



NEWSLETTER RSCM CANTERBURY BRANCH

MAY 2018

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018. We thank you for your ongoing support and hope that you will be able to support our programme

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME.

Your committee is currently working on this year's programme and our next event will be

- **Annual Meeting Reminder**

This is being held this Thursday May 17th at the Cashmere Club at 6.00 p.m. in the Function Room.

As in past years a dinner will follow. This has proved to be a convivial part of proceedings, and it is a great opportunity to get to know one another better as we share our common passion and interest in Church Music. Please advise Paul Ellis if you are coming, for catering and for quorum purposes.

We are interested in attracting further members onto our Committee for succession purposes. If you are interested please contact Mr. Paul Ellis on 337 3370.

- **MUSIC SUNDAY JUNE 10 2:00pm**

Please see the poster attached

It is being held in the wonderful new auditorium at Oxford Terrace Baptist Church, so it is a good opportunity to experience this as well as a being an uplifting experience of community singing

Please encourage your friends to attend also!

- **RSCM CANTERBURY BRANCH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017/2018**

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- The RSCM year 2018 began with the RSCM NZ/ Australia holding a most successful Summer School in Auckland. Directed by Andrew Lumsden and masterminded by Neil Shroff and a very efficient committee it was an unqualified success. Sadly, there were more attendees from Australia than New Zealand. This is a situation of worry to all organisers of Summer Schools. It seems as if New Zealanders prefer to be on shutdown in January, enjoy holidays and more clement weather conditions and the Australians prefer to be somewhere where they escape the high temperatures. Several solutions have

been attempted and debated including financial incentives. Australia has decided to defer their Summer School in 2019 to July.

- The Summer School in Adelaide, a model of organization by Warren Bourne and a most efficient South Australia Committee, took place in air-conditioned premises except for the churches. The intense heat was disincentive for a few but by and large we adjusted to the situation by selecting what not to wear! I have a strong hunch that attendances are dependent on more rigorous marketing and the involvement of more professional musicians. This was a definite positive in Auckland when some of our top performers and speakers were able to give up a few days of holiday to share their considerable gifts.
- Five committee meetings were held in 2017. These are congenial working meetings where planning for events takes place and philosophical matters are aired.
- The Annual Meeting took place on May 11 in the Cashmere Club. This is an ideal venue closely located to Pokey machines and the restaurant and bar.
- The Constitution of the Canterbury Branch was amended to allow annual Reviews of the Accounts. This was subsequently ratified by the NZ Council.
- The Annual Music Sunday event on June 18 at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. We were fortunate to piggy-back on to a Cathedral Arts Festival. It was a great success, due to the large support we received and the Medbury School Boys' Choir.
- The Choral Festival, an initiative motivated by the indefatigable Don Whelan took place at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on September 2. The standard of performance was better than the previous year and the contribution of the Christchurch Cathedral choir, the Choristers of the Cathedral and also the Christchurch Boys' Choir made a positive impact on the programme. The philosophy of the Festival is to share and strengthen our Choral tradition.
- The New Zealand Choral Federation, Canterbury Branch, have, under new management, planned a range of initiatives. It will be good if we could as the RSCM combine our energies especially in planning and publicity so our existence is more obvious on the Christchurch choral and musical map. For that reason alone, the RSCM Canterbury branch has decided to affiliate with the Christchurch Civic Music Council. If we are to foster choral music in the city, support for these showings of solidarity are very important. There are pockets of musical groups in the community who could do well to emerge from their cocoons and share their talents with others.
- With the opening of the Christchurch Town Hall imminent it would be tragic if the choral community of Christchurch couldn't combine to make a joyful noise.
- In September 2017 with the death of Professor Peter David Hensman Godfrey we witnessed the passing of our doyen of NZ Choral Music. By our encouragement the RSCM in Canterbury is treading water in a climate of few remaining churches and declining congregations. It is interesting to observe that in churches where there exists musical leadership with choirs and music groups the outlook seems far more positive. Thanks are due to the Committee consisting of David Winfield, (Chaplain), Philip Richards, (Treasurer), Allan Packman, Don Whelan, John Linker, Barbara Maguire, Daniel Cooper and Robert Tait who have served with dedication and enthusiasm in their own particular ways.

Paul V Ellis FRSCM May 1 2018, Acting Branch Chair

Annual Subscription Notices

Your annual subscription notice is attached and we thank you in anticipation of your ongoing support. This enables us to work to maintain the traditions of Choral singing in our community, and we hope to provide events at which members can enjoy their common interest and each others company.

We have been able to hold subscriptions at the same level as last 0year.