

## **Minutes of the Regional Annual Members Meeting**

### **Dunedin Centre, Dunedin**

### **Thursday 20 April 2017**

Present: Regional Management Team members – Patricia Veen (Team Coordinator), Katrina Te Punga (Communications) Julie Scoggins (Membership), Stella Nicholson (Finance), Jo Maxwell (Marketing), Hilary Clifton (Events), Jocosa Bruce (Education) and Cindia Chiu (Directors' Coordinator) and list of SANZ members as per list provided.

Minute-taker: Katrina Te Punga

#### **Welcome**

The meeting opened at 5.30pm, with a welcome to members from Patricia Veen, the Team Coordinator.

Patricia Veen (Team Coordinator) asked the current Regional Management Team members to introduce themselves: Julie Scoggins (Membership Coordinator), Stella Nicholson (Finance Coordinator), Jo Maxwell (Marketing Coordinator), Hilary Clifton (Events Coordinator), Jocosa Bruce (Education Coordinator) and Cindia Chiu (Directors' Coordinator) and Katrina Te Punga (Communications Coordinator)

#### **Roll Call**

Choruses listed were represented (list of chorus attendees attached)

Bella a Cappella  
Capital Harmony  
Dunedin Harmony  
Faultline Chorus  
Foveaux Harmony  
Greater Auckland  
Manawatu Overtones  
Nelson Bays Harmony  
SouthCity Soundz  
Sounds of Hawkes Bay  
Taranaki Harmony  
Wellington City Chorus  
Whangarei Harmony  
Chapter at Large

#### **Not represented**

Waikato Rivertones

#### **Apologies**

Helen Moriarty  
Christchurch City Chorus

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the 2016 RAMM had been available on the Sweet Adelines New Zealand website following the 2016 meeting and had been circulated two weeks prior to this meeting.

Katrina moved that these Minutes be approved.

Moved: Katrina Te Punga Seconded: Rhona McLean Whangarei

### **Matters Arising**

No matters arising from the 2016 Minutes.

### **Correspondence**

No incoming correspondence.

### **Financial Report**

Stella Nicholson presented the financial reviewed accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016, which had been circulated to members two weeks prior to the meeting. She asked that the financial reports be ratified and proposed that Target Accounting Limited, Mosgiel, be approved to review our accounts for the coming year.

Moved: Stella Nicholson. Seconded: Jane Bocock Taranaki

### **Team Coordinator Report**

Patricia read her report, copy attached.

Patricia moved that the team reports be accepted, seconded by Leslie Standring SOHB

### **General Business**

- Katrina Te Punga advised every one of the issues we have been having for 8 months regarding emailing all members directly. We have been working hard with Groupanizer to rectify this and we now have a solution implemented. Also everyone was reminded that they can sign on to the National website using their firstname.lastname this saves everyone remembering what email address they used when they were signed up.
- Working with SAI to achieve improvements for our region – a summary of emails to and from WCC is attached for background information. Wanted to get in touch with SAI about some issues mainly around other a cappella groups competing for the people that we want to attract to our organisation. It is proposed that a small working group to be formed of about 5-6 people, covering small choruses and larger choruses. We will call for volunteers once we outline the details of how much time is involved.

WCC is very happy with this idea. Bernadette Takacs said we do have a lot of competition for members.

Jocosa Bruce added that SAI previously had 32,000 members internationally and we are now at 24,000. Pure form of barbershop is great but we created the open division to try and encourage and retain members. Revelry were basking in the open division and hopefully younger people will be drawn to it. We definitely need to attract new members. All regions are struggling to attract new people and International are open to us making suggestions.

Jennifer Caldwell. – have we thought about using Sharon Cartwright to champion our cause? RMT has considered this, and we are in very close communication with her. Our numbers in New Zealand have dropped from 730 to 680 over 5 years. We will be sending out more information and members should feel free to volunteer.

- Foveaux Harmony had put forward an item for RAMM requesting that information regarding the location of conventions is provided three years in advance. Hilary Clifton Events Coordinator responded.

Hilary thanked Foveaux Harmony for bringing this question to the RAMM meeting and commented that the RAMM meeting is definitely the right place for questions like this.

Hilary talked about how dates and locations are chosen:

SAI has an eleven-week competition season from mid-March to mid-May. One week is Easter so can't be used. One is US Mothers' Day so is less popular with US regions. Region 35 believes that Weeks 1 – 6 are too close to Christmas, leaving 5 possible weeks. Region 34 needs a separate weekend from Region 35, which leaves only 4 possible weekends.

