

**sweet  
adelines**  
new zealand

# the addaline

november 2019

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A photograph of four women standing on a stage, singing into microphones. They are all wearing matching blue, long-sleeved, V-neck dresses with black belts. The background is a blue curtain.

*Congratulations ROXY and Christchurch City Chorus!*

A large group photograph of a chorus. The women are arranged in several rows, many with their arms raised in celebration. They are wearing black long-sleeved tops with gold sequined or beaded accents. The background is a blue curtain.

*Doing New Zealand Proud in New Orleans*



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from New Orleans © Read Photography

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"Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of women singers, established in 1945, committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performances. This independent, non-profit music education association is one of the world's largest singing organizations for women."

## RMT



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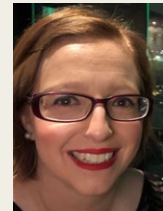
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# Message from Leigh

It was an absolutely fun filled, exciting, enthralling and exhausting contest week in New Orleans for the Kiwi contingent!

Monday, I attended the Regional Management Team training day where we had updates from International and group discussions on issues facing RMTs around the world. An informative and reassuring day from my perspective; we do so much in our Region that has set us on a great path for success. (I was also able to be part of the Volunteer Crew at convention this year so spent some time in the background assisting and learning over the 3 days of contest.)

Tuesday, was a busy day with rehearsals, workshops and the Harmony Classic contest – what an entertaining evening, so much talent on display. The bonus of Claire, Liz, Shelley, Donna and Chris from Wellington City on stage

presenting awards added to the event!. Wednesday we had the quartet semi-finals where ROXY quartet, Claire, Shelley, Liz and Jocosa, took the stage and impressed! They are really happy with the results of their debut performance on the international stage. Thursday was the chorus semi-finals and Christchurch City made the top 10, which meant more riser rehearsal for those ladies. Thursday evening Region 35 was in the spotlight again when Patti Cooke's accomplishment as winner of the 2019 Ann Gooch award was presented! Friday was the quartet finals and the Coronet Club and we ended the week Saturday with our highlight being Christchurch on stage again in the finals. What a fantastic, energetic package, it was just captivating! Christchurch achieved a fantastic 7th place in the contest and I know they put everything into that performance and were very rightly celebrating their success until late into the night. There



was also a large contingent of family and friends in New Orleans supporting Christchurch which was just a wonderful bonus for the chorus. The standard of the contests, both quartet and chorus was phenomenal! I'd like to congratulate ROXY, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and all members of Christchurch City Chorus, on behalf of us all, for their success in New Orleans, you made us very, very proud.

Keep on singing!

**LEIGH WHITELAW**

## SWEET ADELINES UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2020

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>May 7-10</b>   | <b>Region 35 New Zealand Convention - Fiesta Acappella,</b><br>Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington, NZ  |
| <b>July 21-26</b> | <b>International Education Symposium,</b> in conjunction with<br><b>Rising Star Quartet Contest</b> and <b>Regional Leader Training</b><br>Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas |
| <b>Oct 12-17</b>  | <b>75th Diamond Anniversary &amp; 74th Annual International<br/>Convention and Competition,</b> Louisville, Kentucky  |



### REGION 35 JUDGING PANEL:

Vickie Maybury - Panel Chair - Expression  
Mary Ashford - Music  
Becki Hine - Showmanship  
Bobbette Gantz - Sound  
Kate Veeder - Panel Secretary



## Calling Potential Stall Holders for Harmony Arcade

*If your chorus would like to have a stall at Harmony Arcade next year, can you please email [janet.sleith@gmail.com](mailto:janet.sleith@gmail.com) as early as possible. As we will only be using the downstairs area of Michael Fowler Centre for stall-holders, space is limited.*

*I would also like to be able to offer any unallocated space to external stallholders - can you please advise no later than 31 December 2019 if you are requiring a stall.*

Thanks, Janet Sleith

## Ann Gooch Recipient 2019 – Patti Cooke

If you ask any member why she is a Sweet Adeline, she will invariably say: "I joined because I love to sing, and I stayed because of the friends I made."

I would agree, and add one more reason: the amazing role models that abound in this organisation.

Two women had a huge impact on the founding of Region 35 in the 1980's. One was, of course, Ann Gooch.

Her arrival on our shores was legendary: she landed at Auckland Airport, asked for a flight to Wairoa, and was told, "You can't get there from here." After a nine hour bus ride, complete with chickens for travel companions, she found an enthusiastic chorus with absolutely no knowledge of barbershop! Her expertise and patience led that chorus to chartering. Members of the Wairoa chorus founded five other choruses, and a Region was born.

