

RAMM REPORT – COMBINED – APRIL 2017

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

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2017

My first year in this position has been an interesting one of learning how the RMT works and how best to serve you, our members.

We continue to use the technology around us more and more and it's great to see many more people using the website and using Facebook.

It has been a great year bedding in the new website and member's area using Choir Genius (the new name for Groupanizer). We continue to add more and more things to it to ensure it's timely and relevant to you. We have added more people onto the website recently and it's a great way to disseminate information. The convention handbook is a good example. We have had some technical issues with Choir Genius (Groupanizer) regarding our direct communication with all of our 700 members but we hope to have this sorted shortly and once again resume direct communication with everyone rather than disseminating via choruses.

This year due to space restrictions we had to register for our Education classes this weekend. Using the technology to achieve this is an excellent use of technology and we will continue to make the most of it when we can.

Sharon Connor continues in her role as website admin and I thank her for her assistance and the many hours she puts in behind the scenes.

It has been a busy year using Facebook as a tool for increasing awareness of our art form and disseminating information to members. I know Jo Maxwell, the incoming Marketing Coordinator, will continue to use this and more social media pathways to bring more information to you and to increase our presence in the minds of a cappella singing.

International Headquarters are doing an excellent job of keeping this Region informed on things and keeping us updated. The passion and commitment of our governing body is certainly evident.

I have been lucky to work with people on the RMT this year who are very dedicated to this art form of singing and who are incredibly generous in their time working for you. I thank them for being patient with me while I learn all the background information to make my role as productive as I can for you and becoming familiar with the needs of both the RMT and wider members within the Region in relation to communications between teams and individuals.

I look forward to working with the new Regional Management Team for 2017-2018 and to the continuing growth and education within this Region of both myself and our members.

Katrina Te Punga
Directors' Coordinator 2017

DIRECTORS' COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2017

Having only taken over this role in late December 2016, one of my priorities is to get to know all the fabulous directors in our region and possibly run another survey after Regional convention this year to see how RMT can best serve the needs of our directors in this ever changing environment.

Last year's Regional convention saw our region make Sweet Adeline history. We became the first region that has 4 choruses that score over 600! While it is not all about the directors, this result indicates we have many high quality leaders and as a region we are heading the right direction.

Last year's International Convention held in Las Vegas's MGM Grand Hotel in October had our region very well represented by The Christchurch City Chorus directed by the one and only Virginia Humphrey-Taylor. We also had two great quartets representing us on the international stage, MOLTO! And After Shock! Quartet, we are so very proud of you. The Christchurch City Chorus has made New Zealand Sweet Adeline history by placing 5th in the world and grab the "most entertaining" award along the way! On top of all these amazing results, Virginia also became a Master 700 director! Congratulations to everyone involved.

October this year sees Lynn Jamieson and Kate Sinclair leading the Waikato Rivertones to Las Vegas to walk the expansive MGM Grand corridors and walkways and dodge the smoke filled gaming rooms and queues of mobility scooters one last time. I know Lynn and Kate had done a lot of research on the venue and locations, I am confident that our region will be very ably represented again.

I am excited to see what this year will bring to our region and looking forward to get to know and working with all you fabulous directors.

Cindia Chiu
Directors' Coordinator

EDUCATION COORDINATOR – RAMM REPORT

And again, I am extremely impressed with our Region – we have a lot to 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. A side 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 the 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 of 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

EVENTS COORDINATOR – RAMM REPORT

I am coming to the end of my second year as Region 35 Events Coordinator. It has been another big year of learning made easier by a very supportive RMT team and an outstanding Convention Team.

Convention 2016 – Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington

This event was a great success and feedback indicated it was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. The Michael Fowler Centre, though expensive, is a wonderful venue and members appreciated its ambience, style and convenience.

Lead the Leaders Education Weekend 17 – 19 February 2017

This event was supported by 70 members who came from the length and breadth of New Zealand. The venue was chosen for its price, convenience to transport options and its capacity to take a small or large number of people. Although it is a 'no frills' option, members appreciated the price and it met all our requests regarding overnight accommodation, meeting room and catering.

Convention Team

This year I have had the pleasure of working with Clare Pascoe as Chair of the Regional Convention. Clare has been an active member of the team since last August and has galvanised her small Dunedin Chorus into organising the Dunedin part of this year's convention. It has been a huge undertaking by a very small number of people and I sincerely thank you all.

The convention team also has had the benefit of Claire Takacs's experience as Competition Coordinator for a second year. Claire is an efficient and knowledgeable member of the team and a huge asset to our region and to me as Event Manager.

Maggie Trodahl has worked hard as Official Panel Liaison (OPL) – in that role, Maggie has liaised with the convention team and the Official Panel and has been a wonderful asset to the convention team. She is efficient and willing and I'm confident that the Judges and Panel Secretary will have a most enjoyable and relaxing weekend with Maggie as their guide and attendant.

