

sweet
adelines
new zealand

the addaline

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Congratulations to Wellington City Chorus and Fire & Ice on their winning performances!



A cappella with attitude!

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Founded in 1945, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Sweet Adelines started as a small group of women who loved to sing. Since then, it has evolved into an organization that spans the globe, connecting nearly 21,000 singers around the world in song. Sweet Adelines is committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performances.

RMT



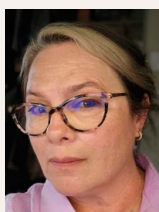
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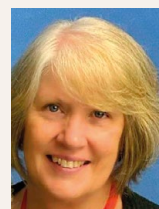
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A Message From Outgoing TC, Leigh

What a wonderful few days spent in Dunedin celebrating what we love to do – performing our special brand of a cappella, barbershop style!

From the moment of pack-in on the Thursday you could sense the excitement in the air. The sound check was very well attended by members, most of whom had the opportunity to stand on the stage and experience the acoustics of the venue. Our Judging Panel of Valerie Taylor, Annette Wallace, Cydney Wentzel and Becki Hine were very thorough and created a calm and welcoming atmosphere for the various chorus combinations.

We rolled seamlessly from there into the Regional Annual Members' Meeting (RAMM), the briefing for Team Coordinators, Directors and quartet personnel, and rehearsals, or did we? Unfortunately the weather in Dunedin did not play ball for us on Thursday and flights for many were delayed, re-routed and some folk even spent a night in cities that had not been on their flight plans.

Luckily the stars eventually aligned and everyone made it to where they needed to be in time for their commitments. Cindy Naresh, our Panel Secretary, whose flight finally landed 8 hours late, arrived at the venue after 9pm on the Thursday and then worked until the early hours of Friday morning to be ready for the quartet contest session due. Cindy was a Sweet Adeline member for over 25 years and now volunteers to help out the Region as Panel Secretary. I'd like to acknowledge her commitment to the role and for being a fantastic supporter of Sweet Adelines New Zealand.

The RAMM was duly held on Thursday evening and I do encourage

you to read my summary of the year past and all the Coordinator's reports which are available on our website.

The competitor briefings and chorus rehearsals did take place as planned on Thursday and then on Friday we witnessed a wonderful quartet competition. It's such a buzz to watch the quartets show off their packages and to be able to hoot and holler in support of their performances. Congratulations to all the quartets, it takes courage and commitment to get to that stage and you were all thoroughly entertaining! A huge congratulations to Fire and Ice, who have accepted the invitation to attend the International contest this October. It's a huge undertaking to attend an international contest just 5 months after being crowned champions so watch out for information on how you can support the quartet to get to Kansas.

Saturday saw 11 choruses plus the STAR chorus, cross the stage and what a display of fun and glorious singing was shown to the audience. Well done to all competitors and congratulations to all the first timers who never knew 6 minutes could go so fast! Congratulations to Wellington City Chorus on becoming our new champion chorus and I hope we get to see you on stage in Columbus next year.

Saturday evening and the dinner and Tart an' Party organised by our Dunedin hosts were both very well attended and captured the Sweet Adelines spirit of celebration and partying perfectly.

I once again thank Clare Pascoe, Shelley Bascand, Miriam Spragg, Jo Maxwell, Catherine Brown, Sandy



Gunn, Kate Sinclair, Sarah Rae, Heather Campbell, Stella Nicholson, Glenda Mann, Sharon Connor, David Brooks, Sandi Adams, Shelley McMeeken, Kim Cairns, Bernadette Takacs and the many others who were part of the convention team. My sincere apologies if I have missed someone! It was a wonderful team working on our behalf; the quartet drivers, the greeters at the front door to those in the traffic pattern (Mabel Knight and others from Christchurch City were there), your work is very much appreciated.

This was my last convention as Team Coordinator, where I had the privilege to present awards and acknowledgments to members in various categories. The Spirit of Sweet Adelines award was taken out by our outstanding member from the Sounds of Hawkes Bay chorus – Lesley Stranding. Congratulations Lesley, you have certainly contributed hugely to our organisation! To our Rock Star and Shooting Star winners, Adrienne Windsor and Jordan Ridgway, keep up the great work! To all who celebrated a membership milestone, congratulations, it's wonderful to see so many long-term members acknowledged. There are so many fantastic members doing wonderful things for our region and achieving incredible milestones, long may it continue!

Another achievement for our Region is that we have two directors,

(CONTINUED OVER PAGE)

Alex Charlton (Nelson Bays) and Carolyn Currington (Faultline) who have been awarded a scholarship from Sweet Adelines International to attend the Directors and Visual Leaders Seminar in Tulsa this July. Congratulations to these very lucky directors!

And we have a newly published author who has written a non-fiction story (memoir) of two sudden hearing loss experiences. Chika Deane from Greater Auckland Chorus has written, 'A Pause in the Music,' which tells of her struggles with this condition and the gratitude she has to be singing with her chorus. (Contact Chika for more information on how to access her story.)

Stories abound around our Region and I do hope there are many to read in this edition of Addaline.

This is my last entry as the outgoing Team Coordinator, and I thank you all for your support offered to me and to the RMT over the last few years.

Sandy Gunn, thank you for getting me to print in each edition. You are a fantastic coordinator for our magazine

and another wonderful example of a previous Sweet Adeline volunteering to assist the Region.

I first joined the Regional Management Team (RMT) in 2002 as the Communications Coordinator and served for 2 years. In 2014 to 2016 I again held the Communications role. Then in late 2017 I rejoined the RMT as the Membership Coordinator. During 2018 I had the pleasure of becoming the Membership Director on the Regional Executive Committee of 3 directors, as Region 35 took part in the Sweet Adelines International pilot programme for a new governance trial. Trish Veen, Kerry Stewart and I had nearly 18 months of this experience and we had hoped that it would become the way of the future for Regions. However 2019 we were back to the 8 person RMT style of governance and I became the Team Coordinator as Trish stepped down from the Administrative Director and had previously held the TC role.

Little did I know what the years 2020 to 2023 would do for our singing organisation. So many unknown situations, a virtual convention, zoom rehearsing and meetings, a zoom RAMM, just to name a few. Last year we were able to hold our first official

competition since 2019 and thankfully the last 12 months have not seen nearly as much interruption to chorus rehearsals or regional events.

So my tenure as Team Coordinator has definitely had its challenges and I have learned so much along the way. I thank the members of the Resource Team who have supported the RMT for several years now in a variety of ways, it has made a difference knowing you were there to call upon. I have worked with amazing women on the RMT over that time and I thank them all for their support and friendship. It's the team that makes the difference. And I am very happy that we have a full team of 8 coming into action now. Julie Earl steps into the role of Team Coordinator and she has a very capable team to steer the Region into the future. Carolyn, Jacqui, Leanne, Mary, Nikola, Shelley B (yes she is my daughter and I'm very proud) and Shelley P, you are in for a fun time ahead!

My best wishes to the RMT and to the singers of a cappella, barbershop style in New Zealand – you've got this!

LEIGH WHITELAW
TEAM COORDINATOR



Hi I'm Julie Earl. I have been a member of Sweet Adelines New Zealand for eight amazing, fun filled years. I'm one of those members who wished they had discovered barbershop and a cappella singing long before I actually became a member.

Introducing Our New SANZ Team Coordinator

My journey from novice singer to a more experienced singer continues to be filled with joy, camaraderie, hard work, challenge and the magical sound of those ringing chords. Yes, you could say I'm addicted.

I have spent the past six years as Team Coordinator of the Waikato Rivertones Chorus. It has been a privilege to work with a fantastic team of women all equally committed to our organisation.

Now I have the opportunity to contribute at the regional level as Team Coordinator. I am acutely aware that I follow a long line of wonderful leaders who have been superbly supported by so many committed members from around Region 35. I'm humbled and privileged to have the opportunity to lead the Regional Management Team.

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Many of you won't know me so hopefully I can offer some insights.

