CONVENTION BULLETIN #1
December 2024

Kia ora tatou!

Greetings from sunny Christchurch. The weather for our convention at the start of May may not be quite as warm as this time of year, but we will be filled with an inner glow as we sing together and celebrate 40 years of Sweet Adelines in New Zealand.

The programme is much the same as in the past.

- Thursday 1 May – Set up, RAMM meeting (5pm), sound check and briefings (from 7pm)
- Friday 2 May – Music in the Morning, Quartet Contest followed by Massed Sing
- Saturday 3 May – Chorus Contest and Afterglow
- Sunday 4 May – Education Classes (morning)

Official Panel

- Beth Smith – Panel Chair and Sound Judge
- Jan Meyer – Music Judge
- Peggy Gram – Visual Communication Judge
- Lea Beverley – Expression Judge
- Cindy Naresh – Panel Secretary

Convention Officials

Claire Takacs (Competition Co-ordinator), Pam Brian (Chair of Regional Convention), Mary Cave-Palmer (Finance Co-ordinator), Leanne Wheeler (Education Co-ordinator), Andrea Ward (Official Panel Liaison), Jo Maxwell (Design and 40th Celebration), Marilyn Bishop (Registrar).

Registration

Forms will be sent out with the next Bulletin. The cost will be $225 for early bird registration for Sweet Adelines members, up to 1st March 2025. From 2 March and for non-members the registration cost is $265.

Prue Blythe Memorial Trust (PBMT)

For over a decade, the PBMT has empowered young women singers by providing funding towards travel and education in the art of four-part harmony. Now, we need *your* help to continue supporting the next generation of potential Sweet Adelines!

When you register for next year's convention, you'll have the chance to make a difference by adding a donation to the PBMT. Every contribution—big or small—plays a vital role in supporting this important cause. Together, we can keep the harmony alive for years to come!

STAR Chorus

We are delighted to advise that Patti Cooke, who was the first chorus director in New Zealand will be directing the STAR Chorus. We will let you know the songs she has chosen in the near future. STAR is open to non-competing Sweet Adelines NZ members and those whose chorus or quartet is evaluating. Details of how to join the STAR Chorus will be in a later bulletin. Chorus and STAR rehearsal rooms will be allocated closer to Convention – Flat Floor (no risers).

Afterglow

This will take the form of a dinner in the Limes Room at the Christchurch Town Hall. Seats are limited so register early. This will be a celebration of 40 years of Sweet Adelines in NZ. The cost is $100 per head and there will be a bar where you can purchase drinks. The venue is cashless.

Harmony Bazaar

There is no room in the venue for a Harmony Bazaar. The foyer will have room for 2 or 3 trestle tables, if any chorus has something to sell please contact Pam Brian, pam.brian@xtra.co.nz, and the space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Trophies/Plaques

If your chorus or quartet has a 2024 trophy this needs to be returned before Convention. Please contact Kim58cai@gmail.com to advise the contact details of who currently has possession and she will advise the process for engraving and returning it prior to the start of May.

40th Anniversary tshirt

If you would like a tshirt printed with a 40th Anniversary design you need to purchase your own tshirt/top. Each chorus will collect the named shirts and courier them to Christchurch by the beginning of March (details to follow). They will then be available to collect at the Registration Desk at the Convention. Further details including design and estimated printing costs will be in the next bulletin.

Convention Badge

In the past each convention registrant received a convention badge. The RMT has listened to feedback (many people said they did not need a badge) and badges will only be optional for this convention. We will ask for an indication of who would like to purchase a badge and then when we know if there is an economical number we can go ahead and get a quote for production and advise you.

Photo and video highlights of the past 40 years

We are preparing a video/slide show of regional highlights from the past 40 years. Can each chorus or winning quartet have a look at what you might have that could be included. We will advise where to send these in a future bulletin.

Pam Brian

Chair Regional Convention 2025