SAI prefers 5 or less competitions per weekend (20 judges and 5 panel secretaries required), so Region 35 applies to SAI where there are weekends with less than 5 conventions. SAI currently has allocated convention dates to Region 35 until 2022.

Hilary explained that finding locations that meet Region 35 requirements is problematic.

- We believe that having acoustically great venues is important so that our choruses, quartets and audiences have the best possible musical experience. Region 35 choruses and quartets 'punch above their weight' and we believe that venue excellence contributes to musical excellence.
- Earthquakes destroyed our previous Christchurch venue.
- Councils throughout New Zealand have responded to the possibility of further earthquakes by increasing strengthening of buildings to higher standards. This has meant that the Wellington Town Hall and Founders Theatre in Hamilton are now unavailable.
- With so few venues available, SANZ must book many years in advance. Our largest chorus Christchurch City Chorus needs 9 or 11 risers measuring 14.4 or 15.3 metres wide depending on numbers. There are only two venues in New Zealand that can accommodate this width - Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington and Aotea Centre in Auckland.
- Choruses are not obliged to advise of their intention to compete until January of the year they compete. While the Christchurch City Chorus *mostly* competes every second year, we cannot anticipate with any certainty which years they will compete.
- The Dunedin Town Hall is unlikely to accommodate 9 or 11 risers required by Christchurch City Chorus.

#### **Responses from the floor**

- Angela Blank (CCC) said Christchurch is hoping to have a venue in the next few years.
- Bernadette Takacs asked if it is possible for the large chorus to put more people on the floor?

*RMT response - discussions with Virginia and Christchurch City Chorus management could help – these have taken place in the past but have not always resulted in a clear way forward given the necessity to change venues at short notice sometimes.*

- Raewyn Birss (Foveaux Harmony) said Foveaux appreciates RMT limitations but historically there has been a pattern for Christchurch City Chorus [to compete]. An idea of the Christchurch City Chorus plan would be good. RMT agrees with this.

## Actions

- As there are no vacancies for our possible convention dates for the next 5 years at Aotea Centre, Hilary will book the Michael Fowler from 2018 – 2022 and the Dunedin Town Hall as an option (if feedback from the 2017 convention indicates this is acceptable) in 2019 and 2021.
  - Hilary will request that the Aotea Centre gives SANZ second preference behind existing bookings with the proviso that available dates must be available 16 months in advance.
  - If other suitable venues become available, they will be considered but with Wellington and Dunedin as defaults, we can guarantee we have a venue until 2022.
  - The incoming Events Coordinator will be advised to continue to book 5 years in advance by adding one additional booking each year.
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- Senior Quartet section – this will be trialled next year. *“All four quartet members would all need to be aged 65 or over. They would compete within the international category but be eligible for the award of senior category winner. These quartets would be eligible for placing in the regular contest”*. It was discussed that voices peak at mid 30s. The categories of Novice, Most Improved and Senior – will all continue to qualify for International.
  - Patricia Veen updated the meeting regarding the new Governance Pilot – the plan is that each Region would be headed by only 3 Regional Directors, with teams to support their portfolios. The three Regional Directors would be Education, Membership, Administration – RMT gave the proposed new governance model in depth thought, but chose not to participate the pilot. It was going to start Jan 2017 right in the middle of our summer holidays. We will watch the pilot with interest and obtain regular information from SAI. New Governance is definitely what SAI want and we look forward to watching where it heads. In 2018 there will be another vote for the governance. We agreed with some of the structures and we think it will be of benefit. We may look at changing to some of the team structures anyway – Events team for example – perhaps some people could have more “permanent” roles.

The meeting closed at 6:25pm.

## **TEAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT FOR RAMM 2017**

This has been an eventful year for all our members. Various earthquakes have affected many of us, and continue to affect our choices for Convention locations.

Christchurch City Chorus made the Region proud of their achievements in Las Vegas, and we were also well represented by two quartets – MOLTO! and Aftershock – NZ is blessed with talent.

Barbara Smith, long-time Master Director of Waikato Rivertones, passed away after battling a long illness. She will be missed by many of us, and she has left a wonderful legacy, sharing her musical and teaching talents with so many people, young and old. A more formal tribute to Barbara will be made at next year's Convention.

A Leaders' education weekend was held earlier this year, with Sandy Marron and Jan Carley as faculty. This was an illuminating event, well attended by leaders from within the Region, and I think we all came away from this with new ideas.

He Tangata Chorus is planning to be part of the World Choir Games in South Africa in 2018. This is a great opportunity for Sweet Adeline members to have yet another opportunity for education, singing together, performing and travel. Keep an eye on the SANZ website He Tangata page for more information as it comes to hand.