The other powerhouse was Shirley Kout, who first visited us in 1985. That visit turned out to be one of many, as she returned to coach and educate us for years. She even made Pythagorean tuning make sense!

For some reason I have been credited with bringing Sweet Adelines to New Zealand, but the truth is, in the 1980's, I needed a place to sing, I needed confidence, and I needed friends!

Thanks to Ann, Shirley, the educators who followed them, the women of Region 35 who have embraced this joyful hobby, and my wonderful little chorus in the Bay of Islands, I now have all three.

I am proud beyond words to receive this award. Thank you.







*Sounds of the Shore*

It all started last spring when two old friends and former work colleagues, Raenette Taljaard and Sarah Litchfield, caught up for a coffee and the seed of an idea was born. As former barbershoppers, both were missing their singing but had not found the right fit at any of the local women's choirs. Wanting the kind of fun and camaraderie they had become accustomed to as part of Sweet Adelines, they were not quite ready to sing a more classical or formal genre. And then it dawned on them...they could start a Sweet Adelines chorus on Auckland's North Shore. Within a couple of weeks, they had registered with SAI as a prospective chorus.

Selecting a name was the first challenge! After hours of deliberation, based on suggestions from SAI that the name needed to depict our craft and represent the area the chorus is situated in, a list of

three was submitted. The first three choices were turned down, and the alternative 'Sounds of the Harbour' was suggested. Well... the team thought that that name may give the impression of something other than ringing, four-part harmony! Eventually, the pair came up with 'Sounds of the Shore', as Auckland's North Shore is often simply referred to as The Shore. The name was accepted, and they were ready for serious barbershoppin'.

Then followed several months of meetings and preparation over the summer, and by the end of January, the team had a clear vision, a logo, a website, a venue, a name, even a membership handbook, and a few pieces of music to start with, but not a single chorus member. They made contact with one or two like-minded singing sisters, and very soon the message was spread by word of mouth and social media. At

the first rehearsal, nine interested ladies turned up. Under the direction of a very novice but enthusiastic Raenette, and the calm and controlled leadership of Sarah, on 27 January 2019, a chorus was born. News of the new prospective chorus soon trickled out and the support from the Sweet Adelines community both in NZ and Internationally was astounding.

The autumn months were tricky, while experienced barbershoppers grappled with the choice to stay or leave during the growth and recruitment stage, and singers new to barbershop came to terms with the genre. Without an experienced director, members took the rehearsals in hand and everyone pitched in. A successful SOTS Open Night brought in six or seven new members, and membership climbed to about 15. There was one heart-stopping rainy night when only 3 people arrived at rehearsal - and a lonesome baritone, tenor and lead used that evening as a time to evaluate, reflect and ponder the way forward over a glass or two of wine at the local bar.

The next step was to secure an experienced director. Before long one of the members with ties to the



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men's barbershop chorus, City of Sails, suggested Richard Harker. Richard was contacted and a meeting arranged to see whether his vision matched that of the fledgling chorus. It did, the question was popped, and the answer was a resounding 'Yes!' Like Raenette and Sarah, Richard saw the new chorus as an outlet for women to sing together in a safe, nurturing and fun environment, while honing their vocal skills, and creating a fresh, vibrant and motivated chorus

climate. He was keen to try his hand at women's barbershop, and already had a few contacts within the Sweet Adelines fraternity. A match made in heaven!

All through the winter, the chorus

continued expanding - sometimes at a rapid pace and sometimes hitting the doldrums. Newbies would come once or twice before losing interest, but the majority stayed and by the time spring rolled around again, chorus membership was hovering around 25.

Today Sounds of the Shore is a cohesive, motivated and laughter-filled chorus. Blessed with exceptionally talented singers, and under the expert direction of the

award-winning Richard, the vocal product is already very pleasing. Member's ages vary from the young to the young-at-heart, and the experience levels differ vastly. The one common denominator is the love of singing a cappella harmonies. Most importantly, this little prospective chorus has become a tight-knit community of friends.

Rehearsals take place on Thursdays at 7.00pm to 9.30pm at the Northcote War Memorial Hall. There is always a hot drink and a nibble for the end of the evening, while members get to know each other more informally, share a natter about their week, and talk about team matters. It has been rumoured that the little bar across the road may be frequented now and then to celebrate an exceptionally good rehearsal while living Life On a High Note!

