BULLETIN # 1
November 2026

Greetings from Hamilton!

We're excited to welcome you to the very first SingUnited Aotearoa New Zealand Convention, bringing our voices together in the brand-new BNZ Regional Theatre in the heart of the city!

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

- Thursday 29 April
  - Venue and riser set-up in the morning
  - 2pm Registration opens
    For choruses - one designated member from each chorus can pick up their chorus's packs
  - 3pm Sound Check (Quartet 3pm and Chorus 3.30pm)
  - 4pm Chorus and Quartet briefings (Directors & TCs)
  - 5pm Regional Annual Members' Meeting (RAMM)

- Friday 30 April
  - 9am Registration opens
  - 9.30am Music in the Morning
  - 12.30pm - 5pm Quartet Competition
  - 5.15pm Massed Sing in Embassy Place (outside BNZ Theatre)
  - 6pm STAR Chorus rehearsal

- Saturday 1 May
  - 9am Registration opens
  - 9am STAR Chorus rehearsal
  - 12.30pm - 5pm Chorus Competition
  - 7.30pm - 11.30pm Afterglow

- Sunday 2 May
  - Morning - Education Classes at Novotel Tainui

Official Panel

- Vickie Maybury - Panel Chair and Expression Judge
- Gina Baker - Sound Judge
- Kay Bromert - Music Judge
- Sandi Wright - Visual Communication Judge
- Sharon Connor - Panel Secretary
- Sandy Gunn - Page

Convention Officials

Convention Steering Committee

- Mary Cave-Palmer – Chair of Regional Convention
- Adrienne Windsor – Competition Coordinator
- Claire Takacs – Regional Events Coordinator
- Robyn Clemens – Official Panel Liaison

Regional Support

- Shelley Phillips – Regional Marketing Coordinator
- Shelley Bascand – Regional Communications Coordinator
- Leigh Agnew – Regional Finance Coordinator
- Leanne Wheeler – Regional Education Coordinator
- Jo Maxwell – Regional Designer/Brand Coordinator
- Kim Cairns – Awards Coordinator
- *To be confirmed* - Convention Registrar

Registration

- Registration will open in January 2027 via Humanitix
- Convention registration will be $180 for early bird SingUnited Aotearoa New Zealand members, up to 2nd March 2027
- From 3rd March, and for non-members, registration fee will be $220

(Payment will be made directly through Humanitix using your credit card, Google Pay or PayPal)

STAR Chorus (Singing Together At Regional)

We're pleased to advise that Jocosa Bruce, Director of our current Champion Chorus - Greater Auckland, will direct the 2027 STAR Chorus.
STAR is open to non-competing SANZ members, those members whose chorus or quartet is evaluating and CAL members.
You can select to join the STAR Chorus when you register, songs to be advised and music shared following registration. The STAR chorus will rehearse 6pm Friday 30 April (after the Massed Sing) and 9am Saturday 1 May.

Rehearsals

Please note that rehearsal space won't be available at the theatre, so choruses and quartets will need to make their own arrangements. We encourage you to check with your accommodation provider, as they may be able to help with a suitable space.

Quartets

Competing quartets need to make sure their SingUnited International (SUI) quartet membership and competition quartet registration are up to date.

If your quartet includes Chapter-at-Large members, they must also be up to date with their SUI and SANZ fees and have registered individually for the competition.

Not competing? Quartets can choose to evaluate instead and receive feedback from the judging panel.

The Senior Quartet category applies to any quartet, all whose members are aged 55 or older and the sum of whose ages equals or exceeds 240 years as of the day of the Quartet contest.

Venue

Our convention will be held at the brand-new BNZ Regional Theatre on Victoria Street, right in the heart of Hamilton's CBD. With plenty of restaurants and cafés just a short stroll away, you'll be spoilt for choice when it's time to grab a bite!

There'll be plenty of friendly faces to help you find your way around the theatre, along with escorts to guide you through the Traffic Pattern on competition days.

To help you plan ahead, Traffic Pattern videos and maps of the theatre and surrounding area will be available on the Convention Information pages of the SANZ website and in the final Convention Bulletin.

Risers

- Inverted configuration
- 7 sections, 4 step risers
- Choruses and quartets will enter the stage from stage left and exit to the right

Massed Sing

The Massed Sing will be held in Embassy Park (should weather conditions permit) directly outside the BNZ Regional Theatre.
The back-up venue will be inside the Theatre.

Afterglow!

Get ready for a fabulous night of fun, singing and dancing at our Saturday evening Afterglow, held at the BNZ Regional Theatre!

This year's theme is "Riff Raff and Pearls!" Think scruffy, glamorous, Rocky Horror Picture Show or anything in between! Get creative, add some pearls and don't forget your dancing shoes!

There'll be plenty of opportunities to sing, dance to the DJ's music and celebrate with your singing friends. Alongside our usual Quartet Room, we're introducing a Tag Area this year – perfect for everyone who loves singing tags!

Afterglow this year is free (for members), with the Regional Management Team agreeing to cover the cost! Guests are welcome at $45 per person.

Complimentary finger food will be provided, and drinks will be available to purchase from the bar. Please note that BYO alcohol is not permitted.

We've also allowed plenty of time between the Chorus Competition and Afterglow for choruses to enjoy dinner and celebrate together. With lots of restaurants just a short stroll from the theatre, you'll have plenty of options!

Harmony Arcade

The theatre does not allow us to have sales stalls so there will be no Harmony Arcade this year.

Education classes

Three of our competition judges have kindly agreed to provide *Coaching Under Glass* classes for both choruses and quartets. Choruses and quartets participating in these classes will be determined by the judges following contest days.
These will be run consecutively in the Union Room in the Novotel Tainui.

Trophies & Plaques

If your chorus or quartet has a 2026 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.

Thank you!

Thank you to all Team Coordinators and Quartet contacts who have indicated their intention to compete, it looks like we are going to have a great convention!
Many of you have booked your accommodation, but for those who haven't, now would be a good time. If you would like me to resend my earlier communication about hotels please email me - marycavepalmer@gmail.com.

Ngā mihi
Mary

MARY CAVE-PALMER
CHAIR REGIONAL CONVENTION