"I value kindness, honesty, open communication and teamwork."

I believe in working hard for the greater good of our members and organisation. I believe in listening closely and responding to the needs of our members wherever possible.

I am also an ideas person, strategic, timely and organised. I am excited about the possibilities and opportunities for our organisation.

I am looking forward to meeting more of you and working on your behalf alongside the current and new members of our Regional Management Team.

In harmony,

JULIE EARL
TEAM COORDINATOR

Meet Christien Oberholster, Our New DCP Coordinator



I am the proud mother of Danie and Lara and grandmother of Elias (4) and Elsa (3).

My earliest memories as a child are singing the descant harmony with my sister on long trips in the car. Harmony has always been 'my thing'. I didn't particularly like piano lessons, so my lovely mother gave me a guitar for my 9th birthday (clever lady) and I never looked back. I was also very lucky and privileged to grow up in Stellenbosch, a university town in South Africa, where choirs were of a very high standard. I have wonderful childhood memories singing in award winning school choirs as well as the prestigious Stellenbosch University Choir as a student.

I was given several opportunities to direct student choirs, children's mass choirs and church choirs in my early 20s, and when I became a music teacher in my late 20s, I directed an award winning primary school choir and regional youth choir.

I have been involved with other musical genres such as doing a small opera called 'The Telephone' and being the chorus master for several

on-stage musicals both in South Africa and New Zealand.

Sadly, I left all of that behind when I immigrated to New Zealand in 1994. Soon after my arrival, I visited a rehearsal of the Whangārei Harmony Chorus and I fell in love with the Barbershop harmony. I joined the chorus (under the direction of Pamela Black) and before I knew it, I became her assistant director and choreographer. The next year I went to my first international convention in New Orleans. What an experience that was for a barbershop rookie coming from a classical background! I was fascinated with the Sweet Adeline organisation and its mission and vision statements. I was determined to learn more and a few years later I completed the DCP (Director Certification Program).

I sang tenor in my chorus as well as competing quartets and in 2002 I stepped off the risers to become the frontline director for the Whangārei Harmony Chorus. During these years my chorus won the small chorus award three times and that earned me the title of Harmony 500 Director.

Unfortunately, my work situation changed and I had no choice but to leave the chorus.

However, a new and exciting adventure was calling and I grabbed it with both hands. I skipped town in 2015 to join the Christchurch City Chorus where I sang baritone in the front row in Las Vegas (2016) and again in New Orleans (2019).

"as you can imagine, the experience singing in this top sweet adeline chorus is hard to describe."

Covid struck and in that same year I became a grandmother. So I moved back to Whangārei to be with my children.

I have come full circle and I am back where I started 30 years ago. I am the frontline director for the Whangārei Harmony Chorus again, a member of Opera North, the latest recruit for He Tangata Voices and the DCP coordinator for Region 35.

CHRISTIEN OBERHOLSTER
DCP COORDINATOR

Introducing Nikola Worrall-Bader



Our new RMT Membership Coordinator

Hi, my name is Nikola and I am your new RMT Membership Coordinator, stepping up and into the role left by Miriam Spragg and hoping to fill her boots. Currently feel like I am in gumboots but Miriam is on hand to help out. I hail from London, England and have been here in New Zealand now for 26 years and live in Cockle Bay, Auckland, the place determined by a delightful children's book called "The Pirates of Cockle Bay". Married, with six children, one still at home, I work full time and also work in a couple of voluntary community positions, as well as being Finance Coordinator for Greater Auckland Chorus, which has been my home for the past eleven plus years now. I heard about Sweet Adelines through one of the Mum's at a Mainly Music group I used to run and became a supporter and lead cheer of Greater Auckland Chorus at their concerts for many years, probably at least eight, this friend is still a part of my life and GAC's, and she has just received her 25 year pin. It took that length of time to encourage me to join, and even then I thought I was just going to an open evening, and to watch. The first tag, the four part harmony, the chord, my heart melted and that was that. Bass is my home. I was Membership Coordinator of GAC for eight years and am a people person, hence the calling to be part of RMT in this role. What I am looking forward to is working with a great team on RMT, getting to understand each demographic, listening to you as members and what makes membership work in your neck of the woods. I am just a phone call away.

Introducing Shelley Bascand

Our new RMT Events Coordinator

Kia ora koutou! I've been a Sweet Adeline for 20 years, singing with the wonderful Faultline Chorus and in a YWIH quartet, Fourtune, in my youth. I've served in many roles on Faultline's Management and Music Teams, currently holding the Visual Communications Coordinator portfolio. I am excited to continue my journey with SANZ and give back to our region as Events Coordinator. I look forward to sharing in some fantastic events over the coming months with you all.



Introducing Shelley Phillips

Our new RMT Marketing Coordinator

Shelley Phillips has been a committed member of the Sweet Adelines organisation for over two decades, with her journey beginning as a Lead with Taranaki Harmony Chorus. Relocating to Wellington in her early 20s, she has been an active member of Wellington City Chorus ever since. Throughout her journey, Shelley has been involved in various quartets, competed in three different voice parts, and represented at the International level on six occasions (four times with the chorus, twice with quartet). Her greatest achievement to date was placing 12th at International singing baritone as a sub-in for Even Time quartet. Currently, she sings with the 2nd place 2024 quartet, Level Up!

Shelley's passion for barbershop can be attributed to the influence of her late mother, Lyndsay, who was a dedicated member of the Taranaki Harmony Chorus and a wonderful bass singer. Sadly, Lyndsay passed away before Shelley won her first quartet gold medal, which held special significance as it was the first time Shelley had competed as a bass in a quartet – something her mother had always aspired to do.

In addition to her singing achievements, Shelley has taken on various leadership roles within her chorus, including her current position of Marketing and Publicity Coordinator. She also serves on the Visual team and enjoys coaching newly-formed quartets.

By day, Shelley works as a Legislation Editor and enjoys spending time with her husband, Ross, and their two daughters, Charlotte and Caitlyn. She also occasionally finds time to go for a run. Shelley looks forward to the challenges ahead as she serves this wonderful community on the RMT for the first time.

Sweet Adelines Exceptional Service for the Past 28 Years

Sweet Adelines International, Region 35 has just seen its new Regional Management Team (RMT) put in place, with a new Team Coordinator, Julie Earl taking up the reins. This means that the region says goodbye, at least from the RMT, and thank you to outgoing TC, Leigh Whitelaw.

Leigh has made an outstanding contribution to Region 35 over the years. Here is a bit about her Sweet Adelines journey so far.

Leigh joined Faultline Chorus in 1996 and stepped right into leadership roles. She has continued a Sweet Adelines life of exceptional service for the past 28 years. In Faultline Chorus, Leigh has served in the roles of Team Coordinator, Membership, Publicity and Information and Showbiz on the chorus management team along with the roles of Bass Section Leader and Music Team member. She handles complex situations sensitively with care and compassion, is a calm and wise counsel for our director and other leaders. Leigh cares deeply for our members, naturally undertaking pastoral care of those in her section and the wider chorus, and always at the other end of the phone, visiting, messaging or ready with a cup of tea for those who just need a supportive ear to listen.

Leigh has been a force in Region 35 for much of her time as a Sweet Adeline too. She has held many regional convention and competition roles including Page, Backstage volunteer, OPL, Competition Coordinator and Chair of the Regional

Convention. In 2022, Leigh stepped in at short notice to co-host our regional virtual convention 'Harmony Aotearoa at Home' when one of the hosts had to isolate due to Covid-19. She did a fantastic job, bringing the joy, celebration and sense of connection to our regional event at a time when we couldn't be together to sing and celebrate in person.