**BY RAENETTE TALJAARD AND SARAH LITCHFIELD**

# Rasmus Krigström - the Fabulous Bubbling Sensation!

Christchurch City Chorus had the privilege of being coached by Rasmus Krigström for a full rehearsal weekend before we headed to New Orleans, and, to be frank, we were all a little star-struck. He is young and sensational!

International quartet champion Rasmus brings with him huge talent, masterful understanding of rhythm, technique and control. He taught us to bubble with intent, building our understanding that our air and our sound are not the same thing. He painted us a picture of a fantastic relaxing beach holiday,

where we were given a winning scratchy (which he discovered to his immense delight that in a kiwi accent it is pronounced 'scretchie'). It was in the response to finding we had 'won' that we identified and connected with the physical space in our bodies we need to use when we sing.

Throughout a full week of coaching with Rasmus, we worked on finding the back beat, our Swedish vowels, really sharpening our rhythmic toolbox and connecting with the stories we are telling, particularly in the ballads, so that every phrase is extraordinary.

We learned that the air, the sound and the story are never still or passive (and neither is Rasmus).

In one particularly powerful exercise the whole chorus walked around the room silently communicating with one another - when

we eventually reformed on the risers there was a far greater sense of connection across the chorus evident in the way we listened more intently to each other and in the unity of our sound.

On our final Saturday rehearsal, the chorus sang Hine e Hine/Pokarekare Ana over FaceTime to close friends of Rasmus' who were getting married that day. Rasmus expressed that he thought vowels in Te Reo Māori were better for singing than the Swedish vowels.

A huge thanks to Rasmus for sharing his skills, passion and sense of fun with us. We were blessed to have Rasmus in New Orleans as we made our final preparations for the contest. Rasmus has helped us lift our game and feel even more prepared and confident to face the fabulous challenge ahead.

**BY ELLIE SUTTON  
CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHORUS**



# Beyond New Zealand Shores

We can feel very isolated from the international organisation way down here in the South Pacific, but having had more contact over the past 12 months with international personnel and events than in my previous 23 years membership, I can tell you – they know we're here!

In St Louis last year I had the thrill of competing on the international stage for the first time. Faultline had been gifted the experience by Wellington City Chorus' decision to take part in the Harmony Classic contest. This provided a space for us as second place getters to take their spot in the field of 34 choruses. Region 35 was represented not only by Faultline and Wellington City but also Bella A Cappella who were in the Harmony Classic division and Fire and Ice quartet in the quartet contest. That's a huge representation at that level from our Region which compared to some is smaller in numbers. So those in the arena and those sitting in the pit with their pencils poised were well and truly aware that New Zealand was 'in the house'!

Then in July this year, while on vacation in the United Kingdom, I decided to attend the International Education Symposium (IES) in Manchester, only to find seven other like-minded Kiwis were also attending! We were easily spotted due to our beautiful accent (ahem) and in several classes I observed, the Kiwis were contributing to the discussions with thoughtful and educated opinions. So many folk that we met over that long weekend expressed a desire to come see our beautiful country and we made sure they knew there were choruses around the country for them to visit. Having their fill of the most amazing education were Suzanne, Jane, Sherril, Carol, Denise, Sylvia and Stephanie.

In early August, thirteen others took part in the Directors and Visual Leaders workshop in San Antonio. Virg, Sarah, Nicky, Kate, Cecelia, Gill, Fy, Meeka, Linda, Sylvia, Jocosa, Cheryl and our Region 35 2019



Education Scholarship recipient, Kathy Jamieson, enjoyed some outstanding education from this even and it was fantastic representation from the Region.

Then later in the month your Regional Management Team had the immense pleasure of having Thérèse Antonini, Secretary on the International Board of Directors and Chair of the Regional Leadership Committee, attend our meeting. International had offered all Regions the opportunity to have assistance as they changed governance models this year and we gladly accepted. We decided to utilise Thérèse's skill set and work on the Regions Strategic Plan. We had a full weekend with this amazing woman and learned both as individuals and a team some tips to long range planning. Often the mere mention of strategic planning makes some people say 'oh great' dripping with sarcasm, but we learned with Thérèse that planning can be quite painless and is indeed vital to ensure that a team is working toward the same goals, especially as we represent the needs of a Region not just one chorus. We are truly grateful to International for giving us this opportunity and they'll be surprised to learn we had a really

fun weekend at the same time! (The Strategic Plan document is now being updated and will be made available in the coming weeks.)

Then I had my next international experience and attended the contest held in New Orleans in September. Did you catch the exciting television appearance by Shaanil and Nishaa from ZEAL quartet on the James Corden show in the week prior to convention? What a way to add to your preparedness for contest than to sing live for hundreds of thousands of viewers?!

