

**sweet  
adelines**  
new zealand

# the addaline

december 2023

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*Congratulations  
to Waikato Rivertones  
& Unlimited on their  
fabulous performances  
in Louisville!*



*A cappella with attitude!*

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Cover photos and SAI International  
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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



**LEIGH WHITELAW**  
Team Coordinator  
tc  
@sweetadelines.co.nz  
027 326 1864



**JULIE EARL**  
Events Coordinator  
events  
@sweetadelines.co.nz



**POSITION VACANT**  
Marketing Coordinator  
marketing  
@sweetadelines.co.nz



**MIRIAM SPRAGG**  
Membership Coordinator  
membership  
@sweetadelines.co.nz  
021 0221 8426



**MARY CAVE-PALMER**  
Finance Coordinator  
finance  
@sweetadelines.co.nz  
027 256 5069



**LEANNE WHEELER**  
Education Coordinator  
education  
@sweetadelines.co.nz  
027 765 9866



**JACQUI BINNIE**  
Communications  
Coordinator  
communications  
@sweetadelines.co.nz



**CAROLYN CURRINGTON**  
Directors' Coordinator  
directorcoord  
@sweetadelines.co.nz  
027 226 7978

### REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Rules & Bylaws - LEIGH WHITELAW  
Chapter Liaison - CAROL JAGER  
Leadership Development Specialist -  
PATRICIA VEEN

### REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Membership Liaison - LESLEY  
STANDRING  
Membership Records & Anniversary  
Maintenance - CHIKA DEANE

### REGIONAL EDUCATION TEAM

Arranger Education Specialist -  
ROWENA HARPER  
YWIH Coordinator - SUZANNE  
BERRESFORD

### REGIONAL COORDINATORS

**SHARON CONNOR**  
Website Coordinator  
webadmin@sweetadelines.co.nz

**CHRISTIEN OBERHOLSTER**  
DCP Coordinator  
dcp@sweetadelines.co.nz

**RUTH CARSON**  
Quartet Coordinator  
quartets@sweetadelines.co.nz

**SANDY GUNN**  
Addaline Coordinator  
addaline@sweetadelines.co.nz

**DAVID BROOKS**  
Region 35 Statistician  
stats@sweetadelines.co.nz

**FY TAIT**  
Historian  
historian@sweetadelines.co.nz

**MIRIAM SPRAGG**  
Convention Facilities Coordinator  
miriam.spragg@gmail.com

**BRIANNA PERRY**  
Addaline Design & Layout  
addaline@sweetadelines.co.nz

**POSITION VACANT**  
Chapter at Large Coordinator



# A Message From our TC, Leigh

**What a thrill it was being able to join in with friends to watch the International competition being live-streamed from Louisville!**

If only those we were cheering for, could have heard us as we shouted at our screens, I'm sure it would have brought an extra sparkle to their eyes!

It was both nerve wracking and exciting to see Unlimited and Waikato Rivertones take their moments on stage with such panache! All performers looked so happy to be on

that stage and the beautiful singing just made me so proud to know both groups were representing our little corner of the world. Well done to all those competitors, you were truly wonderful ambassadors for Region 35.

I hope everyone who travelled to compete or support our singers, has arrived home safely or perhaps one to two are still enjoying some tiki touring around different climes. Now you can relax for a while and enjoy the summer off from mad fundraising events and those extra rehearsal commitments.



I wish all our members a happy festive season and a splendid summer break enjoying catching up with friends, family or getting the garden back into shape! Stay safe and see you in 2024.

**LEIGH WHITELAW  
TEAM COORDINATOR**

## Important – Support Your Region

**This is a plea on behalf of all members of this fantastic Region of Sweet Adelines International.**

We need volunteers. We need members to join the Regional Management Team (RMT) to ensure we keep this artform alive and well into the future. Sweet Adelines has changed the lives of all of us who join, your chorus becomes your extended family it gives us the joy of singing, confidence in performing, development in areas such as teamwork, directing, administration, show creation and so much more.

To keep Region 35 active and to develop plans to not only maintain membership but increase our numbers and attract younger members to ensure the next generation can also

benefit from this organisation, we need a Regional Management Team.

The past few months have been difficult without the full complement of an 8-member team. We have felt the gap of not having a Marketing Coordinator. We still need someone to step into this role. We are also at the time of year when we advertise four roles on the team for the next 2-year term. Membership, Communications and Team Coordinator are all up for appointment. The role of Education Coordinator has been successfully taken by Leanne Wheeler.

If you have a skill set that would work as a team member on the RMT, please complete an Application Form, which can be found on the national website under RMT Information and

Vacancies, <https://sweetadelines.co.nz/node/2144>. We work as a team and share some responsibilities of any one portfolio if needed. The team would be open to moving roles to enable the right applicant to fit into the role that would work for them.

Is one of these a role for you?

- Team
- Membership
- Communications
- Marketing

If you would like to discuss making an application please contact us via email to [sweetadsnz@gmail.com](mailto:sweetadsnz@gmail.com) and we'll arrange for the appropriate person to respond.

We need willing people to get involved and make a difference!

# Tuxedo Junction

## Sing with Caution

All Sweet Adeline members should be aware by now that any song performed must have been processed through the Song Assessment Tool to ensure aspects of the Sweet Adelines International Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy are being followed.

The information on how to process a song can be found on the International site after logging in as a member go to <https://sweetadelines.com/song-assessment-tool>. On the website you can access a list of all songs that have been processed to date and any recommendations advised by the review team on the Song Evaluation Database.

