

TEAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Regional Annual Members' Meeting

23 May 2024

The logo for Sweet Adelines New Zealand is located in the top right corner. It features a maroon square with the words "sweet", "adelines", and "new zealand" in white, stacked vertically. The square is layered over several overlapping translucent shapes in blue and yellow.

**sweet
adelines**
new zealand

Well here we are in Dunedin, thank you to the convention steering committee and Dunedin City Chorus for their work in getting this convention across the line – you did it!

This is my last annual report as the Team Coordinator of Region 35 after serving 6 years on the RMT. Miriam Spragg is also leaving the team after serving 6 years as the Membership Coordinator and I know how much Miriam has put into her role – thank you for your service Miriam, you have been an invaluable member of the team in so many ways not just membership areas.

I am so pleased that we have a full team of 8 for the next 12 months on the Regional Management Team. I do encourage anybody who has wavered over the past few months to apply for a role on the team to get their application in next time. You gain so much by being a member of the team it's a great environment for learning and upskilling as you have the support of a team around you!

We also have a new Young Women in Harmony Coordinator, Stella Jean (SJ) Stevens from Christchurch City Chorus. Thank you SJ for answering the call!

I sincerely hope you have read the individual coordinator reports and taken note of what has been happening in your region in the past 12 months.

I am pleased to say we have seen a rise in membership numbers from our previous year, now standing at 486 members. This is very encouraging as many choruses have been focusing on member retention as they regrouped following the effects of 3 years of covid interruption.

Now these choruses will be able to turn their attention to member growth and there are many resources available on both the national and international websites to assist with ideas and support. Our incoming Membership Coordinator, Nikola, will be ready and willing to point you in the right direction and if she doesn't know the answers she does know who to ask!

Other choruses have been lucky enough to concentrate on membership growth and have increased their chorus numbers. Congratulations to those choruses and we look forward to seeing even higher numbers next year across the Region.

The Marketing Grant programme implemented by the RMT for the 12 months April 2023 to March 2024 was a popular initiative and saw 10 choruses use these funds to support their marketing initiatives. Feedback has been extremely positive and Whangarei Chorus has equated use of the grant to their gaining three new members who will join them on stage this week.

We see the results of all this work on membership retention and growth with 11 of our 14 choruses crossing the stage at Soaring Sounds and 14 quartets. A total of 390 members have registered for this convention which is wonderful after such a big convention last year.

Our next two convention locations are confirmed as Christchurch, as previously announced, and we are excited to let you know that convention 2026 will be held in Palmerston North. More information on venues will be announced as soon as further decisions are made. Christchurch City are used to hosting convention in their city but this will be a first for the Manawatu Overtones and I want to reassure them that support will be there! The Region will get behind you and assist where needed!

Education continues to be the focus for Sweet Adelines around the world and here in New Zealand in the next months we will be doing our best, we are holding education for quartet singers in both islands with last year's quartet champions Unlimited as the faculty, we thank Unlimited for managing to schedule these workshops into their busy lives. Next exciting new opportunity is of an online class for Arrangers with our own Rowena Harper and Carole Prietto, an international arranger of repute! Thanks to Rowena for her using her contacts and undertaking this venture for the Region. A weekend workshop for the general membership is being held in November in Wellington run by the talented Anne Downton. Anne took the Directors' workshop last year and this workshop provides an excellent opportunity to build on the skills and information she imparted to our directors.

I'd like to thank the wonderful Resource Team who have supported us again this past 12 months, Carol Jager, Trish Veen, Lesley Standring, Chika Deane, Rowena Harper, Sharon Connor, Suzanne Berresford, David Brooks, Christien Oberholster, Fy Tait, Ruth Carson, Kirsty Walsh, Sandy Gunn and Brianna Perry. Without all of you, this Region would be very much the poorer.

I thank the RMT for their hard work and ongoing support of this Region. It's been marvellous working with you the past 12 months and longer in some cases. I truly appreciate the personal support you have given me and I appreciate your dedication to what you do to keep this singing organisation ticking over. Mary, the finances are in a great position thanks to your stewardship. Julie is already formulating plans on the Regions Strategic Plan to formulate the way forward for the next 5 years and beyond. Watch out for updates on that. The education plans for events are coming together well for our membership in the next year, get out there and sign up for those events when they come your way!

Remember next year we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary and if you would like to make it an event to remember why not get involved and help with the organising or by registering for convention and partying with everyone. I'll see you there!

I take this opportunity on behalf of the Region to wish Greater Auckland Chorus and Christchurch City Chorus the very best for a wonderful experience in Kansas in October! We know you will do the region proud.

Jo Maxwell, who retired from the role of Marketing Coordinator last May, has also continued to answer the many requests we have made of her and completed a wealth of tasks in the marketing and publicity areas, thank you Jo.

To Mary, Carolyn, Leanne, Julie, Jacqui, and Miriam I say a sincere thank you. To Nikola and the Shelleys one and two, I know you will have a fun and educational time as you start your time on the team.

Miriam and I may well be feeling a little lost in the next few months but I'm sure in time we'll adjust. It has been my privilege to serve the region as Team Coordinator and I look forward to seeing the Region move forward under the new and continuing leadership on the RMT with a very able person at the helm, Julie, it's over to you.

Thanks for having me it's been a fun filled if sometimes stressful 6 years!

Leigh.