In New Orleans to support Christchurch City Chorus and ROXY quartet, I attended the RMT training day and also worked as a volunteer for the convention (along with Chris from Wellington City) spending time in the traffic pattern and generally helping where assigned. In talking to other RMT members from around the world during classes and while assisting at convention, I was able to confirm that we run our conventions very well! Our only disadvantage is that the rest of the world has plenty of nice, very large venues to choose from.

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ROXY quartet had a blast on stage and loved having their debut international performance in such an amazing city; Jocosa then went on to co-host the webcast for the second session of the chorus competition the next day – talk about busy! Region 35 may have only had one chorus at this convention but Christchurch had 132 singers on stage so we knew once again that the Kiwis were about! That evening I was able to get that afore mentioned Kiwi accent front and centre at the arena when I accepted the Ann Gooch Award for our multi-talented, inspirational Patti Cooke! Christchurch were on stage

again in the finals and what a day that was sitting in the audience, fighting the urge to bite fingernails, as we sat through stunning performances one after the other! The achievement of Christchurch to come in 7th in the world is a testament to their remarkable dedication to their craft.

With the panel of illustrious judges we had at our own convention this year, the many overseas coaches who came to choruses before and after contest, and more recently in October the truly talented Vickie Maybury and Leslie Galbreath visiting our shores, Region 35 New Zealand has been

well and truly seen and heard on the international 'stage' in one form or another in the past 12 months and I couldn't be more proud than to be a part of it!

If you can take the opportunity to attend IES in San Antonio in 2020 I highly recommend it, you'll learn so much and have the most amazing experience.

Keep the music ringing!

**BY LEIGH WHITELAW**

# Chorus Director Celebrates 20 Year Milestone

Joanne Oliver, from Te Aro, celebrated 20 years as the Director of Capital Harmony Chorus and was surprised at a recent rehearsal with a cake and trophy to mark the occasion.

Co-director Mary Sagato said Joanne, who had been directing a men's barbershop chorus, stepped up to take a small group of women who had been rehearsing in Petone.

"Joanne encouraged us to move to the Churton Park area, rename the group and learn new music. With our enthusiasm and Joanne's support, we've gone from strength to strength," Mary said.

Capital Harmony Chorus is now part of worldwide Sweet Adelines and shares their love of a cappella singing at community events and concerts.

Membership has changed over the years, with people coming and going yet has remained at about 24 women. Amazingly, several of the 1999 members still sing and were able to celebrate with Joanne, including Norma Wiley, who will shortly celebrate her 80th birthday.



*Founding members of Capital Harmony Chorus celebrate with Joanne (from left) Jean Redman, Norma Wiley, Joanne Oliver (with cake) and Mary Sagato.*

Joanne says she was delighted to be recognised. "I've loved directing the chorus, seeing us grow and develop and share the personal highs and lows with this great group of women. I hope we can continue for many years to come."

Capital Harmony Chorus now rehearses at the Wilton Bowling Club on Monday nights from 7:30pm.

New members, or those who just want to check it out, are most welcome. Facebook page @ Capital Harmony Chorus or website: [www.capitalharmony.org.nz](http://www.capitalharmony.org.nz)

**BY MARGARET MCLACHLAN**



# Sexual Politics: What Were You Doing in the 1980s?



Women's Barbershop (WBBS) in New Zealand (NZ) started in the 1980s. From small lounge room gatherings of like-minded women (1981), to three fledgling choruses attending the first NZ convention in Auckland (1984), to the first SAI chartered chorus (1985), WBBS growth has been steady, its cultural evolution continues. Thanks to the strong altruistic leadership and the changing political and generational influences of this decade and those since, we all have something to belong to, and evolve with.

Only 30 years earlier, a married couple was legally controlled by the husband; a wife's money and property belonged to him, she had no equal claim. Women were excluded from many occupations and it was considered normal to leave paid work when they got married so parents thought it was a waste of time to educate their daughters. Girls were encouraged to study domestic sciences in school and women dominated professions such as nursing and primary teaching. There were very few women MPs, but that started to change.

The 1980s saw increasing social awareness amongst women the average number of children had dropped from four to fewer than two in just two decades. The working woman was making independent choices about what to do in her free time.

