



Minutes of the Regional Annual Members Meeting - Finalised Holiday Inn Hotel, Manukau, Auckland Sunday 4 May 2014

Present: All RMT members and list of SANZ members as per list provided.

Minute-taker: Trish Veen

Welcome

The meeting opened at 11 am, with a welcome to members from Mabel Knight, the Team Coordinator, who then introduced the current Regional Management Team members including the incoming Communications Coordinator, Leigh Whitelaw.

Roll Call

All choruses were recorded as present (list of choruses and attendees attached)

Bella a Cappella
Whangarei Harmony
Greater Auckland
South City Soundz
Waikato Rivertones
Taranaki Harmony
Sounds of Hawkes Bay
Manawatu Overtones
Capital Harmony
Faultline Chorus
Wellington City Chorus
Nelson Bays Harmony
Christchurch City Chorus
Dunedin Harmony
CAL (no attendees)

Apologies

None received

Minutes

The minutes of the 2013 RAMM had been circulated, and were approved as read.

Moved: Janet Rowland, Cindy Naresh

Matters Arising

No matters arising from the 2013 Minutes.

The two letters received about registration costs were read aloud and are on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting. [The Finance Coordinator's presentation later in the meeting covered this item, in part.]

Correspondence

No significant incoming correspondence.

Financial Report

MaryAnn Zorovic presented the financial audited accounts for the year to 30/4/13, which had been circulated to members. She asked for approval of those accounts. MaryAnn mentioned accounts are always reported a year later, when everybody has moved on, but that is simply business as usual with accounting. She said that the Region has not actually made any money, and the Region's reserves are being used up slowly. The Convention at the CBS Arena in Christchurch used up an inordinate amount of financial reserves.

In order to speed up the process of getting accounts ready on time, Maryann appointed a new auditor (Colin Kyle, Avondale Accounting Company). Unfortunately, this new auditor appears to suffer from the same slowness as the last one.

Because Sweet Adelines is a registered charity, we are entitled to a certain level of expenditure that does not require a full audit – a review is sufficient. Maryann will be looking for an accountant amongst the Sweet Adelines members to assist with the review, and this will save the Region a considerable fee.

MaryAnn requested that the accounts for the year to 30/4/14 be approved.

Moved: Chris Thompson, seconded Carolyn Currington.

Moving on to the current financial year, MaryAnn reported that the Queenstown Convention cost less money, but there was still a small overrun. As a background explanation for why Convention costs fluctuate, MaryAnn circulated a copy of the Convention levy presentation. She then talked through the document that was being circulated.

RMT plans to introduce a levy on all members starting at \$60 per annum for the *fixed costs* of holding a convention. The balance of the costs of convention would be paid by attendees through the registration fee. These expenses are programs, bulletins, badges, awards, transport, steering committee expenses, bank and credit card costs and other smaller incidentals. Currently we are looking at a registration for the event of \$50.00 which makes the cost to individuals a total of \$110.00 a reduction overall to being at convention. Each member would be levied, whether they attend or not. There was general approval in principle of this plan from the attendees. MaryAnn proposes the new levy is put in place next year.

Janet Rowland asked if the levy would be cut back if grants are received. MaryAnn said this would not take place and any such funds would go towards assisting the winning choruses and quartets.

Virge pointed out that the questions in the two letters read out previously have now been covered. RMT will be altering the Standing Rules to cater for the new situation.

Bronwyne Albright (Waikato) asked a question regarding people who are not competing – would they be able to pay to attend individual events? MaryAnn indicated that we would need to think this through and RMT is seeking further ideas from the membership on this topic.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the total NZ membership is currently approximately 730. MaryAnn indicated that if every Chorus found another 20 members, this would boost funds considerably.

Sheryl (SouthCity) – asked about attendance at educational classes and whether there would be an extra fee for this. She pointed out that if somebody wanted to attend all of them the total cost might be more. An “all events” and/or “early all events fee” may be considered, as this would not be the RMT’s intention.

Mabel mentioned just how much we all value MaryAnn as a Finance Coordinator and there was unanimous approval of this feeling.