One song we wanted to bring to your attention is, Tuxedo Junction, as we know several choruses perform this song and it has been used in

the past as a Sound Check song for competitions. Recently we were made aware that after this song had been put through the Song Assessment Tool it is recommended to be sung but with caution. We strongly encourage any choruses or quartets who want to sing this song in public to visit the International website to find appropriate information to include in emcee material so that your singers and audience alike are educated as to the story behind the song.

This is an excerpt from the Database: This song is admissible for performance, but has a rich history that should be understood by performers and elucidated in thoughtful emcee work.

Tuxedo Junction was an actual place. From the mid-1920s until the mid-1950s, this two-block area served as the hub of nightlife for the surrounding predominantly Black communities. The Junction was the only venue for dining, dancing, shopping and live music that Birmingham's Black population could call its own and from it, sprung numerous musical luminaries.

Please review the full document on the SAI website to ensure you are aware of the recommendations and how they were reached.

**LEIGH WHITELAW**  
TEAM COORDINATOR

# Convention 2024 Registration Fee

**Soaring Sounds, our 2024 national convention and competition is being held in the Dunedin Town Hall from Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 May. As a singer I'm very much looking forward to singing in this glorious venue with its world-renowned acoustics. This will be our first official competition held in the South Island since 2019.**

The Dunedin Town Hall also offers the bonus of having cafes and restaurants within easy walking distance, there are also a variety of accommodation choices and transport options within the city.

In reviewing the budget for the convention, the Regional Management Team has had to make the difficult decision to increase the Registration

Fee for the first time in many years. There are numerous contributing factors to this decision, including but not restricted to, the increased costs of venue hire plus audio/visual contracts, and having less of a levy pool to call upon.

The early bird Registration Fee for Sweet Adeline members for Soaring Sounds 2024 will be \$195. For late and non-member registrations, the fee will be \$235. Registrations will be transferable within your own chorus only and continue to be non-refundable. Early bird registrations will be accepted up to and including 6 April and late registrations until 10 May.



The Regional Management Team along with the Convention Steering Committee look forward to seeing you in Dunedin as we share our love of performing a cappella with attitude!



On 23 November we received exciting news from the International Board of Directors that Regions 31 (United Kingdom and Netherlands), 32 (Nordic Light), 34 (Australia) and 35 (New Zealand) are to receive an Educational Stipend of \$2500.00US for 2024 and 2025 to assist these Regions in providing education to their members.

This is fantastic news for our Education Coordinator, Leanne Wheeler, and her team, who will now have some extra funds to support education events.

Over the past few years, the Regional Management Team of Region 35 has continued to draw to the attention of the International Board, the unique challenges that our members face

in relation to accessing international education events which are generally held in the United States. We have also worked with the Worldwide Committee and the RMT of Region 34 (Australia) to present a picture of the financial impact of not only the 'Covid years' but the continued disparity in the currency exchange rates with the US Dollar and our International member fees. We believe our voices, and those of the other non-North American regions, have been heard and we are very grateful that the International Board has recognised

our situation. Whilst this is a 2-year stipend the IBOD will continue to review the situation in our regions to 'identify and implement approaches to more equitable access to membership benefits.'

We thank the International Board for this financial assistance and look forward to creating some exciting education for our members over the next few years.

**LEIGH WHITELAW**  
TEAM COORDINATOR

## Love Barbershop, Love Learning?

**What about giving the DCP a go?**  
**Yes, we are promoting the DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME to ALL chorus members.**

### WHY?

We want to grow the skills of **all** Sweet Adelines including directors, music team members and indeed any other interested chorus members

- It has just got easier with delivery via a simple learning management system – you can work at your own pace online, using the

stimulating visual and auditory resources. The new delivery mode is coming our way soon

- You only need to sit the tests if your goal is to become a Certified Director i.e. use the programme as an education tool
- You can complete the modules in any order or just do the ones that interest you
- Develop your musical and leadership skills

**Modules:** analytical listening, communication, directing, SAI

judging categories and competition, management, music theory (starts with the basics), performance, rehearsal planning and implementation, vocal production, organisational knowledge and director resources, teaching and coaching

Have a chat with Christien Oberholster our new DCP Coordinator, who will be very happy to hear from you [christien.oberholster@gmail.com](mailto:christien.oberholster@gmail.com)

For further reading see Pg 34 of the October Edition of Pitch Pipe (in your email and online).

**JULIE EARL**  
EVENTS COORDINATOR

Milling around the piano after chorus with Rowena Harper (arranger extraordinaire and assistant director of Waikato Rivertones) usually means there is an arrangement on the way.

And true to form on this particular evening, a bit of woodshedding followed, along with general excitement about the emergence of a new arrangement of Brooke Fraser and Scott Ligertwoods, Something in the Water.

## There's Something in the Water!

It's a catchy, upbeat, gorgeous song we know you will all love to sing.

Now you can – your regional management team has purchased this song and learning tracks and they will be added to the regional mass song kete on the website.

**This song will be used for sound check at convention in Dunedin 2024.**

So have fun learning it and sign up for sound check when the request comes your way.

Thank you, Rowena!

**JULIE EARL**  
EVENTS COORDINATOR



# A Gift of Song as a Thank You

**“I hear you’re a singer?” The Nurse said. “Yes.” I replied. “I sing with The Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus.” “We’d love to hear you sing some time.”**

And that got me thinking.

My husband had a nasty fall and after almost 8 weeks in hospital was due to be discharged. You can only thank the staff, and buy slab cake for their morning tea so many times, but perhaps a singing performance would be a special and unique way to say thank you and show appreciation to the staff who had helped with his recovery, and I was sure the patients would enjoy it as well.