I would like to thank Henri Hunkin for her work with Young Women in Harmony for the past few years. Henri was accepted into the international judging programme, and is pursuing that exciting journey.

A new YWIH Coordinator has put her hand up for the role, and I am pleased to welcome Jessie Leov to this role. Jessie is currently studying overseas and will return to NZ in June. Many of you will be aware that Jessie is part of ZEAL quartet.

Our long-time archivist/historian also stepped down from that role last year, and I'd like to thank Dina Wickers for all her efforts to share her knowledge about this subject and to preserve our Sweet Adelines history. The information on the history pages of the Sweet Adelines NZ website has largely been provided and kept updated by Dina in the past.

Our new archivist is Janet Grange, based in Taranaki – Janet is still coming up to speed with the role, and for those of you who are interested in

information and processes about preserving various objects or documents precious to your Chorus history, Janet will be the go-to person.

Throughout the year, we all benefit from regular editions of the *Addaline*. Sandy Gunn and Brianna Perry take responsibility for this publication – our region is so lucky to have both these women who provide us with entertaining articles, photos and graphics – and also continuity and knowledge.

Late last year, two of our RMT members began their roles at very short notice. Jo Maxwell, our Marketing Coordinator and Cindia Chiu, our Directors' Coordinator, both stepped into their roles, survived a steep learning curve, and have immediately made a positive difference to the team.

RMT confines its face-to-face meetings to three times per year, spends significant time in email discussions, as well as the occasional phone conference. I'd like to thank all these women for giving their considerable time, energy and professionalism to ensure that the Region runs smoothly. Their willingness to serve their region so effectively and diligently is much appreciated by me.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank this year's Convention team for all their help, knowledge and ideas – they have worked for many months to help us bring this together – I am looking forward to a great Convention.

**Patricia Veen**  
**Team Coordinator, Regional Management Team**  
**April 2017**

## REGIONAL ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

DUNEDIN, THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2017

### ATTENDEE LIST

Could attendees please complete this list and pass it on – give back to RMT Communications Coordinator when complete, thank you.

*We would be grateful if you could write clearly please, many thanks.*

YOUR NAME (first and last name please)	NAME OF CHORUS (OR CAL)
Vicki Cumber	Bella a Cappella
Sharon Freer	" " "
Lesley Standring Roz LANCASHIRE	Sounds of H. Bay FAULTLINE
Maggie Trodahl	Wellington City Chorus
Helen Busby	Capital Harmony
Marlene Horgan	T.H.C.
Jennifer Caldwell	AAC
Joan Cox	WHC - Whangarei
Rhona McKeen	-
Garry Opre	Taranaki Harmony
Dorise Duke	Taranaki Harmony
Margaret Gordon	Capital Harmony
Norma Wiley	Capital Harmony
Janet Dowling	Mahurangi Harmony
Eileen Smith	"



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YOUR NAME (first and last name please)	NAME OF CHORUS (OR CAL)
SARAH RAE	FOVEAUX Harmony
Ann-marie Francis	Foveaux Harmony
Trish Douglas	Foveaux Harmony
Bernadette Jakobs	Nelson City
Suzanne Williams	T Bell & Cappella
Melanie Fawke	Maulhine Chorus.
Judi Caradino	—
Leigh WhiteLau	—
Raewyn Bliss	Foveaux Harmony
Philippa Rogers	CrAC
Suzanne Berresford	GAE
Kristina Roper	GAC
Fleur de Farias	SouthCity Soundz
Jane Bocock	Taranaki Harmony
Sandra McNair	Taranaki Harmony
Jess Thomson	Foveaux Harmony



Jacqui Binnie	Faultline
Carolyn Cullington	Faultline.
Melody Lowe	Greater Auckland
Judy Zullock	Taranaki Harmony
Nancy Jensen	Sounds of Hawkes Bay
Helen Davis	Whangarei Harmony
Henrietta Hunkin-Tagaloa	Wellington City Chorus.
Kim Cairns	Whangarei Harmony.
Tracy Pettinger	Dunedin Harmony Chorus
Elaine Bishop	South City Sounds
Kathy Jamieson.	Nelson Bays Harmony
Sylvia Fountain	Manawatu Overtones
Patti Burke	Bella a Cappella
Kate Syddall	Bella a Cappella
Joanne Oliver	Capital Harmony
Jos Winkler	Bella a Cappella
Helen Hissen	Bella a Cappella
Jenny Orange	Manawatu Overtones
Angela Blank	Christchurch City