

# Education Report 2024-2025

During the past year, RMT have updated the Education portfolio and endeavored to promote and develop more educational opportunities which meet our members' needs by tailoring education to cover every aspect of the barbershop craft and allowing many opportunities for members to connect and learn together.

## In person education

Our 2024 regional convention held in Dunedin at the end of May was well attended and the education classes on Sunday morning were ably run by the judges who jointly coached the most improved quartet and the small chorus division winner. Feedback received from these classes was positive and we are continuing with the same theme at our 2025 regional convention.

The convention also included a Friday morning 'Music in the Morning' session featuring Kate Sinclair and Rowena Harper which included vocal warmups, physical warmups and teaching our new mass song *Something in the Water* arranged by Rowena Harper.

In August our previous year's quartet winners, Unlimited Quartet LTD, ran two very successful quartet workshops, one in the North Island (Hamilton) and one in the South Island (Christchurch). Again some very positive feedback was received, along with some comments for improvement, and we are planning more quartet workshops in early 2026.

Following the success of our November 2023 Director's workshop with International Coach Anne Downton, we were able to offer a regional workshop at the end of October/early November with Anne again as coach. We had a good turnout for this and received very positive feedback.

We are looking at increasing our regional faculty panel with application forms being made available this month.

The YWIH coordinator position has been vacant for some time, but we have now found someone who is keen to take on this role for the next two years. The successful recipient will hopefully be announced at convention.

## Online education

Rowena Harper and Carole Prietto jointly hosted a series of zoom arranging classes over several months which attracted budding arrangers not only from New Zealand, but globally. These classes were well attended and very successful by all accounts and we are looking at doing similar classes again in 2026. My sincere thanks to both Rowena and Carole who, between them, provided a wealth of knowledge and expertise to support and encourage arrangers internationally.

## Looking ahead to 2025-2026

Music in the Morning session will be ably led by Alex Charlton and Shelley Bascand who attended the Directors and Visual Leaders Seminar in Tulsa in July 2024 and will be imparting what they learned.

With 2025 being the region's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have secured a 'coach in residence' (Ryan Heller) for July. His coaching visit will culminate with a regional workshop in Wellington for the final weekend of his stay here 18-20 July.

In response to information collected from members regarding education opportunities, we are now offering zoom theory classes, the first being for beginner theory in June. This will be followed up with intermediate and advanced classes later in the year.

An online Management Team 101 workshop is being held on June 21 in conjunction with Australia Region 34.

Kate Sinclair and other presenters will be running a regional workshop in Hamilton in October, targeted at directors, music and visual leaders.

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, Nicky and Sarah) and arrangers coordinator (Rowena).

Leanne Wheeler  
Regional Education Coordinator  
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