Our Chorus meets weekly in the evenings, but a smaller group of us,

Bays Harmony, who are retired or available, meet twice a month, in the afternoon. Perhaps if I suggested it...?

By good luck one of our members lives at Roundhay (a Retirement village) where our daytime group meet to rehearse - a 5 minute walk from Nelson Hospital. When I spoke to our day singers the response was extremely positive and a programme of happy, upbeat songs was put together.

On the day, we rehearsed prior, then the 16 of us walked to the Hospital. We gathered on the grass outside the opened sliding glass doors of the lounge, and the performance began. The Rugby World Cup had been showing on TV in the lounge during my husband’s stay, and I had seen residents who were watching a game,

no matter how exciting, nod off. But nothing like that happened during our performance!

The lounge was full, with patients, the nursing staff plus the physiotherapists who worked on that ward. It was only a brief performance, 5 songs, and a finale of the Doo Wop version of Happy Birthday for a family member of a patient, who happened to be having his birthday that day.

At the conclusion, we were told we would be very welcome to return again.... so plans are in the pipeline.

**JUNE SAVAGE  
NELSON BAYS HARMONY CHORUS**

## Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

*May 2024*

**REGION 35 CONVENTION:  
SOARING SOUNDS**

23 - 26 May  
Dunedin

*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



# An Amazing Weekend with Anne Downton

Wellington turned on stunning November weather recently when directors and their assistants flocked to Wellesley College to connect, share ideas, celebrate chorus highs (go Waikato!), and discuss issues. We learnt from each other as well as absorbed so much useful stuff from international faculty member Anne Downton.

Sweet Adeline extraordinaire, Anne has been singing barbershop since 2000 and her many accomplishments include being Master Director of Region 26's high achieving chorus Westcoast, and singing baritone in Frenzy (2017 International Quartet Champions).

Anne's classes included really useful stuff to help with teaching, directing, singing, planning, the

chorus realising their goals, as well as vocal production. So much great information, we were all at saturation point by the time Sunday lunch arrived.

Crossing Wellington Harbour on the ferry each day while enjoying the stunning scenery, wildlife and singing tags together was simply perfect. We even had some unintentional recruiting happening when we sang a few songs at a restaurant on Saturday evening & our happy harmonies were admired by other diners.

Sunday evening on the drive to the airport we watched the fog rolling in. Some of us got home that night, others were stranded for several days while they cleared the back log – an optimist would take it as a gift of time to rest and reflect on what could be



taken back to our choruses from this successful conglomeration of musical leaders.

Many thanks to the RMT especially Leanne and Carolyn for the inspiration and hard work to make the weekend happen. Very beneficial for every one of us as every chorus in the country was represented.

**ROBYN ABERNETHY**  
**DUNEDIN HARMONY CHORUS**

## Prospectives No More

**It seems a little strange to be writing for the Addaline magazine to inform you that our chorus, Sounds of the Shore, has elected not to follow through with chartering with Sweet Adelines.**

Many of our chorus have been long standing Sweet Adelines. We have benefited from the teachings of international coaches and of participation in both NZ and International conventions over the years. In the process, of course, we have made special friends throughout the country and have experienced the wonderful community of massed singing. In our discussions, we were very careful to share these perspectives and provide a balanced view.

Sounds of the Shore is also very grateful for the support we have had from local SA coaches, workshops and education events. We have been very impressed with the organisation and professional communication relating to all SANZ activities and have felt welcomed and supported through every step of the journey. We had a wonderful experience participating in Harmony Aotearoa in Christchurch in 2021, which gave us a real taste of a Sweet Adelines' convention and the musical excellence of the choruses in Region 35. This year we were backstage at the Voices at Victory convention, helping to organise the buses and traffic patterns and enjoying the behind scenes buzz!



Finally, we would like to thank you again for all the support and encouragement you have shown Sounds of the Shore over the past four years and look forward to maintaining the relationship with SANZ as part of the broader barbershop community.

You can follow our musical journey on our Facebook page: facebook.com/soundsoftheshore and please do keep in touch.

**SOUNDS OF THE SHORE CHORUS**



# Extraordinary Power of Dreams

**The air buzzed with anticipation as we came together, ready to compete on the international stage. Unlimited Quartet was set to represent New Zealand at the International Quartet Competition in Louisville, Kentucky.**

Our journey to internationals began with a victory in Region 35's contest in May. In preparation for the international competition, we left no note unturned, enlisting the expertise

of coaching from esteemed coaches from New Zealand and overseas.

Along the way, we were fortunate to have many opportunities to showcase our talents and share our love for barbershop harmony with the New Zealand public. Competing at the Pan Pacific Competition in Auckland was a fabulous stage experience for us. The Sitting Room Singers concert, Clevedon church concert and the

Waikato Rivertones concert were opportunities to sing and an invitation for our supporters to join us on this remarkable journey.

Our journey wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of the region, family and friends. We were humbled by the number of people who generously donated to our givealittle page and attended one or more of our many performances.

As the date for the international competition drew near, we looked forward to being on the contest stage with great excitement.

