

2023-2024 Education Report

**sweet
adelines**
new zealand

This past year has been one filled with changes, learning experiences and being able to come together again with our fellow members and barbershoppers.

In person education

A very successful Regional Convention 2023 was held in Auckland at the Victory Convention Centre. We were able to host International judges for the first time since 2019.

Once again, we were able to offer Sunday morning education classes run by the judges followed by an impromptu quartet coaching session where Vickie Maybury coached our new Quartet Champions, Unlimited Quartet. This was an open session and a large number of members attended this while waiting for flights and travel home.

The convention also included a Friday morning 'Music in the Morning' session featuring Carolyn Currington and Shelley Bascand which included Vocal warmups, physical warmups and teaching our new mass song Pepeha arranged by Richard Harker.

In November 2023, a Director's workshop was held in Wellington for all directors, assistant and associate directors with International Coach, Anne Downton. Every chorus was represented which allowed for learning and networking opportunities for all levels of directors.

Our Regional Faculty had a changeover of members with Melody Lowe and Kristina Roper, along with Jocosa Bruce, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and Toni Griffith earlier, stepping down and Kate Sinclair and Rowena Harper joining the faculty. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all past and current members of faculty for their wonderful contribution to the region and to welcome our new members.

Looking ahead to 2024-2025

Following on from the Director's workshop, an opportunity opened up for Anne Downton to return to New Zealand later this year, at the end of November. A weekend workshop will take place in Wellington open to all members.

Unlimited Quartet, our 2023 champion quartet, will be presenting two workshops, one in each island, in August. Information on these workshops has been distributed to all members.

At this year's Regional Convention in Dunedin, we will once again have Sunday morning education classes presented by our International judges including 'Coaching Under Glass' sessions where a chorus and quartet chosen by the judges will receive coaching.

Our Friday morning 'Music in the Morning' session will be run by Kate Sinclair and Rowena Harper who will be working on Something in the Water, another mass song arranged by Rowena.

Discussions are underway for a Directors Retreat in early 2025 – more details will be released later this year.

With 2025 being the region's 40th anniversary, plans are well underway for our Regional Convention in Christchurch and we are also working to secure a 'coach in residence' for sometime in the next year.

This year we also have a change of Young Women In Harmony Coordinator. My sincere thanks to Suzanne Berresford who, as outgoing YWIH coordinator, has worked tirelessly to improve the role and function of the coordinator, which has been greatly appreciated by myself, Sweet Adelines New Zealand and Young Singers In Harmony. Thank you, Suzanne, for all your hard work.

Congratulations to Suzanne's successor – Stella Jean Stevens. Welcome to the role of YWIH Coordinator, Stella, and all the best for the next two years.

My thanks to the wider regional education team for your support, advice and educational delivery – regional faculty (Carolyn, Suzanne, Kate and Rowena), visual communication team (Shelley, Nick and Sarah), arrangers coordinator (Rowena) and YWIH Coordinator (Suzanne).

Leanne Wheeler
Regional Education Coordinator
30 April 2024