On the Regional Management Team Leigh has served in the roles of Communications Technology Coordinator (2001-2003), Communications Coordinator (2014-2026), REC Membership Director (2017 - 2018) and Team Coordinator (2019 - 2024). The past four years have been a challenging time to be a team leader of the region, navigating uncharted territory when a global pandemic means your organisations core activity suddenly becomes a high-risk event, and rehearsals, events and contests are all cancelled or put on hold. Leigh did not waver in her dedication, commitment and passion for the job at hand, working with care, compassion and energy to keep the management team engaged and motivated, and the region feeling connected and optimistic for a future time when those activities could resume.

As a Worldwide Coordinator Leigh works with a small committee of representatives from other worldwide regions to represent the voice of geographically separated members of Sweet Adelines. She's a friendly liaison for The Harmonix - Barbershop Chorus in Tokyo, Japan offering support and connection. You'll notice Leigh is always one of the first to comment on their social media posts with a friendly and enthusiastic comment celebrating their achievements and activities. As part of the Song Assessment of Organisational Materials Task Force Leigh spent many hours attending online meetings and reviewing YouTube videos of past performances. When she travelled around 8,000 miles to attend the international convention in New Orleans in 2019, volunteering to help backstage was top of Leigh's to-do list as she knows what it takes to make these events happen and loved the opportunity to meet so many Sweet Adelines.

Thank you so much, Leigh for all that you have done for Region 35. It's time to take a well-earned rest!

**JO MAXWELL & JACQUI BINNIE
FAULTLINE CHORUS**

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events! And check out the next page for some more very exciting education opportunities!

July 2024

**SAI DIRECTORS & VISUAL
LEADERS SEMINAR**

25 - 27 July
Tulsa OK, USA

Oct / Nov 2024

**SAI INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION & COMPETITION**

28 Oct - 2 Nov
Kansas City MO, USA

May 2025

REGION 35 CONVENTION

1 - 4 May 2025
Ōtautahi, Christchurch
Celebrating 40 years!

Zoom Arranger Education Series

JUNE
Formatting Your Manuscript

SUNDAY 9 JUNE
12 NOON - 2.00 PM (NZ)
CAROLE PRIETTO

AUGUST
The Arranging Process

SUNDAY 18 AUGUST
12 NOON - 2.00 PM (NZ)
CAROLE PRIETTO



Rowena Harper



Carole Prietto

SEPTEMBER
Making Better Choices

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER
12 NOON - 2.00 PM (NZ)
Rowena Harper

Registration Free for SANZ Members
Non-members \$15 per session

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SAVE THE DATE!

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QUARTET & ASPIRING QUARTET WEEKEND WORKSHOPS



17 & 18 AUGUST
HAMILTON

31 AUGUST & 1 SEPTEMBER
CHRISTCHURCH

WITH UNLIMITED QUARTET
2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Believe!

Let your dreams take flight & your heart ignite!

SWEET ADELINES NZ REGIONAL EDUCATION WEEKEND

For all members

29 NOVEMBER - 1 DECEMBER
Wellesley College Days Bay, Lower Hutt, Wellington



Special Guest Faculty
Anne Downton
INTERNATIONAL FACULTY | MASTER DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CHAMPION

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Keeping it Real with Level Up!

We are still coming down to earth after such a wonderful convention and contest in Dunedin! We are so pleased with the outcome of the competition and were all lucky to represent our choruses on stage as well. What a fab weekend!

Let's go back a bit and be honest...we were disappointed with how we fared in the Auckland 2023 contest. Lots of factors came into it (we won't bore you), but at the end of the day, we decided to try again. From there we had a proper de-brief and set some specific goals to work towards for the 2024 regional. Most of you will already know, we are a long-distance quartet. The bass clef (Claire & Shelley) reside in Wellington, Jocosa lives in Waikato, and Kristina in Auckland. All our rehearsals are planned out months in advance; that way we can make the most of the cheaper airfares available and get our calendars sorted before our lives get too busy. We generally meet monthly from about seven months before the contest and get at least a good day and a half of rehearsing (and catching up!) each time we're together. We kick our

families out or in recent times use friends' accommodation (thanks Juliane!).

It's essential to set goals as a quartet and be on the same page. Having dropped down into the 500s in 2023, one of our specific goals was to be in the 600s again. We also really wanted to become the most improved quartet. Imagine our absolute delight when we achieved both of our goals! We scored 609 and increased our score from last year by 36 points. This also meant we were invited to be the 'coached under glass' quartet by judges Valerie Taylor and Annette Wallace. We got so much out of that session and only wish that we'd had them a couple of days before the contest! If anyone is interested in watching the coaching, we have uploaded it to YouTube - please reach out to one of us for the link.

So, what's next? Good question! We'll review our goals and keep moving forward. Jo and Kristina head to Kansas in October with Greater Auckland Chorus,



and Shelley and Claire will also be busy with Wellington City Chorus as they work toward the BHNZ contest in September. Being in a quartet certainly has its challenges, but we all believe you improve (or as we say, Level Up) so much as an individual singer and can contribute so much more to your choruses with these extra skills. Will we see you join the quartet ranks on stage in Christchurch next year?

LEVEL UP QUARTET

Is Your Quartet 'Mature?'

Well, this might just be for you!

Are you in a quartet where everyone is 55 years old or over? Do the ages of the four of you add up to at least 240 at the date of the contest?

Well, age has just become a bonus! Your quartet can enter the senior division (Sweet Adelines NZ) and compete in our regional convention in Christchurch in 2025.

Your regional management team has responded to your feedback and made changes to the criteria for this division. Thank you for your feedback – we appreciate it.

We hope it will encourage more members to get together and enter.

Let those chords ring!





Thoughts From First-Timers

Christchurch City Chorus had 15 members perform at their first Sweet Adelines Convention in Dunedin recently. Some feedback of their experience captures a blend of nervousness, exhilaration, and deep connection with their chorus family.

'I felt very nervous as we all walked into our places,' said one performer. 'I was trying to keep smiling, but even that felt wobbly. It was quite nerve-wracking.'

'Despite the nerves, the support from fellow chorus members made all the difference. 'I was nervous during the mic testing, but the kindness and encouragement I received were overwhelming. No one dismissed my nerves; instead, they showed me breathing exercises and offered words of support.'

Another singer highlighted the transformative power of music and community. 'For me, performing our two ballads was the highlight. Once I started singing and my nerves subsided, I felt the connection our chorus had. It was an experience unlike anything I've ever felt.'

The journey to the stage involves much more than the performance itself. 'To pull our chorus together, there are so many cogs in the wheel,' noted a new member. 'I've had lots of questions which have been patiently answered by various people - so many of our members are super helpful.'

'I'm not usually one to wear much makeup, so friends helped glam me up for the performance. One friend applied eye shadow, another glued on my lashes, and a third insisted I wasn't orange enough yet. The adrenaline of getting ready was a great rush!'

the first thing that hit me as i stepped out onto the stage was the intensity of the audience. there really isn't a crowd full of more genuine love and support than a sweet adeline crowd!

One particularly memorable moment occurred offstage. 'During the afterglow function, I watched hundreds of women of all ages and backgrounds having a laugh together. The wonderfulness of Sweet Adelines women all coming together really struck me. I connected with dozens of new people and formed deeper friendships with current members.'

In the end, the experience was rewarding beyond measure. 'The applause at the end of our performance was magical. I believed I could do this, and I did.'

For these first-time performers, the journey to the stage was a testament to the power of community, preparation, and mutual support - a true embodiment of the Sweet Adelines spirit.

**MELANIE WAREING
CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHORUS**

Christchurch City Chorus Celebrates a Special Birthday

The last two months have been busy for Christchurch City Chorus. Recently Christchurch City Chorus was able to participate in a special birthday celebration for our Director, Virginia has reached the milestone of 70!! We enjoyed an evening out at a cabaret with special guests and entertainers present. The guests were entertained by Quantum Acoustics, Promenade Quartet, several CCC quartets, Christchurch City Chorus and Elizabeth Braggins.

Cat Hay and Elizabeth Sexton spoke of the impact Virginia has had on so many lives, in Christchurch, New Zealand and Australia.

