

EDUCATION COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

And again, I am extremely impressed with our Region – we have a lot to be proud of! Time to celebrate, that's for sure.

The 2016 Convention was held at the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington. The levels again lifting to having four choruses over 630 points in one competition with Waikato Rivertones taking out the gold with a new top score for them! It was a fabulous competition. The judging panel were fully entertained whilst grading our very strong Region. We have all the tools to hold this level and continue forwards to the next. Kim Vaughn on Sound, Sharon Carlson with Music, Char Gurney on Expression and a change to Sandy Wright in Showmanship due to Diane Porsch needing to step back on travel for a moment. Another panel that was fully impressed with everything going on in New Zealand. Everyone just has to believe that we are truly smashing records here!

My highlights for convention was my fabulous blue badge for directing along with the fabulous Carolyn Currington. Two new Master Directors to add to our stunning list! More success stories for Region 35!

2016 brought to us the year of the Pan Pacific Harmony Competition which incorporated the International Rising Star Competition. An event that we have to thank Joanna Lyes for, in a huge way. This was a big investment both financially and emotionally for Joanna as YOUTH is a big deal to her. I would like to say that this event was successful on all fronts for Joanna, but can only say that it was successful in a smaller way for what it did for the YOUTH that were involved. The YOUTH that were involved had the time of their lives. Singing with Deke Sharon and being a part of something extremely special. As you know with our own Regional Requirements for lighting/sound etc, we had to have the Aotea for the Rising Star aspect, as there were not many other options in Auckland itself. We really needed the support of our North Island youth groups here, and unfortunately that did not happen. Aside from that, those that were involved in volunteering and the competition aspect, truly did walk away with a bounce in their stride. On that front, an extremely successful event.

AHA Auckland 2016! Wahoo! My goal was almost reached in attendance and we smashed the previous year's record...so I'm happy (not that I'm competitive and have goals - joke). When catering to the educational levels of over 300 "students" it can be quite difficult to hit the right level to teach at without boring some or leaving others to drown with information overload. This top staff of faculty did a fabulous job at finding the balance and your survey results show that you were extremely happy with the high level of education you received. Thank you so much for putting yourselves out there to upskill yourself in your chosen classes. It is not every year that we get the wonderful opportunity to choose from 5 of the best International Faculty members in the world. Lucky us! It was lovely to connect with those from across the water in all directions, and the food...brilliant (even though we apparently ate enough for 400pax!...it was hard work sitting in those classes, right?!). Another successful event held in Region 35...let's celebrate!

Lead the Leader Retreat in Waikanae – tick! We did it and it was awesome!

Thank you so much to every single person that made it to this weekend. Your feedback on the survey has been noted, and yes, the boys were invited to sing but they opted to do "boy talk" instead. A big thank you to Hilary Clifton for assisting me with the bread and salad to this retreat. Without her, I'm just a flailing piece of ham and cheese with no support! (You're allowed to giggle). I personally gained a lot out of this retreat, and also witnessed the growth and energy in others as we moved through this extremely wonderful weekend. Please make the time to talk with someone who attended to ensure you fully understand the need for some of these tips with our choruses. I've already seen Facebook photo posts of those that were educated sharing with their choruses the tips that were taught. You are on the right path by sharing your education.

The DCP (Directors Certification Programme) is still in the world for those wishing to tweak their tool belt, find out more about this art form, or just for fun! It is not just for those arm-wavers out there...it is for every single member. Throw yourself in and find out something new...why not?

I would like to take the time to thank Ruth Carson for her fabulous time spent informing our Quartets of all types of news. Ruth hails from Christchurch City Chorus – make time to thank her over this weekend at convention. She's just brilliant.

A special thank you to Henrietta Tagaloa for her time being our Young Women in Harmony Coordinator. This is a woman who is passionate about our youth, dreams up some wonderful plans for them and sets out to make them a reality. What a fabulous strength to have in this role over the past 2 years. Thank you, Henrietta!

FUTURE EDUCATION

On the other side of this Convention week we have the fabulous Kim Vaughn and Judy Pozsgay teaching us. Both Queens and both International Faculty. Some classes are already closed, so get in quick to the other sessions!

Later in the year we will have our shores graced by the lovely Darlene Rogers. An email has already been sent to Directors to ensure they get their preferred dates for coaching. She will be here in November 2017.

2018 – we are still attempting to lock down dates for Frenzy Quartet to come to New Zealand. It's about time we had a quartet here, and I'm fussy with the calibre within a quartet, as I like to spend our dollars wisely. Frenzy Quartet is filled with Choreographers, Master Directors, Section Leaders, Learning Track Makers, Education Coordinators and International Faculty Members...the list is forever growing. Please keep in mind that we will be having these girls out here mid 2018 at some point.

Take care and all the best for a successful convention.

Jocosa Bruce – Education Coordinator, Region 35