Miriam Spragg reiterated that International rules require RMT to put on a Convention each year for all members.

Danielle Wallace (Greater Auckland) mentioned that each member has the opportunity to ooter with another Chorus if they wish, which could provide an opportunity to attend international conventions and also gain the benefit of international coaching that that chorus might be having.

The RMT seeks feedback and ideas on the topic of the convention levy from each Chorus by 20/6/14. Please send your response to MaryAnn Zorovic at maryannz@xtra.co.nz.

Team Coordinator Report

Mabel Knight read her report (attached) and moved that her report and the other coordinator reports that had been circulated, be accepted. She particularly mentioned that we bear in mind members who might be ill or who have passed on or who have had bereavements.

Sue Seawright was thanked especially for all the work she has done as CAL Coordinator for the past few years.

Miriam Spragg and Beth Houlbrooke were recognized especially for their efforts in putting on this Convention.

Region 35 will be celebrating 30 years in 2015. There will be more to come on this topic over the next few months and RMT will take responsibility for planning festivities surrounding this occasion.

Mabel moved that her report be accepted, seconded by Melody Lowe.

Electronic Publishing

There had been one or two queries from the membership about the Regional policy in connection with publication of chorus photographs, recordings etc. Sandy Gunn (Marketing Coordinator) spoke to this agenda topic. The Region does not currently have a policy, and it seems that International also does not have a set policy. Each Chorus needs to exercise appropriate discretion as to which photos/recordings are used on social media. Sandy suggested that “party pictures” may not be appropriate for public consumption, as we want to retain a relatively cultured image. Contest recordings of Chorus performances are not to be used other than for educational purposes. The RMT is preparing a set of guidelines and each Chorus will be able to adapt this.

In response to a question from Olwyn, Sandy said these guidelines would be available the following day.

Education Events

Jocosa Bruce talked about where things are at with Education Faculty, including that Faculty is a work in progress. The Faculty group is to be renamed Regional Representatives, and invitations

will be sent to individuals to join. The overall plan is to provide a Faculty that meets the current and changing needs of the Region.

Internationally funded visits (IFVs) – the administrative process has been changed recently, and this has simplified the overall process for all concerned. This requires the RMT to make travel arrangements (airfares) with the chosen travel provider. Mileage will still be claimable. There was general applause for this item.

General Business

Melody Lowe requested an opportunity to discuss the Regional levy proposal and convention costs. Melody feels that the levy proposal moves the Region in the right direction. Further discussion followed and Mary Ann pointed out that the final levy amount would be made by the RMT and the Region would be notified.

Katie Williams explained that it had been difficult to justify the registration cost to her chorus's new members, who had not yet experienced the benefits of what's offered at convention. Trish Veen said that the best way to do this is to bring your education back from convention to your choruses and share it.

It was suggested, from the floor, that the Education sessions might be videoed and made available to other members.

The meeting closed at 12.05pm

Attendees

Name	Chorus/CAL
Raewyn Birss	Foveaux Harmony
Sally Bryce	Foveaux Harmony
Robyn Middleton	Foveaux Harmony
Sarah Rae	Foveaux Harmony
Lesley Cutt	Foveaux Harmony
Diane Graham	Foveaux Harmony
Melody Lowe	Greater Auckland Chorus
Sandy Webster	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Maggie Trodahl	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Kathy Jamieson	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Teresa Young	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Kay Woolf	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Diane Hodgson	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Janet Rowland	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Fleur de Farias	SouthCity Soundz
June Savage	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Lynn Packer	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Beth Holbrooke	Greater Auckland Chorus
Marion Price	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Jenny Edwards	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Jessie Leov	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Hilary Radloff	SouthCity Soundz
Jeanette Irwin	SouthCity Soundz
Hilary Clifton	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Ruth Townsend	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Trish Armstrong	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
Maria Wilson	Bella a Cappella
Sandi Adams	Dunedin Harmony Chorus
Robyn Abernethy	Dunedin Harmony Chorus
Lynley ??	Dunedin Harmony Chorus
Suzanne Berresford	Greater Auckland Chorus
Phillippa Rogers	Greater Auckland Chorus
Kristina Roper	Greater Auckland Chorus
Helen Busby	Capital Harmony
Jackie Zubcevic	Capital Harmony
Dulcie Hutchison	Waikato Rivertones
Jean Brooker	Waikato Rivertones
Sheryl Willis	SouthCity Soundz
Christine Godfrey	Waikato Rivertones
Jacinda Singh	Waikato Rivertones
Janet Milne	Waikato Rivertones
Dorothy Bisley	Sounds of Hawkes Bay
Helen Blake	Sounds of Hawkes Bay
Mary Sagato	Sounds of Hawkes Bay

