



NZMC Notes – Issue No 34 October 2018

Hello all,

Welcome to this edition of NZMC Notes 2018:

The Northern Men are pleased to welcome new choristers into the choir family. Alby Winiata from Morrinsville, supported by Alison, his wife, is a welcome recruit for the Tenor 1 section, and Keith Spooner from Hamilton will join the Tenor 2s. We were happy to welcome Alby and Alison to the audience at the Gisborne Concert. Both men are working to get their heads around the music repertoire, perhaps to participate in the Art Deco concerts. Meantime, another new chorister will audition at the Southern Men practice in Rangiora, at the end of this month.

2018 has continued to be a very busy year with great opportunities to combine rehearsal and concerts in parts of Aotearoa not always reached.

LEESTON CONCERT SEPTEMBER 2018

37 brave men and true with wonderful leadership as always from Joe and our Alison faced an appreciative audience at the Ellesmere College Hall. The choir (as Southern men) had previously performed in Leeston (nine years ago) to a capacity audience at the Catholic Church which is currently undergoing earthquake repair. The wonderful acoustics of the Catholic Church contributed to a very successful concert and the enthusiasm of the audience suggested a revisit by the full choir would be a while. Other church venues in Leeston were investigated for this concert but were discarded due to audience capacity and access. Despite misgivings about the acoustics of the College Hall the Executive (or was it Joe?) decided to give the Hall a go.

The local management team managed to drum up sponsorship support from several local businesses including Specialty Seeds, Ellesmere Transport, The Crate and Barrell, and the Leeston Pharmacy. The Selwyn Lions Club and Abbeyfields undertook to do the catering and Ticket sales.

The Southbridge Primary School pulled out a few weeks before the concert after firmly committing earlier in the year but fortunately The Selwyn Youth choir stepped up and performed admirably.

The Concert opened with a welcome from the small but enthusiastic College Kapa Hapa group. They also did a bracket later in the concert.

There were some logistics issues mainly surrounding transport of choristers to and from accommodation in Christchurch. Asking choir members to commit to transport before the weekend proved to be a good policy. The transport was paid for by a fee (\$30) charged to all choir members for participation in the weekend. The all-inclusive fee covered transport, lunches and afternoon tea provided at the venue by The Lions and Abbeyfields.

Good publicity was provided by the Ellesmere Echo; the free local weekly delivered to all Rural Boxholders in the district. Posters were placed in many shop windows in Leeston, Lincoln and Southbridge. Posters were sent electronically to Email lists of friends and foes alike.

The concert was concluded by the Youth Choir joining the Male Choir for Over in the Glory Land and Pokarekare ana. There were many positive reports from the audience but most agreed that the choir moving down into the auditorium to surround the audience with the Youth Choir up front for Pokarekare ana was *the coup de grace*.

In the end the acoustics of the venue were not a problem.

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa who made this concert a success.

Brian Patchett –Chair of Southern men



Selwyn Youth Choir



Kapa haka Ellesmere College

GISBORNE CONCERT

The NZMC gave a varied and spirited concert in Gisborne last weekend. We were hosted by Gisborne Choral Society, and we shared the stage with them in alternate sets of music. The Gisborne Choir sang mostly unaccompanied, while the Male Choir enjoyed the musicality and vim of our regular pianist, Alex Wiltshire.

My personal favourites were Fuji, and Emily Dickinson's superb poem set to music, The Moon is Distant from the Sea. Also noteworthy, and in fact, drawing applause from a standing audience at the end, was The Pilgrims' Chorus.



We were delighted to have 3 Southern Men with us, who added their special flavour to the occasion. Thanks John Kember, John Masters and Norman Phillips. Finally, though, our heartfelt thanks to MD Joe, who continues to build on our strengths and chip away at our weaknesses. I must also say a huge thank you to outgoing Northern Chair, Ray Seymour, who did so much work to set the concert up, and was prevented from attending

owing to a family bereavement. We offer our sincere condolences to him. **Andrew Baber - Northern chair**



Norm Collie & Oliver Lane



Gisborne Choral Society & NZMC

MD Joe Christensen sums up:

It has been a busy couple of months with very successful concerts in Leeston and Gisborne and the looming performance with the Navy Band in Auckland. Leeston was a much better venue to sing in than I expected and the Kapa Haka group and Youth Choir were great additions to the concert, well done to the guys on the ground who organised all of that and Brian's son who made the stage work with extra bits of wood. It was great to have Alison play for the whole choir.

The Gisborne concert was competing with the A&P show but still managed to draw a larger audience than Gisborne Choral usually gets and the venue is a delight to sing in. Gisborne Choral really enjoyed the experience which gave them a chance to sing a different repertoire to their usual style. Thanks to the guys from the south who made the odyssey to Gisborne and then were wined and dined by the Gisborne Musical elite.

Both concerts were successful musically and had good sized, enthusiastic audiences.

We are finally sorted on the music for **Auckland and the Navy Band** which has been a bit of a nightmare to organise but if you work on the mp3's you will see our involvement with the band is not difficult. We will need to be very secure before arriving as there will be very little rehearsal time with the band. At this stage we still don't have a specific rehearsal time for the Thursday afternoon except for a comment by one of the Petty Officers that it is usually around 5pm. Hopefully more to come.

Joe

From the President.

Congratulations all round. To the Music Team, wives, partners and choristers my thanks for your commitment in Leeston and Gisborne; I know a large number did both! Joe, Alison and Alex, your musical guidance and tuition continues to challenge us all and it's my hope that will continue.

Onward and upward now to the Armistice Concert with the NZ Navy Band in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland on November 15th. As Joe has already told us, our choir contribution will need to be very secure as there will be minimal rehearsal time with the Band.

To outgoing President Maurie Smith and Sue my sincere thanks for your considerable contribution to the Choir; it's in good heart, membership is on the increase again and your generous hospitality has been wonderful. May you both continue to enjoy your time in the Choir.

John Botting.
October 2018

Andre