit home. As the Faculty developed and more opportunities were presented to share knowledge the focus seemed to shift more to "competition for improvement", a far healthier way to approach the competition situation. It was at this combined Directors/Presidents seminar that copies of our Area Benefits Membership booklet was given out to all choruses and the Faculty Handbook given to faculty members.

It was a shock to the whole New Zealand membership to hear of the sudden death of Bev Sellers. Bev who had so recently judged our competitions and taken classes in arranging, vocal production and faculty training had given us so much. Her generosity to the Worldwide Region through the gift of her arrangements and her knowledge, plus her caring attitude towards any Sweet Adeline meant her loss was felt almost as deeply here as it was in America. A professional to the end, one of Bev's last task must have been to forward to Mary K Coffman the five entries from our NZ song contest. Bev and Carolyn had perused these

entries on the flight home to the USA and decided that some help was needed with each arrangement. The outcome of this was that Mary K Coffman put together ideas from each of the songs and produced "Down Under" and "A Toast To New Zealand". She graciously gifted these songs to our NZ Area in memory of her dear friend Bev Sellers.

Beverley-Anne Nobbs, our Vice Regent, once again represented our Area at the leaders' meetings held in conjunction with the Baltimore Convention. Having served as our leader for four years, her experience and expertise were recognised and she had opportunities to share her ideas with others. Not only was she bringing valuable information home to New Zealand, she had also ensured that the world knew of our progress and did a lot to put New Zealand firmly on the map!

Topics for discussion at the Steering Committee meeting in November in SouthCity Harmony territory included: 1993 Workshop and possible quartet school, 1994 Competitions, 1995 Trip to New Orleans, 1996 Competition venue, Copyright laws and a New Zealand logo. Planning for Area events was becoming easier with the production of a booklet compiled by Lyn Corr, enclosing all relevant information on planning a workshop or convention. This booklet helped to lift the awareness of channels of communication, areas of responsibility and helped with long term planning.

A fitting Christmas gift for the Sounds of Picton Chorus was their Charter which arrived on Christmas Eve. This brought the total number of chartered choruses to nine, leaving four prospectives still working through their Steps.

Here endeth the first ten years. No doubt the next ten years will be equally as challenging and exciting. Maybe an International medal for a chorus or quartet? Maybe a member on the International Board or Faculty? Maybe qualified arrangers or judges? Who knows? Only time will tell!

The following year would see yet another four prospective choruses established. The Nelson, Waikato Rivertones, Wellingtones and Napier prospectives adding to our ever growing membership.

1993 saw the change of name from Vice Regent to Regent and ADMA to DMA and saw the appointment of the Membership Development Representative in the Worldwide Areas. Joy Leonard was appointed to this role in the New Zealand Area and joined the Regent and the new DMA, Debbie Scott in attending the Tulsa Leaders' Training early in May. At this time Beverley-Anne made contact with Karen Briedert, a Faculty leader, Chorus Director, coach, Queen of Harmony and member of the Education Direction Committee, with the intent of inviting her to visit New Zealand early in 1994 and coach each chartered chorus. This was successfully negotiated and confirmed at Indianapolis and took place in Feb/March 1994.

Robin Frew as DMA for the previous fiscal year, successfully planned the programme for the 1993 area workshop in Dunedin. The Dunedin Chorus were the hosts and what a splendid job they did, right down to the formal "Piping of the Haggis". The International Faculty for this event were Marge Zimmerman, Chairman of the Worldwide Committee and Chris Noteware, International Board Member. We will not forget Marge emphasising teamwork and how each individual member has a part to play in this or Chris with her "fill your bucket" motivational talks. Both these ladies also managed to give specialised sessions for established and new quartets. Quite a lot of coaching was accomplished. There was even one quartet from Australia who took up our invitation to join our weekend.

