

# 2020 Education Report

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2019 was a stellar year for region 35 education! Registration numbers for all events exceeded our expectations and we were delighted to receive a lot of positive feedback on the programme offered and on the quality of teaching from our faculty, both regional and international. Education is at the heart of our organisation so it was very encouraging to have so many members participating in the variety of events on offer.

My thanks to the regional education team for their contribution to the programme and to our wonderful Event Coordinator, Sarah Bennett, for organising so many of the events and ensuring that things ran smoothly on the day. Delicious food was an unexpected bonus at our Wellington-based events so here's a shout out to the catering teams from Wellington City and Faultline Choruses for looking after us so well.

*Educational events for members in the past year included:*

- Convention education classes delivered by Paula Davis, Joan Boutillier and Jan Meyer.
- Leadership workshop for TCs and aspiring TCs and management team members coordinated by Trish Veen.
- The Power Within weekend workshop for directors and musical leaders presented by Vickie Maybury.
- One Day Challenge workshops held in Whangarei, Auckland and Dunedin presented by our regional faculty duos: Melody Lowe and Suzanne Berresford, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and Henrietta Hunkin-Tagaloa, and Jocosa Bruce and Kristina Roper. These workshops were hugely successful and we acknowledge the region's great response to this new initiative. We will continue to offer these fun, affordable workshops for all our members, especially those who are not always able to travel to a main centre for a full educational weekend.

The YWIH programme continued to be supported by our YWIH Coordinator, Jessie Leov and funded primarily through member donations to the Prue Blythe Trust and from Kate Veeder's convention fundraising. This year the broader Young Singers in Harmony group is looking at a new strategic direction that will offer members more opportunities to support young singers at the regional and national levels – keep an eye out for information later this year for details on how you can get involved.

2019 saw the introduction of the new Arranger Certification Programme. This programme has been developed to make arranger education accessible to all members by offering three levels of education, starting with the self-study beginner level. This programme is managed by the region's Arranger Education Specialist, Nicola Kirkup. Three members enrolled in the programme last year and one has already completed the beginner level. The Director Certification Programme also continues under Angela Blank's guidance, with 20 members enrolled.

2020 got off to a flying start with workshops planned with Donya Metzger (August) and Betty Clipman (November). Unfortunately we're back into planning mode with COVID putting an end to our regional contest and scheduled events. The team is working hard on getting a new education offering organised for the rest of 2020 and early 2021. This is likely to comprise both virtual classes and face-to-face in small groups.

Best wishes from the education team and thank you for your support over the past year.

Kerry Stewart  
Regional Education Coordinator  
10 May 2020