

NZMC Friends Newsletter – October 2023

Kia ora all, on behalf of the Management Committee, we are pleased to provide this quarterly edition of our NZMC Friend’s Newsletter.

It has been a busy and exciting time with the South Island tour and concerts in the north as well as starting our preparation for the 2024 European tour.

**Our 2023 Programme**

For your information here is the program for the rest of the year and we would love to see you when we are in your area. Also, if you can recommend anyone to join us, they are very welcome to join any of our rehearsal weekends to meet us. More detailed information is available on our website (<http://nationalmalechoir.co.nz>) or contact our secretary [secretary@nzmalechoir.co.nz](mailto:secretary@nzmalechoir.co.nz) .

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| **Concerts** | **Rehearsals** |
| Next one in February 2024 Art Deco in Napier ( 15-18 Feb) | Christchurch Oct 28-29 |
| Taupo 11-12 Nov |
|  | Christchurch Nov 25-26 |

**South Island Tour**

We had a very success tour with performances in Wanaka, Dunedin and Invercargill. All concerts were well attended and very enjoyable. Of particular note was the Invercargill concert when members did the inaugural performance of a Te Terakihi with actions, a good step for the choir which was very well enjoyed by the audience.

**Cambridge Concert**

There was a busy weekend in Cambridge and a successful concert with Cambridge Mosaic Choir. It was fun learning a new version of He Honore a hour before the concert as well as a concentrated start on the European tour music. Needless to say, we had a fun night on Saturday after the concert with a few too many Guinness’s and a great time with the guitars.

**Overseas Tour – Italy, Germany and Austria 2024**

Our tour is confirmed and well down the planning route. We have around 70 on the tour party. Concerts are now confirmed at the [Alta Pusteria Festival,](https://festivalpusteria.org/en_gb/)  Innsbruck – Austria, Nordlingen - Germany and Venice- Rome and Florence- Italy. We also have an exciting addition of two days and a concert in Singapore which will be a first for them and us.

**Membership**

We are still gaining new members and have picked up eleven so far this year.

Unfortunately, have had the recent resignation of Neville Sawyer who retires from the hallowed first tenors after eleven years with choir. We also say thank you to Jan Sawyer who has been a wonderful help in gaining grants funding for the past 18month. Farewell and thank you both for your friendship and dedication.

**Choir Family**

We have had a very sad loss in our choir family and our deepest sympathies go to Meg and the wider Curr family at the passing of Roger. Roger was a great member of the choir and will be sadly missed by many particularly in the southern team.

We were pleased to see our choir family members of Margert McCall in Dunedin, Robbie and Idabelle Webb in Invercargill, Mick and Pat Elley in Cambridge and Phillip Dorothy and Courtney Grey also in Cambridge.

Its great to catch up with the past members, share good memories and get their impression of the choir today. Also, we must acknowledge Phil Grey who donated funds for the Sergeants pocket due to past misdemeanours he still feels guilty about.

**Exciting Training Opportunity**

We had a very successful choral development workshop with Rowan Johnson in Palmerston North in August.  Rowan is a top choral conductor and even with only a few hours with us made a great impression on the choir. Over 50% of the material he raised was already expressed by Joe but he had the luxury of time to work and experiment with us which was great.

The choir is improving but workshops like these are very valuable focusing on vocal musicality and techniques that provide great value to us.

**We would still love to hear from you !!**

We welcome contact with all past choir family members. We would love to hear how you are going and invite you to our concerts or practices when we are in your region. Please make contact and update us on your contact details as well so we can keep in touch.

**Choir Contacts**

Jen Brown – Secretary Email: [secretary@nzmalechoir.co.nz](mailto:secretary@nzmalechoir.co.nz) ph. 027 446 8436

Ray Seymour - President Email: [ray.seymour@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ray.seymour@xtra.co.nz) ph. 027 447 5379

Anthony Joines- Vice President Email: [ajoines63@gmail.com](mailto:ajoines63@gmail.com) ph. 027 273 4035

Kind regards to you all and hopefully we will see some of you as we venture around the country.

Ray Seymour

President New Zealand Male Choir

Te Roopu Waiata Tira Tane O Aotearoa