Acknowledgements

From the very beginning this Area has been blessed with strong leaders willing to make decisions for the good of all and willing to push all the way for things our membership needed. We must not forget that these leaders volunteer their time and energy for very little reward save that of seeing members grow as a result of the knowledge they have shared. Here in New Zealand, our Regents, DMAs, MDRs, Faculty Members, Steering Committee, Chorus Directors, Presidents and in fact all our chorus members have played a part in our ten year history. We thank everyone for their contributions. International Past Presidents and Board Members, International Faculty and other educators who have travelled to our country have had a major part to play in the development of women's barbershop in New Zealand. Without their investment in our country we would never have come this far. Ann Gooch deserves a special mention for her foresight in seeing that Sweet Adelines International could expand all over the world, and for her courage to venture to the back of beyond "Down Under" help in the establishment of our first choruses.

Special thanks to the following people for their work in producing this booklet :

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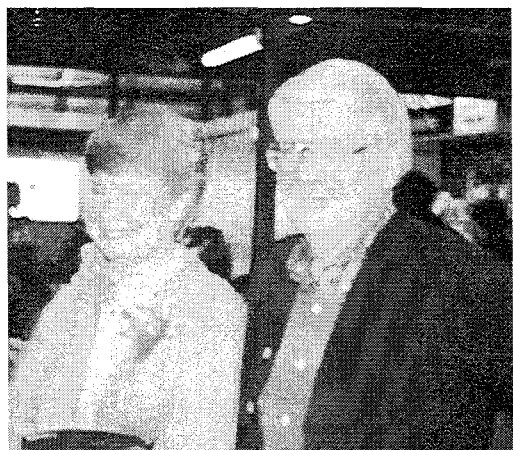
Patti Cooke



Ann Gooch



Christine McIntyre, Gary Taylor & Patti Cooke,
1st. N.Z. Convention Auckland 1984