*"our aim was to make ourselves and new zealand proud on the world stage, entertaining the audience and sharing our unique sound and our love for music with an international audience."*

(CONTINUED OVER PAGE)







Our days in Louisville flew by as we rehearsed for the quartet and the chorus competition with the Waikato Rivertones. We had some great adventures, taking in some of the sights and sounds of Louisville and bonding as a quartet over drinks and meals filled with love and laughter. It was interesting to 'meet' Colonel Sanders and perform for some locals. Cheering for the All Blacks as they played in the finals of the Rugby World Cup was interesting, as we tried to do this while preserving our voices - easier said than done for some. We sang in a myriad of settings - our hotel room, the lobby of the hotel, in the corridors outside the rehearsal rooms and to Uber drivers. One of the more

spectacular places that we sang in was a vault called the Rathskeller - a gorgeous underground chamber with awe inspiring and intricate designs on the ceiling and walls. A particularly poignant high/lowlight was singing Misty to an appreciative woman in a shop at the hotel complex only to discover she died suddenly getting ready for work the next day. It made our contest placing pale to insignificance when compared to filling her heart on her last day on earth.

We were so grateful for the support from our friends in the Rivertones, accompanying family members, especially Warwick McWha who helped with our mental and contest

day preparation. Hearing the chant of Ki-wi, Ki-wi as we were standing backstage ready to perform and being received by a guard of honour by our friends after our performance, was so heartwarming. What an awesome bunch of people to share this experience with!

Our journey is a testament to the extraordinary power of dreams, teamwork and the unwavering support of friends and family. We were proud of our debut on the international contest stage as ambassadors of New Zealand, harmonizing the Kiwi spirit.

#### UNLIMITED





# A Heart Warming Experience

What a heart warming experience it was to sing to the Clevedon community at the Anglican Parish of Clevedon. Our hearts are very full. Thank you so much for the aroha and the kind comments at the end. Thanks to the Reverend Vicar and her team for organising this.

UNLIMITED



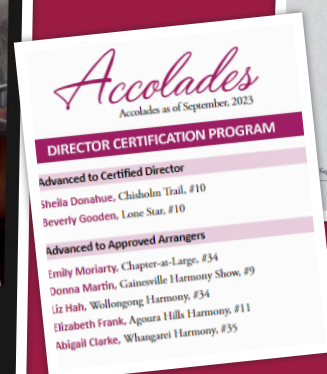
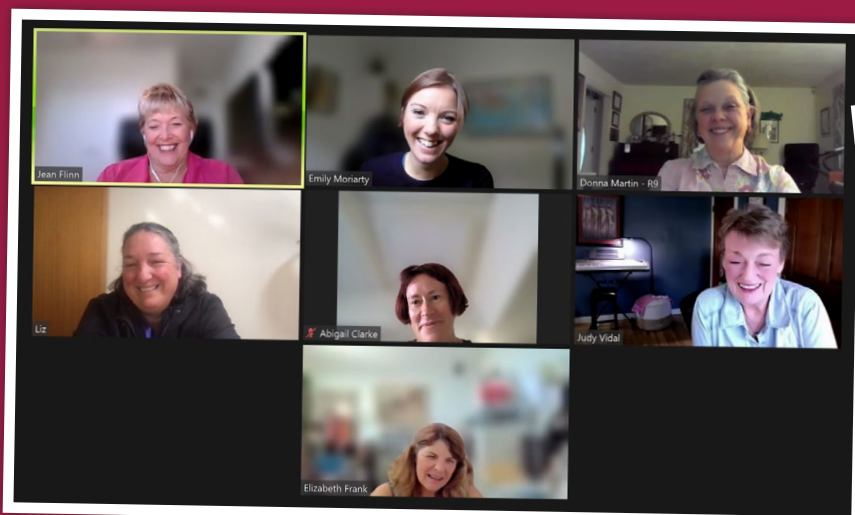
# Virtual Learning, Real Achievement

Still a proud member of Whangarei Harmony Chorus, Abigail Clarke hasn't set foot in New Zealand for over a year. But that hasn't stopped her from continuing her musical education. Thanks to online meetings, she, along with four other students from Australia

and the USA, has completed the SAI Arranger Certification Programme (ACP) Intermediate Level. While it's difficult being away from a home chorus, Abby is making the most of her time abroad by continuing to arrange from on board her boat. Yes,

she has a piano keyboard; no, it isn't full sized. She looks forward to sharing her progress with Region 35 in years to come.

**ABIGAIL CLARKE**  
**WHANGAREI HARMONY CHORUS**







# The Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step

**An old Chinese proverb says “the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” For the Waikato Rivertones the 8,170-mile journey to Louisville, Kentucky began way back in 2019 when we took steps to become the Region 35 Champions in Dunedin. A global pandemic slowed progress for a time but the chorus worked hard to maintain momentum and with another win in the official SAI video contest of 2022 we were back on track.**

What an honour to represent our country in any field, but especially in musical harmony. A wonderful opportunity but also a lot of hard work, emotional and financial commitment. We were so proud to be present as our talented director, Kate Sinclair, fulfilled her dream of singing on the

International stage with Unlimited quartet. Then it was our turn. 37 Rivertones including six fabulous OOTMs and 12 first-timers proudly flew the NZ flag at the 75th SAI convention and chorus competition on November 2nd. Small in number but strong in love for one another and our craft.

A well-thought-out calendar of coaching was an integral part of the preparation, ensuring we were layering new techniques at a pace that everyone could manage and retain. Special thanks to Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and Nicky McCaughan as well as Vicky Maybury, Timothy Wayne-Wright, Jen Howson and Josh Ellery.

The finance to cover coaching and other expenses came from our major sponsor NZ Sure, community grants, concerts, performances, cake stalls and two mega plant sales. In 2022 we struck up a mutually beneficial partnership with Hamilton's Sunrise

Rotary Club providing staff for a local catering company at various Waikato Stadium events including the World Rugby Sevens, Women's FIFA World Cup, Chiefs rugby and Warriors' rugby league games. We loved working together and getting to know each other better in the party atmosphere at these events whether it was in the heat of summer or the depths of winter.