I would also like to acknowledge Christine Godfrey as Registrar for the convention. This is Christine's tenth year as Registrar. She has the benefit of ten year's convention experience and is always willing to share her knowledge regarding registration as well as videography. Thank you Christine – I have truly appreciated your support and generosity over the last two years.

There are many other people who cannot be acknowledged by name here but please know how much your willingness to serve is appreciated. You will see many volunteers on stage this weekend but there are many who remain unseen. Without their input, my job and the Convention Team's job would be much more difficult.

Stephen Covey, author of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, saw delegation as key, he said, *"an empowered organisation is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire,*

and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organisational success.”
That's our team!

2018 Convention – Michael Fowler Centre 3 – 6 May

The Michael Fowler Centre has been confirmed as the venue for the 2018 convention. Our difficulty in locating a venue is that as long as we remain steadfast to our commitment to provide the best acoustics for our largest chorus, we have a choice of Aotea Centre in Auckland and the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington. There are lovely venues elsewhere in the country but sadly none are able to accommodate our largest chorus.

The Amora Hotel has been confirmed as the 2018 convention hotel. We researched a range of hotels and selected the Amora Hotel for its style, proximity to the Michael Fowler Centre and its price.

Conclusion

I am working on making the Event Coordinator's job more manageable. I may recommend three Events Team roles be created – one member to organise and manage our annual convention, one member to organise educational events and one member to organise RMT meetings.

I am also recommending that RMT trial project management software for a year – I anticipate that once incorporated into business-as-usual, it will make our event management so much easier and efficient.

Please consider applying for either the Events Coordinator role or as an Events Team member - it's exciting and challenging and may lead onto your next career as an event manager.

Hilary Clifton - Events Coordinator - 2017

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – SWEET ADELINES NZ – April 2017

What a wonderful year it has been again with such a dedicated, fabulous group of women! This year I was fortunate to travel to Las Vegas in October and attend the Leadership training day for RMT members, which was very worthwhile especially the networking with other Membership Coordinators from other Regions. I have already included in the November Membership Counts newsletter to your TCs and Membership Coordinators, most of these ideas that other choruses and Regions have found successful in Membership and Marketing areas. I would like to thank all of you for the constant effort you have made in new member drives and initiatives, and encourage you all to keep the enthusiasm up.

Membership Status

Membership in Region 35 has remained fairly stable with 678 members listed on the Groupanizer/Choir Genius database. Thank you all for your prompt communication of new and resigning members.

Farewells of Note

This year has also brought its sadness with the recent passing of former Master Director Barbara Smith. Many of us would have had the benefit of Barbara's mentoring, coaching, spirit, humour and fun during her many years as a Sweet Adeline and Musical Director of Waikato Rivertones Chorus. Rest in peace, Barbara.

Chapter at Large

CAL currently has 8 members, mostly in quartets.

He Tangata Show Chorus

He Tangata continues to flourish under the inspirational direction of Virginia Humphrey Taylor, and the chorus has plans 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. Thanks to all concerned in the successful administration of this chorus.

Spirit of Sweet Adeline Award

Fy Tait was the very worthy recipient of this award in 2016—congratulations Fy and thank you for all you have done and currently do for SANZ. The RMT encourages every chorus to nominate someone from their chorus for this award, and I am delighted that there are ten nominations this year from our fifteen choruses. We know there are many wonderful women who do so much for our organisation, and we love to have the opportunity to acknowledge this.

Membership numbers

Choruses have been undergoing very successful membership drives to increase their membership, with most choruses taking part in the Sweet Adelines International Global Membership drive which has been encouraging. Thank you all for your efforts.

There are currently no prospective choruses in the region, but if you are a musical leader who wishes to step forward to be involved in setting up new choruses in areas such as Rotorua, Tauranga, Albany/Orewa, Timaru, Greymouth, and Queenstown for example, please let the RMT know. It is imperative for the future of the organisation that we continue to grow, and if any Assistant or aspiring Director would like to step forward to lead a new chorus, there are opportunities waiting.

Chorus Liaisons.

RMT members are allocated specific choruses to regularly liaise with, and this has been successful to date. Please let us know at any stage if you would like a visit from a RMT member to your chorus.

Involvement with Girl Guides NZ

RMT Membership is currently liaising with Girl Guides NZ to introduce the YWIFH Girl Scout Harmony Badge introduced by SAI, and we are making exciting progress on introducing a cappella singing to girls involved in Girl Guides. A Performing Arts Girl Guide camp is planned to be held from 17-22 July in Takapuna, with involvement from our own ZEAL Quartet. We are hoping that this will be a very exciting start for many young girls to experience barbershop singing and love it so much they continue with a chorus.