Norma Wiley	Capital Harmony
Margaret McLachlan	Capital Harmony
Margaret Gorton	Capital Harmony
Christine Binns	Capital Harmony
Joanne Oliver	Capital Harmony
Liz Young	Greater Auckland
Andrea Tamatea	Manawatu Overtones
Olwyn Jones	Manawatu Overtones
Faye Roberts	Manawatu Overtones
Carolyn Currington	Faultline Chorus
Suzy McPhail	Waikato Rivertones
Janet Wilton	Waikato Rivertones
Helena Lister	Waikato Rivertones
Rebecca Clewlow	Waikato Rivertones
Fiona Bevege	Waikato Rivertones
Maree Powell	Waikato Rivertones
Bronwyne Albright	Waikato Rivertones
Pauline Smith	Waikato Rivertones
Helen Guthrie	Bella a Cappella
Sue Newman	Greater Auckland
Kate Langham	Greater Auckland
Anne Sturgeon	Greater Auckland
Janet Goodman	Greater Auckland
Carolyn Duggan	Christchurch City
Virginia Humphrey-Taylor	Christchurch City
Lynley Ball	Faultline Chorus
Fiona Lincoln	Faultline Chorus
Cindy Naresh	Faultline Chorus
Gill Barnett	Faultline Chorus
Jo Maxwell	Faultline Chorus
Leigh Whitelaw	Faultline Chorus
Roz Lancashire	Faultline Chorus
Katrina Te Punga	Faultline Chorus
Rire Scotney	Wellington City
Kim Brown	Wellington City
Lizzie Parker	Capital Harmony
Lana Morgan	Sounds of Hawkes Bay
Katie Williams	Sounds of Hawkes Bay
Danielle Wallace	Greater Auckland
Judith Eeles	Greater Auckland
Ann McKenzie	Greater Auckland
Brianna Perry	Waikato Rivertones & Chch City
Yvette Gander	Christchurch City
Melina Perry	Waikato Rivertones & Chch City
Danielle Sijbranda	Manawatu Overtones
Janette Merrin	

Lois Brookes	Nelson Bays Harmony
Robyn Clemens	Waikato Rivertones
Moiria Haddrell	Waikato Rivertones
Vonny Maguire	Bella a Cappella
Kim Cairns	Whangarei Harmony & Bella a Cappella
Fy Tait	Taranaki Harmony
Gill Holmes	Taranaki Harmony
Coral Stevens	Taranaki Harmony
Sarah Bynevelt	Taranaki Harmony
Yvonne Burr	Taranaki Harmony
Fauna McNair	Taranaki Harmony
Judy Tulloch	Taranaki Harmony
Angela Blank	Christchurch City
Tasha Black	Taranaki Harmony
Nicola van der Pal	Taranaki Harmony
Geri Bosley-Brady	Taranaki Harmony
Carol Jager	Taranaki Harmony
Carol Chapman	Taranaki Harmony
June Bocock	Taranaki Harmony
Judy Cunningham	Taranaki Harmony
Denise Duke	Taranaki Harmony
Patricia Chivers	Taranaki Harmony
Linda Ward	Faultline Chorus
Lynn Jamieson	Waikato Rivertones
Phillippa Bourke	Waikato Rivertones
Sharon Mabey	SouthCity Soundz
Adrienne O'Connor	SouthCity Soundz
Kate Sinclair	Waikato Rivertones
Jennifer Caldwell	Greater Auckland