

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR'S 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

RAMM – HARMONY MANAWATU

DATE: 14/04/2026

The logo for Sweet Adelines New Zealand is positioned in the top right corner. It features the text "sweet adelines" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, with "new zealand" in a smaller, white, lowercase, sans-serif font below it. The text is set against a dark red square background, which is layered over a collage of overlapping blue and yellow geometric shapes.

Membership Report – Sweet Adelines New Zealand

The past two years, 2025 and 2026, have been both eventful and personally challenging for me. I am incredibly grateful for the support I have received from the Regional Management Team (RMT), both those stepping down and those stepping into their roles.

Music truly has a unique ability to uplift us—to allow us to leave our troubles at the door and immerse ourselves in the creativity and joy of barbershop singing.

Membership Overview

- As at 31 July 2025: 454 members (SANZ website)
- As at 14 April 2026: 466 members (SANZ website)
- Includes 9 Youth Members (increase from 2025)
- CAL members 22 as at 22/04/2026
- Quartets registered number 17

Membership numbers have generally remained stable with a slight increase overall. Sadly, Whangārei Harmony and Bella A Cappella choruses are no longer chartered SAI choruses, however some former members have transitioned to Chapter-at-Large. Many choruses across the country are maintaining or even growing their membership. As life continues to change, it is vital that we share what we do, how we do it, and—most importantly—the ongoing learning and development we receive each week from our dedicated directors.

Sweet Adelines is unique. We sing harmonies that resonate deeply, igniting a passion for learning and musical growth. Four-part harmony is both challenging and rewarding, and it is this challenge that sets us apart. By continuing to live, love, and learn together, we can share this experience with others and grow our membership.

Events and Engagement

Last year's 40th Anniversary Convention in Christchurch was a great success. It was wonderful to connect with so many members and create lasting memories together. We look forward to celebrating again this year.

The RMT is committed to increasing visibility and connection with members in a variety of ways including chorus visits and personal contact. This year, we're adding a fun and practical touch—Hi-Vis vests—to make ourselves more approachable and easy to find. We encourage members to stop us, ask questions, and engage with us.

Throughout the year, the RMT has met regularly, both in person and via Zoom. We have also participated in numerous international and Australian sessions, continuing to learn and grow. A personal highlight for me was a virtual “coffee chat” with Annika Christensen chair of the Sweet Adelines International Membership Retention Committee, on 30 November for Regional Membership Coordinators, it ended up being just the two of us, which made for a valuable opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and gain insight.

This took place shortly after the Hooked on Harmony Competition, which was a resounding success. The event encouraged participation, pushed many of us out of our comfort zones, and created a fun, inclusive environment where everyone felt on equal footing.

Membership thrives on connection, engagement, and—most importantly—fun.

I would like to highlight the THRIVE (To Help Regions’ Increase Vibrant Engagement) initiative and the resources available on the SAI website. These tools are current and adaptable, and I highly recommend that all Membership Coordinators and Team Coordinators spend some time exploring them. I have encouraged and hope that the management teams find useful and adaptable ideas.

Friends of SANZ has been established to maintain contact with members (through Tuned In newsletters and the Addaline) who are currently not singing with a chorus or quartet, or being a chapter at large member. This initiative is proving to be highly successful.

I have maintained regular email contact with all Membership Coordinators and Team Coordinators to address questions and queries and visited South City Soundz in person in February. An amazing group, who welcomed me, let me sing and enjoy their “open” night. Other Regional Management Team members have had the privilege of visiting other choruses around the country. I also want to acknowledge my small but fantastic team: Chika Deane, who does an incredible job updating the SANZ website and sending links to new members from wherever she is in the world, and Fiona Brodie, our Chapter At Large (CAL) Coordinator, who continues to provide support despite limited internet access while traveling in a campervan for April.

I am constantly reminded that while these are all voluntary roles, RMT is a unique and dedicated group of Sweet Adelines committed to both serving and singing. It is a role I tremendously enjoy and being part of an amazing team.

Nikola Worrall-Bader
April 2026