Carolyn & Bill Butler 1986



Gail Shields



Bev Miller

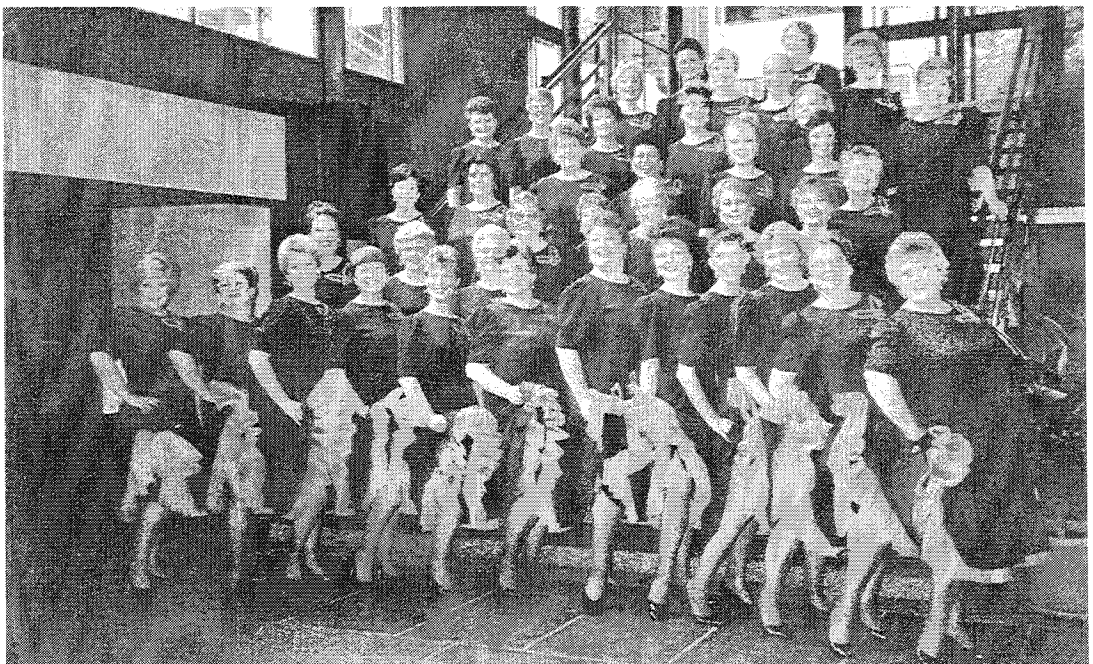
1990 1st N.Z. Competition



1st Christchurch City



2nd Greater Auckland



3rd Wellington



1st Export Quality

1990



2nd Positive Image



3rd Velvet Touch



Betty Tracy



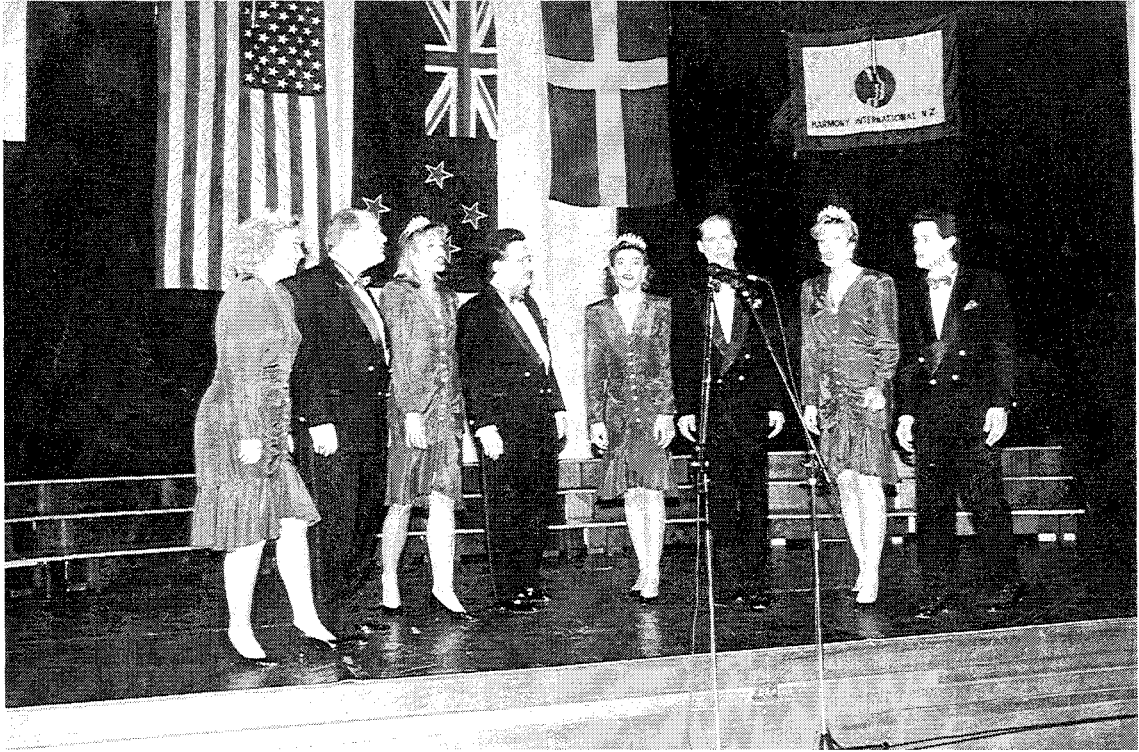
Sylvia Alsbury



