CONVENTION BULLETIN #1

January 2026

Greetings from your first time Convention Hosts in Papaioea - Palmerston North. We are excited to be able to share our vibrant city and sing together in our wonderful and historic Regent Theatre.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW (Times tbc)

- Thursday 14 May
  - Set up
  - RAMM meeting 5pm
  - Quartet Reception
  - Sound check and briefings
- Friday 15 May
  - Music in the Morning
  - Quartet Contest
  - Massed Sing
- Saturday 16 May
  - Chorus Contest
  - Afterglow
- Sunday 17 May
  - Education Classes (morning)

Official Panel

- Jana Gutenson – Panel Chair and Music Judge
- Mary Rhea – Sound Judge
- Lisa Hunszinger – Expression Judge
- Jennifer Williams - Visual Communication Judge

Convention Officials

- Stephanie Greaney - CRC (Chair of Regional Convention)
- Jacqui Binnie - CC (Competition Coordinator)
- Marilyn Bishop - Registrar
- Helen Linssen - OPL (Official Panel Liaison)
- Jo Maxwell - Design
- Leigh Agnew - RMT Finance Co-ordinator
- Shelley Bascand - RMT Events Coordinator
- Leanne Wheeler - RMT Education Co-ordinator

Registration Forms

After successfully testing a new platform for our recent regional workshop we are pleased to let you know we will be using Humanitix for online convention registration and payment with a small booking fee. More details early in February along with a link to the Humanitix site.

Early bird registration will be $225 - Sweet Adelines members (up to 2 March 2026)
Non-members and late registration will be $265 (from 3 March 2026).
The cost for the Afterglow is $45. Tickets for the audience will be available through Ticketek.

We're very fortunate that the Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) has helped us with initial planning for our Convention. They negotiated discounts at most of the nearby hotels and motels and provided us with a sponsorship grant. When selecting your accommodation, ask about the discount Sarah Howe from the PNCC negotiated for people coming to the Harmony Manawatū Convention.

Venue

The Convention will be held in the Regent on Broadway which opened in 1930. Broadway Avenue is one of the streets that starts at the Palmerston North Square and has a large number of cafes and restaurants. Should weather conditions permit, the Massed Sing will be held in the Square.

STAR Chorus

We're pleased to advise that Kate Sinclair and Carolyn Currington will direct the STAR Chorus. The songs will be shared soon. STAR is open to non-competing Sweet Adelines NZ members and those whose chorus or quartet is evaluating. Details for 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

We have allowed time between the end of the Chorus Competition and the Afterglow for choruses to get together to celebrate their day. There is no dinner planned but Palmerston North has an abundance of restaurants to choose from. We have included a food guide here to help you with your selections. Palmy-Food-Guide-DL-October-2022-Web-supply.pdf. We'll have an updated guide for you next year.
The Afterglow will be at the Regent on Broadway. More information about this will be in the next Bulletin.

Harmony Bazaar

This will be on the Mezzanine floor in the Regent on Broadway. If any chorus has something to sell please contact Stephanie Greaney skgreaney@outlook.com. Spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Education Classes

We will have more information about these classes closer to Convention.

Trophies/Plaques

If your chorus or quartet has a 2025 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.

Stephanie Greaney
CHAIR REGIONAL CONVENTION
HARMONY MANAWATŪ | SWEET ADELINES NZ 2026