Think back to the 1980s (for those who can): Dave Dobbyn; Ray Bans; acid jeans; GST; leg warmers; shoulder pads; Sweetwater festival; Muldoon; big hair; underarm bowling; nuclear protests; McPhail and Gadsby; Union Street marches; David Lange; toll-free Auckland Bridge; Springbok Tour; Rainbow Warrior; The Herbs; MMP; Footrot Flats; Helen Clark; Sunday Trading; Decriminalisation of Homosexuality; Sailing Away and kitten heels. Where were you? What were you doing?

I asked Patti Cooke (2019 Ann Gooch Award Recipient) what influences she saw around the time she and others were working to formalise an organisation and bring structure to women's BBS in NZ.

"I believe this was largely due to the 'sexual politics' of the time." She said,

*"women were looking  
more and more for  
their own thing and  
specifically wanted it  
to be just for them,  
no kids, no men".*

Women were hungry to get to know other women in other situations besides Plunkett and school, and

not all women were adept at sports, so this was a new kind of teamwork, where they could be musical and administrative leaders. They were getting out of the house and into the work force so had their own money!" For Patti and others this was a big thing – she goes on to say, "It was quite heady for those of us who had to have our dads (not our moms) co-sign so we could open a bank account!"

In 1985 women were still paid 22% less per hour than men. In 1980 the New Zealand Federation of Labour adopted the Working Women's Charter, like a 'bill of rights' for working women. By the mid-1980s the government's Employment and Vocational Guidance Service was actively promoting the catch-cry, 'Girls can do anything'.

Interestingly labelled 'Girls' – which some nowadays may find patronising, nevertheless 'Girls' (women) could do anything - they did; they brought WBBS to New Zealand.

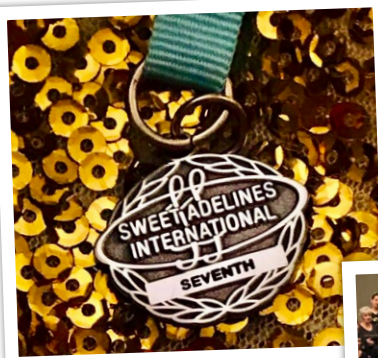
BY FY TAIT

# Christchurch City Chorus Journey to New Orleans

The **journey** to New Orleans was made up of so many parts that it's hard to believe all is done and we're actually on the **Sweet Adelines International** stage! There is nothing quite like the moment when the pitch sounds and we know it's all about to happen! **Music-Magic** that's what happens! **Singing and performing** with your 132 chorus sisters. It sure felt **magical**! And the 7th place **medal** is our new magic charm!



Christchurch City Chorus is so full of **pride** for these 37 first timers!



And then rehearsals began in grand-sounding places like Marriott Galerie 2, Napoleon Ballroom 3 and Carondelet! These focused rehearsals were invaluable! We were honed and polished by **coaches** Lea Beverley, Darlene Rogers, Rasmus Krigström and Jan Alexandersson. **Brilliant people**!



This is the **9th time** Christchurch City Chorus has competed in the Sweet Adelines International Competition.

The **journey** to New Orleans was made possible by many hours of rehearsing at chorus, chorus weekends as well as personal practice at home.

The jazz-filled city of New Orleans hosted the 2019 Sweet Adelines International Competition, providing unique cuisine, street-life, music, **heat** and the opportunity to **perform** at the Smoothie King Arena for thousands of people!

Grabbing some sight-seeing days before rehearsals began meant embarking on exploration of **historical** New Orleans! The **steamboat** ride, travelling around the **French Quarter**, engaging in a **walking food tour** and hopping on and off buses to discover famous buildings and places. We saw **museums**, arty food districts and oh the **beignets**!



What a **heart-warming** surprise to have New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell walk into our rehearsal! She spoke warmly of how our two cities shared strength, bound together in recovery and how **'Music gets you**

**through – and over and under.'** There was a real connection with her as her warmth and words reached us.

Chorus welcomed the visits from our **Region 35 Team Coordinator** Leigh Whitelaw; and fabulous **Roxy** who sang for us! And how special was our harmony-filled evening with *A Cappella West* Australia.

A **salute** to our valued **OOTER** members who travel from afar to take part in practices, performances and rehearsals. You are truly **valued** as a part of **Christchurch City Chorus**.

The journey was accompanied by our Master Director 700, Virginia Humphrey-Taylor; the invaluable **chorus teams** that help enable the journey and our wonderful **people** who follow, support, encourage and care for their singer-in-the-family, on their **making-harmony journey**. Virginia said the event was 'The pinnacle of three solid years of learning and performing and **we were thrilled** to compete for New Zealand on the international stage'.