CAT HAY:

From chorus coaching, to solo vocal lessons, to quartet coaching, to Region 35 and Sweet Adelines International competitions, Virginia never fails to impress and inspire me. Virginia was at the start of Christchurch City Chorus back in 1985, and she has taken this incredible group of women, who can sing well.. and shaped them into an orchestra of mastery.

Christchurch City Chorus celebrates that they've won each Sweet Adelines contest in New Zealand that they've entered. First time competing Internationally, Christchurch City Chorus placed in the low 30s. Now, we have a strong reputation of being a force in the International Top 10, with the medals to prove it! We can truly



thank Virginia and her vision for that. One can't comprehend what goes on in that mind of hers, but I can imagine it can only be filled with beautiful pictures of song and mind blowing soundwaves.

I for one, hope to continue to learn and grow through Virginia's hands for years to come. I wouldn't be the singer, or the person I am today without her.

ELIZABETH SEXTON:

Very Happy Birthday Wishes to you Virginia from your barbershop family. Apart from celebrating your milestone birthday, all of us in this room have one thing in common and that's our love of barbershop music. Christchurch City Chorus started back in 1985 and not so long after that, you took the helm. CCC never looked back and with your vision, passion, knowledge, capability, determination and never-ending energy; you took

your chorus into uncharted waters nationally and internationally. Notification was given to all that Christchurch City Chorus had come of age! But you didn't stop, you availed yourself to coach choruses throughout New Zealand and Australia. You can hold your hand up to influencing and improving choruses in the region, raising the barbershop bar continuously.

We've also recently evaluated in Dunedin at Soaring Sounds Convention. It was wonderful to see so many Sweet Adeline's enjoying the weekend in harmony together. Our youngest member, Aleyna wrote a poem and shared it with us at the rehearsal after convention - you're able to read her poem on these pages of Addaline.

ANDREA WARD
CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHORUS



Congratulations to our 2024 Region 35 Chorus Award Winners!



1st Place - Wellington City
2nd Place - Faultline
3rd Place - Dunedin Harmony
4th Place - Manawatu Overtones
5th Place - Nelson Bays Harmony

Division A (Small Chorus)
1st Place - Dunedin Harmony
2nd Place - Manawatu Overtones
3rd Place - Foveaux Harmony

Division AA (Midsize Chorus)
1st Place - Wellington City
2nd Place - Faultline
3rd Place - Nelson Bays Harmony

Most Improved Chorus (International Award) - Dunedin Harmony (+34 points)

Most Improved Chorus (Regional Award) - Taranaki Harmony (+51 points)

WOW Award for the Open Division Category - Greater Auckland Chorus

*Panel Chair				*Taylor			Wentsel			Wallace			Hine			Naresh			
Contestant		#	on	Sound			Music			Expression			Visual Communication					Grand	Final
#	Name	Status	stage	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Total	Plty	Total	Place
4	Wellington City Chorus	0	45	77	78	155	78	74	152	80	77	157	78	76	154	618		618	1
6	Faultline Chorus	0	44	75	73	148	72	74	146	75	73	148	73	72	145	587		587	2
9	Dunedin Harmony Chorus	0	29	68	67	135	69	67	136	66	67	133	68	70	138	542		542	3
7	Manawatu Overtones Chorus	0	28	67	65	132	66	67	133	68	67	135	70	72	142	542		542	4
11	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus	0	35	65	68	133	68	66	134	68	66	134	67	69	136	537		537	5
3	Foveaux Harmony Chorus	0	21	67	66	133	67	68	135	64	65	129	60	62	122	519		519	6
10	Taranaki Harmony Chorus	0	16	64	61	125	63	61	124	64	63	127	63	65	128	504		504	7
2	Whangarei Harmony Chorus	0	18	56	57	113	57	55	112	56	58	114	58	56	114	453		453	8
5	SouthCity Soundz Chorus	0	12	54	56	110	53	51	104	51	53	104	55	57	112	430		430	9
1	Christchurch City Chorus	EV	58																
8	Greater Auckland Chorus	OPEN	34	B+	B+		B+	B+		B+	B+		B+	B+					



Wellington City Chorus - 1st place overall & 1st place Midsize Chorus



Faultline Chorus
2nd place overall & 2nd place Midsize Chorus



Dunedin Harmony Chorus
3rd place overall & 1st place Small Chorus

Congratulations to Our 2024 Region 35 Quartet Award Winners!



1st Place - Fire & Ice
2nd Place - Level Up!
3rd Place - Renew!
4th Place - Euphoria
5th Place - Hot Property

Novice Quartet Award - Not Too Shabby
Senior Quartet Award - Intersection
Most Improved Quartet (Regional Award) - Level Up! (+36 points)

*Panel Chair		*Taylor			Wentsel			Wallace			Hine			Naresh			
Contestant		Sound			Music			Expression			Visual Communication			Total	Ptly	Grand Total	Place
#	Name	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Total			
6	Fire & Ice	80	79	159	78	80	158	79	81	160	79	81	160	637		637	1
11	Level Up!	76	76	152	75	77	152	77	76	153	77	75	152	609		609	2
3	Renew!	72	74	146	75	74	149	73	75	148	75	74	149	592		592	3
12	EUPHORIA	70	71	141	70	72	142	71	73	144	71	72	143	570		570	4
10	Hot Property	69	67	136	68	71	139	73	72	145	73	72	145	565		565	5
1	Wicked Pitch	67	68	135	66	68	134	74	71	145	73	71	144	558		558	6
7	FOCUS	68	65	133	69	65	134	67	66	133	66	69	135	535		535	7
9	Measured 4 Sound	63	65	128	66	67	133	65	67	132	67	65	132	525		525	8
5	Not Too Shabby	62	59	121	61	58	119	59	61	120	60	58	118	478		478	9
14	Quattro	59	56	115	58	56	114	62	61	123	60	62	122	474		474	10
2	The Defaults	56	58	114	57	58	115	58	56	114	56	58	114	457		457	11
13	Intersection	54	58	112	56	57	113	57	59	116	57	58	115	456		456	12
8	Smooth Delivery	58	55	113	59	57	116	55	57	112	55	54	109	450		450	13
4	QTonix	51	50	101	54	52	106	55	53	108	54	51	105	420		420	14



Thanks to Our Soaring Sounds Volunteers



SWEET ADELINES NEW ZEALAND
ŌTEPOTI | DUNEDIN | 23-26 MAY 2024

Our Soaring Sounds Convention was only possible because of the fantastic volunteers working behind the scenes. Thank you all so very much!

Convention Team & Helpers

Chair Regional Convention
Clare Pascoe

Competition Coordinator
Shelley Bascand

Convention Facilities
Miriam Spragg

Official Panel Liaison
Catherine Brown

Panel Secretary
Cindy Naresh

Page
Sandy Gunn

Registrar
Shelley McMeeken

Emcees
Sarah Rae & Kate Sinclair

Stage Management
Heather Camp

Awards Coordinator
Kim Cairns

Awards Assistant
Jan Sherley

Convention Marketing
Jo Maxwell

Marketing (local)
Anna McIntyre

Website Guru
Sharon Connor

Harmony Arcade & signage
Sandi Adams

Competitor Transport
Stella Nicholson

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Pam Jemmett

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Quartet Goodwill Bags
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Photo board Displays
Lesley Standing

Riser Transport
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Assigned seating
Sharon Connor & Kirsty McKergow

Soundcheck organizer
Sharon Connor

Soundcheck Director
Virginia Humphrey-Taylor

STAR Director
Virginia Humphrey-Taylor

Riser Crew

Liam Whaley, Pete Blackwood, Greg Walsh, Geoff Simons, Andre Van Rij, Tony Allison, Anna McIntyre, Damien Mather, Daniel Mather, Richard Pettinger, Wayne Alexander, Kara Whaley

Shuttle Drivers

Damien Mather, Geoff Simons, Nancy Miller, Tracy Pettinger (Reserve - Stella Nicholson)

