

NZMC 'NOTES' March 2025

Time for me to get back 'in the saddle' and pen a communication to the team!!

Firstly a HUGE thanks to all who helped for our Art Deco weekend. Special thanks of course to Joe and Vonda for hosting us once again at such a fantastic venue. Shame that you didn't quite make the weather Gods behave but rain disruption was really very minor. Special mention also to Sue and Carol (and their team of helpers) for organising the catering for the event. All in all a very enjoyable way for us to celebrate what was a very good concert – reports I heard of from the audience were very complimentary.

Of course we must not forget the contribution of our Music team of Joe and Fiona for their tutorship and their guiding us through the concert. Thanks also to the Cantare Choir for their part in the proceedings. Just goes to show that with commitment we can perform at a high standard so let us all keep working at the improvement that we all wish for.

It is also appropriate at this stage for us to thank Oliver for all the work he does with the advertising and ticketing arrangements for our concerts along with all the printing that is required with promotion and programs.

I don't have the overall financial results from the weekend but all reports are that we will have made a reasonable profit from our efforts. However it may be that this could be the last Art Deco concert for us as it is possibly time for us to source a similar venue/city for us to perform to a 'new' audience.

As far as our future is concerned – a huge thanks to all who attended our SGM in Napier and to those others that have contributed to the discussion. I must admit to being a little surprised with the outcome but it appears that our smaller team of choristers are all united and very enthusiastic to keep the ball rolling and to doing our best to lift the performances of our Choir. A really positive and definite decision.

By now you will have received the latest communication from the small team working on your behalf as to what is about to happen. That committee is going to have a meeting over the weekend to further develop the procedure.

I have been in touch with Joe and he does have some messages. Firstly he says to tell us all "well done at Art Deco".

He tells me that he is "working on a couple of new songs for the weekend and also would like us all to bring the Easter Hymn music with us". He also intends to start the "audition" process this weekend – and I quote - "I need to have a quick chat with everyone and a new listen so I can start on the "Vocal Ensemble" and "development training"".

This weekend could be rather pivotal to the future of our Choir. However there is one negative in that this will be the last time that Fiona will be with us. She has decided to concentrate on her new career in New Plymouth (and no doubt the challenge of looking after Anthony!) I am sure we all have appreciated her skill and wise words during the time she has been with us – you will definitely be missed Fiona.

As far as the next two Northern weekends are concerned, Alison has agreed to travel up to play for us while we work to find a replacement for Fiona.

Well that's enough from me – really looking forward to the weekend and all the best to the Southerners for your practice in three week's time.

Ray