For me, there are some **little school people** who boost and back their teacher as she heads off to faraway places to sing for New Zealand. Isn't Pānia's card delightful! And yes **we did do it!**

Christchurch City Chorus is now looking to moving **forward** on our journey to making **more music-magic!**



BY SANDY GUNN



A photograph of four women standing on a stage, all wearing matching blue dresses with black belts. They are singing into microphones, with their mouths open and expressions of joy. The background is a simple blue curtain.

# ROXY's Road to International

Our journey began with a fateful phone call in December 2018 when Claire spoke to Jocosa as Competition Coordinator for Region 35's convention to gauge interest in singing with the rest of us as the 2019 mic testing quartet. We had a couple of rehearsals to ensure we were A: OK, B: Tested the mics well for the competitors of Region 35! We learnt ROXY's uptune from 2018 with a switch from our Shelley as a tribute to her gorgeous mum who sang bass.

Our first hit was "interesting" with a lot of shopping around for the right space... that's 4 people shopping at the same time. It was a recipe for instability. After this initial shock of us 'not being awesome', we decided to keep the 3 original ROXY members "still" and let that Lead from up North fit in. Turns out, it was back to a similar place for all 4 singers. We then wanted an external opinion – in the words of Corinna Garriock: "Oh, you failed... failed at finding a mic testing quartet! You have to compete!" This was a conversation we hadn't had and had to have very quickly due to there only being just under 5 months until contest.

A lot of online chat, a Q&A Excel document for goals, wants, needs, and we were on our way! Our main goal was for this to be straightforward and for everyone to realise family is first. Next goal... try and stay in the

top 5. Fast forward to the regional contest and while you all know the outcome, it was still an amazing results call off - for the whole region. The call-off... 600 = 4th (wow, a strong region!) 611 = 3rd (Oh my goodness, how awesome for Region 35!) 618 = 2nd (Holy strong Region 35!) The wait for 1st place. We were near the end of the contest... we were wondering who could have taken this thing out...getting jabs from people in full disbelief knowing every little thing we had not done quite right on stage... 633 = ROXY!?!?! An extremely surreal, unexpected thrill!

The journey to International conversation that night... "Yes, we'll go!". Liz and Claire embarking on their 7th International experience together, Jocosa going on her 3rd and Shelley taking her 2nd trip. The work that is required between Regional and International is quite substantial. We knew this, but decided to simply make the most of the time we would be together as well as trying to fundraise... love our families... work... you know, "life".

Here's a few highlights from our New Orleans experience. The first night was punctuated with one of us falling out of bed, resulting in muffled laughter for the next 30min from that bed as they tried, unsuccessfully, to not wake the others. Oh, the joys of all four of us rooming together in

two double beds to save money! We woke early our first morning (no surprise there), so set off in search of a traditional café for breakfast. Café Beignet did not disappoint and we agreed we really should try some beignets, which is what New Orleans is known for. Unfortunately these delicious French doughnuts covered in icing sugar really didn't sit too well for us given our Keto way of eating... but how can you not try them, right!?

We were fortunate to get some coaching from Judy Pozsgay who encouraged us to relax, emote in our faces rather than expressing quite so much through our arms (a trait we have ingrained in us given 3/4 of us are leads!). We also had a session with Tim Marron who worked with us on making the most of each phrase and opportunities for expression. Working on the harmonics within our sounds and striving for that effortless singing goal. Sandy happened to pop by part way through the session and did her thing, which if you know her well, involved a new tag for our ballad - 2 days out from performing it. We knew there had been issues with it but thought it was too late to figure it out. The new tag was simpler, and gave us more confidence in taking that song onstage. Lesson learnt here was that we should have trusted our instincts - if something isn't working, fix it.

(CONTINUED OVER PAGE)





Even though all of us had been to international contest before, one thing we didn't expect, and were thrown by, was how empty the venue was when we were on stage. In the middle of our set, between both songs, it was almost quiet... not the good quiet of awe... but flat. Some of our minds were "Oh, was it terrible? Bummer, because we have another song to do". While we were happy with our on-stage time being early evening which gave us plenty of time to prepare (we managed to squeeze in laundry duties, a swim, plus singing of course), it seems that was when a lot of audience members decided to go have dinner. It certainly made a difference not having our choruses with us. Thank you to those of you who made it to the venue, bearing the flag and cheering for us. It meant the world.

We'd set goals for International; didn't quite meet those and are now in assessment mode whilst we think about our next steps. We know that our International performance was stronger than our Regional performance, and it is clear on those International scoresheets what we have to do next.