*"all our first-timers to the international stage commented on how supported they felt as part of the rivertones team."*

Participating in a global event is a life-changing experience. Nothing beats being able to see and hear the Top 10 choruses and quartets live and sharing that excitement with friends you've made along the way.

How about you? Are you prepared to take the first step towards performing on the International stage? If you can dream it, you can do it. The experience is worth every cent.

**ADRIENNE WINDSOR  
WAIKATO RIVERTONES CHORUS**



Our 12 fabulous first-timers





Heather, Kristina, Fiona and Alexis



Kristina, Kirsten, Suzanne and Orna



Die Klangmamis (The Sound Mums)



Quartet Sudoku



Coaching with Jocosa



Unnamed Melody



All joining in



Double Bass JoKis



Tagging

# Stepping out of our Comfort Zones on Quartet Night

**Tuesday, 8th August was Quartet Night at GAC, and oh, what a Quartet Night! Five temporary quartets formed for the evening to sing a tag or a song. Some of those who performed are new to the chorus, and others tried singing a different voice part. We certainly stepped out of our comfort zones, but with an incredibly supportive audience (each other).**

Unnamed Melody quartet (Jangsook, Melody, Cathy and Hridayinee) sang our 2023 contest up-tune, *This Can't Be Love*.

Kristina, Kirsten, Suzanne (bass, usually bari), and newbie Orna performed *Irish Blessing*.

Die Klangmamis (The Sound Mums) quartet included Angi (tenor, usually lead), Nikola (lead, usually bass), Andrea (bass), Julianne (bari, usually lead) and entertained us so well with their Germany/FIFA Women's World Cup theme and sang the *Million Stars*

tag with new words: The German lyrics: "Dieser Tag war wunderschön. Viele Freunde hier zu sehen." The translation: "This day was wonderful. To see so many friends here."

The Double Bass JoKis quartet – newbies Kim (tenor) and Ria (bass), Jocosa and Natalie (bari, usually bass, with a little help from Suzanne), sang our beautiful 2023 contest ballad, *For All We Know*.

Heather (newbie tenor), Kristina (singing lead), Fiona and Alexis also sang *This Can't Be Love*.

It was a great chance for the newbies to experience quarteting with support and without judgment. Kim (newbie tenor) said,

*"this was so much fun and not half as scary as i felt it would be before we began singing. what an*

*awesome bunch of people to step out of a comfort zone with."*

Following the quartets, Jocosa demonstrated some coaching with the members of Unnamed Melody quartet. It was fascinating to hear how differently the sound became with members of the quartet standing in different places. It was very interesting for us all to watch and experience.

In addition to the great performances, there was also time for some crazy Quartet Sudoku, and some quartet tagging (which ended up with us all joining in, because who can help themselves, haha!), followed by a delicious supper.

We love Quartet Night at GAC!

**NATALIE ROFFEY  
GREATER AUCKLAND CHORUS**





# Igniting New Interest

**Taranaki Harmony Chorus wanted timeless, fresh, attractive sell of what we love to do.**

THC have just completed a series of five 'Have a Go' Roadshow Workshops and have had a stall at the Women's Lifestyle Expo. Our goal gaining members, igniting new interest, to advertise our love for singing and ask our region of Taranaki women - **'Do You Love to Sing?'**

None of us in our chorus have any formal marketing experience. This process took four months; we have learnt so much along the way and now have modern attractive marketing materials that we are using again and again. Our Management Team worked together to support our project goal, which was to find singers from within and around our region.

PR got together with Director to share a vision of colour theme and wording strategy. We created themes based on researching what's worked best over the past 10 years. We have created a modern product we could market. **We wanted timeless, fresh, attractive sell of what we love to do.**

We were looking at professional marketing strategies on a budget of

very little as we are a small chorus. Free advert space was used in local papers/journal/newsletters, we advertised on the local radio station within the free-for-communities spaces as well as multiple platforms on social media.

Fortunately our Region 35 RMT supported us with a marketing bonus of \$500 which went towards costs to book a site with 'The Women's Lifestyle Expo'. This event had an expected attendance of over 7,000 women and so was well worth our attending.

Our Director paid for a Pictochart membership and got busy creating our fantastic new look posters and t-shirt designs. PR researched businesses for marketing products, created slideshows for the expo and coordinated our working bees. All the posters and t-shirts were created for the Women's Lifestyle Expo but with future use in mind.

We're still working through welcoming our three waves of interested new singers. The initial wave of women are voice placed, now working through their audition song process. We have had a further uptake from the Women's Lifestyle Expo and lots of interest likely as our weather warms and the evenings lighten.

Our last workshop brought 11 new interested women and the following week more interest. We are so excited to see where this leads!

We have grown and learned along the way so modifications would be expected. Our chorus colour palate has completely changed and we have modernised our look. We are hoping the professional approach helps to attract singers to our group. All of our expenditure has been well used. The t-shirts and posters are with us for all the new marketing strategies we will use over summer markets and workshops.

Our new members are excited to be asked to wear our 'Love to sing' t-shirts at our next sing outs! This saves them having to race out for clothing and ensures their enthusiasm to be part of us - and this enthusiasm will be shared with potential new singers who may be watching!