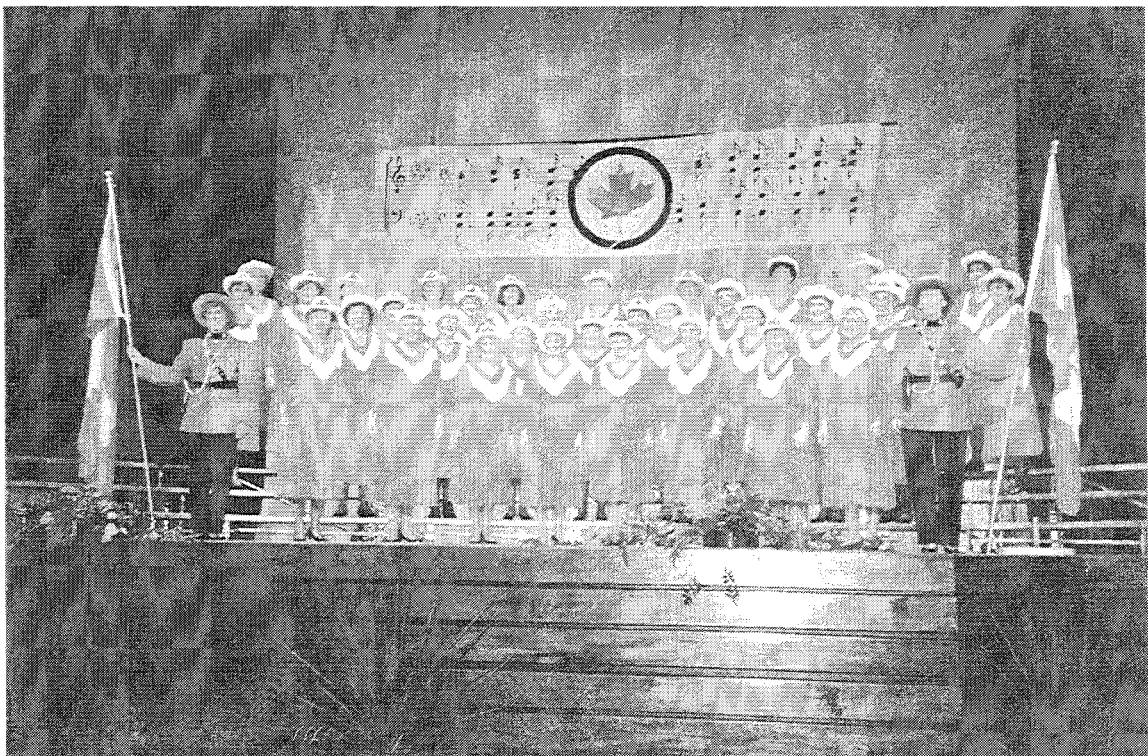
Char Gurney & Kathy Holloway



Dorothy Bisley & Kathy Carmody



Growing Girls & Second Edition



Canadian Ambassadors of Harmony



Presidents'/Directors' Seminar 1991 (Napier)



N.Z. Area Steering Committee 1992 -
Sue Perry, Prue Billings, Joy Leonard,
Beverley Anne Nobbs, Robin Frew & Bridget Byrne