Bus Escorts

Amanda Flaws, Pete Blackwood, Richard Pettinger, (Reserve- Joan Huff)

Traffic Pattern Assistants

Julie Earl, Jan Daley, Barb Alderson, Nicola Thompson, Stella Nicholson, Ingrid Schweigman, Joan Huff

Venue Escorts

Friday: Christiane Funnell, Greg Walsh, Kara Whaley, Wayne Alexander
Saturday: Greg Walsh, Liam Whaley, Wayne Alexander, Nancy Miller

Venue Guides / Welcomers

Kirsty McKergow, Anita Van Rij, Jill Rubython, John Pascoe, Anna McIntyre, Judith Simons, Jacqui Cane, Joan Huff, Liam Whaley, Phillipa Van Abs, Ingrid Schweigman, Jennifer Ward, Pam Wilson, Ruth Brown, Denise George

Door minders

Jennifer Ward, Pam Wilson, Ruth Brown, Jan Davies, Denise George, Claire Warren, Kirsty Walsh, Robyn Baron, Brianna Perry

Registration Desk Assistants

Marilyn Bishop, Nicola Thompson, Jan Davies, Joan Huff

No Photos 'police'

Kim & Duane Wallace, Pam Brian, Miriam Spragg

Afterglow Team

Anita van Rij, Anna McIntyre, Tracy Pettinger

A very special thank-you to the Christchurch City Chorus Show Team

Heather Camp, Jan Daley, Mabel Knight, Marilyn Bishop and Isabel Stott for their invaluable help backstage and front of house.



Soaring SOUNDS

SWEET ADELINES NEW ZEALAND
ŌTEPOTI | DUNEDIN | 23-26 MAY 2024



MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Shooting Star Award



Congratulations to Jordan Ridgway from Waikato Rivertones, our 2024 Shooting Star Winner.

Waikato Rivertones Chorus say “Everything singing and music related brings Jordan joy - especially singing in harmony with fellow music lovers. She attended an open night in June 2022 and knew she wanted to be part of such a glorious sound within the first minute of listening to the chorus sing. Three weeks later she passed her audition and to say she hasn’t looked back is an understatement!

In November 2023 Jordan joined the Rivertones on stage in Louisville Kentucky to perform in the international competition! To quote her ‘it was an absolute highlight and an amazing experience.’

Jordan has now been appointed co-lead of the visual team and floor team captain. She has responsibilities for leading the floor team, creating and leading warm-ups, and is responsible for the visual communication of several songs. She loves being on the

floor team and enjoys learning the moves and combining movement and singing.

Jordan not only brings the most gorgeous voice to the chorus but also a bubbly, positive ‘can do’ attitude. She inspires other members with her commitment to be an active member when she is also a young mum (luckily for us her family are also very supportive). She gets involved with the chorus fundraisers, attends sing-outs and shows huge initiative in everything she does.

She is looking forward to many, many years of singing to come, and is already truly hooked on barbershop. In her short time with us, Jordan has shown she is a leader already. Watch this space barbershop world! Waikato Rivertones are so very grateful you found us”.

Congratulations Jordan!!



Congratulations to our 2024 Shooting Star Award Nominees:

- Jordan Ridgway**
- Waikato Rivertones
- Lorna Fox**
- Taranaki Harmony

The annual Shooting Star Award recognises a newer member who has made a great impact in a short time. A burst of energy, they have brought fresh enthusiasm, passion, talent and ideas to their chorus and are a potential future leader. This award is for SANZ members of less than 3 years.

Rock Star Award



Congratulations to Adrienne Windsor from Waikato Rivertones Chorus our 2024 Rock Star Award Winner.

Waikato Rivertones Chorus say “Adie is an indispensable and highly valued member of our chorus and of the management team and music team.

Every time we look around Adie is there doing her thing and more. She is smart, keen, positive and can be counted on to do a great job every time. Quietly she just does the business, never for a minute

complaining about her workload. She is a joy to have on the team. Such is her way – many members wouldn’t know or see all she does.

Just so everyone can appreciate Adie – here is a list of just some of what she does. She maintains the profile of the chorus in the community, writes media releases, and organises open night publicity, she directed the production of the chorus promotional video for social media, and edits the Friends of the Chorus Newsletters. She is the contact person for performances,



negotiating terms, payment, venue set up, staging and liaising with the chorus. She does initial auditions,

(CONTINUED OVER PAGE)

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

assesses riser recordings, takes PVI's, assists at sectionals, teaches the Intro to Barbershop Harmony classes to prospective members, and is secretary of the Music Team. Adie updates visitor folders and maintains Christmas folders to support visitors and new members.

A million and one jobs and Adie is there – she is our ROCKSTAR!"

Congratulations Adrienne!

Congratulations to all our 2023 Rock Star Award Nominees:

Adrienne Windsor - Waikato Rivertones
Helen Belchamber - Taranaki Harmony
Juliane Winter-Noakes - Greater Auckland
Laura Sommer - Wellington City
Natalie Roffey - Greater Auckland

The annual Rock Star Award recognises a member who is a 'rock star' behind the scenes. They have contributed an enormous amount to their chorus, and undertaken many tasks, team or support roles over the years. They are hardworking, dependable, and make chorus life easier. This award is open to members of Sweet Adelines NZ with more than 3 years' of membership.

Spirit Award

Congratulations to Lesley Standing from Sounds of Hawkes Bay Chorus our 2024 Spirit Award Winner!

Sounds of Hawkes Bay Chorus says "The alluring harmonies of Sweet Adelines were first introduced to our country back in 1981. Patti Cooke founded our first fledgling Sweet Adelines Chorus in the small northern Hawkes Bay community of Wairoa. Alongside Patti was Lesley Standing, one of Aotearoa's everlasting Sweet Adeline spirits.

In the 43 years since the seeds of our organisation were planted, Lesley has been a stalwart of all things Sweet Adelines. She was instrumental in founding two other Hawkes Bay Choruses. She has continuously promoted our harmonies in the community, including annual performances at her beloved Art Deco Festivals, plus many other sing-outs entertaining citizens at Christmas events, market days and rest homes. Not only has she held multiple musical leadership roles over the years from enthusiastic Baritone Section Leader to Musical Director, but she has also taken on numerous administrative roles both at a local and regional level.



Name a committee (and as we all know Sweet Adelines have many to choose from), and she has served on it.

Recently Lesley's dedication to Sweet Adelines was further illustrated as Sounds of Hawkes Bay Chorus hit a crisis point with a change in leadership. Lesley was looking forward to a more leisurely contribution to our small chorus, but much to our delight she took on the role as our Interim Musical Director. As our fruitless search for a new Musical Director ensued, Lesley identified and encouraged a talented younger member of our chorus to step forward and now the chorus has a future with a gifted new Musical Director-in-training.

From helping to found our unique musical art form in New Zealand more than four decades ago, Lesley's unique contribution continues unabated. Thank you Lesley for epitomising the true spirit of what it means to be a Sweet Adeline.

Congratulations Lesley!



Congratulations to all our 2024 Spirit Award Nominees:

Lesley Standing
- Sounds of Hawkes Bay
Jo Maxwell
- Faultline
Kate Sinclair
- Waikato Rivertones

The annual Spirit Award recognises a member who epitomises the spirit of our organisation. They have not only contributed to chorus life, but also taken that extra step to carry the 'spirit' of Sweet Adelines beyond their chorus, within the region and as a great ambassador for us in the wider community.

Service to Young Women in Harmony Award

Congratulations to Bronwyne Albright - Sweet Adelines New Zealand Service to Young Women in Harmony Award recipient for 2024!

Bronwyne's journey with Young Women in Harmony began in 2015 when she volunteered to help at the high school Barbershop Nationals at Founders Theatre in Hamilton.

In 2016 she took over from Pam Russell as Waikato/ Bay of Plenty Regional Coordinator. Bronwyne was in charge of the organisation of the regional competition. She booked venues, arranged judges in liaison with others, arranged entries and the certificates, made up the draw, arranged food and was in charge 'on the ground.'