**FY TAIT  
TARANAKI HARMONY CHORUS**





# Spooky Halloween Sing Outs with Greater Auckland Chorus

**GAC embraced Halloween this year by performing flash mob style at Commercial Bay, Auckland City on the 28th October and then at Mt Eden Village during our rehearsal, which neatly fell on Halloween itself. We sang a selection of spooky numbers, and of course, we seized the opportunity to dress up for both occasions!**

For those of us new to this style of performance it was interesting to hear how the sound we create together

changed in the different venues. Engaging with the passers-by who stopped to listen was pretty special. One gentleman did have quite a lot to say to us quite loudly – but the chorus sang on – ever the consummate professionals. And the trick-or-treating kids who stopped to listen thought our zombies were cool.

On the way home, we inadvertently flash quartetted How We Sang (because it is wrong not to end the night with that) in the corridor to the

car park, which had a fabulous echo. Of course, the sound travelled, and we ended in a flash mob again as the rest of the chorus found us; great times, and great practice for our upcoming Christmas sing-outs. Once you are part of the GAC, you never have to sing alone again!

**KIM WARD  
GREATER AUCKLAND CHORUS**

**raspbri**  
design

Graphic design specialists. Projects big or small, one-off or ongoing.

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# Celebrating Sound for 25 Years

**Foveaux Harmony Chorus recently celebrated their 25th Anniversary. It was a wonderful night and we were thrilled to spend it with founding members, new friends and everyone in-between.**

A very special acknowledgement goes to our Director - Sarah Rae - who received her 25 Year Pin at the event. While 25 Years of service to any organisation is highly commendable, in this instance Sarah's pin represents something particularly special.

The time and passion that she and many others have dedicated in order

to establish and develop Foveaux Harmony Chorus can't be materially measured. However the community, fellowship and spirit of Foveaux Harmony Chorus is undeniable and mighty. Felt in full force while in the beautiful company of last night's attendees. The contributions of Sarah and all whom have established, innovated and developed Foveaux results in a chorus with an indescribable essence - of beauty, belonging and unity.

Thank you Sarah, founding members, committee and management teams, supporters, and members spanning

the last 25 years. We are grateful to each of you for your own distinctive contributions to Foveaux Harmony Chorus.

**MATILDA PHILLIPS  
FOVEAUX HARMONY CHORUS**

*(Photos courtesy of Amy Jackson and Karen Owen)*





# Faultline's Vivacious Star – Celebrating 20 Years of Carolyn

**Earlier this year Faultline Chorus celebrated a big milestone – 20 years under the directorship of Carolyn Currington.**

## BACK TO THE BEGINNING

It was 1998 when fellow teacher Judy Wilton convinced Carolyn to join her at a Faultline Chorus rehearsal at Chilton Saint James School in Lower Hutt. Little did Carolyn know that not only had she begun a long and life changing association with a singing group, but she also met her future husband that night. Antony was a member of a quartet who were coincidentally performing for the chorus during that rehearsal. The stars had truly aligned on a Wednesday evening in the Hutt Valley.

Prue Blythe, the musical director at the time, commented after Carolyn joined that “she’ll be Faultline’s next director”. Prue recognised Carolyn had a magic combination of experience in choral singing, directing, music university papers – but most importantly she just loved music. Plus she had a lovely personality to boot.

## THE EARLY YEARS

Four years later Prue resigned from directing and following a ‘very tough audition process’, Carolyn got the job.

Showing her commitment right from the start, heavily pregnant Carolyn began her directing journey in 2003.

Faultline’s first contest under Carolyn’s leadership followed in 2004, and they’ve been on that national stage with Carolyn for every convention since then, bar three. That’s a pretty good attendance rate!

## GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Eager for education, in 2005 Carolyn and Jo Maxwell, (soon appointed to Assistant Director) embarked on a massive fundraising mission to attend an International Education Symposium in South Carolina where Carolyn took the Novice Director track and soaked in as many ideas as she could to gift back to her chorus.

With the drive and imagination of Carolyn the chorus ventured into the realm of a scripted musical production in 2007. ‘Desperate Divas’ showcased the huge range of talent within our membership, from writers to set design, costume, choreography... and comedic timing. It was a huge hit with our audiences and an encore was held in 2008.

## HIGHLIGHTS ON THE STAGE

In 2010 Carolyn led Faultline on their next thrilling challenge, competing

on an International stage in Seattle in the Harmony Classic (Small Chorus) Division. The chorus’ previous experience in creating their own musical came in handy as they created a very entertaining 10 minute package. The chorus came back inspired and invigorated, and with an international medal for their collection.

Zooming ahead five years, Faultline celebrated their 25th Anniversary in 2015. With Carolyn out the front leading the audience down memory lane, members both old and new put on a wonderful night of celebration and song for a full house at the Performing Arts Theatre at Sacred Heart College.

The following year on the competition stage in Wellington, the chorus earned their highest score ever – 643 points. This earned Carolyn the esteemed title of Master Director. When the panel chair announced “with a score of 6...” the chorus and audience erupted! Then there was the elation of not only reaching that elusive 600 point milestone for the first time (after being just five points away the year before), but SMASHING it!

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## SHE NEVER SLOWS DOWN – HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST FEW YEARS

In 2018 Faultline had their next opportunity to perform on the international stage, this time in St Louis. With a renewed sense of vigour and a new title under her belt, Carolyn started the chorus on the long journey to showcase two songs to an international audience. The thousands of hours of rehearsal, fundraising and organisation was worth it, the memory of that experience was life changing for chorus members.