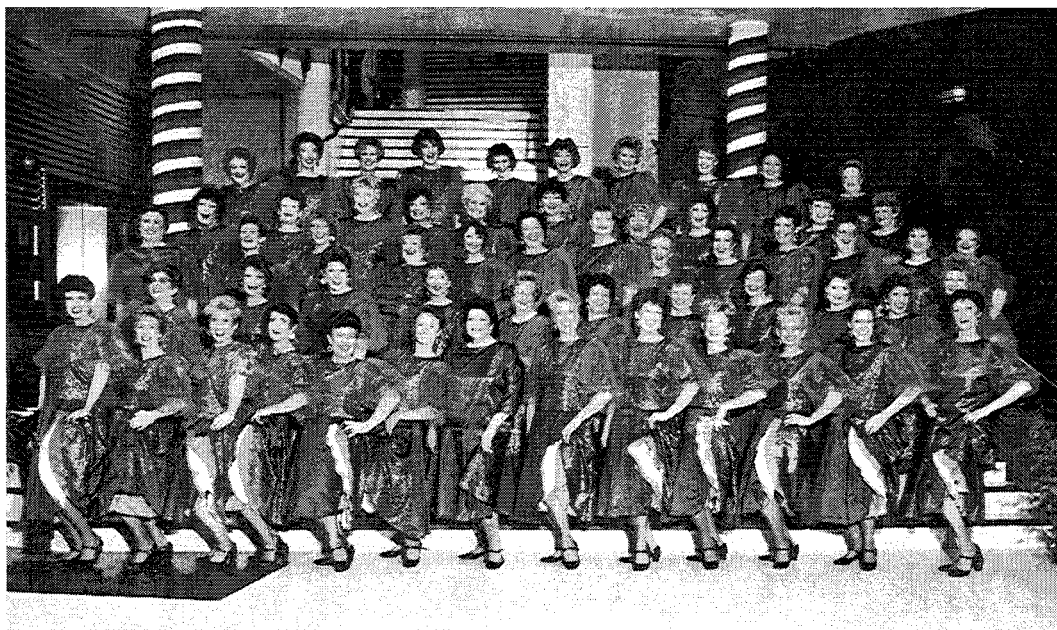


Nancy Coates & Lorraine Rochefort

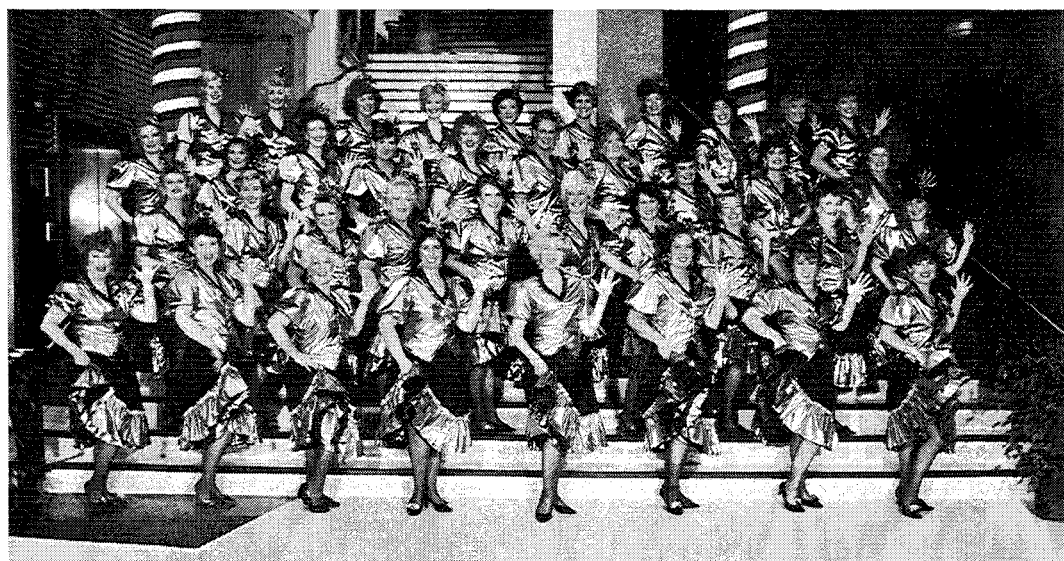


Bev Sellers 1992 Convention Wellington directing the Massed Sing

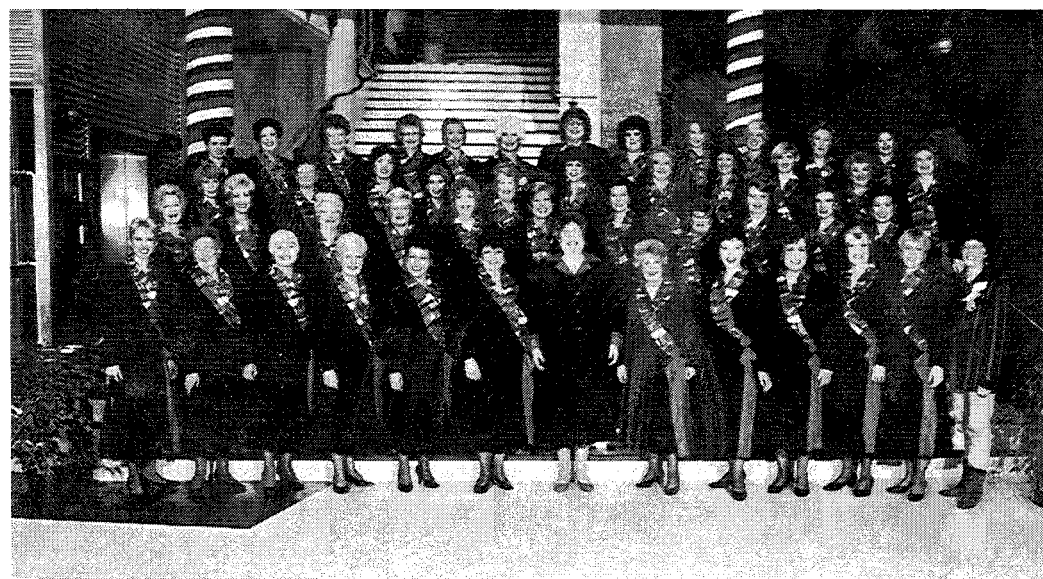
1992 Competitions Wellington



1st Christchurch City



2nd Greater Auckland



3rd Faultline



1st Perfect Timing