Now that the most important task was over, we wanted to do at least one touristy thing while we were there. The Swamp Tour was it, and it did not disappoint! We took a bus ride out of the city and into the swamp lands. We saw many alligators, and also some raccoons and wild pigs (Kevin Bacon, Crispy & Peppa - how will we ever forget those names!). It was really neat to get out and about. We also ventured out of our comfort zones and tried alligator nuggets! Once you get past the fact you're eating alligator, they're actually quite delicious. Sort of like chicken but not quite as moist.

Our Jocosa did us proud on the Thursday of convention co-anchoring the second half of the chorus semi finals on the webcast. We all think she did such a wonderful job and it was awesome to have representation from NZ. She had an absolute blast seeing the competition world from that angle... sooooo close and the sound was definitely more "real".

Another highlight of our trip was Claire, Liz and Shelley, as members of Wellington City Chorus and outgoing Harmony Classic AA

Champions, taking part in the awards presentations for Harmony Classic, along with Chris Constable and Donna Scandlyn. They had great fun in getting dressed up and making the most of the giving out of the medals and certificates... \*cue\* "and YOU get a medal, and YOU get a medal..." It was really fun and made for a tender reflective moment on their past international win.

We'd love to thank our Region and choruses for the incredible support for our fundraisers. We've felt humbled by the love and encouragement from you all. It was quite overwhelming and we thank you all so much for helping to make this journey special to us. We would also like to send special love and thanks to Kate Veeder and Leigh Whitelaw - you made us feel very special while in NOLA and your kindness did not go unnoticed. We are so lucky to have such wonderful people representing us as a Region at International.

**BY LIZ, JOCOSA, CLAIRE AND SHELLEY**







# Mayors Supporting Christchurch City Chorus!

The Christchurch City Chorus was blown away by a surprise visit to their riser rehearsal in New Orleans by none other than the Mayor of New Orleans! Mayor LaToya Cantrell popped in to visit the Chorus, to welcome us all to her City and to share her thanks with us for sharing our love of barbershop with her city. As the first female Mayor of NOLA her message of support and appreciation was truly an inspiration for the Chorus as we were prepping to take the stage for our semi-finals package. The Mayor noted that song and the power of the voice is what can get our communities through when times are tough - something that both the people of NOLA and Christchurch can attest too. We didn't travel empty handed, and exchanged a personal message and gift from our own, Christchurch's Mayor - and

Chorus Patron - Lianne Dalziel, with Mayor Cantrell. We also received a beautiful Certificate of Recognition from Mayor Cantrell to acknowledge our visit which was such a privilege! Of course we responded with a song - Pokarekare Ana/E Hine - which brought her to tears due to the expressive singing of the chorus.

Upon returning home to Christchurch, the Chorus hosted our newly Mayor-Elect Lianne Dalziel who popped into rehearsal to share her congratulations and thanks with us for representing Christchurch and New Zealand.

We were very lucky to have Lianne pop by, as the local government elections were only 4 days prior! Lianne is an avid Parton and supporter of Christchurch City



Chorus. She has even been involved in previous chorus shows and is keen to join the chorus in the future (when she retires she tells us!).

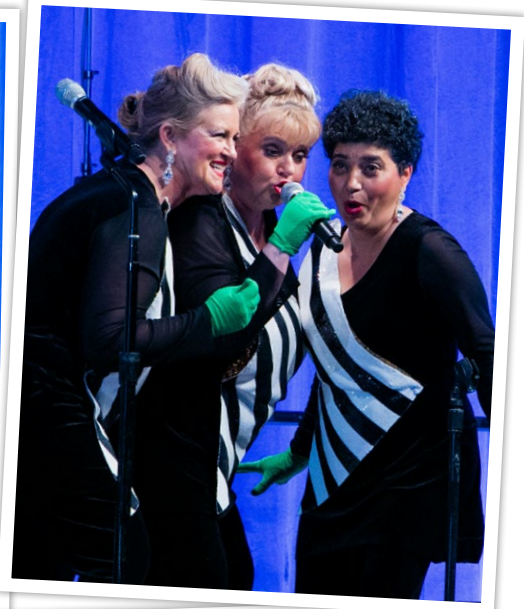
It's been a fabulous experience to have two strong and powerful female leaders support us and provide words of encouragement for us to continue to bring harmony and music to our communities.

Thanks to Christchurch City Council and Clare Piper for making this visit possible.



"music gets you through, and over and under."