Faultline was raring to get back on the national stage in 2020, but it wasn't meant to be. The world came to a standstill and even singing itself became the enemy for a while. Luckily Aotearoa had a brief window of safety from COVID, allowing Sweet Adelines' New Zealand to put on a special festival of singing in 2021. Carolyn and the chorus took full advantage of this incredible opportunity to take another scripted performance to the stage with their 'Highlights of Love' package taking audiences through a day at the salon.

## BRANCHING OUT TO SUPPORT OTHERS AROUND THE REGION

Over the last few years Carolyn has been sharing her skills beyond Faultline, to coach other groups around the country as a member of the regional faculty. She has directed the family chorus and STAR chorus at conventions and a year ago joined the Regional Management Team as the Directors' Coordinator. This means she advocates for our directors



around the country and is the person they go to for assistance or ideas.

## CAROLYN – FAULTLINE'S VIVACIOUS STAR

Through all this; competitions, performances, sing-outs, team meetings, show planning, music selection, retreats, coaching events, travelling overseas, getting through the COVID years and bringing Faultline into the future – Carolyn has been leading and inspiring. She shines in front of the chorus and members keep coming back because she makes them feel worthy and welcome.

She also has a special ability to empower the teams supporting her, that has made the last 20 years so rewarding for those who have been by her side.

Let's end this homage to a wonderful woman by sharing some of the

comments judges have made about Carolyn as a director:

*"what a great performer,  
vivacious, a good  
showman, lovely stage  
persona, a firecracker,  
great showy style,  
commanding onstage  
persona, charismatic."*

And the comment that encompasses Carolyn's time as a director, "what a ride you gave us!"

Faultline chorus is already looking forward to the next 20 years with Carolyn as their director to see where this ride will take them next!

**LEIGH WHITELAW & TEEJAY BANNISTER  
FAULTLINE CHORUS**







# Winter Art Deco in Napier

For three years the February Art Deco celebrations in Napier have not happened, due to Covid lockdowns and then Cyclone Gabrielle earlier this year. Our Chorus, the Sounds of Hawke's Bay, has entertained at this festival for decades, and it has been so disappointing having the event cancelled for 3 years running. It was therefore very exciting for us to be invited to participate in the Winter Art Deco celebrations held in July of this year.

We were asked to sing in the main street of the city in the morning of the 22nd, prior to the parade of vintage cars. We knew it was likely to be very cold, so we decided to wear our own warm Art Deco clothes, with fur stoles or coats. People said we looked amazing, and although it was freezing

cold our small chorus sang their hearts out, with a great reception from the growing crowd watching us.

Then in the evening we had another event to sing at. One of our members is associated with the Vintage Car Club, and their members are very involved with every Art Deco celebration. They always have a dinner to welcome out of town members who arrive with their vintage cars, ready for the parade. We have entertained at their dinner in previous years, but when they asked us to entertain them this year, we were a little nervous because our chorus was a lot smaller than previously. We informed the club of this and they insisted that they still wanted us to perform. So over the preceding weeks we worked hard on our selection of songs suiting the Art Deco era,

knowing we could sing them at both of our bookings. We wore our green costumes with the sparkly overlay for the evening event, and as usual, we looked very elegant. Again, we sang our hearts out, and the audience was very appreciative.

Our next event is a major membership drive. We're aiming to saturate the Bay with posters and notices on social media about our upcoming Open Night, to be held on the 12th of October. We hope to boost the number of members in our chorus, and maybe gain a new Musical Director as well. Maybe? Oh well, dreams are free!

**LESLEY STANDRING**  
**SOUNDS OF HAWKES BAY CHORUS**

## Young(er) at Heart



A membership drive usually has an aim: get more Baris, or find a few with good showmanship experience, or attract younger members.

As Nelson Bays Harmony has about 25% of its members with 20 years' or more association with Sweet Adelines, we felt this time the third of those aims was for us. So a workshop song was chosen to appeal to singers born within the last 30 years or so and the advertising went out.

Now we have six new members who have reduced the average age of the chorus, and our co-director, Alex Charlton, is no longer the youngest!

Now, matching youth with experience, Nelson Bays Harmony is going onward and upward (or should that be downward?)

**JANET ROWLAND**  
**NELSON BAYS HARMONY CHORUS**

## FINANCE REPORT

For the latest financial reports, please visit the SANZ website: <https://www.sweetadelines.co.nz/rmtdocuments>







# Celebrating the Life of Christine Pool: 1943–2023

**I have the pleasure of writing about Christine Pool who was one of the founding members of our chorus; Christine passed away early October surrounded by her precious family.**

We were able to celebrate her membership of over 20 years with us at Taranaki Harmony Chorus at her funeral and heard again how important Chorus life had been to her. Christine had dementia; her family spoke with great joy about her ability to still sing the chorus songs despite her declining capacity.

Christine loved to sing lead and travel was very much a part of Christine's singing career, from attending educational workshops, chorus retreats, to SANZ conventions. One highlight for her was singing and travelling with He Tangata to an international convention in Hawaii. There she got to sing and entertain in an evening showcase.

Christine is remembered by us for her smile- so warm and immediate; her

fashion colours (always on trend); her grace (glamorous and tall she was a regular winner of the swan award at Christmas); her generosity (She made ALL of our chorus music bags); her quality and quantity of baking (who can forget those slices!!); her matching lipstick and nails (we all took tips); her gorgeous outfits (how was this so easily done?); her great business sense (fundraise coordinator for many years); her skill with multiple crafts (just in awe); her humour (self-deprecating, always kind, fabulous laugh); her joy for little things (look at the dragonflies) and energy to multitask.