As this is my last year as Membership Coordinator, I would like you to think about applying for this great role on the RMT, which will be advertised in the next few months. Contact me with any questions you may have. I am constantly impressed by the work ethic that my fellow RMT members devote to their roles. We constantly work to provide membership opportunities and education for you all; listen to your suggestions and recommendations and endeavour to respond to these in the best way possible considering the financial restraints we have.

Julie Scoggins
Membership Coordinator
Regional Management Team

Marketing Report April 2017

I took over the RMT Marketing portfolio from Moira Haddrell in January this year, and am thrilled to be back on this passionate and busy team, this time in the Marketing Coordinator role. I have stepped into two events that were well underway in preparation and planning with the Lead the Leaders Weekend and Distinctly Dunedin convention activity.

Distinctly Dunedin - Convention 2017

The marketing for the Distinctly Dunedin convention is well underway (at the time of report in early April), with highlights including radio interview and promo, print event listings and articles, posters, flyers and social media. The marketing plan focused on key objectives

- Generate ticket sales / attendance for ticketed events (General Public / Friends & Family)
- Attendance of free events (General Public / Friends & Family)
- Awareness of Sweet Adelines New Zealand
- Awareness of Dunedin Harmony Chorus for local residents (Generate membership / performances)

A big acknowledgment and thank you needs to go to the very capable Clare Pascoe with assistance from Shelley McMeeken from the Dunedin Harmony Chorus convention planning team who have been working hard and driving promotion from the ground in Dunedin. They have shown great passion for making the event a success and achieving positive outcomes and awareness for their chorus.

Addaline

A big thanks to Sandy Gunn and Brianna Perry who put a lot of work throughout the year into providing the region with a professional, entertaining and informative Addaline magazine where we can share our successes, stories and information.

Social Media

Work on increasing our social media presence is underway with the recent addition of Twitter and Instagram accounts. Encourage your chorus members to keep in touch via:

- Facebook www.facebook.com/SweetAdelinesNZ @Sweet Adelines International New Zealand
- Twitter <https://twitter.com/sweetadsnz> @sweetadsnz
- Instagram www.instagram.com/sweetadsnz @sweetadsnz

Marketing “State of the Nation” survey

I will be getting in touch with chorus Marketing/Publicity Coordinators across the region after convention with a marketing survey. Survey results will be useful for seeing where additional support, education and information could be useful, and being able to share our successes, experience and regional knowledge.

Moving Forward

I am looking forward to working with the RMT and in particular our Education Coordinator Jocosa Bruce and Membership Coordinator Julie Scoggins on marketing our events and our organisation's membership opportunities over the next year and beyond.

Jo Maxwell – Marketing Coordinator – April 2017

FINANCE COORDINATOR'S REPORT FOR RAMM APRIL 2017

I am very pleased to present the annual accounts for our first full year of a January to December financial year. The 2016 annual accounts have been reviewed by Target Accounting and a certificate of their review is included with the Annual Report.

Alongside the figures for the full year of 2016, are the figures to 31 December 2015 but please keep in mind that those 2015 figures are for eight months only and should not be taken as an equal comparison.

You will also see that Regional Levies paid from 1 May onwards were reserved for the following year's Convention – see first entry on the Profit and Loss account under Income. As they are paid, Convention Levies due this May will be reserved for Convention 2018 and so on.

Income was considerably less than the previous year, due to there being no Workshop registrations in 2016 compared with 2015 and convention registration income was considerably less.

On the other hand, expenses were also less. There was a reduction on Administration costs and Education expense was considerably less than 2015. Again because there was no Workshop during 2016. Convention costs were up again, resulting in a profit for the full 12 months of \$15,831 compared with \$41,765 for the previous eight months.

This reinforces the need for the increase in Levies this year. Particularly since the venue for next year's convention, Wellington, is proving to be very expensive.

Regional Assistance was provided to Christchurch City Chorus and Molto Quartet to represent our region at International. This is shown in the Annual Report as an increase to Reserves Regional Assistance in the Balance Sheet. As per policy, the regional management team will consider and make a decision on the level of assistance able to be provided to our current representatives at the first meeting following convention.

During the year, the Prue Blythe Memorial Fund trustees transferred the balance of the PBMF bank account to the Bank of New Zealand as a sub account of the region and it is now reported and administered as part of the full regional accounts, in the same way as He Tangata.

Although we have been fortunate to have received some Grant funds, I know there are more grant funds available that we could have a share of, if we only had someone with the time to pursue these avenues. I would really like to hear from anybody who would like to assist our region to obtain more funding.

Thank you to the amazing regional management team members I have worked with over the past year, the fantastic chorus treasurers/finance coordinators. I hope you know that without you, your chorus and the region would not run as effectively and efficiently as it does. I am proud to have you compete in my home town this year and I hope you all go home invigorated and loving our sisterhood even more than when you arrived.

Stella Nicholson - Finance Coordinator - 3 April 2017