In May 2016 Bronwyne was asked to be a Trustee for SANZ Prue Blythe Fund.

Throughout 2017 she continued the role as Wai/BOP Coordinator and helped at the Auckland National Competition in 2017. A highlight was looking after Love Notes Quartet in Hamilton.

In 2018 she stepped into the role of the 'on-the-ground coordinator' for the nationals in Tauranga.

When New Zealand YSIH organisation undertook to review their structure, Bronwyne was able to contribute her perspective. Ultimately a new tiered structure was developed.

In 2019 she took on the role as the coordinator 'on the day' of the national competition in Christchurch. Over 650 students competed that day.

In 2020, in the restructured organisation (SANZ and BHNZ), Bronwyne took on the role of YSIH Trustee (as the Waikato/BOP representative) and was a member of the management team. In that role, she was involved in the organisation of the nationals and the general running of the YSIH management team with a specific role 'on the ground' in the nationals.

2020 - 2021 saw the competition cycle disrupted by Covid. Although the regionals did run in Tauranga in 2021.

The 2022 national competition in Palmerston North was a great success. Bronwyne was the 'on the day' coordinator which involved arranging seating for all the schools, coordinating the volunteers, arranging food for the officials and handling any last-minute issues.



In 2023 Sacred Heart Girls' College hosted the Waikato Regionals (and will do so again in 2024). Successful nationals were held at the Victory Centre in Auckland in 2023.

Bronwyne is always willing to help, always first there and last to leave, is very calm in a crisis and is passionate about Young Singers in Harmony. This is a way she gave back and found joy in helping young people have an amazing time, enthused about singing barbershop.

In February 2024 Bronwyne stood aside from her role as Waikato BOP coordinator and her role on the national Young Singers in Harmony team.

Those who have valued what Bronwyne has given over the years paid tribute and thanked her for her huge contribution. She remains a trustee for the Prue Blythe Memorial Fund.

The annual Service to Young Women in Harmony Award award is presented in recognition of dedication to supporting YWIIH in barbershop in New Zealand.



Education Scholarship

Congratulations to Shelley Bascand - Sweet Adelines New Zealand Education Scholarship recipient for 2024!

Shelley leads Visual Communications for Faultline Chorus, and is on our SANZ regional Visual Communications Team. She will be using the Education Scholarship towards travelling to the USA to attend the Directors & Visual Leaders Seminar in July 2024.

This scholarship supports a member or Director of Region 35 to gain new skills, ideas, and contacts to benefit both the individual and the region. It subsidises training to the value of \$1,500, and the award recipient is selected by the previous scholarship recipients. Congratulations Shelley!



Merit Pins

Congratulations to **Leigh Whitelaw** from Faultline Chorus who has been awarded a Merit Pin for services to Region 35 as Regional Management Team Coordinator for six years.

Congratulations to **Miriam Spragg** who has been awarded a Region 35 Merit Pin for services to Region 35 as Regional Management Team Membership Coordinator for six years.

Merit Pins are awarded by the Regional Management Team to members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Region.



Honourable Mention

Congratulations to **Clare Pascoe** from Dunedin Harmony Chorus who has been recognised by Region 35 with an Honorable Mention for services to Region 35 as the Chair of our 2024 Regional Convention Soaring Sounds, along with two previous regional conventions - Distinctly Dunedin in 2017 and Autumn A Cappella in 2019.



Thank You Suzanne Berresford!

A big thank you to **Suzanne Berresford** (Greater Auckland Chorus) who has served as our YWIH Coordinator since 2022.



New YWIH Coordinator

Kia ora, I'm **SJ Stevens**, your new Young Women In Harmony Coordinator. I am so excited to take on this role and get more involved in the New Zealand Barbershop community!

I have been part of singing groups in one form or another since I was 8 years old and it's always the first thing I find to join when moving to a new place. I started out with choral and musical theatre groups before discovering Barbershop in Wellington at the end of 2020. I've loved it ever since and now, having just moved to Christchurch, have joined the Christchurch City Chorus. Shout-out to all the Baritones!

As a young women who actively seeks out singing and Barbershop opportunities,



I know how challenging it can be for the younger generation to get involved. I want other young women to find the joy and community that I have found in Barbershop and encourage the next generation of Sweet Adelines here in Aotearoa.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Membership Milestones

Congratulations to our members celebrating 25, 30 and 35 year membership milestones in 2024:

Celebrating 25 Years of Membership!



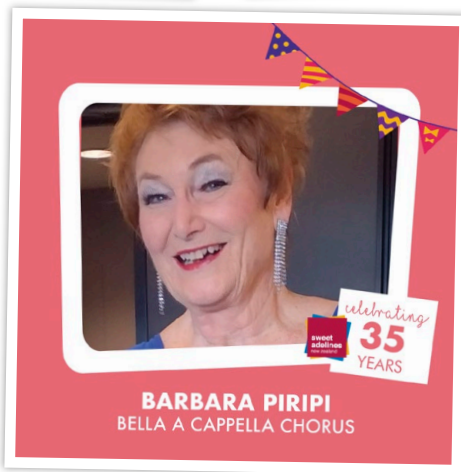
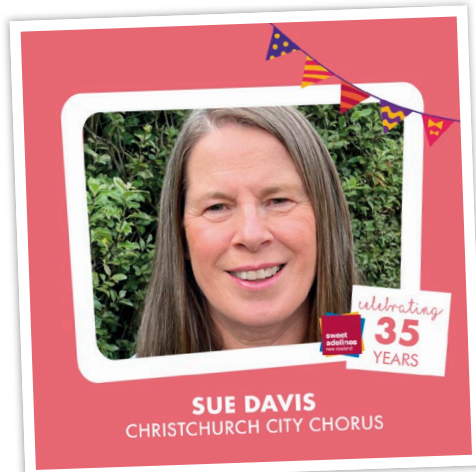
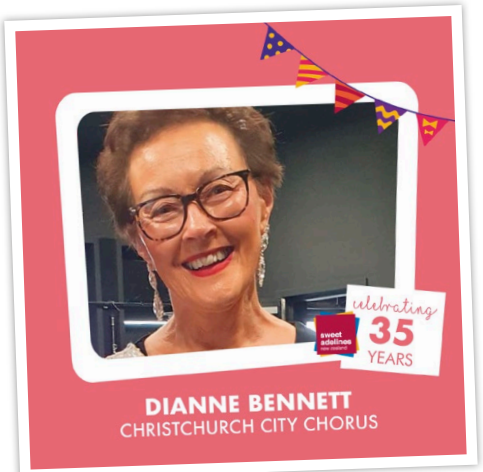
MEMBERSHIP AWARDS



Celebrating
30 Years
of Membership!



Celebrating
35 Years
of Membership!



In My Eyes We Are All Stars!

A real feel good story as we were getting ready to head to SANZ Convention in Dunedin. Gina, (black top) one of our leads recently gifted us all with these beautiful cross stitch stars...I'll let her tell her story.

'A few weeks ago I was sitting doing some designing on my cross stitch app. I was thinking about the little rituals we did when I first went to SANZ competition e.g. glitter in our shoes and stickers shaped liked stars.

I decided to make a small design for Sheryl and myself just to commemorate our time in Dunedin in 2024. Sheryl loved the design! I then decided to stitch one for everyone at chorus.

I stitched them on 14-count white perforated paper that was in my stash. I used DMC Etoile red thread which in French means STAR in English. Together they took approximately 50 hours to stitch all 20 of them.

In my eyes we are all STARS!

Thanks Gina. Much appreciated from us all.

MARY HAMILTON
WHANGAREI HARMONY CHORUS



I last sang in public in the Dunedin Town Hall. I was twelve, in the school choir, and it was the seventies. A quick fifty years later, having sung in the shower in the interim, I'm back.