Christine would often rope family in to help with risers and general set up and pack down – to Allen and Kerry who we saw so often – thank you for your smiles and 'can do attitude'.

Spa time was laugh and sing time at Christines, she and Allen would open their beautiful home to chorus for celebrations, coaching parties, and Christmas gatherings. One minute in the spa then next armed with a pair of scissors cutting a plant that someone

had mentioned would look nice in their garden – ever generous, always giving and making all feel welcome and valued.

If you knew Christine, you'll be perhaps reflecting on an occasion or time where she touched your soul or made you laugh till your sides hurt - lost keys in the bra on an Air New Zealand flight comes to mind - she truly was a very special lady.

**FY TAIT  
TARANAKI HARMONY CHORUS**



# NZ CHAPTER CONTACTS

## BELLA A CAPPELLA CHORUS

Director: Patti Cooke  
TC: Gaye Dawn, g.dawn@slingshot.co.nz  
Meets: Thursdays 6.30pm  
Kerikeri Masonic Lodge, Masonic Lane  
2 Cobham Road, Kerikeri 0293  
Ph 09 405 8773 / 021 0233 8126  
bellaacappellanz.com

## CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHORUS

Director: Virginia Humphrey-Taylor  
TC: Andrea Ward  
rac.rah@xtra.co.nz  
Meets: Wednesdays 7pm  
Cashmere High Performing Arts Centre  
172 Barrington St, Christchurch  
Ph 027 281 0401  
ccchorus.co.nz

## DUNEDIN HARMONY CHORUS

Director: Robyn Abernethy  
TC: Glenda Mann  
gmandjt@xtra.co.nz  
Meets: Tuesdays 7.30pm  
Andersons Bay Bowling Club  
Bayfield Road, Dunedin  
Ph 03 489 5186  
dunedin.harmonysite.com

## FAULTLINE CHORUS

Director: Carolyn Currington  
TC: Jacqui Binnie  
faultlinechorus@gmail.com  
Meets: Wednesdays 7.30pm  
Salvation Army Crossroads  
Cnr High / Cuba Sts,  
Petone, Wellington  
Ph 021 552 583  
faultline.org.nz

## FOVEAUX HARMONY CHORUS

Director: Sarah Rae  
TC: Karen Owen  
kaviksmum@gmail.com  
Meets: Thursdays 7pm  
U.F.S Hall, 76 Tay St, Invercargill  
Ph 021 120 9090  
foveauxharmony.co.nz

## GREATER AUCKLAND CHORUS

Director: Jocosa Bruce  
TC: Jennifer Caldwell,  
jcaldwell@xtra.co.nz  
Meets: Tuesdays 7pm  
St Barnabas Anglican Church  
283 Mount Eden Road, Mt Eden, Auckland  
Ph 021 624 162  
greaterucklandchorus.com

## MANAWATŪ OVERTONES CHORUS

Co-Directors: Sylvia Fountain & Liz Watts  
TC: Stephanie Greaney  
skgreaney@outlook.com  
Meets: Tuesdays 7pm  
Palmerston North Community Leisure  
Centre, 569 Ferguson St, Palmerston North  
Ph 021 616 246  
facebook.com/ManawatuOvertones

## NELSON BAYS HARMONY CHORUS

Co-Directors: Eileen Smith & Alex Charlton  
TC: Trish Armstrong  
tiarmstrong@xtra.co.nz  
Meets: Thursdays 7pm  
Club Waimea, Lower Queen St  
Richmond. Ph 027 654 6923  
nelsonharmony.org.nz

## SOUNDS OF HAWKES BAY CHORUS

Director: Situation vacant  
Acting Director: Lesley Standring  
TC: Gillian Randell  
gillian\_randell@hotmail.com  
Meets: Thursdays 7.15pm  
Clive School, 57 School Rd, Clive  
Ph 021 0819 2149  
soundsofhawkesbaychorus.co.nz

## SOUTHCITY SOUNDZ CHORUS

Director: Cheryl Weijermars  
TC: Fleur de Farias  
defarias@xtra.co.nz  
Meets: Mondays 7pm  
Papatoetoe Cosmopolitan Club Inc.  
53 Rangitoto Rd, Papatoetoe  
Ph 027 228 6053  
facebook.com/SouthCity-Soundz

## TARANAKI HARMONY CHORUS

Director: Gill Holmes  
TC: Carol Chapman  
caroljchapman@hotmail.com  
Meets: Wednesdays 7pm  
The Mamaku Centre,  
6 Mamaku St, Inglewood 4330  
Ph 021 0267 2311  
taranakiharmony.co.nz

## WAIKATO RIVERTONES CHORUS

Director: Kate Sinclair  
TC: Julie Earl  
enquiries@waikatorivertones.com  
Meets: Mondays 7pm  
Marian School Hall, Clyde St, Hamilton  
Ph 027 500 5564  
waikatorivertones.com

## WELLINGTON CITY CHORUS

Co-Directors: David Brooks & Jo Hodgson  
TC: Carolyn Spackman  
spacks@xtra.co.nz  
Meets: Mondays 7pm  
Wellington Bridge Club,  
17 Tinakori Rd, Wellington  
Ph 027 283 7414  
wellingtoncitychorus.org

## WHANGAREI HARMONY CHORUS

Director: Christien Oberholster  
TC: Mary Hamilton  
duncan.mary@xtra.co.nz  
Meets: Mondays 6.30pm  
Brass Band Hall, Dyer St, Whangārei  
Ph 027 408 7917 / 09 437 7456  
whangareiharmony.org.nz

## 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.*





A cappella with attitude!