# Firing on all Four Cylinders For Fame!

Saturday 14th September was the first of three One Day Challenge Regional Workshops scheduled for 2019. Two regional faculty members, Melody Lowe and Suzanne Berresford, travelled to Whangarei to take education out to the region.

The one-day journey to Fame was fast-paced; the participants were fuelled up, fired up and ready to resonate their engines from the first green light. Several Bella A Cappella members took the song to heart and turned up in lycra, headbands and leg warmers. What a fun time warp!!



The next sessions were a mix of sectionals, duetting, and 4-part harmony in order to layer on the different components of the barbershop technique, and it was rewarding to

to experience performing to an audience. The day culminated in coming back together as one chorus for a final polished performance, which demonstrated just how beneficial small group exposure was in putting performers on their mettle. The enhanced commitment, energy and sense of accomplishment in that final performance was palpable.

**BY SUZANNE & MELODY**  
(On behalf of the regional faculty).

Starting with a 'Great Balls of Fire' warm-up to start our engines, we then incorporated recent learnings from the International Education Symposium in the UK, which Suzanne had attended in July, and the Directors and Visual Leaders Seminar attended by Jocosa Bruce. Jocosa had returned home raving about the guest faculty, Jennie Morton ([healthyperformers.com](http://healthyperformers.com)), not only a voice teacher and dancer, but also an osteopath who actually treats performers. So we got down and took off our socks for some healthy foot massage to get the body connectivity going. We saw the workshop as a perfect opportunity to disseminate this information to the region.

see how quickly everyone took on board the guidance and feedback.

After finalising the road map of dynamics, body involvement, rhythm and the somewhat egotistical message of the song, the group were split into two halves (literally at first and then alphabetically a second time round)





*I will be your sister.*



### What is Barbershop?

Barbershop is the heart and soul of Sweet Adelines. Often referred to as the "extreme sport" of the music world, barbershop is a classic genre where singers perform four-part vocal harmonies, all a cappella. What makes barbershop unique is the overtone it produces. While it is challenging, the achievement of its unique sound is amazingly rewarding.

### True Sisterhood

While all our members are drawn together by the love of singing, the experience at Sweet Adelines is much deeper. Our members find musical and personal growth, community and the opportunity to perform. They also find friendships that last a lifetime.



*I will be your harmony.*

Find more than your voice.  
Find a sisterhood that lasts a lifetime.

### Find A Chorus

Join Sweet Adelines International and discover how the music, harmony, community and friendship add a new dimension to your life.

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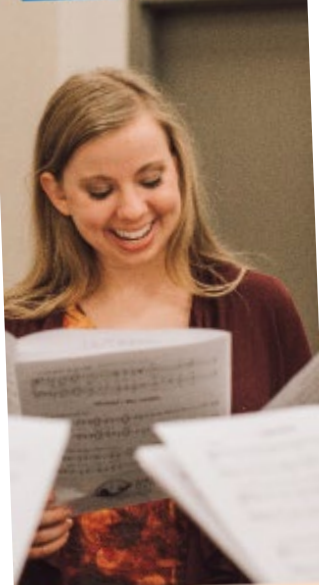


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# NZ CHAPTER CONTACTS

## BELLA A CAPPELLA CHORUS

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Kerikeri. Ph 09 405 8773 / 021 0233 8126  
www.bellaacappellanz.com

## CAPITAL HARMONY CHORUS

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www.capitalharmony.org.nz

## CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHORUS

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## DUNEDIN HARMONY CHORUS

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www.dunedinharmony.webs.com

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## MANAWATU OVERTONES CHORUS

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Palmerston North  
Ph 021 100 5702  
www.facebook.com/ManawatuOvertones

## NELSON BAYS HARMONY CHORUS

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www.nelsonharmony.org.nz

## SOUNDS OF HAWKES BAY CHORUS

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www.soundsofhawkesbaychorus.co.nz

## SOUNDS OF THE SHORE CHORUS (Prospective)

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Meets: Thursdays 7pm  
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www.soundsoftheshore.weebly.com

## SOUTHCITY SOUNDZ CHORUS

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www.facebook.com/SouthCity-Soundz

## TARANAKI HARMONY CHORUS

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## WAIKATO RIVERTONES CHORUS

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## WELLINGTON CITY 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.

In existence since 1945, Sweet Adelines International is the world's largest women's singing organization with nearly 21,000 members and counting. Our mission? Elevating women singers worldwide through education, performance, and competition in barbershop harmony and a cappella music. And with members across five continents, spanning nine to 90 years old, our singers transcend borders and generations as they come together to harmonize the world.



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