Come along to a workshop a friend said (that's how they get you). You are Type A, conscientious, can hold a tune, and can read music. You are a baritone; nay, a bari. Welcome to chorus!

It's time for my triumphant return to The Hall but now with newly minted blue and visual passes, Luxury Magnetic Lashes™, a yellow flower, and oh so much blusher. It's

Blue Passes & Green Ribbons

serious this time. Does time speed up on stage? Where did those seven minutes go? Did I remember to sing? Why were my legs shaking?

It's been an amazing first year in chorus culminating in the Soaring Sounds Convention. I attended everything, even the RAMM (because Type A bari), and learned so much - who knew about 'bari delay'? Thanks to my friend for introducing me to this amazing community of women; I love being part of the group voice.

I won't be walking the stage for my 25 years certificate, but I'm all in for 2025.

JULIE PAGE
NELSON BAYS HARMONY CHORUS

Wonderful to Share that Same Joy



When I asked a friend if I could go to her singing group, I didn't know what to expect. I hadn't heard of the Wellington City Chorus, and I didn't know what Sweet Adelines was all about. I just knew that I wanted to sing again having not done so since I was in the Chilton St James school choir (apart from one fantastic party when we all sang every single version of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah repeatedly).

Fast forward five years. I now know what it takes to be a in contest-winning chorus. I am full of admiration for those who have been members of the chorus for up to 25 years, and those who devote hours of spare time organising and mentoring us. I was amazed to learn that people

travel from around the country to be in the chorus and attend weekly rehearsals. But what impresses me is the professionalism and commitment of our directors, WCC Management Team and every single singer.

Being in the chorus is serious business but we have tremendous fun along the way. And there is nothing more satisfying and heart-warming than seeing the hard work pay off on stage when we give a mighty performance. The winning feeling is pretty good too.

I've experienced the absolute delight of winning twice now. I remember vividly winning our section last year as a first-time contestant. For me, it was completely unexpected. My chorus

mates said that definitely showed on my face. This year, it was wonderful to share that same joy with our first-time contestants Kate Good, Lisa Henderson, Kristine Hornblow, Miriam Lips, Charmaine Henwood, Lauren Johns, Lisa Gudkova, Jasmin Van Vuuren & Anne Murray (pictured left to right).

Attracting and welcoming new members to chorus is important to us, so to see them reach contest level (some in a very short space of time) is immensely satisfying. Our next adventure is the Barbershop Harmony New Zealand competition in Wellington in September, and after that – watch this space.

**HEATHER CHURCH
WELLINGTON CITY CHORUS**

What Performing Feels Like...

Kia Ora. My name is Aleyna, I am 15 years old, I am currently the youngest member of Christchurch City Chorus and this is my first time ever performing on a Sweet Adelines' stage.

My mother thought it was a good idea to sign me up to a chorus while we were in desperate need of distraction, so I joined the chorus for Christmas when I was eight. Six-ish years later and I have officially been singing with them for two years and my mother, for five.

Outside of chorus, I like to write, so here's a piece that encapsulates what performing felt like and what the chorus means to me:

They say it takes a village to raise a child.

For some, that village is nowhere to be found. But mine is ever clear.

My feet are aching but no more than my heart.

Women surround me. The ones who have seen me grow.

Excitement flows through me, as Andrea calls the 10-minute warning to leave.

People say to me how beautiful I am. It may seem fake, while my lips are slathered in chorus red and my eyes flutter, enhanced by fake lashes. I've never cared for fake compliments. But I know they're genuine.

The click-clack of our heels accompanies the glittery black and white of our identical costumes.

"Pair up!" she announces, "The bus is outside."

Angela and everyone flatter me constantly. My blush is shown through my dense makeup.

"You've grown. How kind you are. Beautiful, inside and out."

I wish they knew how much they contributed to that growth.

The lights blind me, as my genuine smile grows bigger.

Never born to be here, on a stage. Never born to lead.

Only taught.

They say it takes a village to raise a child.

And mine is here.

**ALEYNA BINTE-HUSAINI
CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHORUS**

My Music Continues After 'Soaring Sounds'

After receiving the post-convention survey, I was inspired to write this short piece to say how much I appreciate everyone involved in all aspects of the 'Soaring Sounds' Convention. And, what I really want to say is that how lucky am I, to be a part of such a wonderful space the music world has in our lives.

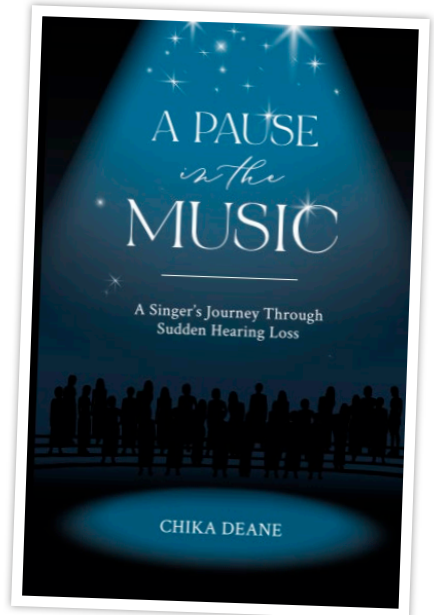
While I am still soaking in the afterglow of the Dunedin trip, I reminisce about so many scenes from many previous events I attended. Back to Auckland, someone started a sparkling thread of conversation in the GAC Chatroom on Facebook, posting their first convention photos. Everyone is feeling this way right now. (we were Jaffas, by the way – sorry for the inhouse reference here.)

My memory includes the moment I first approached and how instantly I gelled with a Christchurch woman after seeing her sing in a quartet on the stage. She is one of my closest

friends now, although we cannot see each other very often. Our friendship involved our families and has lasted for more than a decade.

I reconnected this time with the Dunedin Chorus member who happened to be seated next to me on a flight back from a short (chorus unrelated) trip quite some time ago. As she started studying her barbershop music, we naturally introduced each other and enjoyed each other's company throughout the flight. She was on the way to Auckland to see a rock concert. It was she who recognised me first outside a Sunday education class. She reckons our acquaintance started ten years ago!

A scene of a group of us sitting around a large table in a Dunedin pub waiting for our meals to arrive. We laughed and laughed about something that I cannot remember, but I remember all the happy faces,



including a dear friend who we lost to cancer during the pandemic. And a scene of the same friend, smiling, dressed up in our blue costumes holding a trophy in our Wellington hotel. It was her birthday.

"how we sang on the stage, or which coloured medal we took seems not to have such a heavy impact on me, but connecting with like-minded souls are the scenarios that remain embedded with me."

'Soaring Sounds' certainly made a big mark, especially for GAC, which, for the first time ever in the open division, performed a 'Trailer' of what we will do in Kansas City later this year.

"My music continues."

This is the last sentence from my book 'A Pause in the Music' published in January. Yes, my music still continues, and how lucky are we all?

**CHIKA DEANE
GREATER AUCKLAND CHORUS**

*Contact Chika for more information on how to access her story:
chikakodeane@hotmail.com*



Happy International Women's Day!

To mix it up this year we at C i Marketing thought we'd put Liz under the microscope and ask her some hard questions.

1. What challenges have you faced as a woman in leadership, and how have you overcome them?

I've worked in many industries which are dominated by older males who have sadly not taken me seriously, in particular roles which have required me to be an industry leader or lead others. I made it my mission to be the best at my job, no matter what it was, not to focus on the noise around me, but put my head down, work hard and achieve the high goals I set for myself. The noise soon disappears when you take that road.

2. What advice would you give to other women aspiring to be small business owners?

Honestly – it's not easy! But, if you have passion, determination, patience and understand that the lows can be low but the highs are so worth it, you can do anything you want to. Surround yourself with a great team, even if you are a solopreneur – have a great accountant and people who you can go to for businesses advice. They will help you to make sound decisions.