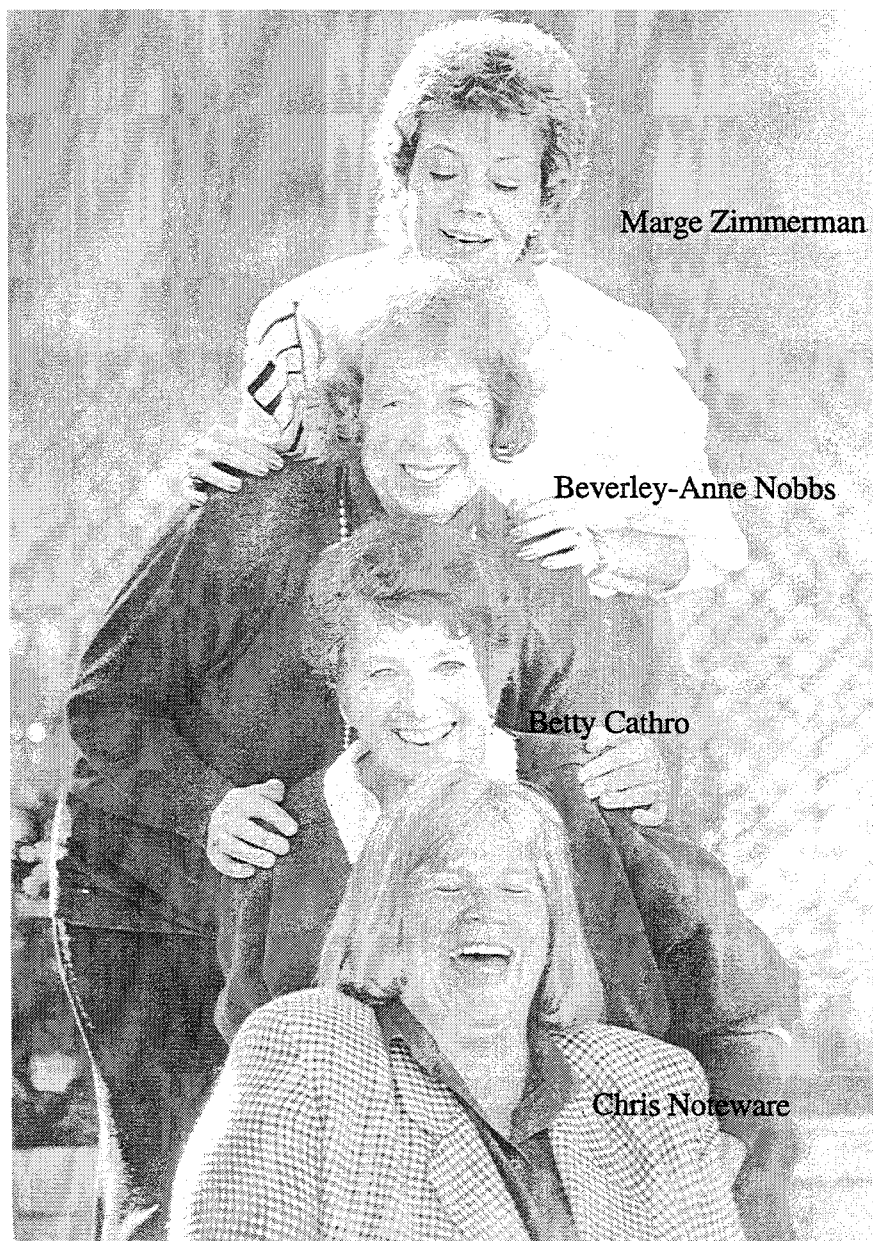
1992



2nd Export Quality



3rd Sneak Preview



Marge Zimmerman

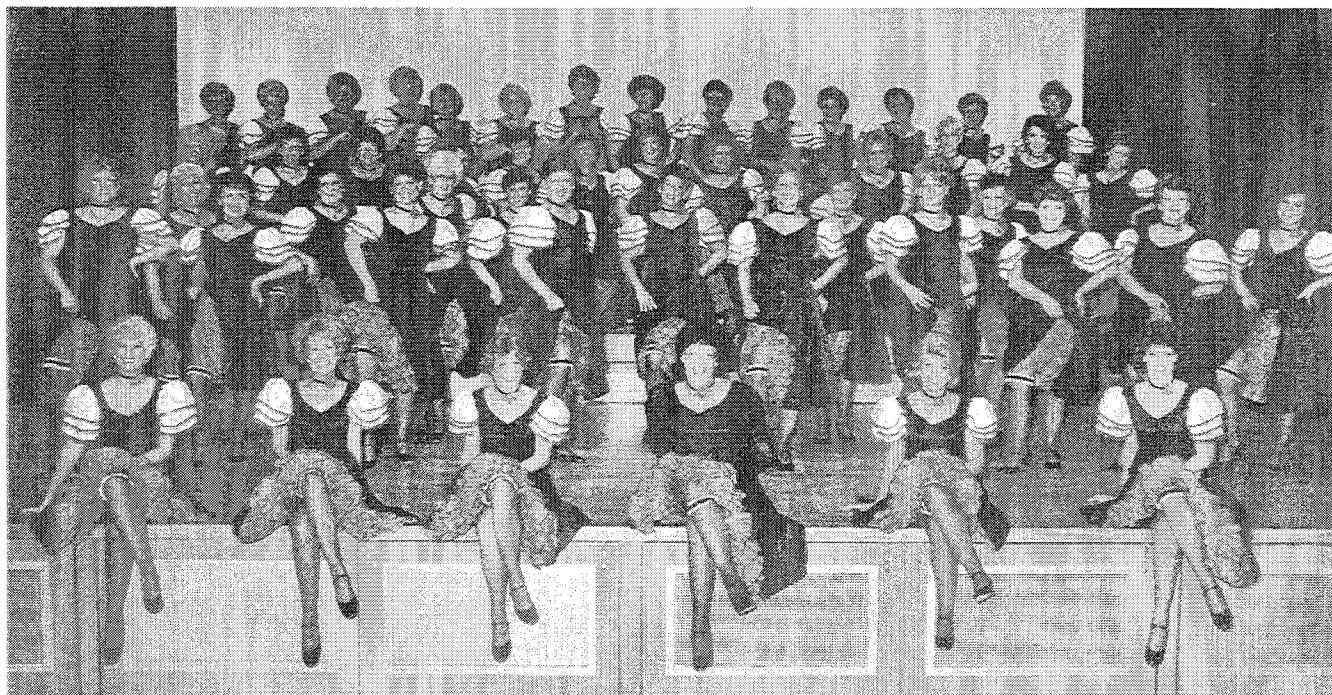
Beverley-Anne Nobbs

Betty Cathro

Chris Noteware



Shirley Kout & Christchurch City Chorus



Greater Dallas Chorus



Ednamae Kinsman - President Greater Dallas Chorus



Nancy Thompson



Scotsdale Chorus - Director Bev Sellers - 1988

International President Bev Miller and Christchurch City Chorus



Dixie Dahlke



Members of Vale of Harmony Prospective Chorus



Bay of Islands contingent to Taupo 1985



Marilyn Weekes



Donna Patterson



Wairoa Convention 1988. Judy Galvin directing.

NEW ZEALAND AREA