3. Can you share a memorable experience from your career that has shaped your perspective or approach to your work?

When my Dad (who was my boss) passed away I had a make or break moment – was I going to keep doing this or not. I decided almost instantly that I had nothing to lose by trying, so I took on his business (Cirrus International) and became the solo manager of another one we worked in together (C i Marketing). That choice gave me the courage during situations since then to keep going through adversity. It taught me that hard work does pay off and it feels so good when you achieve your goals.

4. You're a notorious workaholic, how do you unwind and relax?

Hahaha.. I can't argue with that. My go-to is my singing. I sing with the Christchurch City Chorus. It's really the only time I can totally turn off my brain and focus on the music. We are an internationally competitive chorus, it's like a sport really, so I have to be on my game when I'm at rehearsal or performing. It's my happy place (apart from work).

5. If you could eliminate one thing from your daily routine, what would it be and why?

Charging camera batteries... but then I'd either need a PA or camera manufacturers to come out with larger batteries!

6. You're known for your meticulous planning, what's the most spontaneous thing you've ever done?



I cannot think of one thing I've ever done which is spontaneous! (I even asked two other people and they both said they have never seen me be spontaneous either)

7. If you could travel anywhere in the world right now, where would you go and why?

Antarctica, without a doubt. It's been on my bucket list forever.

8. What message would you like to convey to other women on International Women's Day?

I would say this to anyone, not just women – Don't ever stop believing in yourself, don't let anyone tell you that you can't, be open to positive advice, set goals and make a plan to achieve them, but have a few spare goals up your sleeve so you are always ahead of the game. Don't give away too much information to everyone but share and ask for help with those you trust.

LIZ PITCORN
CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHORUS

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Harmonising Hope: My Experience

with GAC's Journey to Open Division

It had been five long years since I last joined the Greater Auckland Chorus on stage at a national contest. The COVID pandemic and then a relapse into chronic illness unfortunately stopped me from doing what I loved most. I had to take a break from life to give myself a chance to heal.

But, as soon as I was able to, I was back on the risers, first with a self-built riser chair, then standing as much as I could. Everyone was incredibly helpful, encouraging and uplifting. The singing, laughter and amazing camaraderie of the members has played a major part in my recovery and my mental health has been greatly boosted due to the joy this chorus has brought me.

The improvement in my health came at just the right time. After placing first in Division A at last year's contest in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, Greater Auckland Chorus was invited to represent New Zealand in Kansas City, Missouri at the Harmony Classic in October 2024. I gave myself a goal to be well enough to be there!

But first up was our chance to perform an abridged version of our entertainment package at Soaring

Sounds in Ōtepoti Dunedin. The excitement was palpable! For the first time ever, we were giving the Open Division a go!

For the past 12 months, we not only learned four new songs, but we also dived deep into our theatrical side. We learned how to access emotions more instantly and change these in a heartbeat. Some of our members have risen to the occasion and taken on speaking roles. Don't you just love our Alison as emcee and aren't our ghosts super spooky but also so divine? Choosing costumes, making backdrops, and creating interesting props has had us get creative in other ways too, and these have been great tools to help us tell our story. I enjoyed working on the props, alongside Fiona Maisey and Alison Norton, while Andrea Pletikosic did an awesome job managing costumes.

Two of the four songs we performed in our package were arranged by our awesome, in-house arranger Kristina Roper. We are so lucky and immensely proud to have such talent in our midst. Kristina created the baseline for our story with these songs and worked with our amazing director, Jocosa, to evolve the story around them.

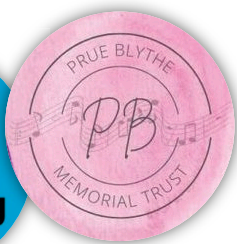
After our fabulous weekend at Soaring Sounds, filled with laughter, dancing, meeting incredible people, not to mention the singing...

*"i came home, glowing,
and just about floating!
my boss said, whatever
dunedin did to you -
keep doing it!"*

I am well on the way to reaching my goal and am looking forward to the next stage together with my chorus! There is sometimes no better medicine than music, so KEEP SINGING! If your Chorus has ever considered doing the Open Division – go for it! It's so much fun and you get to use all the skills with more story telling. For me, it was one of the best experiences ever!

For now, as a chorus, we will continue to build upon our skills as we prepare for the Harmony Classic in Kansas City. We are so excited to represent Region 35 and will do our best to make you proud!

**JULIANE WINTER-NOAKES
GREATER AUCKLAND CHORUS**



An Overview and update of YWIH and YSIH in NZ

Young Singers in Harmony (YSIH) is the hub of barbershop singing for secondary school singers in New Zealand. This programme has been active since the 1990s, and currently operates in the form of regional contests, educational workshops, and an annual national convention.

Since 2020, YSIH has existed as a standalone organisation and a registered charity for all young singers. The structural framework consists of a management team, responsible for the operational activities of the organisation including the annual national convention, and a Board of Trustees, responsible for the long-term direction of YSIH, for the YSIH Charitable Trust and for overseeing activities of the management team. Alongside representatives from YSIH, BHNZ, SANZ, and school staff members from across the country, the SANZ Young Women In Harmony (YWIH) Coordinator sits on the management team and the Board. The SANZ Education Coordinator is also a member of the Board.

The regional and national contests bring together Upper Voice (previously YWIH), Lower Voice (previously Young Men in Harmony) and Mixed Voice ensembles in one event. In September last year the national contest was held in Auckland and involved 386 competitors, including more than 200 singers who competed in the Upper Voices category, and many more upper voices were singing in mixed voice choruses and quartets. The 1st place Upper Voice quartet was Grace Notes from Tawa College in Wellington, and the 1st place Upper Voice chorus was Manawa, a joint chorus from Sacred Heart Girls College and Fraser High School in Hamilton. Not only did these groups win their respective Upper Voices category but they were both overall champions in the quartet and chorus competitions. The running of this contest was only made possible through the support of grants, including funding from the Prue Blythe Memorial Trust (PBMT). Through this trust, which is a YWIH initiative, \$1698 was raised last year, and overall, \$3000 of funds from the trust were used to support the YSIH national contest.

For 2024 so far, the YSIH team have delivered regional contests in Hamilton and Wellington, a video contest and regional workshops. The 2024 National YSIH contest will be held in Wellington on 25th and 26th September, with special guests Signature quartet, the BHS International 2019 Quartet Champions.

If you would like to show your support for YWIH and YSIH, there are many ways you can do this: by donating to the PBMT, volunteering at one of the regional or national events, or taking on a role in the management team or on the trusts. Contact the YWIH Coordinator to find out more or follow the YSIH social media pages to learn about upcoming events.

You can donate online to the PBMT account: 02-0874-0185261-05. For donations of \$5 or more you can request a receipt for claiming a tax credit.

**SUZANNE BERRESFORD
OUTGOING YOUNG WOMEN IN
HARMONY COORDINATOR**



Recently, some of our Young Women in Harmony quartets got the wonderful chance to be coached by the amazing Kim Newcomb - Tenor of the 2023 Queens of Harmony, The Ladies. Thank you Kim for inspiring so many young singers on your recent visit to NZ



NZ CHAPTER CONTACTS

BELLA A CAPPELLA CHORUS

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WELLINGTON CITY CHORUS

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WHANGAREI HARMONY CHORUS

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REGION 35 SWEET ADELINES NEW ZEALAND

Mission:

Elevating women singers in New Zealand through education, performance, and competition in barbershop harmony and a cappella music.

Vision:

A diverse community of women enriching lives through song.

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WE ARE SWEET ADELINES

Founded in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1945, Sweet Adelines started as a small group of women who loved to sing. Since then, it has evolved into an organization that spans the globe connecting thousands of singers around the world in song. We're dedicated to preserving the unique sound of a cappella barbershop harmony, sharing our passion for music and empowering our community in every area of their lives.

We will be cheering for you!



*Region 35 sends
all our best wishes
to Christchurch City
Chorus, Greater
Auckland Chorus and
Fire & Ice as they
sing their hearts out
in Kansas City later
this year!*



You will do NZ proud!